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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 75, Number 11

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JUNE 25, 2020

Follow Me: Those who live close to Christ Impart Christ

Read Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily from the Chrism Mass held June 19.

While the event was livestreamed, social distancing protocols required it to be closed to the lay faithful.

"The Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is also Sanctification Day for the Clergy," Bishop LaValley said. "That's why I thought it would be fitting if we, the clergy of our local Church, could gather even in the midst of the ongoing health crisis. This is a graced moment for me to thank each of you for your sacrificial service and ongoing pastoral charity.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

CHRISM MASS



JESSE SOVIE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Seminarians of the Diocese of Ogdensburg recess out of St. Mary's Cathedral at the conclusion of a socially distant Chrism Mass on June 19. For more photos, see pages 8 & 9.

HIGH HONORS GRADS



McKenna Cooney is the valedictorian of the Immaculate Heart Central (IHC) Class of 2020. Read about this year's top graduates from IHC and Seton Catholic as the North Country Catholic honors this year's graduates.

FULL STORY, PAGES 4 & 6

Pope: Christians pray for, not condemn others

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – True believers do not condemn people for their sins or shortcomings but intercede on their behalf with God through prayer, Pope Francis said.

Just as Moses implored God's mercy for his people when they sinned, Christians also must act as intermediaries because even "the worst sinners, the wickedest people, the most corrupt leaders – they are children of God," the pope said June 17 dur-

ing his weekly general audience.

"Think of Moses, the intercessor," he said. "And when we want to condemn someone and we become angry inside – to get angry is good; it can be healthy, but to condemn does no good – let us intercede for him or her; it will help us so much."

The pope continued his series of talks on prayer and reflected on Moses' prayer to God who was angered at the people of Is-

rael after they made and worshipped a golden calf.

When God first called him, Moses was "in human terms, a 'failure'" and often doubted himself and his calling, the pope said.

"This happens to us, too: when we have doubts, how can we pray?" he asked. "It is not easy for us to pray. And it is because of (Moses') weakness, as well as his strength, that we are impressed."

Despite his failings, the

pope continued, Moses carries on the mission entrusted to him while never ceasing "to maintain close bonds of solidarity with his people, especially in the hour of temptation and sin. He was always attached to his people."

"Despite his privileged status, Moses never ceased to belong to that multitude of the poor in spirit who live by trusting in God," the pope said. "He is a man of his people."

The pope said that

Moses' attachment to his people is an example of "the greatness of pastors" who, far from being "authoritarian and despotic," never forget their flock and are merciful when they sin or give in to temptation.

When imploring God's mercy, he added, Moses "does not sell out his people to advance his career," but instead, intercedes for them and becomes a bridge between God and the people of Israel.

NORTH
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USPS 0039-3400**BISHOP TERRY
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EDITOR'S NOTE

'I like my comfort zone'

"But I like my comfort zone. As the name implies, it's comfortable."

I've uttered that phrase dozens of times, at least. As was the case when I used that line with a friend of mine last week, the typical response I get is, "we don't grow when we're comfortable."

I was certainly uncomfortable as I gathered in an online Zoom meeting with a group of volunteers Saturday morning to prepare for an event associated with the first online version of Alpha held by St. Peter's Parish in

Massena.

Alpha is a course intended to introduce the

**Darcy L.
Fargo**

"unchurched," those who are not practicing a faith, to the basic principles of faith and Christianity. Typically, Alpha participants and hosts gather for a meal, a presentation and small-group discussion. While it looks very different online, it's worked well so far. It's allowed people

who might not be comfortable participating in person to participate in a way they might be more comfortable. It's allowed people who live

farther away to participate.

While I recognize it had been going well, I was largely unprepared for the Saturday event. I had missed the training/planning discussion due to a schedule conflict. I was unsure how a few portions of the event were going to go. The partner volunteer I was working with and I were feverishly sending texts back and forth during the meeting, both of us slightly confused and panicked.

Yet when the event began, everything came together. Where we were worried about which discussion questions we were supposed to be using, the discussion came almost organically in

our group, barely needing questions to drive it. The people in the group shared, connected and prayed together.

The Holy Spirit was definitely there guiding the leaders and guiding the group. In my experience, the Spirit moves us most when we're uncomfortable and vulnerable.

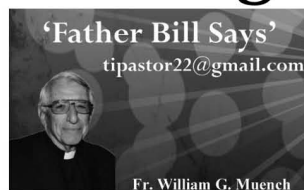
Did I grow from this experience? Maybe. It was yet another reminder that God can do beautiful things when we surrender to Him and allow Him to work through us.

Yet I'm sure I'll slip back into my comfort zone and need to learn this lesson again and again.

Rediscovering our our parishes

This is a good time, an important opportunity to rediscover our Church as the people of God. The past few months have been a very curious time now – here in our own lifetime. This has been a time of separation and recently a time of protests and marches. And, also, it has been a time of separation from being Church, especially a separation for the local parish, a separation from the pastor, even the local Bishop.

I do know that many of you during this time have discovered how extensive our Catholic Church is. Like you, I have watched the Mass streamed on YouTube coming from Churches all over the world. I have personally participated in Masses, streamed Masses, celebrated by our Holy Father, Pope Francis. In addition, I have experienced Masses celebrated by cardinals, like Cardinal Dolan from New York City, as well as others celebrated by the cardinal in the Philippines, a



cardinal in Australia, and other such places. I have prayed and participated in Masses of priests in almost every state in the United States. By the way, I must mention I have participated in Masses streamed by Bishop LaValley and Bishop Lucia.

So, I have discovered how extensive our Catholic Church is. Right here, on my own computer, I have found Mass celebrated in churches all over the world. We have all had an experience of just how vast our Catholic Church is. However, one of the problems of this pandemic is that many of us have lost our connection with our own parish.

So, now we are beginning to draw together for Mass in our own parish churches.

This is an important time for us to rediscover our parish church as we join in prayer at Mass. Our prayer should begin with gratitude for our own parish, for our pastor and the people, the people of our parish. As we gather again at Mass, even with our masks and such, it should be a time of truly getting together. We should be part of this reunion by reaching out to each other to be a united church community.

At this time, our Gospel readings at Mass are from Matthew. In past weeks, we have read Matthew's description of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The next few Sundays will include Gospel readings from Jesus' teaching concerning being a good disciple of the Lord.

In one place, Jesus says, "Whoever loves father and mother more than me is not worthy of me and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." This sounds rather curious to many. Yet, it may give us something to think

about at this time. We are to find Jesus first and make the Lord first in our lives, loving Jesus before all others. Jesus challenges us to love him first, even more than our own mother and father. This is not easy to accept. I believe that Jesus has a way of teaching us that when we keep the Lord first in love, we will develop a certain quality of love, a way of life about ourselves that will transform our love for our parents, a special love for a son and daughter. The Lord will guide us and show us the way.

When I love Jesus, I know what it truly means to love. I will learn how to love like Jesus – the Jesus who loved all of us so much that he suffered and died for us. Jesus wants us to be a loving people, to love like Jesus teaches us, to love our parents and others with that kind of love.

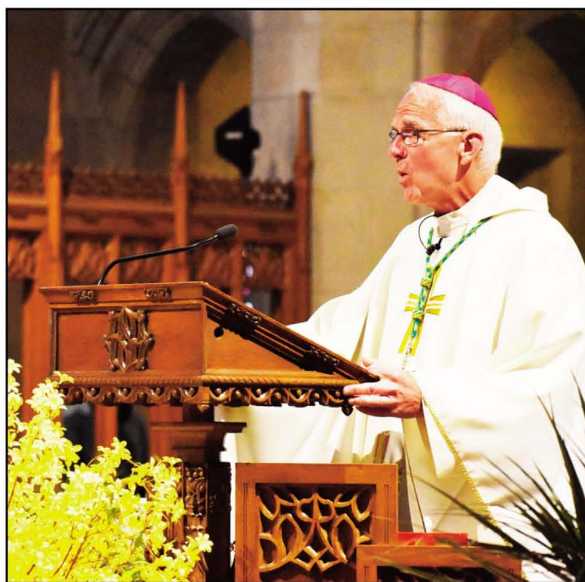
It is that kind of spirit that will draw our parishes together again in the Spirit of Jesus' peace and love.

