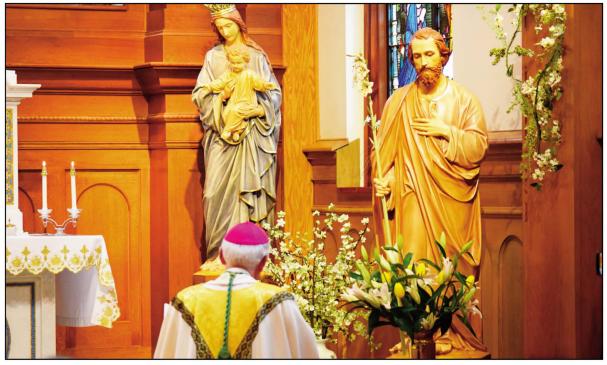
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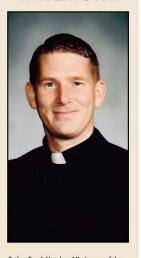
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# Consecrated to St. Joseph



Bishop Terry R. LaValley consecrates the Diocese of Ogdensburg to St. Joseph during a Mass held May 1, the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown. Read Bishop LaValley's homily from the Consecration Mass on Page 3.



Father Frank Natale, a Missionary of the Sacred Heart (MSC), will become the pastor of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Watertown on June 22. Father Natale will replace Father Jonas Tandayu, also a Missionary of the Sacred Heart. Father Tandayu will become pastor of Holy Family Parish in Nazareth, Pennsylvania. Father Tandayu has been pastor of Sacred Heart since 2013.

**FULL STORY, PAGE 5** 

## Pope Francis prays for workers, employers

statue of St. Joseph, mallet in hand, placed near the altar, Pope Francis dedicated his morning Mass May 1 to workers, especially those paid unjustly or virtually enslaved.

"Today is the feast of St. Joseph the Worker," celebrated also as International Workers Day and as Labor Day in many counworkers. All of them," the pope said at the beginning of the Mass in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae.

He prayed that no one would be lacking a job and "that all would be paid justly and may enjoy the dignity of work and the beauty of rest."

In his homily, focused on the creation story in

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - With a tries; "let us pray for all the feast day's first reading, Genesis 1:26-2:3, Pope Francis said it was "as if" God told the first human beings: "You must do this, care for this and that; you must work to create this world with me and keep it going.

The work human beings do, he said, "is nothing other than the continuation of God's work. Human work is the vocation received from God."

'Work is what makes the person similar to God because with work one is a creator, is capable of creating, of creating many things, including creating a family to keep going," the pope said. "And this gives dignity to the human person. The dignity that makes one resemble God. The dignity of labor."

Unfortunately, he said, the dignity of labor is "often trampled on," and not just by slavery in the past centuries, which everyone recognizes as "barbaric.'

"Even today there are many slaves, many men and women who are not free to work - they are forced to work to survive and nothing more," he said.

#### **NORTH** COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Box 326 Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669 USPS 0039-3400 BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY

**REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN** Vice President JAMES D. CROWLEY Secretary-Treasurer DARCY L. FARGO Editor &

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Communications Director



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#### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

## We're a family at war

We're waging war at our home in Moira. It's the battle with Bambi.

Our property is bordered by woods on two sides. It's not uncommon to see deer. rabbits, skunks and other woodland animals crossing through our backyard and/or picking through our compost pile for scraps. While Darcy L. we enjoy watching the wildlife, when the deer ate the tops of =my raspberry bushes last suing.

year, it was act of aggression

that couldn't go unanswered.



selves with a lot of time at home, my husband and I decided to build a de-

fensive perimeter ok, it's really a cheap seven-foot tall net – to keep the deer out of my berries. We decided to increase the size of the enclosure to accommodate a garden, something we've said we wanted in the past, but the deer/wildlife prevented us from pur-

Adam and I spent Saturday afternoon hammering posts

This year, finding our- into the ground, laying down weed fabric on the recentlyrototilled soil (I'm a lazy gardener; I don't want to spend all summer weeding), affixing netting to the posts and the ground, and tying ribbons to the netting to make it visible to the deer.

> Working on the garden after editing most of the content of this paper, I had St. Joseph on my mind. I was reflecting on how blessed I am to have a husband who emulates this model spouse and father. Adam is my constant companion and partner. Even in simple ways, he's my protector (I couldn't tell you

how many times he climbed a ladder or tied the ribbons really low to the ground to save me and my junky hips the repetitive up and down movements). For both me and lake, our son, Adam is a provider and compassionate caregiver. His consistency, fidelity and even temper makes him the pillar of our family, much like St. Joseph is the pillar of families. Adam makes me want to be a better, holier people, and he helps me to do that.

There's no one with whom I'd rather go into battle. Even if we're just waging war with Bambi.

## The establishment of the diaconate

During this time when our churches are closed, there is no public Mass on Sunday, no public Mass each day. Several priests here in our diocese and others throughout the country stream the Mass – that is they are able to make a video of the Mass and put it up on YouTube, their websites or social media. Each day, Pope Francis' Mass is streamed and can be found on this YouTube. It is a very special opportunity to join with the Holy Father. There is a special holiness and peace to be able to pray the Mass with Pope Francis. There is a real sense of unity that can be noticed. No matter where the Mass comes from, the prayers are the same as those of Pope Francis, and the Scripture readings are the same also. I offered Mass this morning with the Sisters of St. Joseph, and I recognized that the prayers I offered were the same as those of Pope Francis. This is rather special. There is closeness, unity as I celebrate Mass with the same words and message as the Holy Father.



During this Easter Season, the first reading at each Mass is from the Acts of the Apos-

As you remember, the Acts of the Apostles is a New Testament Book written by St. Luke, the same Luke who wrote the third Gospel. The Acts of the Apostles tells the stories of the early Christians during the time after the Resurrection of Jesus. We are told how the apostles joined the early Christians into a strong community, especially after Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came upon them.

