

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Couples celebrate marriage jubilees | PAGE 14

Funeral Mass held for Sister Mary Nora Kelley | PAGE 21

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 74, Number 18

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPT. 25, 2019

Items from local churches head south

CARTHAGE – It all began with an entry in eNotes submitted by Father Donald J. Manfred that began, "Items for Use in Parishes: First come, first served!"

St. Henry's Church in Natural Bridge had religious items available at the "low, low price of picking them up!" Following the closing of St. Henry's, many of the religious items needed new homes.

Thanks to Margaret Woods, bookkeeper at St. James Minor Church in Carthage and some inspiration from the Holy Spirit, many local items will soon find new homes in churches in New Mexico, including one church recovering from a fire.

FULL STORY, PAGE 11

MASS IN THE SUNLIGHT



MARIKA DONNERS/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Deacon Joseph Szwed proclaims the Gospel as parishioners of St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake gathered at Camp Guggenheim for an outdoor Mass on Sept. 15. The parish was joined by young adults concluding a retreat with the diocesan Young Adult Ministry at the camp.

WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS



Father Shane Lynch, left, responds to the scene of an incident with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. Father Lynch and Father Christopher Carrara serve as chaplains to law enforcement agencies in the diocese. Other priests in the diocese serve as nursing home chaplains, minister to the sick and minister to Catholic School students.

STORIES ON PAGES 3, 4, 7 & 9

Priesthood is a gift, not a job, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Being a priest is not a job or fulfilling an employment contract but is a gift from God that should be contemplated and treasured as such, Pope Francis said.

Those who turn ordained ministry into an occupation "lose the heart of the ministry, lose the gaze of Jesus who looked upon all of us and told us, 'Follow me,'" he said Sept. 19 during morning Mass at the Domus Sanctae

Marthae.

The pope focused his homily on the day's first reading in which St. Paul writes to Timothy (1 Tim 4:12-16), "Do not neglect the gift you have."

Ordination is a freely given gift from the Lord, the pope said; it is not "a job" or "an employment contract" in which one "must do" something.

"Doing is secondary," he said. First and foremost, "I must receive this gift and

safeguard it as a gift and from that – in the contemplation of the gift – everything else springs."

When ordained ministry is not seen and treasured as a gift, he said, "deviations" emerge, starting with "the worst ones, which are terrible, to the more everyday ones that makes us base our ministry on ourselves and not on the gratitude of gift and love for he who gave us this gift, the gift of

ministry."

Effort, intelligence and "also a bit of shrewdness" are needed to safeguard this gift properly, he added.

The pope also briefly commented on the day's Gospel reading, Luke 7:36-50, in which Jesus corrects his host who has forgotten to perform the customary rituals associated with welcoming a guest. Jesus instead praises the "sinful

woman" who showed Jesus "great love," including by using her tears and hair to bathe and dry Jesus' feet.

The pope said the Pharisee hosting Jesus was a good man, "but he had forgotten the gift of kindness, the gift of coexistence, which is also a gift. These gifts are always forgotten when there are some underlying motives, when I want to do" or achieve something.

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLIC

Box 326
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
USPS 0039-3400
**BISHOP TERRY
R. LAVALLEY**
President
REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN
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Editor &
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Telephone:
(315) 608-7556

E-mail:
news@northcountry
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Honor and thank our priests

It was the toughest penance I've ever been given.

After hearing my confession and offering counsel about a particular sin I've battled for longer than I'd care to admit, my confessor simply said, "for your penance, do something about it."

I was instantly thinking, "What happened to the days of, 'say 10 Our Fathers?' That would be way easier."

But my confessor, one of the many outstanding priests of our diocese, knew I needed to cooperate with God's grace and put in a little effort to

work to overcome this sin. The penance truly helped me.

I avail myself of the sacrament of reconciliation at least once a month, often more frequently. It's not that I'm particularly holy, I'm just incredibly efficient at sinning. Each time I confess, I'm reminded of two things: It's amazing that we have a God who loves us enough to grant us mercy and forgiveness, despite the fact that we don't

really deserve it, and we are blessed to have these men in our midst who can be instru-

ments of that love.

And that's only a small fraction of what our priests do. In addition to administering sacraments and celebrating Masses, our priests are bringing Jesus to the sick (see pages 3 and 9), ministering to law enforcement and emergency responders (see page 4), ministering to school children (see page 7), writing columns for this newspaper (thank you, Father Bill Muench and Msgr. Paul Whitmore) and participating in countless other ministries. They're also working in the diocesan offices, attending countless meetings and events, and conducting the day-to-day business required

to run a parish. I'm exhausted just thinking about it.

Priesthood Sunday is Sept. 29. Now is a great opportunity to honor and thank our priests for all the time, energy, prayers and work they give us, the members of the Body of Christ, and all they do for our Lord.

We truly love and appreciate our priests.

I will note, despite our love for our priests, and I believe all our priests are loved, there are some who aren't mentioned in these pages. Despite best intentions, people forget to submit their ads or stories, and people miss the deadline. These priests are loved, nonetheless.



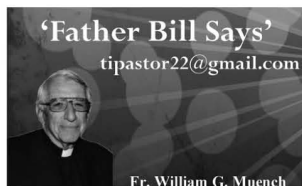
**Darcy L.
Fargo**

These parables show how God loves us

The Gospel readings for the last few Sundays have centered on the parables of Jesus. Today, I would like to share with you some thoughts about Jesus' parables.

It is important to keep in mind that these parables are stories – brilliant stories crafted by Jesus to teach us, the disciples of all ages. These incidents did not happen. Jesus wanted to teach his disciples about God and the important of our relationship with the Lord. These parables are about us, also. When we understand this, we realize more about how God wants to enter our lives. This is our faith. This is grace.

Christians have been reading and discussing these parables from the time of Jesus. Interestingly, many college literature courses include the reading of a couple of Jesus' parables – obviously, not to teach religion, but to investigate good literature. Let us consider a few examples of these parables. I know you are familiar with



Fr. William G. Muench

these stories.

The Lost Sheep – in this parable, Jesus tells a story about a unique shepherd. This shepherd is willing to leave many sheep and go searching for a stray, one lost sheep. When he finds that sheep, he is so happy, he celebrates with his neighbors. I believe an ordinary shepherd would not do this. He would worry something might happen to the main group of the flock. Now we know that in his parables, Jesus wants us to see God. God is willing to search for us if we stray.

I once wondered why God might leave all those righteous to search for the stray. That was because I thought I was among the righteous. As I got older, I began to realize that often I was the stray. I was the one who separated

myself from God. I was the one who often failed to live well. Now, I realize I am very grateful to God, who is willing to search for me, who is anxious about me. God is ready to reach out to help me change my life and find the Lord's peace and love.

The Prodigal Son – I am certain you remember the story. Jesus tells us about this compassionate father whose younger son demands his inheritance while still young. The son then lives badly and wastes everything. He then repents and returns home. And this compassionate father in the story runs out to meet him and welcomes him home and celebrates his return.

This is a parable of Jesus. We know it is about God. Our God is like the father in the story. We could imagine some fathers who would not accept the son back, but not our God. He is like the father in the story. I believe that each time I come to God, especially in moments of repentance for my sins, God

runs out to welcome me. I further believe that each time we, disciples of the Lord, enter a church to pray, God does run out to welcome us.

Now Jesus adds another concern to this parable – the case of the older son, who is annoyed that his father has welcomed the prodigal home with a celebration. The father in the story anxiously tries to encourage this older son to change his attitude toward the prodigal and to become more loving and compassionate like his father. Personally, I think of welcoming back to Church persons who have, for various reasons, given up on God and with the Church. God urges us all – priests, yes, but also members of parishes – to welcome loving these present-day prodigals just as the father in the story welcomed his prodigal. Each Sunday we say, "all are welcome," whether newcomers or returning prodigals. I know that there have been times when I was the prodigal.

PRIEST APPRECIATION

Reflecting joy, Christ to the nursing home

By Jessica Hargrave
Contributing writer

OGDENSBURG—At St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg, there's a light that shines down the halls, into the private resident rooms and into the chapel. That light is Father Richard S. Sturtz.

A staple of the facility, Father Sturtz sees beyond the dementia and chronic illness, offering words of comfort and sparking smiles from residents.

A resident of Ogdensburg, Father Sturtz, who is 88 years old, ministers to his neighbors at the nursing home saying Mass, anointing the sick, offering counsel and just adding joy to the lives of those at the home, residents, visitors and staff alike.

"Welcome to the only chapel in the diocese with air conditioning," joked Father Sturtz, opening Mass on Aug. 18 at the nursing home. He was answered with laughter erupting from his faithful listeners.

In addition to St. Joseph's Home residents, visitors also attend Mass at the chapel, eager to hear the beloved priest preach the word of God. Father Sturtz delivered a homily that dug into "faith seeking understanding."

His ministry continues after Mass, as he checks in on residents, and staff in the cafeteria. "What are you up to? Why are you leaving the table?" he asked one resident, as he spotted a friendly, yet confused face. "You walked away from all that good food."

Father Sturtz then gently guided the resident back to her seat.

"Thank you so much,"

she said gratefully.

Caring and understanding ate both popular words used to describe Father Sturtz.

"No matter where he sees you, he says hello and says something nice," said Lucretia "Pete" Smith.

Fellow retired priest and nursing home resident Monsignor Harry K. Snow said having Father Sturtz as a Chaplain and resident at St. Joseph's Home is a blessing.

"He's great with visiting with everybody and knows everyone's names," Msgr. Snow said. "That's quite a gift and makes people feel important."

A native of the North Country, Father Strutz was born in Lowville on Jan. 16, 1931. As a young man, he attended seminary at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg, and Theological College in Washington, D.C.

