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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 75, Number 26

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

NOV. 4, 2020

Follow Me: 'A wonder-filled adventure'

National Vocations Awareness Week is November 1-7. In honor of that week, Bishop Terry R. LaValley reflects on his own vocation and the role of the Church in promoting vocations.

"National Vocations Week begins on All Saints Day this year. Each of us is called to be holy, to become saints. I am humbled by the faith of all who seek to live out their baptismal call to holiness. I recently met with parishioners who were participating in a workshop as part of their *Formation For Ministry* program. They are an inspiring reminder to me of how many are responding eagerly to the universal call to holiness."

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ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR



Knights of Columbus #333 Council in Ticonderoga was awarded the Organization of the Year by the Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce. The Knights were recognized for their selfless work for the community, for supporting local events and St. Mary's School and church, and for their willingness to help the community. The Knights received the award at the Chamber's annual award ceremony. The council also received awards from state Senator Elizabeth "Betty" Little and the New York State Senate and Assemblyman Paul Stec and the New York State Assembly.

SHARING OUR STORIES



Norwood resident Melody Levison's journey of faith started with her love of breakfast. Read about Levison's conversion and efforts to live out her faith in this week's Sharing our Stories, Sharing our Faith, a series highlighting how lay Catholics are living out their faith here in the North Country. To nominate someone to be featured in this series, email Darcy Fargo at dfargo@rcdony.org or call 315-393-2920.

FULL STORY, PAGE 7

Pope: Ask Jesus to pray for you when you can't

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – By asking to be baptized with other penitents in the Jordan River, Jesus placed himself among those who recognized themselves as sinners, Pope Francis said.

Despite the protests of John the Baptist, Jesus insisted on being baptized as "an act of obedience to the will of the Father, an act of solidarity with our human condition," the pope said Oct. 28 during his weekly general audience.

"We must remember this: Jesus is the just one; he is not a sinner. But he wanted to descend to us sinners and he prays with us," the pope said, departing from his prepared remarks.

"Jesus always prays with his people; he always prays with us. Always. We never pray alone; we always pray with Jesus," he said.

Continuing his series of audience talks on prayer, the pope reflected on Jesus' choice to begin his

public ministry with his baptism, which "had a clearly penitential nature."

Jesus, he said, "does not stay on the opposite side of the river, saying, 'I am the just one and you are the sinner,' to mark his difference and distance from the disobedient people, but rather he immerses his feet in the same purifying waters."

As Jesus came out of the water, the heavens opened and the voice of God proclaimed, "This is my

beloved son." Pope Francis said that Christians should remember that moment when they are feeling "sluggish and empty" during prayer, and they should "beg that Jesus' prayer also becomes our own."

When one says, "I cannot pray today. I don't know what to do. I don't feel like it. I am unworthy; at that moment, you must ask: 'May your prayer, Jesus, be mine,'" the pope said.

"And trust that he prays for us. He, at that moment, is before the father praying for us," the pope said. "He is the intercessor; he shows his father his wounds for us. Let us trust this. It is great."

At the end of the audience, the pope condemned the murder of six schoolchildren killed when separatist insurgents attacked the Mother Francisca International Bilingual Academy in Kumba, Cameroon Oct. 24.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

He reaches us where we are

"I love the story of Elijah going up on the mountain to listen for the Lord," said one of my friends as we participated in a small-group discussion. "You know? The one where the Lord isn't in the wind, in the earthquake or in the fire, but he comes in a whisper. That's my experience of how God communicates with us. It's in the little things and in the quiet moments."

I chuckled.

"What?" my friend asked.

"The Lord apparently knows that I'm both dense and oblivious," I said. "It

seems God is much more likely to beat me over the head with a message and make sure it's abundantly clear. I'm pretty sure he knows I'd miss what he has to say otherwise."

Let me give you an example.

A couple of weeks ago, I was having a conversation with a wise, trusted professional I've known most of my life. I was talking about stress

and shame I was experiencing as a result of royally messing up something.

"Jesus told us to 'love your neighbor as yourself,'" this

woman told me. "We often focus on the 'love your neighbor' part of that, but don't forget to love yourself." While the comment struck me, part of me also thought, "yeah. Easy for her to say."

Just a few days later, as I was attending Sunday Mass, guess what line appeared in the Gospel?

Yup. You guessed it: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Our pastor, Father Raymond J. Moreau, also stressed in his homily that we need to love ourselves as part of that equation.

I sat in my pew and smiled under my mask. "Ok, God. Now I'm listening," I thought. "I'll work on that."

My experience tells me that God knows how to reach each of us.

For some of us, or at some moments of our lives, it may be in that whisper or quiet moment. For other people, or at other moments, it may be in the message that beats us over the head. It may be in Scripture or in the text of a book, article or blog we read. It may be in a something said by a pastor, friend or family member.

God knows us better than we know ourselves. He reaches us where we are and where he knows we'll hear what he has to say to us.

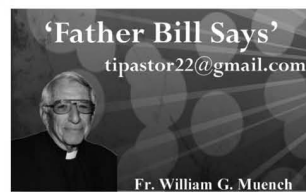
We just have to be listening.

A day to honor all our saints

All Saints Day is my favorite holy day. The first week of November is one of my favorite and busiest weeks of the year – All Saints Day, All Souls Day, and four birthdays to remember. That week includes the birthdays of priest friends, and then my own birthday in that week also.

I love the celebration of All Saints day. On that day, I remember my favorite people, since my favorite people are all my saints. Some are actually canonized saints, but most of them are not canonized, that is not yet, but they are my saints.

You would recognize many of my favorite saints – that is the canonized ones. They are all rather well known. A good example would be St. Francis of Assisi. I have had the good fortune of spending time in Assisi. For me, it is a holy, special place. Wandering around Assisi by myself established for me a close friendship with St. Francis. Another example of a favorite saint is St. Pope John



Paul II, one of more recent Popes. I must tell you that I had my picture taken with him. That is rather special isn't it – to have your picture taken with a canonized saint.

At the same time, on All Saints Day, I also call to mind all of my favorite saints who have not been canonized by the Catholic Church. In fact, some of these saints of mine are still very much alive. As you know, the Catholic Church has a very complicated procedure that studies an individual's life before they are declared a saint. I have made my own decisions about many of these favorite saints, people whose lives are being studied as part of that process. Some of them you will recognize, for they are well known people. I want to mention to you

Thomas Merton and Catherine Doherty. I have experienced Merton through his writings. I know Catherine Doherty and many members of her community, Madonna House. She was a friend and lived the life of a saint. They both had a profound influence on my life, showing me the way to my own vocation.

