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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 74, Number 17

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPT. 18, 2019

## 'Trust Truth' brings faith, reason to bar

CANTON – Two priests walked into a bar.

While this is the start to many jokes, this scene was actually the start of many of the Trust Truth evenings in Canton.

The brainchild of Seth Conklin and Josh Parker, parishioners of St. Mary's in Canton, with the help of their pastor Father Bryan D. Stitt, the Trust Truth series was formed out of a desire for more.

These two young adults were searching for more fellowship and to go deeper into the faith – in particular to explore the relationship of faith and reason.

FULL STORY, PAGE 12

## KNIGHTS GIVE BACK



Bill Ose, president of the Bishop Brzana Chapter of the Knights of Columbus, presents a check to St. Anne's Shrine Spiritual Director Rev. Brian Cummings. The Knights donated \$6,000 to local charities, religious and educational causes, funds raised in an auction and dinner and through donations. See the full story on page 5.

## CURSILLO WEEKENDS PLANNED



Cursillo means "short course in Christianity" in Spanish, but for those experiencing God's presence during their retreat weekends, the short events have a big impact. Ken Racette, lay director of North Country Cursillo, called Cursillo "experiencing God in your community" through encounters with yourself, with others, and with God.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

## Pope: Africa trip planted new seeds of hope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Having gone to Africa as a pilgrim of peace and hope, Pope Francis said he hoped the seeds planted there by his visit would bear abundant fruit for everyone.

Following in the footsteps of evangelizing saints before him, the pope said he sought to bring with him "the leaven of Christ" and his Gospel, which is "the most powerful leaven of fraternity, justice and peace for all people."

Speaking to some 12,000

people gathered in St. Peter's Square Sept. 11, the pope recalled his fourth apostolic journey to Africa. He dedicated his general audience talk to a review of some of the highlights from his visit to Mozambique, Madagascar and Mauritius Sept. 4-10.

The pope said he wanted to "sow the seeds of hope, peace and reconciliation" in Mozambique, which had experienced two devastating cyclones recently and 15 years of civil war.

While the church contin-

ues to guide the nation along the path of peace, the pope made special mention of the Rome-based Community of Sant'Egidio, which had facilitated the mediation process that resulted in the nation's 1992 peace agreement.

Speaking off-the-cuff, the pope said, "I would like to take a moment to thank" the lay community for their hard work in this peace process.

He said he also encouraged Mozambique's lead-

ers to keep working together for the common good, and he noted how he saw that kind of cooperation in action at a hospital he visited that helps people, especially mothers and children, with HIV and AIDS.

"I saw that the patients were the most important thing" at the Sant'Egidio-run center, which was staffed by people of different religious beliefs, including the director of the hospital, who was Muslim, he said.

Everyone worked together, "united, like brothers and sisters," he said.

Reflecting on Madagascar, the pope noted how beautiful and rich in natural resources the country is, but that it is still marked by tremendous poverty.

He said he asked that the people there would be inspired by their "traditional spirit of solidarity" in order to overcome the obstacles they face and foster development that respect both the environment and social justice.

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

## He knew I needed community

What I needed was community.

It was 2016, I had returned to my faith after more than a decade away only a year before. I was convinced of the fullness of truth found in the Catholic Church. I had developed a profound love of Christ in the Eucharist. But I was struggling with a lack of community.

I think it's important for all of us to have people in our lives with whom we can discuss our faith – the moments of inspiration, the times we struggle and the concepts we learn. It's espe-

cially important to me, an extreme extrovert who is energized by social situations, especially those during which big ideas can be discussed.

Darcy L.  
Fargo

And we all need people to pray for and who will pray for us and with us.

When I was a teen/young adult, finding a faith community was easy. There was always a youth group or a college Bible study to be found. Faith groups and Bible studies aren't always available

when you're an adult. When they do exist, they don't always fit into the hectic sched-

ule of someone balancing a family and career.

Then something happened. There was a series of what other people might call "coincidences" that I believe were signs God was calling me to attend a Cursillo weekend. At first, I wasn't sure I wanted to go. I didn't know much about what a weekend entailed, and I'm a bit of a control freak (I'm working on that). I knew only one other person attending, and I didn't know her very well at the time. I was scared, frankly. I was afraid of the unknown – what I'd be doing, and whether or not I'd connect with the people with whom I was doing it.

Yet I made my Cursillo

weekend at Wadhams Hall that fall. It turns out, God graced me with a lot of blessings that weekend. I was blessed with opportunities for prayer, and the sacraments. I was blessed with opportunities to discuss my faith and how to share it with others. But the biggest blessing was that I found community.

Both in the Cursillo weekend and subsequent group gatherings, I found a group of people who love each other and the Lord. I found a group of people who pray for and support each other. I found out why God called me to be there.

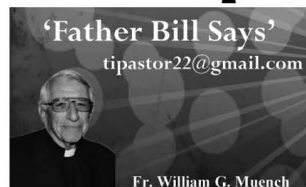
He knew I needed community.

## Consider the importance of the Creed

A few weeks ago, I traveled to Ticonderoga to join in the Jubilee Celebration in honor of Sister Sharon Dalton's 50th Anniversary. Sister Sharon has served as principal of St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga for the last 34 years. She has touched the lives of innumerable families in that village. Congratulations, Sister Sharon.

On my way home, I stopped for Sunday Mass at St. Joseph's Church, Olmstedville. The pastor there is Father Philip Allen, who was my classmate during our seminary days at Wadhams Hall. He's a good friend and always good company for lunch. After Mass, I was greeted by several parishioners who told me they were regular readers of this column. That was very special for me. So, I now send my greetings to you, folks of St. Joseph's and again thank you for joining me each week in this column. I will now remember you as I write each week.

This week, I would like to take time to consider with



Fr. William G. Muench

you the Creed as part of the liturgy of the Mass. Whether the Nicene Creed or the Apostles Creed, the Creed is a most important part of the Mass. The Creed is more than a prayer. The saying of the Creed is a moment in which the whole congregation together declares before God and each other that they believe in God and the message of Jesus.

Each time we, Catholics, gather at Sunday Mass, in Churches all over this planet, we declare, "I believe in God." Catholics all over the world, as they say the Creed, proclaim that their lives are profoundly influenced by their belief in God.

Today, I am writing to encourage you to realize how seriously important this reciting of the Creed must be for you. Some may wonder if

we have to proclaim our belief in God every Sunday. They say that belief in God is obvious since we go to church.

Yet, since each day our decisions and actions are influenced by our faith in God, it is tremendously important that we announce and remember our belief in God, our readiness to make God an important part of each and every day. We cannot repeat our Creed enough times. It helps us remember and keep alive exactly who we are.

Today, I would like to urge you to take a moment to read the Creed slowly and in prayer so that you recognize exactly what you are saying each time you say the Creed at Mass. You will recognize how thoroughly and carefully our Church has developed this Creed. Each Sunday, as the Mass comes to the Creed, be alert to prayerfully remember your commitment to make God a part of your everyday life.

