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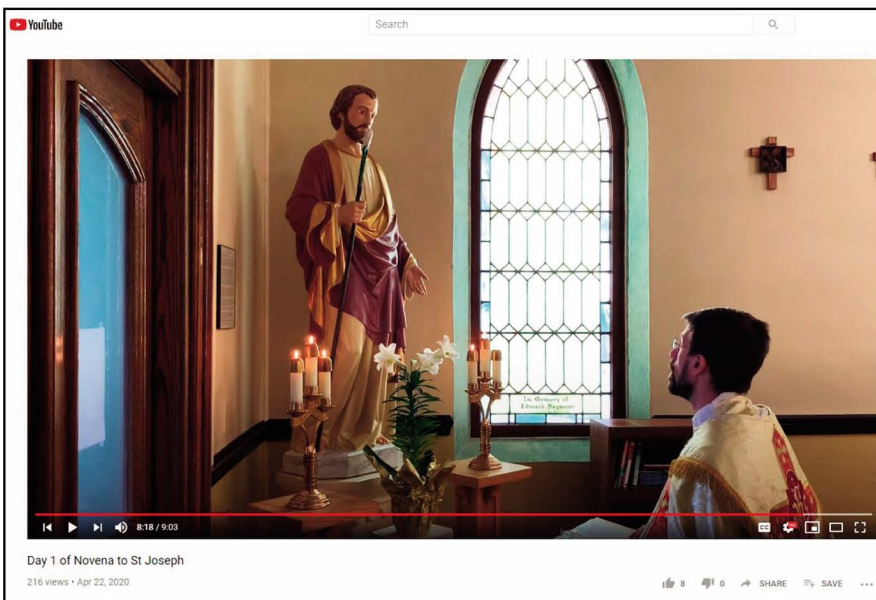
Schools adapt to pandemic learning

With school buildings around the nation closed due to the coronavirus pandemic, educators, including those in Diocese of Ogdensburg Catholic schools, have been developing new and creative ways to deliver education.

"The difficulty is going from traditional classroom teaching and all those lesson plans that they have and having to change those plans over to distance learning pieces. They had to start all over, basically. It was a challenge for them, but they did a phenomenal job," said Immaculate Heart Central Principal Dan Charlebois.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

PRAYING TOGETHER WHILE APART



Father Bryan D. Stitt, pastor of St. Mary's in Canton and director of Worship for the diocese, leads a Novena to St. Joseph in preparation for the May 1 diocesan consecration to St. Joseph. The text for the novena, as well as videos of priests and deacons leading each day of the novena, can be found at www.rcdony.org/covid-19. Full story on Page 12.

NEW OFFICE LOCATION



After years in a location that many found difficult to find, Catholic Charities' Watertown office has relocated to Public Square, the heart of the city's downtown. The move has made the agency more accessible and better able to serve individuals in need.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope: Creation is sacred gift deserving respect

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Humanity has failed to take care of the earth and its inhabitants, sinning against God and his gift of creation, Pope Francis said.

Celebrating Earth Day, which fell during the "Easter season of renewal, let us pledge to love and esteem the beautiful gift of the earth, our common home, and to care for all members of our human family," he said during his livestreamed weekly general audience from the

Vatican.

The pope dedicated his catechesis April 22 to a reflection on the human and Christian responsibility to care for the earth, humanity's common home. The day marked the 50th Earth Day, which was established in 1970 to raise public awareness and concern for the environment and its impact on people's health and all life. This year also marks the fifth anniversary of

the pope's encyclical, "Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home."

In his catechesis, the pope said Earth Day was "an occasion for renewing our commitment to love and care for our common home and for the weaker members of our human family."

"As the tragic coronavirus pandemic has taught us, we can overcome global challenges only by showing solidarity with one another and

embracing the most vulnerable in our midst," he said.

As the Book of Genesis relates, he said, "we live in this common home as one human family in biodiversity with God's other creatures," and God has called on humanity to care for and respect his creation and "to offer love and compassion to our brothers and sisters, especially the most vulnerable among us, in imitation of God's love

for us, manifested in his son Jesus."

God is good and always forgives, the pope said, however, "The earth never forgives: if we have despoiled the earth, the response will be very bad."

"Because of our selfishness, we have failed in our responsibility to be guardians and stewards of the earth," the pope said. "We have polluted and despoiled it, endangering our very lives."

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Experiencing unconditional love

I'm not proud of this, but it's true: I was a dreadful teenager.

While I was a model student and relatively well behaved in public, I was a nightmare at home. I had a bad attitude, a hot temper and a big mouth (I still have that last one). The combination got me into trouble fairly frequently at home, where I was known for launching into tirades at my sisters and my parents, especially my mother, who was the disciplinarian of the house (my father was sort of a cream puff when it came to discipline; if my sisters and/or I cried, he'd ne-

gotiate on punishments).

I know I said some horrible things to my mother over the years. If she disciplined me, corrected me or gave me a job I didn't like, there was a good chance I'd resort to yelling, hurling insults at her or otherwise pitching a fit.

**Darcy L.
Fargo**

As a result, mom would usually increase whatever punishment/work she was trying to give me in the first place. Eventually, I'd calm down, at least until the next perceived slight.

Despite how horribly I sometimes treated her, my mother never stopped loving me. She may not have always

liked me, but she always loved me, and she always showed her love.

Why did I think of that this week?

I had a rough week. There isn't one thing I can point to that tipped me off, but the effects of isolation and relative home confinement seem to be compounding, and I was struggling with that.

I was sad. I was angry. There were moments when I raged at God. I was mad that (as I viewed it at the time) He's allowed this to continue. I was mad that I felt unable to see the lessons I'm supposed to be learning from this point in time, and I was generally frustrated with the situation.

Then I felt even worse. I

felt guilty for being angry with God.

Then I thought of my mother's handling of my teenage years.

While raging at God probably isn't the best way to handle my emotions, I know God will absorb my anger and continue loving me. He's the ultimate parent. He loves us even when we're not at our best. In fact, He loves us even when we feel unlovable. He just loves us.

I'm sure I'm not done having rough days. I'm sure that angry part of my personality will surface again. Despite that, I'm blessed to have a God (and a mother) who still love me.

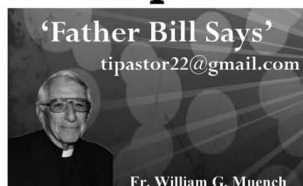
That makes the rough days better.

United in baptism, united in Christ

We are in the Easter Season. Like other of our Catholic Liturgical seasons, the Easter Season this year has been radically changed by the pandemic. Lent, Holy Week and Easter Sunday were so very different this year. Everything was what they call "virtual." We certainly know what virtual means this year. The one thing we learned rather quickly is that everything depends on us. It is up to us what we watch, how we pray, what we learn. So, the Easter Season is virtual also.

