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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 74, Number 24

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

NOV. 13, 2019

'Foster grandparents' are needed

It's a program that gives students mentors and grandparents a purpose.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg is hosting the Foster Grandparent Program, which allows volunteers age 55 and older the opportunity to provide emotional support, encouragement, and help with basic learning skills to children who need it.

Volunteers share their time and experience to help children learn to read, prepare younger students for school readiness, and make decisions that will keep them on the right path.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

INSTALLED AS LECTOR



PETER STETSON/PINTIFICAL COLLEGE JOSEPHINUM

Seminarians in their first and second years of study in the School of Theology at the Pontifical College Josephinum, including Lukas Gruber of the Diocese of Ogdensburg (first year), were installed as lectors or acolytes, respectively, on Nov. 1, the Solemnity of All Saints. The Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell, Bishop Emeritus of Columbus, was the principal celebrant of the Mass held in Saint Turibius Chapel.

CARITAS DINNER HONORS



Therese Buskey and Meaghan Pierce, members of the Diocesan Youth Council are presented Legacy Award, a special distinction reserved for youth and young adults, at the annual Catholic Charities Caritas Dinner. Also at the dinner, Father Arthur J. LaBaff was awarded the agency's Caritas Award for significant contribution to the agency's mission of serving the underprivileged in the diocese.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope: Dialogue starts with empathy, not contempt

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Christians who preach the Gospel must see people who do not know Christ as children of God and not as nonbelievers worthy of hostility and contempt, Pope Francis said.

The example of St. Paul's mission in Greece and his encounter with the pagan culture there serves as a reminder that Christians should "create a bridge to dialogue" with other cultures, the pope said Nov. 6 during his weekly general audience.

"Paul does not look at the city of Athens and the pagan world with hostility but with the eyes of faith," he said. "And this makes us question our way of looking at our cities: Do we observe them with indifference? With contempt? Or with the faith that recognizes children of God in the midst of the anonymous crowds?"

Continuing his series of talks on the Acts of the Apostles, the pope focused on St. Paul's visit to Athens, a city that "still

held the primacy of culture" and was "full of idols."

According to tradition, St. Paul preached to the Athenians at the Areopagus, an area that was not only a symbol of Greek political and cultural life but also the location of an altar to the "unknown god."

The paganism of the Greeks did not cause the apostle to flee, the pope explained. Instead, "Paul observes the culture and environment of Athens

from a contemplative gaze that sees God dwelling in their homes, in their streets and squares."

"In the heart of one of the most famous institutions of the ancient world, the Areopagus, he realizes an extraordinary example of inculturation of the message of the faith," the pope said. "He proclaims Jesus Christ to idol worshippers and doesn't do it by attacking them, but by making himself a 'pontiff,' a builder of bridges."

The apostle, he continued, "takes his cue from the altar of the city dedicated to the unknown god" and engages with the Athenians with "empathy," declaring that he is preaching in the name of the one they "worship without knowing it."

Citing Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis said that in doing so, St. Paul is not proclaiming the unknown god but rather "proclaiming him whom men do not know and yet do know -- the unknown-known."

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLICBox 326
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
USPS 0039-3400BISHOP TERRY
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Publish 45 issues per year: Weekly except skipping every other week beginning July through Aug. and skipping one week in Dec. by the Diocese of Ogdensburg. 622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Editorial Office:
622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Telephone:
(315) 608-7556

E-mail:
news@northcountry
catholic.org

Entered at the
Post Office:
Ogdensburg, NY
13669 and
additional mailing offices as
Periodical Postage.

Subscription:
For one year:
In-Diocese Rate: \$27
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication
should be
addressed to
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
and should be received by
Thursday prior to
publication.
Paper is printed each
Monday;
dateline is Wednesday.
Member, Catholic Press
Association.

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

EDITOR'S NOTE

It sweeps me off my feet

If I was looking for sweep-me-off-my-feet romance, I probably married the wrong man.

My husband, Adam, isn't the kind of man you'd see personified in a romantic movie. He's not super affectionate. He doesn't surprise me with candle-light dinners or "whisper sweet nothings" into my ear. He isn't often the first to say, "I love you."

Sometimes, I let that bother me, and I wish he'd be more like those characters in novels or movies who make these grand gestures of love.

Then, I remember all the other ways he shows his love. Every workday, he intentionally gets up 15 to 20 minutes earlier than me to make coffee. The moment I trudge down the stairs, he pours me a cup with the perfect amount of flavored creamer in it. He often has dinner ready when I get home from work (he gets home from work two hours earlier than me). On these cold days, he starts my vehicle and brushes the snow off.

And those are just the little things.

He also works hard to keep our house running, take care of me and our son and to help provide for us.

In some ways, this part of my relationship with my husband is like my relationship with God.

There are times – way more times than I'd care to admit, in fact – I feel distant from God. There are times when my prayer life is dry, and I feel like I'm talking to myself when I pray. There are times I just don't feel God's presence.

Then, I notice some little beauty or some little grace that leaves me awe-struck (I was profoundly moved this week by the beauty of the

snow-laden trees lining the roads as I commuted to work), I see a situation that reminds me how blessed and fortunate I am, or I have a moment when I strongly feel God's presence or hear a needed message in prayer.

Relationships, including our relationships with the Lord, ebb and flow. There are times when they are intense and the connections feel strong, and there are times when they're cooler.

Regardless of how strongly I feel it at any given moment, I know with certainty I am loved by both my husband and my God.

And that sweeps me off my feet.



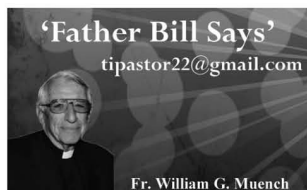
Darcy L.
Fargo

The difference between happiness, joy

Recently, I listened to one of those TED talks. The subject was joy and happiness. The speaker spoke of what he considered the difference between joy and happiness. So, I decided to do some investigating myself into the way many writers think about joy and happiness.

I noticed that many simply consider happiness and joy similar emotions. However, others see a real difference. Let me share with you a few of the ideas that I found in this regard: "Happiness is caused by luck, good fortune and other worldly pleasures, whereas joy is caused by overall happiness and soul satisfying incidents." "Happiness is more momentary; joy is long lasting." "Joy makes peace with who you are, why you are, how you are, whereas happiness tends to be externally triggered and is based on other people, things, places, thoughts and events."

So, I decided to look into my own life. Happiness is about self, they say. My ex-



ample, in my life, would be skiing. Skiing always made me happy. I found a certain happy feeling when I was out with my friends skiing. Each day of skiing brought great fun and definitely a happy spirit.

There have been, of course, may other experiences that were happy moments for me. Time spent with many of my friends were rather happy times. There were plenty of other things that also made me happy, like seeing a good movie.

However, I do think of some other experience that were definitely long-lasting joy. They say that joy is dissolving of self. What comes to mind is how I was blessed by God to spend my times as a priest assigned to wonderful parish communities. As a

priest, I have worked together with wonderful families helping each other, praying together each week at Sunday Mass. This continues to bring a unique joy to my life. I have had the opportunity to develop close relationships over my life – with my family, with friends, with so many parishioners. These relationships have been and continue to be very joyful experiences and gifts from the Lord.

As a person of faith, when God entered my life, joy entered my life. My relationship with God through prayer and the frequent celebration of the Holy Mass continues to bring joy into all that I am. I believe in faith that every day God is a part of my life. God is always there to guide and lead me, helping me to realize all I can do as a priest for all who need me. This brings joy to my life and my priesthood. This joy is unique and special. This joy is transformative. This joy has a profound influence on me, always

leading me and showing me the way to live a very meaningful life and ministry.