FOLLOW ME

‘Those who live close to Christ impart Christ’

The Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is also Sanctification Day for the Clergy. That's why I thought it would be fitting if we, the clergy of our local Church, could gather even in the midst of the ongoing health crisis. This is a graced moment for me to thank each of you for your sacrificial service and ongoing pastoral charity. This is a time to again be reminded that our priestly life is all about our relationship with Jesus – that simple, that challenging. This day in which we bless the oils and renew our priestly commitment, we once again call to mind that whenever we turn away from Jesus or neglect our relationship with Him, when our hearts don't beat with the passionate pulse of our Savior, slowly but surely our commitment begins to fade and our lamps lose the oil needed to light up our lives and, through us, the lives of our parishioners. So, we gather to recommit and renew our minds and hearts, recalling the power of the anointings at our own Baptisms, Confirmations and Ordinations.

Given the current state of the world, our nation, of the Church and the family, it seems to me that St. John Chrysostom's words ring so true. He said that the martyrs die only once for Jesus Christ, while the pastor of souls must die daily for his flock. Brothers, it is our confidence, our own faith, that bolsters and supports so many who have lost the vision of God. You are the visionary who helps the blind to see. Those who live close to Christ impart Christ. Your bishop, your Church, your parish thanks you for living closely to Jesus and dying daily for your flock.



DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Bishop Terry R. LaValley gives his homily during the Chrism Mass, held June 19 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Thank you for imparting Christ when it's not always so easy.

In the midst of today's extraordinary challenges, we must stay alert to what Pope Francis called the tiredness of hope, that inner bitterness, even dryness of heart that can arise when we reflect on the distance between our personal expectations and the visible fruits of the labors of our apostolate. We can begin to lose heart and pastoral focus. A certain listlessness in prayer and resignation can settle in. Instead, we must always let ourselves be awakened by the Word of the Lord and by the cry of the People of God. St. Augustine warns that "Preachers who do not live holy lives are like road signs which point out the right way to others, but they themselves remain stuck in the same place."

I encourage you to continue clinging to Jesus. Archbishop Sheen once

wrote: "The absence of a spiritual life makes sermonizing dull, stale, flat and unprofitable...Contact with the divine is a privilege that can similarly turn into indifference unless each day one tries to get a step closer to the Lord...Traf-ficking with the Word of God Sunday after Sunday without prayer and preparation, does not leave a priest the same. It makes him worse. Failure to climb means to slide backwards."

On this Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, I want to thank you for revealing a heart that over the years has refused to become closed and bitter but has grown daily in love for God and his people. A heart that, like good wine, has not turned sour but becomes richer with age.

And don't we yearn to warm people's hearts, walking at their side in their dark, talking with them and even entering into their night and their darkness without losing

our way? During this time of uncertainty and fear, we have a graced opportunity to truly accompany our people whose lives have been darkened and uncertain these last several months. Being able to feel my heart beating for others – in my own breast – in their search for truth and love, that's what distinguishes the shepherd from the hired hand. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep and earns the privileged title "Father."

Paul, Barnabas, John and friends had their day. Now, it is our day. This is our time. No dress rehearsal. This time, this age, this generation is yours and mine to evangelize, to catechize, to sanctify, to accompany and to serve. We look around us, day in and day out. All the people we see are ours (both inside and outside our church doors). They are our mission.

In many ways, this mission is much more difficult today than in centuries past. Our people are more educated, far more knowledgeable, and more influenced by the culture of the modern world. Sometimes, they seem more resistant to the truly spiritual. Let your life be a poem of praise to God in the cacophony of this world's noise and indifference. Your poem needs to be proclaimed with joy – Gospel Joy!

Each, in your own way, have been poems of praise and I am so very grateful. I particularly want to point out four men in our midst whose ministry among us has been nothing short of inspiring and exceptional. You know them well. Our Fifty Year Jubilarians: Msgr. Robert Aucoin, Msgr. Dennis Duprey, Father Vinny Flynn and our Forty Year

Jubilarians, Father Donald Robinson. I was reflecting on each of their priestly lives and my heart is so touched...talk about shepherds after the heart of Jesus...tireless sacrifice, joy-filled presence through some pretty dark times has marked their priestly lives.

These men, indeed each of you, priest and deacon, I know, continue to embrace the Cross in your pastoral ministry. I know you sacrifice much. You know that if we at Mass eat and drink the Divine Life and bring no death of our own to incorporate into the death of Christ through our own sacrifice, we might be considered parasites on the Mystical Body of Christ. Shall we eat bread and give no wheat to be ground? Shall we drink wine and give no grapes to be crushed? The condition for incorporation into the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ and into His glorification is our embrace of His Cross and our incorporation into His death.

The Lord has chosen you...to be peculiarly His own...because He has loved you. The Holy Father wrote that "the priest molded after the heart of Christ is one who lives between the Lord to whom he has consecrated his life and the people whom he has been called to serve. Let me assure you, each of you is an **essential worker** in the Lord's vineyard here in the North Country – so necessary in **all phases** of the lives of our sisters and brothers. Thank you for saying "Yes" to the Lord's call to serve in ordained ministry and being such faith-filled servants. Continue to live your poem of praise. YES – May God be praised...forever may God be praised.

Seton Catholic names top graduates

PLATTSBURGH – Luke Moore has earned top honors as the valedictorian of the Seton Catholic Class of 2020, while Jake Glicksman has earned salutatorian honors.

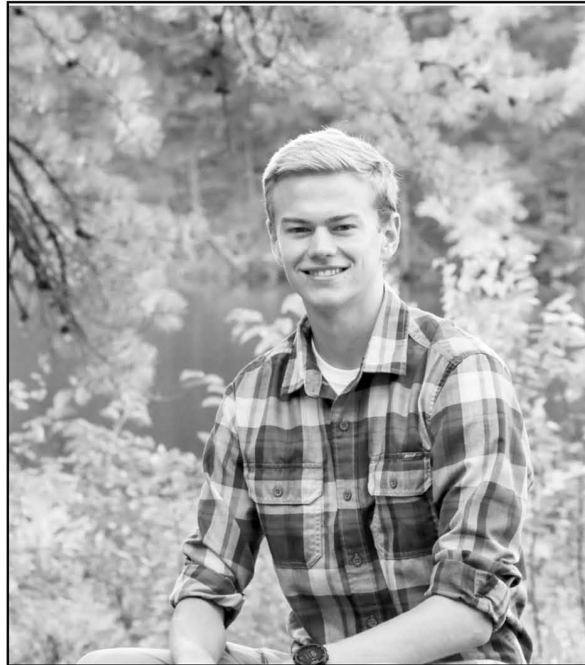
Luke Moore, a Seton Knight since pre-kindergarten, plans to attend Harvard University in the fall. He has not yet decided on a major but is interested in history.

Luke participated in cross country, swimming, outdoor track, student council, National Honor Society and Key Club, serving swim team captain, student council vice president, student council president, NHS secretary and Key Club secretary.

His accomplishments include being a National Merit Scholarship finalist, three-time cross country state qualifier, five-time swim state qualifier for the 500 freestyle and two-time qualifier for the 200 freestyle, and Luke was part of the relay team that broke the PHS pool record for the 200 freestyle relay set in 1991.

Luke is the son of Dr. Rob Moore and Dr. Stephanie Moore.

Jake Glicksman, a Seton Knight since 2011, plans to move on to Boston Col-

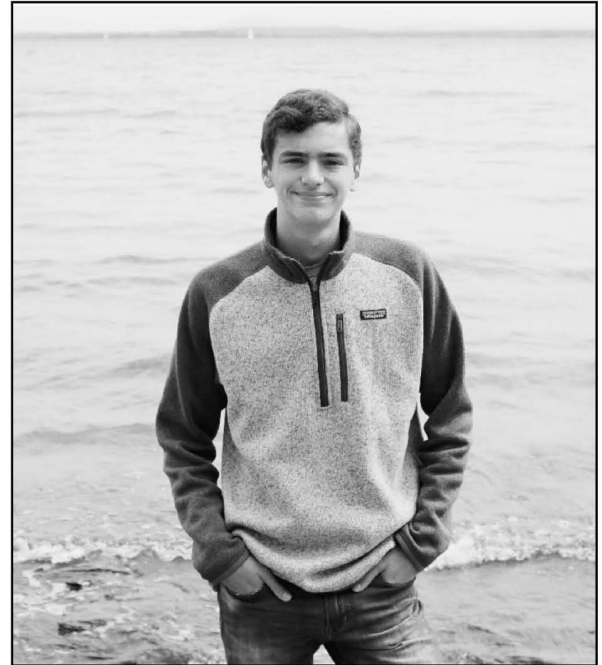


Luke Moore

lege, where he plans to major in biochemistry.