The Easter Season is the celebration of the time that our Lord, Jesus, our Resurrected Savior, continued to spend among us on this earth after his Resurrection until His Ascension. Scripture tells us that Jesus ascended 40 days after his Resurrection. This we celebrate as the Easter Season.

As a Church, we remember and celebrate the many events of this Easter Season. We meditate on the various

**Fr. William G. Muench**

stories of Jesus appearing and being with his apostles and disciples. Most of all, we often learn of Jesus instructing his apostles to baptize and help people to dedicate their lives to following the Lord. Our opportunities in the past to pray together and join at the altar of the Lord for Mass are not possible this year. The opportunities for us to unite ourselves with the Lord through the Holy Eucharist are not possible this year. We are a pandemic people this year. Our Easter Season celebration is virtual. Yet, this can still be a time to unite us together and to unite us with the Lord. We pray for a return to a better way of joining as a Church – celebrating as an Easter people. We listen and hope our

leaders will help us to figure this all out, so that we can become, again, a gathered people of God.

The Easter Season this year can be a time for us to find a way to unite ourselves together as this people of God. The Resurrection of Jesus is our way of coming together. Though we are urged to distance ourselves from each other to protect ourselves and others, uniting ourselves with the resurrected Jesus will be our way of uniting ourselves with each other. Jesus will unite us and bring us new life through the Holy Spirit, a new life that will bring peace and happiness despite this pandemic; a resurrected life, being together as one people.

That is why this is all about baptism. As we renew our baptisms during this Easter Season, we will truly be born again into a new life dedicated to following our Lord and Savior. Through our baptisms, we have experienced our own resurrection, and we

are joined in Spirit with the Lord in his Resurrection.

I believe that Jesus rose from the dead. I believe that three days after Jesus' crucifixion, Jesus rose to new life. I believe that the Resurrection of Jesus prefigures our own resurrection. Our resurrection began when we were brought to new life with the Lord in our baptisms. In baptism, each of us was dedicated in faith and confidence to live a new life as followers of Jesus, as Christians. We are indeed an Easter people, a Resurrection people. So, let us live like a baptized people. Let us live like a people who have rose with Jesus. Let us live a new life.

I want to remind you of Romans 6:3: "Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life."

Catholic Charities opens new Watertown office

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon
Contributing Writer

WATERTOWN - 44 Public Square was the home to the Greater Watertown NY Chamber of Commerce for decades in the late 20th century. Public Square is the city's center. It does not get as much foot traffic as it did in the early part of the century, but it gets plenty. The executive director of the chamber back then, Mary Parry, would occasionally complain because of the amount of foot traffic into the chamber offices from "the Square." People would stop in looking for all sorts of things, and some of those things even pertained to the work of the chamber. Many of the visitors needed help in the form of food, clothing, cash. Eventually the chamber board decided to relocate for a variety of reasons.

Now, several years later, 44 Public Square is the new home of Catholic Charities' Watertown presence. That same "off the street" traffic is still there and is perfect according to Catholic Charities Executive Director Deacon Patrick Donahue.

"It was really a no brainer," Deacon Donahue said. "We were not very visible."

The Catholic Charities office was on Clinton Street, a side-street in downtown Watertown. It was in a one-story building that housed accountants, lawyers and dentists.

"Our office was right next to Watertown Savings Bank on Clinton Street," Deacon Donahue said. "More people were going into the bank looking for our office than found us right off. The space was never suitable for what we wanted Catholic Charities

to be. We became less accessible, less visible and, I think, even some of the pastors from outside of town who came through Watertown kind of lost track of where we were."

Finding Catholic Charities in Watertown is now, hopefully, much easier. The development of Catholic Charities has been a work-in-progress. From the agency's own web site, we learn "Catholic Charities was established in Northern New York in the Diocese of Ogdensburg in 1917. Since then, it has grown from a small agency dedicated to the care of the elderly, unmarried parents, and infants into a multi-service agency. It has added services for couples, family, children, youth, and communities."

Born of the attention given to child labor abuses in the early 1900s, the national organization was founded in 1910 at Catholic University of America as the National Conference of Catholic Charities. The organization changed its name in 1986 to Catholic Charities USA. Since religious orders of women established many of the first schools, hospitals, and social service organizations in the United States, it is not surprising that many of those organizations developed into today's Catholic Charities agencies. Most of the executives of Catholic Charities in this diocese were priests, until Sister Donna Franklin, a Daughter of Charity, was appointed in 1995. She served as Executive Director for 23 years.

The agency created in the Diocese of Ogdensburg has responded to the specific needs of the people in the diocese, chang-

ing focus as needs changed.

"It started out helping impoverished families, more neighborhood based, an extension of the Catholic church," Donahue said.

At the time it was created, at the end of World War I, the agency was concerned with orphans, broken homes and family issues. Over the decades, the focus would shift to adoptions, foster care and operating orphanages. Then came a period of concern for the mentally ill, those who were developmentally disabled, individuals recovering from addiction and abuse services.

"Catholic Charities across the US became a Catholic version of community-based services," the current director said, "competing for all the money that was out there waiting to be distributed."

That funding started to disappear late in the century, and Catholic Charities in the North Country had to start shrinking. The organization had offices across the diocese in numerous communities, but many of them had to close. Programs, like adoption services, were abandoned.

"I think we had moved away from our mission: to reach out to impoverished individuals and families and to advocate for them," Deacon Donahue said. "The Cabrini (Health Foundation) money that came in last year has, in many ways, allowed us to return to our core mission."

Catholic Charities in the Diocese received \$1.7 million in the 2019 funding cycle of the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation Grants.

"This funding allows us to form partnerships with

existing community-based agencies, work with our parishes, existing services but using a case-work model," Donahue said. "We are not specialists. We are generalists. Somebody comes walking into one of our Catholic Charities offices, we are going to sit with them and find out what's going on; and it usually is multiple things, multiple issues."

Catholic Charities works with the individuals to address their issues using a variety of internal and external resources.

Deacon Donahue was appointed the staff of Catholic Charities in October 2017. He shadowed Sister Donna Franklin, who he succeeded, until January 2018, when he assumed the executive director position. Donahue brings over 25 years of experience as a caseworker and administrator at private, public and church agencies, including Catholic Charities, in the mental health and human services field.

The Catholic Charities organization in our Diocese has its principal offices at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg and in Watertown, Malone and Plattsburgh.

"We have a presence in all eight counties of the Diocese," Donahue said.

The focus is a bit different depending on the location. In Glenfield (Lewis County) for example, the agency has a migrant workers service. In Ogdensburg, the staff contin-

ues to operate and grow Seaway House, a clubhouse atmosphere that assists individuals with persistent mental illness. In the Malone area, Catholic Charities works in supervised foster care and parenting education in addition to the on-going soup kitchen. There is an RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) in Essex County.