One more thing to add: I know only too well that there have been times when I was not successful, times when I truly failed. As I look back over the years, I realize that too many times I missed opportunities to do important things – times when I could have helped others, times when I could have done something good. I continue to realize that I have been a sinner. In faith, I believe that God is a loving and forgiving God. There have been times when I have recognized my need for repentance. I believe and know that the Lord brought forgiveness into my life.

The Lord had truly has challenged me to change my life and find peace in His forgiveness. This is obviously a time of profound joy. I have been saved by this loving God and challenged to continue to do so much more in my ministry.

This is my joy.



SEMERARO PHOTOGRAPHY/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

(Left) Diocesan Youth Council members, from left, Konrad Wojcikowski, Alexandra Pinkerton, Ciara LeRoy, Therese Buskey, and Meaghan Pierce received the Legacy Award at the Catholic Charities Caritas Dinner. One recipient, Maureen Pierce, was unable to attend the event. (Right) Bishop Terry R. LaValley congratulates Father Arthur J. LaBaff, who was awarded the Caritas Award for his work with Catholic Charities, Formation for Ministry, Camp Guggenheim and parish service.

Youth, Father LaBaff honored at Caritas Dinner

By Jessica Hargrave
Contributing writer

OGDENSBURG—Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg proudly honored those who provide help and create hope for people in need at its annual Caritas Dinner, held at the Gran View Restaurant on Nov. 6.

Each year, Bishop Terry R. LaValley and the Catholic Charities Board of Trustees present awards to individuals or groups who have assisted the organization in serving those affected by poverty throughout the diocese.

Master of ceremonies, Deacon James Crowley, chancellor of the diocese, began the evening by welcoming the attendees, which included staff from Catholic Charities and the diocese, clergy, trustees, and the award recipients

and their families. He then introduced Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin who delivered the dinner invocation.

Deacon Patrick Donahue, Catholic Charities' executive director, recognized six staff members for their long-term commitment and dedication to the organization. Claudine Dailey of the Plattsburgh Catholic Charities Office, Deb Dority and Carol Whitcombe of Sea-way Catholic Charities, Joelle Lamica of the Malone Catholic Charities Office, and Melissa Howard and Vivian Smith of the Tupper Lake Catholic Charities Office received longevity and outstanding service awards.

Gayle Frank, former diocesan Youth Ministry director, and current Youth Ministry Director Tom Semeraro presented The Legacy Award, a spe-

cial distinction reserved for youth and young adults, to six members of the Diocesan Youth Council. Alexandra Pinkerton of Ogdensburg, Ciara Leroy of Malone, Konrad Wojcikowski of Carthage, Therese Buskey of Natural Bridge, Maureen Pierce and Meaghan Pierce of Heuvelton were honored.

Upon receiving the award, Konrad Wojcikowski, spoke on behalf of the youth honorees and the Youth Council.

"We do our best to work together," he said. "We haven't done anything expecting an award. We are just trying to make the lives of everyone in our parish better and just trying to grow our own faith so we can help others."

Deacon Patrick Donahue presented Father Arthur J. LaBaff with the Caritas Award. Deacon

Donahue described Father LaBaff as having "the heart of a great servant leader."

During his 53 years as a priest, Father LaBaff has served on the Catholic Charities Board of Directors and the Corporation Board for Catholic Charities, is co-founder of summer camp at Camp Guggenheim, and served on many Formation for Ministry boards.

After receiving the distinguished Caritas Award, Father LaBaff called the award a group effort.

"No one person can do anything," he said. "When all of us come together, we are the Church, we do what we are supposed to do and build up the Church of Jesus Christ here in the North Country."

Bishop Terry R. LaValley made closing comments saying he is very proud of

the recipients and recognized the outstanding work by Catholic Charities.

"I'm so proud of our parishes social outreach ministries, and on a broader scale our Catholic Charities has been at the forefront of responding to the needs of our sisters and brothers of the North Country who are hurting and often are too proud to ask for assistance," Bishop LaValley said. "We have a terrific staff and leadership at Catholic Charities and for that I am so grateful."

The Caritas Award was established by the Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg in 1979. All funds raised from the Caritas Dinner will be used to provide counseling and financial assistance to individuals and families in critical need.

Volunteers needed for foster grandparent program

By Jessica Hargrave
Contributing writer

It's a program that gives students mentors and grandparents a purpose.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg is hosting the Foster Grandparent Program, which allows volunteers age 55 and older the opportunity to provide emotional support, encouragement, and help with basic learning skills to children who need it.

The late Roy Foote who was a foster grandparent volunteer said the program kept him active at the age of 83.

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

going," he said.

Volunteers who share their time and experience to help children learn how to read, prepare younger students for school readiness, tackle tough subjects and make decisions that will keep them on the right path.

The volunteers and kids enjoy each other's company while coloring, making crafts, learning math and reading, even practicing how to tie shoes.

Catholic Charities Volunteer Coordinator, Melissa Howard said the program is a win-win situation.

"You are helping children with your presence each day and unhurried help," she said.

The program currently has 40 volunteers and serves more than 100 kids

per year in the North Country. Howard said there is always a need for volunteers in the region, especially in St. Lawrence and Jefferson Counties, where volunteer numbers are lower.

While the benefits include friendship and education, volunteers receive a small non-taxable stipend bi-weekly that cannot be held against any current benefits. Volunteers also receive paid holidays, vacations, sick and personal leave.

If a volunteer has to travel to a volunteer site, he or she gets paid mileage.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, call the Catholic Charities Tupper Lake office at (518) 359-7688.

CELEBRATING THE SAINTS



Saint James School in Gouverneur celebrates All Saints Day with a Saints Parade. Second grade students studied St. Teresa of Calcutta and St. John Paul II as part of the celebration.



Celebrating the 70th anniversary of Catholic Daughters of America Court of Our Lady of Mercy #1511 in Long Lake were, from left, Helen Shepard, past national and state regent, Heather Rave, current New York State regent, Joyce Rayome, Rose Carey, Kate Cronn, Eva LaMoy, Julie Helms, Gerri Kendall, Helen Kentile and Shirley Britton

Catholic Daughters celebrate 70 years

LONG LAKE – On a beautiful fall Sunday, Sept. 29, the Catholic Daughters of America Court of Our Lady of Mercy # 1511 in Long Lake celebrated their 70th anniversary with a special Mass said by our pastoral advisor, Father Peter M. Berg, followed by a luncheon reception.

A commemorative booklet, supported by donations from the community, outlined the history of both the Catholic Daughters of the Americas as well as the Long Lake chapter and its activities.

Members were recognized for their years of service to the court with first year to 65-year pins presented.

The court was honored by the attendance of Helen Shephard, past Regent National and New York State Regent, as well as Heather Rave, the current New York State Regent. On behalf of the Court of Our Lady of Mercy, Regent Deborah Traynor accepted a congratulatory proclamation from national from Rave.

The proceeds from the commemorative booklet will be donated to local community programs in recognition of the ecumenical support from the townspeople. While the court is small, its dedication is recognized and appreciated by the people of Long Lake.

Honoring the North American martyrs

By **Mary Beth Bracy**
Contributing writer

PLATTSBURGH – The Church has withstood every persecution, proclaimed Msgr. Joseph G. Aubin at St. Peter's Church, in his homily on the feast of the North American Martyrs. He described the saints' courage, traveling from France to bring the true faith to the Hurons and Iroquois. Msgr. Aubin explained that they passed through the regions of Rouses Point, Coopersville and Lake George. Despite being tortured so horribly that it cannot be put into words, they remained true witnesses to Christ and His love.

Even today, Msgr. Aubin reflected, in Syria, Iraq, and Pakistan, Christians hold onto their faith amidst great sufferings and death.

The North American Martyrs helped lay the foundation of faith in the North Country.

