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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

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Pope Francis' comments on same sex unions clarified

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FULL STORY, PAGE 4

ADMITTED TO CANDIDACY



Seminarians in the School of Theology at the Pontifical College Josephinum were admitted to Candidacy for Holy Orders by Bishop Robert J. Brennan, bishop of Columbus and vice-chancellor of the Josephinum, during Mass in Saint Turibius Chapel on November 1. The Rite of Admission to Candidacy is a pivotal step in the journey to the ordained priesthood. It is celebrated when a seminarian has reached a maturity of purpose in his formation and has demonstrated the necessary qualifications for ordination. In the presence of the bishop, he publicly expresses his intention to complete his preparation for Holy Orders and his resolve to fully invest himself to that end, so that he will serve Christ and the Church faithfully. Admitted to candidacy were Matthew Gubenski of the Diocese of Birmingham, Jake Asuncion of the Diocese of Columbus, David England of the Diocese of Columbus, Kevin Girardi of the Diocese of Columbus, John Haemmerle of the Diocese of Columbus, Joseph Rolwing of the Diocese of Columbus, Christopher Hoffmann of the Diocese of Jefferson City, and Youmarcks Jacques of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

NOW A PRIEST OF OUR DIOCESE



After spending a pastoral year serving as parochial vicar at St. André Bessette Parish in Malone, Father Medenel Angrand, a native of Haiti, has been incardinated as a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope: Without prayer, life can seem troublesome

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Prayer has the power to take all those things in life that seem like a condemnation and turn them into something good, Pope Francis said.

"The trials of life thus change into opportunities to grow in faith and charity," the pope said Nov. 4 during his weekly general audience, which was livestreamed from the library of the Apostolic Palace.

The general audience had been taking place with

the public present since Sept. 2 — starting in an outdoor courtyard and later in the Vatican's Paul VI hall. But after someone attending the general audience Oct. 21 tested positive for COVID-19, the Vatican announced that beginning Nov. 4, the audiences would return to being livestreamed without the presence of pilgrims and visitors to prevent "any possible future risks to the health of the participants." Continuing his series of

audience talks about prayer, Pope Francis reflected on how Jesus always took time out to pray and be in dialogue with God, despite busy days helping the poor and the sick.

Jesus was not guided or inspired by success, consensus or "the seductive phrase, 'Everyone is searching for you,'" the pope said.

"Prayer is the rudder that guides Jesus' course," he said; it does not lead him

to the easiest path, but to the one that stays true to God's will, which he discovers in prayer.

A day lived without prayer risks turning into a day that is lived as "bothersome or tedious," a day when whatever happens is poorly endured and comes from "blind fate," the pope said.

"Prayer is first of all listening to and encountering God," he said. It helps people face reality, but in a way that they can see

problems not as obstacles, but as opportunities to grow in faith and charity.

Without cultivating self-reflection, he said, "we become superficial, agitated and anxious."

Jesus showed that prayer is ultimately letting go and putting oneself in God's hands.

At the end of the audience, the pope prayed for "the defenseless victims of terrorism, whose intensifying cruelty is spreading in Europe."

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EDITOR'S NOTE

It keeps me accountable

I'd love to be the kind of person who has great self-discipline, but I'm not quite there yet.

Because of that, I thrive in settings where I have accountability. I have weekly deadlines that keep me accountable for getting my work done for this newspaper. I have submission deadlines that ensure I complete paperwork connected to my son's services.

Without those deadlines, I'd likely succumb to my habits of procrastination.

Even in my spiritual life, accountability helps me ensure that I continue to grow and

share my faith. My Cursillo small group is a big part of that accountability.

Last week, the North Country Catholic kicked off a series focusing on Cursillo. I made my Cursillo weekend a few years ago at Wadhams Hall. While the weekend helped me develop my relationship with the Lord, it's the movement's focus on regularly gathering in small groups after the weekend that has helped me most.

People who complete a Cursillo weekend, referred to as cursillistas, are encouraged to join or form a small group after their week-

end experience. In those small groups, cursillistas pray together, and we share what we're doing to learn about the faith (study), what we're doing to grow our personal relationships with the Lord (piety) and how we're sharing our faith with others (action).

I recognize that it's important that I continue to learn about and develop my faith, but I know I also have a habit of neglecting to do so as I get wrapped up in my busy schedule of family obligations, work and other commitments.

This is where my small group helps keep me accountable.

I never want to gather with

my small group and say, "I didn't do anything to learn about the faith," "I didn't focus on growing my relationship with the Lord at all," or "I didn't share my faith with anyone this month."

Because I know I'm going to share those aspects of my faith life with my group, I make sure I focus on them. The group's accountability helps keep my faith life going and growing.

I'm trying to develop the self-discipline I need to complete my assignments and paperwork early, and to continuously focus on developing my faith, but until I get there, I'm grateful for the accountability. God knows I need it.

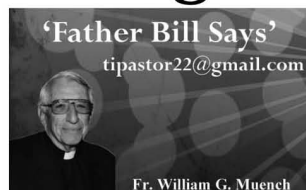
**Darcy L.
Fargo**

Remembering to express gratitude

November is a month dedicated to gratitude. November begins with our offering gratitude to God for all the saints that have touched our lives and shown us the way to being saints ourselves. Then, we offer prayers in gratitude for our deceased loved ones – those who were an important part of our lives and are now with the Lord.

The month of November always aims toward Thanksgiving Day. This is such a wonderful holiday and has become an important part of our life as Americans. Thanksgiving is a family day of gratitude remembering family and friends and being grateful for all we are and have as Americans. It is a day to celebrate our freedom and our way of life, despite the many challenges and controversies.

I know that I have written a great deal about gratitude to you in the past. I continue to believe that gratitude is an important part of all that it means to be a Catholic. God is so good and so loving to



me. He fills my life with such goodness and blessings. My gratitude is constant. Knowing my God's love, I begin and end each day with gratitude.

Jesus brought the message of God to our world. God loves us. God's loving forgiveness welcomes us each and every day as disciples of the Lord. We must respond in gratitude to this God, who does not hesitate to forgive and love us. Jesus came to this world of ours, and Jesus was constantly close to the outcasts of this world. In love, Jesus demonstrated that God is always loving and forgiving. I must so deeply grateful for this God that loves me so much and forgives me each time I fail, each time I sin.

Jesus taught us in a very

clear way in his parable of the Prodigal Son. I am certain that you remember this story. In Jesus' story, the young son demands his share of his father's inheritance and then loses all in a wasteful manner. Then this young man in poverty decides to return to his home. In Jesus' story, the father rushes down the road to meet his son. The father welcomes him home in love and forgiveness and celebrates his return. Jesus tells me in this story that each time I break my relationship with the Lord and then realize, like the Prodigal Son, my selfishness and reach out to the Lord, God reacts just like the Father in Jesus' parable, welcoming me with love and forgiveness.

There have been many times when I was indeed the Prodigal. And I have experienced God's loving forgiveness and felt that call to find new life in the Lord's love and peace. Each time I am overwhelmed with God's love. This God is so loving

and caring that he constantly forgives me and shows me the way to peace and happiness.

Each time I approach the altar for Mass, I remember that this is a moment of gratitude. I remember that the very word Eucharist means "thanks." Each prayer I offer is in response to the gratitude that overflows in my heart for this God of mine. Gratitude is a part of each and every day, not just all the days of November, but all days. Jesus entered my world to bring love and peace and forgiveness to me. I am a loved person and for this I am grateful, and I know that I must live out this gratitude each day.

