

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

No cross of ashes
this Ash
Wednesday | PAGE 4

Woman shares love of
Our Lady after
healing | PAGE 10

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 75, Number 38

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEBRUARY 10, 2021

Follow Me: Love the sick and suffering

Bishop Terry R. LaValley offers reflections on World Day of the Sick:

"February 11 is World Day of the Sick. In his message for this occasion, Pope Francis wrote: 'The experience of sickness makes us realize our own vulnerability and our innate need of others.' How terrible it must be when the sick are not able to be with family and loved ones when they are hurting, even dying. We have seen the news clips. We have personally experienced the anguish of separation during this seemingly endless pandemic."

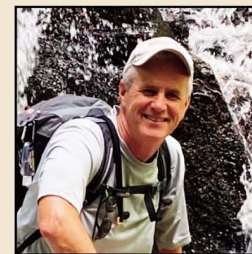
FULL STORY, PAGE 3

EXPERIENCING FORGIVENESS



First Reconciliation was celebrated at Our Lady of Grace Parish in Morristown on January 23. Preparation for the Sacrament was completed through the hybrid model of in person instruction and family instruction. The First Reconciliation Class is pictured with Father Chris Carrara.

SHARING OUR STORIES



Michael Neaton of Hannawa Falls says his faith has grown over the years, and it has helped him through difficult times in his life in this week's installment of Sharing Our Stories, Sharing Our Faith, a series highlighting how lay Catholics are living out their faith here in the North Country. To nominate someone to be featured in the series, email dfargo@rcdony.org or call 315-393-2920.

FULL STORY, PAGE 6

Pope: World must realize common humanity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The world must begin to realize its shared humanity in order to live peacefully, otherwise it risks falling apart in endless conflicts, Pope Francis said.

"Today, there is no time for indifference," the pope said Feb. 4 at a virtual event commemorating the first International Day of Human Fraternity.

"We cannot wash our hands of it, with distance, with disregard, with contempt. Either we are brothers and sisters or

everything falls apart. It is the frontier, the frontier on which we have to build; it is the challenge of our century, it is the challenge of our time," he said.

The pope was among several world and religious leaders who took part in the Feb. 4 virtual event, which was hosted in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, by Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the crown prince.

Among those taking part in the online global meeting were Sheikh Ahmad el-

Tayeb, grand imam of al-Azhar University, and António Guterres, secretary-general of the United Nations.

The date chosen for the event marks the day in 2019 that Pope Francis and Sheikh el-Tayeb signed a document on promoting dialogue and "human fraternity" during his apostolic visit to the United Arab Emirates.

The Higher Committee of Human Fraternity was established after the pope's visit to implement

concrete proposals toward fraternity, solidarity and mutual understanding proposed in the document.

The event also included a presentation of the committee's Zayed Award for Human Fraternity to Guterres and to Moroccan-born Latifa Ibn Ziaten.

Accepting the award, Guterres thanked Sheikh el-Tayeb and Pope Francis for "pushing humankind to come together in unity, in dialogue to promote peace, to promote fraternity, to promote the unity

that is necessary to address all the challenges to defeat hate and to make sure that human solidarity wins the battles we are facing."

Ziaten was honored for her work in France in promoting peace and dialogue to young people who often fall prey to extremist ideology. Ziaten established the Imad Association for Youth and Peace, which she founded after her son, a French soldier, was murdered in 2012 by a Muslim extremist in Toulouse.

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLICBox 326
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
USPS 0039-3400

BISHOP TERRY

R. LAVALLEY

President

REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN

Vice President

JAMES D. CROWLEY

Secretary-Treasurer

DARCY L. FARGO

Editor &

Communications Director



Publish 45 issues per year: Weekly except skipping every other week beginning July through Aug. and skipping one week in Dec. by the Diocese of Ogdensburg, 622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Editorial Office:

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

Telephone:

(315) 608-7556

E-mail:

news@northcountry
catholic.org

Entered at the

Post Office:

Ogdensburg, NY
13669 and
additional mailing offices as
Periodical Postage.

Subscription:

For one year:

In-Diocese Rate: \$27
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30Matters for publication
should be
addressed to
PO Box 326Ogdensburg, NY 13669
and should be received byThursday prior to
publication.

Paper is printed each

Monday;

dateline is Wednesday.

Member, Catholic Press
Association.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to
North Country Catholic,
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY
13669-0326

EDITOR'S NOTE

We can all be caterpillars

She calls me "Caterpillar." I honestly don't remember when or how it started, but one of my best friends sometimes ends our text message exchanges with a version of "good night, Caterpillar."

It doesn't happen in every conversation, though. It's how she ends exchanges in which I vent or seek wisdom/support about some struggle or stress I'm facing.

Why caterpillar?

Because you sometimes have to spend time on the ground and have a period of struggle and transfor-

mation before you can really fly.

I was already thinking about writing about that image this week when it popped up again. I was catching up on one of my favorite podcasts, and there was an episode titled "struggle is necessary."

Darcy L.
Fargo

In it, the podcaster, Father Mike Schmitz, tells the story of a man who found an emperor moth cocoon. The man took the cocoon home, so he could watch for the moth to emerge. When a small opening appeared in the co-

coon, the man sat and watched the moth for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole. Then it appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could and it could go no further. The moth just seemed to be stuck.

The man decided to help the moth. He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The moth then emerged easily, but it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings.

The moth was never able to fly. The man didn't realize that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the moth to get through the tiny opening was the way of

forcing fluid from the body of the moth into its wings so that it would be ready for flight.

It's struggle was necessary. As we approach that penitential time that is Lent, I thought about how uncomfortable it can be to struggle with our sinfulness.

We're called to do just that, though. We're called to identify our sinfulness, repent of it and transform our lives with the help of our Savior's grace so we can celebrate His resurrection and join Him in eternal life. We're called to go from the ground and try to prepare ourselves to fly. Our struggles are necessary.

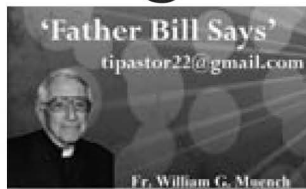
We can all be caterpillars.

Preparing to enter into Lent

I thought about writing to you today about the time of Lent. Lent begins soon. Ash Wednesday is the 17th of February. However, I am certain that some of you are probably thinking who needs Lent during a time of COVID-19. This pandemic causes us to give up lots of stuff, and then of course we have to live with masks and stay separated.

Ever since the coming of the coronavirus, you and I have been living a style of life that seems like going through Lent. There has been separation. We do have more time – time for extra prayer. There has been separation from Mass. Many of you still watch Mass at home through livestreaming. And, of course, that means separation from the Blessed Eucharist.

So, what shall we say about Lent? I want to encourage you to do the usual Lenten stuff – to do some extra praying, to read and pray with Scripture and also to take some time for silence. Si-



lence can be so important and valuable – not for saying some prayers or thinking about something, just a few moments for the quietness of your whole being. Finally, it is still good to give up something – promising God and yourself to eliminate something that seemed so important in your life – for the weeks of Lent.

Lent continues to be part of our Catholic spirituality. Lent aims our minds and hearts to prepare ourselves to enter more completely into the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Lent has always been a time to better understand ourselves. In this way, we draw ourselves closer in our relationship to Our Lord and God. We do this best by getting to know ourselves

better.

How best to do this – I believe in the Sacraments of our Catholic Church. We, Catholics, have been given a real gift in our sacraments. We are baptized – a moment of dedication to the Lord. We are to live like baptized people. We should begin the time of Lent by remembering our baptisms, remembering that on Easter Sunday we will renew our baptisms and we will again make our baptismal promises. Lent will again form us so that we are ready to find a new Christian renewed in Baptism.

I urge you to make the Blessed Eucharist again an important part of your life. Hopefully that will not be difficult. Wouldn't it be wonderful if Easter this year is the time when we all can again draw close to the Lord through Holy Communion? This is my prayer. Of course, in the present situation it is good to watch and participate in the Mass through the livestreamed Mass. I pray that we will all be able to at-

tend Mass soon.

Lent also means the sacrament of penance. Penance is our opportunity for us to sacramentally receive the Lord's forgiveness and love and for us to truly understand ourselves. As you prepare yourself for receiving the absolution of the Church through the priest confessor, the first question you must ask yourself is "Am I a good person? Do I want to live a good life?" Only then will I be able to realize that there are some things in my life that interfere with my readiness to be a good person, a person who truly wants to live a good life. Then in this sacrament we take that important step toward conversion – to make that dedication to change – by sharing our failings with the priest confessor and by seeking the absolution from the Lord as a sign of our readiness to truly change our lives. The preparation of Lent prepares me well to make that journey of making myself a new person.

FOLLOW ME

We are called to love the sick and suffering

I still remember the routine. Whenever I became sick while I was growing up, usually in the middle of the night, there was one word that I would call out loudly and it always brought relief: "MA!" Vicks Vapo-Rub and flat Ginger Ale, among other medicinal remedies, were always in ready supply when the need arose. But it was my mother who provided the reassurance that all would be well. How do you spell relief when you are hurting?

February 11 is World Day of the Sick. In his message for this occasion, Pope Francis wrote: "The experience of sickness makes us realize our own vulnerability and our innate need of others." How terrible it must be when the sick are not able to be with family and loved ones when they are hurting, even dying. We have seen the news clips. We have personally experienced the anguish of separation during this seemingly endless pandemic.

COVID-19 has revealed for all of us the caring and sacrificial hearts of health care workers, support staff, volunteers, pastoral workers, family members and others who minister to the sick and honor their human dignity. We have learned during this pandemic that we should never take one another's presence for granted or think that we can go it alone.