"Isn't it a beautiful connection for those of us who love Camp Guggenheim to think of the holy missionary [St. Isaac Jogues] having been there more than 350 years prior?" observed Father Bryan D. Stitt, pastor of St. Mary's in Canton.

Between 1642 and 1649, eight saints gave their lives for Christ in this region: René Goupil, Isaac Jogues, Jean de Lalonde, Anthony Daniel, John de Brébeuf, Gabriel Lalemant, Charles Garnier, and Noël Chabanel.

Before coming to North America, St. Isaac Jogues prostrated himself before the Blessed Sacrament and asked our Lord to accept his life as an offering. When St. Isaac became the first white man to see the modern day Lake George in the Adirondack Moun-

tains on Corpus Christi, he called the lake "Lake of the Blessed Sacrament."

"Ticonderoga means 'the land between two waters,' namely Lake Champlain and Lake George," said Father Stitt. "The local parish church, St. Mary's, sits on Father Jogues Place. And a monument in front of the church speaks of his traveling through Ticonderoga between the two waterways. Even lesser known is that Father Jogues traveled deep into the Adirondack Mountains. Francis Talbot, SJ wrote the definitive biography of St. Isaac Jogues, *Saint Among Savages*. In chapter 10, he describes St. Isaac being used as a pack animal by the Mohawks during a winter hunt in or around 1643. Though we can't be sure of the exact location, Talbot believes that the hunting party went as far as Saranac Lake."

Commenting on why he researched the North American Martyrs, Father Stitt said, "I wrote on the spirituality of the North American Martyrs for two reasons: the practical theology of the Jesuits' Spiritual Exercises was so influential to my own vocation that I wanted to dive deeper into it. But also because I grew up going to school at St. Mary's in Ticonderoga. And as a boy, the local connection to a saint who was willing to be so terribly tortured out of love of God and souls stuck with me. Even as a child, the Black Robes stood out to me as heroes."

"They wanted to live out the Jesuit motto: *Ad maiorem Dei Gloriam* – do all for the greater glory of God," Father Stitt continued. "They were willing to go anywhere and do anything to teach and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others."

Father Stitt said he recommends a particular book to those looking to better understand the martyrs.

"I always point people to *Abandonment to Divine Providence* by J.P. de Caussade, SJ," he said. "Although it was not known by any of the eight North American Martyrs (de Caussade wrote after the last North American Martyr was martyred in 1649), his reflections on Holy Indifference articulate what they lived out in their bodies."

Aaron Akey, a seminarian for our diocese, revealed that in the lives of the North American Martyrs we see, "the grace of the Holy Spirit providing what is necessary to persevere to the end for Christ. I don't know how anyone could read the story of their struggles, especially the final struggle of [St.] John de Brebeuf and not see the Spirit in action. From what I've read, his is probably one of, if not the most, brutal martyrdoms in the history of the Church. How could a man undergo such trial if not for the Spirit strengthening him?"

"I also thought of a very interesting parallel in one aspect of his martyrdom,

the fact that they consumed his heart and/or drank his blood (depending on the account referenced)," Akey continued. "As I understand it, even in the midst of conducting their brutal ritual tortures of him, the indigenous recognized that there was a power at work in him that they did not understand, and they maybe thought they could gain that power through the physical consumption of his body or blood. An interesting albeit savage conclusion to come to on their part. Little did they know, the power (grace) they sought, he was freely attempting to introduce them to it through the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ."

In the words of St. John de Brebeuf, "The only external sign of our holy religion that we have is the Blessed Sacrament of the altar. To its marvels we must open the eyes of our faith without the aid of any sensible mark of grandeur, like the Magi of old in the stable. It seems, moreover, that God supplies what we lack and rewards us with grace for having transported the Holy Sacrament beyond so many seas and having found an abode for it in these poor cabins."

Sensing their death was near, Sts. René Goupil and Isaac Jogues "begged God to accept our lives and our blood and to unite them to His life and His blood for the salvation of these tribes," and prayed the Rosary. St. René Goupil is America's first canonized martyr; he gave his life for Christ at Auriesville, New York in 1642. One of the "first fruits" of the North American Martyrs' sacrifice was the conversion and sanctification of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks.

Protect our Land, O Heavenly Patrons, which you have bedewed with the rich treasure of your blood. Watch over our Catholic Faith which you helped to establish in this new land. Bring all our fellow citizens to a knowledge and love of the truth. Make us zealous in spreading abroad a knowledge of Catholic teachings, so that we may continue and perfect the work which you have begun with so much labour and suffering. Pray for our homes, our schools, our missions, for vocations, for the conversion of sinners, the return of those who wandered from the Fold and the perseverance of all the Faithful. Amen.



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Environmental Stewardship

Work of Mercy for our common home

Walking or driving in our North Country during these Autumn days, one cannot help but be awed by the magnificence of beauties around us and moved to wonder at the generosity of the Creator.

A noted African Environmentalist, Baba Dioum, says, "We will conserve only what we love." Perhaps that is where mercy and compassion begins.

Pope Francis seems to echo this same thought in *Laudato Si* (220): "We need a recognition that the world is God's loving gift. It entails a loving awareness that we are not disconnected from the rest of creatures, but joined in a splendid universal communion."

When we experience someone or something that is very precious to us being destroyed, wasted or harmed, it evokes a deep sense of sadness and even anger. From this disturbance comes a desire to protect, to use with care and to preserve not only for ourselves but for others to enjoy.

It is only when we experience this bond with the other will we be moved with compassion to make changes in our daily routines.

Pope Francis calls us to ecological conversion. "Inasmuch as we all generate small ecological damages, we are called to acknowledge our contribution, smaller or greater, to the disfigurement and destruction of creation. . . . As individuals, we have grown comfortable with certain lifestyles shaped by a distorted culture of prosperity and a disordered desire to consume more than what is really necessary," (L.S. 123) and we are participants in a system that "has imposed the mentality of profit at any price, with no concern for social exclusion or the destruction of nature." (World Day of Prayer for Care of our Common Home).

Let us repent of the harm we are doing to our common home, and replace these harmful habits with a work of mercy.

Audit: Diocese compliant with standards

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

OGDENSBURG – A recent data audit resulted in the Diocese of Ogdensburg being found with requirements of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

Director of Safe Environment and Charter Compliance Coordinator John Morrison explained that the diocese was found compliant in a document

audit conducted by StoneBridge Business Partners. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has a contract with StoneBridge to conduct such audits at dioceses across the nation.

"Every three years we have an on-site audit, and auditors interview staff, visit schools and parishes and review documentation," Morrison said. "In the years in between, they audit our documentation."

The documentation out-

lines diocesan compliance with requirements related to background checks, communication of policies and procedures, abuse prevention training, abuse reporting and other portions of the Charter.

"I think the fact that we've been found consistently to be in compliance (with the audited Charter requirements) shows we continue to be on the right track," said Morrison. "There will always be work that needs to be done, but the diocese overall, our schools and our parishes are doing a great job in terms of their

By the numbers

During the last audit period (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019), the Diocese conducted:

- 832 background checks on clergy, employees and volunteers
- 64 Virtus (Safe Environment) training sessions across the Diocese, training approximately 700 employees and volunteers
- Training with 4,330 students in Catholic schools and religious education programs

Safe Environment efforts."

The audit letter, as well as Safe Environment policies and procedures, can be found at rcdony.org/safeenv.

