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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 75, Number 1

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 22, 2020

MASS FROM A DISTANCE



Rachel and Vinnie Lauria and their children, Vinny, Anthony, Anna and Sarah, celebrated Easter by streaming Mass celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley inside their parish church, St. Ann's in Wells.



Celebrations delayed, faith carries on

The coronavirus pandemic continues to prevent us from gathering for previously scheduled celebrations as well as our regular participation in liturgies in our parish churches. Bishop Terry R. LaValley and his staff continue to monitor the current situation.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

FEEDING THE HUNGRY



Stacy Failing and Carson Lee, employees at Paynter Senior Center in Clayton, prepare meals for seniors in the region. The need for home-delivered meals has increased during the pandemic, and the Paynter Center is increasing production to meet the needs.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope points to joy during pandemic

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Like the women at the tomb whose sorrow turned to joy after the Resurrection, Christians also are called to be joyful witnesses to Christ's victory over death amid the coronavirus pandemic, Pope Francis said.

In an editorial published April 17 by the Spanish magazine, *Vida Nueva*, the pope said that those who take part in "the Lord's passion, the passion of our brothers and sisters, even living our own passion, our ears will hear the newness of the Resurrection: we are not alone, the Lord precedes us on our journey by removing the stones that paralyze us."

"If there's one thing we've been able to learn in all this time, it's that no one is saved alone," he wrote. "Borders are falling, walls are crumbling and all fundamentalist discourses are dissolving before an almost imperceptible presence that shows the fragility of which we are made."

In his editorial, titled "Un plan para resucitar" ("A plan to resurrect"), the pope also acknowledged that an invitation to be joyful "may seem like a provocation or a bad joke in front of the grave consequences we are suffering due to COVID-19."

"Like the first women disciples who went to the tomb, we live sur-

rounded by an atmosphere of sorrow and uncertainty that makes us ask, 'Who will roll back the stone from the entrance to the tomb for us?' How will we deal with this situation that has completely overtaken us?" he asked.

In today's precarious era, the pope said, the stone in front of the tomb symbolizes the worry and anguish that "buries hope," especially for the elderly, disabled people, families struggling financially, as well as health care workers and public servants who feel "exhausted and overwhelmed."

The weight of that stone, he added, "seems to have the last word."

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CATHOLICBox 326
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669

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R. LAVALLEY

President

REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN

Vice President

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DARCY L. FARGO

Editor &

Communications Director



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(315) 608-7556

E-mail:
news@northcountry
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EDITOR'S NOTE

I have a lot to look forward to

As he wrapped up his Easter egg hunt and pawed through the few gifts and pieces of candy in his basket, my son, Jake, turned his attention to me.

"So, you're done with Adoration in Massena, and you're done doing the livestreams with Father Ray, now what are you going to do?"

Poor Jake was not prepared for my response: Crying uncontrollably.

I felt like I had nothing left to look forward to.

As I worked my way through the week, I was reminded I have a lot to look

forward to. One thing I look forward to every weekday: The Pray Road News.

For those of you not lucky enough to know the NCC's editorial assistant, Christine Ward, I should probably explain.



Darcy L.
Fargo

Christine has two young children, Henry, age 6, and Melanie ("Mel"), age 9. As part of her efforts to keep them on a routine and keep them engaged with others, Christine and her children started

their isolation period creating video versions of school morning announcements, complete with the Pledge of

Allegiance.

As the isolation continued, their morning announcements morphed into Pray Road News, a morning newscast complete with graphics, weather forecast, a "fact of the day," occasional reporting segments and happy birthday wishes (it still wraps up with the Pledge of Allegiance). Henry and Mel adorably read their news scripts for the camera, providing laughs and education as they go (I've learned a few fun facts from their broadcasts).

Their newscast makes me smile or laugh every weekday morning. I look forward to it.

A few friends and I have es-

tablished a routine of "gathering" via video chat for dinner and/or beverages together. While it's not the same as gathering in person, I cherish these opportunities to spend time with the friends I'm missing so much. I look forward to these gatherings.

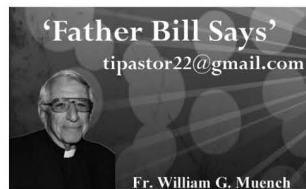
Am I still struggling to adapt to not having a calendar full of social engagements and interactions with others? Yes. But I know that thanks to the people in my life and their willingness to share their gifts with others, whether it be creativity in creating videos or sharing of time and caring, I'm blessed to have a lot to look forward to.

We are each called by name

During the time of pandemic and social distancing, the Gospel stories of Our Lord's Resurrection are powerful sources of hope and confidence. Our God brings us new life even at times of difficulty. The Gospel stories of the Lord's Resurrection are important. Like many Scriptures, they are all about us.

Last week in this column, I suggested that we consider one of those Resurrection stories, the Emmaus story. In that story, Jesus comes along and walks with a couple – two of Jesus' disciples who are walking home from Jerusalem to Emmaus on the day of Christ's Resurrection. Jesus catches up with them, walks with them and teaches them. I am certain that Jesus often catches up with us and spends time with us. I thank Our Lord, Jesus for this, for being my companion on the road, walking with me.

Today, as I write this, the Gospel reading of the Lord's Resurrection is the one about Mary Magdalene, who is



standing before the empty tomb of Jesus. Jesus comes along, but Mary does not recognize that it is Jesus. She believes Him to be the gardener. Mary asks, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him." At that moment, Jesus says to her, "Mary." Immediately, Mary knows that this is Jesus, the Resurrected Jesus. She shouts out, "Rabboni."

As I consider this story, I know and believe that the Lord has called me by name many times. I still remember – rather vaguely as a child – learning what my name was to be. My parents certainly called me by name often, "Bill." Although I must admit, especially if I misbehaved, I was called "William G."