As I pray this day, remembering my gratitude to the Lord for all that he has brought into my life, I offer my gratitude to God for my vocation as a priest. I believe that my God called me for this I am grateful. I believe the Lord constantly supports and guides me, and for this I am grateful.

Father Angrand becomes priest of the diocese

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

MALONE – He's now officially a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

On Nov. 2, Father Medenel Angrand, parochial vicar at St. André Bessette Parish in Malone, was formally incardinated as a priest of the diocese.

"Incardination is the canonical institution of permanent attachment of bishops, priests and deacons to a particular church or other ecclesiastical entity for the primary purpose of the service of the people of God," according to the New Commentary on the Code of Canon Law.

Canon Law states that "every cleric must be incardinated" and "unattached or transient clerics are not allowed at all."



Father Medenel Angrand

Father Angrand was previously incardinated in the Diocese of Fort-Liberté in Haiti. To be incardinated into the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Father Angrand had to receive permission from his bishop in Haiti, Bishop Quesnel Alphonse, SMM, as well as Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

"Father Angrand is a welcome addition to our

diocese," said Bishop LaValley. "He has served faithfully and been a living witness of the Gospel to the people of St. André Bessette Parish in Malone for the past year, and we look forward to having him continue to serve God, the Church and the people of our diocese for many years to come."

Father Angrand, who recently completed a pastoral year in Malone, said he is pleased to continue his ministry here in the North Country.

"I feel comfortable here," he said. "It is a joy to serve in this diocese. I'm very happy to be here to serve the Church as a priest among the people. I want to be and remain a servant of God among them. I pray for that. I ask them to pray for me so I can be a humble servant of God, live the joy of the

Gospel and bring the joy of the gospel to these people."

Father Angrand said he "fell in love with the diocese" after visiting the North Country several times and meeting Father Howard J. Venette.

"I asked Father Venette if I can be part of the diocese," he said. "He said I can. I sent a letter to the bishop to accept me into the diocese. Bishop and (Vicar for Clergy) Father Chris (Carrara) gave me an assignment in this parish. I'm very happy to be here."

Father Angrand said he has enjoyed working with the people at St. André Bessette Parish.

"People here, they are very devoted, and they welcome me with great love," he said. "They are patient with me and my English and my accent. I

love them."

He also noted that he is glad to serve in a diocese where there is a need for priests.

"There's a need for priests in this diocese," he said. "In my country, they have a lot of vocations and a lot of priests."

Father Angrand was ordained Aug. 24, 2003 in the Diocese of Fort-Liberté, Haiti. In addition to serving as a pastor of two parishes, he has served as director of Caritas, director of Holy Childhood, a member of the College of Consultors and as an assistant pastor in his previous diocese.

Father Angrand received his bachelor's degree in sacred theology in 2002 and a master's degree in moral theology in 2019. He also has associate degrees in intercultural studies and philosophy.

Memorial Mass celebrated for Father Morris

A Memorial Mass for Father Thomas Augustine Morris, O.S.S.T. was celebrated at St. Lawrence Martyr Catholic Church, 7850 Parkside Blvd, Hanover, Maryland, on Monday, November 9, 2020.

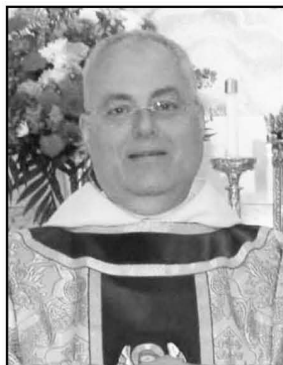
Father Morris died unexpectedly in his sleep during the night of November 1-2.

Father Morris was born on August 15, 1953 in Malone, New York, the son of Augustus and Shirley Marie (née Yando) Morris. He was baptized Thomas Edward Morris.

He entered the novitiate of the Order of the Most Holy Trinity and of the Captives on August 12, 1977 at Holy Redeemer Monastery in Baltimore, Maryland. He made his First Profession of Vows

on August 12, 1978 at St. Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Baltimore, Maryland. He made his Solemn Profession of Vows on September 11, 1981 at St. Jerome Catholic Church in Hyattsville, Maryland. On September 12, 1981, he was ordained a deacon at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. Father Morris was ordained to the priesthood on December 12, 1981 at St. Jerome Catholic Church in Hyattsville, Maryland.

Since July 1, 2016, Father Morris has served as pastor of Incarnation-St. James Catholic Parish in Ewing/Trenton, New Jersey. Father Morris also served in parish ministry at Our Lady of Good Counsel in New Orleans,



Father Thomas Morris, OSST

Louisiana, at St. Ann in Bristol, Pennsylvania, and Sacred Heart of Mary and St. Rita in Baltimore, Maryland. During his time in Louisiana, he also served as a hospital chaplain at Hotel Dieu. Father Morris has served World Wide Marriage Encounter in various capacities since 2007.

During his 38 years of priesthood, Father Morris was called to serve the Order as provincial secretary, director of formation, and as director of Holy Trinity Spiritual Center in Baltimore, Maryland.

Father Morris is survived by his sister Carol Anne (Robert) Patterson; brothers John Robert (Mary Ann) Morris and Jeffrey Charles (Donna) Morris; uncle Edward (Gracia) Yando; aunt Carol Higgins; nieces and nephews Kristie (John) Patterson Daut, Adam Morris, Bryan Patterson, Monique Morris and Heather Morris; great-niece Isabel Daut; great-nephew Jack Daut; and his Trinitarian brothers and members of the Trinitarian family.

Father Morris was pre-

ceded in death by his parents and several aunts and uncles.

Interment will be in New Cathedral Cemetery 4300 Old Frederick Rd, Baltimore, Maryland.

He will long be remembered by us, since "fraternal communion among our religious is not interrupted by death but is strengthened and truly endures through love and prayer" (GD 41). With confidence in the mercy and goodness of the Trinity, we request that the suffrages prescribed by our legislation be offered for Father Morris.

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Pope's comments on same sex unions clarified

Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, recently forwarded to all bishops a memorandum explaining the remarks of Pope Francis on same sex unions contained in a documentary film entitled *Francesco*. Archbishop Pierre was acting on behalf of Pope Francis, who directed the explanation be offered in order to permit an adequate understanding of his words, which were misrepresented in the documentary and have raised various concerns.

Over one year ago, in the course of an interview, Pope Francis responded to two distinct questions, at different moments. The documentary was edited afterward and the two distinct answers were published as a single response without necessary explanation or context. It is this editing that is causing confusion among the faithful.

The Pope's first statement arose in a discussion about the need for families to treat a son or daughter with a homosexual orientation with respect and dignity. In this context, Pope Francis said, "Homosexual persons have the right to have a

family. They are children of God, they have a right to a family. Nobody should throw them out of the family or make life impossible for them."

Pope Francis' response reflects sentiments expressed in the Apostolic Exhortation concerning love in the family (*Amoris laetitia*) (2016): "During the synod, we discussed the situation of families whose members include persons who experience same-sex attraction, a situation not easy either for parents or children. We would like before all else to reaffirm that every person, regardless of sexual orientation, ought to be respected in his or her dignity and treated with consideration, while 'every sign of unjust discrimination' is to be carefully avoided, particularly any form of aggression or violence. Such families should be given respectful pastoral guidance, so that those who manifest a homosexual orientation can receive the assistance they need to understand and fully carry out God's will in their lives."