Each year on Easter Sunday, the Creed is changed

into questions, similar to the questions used at the ceremony of Baptism. This presents a unique challenge – that we face the question of our faith and belief. Each one of us is faced by a precise question that causes us to remember, to again dedicate ourselves to God and be truly touched deeply by our faith.

These are those questions. "Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth?" "Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord?" "Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of the Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting?" At this moment, as you read this can you shout, "I do." Can you walk outside at this moment and shout, "I believe in God?"

The praying of the Creed at Mass each Sunday is meant as a question, a question of your beliefs and your readiness to accept God's profound influence on your life today and each day.

## FOLLOW ME

# Celebrating marriage, consecrated life jubilees

*Editor's note: The following is Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily for the Marriage Jubilees and consecrated life jubilees. Photos of that event will be in next week's edition.*

There is real value in combining our diocesan celebrations of Marriage Jubilees and of Jubilees for those who are living the consecrated life. There is much we can learn from one another's vocation. For instance, consecrated religious remind married people of the primacy of God and of that which does not pass away. They introduce spouses and their families to a love for the Word of God, for which consecrated persons have more time and availability. Religious also have much to learn from married people. You, who are married, teach us about generosity, self-forgetfulness, sacrifice for others. For instance, in our families we learn life lessons from our parents such as what it means to "go without" for the sake of others.

Certainly, at a Jubilee celebration such as this, we look back through the years and thank God for blessings received. But, today isn't just about reminiscing without giving much attention to what awaits us in the future. No, we continue to grow in holiness, to struggle, to learn, to give good witness. The journey isn't over! The lifelong pursuit of happiness and joy continues.

At this Jubilee Mass, I invite you to join me in focusing on the role of God's Holy Spirit in our lives as we journey into tomorrow and beyond. God, the Holy Spirit, has been that

third partner in your marriage covenant, enabling you to remain faithful to your wedding vows, albeit for sure, not without struggles.

The fruit of the Father and Son's intense love is the Holy Spirit Who continues to strengthen our consecrated religious in living their religious vows.

I came upon a poem written by Ignatius of Latakia. It first caught my eye because of our relationship with Latakia, but the message is inspiring for this occasion:

*Without the Holy Spirit:  
God is far away,  
Christ stays in the past,  
The Gospel is a dead letter,  
The Church is simply an organization,  
Authority a matter of domination,  
Mission a matter of propaganda,  
Liturgy no more than an evocation,  
Christian living a slave morality.*

*But with the Holy Spirit:  
The cosmos is resurrected and groans with the birth pangs of the Kingdom,  
The risen Christ is there,  
The Gospel is the power of life,  
The Church shows forth the life of the Trinity,  
Authority is a liberating service,  
Mission is a Pentecost,  
The liturgy is both memorial and anticipation,  
Human action is deified.*

Yes, the Gospel is a dead letter with the absence of the Holy Spirit. Such a void will not sustain a

consecrated religious or support a husband or wife in living his or her vocation. Vocations in marriage or in consecrated life will be dull, boring, uninspiring, unattractive. If there's no difference between a sacramental marriage and living together, why bother? If there's no difference between living the consecrated life and life in the fast lane, why sacrifice?

But the Gospel has the power of life! It must not be a dead letter. With the Holy Spirit our vocations are about new life and resurrection power. The risen Christ is here!

Where can we find the Holy Spirit? One of the most important places of encounter with God's Spirit is in our relationships. Spouses: do you pray together? Do you share your faith, talk about God at the kitchen table, yes, even in the ballfield? Our children and grandchildren must see us pray and be expected to join in the experience. You see, ours is a personal, but never a private faith. The Spirit beckons to be invited into our relationships. Do we talk about Jesus as much as we talk about politics, sports, our doctor's appointments? God mustn't be a distant bystander in our daily living. It's never too late! It doesn't mean becoming a "Holy Roller," but it does mean we must not allow Jesus to become a stranger to us and our loved ones.

Religious, do you share your prayer experiences, how your faith challenges you and brings you peace

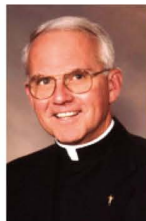
and joy. Being a member of a community means more than living under the same roof. Clearly, all you celebrating jubilees today have encountered the Spirit of the Risen Lord. Never let Him go. I ask myself: Does my energy come from the Resurrection of Christ? Resurrection of the heart must happen every day prompting a continual rebirth of hope. You remember in Ezekiel the story of the dry bones and their coming to life. We listen in on St. Paul's words to the Philippians: "That I may know Christ and the power of His "Resurrection."

There's a real danger that our married and consecrated lives can become devoid of joy and hope as we become slaves of duty, merely functioning in our proper roles, not unlike the older son in today's familiar Gospel. In every life circumstance, make room for God's Spirit.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be recreated. Let us all open our hearts to the living hope that comes from the resurrection of Christ. The Church is born of hope. In our vocations, we contribute to the giving of a new momentum to faith

that conquers our troubled world. Like the father, speaking to his troubled, elder son, "Everything I have is yours...we must celebrate and rejoice." With the apostles, we proclaim: "He's alive! He has risen. He appeared; we saw Him!" and that, my friends, makes all the difference in this world and in the world to come.

In a world today that seems tired, discouraged and even fearful, we remember our God hasn't gone anywhere. His Spirit continues to recreate whatever He touches. Congratulations and thank you Jubilarians, for your faith-filled witness of love. Surely, we would not be here today celebrating such milestones, if you had not welcomed the Holy Spirit into your lives. Don't let Him go in these, most troubling of times. We are Christ-led, Christ-fed, Hope-filled! Thank you, Jesus, for your Spirit of peace and joy!



**Bishop  
Terry R.  
LaValley**



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Jesse Bedore of Tupper Lake kneels before Father Richard Walz, a Benedictine priest and director of novices, during Bedore's profession of monastic vows. Bedore, the new Brother André, is pursuing his vocation at Subiaco Abbey, a Benedictine Monastery in Subiaco, Arkansas.

## Tupper Lake native takes vows at Benedictine Abbey

SUBIACO, Ark – The profession of a Tupper Lake resident as a Benedictine monk took place in the Subiaco Abbey Church, located in Subiaco, Arkansas, Sept. 8.

During Vespers, Novice Jesse Bedore presented his written and signed petition to Abbot Leonard who then welcomed his public profession of monastic vows for three years.

Reflecting this change in his state of life, the Abbot assigned him a new name, Brother André.

After three years, he will be eligible to make his final, perpetual vows.

Brother André comes from Tupper Lake, where he lived most of his life before coming to Subiaco. He is a graduate of Tupper Lake High School.

The profession ceremony had six parts. First, the novice made his request to become a monk.

Second, Abbot Leonard addressed him in the name of the community.

Next, Abbot Leonard showed him the Rule of

St. Benedict and asked if he was willing to observe; he then asked the novice to express his commitment by answering questions.

