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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 75, Number 9

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JUNE 10, 2020

Parishes with approved plans can reopen at 25% capacity

On Saturday, June 6, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that churches may open for public worship for up to 25 percent of the building's seating capacity, effective immediately.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley has authorized the Catholic Churches in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, with approved parish reopening plans, to open up their churches for public worship to accommodate up to 25% of the building's seating capacity. Social distancing and other precautions must be followed according to parish plans.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

GETTING READY



MARY JO ROCKER/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Sara Day-Shultz and Carmel Rastley clean and sanitize the pews at St. John's Church in Madrid as part of the efforts to prepare the church for reopening.

SHARING OUR STORIES



Tom and Claudia Sanders have continued to lean on their faith as they've navigated more than 50 years of marriage and overcome a number of hardships, including Claudia being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and being confined to a wheelchair. The Beekmantown couple continues to participate in ministry and serve their parish.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

Pope: You can trust God and still argue with him

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—In the story of the patriarch Abraham—honored by Jews, Christians and Muslims—faith becomes a direct relationship with God that is marked by constant prayer, which sometimes takes the form of "debating" with God, Pope Francis said.

While most ancient people saw the gods as inapproachable cosmic forces needing to be appeased, "the God of Abraham becomes 'my God,' the God of my personal story, who guides my steps, who does

not abandon me, the God of my days, the companion in my adventures," Pope Francis said June 3.

"I ask myself, and I ask you, do we have this experience of God?" the pope said, during his livestreamed general audience from the library of the Apostolic Palace. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, visitors still are not present for the audiences.

In his main talk, part of a series about prayer, the pope said that with Abraham, "the life of a believer

begins to be understood as a vocation, that is, as a call."

Abraham had heard God calling him to leave his homeland for a land that God would show him, promising to make of him and his descendants a great nation, although he already was old and childless.

Abraham was not weighed down by uncertainty despite the "enigma," the pope said. Instead, he "believed in the promise of God. He believed and set

off without knowing where he was going."

The account of Abraham's life in the Book of Genesis mentions how, along his journey, he built altars to the Lord.

Through his prayer, the pope said, "Abraham became familiar with God, even capable of arguing with him, but always faithful. He spoke to God and he argued."

And when God asked him to sacrifice his son Isaac, Abraham continued to trust in the Lord, "living his

faith as an ordeal, like walking while groping in the dark, under a sky deprived of stars this time, but with faith," the pope said. Then "God himself stops the hand of Abraham, which was ready to strike, because he saw that his willingness was truly total."

"We, too, often feel like we are walking in the dark, but with faith," the pope said. That is why people must pray, like Abraham, and sometimes question God like he did.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

He sees beauty where I see refuse

He sees beauty in something that's broken down and less than what it could be.

That fact struck me as my husband, Adam, walked around one of our two porches – the porch decorated in a nautical theme (complete with a functioning porthole window) – and inspected the pieces of driftwood he's collected over the years.

On a table, there's a gnarled, twisted piece of driftwood that likely started out as a tree branch. There's a piece

of driftwood on one wall that resembles the shape of a shark, and there's a piece on another wall that started out as a board, possibly part of a dock. That piece still has a rope attached (it's Adam's favorite). That's before we think about all the small pieces of driftwood Adam has affixed to the porch door frame, completely covering it.

By its nature, driftwood is the result of wearing away something that was once whole. After being in the water, a branch or

board is worn down leaving the remaining wood discolored and misshapen. I think many people – myself included before I married Adam – would view driftwood as refuse, just another item that washes up from area rivers and lakes. But Adam loves his driftwood. He finds each piece unique and beautiful.

At first, I found Adam's enjoyment of driftwood to be a bit odd. I guess I assumed others likely viewed driftwood the way I do, as refuse.

Watching my husband lovingly inspect his waterfront finds this weekend, it made me think about the fact that I

sometimes project my thinking on others, including God.

This is especially true when I'm thinking about my brokenness and failings, the parts of my life where I'm less than what I'm called to be. I project those feelings onto God, and assume He also focuses on my brokenness, failings and shortcomings. I forget He loves me unconditionally.

My ways are not Adam's ways, and they're certainly not always God's ways.

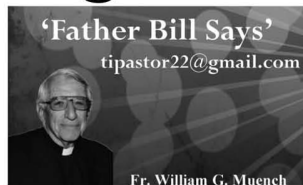
And I'm blessed that they both can see beauty in something that's less than what it could be.

Darcy L.
Fargo

Reflecting on the Holy Eucharist

Today is a perfect time for you and I to talk about the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Now, I'm guessing that you have learned a great deal about the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist over the years. However, I would like to get you to think about your understanding of this Sacrament again. I believe all that our Catholic Church teaches us about the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. I believe that Jesus instituted the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper. I believe that Jesus instituted this sacrament so that he could be an important and complete part of our lives. Jesus wants to be part of our lives so we recognize and express our gratitude to God. Jesus guides us and leads us to express and recognize our gratitude to God. We should believe that Jesus came to this world, that Jesus was sent to our world by the Father to demonstrate to us God's great love for us, for each one of us.

Jesus taught us often that God loves us unconditionally. God love us because God is God. God demands



'Father Bill Says'

tipastor22@gmail.com

Fr. William G. Muench

nothing of us. Yet, God loves us – and unconditionally. God loves us.

The Holy Eucharist is a unique sacrament. In this sacrament, we are transformed through our union with the Lord. We, Catholics need the Holy Eucharist. This is why these past months have been empty without Holy Communion. For many, this was a time of lost contact with God. Many have forgotten how grateful we should be – we have lost contact with God. Many have forgotten how much God loves us, many have forgotten that through the Blessed Eucharist Jesus has shown us how unconditionally God loves us. Many have lost touch of how a grateful people knows how to live – recognizing how blessed we are.

It is important to remember that one of the important

teachings issued by the Second Vatican Council was that Catholics are encouraged to receive Holy Communion each time that we join in the celebration of Mass. Many of you may remember that before the Council, most Catholics did not receive Holy Communion often. In fact, in those days, days that I remember well as a child, many received Holy Communion only once a year. In an effort to encourage Catholics to go to Communion at least once a year, the Church developed the Easter Duty – many regulations to be observed during the Easter Season, including receiving Holy Communion once during the Easter Season.

