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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 75, Number 16

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

AUG. 26, 2020

Growing in faith, growing in love

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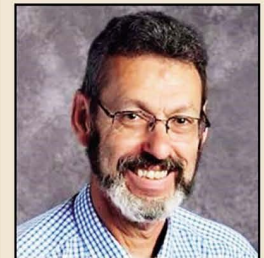
FULL STORY, PAGE 3

FIRST EUCHARIST



Father Stephen Rocker, pastor of St. Mary's in Potsdam and St. Patrick's in Colton, celebrated Mass for the First Eucharist class at St. Patrick's on August 15, the Feast of the Assumption of Mary. Receiving their First Eucharist were (front row) Lexis Williams, (middle row) Anna Hurley, Mia Snyder, (back row) Audrey Snell and Joseph Snell. The youth were prepared by Dorothy Hobbs, Faith Formation teacher, along with their parents. Elizabeth Fullertarbox is the Faith Formation director of St. Patrick's & St. Mary's.

SHARING OUR FAITH



Tragedy and family hardships helped Michael Rabideau of Helena find his way back to his Catholic faith. Learn more about Rabideau's faith journey in this week's installment of Sharing Our Faith; Sharing Our Stories, 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@rc-dony.org.

FULL STORY, PAGE 12

Pope: Making the poor a priority isn't political

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Church teaching on giving priority to the well-being of the poor and marginalized is not a political or ideological choice; it lies at the very heart of the Gospel, Pope Francis said.

The preferential option for the poor, which includes feeding the hungry and drawing close to the excluded, "is the key criterion of Christian authenticity," he said Aug. 19 during his weekly general

audience.

The principle also would include making sure that any vaccine developed for the novel coronavirus helps everyone, he added.

"It would be sad," he said, if priority for a vaccine "were to be given to the richest. It would be sad if this vaccine were to become the property of this nation or another, rather than universal and for all."

During his audience, livestreamed from the li-

brary of the Apostolic Palace, Pope Francis continued a series of talks on the principles of the church's social doctrine as a guide for healing and building a better future, particularly as the world is struggling with a pandemic and its negative effects.

In fact, he said, a proper response to the pandemic is twofold:

"On the one hand, it is essential to find a cure for

this small but terrible virus, which has brought the whole world to its knees. On the other, we must also cure a larger virus, that of social injustice, inequality of opportunity, marginalization and the lack of protection for the weakest."

"It would be a scandal if all of the economic assistance we are observing – most of it with public money – were to focus on rescuing those industries

that do not contribute to the inclusion of the excluded, the promotion of the least, the common good or the care of creation," the pope said.

These are the four criteria that should be used "for choosing which industries should be helped: those which contribute to the inclusion of the excluded, to the promotion of the least, to the common good and the care of creation."

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EDITOR'S NOTE

'Confession of a crazy Catholic'

"Confession of a crazy Catholic..."

That was how I started a message to a friend and colleague who was preparing to lead on-line Vespers, the evening prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours, early in the pandemic.

What was my confession? I told my friend I wasn't as practiced at praying the Liturgy of the Hours as most of the others participating, and I didn't want to be asked to lead one of the two sections in the call-and-response style of prayer.

A "rebel without a clue" in my younger years, I was away from the Church for over a decade in my 20s and early 30s. I sometimes feel like I don't know things – theology, prayers, devotions – most other Catholics with whom I interact seem to know. I sometimes attribute that lack of knowledge to that lost decade and the best time I could've been developing that knowledge.

I get self-conscious about my lack of knowledge. I worry about what others will think of me when that

lack of knowledge becomes apparent.

I was thinking about that "confession of a crazy Catholic" as I participated in an online workshop focused on evangelization.

While I sometimes get trapped in this idea that I need to be able to answer every question or combat every argument presented to me when I talk to others – especially those outside the Church – about my faith, this workshop reminded me that sharing our faith doesn't mean beating people over the head with Church teachings and arguments. While theology, apologetics and Church teachings – as well as

those devotions and prayers I didn't know – are important, they're secondary to our relationships with the Lord. Without love of God and a desire to serve him, the theology, apologetics, devotions and prayers seem pretty hollow.

While I may not be able to lead the Liturgy of the Hours, and I may not be able to answer every theological question posed to me, I can share with others how God has changed my life, how God has changed me. That's something we can all do.

Each of us can share our "confession of a crazy Catholic" with others, and we're called to do just that.

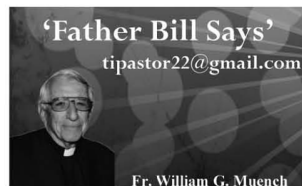
Darcy L.
Fargo

Inspired to remember my ordination

The past few weeks have been a time filled with ordinations. Here in our own Diocese of Ogdensburg, Bishop Terry R. LaValley ordained two deacons to the priesthood, and he also ordained three to the diaconate. Two of them, God willing, will be ordained to the priesthood next year.

In our neighboring Diocese of Syracuse, Bishop Douglas J. Lucia ordained a deacon to the priesthood. He also ordained three to the diaconate during this time. They also will be ordained priests next year.

Each time I attend and take part in an ordination of a new priest, I am inspired to remember my own ordination. As I join in prayer for and with someone who is about to be ordained, I call to mind so much about the day that I was ordained a priest. So, it is now a time for me to pray in gratitude to God for calling me to the priesthood. I pray to God in gratitude for leading and guiding me to study and work to become an ordained priest. I thank God for



Fr. William G. Muench

all that I have been able to accomplish as a priest. So, let me share with you some of those memories.

My priesthood is a vocation. I believe in vocation. I believe that I was carefully led and guided to the priesthood by the Lord Jesus. In many ways, often small and simple, yet meaningful, I know God led me to become one of his priests. There were many times when I doubted and was not confident in my choice. Yet, there were many very powerful experiences that were truly inspirations of the Holy Spirit leading me to begin my studies in the seminary. Those years were filled with many experiences and many wonderful people – professors and counselors – who guided me toward the priesthood in many wonderful ways.

It starts with a decision, a decision influenced profoundly by the Lord. There were eight years of study and formation. I must admit to you that they were very happy years for me; times filled with prayer as I found support and wisdom to make a good decision.

I do remember well my ordination day. There were seven of us. We had studied together and prepared together, so here we were at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. With faith and love, we received the Sacrament of Holy Orders. We had already received the first stage of this sacrament, becoming deacons, and now it was time to become priests.

What did I expect? This Sacrament of Holy Orders would bring to me the grace to become a priest; it would empower me to truly act in the person of Jesus, my Savior, to bring the sacraments of the Church to the People of God.