Many other of my favorite saints you will not know. They include some relatives and many friends that have been important parts of my life. I would here mention my mother, and I would certainly give you a list of several priests with whom I worked with in ministry. However, I must include among my saints several who were and continue to be strangers. They entered my life for a brief moment and truly showed me something important about holiness, and in that way touched my life. For various reasons I never got to know them. They are strangers, and yet they are among my saints.

The Catholic Church

chooses those who are to be canonized as saints because of the holiness of their lives, yet also to demonstrate to us and to the world what holiness is like and that holiness is possible. They chose those who have had a profound influence on the lives of so many people. These saints have shown what it means to "Love God about all things and love your neighbor as yourself." The lives of the saints fill many, many volumes, and each one of us can find a saint who has a story much like our own. Their holiness often gives us a powerful example to follow, and yet there are many who lived a very sinful life and then found conversion and reconciliation with the Lord.

I remember here a fellow who often comes to me for confession and always begins by saying, "Father, I am no saint." I usually answer in the same way each time, "Well, then, you better get busy. Becoming a saint is the only reason that we are down here."

FOLLOW ME

‘A wonder-filled adventure’

National Vocations Week begins on All Saints Day this year. Each of us is called to be holy, to become saints. I am humbled by the faith of all who seek to live out their baptismal call to holiness. I recently met with parishioners who were participating in a workshop as part of their *Formation For Ministry* program. They are an inspiring reminder to me of how many are responding eagerly to the universal call to holiness.

As I was reflecting on my own vocation, on how I landed where I am today, fond memories surfaced. “It’s not just a job. It’s an adventure” was the promotional ad used by the Department of the Navy to recruit women and men to join the Navy during the time I was considering enlisting way back in the last millennium. The TV commercials at the time showed sleek Navy aircraft soaring towards the heavens. The flight deck of a massive aircraft carrier is an impressive launching pad for an attractive adventure/career.

I was searching for what that wild blue yonder might hold in store for me

when I decided to quit college and enlist for six years in the U.S. Navy. A certain restlessness led me to consider the possibilities out there. Perhaps it was the Blue Angels coaxing me towards the heavens. In retrospect, it was a rather impulsive decision, but one that I have never regretted.

The decision to respond to the call to the priesthood was anything but impulsive. It took more than slick promo for me to enter the seminary. As I have reflected over the years about my own vocation, clearly the launching pad for my vocational discernment was not the deck of a carrier. My family and parish provided the *terra firma* from which God’s Spirit has taken me for a ride. That ‘ride’ has at times encountered some turbulence, like a pandemic, but it is a wonder-filled adventure the likes of which I could never have imagined. I thank God every day for the vocation with which I have been gifted.

I believe that our youth

today are especially eager for adventures, to embrace a vocation that offers real challenges, promises excitement and lifts them beyond what the earth has to offer. We know that a person’s response to serve the Lord in a Church vocation takes more than slick recruitment activity on our part. It is a heavenly encounter. However, each of us has a responsibility to encourage and promote Church vocations from our own families and parishes – the solid ground from which Church vocations grow.

Each of our seminarians is a wonderful blessing to the Church. Continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers. Like students everywhere these days, the pandemic is presenting many unwanted challenges for them and for seminary life. Their faith, enthusiasm and fraternal support for each other bodes well for the Church of Ogdensburg in the future.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg is blessed and in-



Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley

spired by the presence and ministry of several men and consecrated women not native to the North Country. I thank God for their presence among us. National Vocations Awareness Week provides us an opportunity to reflect on how well we are preparing the soil for Church vocations from our homes. You know that one of our Diocesan Priorities is to *Create a Culture of Vocations*. I encourage all our parishioners to consciously create the solid ground from which vocations might take root and grow here in our own backyard.

Through personal

prayer, public worship, personal invitation and creative activities, we must be intentional in our vocational promotion. Thank you for your support and participation in your parish’s vocation committee. I am grateful to Father Chris Carrara, Director of Vocations and Seminarians and Catherine Russell, Diocesan Vocation Coordinator, for their tireless efforts in vocation promotion. They are eager to support our family and parish’s efforts to create a vocational launching pad with our sights set on the heavens with our feet firmly planted on the ground.

God has done
great things
for us!

As recipients of God’s bountiful
gifts, we are called to:

Receive

those gifts gratefully,

Cultivate

those gifts responsibly,

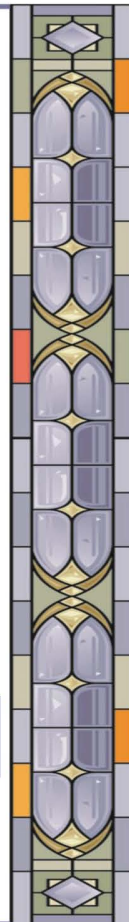
Share

those gifts in justice and love,

And return them with increase
to the Lord

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Sister aids 'God's beloved' in learning the faith

By Jessica Hargrave
Contributing Writer

WATERTOWN – Honest, authentic, sincere. They're words used to describe the people who make up the Special Religious Education Program in Watertown. While some would call them special needs, the program's coordinator sees them as gifted and God's beloved. That coordinator is Sister Diane Marie Ulsamer, a Sister of St. Joseph, who passionately feels her ministry has been the greatest blessing in her life.

"We want to provide our people with the opportunity to be part of a faith community in an environment that is secure for them and where they can feel comfortable," said Sister Diane.

The Religious Education program for persons with disabilities was established in the Watertown area in 1971 when four pastors were concerned about a handful of young students who were to prepare for the sacraments. The program was the first of its kind in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Today the program has over 100 participants, both children and adults, and has evolved into three groups that meet weekly.

The interfaith group welcomes people of all denominations who want to share their faith stories, prayers, music and activities. Many who attend the interfaith group are unsure of their faith, but they know Jesus loves them, and to Sister Diane, that's what matters.

"They know this a sacred time, and we're talking about 'God loves me,' and that's all they need to know, that God loves us and accepts us as we are because he made us who



Sister Diane Marie Ulsamer (back row, third from right) coordinates the Special Religious Education Program in the Watertown area for individuals with disabilities. Sister Diane is pictured with program participants at a social program held prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

we are," said Sister Diane.

She said starting the group was scary, since she knew no one and no one knew her, but within 10 minutes the ice was broken, and they were off. When program participants stood up and shared from the heart, everyone was moved by their honesty. Sometimes, they become upset while sharing, which comes from a place where they don't feel accepted or heard.

Eagerly, a non-verbal young woman puts her hands together in the praying position to express to her mother that it's time to go to the Friends of Jesus group. A gesture so simple, yet so genuine and speaks from the heart. Friends of Jesus is a Catholic group in the program that offers instruction of Catholic teachings, reception of the sacraments, liturgy and prayer services.