Jake is a four-time CVAC All Star in cross country; was named to the Second Team All-State Cross Country team; was a three-time New York State Cross Country Meet qualifier; was a medal winner at the New York State Cross Country Class D Meet in 2018 and 2019; was a 2018 and 2019 NYS Federation Meet qualifier; qualified for the 2019

and 2020 CVAC All Star Indoor Track meet; was a three-time New York State Indoor Track Meet qualifier; was a 2019 and 2020 Section 7 Indoor Track 1600 Meter Run Section Title winner; was a 2019 New York State Outdoor Track Meet qualifier; and won the 2019 Section 7 Outdoor Track 1600 Meter Run Section Title. He participated in National Honor Society, serving as the organiza-



Jake Glicksman

tion's vice-president; student council, serving as the group's secretary; Key

Club; and Peer Tutoring. Jake is the son of Justin and Carrissa Glicksman.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Respect for law enforcement

Dear Editor:

Those who viewed the cruel and untimely death of George Floyd have experienced a variety of emotions - fear, anger, lack of trust and disbelief. Could this really be happening in our country! Now, as a result of the incident, there is presently a movement to defund the police.

My grandfather, Nicholas B. Smith was a policeman in Buffalo, New York. He was killed by a robber while working in the line of duty, leaving dad, who was then four, without the love and guidance of a father. His name is inscribed on a monument in Washington, D.C. dedicated to the members of the police force who lost their lives serving their communities.

Dad also joined the Buffalo police force. He was a wonderful policeman and

became the city's youngest Police Captain. He served as head of the Crime Prevention Bureau. I remember so well how proud I was when I was in High School and he came to speak at an assembly at our school. His purpose was to discuss with youth meaningful ways they could contribute to the lives of others. He spoke of youth clubs where members would collect magazines and other suitable items to give to servicemen. He would often take us down to the train station to welcome soldiers and give them our gifts as they departed from the trains.

We were taught never to refer to a policeman as a "cop." He insisted we refer to them as police officers in order to respect the significance of the many contributions they rendered our community.

There was a lot of prejudice in Buffalo at that

time. People of a variety of backgrounds often lived in ethnic related areas and certain of them, along with people of color, were often spoken of uncharitably. Dad made it very clear to us that everyone was made in the image and likeness of God and therefore, worthy of respect.

No matter one's occupation, some are not equipped to perform their job for a variety of reasons such as lack of motivation and improper attitude, personal life experiences that affect their viewpoints, and inadequate preparation. This should be thoroughly checked out before one is hired. However, to punish all policemen for the actions of a few is neither

right or just. I pray you will join me in speaking out in support of those in the police force who have generous hearts and serve our communities with diligence and honor.

Sincerely,
Bette Hartzell
Watertown, NY

Rest in Peace

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

June 24 – Rev. John Simard, 1943; Msgr. Timothy P. Holland, 1948; Rev. Joseph P. Ryan, 1968; Rev. W. Cyril Rapin, 2006

June 25 – Rev. J. Rodrigue Lauzon, 1944

June 26 – Rev. Charles F. Turgeon, 1888; Rev. Jean Baptiste Frigon, O.M.I., 1930; Rev. Arthur St. Cyr, O.M.I., 1957

June 27 – Rev. Auguste A. Brunet, O.M.I., 1866; Rev. Francis X. Charbonneau, 1928

June 28 – Rev. John J. Regnery, O.S.A., 1954

June 29 – Rev. Pierre Huet de la Valiniere, 1806; Rev. Adonat L. Dufresne, 1940; Rev. Gilbert J. Faucher, 1981; Deacon Francis E. LeRoux, 1996

June 30 – Rev. George F. Maroun, 2016

Bishop's Public Schedule

June 26 – 7 p.m. – Graduation Ceremony for Immaculate Heart Central seniors on the Athletic Field

June 28 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters from readers of the North Country Catholic.

- Due to space limitations, we ask that the number of words be limited to 500.

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

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

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.

Environmental Stewardship

You are what you eat

One of the joys of summertime is the availability of home-grown food. One of the consequences of the pandemic is the experience of eating at home. This week, Yvona Fast, a North Country author, shares some thoughts on how and what we eat affects our health and the health of the planet.

"In the Bible, Jesus multiplied loaves and fishes. Today, our food choices are limitless. We can eat out or cook in. We can get 'take out' or buy pre-prepared, fully cooked TV dinners that we just heat in the microwave.

Our foods come from around the world – from China, from Mexico, from California. But how do my food choices affect the environment?

Eating in instead of out and planning my meals saves money, reduces waste and conserves energy. Whole, fresh, unaltered foods have more flavor and nutrients than their processed, packaged cousins, which are stripped of natural vitamins and contain added chemicals. I buy in bulk to reduce packaging, and store food in reusable containers rather than disposables.

I can choose local, seasonal, sustainably produced foods. Foods that are locally grown support the local economy and decrease the amount of fuel required for transport. Today, 20 percent of America's petroleum output goes toward transporting food around the country. The average supermarket food item traveled 1,500 miles from source to table. Buying locally produced food reduces my carbon footprint, produces less greenhouse gas and helps stop global warming. Do I really need apples from New Zealand when perfectly good apples grow in the Champlain Valley? Locally grown food is fresher and tastes better because it is picked ripe, rather than expected to ripen during shipment.

I have learned to be aware of how my food choices affect the environment. You are what you eat – so make natural, wholesome, healthy food choices."

Author of the award-winning cookbook Garden Gourmet: Fresh & Fabulous Meals from your Garden, CSA or Farmers' Market, Yvona Fast lives in Lake Clear and has two passions: cooking and writing. She can be reached at www.wordsaremyworld.com.

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

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

(With ecclesiastical approval)

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



JULY 2020

DIocese of OGDENSBURG, NY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 REV. CORNELLE BOYEVE, MSC.	2 REV. TIMOTHY G. CANAAN	3 REV. CHRISTOPHER C. CARRARA	4 BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY	5 REV. DEEPAK BARU, HGN	6 REV. SCOTT A. BELINA	7 REV. PETER M. BERG
8 REV. MARTIN E. CLINE	9 REV. DOUGLAS G. COMSTOCK	10 REV. NORMAND C. COTE	11 POPE FRANCIS	12 BENEDICT XVI POPE EMERITUS	13 REV. THEODORE A. CROSBY	14 REV. PEDRO EDGARDO DE LA ROSA
15 MSGR. LAWRENCE M. DENO	16 REV. ROBERT L. DECKER	17 REV. DAVID DELUCA, MSC.	18 RETIRED PRIESTS	19 REV. GARVIN J. DEMARAS	20 REV. RICHARD D. DEMERS	21 REV. JOHN M. DEMO
22 MSGR. LAWRENCE M. DENO	23 REV. RAYMOND DESBOURG, MSC.	24 REV. JOHN L. DOWNS	25 DECEASED PRIESTS	26 MSGR. DENNIS J. DUPREY, V.E.	27 REV. GUY F. EDWARDS	28 REV. GUY F. EDWARDS

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Cooney, McNulty lead IHC Class of 2020

WATERTOWN – McKenna Cooney has excelled in the classroom and on the athletic field in all her years with Immaculate Heart Central School and has earned top honors as Immaculate Heart Central's Class of 2020 valedictorian.

McKenna has always been a high honor student and is a member of the National Honor Society. She has also been heavily involved in community service while in high school. She completed over 90 hours of Faith Community Service, is a junior member of the South Jefferson Rescue Squad, is an altar server and Eucharistic minister at Holy Family Church, and volunteers for countless school and church activities.