So, I would now be prepared by the Lord Jesus to celebrate the sacraments of

the Catholic Church. I would baptize. I would bring the power of the Holy Spirit to lead many to become a part of the Church and live a good Christian life. I would be prepared to celebrate the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. This ordination would allow me to bring the Body and Blood of Jesus to many – to bring the life of the Savior to many, to bring many the power to live well in the spirit of our Savior. I would celebrate the sacrament of penance through confession and absolution with the power of the Holy Spirit bringing forgiveness and reconciliation, giving new life and peace to a sinner. And I would celebrate the sacrament of the sick, bringing peace and the love of God, the healing power of the Holy Spirit to the sick and dying. These sacraments will be the challenge and the work of my life as a priest.

I must add that one of the anxieties on that ordination day was what would be my first parish assignment, who would be my first pastor.

Growing in faith, growing as a couple

Clayton residents say Formation for Ministry program improved their marriage

By Jessica Hargrave
Contributing Writer

CLAYTON—When Wanda and JB Kavanaugh signed up for the Formation for Ministry program, they knew the journey would strengthen their relationship with God and their parish. What they did not expect was the program would strengthen their relationship with each other.

The Clayton couple has been married for 42 years and are active parishioners at St. Mary's Church, where Wanda serves as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharistic and JB serves as an usher. Both volunteer for whatever space needs to be filled. Wanda was 18 years old when she converted to Catholicism before marrying JB at the now closed St. Michael's Church in Antwerp. She said she has grown into the faith over the years but was looking to learn more. She decided on the Formation for Ministry program.

"I kind of decided I needed to wait until I was retired, then all of a sudden, the Holy Spirit was there, and it was now, this is when I was supposed to take it," said Wanda.

Wanda, along with Father Arthur J. LaBaff, encouraged JB to go along for the journey. JB agreed that it just seemed like the next step to take in his faith journey.

Recently, the two-year program went mainly online. Wanda and JB said while the individual may

classes as a loss, for them, it was a gain.

"I think we have more conversations, because it is just the two of us," said Wanda.

"When our kids grew up and left, there's that time period where we drifted in our faith community between the two of us, and this has really put me back to those memories of 42 years ago of how we were together with our faith, so I think that has really helped us tremendously."

"Let's be honest, we've been married 42 years," JB said. "You have habits and patterns, so I would say those habits and patterns have shifted over the years."

Taking the program together has allowed the couple to share in a way they haven't in years thanks to the self-reflective questions they must complete each week that go along with readings and videos. Each course takes around four weeks to complete.

The course "Mapping Your Inner Landscape" begs the questions, how can I fit in my parish family? How can I make best use of my gifts and talents? The Kavanaughs

said the explorative topic said stood out to them, allowing them to grow as a couple and as human beings. They've welcomed fellow parishioners and Father LaBaff into their home for dinners, an activity they acknowledge they may not have considered in the past, and they credit the program for leading them to that openness. Upon completion in May 2021, Wanda and JB will be Commissioned Lay Ministers.

JB said he felt the Formation program offers participants an opportunity to develop their faith and develop as people.

"Even if they walked away saying 'I don't really know if I want to help or not,' it's good for personal growth," said JB.

Wanda said she would recommend Formation for Ministry to anyone, but to be able to do it as a married couple, she claims is beneficial in many ways.

"It's laughter, it's tears," she said. "It's just so much enjoyment doing it together. I just know I can't imagine doing it without him."

If you're interested in becoming a Commissioned Lay Minister through Formation for Ministry within the Diocese of Ogdensburg, go to www.rcdony.org/formation or contact Cathy Russell at (315) 393-2920.



JB and Wanda Kavanaugh

REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

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

Mass
Rosary
Fasting
Day Offering
Eucharistic Adoration
Offering of Sufferings
Divine Mercy Chaplet

Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him

September

Our Lady of Sorrows

SEPTEMBER

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY	2 REV. KRIS C. LAUZON	3 REV. CLYDE A. LEWIS	4 REV. CHRIS LOOBY	5 REV. JOHN J. LOOBY
6 REV. SHANE M. LYNCH	7 REV. DONALD J. MANFRED	8 OUR PASTOR	9 REV. LAWRENCE E. MARULLO	10 MSGR. C. JOHN MCAVOY	11 REV. KEVIN D. MCEWAN	12 REV. J. ROGER MCGUINNESS
13 REV. BERNARD D. MENARD	14 REV. GILBERT B. MENARD	15 POPE FRANCIS	16 BENEDICT XVI POPE EMERITUS	17 REV. RAYMOND J. MOREAU	18 REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN VG	19 REV. WILLIAM G. MUENCH
20 MSGR. JOHN R. MURPHY VF	21 REV. STEVEN M. MURRAY	22 RETIRED PRIESTS	23 REV. MACIEJ NAPIERALSKI	24 REV. FRANK NATALE, MSC	25 REV. DUC NGUYEN	26 REV. JUDE INNABUAGHA
27 REV. KEVIN O'BRIEN	28 REV. PATRICK J. O'REILLY	29 DECEASED PRIESTS	30 REV. JEROME PASTORES	For more copias contact: Diocese of Ogdensburg PO Box 369 Ogdensburg, NY 13669		

For more information visit us online at www.mprpappostlate.com

A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated. The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by: Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society www.nyvocations.net



Relax this summer with your subscription to the *North Country Catholic*, the newspaper for the Diocese of Ogdensburg

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ISSUE**

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Priesthood Sunday will be Sept. 27

We invite you to send a message to your pastor, spiritual advisor or priestly friend.

\$20 - a 1 column X 2 inch ad with a short message (e.g., Father Smith, we appreciate your service, from the Jones Family)

\$40 - a 2 column x 2 inch ad featuring your message, a photo or graphic design

\$135 - Quarter page ad

\$250 - Half page ad

\$475 - Full page ad

If you have a specific budget that is not listed we can design an ad based on that.

If you would like your ad in color please add \$25 (The *North Country Catholic* provides design services)

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Message as it will appear in the ad (please print)

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Virtual retreat focuses on practicing forgiveness, love

"Putting Forgiveness and Love into Practice," a virtual retreat, will be held Sept. 19 and 20 using Zoom.

This retreat will offer participants an opportunity to focus on our experiences of forgiveness on a personal level and will consider what obstacles we encounter along the path.

During the course of the retreat, participants will also move from personal forgiveness to how we may become, by our pres-

ence and example, instruments of God's peace and love to others.

The retreat time will explore Scriptures on forgiveness and consider some of the barriers and aids to making these teachings a reality in our daily lives.

The retreat schedule includes presentations, time for personal prayer and reflection, and optional times for sharing.

The event is broken up into several two-hour sessions split over two days.

It was originally scheduled to be an in-person retreat at the Guggenheim Lodge.

Facilitators will be Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, a Sister of St. Joseph, Molly Amoriell and Jane Wells.