When I decided to enter the seminary to prepare for priesthood, I noticed that at the various stages as I progressed toward priesthood, there were rituals. Each began with being called by name. I believe that this was like the Lord was calling me. In the Ordination Mass, each candidate is called forward into the sanctuary by name. For me, that was years ago in the Latin days. When our name was called, we were to respond "ego adsum," "I am here."

My ordination to priesthood was a special day for me. I remember every detail of that day, even after all these years. During the years of seminary, I had heard many talks and sermons that spoke of vocation – the call to priesthood. In meditation, I had come to believe that I had a vocation – a religious vocation – and that God was truly calling me to become a priest. Actually, I began to look for indications that I was being called. So, when my name

was announced on the day of my ordination, I thought of it as a call from the Lord.

So, I believe that the Lord has called me by name many times over the years. How exactly? I don't suppose I really know for certain. However, I am absolutely certain that there have been times I have had experiences when, as I look back over them, I am certain it was the Lord speaking my name, announcing to me His presence. Jesus was calling out to me. In a sense, Jesus had spoken my name, leading and guiding me, calling me to another challenge and showing me the way to bring his love and care to others.

In the celebration of baptism, the priest is instructed to begin the ceremony by asking the parents, "What name do you give your child?" During the ceremony, the child is spoken to by his or her name. We begin our lives as disciples and followers of Jesus by being called by our name.

FOLLOW ME

Celebrations are delayed, but prayer continues

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The coronavirus pandemic continues to prevent us from gathering for previously scheduled celebrations of the sacraments as well as our regular participation in liturgies in our parish churches. Our hunger for the Eucharist and for public worship is intensifying. Please know that my staff and I continue to monitor closely the current situation.

In the meantime, local parish activity includes our intensified prayer for the end of this pandemic, for the healing of those who are afflicted with this dreadful virus, our health care workers, public safety workers and all those providing essential services. We pray for those, particularly the

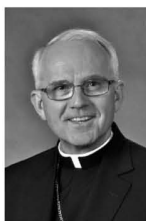
most vulnerable, who fear for their health. We plead to God on behalf of those who have lost their jobs and for our students. Every one of us, as prayer warriors, must take up our arms, literally lifting them up in supplication to the Lord in this monstrous battle against the coronavirus.

As you know, we have delayed the celebrations of the Chrism Mass, Confirmations and Ordinations, as well as the celebrations of the Sacraments of Initiation for catechumens and candidates who have been participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults programs in our parishes. The virtues of prudence and patience dictate that these delays

continue until health professionals advise that the established guidelines such as appropriate social distancing can be relaxed.

The planned ordination of two deacons as priests and two seminarians as deacons has been postponed from May 30 to August 1. We pray that the ordinations of these men can be a public celebration at that time. This will be a truly graced occasion in which we desire that all those who wish can gather at our cathedral to celebrate our faith and to thank God for the gift of the lives of these men in the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

Despite the delays in these celebrations, we continue to celebrate the



**Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley**

Resurrection of our Lord. We may be separated due to the health crisis, but we are united in the Body of Christ. You and your loved ones remain in my prayers. Thank you for continuing to pray with us through the social media opportunities provided. I am so grateful to our parish priests who, utilizing creative means, provide you with the spiritual support and pastoral presence that is crucial, especially during times like these. Please contact your parish priest should you or a neighbor have particular needs that he might address. I want to thank you for continuing

to support your parish through Sunday envelopes or special donations as your parish relies on your generous support.

Loving Mother, Health of the Sick and Cause of our Joy, keep us in the embrace of your arms and help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus our Lord. AMEN.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

**Most Reverend
Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg**

KNIGHTS SHARE MESSAGE



Knights of Columbus in Canton placed a sign to remind passersby that while Masses and gatherings are cancelled, faith, hope and love are not.



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Center steps up effort to feed those in need

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon
Contributing Writer

CLAYTON – The folks who work in the small kitchen in the 6,000 square foot Paynter Senior Center in Clayton turn out thousands of meals each week.

Phil and Shirley Owens are among the grateful recipients. Phil is 73, Shirley is 86.

"These meals have taken a load of work off our shoulders," Phil said. "They are very beneficial. They have cut-down on our eating habits some and they are nutritional."

The Owens live in Northern Jefferson County, between Clayton and LaFargeville.

Doris Brown, who is 94, lives in the Country View Apartments in Adams, about 35 miles from Clayton. She, too, receives a daily meal from the nutrition site.

"I have been receiving those meals for a couple of years now," she said. "I can't really get to the stove easily on my own. I need a walker, so the meals really help."

Phil and Doris are among the hundreds of recipients in Jefferson County of daily meals prepared under the auspices of the Jefferson County Office for the Aging Senior Nutrition program. The meals are prepared and distributed from the Sen-



Matthew Starr delivers meals to a recipient of the Jefferson County Office for the Aging Senior Nutrition program. The meals are produced at the Paynter Senior Center in Clayton.

ior Center in Clayton. Deacon Neil Fuller is the program director.

"We have 10 people who work in the kitchen and 20 drivers who deliver hot meals to locations throughout the county," Fuller said. The program also operated seven "dine-in" locations in several places, mostly senior housing locations or senior centers, but those were closed in response to Covid-19. Those who regularly dined in one of those locations were moved to delivery lists.

"That added about 100 meals a day to our production," Deacon Fuller said. "We operate Monday through Friday and send out about 6,000 meals a week."

Christine Ingersoll is the Director of the Jefferson County Office for the Aging. She administers a nutrition program of \$1

million dollars annually. Funding comes from a variety of local, state and federal sources. The nutrition program, required as part of the Older American's Act of 1965, is "considered to be a major vehicle for the organization and delivery of social and nutrition services to this group (60 years and over) and their caregivers" according to the Administration for Community Living.