In the fourth part, Novice Jesse then read the document of his profession, in which he revealed his new monastic name, Brother André. Then he showed the document to Abbot Leonard, signed it and gave it to him.

Next, the Abbot blessed the monastic habit and clothed him with it.

Lastly, the newly professed returned to his place in the community and Vespers continued.

## Knights raise funds for charity

Each year the Knights of Columbus Councils and Assemblies in the Diocese of Ogdensburg unite as members of the Bishop Brzana Chapter to conduct a Charity Dinner-Auction to benefit Catholic schools, pro-life organizations and other worthy charitable, religious or educational causes.

Since its founding in 1999, the Chapter has raised approximately \$110,000, all of which has been donated within the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The 2019 Dinner-Auction combined with gifts from councils and individuals raised \$6,000.

Over the past several weeks Chapter President Bill Ose and other Knights presented donations to Champlain Valley Right to Life (\$1,000), St. Anne's Shrine (\$1,000), Life Right of Watertown (\$1,000), Camp Guggenheim (\$1,000) and St. Bernard's School in Saranac Lake (\$2,000).



(Above) Knight Bill Boulio and Chapter President Bill Ose present the Guggenheim Camp check to Bishop Terry LaValley. (Below) Nancy Belzile, chair of Champlain Valley Right to Life, received a check from Knights Deacon Randy Smith, Ken Lushia, and Deacon David Clark



# Cursillo creates community, spreads faith

By Jonathan Monfiletto  
Contributing Writer

Cursillo means “short course in Christianity” in Spanish, but for those experiencing God’s presence during their retreat weekends, the short events have a big impact.

Ken Racette, lay director of North Country Cursillo, called Cursillo “experiencing God in your community” through encounters with yourself, with others, and with God.

With separate retreat weekends for men and women, Cursillo Weekends feature talks followed by time for participants to split up into small groups to share their thoughts on the talks. There are also prayer times, opportunities for Reconciliation, and Mass each day.

“You grow in friendship with those people over the three or four days,” Racette said. “It’s a way that people experience God’s presence in themselves and in other people in a deep way.”

The next men’s Cursillo weekend is scheduled for Nov. 21-24 at Wadhams Hall, located at 6866 State Route 37 in Ogdensburg. The next women’s Cursillo weekend is slated for Dec. 12-15, also at Wadhams Hall. Those interested in participating can contact Racette by phone at (518) 578-3056 or by email at [kracette1a@gmail.com](mailto:kracette1a@gmail.com).

Along with circulating brochures and giving pulpit talks at diocesan churches, Racette said those who have participated in past Cursillo weekends help spread the word by sharing their Cursillo experiences and sharing their faith with those around them.

Typically, he noted, people who are recruited are

just beginning a relationship with God or returning to the Catholic faith after time away from church. Others are those who are already rooted in the faith and wish to hone their ability to share their faith and talk to others about God.

Though people generally attend a Cursillo weekend as a participant just once, they can continue experiencing the encounter with their faith that the weekend gave them by forming a small group with other participants of Cursillo.

“That’s really, for me, the strength of Cursillo,” Racette said, noting team members at Cursillo weekends encourage participants to gather in small groups with fellow participants on a regular basis – weekly or biweekly, for example.

Small groups expand on the Cursillo weekend through participants sharing about their prayer life, their relationship with God, what they are doing to learn more about God, and what they are doing to bring others closer to God.

“The whole point of Cursillo is evangelization,” Racette said. “First, we are evangelized ourselves on the weekend. Then, we try to reach out to people to bring them closer to God. Those small groups are very powerful.”

Several small groups can get together in larger groups called Ultrayas and continue helping one another grow closer to God. An Ultraya typically includes a sharing time, a witness talk from someone who has experienced a Cursillo weekend and wants to share their personal relationship with God, and a spiritual talk from a priest or deacon.

“Those are very power-

## Attend a weekend

North Country Cursillo is planning to hold Cursillo weekends.

- Nov. 21-24 – Men’s Weekend
- Dec. 12-15 – Women’s Weekend

Both weekends will be held at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg.

If you are interested and would like more information, please contact one of the following in your area:

**Watertown/Ogdensburg Area:** Anne Seegebarth – Email: [ams2962@gmail.com](mailto:ams2962@gmail.com), Phone: 315-783-4596

**Canton/Massena Area:** Michael Neaton – Email: [neatonmichael@yahoo.com](mailto:neatonmichael@yahoo.com), Phone: 315-335-6302 or 315-261-4150

**Port Henry/Ticonderoga Area:** Dan Stewart – Email: [dshope4444@gmail.com](mailto:dshope4444@gmail.com), Phone: 518-898-6851

**Plattsburgh Area or other not listed above:** Ken Racette – Email: [kracette1a@gmail.com](mailto:kracette1a@gmail.com) Phone: 518-314-1505 or 518-578-3056

ful moments for people, both the speakers and the hearers,” Racette said of Ultrayas. “You have a small group community, and then the small groups come together and share their faith lives in a larger group community. Cursillo is all about friendship in Christ.”

Racette attended his Cursillo weekend in 1978 and has been a part of three iterations of small groups since then. The first included couples – men and women who attended their respective Cursillo weekends together. Another group was comprised of couples who lived in close proximity to one another and spent time each week praying together and sharing their faith as families.

When Racette retired and returned to the North Country, he found that Cursillo no longer had a presence in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Along with several people interested in restarting Cursillo weekends, he attended a weekend as a team member to serve the participants there.

“Several guys wanted to get together and share in a deeper way,” Racette said, noting he formed a small group with those

men that has been meeting for five years. “As friendship and trust builds, the sharing gets deeper and sometimes it’s very powerful sharing. A person is going through some kind of crisis or something difficult. ... He can share that and share how that is affecting him, and we can pray with him and provide support.”

Building relationships and forming friendships are what Cursillo is all about, Racette said. Whether it’s by starting a small group with fellow participants or encouraging friends or family to attend a Cursillo weekend,

it’s always with the goal of helping all participants grow closer to Christ and each other.

When Racette sees new people coming to Mass, he will greet them after the first few times to get to know them and their story and tell them his own story. After a while, he talks to them about God and eventually about Cursillo weekends.

The idea is to express that Jesus is alive, not only in the sense of His resurrection but also in the hearts of those who have grown in their faith through Cursillo.

“It’s just a way of building friendship,” he said. “Then once you start building a friendship, you can begin to talk to that person about expanding their relationship with God, and one way to do that is a Cursillo weekend. ... You don’t have to start out by saying, ‘Oh, hi, I want to talk to you about Jesus.’ You just build a relationship with the person, and then Jesus comes up, sometimes by them. ... That’s how you move from just not knowing a person to friendship to faith friendship.”

## JOB OPENING

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg is seeking a **Clerical Assistant for the Development Office & Secretary for the Office of Family Life and Moderator of Curia.**

The full-time position provides administrative support to the Development Office and serves as secretary for the Family Life and Moderator of the Curia offices. Applicants must possess strong secretarial and computer skills. Must be proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel and have the ability to learn new software including Raiser’s Edge. Strong interpersonal skills and good oral and written communication skills are also required. High level of discretion and confidentiality is required.