The Church now encourages the reception of Holy Communion each time we attend and participate in Holy Mass. The Church teaches us of the importance of this sacrament and the powerful part Holy Communion should be in the life of Catholics. The Church teaches us that the Blessed Eucharist is tremendously spiritually important for us

all. We are transformed by the Lord. In this Sacrament, we believe that we truly receive the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are intensely grateful for this sacrament of the Holy Eucharist as we understand that truly this is a demonstration of God's great love for us. The Lord gives us the strength and the power to live our Catholic life, to witness to the world our recognition of God's great loves for us and to make our world a better place by the way we live our Christian life.

So, as we again make Holy Communion a regular part of our lives, we must allow Jesus to guide us to a new and loving Spirit. The challenge for us is to recognize and notice that the love of our Lord will lead us, that we must truly follow our Savior, and with the gift of the Lord's Blessed Eucharist, that we will truly become disciples – new and different followers of Jesus – ready to accomplish so much with God's help. With the Lord's presence and help in Holy Communion, this will be a better world for us all.

FOLLOW ME

Celebrating Religious Freedom Week

Beginning June 22nd, the Feast of the martyrs Saints Thomas More and John Fisher, the Church in the United States will celebrate **Religious Freedom Week**. Religious freedom is a fundamental element of Catholic teaching on human dignity. Today, in so many ways, the dignity of every human person from the moment of conception to that of natural death is challenged, even denied. Vatican Council II declared that "the right to religious freedom is based on the very dignity of the human person as known through the revealed word of God and by reason itself." (Dignitatis Humanae, 2) The Church Fathers went on to insist that this religious freedom must be recognized and made a civil right.

Over the past several years, it has become increasingly evident that this essential element of the

Church's social teaching has been ignored or even opposed by many, including some of our leaders. The Bishops of the United States determined that it was important for our nation's social welfare and our own personal good to highlight this teaching and civil right, particularly during Religious Freedom Week.

Religious freedom means that the Church has the space to carry out her mission to serve the vulnerable. The Church invented the hospital as we know it today. For centuries, the Church has carried on the healing ministry of Christ by building institutions dedicated to medicine and accompaniment of the dying. For instance, religious orders like the Little Sisters

of the Poor serve elderly low-income Americans of all backgrounds. But their ministry is at risk because they and many of our Catholic hospitals are constantly defending themselves against lawsuits and government orders that try to force them to participate in harmful procedures, such as sterilization, gender reassignment surgery, and even abortion. The Sisters and so many in

the health care profession, are expected to undermine the Church's mission to heal by destroying innocent life and harming the persons for whom we are called to care. Religious freedom allows these Sisters and all in the health care field to give witness to their faith by refusing to participate in medical pro-

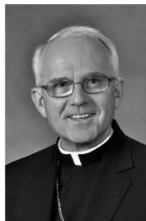
cedures that wound rather than heal.

Religious freedom enables us to actively engage in the building up of our communities. Catholic social teaching urges our involvement in the political process. Clearly, there is a gaping political divide in our nation today. Dialogue about how to meet challenges has become increasingly harsh, and personally hostile. The lack of civility, decency and respect in our conversations leads to further alienation and divisiveness. Such "dialogue" is non-productive and, frankly, embarrassing. Our Church has taught that we should participate in the political process. Yet, honest, civil dialogue is hard to come by these days. Understandably, many shy away from active political engagement in such disrespectful dialogue.

A most egregious exam-

ple of our disrespect for every human person is evidenced in our tragic history and ongoing disrespect for people of a different race. You've seen the blatant disregard for human life and the sense of deep frustration and immense pain suffered by so many. I remember well a question posed years ago by one such victim: "Why can't we just get along?" That will begin to happen when we treat one another as a child of God and equal in dignity and respect. That's what we say we believe. The jury is still out.

We ask for the help of the Mother of the Church, the Blessed Virgin Mary, in following her Son so that prejudice and animosity will no longer infect our minds or hearts but will be replaced with a love that respects the dignity of each person. Good St. Joseph, Patron Saint of our nation, Pray for us!



**Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley**

Churches can have Mass with 25% capacity

Parishes must have approved reopening plan to offer public worship

OGDENSBURG—With Governor Andrew Cuomo's announcement that churches may open for public worship for up to 25 percent of the building's seating capacity, effective immediately, Bishop Terry R. LaValley has authorized the Catholic Churches in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, with approved parish reopening plans, to open up their churches for public worship to accommodate up to 25% of the building's seating capacity. Social distancing and other precautions must be followed according to parish

plans. Previously, churches with approved plans were able to open for only up to 10 persons, in compliance with state regulations.

"We are overjoyed that more of the faithful are able to gather in public prayer and worship at Mass together," said Bishop LaValley. "We ask that everyone exercise patience and understanding as our churches work to comply with the plans and guidelines that are intended to help keep us all safe. Please check your parish website, social

media pages or contact your parish office to learn your parish's re-opening schedule. Let us continue to pray for one another."

Parish reopening plans must include the following:

- Churches will undergo continuing intensive cleaning and sanitizing.

- Individuals who are at higher risk with the coronavirus and those who are sick are asked to remain at home.

- All parishioners ages 2 and over will wear face coverings while in church to protect themselves and others.

- There will be no holy water in fountains.

- There will be no offertory processions.

- There will be no passing of the collection basket. The basket will be placed in a fixed location and parishioners will be asked to drop their contributions into the basket as they enter or leave the church.

- The distribution of Holy Communion will be different.

- No worship aids, such as missalettes and hymnals, will be available for

use.

- There will be no choirs in the early phases of our return to public worship.

- There will be no congregating in the church, on the steps or at the doors of the church.

Though some parishes will re-open with limited capacity, Bishop LaValley has dispensed the faithful from their obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further notice.

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www.northcountrycatholic.org

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



Find us on Facebook!