For more information or to register, email sr-bethssj@gmail.com or call 315-212-6592. Donations will be accepted.

Once registered, participants will receive an invitation to join the Zoom retreat, as well as additional information via email and postal mail.

Applefest canceled, grand raffle will continue

PERU - After reviewing the possibility of celebrating St. Augustine's Annual Ap-

plefest, the Committee recommended that the Parish cancel this year's

Fest because of COVID-19.

The Parish of St. Augustine's has canceled the Applefest for this year but kept the GRAND Raffle of \$3000 for the weekend of September 19-20.

The raffle raises funds to help with the many ministries of St. Augustine, especially for youth. To learn more about the prizes and how you can support the raffle, see the included form (at left).

The Applefest, begun more than 40 years ago, brings the community together for work, fun and assistance to the church's ministries.

This is the first time in the history of the annual Fest that it has been canceled. Applefest's celebrated history has honored the beauty of the area, its hard workers, and the fruit of the tree that has helped define the Peru community.

APPLEFEST CARD



St. Augustine's Church, Peru, NY
2020 APPLEFEST GRAND RAFFLE

1st Prize - \$2500

2nd Prize - \$500

3RD, 4TH & 5TH - \$100 Each Cash

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You do not need to be present to win.

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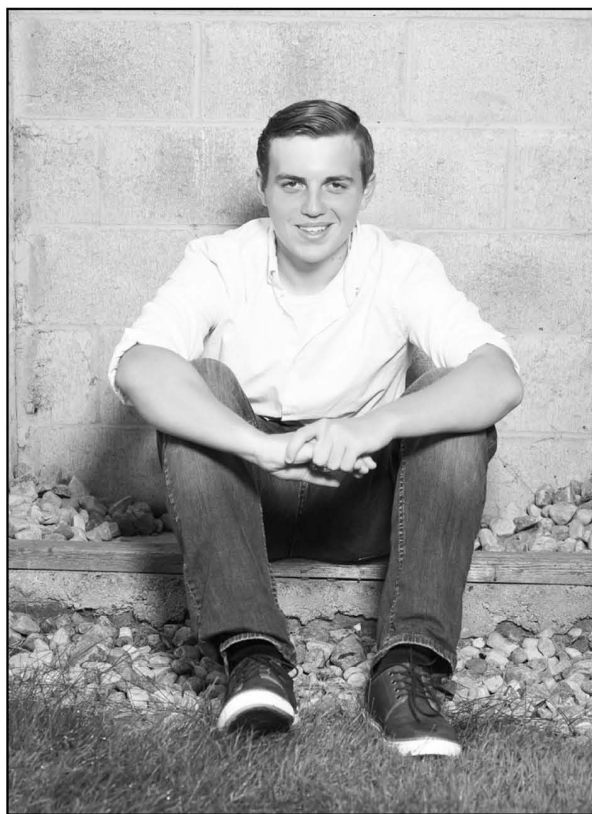
Name: _____

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SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



Jonathan Blaise is the 2020 winner of the St. Augustine's (Peru) Knights of Columbus \$750 college scholarship. A recent graduate of Peru High School, Blaise will be entering the physical therapy assistant program at SUNY Canton. Blaise is a St. Augustine's parishioner and a member of Council 7273's recently reactivated Columbian Squires Circle. Council 7273 has awarded college scholarships each year for more than 40 years.

FAITH, FELLOWSHIP & FOOD



Bishop Terry R. LaValley visited St. Alexander's Parish House in Morrisonville informally Aug. 11 for fun, sharing, and food. Bishop LaValley was treated to Michigan, hamburgers, salads, carrot cake at the Parish House. Pictured are, from left, seminarian Venes Laine, Bishop LaValley, Fathers Jay de la Rosa, Father Scott Seymour and Father L. William Gordon.

Sister Marie James McCallen died August 15 at age 83

A memorial Mass for Sister Marie James McCallen, RSM, a Watertown native and Sister of Mercy in the Mid-Atlantic Community, will be scheduled at a later date.

Sister Marie James died on Saturday, August 15, 2020, at McAuley Hall Health Care Center in Watchung, New Jersey. She was 83.

Sister Marie James was born and educated in Watertown.

She entered the Sisters of Mercy Community in Tarrytown, New York, on September 8, 1955.

As a nurse, she minis-



Sister Marie James McCallen

tered in Mercy hospitals in Watertown, Port Jervis, and Tupper Lake, all lo-

cated in Upstate New York.

Later she moved downstate to Yonkers, New York, and served the Community as director of health services.

Sister Marie James was known for her compassion, generosity and sense of humor.

She had great devotion to Mary, the Mother of God. How fitting that God would call her home on Mary's Feast of the Assumption!

Sister Marie James is survived by two sisters.

Her funeral arrangements will be private.

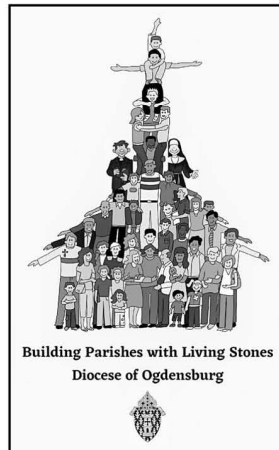
Logo represents the 'Living Stones' of diocesan parishes

By the Living Stones Committee

What should an effective logo communicate? When an organization develops a logo, they have some key idea they would like communicated every time someone sees the logo. Jessica Hargrave, secretary for the Diocese of Ogdensburg's Department of Faith Formation, assembled this logo, which captures the diocesan priority, "Building Parishes with Living Stones."

We often think of parishes as the church building (bricks and mortar), which is incorrect. A parish consists of the people/parishioners who make up the community of believers.

The logo depicts a "church building," not made up of bricks and mortar, but consisting in-



stead of the community of believers who make up that parish.

The logo also incorporates the dimension of diversity, which is so critical and desirable in today's church.

One of the Diocese of Ogdensburg's priorities is "Building Parishes with

Living Stones." In order to provide adequate support for pastors and parishioners, it has become clear that we need more parishioners (Living Stones) willing to give of their time and talents in helping to meet the pastoral needs of all parishioners.

The above logo will be used in posters and on letterhead, as appropriate. Building parishes with living stones is an essential element in the development of vibrant parishes that meet the pastoral needs of all parishioners.



Environmental Stewardship

What is Season of Creation?

Each year, Christians around the world join in celebrating the Season of Creation. The Season begins on September 1 with the World Day of Prayer for Creation and ends on October 4 with the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi.

"During this Season we unite as one family in Christ to celebrate the beautiful gift of creation and the bonds we share with each other and with every living creature on Earth." (Genesis 9:10) The Christian family celebrates the season by spending time in prayer, considering ways to inhabit our common home sustainably, and lifting our voices in the public sphere.

