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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 74, Number 15

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPT. 4, 2019

Ministering to the imprisoned

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FULL STORY, PAGE 3

DAUGHTERS ON RETREAT



The Catholic Daughters Court #2663 in Morrisonville hosts an annual retreat to St. Anne's Shrine in Isle La Motte, VT. for all the courts in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Bishop Terry R. LaValley and Father Scott Seymour, past state chaplain for the Catholic Daughters, attend yearly. This year, Court #2663 invited courts from Vermont along with their Bishop to share the day of prayer, lunch and forming connections.

MORE THAN MASS AND PIZZA



Area college students join Father Bryan D. Stitt on a hike, an event organized by Campus Ministry. Campus Ministry is supported by the Bishop's Fund Appeal, which is now underway. Currently, the diocese has campus ministers at SUNY Plattsburgh, SUNY Canton, SUNY Potsdam, Clarkson University, St. Lawrence University and Jefferson Community College, providing students with a multitude of opportunities to connect with Christ.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope: Proclaim God's love by caring for needy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – While listening to and obeying God's word brings healing and comfort to those in need, it also can attract disdain and even hatred from others, Pope Francis said.

Christians are called to proclaim the love of God through their care for the sick and the needy, like St. Peter and the other disciples who went to various cities bringing spiritual and physical healing to many, the pope said during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square Aug. 28.

While Peter's healing of the sick also "aroused the hatred of the Sadducees," the pope said, his response to them to "obey God instead of men" is the "key to Christian life."

"Let us also ask the Holy Spirit for the strength to not be frightened in the face of those who command us to be silent, who slander us and even threaten our lives," he said. "Let us ask him to strengthen us inwardly to be certain of the loving and comforting presence of the Lord at our side."

The pope continued his

series of talks on the Acts of the Apostles and reflected on St. Peter's role in leading the early church's mission of proclaiming Christ's love and of healing the sick and the suffering.

Today, like in St. Peter's day, he said, "the sick are the privileged recipients of the joyous proclamation of the kingdom, they are brothers and sisters in whom Christ is present in a special way so that they may be sought out and found by all of us."

"The sick are the privileged ones for the church,

for the priestly heart, for all the faithful. They are not to be discarded; on the contrary, they are to be cured, to be cared for: they are the object of Christian concern," the pope said.

Despite their good works, Christ's early followers were subject to persecution by those who saw the miracles performed "not by magic but in the name of Jesus" and did not want to accept them.

"Their hearts were so hardened that they did not want to believe what they saw," the pope explained.

Nevertheless, Pope Francis said, Peter's response to obey God is a reminder for Christians today to listen to God "without reservation, without delay, without calculation" so that they may be united with him and with their neighbor, especially the poor and the sick.

"In the wounds of the sick, in the sicknesses that are impediments to moving forward in life, there is always the presence of Jesus," he said. "There is Jesus who calls each of us to look after them, to support them, to heal them."

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The similarities between God, crickets

On one of the cooler recent nights, I sat on my enclosed porch. I had neither an e-

My husband, Adam, peaked out the porch door and saw me staring into the darkness. He stood in the doorway for a few seconds before asking, "what are you doing?"

"I'm just sitting here listening to the crickets," I replied.

Normally, if I use the word "crickets," I'm not talking

about the bug. I'm much more likely to use the word in its more modern usage – to signify silence (example: "I asked Jake why he didn't finish washing the dishes. The response: Crickets. He didn't say a word"). Yet this was not silence. The chirps were coming from all directions. The sound of what was likely hundreds, maybe thousands of crickets blended into a continuous and ubiquitous song. It was surround-sound chirping.

"I hadn't even noticed them

until you said that," Adam said.

Normally, I'd make a playful remark about my husband being not very observant, but I think we've all had the experience of becoming so accustomed to the presence of a sound, we no longer notice it. My family lives in a home surrounded by woods. The sounds of nature, especially crickets, are ever-present in our lives, at least during the warmer months.

Thinking about that, I thought about how I allow myself to turn God into those crickets. God is all around me. He's with me – with all of us – always. He's ever-present

and all-knowing. I sometimes take that for granted, and I thoughtlessly ignore His workings in my life and in the world. I let God fall into the background.

That's something I've been trying to work on. I'm trying to be more aware of and more thankful for God's blessings and His presence in my life.

I try to give myself little reminders – a prayer card placed in the console of my vehicle, the palm cross in my kitchen, the medal I typically wear around my neck. These items remind me to pray, to give thanks.

And, of course, I now have the crickets.

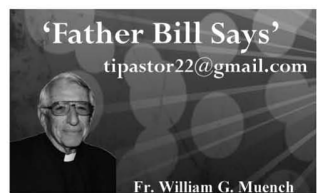
Darcy L.
Fargo

I love the Catholic Church

I love the Catholic Church. I would like to take some time today to write to you about my love for the Catholic Church. When I think of the Catholic Church, I am talking about people – the people of God. The Second Vatican Council wrote, among its documents, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church. The second chapter of that document is titled, "The People of God." There, the Council fathers wrote this: "God has willed to make men and women holy and save them, not at individuals without any bond or link between them, rather to make them into a people who might acknowledge God and serve God in holiness."

Our Church is more than Pope and Bishops. Our Church is people, all the people. I have been part of this Catholic Church all my life. As a teenager I loved the Catholic Church enough to decide to enter a seminary to prepare myself to become a Catholic priest.

During my seminary training, I investigated and studied in-depth all I could find



about the Catholic Church. This also involved a deeper study of my faith in God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Catholic Church. This study increased my love for the Catholic Church. So, I continued my studies to prepare to become a Catholic priest.

My love for the Catholic Church was influenced by many theologians and professors who were involved in my preparation during this seminary training. I was also influenced in those days by wonderful priests, especially the priests of my own diocese, the Diocese of Ogdensburg, whom I met as a seminarian. I continue to be impressed by these priests today. I found then, as I do now, dedicated, committed, loving priests. This was a group I wanted to join as a seminarian.