Submit letter of interest, resume and three professional references to: Human Resources Office

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or e-mail: [ksnover@rcdony.org](mailto:ksnover@rcdony.org)

**Deadline for application is September 30, 2019.**

## Environmental Stewardship

## What's a climate strike?

Our youth are stepping up to voice their concerns about climate change, and who better to advocate change for their future and awaken the world to this plight. Our planet is facing extremes in weather, extinction of God's creatures and health problems to name a few things that are happening.

Pope Francis has long sought to engage young people, encouraging them not simply to be bystanders but protagonists for change.

In his recent post-synodal apostolic exhortation on youth, *Christus Vivit*, he called for a new "popular youth ministry" carried out with "a different style, schedule, pace and method" and which "goes out to those places where real young people are active, and foster the natural leadership qualities." *Christus Vivit* fits hand in hand with the call to action of *Laudato Si'*: "Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded." (#13)

The school strike for climate, also known variously as Fridays for Future (FFF), Youth for Climate and Youth Strike 4 Climate, is an international movement of school students who take time off from class to participate in demonstrations to demand action to prevent further global warming and climate change. Publicity and widespread organizing began after Swedish schoolgirl, Greta Thunberg, staged a protest in August 2018 outside the Swedish Riksdag (parliament), holding a sign that read "Skolestrejkr för klimatet" ("School strike for the climate").

School strike for Climate has announced two major global strikes for September 2019. One on Sept. 20, three days before a UN emergency climate summit being held in New York, and one with 350.org and Earth Strike the following week, on the Sept. 27. Let us support these efforts with our prayers and actions.

For more information: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/saranac-lake-climate-strike/>

<https://globalclimatestrike.net/the-us-beyond-september-20th-a-week-of-escalated-action/>

Submitted by: Faye Martin, Watertown Faith and Ecology Group

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**Sept. 18** – 9:30 a.m. – Diocesan Department Head Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg with lunch to follow

**Sept. 19** – Noon – Bishop's Heritage Circle Mass at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh followed by a luncheon at Anthony's Restaurant

**Sept. 20** – 2:30 p.m. – Mass at the Middle School Vocation Retreat at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake

**Sept. 21** – 10:30 a.m. – Council of Religious Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by lunch

4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Sept. 22** – 11 a.m. – Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in Lar-Fargeville

**Sept. 23** – 7:10 p.m. – Novena followed by Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Sept. 25** – New York State Catholic Conference Board Meeting in Douglaston

## 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](http://www.virtus.org).

Upcoming sessions:

**Sept. 18** – 3 p.m., St. Agnes School, Lake Placid

**Sept. 21** – 8:30 a.m., St. Paul's Church, Black River

**Sept. 24** – 6 p.m., St. Bernard's School, Saranac Lake

**Sept. 25** – 6 p.m., Trinity Catholic School, Massena

**Oct. 8** – 6 p.m., Immaculate Heart Central High School, Watertown

## Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters from readers of the North Country Catholic.

- We ask that the number of words be limited to 300.

- Letters cannot support ideas 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](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org)

## OBITUARIES

**Brownville** – Martha M. (Preputnik) Martinchek, 82; Funeral Services Burial Sept. 9, 2019 at D.L. Calarco Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in Calvary Cemetery, Drums, PA.

**Carthage** – David K. Dawes, 73; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 10, 2019 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

**Chateaugay** – William L. Blow, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 9, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church.

## Rest in Peace

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

**Sept. 18** – Rev. Charles E. Campeau, 1952

**Sept. 19** – Rev. Clement J. Dwyer, O.S.A., 1956; Rev. Francis C. McMahon, 1975

**Sept. 20** – Msgr. Edmund J. Brown, 1954; Rev. Donald Gallagher, 1959; Rev. Edward J. Wright, 1993; Msgr. Floyd J. Brown, 1994

**Sept. 21** – Rev. M. Stanton, 1908; Rev. M. J. Geraghty, O.S.A., 1914; Rev. Michael J. Brown, 1917; Rev. Wilbert LeBeau, 1953

**Sept. 22** – Rev. John McDermott, 1870; Rev. Pierre L'Esperance, M.S.C., 1942; Msgr. John Michael Hogan, 1951

**Sept. 23** – Rev. P. Phillips, 1872; Rev. Marcel Dupont, M.S.C., 1982

**Sept. 24** – Rev. John Talbot Smith, 1923; Rev. Leo Staves, O.M.I., 1994; Rev. Jude Belisle, 1994; Deacon Reginald F. Merrill, 2005

## 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; [terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com](mailto:terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com)

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

**Croghan** – Donald H. Meyer, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 11, 2019 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

**Hammond** – Carol A. (Woodcock) Storie, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 13, 2019 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Pleasant Valley Cemetery.

**Lake Placid** – J. Patrick Barrett, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 16, 2019 at St. Agnes Church.

**Lake Placid** – Leona Elise (Christie) Sauvie, 73; Funeral Services Sept. 12, 2019 at the Elderwood of Uihlein Chapel; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery, Saranac Lake.

**Massena** – John Pellegrino Jr., 90; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 13, 2019 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Manahawkin, NJ.

**Morrisonville** – Sterling Sorrell, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 9, 2019 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Jodi E. (Fuller) DeFrance, 56; Funeral Services Sept. 7, 2019 at Foxwood Memorial Park Chapel.

**Peru** – Eugene J. Sharrow, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 12, 2019 at St.

Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Cyril P. Novoselec, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 11, 2019 at St. Peter's Church.

**Port Henry** – Catherine F. (Dumar) Moynihan, 91; Memorial Services Sept. 20, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Redford** – Hubert W. Wood, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 13, 2019 at Church of the Assumption.

**Tupper Lake** – June Norma (Cardinal) Reandeau, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 9, 2019 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Dorothy Marie Mathis Delaney, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 21, 2019 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Susan M. Sprague, 69; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 10, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.



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NCC

# Formation program readies faithful for ministry

In June, 64 individuals were commissioned by Bishop Terry R. LaValley to serve as lay ministers in their parishes. These people join the ranks of nearly 2,000 other lay ministers who have come out of the Formation for Ministry program over its nearly 30-year history.

Without the financial assistance the program receives from the Bishop's Fund, along with local parish support, the program could not exist.

The Formation for Ministry program is a two-year course of study requiring students to take 10 courses, including scripture, moral theology, Catholic social teaching, spirituality, church history, ecclesiology, sacraments, Creed and the Eucharist.

In addition to those

classes, students also commit to attending several Saturday workshops and retreats designed to prepare them to engage in parish ministry. The program provides an opportunity to deepen faith and learn to share gifts in ministry.

For men discerning entrance into the permanent diaconate program, Formation for Ministry is the first step.