This year, the theme for the season is "Jubilee for the Earth." We are invited to consider the integral relationship between rest for the Earth and ecological, economic, social and political ways of living. The need for just and sustainable systems has been revealed by the far-reaching effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic. We yearn for the moral imagination that accompanies the Jubilee.

The scriptures begin with God's affirmation that all of creation is "very good." (Genesis 1:31) As co-creators and caretakers of God's creation, human beings are called to protect and nurture its goodness. (Genesis 2:15, Jeremiah 29:5-7) Our vocation to protect and nurture life relates to the sustainability of ecological, economic, social and political systems. A just balance between these aspects of life must be maintained for the health of the Earth and all creatures.

The pandemic demonstrated that the entire web is rooted in the Earth and limited by the Earth's capacity to sustain our economic and ecological demands. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common role as caretakers of God's creation. Can we imagine in a post COVID-19 world new just and sustainable ways of living that give the Earth the rest it requires, that satisfy everyone with enough that restore habitats and renew biological diversity? May the Holy Spirit inspire our imagination. For more info. See the Diocese of Ogdensburg Facebook page or seasonofcreation.org.

*seasonofcreation.org

Springs of Faith prepares participants for baptism, journey of faith

By Jessica Hargrave
Contributing Writer

What does it mean to live Catholic? *Springs of Faith* is a new baptismal preparation and family faith formation program that leads the journey for those choosing the life of the Catholic community.

Bishop's Public Schedule

Aug. 27 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Aug. 30 – 9:30 a.m. – Installation Mass of Reverend John M. Demo as pastor of St. Patrick's Church and St. Anthony's Church along with the Church of the Holy Family in Watertown

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri-ann 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.ReportBishopAbuse.org.

Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters from readers of the North Country Catholic.

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

Publisher Loyola Press created Springs of Faith for parishes to offer young adults and families considering the Catholic Faith or having their child begin their new life with God.

The program comes in three phases: Discover, Encounter and Share.

Discover is for young adults exploring the Catholic Faith. It provides a no-pressure atmosphere for young adults to connect and share their spiritual beliefs with one another.

Encounter fully prepares

Rest in Peace

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

Aug. 27 – Rev. John F. Byrne, 1919; Rev. Ubalde LaRose, 1919; Rev. Edward Henry Bernier, 1962

Aug. 28 – Rev. Florent Vandenberghe, O.M.I., 1882

Aug. 29 – Rev. John J. Waters, 1921; Rev. Leo Desmet, 1926; Rev. Thomas F. Driscoll, 2003; Rev. Msgr. Robert L. Lawler, 2013

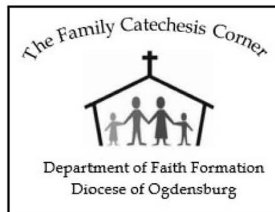
Aug. 30 – Rev. Bartholomew McLaughlin, 1914

Aug. 31 – Rev. James J. Sherry, 1890; Rev. Albert R. Plante, 2000

Sept. 1 – Rev. Michael Guth, 1864; Rev. John B. Martin, O.S.A., 1955

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.



parents for the sacrament of baptism for their infant children. Parents and Godparents learn the scripture and the meaning behind each step in the tradition. They are also encouraged to dive deeper into their faith journey using an activity journal.

The Share phase gives parents the tools to keep the family faith going in their home post-baptism. It provides continued engagement in the parish through family gatherings and "Baby & Me" sessions which offer a variety of songs, movement, activities, and prayer.

"Baptism is a moment in time," states Faith Formation Director Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, a Sister of

St. Joseph. "The fruit of that moment, however, grows and develops throughout one's life. When parents practice their faith, their child grows in his or her relationship with Jesus and what it means to follow Him. The family is the primary environment in which faith grows."

Simple gestures like displaying a crucifix, saying grace before meals, and making the Sign of the Cross help create an environment where faith is present in between sacraments.

Interested parishes can learn more about the Springs of Faith program at www.loyolapress.com.

Families will also find free and printable activities, family prayers and educational articles to nurture the faith at home.

All who participate will find that the path to discipleship is most fulfilling when experience with community.

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Campus ministers plan for COVID challenges

By Marika Donders

Director, Office of Evangelization

During this unprecedented time of Coronavirus, every ministry and effort to reach out to our people is being reimagined. It is no different for Campus Ministry in our diocese, with limitations placed on "in-person" meetings, unfamiliar school schedules, mask and physical distancing. How are we to connect with new students? How are we to minister when we can no longer rely on the old standby: "if you feed them, they will come," when we can't gather around a dinner table?

The Diocese of Ogdensburg and the North Country is home to 10 college campuses welcoming students from around the country and the world. Four campus ministers serve the college communities: Mary Skillan in Plattsburgh (SUNY Plattsburgh and Clinton Community College); Conner Cummings in Potsdam (SUNY Potsdam and Clarkson University); Peter Mueller in Canton (SUNY Canton and St Lawrence University); and Sister Juliana Raymond in Watertown (Jefferson Community College). The campuses of Paul Smith's College, North Country Community College, and the NYS

Campus Ministry in the Diocese of Ogdensburg is supported by funds raised through the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal. Thank you for generously supporting this ministry and other vital ministries through the annual appeal.

Ranger School at Wanakena do not currently have a campus minister present but are being served by the local parishes. Campus ministry is primarily funded by the Bishop's Fund Appeal.

Our campus ministers have been gathering to discuss how to minister to the various campuses and how they might collaborate. For example, SUNY Plattsburgh is not allowing student groups to meet in person. Everything must be virtual. This presents challenges, such as how to replace things like snacks and meetings after Mass, home-cooked meals and fellowship, bible study nights, and just being able to socialize around movies, sports and concerts, and simply making new friends. But these problems and challenges are opportunities for creative solutions. Campus Ministers have begun meeting via Zoom to discuss how they might collaborate on virtual meetings, programming and game nights. If meetings happen virtually, geography ceases to be a

limitation, which means students from all the campuses can participate. In addition, students can easily invite friends who might not be ready to come to a Newman Center or step inside a church building, but who might be willing to check out offerings from the campus ministries if they can do so from the comfort of their own dorm.

Of course, campus ministry is ministry to the entire college community, not just its students. Campus ministers collaborate with other departments, provide a Catholic presence on campus, engage with interfaith groups and events, are a resource providing invocations and prayer services, and often serve as just a listening ear to those who need a safe person with whom they can discuss their lives and problems. Campus ministry is about accompanying members of the college community in their walks with Jesus and providing resources and prayers in stressful and anxious times.

We do not know what

this year will hold. None of us could have predicted what has transpired so far. Will campus ministry be able to provide retreats at Camp Guggenheim or Wadhams Hall at all this academic year? What about the annual March for Life in Washington, DC? What about hikes in the Adirondacks, workshops, adoration and praise and worship meetings?