Then, as a priest and pas-

tor for many years, I have recognized the great good that each Catholic parish brings to this world through the people and families – the people of God, the church of Jesus Christ. This church of ours brings God's love and peace to our communities, to our world. Spiritually, God brings to us all through the liturgy of the Blessed Eucharist the strength, the love and power to meet the challenges of life to the people of our parishes, making them truly the People of God. There is a readiness in our parishes to make the world a better place. The Catholic Church is a powerful influence on this world of ours. I love the Catholic Church.

I must add one more thing here. I recognize that our Church, this people of God, is not sinless. However, I believe in the gift of forgiveness and compassion that Jesus brought to our world. I believe that Jesus constantly works to lift us up from our sins, leading us to overcome our failings so we are ready to bring love and holiness to our efforts to make our com-

munities and parish a better place. On the cross, Jesus knew well that there would be sin. His suffering for us was his readiness to lead us out of our own sins, making us truly ready to bring a new spirit to our church. The forgiveness of my Lord has touched my life through this church of ours. As a people of God, we will find the courage to conquer our sinfulness.

In this regard, I want to share with you an important message, which I learned from Catherine Doherty: "So, the whole picture of the Church is complete – I understand something else. The sin of one member of the Church was the sin of all, that is, if I sin, I affect the whole Church." As Church, our Spirit must lead all to live in the holiness of Our God.

And so, I love the Catholic Church – at times, a broken Church. May the Spirit of Our Savior transform us and lead us to continue to make our world a better place. I believe this is possible for the People of God. I love the Catholic Church.

Ministering to the imprisoned

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him and say, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?" And the king will say to them in reply, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." – Matthew 25:35-40

Heeding the Lord's call, priests, deacons and lay ministers from around the diocese are visiting and ministering to the imprisoned as prison chaplains.

"Not too many people want to step behind those clanking doors to help those who are incarcerated," said Tamra Murphy, prison chaplain at Altona Correctional Facility and the first female prison chaplain in the diocese. "In a lot of ways, inmates are pushed aside and looked down upon for what they've done in their pasts. When they walk through the chapel doors, they're no longer inmates and their crimes no longer matter. They're children of God, and that's how I try to treat them. To have someone who looks at them as human and not just as felons gives them hope and a bit of self-esteem."

In addition to administering or arranging for the sacraments, prison chap-



Ministry to the incarcerated is an important service of the deacon community. The Council of Deacons to Bishop Terry R. LaValley has identified that work as a focus for the diocesan deacons. Deacon Kevin Mastellon and his wife, Kathleen, recently presented Chaplain Donald Wilder of the Watertown and Cape Vincent Correctional facilities with copies of the New Testament to be made available to inmates of those institutions.

lains have a variety of ways they serve the inmate population, but they need to coordinate the needs of their ministry with the regulations and protocols established by the state and the facilities where they serve.

"Sometimes the state requirements and what I'd like to do with my ministry clash," said Don Wilder, chaplain at the correctional facilities in Watertown and Cape Vincent. "When I first accepted this position, I thought I'd be having a communion service every day for Catholic inmates. It turned out, I get one and a half hours per week."

Outside that hour and a half, the chaplains coordinate inmate participation in faith-based activities of all faiths and denominations.

"We're the staff advisors for Muslims, Rastafarians, Native Americans, the

Jewish population, Nations of Gods and Earths," said Deacon Lawrence "Larry" Morse, chaplain at Ogdensburg Correctional Facility and Gouverneur Correctional Facility. "Those are the most prominent faiths in the facilities."

"We also have a couple who practice Wicca or Jedi-ism," added Wilder.

In addition, the chaplains make rounds in the facilities' special housing units, for inmates who need more secure environments due to either behaviors or risk factors, as well as medical units and general population housing units.

"It's about making connections," said Deacon Bryan Bashaw, chaplain at Franklin Correctional Facility in Malone. "It's an opportunity for inmates to approach you. Maybe they have a question about faith or the Bible. Maybe

it's completely unrelated."

"Sometimes they want to talk about something personal," added Deacon Morse. "Sometimes they want me to call the (correction officers) to make an appointment to come see me."

The chaplains said they often help inmates process difficult situations.

"Once you establish connections, it doesn't matter what faith or who you are, (the inmates) have the trust to come talk to you about anything," said Wilder. "You're the one person they can open up to about anything – what's bothering them or what's hurting them. If they lose a family member on the outside, we get to help them deal with it and support them. In fact, that's one of the most rewarding things I do as a chaplain."

"We're also there to help the staff," added Murphy.

"Sometimes, they need someone to talk to, or have a question about faith, too."

Father Alan J. Lamica, chaplain at Altona, Franklin, Bare Hill and Upstate correctional facilities, said he also finds saying Mass in the facilities to be a rewarding experience.

"It's a very diverse group," he said. "There are a lot of nationalities represented. And everyone who is there wants to be there, and they participate."

LEND A HAND

When asked how the faithful can support the prison chaplains in their ministry, the chaplains had several suggestions.

"Pray for the inmates and staff," said Murphy. "And pray for us."

"Consider volunteering and supporting your local chaplain," added Deacon Bashaw. "Of course, there's no money in volunteering, but the rewards of helping someone is more fulfilling than any paycheck."

"We can always use things like Bibles and Rosaries," said Deacon Morse. "The state doesn't provide those."

"And we can use liturgical items, if a parish has surplus or if a church is closing," added Murphy.

Deacon Bashaw also noted that a number of the existing chaplains are nearing retirement age.

"We'll need people to take our places," he said.

To donate to the prison ministry, contact Deacon James Crowley, chancellor, at 315-393-2920 or jcrowley@rcdony.org.



Campus ministry: More than Mass and pizza

With the Bishop's Fund Appeal now underway, the North Country Catholic will be highlighting some of the ministries supported by the Bishop's Fund.

Deacon Rich Burns

Coordinator of Campus Ministry

What comes to mind when you hear the term "Campus Ministry?" Many of us of a certain age will recall our own fun times in a Newman Club, inevitably involving pizza and prayer. However, Campus Ministry is so much more than that, and it is a ministry as diverse as the Diocese is wide.