This year, the program will undergo a major shift. Because of geography and busy schedules, it is sometimes very challenging to commit to the class schedule. Starting in October, the classes will be offered through Boston College's Crossroads program in an on-line format. Yet that personal contact and sharing together is essential to the program's

success.

The workshops and the days of retreat and reflection will continue to happen so the candidates can get to know each other, share faith together and hone skills for ministry. After the first year, candidates in the program choose an area of ministry to specialize in: ministry to the sick and elderly, liturgical ministry, youth ministry and parish outreach ministry.

Now more than ever, the need is great for lay people to step up and live out the baptismal commitment to transmit the faith in the marketplace of everyday life.

This program equips lay people for this mission. With the support of the Bishop's Fund, the future of the program looks bright.



JESSE SOVIE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC  
Sixty-four Formation for Ministry program participants were commissioned for ministry by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on June 30 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

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PO Box 150  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

# Pope to new bishops: Roll up sleeves, get dirty

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – New bishops need to prepare for a life filled with God's surprises, with daily plans that change at the last minute and, especially, for a life dedicated to spending time with God and with the people, Pope Francis said.

"God surprises us and often likes to mess up our appointment books: prepare for this without fear," the pope told about 130 bishops attending a course for bishops ordained in the past year.

Bishops exist to make tangible God's love for and closeness to his people, the pope told them Sept. 12. "But one cannot communicate the closeness of God without experiencing it every day and without letting himself be infected by his tenderness."

Pope Francis told the new bishops that no matter what else is going on in their lives and ministries, they must spend time in prayer.

"Without this intimacy cultivated daily in prayer, even and especially in times of desolation and dryness, the nucleus of

our episcopal ministry splits apart," he said.

Without a strong relationship to God, the sower of every good seed, a bishop's own efforts will not seem worth the effort, he said, and it will be difficult to find the patience necessary to wait for the seeds to sprout.

Closeness to God also leads directly to desire for closeness to God's people, the pope said. "Our identity consists in being near. It is not an external obligation, but a requirement that is part of the logic of gift."

"Jesus loves to approach his brothers and sisters through us, through our open hands that caress and console them, through our words pronounced to anoint the world with the Gospel and not ourselves," Pope Francis said.

A bishop cannot simply "proclaim" his closeness to the people, the pope said. He must be like the good Samaritan: seeing people in need rather than looking the other way, stopping to help, bandaging wounds, taking responsibility for

them and paying the cost of caring for them.

"Each of these requires putting yourself on the line and getting your hands dirty," Pope Francis told the bishops.

"Being close to the people," he said, "is trusting that the grace God faithfully pours out on us and of which we are channels, even through the crosses we bear, is greater than the mud we fear."

And, he said, a simple lifestyle is part of a bishop's mission because it is the first and clearest way to proclaim with integrity that "Jesus is enough for us and that the treasure we want to surround ourselves with is made up of those who, in their poverty, remind us of and represent him."

Bishops must spend more time visiting parishes and other communities than they spend at their desks, and those visits should not be super-formal affairs, he said.

"What comes to mind are pastors who are so groomed that they seem like distilled water that has no taste," he said. They must truly listen to people, rather than surrounding themselves with "lackeys and yes men," he added.

## CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

### Smith says abortion survivor bill is 'pro-child, human rights'

WASHINGTON (CNS) – At a Sept. 10 hearing on the Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, Rep. Chris Smith, R-New Jersey, said the U.S. House "needs to vote now and approve this humane, pro-child, human rights legislation." The bill, which would protect babies born alive in failed abortions, "makes clear that no mother of a child born alive can ever be prosecuted," noted Smith, who is chair of the Pro-Life Caucus. "And it empowers the woman upon whom the abortion is performed to obtain appropriate relief in a civil action." The afternoon hearing, held at the House Capitol Visitor Center, was sponsored by House Minority Whip Steve Scalise, R-Louisiana; Rep. Ann Wagner, R-Missouri, who reintroduced the measure Feb. 5; and the Pro-Life Caucus. In his remarks, Smith described the case of Sycloria Williams, who went to an abortion clinic in Florida. During the abortion, her baby girl was delivered live at 23 weeks, he said. "The clinic owner took the baby who was gasping for air, cut her umbilical cord, threw her into a biohazard bag and put the bag in the trash. Heartbroken, Sycloria later had a funeral for her baby girl, whom she named Shanice, he said, adding that in Florida in just one year – 2017 – 11 babies were born alive during abortions.

### Diocese of Rochester files bankruptcy

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (CNS) – In the wake of nearly 50 lawsuits filed against it since New York's Child Victims Act took effect Aug. 14, the Diocese of Rochester filed for reorganization Sept. 12, under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. The petition was filed with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court Western District of New York. Court documents were signed by Rochester Bishop Salvatore R. Matano; Lisa M. Passero, diocesan chief financial officer; and Stephen Donato, a diocesan attorney. According to the United States Courts website, Chapter 11 is a voluntary action taken by organizations to settle claims on which they owe while remaining intact. According to the petition, the Rochester Diocese has between 200 and 999 creditors, estimated assets of \$50 million to \$100 million and estimated liabilities of \$100 million to \$500 million. As part of its filing, the diocese submitted Form 204, listing creditors with the 20 largest unsecured claims. Nineteen of the 20 were anonymous creditors represented by attorneys; each such claim was labeled as a "CVA lawsuit" and estimated at a minimum of \$100,000.

### Court allows administration to bar asylum-seekers for now

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The Supreme Court issued an unsigned order late Sept. 11 that will temporarily allow the Trump administration to enforce its new rule preventing many Central American migrants from seeking asylum in the United States, while the legal battle over this issue continues to work its way through the courts. The order temporarily reverses a recent lower court ruling that had blocked the administration's rule, which would deny asylum to anyone who traveled through another country while on their way to the United States without first seeking asylum in that country. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit had blocked the government from implementing the new rule in Arizona and California, but now it can be enforced across the country while the administration appeals a decision by a federal judge in California to the 9th Circuit and, if necessary, seeks a final decision on this issue from the Supreme Court. It is not clear how soon the administration's policy can fully take effect.

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## ADIRONDACK

## BLESSING OF THE ROSES

Saranac Lake – In honor of St. Therese, there will be a blessing of the roses.

**Date:** Sept. 29

**Time:** 4 p.m.

**Place:** St. Bernard's Church

**Features:** Please join members of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites for a holy hour including Eucharistic Adoration, Vespers, Benediction, and a blessing of roses to be distributed. There will be light refreshments at the conclusion.

## RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Saranac Lake – A Rachel's Vineyard after-abortion healing retreat will be offered.

**Date:** Oct. 18-20

**Place:** Guggenheim Lodge

**Features:** Chaplain for the weekend is Father Mark Reilly. If you are suffering after abortion, you're not alone. Help and healing is available.

