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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 75, Number 34

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JANUARY 13, 2021

## Follow Me: Reflections on Capitol incident

Bishop Terry R. LaValley offers his reflections on last week's incident at the U.S. Capitol.

"This has certainly been a year of instability and uncertainty for us. The pandemic and politics have revealed deep differences in the way that we look at life and in the way we relate to one another.

Last week's frightening and surreal episode at our nation's Capitol was shameful and embarrassing evidence of our fractured, degraded state. We are in such need of healing and reconciliation. All sorts of emotions have surfaced within us: fear, anger, disgust, shame, discouragement, a sense of hopelessness.

Let us go to Joseph."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

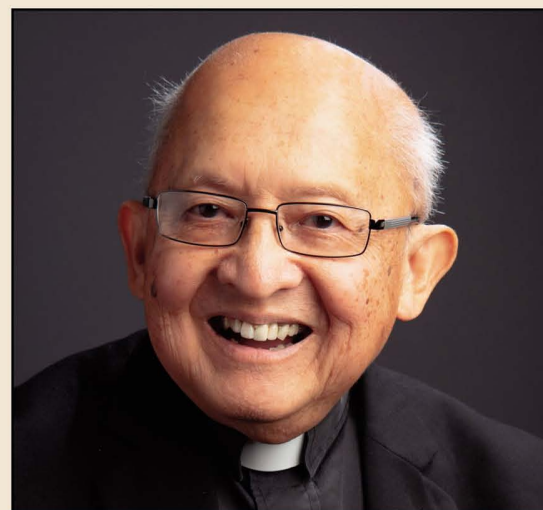
## CATECHESIS AND CRAFTS



Bryce Marsh and his sister, Kinleigh Marlowe, display the Advent wreath they made as a take-home catechesis project with St. Mary's Parish in Fort Covington. The wreaths are typically made as a group project, but were completed by families at home this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO HIM, O LORD

Father Vicente F. Jazmines enters the next life on January 7, 2021



Father Vicente F. Jazmines, pastor of St. Paul's in Black River and St. Mary's in Evans Mills, died Thursday, January 7, 2021 after a battle with COVID-19. Friends of Father Jazmines reflected on his life and impact.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4; OBITUARY PAGE 5

## Pope was 'astonished' by violence at Capitol

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis offered prayers for the people of the United States "shaken by the recent siege on Congress" and prayed for the five people who lost their lives "in those dramatic moments" when protesters stormed the Capitol Jan. 6.

Remarking on the events after reciting the Angelus prayer Jan. 10, the pope insisted that "violence is always self-destructive.

Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost."

The pope urged government leaders "and the entire population to maintain a high sense of responsibility in order to soothe tempers, promote national reconciliation and protect the democratic values rooted in American society."

And he prayed that "Mary Immaculate, patroness of the United

States of America," would "help keep alive the culture of encounter, the culture of caring, as the way to build together the common good; and may she do so with all who live in that land."

Pope Francis' remarks came one day after the release of clips of an interview in which he said he was "astonished" by the violent breach of the U.S. Capitol, especially because

the people of the United States are "so disciplined in democracy."

The interview with Italy's Canale 5 was scheduled for broadcast Jan. 10, but some clips were aired Jan. 9.

Violence, he told the interviewer, must always be condemned, but it also is true that in even the most "mature" societies, there are violent minorities, "people taking a path

against the community, against democracy, against the common good."

"But thank God this erupted and people could see it well. That way it can be remedied," he said.

"No nation can brag about never having a case of violence — it happens," he said. "We must understand it, so it is not repeated — learn from history, right?"

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

## 'I can't believe I just did that'

It took me less than two seconds to realize I had screwed up.

I was doing two things I shouldn't have been doing: Working when I had taken the day off and was on the way to a birthday celebration date night with my husband and trying to reply to an email when I didn't really have time to reply to an email.

So, when I hit "send" on my phone to deliver the email, I forgot that the email app on my phone defaults to

"reply," and I sent an email meant for one person to multiple distribution lists.



Darcy L.  
Fargo

I was mortified. While it wasn't the worst email I could've sent to dozens of people, the fact that I had made such a visible mistake crushed me.

"I can't look at my email for the rest of the night," I told my husband. "I can't believe I just did that. My night is ruined."

The next morning, I logged on to my work computer expecting a whole

bunch of emails with some version of "did you realize you hit 'reply all?'"

Instead, I found several emails from people offering suggestions and answers that made my Friday workload much easier and made the story I was working on much stronger than it otherwise would've been.

I sat at my desk and laughed about the situation. While I was still not thrilled that I had goofed up so visibly, I saw how God took my mistake and turned it into a blessing.

It's funny how God does that. I've mentioned before that I tend to dwell on my

mistakes, my sinfulness and the weaker parts of my personality. While we're called to continue cooperating with God's graces to try to overcome those parts of ourselves, it's nice to be reminded that God loves even those parts of us, and He uses even those parts of us.

Sometimes, God uses our mistakes and struggles to overcome our sinfulness to bring us closer to Him. Sometimes, God uses those things to help us connect and empathize with others. Sometimes, we don't get to see His purpose, but He has one.

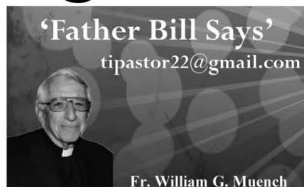
I am so grateful for that.

## Praying how Jesus taught us

Today, I believe that only thing for me to write about would be prayer. We pray because God loves us. We love God because God loves first. You and I are followers of Jesus Christ. Jesus taught us how to pray. There is a story in the Gospels when the apostles asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. At that time, He taught them the prayer that we call the "Lord's Prayer."

First, we must begin with silence. Any time we talk about prayer we must begin with an understanding of silence. You and I must realize that the only way to find peace in this noisy world is first to find some silence. Silence allows us to be calm in our very being. At the same time, silence allows us to find our God – a time to bring our cares and concerns, our hopes and dreams to the Lord, our God.

Prayer must begin with a Creed. Through the prayers of the Creed, we make a decision, and we proclaim our dedication to Our Lord and Savior. It is a moment when



we place our faith and trust and confidence in God. It is a time to announce to the world and to ourselves that we truly believe in God and that God is a part of our world. Our lives only makes sense because we want God to be a part of all that we do. We make it clear, especially to ourselves, that we believe we place our faith in our God.

Now, the Lord's Prayer – Jesus' Prayer. Jesus tells us to begin prayer with our dedication to "Our Father." When we pray to our God, a Father who has given us life, who creates for us this world – a good and alive world. We pray to "Our Father" who promises to listen to us and who answers our prayers as a good and loving Father.

We honor, our Father, for he is in Heaven. So, we make his very name sacred. We pray that we may do all in the name of our God and Father. As disciples of the Lord, Jesus, our lives are dedicated to form the Kingdom of God here on this earth, a Kingdom of love and peace and forgiveness and a Spirit in which we live in a strong and loving relationship with our God.

Our daily bread – we ask of our Father to watch over us and take care of us each day, physically and spiritually, through the food of this world and the sacramental food of the Holy Eucharist, the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Jesus then asks us to make a covenant with Our Father, that we seek forgiveness of our faults and sins just as we, ourselves, show that forgiveness and mercy to those who trespass against us. The disciples of Jesus are a forgiving, loving people.