What can you do to assist campus ministry? First of all, please pray for all affiliated with the college campuses: the students, the professors and the administrators, as well as the campus ministers. There are so many unknowns that this normally stressful time of moving in, figuring out class schedules is made exponentially more difficult and filled with anxiety by the need to find

safe ways to serve food and live in dorms, and navigating virtual and hybrid classes. If you are a parent or grandparent of a high school graduate who will be attending one of our local colleges and universities, let the campus ministry staff know your young adult is coming to campus, so they can get a personal invitation to Catholic ministry events.

Lastly, Campus Ministry could not exist without generous support from the annual Bishop's Fund appeal, which provides the funding for the campus ministers and much of the programming throughout the year. On behalf of all the Campus Ministers and the students across the diocese, I would like to express heartfelt thanks for your prayers and your financial support!

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NIH not funding most research using fetal tissue

By Julie Asher
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee Aug. 20 praised the National Institutes of Health's Human Fetal Tissue Research Ethics Advisory Board for its decision to withhold funds from 13 of 14 research proposals that involved the use of fetal tissue.

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, said the bishops applauded the Trump administration "for moving NIH in a direction that shows greater consideration for medical ethics in research, and greater respect for innocent human life."

"It is neither ethical nor necessary to further violate the bodies of aborted babies by commodifying them for use in medical research," he said in a statement. "The victims of abortion deserve the same respect as every other human person. We are grateful that the administration is following through on its commitment to end federal funding of research using aborted fetal tissue."

The 15-member NIH advisory board, which issued its report late Aug. 18, was established Feb. 20 by the Department of Health and Human Services "to advise, consult with and make recommendations to, the secretary of HHS regarding the ethics of research involving human fetal tissue."

The board met July 31, with part of the meeting open to the public. HHS

Secretary Alex Azar, who appointed the board's members, has the final say on their recommendations.

On a 9 to 6 vote, the board recommended funding a study that will use fetal tissue to try to validate whether an alternative model works as well.

The report said one of the board members noted strengths of the proposal were "its attempt to improve an existing model" and the fact "investigators are planning to use preexisting HFT (human fetal tissue) stored in a biorepository and collected according to guidelines, with no need to acquire additional tissue for the planned studies."

"If successful, the research will obviate the need for HFT in future models," it said. "Given this, some members of the board thought that the justification of the use of HFT to achieve the proposed aims (including the amount of HFT) was ethically sufficient."

The board is chaired by Paige Comstock Cunningham, who is interim president of Taylor University in Upland, Indiana. She is currently the executive director of the Center for Bioethics & Human Dignity at Trinity International University in Deerfield, Illinois.

Members include Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, director of education and staff ethicist at the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia; David A. Prentice, vice president and research director for the Charlotte Lozier Institute and adjunct professor of molecular genetics at the John

Paul II Institute of The Catholic University of America in Washington; and Dr. G. Kevin Donovan, director of the Pellegrino Center for Clinical Bioethics Georgetown University in Washington and a professor of pediatrics at the Jesuit-run university.

The decision to fund or to withhold funds for the proposals came in a simple majority vote.

Two board members asked that a dissenting opinion be included in the report for the record: "This board was clearly constituted ... so as to include a large majority of members who are on the public record as being opposed to human fetal tissue research of any type."

"This was clearly an attempt to block funding of as many contracts and grants as possible, even those responding to the NIH solicitation for proposals to the notice: "characterizing and improving humanized immune system mouse models," which the two dissenting board members said "required comparison of current humanized mice made with human fetal tissue to proposed models that do not use human fetal tissue."

They added, "The outcome of the board's deliberations are thus clear-cut and will paradoxically fail to reduce the use of human fetal tissue in the development of humanized mice needed for therapy development including for COVID-19."

In response to release of the report, Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life, said: "It is appropriate that tax-funded research be reviewed in regard to the ethical nature of the research."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

WHO leader supports pope's call for fair access to vaccine

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The head of the World Health Organization, which has been strongly advocating rapid, fair and equitable access to potential COVID-19 vaccines worldwide, voiced support for Pope Francis' similar call for global protections. Pope Francis made appeals Aug. 19 both on Twitter and at his weekly general audience insisting that any vaccine developed for the novel coronavirus help everyone, not just the wealthiest or one nation over another. "The response to the pandemic is therefore dual. On the one hand, it is essential to find a cure for this small but terrible virus, which has brought the whole world to its knees. On the other, we must also cure a larger virus, that of social injustice, inequality of opportunity, marginalization, and the lack of protection for the weakest," the pope, @Pontifex, said on Twitter. "I couldn't agree more with Your Holiness," the WHO's director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, replied as he retweeted the papal tweet on his account, @DrTedros. "The #Covid19 pandemic shows that we must make health a human right for all and not allow it to be a privilege for the few," he replied in his tweet Aug. 20.

Bishop Bransfield repays diocese, publicly apologizes

WHEELING, W.Va. (CNS) — Bishop Michael J. Bransfield, former head of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, was told to publicly apologize to West Virginia Catholics and repay the diocese \$441,000. The Congregation for Bishops in Rome reached this decision on how Bishop Bransfield should fulfill Pope Francis' requirement that he "make personal amends for some of the harm he caused" while serving in the diocese. Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Wheeling-Charleston's current bishop, made the announcement in a letter to the faithful Aug. 20, saying that the decision comes after extensive input from him and with consideration of governing factors in both civil and canon law. Bishop Bransfield has now repaid the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston the amount stipulated for "unauthorized benefits received from diocesan resources." The diocese also has received his letter of apology, dated Aug. 15, which has been made public on its website www.dwc.org.

Report: NGOs complying with ban on using aid for abortion

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Trump administration has released its second report on implementation of its Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance Policy, which bans all foreign nongovernmental organizations that receive U.S. foreign aid from using the funds to perform or promote abortion as a method of family planning in other countries. The report shows the vast majority of foreign nongovernmental organizations — 1,285 out of 1,340 — have complied "with this policy with minimal disruption of health services and no reduction in funding." In response to the report, Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, said the Trump administration "deserves our praise for ensuring that U.S. global health assistance funding actually promotes health and human rights, and doesn't undermine them by promoting abortion. Killing innocent and defenseless unborn children through abortion is not health care," Archbishop Naumann said in an Aug. 20 statement. "Abortion violates an unborn child's most basic human right, the right to life, and it also can wound the mother emotionally and physically." By executive order Jan. 23, 2017, President Donald Trump reinstated the so-called "Mexico City Policy" and expanded it to create the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance Policy.

