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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 75, Number 19

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPT. 16, 2020

## Follow me: Witness to the Gospel

Sunday, September 20 is Catechetical Sunday. Traditionally, this is the day we formally commission our catechists for ministry to our parish community. We are so grateful for their commitment to this extremely important service to the Church. This is, also, an opportunity for all of us to reflect on the role that each baptized person plays in handing on the faith and giving witness to the Gospel. This Sunday we rededicate ourselves to this mission as individual baptized persons and as a parish family of faith.

This year's theme, "I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you," captures beautifully the mission you and I received on the day we were baptized.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## SEMINARIANS RECEIVE CASSOCKS



PHOTO COURTESY OF PONTIFICAL COLLEGE JOSEPHINUM

It has long been custom for seminarians in pontifical seminaries to wear cassocks unique to their college, fostering their identity as men formed in such institutions. Soon after arriving at the Pontifical College Josephinum, new seminarians received their pontifical cassocks from Father Steven Beseau, rector. Pictured in their new cassocks are, (back row) Christopher Hoffmann (Diocese of Jefferson City), Youmarcks Jacques (Diocese of Ogdensburg), Venes Laine (Diocese of Ogdensburg), Collins Hess (Diocese of Birmingham), (front row) Andrew Vickery (Diocese of Birmingham), Andrew Feister (Diocese of Gaylord), John Stepnowski (Diocese of Birmingham), Father Steven P. Beseau (President/Rector), Caleb Gaier (Diocese of Cincinnati) and Dennis Ombongi (Diocese of Ogdensburg).

## SHARING OUR STORIES



Lorraine Carney of Ogdensburg said she has grown in both her relationship with the Lord and her knowledge of the faith as she's moved through her life. Read about Carney in this week's Sharing Our Stories, Sharing Our Faith. To suggest an individual to be featured in this series, which features how lay Catholics are living out their faith here in the North Country, please call the NCC at 315-393-2920 or email [dfargo@rcdon.org](mailto:dfargo@rcdon.org).

FULL STORY, PAGE 11

## Gossip is tool of the devil, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Gossip is "a plague worse than COVID," Pope Francis said, asserting that while speaking ill of others comes almost naturally, it is a tool of the devil to divide the church.

Commenting Sept. 6 on the Sunday Gospel reading about Jesus telling his disciples what to do when a member of the community errs and requires correction, Pope Francis said that rather than helping the other mend his or her ways, "when we see a mistake, a

fault, a slip, in that brother or sister, usually the first thing we do is to go and recount it to others – to gossip."

Gossiping sows division, he told people gathered in St. Peter's Square for the midday recitation of the Angelus prayer.

"The great gossip is the devil, who always goes around recounting bad things about others, because he is the liar who seeks to divide the church, to distance brothers and

sisters and not create community," the pope said.

"Please, brothers and sisters, let us make an effort not to gossip," he said. "Let's try: no gossip."

The day's Gospel reading (Mt 18:15-20) is often cited as a lesson in "fraternal correction," urging people to speak directly and privately to a person they believe is in the wrong. If that doesn't work, Jesus tells the disciples to take "one or two others along with you" and try again. If that, too, is un-

successful, then the community of the church should be informed.

The goal, the pope said, is not to embarrass or punish, but to rehabilitate.

In the Gospel, Jesus said that if even the love and support of the community are not enough to correct the person, then the community should treat him "as a Gentile and a tax collector."

"This expression, seemingly so scornful," the pope said, "in reality invites us to

put the brother or sister in God's hands: only the Father will be able to show a greater love than that of all brothers and sisters put together."

After reciting the prayer, the pope greeted several groups in the square, including staff and new students at the Pontifical North American College. The U.S. seminarians arrived in Rome Aug. 20 and were required to observe a 14-day quarantine before venturing to the Vatican.

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

# Staying focused on the destination

While I'd like to think I'm a quick learner, that definitely wasn't the case when it was time for me to learn to drive.

Part of my issue was that my father – my usual driving instructor – and I constantly butted heads (I'm being charitable to both of us with that phrasing) during practice sessions, so I'd avoid driving to escape conflict. Then, I skipped a grade of high school and left home to attend college at age 17, further limiting my opportunities to gain experience on the road.

I remember once telling an older friend and mentor that one of my biggest struggles with driving was that I felt

like I was constantly making too many small adjustments as I attempted to keep a vehicle centered in my lane of

travel. I distinctly remember this friend telling me, "don't stay focused on where your car is right now. Look forward. Look toward the horizon. Look to where you want to go. That'll help you stay centered and on course."

Not only did my friend's advice help me with my struggles to stay centered in my lane of travel when driving, I think about his advice frequently as I try to grow in holiness.

There are a lot of distractions in our paths, and it's

easy to get bogged down in moments as we move through our days and our lives. It's easy to find ourselves veering slightly off the paths to which God has called us, focusing instead on what we have deemed as our own priorities and goals.

It's important to stay focused on where we want to go. To grow our relationships with the Lord and have eternal life with Him, we need to try to set aside those distractions. It's much easier if we have people in our lives who help us do just that.

As we celebrate Catechetical Sunday, I'm reminded of the many people in my life – priests, deacons, religious, catechists, lay ministers, friends and family members – who help me keep my eyes

on where I need to grow and where I want to go. I could tell countless stories of how others have shared their relationships with and knowledge of our Lord and his Church with me, and how they've helped me be a better Christian and a better, holier person.

While our faith leaders – including those catechists, priests, religious, deacons and lay ministers – have special roles in helping guide others on their paths to holiness, we're all called to share our love of the Lord with others. We're all called to help others keep their eyes on where they want to go.

This week of Catechetical Sunday, the NCC would like to say "thank you" to all who hear and respond to that call.

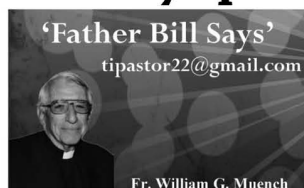
**Darcy L.  
Fargo**

## Looking for my place in the Scriptures

I am often asked how I develop a homily for Mass. So, I decided to tell you today. Now this is just me. I am absolutely certain that all those who preach at church their own systems. I would never be brave enough to tell others how to speak at Mass, but I do want to give you an idea of how I do it.

I always start with the Sacred Scriptures. Each day of the Church year, there are certain Scriptures that have been chosen for that day's Mass. I like to believe that God has something to do with that day's Scriptures. In faith, we believe that at each Mass, we are fed by the Lord with the Holy Eucharist, but we believe we are also fed by the Lord with the Word of God.

There are many occasions for which there are no specific Scripture readings assigned, so I can carefully decide which Scriptures I believe are perfect for what I would like to highlight on

**Fr. William G. Muench**

that occasion. In addition, for various reasons, people – lay men and women involved in the occasion – help me to choose the Scripture readings.

First, I like to look at the Scriptures and see how I am involved in this story, this reading. You see, I truly believe the Holy Spirit inspires the author of the Scriptures to make the stories open for my place. I am invited to discover my place where I can learn something about myself; I have something to learn today, right now, that will help me make my life better, my world better.

So, on the great feast days of the Church and the ordinary feast days, I also have a place. I am present on that

first Christmas, just as I was present with my niece and nephew, with Susan and Paul, at the birth of their second child. I am walking with Jesus on the road to Calvary, and I'm noticing how much Jesus suffered for us all. I am with the apostles on that first Easter, excited and joyful. Even in the stories of the Lord's parables, I can discover myself. Jesus crafts these clever, powerful stories to help me find myself. He makes the stories so wonderfully in order for me to discover myself.