The agency has 44 employees across the diocese.

Donahue administers a budget of about \$4 million, almost half of that from Cabrini grants. Administration of the funds amounts to 12% of the total, below the national range of 15% to 40% for non-profits.

A major annual fund raiser for Catholic Charities is the Mother's Day Appeal in the parishes of the Diocese, an appeal that will be delayed this year due to the ongoing pandemic. In his letter to potential donors, Deacon Donahue said, "Catholic Charities has never done this alone and cannot do so now especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. We need our volunteers, our supporters and our benefactors to be part of this mission of charity and justice."


"We try to apply every dollar to people's needs," Donahue told the North Country Catholic.

The new visibility in Watertown is likely to result in increased demand for Catholic Charities services and dollars.

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www.northcountrycatholic.org

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- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more

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Trinity Catholic School teacher Angela Saucier plays tic-tac-toe with pre-K student Audrey Brockway through the window at Brockway's Fort Covington home. Saucier used the game as a fun activity connected to the letter of the week, X.

Schools adapt to pandemic

By Jessica Hargrave
Contributing Writer

Classrooms inside New York State schools remain empty as the effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 continues. Like schools across the state and the country, the Catholic school system within the Diocese of Ogdensburg are just trying to manage day-to-day. As students learning from home through distance learning has become the new normal, teachers are trying to keep lessons fresh in a mostly online learning environment.

Organization and planning among Catholic school administrators and teachers began immediately when it was announced Friday, March 13, that schools across the North Country would close until further notice.

Joyce Giroux, principal at Trinity Catholic School in Massena, said the planning process started the following Monday with small group meetings among teachers all week. During that short window of time, tech-savvy teachers each took a small group and gave them a crash course in Google Classroom, Google Forms and Screencastify.

"We prepared originally for two weeks, and we had handouts, we had a drop-off, like the other schools did, where their teachers came like a drive-through and received all their textbooks and paperwork needed," Giroux said.

Trinity Catholic School offers Pre-K through sixth grade programs. Knowing this new normal for parents would be a challenge, Giroux, along with the school's Family Support Coordinator Kathy Behrens, are keeping an open line of communica-

tion with parents. During the first two weeks, the pair phoned every school parent to check in.

"It took us about two weeks to get through everyone just to ask them 'How are things going there? What is the workload like? Is it too much? Is it too little?'" said Giroux.

She assures parents round two of those calls will start again soon. Trying to keep some sort of normalcy, Giroux continues to read the morning announcements on the school's YouTube channel. She also does weekly check-ins with faculty.

Despite the challenging and uncertain circumstance, Giroux wants parents to know we're all in this situation together.

"Everybody, students, teachers, parents, the diocese, we are just all doing the best we can," she said. "I think what we must remember is everyone is at the same level. Everyone is going through this, so we must take the fear away of children falling behind."

School administrators at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown said they couldn't be prouder with the response from their faculty.

"The difficulty is going from traditional classroom teaching and all those lesson plans that they have and having to change those plans over to distance learning pieces. They had to start all over, basically. It was a challenge for them, but they did a phenomenal job," said IHC Principal Dan Charlebois.

Charlebois met with junior and senior high faculty, while elementary Vice-Principal Amy Mitchell met with the primary faculty to put a plan

in place just three days after it was announced that school would close. Mitchell said she was amazed at how quick teachers were able to organize given the short turnaround time.

"It was less than 36 hours that they had learning packets put together, lesson plans made, and learned how to use Google Classroom," Mitchell said.

For high school students, regents grading, AP testing and EDGE courses through Jefferson Community College will continue. AP tests will be done online, while JCC is continuing EDGE courses through distance learning. As for regents' grades, while students are exempt from taking regents exams in June, students must pass the class in order to get the regents credit.

Charlebois and Mitchell both agree, they look forward to seeing the students in the hallways and classrooms again.

"We're a family," said Mitchell. "We're here to support parents in any way possible. I think this is a super emotional time and knowing that there is someone to reach out to for support is really important."

Charlebois wants parents, students and faculty to know there is hope for the future.

"We are an Easter people," he said. "We are always looking forward to new life. We don't know right now what this is going to bring. Kind of like the Apostles when Jesus was gone, they asked 'What just happened?' They were confused and not sure what was going on. but there was something to look forward to. There must be."

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

Eternal Father, we lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen
(With ecclesiastical approval)

Mass
Rosary
Fasting
Day Offering
Eucharistic Adoration
Offering of Sufferings
Divine Mercy Chaplet
Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him

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Our Lady

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17 REV. PATRICK J. O'REILLY	18 REV. JEROME PASTORES	19 REV. TERENCE R. PATTERSON	20 REV. EDUARDO C. PESIGAN III	21 MSGR. LEONARD J. POISSANT	22 RETIRED PRIESTS	23 REV. HERMAN PONGSANTUNG MSC.
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The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by: Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society www.vocationsnet.net

'I gave Him permission to lead my life'

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 Jonathan Monfiletto
Contributing Writer

WELLS – God presents us with opportunities to recalibrate our perspective and lean into Him, allowing His grace to function in our lives amidst the unknown. Andrew Lauria sees those opportunities now, as he – along with much of the rest of the world, amid the global coronavirus pandemic – faces a period of uncertainty in his job and his life.

He saw those opportunities as he struggled with same-sex attraction and then chose to live a celibate life. He saw those opportunities as he cared for his mother until she died of cancer several years ago.

"When nearly everything seems so unstable – not just your income but your relationships, and everything is kind of up in the air – the rhythm of the faith really helps in a very practical way being mooring in a time when everything seems so movable," said Lauria, who lives in Wells and attends St. Ann's Church there.

Lauria said he loves being Catholic and appreciates the ritual, order and structure of the faith. Those things, along with his daily prayers, help him keep focused on God when so many other things seem unknown.



Andrew Lauria

"Whenever there's a lot of unknowns, there's a tremendous opportunity for God to be radically present," Lauria said. "Sometimes, I think the tendency is to spend all of our time and our energy trying to structure our lives according to our preferences. Definitely in my life, when my life was the most secure, the most stable, that's when I was least open to what God wanted to do in my life, because I had set my comfort and my rhythm. I was beginning to make that a god instead of the actual person of Jesus."

Times like these, which he calls, "the story of my life," give us a chance to remember God is first and realize He wants us to want Him.

Lauria get those chances in his life every day, working as a carpenter for a property management company and living among his immediate family. Lauria lives with

his father, while each of his brothers and their families live on opposite sides of Lauria's house.

"It's an incredible opportunity for me to share my faith every day with my co-workers in a very practical way," he said, noting the importance of showing patience, encouragement and forgiveness, especially to people who do not have a faith background. "The very basic things Jesus did in His life. I just really try in a very tangible, practical way every day to try to do like Jesus did with my co-workers. ... That's a tremendous opportunity to be Jesus for somebody. Our faith is tested in those really practical moments."