The Holy Father made the second statement in response to a discussion about a local law in Argentina regarding mar-

riage for same-sex couples. At that time, Pope Francis was Archbishop of Buenos Aires and was opposed to the legislation. In this respect, Pope Francis affirmed that "it is incongruent to talk about same-sex marriage," adding in that precise context, that when he was Archbishop of Buenos Aires, he had spoken about the need for these persons to have legal protections for such things as healthcare. He said, "What we have to have is a law for civil co-existence. They have the right to legal protections. I defended that right."

This is consistent with other statements by Pope Francis. During a 2014 interview, the Holy Father expressed clearly that "[m]arriage is between a man and a woman. Secular states want to justify civil unions in order to regularize economic matters between persons, such as assuring health care, for example. This relates to various forms of cohabitation agreements, which I would not be able to list. The different situations must be examined and evaluated, according to their circumstances."

Archbishop Pierre expressed the hope that this information would clarify

that the Holy Father was responding to distinct situations when formulating the responses contained in the documentary, but that the editors of the documentary edited the statements and published them as a single statement. Pope Francis was addressing a particular

secular statute in one instance, and how to respond lovingly to family members who experience same-sex attraction in the other. The Pope was not changing the doctrine of the Church, which has been reiterated on numerous occasions over the years by Pope Francis.

A LEAFY PROJECT



Junior Kindergarten students in Kim Stewart's class at Trinity Catholic School in Massena are participating in a social studies, geography and science project with a friend of Mrs. Stewart's in California. The book, *The Leaf Project*, is about two friends who work in a school. One lives where the leaves change, and one moved away and misses the changing autumn leaves. The students and the teachers became the characters in the story. The students collected pretty leaves, laminated them, decorated the package and painted a picture of bright colored leaves for Linda Hibbert West, Mrs. Stewart's friend in California. The two are good friends from their alma mater, St. Lawrence Central School, in Brasher Falls.

JOB OPENING

St. Stephen's Parish, Croghan is looking for someone to fill a part-time position of **Accountant-Bookkeeper**. Applicant should be proficient with Quick-Books and able to complete accurate reporting and payroll processing. Some clerical duties will be required. Applicants should send their resumes and references to: Rev. Donald Manfred, St. Stephen's Church, PO Box 38, Croghan, NY 13327. **Applications due November 18, 2020.**



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Connected events focus on vocations

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

OGDENSBURG – It's all about vocations.

The weekend of Dec. 13, the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Office, working in cooperation with other diocesan offices and parishes, is hosting a series of connected events aimed at praying for, discerning and educating about vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

"We're very excited about this," said Father Christopher C. Carrara, director of Vocations and Seminarians. "We're very pleased with the fact that Youth Ministry, Vocations and Faith Formation are working hand in hand to bring a number of initiatives to the parishes at a time when getting around and hosting events is so difficult. I'm excited to see how it's going to unfold."

The event will kick off with a Holy Hour at a parish in each deanery at 2 p.m. on Dec. 13.

"The first aspect is to do what Scripture tells us and to pray for vocations," Father Carrara said.

Holy Hours will be held at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg, St. Mary's in Massena, Notre Dame in Malone, St. Alexander's in Morrisonville, St. Patrick's in Watertown, St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake, St. Peter's in Lowville, and St. Bartholomew's in Old Forge. Due to a scheduling conflict, Essex Deanery will hold its Holy Hour on December 6 at St. Patrick's in Port Henry.

While the Holy Hours will be open to the public with appropriate COVID-19 protocols in place, an online option will also be available for those who

Be part of the discussion

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about vocations to the priesthood or consecrated life, participate in the vocations questions & answer period by contacting your pastor or the Diocesan Vocations Office at 315-393-2920 or crussell@rcdony.org

are unable to travel to one of the participating churches.

"We'll be livestreaming the Holy Hour at the cathedral with Bishop (Terry R.) LaValley," added Catherine Russell, Vocation coordinator. "Some of the participating parishes may also decide to livestream."

Father Carrara also noted that other parishes are welcome and encouraged to hold Holy Hours to correspond with the event.

After the Holy Hour, a confirmation retreat will be held from 3:15 to 6:30 p.m.

"The retreat will be led virtually, but we're asking parishes to gather their confirmation students in a group – with all the safety protocols in place – at their locations," Russell said. "The retreat will start with ice breakers to get them warmed up. Next, there will be a meditative prayer experience on the life of Jesus. That experience will include breaking into small groups so the students can have discussion and community. After that part of it, there will be a session on what God is calling you to do now with what you've learned."

That last portion will lead into the third component of the event, a Zoom-based question-and-answer (Q&A) session with Bishop LaValley, Sister M. Gregory Munger, vocations direc-

tor for the Sisters of St. Joseph in Watertown, and three Diocese of Ogdensburg seminarians.

"Each of the presenters will share a short reflection on their own vocation, and Bishop LaValley will give a short presentation," said Father Carrara. "We'll also have the Q&As. Some of the questions will be submitted by the classes ahead of time, and some questions will be asked live."

As an extension of the vocations event, a handful of diocesan seminarians will go out to diocesan parishes to speak about vocations while home for their winter breaks.

"A number of our seminarians will be home in January," said Father Carrara. "Bishop has approved having some of the more senior seminarians go out and speak in parishes where they haven't had a seminarian speak recently. Parishes can request seminarians to speak at Masses in early January. Our goal is that between the weekend of December 12 and 13 and the time the seminarians go back to school in January, a good number of our parishes will have had vocations events, visits, prayer and reflections."

Russell noted that the Faith Formation Department has been encouraging catechetical leaders to have their confirmation students participate in the retreat and vocations events. She noted, though, that participation in the Q&A is not limited only to confirmation students.

"Anyone who may be interested in learning more about a vocation or who is actively discerning a vocation is encouraged to

participate," she said. "If there's someone interested in participating who isn't a student, they can talk to their pastor or contact the vocations office to get the link for the Q&A."

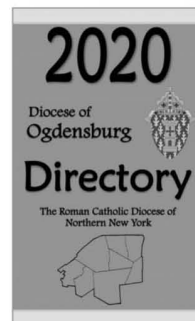
Both Russell and Father Carrara said they are excited to utilize the available online platforms to pray for and discuss vocations during these challenging times.

"We've always had events like Operation Andrew dinners, and we just can't do those this year," said Russell. "We had to come up with new ways to bring people together to have these conversations about vocations and to pray together."

"Gathering together and getting out to foster vocations in person is a big challenge during this pandemic," added Father Carrara. "But it's not a challenge to pray. We should be doing that first and foremost. We wanted to give people an opportunity to pray together for vocations and opportunities to safely gather – even if it's from all different locations. This also builds on our efforts to give the Vocations Office more of a virtual and digital presence."

"We'll see how it all goes," concluded Russell. "We're trying new things, and we're preparing as much as we can, but we're still learning as we go."

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Environmental Stewardship

Needed 'ecological virtues'

In an article entitled *Nine Ecological Virtues*, Rich Heffern suggests that in addition to the theological virtues of faith, hope and love, and the cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, temperance and fortitude, we may need some other virtues to heal a world that is badly out of balance.

Virtues provide us with resources that not only help us get through life but enable us to flourish on our faith journey. The writer quotes Pat Mische, co-founder of Global Education Associates, who states, "Our search for life in God must be worked out now in a global context, in the midst of global crises and global community."

The struggle for the future will be fought in the midst of our lives, in adjusting our wants and needs to fit within earth's limits.