Rest in Peace

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

Nov. 13 – Rev. S. Alphonse Vollmer, 1931; Rev. Victor Van den Hende, 1939; Most Rev. Francis J. Monaghan, 1942

Nov. 14 – Msgr. Edward Joseph Pierce, 1980

Nov. 15 – Rev. Medard Zywicki, M.S.C., 1980

Nov. 16 – Rev. Alexis Trudeau, O.M.I., 1885; Rev. Martin C. Mullen, 1904; Rev. John Henry O'Rourke, 1930; Rev. John H. McCloskey, O.S.A., 1957; Rev. J. Lee Snow, 2003; Rev. George F. Sykes, 2007; Rev. Roland G. Gonyo, 2011

Nov. 17 – Rev. Edward V. Murphy, 1907; Rev. George D. Boucher, 1954; Rev. Romuald A. Wolski, O.F.M. Conv., 1976

Nov. 18 – Rev. Edward J. Shea, O.S.A., 1931

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!

Bishop's Public Schedule

Nov. 9-16 – Ad Limina Visit in Rome

Nov. 17 – 9:30 a.m. – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

Nov. 18 – 7:15 p.m. – Novena followed by Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Nov. 19 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Nov. 20 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting followed by lunch at Bishop's Residence

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. 21 – 5 p.m., St. André Bessette Parish, Malone

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri-

anne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, 31 Sixth Street, Malone, NY 12953;

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

Letter to the editor

To the editor:

In the October 30 North Country Catholic article on the "Celebrate Christ" event, it was noted that the keynote speaker, Mr. Dowd, attributed a quote to St. Teresa of Avila, co-founder of the Discalced Carmelite Order. The quote which begins "Christ has no body now but yours..." is cited often, but it does not belong to St. Teresa. I do not know where the saying originated, but it is not found anywhere in St. Teresa's writings.

Considering that St. Teresa is a Doctor of the Church who would never make such a claim, a quote like this can be very misleading. The truth is that Christ, after his resurrection, continues to have a body as his Blessed Mother does and as we will after our bodily resurrection. The Church is indeed the mystical Body of Christ, but that does not negate the existence of his physical body, which lives on. This makes the quote not only misattributed, but untrue, however laudable is the message that as members of the Body of Christ we should act as Christ and do his work.

In this time of much confusion among the faithful regarding doctrines of the Church, it is very important to have clarity on what are to be definitively held as Catholic beliefs.

John Miner, OCDS
Discalced Carmelite Community of the Divine Will
Saranac Lake



Attention Snowbirds
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The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg

Building A Bridge For The Future



Painting by Dave Bracy

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2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Passing Our Living Faith to Future Generations

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

In my travels around the Diocese, I have come upon many bridges of all sizes and designs. They are amazing structures. I am impressed and intrigued with the planning, design, expense, and great effort that went into the construction of these bridges.



Some are wooden, some are stone, and others are fabricated of steel or some combination of materials. Some are small while others are massive, but they all function basically the same way. They span a chasm. They make it possible for someone to pass from point 'A' on one side of the chasm to point 'B' on the other side. Bridges are constructed for one reason. There is a need to connect!

As a family of faith, the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg generously support one another from one generation to the next. In 2007, in order to **"Build a Bridge for the Future"** and continue a strong sense of commitment to our Catholic faith, the Foundation was established with the purpose of preparing the Diocese to meet the needs of tomorrow, connecting the strong faith of today with generations that will follow us.

Since 2007, fifty Endowments have been created that support the future work of the Church. Please take a moment to review these on the back page of this insert as well as our mission statement that explains what a Catholic Foundation is and how it works along with methods of giving.

As I present you this 2018 Annual Report, I would like to express my gratitude to the Board of Directors for their willingness to serve, provide guidance, and ensure legal ethical integrity. I am grateful for the Directors' wise stewardship in overseeing the investments and dividends of its funds.

I am extremely appreciative of those who have had the foresight in contributing to the Foundation. These gifts are a perpetual source of revenue for the Diocese, Parishes, Schools, Ministries and Missionary Projects of the Diocese. The Foundation is an instrument for you to make a legacy for the next generation and generations to come. If you have not already, I encourage you to consider developing an estate plan for the benefit of your loved ones and those close to your heart.

Wishing God's blessing to you and your loved ones, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg Statements of Financial Position June 30, 2019 and June 30, 2018

	6/30/2019	6/30/2018
ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 210,734	\$ 141,142
Other Receivable	-	311
Accrued Interest	19,920	7,010
Investments at Fair Value	6,089,017	5,928,417
Charitable Gift Annuities	1852	1852
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 6,321,523	\$ 6,078,732
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES	\$ -	\$ -
NET ASSETS (DEFICIT)		
Without Donor Restrictions	(107,045)	(101,437)
With Donor Restrictions	6,428,568	6,180,169
Total Net Assets	6,321,523	6,078,732
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 6,321,523	\$ 6,078,732

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of The Foundation is to pass our living faith to future generations by financially supporting the charitable, spiritual, educational and temporal works of the Catholic Community of the Diocese of Ogdensburg by accepting donations or endowment funds from donors and the administration of these funds.

In fulfilling its mission, The Foundation will:

- Provide estate planning and charitable giving information and assistance.
- Provide gifting vehicles in which the Church or related entities are the designated beneficiary.
- Provide responsible and financial management and distribution of earnings that further the mission of the Catholic Church.

Catholics are called by God to protect human life, to promote dignity, to defend those who are poor, to strengthen the Church and to seek the common good. The Foundation exists to help Catholics live out this sacred mission of the Church, through the wise stewardship and thoughtful sharing of their financial resources.

The Foundation will provide permanent endowments and memorial funds for donors who want to give lasting support to parishes, schools, religious and social service ministries in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Board of Directors

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg
President

Reverend Joseph A. Morgan
Vicar General
Vice President

Mr. Michael J. Tooley
Diocesan Fiscal Officer
Treasurer

Reverend Thomas Kormmeyer
Pastor

Sister Shirley Anne Brown
Hammond, NY

Mr. Thomas Hannan
Ogdensburg, NY

Mrs. Mary Anne Bukolt-Ryder
Plattsburgh, NY

Passing Our Living Faith to Future Generations



St. Patrick's & Mother Cabrini's Shrine of Peru, NY

Endowment Beneficiaries Can Include

- The Diocese of Ogdensburg
- The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg
- Your Parish or Catholic School
- The Education of Priests & Seminarians
- The Priests Retirement Fund
- The Priests Disability Fund
- The Bishop's Fund
- Any Ministry or Program of the Diocese
- Catholic Charities
- Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg
- St. Joseph's Nursing Home
- Any Diocesan institution of your choice

TO CONTACT THE DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
FOUNDATION OFFICE
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg
Or Call: Scott Lalone Executive Director 315-393-2920 (x1330)

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

We recognize and understand as a Catholic Foundation entirely separate from the Diocese but in all ways accountable to both the Diocese and our donors, we are sustained by public trust and laws that confer upon us a special responsibility to society and the Roman Catholic Church. We further acknowledge that this responsibility can be met by full, open and public disclosure of all our affairs.

HOW THE FOUNDATION WORKS

The Foundation solicits and receives planned gifts to benefit the people and communities of the Diocese as designated by donors. Prudent financial management of the funds is entrusted to the Board of Directors comprised of distinguished Church, business and civic leaders. A professional staff administers the day to day operation of The Foundation and oversees the distribution of annual earnings from the funds. Assets are managed by investment professionals.