With his family too, Lauria said every day – especially right now – is "an incredible opportunity" for him to share his faith with his loved ones by helping them and giving to them. On Palm Sunday, for example, he led the



preparations for a family meal at his house, in lieu of the family tradition of a big get-together at his aunt's house.

"Here's an opportunity for me to show my faith to my family by literally serving them, by serving them food," Lauria said. "That's a practical example of how I try to live my faith every day."

What Lauria calls the two defining moments of his life have also helped him realize the importance of his faith and share it with others.

After studying music for two years, Lauria was in his second year of serving with Americorps when he experienced "a strong reversion to the faith." He

had always felt close to God, but he wasn't living out his faith. He broke up with his longtime boyfriend and then went back to school at Franciscan University of Steubenville.

At the time and still today, Lauria said he was "struggling very deeply with an enduring same-sex attraction and a strong desire for Jesus," yet in front of the cross at Franciscan University he made a decision to put Jesus first.

"I just felt like I couldn't do it anymore," he said. "The rest of my life comes from that moment. I just made this commitment that I was going to follow

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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Environmental Stewardship

A curse and a blessing?

Successful coaches tape their teams' games so that they can go back and re-play them in slow motion to see what worked and what didn't. Then, they study what they can do to improve their game.

The Coronavirus has hit the PAUSE button on the world. It has given all of us a chance to see what are we doing right in taking care of God's creation and what we need to do to ensure the health of all that share this world now and in future generations.

We are blessed with two events during a month's time that provide us with tools to study our present "game play" for the future of our earth. In other words, what is working and what do we need to change. This past week, we observed Earth Day. Fifty years ago, it was established to encourage us not only to reverence the beauties of the earth but to become aware of some significant ways that our human activities are negatively impacting the quality of our water, air and soil.

We, as Christians, are blessed with the lens of Scripture and Church teachings to view creation and our role as humans in it. The Vatican Council document, *Gaudium et Spes* – *Church in the Modern World*, calls us to bring the light of the Gospel to the present day. Our Church leaders urge us to an "ecological conversion." In the words of St. John Paul II, "(an education in ecological responsibility is urgent: responsibility for oneself, for others and for the Earth." (World Day of Peace Message 1990); and Pope Benedict XVI said, "Preservation of the environment, promotion of sustainable development and particular attention to climate change are matters of grave concern for the entire human family."

During May we celebrate the 5th Anniversary of *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*. Pope Francis states: "The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development." (L.S. # 13)

Spend some time with the Lord and ponder your role as "team player."

Rest in Peace

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

April 29 – Rev. Arthur C. Kenny, 1945; Rev. Peter Mullen, M.M., 1999

April 30 – Rev. Michael W. Holland, 1906; Rev. Louis Grenier, M.S.C., 1958

May 1 – Rev. Joseph J. Halde, 1891; Rev. Edward P. Burns, 1985

May 2 – Rev. Jean Marie Royer, O.M.I., 1905; Rev. Joseph M. Blais, 1948; Rev. Leon LaPorte, 1954; Rev. Burchard Murray, O.S.A., 1966

May 3 – Rev. Cormac Walsh, O.F.M., 1977

May 4 – Rev. J. Napoleon Pelletier, O.M.I., 1935

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrianne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rcdony.org Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340. If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at 800-276-1562 or www.Report-BishopAbuse.org.

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.

Permission to lead my life

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Jesus, and I gave him permission to lead my life for the rest of my life. From that moment on, I've been single and celibate."

But, making a commitment to Jesus doesn't mean the road has been easy for Lauria.

"There are times when I really have to lean into my faith in Jesus in order to make it through the times when there's a certain loneliness or a desire to have a family or whatever these deep desires are of our life, and realizing that it's not my position," he said. "I have to lean into Him, and that humbles me tremendously and it's a total re-posturing of my

personality."

When he's sharing his experience with people, whether through a speaking engagement or an on-line community, Lauria said he tries to live out his own faith story in his life and teach people according to his faith background.

"It's the desire to follow Jesus in light of an enduring same-sex attraction that creates a humility in me that I otherwise would not come to, and that is a thing that I like to share with people," he said. "I like to share that God has transformed my life in a lot of ways, not in some radical, mystical way but in a very, very practical way. ... Every day living

with Jesus – that's what I share with people. That's really what I've learned. He's there, and that relationship is real. Sometimes, we have to have those other things stripped away to see that."

From Franciscan University, Lauria returned to the North Country to teach at Seton Catholic Central High School in Plattsburgh. After his mother received a terminal breast cancer diagnosis, he chose to leave teaching to be his mother's full-time caregiver until she died in June 2013.

"That entire time of my life, I've never prayed so hard in my life," Lauria said. "You pray that you want your loved to be healed and cured. More than that, I just needed God to continue to show me who He was."

During that time, Lauria learned "your faith doesn't exist in a vacuum," as he and his family members and friends leaned on God and one another for God to sustain them and to be a support community for his mother.

"God was trying to teach all of us, including my mom, something larger than just getting what we want if we pray a lot. That lesson wasn't there," he said, calling that experience the most difficult thing he has ever done. "The lesson was that He was there regardless and that He is the orchestrator of the universe and not us. Sometimes we just don't know, and that's OK."



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Funeral delayed for Sister Helen Martin

Sister Helen Martin, a Grey Nun of the Sacred Heart (formerly Sister Anne Joseph), 90, died April 20, 2020 in the 72nd year of her religious life.

A native of Ogdensburg, she was one of five children born to Charles P. and Anna M. Hoagland Martin. Sister graduated from both St. Mary's Elementary and High Schools prior to entering the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart in 1948.

Sister Helen was an elementary school teacher for 19 years in New York, Massachusetts and Georgia. Her ministry in the Diocese of Ogdensburg totaled 22 years. She taught from 1967 to 1969 at St.

Mary's in Potsdam. From 1976 to 1997, Sister Helen served as a librarian in the Ogdensburg area, working with people of all ages. Sister staffed the Wadhams Seminary College Library from 1976 to 1991 and again from 1994 to 1997. From 1992 to 1994, she was librarian at the Canton Free Library. Sister held permanent teaching certificates in New York and Georgia, complementing a bachelor's degree in Social Sciences from D'Youville College in Buffalo, and an master's degree in Library Science from Villanova University in Pennsylvania. Upon retirement to the Motherhouse in 1997,

Sister Helen began to provide pastoral care services to the residents of D'Youville Manor, and also volunteered in the Archives Office of the congregation. Sister retired in 2011 and continued to provide intracommunity service, volunteering in the Motherhouse Library.

erhouse Library.