McKenna has been on the varsity soccer and lacrosse teams for the past five years. She has been a league all-star in soccer for the past three years and an honorable mention all north for the last two seasons. She has been a league all-star in lacrosse for two seasons and honorable mention all north for one season. McKenna also has been on the varsity basketball team the past two seasons. She was elected captain for all three varsity teams!

McKenna will be attending St. John Fisher College to study nursing



McKenna Cooney

next fall.

McKenna is the recipient of the following awards and scholarships: The Sisters of Saint Joseph Science Award, The Sisters of Saint Joseph Religion Award, The Margaret Wiley Memorial Health Sciences, The US Marines Distinguished Athlete Award, The Alice Jane Coughlin Memorial Scholarship, The Diocesan Outstanding Student Award Bishop's Award, New York

State Scholarship for Excellence, and The William P. Plante Memorial Scholarship.

McKenna is the daughter of Brandon and Erin Cooney.

Nicholas McNulty has been a dedicated student throughout his years at Immaculate Heart Central School and he is Immaculate Heart Central School's Class of 2020 salutatorian.

Nicholas has been on the High Honor Roll all



Nicholas McNulty

four years of high school and is a member of the National Honor Society. Nicholas received the Augsbury Scholarship at St. Lawrence University and the prestigious Rensselaer Medal from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, among others.

Nicholas has been equally successful on the athletic field. He has been a member of the varsity soccer team since his sophomore year. He was voted a Frontier

League All-Star his senior year. He was also voted honorable mention Frontier League All-Star in baseball for the 2019 season. Nicholas was also elected captain of both sports.

Nicholas will be attending Albany School of Pharmacy for his bachelor's degree and has been accepted into the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Nicholas is also the recipient of the following awards and scholarships: SSJ awards: History and Math, Air Force Recruiting Scholar Service Athlete Award, The United States Air Force Math & Science Award, New York State Scholarship for Excellence, Rotary Award for Math and Science

Nicholas is the son of Richard and Becky McNulty.

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St. Mary's School celebrates last graduates

CANTON – St. Mary's School in Canton honored its last graduating class of fifth and sixth graders and celebrated all school students in Nursery through 6th grade, at an All-Class Celebration on June 18. The ceremony was held in the school parking lot to conform with health code restrictions. This school year marks the end of 90 years for the school, which announced it was closing earlier this year.

Meet the final graduating class:

Alex Stone is the last sixth grader to graduate from St. Mary's School. He is the son of Kathryn Ort and resides in Canton. Alex excels at art and the piano. He is pictured here with his beloved dog, Bella

Paul Ames, fifth grade, is the son of Dennis Ames and Cassandra Steinburg, Canton.

"My favorite memory of Saint Mary's is when we watched "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" with Miss Augenstein. We also read the book, and I liked finding out that the author of the book was using the story to teach people about God in another way."

Eleanor Bailey, fifth grade, is the daughter of Jim and Julie Bailey, Canton. Her favorite memory of St. Mary's is the talent show. When she is older, Eleanor hopes to have a barn and 4 horses, and teach kids to ride.



Alex Stone



Paul Ames



Eleanor Bailey



Chloe Gardner

Chloe Gardner, fifth grade, is the daughter of Kristopher and Suzanne Gardner, Parishville. Chloe came to St. Mary's for the first time this year and was so glad she did! Chloe enjoys baking and decorating cakes with her family.

Everett Palmer, fifth grade, is the son of Ted and Martha Palmer, Potsdam. Everett enjoys being outdoors, especially on the Argo. He excels at creating and inventing things, especially related to science and engineering.

Calvin Townsend, fifth grade, is the son of Ethan and Jennifer Townsend, Canton. His favorite memory of St. Mary's is the dress rehearsal of the Christmas play, because he likes to be on stage. In the future, he hopes to be in more plays, especially comedies.

Nicole White, fifth grade, is the daughter of Derek and Dawn White,



Everett Palmer



Calvin Townsend



Nicole White

Norwood. Nicole enjoys music - singing and play-

ing the piano & clarinet. She also swims competi-

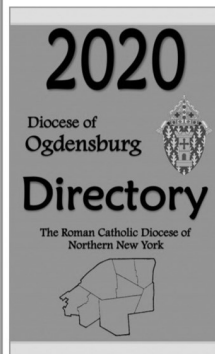
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The Chrism Mass

June 19, 2020

St. Mary's Cathedral

Photos by Jesse Sovie & Darcy Fargo

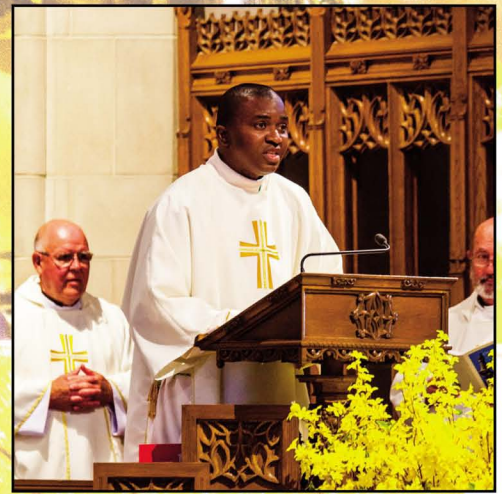
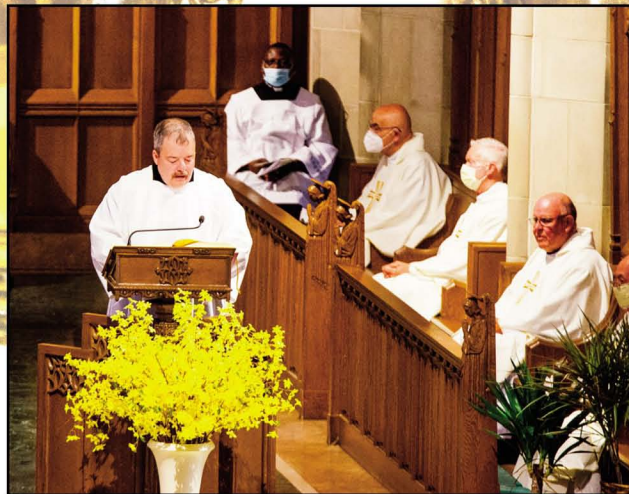
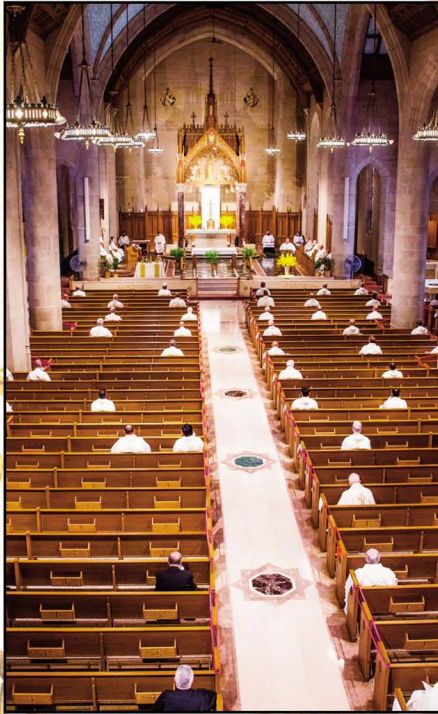


The Chrism Mass

June 19, 2020

St. Mary's Cathedral

Photos by Jesse Sovie & Darcy Fargo



Parish planning process continues

POTSDAM – St. Mary's in Potsdam and St. Patrick's in Colton continued their parish planning process by using Zoom.

At 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 17, committee members of the St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Living Stones Planning Committee met via Zoom to discuss ideas and recommendations related to the top three parish priorities, selected out of 11 areas of need, by 238 parishioners responding to a parish-wide survey.

The top three priorities identified and being developed are (1) hospitality/making people who come feel welcome, (2) home visitation, and (3) programming for youth.

The next three to be the focus of the committee later in July and August are (4) outreach to the poor, (5) family life, and (6) outreach to the unchurched (those who left the Church).