Jesus completes this prayer as he urges us to

plead with our Father to protect us – to deliver us from all evil. Today, we can pray that God will preserve our world from the evil of this pandemic.

Each time we recite the Lord's Prayer we make a sincere prayer that God watches over so many who now suffer from this COVID. This prayer of Jesus reaches out to the Lord for all those who are suffering.

The "Our Father" is a handy prayer. We all know it, and people of other Christian faiths know it also. Whenever we need a prayer, we have it. Personally, I have stood with a group and want them all to pray with me, and I know that I can use the Lord's Prayer. I think of the many times I have been with a family around the hospital bed of a seriously sick loved one and can ask them to join with me to pray, and we join in faith to say the Lord's Prayer.

Today, we must be a people of prayer.

Please join me as we say together the Lord's Prayer.

## FOLLOW ME

# Turning to St. Joseph during time of division

During the first thirty years of His life on this earth, Jesus must have spent much time by Joseph's side, learning the carpentry trade where, in all likelihood, He built tables, chairs, and various types of furniture. Not only did the Lord learn the craftsmanship of carpentry, Joseph, the faithful Jew, also taught Jesus about the Father, providing Him with some of the human tools Jesus would need when He set out to build the Father's Kingdom.

As you know, we have consecrated this year to St. Joseph. At this time of high anxiety and uncertainty, we know we can turn to St. Joseph, who also experienced fear as he reflected on what was asked of him. We can appreciate Joseph's own devout faith

in the face of the doubt and uncertainty he encountered as he took Mary as his wife and then struggled to find a place for the Child to be born when all the doors were closed to them. Joseph must have known fear when, at divine prompting, he protected the newborn Child and Mother from violence by escaping through the desert to the unknown land of Egypt. Through it all, Joseph quietly trusted. He didn't have all the answers, but he trusted in God and acted upon that trust.

This has certainly been a year of instability and uncertainty for us. The pandemic and politics have

revealed deep differences in the way that we look at life and in the way we relate to one another. Yesterday's frightening and surreal episode at our nation's Capitol was shameful and embarrassing evidence of our fractured, degraded state. We are in such need of healing and reconciliation. All sorts of emotions have surfaced within us: fear, anger, disgust, shame, discouragement, a sense of hopelessness.

Let us go to Joseph. We bring to the carpenter of faith our troubled minds and aching hearts. We make the words of this prayer our own and seek the intercession of this

holy carpenter as we face the headwinds before us as a nation, a Church, and as family.

*Joseph, you were a man who carried into dark of anxious sleep the haunting mystery of deep, unsettled doubt.*

*But yet, within, and all untouched, your citadel of trust was calm, serene and still and flamed your unstarred night into the answering of dawn in God's unchanging will.*

*O carpenter of faith, build our inwardness into a city lamped with trust; and when we, too, must face the nights and tread the desert's way,*

*let us, like you, take Mother and Child into the Egypt of each day.*

*Good St. Joseph, come to our aid in these times of anguish and difficulty. Take under your protection the critical and troubling circumstances of the day. Keep us calm and serene, so aware of your Presence. AMEN.*

As we celebrated the Lord's baptism on Sunday, we are reminded that we are all sisters and brothers in Christ. Let us pray for our nation and for one another, that each of us might be instruments of God's peace. We recommit ourselves to respect for the human person and civility in our culture. We can, we must do better! God bless you and your loved ones.

Our Lady, Queen of Peace and Patroness of our Diocese and of America, Pray for Us All!



**Bishop  
Terry R.  
LaValley**

## SNOW PROBLEM? NO PROBLEM!



The December snow did not keep the masons from working on the steps of St. Mary's Church in Glenfield which were in need of repair. New front doors were also placed in the church earlier this year. Both improvements were made thanks to funds raised in the Diocesan Capital Campaign.

*Live-streamed from the  
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# Remembering Father Vicente F. Jazmines

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

**WATERTOWN**— Father Vicente F. Jazmines will be remembered for his love of movies, good meals, our Blessed Mother and his priesthood.

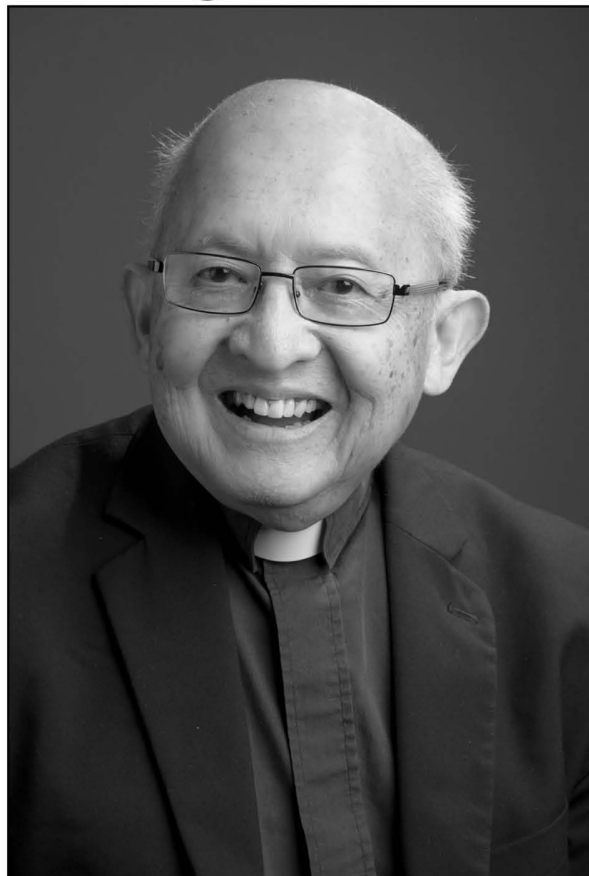
Father Jazmines entered the next life on January 7, 2021 after a battle with COVID-19. A complete obituary can be found on the following page.

"He was very kind," said Sister Mary Helen Hermann, a Sister of St. Joseph. "He was intelligent. He was gentle. He was a holy priest. He really cherished his priesthood."

Sister Mary Helen said and Father Jazmines became friends when he served at St. Augustine Parish in Peru. She was principal there at the time.

"He was very supportive of the school and available to the students," she said. "He was available to the youth group. He was available to the Knights of Columbus. He was available when I needed him. He was available to anyone who needed him. He had a lot of experience as an administrator, and he had good advice when ticklish situations came up."

Sister said Father Jazmines enjoyed visiting



Father Vicente F. Jazmines

the local convent and visiting with the sisters there. She said she recalled a particular Christmas when he was invited to help decorate the Christmas trees in the convent.

"He asked if we had a real tree," she said. "I told him, 'yes. We have one real, one artificial.' He was only interested in decorat-

ing the real tree. He comes over, and the real tree is in one room, and the artificial tree is in another room. The artificial tree is our 'penguin tree.' We decorate it with penguins. He really enjoyed decorating that penguin tree."

Sister Mary Helen said Father Jazmines enjoyed a bit of silliness and fun.

