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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 75, Number 23

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

OCTOBER 14, 2020

World Mission Sunday

World Mission Sunday, the weekend of October 17-18, is an annual Eucharistic celebration for the Missions and missionaries of the world.

"Pope Francis reminds us, especially in this year of crisis, that we are personally called to mission as baptized Catholics to bring Christ's love to those most forgotten, our sisters and brothers in need around the world," wrote Bishop Terry R. LaValley in his letter highlighting the celebration. "You and I can go out to all the nations and proclaim the Good News through prayer and generous sacrifice to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith."

FULL STORY, PAGES 7-10

CONFIRMATION DAY



On Sept. 30, ten students from Sacred Heart Parish in Chazy were Confirmed by Bishop Terry R. LaValley. Pictured in the parish Rosary Garden are (left to right): Audrey Langlois, Samantha Gonyo-LaFountain, Sequoia McChesney, Julia Lynch, Stacy Sweet, Father Ted Crosby, Bishop LaValley, Avery Bochart, Evan Dwyer, Reagan Dudyak, Kaydence Rovers and Sarah Folmann.

THE AWARD GOES TO...



Bishop Terry R. LaValley presented the Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams Award for Distinguished Service to Mrs. Noreen Barcomb during the celebration of confirmation on September 30, 2020 at Sacred Heart Church in Chazy.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope: True prayer leads to concrete acts of love

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Prayer isn't about closing oneself in a room with God "to put makeup on your soul – that's not prayer, that's fake praying; to pray is to face God and allow yourself to be sent by him to help a brother or sister," Pope Francis said.

"The proving ground for prayer is concrete love for one's neighbor," the pope said Oct. 7 at his weekly general audience.

Pope Francis had begun a series of audience talks

about prayer in May but interrupted them for nine weeks to explain the principles of Catholic social teaching and how their application could heal a world suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic, inequality, violence, social tension and despair.

At the general audience, which was moved into the Vatican audience hall because of rain, the pope announced he was returning to the catechesis on prayer by looking at

Elijah, the prophet long venerated by monks, nuns and hermits as "a model of prayer and unshakable faith amid trials."

In the life of Elijah, and for everyone else, too, he said, "in prayer, this always happens: moments of prayer that we feel lift us up, even enthuse us, and moments of prayer of suffering, aridity, trials."

"In the soul of one who prays," he said, "the sense

of one's own weakness is more precious than moments of exaltation when it seems that life is just a string of victories and successes."

Elijah was a contemplative, but at the same time he was concerned about what was happening around him, the pope said, pointing to the story in the First Book of Kings about Elijah confronting Ahab about taking advantage of the plot Jezebel hatched to kill Naboth

and appropriate his land.

Pope Francis said the world today needs "believers, zealous Christians," who can stand up to leaders with the courage of Elijah to say, "This must not be done. This is an assassination."

Elijah "shows how there must not be a dichotomy in the life of one who prays: you stand before the Lord and go out to encounter the brothers and sisters to whom he sends you," the pope said.

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Box 326

Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
USPS 0039-3400

BISHOP TERRY

R. LAVALLEY

President

REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN

Vice President

JAMES D. CROWLEY

Secretary-Treasurer

DARCY L. FARGO

Editor &

Communications Director



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(315) 608-7556

E-mail:

news@northcountry
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EDITOR'S NOTE

It's the thief of joy

President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt was once quoted as saying, "Comparison is the thief of joy."

While I believe there are exceptions to that, I also find it's often true.

While the streak seems like it might be ending, I was batting zero for two going into this October. Since I started in this job, both Octobers (2018 and 2019) included different surgeries on my right hip, including a total joint replacement last year.

The loss of mobility and strength in that hip caused me to go through a grieving process of sorts. Every time I tried to exercise, bend, squat or sit cross-

legged on the floor, I was reminded that my body no longer worked the way it once did. My days of heavy contact sports were over (I was eligible to test for my black belt in karate when my hip became seriously problematic). My doctor strongly suggested I stop jogging/running.

For a long time, when I was reminded of what I could no longer do, I'd cry. Comparing the new bionic me to the old original-parts me stole my joy.

I thought about that as a friend pointed out to me that I was also comparing myself to others in my spiritual life, too.

Darcy L.
Fargo

I had told my friend that I feel like my prayer life isn't where it should be. I noted that I feel like so many of my friends and colleagues seem to have much stronger relationships with the Lord than I have, and they seem so much more connected to their faith. I noted that I want to have that strong relationship and solid faith life, too.

My friend very kindly reminded me to stop comparing myself to others. He reminded me that my life is not the same as my friends' and colleagues' lives, and there are circumstances in my life that affect my prayer life and affect my ability to feel connected right now. He reminded me that the friends I was comparing myself to are mostly at different parts of

life than I am, and they don't have my unique set of life experiences.

My friend also reminded me that I'm where I'm supposed to be right now, and that God has a purpose for my life experiences, struggles and this portion of my life. Maybe this phase of my journey is meant to teach me patience (good luck with that one, God). Maybe it's meant to teach me not to compare myself to others.

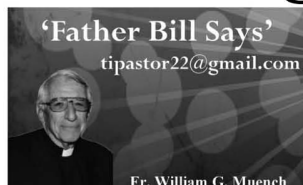
While my prayer life isn't where I want it to be right now, I've been using what prayer I can muster to thank God for whatever it is He wants me to learn through this struggle, and I'm thanking Him for giving me awesome friends to help me through that process.

'Talking to Strangers' in confession

I recently started reading a rather interesting book, "Talking to Strangers" by Malcolm Gladwell. This book investigates several clashes that have happened when people do not understand each other – like the times a policeman treats a person badly during an altercation, and everything went wrong. This author investigates why these things happened and the failures that occurred. He looks at why people involved in a situation didn't trust each other.

I found this book rather interesting and informative. As a priest, each time I hear confessions, I talk to strangers. Gladwell seems to challenge us all to truly try to understand each other and treat others well, especially strangers. So, a little about confession today.

The sacrament of penance is a meaningful part of Catholic life. This is an important time for Catholics in our efforts to live a good Christian life. This sacrament accomplishes something ex-



remely important for us. We recognize ourselves as sinners, and we are drawn to seek to be reconciled with our God. As a priest, my challenge is to lead those who have failed to be reconciled to the Lord.

When we speak of confession, we often use the expression, "the sacrament of reconciliation." Reconciliation is our readiness to restore a right relationship with our God and with others. As Catholics, we are on a constant journey in life each and every day to do all we can to establish for ourselves a good relationship with our God – a close friendship. Jesus says often in the Gospels that he wants to be our friend.

Confession – the sacrament of reconciliation – is much more than the forgiveness of

sins. This sacrament is about a conversion – a readiness to change, to be converted. As we prepare for confession, we consider what keeps us from living a good, dedicated life; we consider our failures, our sins. This may be a failure to do something good for others, to respect, even love others in the Lord. I believe that God places many wonderful opportunities into our lives, ways we can make our lives better than ever before, yet, we fail because of our selfishness, our sinfulness. We need conversion. We need reconciliation with our God and with others.

By the way, reconciliation should be our way of life, our friendship with God, our readiness to reach out to others – to other individuals, to other groups. I want to share with you some ideas about reconciliation that I received recently. I receive a monthly email meditation from a Christian couple, Denise and Walter Muench. They are no relation (except as friends). Years ago, we met quite by

surprise, probably because we share the same family name. Over the years, we have had good conversations, usually by email. So, here is what they wrote this month about reconciliation:

"And it doesn't end here. In fact, it just begins. We now as His own are given the ministry of reconciliation. There is a world that needs to hear the Good News. We hear a lot about reconciliation today, but this is not something that can be legislated, mandated, decreed. True reconciliation is only possible through the Blood of Christ."

In the sacrament of penance, we are transformed by the Blood of Christ. Jesus leads and guides us to realize how blessed we are and how sacred our life is, so that we can be transformed. Through the sacrament, we can truly be reconciled with the Lord. It's a powerful witness to what it means to be a Christian – to be a friend of the Lord Jesus. Let us pray today that we allow the Lord to lead and guide us.

Bishop presents award to Noreen Barcomb

CHAZY – Bishop Terry R. LaValley presented the Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams Award for Distinguished Service to Mrs. Noreen Barcomb during the celebration of confirmation on September 30, 2020 at Sacred Heart Church in Chazy.

Bishop LaValley bestowed the award in recognition of Barcomb's dedicated work of forming and educating our young people that will richly bless our family of faith for generations to come. Bishop LaValley stated, "For over forty years, Noreen has been a wonderful help to the pastors of Sacred Heart Parish and to the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Noreen served as a catechist for Sacred Heart Parish. She trained others for their ministry as catechists and trained countless volunteers in Virtus, an integral element of our safe environment program. Noreen constantly sought to grow in her own faith so she could share it with others."