Catholic high schools hope to hold graduations

By Jessica Hargrave
Contributing Writer

The class of 2020 was left with less pomp and more circumstance when COVID-19 forced schools to cancel scheduled graduation ceremonies. Senior year of high school is very different from most classes before them. No prom. No senior skip day. No closure after years of hard work. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced May 1 that schools across the state would remain closed for the remainder of the academic year.

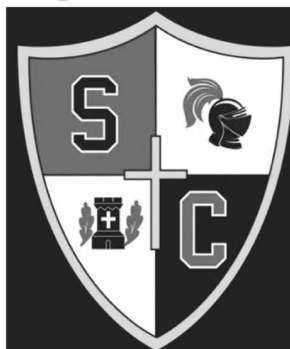
With senior graduation still far enough away, is there time for schools to put a new plan together?

The two high schools within the Diocese of Ogdensburg are trying their best to make that happen.

Principals at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown and Seton Catholic Central School in Plattsburgh are awaiting guidelines from the Health Department to put their plans in motion. Both schools are hoping to use their own athletic field for a ceremony, but here will be hurdles.

"One of our major issues is getting people to and from their cars so we'd have to escort people. People want to congregate so we have to prevent that as much as possible," said Immaculate Heart Principal Dan Charlebois.

Despite no word yet from the Health Department, Charlebois knows other changes would need to be made for an alternative ceremony including



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Seton Catholic is honoring a "Senior of the Day" on its website and social media. Each entry features future plans, as pictured above, as well as quotes, and information about extracurricular activities in which the senior participated.

no processional and Baccalaureate Mass. The invocation and speeches, however, would still happen.

Charlebois said he makes regular calls to the Health Department to see if receiving guidelines for a ceremony will be possible.

"There's so many unknowns and we tend to be very fearful because of the unknowns and much of it is patience and trust," said Charlebois.

Immaculate Heart has 20 seniors who would attend graduation. International students who are seniors were required to return to their home countries due to the pandemic but will still receive their diplomas.

Seton Catholic Principal Mary Forbes is working to bring the 27 seniors together at a safe distance to

the best of her ability and include as much of the graduation ceremony as she can.

"I do want if possible, our valedictorian and salutatorian to speak to their classmates," Forbes said. "That is something I think they have earned, and students also look forward to their fellow students speaking to them."

While seniors are always proud to don their caps

and gowns, this year a mask will most likely be required. But these masks will be special.

"One of the parents was able to find some masks that have the Seton logo on it so the seniors will be getting one of those," said Forbes.

She and other faculty members understand how missing out on other traditional spring activities have been disappointing

for the seniors, including an overnight retreat to Camp Guggenheim and a field day. School administrators were able to salvage one spring tradition, improvising on how they announce the "Senior of the Day."

Each day is dedicated to one senior student with a profile announcing what students will be doing after high school, their major, and words that describe that student. This year you'll find the Senior of the Day on Seton Catholic's homepage of their website. The seniors are also displayed on the digital sign in front of the school.

Despite current events, both Charlebois and Forbes are choosing to be positive and are encouraging their seniors to be positive as well.

Both schools are aiming for a June 20 graduation date, but that date is not set in stone. Also unclear is how many guests each student will be able to invite. The pair are still awaiting guidelines from the Health Department.

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The Official 2020 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.

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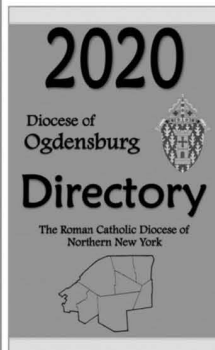
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'You just have to have Him to lean on'

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 Monfletto
Contributing Writer

BECKMANTOWN – A marriage should be between three people – and one of them must be God.

That is how Tom and Claudia Sanders, of Beekmantown, described not only their own 50-plus years of marriage but also their advice to soon-to-be-wed couples, given teaching Pre-Cana courses for 40 years.

"We have a real need for people to look at marriage. There's so much living together now," Tom said. "People shouldn't get married for the sake of being married. I think love of course makes a big thing, and I think they need to bring God into it. It's a three-way (relationship)."

"A marriage is not going to survive without three people, one of them being God," Claudia added. "Without Him in the midst, it's just not going to work. You just have to have Him to lean on, and I guess I've been doing a lot of leaning."

Sharing God with each other – and with the people around them – is something the Sanders have been doing throughout their lives as individuals and as a couple.

Tom said the couple is active in their parish, St. Joseph's in West Chazy, both serving as Eucharistic ministers and lectors.



Tom & Claudia Sanders

Claudia said she has taught religious education for 59 years, starting at 13 years old as a confirmation project and continuing as the family moved around the country while Tom served in the Air Force.

They also worked at Marriage Encounter weekends for 15 years in the 1970s and '80s while teaching Pre-Cana courses for 40 years and still informally helping couples prepare for marriage.

"We've found things to do," Tom said. "Nothing made us do them, but there was a door opened and we stepped through it."

"There was a calling," Claudia said, noting she went through Formation for Ministry to become a lay minister. "I just felt a strong calling for it, and so I went for it and I was commissioned."

Claudia serves as the secretary for the Altar and Rosary Society, while Tom helps out the men's club when he can. Tom also

helps count the offering on Mondays and attends a Bible study on Wednesdays, and the two are involved in different projects around their parish and taught together in the past.

Claudia has also volunteered at Seton Catholic Central School for 25 years, working in the main office and the business office, supporting international students and now cashiering in the cafeteria. She serves even while being in a wheelchair after a multiple sclerosis diagnosis.

"She hasn't let it stop her. She's handi-capable," Tom said. "So I tell people



*Support And Pray
For Vocations*



she does it, and I get to push her around and get away with it."

For 20 years, the couple hosted international students from Seton Catholic, so Tom likes to say they have more than 80 "adopted children" around the world they still hear from.

One is a Japanese boy who expressed that he didn't believe in God when the family prayed before each meal. When a tsunami hit his home country in 2011, though, he asked the Sanders to pray for his family.

Another is a Vietnamese boy who took an elderly priest out to movies and other activities just to be with him and do things with him.

"It was beautiful to see that," Tom said of the way the couple shared their faith with the students and vice versa.