Sister Diane is overjoyed by the impact she has made on their lives and it shows.

"When they say, 'I will pray for you, Sister,' they will pray until you tell them the prayer has been answered," she said. "They will continue to pray for years, because they promised."

For the faithful who are unable to attend the on-site sessions, the Outreach Program allows catechists to travel to individual homes and JRC residences – group homes for individuals in need of supported housing – to help make that special connection between God

and His Beloved. Catechists traveling to the homes conduct prayer services and talk about scripture and music.

"Their response to the catechists walking into the building is amazing," said Sister Diane. "Even though many of them can't speak, their body language speaks volumes."

Unfortunately, the program's social events are on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The participants look forward each year to a day retreat, an overnight trip to the Sight

Vocation Awareness Week

National Vocation Awareness Week, celebrated November 1-7, 2020, is an annual week-long celebration of the Catholic Church in the United States dedicated to promote vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life through prayer and education, and to renew our prayers and support for those who are considering one of these particular vocations.

& Sound Theatre in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, holiday meals, and a big birthday celebration which allows them social interaction and an opportunity to build friendships.

"Don't ever underestimate the potential of these people," said Sister Diane. "I don't look at their disabilities, I look for their abilities because they all have abilities. They have gifts and potentials and it's my goal to allow them to grow into the best person they can be."

All are welcome to join the weekly sessions regardless of race, sex, creed, disability, or national origin.

If you are interested in volunteering or enrolling a child or adult into the program, call Sister Diane at (315)782-0030, or she can be reached by email, specialreligious@yahoo.com.



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'I am always happy as a priest'

By **Mary Beth Bracy**
Contributing Writer

PLATTSBURGH – “From a very young age I wanted to be a priest,” Father Tojo Chacko, of the Heralds of Good News, shared. “The nuns who taught us used to encourage vocations to the priesthood.”

Father Chacko is originally from Kerala, a state in Southern India known as the “land of coconuts.” He noted that, in the first century, St. Thomas the apostle brought Christianity to India. Born in the diocese of Changanacherry on November 26, 1984, Father Chacko is the middle child and one of three boys.

Growing up, Father Chacko's life was situated around his parish, Our Lady of Fatima. So, he has a special devotion to her. His family's life was their parish. He studied in Catholic schools, both in lower and higher grades. At first, Father Chacko “wanted to be a diocesan priest.” Then, when attending a vocation camp, he heard a priest talking about the missions. He was put in touch with a new order, the Heralds of the Good News.

After finishing 10th grade in 1999, he entered minor seminary to study for the priesthood. Father Chacko became a member of the Heralds of the Good News, a Missionary Society of Apostolic Life of the Pontifical Right, founded in Eluru, located in South Central India. He was ordained a priest on February 1, 2009.

A bi-ritual priest, Father Chacko belongs both to the Roman rite and the Syro Malabar Church, an Eastern Catholic Rite. One of the differences in liturgy is that, in the Syro Malabar Church, Mass is



Father Tojo Chacko, HGN

Vocation Awareness Week

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from May 2012-2014.

Since there is a shortage of vocations in the United States, Father Chacko was assigned to the Diocese of Ogdensburg six years ago. First, Father Chacko was assigned to Sacred Heart and St. Lawrence in Massena from June 2014-16. Massena was one of Father Chacko's first parishes, and he said that it was “good to have full pastoral experience working to help people in faith life and form long friendships.” It was a “good experience” to work with the pastors, priests, deacon, sister and pastoral associate, and “to be with them in ministry,” he said.

Then, from June 24, 2016 to July 8, 2020, he served as parochial vicar at St. Peter's Parish in Massena. On July 8, 2020, he was transferred to the Plattsburgh Catholic Parishes. He enjoys working our diocese and noted that the “bishop and priests are very fraternal.”

Father Chacko's duties include celebrating Mass, preaching, visiting hospitals and visiting the sick in homes. He “has made good friendships.” One of his biggest challenges in learning English is the “accent” to “make people understand the language.”

Although Father Chacko's mother tongue is

Malayalam, he understands several other dialects, such as, Tamil, Telugu, and a little Hindi. His multi-lingual and cultural experiences in India helped prepare him for the various differences in areas of the United States. Father Chacko was able to “adapt very fast” and was grateful that people are “hospitable.”

He is “lucky to be there for many people – anointing of the sick, experience of faith life and last rites, comforting and being with the sick.” Father Chacko relishes all aspects of pastoral life, explaining, that “God is working through us.” He said he is thankful for the “privilege of celebrating Mass, more than anything that is the central aspect of our faith.”

Father Chacko's baptismal name is Varghese (George), after the saint. Father Chacko said that St. George, who is often depicted as slaying a dragon, is a “strong, very powerful intercessor.” He is the patron of several countries who rely on his aid during time of peril and devotion to him is “big in India.” In his parish, Father Chacko is known by his baptismal name George. However, at school or among most people, he is “Father Tojo.”

As a child, Father Chacko developed a strong love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus due to devotions at a nearby parish. Every First Friday, they had a novena to the Sacred Heart, which he recited from a young age.

Throughout his youth, his family prayed together in their house. Around dinner time, they said the rosary, sang songs, and read the scriptures.

“My Mom and Grandma prayed a lot,” he said, adding that there was always evening prayer in

families.

Father Chacko also has a special devotion to St. Alphonsa, a Franciscan sister and teacher, who was canonized in 2008. She is the first woman from India to be canonized and the first saint of the Syro-Malabar Church. He made pilgrimages to her home, where she was born and buried. He walked all day, several miles, to go to her place and pray. On one pilgrimage, Father Chacko prayed to her to be a priest. He also went to the church where she was buried. St. Alphonsa, who suffered a lot throughout life, is known for working many miracles.

In addition, Father Chacko is devoted to St. Jude and St. Therese. In his formative years, “Catechism was very essential,” he said. They had a special group named after St. Therese and strict religious education training occurred every Sunday from first through tenth grades.

“Sisters used to take us to the chapel every time we had free time to pray and do Adoration,” Father Chacko said, describing his school years. “I learned from the Sisters example and life. Growing up, I was instilled with faith from my family. My Grandma always prayed. I remember always seeing her with her rosary.”

For fun, Father Chacko is learning to play golf. He has also fished a little bit.

His advice to those discerning vocations is, “giving yourself to God's hands is worth it because God makes use of us in better ways. Trying to understand God's will and experience and share God's love is something I'm happy about... I am always happy as a priest.”

Environmental Stewardship

What can I say?

An Indian poet once told a story about a group of blind men who were curious about elephants.

Since the blind men could not see the elephants, they each conceptualized what an elephant is like by touching it. One man felt the elephant's leg and said it was like a tree; another one felt his tail and said it was like a rope; another one felt his tusk and said it was like a spear; another one felt his trunk and said it was like a snake; another one felt his side and said it was like a wall.