Besides medical care, we owe the sick and suffering person our time and attention. So many who suf-

fer through this pandemic have been treated, comforted and served lovingly. The suffering face of my neighbor is the pained face of the suffering Christ.

I was recently reading about a gloomy December day in 1673 when people were coping with an epidemic. There was no statistical report of the daily victims in the evening news, as we have become accustomed these last several months. However, the stats in London were contained in "plague bills," posters displaying the recorded deaths of the previous day, and the seemingly endless tolling of bells, which were used to mark the passing of each dying sufferer. (Andrew McGowan, 2020)

The dean (and poet) of St. Paul's Cathedral in London also became sick. He reflected on his own experience as well as what was happening around him in the public health crisis of his day. He observed, "No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main...any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee." These famous few lines of John Donne suggest a compassionate solidarity, urging us to a sense of intimate connection when others die, are dying, or are suffering in any way.

You and I are called to be merciful like the Father and to love our sick and

suffering sisters and brothers. We live this closeness personally, but also as a community. Love in Christ generates a healing community that does not leave anyone behind. Our family of faith is attentive to and reaches out

to our most vulnerable sisters and brothers. This time of a pandemic has become a graced time because we have been recipients and givers of such loving care and attention. As members of this family, we spell relief:

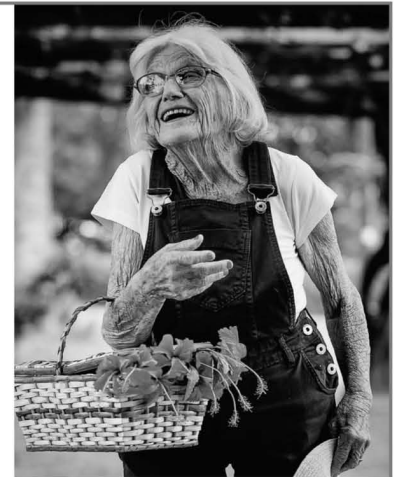
MOTHER CHURCH! She brings us the reassuring Presence of our Healing Christ. We entrust our sick to Mary, Mother of Mercy and Our Lady of Lourdes. May she sustain our faith and hope and help us care for one another.



**Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley**

Now is the perfect time to volunteer.

With everything that has happened in our community this year, it is more important than ever for volunteers to stand up and support their friends and neighbors. When joining **RSVP**, not only are you helping your community, but you're joining a family who cares as much as you.



The RSVP Program is hosted by the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and supported by AmeriCorps Seniors, a federally funded agency responsible for building volunteer based programs for over 50 years and counting.

Upcoming opportunities

There are so many ways you can help your community out that you might not even know about! Here are some examples of what you can do!



Be a Friend

Check on friends, share a meal, help around the house, go for a walk or just stop by to catch up.



Give a Ride

Drive your neighbors to their appointments, to pick up prescriptions or to the store.



Help at School

Volunteer at local elementary schools, tutor students, or be a mentor to those in need.



Give a Meal

Support the local food pantry by shopping, organizing, cooking, or anything else.



Meals On Wheels

Donate your time to your local Meals on Wheels program and prepare or deliver meals.

Not only do you get the benefit of feeling amazing after helping someone, RSVP will help pay some of your mileage (.56 cents/mile) and honor your efforts at a yearly recognition event.

Opportunities available in Franklin and Hamilton County Want more info about how to get started?

Hamilton County: Contact Hanna Smith
hsmith@cathcharities.org

Franklin County: Contact Melissa Howard
mhoward@cathcharities.org

PHONE:
(518)359-7688

80 Park Street, Suite 2
PO Box 701, Tupper Lake, NY 12986



No cross of ashes this Ash Wednesday

By Jessica Hargrave
Contributing Writer

OGDENSBURG—Due to the ongoing pandemic, Ash Wednesday will look a bit different this year.

Instead of marking foreheads with ashes in the sign of the cross, ashes will be sprinkled on each parishioner's head this Ash Wednesday, February 17. The Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments asked priests to make the change due to the pandemic.

While it may sound odd to some, Father Bryan D. Stitt, director of Worship for the diocese, the practice is biblical and can be found scattered throughout scripture. For instance, the book of Joshua includes the reference, "Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the Lord until the evening, both he and the elders of Israel, and they put dust on their heads."



Father Bryan D. Stitt (on the right) poses for a photo from the dome of St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City with Father Joseph W. Giroux (a deacon when the photo was captured) and Father Stitt's cousin, Sister Shawn Pauline. During his time studying in Rome, Father Stitt said ashes were typically sprinkled on heads for Ash Wednesday.

Sprinkling ashes on top of one's head is also customary in other parts of the world, including the Vatican. Father Stitt studied in Rome for five years. Every Ash Wednesday, he joined a group of Ameri-

cans to get ashes on their foreheads at Mass.

"If you felt weird walking around in the U.S. with ashes on your forehead, try it in Italy where it's not the norm," Father Stitt explained. "People look at

you like, 'What is this all about?'"

On this day of repentance some may be concerned they won't be showing the mark proving they witnessed the faith on Ash Wednesday, but it's much more about what we say and do rather than what we show.

"It comes from a good place that we want to show they are a person of

faith," Father Stitt said. "This year, that is something we are going to miss, but it's also an opportunity for this one year for us to think of other ways to show not just that it's Ash Wednesday, but yes, I am a sinner, and yes, I have a savior."

The Church has maintained precautions against COVID-19, continuing physical distancing requirements, limiting physical contact, and making masks mandatory to keep priests and parishioners safe and healthy.

When priests mark foreheads or sprinkle ashes they often say, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This will also look different this year. Out of an abundance of caution, the dictum will be said by the whole congregation before people line up to receive of ashes.

Will these changes be permanent? Father Stitt says no.

"Ash Wednesday gives us a good reminder that there's different ways of showing our unity and different ways of manifesting that one faith," said Father Stitt.

What is a Foster Grandparent?

Foster Grandparents are role models, mentors, and friends to children with exceptional needs. The program provides a way for volunteers age 55 and over to stay active by serving children and youth in their communities. They are placed in a classroom setting with a child or children who are in need of emotional support, development of basic learning skills, friendship, companionship, encouragement, individual attention, and unhurried help. The program currently has 40 volunteers and serves more than 100 kids per year.

The Foster Grandparent Program is hosted by the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and supported by AmeriCorps Seniors, a federally funded agency responsible for building volunteer based programs for over 50 years and counting.



Sometimes when you get to be my age, you wake up and say what good am I and along came the Foster Grandparent Program that keeps me going!

Roy Foote
age 83
Foster
Grandparent



Am I Qualified to be a Foster Grandparent?

All you need to join is the ability to give the kind of comfort and love that sets a child on the path toward a successful future. If you're 55 or older and want to share your experience and compassion, you have what it takes to be a Foster Grandparent.

You'll also receive a small bi-weekly, non-taxable stipend that cannot be held against any current benefits you may already have as well as paid mileage for your travel. Additionally, you receive paid holidays, vacations, sick and personal leave.



Want more info about how to get started?

Contact Melissa Howard,
Volunteer Coordinator

PHONE:

(518)359-7688

EMAIL:

mhoward@cathcharities.org

80 Park Street, Suite 2
PO Box 701
Tupper Lake, NY 12986

Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

- Read local stories and commentaries
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more



Find us on Facebook!



BARSTOW

AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION BUICK PONTIAC GMC SUBARU
SERVING PROFESSIONAL GRADE

"Family owned dealership serving the
North Country for over 56 years!"

For more information, visit our Website
at: www.barstowmotors.com

MARKET ST., POTSDAM, NY • (315) 265-8800

What are you searching for?

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Staff Writer

What do you seek? Who are you? Why a God? What is our story? Who is Jesus? Am I saved? Why a Church? These seven questions are explored in THE SEARCH, a FORMED.org program offering a fresh approach to sharing the Good News. What makes this approach so appealing? The NCC spoke recently with two people whose experience with THE SEARCH has convinced them of its unique value.

For one thing, says Father Bryan D. Stitt, pastor of St. Mary's in Canton, "THE SEARCH is a shallow entry point into the deep pool of Catholicism. It doesn't present all the answers but asks all the right questions. It helps us acknowledge that there is a way of looking at the world that is other than what contemporary society presents – and this way is beautiful. The seven short videos are beautifully produced – the visuals and music are better than any others I've seen. Also, Chris Stefanick is the host. He not only has great content, but he shares it with a joy that I find compelling."

Marika Donders, Diocesan Director for the New Evangelization, agrees. "The whole thing is so beautifully done – and Stefanick just exudes the joy of faith. The series explores the big questions with an understanding that the audience is not necessarily Catholic or Christian. In that sense, it allows participants to explore the reasonableness of the Christian story and the universal appeal of the claims of faith. The stories are told by brilliant scientists and professors



Both St. Mary's Parish in Canton and the diocesan Office of the New Evangelization are using a program, "THE SEARCH," to get participants – Catholics and individuals who are disconnected from their faith – thinking and talking about the answers to life's big questions.

and summarized by a theologian that, while not dumbed down, is easily accessible. You do not have to check your brain at the door if you want to explore faith. Faith and reason are not in opposition, but both are seeking the truth."

In fact, Donders continues, "THE SEARCH is different from most video programs in that it tries to open a dialogue. Other programs present the teaching ('Here is the dogma and doctrine' or 'Here is the Scripture passage and this is how you should interpret it'). THE SEARCH presents the reasonableness of faith and why you might want to consider it. What I love about THE SEARCH is that it draws people in to think about the big questions that modern life (consumerism, relativism, technology, scientism) either distracts us from asking or suggests that the questions can't be answered. It also presents the questions in narrative form – it tells the story – rather than dry abstracts of the faith. This makes it suitable to young adults as well – especially those who have been so influenced by the 'new atheists' and the relativism of

our culture."