"Neil does an amazing job," Ingersoll commented. "We added people and meals to our requirements because of the pandemic, and he and his staff came through."

Extra meals were produced and distributed to clients just in case there were new travel restrictions, or the virus struck the kitchen staff. Some of the meals could be frozen for later use; other prod-

ucts were shelf-stable meals.

"We provided 5,000 meals for clients to have on-hand and another 10,000 that are shelf stable," Deacon Fuller said.

The Deputy Director of the Office, Louise Haraczka, said a registered dietician approves each meal. The meals are intended to deliver a third of the daily nutritional needs of the client, at no charge, once they meet the minimum requirements. Generally, a client must have reached 60 years of age and have a demonstrated need. Haraczka said some clients are only on the program for a short while, others for a longer time. Applicants are asked a series of questions.

"We want to know if the person has a stove that works; do they have mobility issues; things like that," she said.

The Office for the Aging has contracted with Prestige Services, Inc. since 2004 to provide the meals service. Fuller has been with Prestige since 2009. The service operated by the county might be confused with Meals on Wheels. The two programs have similar intended outcomes. The Meals on Wheels program in Jefferson County has a client base principally in the City of Watertown and is operated by the Watertown Urban Mission.

According to their web site, Meals on Wheels "delivers quality and balanced meals to people who are largely shut-in to their homes and at risk of hunger." There is a fee charged for a Meals on Wheels delivery but "no one is turned away from the program for an inability to pay."

Meals on Wheels provides 700 meals a week.

"We currently deliver to 72 homebound seniors in Watertown and another 13 in Carthage," according to Executive Director Dawn Cole. "We just started delivering in Carthage around the first of the year," Cole said.

Covid-19 has introduced several new wrinkles to the home delivery systems of both organizations.

"We are trying to avoid physical contact with the clients," Deacon Fuller said. "All our delivery people wear masks and gloves. Some folks leave coolers outside for us to put the meals in. We hang meals in plastic bags on their doorknob. Whatever it takes."

Both directors agree their organizations are discovering new ways to communicate, to produce and to deliver their products.

"One of our biggest problems," Fuller said, "is with people who leave their doors locked or do not answer right away. There could be people in distress inside the home, and our drivers might be the only person to stop at the house each day. We do what we can."

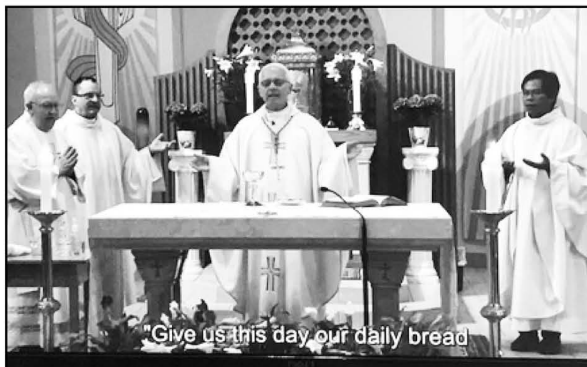
Remembering that the majority of these delivery folks are not trained medical responders is a reminder to all of us to check-in on our neighbors from time-to-time, especially the homebound, to make sure they are all right.

Deacon Fuller said he is proud of the nutrition program staff.

"And it all operates out of this kitchen in beautiful Clayton, New York," he said. "Pretty good, don't you think?"

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CHEVROLET



Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrates Easter Mass on camera for regional television stations along with Deacon Kevin Mastellon, Father Christopher J. Looby, Father Herman Pongantung, MSC.

TV station, church team up to show Easter Mass

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon
Contributing Writer

WATERTOWN—“Adapt yourself to the things among which your lot has been cast.” Certain words in this uncertain time came from Marcus Aurelius, a first century philosopher. His admonition is more than appropriate today, as pastors throughout the diocese have been altering their Mass presentations and times to accommodate Covid-19. For many parishes, “streaming” has become part of the lexicon. Many took to social media and YouTube to “broadcast” Holy Week services. There was no one in the pews, but hopefully hundreds were reached virtually in each parish.

The notion was taken one step further by Eric Krebs, the General Manager of WWNY-TV in Watertown.

Krebs approached his pastor, Father Christopher J. Looby, pastor of St. Patrick's and St. Anthony's in Watertown, about broadcasting the Easter Sunday Mass from St. Patrick's. There was one caveat. The Mass would have to be pre-recorded so it could be edited to fit in the available time slot. Father Looby agreed and asked Bishop Terry R. LaValley if he would like to celebrate the Mass. Bishop said, “yes,” and the unusual, for the Catholic Church in our diocese, pre-recorded celebration was scheduled.

Mass was celebrated for recording a few days before Easter. Bishop LaValley was the celebrant, and Father Looby and Father Herman Pongantung, MSC, concelebrated. Deacon Kevin Mastellon assisted.

The Mass was broadcast Easter morning on the Gray Television, Inc. Fox station, WNYF-Fox28 at 10 a.m. and then at noon over Gray's CBS affiliate, WWNY-TV7. Over-the-air and through cable rebroadcasts, the two stations reach audiences in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties, as well as portions of the southeastern Ontario Province in Canada.

“Thank you, Eric Krebs and his team at WWNY for idea of the televised mass and reaching out to St. Patrick's to have it held there,” said Father Looby.

NEWS BRIEFS

St. Augustine's in Peru hosts blood drive

Peru – The North Country Regional Blood Donor Center, UVM Health Network will conduct a blood drive on Monday, April 27 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the St. Augustine's Parish Center, 3030 Main St. in Peru. Your neighbors need blood. It is in short supply, especially during this crisis period. Please make every effort to donate. All recommended coronavirus safeguards will be maintained.

