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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 74, Number 22

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

OCT. 30, 2019

Teachers, parish leaders 'Celebrate Christ'

LAKE PLACID – Faith. Hope. Passion. Mission. From the opening Liturgy through the keynote addresses, these words encouraged and challenged participants at Celebrate Christ 2019. Held at the Crowne Plaza, the biennial event drew more than 250 people from around the diocese.

Catholic schoolteachers and principals gathered on Oct. 18, while catechists, parish personnel, and others participated on Oct. 19.

This year's keynote speaker was writer, teacher and speaker Kevin Dowd.

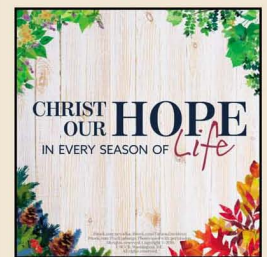
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AND THE AWARD GOES TO...



Bishop Terry R. LaValley visited the Pontifical College Josephinum recently, in part to receive the seminary's Good Shepherd Award. Bishop Douglas J. Lucia also attended to offer a tribute to Bishop LaValley. Both bishops are pictured with Josephinum President/Rector, Very Reverend Steven Beseau. See the full story on Page 15.

RESPECT LIFE MONTH



Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann, Chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Pro-Life Activities, celebrated Respect Life Month with a statement:

Although we must cherish, protect, and defend human life year-round, the Catholic Church in the United States sets aside each October as Respect Life Month.

This year's theme, "Christ Our Hope: In Every Season of Life," is particularly suited for our times. While attacks against human life seem to grow ever more numerous and callous, we know that Christ has conquered sin and death. Through our Christian hope in the Resurrection, we are given the grace to persevere in faith.

In this special edition, learn about efforts to promote respect for life – from conception to natural death – in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, including Life Chain, Birthright, 40 Days for Life and more.

There's also an update on this year's Youth Buses for Life, including an announcement of a special guest joining this year's trip.

SEE STORIES ON PAGES 3-7

Pope: Be attentive to your own struggles

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Too often Catholics know what is going on in their neighbor's house but pay little or no attention to the normal spiritual struggles going on in their own hearts and souls, Pope Francis said.

Life involves a continuing battle "between grace and sin, between the Lord who wants to save us and pull us out of temptation and the evil spirit who always pulls us down," the pope said in his homily

Oct. 25 at morning Mass.

To live a holier life, he said, Christians need to pay attention to that struggle and not wander through life "without noticing what's happening."

"So often we Christians are busy with so many things, including good ones, but what is going on inside you?" the pope asked.

The spiritual life "is a struggle between good and evil, but it's not an abstract

good and an abstract evil," he said. "It's between the good that the Holy Spirit inspires us to do and the bad that the evil spirit inspires us to do. It's a struggle, a struggle we all have."

"If one of us were to say, 'But I don't feel this, I'm blessed, I live calmly, in peace,'" he said he would respond, "You are not blessed. You are someone anesthetized, who doesn't understand what is happening."

"Sometimes," he said, it

seems that "we know what is happening in our neighborhood, what's going on in the next-door neighbor's house, but we don't know what's going on inside us."

The remedy, Pope Francis said, is to take "two or three minutes" at the end of each day and reflect, "What important thing happened inside me today? Oh yes, I had a bit of hatred here and I spoke badly of this person; I did this work of charity," and so on.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

I hoped to erase it from my brain

When it happened, I said I would erase this incident from my brain and never give it an additional thought, but the memory surfaced as I read through the Respect Life articles for this week's edition.

It was January of 2016 (I didn't remember that; I had to search my social media history to jog my memory). I made the mistake of commenting on a social media post a friend shared about people "living off the system."

I noted that many people need assistance. I wrote that my son is on the autism

spectrum, and he receives services funded by "the system" and may need assistance his whole life. I wrote that I understand there are abuses, but there are also people who need help through no fault of their own.

Darcy L.
Fargo

Then, it happened. An individual I don't know, an associate of the person who made the original post, suggested I should've aborted my son when I learned he had a disability to save taxpayers from having to foot the bill for his services.

I pointed out to this individual that my son was diag-

nosed at age 2.

He doubled down on his cruelty and suggested I should've killed my toddler, again in the interest of "preventing the rest of us from having to pay for him for life."

While the interaction made me cry and rage, I concluded the interaction with a promise to pray for the commenter. The friend who made the original post soon deleted the entire conversation to prevent the commenter from having further opportunity to be cruel.

While I hope he was just being a jerk for the sake of being a jerk – an internet troll, as they say, posting just to try to elicit negative re-

sponses from others, I felt bad for that guy. If he was posting honestly, he doesn't understand the value of life. He doesn't understand that while we have our struggles dealing with a disability, we have a wonderful, joyful and hysterical son, and we have a life I wouldn't trade for anything. He doesn't understand that even if I could go back in time with the knowledge I have now, I would choose to have my son – disability and all – every single time.

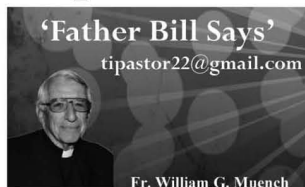
Even on the bad days, when my son is struggling in school or with his sensory issues, there are graces and there is profound love. Those are things I'll never hope to erase from my brain.

October Scriptures are lessons in prayer

The Sunday Scriptures during October are like a spiritual workshop in prayer. Each Sunday, the Gospel reading is from the 17th or the 18th chapter of St. Luke's Gospel. St. Luke cleverly places these readings together in his Gospel. On these Sundays, Jesus teaches us to begin our prayer with gratitude, to be persistent in prayer and to pray with humility. Each time we pray, we should recognize our need for God's mercy and constant support.

Jesus teaches us of the importance of gratitude in the story of the healing of the 10 lepers. In this story, Jesus points out to his disciples that only one healed leper returned to offer gratitude to Jesus and to God. He recognizes him as a Samaritan, not a Hebrew, one unlikely to offer gratitude to Jesus. The Gospels often tell us of the good things done by rather unlikely people.

For Jesus, gratitude is an essential part of prayer. Each



time we begin prayer or join in the celebration of Mass, we must begin with gratitude. In faith, we know well the many wonderful gifts with which the Lord has blessed us. In prayer, we should remember God's constant support on the good days and the difficult days. God gives us the wisdom and strength and faith to get through it all. We must be grateful for God's support when we are in need – the trust and confidence for God to carry us on.

Jesus teaches us to be persistent in prayer. Persistent prayer draws us closer to God. Persistence in prayer gives us a close relationship with God. Persistence does not mean how long we should pray. Persistence is

about a moment of prayer – a minute or an hour – to call to mind our faith and belief in God and to remember God's presence in our lives.

Persistence is about love. When we take that moment to remember God's love and care for each and every one of us, we should be filled with love for this God of ours. Prayer is about falling in love with God. Humanly speaking, when you or I fall in love with someone, that person comes to mind all the time – often a thousand times a day. Each day, many, many things remind us of the one we love. The same must be true of our love of God. So, there are many, many things each day that should remind us of God. Each of these memories of God is truly a prayer – a moment to call to mind our God and to realize our dependence on God's love and support. Each of these moments strengthens our relationship with God. This is persistence. This is prayer.

Jesus teaches us to be humble in prayer. The story of the Pharisee and the tax collector is Jesus' opportunity to demonstrate to us the importance of humility. In this story, Jesus' description of the Pharisee as he prays shows us that he is proud and selfish. He is much too proud. The tax collector humbly stays at the back with his eyes down admitting his sinfulness and need for God's help and love. "O God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

This prayer of the tax collector has become the familiar Jesus prayer. "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner." This short, simple prayer is a perfect moment to remember our faith and trust in God – a moment to strengthen our confidence in God. This quick, little prayer demonstrates our need and confidence in God's mercy and forgiveness. Thank you, God, for listening to us always as we pray.

RESPECT LIFE

Diocese marks Respect Life Month

Registration now open for Youth Buses for Life; Bishop LaValley to attend

By Colleen Miner
Director, Diocesan Respect Life Office

This year, 127 people in our diocese chose to stand up for life on Life Chain Sunday, Oct. 6. With the possibility of rain at four locations and cloudy skies with wind, it was a good turnout. Plattsburgh had the most participants (42) and was the only location with sunshine. Special thanks to Lifechain coordinators: Nancy Belzile, Dorothy Bean, Conner Cum-mings, Charles Shearer and John Miner.

The fall Rachel's Vineyard retreat took place the third weekend in October. It was a wonderful weekend of healing. Seven babies were memorialized. Thank you to St. Bernard of Montjoux parishioners, who filled the hours of adoration and baked for the retreat. The next retreat will take place Spring 2020.

Visit www.rachelsvineyard.org for more information and a complete listing of retreat locations.

Prayer warriors are still needed for the Fall 40 Days for Life campaign in Plattsburgh that continues until Nov. 3. Help save lives by praying for an end to abortion. Please register your prayer time at www.40daysforlife.com/plattsburgh.

The public witness is at 66 Brinkerhoff Street in Plattsburgh.

The New York State Catholic Conference received a grant to create a two-sided, color flyer to provide direction to parishioners who are asking what to do next, since the Re-productive Healthcare Act (RHA) was signed into law last January. The new flyer is posted on the Respect Life webpage. Pastors will receive their flyers soon.

Youth Buses for Life online registration is now open! This year, Bishop Terry R. LaValley will be joining the marchers for the journey.

With the news that a Student for Life scholarship had been awarded, the pilgrimage will be extended for one more day so students and chaperones may attend the Pro-Life Summit www.prolifesusmit.org

While a full scholarship was not awarded, Students for Life has been very good in helping to make the conference possible. Additional funds are needed and gladly accepted. The increase in cost (total cost is \$200 per participant) will help cover the additional hotel night and part of the conference fee. The two Youth Buses for Life will depart

the North Country on Thursday, Jan. 23, arriving in the nation's capital Thursday evening.

Friday, the group will attend the Life is Very Good Rally and Mass, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Arlington, Virginia before participating in the March for Life in our Nation's capital. Saturday is the National Pro-Life Summit, a one-day event that provides education and training. Sunday, the group will attend Mass at the Basilica

of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (nationalshrine.org) before departing for the return trip home.