"During Catholic Schools Week, if we had crazy slipper day, he'd come over with crazy slippers and

join the fun," she said. "It was good for the kids to see him in that light. He enjoyed celebrations, and he was easy to roast. He enjoyed being roasted. He'd laugh! He had an infectious laugh. He was just a good, good person. He enjoyed life. He was a good and loyal friend."

Helen Dispo, a parishioner of St. Augustine in Peru, said Father Jazmines "became like a brother" to her, as both were originally from the Philippines.

"He officiated at our 25th anniversary," she said. "He stayed with us when he came to the Plattsburgh area. He married and baptized our children and grandchildren. He was instrumental in me becoming involved in Formation for Ministry and RCIA. He was my spiritual guide and counselor. He was a very close family friend."

Dispo said Father Jazmines would say Mass for the family when he visited, and they would stay up late discussing Scripture and faith.

"If we needed anything from him for us or for our children, he was always there," she said. "He'd feel bad if we didn't have him officiate every occasion we had. When my grandson was preparing for first Holy Communion, he asked the priest, 'can I have my own personal priest give me the Eucharist?' If there's such a thing as a personal priest, he was it."

Dispo also noted Father Jazmines took great joy in good food and in movies.

"If he was coming here, before he comes, he would ask if I could cook Filipino foods," she said. "When he goes back home, I'd make sure there was a lot of food for him to bring with him. He loved

movies. He loved the Hallmark Channel. But when he'd watch television, he would doze off. I don't know how much he actually watched."

Father Kevin M. McEwan noted that Father Jazmines' love of food was part of what forged a friendship between the two when Father McEwan served as a deacon with Father Jazmines.

"When I was ordained a deacon, I was assigned to his parish in Peru," Father McEwan said. "We spent summer together. I'm not from the diocese, so I didn't have a home in the diocese. When holidays arrived, I went to be with him and celebrate. They were wonderful days. We had similar interests. We both loved movies, a good meal and travel. It was a great learning experience to be with him, and it was beneficial in preparing me for my priesthood."

Father McEwan said he and Father Jazmines were able to take a couple cruises together. They served as chaplains on ships cruising the Mediterranean and around New England.

"I got to see his outreach to the workers on the cruise ships," he said. "A lot of them were from other countries, including the Philippines. He was able to make great connections. They appreciated his ministry to them."

Father McEwan also noted Father Jazmines was "a very dedicated priest."

"He loved our Holy Mother," he said. "He had a particular devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. He was always very faithful in exercising the ministry of his priesthood and being a true follower of Jesus and reaching out to people in the best way he could."

#### Prayer to Blessed Virgin

Oh most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendor of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity.  
Oh, Star of the sea, help me and show me you are my Mother.  
Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity (make request).

There are none that can withstand your power.  
Oh, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times).  
Holy Mother, I place this prayer in your hands (3 times).  
With grateful thanks, K.M.

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# Father Jazmines enters the next life Jan. 7

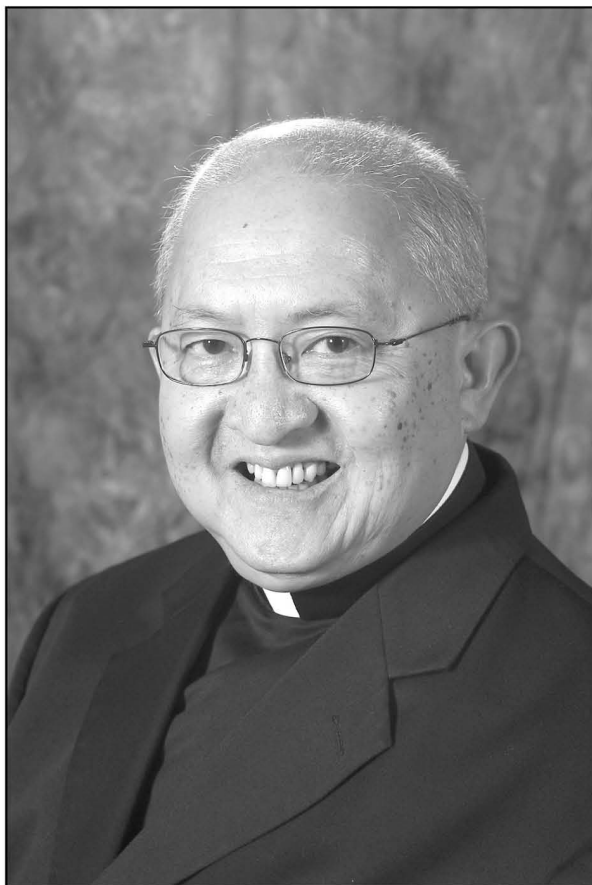
Reverend Vicente F. Jazmines, age 76, passed into new life in the afternoon of Thursday, January 7, 2021 at Samaritan Medical Center in Watertown, New York.

Due to the pandemic, details of the arrangements are not being released publicly. Reverend Arthur J. LaBaff, Vicar Forane of the Jefferson Deanery, will preside over the reception of the body at St. Paul's Church in Black River. The following day, the Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, will celebrate the Mass of Christian Burial, with the priests of the diocese concelebrating. Reverend Kevin D. McEwan will offer the homily. Father Jazmines will be laid to rest at Glenwood Cemetery in Watertown. Arrangements are entrusted with Cummings Funeral Service, Inc. and online condolences to his family and church family may be posted at [www.cummingsfuneral.com](http://www.cummingsfuneral.com).

Vicente Jazmines was born on February 2, 1944 to Dr. Vicente H. and Soledad (Ocampo) Jazmines in city of Catbalogan, the capital of the Samar province, Philippines.

He attended De La Salle College in Manila, Philippines from 1962 until graduating with a double major in 1966 and applied his business degree at positions in Manila. While working, he attended Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City, Philippines and in 1969 received a Master of Business Management degree.

He emigrated to Toronto, Canada in 1971



Father Vicente F. Jazmines

where Vicente continued working and became a Canadian citizen in 1976. That year, he began his priestly formation with the Archdiocese of Toronto. He received his undergraduate theology degree from Saint Paul University in Ottawa in 1980. He returned to studies, obtaining a Mas-

ter of Theology degree from the University of Saint Michael's College in the University of Toronto in 1988.

On December 3, 1979,

Gerald Emmett Cardinal Carter ordained Father Jazmines at St. Michael's Cathedral in Toronto. He served in the Archdiocese as Associate Pastor at Precious Blood Church in Scarborough (1980 - 1985), St. Rose of Lima Church, Scarborough (1985 - 1987) and Corpus Christi Church, Toronto (1987 - 1991).

In 1991, Father Jazmines was granted sabbatical from the Toronto Archdiocese to teach Spanish as a faculty member of Wadhams Hall Seminary-College, where he also served as the Director of Finance. In 1992, he was incardinated into the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Father Jazmines learned the diocese serving as administrator at St. Patrick's Church, Brasher Falls; St. Patrick's Church, Hogansburg; St. Augustine's Church, Peru; St. Joseph's Church, Owls Head; St. Helen's Church, Lake Titus and St. Mary's Church Malone with a brief time as Parochial Vicar at St. Paul's Church in Black River. He became pastor of St. James Church in Gouverneur in 1996, during which time

he was part time chaplain to the Gouverneur Correctional Facility. He was then pastor at St. Augustine's Church in 1999, and St. Bernard's Church in Lyon Mountain and St. Michael's Church in Standish between 2005 and 2006. Father Jazmines then spent twelve years serving as chaplain to the clients and staff of the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center in Ogdensburg. Before retiring, Father Jazmines wanted to serve again as a pastor and began serving the communities of Black River and Evans Mills at St. Paul's Church and St. Mary's Church.