Lessons from my summer vacation

When our children were growing up, our family would vacation for a week each summer at the ocean, somewhere along the coast in the New England states. And beginning at a very young age, the boys always had a fascination with sharks. We would scout the beaches early in the morning for shark teeth, purchase shark coloring books, stickers and plush toys, stop by the fish market to gape at the huge stuffed hammer-



Kathleen M. Gallagher

head hanging on the wall. And sometimes, if the timing was just right, our vacation would coincide with chilling and thrilling televi-

sion episodes of "Shark Week." The boys are millennials now, and this year they decided they wanted to see the real deal: the great white shark in his natural habitat. So our whole family ventured out on a boat near the Massachusetts Cape, watching in awe as the pilot of a small plane overhead tracked down the sharks, radioed our captain, and led us right to them.

And there they were: massive, mighty, still and stealth. Some 12 feet long, like colossal torpedoes, lurking just below the surface. It was exhilarating for the

kids to see the real deal up close and personal.

As we headed back to shore, I was struck by the thought that the real deal had been there all along. During every vacation we ever took, the great whites were far out in the sea... prowling, waiting, preying...we just didn't see them.

The adventure got me to thinking about Jesus, who is, of course, the Real Deal. How often do we fail to acknowledge that He is here with us, always and everywhere? Personally, I try hard to follow Him, to be more like Him in my thoughts, words and actions. But I fall short. I have moments of selfishness, greed and envy. I put my-

self in the driver's seat instead of Him. I fail to show compassion at times when it is needed.

Other times, I simply take Him for granted. His handiwork surrounded us on our vacation: in the dazzle of the sunset, the power of the ocean, the stunning beauty of a butterfly, the refreshing breeze on a hot, humid day. Did I pause to praise Him and thank Him, or continue my preoccupation with the next item on my agenda?

And at other times, I'm ashamed to admit, I search for the real deal somewhere else, thinking that this purchase or this meal or this person or this award will completely sat-

isfy me. It never does.

Only Jesus is authentic. Only He can fill us up and quench our thirst. In our darkest moments, He can walk us across the rough waters. We can count on Him always. He can bring blessings out of our sins, and focus our gaze on God instead of material things. We need to submit our judgments to His will, and trust that His path is the right path for us. We need only follow Him.

Jesus is the real Real Deal. And even if He is out of sight, He is always there, waiting, just beneath the surface.

Kathleen M. Gallagher is the director of Pro-life Activities for the New York State Catholic Conference

Christians must courageously share with others

The following editorial, titled: "Now is a time Christians must courageously share with others," appeared Aug. 7 on the website of The Criterion, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. It was written by Mike Krokos, the newspaper's editor.

It has been said countless times during the past several months, but it bears repeating: We are in uncharted territory.

No one could have imagined the 2020 calendar year would present so much uncertainty across the globe.

From America to Asia, from Australia to Africa – and pick nearly any other spot throughout the world – we have all been impacted by the coronavirus.

We knew in the United States that 2020 would bring a presidential election, which at the moment, seems like it may face challenges of its own if it is to go off without a hitch Nov. 3.

Our children's graduations from high school and college would be highlights of the spring, setting in motion in-person celebrations with hundreds or even thousands of other families enjoying that special time. That, of course, didn't happen for many.

And we figured we'd be enjoying our annual summer rituals of long-planned vacations and taking part in annual parish festivals, among other regular seasonal plans. Wrong again, for many of us.

We have heard the famous phrase "nothing in this world is certain, except death and taxes," but as people of faith, we know there is so much more to our lives – including being our brothers and sisters' keepers when unforeseen challenges shake the world we live in.

Pope Francis reminded us once again before praying the Angelus Aug. 2 how our vocations as disciples of Christ must include true compassion and "courageous sharing" when we see others in need.

Our faith teaches us that God operates according to "the logic of taking responsibility for others ... the logic of not looking the other way," the Holy Father said.

According to a Catholic News Service story, the pope said telling others "to fend for themselves" should not be a part of a Christian's vocabulary.

We knew of the poverty, war, human trafficking and other societal challenges that so many faced before COVID-19 became an international illness that has affected millions and has killed nearly 700,000 thus far.

But what we didn't foresee was how all this would be exacerbated by a global pandemic.

During his catechesis before the Angelus, Pope Francis reflected on Jesus' miracle of the multiplication of the loaves (Mt 14:13-21). In that Gospel encounter, Jesus multiplies

five loaves and two fish to feed about 5,000 men. We read: "They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over – twelve wicker baskets full" (Mt 14:20).

"With this gesture, Jesus demonstrates his power; not in a spectacular way, but as a sign of charity, of God the Father's generosity toward his weary and needy children," the pope said.

We see Jesus fully "immersed in the life of his people. He understands their fatigue and their limitations, but he does not allow anyone to be lost, or to lose out. He nourishes them with his word and provides food in plenty for sustenance," the Holy Father said.

Like the crowd of thousands in the Gospel, as Catholics, we are nurtured and draw strength when we listen to God's word and receive the Eucharist.

And now more than ever, our brethren must see a compassion that is not

"sentimentality, but rather the concrete manifestation of the love that cares for the people's needs," the pope said. We must have the ability to suffer with others, and "to take others' sorrows on ourselves."

"Perhaps it would do us good today to ask ourselves: 'Do I feel compassion when I read news about war, about hunger, about the pandemic?'" he asked. "Do I feel compassion toward the people who are close to me? Am I capable of suffering with them, or do I look the other way, or (say) 'they can fend for themselves?'"

Times like these offer a reminder that our faith must be at the heart of all we do.

And like Jesus, we must show the same compassion and tenderness to our brothers and sisters in need – now, more than ever.

May we always remember the weary and needy in our prayers and our acts of charity.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Given the keys to the kingdom of heaven

Visiting dignitaries are often given an honorary "Key to the city" by the mayor. On the practical level, to be given a key by an employer implies their trust that we will use that key responsibly. In the first reading, God takes the Key of David away from Shebna, the master of the palace of King Hezekiah, and



**Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore**

gives it to a worthy man, Eliakim. Shebna had really "messed up" – he had torn down houses of the poor for material for the city walls, and he had arrogantly built himself a showy tomb for all to admire! So, God took away his sign of power and authority, his Key.

Isn't it interesting that Jesus, in the Gospel, is also concerned about the

Keys to the kingdom –and gives them to Peter, the rock. At the same time, He makes Peter the head of his "Church" (the only time this word is used in the New Testament), an assembly so strong that hell itself will not be able to destroy

it. With that key, Peter and his successors will have the power to lock and unlock the gates of heaven. Many bishops and priests through the centuries will use those keys, even though they are weak and fragile themselves. Many have failed in the responsible use of those keys.

August 23

21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

Isaiah 22:19-23

Romans 11:33-36

Matthew 16:13-20

Christ foresaw all of this when he first entrusted the keys to Peter!