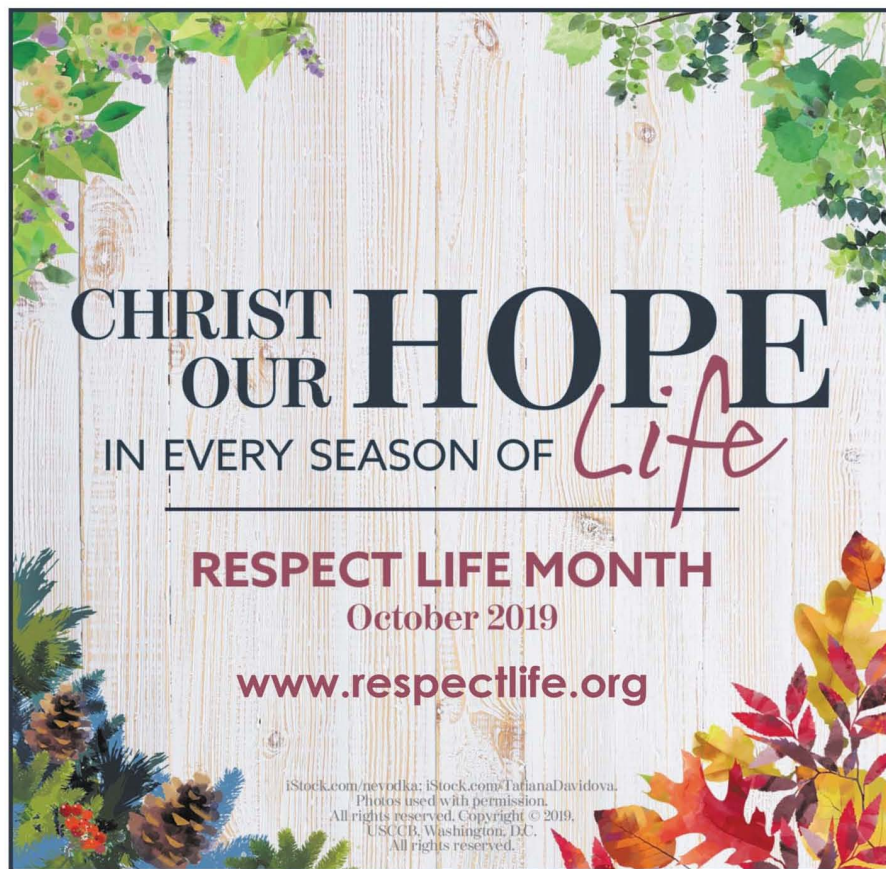
Online registration is at rcdony.org/prolife.

Payment can be made online or a check can be mailed to the Diocese of Ogdensburg Lockbox PO Box 106, Canajoharie, NY 13317. Please include the student's full name. The cost includes transportation, three nights at the Hilton Garden Inn, three

breakfasts, two dinners and two lunches. Please bring money for Saturday's fast food dinner and lunches on the traveling days (Thursday and Sunday).

Chaperones must be 21 or older, Virtus-trained and background checked.

Itinerary, flyer and more information is posted on the Respect Life webpage. Please call or text Colleen Miner with questions at 518-524-0774 or email cminer@rcdony.org.



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RESPECT LIFE MONTH
October 2019

www.respectlife.org

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RESPECT LIFE

40 Days for Life is ongoing in Plattsburgh

By Mary Beth Bracy
Contributing writer

PLATTSBURGH – “People do not go to these clinics because of freedom of choice. They go because they have no freedom and no choice,” declared Father Frank Pavone, National Director of Priests for Life, in his recent video promoting 40 Days for Life.

From Sept. 25 to Nov. 3, the Plattsburgh area is holding a 40 Days for Life campaign.

According to their website, “40 Days for Life is an internationally coordinated 40-day campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful all-day vigil in front of abortion businesses.”

“Since the spring of 2010, Plattsburgh has been registered as an official 40 Days for Life vigil site,” said Nancy Belzile, the local coordinator of 40 Days for Life. “Hundreds of people have participated in praying for the end of abortion in Plattsburgh.”

Belzile referred to the organization’s website, which explains three main ways that people take part:

The first way to get involved is through prayer and fasting: “Christ told us some demons can only be driven out by prayer and fasting,” notes 40daysforlife.com. “The two go hand in hand. Prayer keeps us rooted in the fact that it is our desire to carry out God’s will. Fasting is a sacrifice that helps us reach beyond our own limitations with God’s help... People of faith are also invited to fast throughout 40 Days for



Participants in 40 Days for Life pray outside of Planned Parenthood in Plattsburgh.

Life. We believe that when God’s people fast with a broken, repentant and contrite spirit, our heavenly Father will hear from heaven and heal our lives, our churches, our communities, our nation, and our world.”

Sister Barbara Langlois, a Dominican sister who resides in Plattsburgh, said 40 Days for Life is “important enough that I would go everyday if I could.” When she can’t pray on the sidewalk, she said she offers her Rosaries, Chaplets, and Office for this intention at home.

The second way to get involved is by participating in a 12-hour vigil. Locally, the public centerpiece of 40 Days for Life is a focused, 40-day, 12 hour (7 a.m. – 7 p.m.) prayer vigil outside of Planned Parenthood in Plattsburgh, located at 66 Brinkerhoff Street.

“It is a peaceful and educational presence,” says 30daysforlife.com. “Those who are called to stand witness... send a powerful message to the commu-

nity about the tragic reality of abortion. It also serves as a call to repentance for those who work at the abortion center and those who patronize the facility.”

“For the 40 days, I limit myself to just two meals a day and remove all snacks from my home,” said Kenneth L. Lushia. “I also reduce time spent on social media. I use the Pro-Life Rosary from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at www.usccb.org.”

The third way to get involved is via community outreach.

“During 40 Days for Life, the message is taken proactively to every corner of your community,” notes 40daysforlife.com.

This includes Media outreach, Church involvement, petitions and education, displaying a variety of 40 Days for Life signs, and campus outreach.

Deacon Randy Smith declared “a society that allows genocide does not have a future.”

Earlier this year, 40 Days

for Life promoted the movie “Unplanned.”

“The movie provided the opportunity to show people what the abortion industry is all about, the bottom-line, more abortions equal more money,” Belzile said. “Because of this, many abortion workers and abortionists are leaving as they change their minds about abortion and experience a conversion of heart. Many women, men and others are seeking healing from their abortions as a result of the movie ‘Unplanned.’”

Belzile also noted she’s encouraged by youth involvement in the pro-life movement.

“I see the young people more repulsed with the idea of abortion,” she said. “The young generation is smart and educated about what abortion is all about.”

Belzile reflected upon why 40 Days for Life is so important.

“The main reason is because it works,” she said. “Forty Days for Life is result driven!”

According to the organization’s website, 16,004 lives have been saved through this movement, 104 abortion centers have closed, and 191 abortion workers have quit.

“It is my belief, that every child is created by and in the image of God,” Belzile said. “Abortion should never be an option, abortion intentionally kills an innocent individual and harms the mother, sometimes fatally, sometimes [causing] sterility. I have personally been affected by abortion and sought healing through our local Rachel’s Vineyard Weekend Retreat.”

Even after the 40 Days

for Life ends, Belzile said there’s still work to be done.

“Anyone is welcome to continue to participate individually in the three areas (prayer and fasting, keeping vigil, and community outreach),” Belzile explained. “Some people feel called to get involved in sidewalk counseling to the mothers and those going to Planned Parenthood. Others are led to volunteer at the local frontline pregnancy center, Plattsburgh Pregnancy Center, Birthright or Gabriel Project. Ordinary people are taking on extraordinary tasks to save babies lives and to protect women from the regret, pain and hurt from abortion.”

Events are held throughout the year, as well.

“Champlain Valley Right to Life is the place to go to find out what’s coming up next in pro-life events,” Belzile said. “We are an educational not-for-profit organization in New York. Our events include: Life Chain, Christmas Peace in the Womb Caroling, Pro-life Movies, 40 Days for Life, Good Friday Stations of the Cross, educational trips and letter writing to New York State Legislators, Clinton County Fair booth, local March for Life. Go to our website, click on ‘Get Involved’ to stay up to date.”

The website can be found at champlainvalleyrighttolife.org.

For more information about 40 Days for Life, visit 40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/plattsburgh/.

Belzile said that it is “loaded with resources, [a] vigil calendar, and more.” For those without internet access, Belzile can be reached at 518-593-6024.

RESPECT LIFE



COLLEEN MINER & PATRICIA JENKINS/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

(Above) Sister Carol Kraeger, and Saly and Joe Spadaro participate in Life Chain in Saranac Lake. (Right) Elizabeth and Isabelle Wray joined the Plattsburgh Life Chain. Life Chain Sunday was Oct. 6, and five locations participated in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.



Life Chain participants gather in prayer

By Patricia Jenkins
Contributing writer

PLATTSBURGH – Drivers traveling Smithfield Boulevard in Plattsburgh on Sunday, Oct. 6, likely noticed local members of the Champlain Valley Right to Life group as a dominant presence up and down the street.

It was Life Chain Sunday.

According to Nancy Belzile, coordinator of the Plattsburgh Life Chain, this was the 32nd Life Chain National Event, and it was one of over 500 occurring across the US and Canada at the same time. In the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Life Chain Sunday was marked in Plattsburgh, Massena, Saranac Lake, Potsdam and Schroon Lake.

Belzile said she understands personally the lasting effect abortion has on a person's life and stood with a sign that read, "I regret my abortion."



Alex Clancy, Reaganne Clancy Golden, Dick Lynch, Elizabeth Bloomfiel and Madison Lavarney, all from St-Joseph's Parish in Dannemora, participate in the Life Chain in Plattsburgh.

The participants young and old, like Belzile, were there to pray for life and bring awareness to the public. Sister Jaquiline Mary Sellappan, a Sister of the Cross of Chavanod, pointed out members of local confirmation classes were present for the event.

"It was nice to see the group and would like to encourage all confirma-

tion classes to join in future events like the Chain for Life," she said.

Father Alan D. Shnob, pastor of St. Augustine's Parish in Peru and one of several priests in attendance, said he has participated in the Life Chain for 14 years.

"It is good to stand up for life at every stage of life," he said.

This sentiment was

echoed up and down the group of participants, some of whom had participated in Life Chain for 20 years or more.

Among the participants were siblings, Elizabeth and Isabelle Wray, who stood together on the long line of participants. The sisters, ages 23 and 21, wanted to share the message that, "the effects of abortion are lifelong" and "there are loving options" available to those who might need them.

"Life begins at conception, and each human being is unique and cre-

ated in the image of God," Isabelle Wray said. "We want to bring this message to everyone."

Participants prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet for the unborn, the Rosary, as well as many other prayers for the mothers, the doctors, the parents and grandparents of the unborn and countless others. Their signs spoke about "Our Loving Option," "Adoption the Loving Option" and noted "Jesus Forgives & Heals."

More information about Life Chain can be found at lifechain.net.

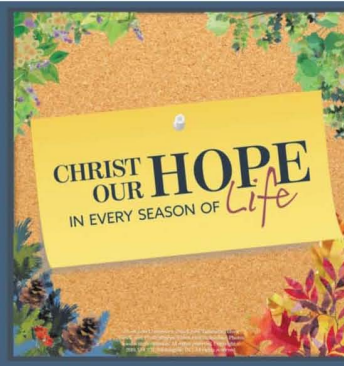
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“God is the foundation of hope: not any god, but the God who has a human face and who has loved us to the end” (*Spe salvi* 31).