The North Country is home to 10 college campuses that welcome students from across the state, across the country, and increasingly, around the world. There are three community colleges, four SUNY campuses, and three private schools. From liberal arts to music and theatre, forestry to technology and engineering, about 23,000 students pursue diverse courses of study in two-year, four-year and graduate programs in our great educational institutions.

There are four Campus Ministers serving in the Diocese: Mary Skillan in Plattsburgh (SUNY Plattsburgh and Clinton Community College); Conner Cummings in Potsdam (SUNY Potsdam and Clarkson University); Amanda Conklin in Canton (SUNY Canton and St Lawrence University); and Sister Juliana Raymond in Watertown (Jefferson Community College). Their ministry is funded in large part by the annual Bishop's Fund appeal. The campuses of Paul Smith's College, North Country Community College, and



College students from around the diocese traveled to Washington DC together to attend the March for Life in January. The event was coordinated by the the diocesan Campus Ministry team, which is supported by the Bishop's Fund.

the NYS Ranger School at Wanakena do not currently have a Campus Minister present.

Campus Ministry is busy throughout the academic year with familiar activities for the students: snacks after Mass, Newman Club dinners that provide home-cooked meals and fellowship, bible study nights, and Eucharistic Adoration. There are hikes, bonfires and barbecues, the required blessing of the brains and bags of goodies for study breaks before finals. Newman Club gives students a chance to socialize in a safe environment and discuss the challenge of living a Catholic faith in a world increasingly hostile to believers.

However, Campus Ministry is not just about activities with the students, otherwise it could be called "Student Ministry!" Our Campus Ministers engage with the entire college community where they serve, providing a distinctly Catholic presence on campus through their "tabling" at informa-

tion fairs, engagement with the interfaith community on campus and providing invocations and benedictions at major events like commencement. Office hours often provide opportunities to answer questions from non-Catholics about the Church and our faith. Sometimes Campus Ministry is just about providing ad-hoc assistance to a non-traditional student at a community college when no other options are available. Sometimes it's jumping into action when the tragedy of an untimely death strikes the campus community to provide an organized opportunity to mourn.

Our Campus Ministers are engaged in the dialogue on campus about current social justice issues and providing a Catholic perspective to the conversation. They have worked with other faith groups to organize events to combat racism on campus and welcome international students.

The high points of the year are when college students from across the

North Country get together for intercollegiate events. In the fall, students are invited to attend a retreat at Camp Guggenheim, an opportunity for prayer and reflection in the beauty of the Adirondacks. For the past several years, a group of college students from our Diocese has made the long trip to Washington, DC for the annual March for Life to display their support for the unborn. There is also often an event during the spring semester, either a retreat or workshop. Other events are more spontaneous, such as when Canton and Potsdam students connect for Eucharistic Adoration with Praise and Worship music.

Campus Ministry is challenged by today's culture of relativism, and the increasingly secular environment on campus. Often there is much talk about "inclusion" on campus, but Catholic teaching is viewed with hostility by the administration and other students. Recent scandals in the Church have had an impact on the perceived authority of the Church's positions on moral questions. An increasing number of today's young people identify with no organized religion or are professed atheists. Catholic students need to be strengthened in their faith, get solid answers to their questions, and be given the space to discern what God is calling them to do with their lives after college. Catholic Campus Ministry provides the encouragement, the education, and the environment to allow them to grow into great Catholic adults.

Campus Ministry could not exist without generous support from the annual Bishop's Fund appeal, which provides the funding for the Campus Ministers and much of the programming throughout the year. On behalf of all the Campus Ministers and the students across the Diocese, I'd like to express heartfelt thanks for your prayers and your financial support!


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Environmental Stewardship**What's on your list?**

One suggestion for prayer and action this month comes from the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) September Intention: The Protection of the Oceans. That politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world's seas and oceans.

Father Peter Schineller, SJ, offers some reflections on this intention. "Photos from the space station show planet earth as a beautiful blue marble with two-thirds of it covered by water. But here on earth, it is not so beautiful. . . . Ocean plastics kill millions of marine animals each year. Whales die with stomachs filled with plastic refuse. Coral reefs that sustain fisheries and tourism are disappearing. Every year, 300 million tons of metals, sludge, and solvents are dumped into the world's waters. One-third of fish species are threatened with extinction.

The Bishops of the Philippines once asked: "Who has turned the wonder world of the seas into underwater cemeteries bereft of color and life?" We who are causing this destruction can and must reverse our direction and come to the aid of our planet.

How? First we must acknowledge the reality, the destruction that continues. . . . Life came from and continues to come from water, from the oceans. Pope Francis has called for an "ecological conversion."

Pope Francis explained that Christians have a responsibility to care for the world's seas and oceans. Calling this an emergency that must be fought with active commitment, he pleaded: "It is my prayerful hope that Christian communities may contribute more and more concretely to help everyone to enjoy this indispensable resource, in respectful care for the gifts received from the Creator, and in particular rivers, seas and oceans."

Points for Meditation

Am I wasteful? Can I use fewer plastics?

Might I contribute to or join a group that works to protect the ocean?

Have I read and prayed over the encyclical of Pope Francis *Laudato si'*, "On Care for our Common Home"?

Bishop's Public Schedule

Sept. 4 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting followed by lunch at Bishop's Residence

Sept. 5 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Sept. 6 – 10:50 a.m. – Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

Noon – Diocesan Staff Picnic at Bishop's Residence

7 p.m. – Deacon Aspirant Class at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

Sept. 7 – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Sept. 8 – 10:30 a.m. – Installation Mass of Rev. Raymond Dieboul, MSC as Pastor of The Roman Catholic Community of Cape Vincent, Rosiere and Chautmont at St. Vincent of Paul Church in Cape Vincent

Sept. 9 – 7:15 p.m. – Novena followed by Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Sept. 10 – 1 p.m. – Jefferson and Lewis Deanery Priests Listening Session in the Hearthsides Room at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown

Sept. 11 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral with parishioners from St. James Major Church in Lake Pleasant and St. Ann's Church in Wells followed by lunch and a tour of Bishop's Residence

Rest in Peace

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

Sept. 4 – Rev. Walter J. Charbonneau, 1982; Msgr. Robert H. Giroux, 2000; Rev. Patrick Mundy, 2017

Sept. 5 – Rev. Arthur Tardiff, O.M.I., 1961; Rev. John Sullivan M.S.C., 1962; Rev. Louis C. Gardner, 2000

Sept. 6 – Rev. James Connor, 1930

Sept. 7 – Rev. Manuel Belleville, 1964

Sept. 8 – Rev. Michael Jacobs, 1938; Rev. William H. Coffey, 2000

Sept. 9 – Rev. Michael Olivetti, 1863; Rev. Thomas P. Fitzgerald, 1914; Rev. Antonio Audet, 1957

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. 4 – 10:30 a.m., Augustinian Academy, Carthage

Sept. 7 – 10 a.m., Seton Catholic, Plattsburgh

Sept. 9 – 1 p.m., St.