Sister is predeceased by her parents; a brother, Charles E.; and sisters, Anna White, Pauline (Polly) Ward and Rita Smith. Sister is survived by nieces and nephews, in addition to her religious family.

Due to recent events, a

memorial service will be held for Sister Helen Martin at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, 14500 Bustleton Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19116-1188 or at www.greynun.org

Private funeral held for Mary Aline Decker

Mary Aline Constance Decker, 99, of Hammond, the mother of Father Douglas Decker and Father Robert Decker, passed away on April 2.

She was born August 30, 1920 in Winchester, Ontario, Canada, the daughter of Alfred and Eliza Marion Amyot. She was educated in Hammond Schools.

She married Robert Decker on May 16, 1945 at St. Patrick's Church, Rossie. The couple owned and operated a dairy farm on County Route 1, for many years. The home is still owned by her sons to this day. Mr. Decker passed away on April 28, 2018.

Aline worked for both Pine Tree Point and Cavallario's Steak House, in Alexandria Bay.

She is survived by five sons, George (Susan) Decker, West Gardner, Maine, Father Douglas Decker, Tupper Lake, New York, Father Robert Decker, Adams, New York, Lyndon (Judy) Decker, Tully, New York, and Steven (Angela) Decker, Adams, New York; a daughter, Sally (Frederick) Paddock, Hammond, New York; two sisters, Juliette Furguson, Redwood, New York and Constance Panunzio, Hammond, New York; and five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

She was predeceased by brothers, Albert, George, Louis, Rosaire, Alexander and Paul Amyot; and sisters, Fredeline Amyot, Minnie Sargent, Jeanette Beaudin and Clara Leckinger.

A private mass of Christian burial was celebrated said at St. Peter's Church in Hammond. Burial will be at Fineview Cemetery, Hammond. Memorial donations may be made to St. Peter's Church or to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation at cff.org.

Arrangements are with Costello Funeral Service, Alexandria Bay.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

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Bishops criticize new immigration restrictions

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and two other Catholic bishops criticized President Donald Trump's April 22 executive order to temporarily restrict some forms of immigration during the pandemic, saying it could "fuel polarization and animosity."

"While we welcome efforts to ensure that all Americans are recognized for the dignity of their work, the global crisis caused by COVID-19 demands unity and the creativity of love, not more division and the indifference of a throwaway mentality," the prelates said late April 23.

They also said they are "extremely concerned" about how the proclamation will impact immigrant families "looking to reunify" as well as religious workers.

Issuing the joint statement were Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, USCCB president; Washington Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Migration; and Bishop Jaime Soto of Sacramento, California, chairman of the board of directors of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc., or CLINIC.

The executive order will be in effect for at least 60 days and will be reviewed 50 days from the effective date of April 23 to determine if it needs to be continued or modified. Trump issued it as part of his administration's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Trump said the restriction on immigration is necessary because of the

pandemic's pressures on health care and its widespread negative impact on the economy, and he cited "the impact of foreign workers on the United States labor market, particularly in an environment of high domestic unemployment and depressed demand for labor."

"In order to protect our great American workers, I've just signed an executive order temporarily suspending immigration into the United States," the president said during a White House coronavirus task force briefing. "This will ensure that unemployed Americans of all backgrounds will be first in line for jobs as our economy reopens."

In their response, Archbishop Gomez and Bishops Dorsonville and Soto said: "There is little evidence that immigrants take away jobs from citizens. Immigrants and citizens together are partners in reviving the nation's economy. We must always remember that we are all sons and daughters of God joined together as one human family."

"We are extremely concerned about how the proclamation will impact immigrant families looking to reunify, as well as religious workers," they continued, noting the executive order prevents certain immigrant family members from reuniting with their loved ones living in the United States.

"Additionally, it bars religious workers seeking to come to the United States as lawful permanent residents from supporting the work of our church, as well as many other reli-

gions, at this time," they said. "This will undoubtedly hurt the Catholic Church and other denominations in the United States, diminishing their overall ability to minister to those in need."

The prelates said the virus "is merciless in its preying upon human life; it knows no borders or nationality," and at a time when "our common humanity is apparent more now than ever," they added, Trump's action "threatens instead to fuel polarization and animosity."

"Pope Francis teaches us that to live through these times we need to employ and embody the 'creativity of love,'" they added.

There are several exceptions to the order, including: It does not apply to nonimmigrant temporary visas, current green card holders, those seeking to come in as "a health care professional, medical researcher, or other work related to combating, recovering from or alleviating the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak; a spouse or child of a U.S. citizen, and "any immigrant whose entry would seem to be 'in the national interest.'"

It also does not limit "the ability of individuals to seek asylum, refugee status, withholding of removal or protection under various humanitarian agreements."

A number of other faith-based immigrant advocacy groups also have weighed in against Trump's executive order, including Catholic Charities USA and its president and CEO, Dominican Sister Donna Markham.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Dioceses scramble to meet the need to feed the poor

WASHINGTON (CNS) – From one end of the country to the other, dioceses and Catholic charitable agencies are coming up with ingenious solutions to meet growing hunger in their communities. The Archdiocese of San Francisco started a grocery delivery service and hotline in early April. Within two weeks, 14 parishes had signed on with parishioners committed to help deliver groceries to people in need. The "Love Your Neighbor Ministry" has a toll-free hotline that is answered eight hours a day Mondays-Fridays, with voicemail during off-hours and weekends. Calls are answered in Spanish and in English. Thomas Rudkins, founder of the Options United pregnancy help hotline, donated the Love Your Neighbor hotline. And Paul Venables, founder and chairman of a San Francisco ad agency, donated pro bono staff, which developed a social media messaging campaign with signature posts including "Sometimes loving your neighbor is picking up a bag of cheese puffs" and "Kindness is contagious." The archdiocese is offering \$1,000 grants to each parish that commits to supporting the program with the funds to be used to purchase groceries. The funds are drawn from monies returned to the archdiocese from the annual Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl campaign that are designated to be used for the alleviation of poverty.

Pope donates medical equipment to hospitals on name day

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – To mark his name day, the feast of St. George, Pope Francis gave the gift of medical supplies to several countries reeling from the coronavirus pandemic. The pope, who was born Jorge Mario Bergoglio, donated respirators, masks and protective eyewear on the April 23 feast of his namesake, St. George, Vatican News reported. Five new respirators will be delivered to a hospital in Suceava, Romania, the epicenter of the outbreak in the country. The pope will also donate two respirators to a hospital in the southern Italian city of Lecce and three to hospitals in Madrid, the report said. The donation "is a beautiful sign that falls on this particular day in which the Holy Father doesn't receive a gift but gives a gift to others," said Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner. The respirators and medical equipment, he added, are "a hug from the pope during a difficult situation for the whole world."