On a recent Sunday, Jesus tells a parable about each of us being a forgiving people. This also is my story. The story you will remember is about a compassionate master who forgives the entire debt of a servant who owes him a "huge" debt but cannot satisfy it. However, that same servant refuses to forgive another fellow servant who owes him a smaller amount. The lesson is obvi-

ous: the lesson of the compassionate Master does not show the servant what it is that can make our world a happier place.

Too many times, I have forgotten how much my God has forgiven me even as I have failed the Lord in my life. God realizes and loves me so much that He wants to give me a new opportunity. God somehow knows that I can do so much to make this world a better place when I realize the gift given to me in his forgiveness. However, I too often fail to realize that I could make the world better by being a forgiving person when I am ready to forgive – even a small amount.

The master in the parable asks for nothing in return – a magnificent moment. I must recognize and demonstrate the compassion of the Lord. Then, I am in Jesus' story, and Jesus tells me not to forget God's great love for me.

## FOLLOW ME

# Giving witness to the Gospel

Sunday, September 20 is Catechetical Sunday. Traditionally, this is the day we formally commission our catechists for ministry to our parish community. We are so grateful for their commitment to this extremely important service to the Church. This is, also, an opportunity for all of us to reflect on the role that each baptized person plays in handing on the faith and giving witness to the Gospel. This Sunday we rededicate ourselves to this mission as individual baptized persons and as a parish family of faith.

This year's theme, *"I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you,"* captures beautifully the mission you and I received on the day we were baptized. Each of us has the vocation to share in the Church's mission of discipleship. The intention of our catechesis must be to help form life-long disciples in mission.

The recently published, *Directory For Catechesis*, tells us that our parishes need to examine the type of catechesis that they offer today in light of the new social and cultural

contexts in which we find ourselves. Do our catechetical efforts, the privileged place of education in our Catholic faith, possess the dynamism and flexibility necessary to touch the minds and hearts of today's people?

I found the *Directory* particularly helpful in its reminder of catechesis *in, with and of* the family. We must minister to individuals in different life stages and settings: Pre-adolescents, Adolescents, Young People, Adults, the Elderly, Persons with Disabilities, Migrants, and Emigrants (such as our friends in Latakia). This coincides well with our Diocesan Priority of *Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Life* (all types of families).

In its treatment of "Marginal Persons," the Pontifical Council noted that "the worst discrimination which the poor suffer is the lack of spiritual care. Our preferential option for the poor must mainly translate into a privileged and preferential religious care. It's im-

portant that the catechist have the capacity to meet people in the situations in which they find themselves, have the willingness for unconditional acceptance, and the capacity to relate to them with realism and mercy." (#280). Clearly, this reflects well Pope Francis' desire that the Church be a field hospital, meeting our people where they are, accompanying them with the Good News of the Gospel.

Another area of the document that has particular significance for the Church of the North Country concerns catechesis and evangelization in our prisons, places that the Council referred to as "authentic mission territory for evangelization." (#281). The Diocese of Ogdensburg is blessed to have several prison chaplains who dedicate themselves to ministry to the incarcerated in the prisons located within our Diocese.

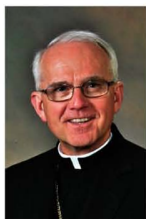
These chaplains make God's presence visible in

their unconditional acceptance and attentive listening to the imprisoned. The *Directory* stated that the relationships that our chaplains establish with the imprisoned "manifest to the incarcerated the mother face of the Church, which often receives precisely in prison the conversion or rediscovery of faith of many of her children, who ask to receive the sacraments of initiation." (#282). I have personally officiated at several baptisms, Confirmations and First Holy Communions in some of our prisons. We are grateful to our prison chaplains and volunteers who provide pastoral ministry in our prisons, noting particularly this Catechetical Sunday, their catechetical and evangelizing efforts.

Our Diocese continues to pay particular attention to the ongoing formation of our catechists. We know well that the Holy Spirit uses their valuable experience, knowledge and faith in their ministry of accompaniment. We encourage

our parishes to provide a catechetical experience that facilitates growth in knowledge of our Catholic faith as well as enhancing the life-long conversion experience of all members of our families.

The *Directory For Catechesis* concludes: "Communion with Jesus Christ, who died and rose again, who is living and always present, is the ultimate end of all ecclesial action and therefore of catechesis as well" (#426). Indeed, we have received from the Lord what has been handed down to us. Let us together continue to address our Priority of *Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Life*. Catechesis is an action for which the whole Church is responsible. These days of safe-distancing, sanitizing and wearing face protection make our catechetical efforts extraordinarily challenging. However, at this time and in this place, it has never been more necessary or more fulfilling! Thank you for your attentiveness and joyful witness to discipleship.



Bishop  
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The Office of Faith Formation of the  
Diocese of Ogdensburg  
Salutes the Pastors, Catechetical Leaders  
and Catechists of the diocese as we  
Celebrate Catechetical Sunday Sept. 20

# Prepared to share the faith in different ways

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

OGDENSBURG—As catechetical leaders prepare to overcome unprecedented challenges, they continue to look for new and engaging ways to share their faith with others.

"September 20 is Catechetical Sunday," said Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ, Director of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. "It is an annual event that highlights the importance of catechesis and faith formation in a variety of forms. It highlights the important role catechists play in handing on the faith."

This year, Catechetical Sunday is focused on the theme, "I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you."

"The theme describes beautifully what a catechist or catechetical leader does when engaged in faith formation," said Sister Ellen Rose. "It is about their encounter with Christ. This relationship is the heart of what they received. They are passing on their faith. They are passing on their relationship with Jesus."

This year, due to the coronavirus pandemic, catechists and catechetical leaders may be passing on that relationship differently than they have in the past.

"Very often, Catechetical Sunday marks the start of parishes' Faith Formation programs," Sister Ellen Rose said. "Certainly, Faith Formation programs are going to look differently this year. At this point, we can say there will be some in-person programs. Many of the smaller parishes are able to accomplish this. For some of the larger parishes, if they offer in-person programs, they

may look differently. For example, grade levels might be divided into two groups that meet on alternating weeks."

Some parishes are also planning to use virtual and/or home-based models or hybrid models that combine home-based programming and in-person events.

"Some are planning to have the primary instruction be in the home, but they are hoping to plan events that will bring families together and that conform to the safety guidelines currently in place," Sister Ellen Rose said.

"Some parishes are also holding the sacramental preparation classes in person and using home-based models for the other grade levels," added Anita Soltero, assistant director of Faith Formation for the Eastern Region.

Parishes planning to conduct in-person programming will be required to follow all Department of Health guidelines and safety protocols.

For at-home instruction, parishes are using a variety of programs, said Catherine Russell, assistant director of Faith Formation for the Western Region.

"Many of our parishes are using the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies," she said. "A lot of the parishes were already using that program in their classroom instruction. The program follows the Sunday liturgy readings. There's an online component to it, and there's accountability built into the program. We've been trying to stress to our catechetical leaders and pastors that at-home programs should have an accountability component."

"All the major publishers – Pflaum, Our Sunday Visi-

tors and others – have developed virtual resources, and many of those resources have been more carefully developed since March," added Sister Ellen Rose. "If parishes were using one of those publishers prior to the COVID pandemic, they may very well turn to that particular publisher for online resources for families."

Soltero and Russell said catechists in their areas are excited to integrate families more fully into catechesis.

"We've been trying to stress the importance of families in passing on the faith," Soltero said. "Now is a great opportunity to get them more involved."

"The family should be the primary educator," added Russell. "We're giving back some of that responsibility."

Soltero noted that both families and catechists may have some concerns about their role in faith formation.