Bartholomew's Church, Old Forge

Sept. 11 – 6 p.m., Seton Catholic School, Plattsburgh

Sept. 12 – 5:30 p.m., St. James School, Gouverneur

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

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri- anne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, 31 Sixth Street, Malone, NY 12953; terriannyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: Day: 518-651-2267, Night: 518-569-0612; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920

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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Priesthood Sunday will be Sept. 29

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MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

Contradictory messages on suicide

In July 2014, police found the body of 18-year-old Conrad Roy inside his truck in Fairhaven, Massachusetts, having died from carbon monoxide poisoning.

As the case unfolded, it became apparent that a friend of his, 17-year-old Michelle Carter, had encouraged him toward suicide. In a series of texts, she repeatedly pressured him to go through with it by sending messages like, "You keep pushing it off and say you'll do it but u never do. It's always gonna be that way if u don't take action."

As he sat in a remote spot in the Kmart parking lot, the truck's cab filling up with fumes, he got cold feet and stepped out of his makeshift death chamber, seemingly conflicted about what he was doing. He then spoke with Michelle by phone,

who coaxed him to continue the suicide. The call was not recorded, but months after his death, she texted another friend and recounted how Conrad had grown scared at the last moment, climbing out of the truck, and that she had told him to get back in. She then listened over the phone as he succumbed to the fumes 47 minutes later.

Following a high profile trial that received extensive media coverage, Michelle was convicted of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to 2 1/2-years behind bars, of which she has to serve a minimum of 15 months.

Prosecutors claimed that her motive may have been to gain attention and sympathy as the

"grieving girlfriend."

The case drew intense national and international attention, partly because it involved a relationship that had played out mostly through texts and Facebook messages. Even though Michelle and Conrad lived less than an hour apart, they rarely met in person.

As Michelle was led away from the trial in handcuffs, the court of public opinion was virtually unanimous in condemning her actions as reprehensible. Her actions and the trial proceedings, however, also opened up broader questions about provocation toward suicide in a society like ours that increasingly devalues human life.

In fact, the public reaction to Michelle's behavior reveals a striking irony at the heart of Conrad's suicide.

The irony involves the moral outrage that surfaced regarding Michelle's text messages. Similar indignation about encouraging someone to commit suicide is, paradoxically, almost entirely absent when it comes to "physician-assisted" suicide.

Michelle's text messages embraced the same key ideas that lawmakers in nine states have now

enacted through legislation, namely, that it's sometimes allowable to encourage and participate in suicide. Most legislation, however, only permits those in the medical field, those dressed in white lab coats, as it were, to be involved.

This requirement seems quite arbitrary, of course, if the real goal is to alleviate suffering by eliminating the sufferer. After all, Michelle was convinced she was acting compassionately by assisting Conrad to escape from what she claimed was his misery, depression and intense emotional and psychological suffering.

Who is to say that Michelle was wrong if the white lab coats are right?

If it were deplorable for Michelle Carter to facilitate Conrad Roy's suicide, how can it be good for physicians and other health care workers to facilitate the suicides of their ailing patients who are at least as fragile and vulnerable as Conrad was?

This remarkable moral schizophrenia may soon be enshrined in a new piece of legislation that claims to outlaw participation in a person's suicide. Massachusetts state lawmakers and Conrad's family gathered in July 2019 at the Statehouse to introduce Conrad's Law, a bill making it a crime to

encourage or assist a person in taking his or her life.

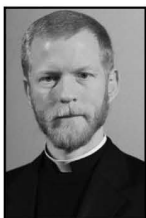
On the face of it, the law obviously seems like a sensible piece of legislation, but even as lawmakers were trying to stop people from assisting at suicides like Conrad Roy's, they were simultaneously seeking to protect medical personnel who might assist at the suicides of their patients.

The double standard was impossible to miss, with Conrad's Law including an explicit subsection exempting those involved in physician-assisted suicide from

prosecution. Even though physician-assisted suicide is not yet legal in the Massachusetts Commonwealth, another bill promoting it is under active consideration by the legislature.

Society really can't have it both ways, glamorizing the act of suicide in some cases and demonizing it in others. By yielding to the proposition that suicide is not an evil to be repudiated, but a form of "relief" to be conferred on those who suffer, we effectively abandon our neighbors, the Conrads and countless others, in their moment of greatest need.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org



Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk Ph.D.

WIN

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NCC

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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Focus on being a disciple 'just for today'

There was a time, centuries ago, when one man could embrace most knowledge that was known. Such a person was called a "universal man." Today, such a feat is impossible, even for a robot with artificial intelligence! Furthermore, it is even more impossible for us to have universal wisdom to guide us in the meaning and use of facts.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

Book of Wisdom this week, we see how limited our human minds are compared to our Creator's divine wisdom. We will never know the why of God's actions in our lives. We have to trust that His wisdom is for our good.

Today's Gospel sounds shocking when Jesus tells us to hate our parents and family if we are to be good followers. The word

September 8

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Wisdom 9:13-18b

Philemon 9-10, 12-17

Luke 14:25-33

"hate" in Jesus' time did not mean what we mean when we use that word. In Jesus' time, it meant "to love less." So, the Gospel is telling us that we must not place love of family or of material goods above love and obedience to Jesus. He should be the

top priority in our lives.