Methods of Giving

Type of Gift	Form of Gift	Benefit to Church	Benefit to You
Outright Gift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash • Stocks/securities • Real estate • Insurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perpetual income • Interest income used by The Foundation, parishes, schools and organizations in diocese 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income tax deduction • No capital gains tax on Appreciated gifts
Wills & Bequests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash • Real estate • Personal property • Percentage of estate • Remainder of estate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bequest will be held in perpetuity and invested to fund The Foundation needs as designated by the donor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible estate tax deduction • Opportunity to make perpetual gifts
Charitable Gift Annuities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash • Stocks/securities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon the death of the donor or last surviving annuitant remaining assets generate interest income for The Foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible estate tax deduction • Opportunity to make perpetual gifts
Insurance Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name The Foundation as policy owner and/or beneficiary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foundation receives full face value of policy upon death of the donor, or may receive current surrender value prior to donor's death 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to make substantial future gift to The Foundation at current manageable cost • Income tax deduction for value of the policy when transferred • Premium payments may be deducted as gifts
Real Estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home • Land • Vacation Home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foundation receives the proceeds from the sale of the property at your death or sooner if so desired by the Donor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be given with life use • Can be given without incurring tax on the appreciation
Charitable Remainder Trusts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash • Stocks/securities • Real estate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foundation receives substantial future gifts to support the work of The Foundation and the charities named by the donor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variable or fixed income • Option to defer income • Income tax deduction • Reduction of estate taxes • No capital gains tax on appreciated gift (or deferred in some instances)
Retirement Plan/IRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name The Foundation as beneficiary of death benefit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant gift upon death of donor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to make a major gift • Estate and income tax savings
Endowment Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any of the above types of gifts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final beneficiary(ies) will have a perpetual source of revenue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making a lasting gift that is a permanent legacy of your faith

Endowments Established in the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, New York, Inc.

Reverend Norman Poupore Endowment – Support of Priests' Disabilities
Catholic Charities Endowment – Corporate purposes
Society of the Sisters of St. Joseph Endowment – Corporate purposes
Society of the Propagation of the Faith Endowment – Corporate purposes
St. Joseph's Home Foundation Endowment – Corporate purposes
Catherine Aurelia Endowment – Bishop's Charities and Religious Works
Reverend Anthony A. Milia Endowment – Support of the Diocesan Archives
Building For Tomorrow Endowment – Operating expenses of the Catholic Community of Alexandria
Education of Seminarians Endowment – Funding to the annual operating budget
Faylene LeRoux Endowment – Support of Catholic Education
Formation For Ministry Endowment – Parish financial assistance and annual operating budget
Guggenheim/Hughes Endowment – Support of capital needs of Guggenheim Center
Leona Schlafly Endowment – General purposes of the Diocese of Ogdensburg
Reverend James Meehan Endowment – Special care of priests
St. Mary's Cathedral Endowment – Support of general operations
Joseph & Joyce Sylvester Endowment – General operating needs of St. Anthony's, Watertown
Guggenheim Maintenance Endowment – Maintain the main camp building, boathouse and grounds
Spratt Memorial Endowment – Support capital needs
St. Alexander's Catholic Education Endowment – Support of Catholic education at parish
Alice Austin Trust Mass Endowment – Masses at St. Andrew's Church, Sackets Harbor
Lawrence R. Robinson Trust Mass Endowment – Masses at St. Andrew's Church, Sackets Harbor
St. Augustine's Church Endowment – General purposes of St. Augustine's at Peru.
Margaret Brothers Endowment – General purposes of St. Patrick's Church, Rouses Point
Victor West Endowment – General purposes of St. Patrick's Church, Rouses Point
St. Mary's Champlain NY Endowment – Support of St. Mary's Academy and St. Mary's Church
Reverend W. Cyril Rapin Endowment – Support of disabled priests
Good Samaritan Endowment – Christian charity to the people of the North Country
Holy Family Strauss Educational Endowment – Promote Catholic education
Deacon Adam Crowe Scholarship Endowment – Education of Seminarians
William Cornish Endowment – St. Henry's Church, EWTN, Diocese
Donald J. Grant Endowment – General purposes of RC Community of Brownville & Dexter
St. Lawrence Church Endowment – General purposes of St. Lawrence Church in North Lawrence
St. Patrick's Church Shamrock Endowment – General purposes of St. Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls
Queen of Heaven Church – General purposes of Queen of Heaven Church
Church of St. Patrick/Stumpf Family – Catholic Education
ME Walton Good Samaritan Endowment – Needs of parishioners at St. Cyril's and St. Francis Xavier
Special Care of Priests Endowment – Funding for annual operating budget
Alice Austin Mass Endowment – Masses at Queen of Heaven Church, Henderson
St. Francis of Assisi Endowment – 50% Diocese, 50% Covenant House
William L. Patnode Endowment – Education of Seminarians
Gertrude J. Tyo Endowment – Education of Seminarians
Chapin, McCarthy, LaBelle Families Endowment – General purposes St. Augustine (North Bangor)
Chapin, McCarthy Families Endowment – General purposes St. Martin de Porras, Peru (Missionary Projects)
St. Patrick's & Mother Cabrini's Shrine of Peru, NY Endowment – General purpose of Shrine
Thomas and Ann Fiacco Endowment – General purposes St. Mary's Catholic School, Canton, NY
Thomas and Ann Fiacco Endowment – General purposes Trinity Catholic School, Massena, NY
Bishop Brzana Chapter Vocations – emergency medical/dental assistance to active Seminarians
Brian E. McManus & Alison E. McManus Endowed Scholarship Fund in Memory of Dorothy W. McManus – Tuition assistance for students of financial need at St. Agnes Catholic School
Halsey J. Seguin Memorial Scholarship Fund - to benefit poor students of St. Bernard's Catholic School as they see fit
Education of Seminarians/St. Joseph's Home Endowment – Education of Seminarians & St. Joseph's Nursing Home Foundation general purposes

Donor Restricted Net Assets as of June 30, 2019 - \$6,428,568



CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Advocates detail ways to shield kids from online exploitation

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Advocates in online security gathered Nov. 5 in Washington to detail how children and young people are being exploited sexually online, and ways to blunt it. "Social media is removing previous barriers to grooming victims for child abusers, sex traffickers, pimps, and even sex buyers themselves because apps make minors' accounts easily discoverable and accessible," said Haley Halverson, vice president of advocacy and outreach at the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, which sponsored the symposium. "In order to dismantle the current predator's paradise online, we need age-based default safety settings on social media platforms and other apps; these would include features like automatically disabling direct messages from strangers for accounts of minors, automatically disabling geotagging, filtering out pornography, and better algorithms to remove sexually graphic or sexualizing comments on minors' photos or videos," Halverson said. "We also need policy-makers to make it clear that 13 is not the digital age of adulthood after which mega-corporations suddenly have no responsibility to protect them as minors," she added. Sen. Ed Markey, D-Massachusetts, has introduced a bill that would raise that age to 15.

Cardinal: 'Ad limina' is time for profession of faith, hope, love-

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – In front of the tomb of St. Peter, where they solemnly chanted the Creed in Latin, the bishops of New England contemplated the call and mission of the apostle, and how the Lord calls them as well. The bishops, making their visits "ad limina apostolorum" – to the threshold of the apostles – celebrated an early morning Mass Nov. 7 in the grotto of St. Peter's Basilica before meeting St. Peter's successor, Pope Francis. Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston, principal celebrant and homilist at the Mass, noted how the prayer at the tomb of St. Peter and the earlier celebration at the tomb of St. Paul form "the very essence" of the pilgrimage bishops are required to make regularly to Rome to strengthen their faith and their bond with the pope and to report on the status of their dioceses. Referring to St. Paul as "the Pharisee" and St. Peter as "the fisherman," Cardinal O'Malley said Jesus chose "very unlikely people to lead his church." "I'm sure we feel that way about our vocations," he said. "We were not chosen because we were the best looking or the smartest or the holiest, but in God's providence he called us to this responsibility."