**Contact:** Confidential online registration form available at [www.rcdony.org/prolife](http://www.rcdony.org/prolife). Please contact The Respect Life Office with questions 518-524-0774. Other retreat dates and locations available at [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org)

## CLINTON

## APPLEFEST

Peru – St. Augustine's 42nd Annual Peru Applefest to be held.

**Date:** Sept. 21 and 22

**Schedule:** Parade begins at 11 a.m. on Saturday. Sunday at 11 a.m. there will be a Chicken BBQ

**Features:** Two days of live music, craft fair, foods, games and rides. Saturday's music features the Police Five and Drums of Plattsburgh followed by the rocking Bootleg Band. There will be a Grand Raffle, Chainsaw Carver Ted Holzer, and Applefest food favorites. Sunday afternoon the On Three Band will perform.

## FALL SALE

Peru – St. Vincent's Store to have their annual Fall Sale.

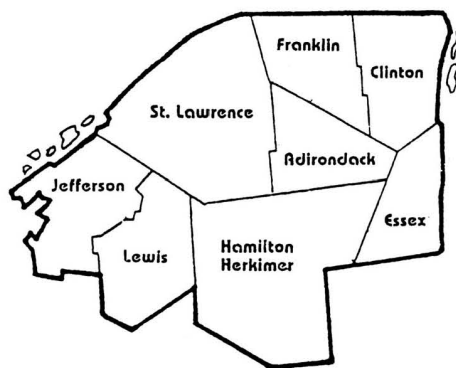
**Date:** Sept. 19 to 22

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 9-19 will also be 6 p.m. to 8

**Features:** Customers can fill a large bag with gently used clothing and footwear for \$8.

## AUTUMN RETREAT

Ellenburg – A Day Retreat, "True Hospitality of the Heart" with Sister Bethany



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](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org).

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

Fitzgerald, SSJ is being offered.

**Date:** Sept. 28

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

**Place:** Our Lady of the Adirondacks

**Features:** Light luncheon included.

Donations gratefully accepted, but not expected.

**Contact:** Call 518-594-3253 (House) or 518-846-3060 (Sarah) to RSVP.

## IS JESUS CHRIST CALLING ME?

Plattsburgh - Lakeside Fishers Club to have Priesthood Discernment Group meetings.

**Schedule:** Sept. 22, Oct. 6 & 20

**Time:** 3 p.m.

**Place:** St. Peter's Church

**Features:** For Highschool Junior men & older. Come join for discussions about discernment, Evening Prayer and dinner.

**Contact:** Father Howard Venette [pastorsmoll@stmariysti.org](mailto:pastorsmoll@stmariysti.org) 518-585-7144 or Father Christopher Carrara at [ccarrara@rcdony.org](mailto:ccarrara@rcdony.org).

## JOY IN MINISTRY

Morrisonville - All Commissioned Lay Ministers are invited to attend the Eastern Region Commissioned Lay Minister's Association Fall Event.

**Date:** Oct. 4

**Schedule:** 5:15 p.m. with Mass led by Father Bill Gordon beginning at 5:30 p.m., Dinner at 6:30 p.m. followed by a presentation "Joy in Ministry...our Joy May Be Complete!" with Father Bill Gordon at 7:15 p.m.

**Place:** St. Alexander's Church & Hall

**Cost:** \$10

**Contact:** Registrations must be re-

ceived no later than Sept. 20. Register online at: <https://www.rcdony.org/formation/commissioned-lay-ministers/clm-event-registration.html>

## AUTUMN DINNER

Plattsburgh – Our Lady of Victory parish will have a spaghetti dinner.

**Date:** Oct. 6

**Time:** 5 p.m.

**Place:** OLV Parish Center

**Cost:** Adults, \$9; Seniors (60 and over), \$8; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free

**Features:** Ticket Raffle and Huge country store will also occur during dinner.

**Contact:** Call (518) 578-1068 (take outs or delivery 12-4).

## FRANKLIN

## HAM DINNER

Constable – The Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River to have a Ham Dinner.

**Date:** Sept. 21

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

**Place:** St. Francis of Assisi

**Cost:** \$10; Children 12 and under, \$5  
**Features:** Dinner and 2019 Big ticket raffle to be held. 16 prizes to be awarded. The drawing will be at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$5 each or 6 for \$25. Ticket holder need not be present to win, must be 18 to purchase.

## HARVEST DINNER

Chateaugay – The CC of Burke and Chateaugay to have their 38th Annual Harvest Dinner.

**Date:** Oct. 6

**Time:** 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Patrick's Church

**Cost:** Adults, \$12; Children 5-11, \$5; under 5 Free

**Features:** Dinner will be Roast Beef. Cash Prize raffles will be held, tickets are available at the office. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. There will also be a Country Store with Baked goods, homemade items and a Basket Raffle.

## JEFFERSON

## SPAGHETTI DINNER

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

**Date:** Sept. 26

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

**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.

## SPEAKER

Watertown – National Author and Speaker, Chris Padgett to speak.

**Date:** Oct. 10

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. to 8

**Place:** St. Anthony's Church

**Features:** Chris has spoken at Steubenville and been seen on EWTN. His topic will be "I'm not o.k., you're not o.k., but it's o.k." He is dynamic and entertaining. This is a family event.

## LEWIS

## TURKEY DINNER

Copenhagen – St. Mary's to have their Annual Turkey Dinner.

**Date:** Oct. 3

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

**Place:** Copenhagen Fire Hall

**Cost:** Adults, 9; Children 6 to 12, \$4.50; 5 and under, Free, Take-outs, \$9

**Features:** Bazaar & Bake Sale, Raffle Items & 50/50 Raffle

## ST. LAWRENCE

## CABBAGE ROLL

Norwood – The Norwood Knights of Columbus are having their 24th Annual Cabbage Roll Sale.

**Date:** Sept. 21

**Time:** 9 a.m. until sold

**Place:** St. Andrew's Church Basement

**Cost:** \$3

**Contact:** Pre sale pick ups before 11. Call Mark Tebo 315-353-8821, Phil Regan 315-353-9917, Jim Murray 315-261-9975, John Murray 315-353-2334.

## COMMISSIONED LAY MINISTRY DINNER

Massena – Commissioned Lay Ministry Association SLFA Annual Dinner Meeting.

**Date:** Sept. 24

**Time:** 5:30 p.m. Mass with dinner to follow

**Place:** St. Mary's Church

**Cost:** \$15 Per person

**Features:** Spouses and guests invited. Guest presenter will be Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ

**Contact:** Registration required by Sept. 19 by going to: <https://www.rcdony.org/formation/commissioned-lay-ministers/clm-event-registration.html> OR call Jeannie Grizzuto 315-393-2920 Ext. 1413 OR e-mail [jgrizzuto@rcdony.org](mailto:jgrizzuto@rcdony.org)

## GUN AND KNIFE SHOW

Brasher Falls – Knights of Columbus Council 2176 to have a Gun and Knife Show.