They all had knowledge of only one part of the elephant, and each had judged the whole of it by one part of it.

Have you ever had the experience of knowing some aspect of the Gospel in isolation from any other area and think that it is the whole of it?

Sometimes this can happen when speaking about environmental stewardship. It also can happen that while I may see the care of our common home as the most important concern, someone else may voice a concern for homelessness, drug addiction, the unborn or eradication of racism as the most pressing need of our day. Perhaps one lesson from the story of the blind men is that I need to listen as well as speak.

Some suggestions for conversations around areas of deep differences:

(1) **Be curious** about what the other person is, saying "tell me more."

(2) **Listen** to what the other person is saying, and show that you are interested by positive body language.

(3) **Validate** that you heard their personal feelings even if you do not agree with them.

(4) **Share** your truth using "I" statements to talk about your personal feelings. Tell your personal story.

What we need to remember is that we are not trying to convert the person to our point of view. Rather we are trying to find common ground in our desire to be faithful to God.

'I felt like an entirely different person'

By Michael Neaton
North Country Cursillo

Greetings to the North Country Catholic Community! I am Michael Neaton,

Bishop's Public Schedule

Nov. 4 – 1 p.m. – Annual Catholic Charities Board of Trustees Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

Nov. 5 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

7 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Peter's Parish (at Sacred Heart Church) in Massena

Nov. 6 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

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

Nov. 7 – 10 a.m. – Confirmation at St. Bernard's and St. Edmund's Parish (at St. Edmund's Church) in Ellenburg with St. Bernard's Church in Lyon Mountain

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

3 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga with Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Schroon Lake

Nov. 9 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Nov. 10 – 11 a.m. – Development Board of Advisors Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg followed by lunch

Nov. 11 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required. Participants may preregister at www.virtus.org.

Upcoming sessions:

Nov. 5 – 6 p.m., St. Augustine's School, Peru

Online options are also currently available. To schedule an online training, contact Jean Grizzuto, jgrizzuto@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920 x 1413.

GET TO KNOW CURSILLO

a St. Mary's of Colton parishioner, a proud Cursillista (someone who has completed a Cursillo weekend), and the pre-Cursillo coordinator of the North Country Cursillo (pronounced 'kur-see-yo'; meaning short course) movement. Some time ago, I approached this publication's editor, Darcy Fargo, and as she too is a Cursillista, and together we are working to present



a serious of short articles to help everyone better understand the Cursillo movement. As a movement, our desire is to grow in Christ's love and share in the joy of our mission as lay ministers, bringing more friends to Christ by joining our community.

Many of you may have heard of Cursillo and our retreats, but the movement is so much more than that! Yes, it starts with those transformational three days, but the real experience is afterwards, when entering the "fourth day," the rest of our time here on earth. We, the laity and our spiritual advisors, gather regularly to focus on three elements: piety, study and action. We keep each other enthused about our journeys with Christ and bring our works out to society through our respective parishes and ministries.

As our small contingent of Cursillistas look to expand through educating the faithful through this regular column, we'll be asking some of our counterparts to share with you their perspectives on this experience. So, just to give you a little idea of what's to come, I'll share with you a bit of my Cursillo journey. I was asked to join Cursillo by a peer in my profession. Having no knowledge of the movement, this gentleman patiently explained the basics of Cursillo, then waited some time prior to

approaching me with the idea of attending an upcoming weekend. I was compelled by his strong faith and outward love of Christ. After a few questions, I agreed to make the time in my chaotic schedule to attend "the weekend." I really had no idea what to expect but that was okay; I felt safe in his presence and quite honestly, I was ready to test my own faith. By the time I left the Cursillo weekend on Sunday afternoon, I felt like an entirely different person. Having been a cradle Catholic and regular Mass attendee, my eyes were opened, and I realized how much more fulfilled my life would be by my joining this movement's methods to become friends with Christ along with other Cursillistas. As my fourth day continues, I am actively pursuing those relationships while also looking to further share the gifts that the grace of God has given me. While becoming more active in my church community, I am also giving my time to the work of the Cursillo movement, and I'm trying to share our special joy with Catholics all across our large diocese. That, in a nutshell, brings me here to this article.

I hope you'll be looking forward to hearing more about the joy of Cursillo in upcoming editions. We hope to dispel some myths, explain some of the particulars of how Cursillo works, share some of our local and international history, and most importantly, show you how Cursillo can impact your life by bringing you closer to God through a loving relationship with our friend, Christ.

Stay Tuned!

Rest in Peace

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

Nov. 4 – Msgr. Benjamin Harrison Staie, 1970

Nov. 5 – Most Rev. David E. Bacon, 1874; Rev. Bernard Wyzkowski, 1969; Rev. John Michael Wyzkowski, 1969

Nov. 7 – Rev. Dennis Nolan, 1911; Rev. William Ouellette, O.M.I., 1936; Msgr. William, H. Brennan, 1986

Nov. 8 – Rev. Patrick McGilligan, 1828

Nov. 10 – Msgr. Francis M. Kenny, 1952; Msgr. Raphael A. Hoffman, 1968

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; [terri-
annyanulavich@yahoo.com](mailto:terri-
annyanulavich@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.

'God will reach down and lift you up'

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

NORWOOD – For Melody Levison of Norwood, the journey of faith started with a love of breakfast.

"I had a conversion experience over 40 years ago," said Levison. "It totally effected everything for both me and my husband. I was brought up Protestant, but not really religious. I was baptized in a Presbyterian church. In my teen years, I went with neighbors to a Baptist church. At around age 11 or 12, there was one of those moments when they had people come forward to give their lives to Jesus. I did it, but it didn't really affect me. I met my husband, and I became Catholic."

Though she joined the Catholic Church, Levison said she wasn't an active participant in the faith.

"We were the kind of Catholics who went to church, and that was pretty much it," she said. "Sometimes, we'd even go to daily Mass. But we weren't involved. In fact, there was a time when my husband, Johnny (now Deacon John Levison), was asked to help take up the collection. After that, we sat closer to the front and off to one side. He didn't want to be asked again."

Then, a friend invited the Levisons to a breakfast gathering of Christians.

"He kept asking us to go to this breakfast," Levison said. "He wanted us to go and hear people speak. We never went. He kept saying he wanted us to go. I like breakfast out. I like going out to eat. So, we decided we'd go."

At the breakfast, there were attendees of all different Christian denominations.

"Everyone was so happy



and so friendly," Levison said. "I was thinking, 'what is going on with these people?'"

The Levisons heard a speaker talk about the Temple in the desert, and they were encouraged to "come inside where the glory of the Lord is."