The couple said it is their prayer with each other and their service alongside each other that keep them strong in their faith, especially during the ongoing isolation of the coronavirus pandemic.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

JOB OPENING

Clerical Assistant for the Development Office & Assistant Diocesan Receptionist

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg is seeking a **Clerical Assistant for the Development Office & Assistant Diocesan Receptionist**. The full-time position provides administrative support to the Development Office and assists the Diocesan Receptionist. Applicants must possess strong secretarial and computer skills. Must be proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel and have the ability to learn new software including Raiser's Edge. Strong interpersonal skills and good oral and written communication skills are also required. High level of discretion and confidentiality is required.

Submit letter of interest, resume and three professional references to: Human Resources Office, Diocese of Ogdensburg, P.O. Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 or e-mail to: ksnover@rcdony.org.

Deadline for application is June 19, 2020.

Environmental Stewardship

The mystery of the Trinity embedded in creation

What would you say to someone who asks you, "what does the Trinity mean to you and how your belief affects your life?"

Perhaps this is a question someone asked St. Patrick. He turned to nature for a symbol of this incredible mystery – a shamrock that grew throughout the countryside. Not only did these tiny leaves represent three Persons in one God, but they also revealed the interconnectedness within the Trinity and a relationship with which we and all creation are joined together.

We see this relationship of unity reflected in the Church's Christian Prayer for Morning Prayer for Trinity Sunday. We join with the "Canticle of Three Young Men" in the Book of Daniel (Daniel 3: 56ff) to bless God along with all the angels, the stars, ice and snow, dew and rain, lighting and clouds, etc.

In his homily last Sunday Pope Francis also spoke of this interconnectedness of the Trinity when he stated that this Feast "leads us to contemplate and worship the divine life of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: a life of communion and perfect love, origin and aim of all the universe and of every creature: God."

This sense of Trinity is echoed in *Laudato Si*, when Pope Francis speaks of an ecological spirituality.

"The human person grows more, matures more and is sanctified more to the extent that he or she enters into relationships, going out from themselves to live in communion with God, with others and with all creatures. In this way they make their own that Trinitarian dynamism which God imprinted in them when they were created."

Since our faith reveals an intimate relationship with God and everything He has created, some theologians speak of sin as a "broken relationship."

Pope Francis call us to an "ecological conversion." Let us pray for the grace to see creation as God does in all its splendor and suffering; to see how my life choices impact creation and the poor and vulnerable, and to seek grace to reconcile with God, creation and humanity.

Rest in Peace

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

June 10 – Rev. Augustus Gaudet, O.M.I., 1895; Rev. Alfred J. Boulrice, 1952; Rev. Rupert P. Hajna, O.F.M.Conv., 1979

June 11 – Rev. Lawrence K. Brady, 1993

June 12 – Rev. Eugene A. Kelly, 2001; Rev. Francis J. Coryer, 2012

June 14 – Rev. Hermisdas Mayer, 1927; Rev. Thomas A. Kiley, O.S.A., 1954; Rev. William J. Deacy, O.S.A., 1960; Rev. Arthur Desrosiers, 1963; Msgr. Walter T. Cleary, 1968

June 15 – Rev. Francis C. A. Cornish, 1960

June 16 – Rev. James L. Meehan, 2004; Deacon John Dwyer, 2007

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg uses the training, Protecting God's Children for Adults. 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**, Terri-

anne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terriannyanulavich@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.

Have Him to lean on

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

dem. Claudia has been engaging in what she calls "my corona therapy," in which she bakes at home and then delivers the goods to people.

"There's a certain amount of peace, and not to say we understand everything that's going on, but I think that God is watching over all of us," Tom said of the importance of faith at this time. "I think everything happens for a reason."

"If it wasn't for our faith, I don't know that we would be able to even get through this," Claudia said. "We've had a lot of tragedy in our lives, and it's always been our faith that's brought us through."

The couple still goes to church together on Saturday afternoons – at least virtually. Though their own parish isn't streaming Mass, they view services from parishes in either Plattsburgh or Morrisonville through Facebook Live.

"We're kind of particular to Morrisonville because Father Scott, I had him in 10th grade in religious ed," Claudia said. "He sang at our daughter's wedding when he was in the seminary. He kind of grew up around us, so we're kind of partial to him."

Claudia added that she feels God is trying to tell people something

through the coronavirus pandemic: Get back to basics, and be kind to one another.

"I've seen so much just in our neighborhood," she said. "I've seen so much difference in the way people are treating people. If all this is going to bring us back to loving each other instead of fighting each other, then it's a good thing."

The roots of their strong, shared faith stem from their upbringings in strong Catholic families in Worcester, Massachusetts. Tom and Claudia lived 10 blocks from each other, but because 10 blocks is a long distance in a major city, they didn't meet until they were teenagers.

Still, their Catholic faith – and their Catholic education – is something they shared before they realized it.

"My mother always said, 'On Sunday mornings when you get up, you go to Mass before you breathe,'" Claudia said. "And 7 o'clock at night, the local radio station had the rosary, and I don't care if the world was coming to an end, you were going to say the rosary as a family at 7 o'clock. Life stopped."

"Mom especially was extremely religious. I say that in a positive sense," Tom said. "We had to do the rosary every night too. We had a choice – certain TV shows we wanted to watch as kids. We could either miss part of 'Cisco' or 'Superman,' but we were going to say the rosary. We had to make a choice. For a 6-year-old, that was kind of a tough choice."

Claudia joked that Tom's mother was happy when he met her, since she was the first – and last – Catholic girl he dated, so

she could help keep him tied to his faith. But keeping each other grounded in their faith is exactly what the couple has done throughout their lives together, especially when Tom served in the Air Force for 20 years and the family faced separation during much of that time.

Tom said it was a career he wanted to pursue and Claudia supported, "but it wasn't easy and definitely caused some conflict." Yet, they worked on it together and prayed through the conflict because they knew God wanted them to stay together.

It was during a time when Tom was away from home that Claudia was diagnosed with MS, and she was home alone with two children and nobody to help her but the people from their parish on the base.