Today, the reading from Acts tells the story of Stephen. We know that in the life of the Christian communities, the apostles taught about Iesus and worked to gather and distribute food the needy of the community. As the community grew

larger, the apostles decided order of the permanent diato ask the community to choose seven men to help serve them. We are told that this was to give the apostles the opportunity to devote to prayer and to ministry of the word. The seven chosen were Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicholas of Antioch. We are told that the apostles prayed over them and laid hands on them. These seven are considered the first deacons of the Church.

Deacons have always been a part of the Catholic Church. In the early Church, the deacons continued as the first seven to do works of charity and help the needy. Stephen was also a teacher, however, the leaders of the Hebrew community could not accept his message about Jesus, and he became the first Christian martyr.

For many centuries, the order of deacon was no longer a separate state in the Church. A deacon was ordained to a temporary state on the way to the ordination for priesthood. The Second Vatican Council restored the conate. In this case, men could accept the vocation of being a deacon. The one big change that came about through the council was that married men could receive ordination to the diaconate. Permanent deacons today are integral parts of parish life. Parishioners are well aware of the tremendous contributions deacons make to the parishes of our diocese. Deacons can celebrate the sacraments of baptism and marriage, deacons can preach at Mass. However, deacons do not celebrate Mass or the sacrament of penance. Deacons can celebrate the ritual for funerals, however, without Mass.

As you know, at the present time, the permanent diaconate is open only to men. There has been a call by many to allow women to become deacons. Pope Francis has responded to this concern by developing a commission to investigate the possibility of women deacons. I suspect that this may be an important development for our Church.

#### **FOLLOW ME**

# Praying for St. Joseph's intercession

The following is Bishop man. Terry R. LaValley's homily for the consecration of the Diocese of Ogdensburg to St. Joseph on May 1, the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

During the ten years that I have been bishop, we've had to close five parish churches that were under the patronage of St. Joseph. They were in Treadwell Mills, Mooers, Massena, Bombay and Malone. With this special consecration of the Diocese of Ogdensburg to St. Joseph today, I want to assure the parishioners of these former parishes, indeed, remind all of us, that St. Joseph has not become a forgotten saint. Back in 2017, I consecrated the Diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. God desires that all children be entrusted to the loving and caring heart of a mother and a father. Mary is our spiritual mother. Joseph is our spiritual father.

Just a few years ago St. Joseph's name was added to the Eucharistic Prayer for every Mass, in acknowledgement of his importance in the communion of saints and of how vital the Church considers his intercession today. My friends, it is time for our total consecration to St. Joseph. What better place for that to happen than at the Motherhouse of our very own Sisters of St. Joseph!

Today the Church celebrates the Memorial of St. Joseph the Worker. After much prayer and reflection, I decided that you and I, the entire Church of the North Country will put St. Joseph to work, particularly this next year as the Diocese of Ogdensburg is consecrated to this holy

Our Diocese is placing a lot on his plate. We place before him some urgent needs of our Church, our families and marriages, our communities. our

country, nations of the world, and all our hurting sisters and brothers. We will "go to Joseph." Yes, on this feast of St. Joseph the Worker, we will put St. Joseph to work for us.

The urgency of the moment is part of the reason Terry R. why I believe the LaValley Lord put on my

**Bishop** 

heart the desire to consecrate this local Church in a special way to St. Joseph at this time. Now, more than ever, we need to go to St. Ioseph! We need to pray fervently for his intercession, particularly under the titles we will soon voice in the Litany of St. Joseph about which FatherDonald Calloway wrote extensively.

Let us reflect on some of them and consider how they speak loudly of a need we experience today. Our reflection should begin with Joseph, Hope of the Sick. Those of us who have made a pilgrimage to St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal are aware of St. Joseph's powerful intercessory prayer for healing. The Oratory's walls, lined with crutches, give tangible testimony to the effectiveness of his prayer.

As *Hope of the Sick* and Comfort of the Afflicted, we rely on St. Joseph's intercession for those suffering from the corona virus, for those who struggle with cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, mental illness, alcohol and substance abuse, and all

diseases. Joseph, Hope of the Sick and Comfort of the Afflicted, pray for us!

Another title in our Litany that causes me to go to St. Joseph is that of

> Protector of Holy *Church*. Today, not only do we experience terrible polarization in our society, tragically such divisiveness has infiltrated our Church. Extremists from both ends of the ecclesial and ideological spectrum do little to build up the Body of Christ. They

threaten the peace and unity that our Savior prayed for.

As the Terror of **Demons.** we seek St. loseph's protection against the wiles of Satan as the evil of sexual abuse by Church leaders and the mishandling of such misconduct has caused great pain in the lives of so many. Joseph, Protector of Holy Church and Terror of Demons, pray for us!

We, also, plan to put St. Joseph to work as the Zealous Defender of Christ. It is no secret that today society has, in so many ways, pushed Christ to the margins of our daily lives or completely off the radar screen. We pray that Joseph, who brought his Family, Jesus and Mary, on the perilous journey to Egypt and back, will help us bring Jesus back into our families during these troublesome times. We pray that St. Joseph will help us in our continuing efforts to address our diocesan pastoral priorities of Creating a Culture of Vocations, Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Life and Building Parishes with Living

Stones. St. John Paul II wrote: It is precisely the intrepid faith of St. Joseph that the Church needs today in order to courageously dedicate herself to the urgent task of the evangelization. new Joseph, Zealous Defender

of Christ, pray for us! We will turn to Joseph,

Mirror of Patience and Pillar of Families. It seems today that everybody is yelling at somebody. Patience is in short supply. Vulgarity, insulting others is much in vogue. Respect for the other person, for the unborn and the person sitting across from us at the supper table, appears to be a virtue of times gone by. Reflecting the unfortunate polarizing phenomenon in which we have become mired, we are increasingly blind to our own personal failings and sinfulness while having no patience for the weaknesses of others. We must encourage and pray that our families will be strengthened as the domestic church. In a special way today, we pray for our fathers. All children desire a father whose heart is strong, faith-filled, protective and gentle. St. Joseph, Pillar of Families, Mirror of Patience, pray for us!