**Schedule:** Oct. 5, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

Oct. 6, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Place:** K of C Hall

**Cost:** \$3 over 12

**Features:** Concession stand open all day. Breakfast will be served from 8 a.m. to 11

**Contact:** For more information call Mike Hoag at 315-389-4318 or Phil Davis 315-389-4627

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## MIDDLE SCHOOL VOCATION RETREAT

Saranac Lake – Middle Vocation retreat to be held.

**Date:** Sept. 20

**Time:** 9:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Place:** Camp Guggenheim

**Features:** For all Catholic School Children & Parish Programs. Lunch will be provided. The day will end with Mass with Bishop LaValley. Families who bring children are welcome to stay for the day.

**Contact:** Pre-register by Sept. 20 with Cathy Russell by e-mail at: [crussell@rcdony.org](mailto:crussell@rcdony.org)

## LEAD EVENT

Norwood – LEAD Western Regional Event to be held.

**Date:** Sept. 28

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

**Place:** Lobster House Restaurant  
**Features:** Starting To Think Outside The Box: Alternative Ways To Deliver Faith Formation Programs

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AT THE MOVIES

## BENNETT'S WAR

NEW YORK (CNS) – Loosely based on the case histories of real-life wounded veterans, writer-director Alex Ranarivelo's endearing sports drama "Bennett's War" (Forrest) is a portrait of courage in the face of adversity. Well-suited to an audience of grown-ups, the film may also pass muster with the parents of older teens willing to overlook some barracks-style talk in the dialogue.

Victimized by a mine in Afghanistan, where he served with the Army's Special Operations motorcycle division, Sgt. Marshall Bennett (Michael Roark) is warned that any further damage to his leg might leave him permanently crippled. So he abandons the hope of reviving his impressive pre-deployment reputation on the motocross track, and settles down to a job in the motorcycle repair garage owned by his friend Cyrus (Ali Afshar).

This arrangement satis-

fies his formidable wife Sophie (Allison Paige) who, as the mother of a newborn infant, doesn't want her husband confronting any more danger than he's already taken on in the military. But the call of racing is strong and, when combined with the lure of prize money that could potentially save his father Cal's (Trace Adkins) failing farm, it becomes irresistible.

As Marshall tries to overcome Sophie's initially vehement opposition, Ranarivelo presents a pleasing portrait of family life in which spouses try to balance their sometimes-conflicting interests and outlooks. Add to that respect for the armed forces, an easy-to-root-for hero and the occasional religious flourish – Sophie gets the clan back to their once habitual practice of saying grace – and "Bennett's War" emerges as a crowd pleaser.

On the topic of faith, there's a slightly odd but

mildly amusing exchange in which, surprised to see Iranian-American Cyrus bless himself, Marshall says, "I thought you were a Muslim." "Only when my grandmother is watching," Cyrus answers.

Those not addicted to racing may find the competitive sequences pitting Marshall against various rivals a bit lengthy. And the overall pace is somewhat languid. But the movie's heart is in the right place and its story arc, though it forms a predictable parabola, will leave viewers feeling cheered.

The film contains stylized combat violence, scenes of marital sensuality, a couple of mild oaths and much crude and crass language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 – parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

## Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

**Contact:** Call 315-393-2920.

### BLUE MASS

Ogdensburg – A Blue Mass honoring the law enforcement and corrections personnel of the North Country will be celebrated.

**Date:** Sept. 29

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Cathedral

**Features:** The Blue Mass is the Church's way of offering thanks to God for the dedication and sacrifices made by the men and women who "Protect and Serve." The Mass is open to all law enforcement and corrections regardless of church affiliation. Uniform of the Day is Class "A." Police agencies, family members, supporters and the faithful from around the diocese are

encouraged to attend.

**Contact:** Questions can be directed to Father Christopher Carrara, Chaplain JCSO/SLCSO 315-393-2920 or at ccarrara@rcdony.org

### DOVS PILGRIMAGE

Ottawa – DOVS to have a pilgrimage to Notre Dame Cathedral with Bishop LaValley.

**Date:** Oct. 2

**Time:** Departing from Malone at 7 a.m., Potsdam at 7:45 a.m. and Ogdensburg at 8:15 a.m.

**Cost:** \$145

**Features:** Bus ride, lunch at Tuckers Market Place, Mass/Holy Hour for Vocations at Notre Dame Cathedral and free time at Little Italy.

**Contact:** Connie Randall at 315-265-2762 or Mary Enslow at 315-268-

1016

### LIFECCHAIN

Lifecchain Sunday to be held.

**Date:** Oct. 6

**Schedule:** Massena – Main Street at Route 37, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 – Charles Shearer 315-769-0898; Plattsburgh – Smithfield Blvd at Route 3, 2 p.m. to 3:30 – Nancy Belzile 518-593-6024; Potsdam – Market Street at Main Street, 2 p.m. to 3 – Conner Cummings 315-783-5477; Saranac Lake – Bandshell Park at River St., 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 – The Miners 518-524-0774; Schroon Lake – Route 9 and Main at Fairfield Ave., 2 p.m. to 3 – Dorothy Bean 518-834-7958

**Contact:** Form information visit [www.lifecchain.net](http://www.lifecchain.net) or call the contacts listed above.

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Reflecting on the sin of greed

The major theme in today's Scripture is greed. Greed deliberately refuses our wants from our needs. Greed has unlimited wants.

One of my father's favorite ways of describing his growing up on a farm was this: "We were poor, but we didn't know it!" In other words, his family knew the difference between "wants" and

"needs." While Americans live on a comfort scale well above the Third World, there is growing concern that the gulf between the "haves" and the "have nots" in our country has grown



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

to the point of alarm. Greed for profit has seriously injured the rights of workers. If we are on the wrong track, then Catholic social teaching would suggest that we change direction.

How does God judge greed? The prophet Amos, while speaking in the eighth century B.C., might just as well be voicing God's judgment on our present-day society. It is just not acceptable to Him! In fact, greed seems to be one of the sins that anger God the most. It's a question of good stewardship. When greed rules our lives, we make

Sept. 22

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

Amos 8:4-7

1 Timothy 2:1-8

Luke 16:1-13

decisions that often deprive the poor.

Although the story in today's Gospel about the unjust steward who is about to be fired is somewhat confusing, the main lesson is very clear: "The children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light." How come? Because this steward, seeing he is about to be fired, reduces the debts of all his master's

debtors. In so doing, he makes his master look good, and makes friends of those debtors he had cheated by giving back to them from his own commission! Even though he lost his job, he neatly provides for his future state of unemployment. He was a very clever man.

God so wishes that his followers, in spreading the Kingdom, would imitate the cleverness of the worldly! One saintly medieval commentator, Cornelius à Lapide, suggests that we, His sinful, struggling disciples, would show some cleverness in securing our salvation. How? By praying earnestly every day for our brothers and sisters in purgatory, so

that when we die and are in that place of purification ourselves, those for whom our prayers have earned Heaven may return the favor, and beseech the Lord to shorten our stay there and bring us immediately to eternal joy. That, according to à Lapide, is the meaning of "Make friends for yourselves of the mammon of dishonest wealth, so that when it fails, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings."