Barcomb completed the Formation for Ministry program, was active in LEAD (formerly CORE) and completed catechist certification. Barcomb's service reached beyond her parish as she contributed each year to the Diocesan Youth Rally and served as a Virtus facilitator.

"I want to thank Noreen for her generous and faithful service," said Bishop LaValley. "Her example of dedication and loving service should inspire us all."

Bishop LaValley presented the Bishop Wadhams Award to Noreen at a recent Confirmation Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Chazy. The citation read:

"In the presence of her



Bishop Terry R. LaValley presents the Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams Award for Distinguished Service to Noreen Barcomb.

co-workers, family and fellow parishioners, it is my honor and privilege to present the Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams Award for Distinguished Service, to Mrs. Noreen Barcomb.

"Noreen, with persevering faith, with quiet strength and humility, has generously served Sacred Heart Church in Chazy and our diocese. To enhance her ministry, Noreen became a certified catechist and a Commissioned Lay Minister. The knowledge and formation gained from the catechist certification program and

Formation for Ministry has benefited parishioners of Sacred Heart Church in Chazy, where Noreen served as a catechetical leader, Virtus facilitator and catechist trainer for over forty

years. Noreen also helped form generations of our young people through her tireless work as parish youth director and as a member of the coordinating team for the annual Diocesan Youth Rally. Her dedication to forming and educating our young people will richly bless our family of faith for generations to come.

"In recognition of her outstanding service to the Diocese of Ogdensburg and the local parish, this award is bestowed as an expression of our gratitude and respect. In witness whereof, I have signed this award and placed upon it the seal of the Diocese of Ogdensburg this 30th day of September 2020."

The Bishop Wadhams Award was instituted by Bishop Paul Loverde, the eleventh Bishop of Ogdensburg, in 1996, to recognize exceptional service to the Diocese of Ogdensburg by people of the North Country. Recipients of the Award include Father Richard Siepka (former rector of Wadhams Hall Seminary), Monsignor Lawrence M. Deno (former superintendent of Catholic Schools), Mrs. Mary Lou Kilian (former

editor of the *North Country Catholic*), Monsignor Robert Giroux (former vicar general), Dr. Gerald Irwin (former professor at Wadhams Hall and Peritus for the Diocesan Tribunal), Sister Kathryn Healy (chaplain, St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center), Dr. A. B. DeGrandpre (former Knight of the Holy Sepulcher, friend and benefactor of St. John's Academy, Mount Assumption Institute and Seton Catholic Central School), Clyde A. Lewis, Sr. (Knight of Malta, founder of Bishop's Heritage Circle), Thomas and Claudia Sanders (Pre-Canadians and hosts in the international student program at Seton Catholic High School), Henry and Huguette Domingos of Potsdam, New York (Formation for Ministry Program, Serra Club, parish ministry), Sister Donna Franklin, DC (diocesan director of Catholic Charities for 22 years), Sally Rusaw, Ogdensburg (prison ministry, archivist, teaching), Irving Papineau (board member, catechist, and treasurer of Saint Kateri Hall, Hogansburg) and Elaine Cook (administrative assistant, pastoral associate to homebound at St. Regis Mission).



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Father Pesigan finds 'joy in serving God's vineyard'

By Mary Beth Bracy

PLATTSBURGH—When they see Father Eduardo C. Pesigan III shooting hoops, college students say he is a “sick” basketball player. Often smiling and making jokes, which he laughs at the hardest, Father Pesigan experiences “joy at doing something good for God or the Church.” It makes him happy and there is “joy in serving in God’s vineyard.”

Father Pesigan, parochial vicar of Plattsburgh Catholic Parishes, credits his family for fostering his vocation. His mother, Patricia Corpuz, came from the Ilocos region in the Northern part of the Philippines (where the Marcos’ were from) and his father, Eduardo I, lived in the Bicol region in the Southern part of the Philippines. They met when his mother, a teacher, was assigned to his father’s area.

“She really had a strong devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes and the Rosary in a particular way. She was very Marian,” said Father Pesigan, who also has a strong devotion to Our Lady.

His father was from a conservative family and later became a government employee. Father Pesigan attended a Jesuit school, Ateneo de Naga, where the pioneer American Jesuits ministered and he benefited from the “influence of the Jesuit mission.”

When Father Pesigan and his father walked or rode horses together, his father spoke of the goodness of the Jesuit priests. They walked among the people and would even go to the playground to hear confessions. After these experiences, his father would “always tell me how good the priests are.” He was a “die-hard Cursillo member and very vocal about his faith.”

Born in Naga City, Father



Father Eduardo C. Pesigan III

Pesigan grew up in the town of San Pascual in Masbate, located in Burias Island. Father Pesigan is the second of five children – two boys and three girls.

“Part of life was to go to Mass every Sunday . . . we knelt and prayed the Rosary every night,” he said.

His father, who died when Father Pesigan was in his second year of high school, wanted him to go to the Jesuit school. Instead he attended the University of Nueva Caceres (UNC), a private non-sectarian university. In his fourth year, he took an exam to enter the seminary and passed. When he graduated from university, Father Pesigan had chicken pox. He was supposed to attend seminary orientation, so his elder brother, Eduardo II, went on his behalf.

During his first three years of seminary, Father Pesigan “really believed that this was God’s will for me.” He felt, despite difficulties, that “I could see my direction.”

He was “convinced that I could overcome finances or whatever, since it was God’s will, I would overcome the obstacles.” In the back of his mind, Father Pesigan knew that he would “never give up, never give up on my vocation.” He would “never give up on the priesthood, challenges were part, but by God’s grace everything would be fine.”

Father Pesigan’s father and elder brother helped him to discern that he should be a priest. One might consider his ordination a miracle, considering that there were no vocations on his island for 400 years. The faithful at that time were mean to the priest and the priest cursed the island. Many young men tried to become priests, but they felt that they couldn’t due to the curse. People said that Father Pesigan was “the answer to the curse.”

When he was ordained, numerous people from his island attended. When he was returning to his home-

town by boat, he could see a number of priests waiting to welcome him. The faithful spent three days preparing for the celebration, roasting multiple cows and pigs.

“They beautified the whole town,” said Father Pesigan. “The whole town was at my first Mass. They really wanted to have a priest.”

Father Pesigan’s home church is one of the oldest in the Philippines. Fray Jimenez, a missionary during the Spanish exploration, is said to have been an “apostle” to this region.

Trained as a diocesan priest, Father Pesigan served at the parochial parish level and built two churches in the Philippines. The most important thing is to “build people, formation, formation for families to make them strong,” he said.

When he was pastor at the second parish he was assigned to in the Philippines, he sent around 100 parishioners to participate in Cursillo, to provide them with good Catholic formation.

Father Pesigan continues his ministry to families in the Plattsburgh Catholic Parishes. He enjoys welcoming and ministering to them.

There was a program in his home diocese where priests were invited to volunteer for missions, after serving as a priest for 15 years. Father Pesigan offered and was assigned to St. Peter’s in Plattsburgh. He is glad that he came or he “wouldn’t have the opportunity to learn from Msgr. Joseph Aubin and Msgr. Dennis Duprey, in one way or another, I learned a lot from them.” Father Pesigan enjoys teasing and playing practical jokes on them. They enjoyed many laughs together.

Although the cultural differences were an adjust-

ment at first, after four years, he has acclimated. Father Pesigan is “happy being here. It is God’s will, so be it,” he said.

He has had some adventures, like doing circles in the hospital parking lot when driving in the snow for the first time. The local Filipino community has also been supportive. They guided him to wear warm clothes, which he originally thought were just for children, so that he wouldn’t get sick.

Father Pesigan emphasized the need to “pray hard for more vocations.”

“This area was very Catholic, filled with the faith,” he said. “In the Bible, it says to pray so the Lord will send more vocations to the priesthood and religious life.”

Father Pesigan says he finds freedom in his vocation.

“Celibacy is the gift of freedom,” Father Pesigan explained, “If you have children there are many obstacles. I can go anywhere I want. Being celibate is a gift of freedom.”

Father Pesigan referenced the prayer for priests which talks about how they are called to live “in the world though from the world apart.”

He mentioned that “mission works” and stressed the “influence of Catholic schools.” In the Philippines there are many Catholic schools that “help a lot with the Church.” They form youth in elementary school and high school, and are “active in the ministry of the parishes.”

In the end, Father Pesigan is “happy if I think that I am successful. I will work hard, even twenty-four hours, to do it. God’s grace really is there.” Father Pesigan shared that the “Blessed Virgin has played very much, a great role [in his priesthood]. She is “always there to help me.”

Respect Life Month: Coats for the cause

By Colleen Miner

Director, Diocesan Respect Life Office

October is Respect Life month. The USCCB Office of Pro-Life Activities chose the theme, "Live the Gospel of Life: Imitate Christ and follow in His footsteps." Some were given the opportunity to fulfill this goal, in a unique way this year.