"At the moment when we are faced with a challenge, we think, 'How am I going to do this? This is not going to work,'" she said. "Once we get over the initial shock, we put our minds to work, and we find new ways to move on. And so it is now with our spiritual lives. It wasn't quite the same participating at Mass virtually, these past months, but it was the only way for a while, and it was certainly better than nothing. It will be the same with our Faith Formation programs – something is

better than nothing. Our need for God does not end because we can't worship in person, and our need to share our faith with the youth of our diocese is still there as well, as is their need to grow in their faith life. So, by whatever means necessary, be it smaller in-person groups, or less frequent in-person meetings with additional learning obtained virtually, that process will continue. It may look and feel a little different, but the end goal is the same – sharing our faith with all those that God puts before us, in whatever way we need to make that happen."

Sister Ellen Rose also noted that parishes have been advised to be aware that families, many of whom may be participating in online education already, have a lot to manage already.

"If they are educating virtually, we have encouraged them to keep it simple," she said. "We know experts are saying youth cannot endure endless virtual learning. The amount of time they are virtually learning has to be considered, and if there is more than one child in the family, that has to be considered, too. We need to give families simple tools to use. We need to keep it simple and manageable."

In programs that are being run virtually, Sister Ellen Rose said catechetical leaders have been en-

couraged to involve catechists in supporting families.


"Nothing replaces the living witness of the catechist," she said. "Our catechists pass on their experiences and encounters with Jesus and what that means in their lives. We don't want to lose that. With parents more involved, this provides us an opportunity to support and form the parents. So often, parents are shy about their faith or feel inadequate sharing their faith. Our catechists and catechetical leaders can provide parents the support they need to do that."

With all the challenges and opportunities, the diocesan Faith Formation leaders say they've been impressed and inspired by the hard work and creativity that is going into planning parish programs.

"The good news is that so many of our parish catechetical leaders and pastors are committed to finding the ways and the means to have Faith Formation programs," said Sister Ellen Rose. "It's really encouraging. In a recent presentation, Bishop (Terry R.) LaValley used the expression 'we can't put faith formation on pause.' We are not putting it on pause. Instead, we are coming up with new elements and new ways of doing things that may last even after the COVID crisis ends."



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# 'United in Faith – Continuing Christ's Mission'

OGDENSBURG – “Four more years and I'll be able to bring the sacraments to the people of God. I hope to become a good and holy priest so that I can inspire others to follow in the footsteps of Christ and His Church to grow holy and to do God's will,” excitedly shared Nick Olley, seminarian for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. “I am so grateful for all your donations [to the Bishop's Fund Appeal] that you have given throughout the years. Every little bit helps.”

Tom Semeraro, Director of Youth Ministry affirmed “The youth program and the youth ministers that serve our youth are the hands and feet of Christ. They are there to walk with young people as they grow in mind, body, and spirit. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued support of your Diocesan Youth Ministry Program through the Bishop's Fund Appeal.”

The theme of this year's Bishop's Fund Appeal, United in Faith – Continuing Christ's Mission speaks to the Diocese of Ogdensburg's strong commitment of providing ministries and programs that assist our Catholic family along their journey of faith.

The Bishop's Fund Appeal began in 1959 under the leadership of Bishop James Navagh. Now in 2020, even in the midst of a pandemic, the work of the Church continues under the leadership of Bishop Terry R. LaValley. We continue to minister to

our North Country neighbors through the following ministries and programs, which are supported by your gifts to the Appeal: Education of Seminarians, Family Life Office, Natural Family Planning Office, Respect Life Ministry, Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund, Formation for Ministry Program, Office of the New Evangelization, Continuing Education and Formation of Priests, Priests' Graduate Studies, Vocation Office, Permanent Deacons, Deacon Formation, Tuition Assistance Program, Campus Ministry Program, Matching Gifts to Catholic Schools, Department of Faith Formation, Diocesan Center of Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, Guggenheim Center, and Department of Worship.

The 2020 Bishop's Fund Appeal will begin in all

parishes across the Diocese the weekend of September 19 and 20. In this year's appeal, it is our hope to reach a goal of \$1.3 million, with any additional funds raised going to further assist families and individuals in need through the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund.

“The Good Samaritan Fund has always been a source of hope for many people. I can't tell you the number of times that we've turned to the Bishop's Fund and always

gotten a positive response from them. We are very grateful for the Bishop's Fund Good Samaritan Program even before the pandemic, during the pandemic and I'm sure after the pandemic as well,” reflected Father Scott Seymour, Pastor of St. James Church, Cadyville; St. Joseph's Church, Dannemora; The Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph, Morrisonville and Church of the Assumption, Redford.

Please prayerfully consider a gift to this year's Bishop's Fund Appeal. Every gift makes a difference in the lives of those we serve throughout the Diocese. Donations can be mailed to: The Bishop's Fund Appeal, PO Box 150, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 or made online at: <https://www.rcdony.org/bfa.html#donate>.

To learn more about the Appeal and to view the 2020 Bishop's Fund video, please visit our website at [www.rcdony.org/bfa](http://www.rcdony.org/bfa).

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## Environmental Stewardship

## Protecting Our Common Home

In last Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 18:21-25), a servant who owes his master money begs forgiveness, and the king forgives him. The same servant goes to a fellow worker and demands what he is owed. When the servant begs for time to repay, the unjust servant casts him into prison.

If we consider this reading in the context of protecting the earth, our common home, we might consider this. The "unjust servant" represents all who take and use the resources of the earth for themselves and attempt to charge others, including the poor, for what belongs to all who inhabit the planet.

What we hold in common is what belongs to all of us: air, water, and common land. We have the need for clean drinking water, clean air to breathe, heat in the winter, shade in the summer, adequate/nourishing food and good health. We are living at a time when those who are in power have tried to take what belongs to all and turn it for their own use.

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis speaks of the climate as a common good, belonging to all, which requires humanity in general to recognize the need for change of lifestyle, production, and consumption in the face of global warming. (#23) He quote St. John Paul II who said: "God gave the earth to the whole human race for the sustenance of all its members, without excluding or favoring anyone." (#93)

**Action:** Here in the United States, many of us have the power to vote ... but sometimes that is not enough. We need to advocate, not only for ourselves, but for the common good. Each one of us must accept the responsibility of caring for Mother Earth and for each other. We can each do something!!

**Prayer:** Lord, we confess that we have let greed blind us to the needs of other human beings. We have treated your good earth as a commodity, rather than as the home we share. We have let apathy and consumerism blind us to our God-given responsibilities. God of Grace, forgive our complacency and stir us to action. We ask this in Your Name. Amen

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**Sept. 16** – 6 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Augustine's Church in Peru

**Sept. 17** – Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, Inc. Meeting in New York City

**Sept. 19** – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Sept. 20** – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

2 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Bartholomew's Church in Old Forge with St. Anthony of Padua Parish of Inlet and Raquette Lake

**Sept. 21** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Sept. 22** – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

7 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Tupper Lake with St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake

## To Report Abuse

**If you have a complaint** of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri-  
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## 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](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org)

- Join the conversation!

## Youth leaders wanted for Diocesan Youth Council

**OGDENSBURG** – Youth interested in developing their faith and leadership skills are wanted to serve on the

Diocesan Youth Council (DYC).

DYC is a group comprised of members in grades 10 through 12 who live in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Each member serves on DYC for a one-year term. Members are able to re-apply annually to serve for up to three total terms.

The purpose of Diocesan Youth Council is twofold:

- Members will grow in spiritual development and leadership skills so they may take a more active role in their local parishes, particularly in youth ministry efforts on the local level.

- Members will help plan and facilitate diocesan-sponsored events (youth rally, Lenten retreat days) and help promote diocesan-sponsored events (youth rallies, Camp Guggenheim, March for Life, regional events, Catholic Heart Work Camp, etc.).