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**We invite you to visit the
DIOCESAN RESPECT LIFE OFFICE
website at: www.rcdony.org/pro-life**

More information can be found at respectlife.org

RESPECT LIFE

Assist women, babies at Plattsburgh Birthright

By Mary Beth Bracy
Contributing writer

**We're not going to give them hoops to jump through.
We take people where they're at.**

PLATTSBURGH—“Every volunteer here has a different life experience, but has something of value to share,” said Sally Fisher, Plattsburgh’s Birthright Director.

Fisher noted that Birthright, a private, safe place for pregnant women, children, and families, is seeking volunteers. There is a training for volunteers in November.

Birthingright offers free pregnancy tests, and free maternity and baby clothes, diapers, baby food, and formula. Additionally, the organization provides referrals for assistance with medical, legal, or housing needs. Parenting classes are also available. Louise Summerhill, foundress of Birthright, “saw this being a community of love, among the volunteers and to the extended community.”

Fisher described the beginnings of Birthright, founded in Toronto by a housewife in 1968. Summerhill had seven children, including twin five-year-olds, when God put it “on her heart” to do more, Fisher said. Thinking about how she could promote a culture of life, she saw a For Rent sign. A man approached her and asked if she loved Jesus, then offered her the location rent free.

According to Fisher, Summerhill knew that this was what God wanted her to do for women “whether or not she had the money, whether or not she had the time, whether or not she had the inclination.”

“That is how Birthright was born and,” Fisher continued, “even in the

founding of Birthright, she had some support, she had the support of a priest, she had the support of friends, but she was actually betrayed by some of the people that she thought were her friends and so, although she never had suffered a crisis pregnancy, she knew what rejection was, she knew what betrayal was, and what it was to be in a situation where you had nobody you could count on.”

Summerhill saw the importance of Birthright “being all volunteer, that we are not judgmental, accepting people as they are, as they come to us, and not with our own agenda,” Fisher added.

“They don’t have to show us their ID, they don’t even have to give us their name, they don’t have to tell us their marital status, their financial status,” Fisher said. “We’re not going to give them hoops to jump through. We take people where they’re at. We are confidential. We are not mandatory reporters, whereas all the other agencies are. Often, I’ve had women tell me that they don’t seek the help they need because they are afraid of the repercussions from that. They fear violence from their partner, or abandonment, or they could lose their home, or whatever, all kinds of things could happen.”

Sometimes they just need a can of formula, Fisher revealed, and we “just [need] to give that to them and to be their friend as we would want a friend if we were in their

Sally Fisher, Director of Plattsburgh’s Birthright

situation. We don’t want to send anyone away empty handed. Everything is by donation, everything is given away for free.”

Volunteers are always needed for a variety of jobs, whether to help at the office weekly, or to help with short term projects. Joan Liberty and Karen Larkin make free layettes that are given to pregnant women. Other volunteers have built shelves or stained counters for Birthright’s new office.

Mary Skillan, Birthright’s treasurer, is also local director of campus ministry. Lisa Mockus, a nurse and board member, has been a dedicated Birthright volunteer for years.

Allison Collier, also a board member, began “Ambassadors for Birthright,” in which she travels and gives PowerPoint presentations. She has spoken at the House of Prayer and SUNY Plattsburgh. Students put up Birthright flyers in all of the dorms and throughout campus. They also use social media to reach vulnerable women who might consider abortion.

Information packets with magnets were made up by Deb Van Brunt, another board member, and given to women [at SUNY] who have been assaulted.

Fisher explained, this is “to let them know that they do have people who care about them and that you do have other choices.”

“No matter what has happened to them, they are not a victim and they can move forward with their life,” Fisher said.

“And it can be beautiful, even though it’s not an intended thing, something beautiful can still come out of it.”

Fisher, quoted Henry Ward Beecher who said, “The mother’s heart is the child’s classroom.”

Since moving to their new location in June 2018, Birthright has started an “Earn While You Learn” DVD program. When women choose to take these parenting classes (e.g., on potty training, looking for a child care provider, using a car seat), they earn points to select new baby items.

“It really gives them a sense of self respect that they have earned something for their child,” Fisher said. “It’s not money that they’re spending here, but it’s that they were proactive in asking for the classes, they showed up for the classes, they did the class and earned the points. It really not only gives them that boost of self-respect, but also confidence that ‘what else could I learn, maybe I could go back to school, or maybe I could get a job.’ We’re not telling them to do these things, but it just gives them that sense of not being a victim. You can do things for yourself.”

Fisher noted that “Earn while you learn” participants are paired with mentors.

“So here is somebody who is a volunteer who is taking up their own time and sharing their own experiences to speak into my life,” she said. “So, here is somebody who thinks that I am worth the time. They’re not getting paid, they don’t have their own agenda for me and what I have to do, it’s that they care about me and

want to help me to do the best I can, with what I have, to be a better parent. And, in the course of it, there may be other volunteers who take interest in them and their babies. And it really is beautiful.”

The first mom to go through the program had never held a baby before, Fisher shared. Now, she is confident and a part of the Birthright community, and she wants to mentor other women.

Fisher explained that Summerhill felt Birthright “could be a vocation for a woman who maybe had raised her own children and now was helping other women to raise theirs.”

Birthingright is aided by a number of groups, parishes and organizations.

“We get support from the groups I mentioned like the Catholic Daughters, the Altar Rosary, the Knights of Columbus, and then the parishes and then the other churches,” Fisher said.

Birthingright is also supported by many denominations in the area, including Wesleyan, Church of the Nazarene and Assembly of God, who help out with donations and projects.

The “Change for Life” baby bottle drive was a success, and Birthright is grateful for the support of Catholic pastors as well as the many other area churches who participated. Other groups interested in assisting with the drive may should contact Birthright.

Birthingright’s new office is located at 50 Clinton St., Plattsburgh. For more information, to make a donation, or volunteer, please contact: 518-563-4300.

Environmental Stewardship

Gospel of Life is part of the very fabric of the Gospel itself

We have been given a precious treasure in "earthen vessels." The essential aspect of this gift is life itself.

Like the Psalmist in Ps. 139 during this Respect Life month, we may be drawn to ponder the very miracle of life itself. We realize that our physical bodies were formed from the natural world.

When we consider the child as it grows in its mother's womb, we recognize that its well-being will be profoundly affected by the quality of the water, air, etc. that her/his mother consumes.

With this awareness, we recognize that the call of the Gospel to respect life in the womb and to be good stewards are not two separate challenges. Rather, they are intricately woven together. When speaking of human life, whether before birth or after birth, "respect life" calls us to reverence life in all its stages.

As humans, we are an integral part of ALL Creation. So the challenge to respect life extends to the natural world and all forms of life.

What does the word "respect" actually mean? Research tells us that it actually comes from the Latin words "spicere" meaning "to look or see" and "re" meaning "again."

Respect, then, calls us "to look again." As a Christian I am invited "to look again" until I recognize the goodness, truth and beauty of God in everyone and every aspect of the created world.

In a culture that tends to judge the value of anything or anybody from the perspective of its usefulness to me, this Gospel call to respect may call me to look again and again before I can begin to see the image of God implanted there.

Our best model and guide in the process is Jesus. He was always able to see beyond the external appearance of the other to the reflection of His father's goodness. Let us pray for the wisdom to recognize and act with respect to all life.

From Haiti to St. André Bessette Parish

Father Medenel Angrand recently arrived at St. André Bessette Parish

in Malone, where he will serve as parochial vicar while he continues his graduate studies

Originally from Terrier-Rouge, Haiti, Father Angrand, 46, was ordained on Aug. 24, 2003 after receiving his bachelor's degree in sacred theology at Grand Séminaire Notre-Dame d'Haiti in Port-au-Prince.

His first assignment was serving as assistant pastor at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Fort-Liberté, Haiti from 2003 to 2005.

From 2005 to 2011, he was assigned as pastor of Sainte-Suzanne Parish



Father Medenel Angrand

and diocesan director of Holy Childhood.

From 2011 to 2015, he served pastor of Our Lady of Nativity Parish in Malfety and, at the same time, diocesan director of

Caritas of Fort-Liberté.

In January 2016, at the request of his bishop, Father Angrand arrived in the United States to study at Divine Word College and Seminary in Epworth, Iowa. There, he learned English and took courses in cross-culture/intercultural studies.

Currently, he is pursuing a master's degree in Moral Theology at Holy Apostles College & Seminary, Cromwell, Connecticut.

He is scheduled to complete that program in May 2019.

Bishop's Public Schedule

Oct. 30 – 8:15 a.m. – Prayer Service at St. Bernard's School in Saranac Lake followed by a school visit

10:30 a.m. – Prayer Service at St. Agnes School in Lake Placid followed by a school visit

Oct. 31 – 10:50 a.m. – Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

Nov. 1 – 7 p.m. – Deacon Candidate Class at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

Nov. 4 – 11 a.m. – Catholic Charities Corporation Meeting at Spratt followed by lunch at Bishop's Residence

Nov. 5 – 11 a.m. – Development Board of Advisors Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by lunch

Nov. 6 – 1 p.m. – Annual Catholic Charities Board of Trustees Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

5:30 p.m. – Caritas Dinner at Gran View in Ogdensburg

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.

Upcoming sessions:

Nov. 7 – 5:30 p.m., St. Peter's Church, Lowville

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri-ann Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, 618 Lake Rd, Chateaugay, NY 12920;

terriannyanulavich@yahoo.com
Phone: Day: 518-651-2267, Night: 518-569-0612; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920

Rest in Peace

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

Oct. 30 – Rev. Michael F. Burns, 1921; Rev. Thomas E. Owen, 1945; Rev. Peter N. Butler, 1973

Oct. 31 – Rev. James Rooney, 1863; Rev. Lucien Jean, M.S.C., 1964; Rev. Ivan G. Boyea, 1996

Nov. 2 – Rev. Thomas Walsh, 1888; Rev. John Henry Lyons, 1931; Msgr. James J. Ruddy, 1987

Nov. 3 – Rev. Thomas Plunkett, 1904

Nov. 4 – Msgr. Benjamin Harrison Staie, 1970

Nov. 5 – Rev. Bernard Wyzykowski, 1969; Rev. John Michael Wyzykowski, 1969

Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters from readers of the North Country Catholic.

• Due to space limitations, we ask that the number of words be limited to 300.

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

• Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or e-mail to news@northcountrycatholic.org

• Join the conversation!

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

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

Find us on Facebook!