He returned to the Diocese of Ogdensburg in 1956, when he became a professor and vocations director at Wadhams Hall, a position he held for the next 26 years. From there, his assignments included pastor in AuSable Forks, Black Brook, Morrisonville, Treadwell Mills, Schroon Lake, and Olmstedville. He retired to his current home at Notre Dame Cathedral in Og-

densburg in 2014.

His ministry didn't end with retirement, though. He said he has always known he was called to hospital ministry. That calling led him to become the chaplain at St. Joseph's Home.

"I really love my people here," Father Sturtz said. "Many like to hear a joke every now and then. And to see the smiles on their faces, it's a very rewarding ministry. I'm in excellent health, thanks be to God, so the fact that I can do this at 88 is great, and I'll do it for as long as I can." He adds that besides visiting and chatting with residents, he likes frequenting the facility's rehab center.

Humbly, Father Sturtz said he can't take all the credit for the positive environment at St. Joseph's Home. He calls the facility an outstanding nursing home with staff who provides excellent care, "I would be very happy to spend my last days here if that's the Lord's will."

Mass is celebrated at St. Joseph's Home Monday through Friday at 10:50 a.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m.



Monsignor Whitmore,
Thank you Msgr. for all
you do! It's been 18 years
since your brought us together.
Thank you and may God bless
you and your service to others.

~Deacon James and Christine Chaufty



JESSICA HARGRAVE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC
Father Richard S. Sturtz says Mass at St. Joseph's Nursing Home in Ogdensburg, where he serves as chaplain.

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name a priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul; take over his entire personality and life.

Replace him with yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always. O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of priests, pray and intercede for (...)



OCTOBER

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY 2019

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PRIEST APPRECIATION

Serving on scene with emergency responders

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon
Contributing writer

It is a scene you have witnessed or viewed from afar. Perhaps it is a fire that claims property and lives. Or it is an automobile accident that results in lives lost. Or an incident in which an officer dies in the line of duty. The first responders: the police, the emergency medical services, the volunteer firemen and fire police all have important but often troubling tasks to perform. They are called upon to bring calm to chaos; to save lives even in challenging circumstances; to assess the damage and, too often, to make notifications of death.

Father Christopher C. Carrara says, "first responders develop protection. Farmers develop calloused hands to enable them to touch things that are hot or pointy and not get hurt. Officers become calloused too, not in a negative way, to defend against tragic or gruesome situations. They either learn it (develop protection) or suffer greatly from it. We know from psychological studies that those types of critical incidents multiply and become cumulative. So, one can suffer from stress by being exposed over-and-over again. After "X" number of cases, individuals might hit overload."

The department chaplain is available to help the officers through those troubles. Father Carrara and Father Shane M. Lynch are appointed chaplains for various police, fire and emergency services departments in the western end of the



Father Shane M. Lynch and Father Christopher C. Carrara serve as chaplains to local law enforcement. Father Carrara also ministers to local fire and rescue departments.

diocese. Father Lynch, who is pastor of parishes in Gouverneur, Edwards and Star Lake, is also a chaplain in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Father Carrara is pastor in Morristown, Hammond and Rossie. He is also the Diocesan Vicar for Clergy, as well as Director of Vocations and Director of Seminarians.

The diocese has chaplains in a variety of settings. Some are employed, others volunteer. Chaplains are generally attached to a secular institution such as a hospital, prison, military unit, school, labor union, business, police department, fire department, university or fraternal organization. They can be a cleric, consecrated religious, a lay representative of a religious tradition or, in some cases, a lay member of the organization.

Father Lynch's interest in law enforcement started when he was young. He took a leave of absence from seminary studies and had received an invitation to the police

academy when he chose to return to his formation as a priest. But his interest never waned. A year after ordination to the priesthood, while serving in Malone, he was invited to become chaplain to the Malone Police Department and Franklin County Sheriff's Department.

It was the fire service that drew Father Carrara's attention. He was a junior fireman in the Selden New York Fire Department on Long Island and eventually became a lieutenant in the department and an Emergency Medical Technician. He is a member of the Morristown Fire Department and serves on one of the department's ambulance crews.

Sheriff James Lafferty asked Father Carrara to become the first chaplain of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department in 1994. Fathers Carrara and Lynch now both serve as chaplains in the department.

The two priests cite presence as the hallmark of successful chaplaincy. "Nobody is going to see

the chaplain as a resource unless they know who they are. I mean that's first and foremost," Father Lynch said. "They are not going to come to someone they don't know and someone who has not shown them that they care and are there for the right reasons."

Early in their chaplaincy ministries, both priests participated in "ride-along" tours with officers. During those rides, the chaplains learned what to do, and not to do, during police investigations while simultaneously building rapport with the officers.

"Immediately upon arriving at a scene, I get briefed by the officers in charge," Father Carrara said.

Depending on the circumstances, Father Carrara said, he is there to pray over the victim and support the victim's family. He's also there to be a resource for the first responders. "I go to every first responder who is there. My style is to introduce myself to everyone. It's called 'flight deck ministry.' In other words, be present to the people where the planes land."

Ultimately, the priests agreed, their presence to victims, families and to the men and women on the line as first responders will earn the respect and support of the uniformed personnel.

"The law enforcement group is very tight knit. They are very protective, cautious," Father Carrara said. "Once they get to know the chaplains and trust them, they are seen as a chaplain. Eventually, you have to be careful because officers will trust chaplains enough to let

them go anywhere on a scene, but that is not always the best idea."

As chaplains to the departments they officiate at weddings, baptisms and funerals for many of the personnel they now consider friends. If necessary, they are also ready to counsel those who are approaching that "overload."

"A rule of the chaplain and others who respond to critical incidents is to alleviate, mitigate the adverse effects of those incidents so people can continue their work in a healthy way," Father Lynch said.

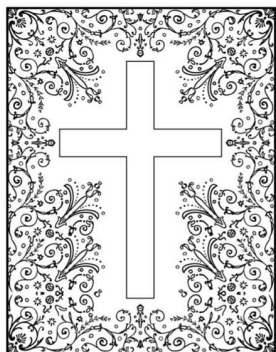
Father Carrara believes he and Father Lynch provide a valuable service to the first responders. "When police or firemen retire, they carry the burden of service with them," Father Carrara said. "A chaplain may be able to mitigate the effects by just talking with them."

Editor's note: Deacon Ronnie Gingerich, Lowville, is also a chaplain. He serves first responders in Lewis County. Deacon John Drollette is retired from the Plattsburgh Police Department. He is not a department chaplain but has been available as a resource to first responders in need.

*Father Don,
we are blessed to have
you as our parish
Priest. We enjoy your
sermons & presence.*

~Jill Carpenter





Thank you
Father Don Manfred
You are a kind,
hardworking priest and
pastor.

The parishioners at
St. Francis Solanus Church,
Harrisville.



Fr. Chris Looby,

You are such an
inspiring
"Good Shepherd!"
We, in the Diocese of
Ogdensburg are so
blessed in having you
as a Priest!

Thank you,
Deacon Bernie Slate

We appreciate our priests



*The Sisters of St. Joseph are
grateful to the priests who
celebrate daily Mass at the
Motherhouse.*

We especially thank

Fr. Leo Wiley,

Fr. Vincent Freeh,

Fr. William Muench,

Msgr. Paul Whitmore,

Fr. Timothy Canaan

*for their priestly presence
among us.*

Fr. Patrick Ratigan,

Thank you for your first rate leadership and service.

Love and Prayers, Jimmy & Robin Law



Father Robert Decker,



We are proud of our new spiritual leader.
Welcome to St. Cecilia's and Queen of Heaven.
We all support you in your goals at our parishes.

Knights of Columbus Council #7364, Adams



FR. RAY MOREAU

Thank you for
ministering to us,
caring for us and
making us laugh along
the way.

St. Mary's, Brushton
St. Augustine's,
North Bangor

Fr. Clyde Lewis

*Many thanks for all that
you continue to do for
St. Mary's, Champlain
and St. Patrick's,
Rouses Point*

From all of your
parishioners



Father Ted Crosby,

With thanks and appreciation for all you do.

From your family and friends at St. Joseph's

Father Garry Giroux,

At a time when most people would be
planning retirement, you graciously
accepted the difficult challenge of uniting
our five parishes.

For that and for all your other acts of
kindness, we thank you.
May God Bless You!





We wish to thank the priests of Plattsburgh,
for the respect of our past,
for their hard work in the present,
and their hope and faith
as they lead us to our future!

PRIEST APPRECIATION

Priests bring Seton Catholic 'closer to Jesus'

By Patricia Jenkins
Contributing writer

PLATTSBURGH – Parents, teachers and students at Seton Catholic Central School say the priests who minister at the school have a profound impact.

Ron Garrow, father of Seton Catholic fourth-grader Lauren, was happy to share his feelings about our current and former priests at the school.

Lauren started at Seton when she was 4.

"The nuns and the priests have made a lasting impression on her," Garrow said.

He said his family chose Seton because they understand how important it is to have their daughter exposed to faith.

The priest's presence in

the school made an impact not only on Lauren, but also on her father. With the help, advice and encouragement of Father Timothy G. Canaan during Lauren's preparation for First Communion, Garrow received his Confirmation at the Easter Vigil that year.

"Father Tim, Father Scott Seymour, Father Kevin McEwan, Msgr. (Dennis) Duprey, and Father

(William) Reamer have a special place in Seton," Garrow said.

"They bring us all closer to Jesus," Lauren added.

"Thank you to all," both Garrows said. "You have our family's utmost respect and Christian love for your service."

Lauren said she loves all the priests at school, their prayers and their blessings.