Diocesan Youth Council

is an opportunity to grow in leadership, build friendships and have fun. It is also a significant responsibility, requiring maturity and commitment. Applying to DYC should be taken seriously and with prayerful consideration.

Requirements:

- Members must be in grades 10-12.

- Members must demonstrate active involvement in the Church at the parish level.

- Members must demonstrate leadership skills, integrity, motivation, and a love for the Lord. Members must attend: One Lenten Retreat Day, Youth Rally, an annual retreat day or weekend experience and a minimum of 6 council meetings virtually or in-person. Schedules and locations to be determined by the Director of Youth Ministry and DYC members.

To apply, go to [rcdony.org/youth/council](http://rcdony.org/youth/council).

## Rest in Peace

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

**Sept. 16** – Rev. Henri Victor Lecompte, O.M.I., 1892; Rev. Alphonse Nolin, O.M.I., 1936

**Sept. 17** – Rev. William E. Capron, 1949; Msgr. Louis D. Berube, 1999

**Sept. 18** – Rev. Charles E. Campeau, 1952

**Sept. 19** – Rev. Clement J. Dwyer, O.S.A., 1956; Rev. Francis C. McMahon, 1975

**Sept. 20** – Msgr. Edmund J. Brown, 1954; Rev. Donald Gallagher, 1959; Rev. Edward J. Wright, 1993; Msgr. Floyd J. Brown, 1994

**Sept. 21** – Rev. M. Stanton, 1908; Rev. M. J. Geraghty, O.S.A., 1914; Rev. Michael J. Brown, 1917; Rev. Wilbert LeBeau, 1953

**Sept. 22** – Rev. John McDermott, 1870; Rev. Pierre L'Esperance, M.S.C., 1942; Msgr. John Michael Hogan, 1951

## Protecting God's Children

**The Diocese of Ogdensburg** has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required. Participants may preregister at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org).

Upcoming sessions:

**Sept. 17** – 6:30 p.m., St. Mary's School, Ticonderoga

**Sept. 19** – St. Mary's School, Ticonderoga

Due to COVID-19, online trainings are also available. If you need to complete VIRTUS training, contact Jean Grizzuto, [jgrizzuto@rcdony.org](mailto:jgrizzuto@rcdony.org) or 315-393-2920 x 1413, who will coordinate assigning the training to be completed online.

 *Life Chain*

**Stand up for LIFE at this year's LIFECHAIN SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4**

*Join in the 33rd annual peaceful, prayerful, public, pro-life witness to the sanctity of life.*

*Rain or shine. All faiths welcome. Bring a friend. Signs are provided.*

*LIFECHAIN practices social distancing. Please stand 25 feet apart.*

*For information about the LIFECHAIN in your area: [www.lifechain.net](http://www.lifechain.net)*



# UNITED IN FAITH

*Continuing Christ's Mission*



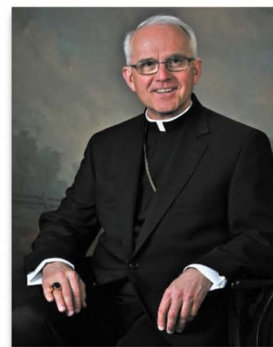
**2020 Bishop's Fund Appeal**  
*Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg*

# UNITED IN FAITH

## *Continuing Christ's Mission*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

We have never seen anything like it! COVID-19 has introduced an uncertainty into our lives that we would never have imagined. In its wake, this pandemic has brought long bouts of loneliness and isolation to many. It is reassuring these days to hear again the words of the prophet Isaiah: "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will surely help you; I will uphold you with My right hand of righteousness." (41:10) Even during these unprecedented times, we have not been alone. We are united through our faith, as the theme of this year's Bishop's Fund proclaims: ***United in Faith – Continuing Christ's Mission.***



As our parish churches begin to re-open for public worship, we are reminded that our parish communities and our faith weave us together. We realize that we must continue Christ's Mission to teach and serve all our sisters and brothers in Christ. The work of our Church and the needs of our community continue. Your support allows our mission, Christ's mission, to continue assisting our family of faith through the essential programs and ministries supported by the Bishop's Fund Appeal. As disciples in mission, we:

- Provide formation and education to seminarians, deacon candidates and Formation for Ministry students, preparing them to serve our sisters and brothers in Christ now and into the future.
- Provide training and support to our parish youth ministers, pastors, and Religious Education leaders in offering dynamic online Youth Group experiences, virtual praise and worship, prayer opportunities, webinars, and training presentations.
- Help parents choose a Catholic School education for their children through the Tuition Assistance Program.
- Bring hope to those who are facing crisis situations in their lives by providing emergency grants through the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund to those experiencing job loss, high medical expenses, loss of homes to fire. We also assist community food pantries in their ministry to feed those among us struggling to provide meals for their families.

It is our hope to reach a goal of \$1.3M this year. Any funds raised over our goal will further supplement the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund.

I am so grateful for your past support. I invite every family in the Diocese of Ogdensburg to prayerfully consider making a gift to this Bishop's Fund Appeal. It is my prayer that you will consider making a gift at whatever level of support you are able. Together, we remain ***United in Faith*** and ***Continue Christ's Mission.***

Gratefully yours in Christ,

*+ Terry R. LaValley*

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley  
Bishop of Ogdensburg



# The Bishop's Fund Appeal

Provides financial assistance to the vital ministries of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The following are among the ministries supported:

- Education of Seminarians
- Family Life Office
- Natural Family Planning Office
- Respect Life Ministry
- Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund
- Formation for Ministry Program
- Office of the New Evangelization
- Continuing Education and Formation of Priests
- Priests' Graduate Studies
- Vocation Office
- Permanent Deacons
- Deacon Formation
- Tuition Assistance Program
- Campus Ministry Program
- Matching Gifts to Catholic Schools
- Department of Faith Formation
- Diocesan Center of Youth Ministry
- Young Adult Ministry
- Guggenheim Center
- Department of Worship

## Ways to Give

**Gifts of Cash:** Checks should be made payable to the "Bishop's Fund Appeal."

**Pledge:** A gift to the Bishop's Fund Appeal may be paid in four payments - at the time of the pledge, December, February and April.

**Online Giving:** The Bishop's Fund Appeal offers the opportunity to make your gift and pledge payments online using a credit card. To donate online, please visit [rcdony.org/bfa.html](http://rcdony.org/bfa.html) #donate. If making a pledge, enter your first payment in the "amount" box and in the comments section indicate the total amount you wish to pledge.

**Automatic Pledge Payments:** To set up automatic credit or debit card pledge payments, please contact the Bishop's Fund Office at 315-393-2920

**Matching Gifts:** Many companies endeavor to match the charitable contributions of employees. Please contact your company's Human Resource Department to determine if your company participates in the Matching Gift Program for Catholic Schools.

**Gifts of Securities:** Federal tax laws offer special incentives for gifts of non-cash property especially that which has increased in value since it was acquired. Please contact the Bishop's Fund Office at 315-393-2920 for transfer instructions.

**Qualified IRA Contributions:** For those who are 70 1/2 or older, you may wish to consider a tax-free gift directly from your IRA to the Bishop's Fund Appeal. Please contact the Bishop Fund Office at 315-393-2920 for instructions.

**Bequests:** When considering gifts to a charity in your Will, please remember the Bishop's Fund Appeal. Gifts can be made in the following manner through your Will: Specific dollar amount; a percentage of your estate or a particular asset such as real estate or other valuables.

For more information and to view the 2020 Bishop's Fund Video, please visit [www.rcdony.org/bfa](http://www.rcdony.org/bfa)



YES! I WANT TO MAKE MY GIFT TO THE 2020 BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL

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SEND CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO: **Bishop's Fund Appeal** OR FILL IN CREDIT CARD INFO.