One of these suggested ecological virtues is humility. This virtue roots us in the very truth of who we are. As we know the word itself comes from the Latin "humus," meaning ground or earth. It is part of the bedrock on which the spiritual house is built. It requires attentive listening to the subtle ways that God is present to us in the events, people and places we experience each day. It is the kind of practiced wisdom that we discover day by day. A clarity of vision of who we are and our place in the world takes time to develop.

Humility reveals for us that we are never alone, but rather we are a unique part of the magnificent tapestry of creation. The realistic perspective of humility challenges us to listen to others when we realize that none of us has all the answers. Mary's *Magnificat* calls for a sacred community, based on humility that provides good news for the poor, while scattering the proud with all their plans. This wisdom helps us to discern how to adjust our wants and needs to fit within Earth's limitations.

Suggestion for the week: Pray Psalm 8 and reflect on your own role in taking care of creation in your "backyard." And from nature, take only what is needed!

Rest in Peace

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

Nov. 11 – Rev. Edward O. Hervieux, 1947; Msgr. Bernard E. Christman, 2012

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

Nov. 14 – Msgr. Edward Joseph Pierce, 1980

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

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

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

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.

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, 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.

GET TO KNOW CURSILLO

'I was missing something'

By William Fassinger
North Country Cursillo



I thought I was a pretty darn good Catholic. Catholic grade school, Catholic high school, two Jesuit colleges (Regis College when I was stationed in Colorado and Chaminate University when I was stationed in Hawaii), and I even graduated from a Baptist University. I was an altar boy from grammar school to when I first attended college and occasionally when I came home for a weekend. I was living my faith.

As time progressed and I grew older and wiser, I joined the Knights of Columbus while living in Hawaii and transferred my membership to a Council in St. Lawrence County. I even went as far as becoming a Fourth Degree Knight. I was living my faith.

Now please don't get the idea that I am a poster child for the Catholic

church.

There were times when my faith faltered and I questioned. Some of it may have had to do with the line of work I was in, some of it may have to do with some setbacks I experienced.

Even in the times of trouble, I was living my faith, or so I thought.

Was my faith the bridge over troubled waters? Was I getting enough out of it or was I just looking for the WIFM (what's in it for me) experience?

Still, I thought I had it made in the shade because I went through the motions, made my appearances, belonged to the right organizations, and even sat on a couple of committees at my parish.

All of those warm and fuzzy feelings were there, or so I thought.

I was missing something. I was missing that close relationship with Jesus, having Him as my friend, my confidant, my mentor and my savior.

Why? I kept on searching until a good friend of mine invited me to attend a Cursillo weekend. Though I was apprehensive and nervous, I told my friend "sure, let's do this."

Man, did I make the right decision!

I am not going to go into the history of the Cursillo movement, let another writer do that. What I want to share with

Learn more or get involved

To learn more about participating in a Cursillo weekend and the Cursillo movement, visit rcdony.org/cursillo, call Michael Neaton at 315-261-4150 or email nccsec2019@gmail.com.

you is what I experienced that weekend. I learned how to pray, I mean really pray and talk to Jesus. I learned how to let my guard down and let Jesus be my friend, my confidant, my mentor and my Savior. I learned how to talk with Him, as a friend with whom I could share my deepest feelings and fears. I came away looking to continue and strengthen that relationship.

This is not some kind of cult that makes you shave your head and relinquish all your possessions to them. This is a group of men (and there are also Cursillo weekends for women) that want to strengthen their relationships with Jesus, gain a deeper understanding of their faith and make the Catholic Church stronger and more vibrant.

So, now I am going to pose a couple of questions to you: Do you feel that you are lacking something in your faith and relationship with Jesus? Do you want more?

If you answered yes to either of those questions, I would strongly suggest that you make the time to attend a Cursillo weekend. You may come away from the retreat revitalized in your relationship with Jesus and ready to take what you have experienced and share it with everyone you encounter.

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg

Building A Bridge For The Future



The Foundation Office of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg
622 Washington Street • Ogdensburg
Scott Lalone, Executive Director • 315-393-2920 (Ext. 1330)

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Passing Our Living Faith to Future Generations

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

During these uncertain times, we have leaned strongly on our faith as we cope with such concerns as the loss of loved ones, serious health issues, financial setbacks, and many other causes of anxiety that haunt us during this pandemic. Whether we are praying and worshiping physically in our churches, livestreaming on television or tuning in on our radio, we are all united and continuing to support one another in our faith journey.



Now, more than ever, we must possess the foresight to make certain the Church will have the means to carry out its sacred mission: protecting human life, promoting respect for the dignity of every human life, supporting the poor, and building up the Church as we continue the mission of proclaiming the Good News.

From one generation to the next, our family of faith has generously supported and strengthened one another in our journey of faith. In 2007, in order to “**Build a Bridge for the Future**” and continue a strong sense of commitment, the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg was established with the purpose of preparing the Diocese to meet the needs of tomorrow.

Please take a moment to review the 2019 Annual Report of the Foundation found on the back page of this insert. You will note the fifty-one endowments established to support the future ministry of the Church here in the North Country, as well as our mission statement which explains what a Catholic Foundation is, how it works, and the methods of giving.

These endowment gifts are a perpetual source of revenue for the Diocese, Parishes, Schools, Ministries and Missionary Projects of the Diocese. I am extremely appreciative and grateful to those who have contributed to the Foundation and have invested in our Catholic community's future.

The Foundation is an instrument for you to make a legacy for the next generation and for generations to come. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to consider developing an estate plan for the benefit of your loved ones and those close to your heart.

I am grateful to the Board of Directors who provide sound guidance, ensure legal ethical integrity and offer wise stewardship in overseeing the investments of its funds.

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

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg Statements of Financial Position June 30, 2020 and June 30, 2019

	6/30/2020	6/30/2019
ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 51,432	\$ 210,734
Accrued Interest	10,022	19,920
Investments at Fair Value	6,796,497	6,089,017
Charitable Gift Annuities	1852	1852
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 6,859,803	\$ 6,321,523
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$ 15,396	\$ -
NET ASSETS (DEFICIT)		
Without Donor Restrictions	(117,519)	(107,045)
With Donor Restrictions	6,961,926	6,428,568
Total Net Assets	6,844,407	6,321,523
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 6,859,803	\$ 6,321,523

The Foundation's IRS Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt Form Tax, is available for inspection upon request

MISSION STATEMENT

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

In fulfilling its mission, The Foundation will:

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

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

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

Board of Directors

Mr. Michael J. Tooley
Diocesan Fiscal Officer
Treasurer

Reverend Thomas Kornmeyer
Pastor

Sister Shirley Anne Brown
Hammond, NY

Mr. Thomas Hannan
Ogdensburg, NY

Mrs. Mary Anne Bukolt-Ryder
Plattsburgh, NY

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg
President

Reverend Joseph A. Morgan
Vicar General
Vice President

Passing Our Living Faith to Future Generations



Outdoor Altar at Camp Guggenheim, Saranac Lake

Endowment Beneficiaries Can Include

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

Methods of Giving

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

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

HOW THE FOUNDATION WORKS

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

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

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

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

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

Donor Restricted Net Assets as of June 30, 2020 - \$6,961,926



Challenges and joys of seminary in COVID

By Mary Beth Bracy
Contributing Writer

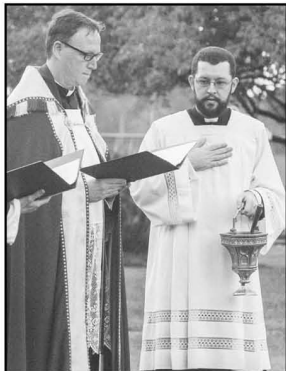
Some of the Diocese of Ogdensburg seminarians recently reflected on the challenges and joys of seminary life during the pandemic.