"People would come in and say, 'What is this going to do to your marriage?'" Claudia said of the reaction to her newfound inability to walk. "Here I was consoling them because I knew God never sends us more than we can handle. I said, 'It's going to be OK, and Tom's not going to think any different. It's not going to make us separate. It's going to be OK.' I always placed my trust in God that He's going to see us through whatever He sends us."

Tom said the diagnosis caused "a slight change in lifestyle" but the woman he married remained the same. And with a strong sense of faith and an equally strong sense of humor, the couple continues walking with each other and with God.

"I guess you could say we rolled with the punches," he said.

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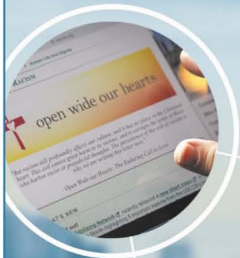
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Pope: Don't look the other way on environment

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Building a healthier, better world depends on everyone, Pope Francis said in his message marking World Environment Day June 5.

"We cannot remain silent before the outcry when we realize the very high costs of the destruction and exploitation of the ecosystem. This is not a time to continue looking the other way, indifferent to the signs that our planet is being plundered and violated by greed for profit, very often in the name of progress," he wrote.

"We have the chance to reverse course, to commit ourselves to a better, healthier world and to

pass it on to future generations. Everything depends on us, if we really want it," he added.

The pope sent his message to President Ivan Duque Marquez of Colombia, which had been scheduled to host a global meeting for World Environment Day. Events, instead, were being held "virtually" because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In his written message in Spanish, the pope said the pandemic served as a reminder that "in the face of adversity, new paths always open in order for us to be united as a great human family."

The environment and

the planet's biodiversity affect everyone, he said, which is why "we cannot pretend to be healthy in a world that is sick. The wounds inflicted on our Mother Earth are wounds that also bleed in us."

Caring for ecosystems is part of a wider concern for life, and protecting those ecosystems is meant for benefiting everyone.

"Our attitude toward the present state of our planet should indeed make us concerned for and witnesses to the gravity of the situation," the pope wrote.

Highlighting the fifth anniversary of his encyclical, "Laudato Si'," the pope invited those organizing and taking part in virtual events for World Environment Day "to participate in the special year that I have announced to reflect in light of that document and, together, to become more committed to the care and protection of our common home and of our most vulnerable and marginalized brothers and sisters in society."

"I encourage you in this task that lies before you. I trust that your deliberations and conclusions will always foster the building of an increasingly habitable world and a more humane society, where all of us have a place and no one is ever left behind," he wrote.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Chaplain: 'At this time, at this juncture, black lives matter'

WASHINGTON (CNS) – As daily protests over the death of George Floyd while in the custody of a Minneapolis police officer have spilled over into some of the United States' largest cities and roiled the nation, a chaplain to several law enforcement agencies in the San Francisco Bay Area said, "At this point, at this time, at this juncture, black lives matter." Father Jayson Landeza, a priest of the Diocese of Oakland, California, says he makes that declaration because "these are the ones who are being profoundly affected by police brutality." The last three parish assignments of Father Landeza, who is of Filipino, Irish and Hawaiian heritage, have been to parishes whose membership is 90% or more African American. Growing up in the Bay Area, he said, "I can think of all the times I was called 'Jap,' called the N-word and worse because I was with a bunch of African American kids." Father Landeza – a chaplain to the Oakland Police, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, two smaller police forces nearby, plus the regional branch of the FBI, the Secret Service and other federal agencies – said that "San Francisco Bay Area cops have a good relationship with the communities" they serve. "The people I work with in law enforcement are good people," he told Catholic News Service. "There's not a cop I know that's not deeply and profoundly offended by what happened in Minneapolis." He said the bad actions of a few African Americans should not stereotype all African Americans. In the same way, he added, "you can't paint this broad picture of Catholic priests vis-a-vis sex abuse, with cops' abuse vis-a-vis violence."

Australia's bishops, religious consider change in governance

MUDGE, Australia (CNS) – Australia's bishops and religious are considering the recommendations for change in a 208-page review into the governance of the church. If implemented, they would see administrative and financial control of dioceses and parishes radically reshaped and shared between the clergy and laypeople and an increased role for women. In mid-May, the bishops considered the report, "The Light from the Southern Cross: Promoting Co-Responsible Governance in the Catholic Church in Australia," submitted by the Implementation Advisory Group's Governance Review Project Team. They are continuing to mull a response to 86 recommendations. The report was initiated by the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference in May 2019 in response to a key recommendation of Australia's landmark Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The governance report was written by 14 people, handpicked lay and clergy – men and women – from Australia as well as international experts. People familiar with the process who declined to be identified said the report was to have been kept secret until about November, but it was leaked to the internet June 1. A spokesman for the bishops said: "The version that has been published is not the final document. One of the reasons for the delay of the report's release was the need for some corrections and clarifications. That process has commenced and is likely to take several weeks. There is also a need to discern how and when various recommendations might best be considered, not least in light of the upcoming assemblies of the Plenary Council."



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Prelates condemn Floyd murder, racism

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, condemned the Memorial Day killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis and warned the country must "leave behind the purveyors of polarization" in politics.

The cardinal's sharply worded June 3 statement called Floyd's death while restrained under a police officer's knee "senseless and brutal." He also criticized the violence that has erupted during some mass demonstrations in cities across the country even as Floyd's death has "provoked justified anger and peaceful protest."

He called on the faithful of the archdiocese, the largest of New Jersey's dioceses, to "renew our commitment to making the dream of peace built on justice and racial equality a reality for all our brothers and sisters here in northern New Jersey as well as throughout the United States."

"Our tolerance of racism as well as collective deafness to the cry of those so grievously offended and the conscious and unconscionable promotion of divisions in this nation has encouraged the heinous evil of racism to propagate," Cardinal Tobin said.

He raised concern that "tolerance of tribal factions ... especially in our political forum, promotes a savage law of the jungle and an immoral ethos of 'might makes right.'"

"Violent rhetoric, selfishness and even the crude appropriation of religious symbols conspire to produce a malevolent miasma in which the sin of racism may flourish unchecked. Our society will make no progress in addressing the evil of racism without the will to leave behind the purveyors of polariza-

tion," he said.