The work is being accomplished as a result of hard work from a large group of dedicated, enthusiastic, and committed parishioners from St. Mary's in Potsdam and St. Patrick's in Colton who have given generously of their time and talents in moving this process forward.



Parishioners of St. Mary's in Potsdam and St. Patrick's in Colton have been working together to develop plans to make the parishes more vibrant and in a stronger position to meet the pastoral needs of all parishioners within our borders. Because of the Coronavirus, the planning group's last few meetings have been held by using Zoom.

Syracuse Diocese files for reorganization

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (CNS) – The Diocese of Syracuse has filed for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, citing the financial implications of more than 100 lawsuits alleging past child sexual abuse as well as the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

"From the start of my ministry among you, it has been my intent to make reparation to all of the victims of sexual abuse for acts perpetrated against them by clergy, employees or volunteers of the Diocese of Syracuse," Bishop Douglas J. Lucia wrote in a June 19 letter to the faithful.

"However, the growing number of CVA (Child Victims Act) lawsuits against the diocese," he wrote, "presents a risk that those claimants who filed suits first or pursued their claims more aggressively would receive a much

greater portion of the funds available to pay victims, leaving other claimants (potentially, even some who have suffered more) with little or nothing.

"In order to ensure that victim claims are treated justly and equitably, I feel it is necessary to enter into Chapter 11 where available funds will be allocated fairly among all victims in accordance with the harm each suffered."

Filing for Chapter 11 is a voluntary action taken by an entity to reorganize financially with the goals of being able to respond to financial claims and to emerge with its operations intact, the diocese explained in an FAQ; this filing also immediately stops all efforts at debt collection and legal actions against the entity.

Only the corporation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse is filing Chapter 11, the FAQ notes.

Diocesan parishes; the Foundation, including the HOPE Appeal; Catholic Charities; Catholic schools; the Syracuse Diocesan Investment Fund; the Catholic Sun; and all other separately incorporated funds and entities associated with the diocese are not directly involved in the proceedings.

The Diocese of Syracuse filed its petition with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of New York early in the morning of July 19, and representatives appeared for a hearing before Chief Judge Margaret Cangilos-Ruiz at 9:30 a.m.

Bishop Lucia was accompanied by Danielle Cummings, chancellor and director of communications; Stephen Breen, chief financial officer; and Stephen Donato, Charles Sullivan, and Stephen Helmer, attorneys representing the diocese.

According to its petition, the Diocese of Syracuse has 100 to 199 creditors, estimated assets of \$10,000,001 to \$50 million, and estimated liabilities of \$50,000,001 to \$100 million. Its list of creditors with the 20 largest unsecured claims includes 19 individuals (whose names are redacted) with claims identified as Child Victims Act lawsuits; each claim is estimated at \$100,000.

The Diocese of Syracuse is the third diocese in New York to file for Chapter 11 since the 2019 Child Victims Act opened a one-year "look-back" window allowing claims of child sexual abuse previously beyond the statute of limitations to be filed.

The Diocese of Rochester filed its Chapter 11 petition Sept. 12, 2019, and the Diocese of Buffalo filed Feb. 28, 2020. The Diocese of Syracuse is the 24th U.S. diocese (following six arch-

dioceses and 17 dioceses) to file for Chapter 11 since 2004. Many of them have since emerged from bankruptcy.

A day after the window opened, 19 suits had been filed against the diocese; by Sept. 12, 23 had been filed. At that time, the diocese said it did not anticipate pursuing reorganization under Chapter 11 and would continue to evaluate options as the year progressed.

As of the bishop's June 19 letter, however, "the Diocese has over 100 lawsuits pending against it. This number could grow, especially in view of the fact that the CVA window is expected to be extended."

The claims brought under the long-back claims law are separate from those settled through the diocese's 2018 voluntary Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program.

Participating in the sacrifice for our Salvation

Editor's Note: The following is a guest commentary from Carter Pierce, a seminarian for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

For what seems like ages, the people of God have been unable to attend Mass due to the pandemic. By now, the desire to return to Mass and once again receive the Eucharist has become a deep craving. Used to receiving the Eucharist at least once a week, we have endured a long three months. So, with the news that Masses are reopening comes joy and excitement. However, there come many questions, too. Restrictions and signups and waiting lists and lingering worries of contagion all make us question whether it is worth the effort and risk to return to Mass. These doubts are deepened when we realize that Holy Communion may not be offered at our parish Mass or we decide not to receive. However, we should not let these doubts steal our joy. We must remember that it is always worth it to go to Mass because, in the Mass, we are able to witness and participate in our salvation, even when we do not receive Holy Communion.

The sacrament of the Eucharist (see CCC 1328), which is the center of our celebration of the Mass, is the sacrament of our salvation. Our salvation was won by Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Therefore, first and foremost, the sacrament of the Eucharist is a sacrifice. But it is not just any sacrifice. It is the sacrifice, the sacrifice of Christ. Nor is it merely an imitation of Christ's sacrifice. It is the same sacrifice of Christ crucified on the cross on



Carter Pierce

Calvary hill, 2,000 years ago. Though invisible, Christ, from the cross, works through the priest to make the priest's sacrifice His own. At every Mass, we find ourselves alongside Mary and St. John at the foot of the cross, watching as Jesus, lifted up on the cross, offers Himself to the Father for the forgiveness of our sins. When the priest prays the words of consecration, right in our midst, Christ restores us to full friendship with the Father and opens to us the gates of Heaven.

No doubt, it is a very sacred moment when we are able to receive Christ into our bodies; when Our God and Savior offers Himself completely to us His lowly children. This can never be downplayed. Still, our reception of the Body and Blood of Christ is not the only reason we pray the Mass. The Mass is not only

a meal.

The Mass is also a sacrifice. That is why there is an altar, not merely a table. That is why Jesus' Body and Blood are separated. Though both are fully Jesus – body, blood, soul and divinity – their separation on the altar marks the separation of flesh and blood in death.

Too often, we overlook the sacrificial aspect of the Mass. Now is a chance to rediscover it. It is so easy to see the consecration of the Eucharist as merely a means to an end, as a step towards our reception. It is important to remember the Mass is both a meal and a sacrifice. These days, when our celebration of the Mass is a little abnormal, give us a chance to renew our recognition of the sacrifice of the Mass. Right now, we are presented with an opportunity to remember with a renewed

zeal that when we come to Mass, we witness our salvation.

And not only do we witness our salvation, but we are also able to participate in it. Christ offered His whole self to the Father and calls us to offer our whole selves, too. In response, when we come to Mass, we offer the sacrifices of our daily lives, that is, our joys and sorrows, our praises, thanksgivings and petitions. We join our sacrifices to the sacrifice of the priest, and all these are gathered into Christ's one sacrifice to the Father. What a privilege it is to unite ourselves with this divine exchange of love.

Yet, there is more. The union of our sacrifice to Christ's sacrifice is itself a gateway for grace. God's every act is for the purpose of uniting us to Himself. This is why He gives us the sacraments. Look to the Eucharist. God gives Himself to us to fill us with His love and draw us into intimate union with Himself. This is grace: to participate in the life of God. So, by our participation in Christ's sacrifice, we are surely offered great graces. This is not to say that it is an equal participation to receiving the Eucharist. Certainly, when we receive the Eucharist, our participation is greater, and we are assured of the graces received. Therefore, we should always desire reception of the Eucharist and prepare ourselves worthily to do so. However, this does not mitigate the chance for us to receive grace by our participation in the Mass when we do not receive Holy Communion. It is simply a matter of us opening our hearts to the Lord to receive them.

In all of these considerations, it is important to remember that God is a generous God. He desires to pour out abundant blessings upon us. In the Mass, the graces He makes available to us exceed our understanding. It is said that the celebration of just one Mass is of infinite and eternal value. The graces cannot be exhausted. They spread widely and abundantly. That is why, even while our churches have been closed, our priests have continued to offer Mass. Even when we cannot be physically present, the renewal of Christ's sacrifice in the Eucharist is a source of grace for us. Yet the closer we are to the Lord, as we respond to God's call to be closer to Him, the greater the graces we receive.