But the power and responsibility are shared in a real sense with all the baptized. To us also have been given the keys of the kingdom of heaven. With those keys, we may unlock the doors of forgiveness through choosing to receive the sacrament of reconciliation; with those keys we can unlock the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, given us at confirmation, and to us have been given the keys to the

source and summit of grace, strength and happiness, the Holy Eucharist. With those keys, we can unlock the doors of hearts that others may be nourished with God's love and truth. What power lies behind those keys!

What if we abuse the privilege? What then?

Some time ago, a teenager I knew, failed to show up at his parents' home at the appointed time. He, not thinking of the worry he was causing, was still at his buddy's place. To his dismay, he saw his mother appear. Without a word, she took his car keys away from him (I never did hear how he made it back home). How embarrassing for that young man, although he was merely thought-

less and felt he was doing the right thing by spending time with his friend.

Even though we may be merely thoughtless in our neglect of the Sacraments and of so many opportunities to share the treasure of our faith with others, we are taking a huge risk of losing those keys. Isn't it possible that God could take those keys away from us, like He did to Shebna, and give them to others who would use them responsibly?

Life is so short!

Thank you, God, for entrusting to me the keys to eternal life. Let me never through carelessness or sin, risk their being taken from me! Help me to responsibly use the power, share the treasures, and respect the authority of those keys always.

Mom's advice: Don't be a banker or an usher

My mother asked me once to promise I would not be a banker and would not be an usher when I grew up.

Those seemed like strange but reasonable requests at the time. I was a teenager. I had no idea why she would ask me to promise those things, but it was Mom. Enough said. It turns out, she had a thing about bankers' real hours. My father was a branch manager in Brooklyn. Mom was convinced banking caused his death at a young age. That was not the case, but Mom claimed it as a factor.

Then, there is the usher part. Mom had a thing about ushers, mostly church ushers, I think. In her opinion, a man (it seemed only men could

be ushers) developed a bossy, know-it-all attitude when he was welcomed into that fraternity. Maybe that was true in Queens and some other places. I have not sensed that in our part of the world. Once a man became an usher in some churches, he developed an attitude. His demeanor said, "do it my way," and that was that. I have not found that to be true of ushers in our area. Rarely do our ushers have to jam folks into pews and give terse, monosyllabic directions to church goers, so they have a more gentle, friendly approach to things.

I was thinking about other places that have ushers. Ball parks, theaters, wedding venues

other than churches, historic sites. In all those places, ushers are expected to assist patrons by collecting admission tickets and passes, help folks find seats, search for lost articles, and help patrons find the restrooms. Then COVID-19 came along and many of the men who got paid to do those things were out of work. But the usher in our churches volunteer, so they kept working.

Since reopening, we have asked ushers in our parishes to do things they have not had to do before. Things like greet folks as they came in the

door but make sure they had a mask on and maintained social distance from the man or woman ahead. They had to count

the number of people entering and close the door when limited capacity was reached. That was not a pleasant task. They had to literally guard the offering basket, because they were not collecting the tithe and putting the money immediately under lock and key.

Our ushers were asked to give directions to those receiving Communion, because the old patterns of approach and departure were changed. Ushers had to make sure our

departing faithful exited through designated doors in an orderly fashion, while continuing to maintain distance.

Each week, pastors and deacons throw a new wrinkle into things and just expect the ushers to adjust. I think they have done a phenomenal job with little thanks.

So, with apologies to Mom, I think ushers in our parishes do a great job and smile through it all. Thank you.



**Deacon
Kevin Mastellon**

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown.

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



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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St. Peter Apostle Appeal: Gratitude for sacrifice

The Mission Office is most grateful for the many sacrifice to the St. Peter Apostle appeal from the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. This generosity will be far-reaching, as seminarians and religious prepare for a lifetime of service, proclaiming the hope of our Lord to the poor and suffering in developing countries.

Throughout the missions, many young men are responding to our Lord's call to the priesthood, and young men and women are in formation to become Sisters or Brothers.

The abundance of support enables them to prepare for a lifetime of service among the poor and the suffering, as they bring to those in need the hope-filled "Good News" of Jesus.

The funds raised through St. Peter Apostle appeal is a blessing to young women and men preparing for religious life. The service of religious sisters and brothers brings hope and joy to the poor and suffering throughout the missions.

The Mission Office recognizes that at this time in our economy and our world's health and safety, that appealing for sacrifices now can be a hardship. Yet, the Mission Office continues to receive an outpouring of both generosity and love for our causes that are so important.

Despite all the uncertainty, one thing is certain: we can always count on our Diocese to do what we as Catholics are called to do and that is fulfill our calling as missionaries by virtue of our baptism.

Mission seminarians and religious novices count on your help so that they may offer such loving service among the poorest in our human family in the Mission Lands.

Know that even as you pray and sacrifice to support them in their formation, you also remain in their prayers. May the Lord bless you for your generous missionary heart!

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

OBITUARIES

Adams – George John Randall, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 20, 2020 at St. Cecilia's Church; burial in St. Cecilia's Cemetery.

Altona – Doris V. (Boyea) Barcomb, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 17, 2020 at Holy Angels Church; burial in Holy Angels Cemetery.

Canton – Anne Sherry Whalen, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 19, 2020 at St. Mary's Church

Carthage – Leo M. Archer, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 14, 2020 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Carthage – Sadie "Lucille" (Hamblin) Shettleton, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 10, 2020 at St. James Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

Champlain – Maria M. (Lafontaine) Surprenant, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 13, 2020 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Chateaugay – Helen (LaBombard) LeClair, 96; Services to be held at a later date.

Chateaugay – Gabriel James Lopardo, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 19, 2020 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Hillside Cemetery, Hinchinbrook, Quebec.

Croghan – Robert H. Monnat, 93; Funeral Services Aug. 14, 2020 at Scanlon Funeral Home; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Fort Covington – Laura E. (Burditt) Lantry, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 20, 2020 at St. Mary's Church; burial in old St. Mary's Cemetery.

Lake Placid – Kathryn McCarthy Sullivan, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 24, 2020 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Potsdam.

Lyon Mountain – Floyd Earl Cayea, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 21, 2020 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Malone – Germaine L. (Proulx) Gratton, 91; Funeral Services Aug. 10, 2020 at the Bruso-Desnoyers Funeral Home;

burial in Riverside Cemetery, Westville.

Massena – Basil J. Burnham, 87; Funeral Services Aug. 12, 2020 at Phillips Memorial Home.

Massena – Douglas Dumas, 91; Grave-side Services Aug. 22, 2020 at Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Gerald A. "Butch" Matteo, 82; Services to be held at a later date.

Massena – Peral A. (Fregoe) Premo, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 19, 2020 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery, North Lawrence.