A speaker led the breakfast gathering in prayer and encouraged attendees to bow their heads and raise their hands if they wanted to accept Jesus.

"I raised my hand," Levison said. "My husband sees me raise my hand, and he's thinking, 'what is she doing? She's not going somewhere I don't.' So, he raised his hand, too. We went up at the end, and they said a little prayer, and they gave us a book – the Gospel of John. They told us to go home and read it."

Levison said she went home and tossed her copy of the book on the couple's bed.

"My husband said, 'we have to read it. I think we should read it,'" she said. "I took my book into the bedroom, and he was in the living room. Reading it, it all made sense. I had

tried to read the Bible before, but it never made sense to me. Suddenly, it just clicked. I understood what it was talking about. It clicked with Johnny, too. I came out of the bedroom, and I was telling him, 'look at this! Listen to this!' He said, 'I know! And look at this!' It was like we were both hit by the Holy Spirit at the same time."

Shortly after, the couple was contacted by a Protestant minister who had attended the breakfast. He wanted to visit the couple to pray for the gift of the Spirit. Hearing about the minister's pending visit, a Catholic friend decided to join in the prayer session.

"The minister prayed over both of us for the gift of the Spirit," Levison said. "The minister went home, and our friend went home. My husband woke up the next day at 5 in the morning to pray, and he started speaking in tongues."

Levison said she, too, wanted the gift of speaking in tongues.

"Nothing happened for me," she said. "I thought, 'it can't be God likes me as much.' Other people sug-

gested, do this or do that, as I tried to get that gift. Johnny said, 'just ask Him.' I stayed up every night asking to speak in tongues."

After a while of asking for the gift, Levison said she finally "decided to give it one more night."

"I was kneeling in the living room and begging for the gift of tongues," she said. "I kept telling God, 'I'm just too inhibited. I said that over and over. Eventually, I realized what I was saying wasn't in English. I had the gift of tongues.'"

The Levisons soon became involved in a charismatic prayer group.

"I started meeting with a wonderful priest in Potsdam, Msgr. (William J.) Argy," Levison said. "I had questions about the faith, and he answered them for me. He became my spiritual director."

When Msgr. Argy left the area, Msgr. Floyd J. Brown became her spiritual director, followed by Father James W. "Jay" Seymour.

"I've been very blessed," she said. "Our lives were very grounded as Catholics because of the spiritual direction."

After her conversion experience, Levison began teaching religious education. The couple also learned about tithing and began observing the practice of giving 10 percent of their income.

"Our conversion changed everything, even our finances," Levison said. "I'd say it switched our finances around in a shocking way. We went from giving \$5 a week to 10 percent. And we got involved in the Church."

Soon, Levison found herself sitting on church committees, participating in the choir and even learning to play guitar to

lead music for the charismatic prayer group.

"In the '90s, our priest at the time asked if I'd lead the folk choir," she said. "I didn't want to be a leader, but I did it. I ended up doing it for nine years or so. It was a wonderful experience."

It was around that time when her husband became a deacon. The couple later moved to Ellenburg, as Deacon Levison began working in prison ministry in that area.

"After about a year there, I asked the priest if he wanted a folk choir," she said. "He said 'I would love one.' We got a folk choir there. It was rough in the beginning. None of the kids had ever done it. We developed, and they got quite good."

Levison also started volunteering in the prison system, also in music ministry.

"That was really good for me," she said. "It's easy to get an idea in your head about what prisoners are like. Volunteering helped me realize they're like everyone else. There were really good guys who had just made mistakes in their lives, and there were some that were not so good. It's just like the regular population."

After years in the music ministry, Levison said she reached a point where she needed a break.

"It was then that the bishop came out with a call for people who were interested in becoming spiritual directors," she said. "I love one-on-one interactions, and I thought I'd really love that, but I didn't want to ask to do it. I figured if God wanted me to do it, it would work out. Then, Father Jay (Seymour) called and asked if

CLINTON

HARVEST DINNER

Morrisonville – St. Alexander's Church to have take-out Turkey Harvest Dinner.

Date: Nov. 8

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

Place: St. Alexander's with curbside pickup.

Cost: \$12 for all Meals

Contact: If you would like your meal delivered within 10 miles please call 518-561-5039

LEWIS

CHINESE AUCTION

West Leyden – Sat. Mary's Nativity will be having a Chinese Auction.

Date: Nov. 7

Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Features: Masks are required

ST. LAWRENCE

HARVEST DINNER

Gouverneur – Curb-side pick-up Harvest dinner to be held.

Date: Nov. 5

Time: 4:30 p.m. until gone

Place: St. James School

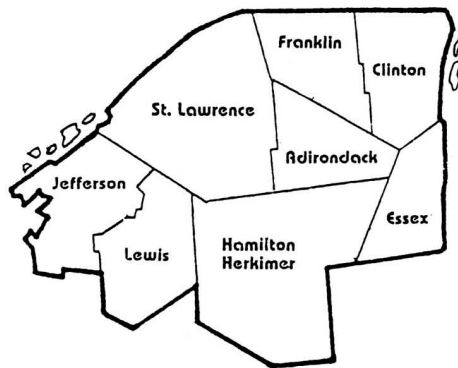
Cost: Adults, \$12; Children 12 and under, \$6; 5 and under, Free

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.



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

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

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

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

sions.

Dates: Nov. 15 & 29 and Dec. 13

Time: 3 p.m.

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

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.

'Reach down and lift you up'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

I was interested in the program."

Now, Levison provides spiritual direction for three area residents.

Though she helps others with their spiritual lives, Levison notes she still has to focus on developing her relationship with the Lord.

She and her husband pray the rosary together daily. Levison also maintains a prayer journal. She said the Eucharist is also an important part of her life. She's also studied the lives of the saints, especially St. Therese of Lisieux.

"I've been devouring her writing and writing about

her," Levison said. "She showed me that the weaker you are, the more God will reach down and lift you up like a small child. It's about trusting God. Even with that, I sometimes fall down. But I trust God to bring me to where I need to be, even if it's bringing me to a place where I can trust Him."

And Levison said that faith and trust keep her grounded and keep her moving forward.

"All my hopes and dreams are because I believe in eternal life, and I believe God is in control," she said.

Musicians wanted for St. Cecilia Sings initiative

Do you miss joining others in song? Could your neighbors use some music to lift their hearts and minds to the Lord? Do you believe that beauty heals?

If so, join us for our *Saint Cecilia Sings* initiative. Musicians from across the diocese and beyond are invited to record a favorite piece of sacred music to help others make a joyful noise to the Lord.

We will assemble your submissions to create YouTube playlists that the faithful can sing along to or just watch and listen. The playlists will be accessible from our diocesan webpage and our YouTube channel.