For all of us, the reopening of our churches for Mass is a chance to renew and rediscover our appreciation for the whole of the Mass, especially that it is the perfect sacrifice of Christ for our salvation. For those remaining at home, it is a chance to both remember that the graces of the Mass have been and remain available to you and to renew your desire to return to Mass as soon as possible. For those who will not receive Communion now, this is a chance to remember how valuable it is to still go to Mass, to be present at Christ's sacrifice. And for those who will receive Communion, it is a chance to remember to appreciate and participate in the whole of the Mass: the meal and the sacrifice.

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Catholics urged to pray, act for religious freedom

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) – The U.S. bishops are urging Catholics to "pray, reflect and take action" on religious liberty in the United States and abroad during Religious Freedom Week June 22-29.

The first day of the observance is the feast of Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, both martyred for their Catholic faith.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has prepared materials – in Spanish and English – about current issues and challenges to religious freedom that are available at <https://bit.ly/3hNYFTU>. Each day of the week highlights a different issue, and the materials include related lectionary notes, promotional bulletin inserts, and graphics and social media downloads.

"What's really essential is to be able to make decisions that are consistent with our beliefs," said Jeff F. Caruso, founding director of the Virginia Catholic Conference in Richmond, which tracks current state legislation and spearheads advocacy efforts.

"Engaging in the public square is an integral part of our life in Christ and our baptismal responsibility," he told the Arlington Catholic Herald, newspaper of the Diocese of Arlington.

Catholics are "called to make a difference for the common good," Caruso said. "Whether it involves health plans or adoption and foster care, our beliefs and our services go together – they're animated by the same faith. What we're talking about is the freedom to serve consistent with our beliefs."

Here's an overview of issues the USCCB is highlighting for Religious Freedom

Week:

– Freedom of conscience in health care June 22: Religious orders that work in health care, such as the Little Sisters of the Poor, increasingly face issues of conscience when asked to participate in or provide insurance coverage for medical procedures that go against the teachings of the Catholic Church, from certain types of contraception and abortion-inducing drugs to sterilization and gender reassignment surgery.

– Freedom to worship without fear June 23: The USCCB calls the recent rise in violent attacks on houses of worship all over the world a threat to religious freedom. The USCCB supports asking Congress to increase funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Nonprofit Security Grant Program, which provides grants to nonprofits, including houses of worship, to improve security.

– The Catholic Church in China, and rights of all religious minorities June 24: Since 2013, religious persecution in China has intensified under a government campaign to have religions conform to government-sanctioned interpretations of Chinese culture. Up to 2 million ethnic Uighur, Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Hui Muslims have been detained in mass internment camps since 2017. Other religions are affected, including the estimated 12 million Catholics in China. While the Vatican has reached a provisional agreement with China on the issue of episcopal appointments, reports of government persecution persist. Solidarity with people of faith in other countries begins

with learning about their struggles. The USCCB offers a monthly religious liberty newsletter, "First Freedom News," to help keep Catholics informed.

– Freedom of conscience in adoption and foster care June 25: The opioid crisis has put a strain on the foster care system. Yet while more children are waiting to be placed in families, a growing number of cities will not work with faith-based agencies that refuse to place children in situations that violate the agencies' religious beliefs, such as with same-sex couples or unmarried heterosexual couples. The USCCB supports the Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act, which would prohibit the federal government, and any state that receives certain federal funding, from discriminating against agencies on the basis that they decline to provide services that conflict with their religious beliefs.

– Freedom from government intrusion on the border June 26: The Diocese of Brownsville, Texas, has resisted efforts to construct a barrier wall on the southern U.S. border. The wall would run through land owned by the diocese, which will not cede it to the government. The diocese argues that freedom of religion means civil authorities cannot impede the church from its mission, which includes ministry to those fleeing violence and poverty. The diocese is defending its position with the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, or RFRA, a 1993 law passed with bipartisan support that protects against government intrusion. The law has been under attack; the USCCB urges Congress to continue to support it.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Soon to be beatified, teenager said to offer 'model of sanctity'

OXFORD, England (CNS) – Carlo Acutis, a London-born Italian teenager who used his computer skills to foster devotion to the Eucharist and will be beatified in October, offers a model of sanctity for Christians in a new era of lockdowns, a British Catholic who lived with his family said. "What's struck me most is the exceptional simplicity of his formula for becoming a saint: attending Mass and reciting the rosary daily, confessing weekly and praying before the Blessed Sacrament," said Anna Johnstone, a professional singer and long-time friend of the teen's family. "At a time when new lockdowns could separate us from the sacraments, he'd encourage people to see the rosary as their domestic church and find shelter in the heart of the Virgin Mary." Acutis, who died of leukemia in 2006 at age 15, will be beatified Oct. 10 in the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi in Assisi, Italy. The ceremony had been postponed from spring 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic to allow more young people to attend. The teenager developed a database and website that chronicle worldwide eucharistic miracles. Johnstone said Acutis was convinced "good could be achieved through the internet." "He would urge young people today to avoid bad aspects of social media and fake news, and to go to confession if they fell prey to it," said Johnstone.

Retired pope travels to Germany to visit his brother

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Retired Pope Benedict XVI, who is 93 years old, traveled to Germany to visit his ailing older brother, Msgr. Georg Ratzinger, who is 96. The Vatican press office confirmed that Pope Benedict went to Germany June 18 to visit his brother. "The pope emeritus is now in the city of Regensburg, where he will spend the time necessary," said Matteo Bruni, director of the Vatican press office. Pope Benedict was accompanied by his personal secretary, Archbishop Georg Ganswein, one of the consecrated laywomen who cares for him and his household, a doctor, a nurse and the vice commander of the Vatican gendarme corps, Bruni said. The two brothers, who were ordained to the priesthood together in 1951, have always been close. While his brother was pope and even after he stepped down from the papacy, Msgr. Ratzinger would spend Christmas and a summer holiday with his brother.

Many N.Y. tenants are at risk of eviction as moratorium ends

WASHINGTON (CNS) – As New York's court system prepares to hear cases again and the June 20 expiration of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's moratorium on evictions approaches, Antonio Garcia, an official of Catholic Charities of New York, said the agency is prepared to help at-risk tenants. On March 20, Cuomo announced the 90-day moratorium to protect residential and commercial tenants in response to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. But it's coming to an end, though the devastation from the pandemic still threatens many households dependent on this mercy period. "The eviction moratorium enacted by the Civil Court of the City of New York, and the subsequent extension ordered by the governor, provided a respite to those tenants facing eviction before and during the pandemic," explained Garcia, the director of the Preserving Housing program at Catholic Charities Community Services. "However, the courts are now gearing up for reopening and many tenants will be at imminent risk of eviction," he said. Based on a different set of criteria, an extension was put in place that offers protection for another month. "The extension of the moratorium only applies to tenants who are receiving unemployment insurance benefits or those experiencing financial hardship as a result of the pandemic," said Garcia.

DACA beneficiaries: Ruling keeps dreams alive

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Miriam Uribe, who graduated from the University of San Francisco in 2017, planned to go to law school this fall.

But the possibility of a quick deportation had her terrified, delaying her decision.

Uribe is a beneficiary of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, which protects about 700,000 young people who qualify for the program from deportation and allows them to work, go to college, get health insurance and obtain a driver's license.

DACA's continuance had been in question as the U.S. Supreme Court considered whether President Donald Trump's 2017 executive order ending the program was constitutional. President Barack Obama established DACA by executive order in 2012 to allow young people brought into the country illegally as minors by their parents to stay in the United States.

On June 18, the court blocked in the short term, at least, Trump's action and that gives Uribe some hope, she said at a June 18 online news conference sponsored by the Ignatian Solidarity Network.

"It was a good decision. I was not expecting it," she said.

Uribe was especially happy with the concurring opinion of Justice Sonia Sotomayer, who took aim at Trump's previous remarks about immigrants, especially Mexicans, whom, according to his critics, he characterized all as drug dealers and rapists in announcing his run for the presidency.

Sotomayer wrote, citing one of her previous opinions, "Taken together, 'the words of the president' help to 'create the strong perception' that the rescission decision was 'contaminated by impermissible discriminatory animus.'"