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

Eternal Father, we lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen	Mass Rosary Fasting Day Offering Eucharistic Adoration Offering of Sufferings Divine Mercy Chaplet
(With ecclesiastical approval)	Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him

NOVEMBER 2019

Holy Souls

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	1 SATURDAY	2
3 REV. DOUGLAS A. DECKER	4 REV. ROBERT L. DECKER	5 REV. RAYMOND DEISBOURG MSC	6 REV. DAVID DELUCA MSC	7 REV. GARVIN J. DEMARAIS	OUR PASTOR	8 REV. RICHARD D. DEMERS	9 REV. THEODORE A. CROSBY
10 REV. JOHN M. DEMO	11 MSGR. LAWRENCE M. DENO	12 REV. JOHN L. DOWNS	13 MSGR. DENNIS J. DUPREY VF	14 REV. GUY F. EDWARDS	POPE FRANCIS	15 BENEDICT XVI POPE EMERITUS	16 REV. ADRIAN GALLAGHER
17 REV. JOSEPH W. ELLIOTT	18 REV. ALFRED H. FISH	19 REV. FRANCIS J. FLYNN	20 REV. VINCENT F. FREEH MSC	21 REV. J. MICHAEL GAFFNEY	RETIRED PRIESTS	22 REV. ROLLAND A. HART	23
24 REV. GARRY B. GIROUX	25 REV. JOSEPH W. GIROUX	26 REV. L. WILLIAM GORDON	27 REV. DANIEL GOULET	28 REV. ALEX V. GUIMPOL	DECEASED PRIESTS	29	30

For more information visit us online at www.nprpasteslate.com

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

Teachers, parish leaders 'Celebrate Christ'

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Staff writer

LAKE PLACID – Faith. Hope. Passion. Mission. From the opening Liturgy through the keynote addresses, these words encouraged and challenged participants at Celebrate Christ 2019. Held at the Crowne Plaza, the biennial event drew more than 250 people from around the diocese.

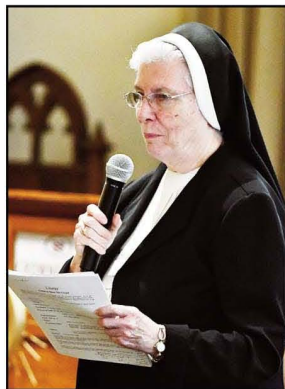
Catholic schoolteachers and principals gathered on Oct. 18, while catechists, parish personnel, and others participated on Oct. 19.

Opening the event was St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, superintendent of Catholic Schools and director of Faith Formation for the diocese. She focused attention on the participants' common task: "We are all called to be missionary disciples who know Jesus and go forth to share the incredibly good news of his love and mercy...The Gospel assures us that the Holy Spirit accompanies us and teaches us what to say."

Bishop Terry R. LaValley, celebrant of the opening liturgy, expanded on this in his homily.

"Faith consists in letting ourselves be renewed by Christ's call. We must possess a passionate will to give ourselves to Christ, which is what children should witness when they see us, when they look at our lives. Faith is a gift of God that comes to us through others, through witnesses. It is kept alive in remembering, in the body we call the Church."

Noting that the current generation has too often been deprived of this type of witness, Bishop LaValley reminded listeners that, "We must always share our experience of God to encourage others. Remem-



PAT HENDRICK/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

(Left) Kevin Dowd served as the keynote speaker for Celebrate Christ in Lake Placid, addressing the crowd both days of the assembly. (Right) Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, superintendent of Catholic Schools and director of Faith Formation, gave the opening address for the two-day event.

ber: the Holy Spirit made evangelizers of the Apostles, and he does the same for us. In this way we share in Psalm 145: 'Your friends make known, O Lord, the glorious splendor of your kingdom.'

Keynoter Kevin Dowd reinforced these themes in his lively and highly engaging multi-media presentations. Teacher, speaker and author, Dowd brought a wide-ranging experience to his talks, analyzing current social issues as opportunities for sharing our faith with others.

"We have to claim our heritage, to remember who we are as Church," said Dowd. "People search for their birth moms. Others spend endless hours researching their family genealogies. Knowing who we are is so important! And rites and rituals are only a part of this identity. I am aware of Presence, with a capital 'P,' and I feel the gentle pull of relationship to the one Ground of Being."

With input from his audience, Dowd examined what it means to be Catholic, highlighting the experience of the disciples on the road to Emmaus,

where they recognized the risen Christ in the breaking of the Bread.

"It was then that their hearts were burning within them," Dowd explained. "That reminds us that the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life, absolutely central to who we are. Our Church also uses signs – incense, oils, bells, candles – to point to the sacred, which help us remember our heritage."

Dowd connected sharing our Catholic heritage with the work of passing on the faith. Himself a former Catholic school teacher, he noted that Catholic schools are uniquely positioned to offer what other schools cannot.

First, he said "is a clear understanding of the dignity of every person created in the image of God. Not that people in general are so created, but YOU and YOU and YOU, each one is created in the image and likeness of God – each one unique and different and precious. We can honestly embrace all children: 'You are loved and appreciated and welcomed here.' By contrast, our society isolates us, a feeling amplified by social media;

this means that we cannot reveal who we really are."

Furthermore, "Catholic schools give a clear moral vision. As we teach the Ten Commandments, we must be careful not to miss the preamble: 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt; you shall have no other gods before me.' This is God saying: 'I want you to be FREE, not slaves – to work, to the culture, to social media. I want you to be free to hear the voice of Love and to respond with love.'"

This truth grounds students in their relationship to God and to others, and thus strengthens them for their part in building the kingdom of God.

Finally, Dowd asserts, Catholic schools give meaning to students' lives.

"As suicides increase right along with social media use, we combat that with the Cross," he said. "We teach students that their lives have infinite, eternal, meaning; we open their spirits to the Resurrection and let them know that suffering has eternal value. The heart of what we do is about a relationship to Jesus Christ. It is all about this loving relationship, and about how God always finds a way to get in. We offer young people the greatest gift: hope."

That hope is renewed constantly in the gift of the Eucharist, and Dowd suggests a three-movement approach to teaching about this sacrament.

"The first is receiving the Real Presence of Jesus, as he told us to do in memory of him," Dowd said. "Of course, we are not worthy. But God wants to heal us! We receive the Body of Christ in order to BE the Body of Christ. He wills us to continue his work and to be his presence to oth-

ers. As Pope John Paul II wrote, 'The Eucharist is the principle and plan of mission.' This leads to the second movement, being the Body of Christ, who expects us to bring his presence into the world by caring for those in need and by defending the defenseless. Think of the words of Teresa of Avila: 'Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on the world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses his people.'"

The third movement Dowd cites is "offering" – the offering of ourselves to the Lord who has given himself for us on the Cross.

"We join ourselves to the gifts brought to the altar," said Dowd. "Using the marriage metaphor of Scripture, we see that God wants a marriage with us, he wants to bring us into himself. The Eucharist is an invitation to that, to respond with a true 'I do.' We receive the Body of Christ, but he also wants to receive us. Let your heart receive the One who opens so deeply to you. In this way, as Benedict XVI reminds, all creation is taken up to be transformed in Christ."

Recognizing the role of many in that transformation, Celebrate Christ also honored teachers for long time service in Catholic schools. Teachers and catechists alike were also recognized for the many hours they invested in the diocesan "Growth in Faith" program. Additionally, certificates were awarded to catechists in the areas of leadership and youth ministry.



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The weekend of Nov. 2 and 3, 2019

This week your parish will take up the Collection for the Archdiocese for Military Services (AMS).

"Serving those who serve" is the mission of the AMS. The AMS relies on your donation to provide pastoral care and services to 1.8 million Catholics serving in the United States, Armed Forces, enrolled in US Military Academies, seeking treatment at VA Medical Centers, working civilian jobs beyond US borders and supporting their families. The AMS serves those who serve or have served this nation with distinction as members of the U.S. military. The Collection provides access to the Gospel, the sacraments and other forms of spiritual support to the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces around the world and to veterans in VA Medical Centers. The AMS receives no government funding. Please prayerfully consider a generous contribution to this special triennial collection approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2012 and last taken in 2016.

Bishop Chbeir grateful for diocesan support

Diocese of Latakia feels the effects of conflict in Northern Syria

The Turkish incursion into northern Syria is presenting new challenges to Bishop Antoine Chbeir, bishop of the Diocese of Latakia.

We are not directly affected by [the] Turkish invasion into northern Syria, even though hundreds of people perished and got wounded in a few days," Bishop Chbeir said in a letter to Bishop Terry R. LaValley. "[We received] some displaced people coming out of the blue".

Meeting the needs of these refugees is one of the challenges the situation presents to the Diocese of Latakia. The refugees coming into the

Diocese of Latakia bring very little with them and their needs are great. The diocese has increased the number of camps to assist the refugees.

"Summer is a busy time with missionary camps to promote Christian life among youth and children," Bishop Chbeir wrote in the letter. "We projected five camps and we added another one and later on another one as well."

The conflict in northern Syria impacts all the people of Syria. Bishop Chbeir explains that the incursion made the economic situation in Syria "more worrisome" and has led to

the "daily devaluation of domestic currency in the black market, which is active both in Syria and Lebanon" because of the lack of hard currency.

Bishop Chbeir reports that the average Syrian lives on less than \$60 per month, and inflation is sky rocketing. These economic challenges have increased the burden on maintaining refugee camps and parishes, and educating seminarians.

Despite these challenges, Bishop Chbeir reports that "life goes on and I am used to living amid a lot of uncertainties, since I was only 14 when war started in my native country... Thanks to you, we deep down could feel providence at work in our lives and in the church. We cannot af-

ford but to thank you and praise the Lord for his gifts and grace".

Bishop Chbeir expressed his gratitude for the support given by the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

"Thank you for your timely regular unwavering support, honoring the pledge you made almost two years ago, helping a church in deep trouble with uncertainties in terms of peace, economy and safety," wrote Bishop Chbeir.

"I am deeply touched by your thoughtful concern and prayers... We always count on you and on your prayers. May God bless you, your diocese, clergy and faithful, and all benefactors," writes Bishop Chbeir.

Bishop LaValley an-

nounced on April 6, 2017 that the Diocese was setting out on a "twinning relationship" with the Diocese of Latakia in Syria. This initiative manifests our solidarity with our persecuted brothers and sisters in Syria. The initiative was motivated by Pope Francis' call for practical efforts to assist persecuted and displaced families and Christian communities to help them remain in their native lands.

"Our relationship with our Syrian brothers and sisters benefits us all," said Bishop LaValley. "We are able to offer spiritual and material support to a suffering Church, and they teach us so much about faith and perseverance in the face of persecution."

Father LaBaff, youth council to receive awards

Reservation deadline extended for Catholic Charities' annual Caritas Dinner

OGDENSBURG - Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg will honor seven people - the pastor who founded Camp Guggenheim and members of the Diocesan Youth Council - at its annual Caritas Dinner on Nov. 6 at the Gran View Restaurant in Ogdensburg.

Each year, Bishop Terry R. LaValley and the Board of Trustees present awards to individuals, groups, and families who have made a significant contribution to the agency's mission of serving the poor and underprivileged in the diocese.

This year, seven individuals have been se-

lected:

The Caritas Award will be presented to Father Arthur J. LaBaff, VF.