Not only is THE SEARCH different from other evangelistic programs, but in the coming weeks Father Stitt and Donders will use it to reach different audiences. In Canton, THE SEARCH was presented last fall to people interested in the Church since, Father Stitt notes, "It is ideal for inquirers, and it can lead right into RCIA. Now it will be used to lead into Lent and will focus on those who are just one step removed from worshiping with us. Maybe they were raised Catholic and haven't been back in a while. Maybe they are our Christmas and Easter Catholics. Maybe they are our college students and post-Confirmation kids who so often slip through the cracks."

Connecting with the disconnected is a perennial challenge, but Father Stitt and his parish staff have discerned a way to make that connection, using THE SEARCH and the willingness of what he calls the 5%. "Every pastor knows that there is 5-7% of his parish that does the heavy lifting. They come to the programs we host and were (generally) the first to come back to Mass in the Spring when we

could do so. There's nothing wrong with offering good programs to the 5%, but that doesn't spread the Gospel. However, the 5-7% each have pods of family and friends that they are quarantining with. THE SEARCH is for those folks! I keep encouraging our parishioners to watch the videos with their friends and then to discuss them. We've provided handouts with conversation starters. We also provided the book version of THE SEARCH as a Christmas present to every parishioner. And for the next seven weeks, pastor, staff, and parishioners will view and discuss the seven segments of THE SEARCH with their own quarantine pods – the folks in their inner circles – mostly in person. Then, as follow-up, we'll invite people to come together virtually for a 'The Search Continues' presentation to highlight some of the grace-filled moments and to look to the future."

Starting February 1, Donders – who previously piloted THE SEARCH with a women's group in Fort Covington – began a new group for 20 adults. "We will meet for seven Mondays via ZOOM," she

explains, "and will have two breakout groups; Deacon Mastellon will facilitate one for deacons, deacon candidates and their wives, and I will facilitate the second small group. We don't want to go much bigger because then the groups would get too large and unwieldy for online discussion. We will meet from 6:30-8ish to watch the video streamed via ZOOM and then have an open discussion. Which leads me to another aspect of this series that I appreciate: it is a vehicle that allows people to share where they are at in their faith without putting expectations on them. It is not about having to put on a pious Catholic mask, and it allows participants to ask questions and voice where they struggle with faith. Because THE SEARCH opens a dialogue, it opens the floor to discussion and questions and in the process builds relationships and trust, both with other participants and, if they are open to the Holy Spirit, a relationship with Christ."

Father Stitt concurs, underscoring THE SEARCH's value as a shallow-entry point. "Bishop Barron talks about being taken to Wrigley Field as a boy and falling in love with baseball – watching the Cubs play, sitting next to his dad, the green of the ivy on the outfield wall. THE SEARCH is our Wrigley Field. It's got professional stuff, it's got those we love, and it's beautiful. As Bishop Barron says, no one falls in love with baseball because of the infield fly rule. Likewise, we don't fall in love with the faith because of some esoteric teaching of theology or morality. We want to just open the door and let the Holy Spirit lead."

Environmental Stewardship

Plastic Pollution is more than 'Ocean Litter.'

We are seeing a connection between the coronavirus and the increased plastic pollution. People who study these things date the problem of plastic pollution to the late 1950s, with a significant increase in the 1990s. Now they wonder if 2020-21 will mark another bump with the use of disposable face masks, gloves and gowns. Use of bottled water and hand sanitizer, take-out containers and plastic packaging for home-delivered groceries are all on the rise. While some of this increased use of plastic may be necessary for health and safety during the pandemic, we can look for opportunities to reduce plastic waste where we can and plan for doing even more once it's safe to do so.

Many of us are well aware of the harms of plastic pollution in our oceans. We've seen photos or videos of animals, fish or birds entangled in plastic debris, and heard tragic stories of deaths by starvation as marine life mistake bits of plastic as food. We've learned of the huge garbage patch in the northern Pacific Ocean.

What we might not have considered is the harm to human health from the full life cycle of plastics. This starts with the extraction of fossil fuels that are the building blocks of plastics and continues through the manufacturing process, incineration of plastics and exposure through the food chain and release of toxins in packaging. Additionally, waste pickers in poor nations risk their health during covid-19 to make a little money cleaning up other people's trash and keeping their communities free from litter. Check out the "Story of Stuff" video on YouTube for more information on the cycle.

So what can we do today to offset the increased use of plastics and disposable items during the pandemic? One suggestion:

Check and see what is in your trash? Write down for one day what you found in your trash. Where will the things eventually end up...recycling, landfill, sewage plant, etc.?

- What is your reaction to how much waste you generate?
- What changes can I make to generate less waste in my daily life?

Bishop's Public Schedule

Feb. 10 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

Feb. 11 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Feb. 14 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Feb. 17 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Rest in Peace

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

Feb. 10 – Rev. Zephirin Peloquin, M.S.C., 1944; Msgr. William J. Argy, 2005

Feb. 11 – Deacon David P. Wells, 2017

Feb. 12 – Rev. Richard O'Donnell, 1949

Feb. 13 – Rev. Richard J. Maloney, O.M.I., 1893; Deacon Edward F. McAuliffe, 1986; Rev. Harry E. Giroux, 2012

Feb. 14 – Msgr. Gerald F. Kellogg, 1979; Rev. Charles Joseph Richard, 2007

Feb. 15 – Msgr. James H. Driscoll, 1928

Feb. 16 – Rev. André Marie Garin, O.M.I., 1895; Rev. Joseph Alexander Fournier, O.M.I., 1904

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri-
anne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terri-
anneyanulavich@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.

'I know my way is with Christ'

By Jonathan Monfiletto
Contributing Writer

HANNAWA FALLS – Mike Neaton says his faith has never been as strong as it is today.

That is quite a statement from a man who was raised in a Catholic family, left the church and his faith during a period of life he called his "tumultuous 20s," struggled with his faith through two marriages and two divorces, and now tries to provide an example of faith for his six children, who range in age from 32 to 8.

"In terms of my own faith, it's just super important that I have it there," said Neaton, who lives in Hannawa Falls and attends St. Patrick's Church in Colton. "I think it's most important during these



times (of pandemic and turmoil). I feel bad for people that don't have it, that don't have the faith. As you struggle through

things, sometimes life is never going to make sense."

Being involved with Cur-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

DEVOTION TO THE SEVEN SORROWS
AND SEVEN JOYS OF ST. JOSEPH

The Devotion to the Seven Sorrows and Seven Joys of St. Joseph is observed on the seven Sundays preceding the March 19 feast of St. Joseph (starting Jan. 31).

Seven Sorrows

1. The doubt of St. Joseph. (Matt. 1:29)
2. The poverty of Jesus' birth. (Luke 2:7)
3. The Circumcision. (Luke 2:21)
4. The prophecy of Simeon. (Luke 2:34)
5. The flight into Egypt. (Matt. 2:14)

Protecting God's Children

The **Diocese of Ogdensburg** has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required. Participants may preregister at www.virtus.org.

Feb. 24 – 2:30 p.m., St. James School, Gouverneur
Online VIRTUS offerings are also available. To learn more or register, email jjgrizzuto@rcdony.org.

6. The return from Egypt. (Matt. 2:22)
7. The loss of the Child Jesus. (Luke 2:45)

Seven Joys

1. The message of the Angel. (Matt. 1:20)
2. The birth of the Savior. (Luke 2:10-11)
3. The Holy Name of Jesus. (Matt. 1:25)
4. The effects of the Redemption. (Luke 2:38)
5. The overthrow of the idols of Egypt. (Is. 19:1)
6. Life with Jesus and Mary at Nazareth. (Luke 2:39)
7. The finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple. (Luke 2:46)

Feb. 14, 2021

St. Joseph faithfully obeyed the law of God and his heart was pierced when he saw Jesus' blood shed in circumcision. For our church community, that we may strive to always turn to the Lord and seek to know His will for us as His disciples, let us pray...

St. Joseph was joyful when he gave Jesus His name that would bring salva-

tion to sinners. That the world may reverence the name of Jesus and realize that He has come to bring us salvation and to show us God's love. For this we pray...

Our Father..., Hail Mary..., Glory be..., Act of Consecration to St. Joseph

Act of Consecration to St. Joseph
O dearest St. Joseph, we your faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, consecrate ourselves to your honor and give ourselves to you, that you may always be our father, our protector, and our guide in the way of salvation.

Obtain for each one of us a greater purity of heart and fervent love of neighbor. After your example, may we do all our actions for the greater glory of God, in union with the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

O Blessed St. Joseph, pray for this Church of the North Country. O Blessed St. Joseph, pray for our families that we may all grow in faith, hope and love so that we may faithfully serve Jesus, Christ our Lord, all the days of our lives. AMEN

'My way is with Christ'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

sillo over the past few years – and its slogan of “make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ” – has helped Neaton strengthen his faith and draw him closer to God.

“Cursillo made me appreciate (my faith) a lot more,” he said. “I didn’t really appreciate the actual relationship you can have with Jesus. I got to that realization, and it’s really taken hold with me. I’m stronger in my faith now than ever. The Cursillo organization has been a blessing. ... It’s just taken me to a whole new level.”

Strengthening his own faith has in turn helped Neaton help others strengthen their faith, including his own children. While it has been a struggle to get his older children to follow in his footsteps and be involved in Church, his youngest son “really embraces church school” and develops his own prayer life.