Next, he warns us to plan well how we can meet the costly demands of being his followers. He mentions that no person of common sense would ever build a tower without first sitting down and checking to see if he can afford it, and if he has materials enough to finish it before he begins!

Frankly, most of us do not have enough love, enough courage, and enough grace to be His disciple all the way to the end of our lives. But God

never asks the impossible. And we do have enough supplies today to be good disciples.

If we love a little bit more each day, then we'll make it to the end.

Remember that beautiful prayer, *Lord, for tomorrow and its needs, I do not pray...keep me, guide me, love me, Lord, just for today?* On the road to being perfect disciples, we just have to take one day at a time. That's all that's needed for God to reward us with a life of unending joy.

Pope, bishops urge action to save rainforest

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Describing the Amazon rainforest as "vital for our planet," Pope Francis joined the regions bishops in praying for action to extinguish the massive fires burning there.

"We are all worried about the vast fires that have developed in the Amazon," the pope said Aug. 25 after leading the recitation of the Angelus prayer. "Let us pray that with the commitment of all they will be brought under control quickly. That forest lung is vital for our planet."

Leaders of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Latin American bishops' council also urged international action to save the Amazon rainforest from the fires.

"We urge the governments of the Amazonian countries, especially Brazil and Bolivia, the United Nations and the international community, to take serious measures to save the lungs of the world," said the statement Aug. 22 by the top officers of the council, known by its Spanish acronym, CELAM.

"What happens to the

Amazon is not just a local issue, but is of global reach," the bishops said. "If the Amazon suffers, the world suffers."

The USCCB statement, issued Aug. 27, echoed Pope Francis' comments and expressed "solidarity with our brother bishops in Latin America who ... have expressed their desire for a prompt extinguishment of these fires." The U.S. bishops also welcomed a decision by leaders of industrialized nations "to extend financial support for these efforts."

The Amazon produces 20% of the world's oxygen, according to scientific measurements.

Brazil's space research institute, which is responsible for satellite monitoring of the Amazon, had reported that the number of wildfires, common in July and August, had reached a record number already in 2019, with 72,843 fires spotted.

The U.S. space agency, NASA, Aug. 21 and 22 released satellite imagery showing how smoke from

the fires had created "a shroud that is clearly visible across much of the center of South America."

French President Emmanuel Macron called on world leaders to place the fires at the top of their agenda as they meet in France for the Group of Seven summit starting Aug. 24. Attendees will include President Donald Trump, Macron and the leaders from Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has said publicly that he believes non-governmental agencies – including Catholic-backed agencies such as the Land Pastoral and the Indigenous Missionary Council – are behind the illegal burnings because they have opposed his call for development of the rainforest. The organizations have strongly denied the allegations.

In its edition released Aug. 23, the front page of the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, led with two articles about the Amazon fires. The first, ti-

led "The Amazon must be protected," included general coverage of the fires' scope and the alarm launched by U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. A second article reported on the CELAM statement under the headline, "Save the forest to save the world."

In their statement, the bishops noted that the upcoming October Synod of Bishops for the Amazon will discuss the plight of the indigenous living in the area as well as the deforestation of the region. Sixty percent of the Amazon rainforest is in Brazil.

"Hope for the proximity of the Amazon synod, convened by Pope Francis, is stained by the pain of this natural tragedy," the bishops said. "To the brethren indigenous peoples who inhabit this beloved territory, we express all our closeness and join your voices with yours to shout to the world for solidarity and pay attention to end this devastation."

And while the deforestation of the world's largest

tropical forest and the violence against the indigenous population there have been a great concern to the Catholic Church, the upcoming synod also has caused apprehension for the Bolsonaro government.

In February, the Brazilian government was forced to deny that it was spying, through its intelligence agency, ABIN, on more "progressive" bishops and priests working on the synod.

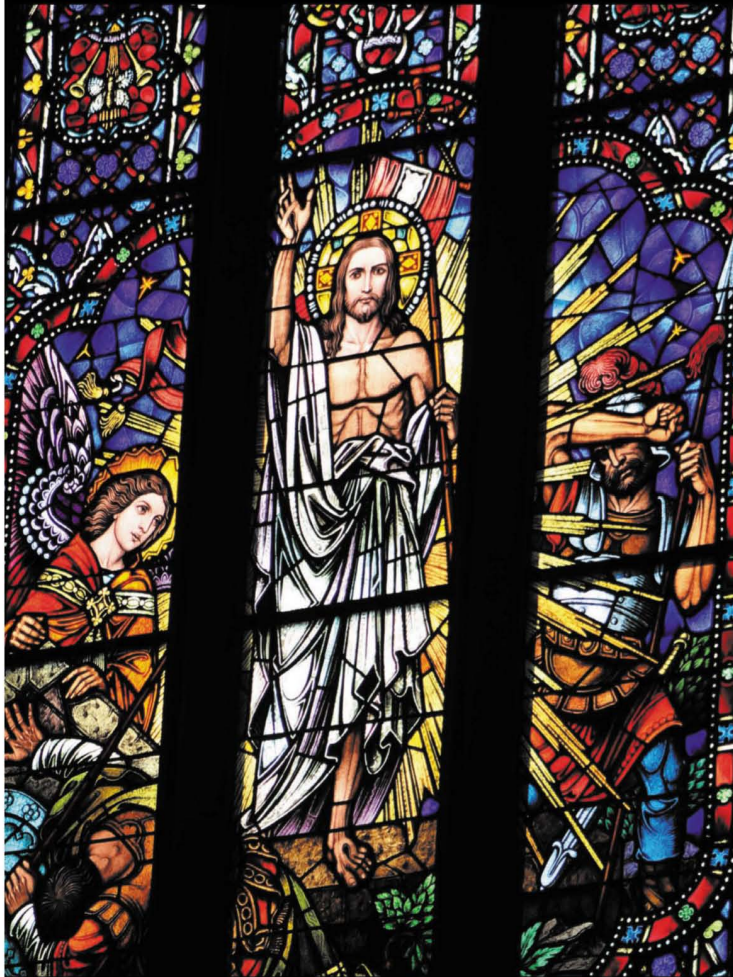
The government's Institutional Security Cabinet, known as ISC, however, admitted it was worried that the meeting would be used to criticize the Bolsonaro administration's stance on environment and indigenous rights.