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OR PLACE IN YOUR PARISH COLLECTION

# Staying connected to faith while missing camp

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

Now back in school and adjusting to their new educational environments, youth from around the diocese and around the state had to adjust to another change this summer: not having Camp Guggenheim open to help them grow in faith and develop friendships.

"I was kind of sad about (Camp Guggenheim) closing," said Edward "Eddie" Miller, 13, of Waddington. "I guess it gave me time to do other things, but I missed seeing the friends that I had met there."

Miller, who was scheduled to attend Camp Guggenheim for the third time this year, said he tried to stay connected to his faith this summer by attending Mass, first via the internet and later in person.

"Not being able to attend in person, it was a big difference," he said. "We couldn't take Communion, and we didn't really see anyone but Msgr. (Robert Aucoin)."

He also said he stayed in contact with his camp friends via social media.

"We had a Snapchat group chat," Miller said.

Miller said he looks forward to when camp opens again.

"I'm hoping to go back," he said.

Victoria "Tori" Hogan, 18, of Silver Spring, Maryland, had been attending camp since 2013. Now a college student, this was going to be her last year as a camper at Camp Guggenheim.

Hogan, who has family connections in the North Country, said she was devastated when she learned camp would not open for the summer.

"It was the hardest I had cried in a long time," she said. "This was going to be



(Left) Victoria "Tori" Hogan rappels down a rock face at Camp Guggenheim during a previous camp session. (Right) Elizabeth "Liz" Peo of Ogdensburg, left, pictured with Guggenheim Counselor Katy Sherman, was scheduled to be a camp counselor at Camp Guggenheim for the first time this year.



my last year as a camper."

Hogan said she has remained strongly connected to her faith with the support of her Guggenheim friends, who have also helped her through a tough time in her life.

"This past summer, my dad was diagnosed with mesothelioma," she said. "That's kept me praying a lot and kept me connected to my faith. It's been hard with everything that's been going on. My family had a prayer circle while my dad was in surgery yesterday. A bunch of my friends from Guggenheim had prayer circles up there, too."

Hogan noted her father, John Hogan, was a counselor at Guggenheim in his youth, as well.

Now a student at Montgomery College in Maryland, said she's taken lessons from Guggenheim with her as she moves through these hard times and into a new chapter in her life.

"One of the things that I was told when I was a camper kind of changed my perspective on everything and has helped me a lot lately," she said. "I was

told 'it's the same Jesus whether you're at Guggenheim and literally screaming for Jesus or when you're at your home church.' After having these amazing experiences at camp, it always felt different when I went home. Having that perspective has been really helpful this year. Even without camp, Jesus is the same."

Keiler MacNeal, 16, of Amsterdam, New York, said if camp had opened this year, it would've been his fifth year at Guggenheim.

"I was pretty devastated when I found there wouldn't be camp this year," he said. "It sounds cheesy, but I love everything about camp, but I really love how centered on faith it is. That's the main part of it for me."

Missing camp and being unable to attend Mass made staying connected to his faith quite difficult, MacNeal said.

"It was a challenge," he said. "I had gone to Mass basically every Sunday for the past three years, and then I wasn't able to go for two to three months. That's a big part of my life."

MacNeal said he tried to focus on his prayer life to get through the challenging period.

"I made sure I prayed," he said. "I like to read three chapters of the Bible every night. That really helped. And I prayed the Rosary a lot."

Elizabeth "Liz" Peo, 19, of Ogdensburg was a camper at Camp Guggenheim for seven years. This year, she was hired to be a camp counselor for the first time.

"I was pretty disappointed," she said. "I was really looking forward to going to camp, helping the campers and bonding with the counselors I had as a camper. Then I got a call from Conner (Cummings), the camp director, and he told me we were going to try to do as much as we could to transfer the camp experience to an online format. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to participate in the online activities as much as I would've liked, since I had two jobs this summer, but it was nice being involved in developing the ideas."

Peo said the staff stayed in contact through social

media and online platforms, which helped her stay connected to the camp experience. She also used her camp experience to help her stay connected to her faith.

"I used my wrist rosaries I got from camp," she said. "I have one that I've had since my first year as a camper. I had some strings, so I taught other people to make them. I used my wrist rosaries a lot. I also watched a lot of online Masses, and I wrote a lot. I've always liked communicating through writing. I did a lot of that at camp. I've tried to keep with it. I've also tried to get outside a lot – it was sort of an effort to try to feel like I was at camp."

Peo, a sophomore nursing major at LeMoyne College in Syracuse, said she hopes she have her first-year counselor experience next year.

"If it's happening next year, hopefully I can be a staff member," she said. "If not, I'll probably do something in nursing. Then, the year after that, hopefully I'll be a (Registered Nurse). Maybe I'll be the nurse at camp."

# 'He put me where He wanted me to be'

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

OGDENSBURG – "I see what Jesus went through on the cross, and I can't believe He went through that, and I can't believe his mother had to go through that with him," said Lorraine Carney of Ogdensburg. "Seeing that, I know Jesus and his mother love me – love us all. I know I can put my trust in Him, and it brings me peace to know that He's always there for me."

Carney, who attends Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg, said she was raised in her Catholic faith as a child in western Pennsylvania.

"I'm a cradle Catholic," she said. "Growing up, we went to church every week, and we went to religion class. My grandmother worked in a Catholic hospital, and she worked with a lot of nuns. She was always talking to the nuns and introduced us to the nuns. As I got older, I still went to church all the time, and I did my duties as a Catholic – I went to church every week, went to confession and received Communion."

Despite her Catholic upbringing, Carney said she really began to grow in her knowledge and love of her Catholic faith when she decided to bring her daughter to Family Guggenheim.

"I ended up being the single parent of one daughter, Kristin," she said. "We saw an announcement for Family Guggenheim in the church bulletin. I took the bulletin home, read it over, and decided, 'let's try that.' I called, and I got the form, and I signed us up. The only weekend



Lorraine Carney

that was available was the fall weekend. We ended up going."

Carney said she first felt out of place at the camp experience, but later became inspired by faith and knowledge of the other campers and staff.

"There were a couple other single parents, but it was mostly large families," she said. "At first, it was felt kind of odd. I was the only one there with only one child, and I had no husband with me. But we really liked it. We enjoyed the music, everyone held hands while they prayed, they had a theme song, there were workshops and free time. I really liked it, and my daughter did, too. We kept going back. I sometimes felt odd, but I kept going back."

After a few years, Carney and her daughter were invited to serve on the camp staff.

"I remember when I first got on staff, I would just listen to the other people on staff coming up with ideas," she said. "It always

felt like they knew so much more than I knew about the Bible. They'd come up with these ideas, and I didn't even know what they were talking about. I'd have to go home and look it up. I got to where I wanted to know more about the Bible and my faith."

Carney then joined the Women of Grace program at what is now St. Mary's Cathedral Parish.

"I learned a lot in that program," she said. "We did Women of Grace, we read a few of Johnnette Benkovic (Williams') books, and we did four or five programs through Formed. With each program, I'd learn some more."

Eventually, Carney decided to participate in the Formation for Ministry program and become a Commissioned Lay Minister.

"I learned so much in those classes," she said. "It's really made me want to keep learning more and absorbing more."

In addition to expanding her knowledge of the



faith, Carney said she's continuously trying to grow her relationship with the Lord.

"I pray every night," she said. "I thank God for my family and my health, and I pray for my daughter and grandbabies. I pray the rosary. As a mother, I really relate to Mary. I'm hoping to find a kneeler. I feel like it would help me pray even more. I need that quiet place and that place set aside for prayer."