Neaton recalled a conversation he had recently with his 8-year-old son when the boy was going to spend Thanksgiving with his mother and leave behind his father, who has no family in the area, and the worry the boy expressed for his father.

“Dad, you’re going to be all alone.”

“I’ll be all right, buddy.”

“But you’ve got nobody that you’ll be with.”

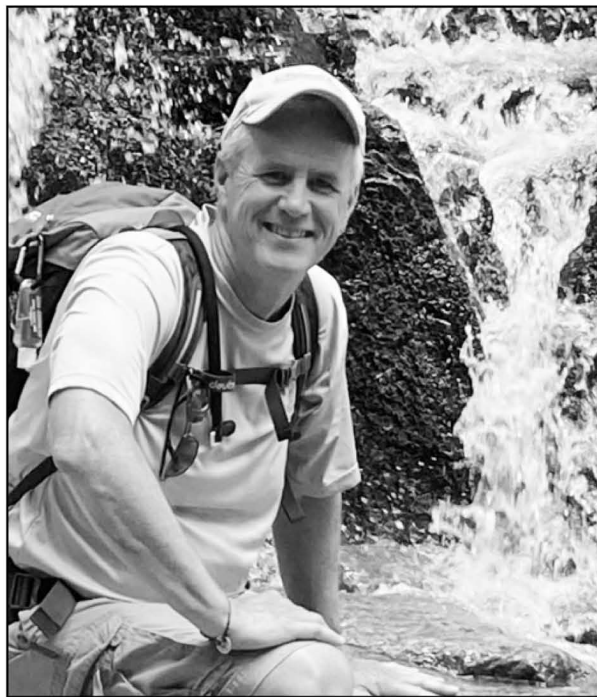
“I have a friend.”

“Is that Jesus?”

“Yes.”

“I know he gets it. I know he gets my perspective,” Neaton said. “I was thrilled by that little experience.”

As a New York State Trooper for 32 years, Neaton also had the opportunity to share his faith with both his col-



Michael Neaton

leagues and the people he came across in his line of work. That included working with the Employee Assistance Program that supported Troopers and their families experiencing hardships, including illness and death.

During his conversations with the people he crossed paths with, Neaton always tried to ask whether they had faith of any kind. When they said no, “I’d just be downhearted,” he said, because he knew they didn’t have anything to fall back on.

“It was long into conversations before you tried to find a way to determine that, but once it was determined it was very unnerving when they said they didn’t believe in anything,” Neaton said. “When I look at my dealings with others, there are so many people out there that are separated from the church for whatever reason. ... I

look at that as an opportunity to say, ‘The doors are always open. It might be time to try again.’”

There was a time in his life when Neaton had to remind himself that the doors were always open and he could try again with his faith and the church. Though church was a big part of his life and his family growing up, he retained the basis of faith even as he experienced a separation from his faith as a young man.

As he began his law enforcement career, his work shifts gave him an excuse for not going to church and not making an effort to, and before he knew it he had left his faith and the church behind.

“It’s one of those things you don’t see until you look back how much you missed,” he said. “Things could’ve been a lot easier had I been praying and listening to Jesus in my de-

cision making and all that stuff.”

But it was a good friend, with whom he shared an apartment at the time, who surprised him by suggesting they go to church and helped Neaton return to the faith he had grown up with.

“He didn’t seem like the type that would value it enough to go with me, like I wouldn’t go unless I was with my family,” Neaton said. “That one experience with him helped me to start opening my eyes and say it is a part of my life and I need to keep it there. It was a chance happening and one of those things that you look back and you didn’t realize how important that friend’s one little invitation was.”

The challenges Neaton has gone through have also helped solidify his faith. Following his first divorce, he attempted to have his first marriage annulled before getting remarried, though the annulment was rejected.

Feeling disenfranchised from the church, Neaton said he started looking at becoming a member another congregation when he looked into revisiting the decision regarding his annulment. When the case was reopened, the annulment was approved.

“That’s pretty much what saved me from losing my Catholic faith,” Neaton said. “It was one of those things I was so glad to get back to. I love the Catholic church. I love what it stands for. I love the Eucharist. ... That’s such a big part of it for me.”

After returning to his faith, Neaton was able to share it with the people he met through the EAP, showing them the strong connection he had to his

faith and how it helped him through his own difficulties and could help them through theirs.

“Everybody has their struggles. Mine happen to be this,” Neaton said of his conversations with those people. “I’m so thankful to God and my relationship with Jesus for getting me through my struggle. This could be helpful for you to look at it in the same regard.”

During his struggles, particularly in his first marriage, Neaton found comfort in confession and being able “to talk to a priest and express what I needed to express and keep going with that,” he said.

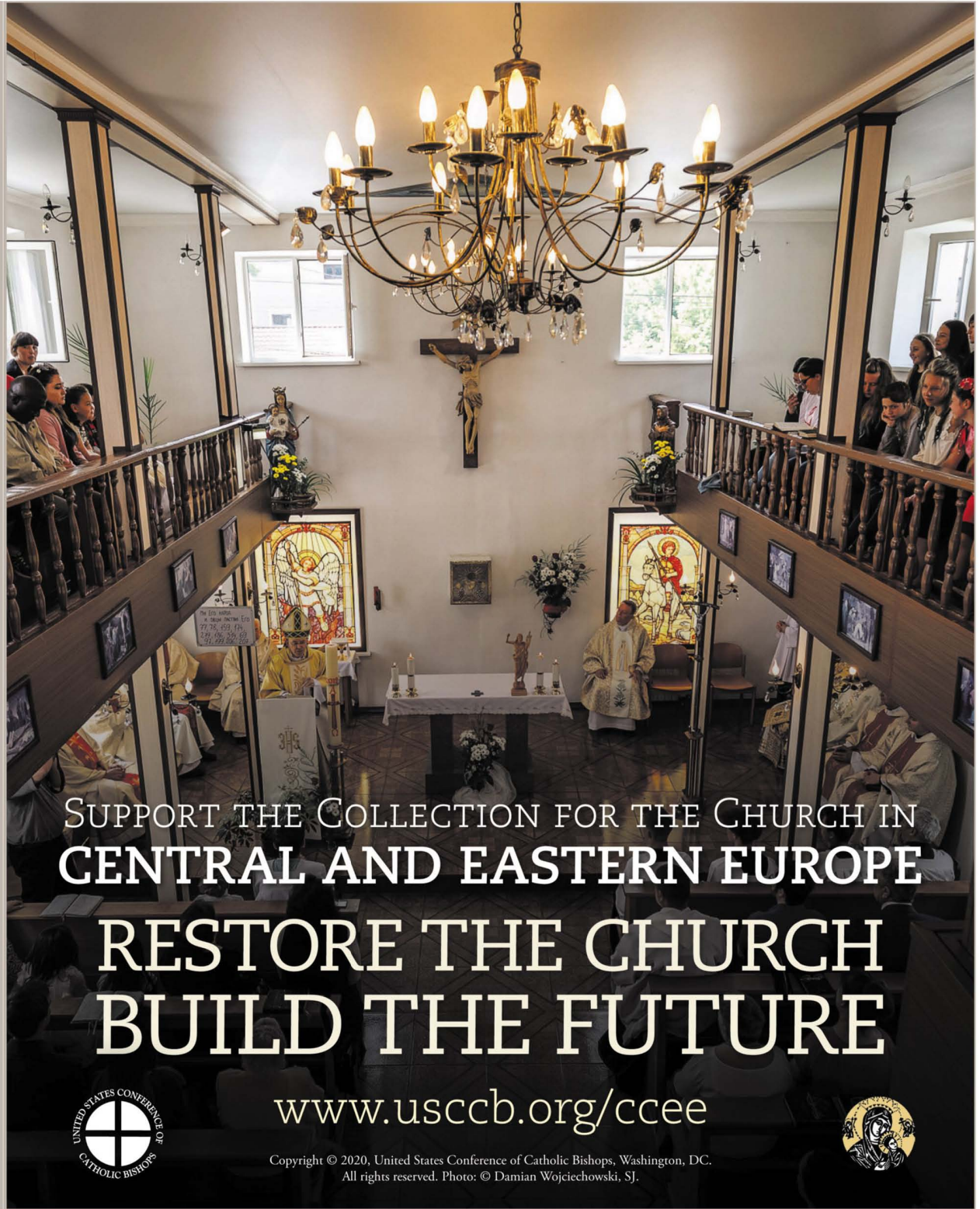
And when Neaton found his faith again during his career, it gave him something to lean on during the tough situations he encountered.

“There were some experiences in the police world that really brought to light the worst sides of people,” he said. “There was a number of experiences in my law enforcement career that really had me questioning how people could be the way they were.”

Now, Neaton relies on his faith to help him make God the main focus in his life.

“I have to find my way and it might not be their way, but I know my way is with Christ,” Neaton said. “It’s very empowering to me, the simplicity of knowing what you’re doing is right and that God’s will puts me in the situation where if I follow the way of Christ then I fear nothing. If I feel so strongly that I’m doing the right thing, then there’s nothing that could be done to me to dissuade me.”

SPECIAL COLLECTION
 ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 17, 2021



SUPPORT THE COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN
CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE
RESTORE THE CHURCH
BUILD THE FUTURE



www.usccb.org/ccee

Copyright © 2020, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC.
 All rights reserved. Photo: © Damian Wojciechowski, SJ.



Your donations help strengthen the Church of this region through grants to Catholic organizations that help those in need receive food, shelter, medicine, pastoral care, and compassion through the light of Christ.

Volunteers help parish secure grant funding

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

CANTON—Thanks to the efforts of parish volunteers with experience in grant writing, St. Mary's in Canton was awarded a \$35,000 grant to make needed repairs to the church building.