Several prelates across the country joined their voices in decrying Floyd's death and saying there is a serious need to address racism across society. They also condemned the violence brought about by some who used the protests over police brutality toward minorities as cover for such criminal activity.

Some prelates also cited the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' 2018 pastoral letter on racism, "Open Wide our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love," saying it provides a framework for the Catholic faithful to begin to consider the sin of racism in society.

Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston lamented that Floyd's death, shared through social media, is among many involving African Americans who have died at the hands of a police officer.

He said African Americans live "with the experience of these deaths in an entirely different way" than the wider community. "It is a daily reality – one they must speak to their children about and live themselves with some fear."

Floyd's death because of extraordinary police force can lead to deeper distrust of government, law enforcement and the legal community across society, Cardinal O'Malley said.

"That is why the legal prosecution, following constitutional standards, must proceed with care and urgency," he said. "The police failed the moral test in George Floyd's case; now the court will be tested. What is morally wrong must be pursued vigorously by legal standards."

The cardinal also drew a

comparison between Floyd's death and the coronavirus pandemic, which has resulted in higher death rates among African Americans than whites. He said it illustrates the inequality of access to health care, employment and housing that people in minority communities experience.

Retired Bishop John H. Ricard of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Florida, superior general of the Josephite order, said the community's members "look with horror and disbelief" at Floyd's killing.

"This is but another tragic and sad reminder of the legacy of America's original sin of slavery and its aftermath, the continued violence against people of color," he said in a June 1 statement.

The bishop, an African American, called on the country to "cease turning just another blind eye to this event" in citing killings of black Americans dating to the 1950s.

"We must not slack our vigilance to address the neglect of American society toward African Americans, which is glaringly evident during this pandemic in the differences in health care, employment, housing and education," Bishop Ricard said.

In Seattle, Archbishop Paul D. Etienne said deaths such as Floyd's "are tragic and they expose a symptomatic and deep-seated connection between institutional racism and the continued erosion of the sanctity of life."

"If we do not respond appropriately as a society, we will be tacitly acquiescing to the ongoing killing of unarmed black men," he said May 29.

"The senseless taking of life defies the fundamental principles of justice,

every notion of dignity and the fact that all of our lives are connected. As human beings, we are responsible for each other," Archbishop Etienne said.

He urged Catholics to live by standards of behavior that respect human life and protect human dignity. "We cannot stand by and not respond to incidents of racism and inhuman treatment of our black brothers and sisters, or anyone else," he said.

Bishop David A. Zubik of Pittsburgh asked people to pray for racial healing, saying it is the best way to overcome the "evil such as we are witnessing these days."

He also invited people to read and reflect on the bishops' racism pastoral letter and to use it as a beginning point to "recognize the effects of that sin, which are stunningly evident in our streets and in our news stories."

"It is equally important for us to search our hearts to see if that sin is within us," Bishop Zubik added in his June 2 statement.

In a pre-Pentecost message, Bishop Oscar A. Solis of Salt Lake City recognized the anger of people that has fueled violence during some protests since Floyd's death, but he said the feast day that marks the beginning of the church's evangelical mission calls the faithful to peacefully respond to injustice.

"Pentecost speaks of passion for peace, for love, for unity," he said. "The gifts of the Holy Spirit empower us to be agents of change and transformation – to bring healing to the sick and suffering, peace in the midst of violence and hatred, and unity in our broken and divided world. It calls us to join as one humankind,

with all of our different races, ethnicities, genders, languages and cultures, to raise up human dignity and to stand against injustice with those who face it on a daily basis."

Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted of Phoenix also cited the feast of Pentecost in a June 3 statement in which he called racism a sin and "a direct affront to the dignity of the human person who is a unique, precious gift from God."

Quoting Pope Francis in a call earlier in the day with Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez, USCCB president, the bishop said "we cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life."

Bishop Olmsted said he also was praying for the repose of Floyd's soul and consolation for his grieving family and friends. "I unite my voice with the black community, people of color, and all who are working for an end to mistreatment, discrimination and injustice," he said.

Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger of Albany, New York, said June 1 that Catholics have "the responsibility and mandate to eliminate the tragedy and scourge of racism."

In a statement released by the Diocese of Buffalo, New York, where Bishop Scharfenberger is apostolic administrator, he said that Floyd died "senselessly at the hands of those sworn to serve and protect."

"We mourn with people of conscience everywhere who have been motivated to speak out against abuse of power and to give voice to all who suffer the persistent injustices of racist attitudes and practices," the statement said.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Become the Body and Blood of Christ

This year, we have suffered from the loss of Mass and receiving Holy Communion. We pray that soon our deep hunger for the Eucharist will be satisfied. So many thousands of Catholics have come to realize how much they need this food.



**Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore**

In the first reading for this great feast of Corpus Christi (Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ), Moses reminds the people in the desert to "remember their story." And what a story! From the beginning of creation, God has always taken care to feed the people He created.

They failed to appreciate the delicious fruit in the Garden of Eden, so they lost it! But later, He gave them that mysterious "manna" in the desert. They got tired of that, too. Then Jesus promised them

something much better than manna.

"After all," he told them, "your fathers ate manna in the desert, and they're all dead!"

However, they couldn't trust him and all his talk about "flesh and blood." They ran! Except Peter and the apostles, who did a double take, thought a little about the alternative of leaving him, and decided to stay it out. How lucky for the Church and for themselves that they did!

Even though the Last Supper was still shrouded in mystery, they got the idea of how He would give them his own Body and Blood. That wonderful Emmaus incident of Jesus, after his Resurrection, breaking bread with his disciples, helped their faith a lot, but it took the power and light of Pentecost for

June 14

**Solemnity of the
Body and Blood of Christ**
READINGS

Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a
1 Corinthians 10:16-17
John 6:51-58

their firm understanding.

St. Paul insists we are all one body when we celebrate – French or Latino, American or African or Chinese. We are all one body – for rejoicing, for loving, and for giving away. I think the biggest questions this week for us, besides firmly believing in the Real Presence, is the question of how much of the Eucharist do we share?