For Filza Ali, who graduated this year from Loyola University in Chicago, the decision brought "utter re-

lief" and kept her goal of attending medical school alive. "No matter what the future holds, DACA may have an expiration date, but our dreams don't."

"Generally speaking, it was a positive decision," said Christopher Kerr, executive director of the Ignatian Solidarity Network, but he cautioned that it's only a brief respite and not a solution, and it's still not clear what action the Trump administration will take in response.

"Everyone deserves to be happy, and everyone deserves to be protected," Mizraim Belman, a Georgetown University graduate, added. "There is a need to recognize that this is a big win," but it's not permanent. "Even then, the citizenship is not going to be the end-all and be-all of the fight."

"For the first time in almost a year, I will be able to sleep soundly knowing I will not be in danger of deportation," said Jose Arnulfo Cabrera, a DACA recipient who also is

director of education and advocacy for migration at the network. But, citing the Black Lives Matter protests, he observed, "Citizenship does not mean equal justice for black and brown-skinned immigrants."

"These are youngsters who came because their parents were trying to escape from very, very difficult situations in their home country," said Jesuit Father Michael Sheeran, president of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities. He read a statement asserting that Trump's rescission of the program was done "in an arbitrary and capricious manner."

Father Sheeran said his organization would now focus on more than 50 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate with degrees from Jesuit institutions, telling them "to remember what you learned about human rights."

He added, "The federal government needs to be

required not to take the information they have from the DACA students so they can use it as a weapon" against the families.

The Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act, or DREAM Act, which would grant temporary conditional residency, was first proposed in 2001 but has never passed. It has since been reintroduced several times, but has not been approved by majorities in both the House and Senate.

Sens. Dick Durbin, D-Illinois, and Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina, introduced the latest version of the DREAM Act in 2019. It could cover as many as 2 million young people. Father Sheeran said he has supported that version because he considers it a "clean" bill without onerous added conditions. It would provide eight years of conditional permanent resident status, and also would allow DACA beneficiaries to receive in-state college tuition rates.

Experts: Lockdown increased risk of abuse

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The increased screen time and isolation due to quarantine measures or restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic have put vulnerable minors at greater risk of grooming and abuse online, a Jesuit safeguarding expert said.

Almost every nation that has had lockdowns or other restrictions has had similar consequences in which young people are spending a lot more time at home, "alone, online with no supervision or being checked on," said Jesuit Father Hans Zollner, a member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protec-

tion of Minors.

With increased screen time and so many options available for interacting online with others, "pornographic material also becomes more accessible" to predators and to children who have no limits on what they can access and no guidance on what they should do to protect themselves from people contacting them online, he told Vatican News June 18.

"We have to educate about protecting the dignity and respect of vulnerable young people," he said.

Father Zollner, who is also a professor of psychol-

ogy and president of the Centre for Child Protection at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, spoke to Vatican News about his presentation for a "Safeguarding Webinar Series" the same day.

The series was organized by the women's International Union of Superiors General with the collaboration of the pontifical commission, the Centre for Child Protection and the "Telefono Azzurro" abuse hotline in Italy.

Father Zollner's talk focused on "safeguarding online in times of lockdown" and highlighted the kind of risks facing minors online.

The FBI estimates that "at any one time, as many as 750,000 child predators are online over the internet seeking children to abuse online," his slideshow presentation said, and "two-thirds of the world's countries have no specific laws to combat online grooming of children for sex exploitation."

He said that police agencies worldwide were warning that perpetrators have been using the lockdown to target children.

Some examples of how drastic the increase has been during the pandemic, he said, can be seen in Australia where downloading

of images of abuse shot up by 86% in the three weeks after March 21.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in the U.S. "has registered a 106% increase in reports of suspected (child sexual abuse) – rising from 983,734 reports in March 2019 to 2,027,520 in the very same month in 2020."

Offenders may be more likely to act on their impulses because of the isolation during lockdown and their inability to travel makes them more likely to turn to abuse livestreamed or distributed online, Father Zollner said in his presentation.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Putting Jesus at the center of our lives

Today's readings contain some really demanding instructions from Jesus to his newly chosen Apostles. If they're going to be his followers, then He's going to be the center of their lives, demanding top priority. All other activities, programs and relationships will have to take a back seat! And *furthermore...* they can forget the Oscars and Golden Globe awards – no bonuses, either. In fact, they can expect misunderstandings, humiliations, and even hostile



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

attacks. So, who wants the job? Fortunately, they didn't understand what he was saying or thought he must be exaggerating. Thank God they didn't quit on the spot!

Jesus was quite serious, as they would find out later. Of course, by then, they had the enlightenment and wisdom of the Holy Spirit and much more courage. The Epistle to the Romans in today's Second Reading put it all so brilliantly as it explained what our Baptism means—dying to sin

June 28

13th Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a

Romans 6:3-4, 8-11

Matthew 10:37-42

and self. When we let go and let the Holy Spirit in, every other obligation, activity and choice will fall into place. His friendship and his *Lordship* takes over in our lives. *Then*, we will be able to give freely and generously to others what has been given to us so freely and so generously.

It's all put in balance by the Father. When we give

as disciples, we will be rewarded as disciples; when we give as prophets, we will be given a prophet's reward, and when we give to little ones, we will be rewarded as God's "little ones." I think that's why we should be very slow to seek earthly rewards and recognition, since God will reward our modesty with His own treasures. While we may have to put off the applause for a while, heavenly rewards will be far more satisfying! God rewards the *least* thing we do for others, even a glass of cold water given in His Name. Do you recall the old custom of taking a glass of cold water soon

after Holy Communion as a reminder of Jesus' promise?

If we are convinced that we too are disciples, then we will take Jesus' words seriously? Are we waiting for the right moment or the right time, a time that suits our convenience, rather than the Lord's time? Time does run out, and opportunities for giving, serving and loving could and will be lost forever.

There's a wonderful phrase in one of the psalms: "If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts..." If we are truly a priestly, kingly, holy people, we will act on His call!

CALLED TO SERVE

Taking on the 'too hard pile'

A fellow I knew was in charge of the "too hard pile" in the command group of the 10th Mountain Division. That was back in the 1980s, when the division was reactivated and stationed at Fort Drum. Reactivating an entire 10,000 soldier light infantry division was a task in itself. Putting that division in a place that needed lots of facilities and infrastructure built to accommodate the soldiers was a planning challenge, to say the least.

And among all those challenges were problems that the Commanding General, the CG, considered beyond the scope of the planners and commanders at headquarters or at the Corps of Engineers. Those problems ended up on the "too hard pile" and COL Sherm was tasked to fix them. And fix them he did. It was a sight to watch.

Sherman Williford's job came to mind at the Diocesan Department and Office Head meeting last week in Ogdensburg. Bishop LaValley had high praise for the diocesan

leadership team efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. Over these three months, the diocesan staff has been called to maintain calm and offer direction and advice to the 88 thousand Catholics in the diocese. The flow of information to the pastors in 84 parishes came despite often contradictory or at least per



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

formance from Washington and Albany. The managers at the Chancery had to wrestle with things like restoring public worship, what restrictions would be imposed, should we sing or not sing, should everyone wear masks but what about the celebrant and assisting ministers in the sanctuary and on and on.

All these decisions might have ended up on the Bishop's "too hard pile." But most did not.

Every challenge is being met by folks who really are not trained to do this kind of crisis management. Neither were our pastors and parish staffs. The priests, deacons, religious and lay staffs in our parishes are all trying to cope as best they can and

continue their primary mission of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and attending to the needs of the flock. That leaves lots of room for naysayers, non-conformists and people who consider themselves smarter. Their opinions are valuable too, when offered constructively.

All the challenges to us

personally and as family during this pandemic are multiplied when applied to community or large organizations. We have been inconvenienced, even thrown off our routines. We are facing change in our lives, in our habits, in the way we communicate and mingle. Some say, "change is too hard." My experience is we accept change and make the best of it. Jesus told the Apostles in the reading we heard last Sunday from Matthew, "do not be afraid." That's good advice for us today. This stuff that seems too hard to fix, it will be OK. Good people are working on the tasks.