Father Reamer is a

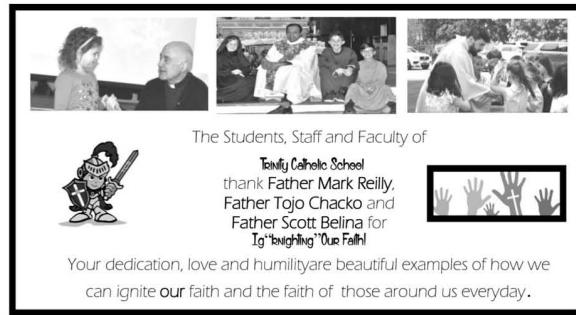
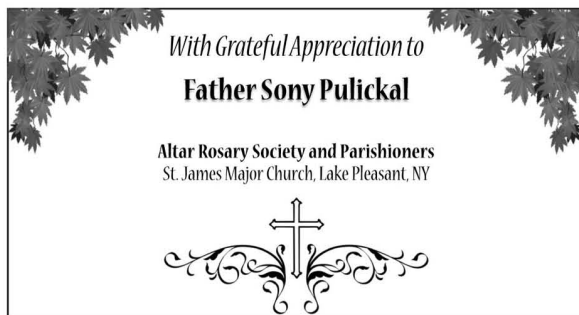
prominent figure in the lives of the students at Seton. Not only does he make frequent appearances in the halls of the school, but he also attends the students' sporting events as often as he can and plans to attend their annual hiking prayer in October.

According to Asst. Principal Andy Bilow and parent/teacher Christine Boule, "The students no-

tice that he is there for them."

Father Clyde A. Lewis and Father Guy F. Edwards are also affiliated with the school.

This appreciation of the school's priests is echoed by both parents and students at the school past and present, from Pre-K to alumni: Priests have made a tremendous impact in the lives of all at Seton Catholic Central.



**Thank you to our Pastor,
Fr. Scott Seymour,
for making being part of these parish communities a joy.**

**In addition we would like to thank
Fr. William Gordon, Fr. Gilbert Menard, Fr. Bill Edwards & Fr. Leeward Poissant
(all retired)**

**for all the help you give us here at St. Alexander & St. James Churches.
Your hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed.**

From your staff & all your parishioners.

our gratitude



Father Joe Elliot,

Thank you for your dedication to saying our weekly masses at LBSH and for all your other acts of kindness. God Bless You!



Thank you to Fr. Mark Reilly, Fr. Tojo Chacko, and Fr. Scott Belina at St. Peter's Parish in Massena. We truly appreciate the gift of your vocation and all you do for our Catholic Parish and the community! God bless you!
~From the Staff at St. Peter's Parish



Father Kris,

You continue to exemplify the will of the Lord. You have accepted your responsibilities with grace and fortitude.

With love & Respect
The Catholic Community
of Keeseville
&
Altar and Rosary Society

Rest in Peace

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

Sept. 25 – Rev. Frederick P. Shue, 1989

Sept. 26 – Rev. Francis Van Compenhandt, 1880; Rev. Stephen Royet, M.S.C., 1933; Rev. Michael F. Gallivan, 1939; Rev. Joseph Ludger Desjardins, 1941; Rev. Earl Mayo, 1994; Msgr. Francis A. White, 2007

Sept. 29 – Rev. Patrick O. Thompson, 1955

Sept. 30 – Most Rev. Bryan J. McEntegart, 1968

Oct. 1 – Rev. Hermenegilde Brisson, 1954

Bishop's Public Schedule

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

Sept. 27 – 10:50 a.m. – Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

Sept. 29 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

2 p.m. – Blue Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Sept. 30 – 10 a.m. – Mass at Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh followed by a school visit

Oct. 1 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting followed by lunch at Bishop's Residence

Oct. 2 – Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society Pilgrimage to Otawa

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrianne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, 31 Sixth Street, Malone, NY 12953;

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

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:

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

Sept. 26 – 9:30 a.m., Augustinian Academy, Carthage

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.

- 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!

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Environmental Stewardship

Autumn's call to let go

As we continue to celebrate the Season of Creation (Sept. 1-Oct. 4), we praise God for the magnificent blaze of autumn foliage. We also know that soon after this display, the trees begin to let go of their leaves. While we can joyfully praise God in the midst of these beauties, it may be much more difficult to let go of them. We know that this process is essential for the new growth in the spring, but it is still a challenge to give up those colors! What might we learn for our own lives from this pattern of letting go that God has placed in the natural world?

During this Season of Creation, we are called to become aware of what is happening to our natural world and the consequences for all life on the planet. We are called to look more deeply into the causes of the catastrophic events that we are experiencing from wildfires, major flooding, rising sea levels and draughts.

Ninety-seven percent of climate scientists agree that carbon emissions from fossil fuels play a major part in these changes. They have been predicting these consequences for decades. The change in climate causes clear threats to international peace and security.

The growing tensions over resources and mass movement of people are affecting every country on every continent. If we as humans have been part of creating this crisis, the good news is we can also be part of the solution. It is not about blame, but it is about what can we do about it now that the facts are in.

What can I "let go of" today that can bring new life for tomorrow? How about letting go of that plastic shopping bag? Fifty years ago people were very resistant to letting go of their paper bags. But look what has happened in 50 years.

If we adopted single-use plastics out of convenience, what would it cost us to change to reusable bags out of a moral responsibility to "our care for our Common Home?"

PRIEST APPRECIATION

'Bringing the love and mercy of God' to the sick

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Staff Writer

MALONE – “When we serve the sick, we serve Jesus. We must not fail to help our neighbors, because in them we serve Jesus.”

These words of St. Rose of Lima, spoken 400 years ago, are very much alive for Father Michael J. Jablonski, parochial vicar at St. André Bessette Parish in Malone. Most Sunday afternoons, Father Jablonski can be found at the local hospital, and any day of the week he responds to the needs of parishioners who are ill or homebound.

Since coming to Malone last September, Father Jablonski has focused considerable time and attention on this aspect of priestly ministry – a practice he developed in his previous assignment at St. Peter's Church in Massena.

“There I was assigned to work with pastoral associates Sister Maureen Sweeney and Julia LaShomb,” the priest explains. “They were great at knowing who needed attention, and they introduced me to a lot of wonderful people – in the hospital, at home, sick folks, older folks. I really enjoy the older folks. They are honest and open.”

Father Jablonski notes that “having elderly grandparents living with us while I was growing up made it easier for me to relate to the elderly. Also, I enjoy reaching out to them. Going into their homes, I find that everyone has a life history, which they like to share.”

And this jovial priest, with his degree in history and a heart for the needs



SUZANNE PIETROPAOLI/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Father Michael J. Jablonski, parochial vicar at St. Andre Bessette Parish in Malone, stands next to the church's ambry. This cabinet, where blessed oils are kept, is important for the priest's ministry to the sick and homebound. In addition to oils blessed for the anointing of the sick, the ambry holds oil blessed at the Chrism Mass each year to be used for Confirmation, as well as the oil of catechumens.

of those in front of him, is always ready to hear and appreciate their stories.

But his ministry to the sick is not confined to the homebound.

“We always have parishioners in the hospital, sometimes more, sometimes less,” Father Jablonski explains. “So, we respond to emergency calls, but also, I go there each week, check the patient list, and offer to visit individual patients. I always approach respectfully; I don't barge in. Most say, ‘Yes. Come in and visit.’ But some do not want that yet, so it is important to ask. There

can be a lot going on: fear, people fallen away from the practice of the faith, misunderstanding of what the Sacrament of the Sick really is. So many people still seem to think it is only for those taking their last breath. That prevents them from seeking out the sacrament. So I just let the Lord lead me to the folks I should visit.”

Word-of-mouth is also an important source of information for Father Jablonski.

“Someone will come up to me and let me know that their mom/dad/friend can't come to church anymore

but would like to see a priest,” he said. “I am always glad to get these requests and follow up on them. From time to time, I speak from the ambo, asking folks to let us know about people who are confined to their homes and in need of the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation. Anyone who is facing surgery, or is seriously ill, is especially in need of the Sacrament of the Sick.”

Father Mike has high praise for the team of parishioners who make regular, often weekly, visits to bring Communion to those unable to come to church.

“Sue Hughes and the team actually maintain home visits to bring the Eucharist,” he points out. “Right now there are 46 people on the visitation list. The volunteers let me know when someone is ill and needs to be visited by a priest outside of my regular seasonal rotations. And the people I visit are so grateful! How they light up at God's love and mercy, especially in the sacraments!”

The priest relates some amazing examples of such graces at work. One of them was a woman with Alzheimer's who no longer spoke at all.

“After I anointed her,” Father Jablonski recalls, “she said to me, clear as day: ‘I am so glad you came to see me. Thank you.’ Once I was ministering to a man who was dying and ended up talking to his son for an hour. The younger man had fallen away from the Church, though he never stopped praying – thank God. He was upfront, honest, and sincere. His grandma was native, so

he had the habit of gratitude. A lot happened in that hour. I heard his confession and he came back to the Church.”

Bringing people closer to Christ amid their pains and sufferings continues to inspire this priest.

“At the end of a visit, seeing that they are at peace and feeling loved and cared for is awesome,” he said. “Each has the experience of receiving the sacraments, and they just glow. Their souls come to life again! Then, too, the Church is touching their families at the same time. We are able to make inroads, and hopefully some of those families that are touched in this way will come back.”

Father Jablonski acknowledges that, when he was ordained in May 2017, he did not expect that this ministry to the sick would become such a large part of his life. Yet, he says, “This has been a happy and fulfilling part of my priesthood. The elderly population is increasing, so bringing the love and mercy of God to them in the sacraments is very important. It also gives us another way to reach the younger people in their families, to connect them with the Church. So, I did not expect this before ordination. But I am doing it and I love it!”

Father Kris Lauzon

Thank you for all your service for our Catholic Community of Keeseville.

~Keeseville K of C #4689



We appreciate our priests

THANK YOU FR. MARTIN CLINE
AND FR. ALEX GUIMPOL!