After all, if we really become the Body and Blood of Christ in the Lord and in one another, then selfishness has no place. Of course, we want to savor the Lord's friendship, for some time after receiving Holy Communion, but then we must "go" and "give." We give when we discipline

ourselves to answer the pastor's call for help in a parish activity, or when we are patient with our children (even if we have to force a smile and a kind word of correction), or we decide to make time each day for deep prayer with the Lord And we share Eucharist when we go with our families on a Sunday afternoon to visit a grandmother or an aunt or a neighbor in the nursing home or hospital. It's a sermon to our children that they will probably remember even more than Father's carefully prepared homily! Then, there are the big issues of social justice! These are all connected with the Holy Eucharist.

This feast is a time for reminiscence for us "older" people. Remember Sunday afternoon Benediction and Vespers, with the wonderful smell of incense, the clanking of the censor, and those beautiful Benediction hymns? Many of us still remember the great

Corpus Christi processions in our home parishes or in our Catholic high school. I remember taking part in a grand Corpus Christi procession in Rome in 1979 when Pope John Paul II restored this ancient custom, and carried a huge monstrance publically from St. John Lateran to St. Mary Major, with thousands singing and weeping for joy at the honoring of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Whenever possible, look for opportunities to bring your children to parish days of Exposition and Benediction. These devotions are a cherished part of our Catholic heritage, and highly recommended by Pope Francis.

May the heart of Jesus, in the most Blessed Sacrament, be praised, adored, and loved, with grateful affection, at every moment, in all the tabernacles throughout the world, even until the end of time. Amen.

CALLED TO SERVE

Smells trigger fond memories

Certain smells bring back vivid memories. If I walk out on the deck in the early morning, when the dew has not yet burned off and the grass has that damp, almost musty aroma, I am immediately taken back to my youth, to scout camp and joy-filled memories of days long ago.

Perhaps a kitchen bouquet does that for you. A soup or a pie or a roast or sauce, what my Italian friends call gravy. One dear friend likes to remind us that in his home, right after Mass, his Italian father would launch the Sunday dinner ritual with "Hey, turn on the water!" Pasta

water that is.

Another scent that triggers immediate memories is incense. My altar boy days started in the Latin Mass and then transitioned to the post Vatican II Mass in the vernacular. We used incense a lot when I was an altar server. Being the Thurifer – the server who carries the censor and the boat of unburned incense – was an honor not quickly bestowed. That aromatic smoke was mystical in a way. The psalmist David wrote, "Let my prayer be incense before you; my uplifted hands an evening offering."

I know incense at church

has two camps: love it or hate it. I happen to love it, but I don't push its use.

Most priests I have worked with in my 17 years as a deacon will allow incense to be used on solemn occasions, like Christmas Eve or at the Easter Vigil. To a man, they use incense at funerals. The memories incense invokes are of my home parish in Queens, of the priests I served, of the mornings I would willingly find my way to Church for the 6 a.m. weekday Mass with all

the Dominican Sisters who taught in our school in the front section. The Church always had that sweet smell of incense.



**Deacon
Kevin Mastellon**

Philip Kosloski wrote a fine article about incense this past week for the online service *Aleteia*. His premise was that incense might actually reduce airborne bacteria. Could incense cut down the corona virus? Maybe.

While that is being researched, I suggest we return to an original purpose

for incense. The smoke symbolizes the prayers of the faithful drifting up to heaven. Now is certainly a time for prayer. We pray for our health and the health of those we love. We pray that the pandemic has indeed run its course and we are moving to the new normal. We pray that our social consciousness has been awakened by the deaths and despair caused by airborne virus and the actions of some that have sparked outrage in many.

Incense, sauce on the stove, morning dew; all fond memories in a time that begs for fond memories.



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSI, Director

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Big changes to summer plans

As we are in the month of June, summer plans are being made. As the world we live in now has changed so drastically, so have things in the Mission Office. Ordinarily, we would be gearing up for our annual fundraising efforts that divide our diocese by deaneries and share the Mission COOP and MPDO summer appeals. Each half (west vs. east) alternates summers with our efforts to raise much needed funds for our Mission Lands. These annual collections and appeals are very different in the way they are carried out but have similar outcomes: to send help where help is always needed.

By now, you are all obviously aware of the many ways that Covid19's pandemic has impacted our Church. It has impacted how we worship but not why we worship. So many plans are cancelled or postponed such as sacraments, Camp Guggenheim and parish events. Yet, we must persevere. This summer, our Missionary Cooperation Program (COOP) is cancelled due to the pandemic. Swift action was taken by the national offices of the Pontifical Mission Societies for our safety. Coop missionaries often travel here from mission lands. Once here, they are guests of our local parishes, speak in our churches, interact with local parishioners, and leave a lasting impact on the communities that host them. This is just not possible in 2020. So, the Mission Office has come up with a new plan.

This summer, the Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg annual collection will take place diocese-wide on the weekend of July 25-26. As the weekend of the collection approaches and we get a better understanding of how and when we can return to church together, more details will become available. For now, please keep the Mission Office in your prayers. The 2020 MPDO collection will be used to help with a number of causes this year both near and far. It will support missionary priests and religious who work here in our diocese, it will continue to support the Church in Latin America, it will further our solidarity efforts in the Diocese of Latakia, provide continued support for our former mission parish in Mollendo, Peru and will help any other mission project throughout the world that Bishop Terry R. LaValley deems appropriate as part of our evangelization efforts.

Maybe we cannot be together, but together we can make all the difference....

These will be the words that guide our MPDO Collection in 2020. We have so many causes that need our help. The mission office sends our prayers to you all. We pray for an end to this terrible pandemic, for peace on earth, and good health for all. God bless us! Thank you.

Funeral held for Sister Catherine Laboure Goodbout

Sister Catherine Laboure Goodbout died on May 29, 2020 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse at the age of 102.

She was born, daughter of Ernest Goodbout and Salome Mary LaPierre on October 29, 1917 in Canton, New York.

A graduate of Canton High School, she graduated from the New York State University of Potsdam with a BS in Education. Sister Catherine entered the Sisters of St. Joseph March 1950. She received the habit on September 24, 1950 and made Final Profession on

July 7, 1956. She taught religion and did parish visiting in Adams and taught in AuSable Forks, Mineville, Gouverneur, Norwood, Massena, and Tupper Lake. From 1976-1995, Sister Catherine was the school secretary at Holy Name School, AuSable Forks and did parish visiting on her bicycle visiting the elderly until she retired to the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in 1995.