We especially entreat St. Joseph, Model of Workers at this time when so many have lost their jobs because of the pandemic. Breadwinners are anxious about their ability to provide the basics for loved ones at home. Jesus grew up in the same condition as the vast majority of people. He wasn't raised with wealth, prestige or influence but in ordinary obscurity. "Is this not the carpenter's son?" The worries of providing the basics for Jesus at his home. gives Joseph the attentive

ears and understanding heart that today's breadwinner's need in these uncertain times. St. Joseph. Model of Workers, Pray for us and our loved ones who are without a job.

Joseph, Spouse of the Mother of God: Under this title I am reminded of the equal respect and dignity due every wife by her husband. Too often, not only in other societies, but even in the Western world, wives suffer emotional, sexual, and physical abuse. Too often, they are taken for granted. As we near the day in which we will honor our moms on Mother's Day, albeit taking her out for dinner isn't an easy option this year, we pray that their husbands always be true soul companions and loving sources of support and respect. We go to *loseph. the* Spouse of the Mother of **God** as the model for all husbands.

I know that we are placing a heavy burden on St. Joseph as we consecrate this year to him. For Jesus, Joseph set the model of manhood in service to the will of God. We know that he is well-equipped to receive our prayers and present them to his Son, our Lord. Perhaps, each month during the next year, we might take one of the titles of Joseph of this Litany and apply it to our personal lives, those of our family, community, and our Church.

My sisters and brothers, Joseph the Worker will earn his saintly stripes as we begin this special year in our local Church and place before him the desires of our hearts so that this carpenter might present them to Jesus, drawing us closer to Him and to one another. Good St. Joseph, pray for us!

### ONSECRATING THE DIOCESE TO ST. JOSEPH





DEACON JAMES CROWLEY/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

(Left) Bishop Terry R. LaValley distributes Holy Communion to Sister M. Gregory Munger, a Sister of St. Joseph, during the May 1 Mass held to celebrate the Consecration of the diocese to St. Joseph. (Right) Sister Jennifer Votraw, a Sister of St. Joseph, reads the intercessions at the Consecration Mass, held at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse.

# Journeying through life with St. Joseph

Bishop LaValley has just hospital after just having consecrated our Diocese to the intercession and protection of St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and foster father of Jesus, the Son of God.

How good and how comforting to know that we have such a powerful friend in Heaven! Especially in these troubled times, it is a special consolation and a continuing source of hope and joy for all of us.

I couldn't help but think of the many ways St. Joseph has played a vital role in my own life. I remember, several years ago as other family members and I were cleaning out the attic, coming across a small box of letters and news clippings and invitations to various family events. It was kept in a drawer of an old bureau, along with other "family treasures!" Anyway, one of the notes was written to my Mom, who was in the

given birth to me. My Grandma Morgan wrote to my Mom, saying that we had never had a "Joseph" in the family and what a good name it was. I agree whole-heartedly! Joseph, the just man who watched over Mary and Jesus, is the Patron of Families and Protector of the Church. How blessed to carry his name throughout lifé!

When our family moved to Watertown, we became good friends of the Sisters of St. Joseph. My sisters and brothers and I were enrolled in Holy Family School, and then in Immaculate Heart Academy, which became Immaculate Heart Central. During the school year, the Sisters were our teachers; during the summers, the Sisters would visit homes and prepare for the next school year by meeting families. My parents always appreciated the Sisters and several of them Watertown. became very close to our family. I have also been

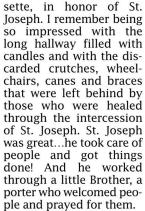
privileged to work with several of the Sisters in various parish assignments and in Chancery work over the years. (Really amusing was when Sister Marie Cordata, whom I had known when I was a stu- Morgan dent at IHC, be-

came Principal of St. Mary's Academy in Champlain. We often laughed about pretending to know what we were doing...she as Principal and I as Pastor!)

We belonged to Holy Family Church and sat on the "Holy Family side," where there was a large painting of the Holy Family over the confessionals. It was a family scene at Nazareth, and became a constant reminder to be our own "holy family" in

A younger brother, Tom, was born with spinal bi-

fida in 1961. He had several surgeries in Montreal, cared for by the Shriners at the Royal Victoria Hospital. We had many trips to Montreal to visit Tom. There we found the Oratory on Mount Royal, built by St. Brother André Bes-



St. Joseph accompanies us on our pilgrimage of faith. He encourages us to stay close to Jesus, to listen as God speaks to our hearts, and to be open to the amazing ways God wants to be present to us. St. Joseph, a man of trust and humility and obedience, watches over our families and our Church as we walk the ways of faith, hope and love.

Think of the love he had for Mary and for Jesus; how he worked to provide for them and protect them; how he answered God's call throughout his life, with complete abandon and a desire to do only what God wanted. Isn't that a wonderful way to live?

St. Joseph is a great patron for all of us. Pray for us, St. Joseph, protector and guide and friend. Make us humble, patient, pure and wholly obedient to God, who saves us in Jesus, the Risen Lord!



Father Joseph A.

## Father Jonas to move to Pa., Father Frank arrives

WATERTOWN - Effective June was ordained a Mission- for the outstanding pas-29. Father Jonas Tandayu, a Missionary of the Sacred Heart and pastor of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Watertown, has accepted a transfer to Holy Family Parish in Nazareth, Pennsylvania. Father Frank Natale, also a Missionary of the Sacred and currently Heart parochial vicar at Holy Family Parish in Nazareth, will become pastor of Sacred Heart in Watertown.

Father Tandayu spent a year at Holy Family Parish in Nazareth before becoming pastor of Sacred Heart in Watertown in January 2013.

The Pennsylvania parish has 2,000 families. an elementary school, a large religious education program and has many active parish groups.