~Jimmy and Robin Law



FATHER LAWRENCE MARULLO

Thank you for all you do for all your
parishes and parishioners.



Christine Panik



Thank you, Father Jay Seymour.

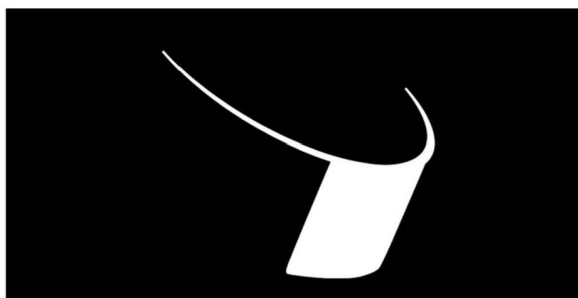
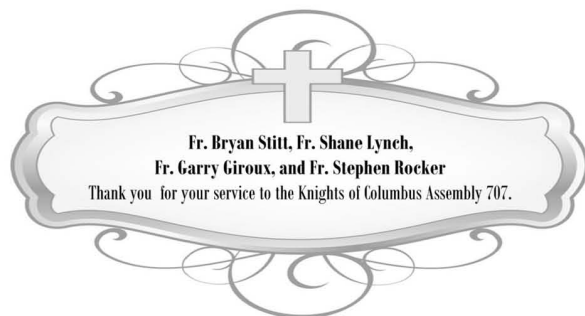
We are so blessed to have you
as our pastor.

We extend our thanks and
appreciation to you for your
guidance, inspiration, and example
to all of us.

May God bless you abundantly!

Parishioners of St. Peter's ~ St. Mary's ~ St. Hedwig's Churches

5457 Shady Avenue
Lowville, New York



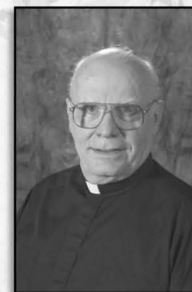
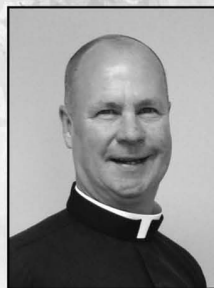
Prayer For Priests by St. John Vianney

"God, please give to Your church today many more priests
after your own heart... worthy representatives of Christ the
Good Shepherd"

**God bless all of our priests and their
essential sacramental ministry !**

**We ask a special blessing on
Fr. Christopher Carrara,
our Vocation Director**

From the Diocesan Vocations Office



Fr. Tom Kornmeyer and Fr. John Looby:

For all you are, all you've done, and all that
you continue to do, with much appreciation,
St. Francis, St. George's, St. Joseph's, St. Patrick's,
St. Mary's & Our Lady of Fatima Churches
May God continue to bless and keep you.

Items from closed churches going to New Mexico

By Eileen Greenwood
Contributing writer

CARTHAGE— It all began with an entry in eNotes submitted by Father Donald J. Manfred that began, "Items for Use in Parishes: First come, first served!"

St. Henry's Church in Natural Bridge had religious items available at the "low, low price of picking them up!" Following the closing of St. Henry's, many of the religious items were still in very good condition and needed new homes.

The eNotes entry that appeared this past Summer caught the attention of Margaret Woods, a bookkeeper for St. James Minor Church in Carthage, who felt the urge to act. Included in the ad were items such as Stations of The Cross, Statues of the Sacred Heart, The Infant Prague, Blessed Mother and St. Joseph. In addition, there were also several padded kneelers, pews and two altars, one with a tabernacle.

Woods knew of someone in New Mexico who just might welcome the sacramental items. She made contact with her sister Maria, and Maria's husband Deacon Kenneth Quade, who live in Alamogordo, New Mexico.

"When I saw the ad from Father Manfred, the Holy Spirit told me to call Maria," Woods said. "I knew how grateful the

people would be."

It took very little time for Deacon Kenneth and Maria to respond with excitement! Yes, they would love to receive those items for several small parishes in the area they are serving in New Mexico. The items would be welcomed and used by several parishes, including a church which had previously burned.

Woods began a mission to help.

Various items from churches that have closed in the diocese of Ogdens-

burg are currently being collected by Woods, who plans to drive to New Mexico with her husband and the truckload of items. It is a solution that benefits both the recipient and the giver. These church pieces are not just garage sale items, but many have emotional and historical meaning to parishioners of the parishes donating them.

Woods mentioned that when St. Rita's church closed, several statues from the church were returned to the families that

donated them. One statue, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, has been restored and is being sent to New Mexico along with a typed, laminated description of where the piece originated and how it had been used. In this way, the historical and emotional value of the piece is preserved and goes with it to its next home.

Deacon Kenneth Quade, brother-in-law to Margaret Woods, served in the Air Force and then studied to be a Deacon in New Mexico. He plans to serve for

10 years in the parish, where they raised their family. He is currently in his fourth year in Alamogordo, New Mexico.

Margaret Woods and her husband, Greg, plan to pay the cost of driving the truck to New Mexico themselves. Considering the amount of work in planning and carrying out this mission. The couple welcomes donations to offset the cost. Donations could be sent to Margaret Woods at St. James Minor Church in Carthage. They also ask for prayers for safe travel.

The Catholic Daughters of
Court Dr. Tom Dooley #2183
would like to thank our chaplain,
Rev. John R. Yonkovic,
for his dedication to our court
and our parish.
He inspires all who meet him
with his energy, creative ideas,
and life-changing homilies.



We are Blessed



with

Fr. Donald Robinson

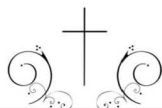
Serving the spiritual needs of
St James Parish, Carthage,
St Mary's Parish, Copenhagen
and the children of Augustinian Academy.

THANK YOU!

yours in Christ,
Father John Cosmic Council 291
Knights of Columbus
Carthage, NY

Thank you for
all you do
Father Scott.

AMAZING
-Cecile Filion



We appreciate our priests



*Thank you,
Fr. Stitt
for all that
you do.*

St. Mary's Parish
Community

Father Chris and Father Herman,



*The Vocation Committee at St. Anthony's
thank you for your joyful service
and your devotion to the
True Presence in the Blessed Sacrament.*

Father Philip Allen,

**What an inspiration you are to us!
Whether it's at Mass or on a hiking trail,
we are blessed to have you in our lives.**

~Love, Deacon James and Christine Chaufy

Thank you
Father Carrara,

For your ministry to us.

The parishioners of
St. Johns, St. Peter's, and
St. Patrick's



Thank You

Monsignor Whitmore



Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood

Thank you Fr. Don!

*We are truly blessed to have you as part of our
family!*

*We are grateful for your leadership, Example,
Mentorship, Faithfulness, Kindness and Sense
of Humor!*



From the parishioners of
St. James, Carthage,
St. Mary's. Copenhagen and
Students, Faculty and Families at
Augustinian Academy.



Fr. Scott Seymour,
Chaplain,
Welcome to Court
Mother Admirable
#592
Dannemora / Redford

We appreciate our priests

*God Bless the current and former priests
of Massena Sacred Heart.*

The Dishaw Family



Fr. Jay,
We are Blessed by your presence.

~St. Hedwig's, Houseville



FATHER MARULLO,
Thank you for all you do for us
and our parish!

Deacon James & Christine Chaufy



**THANK YOU FR. MARTIN CLINE
AND FR. ALEX GUIMPOL!**

~Jimmy and Robin Law



The parishes of
Immaculate
Conception in
Brownville
&
St. Andrew's in
Sackets Harbor
extend a grateful
Thank You to
Fr. Michael Gaffney
and
Fr. William Muench



Thank you
to our Shepherds

Bishop Terry LaValley
Father Joseph Morgan
Father Justin Thomas
Father Richard Sturtz
Father Jim Shurtleff

Parishioners of
St. Mary's Cathedral
&
Notre Dame Church



**To all the Priests
of the Diocese**

Thank you for answering
God's call and becoming
Shepherds of our church.

*Diocesan Council for
Consecrated Life*

The people of
St Mary's Clayton, and
St Johns, LaFargeville
are truly blessed having
Fr Arthur LaBaff
as our Pastor.

Thank you for your leadership,
your wisdom, and your vision
for Ministry!



Couples celebrate marriage jubilees

Editor's Note: The second annual Marriage and Consecrated Life Jubilee was held Sept. 15. Married couples and consecrated religious from around the diocese gathered to celebrate their fidelity to their vocations. The consecrated religious who celebrated jubilees will be featured in next week's North Country Catholic. The following married couples celebrated at the event:

ADAMS-ST. CECILIA'S CHURCH

Victor and Rosemary Kirsch (15 years)

ALEXANDRIA BAY-THE CC OF ALEXANDRIA

George and Jill Snediker (50 years)

BRASHER FALLS-ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

Galon and Mary J. Eldridge (50 years)

BRUSHTON-ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Norman and Linda Dibble (50 years)

CANTON-THE RCC OF ST. MARY IN CANTON

Paul and Maureen Howard (55 years)

CAPE VINCENT-THE RCC OF CAPE VINCENT, ROSIERE AND CHAUMONT

Bill and Bernadette Kirchgessner (45 years)

Donald and Barbara La Flame (60 years)

CARTHAGE-ST. JAMES MINOR CHURCH

Donald and Barbara Kohler (42 years)

CLAYTON-ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Deacon Gary and Gayle Frank (50 years)

CROGHAN-ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

Kevin and Kathy Homan (42 years)

EVANS MILLS-ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Glenn and Marilyn Culbertson (60 years)

HENDERSON-QUEEN OF HEAVEN CHURCH

Mark and Barbara Boyle (55 years)

HEUVELTON-ST. RAPHAEL'S CHURCH

Larry and Theresa Crowe (43 years)

HOGANSBURG-ST. REGIS MISSION

Matthew and Sandra Rourke (20 years)

Jerry and Connie Thompson (42 years)

Marshall and Janine Rourke (45 years)

Richard and Vickie Phillips (52 years)

Irving and Rebecca Papineau (53 years)

Norman and Elizabeth Tarbell (56 years)

Thomas and Antonia Heme (58 years)

J.D. and Minerva White (64 years)

Ben and Betty Kelly (65 years)

Hubert and Felicia Jock (70 years)

LOWVILLE-ST. PETER'S CHURCH

Robert and Melissa Uttendorfsky (30 years)



JESSE SOVIE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Married couples from around the diocese gathered at St. Mary's Cathedral for the Marriage and Consecrated Life Jubilee Mass, an opportunity to celebrate their marriages.