In August, the Respect Life Office was contacted by Birthright of Plattsburgh director Sally Fisher. Birthright had received a donation of over 400 maternity coats! Birthright's goal was to give them all away by this fall. The director asked if the Respect Life Office knew of anyone who could benefit.

The coats are made to fit before, during and after pregnancy in a variety of sizes, colors and styles. Each coat includes a front panel that can be removed and flipped over to reveal a little cinch to hold the

baby, so a new mom can carry her baby in her coat. The panel can be removed, and the coat zipped together to be worn after the baby is walking. As the tag states: "Baby In, Baby Out, Baby Free."

The coats arrived on pallets of 100. Modern Eternity in Montreal donated the coats, which were being stored in a Champlain warehouse.

"It was a process to move them from the border to the Birthright office," said Fisher. "The owner, Steven Lee, was not even allowed to come down to help, as the border has been closed due to COVID, so volunteers arranged for the pickup and transportation."

Some coats were taken to Albany for southern Birthright chapters. A few ladies picked up their coats directly from Birthright in Plattsburgh. Over 100 were trans-

ported from Plattsburgh to the parish-based crisis pregnancy apostolates Gabriel Project in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Ogdensburg, Gouverneur, Brasher Falls, Massena and Potsdam Gabriel Projects all have a supply of winter maternity coats. Additional coats were given to Malone Catholic Charities and St. Regis Mission on the Akwesasne Indian Reservation.

While the USCCB Walking With Moms initiative has been on hold due to COVID, our diocese has really stepped up to Walk with Moms during the winter months! It took some coordination, but all the coats are now delivered.

Thank you to Modern Eternity, Birthright and the many Gabriel Project angels who volunteer at their parish and to all those who work to imitate Christ and following in His footsteps.



Over 100 maternity and baby coats were donated for distribution around the diocese.

Catechetical Institute offers home-based options

By Jessica Hargrave

Contributing Writer

The start of the 2020-21 school year has been a whirlwind for children, parents, and teachers as they adjust to new ways of learning. Like schools, many parishes are not allowing COVID-19 to sideline learning, and they are working on curriculums to keep faith formation programs going.

Catechetical Leaders are reaching out to Catholic publishers and institutes for help in assisting parents with a more home-focused formation during the coming months, if not longer. The Catechetical

Institute at Franciscan University is widely known for equipping catechists and youth ministers with the proper skills to interpret the Catholic faith to the faithful. During these challenging times, the institute is offering subscriptions that give parishes and parents access to small online workshops.

One such subscription called *The Forming Faith at Home Track* aims to help parents grow the Faith at home. The *Fostering Holiness in Children* workshop inspires children to develop a lifelong relationship with Jesus and gives parents an op-



portunity to do the same. *Family: Domestic Church & School of Holiness* outlines the concept that the parent is on the frontline of passing down the faith to their children. Parents will learn how to make their home a domestic church with simple routines and how God saves through family and community.

Jamie Burns, a teacher at

Trinity Catholic School in Massena, received her director of Religious Education certification from what is now the Catechetical Institute at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. Burns says she would recommend subscriptions from the Catechetical Institute to anyone wanting to grow deeper into their Catholic Faith.

"The Catechetical Institute has experienced mentors who are on the teaching faculty, who are currently working in ministry, and who are available to offer support throughout the year," Burns said. "This Institute

has truly made a difference in my life, and I highly recommend it to all working in parish or diocesan ministries."

If you're unsure whether purchasing a subscription in the right fit for your family or parish, their website, www.franciscanathome.com, offers a free sample workshop called *Being Guided & Guiding Souls* which explores what it truly means to be "guided."

Catechetical Leaders or families still exploring which direction to take their faith formation program can call the Department of Faith Formation at (315) 393-2920.

Environmental Stewardship

Introduction to the four Rs

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis appeals for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of the planet. He urges us to restore the earth to our home of life in abundance as willed by the Creator.

In this year of Jubilee for the Earth we are invited to four R's:

Relief: Are we willing to change our attitudes and habits to be merciful to the earth? We have seen our waters poisoned with plastics and industrial waste and chemicals from fertilizer; we need renewable sources of energy, recycling of materials, and elimination of plastics. These are but a few steps needed to reclaim our air, our water and our land.

Reduction: We ask: how much do we really need? Our consumption of food, of material goods, of fossil fuels outpace other nations on the earth. It is our disregard and greed that are destroying the gifts of God's creation by depleting the earth of its resources.

Renewal: The tradition of Jubilee in Sacred Scripture was to allow the land to lie fallow, to rest so that it might once again be productive. It was a time of debt forgiveness and special care of the poor and vulnerable. Can we reimagine sustainable ways to care for our earth?

Rebirth: Earth gives us restful places. Trees give shelter; birds come and rest on their branches; earth yields both food to eat and flowers to enjoy. Streams and waterfalls provide not only beauty but a home for fish and aquatic life that feed both humans and animals. All of nature needs our attention. Pope Francis urges us to care for our common home, to be the good stewards that God has given to watch over his vineyard, our earth.

Pray: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."

Act: Caring for the Earth requires both personal conversion and structural formation. Advocate for strong environmental protections of water resources, elimination of fossil fuels and conversion to green energy. Reallocate some of our resources to the poorest among us.

Bishop's Public Schedule

Oct. 14 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

7 p.m. – Confirmation at The Roman Catholic Community of Keeseville (at St. John the Baptist) in Keeseville with The Catholic Community of Holy Name and St. Matthew in Au Sable Forks

Oct. 15 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Oct. 16 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Oct. 17 – 11 a.m. – Confirmation at St. Cecilia's Church in Adams with Queen of Heaven Church in Henderson

Oct. 18 – 10 a.m. – Confirmation at St. Ann's Church in Wells with St. James Major Church in Lake Pleasant

Oct. 19 – 10 a.m. – Rosary for Peace and Healing with the students at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga followed by classroom visits

Oct. 20 – Pontifical College of Josephinum Board of Trustees Virtual Meeting

Oct. 21 – Council of Priests Meeting at St. Andre's Outreach Center (formerly Holy Family School) in Malone

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg uses the training, Protecting God's Children for Adults. There are no live trainings scheduled. If you need to complete VIRTUS training, contact Jean Grizzuto, jgrizzuto@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920 x 1413, who will coordinate online training.

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 500.

- 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!

Rest in Peace

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

Oct. 14 – Rev. James Alexander Hagarty, 1903; Deacon Frederic A. Brousseau, 2019

Oct. 15 – Rev. James Haffey, 1918; Rev. Mark Collins Liebler, 1975; Rev. Robert Fleig, S.J., 1986; Most Rev. Thomas Andrew Donnellan, 1987

Oct. 17 – Rev. Antoine Anselm Thomas, 1900; Rev. Athanasie Marion, O.M.I., 1935

Oct. 18 – Rev. Edwin A. Kennedy, 1990; Deacon Chester Lloyd Price, 1991

Oct. 20 – Rev. Walter Plaisance, O.M.I., 1918; Msgr. Stephen J. Wojciechowski, 1978

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrianne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955;

terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com
Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rcdony.org Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340. If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at 800-276-1562 or www.ReportBishopAbuse.org.

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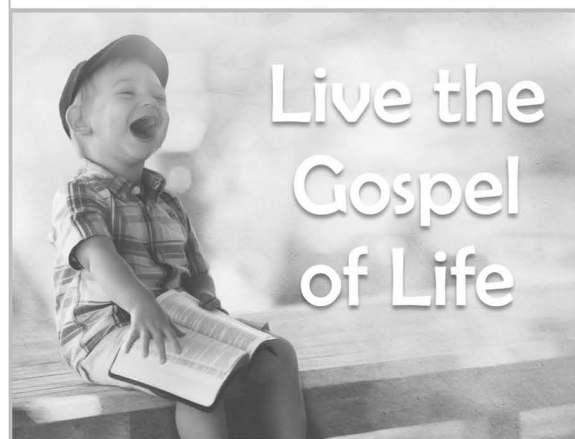
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October is Respect Life Month

We are inviting you to consider
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to appear in our October 28th issue of the

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Diocese of Ogdensburg Mission Office 2019 Annual Report

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

World Mission Sunday, this year on the weekend of **October 17-18**, is our annual worldwide Eucharistic celebration for the Missions and missionaries of the world. Pope Francis reminds us, especially in this year of crisis, that we are personally called to mission as baptized Catholics to bring Christ's love to those most forgotten, our sisters and brothers in need around the world. You and I can go out to all the nations and proclaim the Good News through prayer and generous sacrifice to the **Society for the Propagation of the Faith**.

Through the Pope's own missionary society, we promote the Gospel message with our support of missionaries and those they serve. Our donation sustains priests, religious and lay pastoral leaders in more than one thousand mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe. These disciples in mission have responded to the Lord's call, "*Here I Am, Send Me.*"

I invite all of us to see World Mission Sunday as a special moment to live out the mission we share as God's children, the mission to bring the Gospel to the whole world. I encourage you to be a "voice for mission" through your prayers and through the help that you are able to offer in support of the faith-filled women and men who work tirelessly, proclaiming the Gospel, building the Church, and serving the poor in often forgotten mission lands.