Pope: Success in protecting ozone layer offers lessons

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Decades of international cooperation on protecting the earth's ozone layer serve as an important lesson for guiding collaboration needed today, Pope Francis said. The pope expressed his hope that current agreements, "as well as other praiseworthy initiatives of the global community on care for our common home, can continue on this complex, challenging, but always stimulating path," he said in a written message Nov. 7. The message was addressed to those attending a meeting of state parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The protocol and later revisions aim for phasing out the production of substances known to deplete ozone in the stratosphere, which absorbs harmful ultraviolet radiation. Entering into force in 1989, it became "the first convention of the United Nations system to gain universal endorsement on the part of the entire family of nations, which today numbers 197 signatory states," the pope wrote. This legally binding instrument has "yielded positive results" as many scientific studies have shown the thinning of the ozone layer is gradually being reduced.

Bishops to vote on revised strategic priorities

WASHINGTON (CNS) – When they meet Nov. 11-13 in Baltimore, the U.S. bishops are expected to vote on a revised set of strategic priorities to take them into the next decade.

The bishops, when they met in June, gave their provisional OK to development of a new set of strategic priorities for 2021-24.

The June vote allowed committees, secretariats and departments of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to continue work on how to carry out the priorities.

The expectation is the proposed 2021-24 priorities would receive a final vote for implementation at the USCCB's November 2020 meeting.

For this year's vote, a simple majority of bishops present and voting is needed for passage.

A working group of bishops under the aegis of the USCCB Committee on Priorities and Plans – following two rounds of consultations with the bishops, one round with the USCCB's National Advisory Council, with recent input from five USCCB standing committees – identified four priorities:

– "Evangelization: Form a joyful band of missionary disciples of Jesus Christ." The phrase "of Jesus Christ" is new since June.

– "Life and dignity of the human person: Serve the common good as the leaven in a free society."

– "Protect and heal God's children: Restore integrity, foster virtue."

– "Vocations: Equip all Christ's disciples for mission."

Within each priority

there are four to six emphasis points, with slight changes in wording for a few since June.

Under evangelization:
– "Evangelize a culture in need of hope, especially the religiously unaffiliated."

– "Invite and empower youth/young adults to become missionary disciples."

– "Foster an evangelizing focus in catechesis and Catholic schools."

– "Communicate more effectively how the faith transforms lives."

– "Offer our society an account for the hope that is within us."

– "Acknowledge and welcome the gifts and talents that the Encuentro process brings to Christ's church." "Encuentro process" replaces "Hispanic community" in an earlier version.

Under human life and dignity:

– "Work to heal the scourge of racism and religious intolerance." It originally read: "Work to heal the scourge of hatred based on race and/or religion."

– "Protect and defend the dignity of migrants and refugees, of the poor and those on the peripheries."

– "Defend the right to life for all people especially the unborn, elderly, sick, dying and persons with disabilities; and fight the advance of abortion, infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia, violence and the death penalty." "Violence" has been added to this list.

– "Defend and secure religious liberty and freedom of association."

– "Foster reverence for God's creation, in protec-

tion of our common home." The phrase "in protection of" was added.

– "Articulate a convincing anthropology of the human person, male and female, as proclaimed by faith and affirmed by science and right reason."

Under protect and heal God's children:

– "Maintain and strengthen safe environments through sound policies and procedures." Originally, it began with "Create and maintain."

– "Extend and ensure effective collaboration with the laity."

– "Cultivate an ever-deepening spirituality of chastity and other virtues."

– "Nurture courageous and transparent leadership."

– "Accompany survivors and embrace their witness."

Under vocations:

– "Foster lifelong discernment and formation to fulfill one's God-given vocation."

– "Prepare for and sustain the living-out of marriage and family life."

– "Create a culture that nurtures consecrated life and holy orders."

– "Encourage the laity in their mission to evangelize society and transform it through the grace of word and sacrament." The "transform" phrase is an addition.

According to USCCB statutes, the bishops' strategic plan is to be reviewed and revised as needed every four years.

Should the priorities and plans be approved, USCCB committees, secretariats and departments will continue developing draft operational plans.

ADIRONDACK

CLIMATE CHANGE

Saranac Lake – Interfaith youth perspective on climate change presentation to be held.

Date: Nov. 20

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8

Place: St. Bernard's Church

Features: There will be a climate reality presentation. A summary of Pope Francis' Laudato Si Encyclical. Interfaith panel discussion "Climate action as a moral imperative." Speakers will include the Adirondack Youth Climate Summit Students, Dr. Curt Stager, Tom Kalinowski, Katherine Preston and Sr. Bethany Fitzgerald. All ages and faiths are welcome, and the admission is free. Light snacks will be provided.

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@stagnesp.org.

CLINTON

TURKEY RAFFLE

West Chazy – St. Joseph's Men's Club of St. Joseph's Parish, West Chazy, will host their annual Turkey Raffle.

Date: Nov. 22

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: St. Joseph's Parish Center

Features: Lots of Prizes. Everyone welcome. Free buffet supper.

Contact: For more information, call the Parish Office at 518-493-4521.

WINTER CRAFT FAIR

Peru – CDA #2598 to have Fall into Winter Craft Sale.

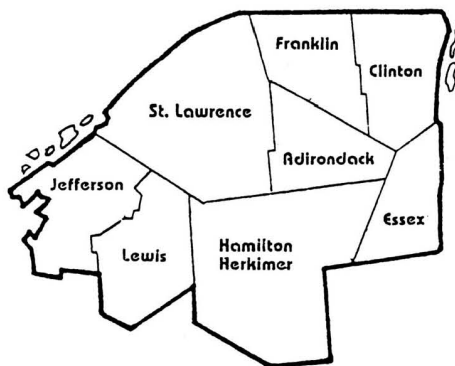
Date: Dec. 7

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

Place: St. Augustine's Church

Features: Vendors from all around the area with craft items, household items and more. Café lunches, soup, sandwiches and chips. Bake Sale with lots of goodies.

Contact: For more information contact Judy Akey at 518-643-8716



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, 1-866-314-7296;
e-mail news@northcountycatholic.org.

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

CRAFT SHOW

Morrisonville – St. Alexander's Church will be having their 8th Annual North Country Christmas Craft Show.

Date: Dec. 14

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

Features: the works of local vendors, a fabulous Bake Shop with all your favorite Christmas Treats, Basket Raffle and More...and Don't forget to stop by and have lunch at Padre's Cafe! See you there!

CATHOLICISM

Watertown – Bishop Robert Barron's "Catholicism" DVD presentation and discussion to be held.

Date: Nov. 14 (Part 2); Nov. 21 (Part 3)

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Dostie Hall at Sacred Heart Church

Features: Explore the faith through stories, biographies, & images; like a world tour of persons, places, & cathedrals. All believers welcome. Refreshments.

Contact: Holy Family Rectory, 315-782-2468

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.

LEWIS

BRUNCH

Lyons Falls – An all you can eat breakfast to be sponsored by the Fr. Pascal Rys Knights of Columbus Council.

Date: Nov. 17

Time: 8 a.m. to Noon

Place: St. John's Church Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 5-12, \$5; Under 5, Free

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Houseville – Divine Mercy Devotions to be held for the month of December.

Date: Dec. 1

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Features: Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. All are welcome.

Contact: 315-348-6260 for more information.

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

WOMEN'S ADVENT GATHERING

Norwood – Women's Advent Gathering group meeting to be held.

Date: Dec. 15

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Place: St. Andrew's Church Hall

(Enter through side door)

Features: All women are welcome to join us for faith, friendship, and food!