He will be remembered for desire to serve, his easy manner, love of good food and travel.

Rev. Vicente Jazmines is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Drs. Hermilo and Lydia Jazmines of Florida, their daughter Melissa Ann and family in Illinois and their daughter-in-law Rebecca and family in Colorado. He is predeceased by his parents and nephew Paul. A memorial service will be held when the family can safely travel.

**Holy Spirit**

Holy Spirit, you who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the Divine Gift to forgive the wrong that is done to me and You who are in all instances of my life with me. I in this short dialogue thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from you no matter how great material desire may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory, Amen. Thank you for your love toward me and my love ones.

K.M.



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## Environmental Stewardship

## Birth or death?

In the poem "The Journey of the Magi," T.S. Eliot writes on the reflection of the Magi upon returning home after their encounter with the Christ child.

"Were we led all that way for Birth or Death? There was a birth and death; But had thought they were different;

this Birth was hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.

We returned to our places, these Kingdoms, But no longer at ease there, in the old dispensation, With an alien people clutching their gods. I should be glad of another death."

The Magi's encounter with the Christ child changed everything for them. They returned "another way" after this encounter. They turned away from the dictates of an earthly king in pursuit of a spiritual King, one who would bring peace and harmony to all people. When we have moments of a personal encounter with Christ, we too are changed. This encounter, like the encounter of the magi, can change our whole way of seeing and being in the world. This experience involves, as T.S. Eliot notes, both a death and a birth. This new awareness bids us to "let go of" or die to some of the previous held priorities to give birth to new ones that bring healing and new life through an inclusive and reconciling compassionate love.

During these days of the pandemic, it may seem as though we too have been on a long journey in search for meaning. Where is God in the midst of suffering caused by this pandemic? We have experienced many "deaths" to the normal ways of living, i.e. shopping, traveling, worshipping, gathering socially – to name but a few. Despite these daily deaths to the way things were, have we not experienced some "births?" Perhaps it comes in a deeper awareness of what really matters, like our faith, family, relationships, interdependence of all life. When we become more acutely aware of our union with God, each other, and all creation, a new way of being and acting will follow in the days to come.

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**Jan. 14** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Jan. 15** – 2 p.m. – Installation of the Most Reverend Michael W. Fisher as the Fifteenth Bishop of Buffalo at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph

**Jan. 17** – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Jan. 18** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Jan. 20** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

## Rest in Peace

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

**Jan. 14** – Rev. John M. Neenan, M.S.C., 1879; Rev. Benedict Scharff, O.F.M. Conv., 1964; Deacon Francis Bradley, 2000

**Jan. 15** – Msgr. James Joseph Lacey, 1942

**Jan. 16** – Msgr. James Alexander Fix, 1969; Rev. Herbert Skurski, O.F.M. Conv., 1996

**Jan. 17** – Rev. Francis A. Menard, 2009

**Jan. 18** – Rev. Hugh Shields, 1881; Rev. Telesphore Campeau, 1935; Rev. Paul Martin Hagan, 1980

**Jan. 19** – Rev. Benjamin Desroches O.M.I., 1908; Rev. Arthur P. Condon, 1966; Rev. Aloysius R. Isele, 1974

## To Report Abuse

**If you have a complaint** of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri- anne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terri- anneyanulavich@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.

## GET TO KNOW CURSILLO

## Life after the retreat

By William Fassinger  
North Country Cursillo



## Learn more or get involved

To learn more about participating in a Cursillo weekend and the Cursillo movement, visit [rcdony.org/cursillo](http://rcdony.org/cursillo), call Michael Neaton at 315-261-4150 or email [nccsec2019@gmail.com](mailto:nccsec2019@gmail.com).

Congratulations, you just finished experiencing a weekend that you let Jesus become your friend, your confidant, your mentor ... your Savior. You have found what was lacking in your faith and relationship with Jesus. You have strengthened your relationship with Jesus, gained a deeper understanding of your faith and are on the path to making the Catholic church stronger and more vibrant. You have awoken what has been lying dormant. What now?

Attending a Cursillo weekend is a great and an enlightening experience. But what are you going to do with all the newfound faith, friendship and energy? Well, you could sit around, tell yourself that you have experienced a tremendous paradigm shift, and let it go. What you have gained, that special friendship with Jesus, that deeper understanding of your faith, must be nurtured. Look at it like this:

Imagine you are training to run a marathon. Look at all the time, sweat, energy, expense (running shoes aren't cheap) and, in some instances, pain you have put into this endeavor. You ran the marathon or

finished the Cursillo Retreat. Super. Compare the same attributes, time, sweat, energy (I don't think you'll experience physical pain or expense.) to your prayer life. Developing a solid prayer life is like training for a marathon. You have invested time and energy and you don't want to see it go to waste. The solution is simple, the Postcursillo.

What is a Postcursillo? I would liken the Postcursillo to getting together with the people you trained with to keep the fitness alive (fitness, in this instance, is your relationship with Jesus). We all know that anything worth having is worth working for. The same holds true regarding your relationship with Jesus.

I am very fortunate. The individual that invited me to attend my Cursillo retreat and another gentleman I attended the retreat with meet weekly. Yeah, COVID-19 put a real damper on things, but we do the Zoom thing rather than meeting physically. We meet for approximately 60 minutes one

evening a week. We have a format we follow (that is easily dispensed with depending on where the conversation is going), so we are sure to cover the specific highpoints. PLEASE NOTE, we do not sit and recite or regurgitate prayers that have been memorized. Yeah, we say a couple of the standard prayers, but we do more discussing than anything. Our guide (a guide is a good thing, it keeps one from going off the rail) is just that, a guide. We have three major topics, Piety, Study, and Action, that we discuss.

Piety equates to prayer, Study is how we further explore our faith so it will grow, and Action is how we put the elements into practice. Pretty simple equation isn't it? This is a no-brainer, and we all grow in our faith, and more importantly, our relationship with Jesus. Additionally, we share ideas for prayer and growth, share study materials we have found to help strengthen our faith, and share methods demonstrating how we have put our faith into action.

Can you now understand how prayer, study, and action can be compared to training for a major physical event? One must constantly work at it to become proficient. Look at it like this: didn't Jesus pray constantly; didn't he teach people how to pray? Guidance and practice are essential. We won't become perfect because I only know of one perfect individual. I do know however, the Postcursillo has made me a stronger person in my prayer, study, and action.

**ST. LAWRENCE**

**NOVENA WEDNESDAYS**

Massena – Novenas of Wednesdays will be said in honor of St. Joseph.