Challenges

- “Until a few weeks ago, we weren’t allowed off the Josephinum campus, except with the express permission of the vice-rector,” shared Lukas Gruber. “Thankfully, we were recently offered the ability to go to parks and trail-heads. Still, it is a challenge not to be able to interact with local parishioners and minister to them. For me, this period has been a great reminder of what a great privilege it is to be able to serve God’s people in any capacity, even if it is reduced to prayerful accompaniment. God-willing, we’ll go out and perform some sort of parish ministry next semester.”

- “Adapting to a new culture and environment is hard; at times I have felt confused and even anxious,” Tuan ‘Joseph’ Vuong revealed. “I am making strides, growing and accepting joys and challenges. The diocese is becoming my home, as Bishop (Terry R.) LaValley suggested. My dream is to become a priest, and I hope to settle in the North Country. I am doing all I can to adapt to local culture and traditions. My biggest challenge is homesickness. I have no family in the U.S.; they all live in Viet Nam, so loneliness is an issue. I have concerns about my parents’ health.”

- “Going to seminary in the middle of a pandemic is very strange,” noted Nick Olley. “While still having to go to classes, liturgies, off campus, and



Lukas Gruber



Tuan 'Joseph' Vuong



Nick Olley



Tyler Fitzgerald

the list goes on. Seminary is difficult on its own, with all the reading and assignments, along with the things that are expected from us in the seminary schedule or the very fact that we are studying to become a priest for Jesus Christ. The most annoying thing is that we must wear masks everywhere in the building, though we live together. This is certainly helping us practice the virtue of obedience to our superiors!”

- “For me, the biggest challenge is not being able to travel home for Thanksgiving or do too much off campus,” wrote Tyler Fitzgerald. “Although sad, there are preparations underway for a large community dinner. There have been plenty of socials, parties, and fraternal events. We had a pumpkin carving, snacks, movies and candy. Not being able to freely travel has led to a deep sense of fraternity. We are blessed with an excellent campus equipped with a pool, gym, exercise rooms, places to walk, four chapels, and a (temperamental) bowling alley. Every day I am reminded that I’m not alone.”

- “The biggest impact has been on our brotherhood, upon which so much of our seminary formation relies,” Carter

Pierce said. “By our brotherhood we solidify what we learn in class, support each other in discernment, strengthen each other in our commitment to virtuous living, console each other in our struggles and offer friendship. It is harder to have those interactions in a deep, impactful way. This has taught me to appreciate more what is currently lacking. My brothers have done a great job in overcoming challenges, discovering new ways to bond, have conversations, and interactions. This experience has banded us together.”

- “Here in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, we are not even allowed to sing at Mass!,” relayed Leagon Carlin. “Though it seems that we are all further apart than ever, and this carries its own struggles in our attempt as future priests to be close to the people for whose service we will be ordained, it is in many ways all the easier to become closer to the One for Whom we are pursuing this way in the first place, and for love of Whom we desire to give our lives: The Most Holy Trinity, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”

- “One of the biggest challenges, especially this year, has been adjusting to life at a new seminary:

Mt. Saint Mary’s definitely does things differently than the Josephinum, where I studied the last four years,” commented Douglas Schirmer. “But it’s been a great experience, and the community here is wonderful! I’m finding the challenge to be rewarding.”

Joys

- “The greatest joy is to be able to continue in-person formation,” Gruber reflected. “Virtual learning is a wonderful tool and aid, but God did not make us to sit in front of a screen all day. Rather, He made us with a deep desire for in-person human contact with Himself and others. It’s also a great joy to worship God together here in a fairly normal and regular fashion. We are extremely lucky that we are able to attend Mass every day and have frequent Confession. May God soon grant everyone the opportunity for frequent reception of the Eucharist and Confession.”

- Vuong explained: “I chose to follow Jesus Christ knowing that I would have to renounce much; I offer God these sacrifices and serve Him. I offer these challenges to our Blessed Mother. I know I am on the right path. When I came, I felt happy in this holy environment. I know other

seminarians who are also foreigners. I am warmly received and grateful to be part of an incredible community. We are all growing spiritually. I have time for prayer, especially the rosary, and meditation. Joys and challenges helped me mature in faith. God guides me through it all.”

- Olley witnessed: “I went straight to Jesus in the Eucharist and to Mama Mary with my concerns. Like a good mother, Mama Mary came and wrapped me up and gave me a sense of warmth and peace. Did not Jesus say, ‘Do not be afraid’ and to Trust in Him? Take care of your relationship with Christ, the Divine Physician. A prayer I recommend ‘The Surrender Novena’ which includes the prayer, O Jesus, I Surrender myself to You, take care of everything! You can always find blessings in all situations in life. Pray, Hope, and Don’t Worry!”

- “Firstly, we have been blessed that no one at the Mount has contracted COVID-19,” mused Pierce. “We have been praying daily to Our Lady for protection and she has not let us down. For this I am very thankful, both because we have a couple elderly priests here and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

LEWIS

CHICKEN AND BISCUIT DINNER

Lyons Falls – There will be a drive thru pre-order chicken and biscuit dinner.

Date: Nov. 17

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6

Place: St. John's Church

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

Contact: Please call 315-348-8945, 315-348-8577 or 315-513-4122 to reserve your dinner by Nov. 13.

ST. LAWRENCE

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Massena – In lieu of the annual bazaar, St. Peter's Parish will host a Harvest Festival.

Date: Nov. 14

Time: 4 to 7 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

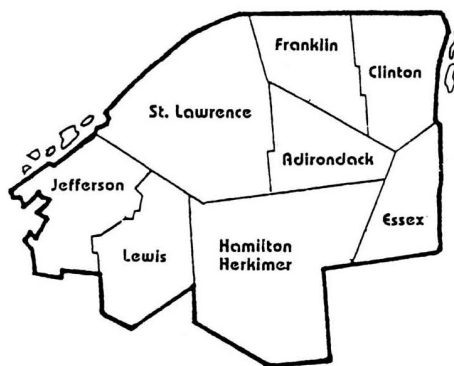
Features: Turkey Dinner (pick-up or delivery) for \$10, Big Ticket Raffle (chance to win \$2500), Ticket Central and Pull tabs.

Contact: For more information, call the Parish Office at 315-769-2469

DIOCESAN EVENTS

VIRTUAL PRIEST DISCERNMENT SESSIONS

Zoom in to Priest Discernment. High



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;
e-mail news@northcountycatholic.org.

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

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

Dates: Nov. 15 & 29 and Dec. 13

Time: 3 p.m.

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

VIRTUAL FAMILY LIFE CONFERENCE

Watch the "Iron Sharpens Iron" project from the virtual Family Life Conference at <https://www.rcdony.org/vflc>

Description: See the videos from the Virtual Family Life Conference or to submit a video of your family doing something fun.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Parish Excellence Summit

The Parish Excellence Summit is a five-day experience for parish priests, staff members and volunteer leaders that runs from Nov. 9-13. Videos of the presentations will be available until Nov. 15.

This convening of parish leaders and influential teachers on parish life will highlight strong practices from parishes across the country, particularly during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Each day will feature four hours of talks led by passionate parish leaders for passionate parish leaders.