The Rock Charitable Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation recently awarded six grants totaling nearly \$100,000 to six non-profit organizations in the North Country for preservation of churches and cemeteries.

The grant to St. Mary's in Canton was the largest single grant.

"We learned of the program when we saw it advertised in the newspaper," said Father Bryan D. Stitt, pastor at St. Mary's in Canton. "Major work needs to be done to the external façade of St. Mary's Church. It was built in 1874, and bricks don't last forever, especially when the mortar used in previous repair jobs wasn't the right mortar. The bricks are starting to crack. It's mostly just on the façade, but eventually that leads to much greater problems, and we're starting to see signs of water damage here and there."

Father Stitt said the effort to secure the grant was led by parish volunteers.

"I'm very blessed to have a great finance council, including parishioners who know how to do things like write grants," he said.

Erin Londraville was one of those parishioners. Londraville works as the director of Donor Engagement, Stewardship & Foundation Relations Development and Alumni Relations at Clarkson Uni-

versity, a role that includes writing and editing grant applications.

"Most grant applications have very similar requirements," Londraville said. "Funders want to know your organization is a good fit with theirs, what you're trying to do aligns with their mission and purpose for the grant program, that there is a strong need for what you're trying to do, that you have the expertise to accomplish what you're trying to achieve, and that the award will have a lasting impact."

While her work helps her employer and now St. Mary's Church, Londraville said it's also gratifying.

"I love working in philanthropy because I am able to see the kindness and generosity of different people and organizations on a daily basis," she said. "It's rewarding to see the impact of their gifts, whether it's providing a scholarship to a deserving student, seeing a community outreach program get kids excited about learning, or being able to have a hand in preserving a historic and beautiful structure like St. Mary's Church."

Londraville said securing the Rock Charitable Fund grant was especially gratifying for her.

"This one is a bit more personal because it's connected to my faith and parish," she said.

The Rock Charitable Fund was established at the Community Foundation in 2019 through a bequest from St. Lawrence County resident and retired Lieutenant Colonel of the United States Army Marjorie J. Rock, who passed in February 2017 at the age of 96. Because of her foresight and thoughtful generosity,

Rock's desire to support St. Lawrence County will be perpetuated for generations to come.

"The response to the first round of competitive grants was impressive. It is clear that Marjorie's legacy is addressing areas of great need in St. Lawrence County," said Rande Richardson, Community Foundation executive director. "Historic preservation and cemetery grants are not always easy to find, but this fund can help get a project off the ground or see it to completion. In future years we hope to also assist veterans as one of Marjorie's three focus areas. We are grateful for the opportunity to help improve and strengthen the region in these meaningful and enduring ways

forever."

The Community Foundation administers this permanent charitable legacy fund in collaboration with a six-member St. Lawrence County-based board of advisors that reviews applications and makes funding recommendations. Advisors include Ruth McWilliams, South Colton; Sarah Manneely, Canton; Fred Hanss, Hannawa Falls; Keith Zimmerman, Canton; and Erik Backus, Potsdam.

Applications for 2021 grant funding from the Rock Charitable Fund will be accepted this fall with up to \$100,000 available. Grant support is available to qualified organizations whose missions and efforts align with the fund's charitable purposes,

which are: for the maintenance and preservation of churches and cemeteries in St. Lawrence County; for the preservation and maintenance of places of legitimate historical significance in the county; and to benefit and/or assist veterans of the United States military who reside in St. Lawrence County for their medical and/or recreational needs. Grants in support of veterans will only be awarded to qualified organizations and cannot be made directly to individuals.

Contact Kraig Everard, Community Foundation director of stewardship and programs, kraig@nnycf.org, or 315-782-7110, to obtain a grant application or learn more about this funding opportunity.

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, New York

Case No. 20-30663

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT on June 19, 2020, The Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, New York, ("Diocese") filed for protection under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code").

The Bankruptcy Court has established April 15, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. (prevailing Eastern time) as the deadline to file proofs of claim against the Diocese (the "Bar Date").

If you have a claim against the Diocese including, without limitation, a claim related to sexual abuse committed by any person connected with the Diocese, you must file a claim on or before the Bar Date with Stretto, the appointed Claims Agent.

Please visit <https://case.stretto.com/dioceesofsyracuse> or call (855) 329-4244 for more information on how to file your proof of claim.

IF YOU DO NOT TIMELY FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM, YOU MAY FORFEIT YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ON ANY PLAN OF REORGANIZATION AND TO SHARE IN ANY FUTURE DISTRIBUTIONS TO CREDITORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE DIOCESE'S CHAPTER 11 CASE.

Woman shares love of Our Lady after healing

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

PLATTSBURGH – February 11 has special significance to Plattsburgh resident Mary Beth Bracy. February 11 is the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, and Bracy was blessed with a healing in Lourdes and has a devotion to Our Lady.

In 2005, Bracy began experiencing daily headaches.

“When I went for my yearly checkup, I mentioned this to my doctor,” Bracy said. “He said that, if I was still having daily headaches in a month, to come back and he would order some tests. The headaches continued and, before I went back to see him, I had an eye appointment. The ophthalmologist diagnosed me with Pseudotumor Cerebri (called this because symptoms are like a tumor, but really it’s caused by intracranial hypertension). He sent me to see a neurologist, who ordered a lumbar puncture for December 8—the Feast of the Immaculate Conception—which confirmed the diagnosis.”

The condition caused swelling on Bracy’s optic nerve, and she began losing her peripheral vision.

“The danger was that I could go blind,” she said. “This was especially painful to me since a loved one was diagnosed with a serious health issue just a few days before. I prayed before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament every day for healing, saying, ‘If I can’t see, how can I help care for them?’ During this time, I offered a novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for healing. The words of the song ‘We Walk by Faith and not by Sight,’ became



PHOTO BY MARY BETH BRACY

Pilgrims gather at the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. Plattsburgh resident Mary Beth Bracy experienced a healing after a trip to the site.

a source of consolation to me.

Throughout this period of time, both her condition and the medications used to treat it continued to cause difficulties.

“I continued to experience debilitating headaches, was frequently nauseous, sometimes dizzy, and developed tinnitus,” Bracy said. “The medications prescribed for this condition, coupled with the symptoms, made me feel like a zombie. On a practical level, nothing seemed to help. If things worsened, I was told that I might need a shunt surgically placed in my head to drain the fluid and avoid blindness. A nurse I talked with, who suffered from this condition, told me about issues she’d had with her shunt breaking, etc., and it sounded terrible.”

Bracy prayed three

novenas – one for the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, one for the intercession of St. Joseph and one for the intercession of Saint John Paul II.

“Then, about a year later, my mother and I went on a pilgrimage to Lourdes and Italy,” she said. “When we arrived at the shrine at Lourdes, I immediately noticed the beautiful statue of St. Joseph near the entrance and felt like I was in the right place. We went to daily Mass and attended Eucharistic Adoration, both in the grotto and in the crypt, where the priest blessed us with Jesus in the monstrance. As an aside, more miracles take place at Lourdes during the Eucharistic procession than in the baths. We also prayed in the Eucharistic Adoration chapel.”

Bracy said praying with the other pilgrims was

one of the most memorable parts of the experience.

“Although we receive this same Jesus in Holy Communion and are able to pray before Him in every tabernacle, it was incredibly moving to pray before our Eucharistic Savior with the throngs,” she said. “Additionally, we took part in the candlelight Rosary procession in the evening with faithful from around the world. The power of Our Lady’s intercession was almost tangible as droves sang ‘Ave Maria’ after each decade. It was inspiring to behold the Shrine, built at Our Blessed Mother’s request, where her Son is worshipped. How spiritually edifying it was to see how thousands of faithful were answering her call to pray the Rosary.”

Bracy noted her visit to Lourdes also included a

visit to “the baths,” water that appeared at the location after Our Lady instructed St. Bernadette to dig in the muddy ground.

“When I went to the spring, often called ‘the baths,’ there was a long line,” she said. “Finally, I went into an area where I wrapped myself in a sheet. Then, volunteers – who were praying for me – helped lower me into the frigid natural spring. It was an awesome experience, like being born again, and filled with new life. Amazingly, when I came out of the icy waters, I felt a wonderful sense of warmth all over, and was completely dry.”

When their tour moved on to Italy, they visited several shrines and churches. There was one destination, however, that Bracy felt compelled to experience.

“As a John Paul II generation Catholic, who was blessed to attend several World Youth Days during his pontificate, I’d been waiting with anticipation to visit his tomb,” she said. “When we first arrived in Rome, we walked from our hotel to St. Peter’s for Mass. Then, although we were supposed to visit his tomb with our tour group the following day, I told my mother that I wanted to go right away. This must have been an inspiration, since the next day it was closed off! I felt so spiritually impelled, as I started to go down the steps toward his tomb, that I don’t even remember my feet touching the ground. Although we were only allowed to pray at John Paul II’s tomb for a few moments, I felt an immense sense of peace.”

After the experience in Lourdes and at St. John

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Caritas: Access to vaccine not as equitable as it should be

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Caritas Internationalis called on world leaders to set aside national and political agendas that seek returns on their investments in the COVID-19 vaccine and instead focus on its equitable distribution, especially in poor countries. In a statement released Feb. 5, the umbrella organization of official national Catholic charities around the world said that while the availability of the vaccine has brought much hope, it has also revealed "a wider gap in inequality. It is believed that the 'miracle' of the vaccines would reignite the global machinery," the statement said. "This has led to a kind of focus on the North, shown in nationalism and protectionism. The global South, where the majority of the poor live, is left out." The statement was signed by: Philippine Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, president of Caritas Internationalis and prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples; Aloysius John, secretary-general of Caritas Internationalis; and Cardinal Peter Turkson, prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and head of the Vatican's COVID-19 commission. In their message, the three denounced the inequitable distribution of the vaccine, noting that "not all nations and those who want or need the vaccine can get it because of supply issues."