**Date:** Wednesdays starting Jan. 13  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Church

**Features:** we are gathering in quiet intercessory prayer for the renewal of our parish community, nation and world.

**DIOCESAN EVENTS**

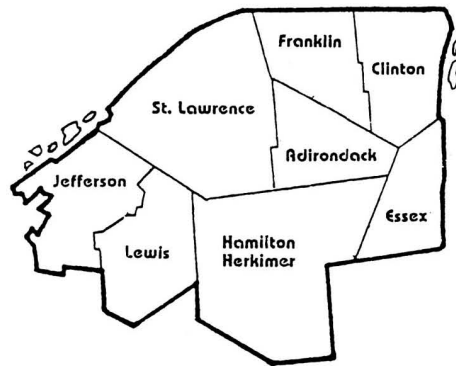
**99 EXPERIENCE, A VIRTUAL WORKSHOP**

The Office of Evangelization is starting off January with an online workshop called *The 99 Experience*, which is a video and small group discussion process to enliven our faith life by going back to the basics.

**Date:** Jan. 14, 21 and 28  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** Via Zoom

**Features:** Sometimes in our faith we get in a rut and end up going through the motions of faith without connecting to God. Perhaps with the pandemic, you haven't been able to get



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, 315-394-0670;  
e-mail [news@northcountrycatholic.org](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org).

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

to Mass and have felt disconnected from your parish community and perhaps felt a little like the one lost sheep. Perhaps you are comfortably one of the 99 in the flock. The 99 Experience is a three-session video presentation to

spark conversation, inspire prayer and awaken the call of God's love within you. Think of it as a virtual parish mission. As Catholics, we often think of ourselves as part of the flock, as part of the 99, safe in the care of the Good

Shepherd. We do not see ourselves as the "one lost sheep" needing to be found, nor do we feel the need to go out and search for the one lost sheep. The 99 Experience is a call to recognize that we might be that one sheep who is lost, even though we are part of Jesus' flock. It is a call to enter into a deeper relationship with Jesus, the Good Shepherd. It is also a call to recognize that God may want to work through us to go out and find the one who is lost but are wondering if faith shouldn't lead you deeper and closer in communion with the Good Shepherd.

**Contact:** To register please go to: [www.rcdony.org/99Experience](http://www.rcdony.org/99Experience)

**JANUARY RETREAT DAY**

Join a virtual retreat with the theme, "Walking with St. Joseph as Our Guide."

**Date:** Jan. 16  
**Time:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Features:** Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ will host the meeting. During this year dedicated to St. Joseph, this Retreat Day will consider the mind and heart of Joseph, as reflected in his actions, and reflect on ways that he might be a faithful guide and compan-

ion on our own faith journeys. It will also provide opportunities for prayer and sharing.

**Cost:** There is no cost. To make an offering, mail to: Sisters of St. Joseph, 1425 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.

**Contact:** To register contact [sr-bethssj@gmail.com](mailto:sr-bethssj@gmail.com) or 315-212-6592

**MASS FOR LIFE**

Bishop LaValley will celebrate a Mass for Life. Join in person or virtually to pray for a deeper respect for human life.

**Date:** Jan. 24, 2021  
**Time:** 11 a.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Cathedral or you can view it live at [www.rcdony.org/livemass](http://www.rcdony.org/livemass)

**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.

**KNIGHTS DELIVER**



PHOTO BY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FINANCIAL SECRETARY PAUL SCHREMS  
**Canton Knights of Columbus did not let COVID-19 stop them from their annual delivery of roses and chocolates to the widows of their council. Getting ready for deliveries are Grand Knight John Taillon, Deputy Grand Knight Corey Swinwood and Chancellor Russ Backus.**

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Pregnancy center staff needed**

Plattsburgh Pregnancy Center, located at 62 Brinkerhoff Street, in Plattsburgh, has received notice of the resignation of its two anchor people, effective February 1, 2021. If they are not replaced by others, the center will need to close at the end of January.

If you are interested in submitting an application for one of those positions, or know someone who is, please send inquiries to the PPC Board: [plattsburghpregnancycenter@yahoo.com](mailto:plattsburghpregnancycenter@yahoo.com) or call 518-324-2010

**Prayer for Consecrated Life**

The Church celebrates World Day of Prayer For Consecrated Life on February 6-7, 2021. On this day we recognize the countless men and women who live consecrated life in various way as well as their contributions to the growth of the Church. We especially pray for those men and women in our diocese who daily live the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience while belonging to a community and tirelessly working in ministry. Through their example of discipleship, may we be inspired to deeper communion with Christ and may there be an increase in vocations to the consecrated life. If you would like to speak with a religious priest, brother or sister, or would like more information, contact the Vocation Office at 315-393-2920 or email Father Chris Carrara at [ccarrara@rcdony.org](mailto:ccarrara@rcdony.org) or Cathy Russell at [crussell@rcdony.org](mailto:crussell@rcdony.org).

Visit our website  
[www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org)

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- View diocesan events and much more

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# 'May the Sacred Heart be loved everywhere'

By Mary Beth Bracy  
Contributing Writer

**WATERTOWN**—“My parish was vast, half of the Diocese of Ogdensburg area. I worked alone. Nineteen villages, 100% Catholic. I sailed in canoes, sitting and feeling uneasy for weeks, with additional cargo. Tired of being tired, sleeping in a canoe or in a muddy beach/river hut that happened to be encountered, unprotected from rain and scorching heat, mosquitos, snakes, crocodiles, the risk of drinking unhealthy water, and eating minimally for days,” shared Father Herman Pongantung, a Missionary of the Sacred Heart (MSC), about his first mission south of West Papua Island.

“I decided to become a priest and missionary,” in 1976 at the age of 12 years old, he said. “I said: ‘I would like to be a priest and how wonderful to die as a missionary.’ So, I entered Minor Seminary at North Celebes, Indonesia, then continued in the Major Seminary in the same area. Ordained in January 1993, my motto is ‘I no longer live, but Christ lives in me’” (Gal 2:20).

Father Pongantung’s parents converted to Catholicism before he and his siblings were born. His father was a Protestant and his mother was a Muslim.

“Indonesia is my homeland,” he explained. “It is composed of 17,000 islands and the largest archipelago on our planet. It is like pearls on the surface of the Pacific Ocean. I was born on Celebes Island. Fishing and the windy sea were our daily life. On a day of fortune, we had large tunas. But, after a couple of days without a fish, life was ‘salao’ (the worst form of unlucky). Yet, we did not give up, and certainly did not want to be a ‘prey’ of a

shark.

“Indonesia is also known as the biggest Muslim country in the world. A Muslim is treated as ‘the son of Government.’ The mosques are everywhere, every two or three hundred yards. You don’t need to look for them; their amplifiers are very loud.”

For three and a half centuries Indonesia was occupied by the Dutch, and Catholic missionaries were not allowed.

“But, after Napoleon Bonaparte, conquered Holland and Europe, the Dutch became more tolerant,” Father Pongantung said. “Many missionaries came from Holland. They were young, with noble hearts, and taught us about Western Civilization and the Catholic faith. People respected them. One day, in 1920, the MSC came to my home town. They built churches, schools, hospitals, and seminaries.”

After his ordination, Father Pongantung was assigned to south of West Papua Island.