Father Natale, 41, was born in Canton, Ohio. He

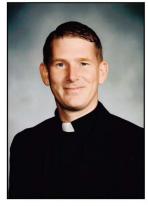
ary of the Sacred Heart in 2013.

"Father Frank (Natale) will officially become pastor of (Our Lady of the Sacred Heart) on June 22, 2020," wrote Father Richard Kennedy, provincial superior of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in a letter to Sacred Heart parishioners. "Father Frank has the qualities to become a well-beloved pastor. I know you will give him a true 'Sacred Heart' welcome. Please pray for him as well as for all the MSC priests and brothers."

In his letter officially appointing Father Natale to the position of pastor at Sacred Heart, Bishop Terry R. LaValley thanked the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart for the service of Father Tandayu.

toral ministry the people of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church have received under the leadership of Father Jonas Tandayu over the past seven years," Bishop LaValley wrote. "His fatherly presence as pastor has greatly benefited the people of the parish and his insights on the diocesan level, including those shared on the Council of Priests, have been greatly appreciated. While he will be missed, I have no doubt the people in his next assignment will be greatly blessed."

The assignment changes were necessitated by the retirement of Father Joseph Tobias, current pastor of Holy Family Parish in Nazareth, Pennsylvania. Father Tobias' retirement comes after 50 "Allow me to thank you years of priestly ministry.







Father Jonas Tandayu, MSC

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## Congratulations Father Robinson



40 Years

of Faithful Service!







From the parishioners of

St. James, Carthage; St. Mary's, Copenhagen

and Students, Faculty & Families at Augustinian Academy.





# ~Catholic Charities Mother's Day Appeal~

Dear Friends in Christ:

As faithful disciples of Christ and as a Church in mission, we work together to respond to those in need and offer guidance through quality services designed to respect the dignity of each person. Inspired by the Gospel, the many programs and



services that are offered by Catholic Charities throughout our diocese focus on building a just and compassionate society that embraces the gifts given to us by Christ.

Especially today, when the North Country is facing the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the response of our diocese and by Catholic Charities to the poor and underprivileged has become critically important. With unemployment and daily poverty reaching more deeply into our North Country communities, our charitable response needs to be greater than ever.

As always, Catholic Charities depends on our financial support to continue reaching out to our neighbor in need. As your Bishop and chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities, I ask you to consider making a generous donation to this vital ministry.

The *Mother's Day Annual Appeal* for Catholic Charities has traditionally taken place in our parishes on Mother's Day weekend. However, COVID-19 makes it unlikely that a pew collection can take place on Mother's Day this year. Instead, this collection will be held on Father's Day, Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> when we are hopeful that all our Catholic churches across the diocese will be re-opened for Sunday celebrations and public worship.

Let us continue to **Give Help** and **Create Hope** for the many families of the North Country that we serve. Thank you for continuing the work of Christ on earth.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

t Leny R. Faballey
Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the pew collection normally held on Mother's Day weekend is now scheduled be held Father's Day weekend. HOWEVER you may still mail in your donation prior to the collection weekend by sending in the form on the next page or by doing an online donation at www.cathcharities.org



## Mother's Day Annual Appeal

Please help us reach our GOAL: \$ 165,000







This year's special collection will aid families, victims, and anyone affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.





For more information: Call (315) 393-2255

visit our website: www.cathcharities.org

# ~Catholic Charities Mother's Day Appeal~

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities.

Celebrating Catholic Charities over 100 years of service is a reminder of our Church's consistent presence in the North Country and its response to the needs of the most vulnerable members of our communities. We continue to provide programs and services that address the critical and unmet needs of our brothers and sisters.

Catholic Charities has never done this alone and cannot do so now especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. We need our volunteers, our supporters and our benefactors to be part of this mission of charity and justice. Your financial gift to Catholic Charities provides the resources that allows us to continue our work and respond to those in need. Your support provides:

- Helping needy families with COVID-19 crisis & seeking urgent medical attention
- Aid to families struggling to buy groceries and pay for clothing
- Casework services to individuals struggling with recent unemployment
- Assistance to members of our senior community dealing with poverty and isolation

During the past year we have open a soup kitchen, food pantries, transitional homeless housing and outreach services to migrant workers and their families, all through your generous help and support.

Without the ability to do home mailings or pew collections (until Father's Day) we rely on your help through your mail response or online donations on our web site www.cathcharities.org.

These and thousands of individuals come to Catholic Charities across our Diocese of Ogdensburg; due to your financial gift, Catholic Charities can be there for them. Through providing these individuals with help...we create hope. Your financial gift will continue to provide essential programs and services throughout all eight counties served by Catholic Charities. On behalf of those who are hungry and homeless, people who are alone and isolated, and families that struggle with poverty...Thank You!

Den Patrick J. Donahue LMSW, D. Min Diocesan Director

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES

MOTHER'S DAY ANNUAL APPEAL 2020 GOAL: \$165,000

#### CREATING HOPE

Catholic Charities will be there for your family member, neighborand our community during and after this pandemic. We are working tirelessly to provide anyand all support to our communities and we cannot do it without YOUR help.

#### YOUR GIFT PROVIDES:

\$50 = Materials to create masks for COVID-19 aid workers

\$75 = Groceries for furloughed/low-income family

\$100 = Home fuel subsidy for a low-income family

\$200 = Helping needy family during COVID-19

\$300 = Temporary housing for a homeless veteran

\$500 = Relationship counseling subsidy for 5 families

\$1,000+ = Support our overall mission and 2020 GOALS

#### EVERY DOLLAR MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

*			TA .
I support the mission of	of Catholic Charities with my gift of \$	Check #:	
Do	onation: (Check one) Monthly C	Quarterly One time payment:	
Name:		Phone #:	
Address:			
	Street /P.O. Box,	City, State, Zip Code	
	My Parish:		

ALL DONATIONS TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING



#### **Environmental Stewardship**

#### A 'pause that refreshes'

One commercial for a leading soft drink advertises it as the "Pause that refreshes!"