COVID-19 takes toll on Maryknoll community in New York

CLEVELAND (CNS) – The Maryknoll religious community in Ossining, New York, has been hit hard by COVID-19, the illness caused by the coronavirus. At least one priest and three women religious have died of the illness during the month of April. Dozens more have been diagnosed or suspected of having the coronavirus. Father Raymond Finch, superior general of Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, told Catholic News Service that nine priests living at the order's residential facilities had died since April 2. He said the first priest who died was 92 and was the only one of the nine who tested positive for the virus. The others who had died showed symptoms that indicated they had the illness, but not all of them had been tested and those that were had not received their results, the congregational leader said. The Maryknoll Sisters announced April 20 that three sisters died of COVID-19. Another 24 sisters have tested positive for the coronavirus and have been temporarily transferred to another care facility for treatment, the order said in a news release. In addition, eight of the congregation's staff members also have tested positive for the illness. Other sisters who have low-grade fevers have been isolated in the order's health care facility and are being closely monitored by medical staff, the congregation said.

Bishops to consecrate U.S., Canada to Mary

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has announced the U.S. bishops will join the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops May 1 in consecrating the two nations to the care of the Blessed Mother under the title "Mary, Mother of the Church."

"This will give the church the occasion to pray for Our Lady's continued protection of the vulnerable, healing of the unwell and wisdom for those who work to cure this terrible virus," said Archbishop Gomez in a letter to the U.S. bishops. Each year, the church seeks the special inter-

cession of the Mother of God during the month of May.

"This year, we seek the assistance of Our Lady all the more earnestly as we face together the effects of the global pandemic," he said.

This consecration reaffirms the bishops' previous consecrations of the United States to Mary. In 1792, the first bishop of the United States, Bishop John Carroll, consecrated the nation to Mary under the title Immaculate Conception, and in 1846, the bishops unanimously chose Mary under that title as the patroness of the nation.

In 1959, Cardinal Patrick O'Boyle of Washington again consecrated



CNS PHOTO/CHAZ MUTH

A statue of Mary is visible among the vivid spring buddings May 1, 2019, at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y. The U.S. and Canadian bishops announced April 23, 2020, they will consecrate their nations to Mary during the coronavirus pandemic May 1.

the United States to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

This was the year when construction of the National Shrine of the Im-

maculate Conception in Washington was completed.

The national shrine was elevated to minor basilica status by St. John Paul II Oct. 12, 1990. This was renewed by the U.S. bishops Nov. 11, 2006.

Archbishop Gomez will lead the prayer of reconsecration May 1 at 3 p.m. (EDT) and has invited the bishops to join in from their respective dioceses and asked them to extend the invitation to the faithful in their dioceses for their participation.

This reconsecration follows the Latin American bishops' council who consecrated Latin America and the Caribbean to Our Lady of Guadalupe on Easter.

'Spiritual adoption' project fosters connection

BOSTON (CNS) – The Daughters of St. Paul have launched a "spiritual adoption" project as part of their #SpiritualCommunion online response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Spiritual adoption is a specific effort within #SpiritualCommunion for those on the front lines to be spiritually supported," the Boston-based religious congregation said in an April 22 news release. "Spiritual adoption also is designed to bring meaning, connection and hope to those feeling the effects of isolation in lockdown."

The release described the #SpiritualCommunion response overall as "an invitation sent out across the digital continent to reach and support the Catholic Church during the current pandemic."

The congregation's spiritual adoption project is aimed at COVID-19 patients, doctors, nurses,



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY PAULINE MEDIA

Daughters of St. Paul perform in 2017 during their annual Christmas concert. The religious order has debuted a spiritual adoption project in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. (CNS photo/courtesy Pauline Media) See DAUGHTERS-SPIRITUAL-ADOPTION-COVID April 23, 2020.

and other first responders on the front lines as well as those in lockdown.

There are three aspects: It allows participants to become spiritually adopted, to have their loved ones become spiri-

tually adopted or to become "spiritual adopters" themselves. All participants can sign up online at www.tinyurl.com/SpirituallyAdopt. Then Daughters of St. Paul pair participants together and

connect them virtually.

In initial trials, early participants in the spiritual adoption "have already begun sharing their gratitude, prayer intentions and inspirations to keep Christ at the center of

their lives through the ongoing crisis response," the congregation said. To date, early participants have recorded overwhelmingly positive responses to spiritual adoption.

"The Daughters of St. Paul anticipate an increasing demand for Spiritual Adoption throughout the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic," the news release noted.

Founded in 1915 in Italy, the religious congregation is part of the worldwide Pauline family, one of the 10 institutes founded by Blessed James Alberione, and operates in 50 countries around the world. Pauline Books & Media is an apostolic ministry of the Daughters of St. Paul and runs a dozen bookstores in locations in the United States and Canada.

More about the Daughters of St. Paul can be found at <http://www.pauline.org>.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

The image of the 'Good Shepherd'

This fourth Sunday of Easter supplies us with very rich images for our meditation. Jesus calls himself the "good Shepherd" as well as the "gate" to eternal life. As a shepherd, he will lay down his life for his sheep. In fact, he has proven this by Calvary! And He declares himself to be the only way through which his "sheep" have access to the Father.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

His listeners were very familiar with the crucial role that shepherds in Israel played in caring for and training sheep. They would spend hours alone with each lamb, making sure that every one had a

name different from any other in the flock, and that each sheep would respond only to the voice of the shepherd calling out that name. Moreover, they knew that, in order to protect his sheep from nighttime marauders, the shepherd would position his own body across the entrance to the sheepfold. Shepherding was a dan-

gerous occupation! In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter is speaking at Pentecost, assuring his listeners that his fellow apostles are not drunk, but rather filled with the Holy Spirit. He tells them that, if only

May 3

Fourth Sunday of Easter

READINGS

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

1 Peter 2:20b-25

John 10:1-10

they repent of crucifying their Lord and Messiah through their sinfulness, they will be forgiven, Jews and Gentiles alike. If they allow themselves to be baptized, they too will receive the Holy Spirit. Amazingly, about 3,000 persons heeded Peter's preaching, and were baptized that day.

The second reading today is taken from another sermon of Peter in which he urges his listeners to model their lives on the patience of Jesus who,

"when he suffered, did not threaten...He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness" (we must be careful to distinguish "righteousness" from self-righteousness).

In this Gospel, Jesus tells us that He and no other is the shepherd of the sheep, the only voice we should recognize and follow. He is also the gate of the sheepfold, assuring all within the fold to freedom from fear, assured of security and salvation. Lord, help us to silence those voices that would lead us into false paths; help us to lovingly follow only your voice.

And help us who are shepherds of others who depend on us, especially

children, imitate the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Parents who allow their children to do whatever they please and fail to lead them with discipline are failing as shepherds. Only through being models of faith are they truly shepherding with Christ's love. Pastors who fail to provide really good programs for children and youth, are failing as shepherds. Adult members of our parishes who fail to help those in need, who fail to encourage, love, and forgive in a spirit of unity, fail as shepherds. We are all on a journey to eternal life. We need to shepherd each other.