Father LaBaff is the founder of Camp Guggenheim and has served as a diocesan priest for 52 years

The Legacy Award, a special distinction reserved for youth and young adults, will be presented to Alexandra Pinkerton of Ogdensburg, Ciara Leroy of Malone, Konrad Wojcikowski of Carthage, Therese Buskey of Natural Bridge, Maureen Pierce and Meaghan Pierce of Heuvelton.

The six youth are currently members of the Diocesan Youth Council

These members of the young Church are learning to make a difference in the lives of teens in the North Country.

According to Deacon Patrick J. Donahue, the current Executive Director of Catholic Charities: "These are seven, very deserving recipients and their tireless and devoted work in their communities have inspired so many others to join in and do the same."

The awards are given to those who demonstrate a clear understanding of charity and social justice issues as well as a passion for reaching a resolution.

The Caritas Award was established by the Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg in 1979. The award acknowledges individuals and organiza-

tions in the North Country who promote the mission of Catholic Charities and social justice ministry of the Catholic Church. The individual or group should exemplify the gospel mandates of charity and justice.

The event begins at 5 p.m. with cocktail hour (with a cash bar). Dinner is at 6 p.m. The cost is \$50 per person.

Reservations, which are

required, should be made with Johanna H. at Catholic Charities (315) 393-2255 by Oct. 30.

All funds raised through the Caritas Dinner will be used to provide counseling and financial assistance to individuals and families in critical need.

No administrative funds are paid for with funds raised through this dinner.



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Sacred Heart Church dedicates Rosary Garden

By **Mary Beth Bracy**
Contributing writer

CHAZY—On Oct. 6, Sacred Heart Church in Chazy attained a vision with the blessing of a Rosary Garden.

Noreen Barcomb, parish secretary, said the garden had a simple beginning.

"We simply put an announcement in the parish bulletin on June 16, 2019," she said.

An excerpt reads:

We have a vision! And, with YOUR help, we can attain that vision and make our parish a model for others to follow.

It is no secret that the Rosary is a very powerful tool. Each week, everyone is encouraged to pray their rosary daily. In our religion classes, we teach about Mary and the Rosary. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we had a beautiful visual as a reminder?

We would like to see each family make a "bead" for the rosary and embellish it with their family name and other items. These beads would be made right here at the parish center, out of cement, and we would invite the families to come to make and decorate them. We need 59 beads! We would like to fill the center of the rosary with annual flowers and place the bench so folks can come and sit, or walk the beads to pray. Religion teachers could bring their students over to pray the Rosary and enjoy the beauty.

"We were amazed at the instant interest in this project," Barcomb said. "The sign-up sheets we put out were filled with names and the ways people could help. We put updates and announcements in the bulletin with the supplies... and manpower



MARY BETH BRACY/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Created with donations and involvement from parish families and individuals, the Rosary Garden was blessed Oct. 6.

we needed. On July 11, crews came in with that equipment and began the transformation. We researched how to make stepping stones."

Parishioners' devotion was evident, Barcomb said.

"More lists were put in church so people could choose a spot on the Rosary for their family 'bead,'" she said. "Families came to the parish center in some cases, others were widows and single folks. The beads were all designed and then all had to be poured in concrete. Unsolicited donations came in to cover the costs of whatever was needed to be purchased.

"On September 25, 2019 the grass seed was put down and the garden and our 'vision' was complete and perfect."

The dedication and blessing ceremony, at-

tended by a large crowd, included prayers and a hymn to Our Lady, performed by "Mary's Children."

Father Theodore A. "Ted" Crosby, pastor, presided.

Lori Salimando-Porter, whose family has a stone in the garden, reflected: "We pray in thanksgiving to Mary for her love and protection of Sacred Heart Church and the world."

Father Crosby shared some insights about the garden:

How did the garden originate?

The idea of the Rosary Garden didn't come from me! But I really liked the idea and I'm very, very impressed and pleased at how the folks here at Sacred Heart have embraced the project and have helped to make the vision a reality.

Why develop a relationship with Our Lady?

It's an old maxim of Catholic spirituality: to Jesus through Mary. St. Louis De Montfort writes in his masterpiece, True Devotion to Mary that just as Jesus came to us through Mary, so we go to Him through Mary, that she is the "safest, easiest, shortest and most perfect way of approaching Jesus."

Why the daily Rosary?

The Blessed Mother has repeatedly asked us, since the time she gave the Rosary to St. Dominic 800 years ago, to pray the Rosary. It's no coincidence that she gave Dominic the Rosary while he was struggling to bring back to the faith fallen away Catholics, many of whom had been scandalized by corruption among the clergy. In many of her apparitions over the last 200 years – most notably at Fatima in 1917 – Our Lady asked us to pray the Rosary, especially for peace. The popes have encouraged us to pray the Rosary, including many of the popes of our own day such as St. John XXII, St. Paul VI, St. John Paul II, and Pope Francis.

Pope Francis, in fact, prays the entire Rosary every day. The saints – those officially recognized as such by the Church as well as the "saints" in our families – have had great devotion to the Rosary. If the Blessed Mother, the pope, the saints, and my mother and grandmother all insist that the Rosary is worth doing, then I'd be wise to take their advice.

How do we interest others in the Rosary?

One of the things that, I think, turns younger Catholics off about the Rosary is how we say it sometimes. When the focus of praying the Rosary is on the vocal

prayers, and we say it too quickly or mechanically, it's understandable why this kind of prayer isn't all that appealing to them.

All of us, children and adults, can learn how to think about, to mediate on, the mysteries of the Rosary in ways that are age-appropriate, and then to try to apply them to how we live each day. It's not always easy, but it's worth doing.

We need to have St. Thérèse's attitude about the Rosary. She often struggled with meditating on the mysteries. But she came to understand that, since Mary was her Mother and she was Mary's little girl, that the Blessed Mother was pleased with her Rosaries because of the love that she put into praying them.

Explain the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary was first instituted by Pope St. Pius V in 1571 to commemorate the victory of the Christians over the Ottoman Turks at the naval Battle of Lepanto on October 7 of that year. Pope Pius had asked the Catholics of Europe to pray the Rosary for success in this battle and it's said that the Christian sailors went into battle with a sword in one hand and the Rosary in the other. Pope Pius had originally designated October 7 as the Feast of Our Lady of Victory, but two years later Pope Gregory XIII changed it to, "Feast of the Holy Rosary."

What benefits do people receive from praying the Rosary?

The blessings and graces that flow from the Rosary are innumerable. The best way to learn how beneficial and how powerful the Rosary is simply to do it, and to be faithful to it each day.

ADIRONDACK

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Lake Placid – St. Agnes school to have their Christmas Bazaar.

Date: Dec. 7

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

Place: St. Agnes School

Features: A great way to start your holiday shopping. There are trees, wreaths, plants, toys, crafts, gifts, baked goods, raffles, silent auction items and so much more. Lunch will be served and Santa will make a visit.

Contact: Vendor space is available. Please call Kathleen Murphy at 518-523-3771 or email info@stagneslp.org.

CLINTON

FALL PAINTING

Chazy – Sacred Heart Church to have a Fall Painting with Jessie.

Date: Nov. 3

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

Cost: \$30

Contact: Reservations are encouraged to save your spot by calling 518-846-7650 or 518-570-7747

CRAFT FESTIVAL

Chazy – Fabulous Fall Festival to be held.

Date: Nov. 9

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

Place: Sacred Heart Parish Center

Features: Great craft festival with many craft vendors from New York, Vermont. Hot lunches, baked goods, silent auction, in addition to hundreds of handcrafted items. Free Admission

Contact: For more info, contact Sharon Nephew 518-493-2914.

HARVEST DINNER

Morrisonville – St. Alexander to have their annual Turkey Harvest Dinner.

Date: Nov. 10

Time: 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 5-12, \$5; under 5, Free

Contact: Take-outs available by calling 518-561-5039

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

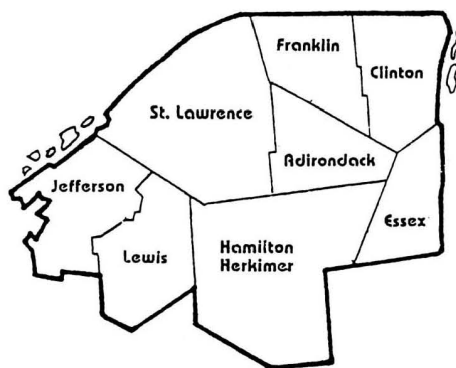
Plattsburgh – Calling all Christians across the Diocese to participate in this life saving event.

Date: Sept. 25 – Nov. 3

Time: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Place: Planned Parenthood

Features: You're invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're also invited to



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

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

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

stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood. Prayer Volunteers needed.

Contact: If you would like more information please contact: Nancy Belzile at 518-593-6024.

www.40daysforlife.com/plattsburgh

FRANKLIN

CABBAGE ROLL SALE

Brushton – St. Mary's Election Day Cabbage Roll sale to be held.

Date: Nov. 5

Time: 6 a.m. until all are gone

Place: St. Mary's Church

Cost: Take-outs only, \$4

Contact: Pre-order on Nov. 4 and 5 by calling 518-529-6580

JEFFERSON

ELECTION NIGHT DINNER

Alexandria Bay – Annual Election night ham dinner to be held.

Date: Nov. 5

Time: 5 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Cyril's Church

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children, \$5; under 5, Free; Take-outs, \$10 starting at 4 p.m.

Contact: For deliveries call Joanne Fitch 315-955-5504

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – Indian River Council 7471 Knights of Columbus to have a spaghetti and meatball dinner.

Date: Nov. 9

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$7; Senior Citizens, \$6;

Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free; Sauce per quart, \$5

PRESENTATION ON BULLYING

Clayton – St. Mary's Catholic Church is sponsoring a presentation on the "Facts, Effects, and Prevention" of Bullying.

Date: Nov. 14

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Features: Our guest speaker is

Deputy Carrie Mangino, who knows first-hand the effects of Bullying in our schools. Adults and youth are invited to join us. This event is informative and free.

Contact: For more information, contact St. Mary's Parish Office at 315-686-3398.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Watertown – St. Anthony's church to have a Spaghetti Dinner.

Date: Nov. 21

Time: Take-outs begin at 4 p.m., dinner 4:30 p.m. to 6:30

Cost: Adults, \$8; Half portions for children or adults, \$4.50; children 3 and under, Free; Sauce, \$5 quart (bring a pot); extra meatballs are .75 cents each.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TABLE

Clayton – Community Christmas Table and Living Nativity to be held.

Date: Dec. 7

Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: \$8, over 50 delicious dishes to sample

Features: Stop in for the Community Christmas table. Again this year, students will present a living nativity.

TI CATHOLIC MEN'S GROUP

Clayton – The Thousand Islands

Catholic Men's Group is a group of Catholic men who meet on a regular basis to discuss their experiences as Catholic men in today's society.