Knights extend food drive

Peru – The Peru Knights of Columbus Council 7273 is extending its Lenten food drive to benefit the Peru JCEO Food Shelf until it surpasses a 1,000-pound goal. As of April 14, 485 pounds of food has been donated. There's a greater demand than ever. Please leave food donations at St. Augustine's Church in or near the basket in the entrance area. Donations will be picked up daily and brought to the Peru JCEO Food Shelf at an appointed time.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Sharing our Stories



Sharing our Faith

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PROMISE TO PROTECT

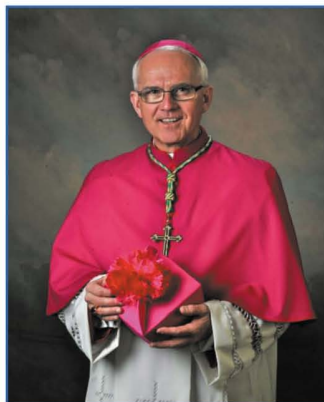


PLEDGE TO HEAL

Dear Friends in Christ:

Since 1983, April has been designated Child Abuse Prevention Month in the United States. The observance raises awareness of child abuse prevention by educating individuals and communities about how they can help prevent abuse and the neglect of children. The Diocese of Ogdensburg continues its pledge to address the clergy sexual abuse scandal. We: promote healing and reconciliation with victims/survivors of abuse; guarantee an effective response to allegations of sexual abuse of minors; ensure the accountability of our procedures; and protect the faithful in the future.

The Diocese has a long-standing relationship with Dr. Terriane Yanulavich, who serves as the Diocesan Victims' Assistance Coordinator. To assist those who have suffered sexual abuse, Dr. Yanulavich provides immediate and ongoing professional counseling. She can also provide information about how to report the abuse. Her contact information is on the opposite page. For additional information on reporting sexual misconduct, please visit our webpage at www.recdony.org.



Because We Care, we continue to work with our parishes, Catholic Schools, and other entities to refine policies and programs to offer the best possible protection for children. This year our Child & Youth Protection Policy will be updated to include a new section on bishop accountability. Mr. John Morrison serves as the Director of the Safe Environment Office for the Diocese. Mr. Morrison works cooperatively with our clergy, employees, and volunteers to ensure that national and diocesan policies are implemented. Our Diocese takes very seriously this responsibility as evidenced by our ongoing compliance with the USCCB's annual compliance auditing process.

This is clearly a team effort and I am grateful for all the individuals who help to establish, maintain, and foster a safe environment for our children across the Diocese. By working together, we can ensure that our abuse prevention measures continue to be effective and responsive.

Children and young people are gifts from God and deserve to be safe from all harm, including abuse. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Mark 10:14).

With a Shepherd's care and concern,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg



A PRAYER FOR HEALING

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people's wounds and transform brokenness into wholeness. Grant us the courage and wisdom, humility and grace, to act with justice. Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors. Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



WHAT IS THE DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG DOING TO PROTECT CHILDREN?

Our Commitment to Children's Safety:

- Child & Youth Protection Policy and Procedures
- Mandatory Background Checks
- Initial/Refresher Safe Environment training for clergy, employees and volunteers
- Reporting Procedures with Accountability and Transparency
- Group Activities Supervised and One-on-One Instruction Monitored



no adult shall hit a child
no child shall hit an adult
no child shall hit another child
no adult shall hit another adult

www.stopspanking.org



DIOCESAN STATISTICS 2019-2020



Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg

- 2,500+ Students received Safe Environment training in Christian Formation programs
- 1,293 Students received Safe Environment training in Catholic Schools
- 831 Background checks performed on clergy, employees and volunteers
- 640 Clergy, employees and volunteers received initial Safe Environment training
- 300+ Diocesan employees and volunteer catechists completed Safe Environment refresher training
- 64 Safe Environment (VIRTUS) training sessions conducted

Human Trafficking

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NYS Only (Adult Protection Services):
844-697-3505



5 FIVE WAYS

to protect your children from sexual abuse

Parents play the primary role in educating their children about sexual abuse. Here are 5 tips for teaching safety to the little ones God has entrusted to you.

1 Keep it practical. Teach your children the differences between safe touches and unsafe touches.

2 Tell your children that saying "no" is okay. Empower your children to say "no" if anyone makes them feel uncomfortable or touches them inappropriately.

3 Give your children a way to alert you. Tell your children they can use an excuse or share a special "code-word" with you to alert you about an unsafe person or situation.

4 Tell your children to report an unsafe touch. Let your children know they should tell you if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe around any adult or peer. You can also identify other adults they can tell about unsafe touches.

5 Tell your children you trust them. If your child makes a report to you, believe him or her. Tell them it is not their fault and that you love them. Immediately bring the allegation to the attention of public authorities.



Promise to Protect Pledge to Heal

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To report sexual abuse and related misconduct by Diocesan Bishop, contact:
CATHOLIC BISHOP ABUSE REPORTING SERVICE
(800) 276-1562
www.ReportBishopAbuse.org

IF YOU SUSPECT A CHILD HAS BEEN HARMED OR IS AT RISK:

EMERGENCY DIAL 911

Mandated Reporters
1-800-635-1522

Non-Mandated Reporters
(can remain anonymous)
1-800-342-3720

To report sexual abuse and related misconduct by Diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact:
Victims' assistance coordinator:
Terrienne Yanulavich, Ph.D., M.A., M.H.T.
518-651-2267 (Days); 518-569-0612 (evenings)
terrienneyanulavich@yahoo.com

This centerspread is provided by:
Diocese of Ogdensburg Safe Environment Office: 315-393-2920
<https://www.rcdony.org/safeenv.html>

Environmental Stewardship

Who could imagine?

Who could imagine that a tiny microscopic organism could bring travel and the economy worldwide to a crawl and cause the closing of schools, shopping malls, restaurants, sports events and businesses? We are acutely aware of the suffering, pain of loss, financial concerns amid the uncertainties of these times. Our prayers and actions reach out for an end of this health crisis and healing.