"There are no general criticism of the Catholic Church. There is the functional concern of the Minister of State Chief of the Institutional Security Office for some points of the synod's Amazon agenda that will take place at the Vatican in October this year," said an ISC statement at the time.

ALIVE IN CHRIST

2019 BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL

Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO VIEW THE
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www.rcdony.org/bfvideo



THE BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL

provides financial assistance to the vital ministries of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The following are among the ministries supported:

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- Natural Family Planning Office
- Respect Life Ministry
- Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund
- Formation for Ministry Program
- Office of the New Evangelization
- Continuing Education and Formation of Priests
- Priests' Graduate Studies
- Vocation Office
- Permanent Deacons
- Deacon Formation
- Tuition Assistance Program
- Campus Ministry Program
- Matching Gifts to Catholic Schools
- Department of Faith Formation
- Diocesan Center of Youth Ministry
- Young Adult Ministry
- Guggenheim Center
- Department of Worship

WAYS TO GIVE

Gifts of Cash: Checks should be made payable to the "Bishop's Fund Appeal."

Pledge: A gift to the Bishop's Fund Appeal may be paid in four payments - at the time of the pledge, December, February and April.

Online Giving: The Bishop's Fund Appeal offers the opportunity to make your gift and pledge payments online using a credit card. To donate online, please visit www.rcdony.org/bishop-s-fund-appeal and click on Donate Now (found in the tool bar on the left).

Automatic Pledge Payments: To set up automatic credit or debit card pledge payments, please contact the Bishop's Fund Office at 315-393-2920.

Matching Gifts: Many companies endeavor to match the charitable contributions of employees. Please contact your company's Human Resource Department to determine if your company participates in the Matching Gift Program for Catholic Schools.

Gifts of Securities: Federal tax laws offer special incentives for gifts of non-cash property especially that which has increased in value since it was acquired. Please contact the Bishop's Fund Office at 315-393-2920 for transfer instructions.

Qualified IRA Contributions: For those who are 70 ½ or older, you may wish to consider a tax-free gift directly from your IRA to the Bishop's Fund Appeal. Please contact the Bishop's Fund Office at 315-393-2920 for instructions.

Bequests: When considering gifts to a charity in your Will, please remember the Bishop's Fund Appeal. Gifts can be made in the following manner through your Will: Specific dollar amount; a percentage of your estate or a particular asset such as real estate or other valuables.

Mailing Your Gift: Please feel free to mail your donation to: The Bishop's Fund Appeal, PO Box 150, Ogdensburg, NY 13669



ADIRONDACK

FALL RETREAT FOR ADULTS

Lake - Come away and rest awhile with the Lord amid the beauties of Fall in the Adirondack Mountains.

Date: Sept. 13-15

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

Cost: \$150

Theme: "Meeting God in the Mountains and Valleys of Life"

Speakers: Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ, Faith Formation Educator, Fr. Paul Kelly will be celebrant for Mass on Saturday afternoon.

Contact: For info. 315-212-6592 or srbethssj@gmail.com

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

ROAST TURKEY DINNER

Lyon Mountain - The Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Daughters to have their Annual Fall Turkey Dinner.

Date: Sept. 8

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Place: St. Bernard's Church

Cost: Adults, \$12; Seniors 62+, \$10;

Children 6-12, \$7; 5 and under, Free

Contact: Take-outs Available by calling 518-735-4372

HARVEST DINNER

Moers Forks - St. Ann's to have Turkey Harvest Dinner.

Date: Sept. 15

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

Place: St. Ann's Pavilion

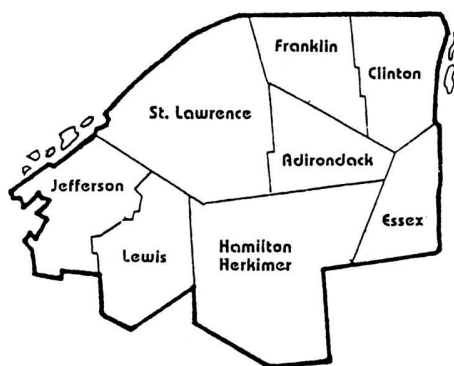
Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 6-12, \$5; under 5, Free

APPLEFEST

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

Date: Sept. 21 and 22

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



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

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

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

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

AUTUMN RETREAT

Ellenburg - A Day Retreat, "True Hospitality of the Heart" with Sister 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.

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

IS JESUS CHRIST CALLING ME?

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

Schedule: Sept. 8 & 22, Oct. 6 & 20

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church

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

Contact: Father Howard Venette pastorsmoll@stmariysti.org 518-585-7144 or Father Christopher Carrara at ccarrara@rcdony.org.

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

JOY IN MINISTRY

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

Date: Oct. 4

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

Place: St. Alexander's Church & Hall

Cost: \$10

Contact: Registrations must be received no later than Sept. 20. You may register online at: <https://www.rcdony.org/formation/commissioned-lay-ministers/clm-event-registration.html>

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 50/50 raffle. There will also be a Country Store with Baked goods, homemade items and a Basket Raffle.

JEFFERSON

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills - The Indian River Knights of Columbus to have a Spaghetti & Meatball dinner.

Date: Sept. 14

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center.

Cost: Adults, \$7; Senior Citizens, \$6; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free
Contact: 315-629-4678

PILGRIMAGE TO PA

Lancaster, PA - St. Mary's and St. John's, Clayton to have a Pilgrimage to Pennsylvania.

Date: Sept. 18 - 19

Place: Sight & Sound Theatres in Lancaster, PA; St. John Neumann Shrine, Church of St. Peter the Apostle and St. Katharine Drexel Shrine at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Philadelphia.

Cost: \$320 Double & Triple Occupancy; \$400 Single Occupancy

Features: Guided tours at both churches. Mass with Father LaBaff. Museum and Gift Shop at St. John Neumann's Shrine.

Contact: St. Mary's Rectory at 315-686-3398

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.