Date: Second Saturday of every month

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church Parish Center

Features: Come join us, whether you've been to a meeting before or not.

Contact: For further information contact Scott Beeles at 315-783-5268 or Gene Kleinmans at 315-482-3981.

LEWIS

DAY OF REFLECTION

Lowville – All are invited to a Day of Reflection on "True Hospitality of the Heart" with Sister Bethany Fitzgerald.

Date: Dec. 7

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: Lunch will be served.

Contact: Please call Deb Mullin at the Parish Office 315-376-6662 or 315-523-0336 to RSVP.

ST. LAWRENCE

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Star Lake – St. Hubert's to have Holiday Bazaar.

Date: Nov. 2

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

Place: St. Hubert's Church

Features: Coffee & Donuts – 9 a.m. - 11; Lunch 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.; Hand-crafted items, gift baskets, live wreaths, bake sale. Handicapped Accessible

Contact: 315-848-3612

HARVEST DINNER

Gouverneur – St. James School to have a Harvest Dinner with all of the trimmings.

Date: Nov. 7

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 12 and under, \$5; 5 and under, Free

FAMILY FUN DAY

Massena – St. Peter's Parish to have their Fall Bazaar.

Date: Nov. 9

Time: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Features: Food will include lunch,

Turkey Dinner and Cabbage rolls. There will be a \$2500 raffle, quilt raffle, country store, Turkey Raffle, Cake Walk, Games, Skilo, 50/50 Raffle, Poker and pull tabs.

CRAFT/ARTISAN SHOW

Brasher Falls – The St. Patrick's/St. Lawrence Altar Rosary Society is hosting a two day Artisan/Craft Show.

Date: Nov. 9, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and

Nov. 10, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: K of C Hall

Features: Vendors are still needed.

No direct sales vendors please. To reserve a table please call 315-389-4182

DIOCESAN EVENTS

YOUTH MINISTER GATHERING

Tupper Lake – Youth Minister Annual Gathering to be held.

Date: Nov. 9

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

Place: Holy Ghost Parish Center

Features: Youth Ministers are the hands and feet that lead the young to Jesus so that they may lead a Blessed life. The day is centered around an open discussion on the current state and future of Youth Ministry in the Diocese. Lunch will be included for free.

Contact: Please RSVP to: Tom Semeraro, Email: tsemeraro@rcdony.org, Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1415

CURSILLO EVENTS

Ogdensburg – North Country Cursillo event to be held.

Schedule: For Men, Nov. 21-24; For Women Dec. 12-15

Place: Wadhams Hall

Features: Cursillo is a means to help Catholic Christians realize the depth of God's love for each of us and the beauty of our Catholic Faith. It provides a simple method to help one develop and grow in Faith and better live the daily struggle of the Christian life. A Cursillo Weekend is an encounter with Christ, others and self. Cursillo means "short course" and consists of talks given by priests and lay persons with participation in small group discussions. Weekend participants also share the Eucharist, sing, pray and fellowship together.

Contact: For more information please contact Ken Racette Email: kracette1a@gmail.com Phone: 518-314-1505 or 518-578-3056

Panel examines ways to protect holy sites worldwide

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In light of continued attacks on houses of worship and holy sites around the world, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom held an Oct. 23 hearing at the Capitol to learn ways to deter such attacks.

Easy and immediate solutions, though, were elusive.

"Houses of worship and religious sites are places that should be sanctuaries for believers to practice their faith," said the commission's chair, Tony Perkins. "States must ensure that religious sites are respected and protected" instead of "turning the sacred spaces into unimaginable sites of bloodshed."

Sam Brownback, the U.S. ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom, who testified at the hearing, said: "There's an ongoing worldwide crisis," calling it a "war on faith." He cited reports that "dozens of Uighur cemeteries and mosques have been destroyed" by a hostile Chinese government.

"We hope we can usher in a new time of respect" for holy sites for all people of all faiths, Brownback added. "Humanity will be better off if they (sacred sites) are respected, protected and restored," noting that Russia still has former churches being used as "hay barns."

Too many, though, declare, "We destroyed this site," Brownback said, "as if they were proud of what they'd done."

The United Nations in September issued a plan of action to safeguard religious sites, hoping to fully implement the plan next year, according to Miguel Moratinos, high represen-

tative for the U.N. Alliance of Civilizations.

It is "an urgent task for all of us," Moratinos said, adding implementation will be one of the most challenging tasks of his diplomatic career.

"The first component is education," he said. "If we don't furnish education, we will not be able to prepare a new generation" to honor and respect holy sites, Moratinos added.

Commission members and panelists alike discussed houses of worship and sacred sites being "hard targets" or "soft targets." Moratinos noted some sites are "particularly vulnerable to violence because of their accessibility." They rejected the notion of closing off access, he said, and then exclaimed, "But we need protection!"

Hassan Abbas, a professor of international relations at the National Defense University in Washington, said houses of worship are supposed to be "a center for spirituality and peace," but the attacks over the past year in New Zealand, Sri Lanka and the United States "suggest the trend is going in a different direction," adding that many still remark that such attacks were "never supposed to happen in the United States."

For survivors of such attacks, fear and "waiting for the next attack" are the main reactions, Abbas said, adding, "They can be sitting ducks in front of these terrorists."

"There is something different now," he said. He theorized that, because "religion has increasingly become the currency of dialogue," that forces keyed more toward separation

and isolation seek them out as the enemy. "All major shrines in Pakistan have been faced with suicide attacks," Abbas said. The attackers, he added, "believe in their own God. ... They just want their own version of Islam to be true.

Search for Common Ground, a nongovernmental organization, developed a "Universal Code of Conduct on Holy Sites," which declares that "holy sites shall be preserved for present and future generations, with dignity, integrity and respect for their name and identity." In one article dealing with expropriation, it says, "Where parts of a holy site have been nationalized in the past, the restitution of such property to the religious community should be encouraged."

"It's more of a normative agreement" than "the major focus of getting global sign-ons," Katie Smith, the organization's policy officer, told Catholic News Service Oct. 24. The Code of Conduct has been applied in Nigeria, Bosnia, Indonesia and Jerusalem, in partnership with other organizations to quell tensions.

During the hearing, Sharon Rosen, the Jerusalem-based global director of religious engagement for Search for Common Ground, outlined the organization's work in Nigeria. There it engaged Christian and Muslim community religious leaders, both men and women, "to build consensus within their communities around the principle that holy places are sites for peace and reconciliation, and not targets for attack," calling the effort itself "a unique step."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope apologizes that statues were vandalized

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis apologized that two men entered a church near the Vatican, took controversial statues and tossed them into the Tiber River. "As bishop of the diocese, I apologize," he said Oct. 25, the first time the full membership of the Synod of Bishops for the Amazon was gathered since the statues were taken from the Church of St. Mary in Traspontina Oct. 21. Referring to the statue as "Pachamama," like many media had done, Pope Francis told bishops at the synod that the statues had been displayed in the Rome church "without any idolatrous intention," although the men who took the statues claimed on social media that they did so because the statues were idols. "Pachamama" is a term for "Mother Earth" used by some South American indigenous people. The pope also said that the statues had been recovered by Italian police. The statues were not damaged.

Court rules against Little Sisters of the Poor over HHS mandate

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — The Little Sisters of the Poor lost another round in court Oct. 22 when a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit ruled 2 to 1 against the religious order getting a religious exemption from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services contraceptive mandate under a 2017 Trump administration rule. In their majority decision, Judges J. Clifford Wallace and Susan P. Graber said allowing an exemption for religious groups such as the Little Sisters flies in the face of the Affordable Care Act. Wallace, who wrote the decision, said the panel "held that the religious exemption contradicts congressional intent that all women have access to appropriate preventative care and the exemption operates in a manner fully at odds with the careful, individualized, and searching review mandated by the Religious Freedom Restoration Act." Judge Andrew J. Kleinfeld in his dissent said the "casual reader may imagine that the dispute is about provision of contraception and abortion services to women," he wrote. "It is not. No woman sued for an injunction in this case, and no affidavits have been submitted from any women establishing any question in this case about whether they will be deprived of reproductive services or harmed in any way by the modification of the regulation."

Bishop: Path to women deacons opened by Pope Benedict

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A change to the Code of Canon Law made by Pope Benedict XVI in 2009 provides a canonical path to allow the ordination of women deacons, a Brazilian bishop said. Speaking to journalists at a synod press briefing Oct. 25, Bishop Evaristo Pascoal Spengler of Marajo said the revision was "an important step" in that it clarifies that those ordained to the diaconate fulfill a ministry of service rather than acting in the person of Christ. The 2009 document, given "motu proprio," on the pope's own initiative, was titled "Omnium in Mentem" ("Everything in mind") and revised several canons concerning the sacraments of holy orders and marriage. In it, the now-retired pontiff added an article to canon 1009, stating that "those who are constituted in the order of the episcopate or the presbyterate receive the mission and capacity to act in the person of Christ the head, whereas deacons are empowered to serve the people of God in the ministries of the liturgy, the word and charity. (Pope) Benedict XVI separated the diaconal ministry from Christ as head," Bishop Spengler said. "Canonically, there is already a path for the ordination of a woman as a deacon, not as a priest or a bishop," he added.



Bishop Terry R. LaValley was joined at the Pontifical College Josephinum by members of his family as he was awarded with the seminary's highest honor, *The Good Shepherd: Defending the Truth Award*.

Bishop LaValley takes top honor

Columbus, OH—The Pontifical College Josephinum named Bishop Terry R. LaValley the 2019 recipient of *The Good Shepherd: Defending the Truth Award*, the highest honor bestowed by the Josephinum upon one of the shepherds of the Catholic Church in the U.S.

The award was presented to Bishop LaValley by the Very Reverend Steven P. Beseau, president/rector of the Pontifical College Josephinum, at the seminary's Good Shepherd Dinner, an annual event honoring the Josephinum's friends and benefactors.

Words of tribute to Bishop LaValley were offered by The Most Reverend Douglas Lucia, bishop of Syracuse and former vocations director for the Ogdensburg diocese.

"Bishop LaValley receives this award because shepherd is what he is and what he is about," he said. "Through his preaching and his example, he has been a beacon of Truth, proclaiming the Truth of the Gospel not merely with his lips but by his very life. By his service of God's people."

Joining in the celebration with Bishop LaValley were his mother and many other family members; Reverend Christopher Carrara, diocesan director of vocations and seminarians; and Josephinum seminarians from the Diocese of Ogdensburg who, in the words of Bishop LaValley, "bring the best of the North Country to the Midwest!"

Bishop LaValley has been a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg for 31 years. In that time, he has served as deacon, parochial vicar, pastor, chancellor, episcopal vicar, diocesan administrator and bishop. In recent years, Bishop LaValley has provided leadership of the Josephinum as Chair of the Board of Trustees.