People are already looking ahead at what the next "new normal" will look like. There are many different speculations in answer to this question. One woman writes in a poem entitled "Coronavirus, Thank You." (YouTube) that presents a whole different way of being with and in the world with each other. "Thank you, for shaking us up and showing us that we are dependent on something much bigger than we think; thank you, for making us appreciate the luxury we lived in, the abundance of products, freedom and health that we realize we were taking for granted; thank you for stopping us and making us see how lost we were in the 'busy-ness' not taking time for the most important things; thank you for stopping the transport; the earth has been begging us to look at the pollution for a very long time, but we didn't listen. thank you for the realization that we are all connected; Gratitude helps us to see things from many perspectives, and it's up to us to choose, but it is best to be aware of all of them." (Riya Sokol)

Who could imagine as we ponder the Easter Scriptures that out of this seemingly total upheaval of the disciples' hopes and dreams could come unimaginable events like resurrection and a whole new way of living as servants rather than masters.

Who could imagine that in the midst of this suffering the world is experiencing now, God has planted a seed of hope in us that can change the way we 'do business,' one that embraces all people and creatures? As we celebrate Earth Day on April 22, check out the Earth Day Eco-challenge for suggestions on ways that will heal our world.

Rest in Peace

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

April 22 – Rev. Daniel M. Sullivan, 1933

April 23 – Rev. L. Victor Petit, O.M.I., 1898; Most Rev. Henry Gabriels, 1921

April 24 – V. Rev. Alfred L. Pelletier, O.M.I., 1978; Rev. Thomas Egan, S.J., 1994

April 26 – Rev. Charles M. Mestre, O.M.I., 1870; Msgr. David Stinebrickner, 1998

April 27 – Rev. John J. Fedigan, O.S.A., 1908; Rev. Michael F. Ambrose, 1934

April 28 – Rev. J. A. Larose, 1967

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-
anneyanulavich@yahoo.com
Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-
569-0612 evenings; or Father
Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal
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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.Report-
BishopAbuse.org.

Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters from readers of the North Country Catholic.

- Due to space limitations, we ask that the number of words be limited to 300.

- We cannot accept letters which support ideas which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

- Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or e-mail to news@northcountrycatholic.org

- Join the conversation!

Diocese continues to review ways to keep children safe

As we mark Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Diocese of Ogdensburg Safe Environment Office is highlighting some of its ongoing and new initiatives.

Bishop Abuse Reporting System

In May 2019, Pope Francis released his apostolic letter, *Vos estis lux mundi* ("You are the light of the world") to address the issue of sexual abuse and bishop accountability in the global Catholic Church. In June 2019, one month after Pope Francis issued his order, the bishops of the United States convened for their general assembly in Baltimore and approved the implementation plan for carrying out the directives of the Holy Father here in the United States.

As part of this ongoing commitment to carrying out *Vos estis*, the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service (CBAR) was established. The service is operated by Convercent, Inc. an independent, third-party entity that provides intake services to private institutions for reports of sensitive topics such as sexual harassment through a secure, confidential, and professional

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.

Due to CoVid-19, 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 assigning the training to be completed online.



APRIL IS NATIONAL

CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION MONTH



#PROMISETO PROTECT

platform. Individuals may go to ReportBishopAbuse.org in order to make a report. Reports are also accepted via (800) 276-1562.

This reporting mechanism is different than the mechanisms for reporting misconduct by priests, deacons, consecrated religious and/or church employees/volunteers. 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, at [terri-
anneyanulavich@yahoo.com](mailto:terri-
anneyanulavich@yahoo.com) or 518-651-2267 days/
518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy, at ccarrara@rcdony.org or by phone at 315-393-2920 ext. 1340.

Revisions to Child and Youth Protection Policy

The diocesan Child and Youth Protection policy is currently under review and revision. Among the proposed revisions is in-

clusion of the procedure for reporting misconduct by bishops. The policy revisions will be reviewed by the diocesan Review Board and diocesan administration before revisions will be finalized by Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

Changes to the audit process

While the diocese is subject to a Safe Environment audit every year, the audit cycle typically includes two years of data-collection audits, and every third year is an on-site audit. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is proposing changes to the audit process, specifically as it relates to the on-site audits. While more information will be released in May, it appears the on-site audit will now include review of three years of documentation. The audit process will also include additional interviews with involved parties, including diocesan staff, school employees, volunteers and members of the Review Board.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Vulnerable people seeing rapid response from aid agencies

WASHINGTON (CNS) – U.S.-based aid groups are devoting extra resources to refugees and migrant people globally who are vulnerable to the new coronavirus. Efforts by Catholic Relief Services, Malteser International, Jesuit Refugee Service and AVSI-USA are focusing on basic education about the virus, sanitation and hygiene and boosting staff capacity to ensure an effective response to COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus. The message being shared is the same as that in the developed world: maintain social distancing, wash hands, and cover sneezes and coughs. The lack of clean water and soap in many poor communities has made the work more difficult to carry out, however, agency officials said. At the same time, Aid to the Church in Need announced it will provide \$5.5 million in emergency funding to priests and nuns who care for the most vulnerable communities around the world but who have lost their own basic means of subsistence because of the pandemic. Sean Callahan, CEO and president of CRS, said in a statement the agency, which is the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency, is utilizing its relationships with partners around the world to respond as quickly as possible to the pandemic. Particular emphasis is being placed on addressing the needs of older adults and vulnerable children, refugees and migrants, people with compromised immune systems and their caregivers, as well as other high-risk groups. "Our COVID-19 response will draw upon our experience in acute health emergencies," Callahan said, citing his agency's work to respond to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and the HIV crisis. "Our work will be informed by the local context and focus on some of the most vulnerable communities."