Bishops: Any relief bill should promote human life, dignity

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Six U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' committee chairmen urged each member of Congress to support much-needed pandemic relief legislation that promotes "the dignity and value of all human life" and protects "poor and vulnerable people who are most at risk." In a Feb. 3 letter to legislators, the chairmen said relief measures are necessary to assist struggling families, businesses, charities, schools and hospitals and other entities. The prelates also stressed "in the strongest possible terms" that the funds and policies included in any legislation be used to "promote life-affirming policies and not to advance the destruction of innocent unborn human life. We similarly express the importance of strengthening and upholding families to our national recovery and of avoiding policies that may erode their integrity or well-being," they said.

Pope adds Martha, Mary, Lazarus, church doctors to calendar

Recognizing their welcome of and witness to Christ, Pope Francis has approved changing the liturgical feast of St. Martha to include her sister and brother, Mary and Lazarus, on the church's universal calendar of feast days. The names of Mary and Lazarus will be added to the July 29 feast on the General Roman Calendar, the universal schedule of holy days and feast days for the Latin rite of the Catholic Church. The Vatican Feb. 2 published the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments' decree ordering the change in calendars. Signed by Cardinal Robert Sarah, the congregation's prefect, the decree said Pope Francis approved the memorial for Martha, Mary and Lazarus after "considering the important evangelical witness they offered in welcoming the Lord Jesus into their home, in listening to him attentively, (and) in believing that he is the resurrection and the life. In the household of Bethany, the Lord Jesus experienced the family spirit and friendship of Martha, Mary and Lazarus, and for this reason the Gospel of John states that he loved them," it said. "Martha generously offered him hospitality, Mary listened attentively to his words and Lazarus promptly emerged from the tomb at the command of the one who humiliated death."

Pope gives woman a vote at Synod of Bishops

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Xaviere Missionary Sister Nathalie Becquart will not be the first woman undersecretary of a major Vatican office, but she will be the first woman with a right to vote at a meeting of the Synod of Bishops.

Pope Francis named the French sister one of two undersecretaries of the Synod of Bishops Feb. 6.

The other undersecretary is Augustinian Father Luis Marin de San Martin, whom Pope Francis also named a bishop Feb. 6.

Cardinal Mario Grech, secretary-general of the Synod of Bishops, was asked by Vatican News if Sister Becquart having the right to vote at the synod would open the possibility to other women as well. Although the issue has been raised increasingly in the synod hall, until now only bishops and a few priests and brothers belonging to religious orders have had a

vote.

Pope Francis, Cardinal Grech responded, has "highlighted several times the importance that women be more involved in the processes of discernment and decision-making in the church," and in recent synods, the number of women participating as nonvoting experts or observers has increased.

"With the appointment of Sister Nathalie Becquart and the opportunity that she will participate with the right to vote, a door has been opened," Cardinal Grech said. "We will then see what other steps could be taken in the future."

Sister Becquart, who was an observer at the 2018 Synod of Bishops on young people, was named a consultant to the Synod of Bishops in 2019. She told Catholic News Service at the time that the appointment was "a symbolic and effective step toward ap-

pointing more women at the Curia, and it reflects Pope Francis' desire to give more places to women at all levels of the church."

Sister Becquart, the former director of youth evangelization and vocations for the French bishops' conference, also said in the interview she was convinced more progress would come.

"Changes will come with the new generation as more and more young people – not only young women but also young men – ask for women's equality," she said. Added hope comes from meeting "more and more priests and bishops now that are speaking out for women. I have seen an evolution; at the beginning, the question of women in the church was a question from women, and now it is also an important topic for many men, priests and bishops – and even the pope!"

Love of Our Lady

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Paul II's tomb, Bracy said her condition improved.

"When I went home, my illness was in remission and has been since," she said. "I continue to have tinnitus, but no other symptoms. Some of my peripheral eyesight was even restored."

Bracy's healing increased her devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes, and she has seen the devotion aid others, as well.

"Once, I gave Lourdes water and a prayer to a friend whose daughter was hospitalized and very sick," Bracy explained. "They'd tried everything and, although

she wasn't Catholic, my friend prayed and used the water. Her daughter, who had suffered from an illness that almost claimed her life many times, finally received the right treatment, improved, and is now leading a normal life. Over the years, my mother and I shared Lourdes water and St. Joseph's oil with several people who were sick and in need, including individuals with cancer or other health ailments, who were now healed. Sometimes the Divine Physician brings us His healing through the intercession of his Blessed Mother, beloved

Foster Father, and saints like John Paul II. I offer prayers asking Our Lady of Lourdes intercession for those afflicted in mind, body, or spirit weekly. The prayers also include invocations for priests, the persecuted, and those who have fallen away from or don't know the Catholic faith. Heaven continues to shower us with so many miracles of love. I am eternally grateful to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament for His ever-present gift of healing and restoring my sight. Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Joseph, and St. John Paul II, pray for us!"

Biden raises refugee cap to 125,000

By Rhina Guidos
Catholic News Service

In November, incoming U.S. President Joe Biden said at a Jesuit Refugee Service event that he would be heading in a dramatically different direction than the previous administration on refugee admissions.

On Feb. 4, Biden delivered on those remarks, signing an executive order to raise the refugee cap to 125,000 for fiscal year 2021.

"It's going to take time to rebuild what is so badly damaged, but that's precisely what we're going to do," he said, referencing the near dismantling of the program under the Trump administration, which dropped the cap late last year to a historically low figure of 15,000.

As the world faces a crisis of more than 80 million displaced people looking for refuge, the

United States can return to what it once was, he said in a televised address at the U.S. Department of State.

"We offered safe haven for those fleeing violence or persecution and our example pushed other nations to open wide their doors, as well," he said, speaking of a political past when refugee admission was a bipartisan mission. "So, today, I'm approving executive orders to begin the hard work of restoring our refugee admissions program to help meet the unprecedented global need."

Biden said he is directing the State Department "to consult with Congress about making a down payment on that commitment as soon as possible."

The refugee cap is the maximum number of displaced people the U.S. decides to resettle in a federal fiscal year. Biden initially announced the number of refugees the

country would be seeking to resettle in a Nov. 12 virtual event marking the 40th anniversary of JRS.

During the Trump presidency, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, along with other Catholic organizations and a variety of faith and secular groups, struggled in advocacy efforts with the administration to allow more refugees into the country.

Instead, little by little, Trump's team whittled away at the numbers – in dramatic fashion.

Hours after taking office in January 2017, the Trump administration announced it was cutting the cap of 110,000 allowed under the Obama administration to 50,000. The administration consistently lowered the number each fiscal year.

In 2019, the Trump administration announced it was setting the cap at 18,000 refugees for the 2020 fiscal year, but fewer than 10,000 were ultimately allowed in.

Catholic and other faith-based organizations hailed the news about Biden's executive order.

Susan Gunn, director of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, in a Feb. 4 statement, said the organization "celebrates this decision."

"Opening our doors to refugees during a global refugee crisis is the right thing to do," she said.

"Maryknoll missionaries working in refugee camps around the world know that hundreds of thousands of refugee families have been needlessly suffering and waiting for too long in unsafe conditions ... as people of faith here in the United States, we are called to create communities of welcome."

"Welcoming more refugees, we show the world that we are an open, tolerant nation that protects the vulnerable. Leading by example encourages other countries to be more welcoming as well," said Bill O'Keefe, executive vice president for mission, mobilization and advocacy at Catholic Relief Services, in responding to the administration's announcement.

CRS is the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency.

"As an organization that supports refugees in many countries, including Uganda and Bangladesh, we witness the tremendous strains on these families and communities. COVID-19 has made refugees even more vulnerable. These men, women and children are fleeing war, persecution and extreme violence," O'Keefe said.

"We will continue to urge the U.S. government to provide humanitarian assistance overseas and address the root causes of

forced displacement, including conflict and persecution," he added. "We need to use all the tools at our disposal, including refugee resettlement, to support the world's most vulnerable."

Ashley Feasley, director of policy for Migration and Refugee Services at the USCCB, said in a Nov. 13 interview with Catholic News Service that the change in U.S. refugee policy would take some ramping up of a network of agencies, international and domestic, whose resettlement work trickled in the past few years.

Since the refugee program began 40 years ago, up until the Trump administration, the country had been taking in an average of 80,000 refugees a year.

But agencies and the staff that once helped with resettlement have shuttered their doors. COVID-19 also has thrown a wrench into travel and the ability for workers to vet refugees before they enter the United States.

Feasley said it would take a lot of effort, rebuilding relationships with global agencies such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to get the program back up to what it once was.

"I don't see them getting to 125,000 this fiscal year, but I do see a rebuilding of the infrastructure," Feasley said in the November 2020 interview after Biden had made clear plans to raise the cap.

Working with refugee resettlement is an opportunity to embrace the call of Pope Francis to "welcome, protect, promote and integrate" some of the most vulnerable among us," Feasley said.

JOB OPENING

Diocesan Coordinator – Office of Parish Audit & Financial Support Services

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg is seeking a **Diocesan Coordinator – Office of Parish Audit & Financial Support Services**. This position provides support in the financial operation of parishes, schools and related entities in the diocese including technical support in the use of QuickBooks Pro and standard accounting practices. This position also oversees the process by which reviews of parish fiscal operations are conducted and reviews annual submission of Parish Financial Reports to assure financial statements are in balance and in accordance with diocesan accounting regulations. A Bachelor's Degree in accounting with two years audit experience is preferred. Knowledge in QuickBooks Pro accounting software is required. Candidates should possess excellent verbal and written communication skills, have the ability to work independently and manage/establish priority for several projects at the same time. Travel throughout the diocese is necessary on occasion.