"Shepherding in the fields or in the Lord's vineyard can never be a solitary effort," he said. "I am blessed with family, friends, a wonderful presbyterate, seminarians and co-workers. We thank the Josephinum for providing an environment where our young men can encounter the Lord evermore closely. It is a privilege, truly, for me to be associated with this community and I am honored to receive this Good Shepherd award."



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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

Sharing the faith: A reflection

In October, we celebrate Extraordinary Mission Month. The theme is "Baptized and Sent: the Church of Christ on Mission in the World." The Mission Office will feature columns written by religious and clergy reflecting on their work in the Mission Lands as they too, were baptized and sent.

By Father Andrew Amyot

All missionaries who have had the privilege of working in a foreign land will agree that they learned more about the faith than they shared. I volunteered to go to the diocesan missions of Mollendo, Peru in 1967. After language school in Cochabamba, Bolivia, I arrived in our missions. Father John Kennehan was in Mollendo, Father Ed Kehow was in the Tambo Valley, and Father Paul Hagan was in the mountains of the Province of Caylloma.

It was not long before I met very interesting people. Emma Orams was a descendant of a British engineer who helped build the railroads in Peru. She would invite us for snacks after Sunday evening mass. Her hospitality was so appreciated. Another great influence was Elvira – I do not recall her last name. In Mollendo, she came to the parish to ask for donations. A man had been found dead near the waterfront. No one knew him, so she got permission from the mayor to beg to buy a him a casket. She explained it was a corporal work of mercy to bury the dead.

Later, I went to the jail to celebrate mass for inmates and Elvira showed up. She and another friend would go to the market and beg for food to feed inmates. The prison did not provide food. Here again she spoke of corporal works of mercy: feed the hungry, visit the imprisoned. What a marvelous example of a dedicated Christian lady.

When she died, "la loca Elvira" was taken to church for her funeral which was overflowing with people who praised her life, compassion and love. They affectionately called her "Crazy Elvira" because she did for others at a great cost to herself. People recognized that because she was always at daily mass and lived the Word of God. She had listened to the words and had put them in practice.

I met a doctor born in Bethlehem whose parents were Palestinian and fled the war of 1946. They fled to Mollendo and opened a shop that sold clothing and cloth. Their two sons went to Argentina to study medicine. Herman became a pediatrician and Edwardo a dentist. Dr. Herman helped young mothers and their babies. He knew so many would die because of the unclean water and unsanitary conditions. Today, Dr. Herman still helps several days a week in the parish clinic. Sadly, Edwardo died shortly after I left Peru in 1976.

Ester Munoz was one who saved my life. She did laundry and cooked for us. When I contracted hepatitis, she would bring my

meals to the hospital. Her brother had died in the hospital, claiming it was due to the food. She brought me three meals each day for weeks while hospitalized. After my release, she brought meals to our apartment until I was well. What kindness and concern!

Another dear friend, also a foreigner was Pancho Sium was from China who came to Peru as a teenager. His family ran a hardware store in Mollendo that he took over and served the needs of Mollendo and the Tambo Valley. One Christmas, Pancho said "I know how it is when we are away from our families at this special time of year. I want you to come and; join me and my family after midnight mass and celebrate Christmas with us. I want you to be part of my family. You make a great sacrifice leaving your family to come to be with us. Come and join us for Christmas!" He often invited me to join him for Sunday dinner. I appreciated the wonderful Chinese food that he and his wife prepared.

These people deeply influenced my life of faith as I saw in them the loving face of the Lord. We shared our faith, but they taught me the meaning of faith by their living example. The missionary learns to recognize the goodness of humanity and those qualities that are recognized as gifts of the Holy Spirit. This the missionary task: to influence the lives of the faithful to really live their faith in the service of the needy in the community.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

God shows mercy where people do not

It's a good thing God doesn't leave to us to decide who is worthy of heaven and who isn't. We'd make a mess of it!

Today's Gospel shows what poor judges we would make. The crowds have been witnessing Jesus' miracles with growing enthusiasm, and then the cheers turn into jeers.

Why? A few have noticed this little man standing on his tip toes, trying to get a glimpse of Jesus. Most recognize him as the hated chief tax collector of

the area, a very rich man named Zacchaeus.

A few avoid contact as he suddenly drops his dignity and runs to climb a nearby sycamore tree. He wants a better view.

As Jesus passes underneath, he glances up and spots the man. Jesus glance' penetrates into the heart of Zacchaeus, and contritely he stares back at

Jesus.

"Zacchaeus, come down quickly," Jesus says, "I want to have dinner with you today."



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

November 3

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Wisdom 11:22-12:2

2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2

Luke 19:1-10

The crowd gasps in disbelief and revulsion that the Healer would have anything to do with this despised sinner. As the delighted little man explains to Jesus how he means to make up for his many sins, Jesus turns and explains to the crowd, "Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham. For the Son of

Man has come to seek and to save what was lost." Beautiful words that so harmonize with what we heard in today's first reading from the Book of Wisdom.

There, the writer extols both God's power and God's mercy. After declaring that the whole universe is like a small grain in the scales, or like a drop of morning dew compared to God's greatness, he praises God for his mercy in searching out sinners in order that they may repent of their sins and be justified in His sight.

That's exactly what Jesus, the Son of God, was doing that day in Jericho

when he sought out Zacchaeus. And that's just what the message is for us. No matter what we've done in the past, the mercy of the Lord can search us out, inspire us to repentance, and then embrace us as his own.

God never gives up on those the world has condemned as hopeless, for, as the first reading proclaims, He is "a lover of souls" and He alone will decide who gets into heaven and who doesn't!

God sees into hearts; we see only the surface. We should be so grateful that our merciful God is in charge of the Last Judgment!

RESPECT LIFE

Turning heartache into hope

By Kathleen M. Gallagher

Director, pro-life activities for New York State Catholic Conference

The misuse of opioids and resulting addictions has become a public health crisis in our country. An estimated 1.7 million Americans suffer from a substance use disorder. Eighty percent of people who use heroin first misused prescription opioid pain killers. And every day, 130 people die following an opioid drug overdose.

Those are the statistics. But behind each number is a face, a name, a family struggling or destroyed. Kathleen Catholic New Yorkers Maureen and Ken Provost know the pain all too well. Five years ago they lost their only child, Dan, at the age of 23, to a drug overdose. He was a smart, athletic, and daring young man. He was a swimmer and a Boy Scout

who loved animals and played a mean game of ping pong. Little did his parents know that a prescription for Oxycodone following the removal of his wisdom teeth would change the course of their lives forever.

The disease of addiction took hold of Dan and turned the family's lives upside down. Alcohol, marijuana, pill opioids and heroin. Hospital emergency visits, arrests, a car accident, inpatient detox, outpatient care. At the time of his death, Dan had been on a significant road to recovery, but one slip is all it takes.

At Dan's funeral, Maureen and Ken vowed that Dan's death would not be in vain. They have immersed themselves in drug prevention and recovery efforts, educating, advocating, and fundraising for valuable programs. They inform



Dan Provost

school children and other community groups about prevention. They provide understanding, compassion and support to others who are experiencing addiction in their families.

For the Provosts, the opioid crisis was life altering. For the rest of us, myself included, perhaps we think about addictions when the evening news

reports the overdose death of some Hollywood celebrity, but then we quickly forget, and go about our daily lives. We can't afford to do that any longer.

We are the church, the Body of Christ, the field hospital. We must step up to take care of our sisters and brothers who are hurting. We must intervene to save lives. Pope Francis has called drug addiction an evil that is gravely harmful to health, life and society.

There is much we can do in our little corner of the vineyard. Pray for those who are struggling with addiction, that they may find strength and healing through the Lord. Make a donation to a prevention or recovery program on the frontlines of this battle. Volunteer your time and talents at a community center, or begin a support program in your own parish. Dispose of unused medications properly through a police or govern-

ment-sponsored drug take back program. Urge your elected representatives to expand treatment options. Do not judge.

Dan Provost could have easily been my child. Or your child. Indeed, he was a child of God, an unrepeatable and sacred gift with a unique personal story, not some broken object or reckless junkie. He was a young man with a disease in need of healing and hope. Let's honor his memory and respect his dignity by raising awareness and doing our part.

IN BRIEF

On September 19, 2019 His Holiness, Pope Francis, granted the request of Thomas J. Higman for dispensation from celibacy and from the obligations arising from Sacred Ordination to the Priesthood.

Mr. Higman is returned to the lay-state.

Funeral Mass celebrated for Deacon Brousseau

DELMAR—A Mass of Christian Burial for Deacon Frederick A. Brousseau, 78, a resident of Delmar and formerly of Potsdam, was held on October 18, 2019 at St. Andrew's Church in Norwood, with Rev. Andrew Amyot presiding.

Burial was in the Calvary Cemetery in Norwood.

Deacon Fred passed away early Monday morning, October 14, 2019 at

St. Peter's Hospital in Albany.

Deacon Fred is survived by three sons, Shawn and Cara Brousseau of Slingerlands, New York, Michael and Margo Brousseau of St. Louis Park, Minnesota, and Charles and Lisa Brousseau of Ellicott City, Maryland; his daughter, Katherine of Park Ridge New Jersey; his seven beloved grandchildren, Erin, Clark, Alex, Abby,

Megan, Kasey and Kat; a sister, Theresa LaTorre of Queensbury, NY; as well as several nieces and nephews.

Deacon Fred was pre-deceased by his wife Kathleen, his parents, a brother Albert Brousseau, a sister Celine Brousseau and grandson, Tyler.

Born in Ausable Forks on Jan. 6, 1941 to the late Fred and Nora Stanley, Fred graduated from Mt.

Pleasant High School in Schenectady. He earned his Associates Degree from Paul Smith's College.

Deacon Fred was an IT Administrator for St. Lawrence University in Canton for 33 years, retiring in 2003.

Deacon Fred was very active in the Catholic Church, as he was a Deacon for the Diocese of Ogdensburg for nearly 30 years.

In his spare time, Deacon Fred enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren.

Deacon Fred passed after a valiant battle with Alzheimer's and his family requests memorial Donations in Fred's memory can be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation (alz.org). Memories and condolences may be shared online at buckfuneralhome.com.

RESPECT LIFE

Choosing life even in difficult circumstances

By Eileen Greenwood

Contributing writer

From conception to death, life must be respected and protected. God is our Creator and as such, our lives are a gift from Him and should only be ended by Him. This month we celebrate Respect Life to raise awareness of the need to protect it. In this time of frightening lack of respect for babes in the womb, and terminally ill and elderly people, it is more important than ever that we speak honestly and share God's right to choose when to end a life, not ours.

I could tell you a story for each of the five children I have been blessed and honored to give life to as a mother. I could tell you the details of each of their labors, and deliveries, and complications we went through along the way.