MASSENA-ST. PETER'S PARISH

Gerald and Doreen Johnson (50 years)

Robert and Nancy Brothers (50 years)

Thomas and Linda Macaulay (50 years)

John and Julie Whalen (55 years)

Edward and Patricia Fay (55 years)

Lloyd and Pauline Beaudion (60 years)

Lionel and Josephine LeCuyer (60 years)

Andrew and June Fiacco (70 years)

Lawrence and Beulah Trippany (70 years)

MOOERS FORKS-ST. ANN'S CHURCH

Scott and Lisa LaValley (34 years)

Joseph and Sheila Miller (40 years)

MORRISONVILLE-THE RCC OF ST. ALEXANDER AND ST. JOSEPH

Joseph and Antoinette Krupka (60 years)

NORFOLK-PARISH OF THE VISITATION AND ST. RAYMOND

Lawrence and Margaret Connelly (60 years)

OGDENSBURG-ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL

Tieman and Christina Smith (3 years)

Edward and Elizabeth Lashomb (18 years)

Mike and Karen Denoncourt (22 years)

John and Jane Pinkerton (40 years)

Joseph and Jane Basta (50 years)

William and Janet Leary (50 years)

David and Ellen Bush (55 years)

Willard and Myrtis Ashley (62 years)

Joe and Mary Ellen Denoncourt (66 years)

PLATTSBURGH-THE RCC OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Kenneth and Kathleen Racette (50 years)

POTSDAM-THE RCC OF ST. MARY

Stephen and Christina Tartaglia (17 years)

Thomas and Shirley McKenna (60 years)

Joe and Arlene Bouvier (70 years)

ROUSES POINT-ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

Donald and Barbara LaBombard (55 years)

SARANAC LAKE-ST. BERNARD'S PARISH

Ann and Gar Munn (47 years)

WATERTOWN-CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Bruce and Tina Lynch (51 years)

WATERTOWN-ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

Deacon Kevin and Kathy Mastellon (49 years)

Al and Judith Maloney (55 years)

WINOOSKI, VT-ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Richard and Sherry LaBarge (32 years)

Workshops, retreats offered to parishes, groups

Office of New Evangelization, Young Adult Ministry: 'Your Bishop's Fund dollars at work'

By Marika Donders
Director, Office of Evangelization

Quite often, I will get asked to do a parish workshop, or a retreat, or just travel to an outlying parish to meet with a parish leadership team to discuss opportunities for evangelization. This is the favorite part of my job as Director of the New Evangelization. The question often arises: So how much will this cost the parish to have you come visit or offer a workshop or a talk? My answer is always the same: it has already been paid for. This is your Bishop's Fund dollars at work.

So, what type of workshops are available for parishes? It really de-

pends on the requirements of the parish. I am always happy to prepare a new talk or workshop that meets specific requests or needs that arise. At the same time, I also have an arsenal of workshops and talks that are suitable for any parish.

For example, every parish would like to be more hospitable to visitors and regulars alike in order to reach out to the community. Therefore, one option is hospitality workshop entitled HOSPITALITY: More than Coffee and Donuts. The thing with hospitality is that it is often deals with the little things that we overlook: things like using insider language, assuming people who have sat

in the same pews for years actually know each other, or if someone didn't show up for mass one Sunday, would anyone wonder where he was or if she was okay? Hospitality isn't rocket science, but it also doesn't happen automatically. It might actually be harder, because we are dealing with people, and there is no single right answer or silver bullet. It required hard work and intentionality and it can always be done better.

Another set of workshops, The Gifted Disciple, parts I and II, looks at the gifts, or charisms, we have each received at baptism for the building up of the Church. Do you know what your gifts are and are you using them to help others come to know the love of Christ? Is your

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



Young Adults from around the diocese participated in World Youth Day in 2016. The event was held in Krakow, Poland. The diocesan participation was organized by Young Adult Ministry, a Bishop's Fund Appeal ministry.

ALIVE IN CHRIST

2019 BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL

Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg

Please use my/our gift to continue the good works of our Church and help support the ministries of the Diocese.

<u>Gift</u>	<u>4 Pledge Payments</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000	\$250	Gift/Pledge Total \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$800	\$200	Amount Enclosed \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$400	\$100	Balance \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$200	\$50	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	\$25	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		



OR Please charge my credit card for \$ _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Signature: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please Print Name: _____

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City/State/Zip: _____

Parish: _____ Parish City/Town: _____



Visit us on the web at:
www.rcdony.org/bishop-s-fund-appeal

Clip and Mail to:
The Bishop's Fund Appeal
PO Box 150
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

A look at the rich man and the poor man

There are two characters who dominate the Gospel this week – a very selfish rich man named Dives and a very humble poor man named Lazarus.

The scene opens on the street in front of Dives' front door. There lies the beggar, Lazarus, in tattered clothes that scarcely cover his open sores.

The door opens, and the well-fed guests of Dives emerge, laughing loudly as they depart

from their daily banquet. Then Dives comes out. Having bid good-bye to the last guest, he decides to take an evening walk.

Like his guests, Dives steps over the beggar, not even looking at him. He doesn't kick or abuse him. He just doesn't pay any attention.

The next scene is some years later. In the upper right, we see Lazarus in heavenly glory, courted by the angels, reclining at table with the patriarch,



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

September 29

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

1 Timothy 6:11-16

Luke 16:19-31

Father Abraham.

In the lower left, we see Dives, in the torments of hell, looking longingly at the heavenly feast in the distance.

Why is Dives in hell? Not because he is rich, for Jesus, in telling the story, never condemns him for that.

Why, then? Because he

never thought to share his riches with this poor beggar who lay outside his door day after day. He never offered him some of the leftovers, never inquired about his health, never offered him employment.

What a difference he could have made in the life of Lazarus. He might have gotten to know him better and given help to Lazarus' wife and children. Who knows? They might even have become friends!

In the first reading, the prophet Amos paints a similar picture of the

wealthy rulers of Israel, lying on their beds of ivory, and drinking wine from bowls, completely oblivious to the near collapse of the kingdom.

Again, God is condemning their indifference, their selfishness, their lack of discipline, and their disobedience to His commandments.

As Pope Francis has repeatedly urged us, our world is in crisis.

We all must develop a new boldness in sharing in love both our material goods and the spiritual riches of our precious Catholic faith.

New Evangelization and Young Adult Ministry

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

pastor aware of your gifts so that he can ask you to assist in a way that will bear the greatest fruit?

It is when we get to use our gifts, that it brings out the greatest joy in us (and joy is infectious, and that

joy will draw others to Christ).

Other talks and workshops include things like the Spirituality of Leadership, situating leadership in the context of faith and tradition; Evangelization and Apologetics which

look at the obstacles and objections to both these disciplines and how we might work through these hurdles with some practical do's and don'ts.

There are seasonal talks such as LENT: Spring Cleaning for the Soul or topical talks such as Social Media and Technology, which is a presentation for parents and grandparents about these new digital tools in our children's hands and pockets.

In addition to these talks and workshops, I also facilitate retreats, days of reflection and other opportunities to pray, connect with Jesus and reflect on our own discipleship and call to holiness. These can be offered for small groups, such as a women's prayer group or bible study group, campus ministries or young adults, but especially for parish staffs and volunteers.

When is the last time that your parish staff

closed the office and had a day away? We cannot give what we do not have, and so often our parish staffs or volunteers are so busy giving of themselves with their daily to-do lists, that they forget to remain rooted in the love of Christ, who sends us on mission.

It is His work and His mission, and we must remain in Him in order to be fruitful.

Another aspect of my office focuses on Young Adult Ministry for those in their 20s and 30s.

To this end we have offered a Young Adult Retreat at Guggenheim this year, which we hope to expand on in the coming year, as well as promoting young adult groups and events for around the diocese. In this capacity, I also promote the World Youth Days pilgrimage for Young Adults 18 years and older.

The next World Youth Day is in Lisbon, Portugal in 2022. If you are or will

be a young adult, keep this pilgrimage opportunity in mind.

Other than workshops, talks, ministry to Young Adults, the Office of the New Evangelization offers resources, collaborates with other departments such as Formation for Ministry, Faith Formation and Family Life and plans and promotes events around the Diocese through the publication of eNotes, promoting the North Country Cursillo movement, and other opportunities for forming missionary Disciples who go out to evangelize the North Country.

If your parish or group would be interested in hosting a workshop, talk or retreat, please contact Marika Donders at Diocesan Office of Evangelization by email: mdonders@rcdony.org or phone 315-393-2920 ext. 1380.

Thank you for your generosity the 2019 Bishop's Fund Appeal.

 *Life Chain*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

*A peaceful, prayerful, public, pro-life presence.
We stand for life rain or shine. Signs are provided.*

LOCATIONS

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

For more information: www.lifechain.net

ADIRONDACK

BLESSING OF THE ROSES

Saranac Lake – In honored 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 – Oct. 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. Please contact The Respect Life Office with questions 518-524-0774. Other retreat dates and locations available at www.rachelsvineyard.org

CLINTON

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

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

Date: Sept. 25 – Nov. 3

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

Place: Planned Parenthood

Features: You're invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood. Prayer Volunteers needed.