“This is a remote land with a huge jungle,” he said. “It is a land of promise for many missionaries! For 10 years, I lived in a wonderful land with a fascinating people, the tribes of Awuys, Asmat, Uwijagar and Yaghay.

“Being alone in such an unsafe, unhealthy, insane territory is cause for stress. Yet, I am grateful: precisely because of that trip, I became increasingly close and intimate with the people. What a deep friendship there was with a number of friends among us. After two or three years, they still remember many little events that happened between us, which are still a joke for them. Though they are quite stubborn! In recent years, eight villages fought, and there were



Father Herman Pongantung

murders in the vast area that surrounds the Assue River, Gondo River, Mappi River and Digul River. They are headhunters.”

In August 2003, Father Pongantung was transferred to France.

“How wonderful to be a missionary,” he said. “Our motto is ‘May the Sacred Heart be loved everywhere.’ This is inspired by the message of Jesus: ‘Go therefore and teach all nations’ (Matt 28:19-20). The Apostles travelled to all parts of the unknown world to spread Christianity. James stayed in Jerusalem, but Peter and Paul first went to Antioch (Gal 2:11). Peter then went to Rome, while Paul made three missionary journeys from Antioch (Acts), visiting many places, ‘as far found as Illyricum’” (Rom 15:19).

Father Pongantung worked at the Basilica of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart from 2003-08, in the Diocese of Bourges, and at parishes in the Diocese of Orleans from 2010-17.

“The only problem is what we call ‘culture shock’: the majority of people stay at home,” Father Pongantung said. “So, how can I meet them? Secularism and anti-clericalism are the two problems of the Catholic Church in France, famous as the Eldest Daughter of the

Church.”

After 14 years, Father Pongantung moved to the United States. Growing up, Father Pongantung thought of it as a “country of cowboys and cactus trees.” The MSC first came to the USA in 1876.

“On August 2, 2018, after 28 hours of travelling from Jakarta across the globe, on the path of the Pacific Ocean, I landed in Syracuse,” he said. “On the road to Watertown, a billboard caught my attention, ‘Welcome to 1000 Islands.’ Indonesia is composed of many islands, so I feel at home here!”

“Watertown is calm. Ah! Perhaps some people still remember a song by Frank Sinatra: ‘Old Watertown, nothing much happened down on main ‘cept a little rain. Old Watertown, everyone knows, the perfect crime!’ No, I say. Watertown gives my mind and heart rest and peace. Those who served here said how much they liked this area and—most importantly—how friendly, welcoming, and genuine the people are here. And they say calmly: ‘It snows a little bit here!’”

Father Pongantung said the weather in the North Country has been a bit of a challenge.

“Fishing is my old hobby,” he said. “I tried to join fishing groups and do ice fishing. People in my country many times talk about monkeys who fish for some crabs using their tails. Certainly, my big challenge is the cold. We are close to the North Pole! During my first year, there was a long period of snow. I can’t support the minus Fahrenheit weather. Someone tried to comfort me saying: ‘We have four seasons here: beginning of winter, winter, late winter, and next winter!’ What the heck!”

“I like diving too. A diver

goes down into the deep of the open water to contemplate and protect the eco-ocean. Someone who does it must be a noble person.

The language barrier has also been a challenge.

“I remember my first Mass in English at St. Patrick’s Church,” Father Pongantung said. “It was totally strange for me. I studied English at senior high school, more than 30 years ago. But, I enjoy my life here. Lakes and God’s people give me perspective and gratitude. During the winter, rains and creeks metamorphose to white snow—beautiful. And people go out to help their neighbor plowing the snow—wonderful. In the summertime, people are busy, cutting the grass on their lawn; nature is charming as the green, green grass of home!”

Father Pongantung noted that serving in Watertown, he has watched the Catholic community there change.

“Today, the parishes of deaneries are expanding,” he said. “I serve at St. Anthony’s, St. Patrick’s, and Holy Family Church with Father John M. Demo and Father Deepak Baru. Thanks to the successive restructuring of increasingly large geographic areas, there is more of a demand for the faithful and priests to travel.”

Father Pongantung reflected that one reason he was sent to Watertown is the lack of priestly vocations. “No priest, no Mass.’ In Indonesia, the MSC have a lot of vocations (133 seminarians and aspirants). I understand what the Vatican II document on the Church insisted to all of us: ‘We are the Church.’ All of us are asked to participate in the mission of the Church. But, the mission of the priest is still essential.”



# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Leaders urge rejection of divisions that lead to violence

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** – Rep. Chris Smith was in his office in the Rayburn House Office Building, writing remarks to endorse the election of Democrat Joe Biden to the presidency, when alarms sounded. Will Sommer, a Georgetown University graduate who writes for The Daily Beast, an online news publication, was at the East side of the Capitol to cover what had been promoted as an organized protest when chaos quickly unfolded. "When I heard the protesters had broken through outdoor fencing on the west lawn, I went there and saw thousands of people milling about on the grass," he told Catholic News Service. "People were urging one another to get up closer and fight Capitol Police and eventually, they did break through – something I could see from afar as Trump supporters climbed inauguration stands, waved Confederate flags from the front of the Capitol, and eventually scaled the scaffolding." The reaction to the violent invasion of the House and Senate chambers by supporters of President Donald Trump on Jan. 6, intended to disrupt the formal acceptance of Electoral College ballots, paralleled initial public response to the horror of 9/11. There was a numbing shock followed by anger and grief, and a search for anything that might be a solution.

## Some Canadian provinces close churches to contain pandemic

**QUEBEC CITY (CNS)** – Canadian churches faced new restrictions as health officials tried to contain a post-holiday surge of COVID-19. Churches and all places of worship are again closing in the province of Quebec in an effort to stop the second wave of COVID-19. This decision is part of a new series of containment measures announced by Premier Francois Legault Jan. 6. Places of worship will be closed from Jan. 9 to Feb. 8. Only funerals will be authorized, but limited to 10 people. In British Columbia, public health officials extended bans on events and gatherings, including worship services, until Feb. 5. The current restrictions imposed in the province were first introduced Nov. 19 and have been extended for the second time. In Ontario, worship services face a cap of 10 participants, which has led to the suspension of Masses in many areas. In Alberta, churches have been told to limit in-person participation to 15% of fire code occupancy.

## Virtual retreats offer boost for spiritual health in pandemic

**CONCORDIA, Kan. (CNS)** – The coronavirus pandemic has created the conditions for a spiritual crisis, but a traditional retreat at a house run by women religious isn't necessarily COVID-19 friendly. Though the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, Kansas, have long offered one-on-one spiritual direction – with the sisters and staff of Manna House of Prayer also offering directed retreats on a variety of topics – the threat of COVID-19 has made most in-person meetings impossible or impractical. The sisters at Manna House quickly assessed the situation and began offering both spiritual direction and many of their retreats virtually. Virtual spiritual direction is not new to Manna House. Several of the spiritual directors had previously used video calls or messaging platforms to reach out across long distances to offer their services. They used that experience – and the addition of other technology tools like Zoom – to increase their reach in 2020 as the pandemic swept across the country. "In these times of COVID-19 and all of the uncertainty and suffering it has caused..., it is sometimes helpful to have a 'spiritual companion' or 'soul friend' to visit with about the deepest concerns and questions that haunt us," said Sister Marcia Allen, a spiritual director at Manna House.