The prayers and material aid generously given to the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith on World Mission Sunday, the Pope tells us, continue to support the "preaching of the Gospel to every nation, thus contributing to the human and cultural growth of all those who thirst for knowledge of the truth."

Particularly during these unsettling times, your generous support of the Missions is a reassuring expression of solidarity and participation in the mission of the Church. We may need to remain socially isolated due to the pandemic, but we can still reach out to the missions. That's who we are—that's what we do! God bless you and your loved ones with His peace and goodness.



Gratefully yours in Christ,

Terry R. LaValley

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg



2019 Annual Report of Donations to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith



Parish	Mission Sunday	Missionary Cooperation Plan	Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg (MPDO)	Number of Families
Adams	\$634.00	\$601.00		700
Henderson	\$320.00	\$1,429.00		79/winter; 207/summer
Community of Alexandria	\$703.00	\$1,551.00		270
Altona				310
Sciota				152
AuSable Forks/Black Brook			\$672.50	350
Wilmington			\$241.00	65
Black River	\$712.00	\$86.70		132
Deferiet	\$68.00			54
Brasher Falls	\$40.00	\$864.00		511
North Lawrence				117
Brownville	\$443.00	\$1,885.00		532
Dexter	\$224.00	\$880.25		
Brushton	\$629.00		\$651.72	370
North Bangor			\$125.00	178
Cadyville	\$526.00	\$560.00		300
Canton	\$2,810.10	\$1,981.00		661
Cape Vincent /Chaumont/Rosiere	\$606.00	\$1,276.00		340
Carthage		\$2,035.66		945
Copenhagen	\$513.50	\$345.00		176
Champlain	\$1,157.00		\$675.00	700
Chateaugay				403
Burke				205
Chazy			\$397.00	420
Clayton	\$1,305.52	\$3,107.51		535
LaFargeville	\$384.00	\$154.00		113
Colton	\$939.00	\$1,399.00	\$297.50	182
Constable/Westville	\$427.40			400
Constableville	\$377.00	\$1,922.50		160
West Leyden	\$240.00			100
Croghan	\$1,726.00	\$2,030.00		552
Dannemora	\$544.01		\$455.00	538
Redford	\$653.00			413
Elizabethtown	\$241.00	\$351.00		150
Westport	\$297.00	\$438.00		90
Ellenburg	\$972.00		\$1,444.00	295
Evans Mills	\$424.00	\$486.00		103
Theresa				
Philadelphia	\$171.00			75
Fort Covington	\$278.00			246
Hogansburg - SP				174
Bombay				170
Gouverneur	\$383.50	\$828.75		585
Edwards	\$137.00	\$61.00		70
Heuvelton	\$796.00	\$420.31		240
Lisbon	\$50.00	\$210.00		190
Indian Lake	\$860.00		\$1,534.00	138
Blue Mountain Lake			\$176.00	12
Olmstedville	\$273.00			
Keeseville Community	\$682.00		\$1,243.50	719
Lake Placid	\$1,377.28			500
Keene				130
Lake Pleasant, Speculator	\$629.00		\$289.00	265
Wells	\$219.00		\$796.00	206
Lowville	\$1,566.50	\$1,341.00		777
Glenfield	\$209.00	\$458.00		216
Houseville	\$343.00	\$230.00		44
Lyon Mt				340

Parish	Mission Sunday	Missionary Cooperation Plan	Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg (MPDO)	Number of Families
Malone - St. Andre Bes.	\$2,279.50		\$2,205.25	1081
Massena - St. Peter's Parish	\$2,529.25	\$4,356.82		1044
Louisville				265
Massena - SM & SJ				1251
Mooers Forks	\$942.00		\$316.75	383
Mooers - SJ			\$540.00	252
Morrisonville			\$1,262.00	1027
Treadwells Mill			\$903.77	224
Morristown	\$823.00	\$2,966.25		336
Hammond				50
Rossie				30
Newcomb			\$380.00	70
Long Lake			\$75.00	90
Norfolk		\$229.00		400
Raymondville				135
Norwood	\$624.50	\$405.00		450
Ogdensburg - SM/ND	\$2,670.50	\$3,813.00		1249
Ogdensburg - ND				1100
Old Forge	\$660.00		\$2,065.60	217
Inlet, Raquette Lake	\$391.00		\$756.00	134
Peru	\$1,036.00		\$1,604.22	769
Plattsburgh - St. John	\$2,195.00		\$1,973.00	700
Plattsburgh - OLV	\$423.00			800
Plattsburgh - SP	\$2,419.00		\$2,358.50	1844
Catholic Comm of Moriah				372
Port Henry - Mineville	\$825.00		\$804.00	
Crown Point	\$205.49			
Port Leyden	\$237.00	\$562.00		150
Lyons Falls	\$331.00	\$278.00		110
Potsdam	\$1,678.00	\$1,375.00		1223
Rouses Point	\$1,074.00	\$1,390.00	\$1,135.00	595
Saranac Lake				1046
Bloomingdale				150
Gabriels				56
Lake Clear				101
Schroon Lake	\$780.00		\$2,166.50	243
Olmstedville				87
Star Lake	\$386.00	\$623.21		293
Harrisville		\$1,024.00		196
St. Regis Falls	\$452.00		\$439.00	165
Hopkinton	\$105.00		\$127.00	75
Ticonderoga	\$1,528.50			673
Crown Point				158
Tupper Lake - SA	\$1,244.25		\$1,355.00	964
Tupper Lake - HN				575
Waddington		\$726.00		220
Madrid		\$286.00		150
Watertown - SP	\$1,177.13	\$1,312.03		721
Watertown - SH	\$616.00	\$1,486.00		650
Watertown - SA	\$980.80	\$1,177.00		550
Watertown - HF	\$2,253.47	\$2,374.83		1246
West Chazy	\$35.00		\$434.00	719
Willsboro/Essex	\$313.00	\$1,395.00		326
Individual Donations	\$660.00		\$15.00	NA
TOTALS	\$58,076.35	\$52,710.82	\$29,912.81	

Mission Sunday and Mission Coop Appeal 2019 collections are calculated using the dates of our Fiscal Year (Jan. - Dec. 2019)

Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Appeal 2019 is calculated using the dates of July 2019-June 2020. The Diocese is split in half between Mission Coop and Missionary Projects for the Diocese of Ogdensburg Appeals.

These totals do not reflect any 2019 late payments that were received in the Mission Office. It is also possible that some amounts represent combined totals amongst parish groupings.



WORLD MISSION SUNDAY



The Pontifical Mission Societies in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc., thanks our generous donors who participate in collections, appeals and bestow unsolicited gifts to the Missions. God bless you!

Mission Support

Mission Sunday	\$ 58,076.35
Legacies	\$ 38,618.77
Memberships	\$ 850.00
Unrestricted Gifts	\$ 2,050.00
Lenten Appeal	\$ 6,383.00
Christmas Appeal	\$ 6,505.00

The Special Funds

Missionary Project of the Diocese of Ogdensburg	\$29,912.81
Missionary Cooperation Plan	\$52,710.82
Announced Mass Offerings	\$12,050.00
Unannounced Mass Offerings	\$1,595.65

Each year, about one half of the parishes take up the

Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg (MPDO) Collection, while the other half takes up the **Missionary Cooperation Appeal**, in the following year the collections are reversed.

St. Peter Apostle Appeal

\$7,299.50 was given by our people to the *Society of St. Peter the Apostle* to educate native priests and novices for mission areas.



Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for World Mission Sunday 2020

Here I am, send me (Isaiah :8)

Pope Francis' message places mission within the context of the coronavirus pandemic.

Call to mission in the current crisis. The Pope reiterates his message from the extraordinary moment of prayer on March 27th. As we endure fear sparked by the Pandemic, Pope Francis asks, "Whom shall I send?" With the hardship we are experiencing, remember "our deep desire for life and liberation from evil." To mission is an "invitation to step out of yourself for love of God and neighbor" through "service and intercessory prayer," he writes.

Missionaries with Jesus the Missionary. As Jesus died for us, "we find ourselves when we give ourselves to others," says Pope Francis. To be sent in vocation as "the Father's Missionary" is deeply rooted in "the fact that we are sons and daughters of God in the Church."

The Church as Missionary Pope. Francis specifies that the Church "continues the mission of Jesus in history", with baptized members sent forth in her name. Proclaiming the Gospel, He continues "to manifest His love." and "touch and transform hearts, minds, bodies, societies and cultures in every place and time."