Morrisonville – Loyal J. Lecuyer, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 18, 2020 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, Plattsburgh.

Morrisonville – Hattie J. Longtin, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 25, 2020 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Morrisonville – Vincent R. Marino, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 24, 2020 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Norfolk – Leo H. Bond, 79; No Services to be held.

Norwood – Charles E. Ferguson, 93; Private Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 12, 2020 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

Peru – Dr. Frances Elizabeth Allen, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 11, 2020 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Peru – Henry N. Dashnaw Jr., Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 17, 2020 at St. Augustine's Church.

Peru – Isabelle E. (Wilford) Mashtare, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 15, 2020 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in Plattsburgh Community Mausoleum.

Peru – Diana R. Soloski, 71; Funeral Services Aug. 11, 2020 at Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. John's Cemetery, Keeseville.

Plattsburgh – Andrée Helen Racette

Frechette, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 22, 2020 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Dorothy LaMountain, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 13, 2020 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Margaret (Shea) Welch, 102; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 14, 2020 at Our Lady of Victory Church.

Port Henry – John A. Grant, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 17, 2020 at St. Patrick's Church.

Raymondville – Elizabeth C. "Liz" (Matthews) Agen, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 20, 2020 at St. Raymond's Church; burial in Visitation Cemetery, Norfolk.

Redwood – Margaret L. (Jarvis) Getman, 93; Graveside Services Aug. 15, 2020 at Redwood Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Carole M. (LaChance) Ryan, 76; Funeral Services Aug. 19, 2020 at the Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery, Saranac Lake.

Watertown – Rosemary (Kelly) Kingsley, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 10, 2020 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Eva J. (Barnett) Marino, 74; Funeral Services Aug. 21, 2020 at Cummings Funeral Service, Inc.; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

West Chazy – Andrew L. Tousignant, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 20, 2020 at St. Joseph's Church.

Westport – Clifton V. LaRock, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 26, 2020 at St. Phillip Neri Church.

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Finding God through tragedy, heartache, music

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

HELENA – Though he was raised in the Catholic faith, Michael Rabideau, now 60 years old, said most of his spiritual growth “has taken place in the last 10 years,” and that faith helped him overcome tragedy and hardship.

Originally from Plattsburgh, Rabideau attended Catholic schools from kindergarten through grade 12.

“My younger years were spent at St. Peter’s Elementary School, and my later teen years were spent at Mount Assumption Institute, now known as Seton Catholic,” he said. “I learned to love God through my interactions with the staff at those two schools.”

In his youth, Rabideau and his siblings also participated in a folk group that provided music at St. Peter’s Church in Plattsburgh, where his family attended Mass. He said his parents provided him and his siblings “a loving, nurturing environment,” and they ensured the family was connected to its home parish.

When, as a young adult, he became married, he and his wife moved to Gloversville, where Ra-



bideau began a career in teaching. While he and his wife were devoted to one another, Rabideau said his devotion to his faith waned during that time.

“My faith and commitment to God took a back seat,” he said. “I attended churches in the area where I taught my first few years, but I have to admit that it was sporadic at best.”

Rabideau said he became even more distracted and distant from his faith as his son hit the teenage years and began struggling with drug addiction.

“He started out as a typical boy who loved sports and video games,” Rabideau said. “But in his teen

years, he traded these pastimes for drugs and alcohol. The next 10 years were filled with struggles with addiction (and) frequent stints in various correctional facilities.”

Rabideau said his son’s problems, as well as his own well-being was further compromised when his wife died in 2010.

“Our marriage lasted 27 years,” he said. “When she died on April 1, 2010, a part of me died as well... We both lost a vital part of our lives.”

At the time of his wife’s death, the couple’s son was receiving substance abuse treatment at Rose Hill in Massena, an inpatient treatment program for youth. Shortly after her death, Rabideau, then a resident of Ogdensburg, began attending Mass and participating in Al-Anon, a program that supports the loved ones of alcoholics and addicts.

“I started to attend regular church services again, and I found the rooms of Al-Anon, a place of recovery that helped me deal with my son’s issues as well as my own,” he said. “I have found serenity and a means of sharing my experience, strength, and hope

with my Al-Anon family.”

While the program doesn’t overtly talk about religion, it emphasizes a relationship with a “higher power.” Developing his relationship with a “higher power,” God for Rabideau, helped him grow in his faith.

“That relationship and spirituality made me want to become more acquainted with the Church,” he said.

As he began dealing with his personal and spiritual development, Rabideau also found love again, meeting his now wife Jeanette.

“She helped me through the rough patches of my relationship with my son,” he said. “And she was instrumental in my coping with the loss of my mother four years ago from Alzheimer’s disease. I have her constant love and support as proof that God’s love is present in my life.”

Through his involvement in Al-Anon, Rabideau became acquainted with St. Peter’s Parish in Massena.

“I was emceeding a (Al-Anon) ‘Day of Sharing’ at St. Mary’s Social Hall, and (St. Peter’s Parish pastor) Father Mark (Reilly) was a guest speaker,” Rabideau said.

Rabideau and Father Reilly were later put in contact with another through another parishioner, also involved in Al-Anon. Father Reilly encouraged Rabideau to participate in that parish, and he soon became a lector, greeter, usher, cantor and a volunteer with Alpha, a program of evangelization.

“I agreed to attend this gathering, and that began a three year association with Alpha, a spirituality program that has grown from 10 people when I attended as a guest to 60 people in the last real-life cycle we did last fall. Our current online session on Zoom

has also yielded some awe-inspiring results.”

Rabideau also participated in Cursillo, further helping him develop a network of faith-based fellowship and tools for evangelization.

In addition to participating in Alpha and Cursillo, Rabideau has started writing about his faith, producing a number of faith-based books.

He also participates in a more personal writing-based ministry.

“I write a letter to my dad every single day – 365 days a year,” he said. “Since we lost my mom four years ago, I thought it would give him a boost in morale and help our connection. It’s basically a page or a page and a half typed, and I send it through the mail. He has all those letters in plastic sleeves. He waits for the mail to come each day, and he shares those letters with the people in his retirement home.”

To foster his own faith, Rabideau said he participates in Mass regularly. He also has a particular attachment to the “Serenity Prayer,” a common prayer in 12-step programs.

“I say that prayer every day,” he said.

Rabideau said music also helps him develop his relationship with the Lord, and that music is often inspiration for his writing and a method of prayer.

“I have found that most of my daily hopes and prayers can be expressed through a portion of a song,” he said.

To find Rabideau’s books, search his name on Amazon. He also produces YouTube videos featuring songs and lyrics that have inspired him and/or are referenced in his writing. His videos can be found by searching YouTube for “Michael Rabideau Music of My Soul.”

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