May we follow the voice of our Good Shepherd, Jesus, with courage and joy.

CALLED TO SERVE

A reflection on the 'locked door'

One day, during the Octave of Easter, my wife, Kathy, and I were recording the text for Evening Prayer. It was to be broadcast later that day on the Catholic Watertown Podcast. The line in John's Gospel, "when the doors were locked where the disciples were" appeared in the Liturgy of the Hours text. I misread the line and said, "when the doors were closed where the disciples were." Kathy stopped me. "That's not the same," she said, "closed instead of locked." She was right. I had to edit the phrase.

A locked door means we do not want anyone to enter. The Apostles were afraid of Judeans, who did not believe in Jesus. The Apostles were frightened.

They might be next to be crucified, guilty by association. So, they did not just close the door; they locked it.

I think St. Peter might have been thinking about those times, and others, when he said, "For a little while you may have to suffer through various trials so that the genuineness of your faith may prove to be for the praise, glory and honor of Jesus Christ."

We are going through a trial right now. This pandemic has many people on edge. We have been directed to, in effect, lock our doors.

Put aside for a moment the origins of the virus; put aside the foolishness of the "COVIDIOTS" who defy suggestions to main-

tain separation when in public and to stay home; put aside the debate over this "pause" in our lives and the arguments for and against rushing to reopen our economy.

Let's talk instead about the effect of this trial on our faith. Has this disruption in routine changed your prayer life, your worship life, your relationship with Jesus Christ? It should have.

On the negative side, perhaps you do not pray at all anymore. Maybe you have not taken advantage of the broadcasts, podcasts, streamed services and prayer opportunities.

Have you ignored Jesus'

presence in your life as you deal with lay-offs, furloughs, empty shelves, travel restrictions, closed stores and the tensions created by proximity, boredom, abuse and neglect?

Those are all likely fallout from being locked-in our homes.

Or maybe you have seen this as an opportunity. Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.

There are so many things we can be doing while holed-up in our homes or apartments.

We can read the bible or other books of faith. We can check on parish friends and even on folks we only know casually

from church. We can assess our gifts and determine whether our parish community is getting a fair share of our time, our talents and our treasure. Take the time to think about Mass and how you miss being there on Sunday. Is Mass and the Eucharist really the heart of your life? Is Mass the source and summit of your worship?

These are tough times. We can succumb to that locked-in feeling and do nothing, or we can grab the time God has given us to do useful things...high on the list should be the words of the Psalm response on Divine Mercy Sunday: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting. Hang-in there.



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

OBITUARIES

Brownville – Margaret (Kirkland) McGarry, 95; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at a later date at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery, Watertown.

Carthage – Francis Michale LaDuc, 96; Private Mass of Christian Burial to be held at St. James Church; burial in St. Francis Solanus Cemetery.

Carthage – Pamela Ann (Everard) Shettleton, 60; Private Mass of Christian Burial April 22, 2020 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Carthage – Cecelia (George) Sobiewicz, 91; Private Mass of Christian Burial April 21, 2020 at St.

James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Constableville – Erma Louise (Gydesen) Planck, 90; Memorial Mass to be held at a later date.

Malone – Donald J. Bashaw, 87; Funeral Services to be held at a later date.

Massena – Jan M. Arquiett-Kipp, 60; Private Funeral Services at Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in Fairview Cemetery, Brasher.

Massena – Mary E. (Patterson) Boice, 83; Funeral Services to be held at a later date.

Moriah – Ralph Donald Jaquish, 88; Funeral Services to be held at a later date.

Ogdensburg – Lauretta “Joan” (McNally) McGrath, 90; Private Mass of Christian Burial April 24, 2020 at St. Mary’s Cathedral; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Colin Thomas Fortin, 65; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at a later date at St. Peter’s Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens

Potsdam – Irene “Rusty” Bronson, 92; Private services to be held.

Saranac Lake – John T. Burns, 85; Funeral Services to be held at a later date.

Star Lake – Robert “Smokey” J. Noody, 95; Mass of Christian burial to be held at a later date.

Watertown – Carolyn B. (Russell) Avery, 94; Private Funeral Service to be held.

Watertown – Marian (Dullea) Frier, 98; Memorial Mass to be held at a later date at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Sanford Corners Cemetery.

Greetings from Father Chapin

Over the next few issues, the Mission Office is pleased to share a few stories shared by Father Dan Chapin, from the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Father Dan has been on assignment for some time in South America with the Maryknolls.

On March 24, 2020, Father Dan sent me an email to let us know that he is safe and is presently staying at the Maryknoll Center house in Cochabamba, Bolivia. He left La Salette Parish as the announcement of the two-week quarantine was about to go into effect. He will return there when things return to more-or-less normal!

Father Dan mentioned how happy he is when he meets his longtime friend, Brother Wayne J. Fitzpatrick, MM, at the Maryknoll Center house when he, too, is visiting. They are both natives of the Malone area. Brother Wayne is the managing Director of Senior Care and Transitional Services for “Fathers and Brothers, Catholic Foreign Mission Society” located in Maryknoll, NY.

Father Dan wants to share his “Great News.” Father was a former missionary in Peru from



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

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mbrett@rcdony.org

Ogdensburg Diocese; he had the opportunity to spend 19 days in Peru from December 30, 2019 – January 17, 2020.

He invited a professional photographer, a college student and a psychologist to join him on the trip. They spent a week in Arequipa, a week in Mollendo and a couple of days in Cuzco.

The common denominator, and one of the reasons he invited them, was the fact that they had never experienced the ocean and never been to the sea. They collected a huge number of seashells and brought them back to show family and friends.

While in Arequipa, the group went up to Callylloma and visited Yanque. Yanque was the place where Father Paul Hagan, our first diocesan priest to serve in Peru, was assigned.

The group also visited the grave of Sister George Anthony Kayser, MM, a Maryknoll Sister. Father

Paul and Sister George Anthony worked for many years in that province with local residents in some 15 villages.

Also during the trip, Father Dan filled in for the priests from Mollendo who were on their annual retreat in Arequipa. He presided at 11 Masses between the two parishes in Mollendo, including four funeral Masses.

He celebrated Mass in Alto Inclan but was unable to get to Matarani to offer Mass and visit with former parishioners. He was happy to be reunited with his many friends. The group took tours of the Tambo Valley, Matarani, and some of the islands.

Father Dan closed the email saying, “All in all, it was a great trip, there are always changes, but Mollendo retains its essential character.”

We look forward to sharing with you several weeks of wonderful first hand accounts of things in the Mission Lands.