While on a hot summer's day a cold drink may refresh us for the moment, but the refreshment quickly fades. The current "stay-athome" situation — while causing much stress, uncertainty and suffering — may also give us with a little more time for a "PAUSE that refreshes" not only our senses but our whole being.

As we enter into this month of May, the earth is awakening all around us. Often I find that I am so frantically trying to keep up with a busy"to do list," I don't even notice spring unfolding before my very eyes. Yet I know that many of the saints and mystics, like St. Francis of Assisi, St. Hildegard of Bingen, Thomas Merton, St. Theresa of the Little Flower, noticed the magnificence of even the tiniest particle of Creation and gave praise to the Creator, Jesus himself must have been very much in touch with the beauties of the natural world around him. He would have prayed the Psalms that are filled with a sense of wonder and praise. He also recognized creation often offers lessons about life. He called attention to the birds of the air, lilies of the field, mustard seed, grain of wheat, vine and the branches, and what they had to teach us about

We read in Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home. (para. #85) that "God has written a precious book whose letters are the multitude of created things present in the universe." St. John Paul II (Catechism 30 January 2002) In the words of the Canadian Bishops "From panoramic vistas to the tiniest living form, nature is a constant source of wonder and awe. It is also continuing revelation of the divine." Canadian Bishops (Pastoral Letter 4 October 2003)

One gift that I can thank the coronavirus situation today is more time to "pause and reflect" on the unwritten "book of Creation," and enjoy the unfolding of springtime with all of my senses while listening for hidden messages.

## What if St. Joseph said 'no?'

Editor's Note: This article is part of an ongoing series highlighting Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service.

Evangelium Vitae includes a reflection on the murder of Abel by his brother Cain. God asks Cain, "What have you done?" Obviously, this is a rhetorical question meant to lead Cain to think about the significance of his act. Cain had committed a grave sin which could send him to Hell.

God asks us the same question in Matthew 19, the story of the final judgement of the world in which God separates the

#### 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

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.

#### 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.

nations like a shepherd separates the sheep and the goats. The question might instead be worded "What have you done for me lately?" Sins of omission, not doing

sion, not doing things we should, are equally capable of sending us to Hell.

Some people who engage in conversations on life issues focus on the sin of commission of those complicit in the act of abortion. Others focus on the sins of omission by the

community who neglect to provide support for the mother and child either before or after the child is born.

In both cases, in sins of commission and omission, we fail to act in a way that shows loving care for our brothers or sisters. Clearly, we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers.

St. Joseph is a fantastic model of someone who cared for a pregnant woman in need. He was betrothed to Mary, but the child was not his. Initially, he decided to quietly divorce Mary because he was unwilling to expose her to shame. What if he

#### **Rest in Peace**

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

**May 6** – Rev. P.A. Lynch, O.S.A.,

**May 7** – Deacon Thomas R. Finnegan, 1996; Rev. John Cosmic, 2017

May 8 — Msgr. Harold J. Martin, 1958

May 9 – Rev. William J. Mc-Cormick, O.S.A., 1935; Msgr. Clarence M. Devan, 2001

May 10 – Deacon Edward L. Mazuchowski, 2019

May 11 — Deacon Richard D. Hart, 2007

said no to the mercy that God put in his heart? What would the consequences have been for Mary, for Jesus, or for all of us? The first step in Joseph's deci-

> sion process was to do no harm, but that wasn't enough. Joseph was a man of prayer. In his discernment about how to respond to this challenging situation he sought the will of God. Open to the further promptings of God in his mind while dreaming, he took Mary to be his wife

and her unborn child to be his child. He did not support them from afar. He brought them close, giving a name to the child, and for the rest of his life taking on the responsibility to care for and protect them.

The parallel to Adam is striking. Adam had specific God-given duties. He was the name giver, and he was to care for and protect the garden in which grew the tree of life. Adam and Eve failed, and both tried to evade responsibility. The consequences of their moral failure and their attempt to evade responsibility are experienced throughout every generation. Fortunately, the Holy Family gives us a better model to emulate in their complete yes to loving God and neighbor.

What if Joseph tried to evade responsibility, or what if he gave a limited commitment only? He could have said, "Okay, I'll support her up until Bethlehem, then I'm done." Is it enough to only provide the support that helps a woman choose to give birth? No, it's better for a community to draw the mother and child in close, to recognize their dignity and honor the precious gift of life, to form a relationship which communicates "You and your family are a part of us. We are in this for the long haul and we will do this together." These kinds of relationships are formed within the parish community.

Bishop LaValley, along with the other bishops of the United States, is encouraging the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg to participate in Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service. This program aims at highlighting the pregnant and parenting moms in our parishes, identifying resources available within local communities, and connecting these women to the resources they need. The program invites us to care for, protect and welcome new life in the womb by caring for, supporting, welcoming and serving pregnant women, especially those facing difficulties or challenging circumstances.

We can be like St. Joseph by responding to mom's and their children in love, whether it be welcoming them at church, inviting them to events, being friendly, taking an interest in their lives and their child(ren). Doing these things can open the door for us to learn what needs they may have and respond to them. Arranging play dates between our children and/or grandchildren and theirs. Having them over for coffee or a meal. Praying for them and their specific needs. connecting them to the available resources, or spending time with them so they don't feel overwhelmed and isolated are great ways to care for them. Motherhood itself can be so daunting at times especially if a mom feels alone. By responding in simple ways when we see a need we can extend God's love to them.

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Church to adopt safe practices when public Masses resume CLEVELAND (CNS) - When public Masses and the celebration of the sacraments resume in dioceses where they were suspended, the look and feel of worship are not expected to be that which parishioners have been accustomed. Social distancing in pews, requirements that Massgoers wear facial protection and even Masses without distribution of holy Communion or having distribution moved to the end of a liturgy or to another time are all possibilities depending on local circumstances and the prudential judgment of bishops. Bishops are faced with having to balance public safety while maintaining the respect and reverence of the Eucharist and the liturgical and sacramental symbolism of Mass rites. Don't expect a one-size-fits-all standard, advised the executive director of the Secretariat of Divine Worship at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "It isn't really possible to have national guidelines," Father Andrew Menke told Catholic News Service April 29. "Circumstances are different in different places. Different places are in different stages in the evolution of the crisis. And you have practical differences in what's happening in urban areas than that in rural areas."