The Second Vatican Council stated that "the musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater than any other art" (SC 112). In these days when we cannot have choirs and music is limited in our churches to reserved singing, members of the faithful still have a need to sing.

Please help our brothers and sisters tap into that treasure chest of inestimable value through the Saint Cecilia Sings initiative.

To do so, we need a video of you playing the Catholic hymn of your choice.

Here are the logistics:

- **Recording:** Video recording are required. Please orient your videos horizontally. HD or higher resolution preferred.

- **Setting:** You are encouraged to do recordings in your parish church to help the viewers appreciate both the visual and musical the beauty of our faith.

- **Licensing:** If your selection is in the public domain, the video can be shared freely. The diocese will provide permissions to use copyright music from major liturgical publishers. To verify a selection is eligible for use, email cbookman@smcogd.org.

- **Choirs:** Following the current diocesan protocols, no in-person choirs are allowed. However, if space and barrier requirements are met (or if there are other musicians from your household) we welcome them to be in the video as well.

- **Lyrics:** All submissions must have lyrics that are "in conformity with Catholic doctrine; indeed they should be drawn chiefly from holy scripture and from liturgical sources" (SC 121). Lyrics will be printed in the notes of the video to enable people to sing along with you.

- **Submitting:** Send submissions to ifawcett@rcdony.org and cbookman@smcogd.org with your name, all performers' names, the parish name and location, and the name(s) of anyone else in the video. You can attach the video to your email or send a link for a shared file in the cloud.


- **Deadline:** St. Cecilia's Feast day is Nov. 22. She is the patron saint of musicians. Please have all submissions in by then. An early release will be done in mid-November of our first submissions.

Thank you for leading our Diocese-wide choir in song as we make a joyful noise to the Lord (Psalm 98:4).

Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

- Read local stories and commentaries
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more

 Find us on Facebook!



CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Bishops react to Nice basilica murders

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishops in the United States and around the world expressed condolences after three people were murdered before Mass Oct. 29 in the basilica in Nice, France. French police have confirmed they are treating the killings as a terrorist incident. The attacks came less than two weeks after a Paris teacher was beheaded Oct. 16 by a Muslim migrant; the teacher had shown satirical cartoons of the prophet Muhammad to school children in a lesson about free speech. Shortly after the attacks, Pope Francis sent a tweet expressing closeness to the people of Nice. "I pray for the victims, for their families and for the beloved French people, that they may respond to evil with good," it said. Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago issued a statement joining Pope Francis in prayer. "Whether such violence occurs in a mosque, synagogue, temple or church, in the United States or elsewhere in the world, it is an attack on everyone who seeks peace and closeness with our Creator," he said. "Only by reaching out in love and supporting the dignity of our brothers and sisters can we hope to end the evil of hatred that gives rise to such actions. May the Notre Dame Basilica, named for Our Lord's gentle mother, be a place where forgiveness and healing can begin." Other U.S. bishops also reacted as individuals, tweeting out condolences and seeking prayers on social meeting sites.

Pandemic prevents groups from attending March for Life

WASHINGTON (CNS) — While the annual March for Life in Washington is still scheduled for Jan. 29, the cross-country bus pilgrimages that have been at the heart of the event for decades are being decimated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Local events are being announced in lieu of the pilgrimages. Among the cancellations announced so far are pilgrimages sponsored by the Diocese of Buffalo, New York, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, the Archdiocese of Omaha, Nebraska, and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Each of them typically brings 200 or more marchers for visits of at least three days, reserving large blocks of hotel rooms. "We did not come by this decision lightly," the Buffalo Diocese said in a statement. "With the uncertain and ever-changing regulations due to COVID-19, bus capacity restrictions and traveling through other states, all to converge with other states around the country, we have decided it is in the best interest of all involved to make their own personal decisions and arrangements."

General audience closes to public after case of COVID-19

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After someone attending Pope Francis' weekly general audience tested positive for COVID-19, the Vatican announced the audiences would return to being livestreamed without the presence of pilgrims and visitors. In a statement published Oct. 29, the Vatican said that beginning Nov. 4, the general audiences will be "broadcast from the library of the Apostolic Palace" to prevent "any possible future risks to the health of the participants." The person who tested positive attended the audience Oct. 21 in the Vatican's Paul VI hall. The announcement comes nearly two months after the weekly audience was reopened to the public; because of the pandemic and lockdowns meant to prevent its spread, the pope had moved the audience to an online-only event from the library. Once the audiences resumed, the pope did not wear a mask, even when personally greeting visiting clerics, which drew concerns and criticism that he was not observing safety protocols.

Pope: Corruption in Church must be stamped out

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Corruption is an "ancient evil" that continues to plague the Catholic Church in different ways, Pope Francis said.

In an interview with the Italian news agency Adnkronos, published Oct. 30, the pope discussed his thoughts on several issues, including the nature of corruption given recent allegations of financial malfeasance involving the Vatican.

Despite past and present efforts to root it out, the pope said, "unfortunately, corruption is a cyclical story that repeats itself" until "someone comes along to clean and tidy up."

"But then it starts again, waiting for someone else to come along to put an end to this degradation," he said. Money, as the early fathers of the church and St. Francis called it, is "the devil's dung."

In the interview, which was conducted Oct. 27, the pope said that while "the church is and remains strong, the issue of corruption is a profound problem."

Citing St. Ambrose's assertion that "the church has always been a 'casta meretrix' ('chaste prostitute)," the pope said that although the vast majority of people in the church follow "the right path," it is "undeniable that personalities of various types and depth, clerics and many fake lay friends of the church, have helped to squander the resources and property, not of the Vatican but of the faithful."

"I am struck by the Gospel reading when the Lord asks us to choose: either follow God or follow money," the pope said. "Jesus said that it is not

possible to go after both," the pope said.

Pope Francis said when he met with retired Pope Benedict XVI shortly after succeeding him, the retired pope "gave me a big box" and said, "Everything is in here; there are the documents with the most difficult situations. I have come this far, I have intervened in this situation, I have removed these people and now, it's your turn."

Asked about his current relationship with the 93-year-old Pope Benedict, Pope Francis said he regards him as both "a father and a brother," which is why he signs letters to him with the words, "Filiarily and fraternally yours."

"I often visit him up there" at the Mater Ecclesiae monastery, the pope said. "And if I see him a little less recently it is only because I do not want to tire him. The relationship is good, very good. We agree on what things need to be done. Benedict is a good man; he is holiness incarnate."

Pope Francis also said that contrary to reports of an alleged rift between him and his predecessor, "there are no problems between us."