Contact: For more information, or to find out about our service project, call/text/email Sara at 315-212-7565 or email narrow56@gmail.com

DIOCESAN EVENTS

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 the person in your area: Watertown/Ogdensburg Area: Anne Seegebarth Email:

ams2962@gmail.com, Phone: 315-783-4596; Canton/Massena Area:

Michael Neaton Email: neaton-michael@yahoo.com, Phone: 315-335-6302 or 315-261-4150; Port

Henry/Ticonderoga Area: Dan Stewart

Email: dshope4444@gmail.com,

Phone: 518-898-6851; Plattsburgh

Area or other not listed above: Ken Racette Email: kracette1a@gmail.com

Phone: 518-314-1505 or 518-578-3056

YOUTH BUSES FOR LIFE

Washington, DC – Registration is now open for the Youth Buses for life.

Date: Jan. 26, 2020

Cost: \$200

Features: Buses depart the North Country and the cost will include transportation, 3 hotel stays, 3 breakfasts, 2 dinners, 2 lunches, t-shirt, slingbag and an awesome experience! Western bus

departs from IHC in Watertown. Northern bus departs from Massena with

stops in Canton and Gouverneur. March for Life in our nation's capital and participate in the Life is Very Good Rally

and Mass and the National Pro-life Summit!

Contact: Registration and more information at www.rcdony.org/prolife

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CNS PHOTO/UNIVERSAL

Henry Golding and Emilia Clarke star in a scene from the movie "Last Christmas."

AT THE MOVIES

LAST CHRISTMAS

NEWYORK(CNS)—The holiday-themed blend of romantic comedy and drama "Last Christmas" (Universal) is both awkward in execution and problematic in content. So viewers committed to scriptural values should approach it with caution.

The film tells the conversion story of Kate (Emilia Clarke), a childhood refugee from ex-Yugoslavia living in London whose selfish, thoughtless ways are transformed after she meets and falls for a mysterious, sensitive stranger named Tom (Henry Golding).

Tom is sympathetic with Kate's woes, which she connects to a traumatic illness she recently suffered that required her to undergo a heart transplant. He also sets her a good example by his volunteer work at a homeless shelter.

Kate's eventual reform benefits the stern but good-hearted owner (Michelle Yeoh) of the yuletide merchandise store where she works

who goes by the nickname Santa. It also comes as a relief to her war-scarred mother, Petra (Emma Thompson), and put-upon dad, Ivan (Boris Isakovic), as well as her successful attorney sister, Marta (Lydia Leonard).

As written by Thompson and Bryony Kimmins and directed by Paul Feig, "Last Christmas" is aesthetically flawed and a moral grab bag. Kate's original personality is so grating that it's difficult to take much of a shine to her while the twist ending is a whopper only the most sentimental will willingly swallow.

Ethically, positive messages about welcoming foreigners, caring for the poor and the power of love to enoble people are offset by a frivolous attitude toward emotionless encounters and homosexual relationships. It is held out as a sign of progress that Tom forestalls any premature intimacy. But Kate has been shown to have a habit of bedding strangers and the

chastity of her relationship with Tom is none of her doing.

The gay theme is introduced by way of Marta's cohabitation with her girlfriend. While incidental, this bond is implicitly accepted as an equal alternative to marriage.

There's a certain air of desperation in the movie's desire to charm, divert and be liked. But as cinematic offerings go, "Last Christmas" is a bit of an ugly sweater.

The film contains a benign view of casual sex and a lesbian relationship, about a half-dozen uses of profanity, a couple of milder oaths and occasional crude and crass language.

The Catholic News Service classification is L – limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 – parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Albany Diocese mourns priest who died in flood

ALBANY, (CNS) – A longtime priest of the Diocese of Albany, died tragically Oct. 31, when he was caught up in flash flooding on a rural road while traveling to say Mass for the people of Herkimer and Newport about 90 miles outside of Albany.

Father Thomas Connery, 82, a fixture in the diocese, was best known as pastor at Immaculate Conception in Glenville from 1990 to 2007.

"We are so saddened to learn of Father Thomas Connery's tragic death, but we know that he died as he lived -- serving the people of God without fear or concern for himself," Albany Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger said in a statement. "Father Connery was a devoted priest who served faithfully for 56 years."

State Police in Herkimer reported that at approximately 10:10 p.m., Father Connery drove his 2017 Ford Fusion through the

flood waters along a road in the town of Norway in Herkimer County and barely made it through, according to an eyewitness.

The Times Union daily newspaper reported that troopers said the road's shoulder collapsed and the priest's car partially fell into the ravine. Father Connery then got out his car and tried to walk back through the flood waters he had just driven through toward the eyewitness, but he lost his footing and was washed downstream, the report said.

Due to the strong current, his body could not be recovered until the next day.



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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

'On notice' about the final judgement

We are very close to the end of the Church Year. Advent is only a couple of Sundays away!

Today, the readings sound a warning about the final judgement, whenever that comes for all of us.

When? That is so uncertain. But we're "on notice." Will we pay any attention?



**Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore**

Those who are evildoers will be caught in the fires of justice, while the righteous will be bathed in light and joy.

The choice is ours when we are still alive and on this side of the grave. We do well to heed the message on a sundial that sits in an old garden in England: "It's

Today, the readings sound a warning about the final judgement, whenever that comes for all of us.

later than you think!"

There are many people these days who are highly disturbed by our neglect of the environment.

We all know the reaction of nature to the greed and exploitation of our forests, our lakes and our rivers.

We may wonder if the resultant tornadoes,

floods, devastating fires and earthquakes are signs of the end of the world. Yet, Jesus tells us, "You know not the day nor the hour when the Son of God will come."

He urges us not to be deceived by false prophets who predict the end time.

Instead, let us live out

November 17

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Mal 3:3:19-20a

2nd Thes 3:7-12

Luke 21:5-19

our "righteousness" day by day, while following the advice of Mother Teresa who said: 'Do little things with great love, and make the Eucharist the center of your life.'

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

Pushing back against evil

During a recent speech in Texas, I mentioned that "Drag Queen Story Hours" are being sponsored by local public libraries across the country. Toddlers and kids are brought in and placed in front of cross-dressing men who read children's stories to them, stories that encourage them to reject fundamental gender differences between males and females. The LGBTQ agenda, I also noted, is being energetically promoted to upend and rewrite public school curricula even for kindergarten and pre-school-aged children.

During the Q & A after the talk, one of the parents in attendance, with a measure of frustration in his voice, asked what the average person can do to push back against the seemingly endless expansion of error and evil in our society.

His question is a common one.

I usually reply by saying that we cannot yield to discouragement over the apparently widespread

moral decline around us, nor dissipate our personal energy in worry and anxiety about the state of the world. Instead, we need to recognize how God has entrusted to each of us a small garden that he asks us to tend. If we tend that plot well, he will extend the reach of his grace in ways we cannot foresee or imagine, and we will actually contribute to stemming the tide of error and evil well beyond the limited confines of our particular plot.

This implies that each of us has different responsibilities, depending upon our particular state in life, our commitments, and our employment and family situations. By attending carefully to those responsibilities and conscientiously tending our gardens, the air around us can indeed begin to change.

A true story I recently heard brought this lesson

home in a powerful way.

A woman, facing complex health issues, felt a strong impulse one morning to pray for her oldest son while she was confined to her bed. He lived far away in a large metropolitan area and worked in his spare time for a ride-sharing company.

Later that day, her son called home, and she mentioned that she had felt the need to pray for him earlier. "That's interesting," he replied, "because I had something unusual happen today."

He then told her about picking up a pregnant woman with two young children. After greeting them, he looked at his phone and started driving. The address on his screen subconsciously caught his attention; meanwhile the woman was speaking to someone on her phone in the back seat. After several minutes of thinking about

the address, the young driver suddenly realized where they were headed: the local Planned Parenthood abortion clinic.

He decided to make a couple of wrong turns to buy some time so the woman would finish up her phone conversation. When she kept on talking, he pulled the car over and brought it to a complete stop. As she paused her conversation, he turned and said to her, "I'm sorry but I have to let you know that because of my religious beliefs, I simply cannot take you where you are going. I will return you to where I picked you up and refund your fee." The woman was surprised, but seemed to understand, and he drove her and her three children back to the pickup point.