LEWIS

POLISH FESTIVAL

Houseville - Save the date for St. Hed-

wig's Polish Festival

Date: Oct. 13

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 Raffles. Take Outs are available. Program to benefit church programs, repairs and restorations.

Contact: 315-348-8735, or 315-348-6260.

ST. LAWRENCE

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

Ogdensburg - First Saturday Devotions to be held.

Date: Sept. 7

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Place: Deacon Winter Chapel, St.

Mary's Cathedral

Features: Everyone is invited to recite the rosary and meditate on the mysteries.

BLESSSED IS SHE

Norfolk - Women's Group to have event.

Date: Sept. 8

Time: Noon

Place: St. Andrew's Church Hall

Features: The theme will be Holiness 101: Learning from Jesus the Ultimate Teacher. Lunch will be served and there is no cost to attend.

Contact: RSVP to Sara by 9/6: 315-212-7565 or narrow56@gmail.com

CHICKEN BBQ

Gouverneur - St. James School to have a Chicken BBQ.

Date: Sept. 8

Time: Noon

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

177 PROJECT

Canton - An Evening of Adoration and Music to be held.

Date: Sept. 17

Time: 7 p.m. to 9

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: Come join us as we adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament with worship music provided by Catholic musician, Lee Roessler. This event is free and open to all.

Contact: Amanda at 315-386-2543 or conklina@canton.edu for more information. For additional information visit www.the177project.com

CABBAGE ROLL

Norwood - The Norwood Knights of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

AT THE MOVIES

THE PEANUT BUTTER FALCON

NEW YORK (CNS) – Film fans generally and viewers of faith in particular will find much to appreciate in the heartwarming drama "The Peanut Butter Falcon" (Roadside). Themes of friendship, brotherhood and redemption are woven into a story that resonates with Gospel values.

With no family to care for him, Zak (Zack Gottsagen), a young man with Down syndrome, finds himself living in a retirement home on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Much to the frustration of his sympathetic caregiver, Eleanor (Dakota Johnson), the state government has warehoused him there for the past two years for lack of a more suitable facility.

With the help of his



Zack Gottsagen and Shia LaBeouf star in a scene from the movie "The Peanut Butter Falcon."

feisty roommate, Carl (droll Bruce Dern), Zak escapes and takes to the road. He soon crosses paths with Tyler (Shia LaBeouf), a down-on-his-luck crab fisherman who's

being pursued by two lowlife rivals, Duncan (John Hawkes) and Ratboy (rapper Yelowolf), out to settle a score with him.

Though Tyler, who's weighed down by a

tragedy in his past, is initially gruff, the two gradually bond and Tyler agrees to help Zak achieve his dream of meeting his idol, a professional wrestler known as the Salt Water Redneck (Thomas Haden Church). As the duo shares Tom and Huck-like adventures along the way to the grappler's hometown of Aiken, South Carolina – where Zak hopes to be trained for the ring – Eleanor is on their trail.

Directors and co-writers Tyler Nilson and Michael Schwartz handle their Southern Gothic-tinged material with a light and dexterous touch. The result is an aesthetically accomplished, implicitly pro-life movie that subtly but resolutely upholds the dignity of all.

A good deal of gritty talk, however, though justified by the context, probably puts this off-limits even for older teens, despite its valuable message. Parents who do decide to give the green light, though, will find starting points for family discussions on important topics.

The film contains brief partial nudity, mature themes, a few uses of profanity, at least one rough term, pervasive crude and some crass language and a couple of obscene gestures. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 – parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Columbus are having their 24th Annual Cabbage Roll Sale.

Date: Sept. 21

Time: 9 a.m. until sold

Place: St. Andrew's Church Basement

Cost: \$3

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

DIOCESAN EVENTS

SSJ LAY ASSOCIATE PROGRAM

The Sisters of St. Joseph invite you to a meeting to learn more about the Lay Associate Program. The Associates meet once a month to learn about the spirituality and history of the Sisters of St. Joseph, pray together, and discuss ways to deepen one's spiritual life.

Schedule: Sept. 7 at St. John in the Wilderness, Lake Clear 12:30 p.m. to 2; Sept. 8 at St. John XXIII Newman Center, Plattsburgh 2:30 p.m. to 4

Features: This group is open to men and women.

Contact: If you are interested in

learning about the Associates, please call: Sister Carol Kraeger (518-891-2286) OR Sister Helen Herman (518-561-8252) OR Sister Bethany Fitzgerald (315-212-6592)

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

Saranac Lake – The First Annual Young Adult retreat to be held.

Date: Sept. 13-15

Place: Camp Guggenheim

Cost: \$30

Features: The theme will be Encounter Christ, in Creation, in each other, in yourself

Contact: For more information and registration go to rcdeony.org/yamretreat

MIDDLE SCHOOL VOCATION RETREAT

Saranac Lake – Middle Vocation retreat to be held.

Date: Sept. 20

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

Place: Camp Guggenheim

Features: For all Catholic School Children & Parish Programs. Lunch will be provided. The day will end with

Mass with Bishop LaValley. Families who bring children are welcome to stay for the day.

Contact: Pre-register by Sept. 20 with Cathy Russell by e-mail at: crussell@rcdony.org

MARRIAGE AND CONSECRATED LIFE JUBILEE MASS

Ogdensburg – The 2nd Annual Marriage and Consecrated Life Jubilee Mass to be held.

Date: Sept. 15

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: Reception to be held after Mass.

Contact: If a couple is interested in attending, please direct them to <https://www.rcdony.org/marriagejubilee> to register. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Family Life Office.

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: Shayne Lippincott by email at slippincott@rcdony.org or 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's way of offering thanks to God for the dedication and sacrifices made by the men and women who "Protect and Serve". The Mass is open to all 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 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 and free time at Little Italy.

Contact: Connie Randall at 315-265-2762 or Mary Enslow at 315-268-1016





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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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

Supporting each other

By Molly Ryan
Mission Office

As another school year begins, I stop to recognize just how important the support I receive in my world is to me. I am grateful for so much. I have the good fortune of family, career and friends. I have a very helpful neighborhood that pitches in. I am fortunate to have the support of a solid community where my children have grown up. As a mother of two, the phrase "it takes a village" has never meant so much. I thank God every day for the support that keeps my "village" up and running. My son is away in college now, but my daughter is still at home and still needs me.