Asked if he feels alone, especially with many reports highlighting opposition to his teaching, he replied: "I have thought about it, and I have come to the conclusion that there are two levels of loneliness. One can say I feel alone because those who should collaborate do not collaborate, because those who should get their hands dirty for others do not, because they do not follow my line or things like that. And this is a loneliness that one might call

'functional.'"

Then, he continued, "there is a 'substantial' loneliness, which I do not feel because I have found so many people who take risks for me, who put their lives on the line, who fight with conviction because they know that we are right and that the path taken, even with a thousand obstacles and natural resistance, is the right one."

Obviously, he said, there have been examples of mischief and of betrayal, which hurt those who believe in the church.

While it is uncertain whether his efforts to weed out corruption and lead the church will bear fruit, Pope Francis said that he knows he must do it and that "I have been called to do it."

In the end, "the Lord will say whether I have done well or whether I have done wrong," he said. "Sincerely, I am not very optimistic, but I trust in God and in people faithful to God."

Recalling his exile to Cordoba, Argentina, in the early 1990s, the pope said that in the library, he "came across six or seven volumes on the history of the popes, and even among my very ancient predecessors, I found some examples that were not exactly edifying."

While criticism against him and his papacy can hurt, especially when "said in bad faith and with malice," Pope Francis said it is also constructive because "criticism leads me to examine myself, to make an examination of conscience, to ask myself if I was mistaken, where and why I was mistaken; if I did right, if I did wrong, if I could do better."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Readings, Gospel focus on wisdom

This Sunday, it's all about wisdom. What is wisdom? Pope Francis defines wisdom this way: "Wisdom is precisely this: It is the grace of being able to see everything with the eyes of God. This is wisdom." Today, we are invited to grow in wisdom, and with the eyes of grace, to live out every day what we have learned.

In the first reading, everyone is invited to seek actively for wisdom.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

Since wisdom is really the grace of God, it's available to all who look for her.

And wisdom, on her part, is always eager to help those who look for her. She is depicted as "sitting at the gate" ready to make herself known from dawn until sunset. Wisdom is light, "resplendent and unfading." Wisdom gives all who seek her a new meaning

in life, bringing about a whole new way of living.

November 8

32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

Wisdom 6:12-16

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

In the second reading, St. Paul tells these new Christians that, one day, all the dead will be raised and will live in the joy of the Resurrection forever.

In the Gospel, we hear the parable of the virgins who went out with lighted lamps to meet the bridegroom. Ten were wise and

ten were foolish. In other words, the wise ones had planned ahead and had plenty of oil for their lamps, while the foolish had not planned well at all. When their lamps started to go out, they begged for some oil from the wise virgins. They were not given any but were told to go out and buy some. While they were away, the bridegroom came. All went in to the feast, and the doors were locked. When the foolish ones came back, they were out of luck. The doors to the feast were

locked. The moral of the story is obvious: We must all be planners for the final judgment, for we do not know the day nor the hour when the Son of God will come to make judgment as to whether we are worthy of a heaven of joy.

What a great gift wisdom is. We should seek it constantly, especially in these days of confusion and uncertainty about the directions in which our beloved country is headed. May God's wisdom help us to direct all our actions in its light.

CALLED TO SERVE

'Just don't get comfortable'

Some pastors are adding new vocabulary to their personal dictionaries. Words like streaming, a method of transmitting or receiving data over a computer network as a steady, continuous flow; and audio interface, a piece of hardware that expands and improves the sonic capabilities of a computer; and switching, to exchange or replace something with another, i.e. one camera with another in the video stream.

These are all terms that are familiar to some but a foreign language to others, unique to the presentation of the Mass over computer software like Facebook or

YouTube. It has become a tool of evangelization in the COVID world.

The danger in making Mass available to anyone via the internet is that we might become comfortable with watching Mass and think it satisfies our obligation to attend Mass. Watching Mass on your computer screen or television eliminates the ability to receive Jesus Christ present in the Eucharist. Hearing God's Word presented to us in the scripture and the homily and then receiving Christ in Communion is why we attend Mass. A viewed Mass from down the street or hundreds of miles away is just not the

same.

But we are creatures of habit. Watching Mass may become comfortable for us.

Recently, I was driving from here to there on a rainy, blustery, chilly morning. I was enjoying the heat in the car, the working defroster, the cruise control, the speed, everything about being in this modern form of conveyance.

Dr. Ngozi Ezike, the Illinois head of the Department of Health, was on the satellite radio station talking about the response, or lack of it,

to COVID in her state. She was saying that people are not wearing masks and are gathering in large crowds

because they had come to believe it was now OK to return to past practices. They have become comfortable with their new freedom. "Comfortable, but not true," she said.

It was about that time I came upon an Amish buggy. The buggy had a single occupant, the driver, but his "car" lacked heat, a defroster, electronic cruise control and satellite radio and was pulled by a horse, not a V-6 engine. We waved. Both of us were comfortable but I could not help feeling sorry for that man and the sacrifices he was enduring to get from here to there.

That's what made me think anew about streaming. Yes, having Mass available to us via internet is convenient. Yes, in these difficult days of social distancing and limits on the size of public gatherings, streaming is a great alternative to getting to Mass. Yes, there are some people who, because of health conditions, should not mix with others, especially now. And yes, there are people who are shut-in, at home, in a hospital or nursing home, who benefit from joining with their friends and neighbors, even remotely. But none of that takes the place of being in church, hearing his Word and receiving Communion in the presence of the celebrant, other ministers, and our community. Join us for Mass via internet if you must. Just don't get comfortable.



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

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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

Stewardship and the missions

The Mission Lands know very well that God has done great things for all of us.

As stewards of this earth and recipients of the gifts that God continues to give us, we, as baptized missionaries, must remember to receive the gifts with gratitude, cultivate the gifts with responsibility and further share those gifts with love.

Lastly, we need to always be sure to return those gifts to the Lord with even more love and gratitude.

View stewardship as a reasonable answer or response to the mission that God wants us to make. By virtue of our baptism, we are called to be missionaries.

Missionaries are stewards of the gifts that God gives us. God endows each of us with gifts. How you utilize those gifts is what determines your stewardship or your way of expressing your sharing of these gifts.

The Pontifical Mission Societies of the United States calls upon Catholics to be good stewards and fulfill their mission by virtue of their baptism.

One can answer this in different ways. Offer your prayers. Share your resources. Answer a vocation. Go on mission. Remain strong in your faith.

When we unite as stewards of our gifts, the natural reaction is to share and be thankful. Pope Francis calls upon us all each year during Mission Month to participate and support the Church. "Here I Am, Send Me."

As we move beyond the typical vision of what missionaries do, with prayer and sacrifice we can transform our relationship with God from faith to faith in the world as good stewards.