U.S. seeks release of imprisoned religious minorities

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The United States is asking other nations to release what one ambassador called religious "prisoners of conscience" to prevent their infection with the coronavirus. "We're making the point that you should not want any of these prisoners of conscience to die of the COVID-19 virus while in prison and to have the responsibility on your hands," said Sam Brownback, U.S. ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom, during an April 17 conference call with reporters. Prisons and jails in the United States and throughout the world have taken steps to release inmates either before their trials or before their sentences have been completed, as they take into account such factors as prison overcrowding and cramped cells preventing any kind of meaningful social distancing that has been advocated to stem the spread of the virus. Brownback's message was aimed specifically at religious prisoners, whatever the reason that authorities arrested or tried them for in the first place. "We're saying it's good for you as a country. These people shouldn't be locked up because of their faith," Brownback said. "Fortunately, we have seen a number of countries that have begun to release their prisoners." He cited several nations – Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Somaliland, Syria and Tunisia – in general for their efforts in releasing religious prisoners, who are frequently members of religious minorities in their respective countries. "The conditions of their release vary widely," Brownback said, noting that some have won their freedom outright while others have been furloughed to house arrest. "We're asking for complete release, but we'll take what we can get," he added in response to a question.

FEMA issues guidelines to ensure 'equal protection' for COVID patients

WASHINGTON (CNS) – National Right to Life April 16 praised the Federal Emergency Management Agency for issuing guidelines to ensure equal protection for all patients with COVID-19 to prevent rationing of health care.

"We thank President (Donald) Trump and FEMA Administrator Phil Gaynor for efforts to protect the most vulnerable in our society," said Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life, adding that the guidelines "will help ensure that regardless of ability or disability, age, origin or chronic health issues, patients are treated equally."

Titled "Ensuring Civil Rights During the COVID-19 Response," the FEMA guidelines for its "state, local, tribal and territorial partners" were issued in its Civil Rights Bulletin. They state:

"Make medical treatment decisions, including denials of care under crisis standards of care and allocation of ventilators, after an individualized consideration of each person, free from stereotypes and biases, including generalizations and judgments about the individual's quality of life or relative value to society, based on the individual's disability, age, race, income level or any protected basis.

"This individualized consideration should be based on current objective medical evidence and the expressed views of the patients themselves as opposed to unfounded assumptions," the guidelines said.

A couple of weeks before the FEMA guidance the Of-

fice of Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued its own.

Across the country, a critical shortage of personal protective equipment for medical personnel who are treating patients who have the highly contagious virus as well as a lack of equipment such as ventilators has prompted some U.S. hospitals to consider instituting a blanket DNR, or "do not resuscitate" order, for COVID-19 patients despite their wishes or those of their family.

"Our health care system is designed to save lives," Tobias said in her statement. "No one facing the serious health issues from a coronavirus diagnosis should worry about whether they will receive the care they need because of their age or disability."

On April 3 the chairmen of three committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a joint statement on the fear the coronavirus pandemic is creating about limited resources for treating patients, especially the most seriously ill.

But "this is not a time to sideline our ethical and moral principles," the bishops said. "It is a time to uphold them ever more strongly, for they will critically assist us in steering through these trying times."

The statement was signed by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Doctrine; Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the

Committee on Pro-Life Activities; and Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development."

"Foremost in our approach to limited resources is to always keep in mind the dignity of each person and our obligation to care for the sick and dying," the prelates said. "Such care, however, will require patients, their families, and medical professionals to work together in weighing the benefits and burdens of care, the needs and safety of everyone, and how to distribute resources in a prudent, just and unbiased way."

Bishop Rhoades and Archbishops Naumann and Coakley praised hospitals and medical personnel for their courage and compassion in treating the nation's COVID-19 patients.

"Hospitals and health care systems are the true epicenter of this pandemic and our health care professionals – doctors, nurses, technicians, administrators and support staff – have all demonstrated courage, compassion, and truly remarkable professional care in a time of growing crisis.

They acknowledged the difficult decisions about care confronting these health care workers, and urged them to read a number of important statements from Catholic health care and medical ethical organizations reminding them – and the general public – of ethical and moral principles to be applied in these difficult circumstances.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Transformed by the resurrection stories

In these unsettling days in which we continue to battle the coronavirus, we need more than ever the stories of Jesus' resurrection found in these days after Easter.

On this Third Sunday of Easter, Scripture tells us more about Jesus' appearances. They transformed the apostles from doubters to the strongest of believers. After Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came in power upon that same building in which Jesus had changed bread and wine into His body and blood, those same apostles were transfig-



**Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore**

ured. Without hesitation, they courageously spent the rest of their lives even to martyrdom, fulfilling the mission Jesus has given them.

This Sunday's first reading is from a sermon of Peter's given on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit had come upon him. No longer was Peter afraid to identify himself publicly as a follower. Now, he raises his voice fearlessly before a vast crowd to proclaim the power of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He skillfully connects the prophecies

April 26

Third Sunday of Easter

READINGS

Acts 2:14, 22-33

1 Peter: 17-21

Luke 24: 13-35

of the Old Testament with the teaching and deeds of Jesus to convince his hearers Jesus is indeed the Son of God. We are told that, because of Peter's preaching, over 3,000 were baptized that day! As Jesus had transformed the apostles, so will He change the hearts of all who believe.

In the second reading from a letter of St. Peter, we have a sample of the catechesis of the early

Church. Peter urges all who believe that they are now a part of Christ, redeemed by His Precious Blood to conduct themselves with joy and courage.

In the Gospel, we hear a dramatic story, It is about Jesus, who, in the guise of a stranger, joins two very discouraged disciples travelling to the little village of Emmaus. Without a clue as to what the events of the past few days really mean, they narrate the facts to the Stranger. After listening patiently, Jesus says to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the Prophets spoke. Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these

things and enter into his glory?" Then he opens their hearts and minds to understand. Finally, he enters an Inn to have a meal with them. Astonished, they recognize Him in the breaking of bread (the Eucharist), even as He vanishes from their sight. Now full of joy, they run back to Jerusalem to tell the others.