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

www.40daysforlife.com/plattsburgh

AUTUMN RETREAT

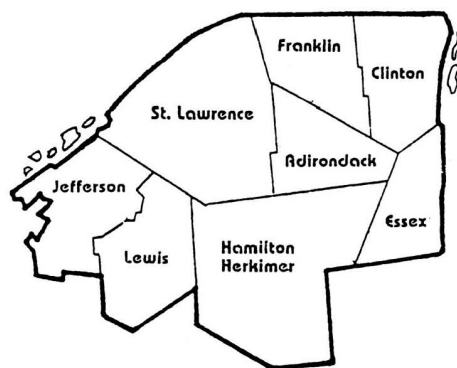
Ellenburg – A Day Retreat, "True Hospitality of the Heart" with Sr. Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ is being offered.

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.



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@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

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: Oct. 6 & 20, Nov. 3 & 24

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 518-585-7144 or Father Christopher Carrara at ccarrara@rcdony.org.

HARVEST DINNER

Ellenburg – CDA Court Little Rose #1300 will hold an all you can eat Roast Beef/Roast Pork Dinner.

Date: Sept. 29

Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Place: St. Edmund's Parish Center

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

Features: The Big-Ticket Raffle will take place at 4:30 p.m. right after dinner.

Contact: For Take-outs call 518-594-3121

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).

HARVEST DINNER

West Chazy – St. Joseph's Church will hold their 46th Annual all you can eat Harvest Dinner.

Date: Oct. 13

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

Place: Parish Center

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

Features: Turkey Dinner will be served. There will also be a Country Store, and a Benefit Drawing and much more.

Contact: For more information, call 518-493-4521.

HARVEST DINNER

Dannemora – St. Joseph's Church will have their annual Roast Turkey Harvest Dinner.

Date: Oct. 20

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

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children, \$7; under 5, Free

Features: Come and enjoy live music and try your luck with a 50/50 raffle and Chinese Auction.

HARVEST DINNER

Chazy – Sacred Heart Parish to have their Roast Turkey Harvest Dinner.

Date: Oct. 20

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

Place: Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children under 12, \$5; Under 5, Free; All Take-outs, \$10

Features: Visit our Sinners' Den Pantry for "sinfully" delicious goodies. Raffle with dozens of prizes.

Contact: For more information, 518-846-7650 or sacredheart@westelcom.com

FRANKLIN

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 Country Store with Baked goods, homemade items and a Basket Raffle.

HARVEST DINNER

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

Date: Oct. 6

Time: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$10; Seniors, \$9; Children 6-12, \$6; under 5, Free; Take-outs, \$10

Contact: Take-outs available from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., call 518-529-6580 to place an order.

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.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Evans Mills – Spaghetti and Meatball dinner to be held to benefit the Indian River Knights of Columbus.

Date: Oct. 5

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$7; Seniors, \$6; under 12, \$5; 5 and under, Free

Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

CRAFT FAIR

Carthage – Augustinian Academy to have a Craft Fair.

Date: Oct. 5

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

Place: School Gym

Features: Handmade Crafts, gifts, themed basket raffle, food & bake sale. Door prizes with admission.

ROSARY CRUSADE

Watertown – The 5th Annual Citywide Family Rosary Crusade to be held.

Date: Oct. 7

Time: 5:15 p.m. Mass with Rosary to follow with all 4 mysteries

Place: Holy Family Church

Features: Sponsored by the Watertown Curia Legion of Mary and the theme will be "Mary's Immaculate Heart will Conquer"

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, entertaining and very relevant. This is a great opportunity for the whole family.

ROAST PORK DINNER

Evans Mills – Roast Pork dinner to be held to benefit St. Mary's Church.

Date: Oct. 12

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$10; Seniors and children to age 12, \$8; under 5, Free

Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678.

ROSARY RALLY

Watertown – Rosary Rally to be held.

Date: Oct. 12

Time: Noon

Place: Fatima Shrine on the lawn of St. Patrick's

Features: Come join in prayer to make amends for the sins of abortion and euthanasia, and the devastating scourge of drug addiction.

BLOOD DRIVE

Watertown – The St. Anthony's and St. Patrick's Parish Nurse Ministry to have a Blood Drive.

Date: Oct. 14

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 6:30

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Place: St. Anthony's Old School Gym
Contact: 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767 Visit redcrossblood.org or download the Blood Donor App to schedule your appointment.

CLM FALL DINNER MEETING

Clayton – All Commissioned Lay Ministers and their spouses are invited to attend the CLM Assoc. of Jefferson & Lewis Deaneries Fall Dinner.

Date: Oct. 24
Schedule: 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Mary's Church; 6:15 p.m. Dinner and program at St. Mary's parish center
Cost: \$12 per person
Features: Speaker will be Fr. Art. LaBaff.

Contact: Reservations needed by Oct. 18. go to www.rcdony.org/formation-for-ministry/event-registration/regional-events.html or contact Jeannie Grizzuto at 315-393-2920 ext. 1413

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

ROSARY RALLY

Turin – Rosary Rally to be held.

Date: Oct. 12
Time: Noon
Place: Spirit Walk's Fatima Garden, West Main Street
Features: Praying the Rosary for peace and personal intentions, song, private time for walking/meditation, outdoor Stations of the Cross, new mediation chapel will be open for viewing/use. Light refreshments provided.
Contact: 315-272-6168

POLISH FESTIVAL

Houseville – Save the date for St. Hedwig's Polish Festival

Date: Oct. 13
Time: Noon/after the 11 a.m. Mass
Place: St. Hedwig's Church
Features: The festivities include: The serving of a tasty Polish platter, bake sale items, Polish hot dogs, ice cream sundaes, theme basket raffles, and a 50/50 raffle. Take outs are available. Program to benefit church programs, repairs and restorations.
Contact: 315-348-8735, or 315-348-6260.

ST. LAWRENCE

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

WOMEN'S GROUP MEETING

Norwood – Women's Group Meeting (previously called Blessed is She) to be held.

Date: Oct. 27
Time: 12:30 p.m.
Place: St. Andrew's Church Hall
Features: The Little Way of Life: Walking With Saint Therese Through Every Age and Stage
Contact: For more information call/text/email Sara 315-212-7565 or narrow56@gmail.com

CRAFT/ARTISAN SHOW

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

Date: Nov. 9, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Nov. 10, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: K of C Hall
Features: Vendors are still needed. No direct sales vendors please. To reserve a table please call 315-389-4182

DIOCESAN EVENTS

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
Contact: Call 315-393-2920.

BLUE MASS

Ogdensburg - Bishop Terry R. LaValley, announces that 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' 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 members of the 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 Restaurant, Mass/Holy Hour for Vocations at Notre Dame Cathedral, Tour of the 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 or call the contacts listed above.

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake – Registration is open for Family Guggenheim 2019.

Date: Session 3: Oct. 11-13
Features: Come pray and play with other faithful families, enjoy the beautiful mountains and lake, beach time, engaging workshops, and liturgies. Families of all sizes and ages are welcome!

Contact: For information contact Deacon Henry and Dayna Leader, Family Guggenheim Directors deleader@rcdony.org 315-323-0827 visit <https://www.rcdony.org/family-life/family-guggenheim.html>

CELEBRATE CHRIST

Lake Placid – Celebrate Christ event to be held.

Date: Oct. 19
Place: Crowne Plaza
Features: This event is for those involved in parish ministry. We are excited about the presenter, Mr. Kevin Dowd will be speaking about A Spirituality of imperfection and the Eucharist, Source and Center of our Lives.
Contact: Register at www.rcdony.org/celebrate

*Father Doug Comstock,
 We, of the Catholic Community of Alexandria,
 are so blessed in having you as our pastor!*

From Deacon Bernie Slate, Deacon Joel & Dawn Walentuk,
 and your parishioners,
 St. Cyril's Church, Alexandria Bay
 St. Francis Xavier Church, Redwood



Complete event listings are
 also available at
northcountrycatholic.org/events

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Speaker: Found fetal remains shows abortion's 'inhumanity'

JOLIET, ILL. (CNS) – The discovery of the remains of over 2,200 aborted babies at the rural Illinois home of a deceased abortionist "tears off the mask of 'choice' and reveals the inhumanity of abortion to all of us," said Eric Scheidler, executive director of the Chicago-based Pro-Life Action League. "Even the most ardent defenders of abortion admit how disturbing it is to contemplate this kind of stockpiling of fetal remains," he said after a prayer vigil outside of the Will County Coroner's Office in Joliet Sept. 19. "Let this be a moment for all of us to reflect on the violence and injustice of abortion, and commit ourselves to finding better solutions to our personal and societal challenges than to tolerate violence against the most innocent and vulnerable of our brothers and sisters," Scheidler said. The fetal remains were found Sept. 13 at the home of Dr. Ulrich "George" Klopfer, who died Sept. 3. He had performed abortions in three clinics in Indiana – Gary, Fort Wayne and South Bend – since the 1970s but had his medical license revoked in 2016 after innumerable infractions. Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill Jr. and Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul are working together as Hill's office coordinates an investigation.

Catholic students mix faith and activism at climate rally

WASHINGTON (CNS) – A few hundred Catholic school students from the Washington Archdiocese took their cue, literally, from Pope Francis when they joined thousands of mostly young people at the climate change march in Washington Sept. 20 behind the banner with his words: "Hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." The phrase is from the pope's 2015 ecology encyclical, "Laudato Si." "We're following the pope's example," said Perry Wargo, a science teacher from Elizabeth Seton High School, a girls school in Bladensburg, Maryland, pointing to the banner quoting the pope. He led a group of 48 students from his school, joined by dozens more from eight Catholic high schools and one elementary school in the Washington area taking part in the midday march and rally urging government and business leaders, and everyone, really, to take action to stop climate change. The march, like dozens more that occurred around the country and the world Sept. 20, took place three days before world leaders planned to gather at the United Nations for a climate summit.