#### Bishops consecrate U.S. to Mary amid COVID-19 pandemic

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Bishops throughout the United States reconsecrated the country to Mary as the nation continues to struggle in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. Bishops in Canada also used May 1 to rededicate their country to the Blessed Mother. Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, led a "Renewal of the Consecration of the United States of America to the Blessed Virgin Mary" May 1. The sparse, 37-minute ceremony at Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral in Los Angeles was livestreamed on Facebook, YouTube and the websites of the Los Angeles Archdiocese and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Alternating between English and Spanish, Archbishop Gomez said: "In this difficult time we turn to the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of the church. She intercedes with her Son for all are affected in this way by the pandemic. ... We implore her maternal care for her children." Archbishop Gomez noted Mary's history in the United States. "The first missionaries came to this country under the mantle of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Later, the bishops consecrated her as patroness of the United States of America," he said. "The Virgin Mary has accompanied this great nation since our beginnings."

## Few sermons mention abortion in U.S. Christianity, Pew finds

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The percentage of sermons about abortion is in the single digits, according to a Pew Research Center study, the results of which were released April 29. Even a mention of abortion in a sermon is rare, according to the study. Pew analyzed nearly 50,000 sermons shared online or livestreamed by more than 6,000 U.S. churches and delivered between April 7 and June 1, 2019, a time frame that included Easter. Five percent of Catholic homilies analyzed during the study period mentioned abortion, which topped the national average of 4%. Other Christians were grouped into "mainline Protestant," "evangelical Protestant" and "historically black Protestant." Nineteen percent of Catholic congregations heard abortion mentioned in at least one sermon during the study period, which matched the national average. Evangelicals led the way with 22%, with mainline Protestants trailing at 10%. The percentage of Catholics hearing about abortion may be surprising, according to Dennis Quinn, lead researcher for the study.

## Polls: Faith is getting Americans through crisis

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Two separate polls show that Americans are relying more on their faith to help persevere through the coronavirus pandemic.

The Pew Research Center, in a survey released April 30, showed that nearly one-fourth of all Americans say their faith has grown stronger during the pandemic, while only 2% said it had grown weaker.

Catholics, according to Pew, are very much in line with the overall survey results. Among Catholic respondents, 27% said their faith had grown stronger with 2% saying it had gotten weaker. In addition, 63% said their faith had not changed much at all, and another 7% said the question was not applicable because "I am not a religious person and this hasn't changed."

A poll by Fordham University released April 28 showed that Americans are being helped by their religious or spiritual faith during the pandemic, and the more often they go to church, the more they feel it has helped.

For those who go to church regularly, 68% said they have been "helped a lot," and another 22% said they have been "helped somewhat." For those who say they go the church frequently, 41%

said they were helped a lot, with 45% reporting they had been helped somewhat. Even a majority of those who say they rarely go to church said faith has helped – 23% a lot and 32% somewhat.

Among all respondents, 35% said they have been helped a lot and 29% said they had been helped somewhat, while 34% said they had not been helped.

There may be a touch of irony in the polls' results as significant percentages of Americans are reporting their faith has helped get them through a tough time yet they are unable to attend worship services. The Fordham poll showed 38% of Americans are attending less frequently, while 56% report no change. Just over a quarter are watching services more online or on television now than before the outbreak.

Regular churchgoers reported the largest attendance drop-off, with 67% saying they are attending much less often, 4% attending somewhat less often and 19% reporting no change. To compensate, 55% said they are watching online or televised services more than usual.

In the Fordham poll, 62% of Catholics said they had been helped at least somewhat by their faith. By comparison, 95% of

evangelicals reported they had been helped at least somewhat, and just over three-fourths of mainline Protestants reported the same.

Pew's numbers found that African Americans reported the biggest increase in faith at 41%, compared to 40% for Hispanics and 20% for whites. Older Americans likewise found their faith increasing, as nearly 30% of all Americans ages 50-up reported increased faith. Women's numbers were nearly twice as big as men's, 30% compared to 18%.

Monika McDermott, Fordham professor of political science, Catholic News Service that her students in a public opinion and survey research certification program had designed an entirely different poll bethe coronavirus started shutting down much of U.S. society. "We met over Zoom and worked remotely" to put together the new survey, she said.







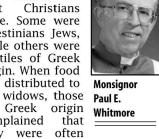


#### SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life'

"Building once said, church community is a

messy business!" In today's first reading, we see how human the Christians first were. Some were Palestinians Jews, while others were gentiles of Greek origin. When food was distributed to the widows, those of Greek origin complained that they were often



passed over. What could have been a serious division in the early Christian community become the cause for an important development in its growth. Tensions were bound to arise since each group had different ways of thinking and acting. Very wisely, the Twelve decided to formally establish a new ministry of "table servers" (later known as deacons), so that they themselves could devote themselves

A holy spiritual writer entirely to prayer and preaching. They imposed hands on seven men of

> outstanding reputation. Actually, when the Holy Spirit came upon them, they did much more than wait on tables. In this way. God used a crisis in charity to further the effectiveness of the Church in spreading the word.

Let's compare with this our

Church today. Because of the shortage of priests, the role of deacons and commissioned lay ministers is emerging as an ever-more integral part of the Church of the 21st century. The Holy Spirit is urgently calling more and more faithful Catholics to assume a new level of leadership in the life of their local parishes. And, despite the scandal of sexual abuse toward children on the part of clergy, we find a May 10

#### **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**READINGS** Acts 6:1-7 1 Peter 2:4-9 John 14:1-12

new level of hope from the guidance of Pope Francis. Our own Bishop Terry LaValley, after a year's study and consultation, has set forth an inspired and challenging vision of the future for the diocese of Ogdensburg.