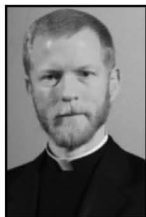
That young driver made an intentional decision, within the confines of the particular garden God had given him to cultivate, to push back against a present evil he became aware of.

Another person of lesser

determination might have said, "Who am I to get involved in this person's choices?" Am I my brother's keeper?" He recognized, however, that he was already unwittingly involved, and that each of us, in fact, is our brother's keeper. He was concerned about a neighbor and her little family gathered in the back seat of his car. He knew he could not be party to the wrongdoing she seemed poised to carry out against her unborn child.

We don't know what happened after he dropped her off. Maybe, sadly, she just ordered another ride. Maybe, however, she reconsidered her choice. Any time we try to do what is right and push back against evil, any time we seek to act with resolve on behalf of what is good and true, new options open up, the air changes around us, and we contribute to renewing our world.

That's what each of us can do as we take care of our own garden.



**Father Tadeusz
Pacholczyk
Ph.D.**



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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Extraordinary gratitude during Mission Month

I am very grateful for your generous World Mission Sunday offerings in support of the Church's missionary work from the people in our diocese. The generous missionary spirit means so much to those who serve in mission dioceses and to me personally as well.

On World Mission Sunday, our community joined with Catholics throughout the world to celebrate the hope that saves and the hope that is our Lord Himself. They fulfilled, in prayer and sacrifice, the Lord's command to be His witnesses "to the ends of the earth."

I would like to take this opportunity to also acknowledge our priests, especially at this time of the closing of Extraordinary Mission Month. Many of our retired and active priests who lived and worked in our mission parish in Mollendo, Peru were kind to impart stories of their life and times of living there during Extraordinary Mission Month in the North Country Catholic. Please know that you all remain in our prayers and we are so grateful for your time, tales and photos of a time gone by. I am most grateful for our priests and pastors for encouraging the missionary spirit of prayer and sacrifice among their parishioners. Thank you for being a home missionary and helping in your own way. Your hard work and good deeds do not go unnoticed by the Mission Office. Your time, effort and willingness to promote Mission Awareness year-round assist the Mission Office in responding to the command of Jesus to "Go and teach all nations."

Another point of gratitude is for our religious missionaries who live and work here amongst us. Special thanks to Sister Cindy Sullivan, BVM, and Sister Debbie Blow, OP, for their participation in our EMM Panel Discussion in Massena last month. Over 30 blessed individuals were amongst our audience that evening to hear of your real-life experiences. Thank you for your time and treasure!

More than a thousand mission dioceses around the world rely on World Mission Sunday funds financial assistance. The Society for the Propagation of the Faith relies on us, all of us, committed to the worldwide mission of Jesus. We must understand the importance of the missionary vocation of all. All Catholics here and throughout the world celebrate and share their faith.

Thank you again for your generosity on World Mission Sunday and to our dedicated Priests for their tireless endeavors to spread the Word. That's indeed very "good news"!

OBITUARIES

Brasher Falls – Betty Louise (Troupe) Murtagh, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 11, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church.

Brownville – Dolores Fitzsimmons, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 9, 2019 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Dexter Cemetery.

Brownville – Eleanor L. (McCormick) Harding, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 11, 2019 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Dexter Cemetery.

Clayton – Harry W. Bazinet, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 9, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Copenhagen – Leonard E. Vogt, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 7, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Croghan – Dr. Richard Frank Higby, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 16, 2019 at St. Stephen's Church.

Deferiet – Francisco C. Cassoni, 87; Memorial Services Nov. 24, 2019 at St.

Rita's Church; burial in St. James Cemetery, Carthage.

Evans Mills – Rita (LaBrie) Ritter, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 6, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Sanford Corners Cemetery, Calcium.

Massena – Claire Catherine (Lantry) Kozsan, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 8, 2019 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – H. Olin Peets, 97; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 5, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Sally Ellen Rusaw, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 2, 2019 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Peru – Theresa Josephine "TJ" (Urrizola) Winslow, 81; Funeral Services Nov. 6, 2019 at Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Holy Rood Cemetery, Westbury.

Plattsburgh – Maurice J. Fregeau, 90;

Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2019 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Denis C. Mousseau, 66; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 5, 2019 at Our Lady of Victory Church.

Sackets Harbor – James S. Powers, Jr., 92; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 9, 2019 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Margaret Patricia "Peggy" Ratigan, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 9, 2019 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Maurice "Butch" Trudeau, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2019 at Holy Name of Jesus Parish; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

Watertown – JoAnn (Augliano) Kolb, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2019 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

N.Y. bishops on 'ad limina' will cast USCCB ballots

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – While other U.S. bishops are preparing for their general meeting in Baltimore Nov. 11-13, the bishops of New York state are packing their bags for Rome.

The bishops of Albany, Brooklyn, Buffalo, New York, Ogdensburg, Rochester, Rockville Centre and Syracuse are scheduled to make their visits "ad limina apostolorum" – to the threshold of the apostles – Nov. 11-16.

It has been eight years since the bishops made the pilgrimage to Rome to pray at the tombs of Sts. Peter and Paul, make the rounds of offices of the Roman Curia and have a private meeting with the

pope.

But their brother bishops in Baltimore will be voting for new officers for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and new committee chairs and conducting other important business.

So, after a morning of Curia meetings in Rome Nov. 12 and before celebrating Mass at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, the New Yorkers will gather at the Pontifical North American College to watch the livestream of the USCCB meeting and cast their ballots. Paper ballots.

"The conference has made a special accommodation for the 2019 November plenary assembly

to allow the bishops who are in Rome for their ad limina visits to vote," said Chieko Noguchi, USCCB director of public affairs.

"Two tellers will be chosen from the bishops in Rome who are voting members of the conference, and they will tally the paper ballots and call the results in to Baltimore," she said. The Rome-cast votes will be added to the Baltimore tally before the results are announced to the assembly.

In addition to Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, the eight New York dioceses have a total of 21 active bishops and auxiliary bishops.

FACES OF FAITH



Seminarians Deacon Jude Nnadibuagha, left center, and Deacon Severinus Torwøe, right center, receive financial and spiritual support from James T. Gratch, left, grand knight of the Knights of Columbus, Father John Cosmic Council #291, Carthage, and John C Heindorf, financial secretary of Council 291. "With the generous support of the parishioners of St. James Church, Carthage and St. Mary's Church, Copenhagen, we are able to help our seminarians with our 'Pennies' and our prayers," Gratch said, referring to the "Pennies from Heaven" collections held by the Knights once monthly at weekend Masses. Both deacons are currently completing pastoral years and preparing for ordination to the priesthood in the spring.



The Canton Knights of Columbus recently donated winter coats to St. Mary's School in Canton. Pictured are, from left, Grand Knight John Taillon, Principal Michelle Lallier and Grade 5-6 Teacher Marianne Augenstein.

PASTORAL VISIT FROM ARCHBISHOP



(Above) Bishop Terry R. LaValley met with Archbishop Rolando J. Tria Tirona, OCD, of Caceres, Philippines on Nov. 4. Pictured are, from left, Father Alex V. Guimpol, Archbishop Rolando, Bishop LaValley, and Father Eduard C. Pesigan, III. Father Guimpol and Father Pesigan came to the Diocese of Ogdensburg from the Archdiocese of Caceres. (Right) Archbishop Tirona celebrated Mass at St. Peter's in Plattsburgh with Msgr. Dennis J. Duprey, Msgr. Joseph G. Aubin and Father Pesigan concelebrating.