Pope: Culture of care is essential for the common good

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – With so many changes and huge technological advancements in the field of medicine, health care must always be at the service of the whole individual, including a supportive relationship between patient and medical professionals, Pope Francis said. People facing illness must be accompanied "conscientiously, with intelligence and heart," recognizing their dignity and fragility, he said Sept. 20 during an audience with members of the Italian Federation of Medical-Surgical and Dental Associations. "By its definition, medicine is serving human life," which sees the integral whole of the person, including their spiritual-material and individual-social aspects, he said. It is precisely because of their belief in this truth that they are rightly concerned about the "hidden dangers today's medicine is exposed to," he said. They must resist temptations – led in part by policies making it legal – "to use medicine to support a possible desire for death by the person who is ill, providing assisted suicide or euthanasia," the pope said. Such choices are not expressions of the person's freedom when they include the possibility of "discarding" the ill or the false compassion of helping people hasten their death, he said.

Religious liberty and DACA highlight court's new term

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The upcoming Supreme Court term – which starts Oct. 7 – will offer plenty of cases that Catholics will be paying close attention to including: the status of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and a number of religious liberty cases.

The court also has a lot of hot-button cases in the wings that it hasn't decided yet if it will take them up such as: a Louisiana abortion law requiring abortion providers to have admitting privileges at local hospitals or if a city or state can require religious adoption services to place children with same-sex couples despite faith-based objections.

The court will look at a consolidation of three DACA cases. President Donald Trump has been wanting the high court to overturn appellate court rulings that have kept in place the DACA program initiated by President Barack Obama in 2012, which has protected nearly 700,000 people brought to this country as children, commonly known as "Dreamers."

Without action from the high court, the lower court rulings have been kept in place, blocking Trump's 2017 order to end the program where qualifying DACA recipients receive a work permit and get a reprieve from deportation and other temporary relief.

Federal judges who have blocked ending the program have said the Trump administration needs to provide a clear explanation of why the program should end.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2017 called the cancellation of

DACA "reprehensible" and said it caused "unnecessary fear for DACA youth and their families." The USCCB, along with several Catholic groups, organizations and religious orders, have since called for a solution to help these young adults.

Elizabeth Murrill, solicitor general of Louisiana, writing Sept. 13 in scotusblog, a blog about the Supreme Court, said: "The federal government should prevail in the DACA cases for one straightforward reason: DACA is unlawful. Courts should not – indeed, cannot – stop the executive from rescinding a plainly unlawful edict that the government never had the power to issue in the first place."

The DACA cases will be argued Nov. 12.

Another case of interest this year is about a school choice program in Montana that has barred all religious schools in the state from participation.

In a Sept. 17 telephone briefing with reporters, Mark Rienzi, a law professor at The Catholic University of America and president of Becket, a non-profit religious liberty law firm, said last year's Supreme Court term was the "calm before the storm" as far as religious liberty cases go.

The court's main religious case last term was the 40-foot Peace Cross, which it ruled in favor of, saying its historical context did not endorse religion. That ruling, Rienzi said, signals where the court is headed, with an emphasis on "fostering a society where people of all faiths can live together."

In the upcoming term, he told reporters, the court

has the opportunity to give clear answers on religious liberty issues, starting with *Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue*, where the court will decide if excluding religious schools, including Catholic schools, from a state scholarship program violates the First Amendment. Montana officials said they left out religious schools because of the state constitution's Blaine Amendment, which bars public money from going to churches.

The case has a familiar ring, reminiscent of the 2017 case of *Trinity Lutheran*, a Missouri preschool that had been barred from receiving state funds for playground resurfacing using recycled tires because it was a church property. The court ruled it was unconstitutional to keep the school from using such funds.

Richard Garnett, law professor at the University of Notre Dame, wrote in scotusblog Sept. 17 that the *Trinity* case was "not really about recycled tires and safe playgrounds and was instead about vouchers, tax credits and scholarships for families who want to send their children to qualified, religiously affiliated schools," adding that school groups and others filed amicus briefs while tire and playground equipment companies did not.

"*Trinity Lutheran*, like *Espinoza*, was about pluralism, opportunity and fairness in education. School-choice programs are growing and expanding across the country, but broadly interpreted Blaine Amendments often deter or block reform," he added.

Letters to the Editor

Thank you for the potluck celebration

The ladies of The Assumption of Mary Church of Redford, St. James of Cadyville, St. Joseph's of Dannemora and St. Alexander's of Morrisonville sure know how to have a potluck. Complete with music by the Back Roads Band, games, door prizes, a ton of food and especially a whole lot of friendship and camaraderie, these ladies, including myself, had fun.

Sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of America Court #2663, the Circle of Love Committee, this potluck dinner brought out over 100 ladies, including Sister Deepali Bankar, as well as Father Scott R. Seymour and Father Gilbert B. Menard.

Personally, I got to talk to some of my mother's close friends from Dannemora. That was special, as Mom has been gone three years.

I met a unique person, Mary Wood Milne, originally from Altona, who used to double date with my Aunt Mae over 60 years ago! We had an interesting conversation. Mary is 90 years young and got a prize for being the most senior attendee.

I also got a chance to talk with Dave Couture, member of the band and my

husband's former co-worker. The Coutures lived next to my parents for eons. So many folks to visit with.

Change is never easy for any of us. But has anything changed? The folks of these four church communities still believe in the same God. He has not changed one iota and loves us all, every day for eternity. We all still believe in the power of prayer (these ladies have a powerful prayer chain), the calming effect of attending mass and that there is something more important than material things, budgets and meetings.

The power is in the people of the North Country who have come together through thick and thin and taken care of each other and those in need regardless of where they attend church.

Hats off to the organizers of this event and to Father Scott Seymour for managing four parishes. Thank you to all the priests who have been given a ton of extra duties. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed. God Bless.

**Robin LaBarge
Morrisonville**

Find healing and forgiveness after an abortion

To those who sit in silence:

Years ago I carried a dark secret, shame and guilt as I sat in the pew. During a Divine Mercy healing mission led by Father Timothy G. Canaan, I cried out how long Lord, will I ever be freed from this suffering and pain.

The Lord answered my prayers for a healing of what I thought was an unforgivable sin. That sin of abortion, which permeates the deepest part of the soul and sends shockwaves to those around us.

I was truly blessed to receive His mercy, grace and especially forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the first Rachel's Vineyard in our diocese. It was the beginning of a renewed

gift and journey with Our Lord and Savior that continues even to this day.

This gift is for all to take and receive. He is waiting for those suffering the pain of loss due to a past abortion.

Don't be afraid to accept His offer, come and receive His balm of healing. You are not alone. You are His and He is yours. Become what He intended for you, renewed in spirit.

The next retreat weekend is Friday, October 18 to Sunday, October 20.

For more information or to register, call or text 518-524-0774 or email cminer@rcdony.org.

Other retreat dates and locations are available. Learn more at www.rachelsvineyard.org

Nancy Belzile



Father Don,

St. Stephen's Parish, your Pastoral Council,
and Brother Knights,
appreciate your wise and loving council.

THANK YOU!

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Funeral Mass celebrated for Sister Mary Nora Kelley

Hartsdale – A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Mary Nora Kelley, RSM, was celebrated Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 at Marian Woods Chapel in Hartsdale.

Sister Mary Nora, a member of the Sisters of Mercy, died at Overlook Hospital, Summit, New Jersey, on Tuesday, Sep-

tember 17, 2019 at the age of 89.

She was born to the late James and Mary Kelley in Brasher Falls.

She is survived by her brother James, a large extended family and her Sisters of Mercy.

Sister Nora was a joy-filled person and a gifted

story teller. She was a teacher and an elementary school principal. She taught at St. Catherine Academy in Bronx, NY for many years.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Sisters of Mercy, 150 Ridge Road, Hartsdale, NY 10530.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



Students in Marianne Augenstein's fifth and sixth grade class at St. Mary's School in Canton celebrated the first day back by gathering at the school sign for a photo.

Mission discussion planned

MASSENA – Sister Debbie Blow and Sister Cindy Sullivan will discuss their missionary work in Nicaragua and Ecuador in a panel discussion, "Called to Mission: Two Sisters Share Their Stories."

The event, part of the diocesan celebration of

Extraordinary Missionary Month, will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 24 at Trinity Catholic School in Massena.

There is no charge to attend.

Sister Cindy served in Ecuador for over 40 years as a Sister of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Sister Debbie, a Dominican Sister of Hope, has led mission trips to Nicaragua with North Country Mission of Hope for 20 years.

For more information, or to RSVP, please contact Molly Ryan at mryan@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920, ext. 1361.

October is Respect Life Month

We are inviting you to consider sponsorship of a full page advertisement with the theme

Christ Our Hope

In Every Season Of Life



to appear in our October 30th issue of the

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

For \$25 your name will appear as a supporter of human life from conception through natural death. Your donation helps to support the material printed in the NCC.

Must be returned to the NCC by Oct. 21, 2019

YES! I/We would like to support a Respect Life Page in the *North Country Catholic*.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Name as it will appear in the ad (please print): _____

Mail Checks payable to: *North Country Catholic*
PO Box 106, Canajoharie, NY 13317

AT THE MOVIES
AD ASTRA

NEW YORK (CNS) – The Latin motto from which the compelling sci-fi drama "Ad Astra" (Fox) takes its title assures us that, by persevering through difficulties, we can aspire to reach the stars.

So it's no surprise that this moody film's protagonist, astronaut Maj. Roy McBride (Brad Pitt), has a variety of challenges to face along his journey toward a possible reunion with his father, Clifford (Tommy Lee Jones).

A pioneer space traveler, Clifford disappeared 16 years before the near-future action of the film. He was commanding the Lima Project, an effort to search for extraterrestrial life from the outer boundaries of the solar system.