# What Democrats' Georgia wins mean for Senate, Biden

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** – The wins by Jon Ossoff and the Rev. Raphael Warnock, both Democrats, in the Jan. 5 U.S. Senate runoff elections in Georgia will give Democrats the White House and both houses of Congress.

But precisely how that will play out is far less clear, noted three professors at different Catholic universities in Washington.

Joe Biden's Electoral College win and popular vote over incumbent Republican President Donald Trump was the most clear-cut, despite two months of baseless complaints by Trump and his allies claiming the election was rigged. But Democrats' advantage in the House dwindled by double digits to their current 11-seat advantage, 222-211, with two vacancies.

And while the Democrats picked up seats in the Senate, it took the Ossoff and Rev. Warnock wins for the party just to reach a 50-50 split with the GOP – which includes two independents who caucus with the Democrats. Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, in her role as Senate president, can cast a 51st vote in case of party-line splits on bills.

"Here and now, I think it means a lot, even though people would discount that in terms of saying, 'Well, you're still going to have the filibuster. You're still in all likelihood going to need 60 votes to pass legislation,'" said John K. White, professor of politics at The Catholic University of America.

White noted the filibuster today is actually the threat of a filibuster. "Now, we assume the filibuster is there for anything. Maybe one reform is to say if there's a filibuster, you have to use it. You have to actually fili-

buster, you have to talk to block legislation and to assume that every single vote is subject to a filibuster," he said. That change in Senate rules – if adopted, he added – could result in more bills being passed.

"It'll be different, because it'll be different people" running the Senate and wielding committee-chair gavels, said Hans Noel, an associate professor in Georgetown University's Department of Government.

"I think (soon-to-be-ex-Senate Majority Leader Mitch) McConnell has been particularly difficult to make things move forward. Other leaders have not been as resistant to having things reach the floor. The speaker is always doing what they think the caucus wants him to do. The Democrats want to see things get voted on that the Republicans don't want to see voted on," Noel said.

But there will be "more power-sharing in general" due to the 50-50 split between the parties – the first time that's happened since 2001, he added.

James Stocker, assistant professor of international affairs and director of the Trinity Global Leadership Initiative at Trinity Washington University, pointed to a wild card of across-the-aisle comity. "A big unknown factor is the attack on the Capitol" Jan. 6, he said.

The rampage following a pro-Trump rally earlier that day saw senators from both parties being hustled away to secure locations by overwhelmed security details. "It had a unifying effect. That has the potential to have some interparty cooperation in the first month of the new administration," Stocker said. "But

it's not certain how likely it will last."

How that plays out in terms of the Senate going along with the agenda Biden laid out during the campaign remains to be seen.

White said voters want to see bipartisanship. "The kind of behavior that the (Republican) Party exhibited – the outright opposition to anything that Barack Obama proposed – is not what voters want right now. It cost the party in Georgia significantly in the suburbs."

He added, "Voters do want to see results" on such issues as the coronavirus pandemic, the economy, rural broadband, education and climate. "I think it has more impact than making McConnell the minority leader and (Sen. Chuck) Schumer (D-New York) the majority leader," White said.

"There will still be obstruction on things," Noel said, so the prospects, for example, of the District of Columbia becoming the 51st state are small.

He added that there will be "a number of issues where moderate Republicans will work with Democrats and you'll have Democrats willing to bring those to the floor," although Noel did not specify any issue.

He said many speculate that Sen. Joe Manchin, (D-West Virginia), could be a thorn in his party's side, as he wants to maintain the filibuster and leans moderate to conservative on many issues. "But that's true only to the extent that there are no swing Republicans," naming Mitt Romney of Utah and Susan Collins of Maine as two who "could make up for a Manchin or some other moderate defection."

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Focused on God's call

Our readings today are all about call. In the first reading, the Lord calls the young boy, Samuel, in the middle of the night. Samuel thinks that the voice he hears is that of Eli, the old priest with whom he lives in the Temple school. After Eli has sent him back to sleep a couple of times, the priest realizes that it is God Himself who is calling the lad. So, he tells Samuel, that if he hears the voice again, he is to say, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening."

Again, the theme of "call" is found in John's Gospel. John, the faithful messenger of the Lord, points out Jesus to his followers, calling Him,

the "Lamb of God." Andrew, one of the disciples, finds out where Jesus lives, and is so impressed with what he sees that he quickly goes to share the news with his older brother, Simon Peter.

Just think! If John hadn't pointed out Jesus, and if Andrew hadn't shared the news, we might never have had a Pope named Peter! And another thought...it takes more than the call of God for priests, sisters, and other consecrated leaders in the Church to emerge. It takes those of us who have heard and answered the call to share our experience with young men and women. Why? Because,



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

January 18

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

1 Samuel 3:3b-10-19

1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

John 1:35-42

like Samuel, young people either aren't listening for God's voice, or they don't recognize the One that's calling them to service! And that leads us to another conclusion. It's not God's fault that there aren't more priests and sisters. The problem is on the other end.

What if, even when Samuel knew that God was calling him, he had just turned over and gone back to sleep as before? Or what if Peter, after listening to his younger brother, had just decided that fishing was a more profitable way to

make a living? Not that there's anything wrong with sleeping or fishing, but there's a world out there desperately in need of Eucharist, and millions of people could starve to death if young people continue to ignore the invitation of Jesus.

We need more Elis and John the Baptists and Andrews helping our young people recognize the Voice that's calling them. It could be a priest, or a parent, or just a good friend of someone that seems to be really cut out for ministry in the Church. This Sunday's readings seem to be calling loudly and clearly to all of us!

And what about those of you who are being called, not to be priests or religious brothers or sisters, but nevertheless, called because a) we have

been baptized in the blood of the Lamb with all the rights and privileges and duties that go with that state in life; b) because we have been confirmed in the Spirit, anointed with the Holy Chrism, and accepted the responsibilities of Confirmation?

We are called to live lives based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to live by not just the Commandments but also by the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, and by the Beatitudes.

Do we have build our schedules daily for:

- A time for prayer?
- A time for Mass?
- If possible, a time for service?
- A time for discipleship?
- Even in these dark days of the virus, to be a light of hope?

## CALLED TO SERVE

# Watching it unfold on television

As long as I can remember, there has been a television of one sort or another in my home. That's a long time, folks. It started for me back in the days of black-and-white TV. I remember Mom helping me put plastic on the TV screen so I could draw with John Nagy, America's original television art instructor. Perhaps the screen was 9-inches wide. I still can't draw, but it was fun.

Television was the current events medium for my generation. The first time I became riveted to the screen was after the assassination of President John Kennedy. I remember serving at one of

the early Masses in my home parish on Sunday, November 24, 1963, two days after the assassination. I was home alone while the rest of the family was at a later Mass. Walter Cronkite on CBS told us that Lee Harvey Oswald was believed to have shot and killed our president. I was watching as Oswald "was brought to the basement of the Dallas police headquarters on his way to a more secure county jail. A crowd of police and press with live television cameras rolling gathered to witness his departure. As Oswald came into the room, Jack Ruby emerged from the crowd

and fatally wounded him with a single shot from a concealed .38 revolver."