Her relationship with the Lord has helped her throughout her life, Carney said.

"In my second year of college, my father died. He was electrocuted," she said. "I remember my faith helping me through that."

Carney's faith also helped her when she struggled to find a job for a period of time.

"I lost my job last October," she said. "It was the first time I had ever lost a job. I was applying like crazy, but we were getting through November, December and January, and still nothing. I re-

member praying and saying, 'Lord, it's up to you. You're going to give me what you think I should have and show me where I should be.' And I didn't worry or stress about it, and I've always been a worry wart. I ended up working at Catholic Charities. He put me where He wanted me to be."

As she's grown in her faith, and through those experiences, Carney said she has found peace in the Lord.

"My faith gives me peace and calm even when I don't find peace and calm in the world," she said. "And I've found people I can share my faith with."

While she has grown in her faith and trust, as well as her knowledge of the faith, over the years, Carney said she's not done yet.

"I'm like a sponge," she said. "I want to keep learning and growing and understanding what I don't know. I want to keep learning and keep on with my faith. Hopefully it grows stronger, too."

## CLINTON

## TENT SALE

Peru – St. Vincent's will have their Fall Tent Sale.

**Schedule:** Sept. 14 – Sept. 19 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Sept. 17, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Features:** Special large bag price of \$8 Sept. 17 -19

## FRANKLIN

## GARAGE SALE

Malone – St. Andre Bessette Parish is holding its annual garage sale.

**Date:** Sept. 26 to Oct. 3

**Place:** Former Holy Family School

**Features:** Furniture, household goods, tools, toys, books, bedding, miscellaneous. There is something for everyone.

## HARVEST TURKEY DINNER

Brushton – The Catholic communities of St. Augustine and St. Mary's are sponsoring a take-out only harvest turkey dinner.

**Date:** Oct. 4

**Time:** 11 a.m. until all is gone

**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center, 769 County Route 6 (Gale Road), Brushton

**Features:** Roast turkey, mashed potatoes, squash, stuffing, cabbage salad, rolls and dessert.

**Cost:** Meals are \$12

## LEWIS

## ROSARY PROCESSION &amp; HIGH MASS

Port Henry – St. Patrick's Church will host an outdoor Candlelight Rosary Procession followed by a Missa Cantata in the Extraordinary Form for the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary.

**Date:** Oct. 7

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Features:** Latin/English worship aid will be provided. Masks, physical distancing and COVID-19 protocols will pertain.

## ST. LAWRENCE

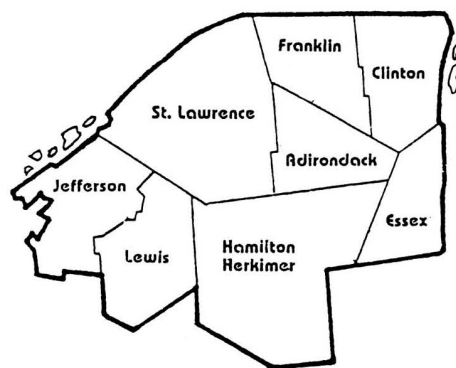
## VIRTUAL ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Waddington/Zoom – Online zoom sessions will be held with the topic of "What Happens When We Die."

**Dates:** Sept. 16, 23, 30 Oct. 7, 14

**Time:** 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Features:** The Last Things: Judgment, heaven, hell, purgatory. These are all teachings of our faith. It's important for us to get a good grasp on what we believe. Knowing that what we believe must be rooted in scripture and not in popular beliefs. Msgr. Aucoin is offering



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese".

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;  
e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

Items must be received in the NCC office by the Thursday before publication.

a series of sessions via ZOOM on what we call in Catholic teachings "The Last Things." With the assistance of videos from Bishop Barron, we will offer five sessions with these topics: What will happen when we die? Does God really send people to Hell? Why Purgatory is actually a good thing... What can we know about angels? What is the goal of Christianity?

**Contact:** If you are interested in participating, you will need to register email Msgr Aucoin at pastor@mw-catholics.org

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## VIRTUAL FALL RETREAT

Join in a Fall virtual retreat with the theme of Putting Forgiveness and Love into Practice.

**Date:** Sept. 19-20

**Features:** 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 will be virtual using Zoom on the computer. It includes presentations, time for personal prayer and reflection with optional times for sharing. Facilitators will be Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ, Molly Amoriell, and Jane Wells. Free will offering gratefully accepted.

**Contact:** For more information, contact srbethssj@gmail.com (315-212-6592).

## VIRTUAL PRIEST DISCERNMENT SESSIONS

Zoom in to Priest Discernment. High School Junior men & older are invited to join Father Howard Venette & guests for 60-minute virtual discernment sessions.

**Dates:** Sept. 20, Oct. 4 & 18, Nov. 1, 15 & 29 and Dec. 13

**Time:** 3 p.m.

**Contact:** Father Venette at hvenette@gmail.com for meeting access.

## LIFECHAIN

Stand up for LIFE at this year's LIFECHAIN! Join in the 33rd annual

peaceful, prayerful, public, pro-life witness to the sanctity of life. Rain or shine. All faiths welcome! Bring a friend! Signs are provided. LIFECHAIN practices social distancing. Please stand 25 feet apart.

**Date:** Oct. 4

**Contact:** For information about the LIFECHAIN in your area, visit www.lifechain.net

## CLM FALL GATHERING

Watertown – Special Mass and program for all CLM's in Jefferson and Lewis County.

**Date:** Oct. 14

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** Holy Family Church

**Features:** Deacon Crowley will speak on the topic of Catholic Leadership in a COVID-19 World.

## VIRTUAL FAMILY LIFE CONFERENCE

Watch the "Iron Sharpens Iron" project from the virtual Family Life Conference at <https://www.rcdony.org/vflc>

**Description:** See the videos from the Virtual Family Life Conference or to submit a video of your family doing something fun.

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# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Department of Justice defends archdiocese in school case

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** – The U.S. Department of Justice is urging the Indiana Supreme Court to dismiss a lawsuit filed against the Indianapolis Archdiocese by a Catholic high school teacher who was fired last year. The Justice Department, in a Sept. 8 brief, argued the archdiocese was protected by the First Amendment and by a recent Supreme Court decision to determine who can teach students at religious schools. The lawsuit was filed last summer against the Archdiocese of Indianapolis by a Cathedral High School teacher, Joshua Payne-Elliott, who said he was fired from the archdiocesan school because of his same-sex marriage. This school said it rescinded Payne-Elliott's contract based on the contract's morality clause. In its 44-page brief, the Justice Department emphasized that "religious employers are entitled to employ in key roles only persons whose beliefs and conduct are consistent with the employers' religious precepts, and, more broadly, that the U.S. Constitution bars the government from interfering with the autonomy of religious organizations."

## Dominican: Catholic social teaching has values world needs

**ROME (CNS)** – Individual rights and freedom obviously are essential for human flourishing, but human happiness depends a lot on relationships – kinship and friendship, but also the broader common good, said Dominican Sister Helen Alford. The 2007-2008 global financial crisis, the climate crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic – "these are some of the results of a too individualistic mindset," said the British Dominican, vice rector of Rome's Pontifical University of St. Thomas. Pope Francis named Sister Alford a member of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences in early September. "We could think of some societies even today that don't give people enough individual freedom, and that's a problem," she said. "But we can also have too much of it in the sense that it leads to breakdown, (a) breakdown of communities, breakdown of relationships." When the individual becomes the source and summit of life in society, "people feel they can't speak to each other," she said. "If you think about some of the political situations that we're dealing with today where people feel they have absolutely nothing in common with each other and that the political divide between them is so profound that they can't talk to each other, they can't even work together in government."