Response to a relationship. "Mission is a conscious response to God's call," we are reminded. Our mission is realized "when we have a personal relationship of love with Jesus present in His Church." Welcoming the Holy Spirit's presence and action in our lives is shown in married couples, consecrated persons, and ordained ministers of everyday events. A willingness "to be sent forth at any time or place to witness to our faith" in relationship with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We should respond as Mary did, "ready to be completely at the service of God's will."

Mission responds to life. The Church's challenge is "understanding what God is saying to us at this time of pandemic," says Pope Francis. As people die alone, are abandoned, lose their jobs, or stay at home, the Pope invites us "to rediscover that we need social relationships as well as our communal relationship with God." Realizing the need to relate to others, God touches our hearts through prayer opening us to understand others' needs. Those who cannot participate in the Church's liturgical life now know "the experience of the many Christian communities that cannot celebrate Mass every Sunday."

Whom shall I send? Through the Prophet Isaiah, God "addressed once more to us and awaits a generous and convincing response: 'Here am I, send me!' (Is 6:8). On World Mission Sunday, we participate in Jesus's mission in His Church. Pope Francis specifies the collection on October 18th will support "the missionary work carried out in my name Pontifical to meet the spiritual and material needs of peoples and Churches throughout the world, for the salvation of all.



Students at Seton Academy showing off their World Mission Sunday rosaries.

Missionary Childhood Association Funds for School Year 2019-2020

School Totals	\$ 2,765.78
Religious Education Totals	\$ 674.35
MCA TOTALS	\$ 3,440.13

2019 Financial Statement

Total Revenue:	\$196,370.71
Total Operating Expenses:	\$52,874.00

Notice

This report covers the fiscal year of Jan. 1, 2019 to Dec. 31, 2019; with the exception of the Missionary Childhood, which covers September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020.

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

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ,
Diocesan Director
PO Box 369

Ogdensburg, New York 13669



A group of students from the St. Francis Faith Formation Center in Croghan, NY where there are excellent fundraisers.

Visit Our Updated Mission Office Website:

www.rcdony.org/mission-office



“Children Helping Children”

All funds raised are directed towards self-help programs involving the building of schools, the provision of health and nutrition programs and medications, school fees, and teaching and learning resources.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL GIFTS TO THE MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION September 1, 2019- August 31, 2020 (School Year)

CANTON - St. Mary's School	\$71.14
CARTHAGE - Augustinian Academy	\$375.88
GOUVERNEUR - St. James School	\$796.76
MASSENA - Trinity Catholic School	\$330.00
PLATTSBURGH - Seton Academy Elem School	\$150.00
LAKE PLACID - St. Agnes School	\$155.00
SARANAC LAKE - St. Bernard's School	\$95.00
TICONDEROGA - St. Mary's School	\$500.00
WATERTOWN - IHC Elem School	\$292.00
* TOTALS	\$2765.78

This represents 100% participation, Thank You!

** Totals do not reflect donations received after August 2020 or donations forwarded directly to the National Office.*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM GIFTS TO THE MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020 (School Year)

Parish	Totals
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart - Watertown	\$28.00
St. Anthony's Church - Watertown	\$57.72
St. Francis Faith Formation - Croghan	\$163.17
St. Mary's Church - Copenhagen	\$120.00
Church of the Holy Family - Watertown	\$170.00
Sisters of St. Joseph - Lake Clear	\$20.00
St. James Church - Gouverneur	\$115.46
* TOTALS	\$674.35

** These totals do not reflect those donations that were mailed directly to National Office in NYC by individual Parish Religious Education Programs.*

Pray and give generously October 18, 2020



The Society for THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

...a Pontifical Mission Society

Dear Director: I'd like to share my blessings with the poor for the sake of the Gospel, so I'm enclosing a sacrifice for the missions. Please pray for my intentions:

Enclosed is my sacrifice in the amount of \$ _____
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website: www.rcdony.org/mission-office

Email: mryan@rcdony.org

Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

Please remember The Society for the Propagation of the Faith when writing or changing your will.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope praises women's consultation group at Council

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Four years after the Pontifical Council for Culture instituted a Permanent Women's Consultation Group to bring women's experiences and voices to the council's deliberations, Pope Francis noted that they represent a "novelty" at the Holy See. In fact, he said, "for the first time, a dicastery has involved a group of women by making them protagonists in developing cultural projects and approaches, and not simply to deal with women's issues." The 20 members of the group – Catholics, other Christians and members of other faiths – met online Oct. 7 for a webinar reflecting together on Pope Francis' 2013 exhortation, "The Joy of the Gospel." They also scheduled future discussions on his ecology encyclical, "Laudato Si'," and on the document on human fraternity and interreligious dialogue that he and Sheikh Ahmad el-Tayeb, grand imam of al-Azhar Mosque in Cairo, Egypt, signed in 2019. But the early October discussion also focused on "feminine wisdom" as seen in the works of St. Hildegard of Bingen, the 11th-century German abbess, mystic and musician proclaimed a "doctor of the church" by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012.

New U.N. nuncio addresses economic inequities

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) – In an Oct. 7 address to the United Nations' Economic and Financial Committee, Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, the Vatican's newly appointed nuncio, took note of the many economic inequities made worse by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. "From states to families and individuals, almost no one has escaped the economic hardship due to the consequences of the virus and these will stay with us for years to come. Although the pandemic has affected us all, the impact on some people and some countries are much more notable, both in the short and long term," Archbishop Caccia said in his remarks. "Developing countries, for example, are being hit by a triple economic shock of collapsing export demand, falling commodity prices and unprecedented capital flight, while also having to manage the pandemic with often inadequate health systems." Archbishop Caccia said, "There is extensive evidence that developing states, due to the demands imposed on them by debt servicing and the economic impact of the pandemic, are obliged to divert scarce national resources from fundamental programs of education, health and infrastructure to debt payments."

French bishops rally Catholics against bioethics bill

PARIS (CNS) – The French bishops' conference has urged Catholics to join mass protests against a government-backed bioethics bill that would liberalize abortion and embryo research and allow in vitro fertilization for lesbians and single mothers. "Pressure is mounting on the National Assembly to further extend abortion terms under the guise of women's rights and equality and to reduce filiation to a simple act of will by those wishing to become parents – a child is no longer received, but sought, produced and chosen," said the conference's 10-member Permanent Council. "We invite all citizens, especially Catholics, to inform themselves about these matters and make their reservations and opposition known. Our society must not let itself be surreptitiously drawn along a dangerous path for humanity's future," it said. The message was published Oct. 6 ahead of a nationwide weekend of demonstrations against the draft "Law Concerning Bioethics," set to be cleared this fall for final enactment. It said France's Catholic bishops had long voiced concerns about the measure, which is widely expected to spur similar legislation in other countries, and counted on legislators to "take the subject seriously."

Supreme Court does not reinstate abortion rules

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The U.S. Supreme Court is temporarily allowing drugs used to medically induce abortions to be mailed or delivered without requiring the recipient to make a doctor's visit during the coronavirus pandemic.

In an unsigned order Oct. 8, the nation's high court rejected an emergency appeal from the Trump administration to reinstate a U.S. Food and Drug Administration rule requiring in-person visits to a hospital or clinic to pick up these pills. The requirements were suspended by a federal district court judge this summer due to the pandemic.

The high court ordered that the federal judge in Maryland who made the ruling on the drug's distribution to "promptly consider" within 40 days whether this ruling should be withdrawn or amended. The FDA, in August, had asked the Supreme Court to block the district court's order while it appealed it.

The drug in question, Mifeprex, is the brand name for mifepristone, also called RU-486, which is used to end pregnancies during the first 10 weeks. FDA regulations have required patients to receive the drug in person after signing a form acknowledging risks associated with it.

Catholic Church leaders have been vocal in their opposition to this drug since it was given FDA approval in 2000

and in 2016 when the FDA relaxed rules for its use, saying it could be administered with fewer visits to a doctor.

Mifeprex blocks the hormone progesterone needed to sustain pregnancy and a second drug, Misoprostol, causes uterine contractions to expel the fetus.

This case about how women can obtain these drugs started with a challenge to their distribution requirements made earlier this year by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. The group argued the in-person visits to obtain these pills during a pandemic violated the Constitution by creating a substantial obstacle to receiving an abortion.

U.S. District Judge Theodore Chuang in Maryland agreed with the appeal and barred the FDA from enforcing these requirements. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit rejected the FDA's request to put the judge's order on hold during appeals of the decision.

In the Supreme Court's one-paragraph order, it said the government found the federal court's order too broad because it applies across the United States even if COVID-19 rates are better in some states. The justices said they needed more information to make a decision and therefore put the government's request on hold.

Justice Samuel Alito dissented from decision, noting in an opinion joined by Justice

Clarence Thomas that there is "no legally sound reason for this unusual disposition" of the FDA's request. He also said the federal appeals court judge "saw the pandemic as a ground for expanding the abortion right recognized in *Roe v. Wade*."

Alito said the court's majority had been inconsistent in its rulings on pandemic-related cases.