If you are blessed to have support systems in place in your world, we should also apply this is the same principle to the Mission world. Why not support the village? But what exactly is the village? In the Mission world, the village is not just the small settlement on a dried-up lakebed in Africa, a frozen tundra settlement in Mongolia or thatched huts gathered in Southeast Asia. The village is the entire global community of the universal church. I have outlined above the things I am grateful for that support me in my efforts as a working mom. Yet I am all too aware that, in the Global Village, not all are getting the support they need each day for simple and basic needs. There are children hungry, sick who need assistance and people who are homeless. There are people disenfranchised. There are those who are persecuted, cut off from the world and all it can offer for help and support.

This is where we, as Catholics in the missionary spirit, are called to step up and support. The village needs our help. Whether it is prayers, financial sacrifice or pitching in to make the world a better place, the support you can send, donate, give or offer is always appreciated and does not go unnoticed. In fact, the Pontifical Mission Societies have special responsibility in the universal church. They are under the direct canonical jurisdiction of the Pope, who reminds the faithful of their baptismal call to mission, to give basic support for more than 1,150 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands and Latin America. As the Mission Office wraps up another successful summer of fundraising with MPDO, St. Peter Apostle and Mission Coop programs, we say thank you for the support!

So, give you support and be grateful for what you receive. Accept love of your family, friends and neighbors. Don't forget to return the favor to those who help you. But never forget those in the Mission lands. Extraordinary Mission Month is coming this October! We will have the opportunity to strengthen our faith! There will be much to come on that topic. Remember "it takes a village" to make this all work out. Thank you from my village to yours!

OBITUARIES

Brasher Falls – James P. Johnson, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 27, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Carthage – Helene A. (Weaver) Highers, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 26, 2019 at St. James Church; burial in Sandhill Cemetery, Natural Bridge.

Chazy – Carl Elmer Munson, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 28, 2019 at Sacred Heart Church.

Colton – Charles D. DeLosh, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 27, 2019 at St. Paul's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Croghan – Eugene W. Nortz, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 29, 2019 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Lake Placid – Pamela Fair Makara, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 12, 2019 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Lake Placid – James Thomas Patnode, 62; Funeral Services Sept. 24, 2019 at the M.B. Clark Inc. Funeral Home.

Lowville – Muriel (Denning) Meiss, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 31, 2019 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Martinsburg Cemetery.

Massena – Roger L. Smith, 72; Funeral Services Aug. 26, 2019 at the Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in Kateri Cemetery.

Mooers Forks – Isabelle B. (LaPierre)

Matott, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 26, 2019 at St. Ann's Church.

Morristown – James Wilfred Fournier, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 30, 2019 at St. John's Church; burial in Foxwood Mausoleum.

Morrisonville – Michael Joseph Donovan, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 29, 2019 at St. Alexander's Church.

Ogdensburg – Jean (Cassaw) Jennings, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 7, 2019 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Cyril's Cemetery, Alex Bay.

Ogdensburg – Anne Marie (McDon-

ald) LaFave, 58; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 30, 2019 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Plattsburgh – Eva A. (Hooper) Buskey, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 28, 2019 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Donald A. Nephew, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 27, 2019 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Mausoleum.

Rouses Point – Christopher Gosselin, 53; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 29, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Champlain.

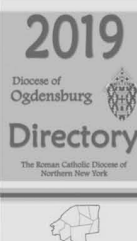


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Repent, pray, give up fossil fuels, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)— "Now is the time to abandon our dependence on fossil fuels and move, quickly and decisively, toward forms of clean energy," Pope Francis said as he marked the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

"We have caused a climate emergency that gravely threatens nature and life itself, including our own," the pope said in his message for the Sept. 1 ecumenical day of prayer.

Pope Francis urged Catholics to find a naturally beautiful place and think about how God created the universe and declared it good; then he created human beings and gave them creation "as a precious gift" to safeguard.

"Tragically, the human response to this gift has marked by sin," he said. Selfishness and self-interest have turned creation, which was meant to be a place of encounter and sharing, into "an area of competition and conflict."

People have forgotten that they, too, are God's creation and not lords of the universe free to exploit anything they want, the pope said.

Pollution, the incessant use of fossil fuels, deforestation and intensive

farming are causing global temperatures to rise and already threaten the lives of the world's poorest people, he said. Melting glaciers, a lack of clean drinking water, the development of more frequent super storms and "the considerable presence of plastics and microplastics in the oceans" are signs of how human greed is making the planet increasingly hostile to life.

"We have forgotten who we are: creatures made in the image of God, called to dwell as brothers and sisters in a common home," Pope Francis said.

"Now is the time to rediscover our vocation as children of God, brothers and sisters, and stewards of creation," he said. "Now is the time to repent, to be converted."

Pope Francis suggested Catholics join the ecumenical "Season of Creation" initiative, which runs from the Sept. 1 day of prayer through the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Oct. 4. The initiative, explained at www.seasonofcreation.org, includes prayer and practical action to clean up the environment, promote recycling and lobby governments for action to mitigate climate change.

In silence and prayer, he said, people should recognize the beauty that God has created and given to all people, but they also should pause to consider how the choices they make about what to eat, what to buy, how to travel and how they use energy and water impact God's creation, including other people.

Pope Francis asked Catholics to listen especially to young people who

are calling on everyone to make "courageous decisions" and undertake "prophetic actions" to fulfill longstanding promises to stop polluting the environment and to protect all life.

Politicians and government leaders also should be included in people's prayers, he said, pointing particularly to world leaders, who must make real commitments "for directing the planet toward life,

not death."

The United Nations' Climate Action Summit Sept. 23 will be especially important for reconfirming the Paris Climate Accord and taking "drastic measures" to end greenhouse gas emissions and slow global warming.

"Let us choose life," the pope said. "Let us say 'no' to consumerist greed and to the illusion of omnipotence, for these are the ways of death."



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