Pope prays for students, teachers

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis prayed for teachers and students who are trying to adapt and to do their work online during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Let us pray today for teachers who have to work so hard in order to do lessons on the internet and other media,” the pope said April 24 at the beginning of his early morning Mass.

“Let us also pray for students who have to take their exams in a way they are not used to,” he said.

In his homily at the Mass, which was livestreamed from the chapel of his residence, Pope Francis looked at how Jesus was always teaching his apostles to be servants who are never afraid to be close to the people and to give them concrete assistance.

“Jesus loved being in the middle of the crowd” because, in addition to being the best way to serve them, it was “a symbol of the universality of redemption,” the pope said.

But the crowd was “one of the bigger things the apostles did not like,” he said, because they wanted to be “close to the Lord, to hear the Lord, to hear everything the Lord said.”

The apostles’ attitude was understandable, he said, because “they were chosen and they felt a bit (like) a privileged few, a privileged class, an ‘aristocracy,’ let’s say, close to the Lord and the Lord did things to correct them so many times.”

For example, he said, when Jesus got angry with the disciples who were trying to turn the children away from him for fear of them being a nuisance or the time on the road to Jericho when the beggar was told to be silent, but Jesus wanted him to be brought near.

Jesus was always teaching and showing his disciples to be close to the people of God, the pope said.

“It is true that the people of God tire out a pastor, he gets tired,” he added, and the better the priest is at doing good things for people, the more they will keep knocking and asking for help.

The people of God are always asking for things that are concrete, he said.

CARA study spots ordination trends

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The annual survey of seminarians scheduled for priestly ordination this year reveals continuing trends and suggests potential trends in the making.

"We've been consistent over the last 20 years in terms of the age of men being ordained to the priesthood. It continues to hover into the low to mid-30s," said Father Luke Ballman, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations.

"Consistently over the last 20 years, the age has slightly decreased each year such that we're seeing a slight reduction by a couple of years in terms of the average age of the man being ordained," Father Ballman said.

"One of the things we have studied is cultural ethnicity and vocations where you have different immigrant groups, cultural groups, (with a) disproportionately high number of vocations," said Jesuit Father Thomas Gaunt, executive director of the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University in Washington, which conducts the survey each year.

"Vietnamese, I don't even think, is a percent of population, but they make up several percent (of new priests). The same thing with Nigerians, Colombians," Father Gaunt added.

Father Gaunt said: "About 25% (of ordinands) are foreign-born. That reflects almost to a 'T' the proportion of foreign-born Catholics in the United States. And so we often forget that approximately a quarter of all the adult Catholics in the U.S. are foreign-born immigrants – and the number of seminarians also reflects that."

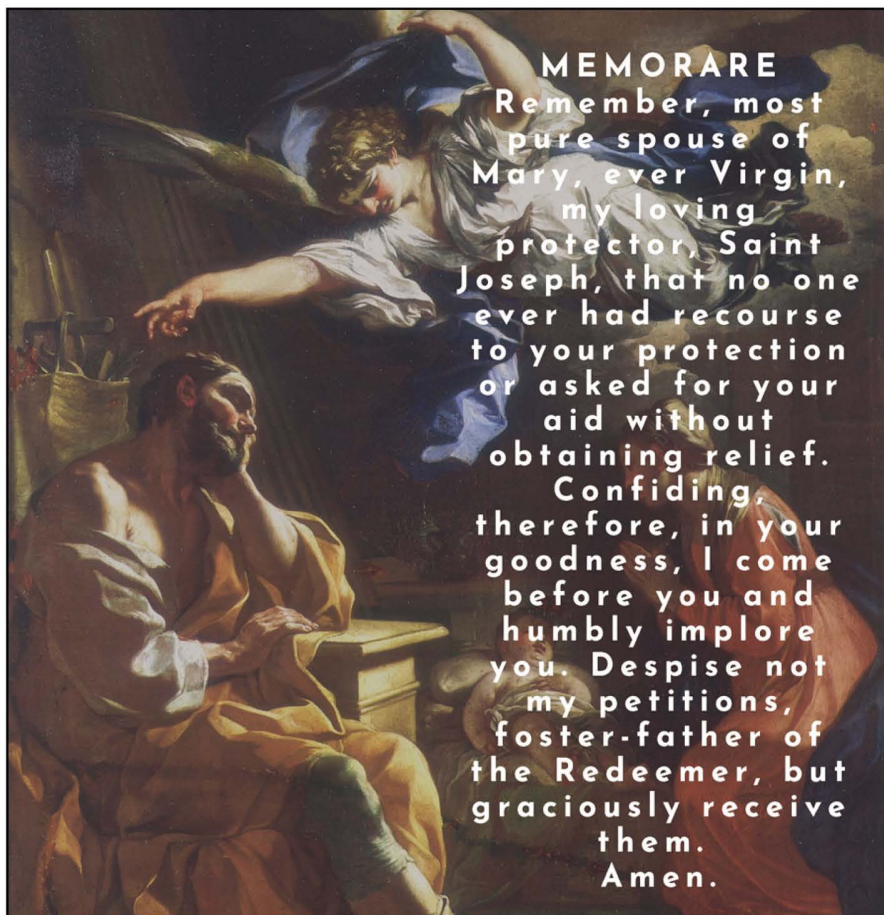
Still, about two-thirds of the ordination class of 2020 are white men of European ancestry, although the second-largest group is Hispanics.

"One of the things that the National Advisory Council of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the bishops in general, have been interested in is that we provide everyone the opportunity," Father Ballman added.

The 46-page report, released April 23, found a host of facts about the incoming group of priests.

Less than half reported having attended a Catholic school at any level prior to seminary, but their Catholic school attendance was five percentage points higher than the general Catholic population. Another 10% were home-schooled, an average of eight years each.

By the time they entered the seminary, 28% of them carried educational debt, which averaged \$28,828.



Diocese prepares for consecration to St. Joseph

On May 1, the Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker, Bishop Terry R. LaValley will consecrate the Diocese of Ogdensburg to Saint Joseph, our spiritual father, for the sake of our families, our marriages, our Church and our sick. The Sisters of Saint Joseph

Motherhouse in Watertown will host the consecration at 11 a.m.

Due to the current health crisis, the consecration will not be open to the public, but it will be live-streamed on the diocesan YouTube channel.

Links to the stream can be found at [www.rcdony.org/covid-](http://www.rcdony.org/covid-19)

19.

In preparation for the consecration, the diocese is participating in a Novena to St. Joseph.

If you'd like to participate in the novena, the text is available at www.rcdony.org/covid-19, and videos are added each day featuring a priest from around the diocese leading the novena.

Whether you can participate in the full prayer or just the bishop's intention and Memorare (text in the graphic above), we ask you to join us. Even if you've missed the earlier days of the novena, feel free to join us whenever you can.

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