"In response to the pandemic, state and local officials have imposed unprecedented restrictions on personal liberty, including severe limitations on First Amendment rights," he wrote. "Officials have drastically limited speech, banning or restricting public speeches, lectures, meetings and rallies. The free exercise of religion also has suffered previously unimaginable restraints, and this court has stood by while that has occurred."

A post in scotusblog, a blog that covers the Supreme Court, said: "There is no way to know why the justices took so long to act on the FDA's request, or why they opted to take the unusual step of sending the case back to the district court rather than granting or denying the request outright."

It speculated the order might reflect a compromise since the court now only has eight members and by the time the district court rules on the government's motion and the case returns to the Supreme Court, it could have its ninth member.

Pope: Measures to expel merchants from temple

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The latest financial transparency measures enacted at the Vatican are meant to restore order, ensuring money serves its purpose and does not become an object of idolatry, Pope Francis told European finance experts.

"Jesus drove merchants from the temple precincts and stated: 'You cannot serve both God and money,'" Pope Francis said. "Once the economy loses its human face, then we are no longer served by money, but ourselves become servants of money."

The pope made the comments Oct. 8 when he met with experts from Moneyval – the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism.

The experts began a two-week onsite inspection of the Holy See and Vatican City State in late September; the visit originally was scheduled for April but was postponed due to the

coronavirus pandemic.

"The measures that you are evaluating are meant to promote a 'clean finance,' in which the 'merchants' are prevented from speculating in that sacred 'temple,' which, in accordance with the Creator's plan of love, is humanity," he said.

According to the Moneyval website, the program is designed to "assess its members' compliance with all relevant international standards in the legal, financial and law enforcement sectors through a peer review process of mutual evaluations, including assessment of effectiveness of the implemented measures in practice" and to "formulate recommendations on ways to improve the effectiveness of domestic regimes to combat money laundering and terrorist financing and states' capacities to cooperate internationally in these areas."

Pope Francis, who enacted new transparency laws in June covering contracts for the purchase of

goods, property and services for both the Roman Curia and Vatican City State offices, welcomed the experts and said their work "is particularly dear to my heart."

The pope has sought to further centralize control over the Vatican's finances as Italian media continued to report on alleged financial malfeasance by Cardinal Angelo Becciu, former prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes.

Cardinal Becciu, who was forced to retire Sept. 24, previously served as "sostituto," a position similar to chief-of-staff in the Vatican Secretariat of State, from 2011 to 2018.

The cardinal said he was accused of embezzling an estimated 100,000 euros (\$116,361) of Vatican funds and redirecting them to Spes, a Caritas organization run by his brother, Tonino Becciu, in his home Diocese of Ozieri, Sardinia.

However, even after the cardinal was forced to resign, Italian media contin-

ued reporting on questionable financial transactions that the Italian cardinal allegedly made with Vatican funds during his tenure at the Secretariat of State.

In his address to Moneyval, the pope said that preventing the use of money for terrorism and other illegal activities relates to the "protection of life, the peaceful coexistence of the human race on earth, and a financial system that does not oppress those who are weakest and in greatest need."

"It seems that in many places, the supremacy of money over human beings is taken for granted," he said. "Sometimes, in the effort to amass wealth, there is little concern for where it comes from, the more or less legitimate activities that may have produced it, and the mechanisms of exploitation that may be behind it."

As a result, he added, in using money obtained through shady practices, "we get blood on our hands, the blood of our

brothers and sisters."

Echoing St. Paul VI's proposal to divert military spending into a global fund for the poor, the pope suggested that "instead of investing in fear or nuclear, chemical and biological threats, we use those resources finally to put an end to hunger and favor development in the most impoverished countries, so that their citizens will not resort to violent or illusory solutions, or have to leave their countries in order to seek a more dignified life."

Pope Francis highlighted the need for morality in economic matters at a time when financial exploitation "fundamentally aimed at quick profit continues to wreak havoc."

"In light of the present circumstances, it would seem that the worship of our lives on earth as a battle that can only be won by a 'complete surrender' to God's love.

"Now is the time for you to take up your task, as men of the church to fight this battle for our nation, to bring Christ back to our daily lives," Butker said. "Men need to play active roles within our church, and I believe being a Knight is a great start. ... Your priests need to hear from you. They need to see you. Other men need to see you."

For Chiefs' star kicker, faith and family are priority

Harrison Butker's impact on the football field is tremendous. As the kicker for the Kansas City Chiefs, he was a vital component to the team's victory in Super Bowl LIV.

But the morning after the game, as he told the attendees at the Knights of Columbus 55th annual College Councils Conference, he still had to take out the garbage. This simple act was a humbling reminder to him while on top of the football world.

"Outside of the bright lights of the stadium, with the fans and the notoriety that come with being an NFL player, the greatest impact that I will make with

my time on this earth is remaining dedicated to my primary vocation – helping my family get to heaven," he said.

Butker, a member of the Knights of Columbus who joined while a student-athlete at Georgia Tech, challenged College Knights to make an impact on their communities and college campuses by "showing by our actions what a Christ-centered life looks like put into practice."

The conference, which was held virtually, was convened under the theme "Brothers in the Breach," on the heels of a Knights-produced video series calling Catholic men to live a life of

heroic virtue similar to that of the fraternal order's founder, Father Michael J. McGivney, who will be beatified Oct. 31. Other speakers included Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and Deputy Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly.

Butker, 25, told the attendees that the "world needs Knights" and to rise above the "unfriendly" and "hostile" cancel culture spreading across college campuses. He added that "thankfully, adherence to popular opinion is not a prerequisite for heaven."

"Giving into societal pressure is the easier road to travel for sure, but that doesn't bring us to the side

of the countless heroic saints who have shown us the better way," he said. "It is up to you to speak up, do more, be more. Be the light in the ever-darkening world."

He also opened up about his own faith journey. While he was a student at Georgia Tech, a friend pointed him toward the love of Christ and encouraged him to be more active in the faith.

Inspired by his witness, Butker reoriented his life to be centered on God. That newfound relationship with Christ helped him not only in his profession, but also motivated him to act more upon his faith, such as altar-serving at the Tradi-

ADIRONDACK

PERSONAL STRATEGIES DURING TRYING TIMES

Lake Placid – Molly Kasriels, Ph.D. in counseling psychology, will delve into strategies to help us persevere during these perplexing times.

Date: Oct. 13

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Place: St. Agnes Church

Features: Covid-19 seems to be the "icing on the cake" when one reflects on the many social challenges of our day. How does one deal with the numerous and difficult stresses of life? All are invited to come listen and learn. All Covid-19 social regulations will be in place. Mass follows at 5:30 p.m.

CLINTON

EASTERN REGIONAL CLM FALL EVENT

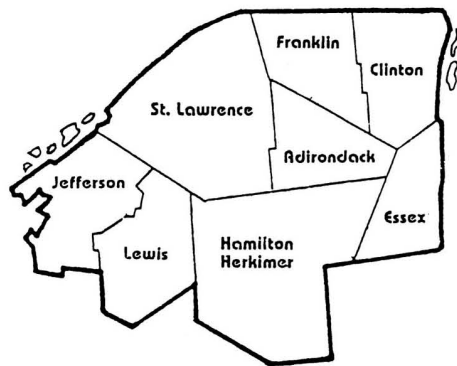
Plattsburgh – All Commissioned Lay Ministers are invited to learn about Catholic Leadership in a COVID-19 world.

Date: Oct. 21

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

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: Mass will begin at 6 p.m. with Deacon James Crowley presenting a program on Catholic Leadership in a COVID-19 World after. Due to NYS Health restrictions, there will not be a



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@northcountycatholic.org.

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

meal at this event. There is no cost for this event, donations are welcome.

Contact: Please register before Oct. 16 to register, simply go to <https://www.rcdony.org/formation/clm/events.html> For additional information, please contact Deanna Kneussle (deebob@aol.com) or Dorothy McDewitt (dmcdevitt@earthlink.net)

VIRTUAL SETON GALA

Plattsburgh – Seton Catholic invites everyone to join us for our Virtual Mardi Gras Gala.

Date: Oct. 24

Features: The idea is a Dinner for Eight style evening where you can dine in the safety of your home and support Seton at the same time. Corporate sponsorship is \$600, Individual tickets are \$50 each and \$25 for Seton Staff.

Silent and Live Auctions will be available online. Party baskets will be delivered to participants. Help us make this unique Gala a huge success!

Contact: Susan FitzPatrick Pellerin at spellerin@setonknights.org for more information.

FRANKLIN

HARVEST HAM DINNER

Constable – Harvest Ham take-out dinner to be held.

Date: Oct. 18

Time: Noon to 4 p.m.

Place: St. Francis of Assisi

Cost: \$12 per dinner

Contact: Reservations encouraged, please call 518-483-0486 or 518-358-0208

JEFFERSON

ELECTION NIGHT HAM DINNER

Alexandria Bay – The Annual Election Night Ham dinner to be held, take-out only.