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



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For Vocations





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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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St. Peter the Apostle annual summer appeal

"Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). How many times do we seek the Lord on our life's journey for guidance, His comforting light of hope! Like us, this Psalm also resonates strongly with Francis Xavier Nguyen Huu Tinh, a seminarian at Stella Maris Major Seminary in Vietnam. "This verse left a deep impression in my heart, because anywhere in my journey in life, I must trust in God," Francis says. "I still walk on this path through God's Grace and my own effort."

Francis and his fellow seminarians at Stella Maris are walking this path. They are preparing to carry the Lord's love to uplift the poor, to celebrate the sacraments, to reach out to children and families, and to comfort the sick and dying. But they need you to do that. They need your prayers to accompany them on their journey to the priesthood. And they need your financial help to support their studies.

This story is repeated throughout Africa and Asia, as growing numbers of young men respond to the call of our Lord to follow Him as priests and serve those most in need in their countries. Will you give a seminarian a light to his path by your prayers and financial help as he prepares to show the Lord's loving heart and celebrate the Eucharist in one of the most vulnerable communities around the globe?

Each year, the Society of St. Peter Apostle sends such support for some 30,000 young men preparing for the priesthood in mission seminaries like Stella Maris Major Seminary providing textbooks, technology, housing, food and medical care. Renovations and new constructions to aging seminary buildings are also greatly needed. Whatever you can offer toward these costs would be greatly appreciated.

Your gift is a great blessing currently when many young people in mission dioceses are responding to Christ's call to the priesthood and Religious life. Through their service, the poor and the suffering will come to know the hope and peace that only our Lord can give.

I send my special prayers for you, as we too seek the Lord's light for our own paths these days. Please remember this mission need in your own thoughts and prayers.

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.

www.rcdony.org/mission

OBITUARIES

AuSable Forks – Francis Lyman Baker, 96; Funeral Services to be held June 11, 2020 at the Thwaites-Zaumetzer Funeral home; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery, Peru.

Brushton – Alton A. "Freckles" LaPage, 85; Graveside Services to be held June 18, 2020 at St. Mary's Cemetery.

Carthage – Barbara Ann (Williams) Clark, 81; Private Services to be held; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Utica.

Carthage – Joan (Hall) Howe, 86; Private Services to be held.

Colton – Marjorie A. (Seymour) Perkins, 91; Graveside services to be

held June 15, 2020 at St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Gouverneur – Marjorie A. (Seymour) Perkins, 91; Graveside services to be held at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Colton.

Lyons Falls – Penelope Eve Podkowka, Infant; Graveside services June 17, 2020 at Calvary Cemetery.

Malone – John Francis "Skip" Marsden III, 79; Mass of Christian Burial June 19, 2020 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Morningside Cemetery.

North Bangor – Joan Theresa (Dumas) Barney, 85; Graveside Services to be held June 19, 2020 at St. Jon

Bosco Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – The Honorable (ret.) Dominick J. Viscardi, 96; Funeral Services to be held June 18, 2020 at the Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Parish Cemetery.

Waddington – Robert E. Miller, 71; Mass of Christian Burial June 19, 2020 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Watertown – Ann F. (Castro) Aubin, 77; Private Mass of Christian Burial to be held at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery

Vatican official: Racism in any form is intolerable

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Speaking at a special U.N. discussion about racism and police brutality, a Vatican official repeated Pope Francis' recent remarks: "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."

Speaking about demonstrations in the United States following the killing of George Floyd by police, Pope Francis also said, "At the same time, we have to recognize that violence is self-destructive and self-defeating. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost."

Archbishop Ivan Jurkovic, the Vatican's permanent observer to U.N. agencies in Geneva, shared the pope's words June 18 as the U.N. Human Rights Council held an "urgent debate on current racially inspired human rights violations, systemic racism, police brutality against people of African descent and violence against peaceful protests."

"Racial discrimination in

all its forms is absolutely intolerable," Archbishop Jurkovic told the meeting. "All members of the human family, made in the image and likeness of God are equal in their inherent dignity, regardless of race, nation, sex, origin, culture or religion. States are called to recognize, defend and promote the fundamental human rights of each person."

Michelle Bachelet, U.N. high commissioner for human rights, introduced the discussion by noting that "since the killing of George Floyd at the hands of police in Minneapolis last month, a wave of massive protests has surged forward – not only across every state in the United States, but also in dozens of countries in Europe and all around the world."

Floyd's death, an "act of gratuitous brutality," she said, "has come to symbolize the systemic racism that harms millions of people of African descent – causing pervasive, daily, lifelong, generational and too often, lethal harm."

The killing of Floyd, an

African American, at the hands of a white officer, Bachelet said, "has become emblematic of the excessive use of disproportionate force by law enforcement against people of African descent, against people of color and against indigenous peoples and racial and ethnic minorities in many countries across the globe."

While denouncing the violence associated with some of the protests and decrying "the excessive use of force against protesters by police" in some instances, she urged governments around the world to use the occasion to enact reforms in police use-of-force policies and to promote efforts to end racism and inequality in their societies.

"We need schools and universities that are free of bias; economies that give truly equal opportunities and fair treatment to all; political institutions that are more responsive and inclusive; justice systems which are truly just," she said.

'I've tried to figure out what God wants me to do'

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

POTSDAM—For Bob and Mary Farrington of Potsdam, living their faith together and sharing it with others in spiritual direction has improved both their relationship with each other and their relationship with the Lord.

After both experienced the trauma of divorce and were away from the Catholic Church, Bob and Mary Farrington found each other and married 15 years ago.

"I grew up in the Catholic Church, and I left all churches for about ten years," Mary said. "When my son was born, I felt very strongly that I couldn't do this on my own. My ex-husband was Methodist, so we started attending a Methodist Church, and I became very active there. When he and I separated and divorced, Bob and I got together. We kind of went back to the Catholic Church together. When I was really little, I could remember God being very important to me. As I got older and left the Church, I kind of just ignored what God wanted for a long time. Attending the Methodist Church, I learned about a loving God. Since then, my faith has led me and guided me constantly. I can't even imagine what life would be like without God in it, without Christ."

"For me, I grew up in the



Mary & Bob Farrington

Catholic Church," added Bob. "In late high school and college, I went away from church in general. I came back to church when I had kids. At first it was United Methodist."

Bob said he tried a number of different denominations before being called back to the Catholic Church.

"My Catholic grammar school education instilled in me the basics of faith and a need to have God as a friend," he said. "I've tried to figure out what God wants me to do throughout my life. When I'm able to do that – and I'm not always – and can follow God's will, things always turn out better than what I could do myself. That's the story of my life."

Both said their faith, along with friends, counselors and quality spiritual directors, helped them get through their divorces.

"I can't even imagine going through that without my faith," Mary said. "It was

hard enough. Without faith, it would've been way, way more difficult."

"When I was going through my own divorce, trying to figure out which way to go and how to make life decisions and follow God's will and discern God's will was very hard," he said. "Thank God for my spiritual director, counselor and friends."

Their personal experience with spiritual direction made them see the importance of the practice, and the pair pursued training to become spiritual directors themselves. Bob attended a course in Niagara Falls, while Mary completed a course in New Jersey. Both also later completed a diocesan course on spiritual direction.

Currently, Bob and Mary work with around 20 directees.

"We learn every day from our directees," Mary said. "The questions they ask, the issues they bring up, helping them discern God's



call, even in small, everyday things, and hearing you don't have a prayer life yourself," added Bob. "Accountability is good. We provide it for the directees, but they provide it to us, too."

Bob and Mary say they typically pray using Lectio Divina, a practice of praying with Scripture, spiritual reading, daily centering prayer and using the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. "And prayer together and discernment together has been one of the most important things in our marriage," Mary said. "We don't do anything until there's prayer. We pray individually, we pray together, and we wait. It's a lot of patient waiting."

"And the patience pays off every time," Bob said. As they look to the future, Bob said he hopes the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic causes people to reflect and change.

"We're here in the middle of this isolation," he said. "There's the way it was before, and the way it is now. Looking forward, I hope we can learn something from this that will make the future different and better."

"You can't really sit in front of people and ask about their prayer life if

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