The second reading from the first Letter of St. Peter uses the image of "stone" or "rock." Peter, referring to Isaiah's prophecy, tells us that God the Father long ago had established His Son, Jesus, as the "cornerstone, chosen and precious." Peter, with warm and welcoming tone, urges us to come with hope and trust to the living stone of salvation, and there to become ourselves a holy temple. Of course, there's a price to pay. Through our own sufferings, we offer sacrifice and praise to the Father along with the Son. All of this happens through our baptisms and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Then comes a warning. Just as many have rejected this rock of salvation to their own condemnation, so too, if we attempt to bypass Christ, then we will ourselves stumble and fall. Peter quotes Isaiah as his authority for referring to Christ as a stumbling block to those who reject Him. All this will become clear on the day of judgment.

The Gospel is taken from wonderful the farewell address of Jesus to his apostles at the Last Supper. Here, he tells them not to be afraid, for after much trial, the kingdom with its many dwelling places will be theirs. A good teacher loves students who ask a lot of questions. We're forever indebted to Thomas and Philip for their prodding of Jesus for more explanation about the way to the Kingdom. In answer, Jesus gives us one of his most quotable quotes: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me." When we're confused about decisions we should make, Jesus Himself will show us the Way. When we don't know what is true and what is false, what is right and what is wrong, the Holy Spirit through the Church will enlighten us.

The effects of the upheaval of our society has had severe repercussions of the daily ministry of our parishes. We pray that we will soon be able to open our churches to daily Mass and the reception of the sacraments. On this Mother's Day, when we honor all mothers, we beg our mother Mary to bring back normal ministry and full churches.

**CALLED TO SERVE** 

## Counting our blessings

Louisa Madill, wife of Dr. Grant Madill, noted on October 13 that, "For the first time in the history of Ogdensburg, no church bells rang today-all closed on account of influenza." I found that quote in an article on-line by Julie Madlin written in 2016. The article was entitled, Ogdensburg and the 1918 Pandemic. Influenza Louisa had her facts

straight, but the why is ful centennial history of us, as my great-grandeven more ominous, and familiar.

"In the fall of 1918, the influenza epidemic reached vast proportions in the diocese. As many of the people of the diocese were stricken with the flu, places of public worship were temporarily closed." That information comes to us from Sister Christine Taylor, SSJ in her wonder-

the Diocese published in 1972.

Sister Christine's history is full of little tidbits of information that make me smile sometimes and frown. Like the news on page 79 that the 1918 Spanish Flu (that is what we called that pandemic) claimed

the lives of 10 of our priests and that left Bishop Gabriels and his Auxiliary Bishop Conroy with "parishes without pastors." Saints preserve

Deacon

**Kevin Mastellon** 

mother would say.

All of this got me thinking about histories. I once asked Sister Christine if she was working on a sequel to her *History* of Catholicism in the North Country. As I recall, her "no" was offered without hesitation but politely and with a

smile. Perhaps we can use this space to encourage someone to carry-on from where Sister left off. Bishop Brzana was our Shepherd in 1972. That was the year the Diocese of Ogdensburg celebrated its Centennial anniversary. Four other men have followed Bishop Brzana in the Episcopal Chair of Ogdensburg. So much has happened in our diocese since 1972. Worth more than a mention in that history will be the restoration of the Permanent Diaconate in our Diocese by Bishop Brzana in 1977.

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown.

He is the Director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg



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## Going to the chapel

By Father Dan Chapin, MM

It was a Saturday afternoon in April 2017, the day before Palm Sunday. I was preparing to preside at a wedding in the Chapel of the Exaltation, one of two chapels of the Parish of Our Lady of La Salette, where I had been serving since October of the year before. These chapels serve parishioners in different neighborhoods of the parish. The parish is located near a lagoon in the southern zone of the city of Cochabamba in central Bolivia; the city is nestled in an agricultural valley of the Andes Mountains. The couple, Daygoth and Fabiola, were to be accompanied by their five-year old daughter, who was a kindergarten student. The great majority of couples celebrate the sacrament of matrimony having already started raising a family; couples must show proof of their civil marriage before celebrating a church wedding.

When I arrived at the chapel, the groom and his witness (padrino) were there; the bride and her witness (madrina) had not yet arrived (some traditions cut across cultures!). The candles had been lit, and beautiful floral arrangements had been placed. White, satin cloth covered the chairs where the couple and the witnesses were to be seated; both sides of the main aisle were decorated with flowers.

Two women, serving as chapel sacristans, were trying to put on special music for the bride's entrance, but they didn't know how to do it and neither did I; so they called upon one of the photographers who seemed to have it ready to go, but it never did really work. The ceremony began (without music). Scriptures were read, and a brief homily was offered. The Marriage Rite followed. The couple exchanged vows; rings were blessed and exchanged; coins were blessed and given to the husband, who then presented them to his wife as an expression of mutual sharing and support; a long necklace was then placed on the newly-married couple linking them in a bond of eternal love; and finally holy water, a symbol of baptism, was sprinkled over the couple and their witnesses. Petitions were offered, concluding with the Lord's Prayer; a sign of peace (kiss) ensued, and Communion was distributed; the ceremony concluded with the final blessing (and no music). Outside, photos were taken; and small, white, round confetti was placed gently on the heads of the newlyweds and their witnesses by the guests; it was almost like an anointing and, of course, a reminder of new life.

Thus it was that Daygoth and Fabiola celebrated the Sacrament of Matrimony in the eyes of God and in the midst of the Christian community at the Chapel of the Exaltation, one fine April day in the Year of Our Lord 2017.