Date: Nov. 3

Time: 4 to 7 p.m.

Place: St. Cyril's Church

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children, \$5

Contact: Reservation please call 315-482-5227 or 315-955-5504. For Deliveries call 315-482-5227

LEWIS

CHICKEN & BISCUIT DINNER

Lyons Falls – St. John's Catholic Church to host a pre-order, drive-thru chicken and biscuit dinner.

Date: Oct. 27

Time: 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Place: St. John's Catholic Church

Features: Dinners available by pre-order. To order, call 315-348-8945 or 315-348-8577. Dinner includes chicken and homemade biscuits, real mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, cranberry sauce and dessert. Deliveries are available.

Cost: \$10 for adults; \$6 for ages 6 to 12; free for ages 5 and under.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

VIRTUAL PRIEST DISCERNMENT SESSIONS

Zoom in to Priest Discernment. High School Junior men & older are invited to join Father Howard Venette & guests for 60-minute virtual discernment sessions.

Dates: Oct. 18, Nov. 1, 15 & 29 and Dec. 13

Time: 3 p.m.

Contact: Father Venette at hvenette@gmail.com for meeting access.

'Fatima' movie available for download Oct. 13

NEW YORK (CNS) – "Fatima" (Picturehouse), a fact-based drama from director and co-writer Marco Pontecorvo, recounts what may rank as the most remarkable series of religious events of modern times. Namely, the 1917 apparitions of the Virgin Mary (Joana Ribeiro) to three shepherd children near the Portuguese city of the title.

Despite a few flaws, believers will find Pontecorvo's chronicle congenial fare that's suitable for all but the youngest viewers.

The narrative is told in flashbacks during a 1980s interview between fictional Professor Nichols (Harvey Keitel), a dyed-in-the-wool skeptic, and the only one of the trio to have survived into adulthood, Carmelite Sister Lucia dos Santos

(Sonia Braga). As the two spar over the reality of what Sister Lucia experienced, the scene shifts to the very different times of her childhood.

The screenplay, on which Pontecorvo collaborated with Valerio D'Annunzio and Barbara Nicolosi, emphasizes the context of World War I within which Mary's message of prayer and repentance as the path to peace was delivered.

Thus we see the young Lucia (Stephanie Gil) accompany her mother, Maria (Lucia Moniz), to the periodical public announcement by Fatima's mayor, Arturo (Goran Visnjic), of local casualties in the global struggle. Though devout, Maria is consumed by anxiety over the fate of Lucia's older brother Manuel (Joao Arrais) who is

servicing with the Portuguese forces.

The other primary focus of the script is on the family and community conflicts that arose when news of Mary's appearances to Lucia and her two younger cousins, Jacinta (Alejandra Howard) and Francisco (Jorge Lamelas), spread. Initially, both Maria and the local parish priest, Father Ferreira (Joaquim De Almeida), are understandably doubtful and try to convince the kids to recant.

So, too, does Arturo. As an official of Portugal's nascent First Republic, established in 1910, Arturo is charged with carrying out its anti-clerical and more broadly anti-religious policies. So alleged visits from the "Lady of the Rosary," as Mary identified herself to Lucia and her companions,

are the last thing he needs.

"Fatima" successfully portrays piety without yielding to sentimentality. But it fails to wrap up the loose ends of its story.

The justly celebrated "Miracle of the Sun" that occurred during Mary's last appearance on Oct. 13 provides the movie with a spectacular built-in conclusion. Yet the gentle dispute between Sister Lucia and Professor Nichols is left hanging – nor do we get a sense of resolution about the strained relationships that prevailed before the children's veracity was so strikingly vindicated.

This sense of incompleteness notwithstanding, "Fatima" is a welcome affirmation of faith in the midst of worldwide challenges to health and tranquility. If nothing else made

it timely, the reflection that Jacinta, aged 9, and Francisco, at a year older, both perished in the influenza pandemic that began in 1918 would serve to do so.

Sister Lucia, by contrast, lived a long life, dying in 2005 at 97. Her cousins were canonized on the centennial of the first Fatima apparition, May 13, 2017. The cause to raise her to the same status is currently active.

The film contains mature themes and bloodless images of violence. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II – adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG-13 – parents strongly cautioned.

"Fatima" will be available to own in digital Oct. 13; on DVD Oct. 27 at fatimathe-movie.com.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

'Render to Caesar what belongs to Caesar'

Many of you will remember back in 1963 when John F. Kennedy was president. Nuns in classrooms proudly hung pictures of the "two Johns" – Pope John XXIII and John F. Kennedy. After his tragic assassination, coins were soon struck – the Kennedy half-dollar – bearing that famous profile. For a brief time in history, he was king – our hero.

Soon after, he was discovered to be a monarch with clay feet – just like most other earthly monarchs.

In today's first reading, we find an unusual prophecy. Isaiah delivers

a personal message to a pagan monarch, the Persian King Cyrus. He refers to him as the Lord's anointed! The message is that there is only one God, and he alone is responsible for the rise and fall of earthly kings. He is the one who opens doors and causes kings to "run in his service."

In other words, as the famous spiritual sings, "He's got the whole world in His hands."

In the second reading, Saint Paul reminds the Thessalonians that "our Gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with much

October 18

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Isaiah 45: 1, 4-6

2 Thessalonians 1: 1-5b

Matthew 22: 15-21

conviction."

The two readings together prepare us well for Jesus' answer to the Pharisees who were trying to trap him – "Render to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God, what belongs to God."

To the Herodians, Caesar was a god. We wonder if they really got Jesus' message that there is only one God of the universe to whom we owe absolute allegiance. He is the one to whom we owe everything – the air we breathe, the life we live, the pos-

sessions we cling to so jealously.

We note that Jesus called to the Pharisees' attention the inscription on their coins. Just as the profile of Caesar claimed their allegiance, so too does the image and inscription of God on our hearts demand of us our complete obedience.

God inscribed on every heart the command, "You shall love the Lord your God will all your heart (soul, mind, and strength), and you shall love your neighbor as yourself".

And what do we owe to Caesar whose image and inscription is on the coin of the realm (and on our currency)? We owe the payment of taxes, and the obedience to our nation's laws, provided that they

are not contrary to the laws of the one great Lawmaker. Before the face of this Judge, we must one day stand to give an accounting of our stewardship.

As we prepare to vote in national elections, it might be good for us to sit down and draw up two lists – one with all we owe to God, and one with all we owe to our country and its leaders. What we place in those columns will be determined by the depth of our faith and its values, by our understanding of justice, by thorough and intelligent forming of a right conscience, and by our courage in voting according to that conscience. May God give us the courage and the wisdom to make a right decision.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

CALLED TO SERVE

Making space for silence

We usually perceive noise as something unpleasant. I generally agree, but noise can occasionally be soothing, calming to me. It is the noise I almost always allow in the background. The radio is always on in my car, mellow instrumentals are almost always playing while I write or work at the computer. I may be one of the few people who has not outgrown the transistor radio of my youth and often have one plugged into an ear as I sleep.

Noise was part of my youth. It makes perfect sense that I became enamored with radio as a college student. I grew up in New York City immersed in the rock 'n roll era and the radio stations that were always tuned in on

our 9-volt transistors. For those of us who enjoyed listening to and becoming part of radio in the 1960s and 1970s, there was a need for constant, uninterrupted noise. Music for us was vocal. Instrumentals were nice but vocals were better. As disc jockeys (the guys and gals who played music on the radio), we couldn't stand the instrumental introduction to a vocal, so we talked over it. Who of us remembers hearing our favorite disc jockey read the weather forecast over the 27 second instrumental intro to Blood Sweat and Tears' And When I Die?

To this day, I still react to silence on the radio or on TV. We called that "dead air." It was a big no-

no. Noise was the operable word. Constant, unrelenting, uninterrupted sound dominated our lives and, in some respects, remains weaved in the cloth of my life.

And then I was introduced to silence. Sure, there was the occasional "shhhhus" when I was growing up but I never noticed silence in church before lay ministry and diaconal formation. We are supposed to be silent from time to time. When we sit before the Monstrance during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, we are engaged in what the Catechism calls Respectful Silence. We are not just

present to Jesus with our thoughts, concerns, desires and dreams, we are also quietly, respectfully silent in the "presence of the 'ever greater' God."



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

The Church also teaches we should engage in Sacred Silence at various times before and during a Mass. The instruction for Mass tells us we should be silent for a moment after the priest says, "Let us pray." We should

be silent for a moment after each of the readings, the psalm, the Gospel and Homily so we can think about what we have just heard from God. "Then after Communion, (we) praise God in (our) hearts

and pray to him." That's one of the reasons I cannot understand people who receive and then bolt out the door of the church. They do not understand what has just happened. They are simply not grateful.

You can appreciate the challenge silence presents to someone like me who has lived with noise forever. But I do not find silence to be a challenge at all. Indeed, I wish we were silent more often, particularly in church where we hear the calm, quiet voice of God.