Each of our five children came into the world with a unique challenge during either their growth in my womb, or their delivery or their birth. Yet every single challenge was forgotten the second we laid eyes on that child. Every

anxiety and fear we faced was evaporated when the babe was laid in my arms. Each tiny little hand that grasped mine, each set of eyes that blinked and sought my face, each warm little bundle in my arm was such an incredible gift from God.

For each one of our children I was asked to take a test to determine what, if any, birth defects our child had. For each one of our children, I declined to take the test. Fortunately, the doctor I had was Catholic and understood that even faced with a severe defect, I would not have terminated my pregnancy.

How many young women, especially young teens, are strong enough to say, "I will carry this child no matter the outcome?" How many babies are aborted due to inadequate support to a young mother, and tests that may at times be inaccurate?

I had a recent conversation with a newly expecting mom. She told me the doctor asked if she would take the test to determine whether her baby had Down Syndrome. She refused, saying she could

never have terminated this baby, and she didn't want to worry her whole pregnancy if tests showed a concern. I reaffirmed that her decision was in fact, very much in line with what God asks us to do, to respect all life from conception.

Several years ago, a very dear friend of mine was pregnant with twins. During the course of her pregnancy, her joyful news turned into a fight for her baby's life and her own. One of the babies died in the womb, and she had to make a decision that was incredibly difficult.

She and her husband, who had two children at the time, would be very affected by what she chose. She was told that she was in the midst of a molar pregnancy, and she needed to terminate her pregnancy, or she could die. A molar pregnancy is a tumor that develops in the womb and can lead to cancer and death if untreated.

The choice she needed to make was end the pregnancy and be assured of her own life, or continue the pregnancy and possibly die, leaving her hus-

band a widow with perhaps three children.

I remember how we prayed, and we talked in depth of the seriousness of this situation. I also remember wondering if I could have been as brave as she was, and I could only hope I would have been.

From the very beginning, she spoke only of saving the child, and if God called her home then so be it. As her friend, it was so hard to hear that, but I was in agreement with her. She was placed on bed rest and continued her pregnancy, choosing to give it all to God. Many, many people prayed for her and her child during that time.

Thankfully, her story had a wonderfully happy ending, and both her and her son came through just fine, with no cancer at all.

In an unexpected twist, she shared that her son helped her through the grief of losing her Mother, who died just a few days after her son was born. It was something only a loving God could have seen and provided to her.

The choice my friend made to respect the life of

her baby, was a choice that not all would have made.

We remain close in our friendship and it gives me great joy when I see her young son, who is now a happy, healthy teenager who has a gift for making others laugh. It makes me wonder, how many souls did not have a chance to come into this world to laugh and to make others laugh.

It makes me want to raise my voice and to tell the world: Choose Life! Choose to honor and trust God! Choose to let life be all it is created to be, for sometimes, it is a miracle.



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KNIGHTS CELEBRATE MILESTONE



The Bishop McEntagert Assembly 707 of the Knights of Columbus recently celebrated the 75th anniversary of its founding with a dinner at the Lobster House. Assembly 707 is made up of Knights from Canton, Potsdam, Norwood, Star Lake and Gouverneur. Pictured left to right are John Beaudette Faithful Navigator, Mark Tebo Marshal and John Taillon 4th Degree Coordinator for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

FAITH FORMATION



Religious Education instructor Mary Merino enjoys a moment with one of her students, Shea Charleson. Merino is in her 23rd year of teaching religious education at St. Patrick's. She holds her classes in the kitchen at the parish center and she often brings delicious baked treats for her students. Mary loves teaching the students and they love her. She has been very instrumental in encouraging her students to become altar servers.

AT THE MOVIES

MALEFICENT: MISTRESS OF EVIL

NEW YORK (CNS) – The moral probing and feminist revisionism that characterized its 2014 predecessor are mostly absent from the routine follow-up "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil" (Disney). So much so, that ethical straightforwardness makes its title seem somewhat misleading.

Having undergone a fundamental conversion in the previous film, the title character, once again portrayed by Angelina Jolie, is now misunderstood rather than wicked. Though ornery and forbidding, she keeps the best interests of her protege, Queen Aurora (Elle Fanning), steadfastly at heart.

Given that Maleficent once cursed the infant Aurora and served as the villainess of both the classic

fairy tale "Sleeping Beauty" and the eponymous 1959 animated Disney feature that first named her, that's quite the turnaround. Still, while Aurora may have her temporary doubts about the woman she has come to regard as her fairy godmother, the audience is given little cause to question Maleficent's sincerity.

Fans of traditional marriage, meanwhile, will be pleased by the premise of this sequel since early scenes find Aurora accepting the proposal of her longtime suitor, Prince Philip (Harris Dickinson). Predictably, however, the course of true love fails to run smooth since Maleficent fears being displaced in Aurora's affections while Philip's thoroughly nasty mom, Queen Ingrith (Michelle Pfeiffer), objects

to the match for reasons of her own.

Since the prospective union would promote peace between Philip's human realm – wisely ruled by his amiable father, King John (Robert Lindsay) – and the fairy domain over which Aurora presides, the complications besetting their romance allow returning screenwriter Linda Woolverton, joined this time by Micah Fitzerman-Blue and Noah Harpster, to deliver worthy but heavy-handed anti-war and pro-tolerance messages.

Warnings about the irresponsible exploitation of natural resources also underlie the story.

For his part, director Joachim Ronning diverts from the overly-intricate plot, which also involves

an origin story for Maleficent, with colorful visual treats. Cute mythical creatures abound and Maleficent's shape-shifting sidekick, Diaval (Sam Riley), provides occasional comic relief.

Attentive moviegoers will note that Queen Ingrith's costumes include a dress adorned with what appear to be crosses and that a scene in which the forces of darkness she directs unleash a diabolical plot against the good guys unfolds in the chapel that was to have been the setting for the nuptials. The subsequent introduction of a sympathetic bishop put to rest any fears of an anti-Christian subtext, however.

While "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil" is free of any genuinely objectionable material, scenes of battle

and imperiled characters make it too frightening for little ones. To teens and their elders, by contrast, it will likely register as a perfectly acceptable – if uninspired – piece of entertainment.

The film contains much stylized but sometimes harsh combat violence. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II – adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG – parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.



Synod calls for roles for women, stops short of diaconate

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Members of the Synod of Bishops for the Amazon asked that women be given leadership roles in the Catholic Church, although they stopped short of calling for women deacons.

In the Amazon, like in the rest of the world, the essential roles women play within the family, the community and the church should be valued and recognized officially, members of the synod said in their final document.

The document, which synod members voted on Oct. 26, included a call for the creation of "the instituted ministry of 'woman community leader,'" something they said would help meet "the changing demands of evangelization and community care."

Speaking after the vote on the document, Pope Francis said the synod's discussion on women "falls short" of explaining who women are in the church, particularly "in the transmission of faith, in the preservation of culture. I would just like to underline this: that we have not yet realized what women mean in the church," but instead "we focus on the functional aspect, which is important," but is not everything.

Synod members also asked Pope Francis to revise St. Paul VI's 1972 document on ministries, "Ministeria Quaedam" ("Some Ministries"), so that women could be installed formally as lectors and acolytes and in any new ministries to be developed.

The final document also asked that "the voice of

women be heard, that they be consulted and participate decision making" in the church.

"It is necessary for the church to assume with greater strength their leadership within the church and for the church to recognize and promote it by strengthening their participation in the pastoral councils of parishes and dioceses, or even in instances of government," the document said.

While noting that a "large number" of participants in the pre-synod consultations asked for women deacons and that several members of the synod itself made such a call, the final document did not include an explicit request for such a move.

Instead, the document asked that Amazon synod members be able "to share our experiences and reflections" with members of the commission Pope Francis set up in 2016 to study the role and ministry of women deacons in the New Testament and in early Christian writings.

In May Pope Francis told reporters that the 12 theologians and historians on the commission were unable to reach a full consensus on whether "there was an ordination with the same form and same aim as the ordination of men," but more study was needed.

In his post-vote talk to synod members, the pope gave the same explanation, but promised that he would have the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith "reconvene the commission or perhaps open it with new members."

OBITUARIES

Altona – Ronnielynn (Spooner) Neverett, 53; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 24, 2019 at Holy Angels Church.

Brushton – Richard L. Reyome, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 25, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Croghan – Richard C. Fuller, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 25, 2019 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, New Brehan.

Fort Covington – Gary R. Reardon, 73; Memorial Services Oct. 28, 2019 at St. Mary's Church.

Heuvelton – John "Jack" Francis Heron, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 17, 2019 at St. Raphael's Church; burial in Hillcrest Cemetery.

Heuvelton – Thomas W. Rivet, 73; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 22, 2019 at St. Raphael's Church; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Hogansburg – Melissa M. King, 47; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 15, 2019 at St. Regis Church.

Hogansburg – Esther Marie Thompson, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 23, 2019 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

Lowville – Mary (Borowiec) Gordon, 87; Funeral Services Oct. 25, 2019 at Iseneker Funeral Home; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Madrid – Stacy Anne Porter, 48; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 14, 2019 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in West Potsdam Cemetery.

Malone – Richard P. Landry, 70; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 21, 2019 at St. John Bosco Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena – Margaret (Kormnayos) Bocskor, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 17, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; bur-

ial in Calvary Cemetery.

Mooers Forks – Russell F. Mesec, 71; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 21, 2019 at St. Ann's Church.

Morrisonville – Diann L. (DuBray) Crawford, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 26, 2019 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in Church of the Assumption Cemetery, Redford.

Morrisonville – Gemma C. (Van-nortwick) Orzech, 53; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 28, 2019 at St. Alexander's Church.

North Bangor – Margarita (Montano) Jandrew, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 21, 2019 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Norwood – Margaret I. (Gang) Mere, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 21, 2019 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Joseph G. Grizzutto, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 18, 2019 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Davalene (Sharpe) Layng, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 17, 2019 at Notre Dame Church.

Olmstedville – Minerva Patricia (McNally) Mather, 66; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 18, 2019 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Minerva Baptist Cemetery.

Peru – Gary L. Howard, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 18, 2019 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Robert A. Douglas, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 24, 2019 at

St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, West Chazy.

Plattsburgh – William T. Burleigh, 94; Memorial Mass Oct. 12, 2019 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Leona Maille, 97; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 19, 2019 at St. Peter's Church.

Plattsburgh – Susan E. (Rennell) Stevens, 71; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 26, 2019 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Potsdam – James H. Green Sr., 93; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 18, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Rouses Point – Donald Wayne LaBombard, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 26, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Elaine Emily (Brunet) Tebo, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 15, 2019 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Watertown – Timothy J. Branski, 52; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 22, 2019 at Holy Family Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

Watertown – Lisa S. Fiaschetti, 43; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 22, 2019 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church.

West Chazy – Joan E. (Harris) Sears, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 15, 2019 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Winthrop – Judith A. (Robson) Ploof, 73; Funeral Services Oct. 19, 2019 at Hammill Funeral Home; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Colton

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