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 to: ksnover@rcdony.org. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

MONASTERY CARD SHOP
Cards for All Occasions
Mass Enrollments for your living & deceased loved ones.

Precious Blood Monastery
OPEN: 9 AM - 5 PM
SATURDAY 9 AM - 12 PM
400 PRATT ST, WATERTOWN
315-788-1669
www.sisterspreciousblood.org

NOW PLAYING
OUR FRIEND

NEW YORK (CNS) – In 2015, Esquire magazine published Matthew Teague's article "The Friend: Love Is Not a Big Enough Word."

In it, the globetrotting journalist focused on a personal story far removed from his usual international beat, recounting the unwavering and selfless support he and his late wife, Nicole, had received, during her terminal illness, from the best buddy they shared in common, Dane Fauchaux.

Under the slightly altered title "Our Friend" (Gravitas Ventures), Teague's award-winning piece comes to the screen as an emotionally wrenching but ultimately uplifting drama.

Director Gabriela Cowperthwaite and screen-



CNS PHOTO/CLAIRE FOLGER, GRAVITAS VENTURES

Dakota Johnson and Casey Affleck star in a scene from the movie "Our Friend."

writer Brad Ingelsby treat tragic events in a spare, matter-of-fact manner that magnifies their impact on viewers. This is matched by restrained performances from the gifted cast: Casey Affleck as Matthew, Dakota John-

son playing Nicole and Jason Segel in the role of Dane.

As Dane moves in with the couple and helps to care for their two daughters, Molly (Isabella Kai Rice) and Evie (Violet McGraw), the film celebrates

devotion expressed in small gestures such as doing the laundry or making sandwiches. Through Dane, an apparently unambitious sporting goods salesman, the picture also sends the message that an individual's worth is not to be measured by professional success alone.

These values, together with the presentation of the Teagues' resilient marital bond and a sequence that takes a strong stance against suicide, help to compensate for the complete, though unspoken, absence of faith in an afterlife among the characters.

The real-life Nicole was, apparently, deeply religious, but this is nowhere in evidence. As depicted here, for instance, her memorial service resembles a subdued cocktail party.

The nonlinear storytelling, which lands here and there over more than a decade, feels awkward and somewhat distracting. This artistic defect doesn't, however, prevent "Our Friend" from presenting the grown audience for whom it's suitable with much to admire – and imitate.

The film contains an adultery theme, mature references, including to homosexuality and cohabitation, about a half-dozen uses of profanity, twice as many milder oaths and rough terms as well as considerable crude and crass language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is R – restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

ESSEX

LENLEN PARISH MISSION

Ticonderoga – St. Mary's Church is offering a special Lenten Parish Mission podcast hosted by Father J. Roger McGuinness!

Date: Starting Feb. 16th and new episodes added each week.

Features: Father J. Roger McGuinness has been a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg for over 50 years. He has been a pastor, seminary and university professor, retreat master, college chaplain and vocation director. Now retired from active ministry he continues to write and give spiritual direction. Father Roger will be leading us in a Lenten mission featuring weekly reflections on the Sunday gospel readings. He will also offer a special reflection on the life of St. Joseph on March 19th, the Feast of St. Joseph. The podcast can be found on the parish website route74catholics.org/father-roger it can also be found at Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts and Spotify.

Contact: For more information or

questions contact Father Chris Looby at fatherlooby@gmail.com.

ST. LAWRENCE

DRIVE THRU FISH FRY

Gouverneur – Drive thru fish fry to be held every Friday during Lent.

Date: Feb. 19 to April 2

Time: 4:30 p.m. until gone

Place: Casablanca Restaurant

Cost: \$12

Features: To benefit St. James School

Contact: Call 315-287-0130 to pre-order.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

VIRTUAL VOCATION RETREAT

The Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist invite you to join them on their 2nd Virtual Vocational Retreat!

Date: Feb. 13-14

Features: This online retreat will include talks given by the Sisters and Father David Meconi, S.J. on prayer, Dominican spirituality, the spirituality of DSMMME, Eucharistic and Marian De-

voation, and much more.

Contact: Register now at www.sistersofmary.org/news-events/events/

LEAD: LIGHT THE FIRE, SPREAD THE FLAME

A live zoom event to be held about the sacrament of Confirmation, its symbol-

ism, its sense of mission, and ideas for implementing an effective program.

Date: March 13

Time: 9:45 a.m. to Noon

Speakers: Deb Mullin from Catholic Community of St. Peter, St. Mary, St. Hedwig in Lowville & Peter Woolschlager from St. Stephen's

Church in Croghan.

Contact: Adults only are welcome to register. The Zoom link will be sent as the event date approaches. To register go to:

<https://www.rcdonj.org/ffleadreg>

Warm up with Good News!

Visit our website at www.northcountrycatholic.org to pay by Credit Card for immediate delivery.

OR Send this coupon with payment to:
North Country Catholic

PO Box 106, Canajoharie, New York, 13317

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery when mailing in your renewal

Inside Diocese \$27 Outside Diocese \$30

I want to be a Patron: \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250

New Subscription Renewal

Please send my subscription to my e-mail address:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parish _____



Warm up with a subscription to the *North Country Catholic* and find out what is happening with the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Jesus shows love, compassion in healing

Today's readings provide guidelines for the way we should exercise mercy in our lives.

The Scriptures begin with a passage from the Book of Leviticus. Here we find a collection of ritual and sacrificial laws for the Jewish priests. Why was cleanliness so important for them? They believed that external cleanliness in a person was a sign of being close to God. Even our own society has a saying, "cleanliness is next to godliness."

They were even more afraid of the contagion

connected with skin deformities, especially leprosy. The Mosaic law called for the exclusion of lepers from normal society. They were to shout out, "Unclean, unclean" when someone approached them. Their humiliation and loneliness of life must have been just as painful as their deformed bodies.

Today, we are afraid of the virus. Do we make a phone call? Do we pray for them?

In today's Gospel, the people who were listening to Jesus' teaching must have been indignant



**Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore**

February 14

Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Mark 1:40-45

at the leper who dared come physically close to Jesus and beg Him for a cure. They must have been horrified that Jesus actually reached out and touched this outcast. That made Jesus Himself legally unclean.

What a powerful lesson Jesus' action taught that day! He was obviously compassionate, generously sacrificing his own social status by healing the man. Jesus must have

sensed the great longing in that outcast to be again accepted not only by society, but also to be again a friend of God's. And what a price Jesus paid for His mercy! Because the newly-cured leper, ignoring Jesus' advice, spread the word of the healing throughout the region, it became impossible for Jesus to be seen in any public place without being mobbed by those seeking a similar cure. While the leper returns to society, Jesus is forced out. The messiah is now the one who must seek out desert places!

After this incident, Jesus' listeners knew they should never fear to approach the Master be-

cause of their past sins or social standing. He would understand and show compassion. To the "dark side" in each of us, Jesus brings light and healing, if only we can trust in his love.

What is holding me back today from approaching Jesus for healing or just for His friendship? There's no such thing as an "outsider" in Jesus' book. All are welcome who seek His loving touch.

As the terrible scourge of the pandemic continues, we need to beg God to heal this particular form of "leprosy." Through Mary and St. Joseph, we beseech Him daily for relief.

CALLED TO SERVE

A little agape for Valentine's Day

Kathy (my wife) and I, and about 12 million other people, are big fans of Blue Bloods on CBS television. We have enjoyed the show since it came on-the-air in 2010, 223 episodes ago. Those of you who watch the show know it has a strong Catholic family theme.

There is a lot of talk in that police family show about "rips". RIP is an acronym for "reduction in

pay." It is temporary punishment for some violation of the rules, in this case, the New York City Police Department rules. It is a "disciplinary action."

We heard about discipline, God's discipline, in a scripture reading last week (Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15). The author of Hebrews is telling us we have bad days...things go wrong in our lives and we sometimes blame God. We wonder how God could let this happen to

us. Is he punishing me?

The passage tells us our trials are allowed lovingly by God. That reminds me of the times we spank or were spanked... and the spanker invariably says to the spankee, "this hurts me more than it hurts you." But in the case of our trials in life we can be assured God knows what is happening to us and will provide for us with unconditional love... agape.

The English language word "love" is inadequate, I think. The word love is used universally by the English-speaking world to mean all sorts of relationships. But my love of my

wife and immediate family is not the same love I have for you, my friends,

and that is certainly different again from the love I have for my enemies, assuming I love them at all. The Greeks solved that problem. I recently came across the definitions for the words phileo and agape. The word phileo describes

affection, fondness and liking the other. It is brotherly and friendship love. Phileo love applies to most of our relationships.

Agape love is not based on the merit of the person loved, but rather unconditional and based on

them as an image bearer of Christ. This love is kind and generous. It continues to give even when the other is unkind, unresponsive and unworthy. It only desires good things for the other and is compassionate.

That's Jesus' love for us. Agape. We can take that lesson with us today. Jesus loves us unconditionally. It inspires me to love everyone, even my enemies, the same way, unconditionally. Happy Valentine's Day!