She is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Besides her parents, she is predeceased by her brothers George,

Edward, Amos, Francis and sisters Lucy, Hilda, Eva, Mable, Marie.

Funeral arrangements are with Cummings Funeral Service, Inc. Due to the Coronavirus, there will be no waking hours at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse. The funeral liturgy will be held privately at the Motherhouse Chapel.

Contributions may be made to the Sisters of St. Joseph, 1425 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601. Online condolences to her family may be posted at www.cummingsfuneral.com.

OBITUARIES

Adams – Floyd E. Creighton, Jr., 78; Mass of Christian Burial to be held June 1, 2020 at Cecilia's Church; burial in St. Cecilia's Cemetery.

Adams – Carolyn Hudson Towner, 83; Mass of Christian Burial to be held June 2, 2020 at St. Cecilia's Church; burial in Ellisburg Cemetery.

AuSable Forks – Thomas Augustine O'Neill, 85; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at a later date at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Chasm Falls – Frances Mader Raville, 91; Graveside services held June 4, 2020 at St. Helen's Cemetery.

Churubusco – Susanna Merilda LeClair, 85; Private Services to be held; burial in Immaculate Heart Cemetery.

Colton – Robert C. Davis, 85; Private Mass of Christian Burial to be held at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Croghan – Rose Marie Bruce, 87; Private Mass of Christian Burial June 5, 2020 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Lowville – Nancy L. (Aucter) Mellnitz,

57; Private Mass of Christian Burial to be held at St. Peter's Church; burial in Naumburg Union Cemetery.

Lowville – Timothy E. Pomerville, 54; Graveside services July 18, 2020 at Old Glendale Cemetery.

Malone – George H. Tavernier, 86; Graveside Services held June 5, 2020 at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Ft. Covington.

Massena – Betty J. (Hunter) Sharlow, 87; Private Services to be held; burial in Pine Grove Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Michael S. Barr, 49; Private Funeral Services to be held at Fox & Murray Funeral home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Marilyn M. (Morley) Beebie, 83; Private Mass of Christian Burial June 1, 2020 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Star Lake – Wilfred LeRoux, 86; Private Mass of Christian Burial June 1, 2020 at St. Hubert's Church; burial in St. Hubert's Cemetery.

Star Lake – Thomas Scott Petrie; Graveside services June 6, 2020 at St. Hubert's Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Neva Bliss Santerre, 83; Private Mass of Christian Burial June 1, 2020; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Watertown – Stella F. (Andrewski) Mahon, 93; Funeral Services to be held June 5, 2020 at the Reed & Benoit Funeral Home; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

West Chazy – William Connelly Sr., 83; Private Services to be held; burial in Glenwood Cemetery, Champlain.

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Community aid helps Knights donate 'a ton'

PERU—Over the past several weeks, St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 7273 members Bob Manchester and Bob Herforth have delivered over one ton (2,012 pounds) of food and health products to the JCEO Peru Food Pantry. St. Augustine's parishioners and many other community members responded to the Knight's appeal for help. They brought food and health-related items to St. Augustine's Church, where Manchester and Herforth sorted it and calculated weights before bringing it to the Food Pantry. Council Grand Knight Keith Kemp commented, "We asked the people. They responded and we thank them very much."

The Knights are also very grateful to the North County Mission of Hope for its \$1,000 donation to the Food Pantry. Mission of Hope Executive Director Sister Debbie Blow said, "We also want to do all we can to help Peru, New York's people." The Mission of Hope also sent donations to the Peru Central School Backpack Program and the Plattsburgh Interfaith Food Shelf.

Knights of Columbus everywhere are committed to helping end hunger through the organization's Food for Families Program. For every \$500 or 1,000 pounds of food donated, the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council awards \$100 to the participating council – up to a maximum of \$500 per council per fraternal year. The \$400 the Peru Council receives this year will be donated to the Peru Food Pantry.



Knights of Columbus Bob Herforth and Bob Manchester prepare to deliver the 85 pounds of food that bought total deliveries to over 2,000 pounds. Janice Morse (center), Director of St. Augustine's Religious Education Program, presented the North Country Mission of Hope's \$1,000 Food Pantry donation.

USCCB migration chairman urges action on bill

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration has urged the U.S. Senate to take action and pass a bill to protect "Dreamers" and as well beneficiaries of the Temporary Protected Status and Deferred Enforced Departure programs.

Washington Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville's statement, issued late June 4, came on the

first anniversary of House passage of the American Dream and Promise Act, H.R. 6, which provides a pathway to citizenship for those brought to the United States illegally as children by their parents. Best known as "Dreamers," they are beneficiaries of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA.

H.R. 6 also outlines a citizenship path for hold-

ers of Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, and Deferred Enforced Departure, known as DED.

TPS is a temporary immigration status provided to nationals of specifically designated countries that are confronting an ongoing armed conflict, environmental disaster, or extraordinary and temporary conditions. DED also is a temporary immigration

benefit for individuals from countries and regions facing similar situations.

"Today, sadly, Dreamers and TPS holders remain vulnerable and without permanent legal status," Bishop Dorsonville said. "This continued uncertainty for Dreamers and TPS holders comes at a time during the COVID-19 pandemic when many Dreamers and TPS holders are, alongside U.S. citizens, on the front lines providing essential work for our country in health care, food supply and transportation."

Currently, he noted, over 62,000 DACA beneficiaries are working in health care.

"In the year since the passage of H.R.6, there has been no action in the

U.S. Senate to advance permanent legislative protection for Dreamers and TPS holders," he said.

He added: "As we await a decision from the U.S. Supreme Court on the legality of ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, we again call on the Senate to push forward with legislation that provides a path to citizenship for these individuals, who are essential to our communities, our church and our country."

The high court's decision, expected later in June, will determine whether President Donald Trump had the authority to rescind DACA by executive order. It was implemented in 2012 with an executive order from President Barack Obama.

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