## Federal bill hopes to decrease veterans' suicide rate

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** – Legislation in Congress intends to direct more money to local initiatives to stop what the bill's backers call an "epidemic" of suicide by veterans. The Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019 is meant to blunt what first-term U.S. Rep. Michael Waltz, R-Florida, a former Green Beret, said is a "stubborn" suicide rate that results in 20 to 22 veterans on average committing suicide each day. "We've moved as a country from a mandatory service to all-volunteer service," said Waltz, who fought in Afghanistan after the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the U.S. and retired with the rank of lieutenant colonel. "Everybody who signs up knows that they're heading into harm's way and doing it voluntarily," but given veteran suicide rates, he added, "we can't sustain that going forward from a recruitment standpoint." Waltz said he is co-sponsoring the House version of the bill based on his own military experiences. "I've struggled with my own issues with TBI (traumatic brain injury), with survivor's guilt with the Green Berets that I lost," he told Catholic News Service in a Sept. 9 phone interview. "As leaders, we need to begin talking about it."

# 'Together Strong: Life Unites' is theme of March

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** – The Sept. 10 announcement of the theme for the March for Life – "Together Strong: Life Unites" – made it clear the annual national event, in some form, will proceed next Jan. 29.

But details of how the march, rally and pro-life conference, which together have drawn as many as 100,000 participants in past years, will cope with COVID-19 self-quarantine restrictions in the District of Columbia were not part of the announcement.

Asked on EWTN's "Pro-Life Weekly" program that evening about whether people should start making plans, Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund, said: "You know, everybody has to make that decision on their own. You know, considering their own situations, et cetera."

She added, "But I certainly would be (making plans), and I obviously will be there this year. I think that standing for life and standing for inherent human dignity of every life from conception to natural death is all the more important this year when there is so much unrest, so much division in our country. We need to show that we are stronger together and that love and life unite us. They make us stronger."

In July, Mancini had said "we will continue to discern throughout this year what steps should be taken," regarding pandemic restrictions.

Social distancing and masks aren't the issue. Washington health authorities require a 14-day self-quarantine for visitors "participating in nonessen-

tial travel" from high-risk areas. The quarantine is adjusted every two weeks, and as of Sept. 8, was extended to visitors from 30 states.

That's a particular obstacle for the many high school and college groups who arrive on long-distance bus rides which have, over the decades, become the pulse of the event.

"If D.C. is still requiring a two-week quarantine for out-of-state travelers, I don't see a way for us to attend," said Ed Konieczka, assistant director of university ministry at the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota. "We are taking care of the details that we can, and recognizing which things are out of our control."

The university typically sends around 200 students and staff members to the march, and in 2018, some 20 students flanked President Donald Trump in the Rose Garden at the White House when he addressed the Mall rally on a video link. This past January, Trump addressed the rally in person, becoming the first president to do so.

The alternative to a Washington trip, Konieczka said, will be a rally that day in Bismarck. "We have been approached by the Diocese of Bismarck with a request to coordinate efforts to have the biggest March for Life event ever at our state cap-

ital. We have a shared vision for a large event, where any of our students unable to travel to D.C. will join with members of the diocese."

Planners of state marches face the same uncertainty. "Right now with COVID and the restrictions, we are playing it by ear in Chicago," said Denise Zabor, office manager for Illinois Right to Life.

March for Life has taken place in Washington every January since 1974. It's always held on a date near the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 rulings, *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*, which legalized abortion on demand.

"I believe it's the rallying point for all of pro-life America," said Dave Beret, the founder of 40 Days for Life, who co-hosted the theme announcement with Mancini.


Among those making remarks during the announcement were Carrie Severino, president of Judicial Crisis Network, and U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, R-New Jersey, who chairs the bipartisan Pro-Life Caucus in the House of Representatives.

"One of the most significant decisions a president has to make is who to put on the federal courts," Severino said. She warned of the danger of judges "who think it is their job to invent new constitutional rights."

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## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

## Readings provide reasons for our hope

No one expected six months ago that the COVID-19 pandemic would still be in full swing. The feelings of loss and confusion are everywhere. Even though our churches are open for Masses, the regulations are so strict that many still prefer watching Mass on the internet. We have no idea when this will be over. We have learned a lot about social distancing and the wearing of



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

The readings this week are a consolation and reasons for hope. They show us how very near God is to us and how intimate He is. In the first reading from Isaiah, we are assured of God's constant mercy, even though we are so often unforgiving to one another, and how vindictive we tend to be. God's ways are not our ways. There is such reason for hope when we

September 20

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

## READINGS

Isaiah 55: 6-9  
Phil 1:20c-24, 27a  
Matt 20:1-16a

realize how very close God is always. This gives us strong reasons for gratitude.

In the second reading from St. Paul to the Philippians, we feel with Paul the desire to be free from this world so that we may be with Christ risen.

The Gospel can be diffi-

cult. We feel for those who worked the whole day yet were paid the same wage as those who worked but an hour. Yet we realize that God is showing generosity to all the workers. God's ways are very different from our own, but He still treats everyone with equality. The kingdom of heaven is so very like this.

Most people resist change. These days have shaken us to the core. There are so many who are suffering grief at the loss of loved ones. Others

have suffered greatly from the loss of employment. But in all the experience, we highly respect those people who put their lives at risk for the sake of the community – hospital nurses, doctors, to mention only a few. Their example bolsters our morale. The most consolations come, however, from the power of the Gospel, which shows us how we are to react in all this. The power of God's Word and His promises are the ultimate reality. God is still in charge of our world.

## CALLED TO SERVE

## It looks different, but Mass is essentially the same

*Introibo ad altare Dei*, I will go to the altar of God. That's how Mass begins in the Latin rite.

A message I received from a friend in North Syracuse took me on a journey this week that actually jettisoned me back to my altar server days, yes, in the Latin rite.

Maryjane told me that during the pandemic, "we have one Mass inside on Saturday evening with limited numbers and sign up required. On Sunday at 8:30 and 10:30, we have been having Mass outside in the parking lot

with every family in their own car. Father is on a raised stage with a microphone. The cars all have an empty spot next to them on each side, and at Communion time, we get out of the car and stand next to it, and two priests come around in masks to give out Communion, which we take in our hand and consume by lifting our mask when the priest has left."

When I first read Maryjane's message I was startled. Even with the nuances we have endured in our diocese, that cele-

bration seemed a bit extreme to me. But then the journey began. I started to think about the myriad of settings for Mass in my limited experience.

I go back to those days when Mass was in Latin, thus the prayer at the foot of the altar quoted above. In my parish in Queens, New York, we had Sunday Mass in church, in the school auditorium and in the school gymnasium. We adapted depending on the location.

Over these many years as Latin gave way to the vernacular, I have served or attended Mass in a field at scout camp, in great cathedrals and basilicas, in a home basement, in the catacombs in Rome, in hotel banquet rooms, in a cemetery,

aboard ship, on the shores of Lake Ontario and on and on. The majority of Masses in my experience have been in church, in my home parish. But even there, we are obliged to modify certain actions occasionally to meet the need of the day. But the Mass is not different.

What struck me – and I hope occurs to you, too, as you think about the changes we have been asked to endure during this health emergency – is that the Mass is substantially the same.

Sure, we are forced to adapt to circumstances and locations, but the gift of our Lord, the miraculous transformation of bread and wine to the Body and Blood of Christ through the actions of a

priest, is the same. We believe the sacrifice of Christ on the cross is made present and true each time the Eucharist is celebrated. The Lord is present in the Eucharist, his Body and Blood, present to us under the signs of bread and wine.