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



**Deacon
Kevin Mastellon**

For a New or Used Car

**Mort
Backus &
Sons**

On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.
315-393-5899

CHEVROLET





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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSI, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669

(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296

mbrett@rcdony.org

Notes of gratitude

We at the Pontifical Mission Societies would like to thank the parishioners of the Diocese of Ogdensburg for your continued financial and prayerful support. This past year has been a trying time for many of us, and we are especially grateful to all of you during these difficult times. Every little bit has gone a long way towards helping those in need all over the world. Below are excerpts from some of the stories and letters we have received from organizations describing the impact your generosity has had on the local communities. We hope that they find their way into your hearts as they did ours.

"Half of the money will be going to a struggling priest in Papua New Guinea who has to scrape together funds in order to purchase food and gasoline for his boat that he uses to get to his island parishes. You and your benefactors will surely be remembered in his prayers and Masses. The other half of the money will go to our thriving but poor Indian MSC Union Members. They are trying to avoid contracting the coronavirus, which is rampant in their part of India... Since their ministry is now so limited, this money will help augment their lost income." – Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Father Richard Kennedy, MSC.

"It is because of kind and caring people like you that we are able to continue to try and make a difference in the lives of the disadvantaged, especially the sick, poor children in Nicaragua and other areas of great need." – North Country Mission of Hope, Sister Debbie Blow, O.P.

"Our Maryknoll priests and Brothers are indebted to our people at home for the generous support we receive to carry out mission efforts overseas, under the direction of the local indigenous dioceses." – Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Father Alfonso Kim, M.M.

"Through grants and generous donors, the Mission employs two local Nicaraguan doctors to provide services in general and pediatric care, women's health, and mental health in two locations serving a community of 20,000+ people, spreading hope through providing visits and our donated medicines as necessary." – North Country Mission of Hope

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.
<https://www.rcdony.org/mission.html>

A WARM EFFORT



Third grade students in Mrs. Alteri's class at Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown collected hats and mittens to donate to homeless youth in the community.

OBITUARIES

Altona – Irvin J. Brown, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 8, 2021 at Holy Angels Church; burial in St. Louis de France Cemetery, Sciota.

Carthage – John D. "Jack" Jones, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 5, 2021 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Carthage – Lean Marie Hill Turck, 53; Services to be held at a later time.

Carthage – Gertrude Jones (Alexander) Wright, 97; Services to be held at a later date; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Copenhagen – Carol S. (Bonni) Lawlee, 75; Memorial Services to be held at a later date; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Deferiet – Julie A. Turpin, 62; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 6, 2021 at St. Rita's Church; burial in St. James Cemetery, Carthage.

Gouverneur – Ruth N. (Gay) Martin, 96; Funeral Services Feb. 6, 2021 at Green Funeral Home; burial in New St. James Cemetery.

Keeseville – Denise (Guindon) Houle, 90; Mass of Christian Burial to be held in the spring at Immaculate Conception Church.

Lowville – Clifford J. "Zeb" Merry, 88; Graveside Services to be held in the spring at St. Peter's Cemetery.

Massena – Gerald "Che Che" Grenon, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 8, 2021 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Rita M. (Joanette) LaMay, 70; Services to be held in the spring; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery, North Lawrence.

Massena – Albert "Robby" L. Robinson, 88; Services to be held at a later date; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Mooers Forks – Linda Lee (Yelle) Duprey, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 3, 2021 at St. Ann's Church; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery.

Newcomb – Clayton "Pete" F. Bush, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 6, 2021 at St. Therese Church; burial in Oakwood

Cemetery, Penfield.

Norwood – Jerry H. Laramay, 88; Funeral Services Feb. 3, 2021 at Buck Funeral Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Old Forge – Theresa McNally Winslow, 92; Mass of Christian Burial May 13, 2021 at St. Bartholomew's Church; burial in Riverview Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Dorothy "Dot" E. (Patnode) Fobare, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 1, 2021 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Sandra Jean (Rafferty) Geiser, 84; Mass of Christian Burial to be held in the spring at St. Mary's Church; burial in Valley View Cemetery.

Watertown – Robert E. Frederick, 86; Private services to be held; burial in Sanford Corners Cemetery.

Watertown – Francis H. Provost, 85; Graveside services to be held at a later date at Glenwood Cemetery.

Senate fails to pass abortion survivors protection

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Failure to pass the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act "shows just how extreme the majority of Senate Democrats are," said Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life.

The measure was proposed as an amendment to the 2021 Budget Resolution in the Senate. In a roll call vote Feb. 4 all Senate Republicans, along with Democratic Sens. Joe Manchin, D-West Virginia, and Bob Casey Jr., D-Pennsylvania, voted in favor of the amendment.

Forty-eight Senate Democrats blocked the amendment, which required 60 votes to pass.

The measure requires that, when a baby is born alive following an abortion, health care practitioners must exercise the same degree of professional skill and care that would be offered to any other child born alive at the same gestational age. It also requires that, following appropriate care, health care workers must transport the child immediately to a hospital.

Tobias and other supporters of the measure say current federal law does not sufficiently protect a child born following an abortion, saying evidence exists that some abortion providers do not regard babies born alive during abor-

tions as persons as provided for under the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act, enacted by Congress in 2002 with unanimous support.

Under this law, babies who are born alive, whether before or after "viability," are recognized as full legal persons under federal law.

The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act "is not about abortion but pro-abortion groups and their allies in the Senate have tried to make it about abortion," Tobias said in a statement released late Feb. 4. "There is no such thing as a 'post-birth abortion.' Allowing a child to die after birth is infanticide."

"After surviving the violence of abortion, these newborn babies should be given the chance to survive," she added.

The Budget Resolution was approved by the Senate early Feb. 5 and House passed its version later that day. This key procedural step will allow Democrats to pass President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package without a filibuster by the Republicans, who are against it.

Meanwhile, in the House the evening of Feb. 3, U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, R-New Jersey, co-chair of the pro-life caucus, was joined by several members of Con-

gress as he led a special order on the House floor, saying the unborn need President Joe Biden "to be their friend and advocate – not another powerful adversary."

"Just like today, both Presidents (Bill) Clinton and (Barack) Obama came into office with Democrat majorities in both houses and sweeping plans to eviscerate all pro-life laws and policies," said Smith, a Catholic. "Despite pro-life setbacks, however, pro-lifers absolutely refused to quit or go away."

Pro-lifers "again face enormous challenges" under the administration of Biden, himself a Catholic, and they "recommit to persevere through prayer, fasting and good works – and respect, including for those with whom we fundamentally disagree – even when it's not reciprocated," Smith said.

He quoted Biden in his inauguration speech saying "the dream of justice for all will be deferred no longer" and speaking of "a cry for survival from the planet itself."

"I believe the dream of 'justice for all' cannot be achieved," Smith said, "if an entire segment of society is legally ignored and discriminated against because of where they live – in their mothers' wombs – and how small and defenseless they are."

In years past, then-Sen. Biden supported was against taxpayer funding for abortion, Smith noted, quoting Biden as saying he had "consistently – on no fewer than 50 occasions – voted against federal funding of abortions. ... Those of us who are opposed to abortion should not be compelled to pay for them."

Within days of his inauguration, Biden signed executive orders reversing

Trump administration blocks on federal funding going to nongovernmental organizations that promote abortion overseas as family planning.

"Yet, Americans overwhelmingly oppose using U.S. foreign aid to subsidize abortion," Smith said, citing results of an annual Marist poll commissioned by the Knights of Colum-

bus that show 77% of Americans oppose using tax dollars this way.

"By reason of their age, dependency, immaturity, inconvenience or unwantedness, unborn children have been denied justice and legally rendered persona non grata," Smith said, but "their cries for survival couldn't be any more desperate."

Kelly elected as Knights' CEO

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS) – Patrick Kelly, a retired U.S. Navy captain, is the new leader of the Knights of Columbus, succeeding Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson, who has headed the international fraternal organization as its CEO for more than two decades.

Elected deputy Supreme Knight in 2017, Kelly was elected to the top post by the Knights' board of directors Feb. 5. He begins his term as the organization's 14th Supreme Knight March 1.

Anderson will retire Feb. 28 upon reaching the organization's mandatory retirement age of 70.

"I am honored, thankful and blessed. I am honored to be called to serve as Supreme Knight," Kelly said in a Feb. 5 news release.

He credited Anderson for his guidance over the last four years.

"Carl has long been a friend to me, and while I count myself among our many colleagues who will miss his daily contribution, I know that he will continue to contribute much to the good of the (fraternal) order as past Supreme Knight and a member of the board of directors."

Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, supreme chaplain to the Knights, described Kelly as a "brilliant new Supreme Knight."

"He possesses the knowledge, experience and commitment necessary to carry the order forward in service to our brother Knights, their families, our parishes and our communities," he said in a statement.

Calling Kelly "extraordinarily well-qualified," Anderson credited the new leader for his dedication to service to the Catholic Church, the United States and the Knights. "He is ideally suited to carry on the work of the Knights of Columbus as we enter a new era, faithful to our principles of charity, unity and fraternity, and in close collaboration with the Holy See and the bishops throughout the world."

With the fraternal organization, Kelly played a prominent role in international religious freedom, the Knights' Ultrasound Initiative, and a grassroots response to the coronavirus pandemic, known as Leave No Neighbor Behind involving members worldwide serving people in quarantine, supporting food banks and blood centers and supporting other humanitarian services.

Remember me? Snookie, from Wholesale Homes of Malone

I'm back and dedicated as always! Let me help provide you with the home you have always wanted to own - not a rent receipt! I have single, doublewides and modular homes waiting for you to purchase that will fit your budget.



Make your dream a reality!

PLATTSBURGH WHOLESALE HOMES

EXIT 39 OFF THE NORTHWAY (NEAR CRETE CIVIC CENTER)

PLATTSBURGH, NY 12901

518-563-1100 • 1-800-640-1833 • www.pwmh.com