For more information or to register, go to: parishexcellence.com/summit

Virtual Christmas caroling

Have all the fun of caroling without standing outside in the cold! The Family Life Office is continuing its Iron Sharpens Iron Project by inviting all interested families to submit videos of your family singing Christmas carols.

Get dressed up in your Christmas apparel, sprinkle the fake snow, do something fun, funny or fancy!

The Family Life Office will be collecting the videos and putting them onto its Iron Sharpens Iron webpage rcdony.org/vflc.

For more information, contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or sttartaglia@rcdony.org.

Advocacy in the palm of your hand

You now have the tools to make your voice heard to your elected officials right in the palm of your hand. The Catholic Action Network (CAN) can text critical advocacy alerts directly to your smartphone, with links to quickly send messages to your elected officials on urgent issues of the day. To sign up, just text the word CAN to 50457. You'll immediately receive a one-time link to complete your registration, which is free. Please consider signing up today.

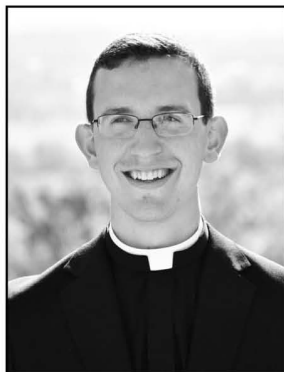
More information is available at <https://www.nyscatholic.org/nys-catholic-conference-action-center/>

Challenges and joys

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

because it allows us to continue to live, study, and be formed here without further interruption. We are also blessed with great leadership, who are excellent models for us and keep everyone positive, even in these trying times."

• "Every day I get to wake up, pray, receive the sacraments, learn about God and His Church, and grow in my spiritual life," expounded Fitzgerald. "What more could I want? It is a true pleasure, to prepare for a life of service to our diocese. Not a day goes by that I don't pray for the People of God in the North Country, who, please God, I will serve one day as a priest. I am filled with joy that God has allowed me to con-



Carter Pierce

tinue my formation and on the path to the priesthood. That outweighs any challenge imaginable."

• "One of the greatest joys that seminarians get to experience at any time, but which COVID has especially reminded us of, is that of daily Mass and Eucharistic adoration," Schirmer contemplated.



Leagon Carlin

"To spend time with Jesus in the sacrament, and to do so daily, is the most rewarding part of our routine here. Given the fact that COVID restrictions have made it difficult for so many to be close to Our Lord in this way, we do not take that blessing for granted! We've been praying for the people of the



Douglas Schirmer

Diocese, and the Church throughout the country, during this time. Another great joy for me is studying the Church's teachings. There is no teaching of the Church that does not have a good explanation: it just may take some work to find it every once in a while! There's a richness and beauty, a com-

pleteness, to the Church's teaching that constantly astounds me."

"The routine of prayer, the friends I am still able to be with, and the guidance of Priestly Advisors, both spiritual and practical, has served to create a real stable situation," concluded Carlin. "We are able to enter into the process of vocational discernment and preparation with a solid grounding in the things that sustain us, that is: the Eucharist; personal prayer and our relationship with the Blessed Mother; many opportunities for the Sacrament of Confession, and close, life-giving friendships. Thank you all for your prayers and support, and please be assured of the prayers of myself, and all of the seminarians!"

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

report on investigation into McCarrick to be released Nov. 10

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Vatican officials announced Nov. 6 that the Holy See will release Nov. 10 a long-awaited report on the investigation about the ascent to power of now-disgraced former U.S. Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick. The report's release comes days before the U.S. bishops gather virtually Nov. 16 and 17 for their annual meeting. "On Tuesday, 10th November 2020, at 2 p.m. (Rome time), the Holy See will publish the report on the Holy See's institutional knowledge and decision-making process related to former Cardinal Theodore Edgar McCarrick (from 1930 to 2017), prepared by the Secretariat of State by mandate of the Pope," Vatican officials said. It added: "The same day, an hour before publication, a section of the document will be provided in advance to accredited journalists." Various news organizations had reported its imminent release in early November.

Peterson's loss shrinks number of pro-life Democrats in House

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The Election Day defeat of Rep. Collin Peterson, D-Minnesota, will shrink the number of pro-life Democrats in the House of Representatives by two when the 117th Congress is seated in January. Another pro-life Democrat, Rep. Dan Lipinski, D-Illinois, lost to a primary challenger earlier this year. "It's just tragic. I think his race and Dan Lipinski's show how hard it is to be a pro-life Democrat," said Kirsten Day, executive director of Democrats for Life of America, in a Nov. 4 telephone interview with Catholic News Service. "We tried to help them as much as we could," Day added. For Peterson, "we did some postcards (saying) 'yes, he is pro-life,' because they were telling everybody he wasn't." "They," according to Day, were Peterson's Republican opponent, former Minnesota Lt. Gov. Michelle Fischbach, and her allies. Peterson, 77, outspent Fischbach, \$16 million to \$7 million, in his bid for a 16th term, but lost in a district in which Donald Trump beat Hillary Clinton by a 2-to-1 margin in 2016.

Pope expedites transfer of management of Secretariat assets

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – After the Vatican Secretariat of State missed a Nov. 1 deadline to hand over the management and monitoring of its own assets to two separate Vatican bodies, Pope Francis set up a commission to make the transfer and external oversight happen. The pope established the commission, whose mandate went into effect "immediately," during a Nov. 4 meeting with top Vatican officials to "bring to completion in the next three months, the provisions set forth in the letter to the secretary of state," said Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni in a statement released Nov. 5. The Vatican also released a copy of Pope Francis' letter to Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican Secretary of State. Dated Aug. 25, the letter said that by Nov. 1, all assets held by the Secretariat of State must be managed by the Administration of the Patrimony of the Holy See, which handles the Vatican's investment portfolio and real estate holdings. It also said the control or supervision of those assets would be handled by the Secretariat for the Economy. Pope Francis also said the Vatican should disinvest "as soon as possible" from a controversial property development deal in London and from the Centurion Global Fund based in Malta, which has seen significant losses while incurring exorbitant management fees. The aim of the Nov. 4 meeting, Bruni said, was "to foster the implementation of what the Holy Father requested in the letter."

News organizations project Biden win

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Hornblared near the White House just before noon Nov. 7 as major U.S. news organizations projected Democrat Joe Biden will be the 46th president of the United States, making him the second Catholic in the country's history to be elected to the nation's highest office.

"Congratulations to our second Catholic President and our first female VP of African and Indian roots!" tweeted Bishop John E. Stowe of Lexington, Kentucky, shortly after organizations such as The Associated Press, The New York Times and Fox News announced Biden and running mate Kamala Harris had won the race.

The projection came following the announcement from Pennsylvania officials that Biden had won the state's cache of 20 electoral votes, putting him over the 270 electoral-vote-threshold needed to secure a victory. Running mate Harris becomes the country's first female vice president-elect.

Though President Donald Trump's campaign launched legal battles over votes in some electorally rich states and made allegations of fraud in vote counting, even the president's supporters, such as Fox News, said in a newscast after the race was called that they hadn't seen evidence of widespread fraud.

Among Catholics, news agency AP VoteCast showed they were split between the two candidates, with 50% of Catholics backing Trump and 49% Biden, with most of the support coming from Latino Catholics, the

second largest ethnic group in the church, who overwhelmingly cast votes for Biden.