The venue might be different, how we gather, and how we process to receive Him might be reworked, but the reason we go to Mass has not changed.

In Latin, the response to "I go to the Altar of God" is *ad Deum qui laetificat iuventutem meam*, to God who gives joy to my youth. He does this everyday, no matter the place or the circumstances.

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



Deacon  
Kevin Mastellon



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## 'Lord, I put my faith in you'

As the school year 2020-2021 begins, we are reminded of the awesome responsibility of religious educators to share the Good News of Jesus love for each of their students. Mindful of the Scripture words, "Lord, I put my faith in you" (John 9:38), please remember it is Christ who has chosen you to teach Catholic truths and values. Call upon him frequently in prayer. Likewise, parents as the first teachers of the children receive guidance when they call the Lord in their own prayer or maybe try, "Lord, I put my faith in you."

As we begin this new school year, we must be grateful for teachers and students throughout the Ogdensburg Diocese who have supported the Missionary Childhood Association with prayer and sacrifices to help students in developing countries receive the basic needs of life. Though we may not know the names of the children able to receive food, water, or pencils for school, we know they are grateful. Know this though: The Mission lands will always have a need for more, and we are called by our baptism to be missionaries. We are called upon to hear their cry for help.

The Missionary Childhood Association (HCA) focuses on "children helping children" throughout the world. As we say out loud, "Lord, I put my faith in you," we are saying that we know everything is going to be alright. As our school years opens and gets underway, we ask our educators of both the Catholic Schools and religious education programs to have faith. The MCA program will be rolled out this school year in a format that is currently being finalized. Resources and information will be made available through the mission office and its website. Please go to the MCA link at <https://www.rcdony.org/mission-office.html>.

Let us pray for each other in our missionary efforts. The missionary work of the church depends on each one of us, even our kids. We are called to be missionaries. Let us have faith.

**mca** missionary  
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association

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

[www.rcdony.org/mission-office](http://www.rcdony.org/mission-office)

# Funeral Mass celebrated for Sister Carolyn Parker

A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Carolyn Parker, a Sister of Mercy, was held Sept. 8 at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Lake Placid.

Sister Carolyn, 76, of Lake Placid, passed away Thursday, September 3, 2020 at Elderwood of Uihlein at Lake Placid.

Born in Plattsburgh on September 12, 1943, she was the daughter of Pearl and Anna (Murphy) Parker.

She graduated from Douglas Elementary School and Beekmantown Center High School and received a bachelor's degree in Biology from Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry, New York.

She entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1962. After profession, she began her varied ministries as Medical Technician, Laboratory Supervisor, and Assistant Administrator at Mercy General Hospital, Tupper Lake and Dobbs Ferry, NY.

She was Vocation Director for the Mercy Community and the Director of Pastoral Care at St. Joseph's Medical Center in



Sister Carolyn Parker, RSM

Yonkers, New York.

Sister Carolyn is survived by one sister, Anne Arnold; four brothers and their wives, Clarence, Earl, Loren and Allan; and by many beloved nieces and nephews and their families and several cousins.

Burial was in St. Alphon-

sus Cemetery in Tupper Lake. The M. B. Clark, Inc. Funeral Home in Lake Placid, NY was in charge of arrangements.

Relatives and friends are invited to share a memory, or leave condolences at [www.mbclarkfuneralhome.com](http://www.mbclarkfuneralhome.com).

## OBITUARIES

**Brushton** – Dorthy A. (Lucey) King, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 10, 2020 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery, North Bangor.

**Gouverneur** – Rita (Youngs) Weller, 88; Funeral Services to be held at a later date.

**Inlet** – William G. MacIntyre Jr., 57; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 4, 2020 at St. Anthony of Padua Church; burial in Boonville Cemetery.

**Massena** – Patrick C. Austin, 69; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Brenda Gail (Ashley) Dudine, 71; Funeral Services Sept. 11, 2020 at Frary Funeral home.

**Ogdensburg** – Ann C. (Bouchard) O'Neil, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 9, 2020 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Rossie** – Daniel R. Phalen, 78; Private services to be held.

**Rouses Point** – Ila Elizabeth Comeau, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 11, 2020 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Rouses Point** – John L. Rowe, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 12, 2020

at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery, Champlain.

**Ticonderoga** – Carl Joseph Bevilacqua Sr., 88; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 11, 2020 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Patricia A. (Bauer) DiFabion, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 8, 2020 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**West Chazy** – Armand Lussier, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 12, 2020 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Plattsburgh Community Mausoleum.

# Brooklyn bishop reflects on Sept. 11 attack

BROOKLYN, N.Y. (CNS) – The nation "can never forget" the 9/11 tragedy "that shook the foundations of our society and our trust in our government to protect us," Brooklyn Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio said in his Sept. 9 column in *The Tablet*, the diocesan newspaper.

"As a city and as a nation, we all put out into the deep waters of post-9/11 remembrance," he wrote, echoing the name of his column, "Put Out Into the Deep."

"We remember those who were killed, those who survived, those who came

to their rescue, and those who sacrificed themselves in many ways then and now. We can never forget this tragedy, which marked a turning point in the understanding of our society of national security and pride," he added.

He asked Catholics to join him in prayer Sept. 11, the 19th anniversary of the terrorist attacks that claimed the lives of nearly 3,000 people in New York City, in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and at the Pentagon in Virginia, across the Potomac River from Washington.

The anniversary also is called Patriot Day.

"We must continue our efforts to defend the security of our country from forces of external and internal origin. Without such security, we can never assure peace, a peace that allows us to live as God intended," Bishop DiMarzio said.

Early in the morning on 9/11, terrorists flew two passenger planes into New York's World Trade Center, destroying the twin towers that were finally completed in 1975 after years of construction. The tow-

ers in lower Manhattan became iconic buildings almost instantly after their completion and had helped define the skyline for years to come.

The New York attack was followed quickly by terrorists flying a passenger plane into the Pentagon. A fourth passenger plane, United Airlines Flight 93, was initially headed toward Washington, but crashed into a field near Shanksville after passengers thwarted the hijackers.

In addition to 2,977 fatalities resulting from the attacks, over 25,000 other people sustained injuries and many people have suffered substantial long-term health consequences.

It is one of the single deadliest terrorist attacks in human history and the single deadliest incident for firefighters and law enforcement officers in the history of the United States, with 343 and 72

killed, respectively.

Bishop DiMarzio in his column noted the bravery that first responders displayed the day of the attacks. New York City police chaplains Msgr. Robert Romano and Msgr. David Casato and New York City fire chaplain Msgr. John Delendick and many other priests of the Brooklyn Diocese also "ran to that awful scene in lower Manhattan," he said.

"They went to assist in a time of recovery efforts, not only to minister to the survivors, but also to minister to the first responders," he said. "We must never forget the sacrifice and heroism of so many on that day and in the weeks that followed."

At least one Catholic chaplain lost his life that day: Franciscan Father Mychal Judge, a beloved New York City fire chaplain who died ministering to victims in the rubble of the World Trade Center's twin towers.

The saga of 9/11 continues in the ongoing health consequences many suffer to this day, Bishop DiMarzio said.

"People still lose their lives to cancer and related illnesses caused by their simply being at or near ground zero in the wake of the World Trade Center attacks," he said.

"Over 110 New York City firefighters have reportedly died of their 9/11 injuries since Sept. 11, 2001. And more are expected to die of these illnesses in the coming years. More than 7,000 FDNY firefighters and EMTs have been treated for a 9/11 injury or illness, now 19 years later," he said.

Bishop DiMarzio said the World Trade Center Health Registry of the New York City Department of Health "suggests that post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms are the most common effect of 9/11."



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