Now, with energy bursts from Neptune wreaking havoc on Earth and threatening the future of civilization, suspicion has arisen that Clifford – who has long been portrayed as a deceased hero – may not only be alive but may, in fact, be the cause of these cosmic disturbances.

Dispatched to outer



CNS PHOTO/FOX

Brad Pitt stars in a scene from the movie "Ad Astra." The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

space to send Dad a message, Roy undergoes a series of testing adventures while brooding on his emotional isolation and inability to maintain relationships.

He also ponders the conflicting evidence suggesting that Clifford was either a hero or a villain.

His uncertainty, which the audience shares, helps to maintain suspense. So, too, does the fact that the real purpose of having him communicate with Clifford is to enable the authorities to pinpoint the latter's location and launch a deadly attack against him. Roy under-

stands this – and is, consequently, emotionally torn about his mission.

By turns an epic and an intimate character study, director and co-writer (with Ethan Gross) James Gray's thoughtfully crafted film evokes numerous classic stories, ranging from Homer's "Odyssey" and Joseph Conrad's "Heart of Dark-

ness" to Herman Melville's "Moby-Dick." And that's not to mention the psychological implication of a son's quest that may prove fatal for his father.

Gray and Pitt capitalize on Roy's verbal reticence to make "Ad Astra" richly visual, Pitt's eyes at times communicating wordlessly but unmistakably what his character is experiencing.

Such moments recall acting techniques that prevailed in the silent era.

The movie also features several brief scenes of distinctly Christian, Catholic-sounding prayer that will intrigue believers.

Refreshing in any Hollywood movie, but especially one populated by scientists and technicians, these indications of traditional spirituality imply that faith, in some form, is a given among them. Taken together with the overall artistic merit of "Ad Astra," these religious undertones may convince the parents of older teens to let them join the audience, despite the elements listed below.

The film contains some gory violence, a suicide, a couple of profanities, at least one use each of rough and crude language and an obscene gesture. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults.

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 – parents strongly cautioned.



Rev. Steven Murray
Pastor



Rev. Mike Jablonski
Parochial Vicar

From a truly faith-filled community,
 thank you for your sacrifices and
 leadership. Your examples inspire us all
 to truly live the Gospel!
 St. André Bessette Parish is blessed!



**Attention
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Notify our office so you don't miss a single issue of the *North Country Catholic*! Call (315) 608-7556 with your winter address.



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

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

We cannot thank our priests enough

By Molly Ryan, Mission Office

The North Country Catholic honors our hard working, spiritual, joy-filled and always present priests every fall with an issue devoted to their unending efforts. Here in the Mission Office, we like to think that we honor them every day but being reminded to do so and showing our appreciation outright is always a good thing. We call to mind the peace and joy that we all can experience from our priests' words and good deeds. They do so much for all of us. They are there for us during life's most important moments. We marvel at their stamina. We watch them go about their work, joined by our Bishop, Bishop LaValley, in ministering to us in the North Country. I admire the trust of our priests as they move forward in the Holy Spirit while proclaiming the Gospel through the shared diocesan vision. We have a wonderful opportunity to join our priests in prayer and action and to renew our own faith, nurture hope, and discover love.

The Mission Office would like to especially thank Bishop LaValley and our priests for their prayers and financial support of Mission appeals overseen through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. We send prayers to those priests serving in Latakia, Syria and in Mollendo, Peru. As we are about to enter Extraordinary Mission Month, we send our prayers to all the Missionary priests who visit our diocese every summer to participate in the Missionary Cooperation program. God bless our diocesan priests who served in Mollendo, Peru, in their missionary zeal as they continue to hear about the fruits of their labor while there. How blessed we are today to have priests from around the world like India, Indonesia and the Philippines as they share their evangelizing spirit. Their journey with us through Christ is only made better by their experiences and world view. By our baptisms, we are called to Christ to be his missionaries. No one knows this better than our priests. Thank you so much for all you do. For all of us. All the time.

As the Holy Father, Pope Francis, one said of priest appreciation, "Challenges exist to be overcome! Let us be realists, but without losing our joy, our boldness and our hope-filled commitment. Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of missionary vigor! ("The Joy of the Gospel").

God bless our priests here and everywhere. Let us appreciate them and never take for granted their dedication to our families and our spiritual well-being.

OBITUARIES

Au Sable Forks — Donald T. Watson, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 19, 2019 at Holy Name Church; burial in St. Matthew's Cemetery.

Chateaugay — Gerald H. Lawrence, 73; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 23, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. George's Cemetery, Burke.

Chateaugay — David Paul Patnode, 66; Funeral Services Sept. 21, 2019 at Chateaugay Funeral Home.

Chazy — Richard H. Carpentier, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 20, 2019 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Hammond — Patricia (Reed) Thomas, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 20, 2019 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Cedar Cemetery, Black Lake.

Hogansburg — Richard Francis, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 14, 2019 at St. Regis Church.

Keene — Mary V. Whitney, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 19, 2019 at St. Brendan's Church; burial in Norton Cemetery.

Lake Placid — Shirley Louise (Green) Vincent, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 23, 2019 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Massena — Shirley M. (Russell) Smith,

84; Funeral Services Sept. 22, 2019 at Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in Fairview Cemetery, Canton.

Mineville — Arthur R. Pratt, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 19, 2019 at All Saints Church.

Morrisonville — Alice M. (Normandin) Senecal, 73; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 16, 2019 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Norfolk — Rita M. Murphy, 99; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 20, 2019 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Norwood — Andrew J. Marsjanik, 52; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 17, 2019 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Ogdensburg Cemetery.

Norwood — Matthew P. Mott, 81; Funeral Services Sept. 14, 2019 at the Buck Funeral Home.

Ogdensburg — William J. Myre, 95; Funeral Services Sept. 23, 2019 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Peru — Donald H. Provost, Jr., 82; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 18, 2019 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Joyce (Brandell) Ayotte, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 21,

2019 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Shirley J. (Keddy) Deloria, 83; Funeral Services Sept. 16, 2019 at the Brown Funeral Home; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Evangeline (Chiasson) Radimak; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 23, 2019 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Wanda Jane Trudo, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 20, 2019 at St. John's Church; burial in Holy Angel's Cemetery, Altona.

Port Henry — Pamela J. (Bryan) Sargent, 71; Memorial Mass Sept. 21, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church.

Rouses Point — Joan C. (LaValley) LaCount, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 21, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Sackets Harbor — Louis Carlton Delles, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 21, 2019 at St. Andrew's Church.

St. Regis Falls — Pamela (Travers) Heiss, 63; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 20, 2019 at St. Ann's Church.

Watertown — William P. Yard, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 16, 2019 at St. Anthony's Church.



Fr. Shane Lynch

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FACES OF FAITH



This year, 37 catechists and assistants from St Peter's in Lowville, St Mary's in Glenfield and St. Hedwig's in Houseville were recognized during the 9 a.m. Mass on Catechetical Sunday, Sept. 15. The group includes nine youth, already confirmed, who aid the Faith Formation program.



MARIKA DONDERS/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

The 177 Project brought both music and Adoration to St. Mary's in Canton on Sept. 17.

Suggested faith resources: Catholic podcasts

Editor's note: The following is an entry of a weekly blog written by Marika Donders, director of the Office of the New Evangelization. The blog can regularly be found at rcdony.org/evangelization/blog.

If you're looking for good Catholic podcasts, here a few I have been enjoying on my commute to and from work:

The Cordial Catholic: This is an interview-style podcast covering a wide variety of Catholic topics. It's hosted by K. Albert Little. The host is a convert to Catholicism from non-denominational evangelicalism, and the interviews are all expounding on why he is Catholic and what it

means to be Catholic. Recent interviews include a talk with Pat Flynn about *Do Catholics have a personal relationship with Christ*; an interview with Dr. Stacy Trasancos about *Debunking the Science vs. Catholicism Conflict*; and interview with Marcus Grodi about *Why Become Catholic*. The one with Marcus Grodi, host of the *Journey Home Show* on EWTN, was very interesting, since he is normally the one asking questions.

St. Dymphna's Playbook: This podcast by Tommy Tighe, author of the *Catholic Hipster Handbook*, is about Catholicism and Mental Health. Tighe is a family counselor, and the podcast answers questions

from listeners about how to deal with family members and friends who suffer from mental illness, approaches to different treatments, prayer, and about integrating Catholic faith with medical treatment of the illness. The podcast opens the conversation about mental illness and how we can assist in de-stigmatizing it and assist people in getting the help they need.

The John Allen Show: This is a brand new podcast and part of the *Word on Fire* Institute. The show airs twice a week to discuss news from the Vatican. John Allen is a trusted Catholic Journalist and is the editor of *Crux*. The first episode aired Sept. 18, and covered the upcoming Synod

for the Amazon. Allen gives the basic details of the story and then explains various elements, expounding on details of the story.

The Missionary Disciple Podcast: This is a podcast by Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO), a Canadian group whose mission is to evangelize students at university. CCO produces great resources for evangelization, such as the CCO Faith Studies Series. CCO is somewhat equivalent to FOCUS in the US. I started listening to the podcast in the summer, which means that they were on hiatus and re-running past talks from the Annual Rise-Up Conference. These talks were by such people as Father John O'Brien, Michael

Dopp, Christine LaBrosse on various topics, such as overcoming challenges in the spiritual life and parish renewal. I am looking forward to new episodes to learn more about evangelizing college students and young adults.

Additionally, there are quite a few podcasts available with Sunday Homilies. Most of you are probably familiar with Bishop Barron's homilies on the *Word on Fire Podcast*. At least two of our local pastors podcast their homilies: Father Bryan Stitt's homilies can be found on the *Canton Catholics* website and Msgr. Robert Aucoin's homilies can be found on the *Madrid-Waddington Catholics* site.