Some Catholics said they could not support the Biden-Harris ticket because both support legalized abortion.

In reaction to announcement of the Biden win, Carol Tobias, president of the National Right to Life Committee, said the president-elect and his vice president "support radical abortion policies." She expressed regret their administration is expected to roll back "protective legislation such as the Hyde Amendment" and support taxpayer funding of abortion.

But many Catholic organizations and even some bishops were tweeting or released statements of support for Biden shortly after news of his win.

Sister Simone Campbell, a Sister of Social Service, who is head of the Catholic social justice lobby group Network, said Catholics had responded to the president's divisiveness and voted for a range of issues.

"Catholics are not single-issue voters," she said in a statement. "Our community looked at the entirety of Donald Trump's divisive and harmful record and chose to elect leaders who will govern with empathy and concern for the most marginalized. Catholics rejected racism, hatred and division and embraced the politics championed by Pope Francis – a politics of love and inclusion."

Bishop Thomas J. Tobin of Providence, Rhode Island, also tweeted best

wishes.

"Congratulations to President-elect Joe Biden! We join in praying sincerely for his health and safety and that of his family," Bishop Tobin wrote. "With the grace of Almighty God to assist and guide him, may he strive always to govern our nation with wisdom, compassion and moral integrity."

Faith-based organizations that closely work with the Catholic Church on immigration issues, such as Hope Border Institute in El Paso, voiced support for a new administration and urged the presumptive president-elect to pass comprehensive immigration reform, to stop the building of the border wall, end a policy that keeps asylum-seekers to the U.S. in Mexico as they wait for their cases to be settled in U.S. immigration courts and end family separations among migrants.

In a letter the organization released Nov. 7, signed by Jesuit Father Sean Carroll, executive director of the Kino Border Initiative, Sister Norma Pimentel, executive director or Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, and Dylan Corbett, the institute's executive director, they asked that special attention be given to immigrant issues along the border.

"What we need now is moral leadership to bring us together and reject hate in all forms. As a fellow Catholic, we urge you to embrace the oppressed and vulnerable in our midst, who we believe are no less than the Christ knocking at our door," the letter said.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Are we using and growing our talents?

Many of you will remember the song from the musical *Godspell*, "We plough the fields and scatter." The refrain goes like this: "All good gifts around us, are sent from heav'n above, So thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all His love. I really want to thank you, Lord!" Stephen Schwartz really "lifted it" from an old German hymn. But how appropri-



**Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore**

ate for this Sunday's readings, which really warn us to use well the gifts God has given us, for the time is short before God will demand an accounting from us.

In the Gospel story about the king who goes on a long journey, then comes back suddenly, Jesus invites the Apostles to reflect on their own lives in terms of the "talents" they

November 15

33rd Sunday or Ordinary Time

READINGS

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Matthew 25:14-30

have each received. It's clear that he has given them to each in accordance with their own abilities. In the story, two of the servants promptly go out and double their value, while one, out of fear and timidity, just buries his one talent with-

out any attempt to use it well. The moral is obvious: if we don't use God's gifts and share them, we will be punished at the end of our lives.

Why must we be so industrious and generous with God's gifts? Because, as followers of Jesus, we cannot just live for our own selfish enjoyment, for we are "children of the light" meant to spread the Good News and help others to also live in the light.

It's clear from St. Paul's preaching to the Thessa-

lonians that no one knows just when the world will end, but the Lord's second coming is inevitable, and it will come suddenly, without warning.

It's a good Sunday to ask ourselves, "If the Lord should come today, how ready am I to 'turn in my chips' and give an accounting of my life? Will the Lord be pleased with how I have increased the gifts of light and grace He has given me? How generous have I been in sharing my light?"

CALLED TO SERVE

A Veterans Day reflection

The first military veteran I knew was my father. Dad was a Corpsman in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He was assigned to a Marine unit and served in the Pacific. He was detailed with hundreds of other soldiers, sailors, and Marines to Nagasaki after the Japanese surrender to assist with the "clean-up" following the atom bombing of that Japanese city.

I never had a chance to talk to my father about his military experiences, because he died when I was young. Daniel Mastellon is buried in the Pinelawn Memorial Park

on Long Island.

His grave is among those of other veterans who have died either during or after their service to our country.

In my lifetime, our nation has sent young men and women in our military services to conflicts and peacekeeping missions in many parts of the world. Some of those who served were relatives and friends.

You may have served, or members of your family or acquaintances may have served. This day, Veterans Day, is to remind us of your service.

This Friday, November

13, deacons of the diocese will join Deacon Dave Clark's family and friends in prayer to thank God for the service Dave gave to his country and his Church.

Deacon Dave died last March, only days after the pandemic restrictions were placed on all of us. He died in Plattsburgh after a relatively short but horrific series of medical complications.

Dave retired as a colonel from the United States Air Force after 30 years of service. He was a registered nurse and con-

tinued nursing as a civilian for the State of New York. He was ordained a deacon for the Diocese of Ogdensburg in 2017.



**Deacon
Kevin Mastellon**

He ministered in St. John's Church in Plattsburgh.

Dave and all the men and women I have been privileged to know who have served our country in military service have taken their faith with them to their assignments.

A passage from 1 Peter is appropriate for Veterans Day:

Let your love for one another be intense be-

cause love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining.


As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. Whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God provides so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Thank you all for your service to God and country.

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

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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

Seasons change, but needs remain the same

This time of the year with the fall chill in the air, it brings about reminders of having to get out our boots and coats. While the weather will and does change, the work to fight hunger and poverty in the United States and mission lands never ends.

As Catholics, we take time to reflect on Jesus carrying His cross. Reflections can lead us to remember why Jesus willingly carried His cross. Reflections no doubt fill us with emotions as we contemplate His great love for each of us.

As Jesus met His mother while carrying His cross, Mary suffered as she watched her son endure pain and could do nothing to help Him.

Let us pray for the many mothers around the world who see their children suffering from malnutrition and can do nothing to help them.

As our global battle with COVID continues, we all face difficult times, but it offers us the opportunity to think about people living in poverty and carrying the cross of hunger.

We are reminded of those who possibly have no boots, coats, or food all while trying to live within the parameters of a pandemic.

Thank you to all of you who contribute to the Pontifical Mission Societies each year with our collections and appeals to benefit so many living in the mission lands. These efforts do not just help with hunger alleviation efforts but with the building of schools, supporting vocations and assisting the efforts of missionaries in the developing lands.

Your contributions help people to receive relief from the daily crosses of hunger and poverty. As the mission lands suffer, maybe try to give of your time to volunteer at a local agency that reaches out to the poor in your community. Pick a meal to fast in solidarity with those who are hungry. There is always more we can do.

Let us pray for the wisdom to always remember that the poor at home and around the world are not statistics; they are our brothers and sisters.

May hope in Jesus' love for all affirm our work for justice for all people. May we remember that by our baptism, we are all missionaries.

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.
<http://www.rcdony.org/mission-office>

Funeral Mass held for Sister Loretta Wundrock, GNSH

A funeral Mass for Sister Loretta Wundrock, a Gray Nun of the Sacred Heart, 84, formerly Sister Loretta Joseph, was held Nov. 11 at Maternity B.V.M. Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Sister Loretta died November 4, 2020 in her 67th year of religious life.