Through these stories today, we can have our own eyes opened and in faith and hope help our discouraged neighbors and friends during these days of severe trial. Our faith and joy will always win out over the fear around us. Christ is with us, and Alleluia is our song.

CALLED TO SERVE

Prayerfully keeping watch

One of my fondest altar boy memories in Queens was being assigned "watch" during exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. We were assigned in teams of two to be present to our Lord in one-hour shifts. We assumed positions opposite each other in the sanctuary, inside the altar rail.

The watchers would alternately kneel and sit in tandem. Every move was on cue, a nod, a hand gesture, a wink. Whatever worked. We were in cassock and surplice with col-

lar, bow and gloves and carried lighted candlesticks.

When it was time to end our watch, we exchanged positions with another team in a ceremony not quite on par with the changing of the guard at the Vatican, but it was solemn and, I think, impressive.

We did not have exposition all that often but certainly did after the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.

Adorers came in and out of church throughout the

night and early morning hours. We Catholic school kids were required to spend one hour with the Lord at some point during exposition.

That presented some interesting challenges for the servers. Schoolmates felt obliged to make the altar servers giggle so there was a constant effort by us to maintain a solemn appearance. God forbid one of the priests or sisters saw us giggling while "on the altar."

All these memories came rushing back to me as I sat watch, alone, sans vestments in church Holy Saturday 2020.

I sat in a pew. The church was open to visitors who wanted to pray

before the cross in place at the foot of the sanctuary since Good Friday. It proved to be a quiet, peaceful time of simple

meditation. It was a time to let God speak. The cross was an elegant reminder of Jesus' sacrifice for mankind.

Two hours went by quickly. One other person came into church in that period. But that's OK. These are very unusual times.

The final weeks of Lent and the celebration of the Paschal Mystery liturgies felt lacking without a congregation. There were few people to pray with us during the beautiful rituals of the Holy Week liturgies. There was no one to receive the Body of Christ.

I feel blessed because my pastor invited me to assist at the liturgies, but most people stayed away for good reason.

Those memories of days long ago were nice, but now I know why they occurred to me. It is called watch for a reason. The disciples slept through their opportunity to pray with Jesus. Many years ago, I learned to be attentive, alert, prayerful in the presence of the Lord. Prayer raised to God in community is wonderful. Prayer offered in the quiet of a single heart is profound. May the risen Lord give us His peace.

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




**Deacon
Kevin Mastellon**

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

Protecting God's workers

Please pray for all who are on the front lines of care, for all who are suffering and are in need in this difficult time. Pray especially for those in the Mission Lands who have so much being expected of them and needed by us at this time. Thank you and God Bless.

May the Wellspring of Compassion be opened in you.

May soothing words find a home in you.

May Tenderness bless you as you reach out to comfort in body, mind and spirit.

In the midst of fear or frustration may courage be given you.

May patience keep vigil with you and peace of mind calm you.

May your heart find a song to sing even when you are weary.

May abundant Love lift you and gratitude bless you as you live the mission of Care entrusted to you.

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

OBITUARIES

AuSable Forks – Janet Norman, 96; Mass of Christian Burial to be at a later date at Holy Name Church.

Dannemora – Gerald J. King, 86; Memorial Mass to be held at a later date at St. Joseph's Church.

Lake Placid – Michael Charles Carrow, 61; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at a later date.

Lyon Mountain – Edward A. Siskavich, 79; Memorial Services to be held at a later date.

Malone – Winona Marion (Marshall) McQuinn, 89; Funeral Services to be held at a later date.

Morrisonville – Geraldine A. (Longtin) Gebo, 90; Funeral Services to be private.

Mineville – Betty Lou (Hobbs) Corbo,

93; Memorial Mass to be held at a later date.

Newcomb – Mitchel Francis Moses, 74; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at a later date at St. Therese Church; burial in Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Terry Besaw, 73; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at a later date at St. Peter's.

Saranac Lake – Virginia "Ginny" (Wood) Struss, 76; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at a later date at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Watertown – Carolyn Dowd Fitzpatrick, 70; Private Mass of Christian Burial April 17, 2020 at St. Patrick's Church.

Sharing faith, sharing music

Editor's note: This is an installment of an ongoing series featuring how Catholics of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are living out their faith. To suggest an individual to be featured in this series, please call the North Country Catholic at 315-393-2920 or email dfargo@rcdony.org.

By Eileen Greenwood
Contributing Writer

WATERTOWN—Joan Grappote Carlo is bolstered in her faith by sharing her love of music and bringing Jesus to others, both in Communion and by sharing joy.

Carlo, a resident of Watertown, is the third child of five in her family, (four of the children were girls). She grew up in a home with one Methodist and one Catholic parent. Her grandmother was a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse in Philadelphia, and Carlo credits her love for teaching from her grandmother.

Carlo became a teacher and taught many years at different grade levels before retiring. It was her mother who nurtured and built a strong base of music in Carlo's life. Carlo learned to play clarinet, and this was a way to help with her asthma. But that was just the beginning.

Carlo, her three sisters and mother formed a musical group and began to play for the mother/daughter banquet and as a folk group at St. Patrick's.

"Mom said, you will get better when you play for a group," Carlo said.

Carlo later taught herself guitar, though now she is taking professional lessons to further improve her playing skills.

Carlo fondly remembers



playing for Sister Maurice Black's special religious education class of adults.

"They love music and seeing them clapping along made me happy," she said.