#### **OBITUARIES**

**Carthage** – Travis C. "Jack" Jackson, 84; Funeral Services to be held at a later date; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

**Chateaugay** – Thomas E. Dwyer, 79; Memorial Mass to be held at a later date; burial to be held May 1, 2020 at St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Croghan** – Kelly (Monnat) Garrison, 56; Private Funeral Services to be held; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

**Ellenburg** – Carol E. (Carter) LaClair, 92; Private Funeral Services to be held; burial in St. Edmund's Cemetery.

Fort Covington — Errol F. McElwain Jr.,

84; Private Funeral Services to be held April 25 at the Flint Funeral Home.

**Hogansburg** – Leland T. Dishaw, 76; Graveside services to held at a later time

Malone — Cassidy June Spinner, 12; Graveside Services and burial to be held April 28, 2020 at St. Joseph's Cemetery.

**Massena** – Patricia J. (Burgess) George, 87; Funeral Services to be held at a later date.

**Moira** – Ann M. (Tower) Gratton, 76; Graveside services to be held May 8,

2020 at St. Mary's Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Noella "Jo" Madeline (Remillard) Roque, 93; A Mass of Christian Burial to be held at St. Alexander's Cemetery

**Norfolk** – Barbara A. LaBarge Davis, 82; Graveside services to be held at a later date.

**Peru** – Maria Carmen Benson, 78; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at a later date at St. Augustine's Church.

Saranac Lake — Frances Lynch Oliver, 99; Memorial Mass to be held at St. Bernard's Church at a later date.

## 'My greatest inheritance'

By Suzanne Pietropaoli Staff Writer

FORT COVINGTON – While many "cradle Catholics" wander away from their early faith experiences, Kathleen (Mainville) Lauzon could not be more grateful for hers.

"My Catholic faith is my greatest inheritance," the life-long St. Mary's parishioner relates. "My father and mother loved and lived their faith, which they shared with their seven living children. They also connected us with our little brother, Michael, who lived only three days. Mom taught us to 'talk to little Michael' about any issues, problems, joys. This very personal relationship with him made God, the angels, and the saints very natural and very real to me."

Similarly, growing up a block away from St. Mary's helped ground the family in the sacramental life of the Church.

"Five generations of my family – including me and my daughter – have been married on the very same spot at St. Mary's. Monsignor (Thomas J.) Robillard was our wonderful pastor



- and his mother, who was also his housekeeper, greeted us with treats whenever we knocked on the back door. The Sisters of St. Joseph at St. Mary's School taught me in grades one through six. These women of faith were and are my heroes!"

Not surprisingly, Lauzon considered joining their ranks, until her mother pointed out that her daughter's difficulties with obedience would make religious life especially challenging. Yet her

career choice would ultimately be shaped by her faith.

"I knew that, by the grace of God, practicing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy would help me get to heaven, which I knew was the ultimate purpose of my life," she said. "So, after high school I went to CVPH Hospital School of Nursing in Plattsburgh and earned my R.N. in 1976. I started working in maternity at Massena Memorial

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## My greatest inheritance

Hospital, and after Michael and I were married in 1980, I became a school nurse in Fort Cov-

Between her growing family and her nursing work, Lauzon's days overflowed with opportunities to nurture, counsel, and comfort. For her, each person, each patient, is a gift from God and a possibility not to be missed.

"I try to live the charism of the smile," she explains, "sharing God's love with everyone I encounter by a smile or a kind word. I pray that they will see Him in me as I look for Him in each one of them."

Always seeking to follow God by serving Him in others, Lauzon remembers 1996, when after 20 years of nursing, she felt called to become a nurse practitioner.

It was a pivotal moment. The training schedule would be grueling: four days a week at Community General Hospital in Syracuse, two days a week



**Kathleen Lauzon** 

exams – and of course, the commuting. Characteristically, Lauzon set out to discern whether God really wanted her to follow this daunting path.

"After consultation with at a local doctor's office, a my husband and my parsteady diet of tests and ents, and much prayer, I

filled out the application to the program," she said. "I needed to be sure that this was God's will and not some sort of prideful desire on my part. So, I took my application packet to the church and laid it at the foot of the altar and prayed, 'Thy will be done.' I was accepted even without an interview. It was certainly the most difficult year of my life and that of my husband and children."

"But there were also many profound, gracefilled moments," continues Lauzon. "Although it broke my heart to leave my family every Sunday afternoon, God was never far away. I remember developing a habit of saying the Rosary along the way, offering it for the intentions of those in various houses I passed on my route. Even though I did not know those people, I could pray for them just as I prayed for my own family. I also realized that I could offer my tears to our Blessed Mother who could offer them to Jesus, as a way of slaking His thirst on the Cross.'

During the 24 years that she has worked as a family nurse practitioner at Leroux Health Center, Lauzon has continued to respect the both the spiritual and physical needs of her patients.

"When people are ill, they are at their most vulnerable," she said. "Like Christ alone in the Garden on Holy Thursday, they are often alone, scared, knowing the pain that is ahead for them. When I have to tell someone they have cancer, it is easy to see Christ in them and to care for Him in them. I do

tell my patients that I will pray for them, and they are appreciative."

Now, amid Covid-19 concerns, Lauzon notes that she is seeing increased anxiety in her pa-

"People are worried and afraid," she said. "It is difficult to try to take care of people without touching them. People need physical contact, and right now that is impossible.

This level of caring could not have been sustained for so long without God's grace, Lauzon affirms.

"The most Holy Eucharist has always been my sustenance; His Body and Blood restore and strengthen me," she said. "I also love exposition, and the opportunity to be quiet in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Though it can be hard to quiet my mind, that is the best place to do it - to approach our Lord in conversation. The saints and angels are still my friends, especially St. Michael the Archangel."

Another constant has been Lauzon's service to her parish: directing the choir, serving as a lector and Eucharistic minister, teaching religious education classes, training altar servers, and chairing the parish vocations committee.

Today, Lauzon presses gratitude for the blessings of nearly 40 years of marriage, for the couple's "three adult children, one great son-in-law, and a beautiful granddaughter."

Of her remarkable passion for sharing God's love with others, she says simply: "I am merely His creation. I just try to use the gifts He has given me for His greater honor and glory.'

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