A native New Yorker, this lifelong educator served as teacher, principal and school librarian during her years of active ministry. For 41 years, Sister Loretta was assigned to various locations in her home state, 20 of which were served at St. Mary's in Potsdam, where she was principal from 1977

to 1996. Other teaching assignments in New York State included Buffalo, Jackson Heights, Corona, Port Washington and St. Albans. She also taught in Atlanta, Georgia and King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

Sister Loretta earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from D'Youville College, Buffalo, and a master's in education from Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky. From 2007-11, Sister Loretta volunteered in ministry to the elderly homebound in Rockville Centre Diocese.

After retiring to the Motherhouse, Sister Loretta continued to en-

gage in intracommunity service until moving to Holy Redeemer Lafayette in 2016.

Born January 25, 1936 in New York, New York, she entered the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart in 1953.

In addition to her religious congregation, she is survived by her sister, Kay Wadsworth and nieces and nephews. Her parents and brother, Joseph, predeceased her.

Donations in Sister's memory will be gratefully received by the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, 14500 Bustleton Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19116-1188 or at www.greynun.org.

OBITUARIES

Boonville (Constableville) – Mildred A. (Pierre) Kirk, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 9, 2020 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Champlain – Janet A. (LaFontaine) Carey, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2020 at St. Mary's Church.

Chateaugay – Catherine T. Burke, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 6, 2020 at St. Patrick's Church.

Fort Covington – Maryanne Bernadette (Smith) Jock, 70; Graveside services to be held at a later date at Notre Dame Cemetery, Malone.

Lowville – Mary (Hanno) Widmeyer, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 7, 2020 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Old Glendale Cemetery.

Malone – Lynn M. Recore, 57; Funeral Services Nov. 4, 2020 at the Brusco-Desnoyers Funeral Home; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Massena – Charlene A. (Matteo) Hazelton, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 6, 2020 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Alice R. (Legault) Perry, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2020 at St. Mary's Church.

Morrisonville – Stanley E. St. Louis, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 5, 2020 at St. Alexander's Church.

Ogdensburg – Leo J. Degone, 93; Funeral Services at Foxwood Memorial Park Chapel.

Ogdensburg – Isabelle Louise (Watson) Hollembaek, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 14, 2020 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Peru – Pauline Geraldine (Provost) Chagnon, 86; Funeral Services Nov. 5, 2020 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, Plattsburgh.

Plattsburgh – Lucian R. Bernard, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 7, 2020 at St. John's Church.

Plattsburgh – Elizabeth R. "Beth" (Webber) Bissonette, 62; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 5, 2020 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St.

Peter's Columbarium.

Plattsburgh – Gertrude M. "Trudy" (Varden) Cardnay, 94; Private Services to be held.

Redford – Clarence W. Rascoe, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 9, 2020 at Church of the Assumption; burial in parish cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Eileen "Gen" Madden LaPlante, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2020 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Rosemarie (Bevilacqua) Hanson; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2020 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

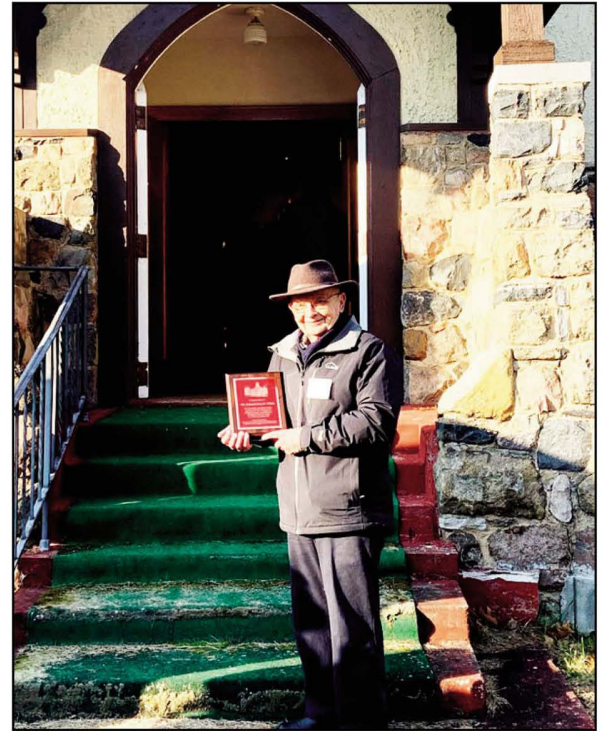
Ticonderoga – Christopher Michael Peters, 56; Memorial Services Nov. 9, 2020 at the Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home.

Watertown – Margaret Jane (Goodfriend) Morgia, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2020 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.



AMANDA CONKLIN/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

(Above) Diocese of Syracuse Bishop Douglas J. Lucia, former pastor of St. Mary's Canton and the oratory at St. Paul's in Pyrites, delivers the homily at the Mass celebrating St. Paul's 100th anniversary. (Right) Edd White, long-time parishioner and caretaker of St. Paul's, receives a plaque honoring him for his commitment to St. Paul's.



St. Paul's in Pyrites celebrates 100 years

By Amanda Conklin
Contributing Writer

PYRITES— On October 25, a special outdoor Mass was held at St. Paul's Oratory in Pyrites to celebrate the church's 100th anniversary. The main celebrant for the Mass was Bishop Douglas J. Lucia of the Diocese of Syracuse, former pastor of St. Mary's Church in Canton. Father Bernard D. Menard and Father Todd E. Thibault, former pastoral associates were also present concelebrating alongside Father Bryan D. Stitt, current pastor of St. Mary's Church.

Cars lined the small country back road and over 100 were in attendance. Many sat in lawn chairs in the chilly autumn air. For those who chose to remain in their cars, the Mass could be heard via FM radio.

Though a celebration of 100 years since the building of the church structure, the event also had a somber tone, as it will likely be the last Mass to be celebrated at St. Paul's. The church recently sustained significant damage, and it will soon be put on the market to be sold.

Before a potential sale to

a good buyer, all the religious items such as the altar, pews, stained glass windows, and bell will be removed. St. Paul's was built in 1920. The land was deeded to the church in 1922 by the De Grasse Paper Company at the cost of one dollar. The Church was declared an oratory in April 25th, 1990 and is a facility of St. Mary's Church in Canton.

Despite this underlying sadness, Bishop Lucia's homily centered on the reminder that we are all called to be church.

"As beautiful as they (the buildings) are, what is

most important is what happens when we go forth from these places," Bishop Lucia said. "You and I are called to be the building blocks of the Church today. Go out and live the Mass."

Edd White, long-time parishioner and caretaker of St. Paul's read the first and second readings. At the end of Mass, a special plaque was presented to White to honor his commitment to and love of St. Paul's.

"My father was the caretaker for years," White said. "He spent a lot of his own money there. When he passed, I stepped in and took over. Someone needed to watch over it."

White made the altar and lectern at St. Paul's as well as a large five-foot wooden cross.

"It always seemed like home," White shared.

Many other long-time parishioners of St. Paul's were in attendance, including several from the

Bessette/Warren family.

Susanne Bessette Smith's brother was married at St. Paul's along with aunts and uncles. Her family helped to build St. Paul's after they emigrated to Pyrites from Ireland.

"Our family, for generations through the years, went to St. Paul's every Sunday," she said. "It means so much because it has been our family church for so long."

Smith's aunt still lives on the family homestead that is directly through the woods behind St. Paul's.

"My cousins used to walk that path through the woods to get to church in the summer and I remember playing on the lawn after Mass as a child," she said.

The event was a beautiful way to end the long tradition of St. Paul's Church in Pyrites, Smith said.

"I teared up several times," she said. "It was wonderful."

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