Eventually Carlo began playing for Holy Family Church, as lead guitarist for the celebration of masses. It was then, that life threw her a hard curveball. On December 5, at age 51, Carlo's Mother died after having been ill with cancer. With a full schedule ahead to play for church, including the Christmas season, suddenly it was going to be a challenge to perform.

"But I got through it. You pray for strength," said Carlo, who continued playing for Masses despite her devastating loss.

Six years later, Carlo was hit with another heart-breaking loss, as her sister also succumbed to cancer.

Carlo was only 38, and her sister 39 when she passed. Having had Hospice in their home to assist with both of these difficult times, Carlo turned to grief counseling for help.

"I look back and I think it

was amazing to go through all that," she said.

Later Carlo would help children who needed grief counseling.

Carlo began taking classes for lay ministry. When she was invited to sing at a service at Summit Village, a home for elderly, she said "yes." That "yes" grew into a ministry of love and music that Carlo shares frequently. She sings at the services, but also has sing-a-longs on different floors with songs the residents know. Carlo even dresses up as Mrs. Claus at Christmas. After one show as Mrs. Claus, she reappeared dressed normally and heard from one resident, "Oh, you missed the show! It was wonderful!"

Carlo has taken a major role in the Elks club for 13 years and is serving now as Grand Knight. Her ministry in the Elks program includes a great variety of charity acts, such as collecting donations for the SPCA and the school backpack food program, hosting winter clothing drives for kids, holding Thanksgiving Harvest Dinners for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Sharing faith, music

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

the elderly, (even transporting them to and from dinner) and holding luncheons for veterans, just to name a few.

Carlo is very humble about the volunteer work she does, which fills her days now that she is retired from teaching. When asked how she stays strong Carlo stated, "With Gratitude. My life is so blessed. I have been given gifts to help and to give back. My Mom was my best friend and role model. Just watching her give of herself all the time inspired me."

She also spoke of days that she is less motivated, how she thinks of the people she sings for.

"I will never forget this one woman who never ever spoke... not a word," Carlo said. "She just sat and listened. And then I

put the microphone up to her mouth, and she sang, too."

Carlo noted that the residents' feedback inspires her to persist in the ministry.

"Some days I don't really feel like going, but seeing the elderly clap along, or try to do the hokey pokey in their wheelchairs, it just puts me in a better mood," she said. "I always leave there happy."

Carlo also has a dog, Calleigh, who goes and visits the Summit Village residents with her. The residents enjoy petting and interacting with Calleigh, as well as giving her treats.

Carlo has a multitude of ways she finds to serve her church and community. In addition to sharing her love of music, Carlo takes Communion

to the residents at nursing homes. She continues to play at masses and gatherings. Carlo credits her happiness to God for all things, being grateful for her friends and family, and those she met and remains close to in lay ministry.

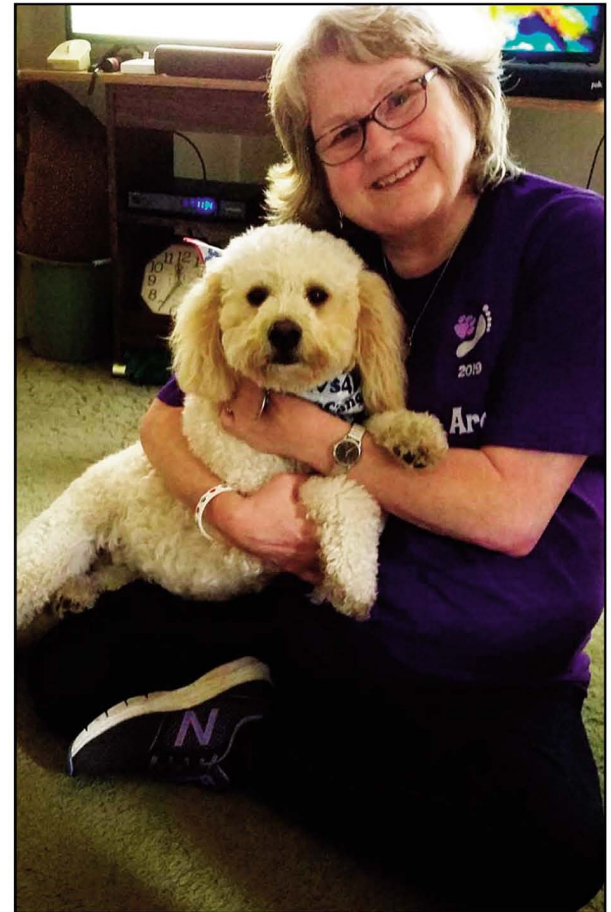
Carlo is still very close to her Dad, bringing him Communion regularly and very much enjoys spending time with him. She also says she sees a miracle in her nephew, born weighing only one pound, surviving and thriving, and she is very close to him. She speaks of him with such pride and love.

"He is now 23, and although he has Autism he is doing very well," she said. "All of these things bring you to your faith. I wrote a song for him. He is special to me."

The words of the song reflect Carlo's gratitude in God and life (lyrics can be found at the end of the article).

Carlo volunteers on the Commissioned Ministry Board, crediting the formation program for also giving her a strong foundation for her Catholic faith. She loves to read, especially Word Among Us.

Her advice to others? "Try to come out of yourself for part of your day," she said. "Use the gifts you have been given. Do it for someone



Joan Carlo

else-and it will make you feel better."

Joan Carlo's song for her nephew:

Here you are, ready to dance with life. You're a precious child, so special, so loved. From the stars above, the windows from heaven, the angels are watching, We know.

We wait, we pray, we hope. As you begin your journey with us. We're so

proud of you, our shining star. You're ready to dance with life.

So eager to come into the hearts of us all, Your Mom and Dad are so special, so loved. In the rainbow of time you are a treasure. The angels are watching, We know.

We wait, we pray, we hope, As you begin your journey with us. We're so proud of you, our shining star. You're ready to dance with life.

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