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown. He is the Director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg



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

World Mission Sunday 2020: Who, what where & when

The late Pope John Paul II once referred to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith's General Fund of support, as a "central fund of solidarity." He went on to say that, "the offerings that will be collected [on World Mission Sunday] are destined for a common fund of solidarity distributed, in the Pope's name, by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith among the missions and missionaries of the entire world."

What is World Mission Sunday?

This year, World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on the weekend of October 17-18, 2020. World Mission Sunday is a day set aside for Catholics worldwide to recommit themselves to the Church's missionary activity through prayer and sacrifice. Annually, World Mission Sunday is celebrated on the next-to-last Sunday in October. Offerings from Catholics in the United States, on World Mission Sunday and throughout the year, are combined with offerings from Catholics around the globe and distributed to mission dioceses which amount to about 1,150 at this time.

This year's theme for World Mission Sunday is "Here I Am, Send Me." Every parish in the world can participate, united, in this special Eucharistic celebration.

Every parishioner is a missionary, sharing our love for Christ's Gospel with one another, supporting the Church most in need.

The celebration of World Mission Day is also an occasion for reaffirming how prayer, reflection and the material help of your offerings are so many opportunities to participate actively in the mission of Jesus in his Church. The charity expressed in the collections that take place during the liturgical celebrations of the third Sunday of October is aimed at supporting the missionary work carried out in my name by the Pontifical Mission Societies, in order to meet the spiritual and material needs of peoples and Churches throughout the world, for the salvation of all.

Who benefits from my donations?

Your ongoing support of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith is vital to the missionaries serving in 1,150 dioceses throughout Asia, Africa, parts of Latin America and Europe, and on the Islands of the Pacific.

Your generosity makes it possible for local priests, religious, and catechists to reach out to communities, families, and children in desperate need, bringing the light of Christ to the darkest of circumstances.

The World Mission Sunday celebration highlights the outreach of local churches through priests, religious and laity among the poor and marginalized half a world away. Life-changing help is provided to mission churches in territories covering more than half the globe.

Mission Gratitude

Your prayers and generous support offered to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith on World Mission Sunday directly benefit the mission church and help deepen your relationship with Jesus by helping so many missionaries around the world.

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your will.

rcdony.org/mission-office

OBITUARIES

Black River – Norma F. LaMora, 86; Private graveside services to be held at Sanford Corners Cemetery, Calcium.

Cape Vincent – Peggy (Conley) Aubertine, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 5, 2020 at St. Vincent de Paul Rosiere Church.

Carthage – Debra DeLong, 65; Mass of Christian burial Oct. 7, 2020 at St. James Church; burial in New St. James Cemetery.

Chaumont – George Sipos, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 7, 2020 at All Saints Church; burial in St. James Cemetery, Woodbridge, NJ

Constable – Myron James Brady, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 10, 2020 at St. Francis of Assisi Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Constableville – Colleen A. (Murphy) Bedore, 68; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 10, 2020 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Boonville Cemetery.

Croghan – Robert Francis Grimmer, 86; Private graveside services to be held at St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Dannemora – Clarence R. Trudeau, 89; Graveside Services Oct. 9, 2020 at St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Hogansburg – Mary (Wari) Herne, 92; Private Mass of Christian burial at St. Regis Church.

Massena – LeRoy T. Schwardfigure, 92; Private burial to be held.

Plattsburgh – Rosemary (Bushey) Martin, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 7, 2020 at Our Lady of Victory Church.

Port Henry – Sophia Wojewodzic, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 9, 2020 at St. Patrick's Church

Saranac Lake – Eleanor Gauthier, 91; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at a later date at St. Bernard's Church.

Saranac Lake – Michelle Marie St. Amand, 40; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 8, 2020 at St. Bernard's Church.

Ticonderoga – Jean F. (Zaleckas) Hakim, 59; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 7, 2020 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Parish Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Beaulah Pauline "Bea" (Thatcher) Keegan, 99; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 6, 2020 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's parish cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Napoleon J. "Junie" La-Point, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 5, 2020 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's cemetery.

Watertown – Diane E. Clark, 71; Private services to be held; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Watertown – Myra Jean T. Koster, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 10, 2020 at Holy Family Church.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR WIT AND
HUMOR.

FROM, T.C., RICK, JONATHAN QUAYLE HIGGINS III,
ZEUS AND APOLLO



Brooklyn Diocese files religious freedom lawsuit

BROOKLYN, N.Y. (CNS) – The Diocese of Brooklyn filed a lawsuit in federal court Oct. 8 against the state of New York, charging that Gov. Andrew Cuomo's new orders reducing church capacity violates the First Amendment's guarantee of the free exercise of religion.

"The executive orders this week have left us with no other option than to go to court," Brooklyn Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio said in a statement.

"We vehemently disagree with the capacity limits being placed on us. They are disrespectful to Catholics who have only been abiding by the rules," he added. "We do not agree with such limitations because they completely disregard the fact that our safety protocols have worked."

On Oct. 6, Cuomo announced new restrictions on houses of worship in response to a spike in COVID-19 cases in densely populated ZIP codes he has identified as "hot zones." He said the state has created three zones – red, orange and yellow – each with different restrictions, including on the size of congregations.

Some Catholic parishes in the Brooklyn Diocese are in the "red zone," meaning their churches are being forced to reduce capacity to a maximum of 10 people inside at one time, and some are in the



CNS COMPOSITE; PHOTOS BY SHANNON STAPLETON, REUTERS, AND GREGORY A. SHEMITZ
New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, N.Y., are seen in this composite photo.

"orange zone," where only 25 people at one time can attend Mass. A "yellow zone" designation means a 50% capacity.

In a news release announcing the lawsuit, the diocese said Cuomo's new limits "arbitrarily" reduce capacity at Catholic churches throughout the New York City boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens, "locations of which have played an inconsequential role in the hot spot zone COVID-19 spikes."

Having to reset the attendance for churches that have the "capacity to accommodate many worshippers" in order to comply with the red zone and orange zone rules "when we have had no significant cases, impedes our right to worship and cannot stand," the diocese said.

Prior to the churches reopening July 5 for weekend Masses – after being closed for Mass for 16 weeks – the diocese said it worked with a former commissioner of the New York City Office of Emergency Management, Joseph Esposito, to develop a safe reopening plan for all churches to keep the faithful safe from the effects of the virus.

The church restrictions came a day after Cuomo had a news conference ordering closures of public schools and Catholic and other nonpublic schools in certain ZIP codes that reportedly have double, or in some areas quadruple, the New York metro area's average COVID-19 infection rate of 1.72%.

In the Diocese of Brooklyn, for example, this means the closure of St.

Athanasius Catholic Academy, Our Lady of Grace, St. Edmund Elementary School and Good Shepherd Catholic Academy.

The Brooklyn Diocese has retained litigation attorney Randy M. Mastro, a partner in the New York office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, to represent it in this case.

"Public officials have a sacred duty to do right by those they serve, but this is simply wrong and wrong-headed," Mastro said in a statement. "If this latest executive order stands, parishioners won't be able to go to Mass this Sunday, even though the diocese has done everything right to ensure safe conditions in its churches."

If this happens, the diocese's religious community "will be denied its most fundamental right – the free exercise of religion – for no legitimate reason whatsoever," he said. "That's why we've gone to court – to prevent this injustice from occurring – so we're asking the court to block this executive order from going into effect as applied to the diocese's churches."

The diocese said the state "has completely disregarded the fact that our safety protocols have worked and it is an insult to once again penalize all those who have made the safe return to church work."

Massgoers wear masks during Mass and sit 6 feet apart, with a row roped off

in between, and they stand 6 feet apart in the line to receive Communion line.

Pastors have installed hand sanitizers at the entrances and have ensured churches are cleaned and sanitized after Masses," the diocese said. "A tremendous amount of time has been devoted, as well as resources and expense, to enforce these strict requirements to help ensure the safety of all."

Joseph Zwilling, director of communications of the Archdiocese of New York, issued a statement supporting the lawsuit and echoed what the Brooklyn Diocese stated about Catholic parishes cooperating with health officials and strictly following all safety protocols for their churches, schools and other facilities. He, too, called Cuomo's closures arbitrary and unfair.

"Catholic parishes throughout the Archdiocese of New York – indeed, throughout the entire state – have been able to safely and successfully reopen for Mass and the sacraments, thanks to careful planning, strict adherence to safety guidelines, and the full cooperation of our clergy, parishioners and parish staffs," Zwilling said in a statement released late Oct. 8.

"So it is unfair to arbitrarily close, even temporarily, churches which have been operating without a spike in coronavirus cases simply because other institutions have not yet been able to do so," he added. "The Diocese of Brooklyn's lawsuit seeks to defend their First Amendment right to continue to safely worship and operate their parishes, and we support the Diocese of Brooklyn in their effort."

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