Be good stewards and you proceed forward with Christ on mission. Baptized and sent. Go do great things. Be thankful and share. Give back. Participate in the moment. Make a difference. Contribute through your prayers and sacrifices.

It is really that easy to be a steward and to be a steward of the missions. God Bless.

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

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATION



The Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Port Leyden on October 4. Pictured are (front row) Carson Dosztan, Mallory Kraeger, Mitchell Domagala, (center) Clayton Kraeger, (back row) Instructor John Hastwell IV, Deacon James Chaufy and Father Lawrence Marullo.

OBITUARIES

Adams – Christopher R. Henry, 59; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 26, 2020 at St. Cecilia's Church.

Belleville – Donald M. Winnett, 86; Funeral Services Oct. 30, 2020 at Carpenter-Stoodley Funeral Home.

Brownville – William R. Russell, 84; Private burial to be held at Brownville Cemetery.

Brushton – Helen Joye (Millares) Jock, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 26, 2020 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Canton – Mary D. Villnave, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 31, 2020 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Colton.

Clayton – Doris D. (Denesha) Cantwell, 96; Graveside Services to be held Nov. 7, 2020 at St. Lawrence Cemetery, Cape Vincent.

Croghan – Carol (Henry) Loconti, 75; Graveside Services Oct. 28, 2020 at St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Dannemora – Victoria M. (Bennett)

Duell, 31; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 30, 2020 at St. Joseph's Church.

Gouverneur – Audrey L. (Finley) Barr, 87; Private burial to be held at Pleasant Lake Cemetery, Brasie Corners.

Lowville – Rodeny C. Mallette, 77; Private Services to be held.

Lowville – Gerald C. Williams Sr., 82; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 29, 2020 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Norfolk – Georgia M. (Hooper) Vari, 84; Graveside Services held Oct. 28, 2020 at Visitation Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Timothy James Kinch, 70; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 28, 2020 at Notre Dame Church.

Plattsburgh – Lola (LaBarge) Bedard, 79; Funeral Services and entombment in the Town of Ellenburg Mausoleum.

Plattsburgh – Anna Mae (Cadieux) Goldfarb, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 28, 2020 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Port Henry – Marietta Rachel "Marie" (Corbo) Thompson, 94; Graveside services Oct. 28, 2020 at St. Peter and Paul Cemetery, Moriah.

Potsdam – Rita Rose C. (Cook) Blevins, 93; Graveside services to be held in the Spring of 2021.

South Colton – Anne Elizabeth (Hayes) Moerschell, 90; Private Mass of Christian burial held at St. Paul's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Colton.

Watertown – Leonard A. Drelick, 92; Private burial to be held at Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Watertown – Margaret (Aiken) Jacobs; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 29, 2020 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Washington's Crossing National Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA.

Watertown – Angeline M. (Dorrigo) Marra, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 23, 2020 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Paul A. "Tony" Tripp, 75; Memorial Mass held Oct. 26, 2020 at Holy Family Church.

Private funeral held for Sister Carol Daul

Private funeral services were held for Sister Carol (Carolyn Elizabeth) Daul, a Franciscan Sister of the Atonement from Graymoor, on Oct. 28 and 29 in the Motherhouse Chapel.

Sister Carol transitioned into God's glory on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 in the Lurana Healthcare Residence at St. Francis Convent, Garrison, New York.

Sister Carol was born in Dannemora, New York on July 13, 1937 to Helen E. (Palmer) and Jerome P. Daul.

In addition to her sisters in community, she is survived by a sister, Rita Martin of Dannemora, and a brother, Richard G. Daul of Chazy. Sister Carol is predeceased by four brothers: Jerome, Thomas, William and Earl.

As Carol grew up in Dannemora, she came to know the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement through the faith formation programs in her parish.

In a North Country Catholic article of March 12, 2014, Carol fondly recalls the ways in which the Sisters influenced her life: "The sisters not only instructed us in the faith, but evangelized us by visiting every family in the parish, providing sodality parties, dances, and plays



Sister Carol Daul, SA

for the youth. They played softball with us and trained us in leadership roles, giving us positions of ministry within the parish. The sisters enthusiastically spent so much time with us that all of us wanted to be at the church where the action was!"

Carol entered the community on September 8, 1957 and became a Novice on March 25, 1958. She professed her First Vows on April 16, 1959 and her Final Vows on August 29, 1964. As an Atonement missionary for 61 years from First Profession, Sister Carol served in cate-

chetical, parish and pastoral ministries in New York State, including Schenectady (1960-62), Glens Falls (1962-68), Adams

(1979-1982), Crown Point (1999-2014), Plattsburgh (2014-2015), Morrisonville (2015-2019); in California in Merced (1968-79) and Oildale (1982-88); in Vermont in Burlington (1994-98); and in New Hampshire in North Conway (1998-1999) before returning to Graymoor in September 2019.

Through all these mission assignments, Sister Carol's love for God's people was evident through her caring actions and her willingness to be present to others. Of her time in California, she said, "I taught religion in the migrant camps, visited all their homes and shared in the making of tamales. We participated in the culture of the people we served, and assisted them in the posada procession and helped them make their

little shrines and floats for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, who was thoroughly serenaded each 12th of December."

Sister Carol was dynamic in faith formation and family education. She developed programs to suit the needs to the local people, and she engaged parishioners to work with her and be the teachers for others. Through building up others, Sister Carol created a sense of belonging for all and was a catalyst in promoting a true parish family.

Sister Carol will be greatly missed as a missionary of the Lord and of the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement.

Burial was in the Sisters' cemetery at Graymoor.

Funeral arrangements by Dorsey-Carlone Funeral Home.

KNIGHTS MAKE DONATION



Bishop Terry R. LaValley accepts a \$10,000 donation from the Knights of Columbus (K of C) State Warden Dr. Charles Robinson at the Sept. 27 K of C regional meeting in Ogdensburg. Dr. Robinson presented the donation on behalf of the New York State Council K of C and its 85,000 members, almost 4,500 of whom reside in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The Knight's Charitable and Benevolent (C&B) raffle raised the money. Each year C&B raises approximately \$500,000 for charities across the state including the Special Olympics, the Sisters of Life, Catholic schools, Catholic school scholarships and disaster relief and local charitable programs. New York's eight bishops each receive \$10,000 of C&B monies for diocesan charitable and religious needs. The Knights are very grateful to the many North Country people who support the C&B program. Pictured are (from left) Conference Chairman Gerald Soulia (Massena), Conference Chaplain Rev. Patrick Ratigan, Chapter President William Ose (Adams), Most Rev. Terry R. LaValley, State Warden Dr. Charles Robinson, C&B Coordinators Lawrence Douglas (Dannemora) and John Delles (Indian River).

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