Not a bad interpretation! It all fits with today's second reading in which St. Timothy urges both public and private daily prayer, so that everyone can live his or her life according to the teaching of a God who loves justice.

## We are blessed to have Jesus with us

By Mary Beth Bracy

"Do you know who you are?" a priest asked me awhile back. "You are a beloved daughter of the Father." How many of us think of ourselves as God's beloved child? In a world that focuses so much on our weaknesses and failings, it is easy to forget that we have a Savior who loves us so much He died for us, and remains with us always in the most Holy Eucharist.

Sadly, according to the recent Pew Research Center poll, it is clear many have forgotten, or never realized, the awesome gift of Jesus' Presence among us – body, blood, soul, and divinity – in the Blessed Sacrament. This is a clarion call to those of us who do know and believe He is here to share that "In your presence is fullness of joy" (Psalm 16:11).

At the beginning of a re-

treat I recently made, I was feeling burned out. I went before the Blessed Sacrament and happened to open a prayer book someone left in the pew. There was a card inside with the Scripture verse: "Cheer up, don't be afraid. For the Lord your God has arrived . . . He will rejoice over you in great gladness; He will love you and not accuse you. Is that joyous choir I hear? No it is the Lord Himself exulting over you in happy song." (Zephaniah 3:16-18) During this time of Adoration, I was reminded that our heavenly Father was happy I was seeking Him and His will. This made me rejoice, since for some time I prayerfully reflected on the following lines from the song "Smile," sung by the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles: "Just to see You smile, just to dance with You a little while. Just to

hear Your heart sing." Wondering what I could do to please Him, my heart was gladdened at the thought that God was simply pleased with my humble presence and attempt to serve Him. Had I not taken the time to go before Our Lord, I would have never experienced this beautiful grace.

Lately, however, I've noticed this isn't a rare occurrence. As it says in one of my favorite passages from Isaiah: "As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you, and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so shall your God rejoice in you." (61:5) In the Psalms we also read, "The Lord takes delight in his people." (149:4a) Is there anything more consoling than the realization that God loves us so much He remains with us in the Holy Eucharist and desires a personal relationship with us?

As Ven. Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen proclaimed, "The greatest love story of all time is contained in a tiny white Host." The world's best kept secret is that the Mystery of our faith, Christ Jesus, is here in our midst! His love is always waiting for us in our Catholic churches.

We are so blessed to have the personal presence of God in all of our Catholic Churches, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in many of them. Are we willing to commit to spending time with Jesus to pray for our families, Church, and world?

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta writes: "Every Holy Hour we make so pleases the Heart of Jesus that it will be recorded in Heaven and retold for all eternity. It opens up the floodgates of God's merciful Love upon the world. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is the best time you will

spend on earth. It will make your soul everlastingly more glorious and beautiful in Heaven. A Holy Hour of adoration helps bring everlasting peace.

May we visit our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament often and work that He may be adored, so that all will have the opportunity to bask in the rays of His presence. Let us delight in this amazing gift of His love and share the good news that Jesus is here with us in the Holy Eucharist with others!

*Mary Beth Bracy is an English teacher and freelance writer who resides in upstate New York. For more information on her books, including Behold the Lamb and The Little Way of Healing Love Through the Passion of Jesus: The Stations of the Cross with St. Thérèse of Lisieux, visit Amazon.com.*



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## Preparing for Extraordinary Missionary Month

*Pope Francis has set October 2019 as an Extraordinary Missionary Month to foster greater awareness of *missio ad gentes* and to animate the missionary transformation of Church life and pastoral activity. The theme of the month is "Baptized and sent."*



The following is an excerpt from [missio.org](http://missio.org) on missionary charity.

### **Baptized and Sent to Africa...**

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

### **Baptized and Sent to Asia...**

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

### **Baptized and Sent to Latin America...**

Where catechists travel to remote areas to bring the Good News of God's Great Love to families there.

### **Baptized and Sent to the Pacific Islands...**

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

### **Baptized and Sent to Europe**

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

We are Baptized and Sent! Pray for the Church's worldwide missionary work!

[www.rcdony.org/mission](http://www.rcdony.org/mission)

## 'Trust Truth' series brings faith, reason to a local bar

By Amanda Conklin  
Contributing Writer

CANTON – Two priests walked into a bar. While this is the start to many jokes, this scene was actually the start of many of the Trust Truth evenings in Canton.

The brainchild of Seth Conklin and Josh Parker, parishioners of St. Mary's in Canton, with the help of their pastor Father Bryan D. Stitt, the Trust Truth series was formed out of a desire for more. These two young adults were searching for more fellowship and to go deeper into the faith – in particular to explore the relationship of faith and reason.

"Growing up [I had] the idea that faith and reason opposed one another," Parker said. "This led me, as a teenager, to question whether or not the existence of God could be eventually disproven by science."

He didn't persist in those beliefs, though.

"When I was introduced to the rich intellectual tradition of Christianity (and Catholicism specifically), I was, in a sense, transformed by the logical arguments made that reason does not compete with faith, but rather is completed by it," he said. "Trust Truth attempted – I would say successfully – to articulate and reinforce the validity of this ever-important paradigm shift."

Early in the planning, the organizers knew they had to meet the people where they were, not only philosophically but also physically. So, it was decided that the series would not take place at



AMANDA CONKLIN/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

**A crowd gathered at the Stadium Sports Bar in Canton to participate in Trust Truth, a speaker series aimed at exploring the relationship of faith and reason.**

the church or school. The Stadium Sports Bar was decided on for a location.

The original hope was for 10-15 adults to gather and hear a speaker, followed by a discussion. The expectations were far surpassed when around 30 people showed up to the first session, with the crowd growing in the weeks following. The biggest crowd was around 50, which led to a packed house.

"If I ever doubted that people want to be challenged to think about the Catholic faith and enjoy being together, I can think of any of our six sessions," said Father Stitt. "It was such a joy to have people young and old, married and single, Catholics and Protestants, even believers and atheists discussing the presentations with charity and joy."

Another young participant and recent convert to the faith reflected, "In what seems to be, a growing world of uncertainty

and distrust it's easy to become a skeptic. Why this? Why that? Fortunately, justifications for many questions can be cited throughout the Bible. Trust Truth provided the answers I needed and helped strengthen my faith."

Speakers included Father Stitt, Seth Conklin, Father Scott A. Belina, Father Raymond de Souza, Father Joseph W. Giroux, and Dr. Maura Hearden Fehlner. Topics included "Catholics & Evolution," "What Atheists Get Right," "Science Born from Christianity," "If God, Then...", "The Why Behind Worship," and "Our Lady of the 21st Century."

To help attract people from all vocations, free childcare was also offered during the series at St. Mary's School.

Five of the six presentations and Q&A sessions were recorded and are available to listen to at [www.cantoncatholics.com/homilies](http://www.cantoncatholics.com/homilies)