I saw that happen! On live television from Dallas. I could not believe it. There was no such thing as videotape replay then. It would be a while before the network could show the event again. There was no one home to tell. I was in shock.

There have been other riveting TV moments over the years. The first moon landing, swearing-in ceremonies for presidents, occasionally the Thanksgiving

Day parade, OJ's car chase, the successful splashdown of the Apollo 13 crew, the loss of Challenger and that crew and 9/11 among them.

January 6, 2021 became another current event delivered to me by TV. Commentators and public figures all tried to find words to best describe the scene as people

stormed and entered the Capitol in Washington D.C. They called the Capitol the "Citadel of Liberty" and the "Temple of Democracy." I was, again, riveted to the TV

screen, watching events unfold and wondering, as I did in 1963 and during every cataclysmic event since, where this would all take us.

During the hours we watched, I heard Kathy say the prayer to St. Michael several times. That seemed appropriate. I thought about the reading from Samuel we will hear next Sunday. The Lord was calling but it took awhile for Samuel to hear his voice. I wondered if He was calling again.

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



Deacon  
Kevin Mastellon

# Is Christmas over on December 25?

By Father Leo Perez, OMI  
Team Missio.Org

Usually when you hear about "The 12 Days of Christmas," you think of the catchy Christmas carol, a number-building song about gifts that "my true love gave to me." But is there any secret meaning behind the "11 pipers piping" and the "10 lords a leaping"? While there are a few contemporary theories about the carol being a catechism song which had hidden meaning during the Anglican persecution of Catholics in England, those theories don't stand up well to historical scrutiny. The 12 days of Christmas are part of an old Catholic culture which celebrated the dozen days of feasting and celebrating between Christmas Day and the Epiphany. It's a time to let



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith  
Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director  
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296  
mbrett@rcdony.org

our regular daily routine at the end of the year be influenced by the Christian narrative of Jesus' birth. So, don't put your Christmas tree in the garbage on December 26 but rejoice and celebrate Christ's birth throughout the entire liturgical season of Christmas.

During the Middle Ages, fasting was often demanded of Catholics throughout the year. But the Church taught that fasting was not to characterize the days of celebrating Christ's birth from the

day after Christmas through the Epiphany, a period which lasted 12 days. Many cultural traditions developed about giving gifts and attending Church services during this season of joyfulness and good food. So, the Christmas carol about gifts on the 12 days of Christmas is about those ancient traditions of people giving each other little treats in remembrance of Christ's birth.

Within the 12 days we find on the Octave of Christmas, the Feast of the

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We are reminded of the important place of domestic life in God's plan of salvation. New Year's Day is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. It is a day of prayer for justice and peace in the world. Pope Francis has asked us to build a world where the peace and justice of God will shine forth. A special highlight during Christmas Time is the Epiphany of the Lord. This is the feast when we remember the three Kings who came to venerate the Lord Jesus and bring him gifts. In some countries it always falls on January 6, but in many countries, such as the United States, it is transferred to a Sunday. The Bible calls the royal visitors "Magi," what we sometimes translate as wise men. Many Catholic

countries have traditions on this day where children look forward to finding gifts left to them from the Kings.

The Baptism of the Lord is the end of the Christmas liturgical season. It is a reminder that we have been baptized in Christ and are called to be missionaries. Because of Jesus' public ministry after His Baptism, the Reign of God has been inaugurated and we have been saved. May the Time of Christmas so enrich our spiritual lives that we may go forth joyfully to spread the Gospel to the entire world. For the full article <http://blog.missio.org/knowyourfaith/a-dozen-days-of-christmas>

*Please remember  
"The Society for the  
Propagation of the Faith"  
when writing  
or changing your Will.  
[rcdony.org/mission](http://rcdony.org/mission)*

## OBITUARIES

**Au Sable Forks** – Gerald Arthur Estes Jr., Mass of Christian Burial to be held at a later date; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

**Canton** – Barbara (Vant) Kelly, 96; Funeral Services to be held in the Summer.

**Carthage** – Joann O. (Blanchard) Marrocco, 88; Funeral Services Jan. 7, 2021 at the Bezanilla-McGraw Funeral Home; burial in Hillside Cemetery, Natural Bridge.

**Champlain** – Geraldine D. (Cayea) Hayes, 86; Graveside Services to be held in the Spring at St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Chateaugay** – Vedora Adelaide Whalen Barcomb Hunter Maloney, the "lady with many names," 102; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 31, 2020 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in North Burke Cemetery, Burke.

**Dannemora** – Carolyn Ann (Kennedy) Field, 78; Memorial Services to be held

in the Spring; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

**Gouverneur** – Chester Ford, 72; No services at this time.

**Harrisville** – Virginia L. Hudson, 73; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 6, 2021 at St. Francis Solanus Church.

**Houseville** – Elizabeth Jean (Northrup) Szalach, 77; Memorial Mass to be held in the Spring at St. Hedwig's Church; burial in West Lowville Rural Cemetery.

**Lowville** – Ruth A. (Trembley) Sweeney, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 5, 2021 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Riverside Cemetery, Bever Falls.

**Malone** – Lisa M. (Fagnant) Arsenault, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 13, 2021 at Notre Dame Church.

**Massena** – Velma A. (LaShomb) Deruchia, 93; Private Services to be held in the Spring.

**Moors Forks** – Priscilla Ruth (Donah)

Menard, 84; Private Services to be held; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery.

**Morrisonville** – Eugene C. Crowley, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 6, 2021 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Wayne L. Washburn, 71; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 6, 2021; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

**Plattsburgh** – Exie P. (Reed) Macey, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 8, 2021

at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Ann Lesley Masters Novoselec, 92; Memorial Services to be held at a later date.

**Raymondville** – Gregory P. Sharlow, 71; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 6, 2021 at St. Raymond's Church.

**Watertown** – Frederic A. Washer, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 6, 2021 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

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## TOGETHER, YET SEPARATE



Liam, Anna, Kyle and Abby Reardon display the Advent wreath they made as a take-home catechesis project with St. Mary's Parish in Fort Covington. The wreaths are typically made as a group project, but were completed by families at home this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Jesuit to deliver invocation at Biden inauguration

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Jesuit Father Leo O'Donovan, former president of Georgetown University, will deliver the invocation at the presidential inauguration of Joe Biden Jan. 20.

The priest, a friend of the Biden family, was the main celebrant at the funeral Mass for Biden's son Beau in 2015 at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Wilmington, Delaware.

He confirmed with National Catholic Reporter Jan. 6 that he would be delivering the invocation, saying Biden had personally called him and invited him, which he accepted.

This year's scaled-back public inauguration ceremony, due to the pandemic, will take place on the west side of the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, a site taken over Jan. 6 by rioters contesting the certification of the 2020 presidential election. President Donald Trump announced Jan. 8 that he would not attend the ceremony.

In leading the prayer of blessing, Father O'Donovan, who is currently director of mission for Jesuit Refugee Service, will follow the footsteps of his predecessor at Georgetown, Jesuit Father Timothy Healy, who offered a prayer during the inauguration of President Ronald Reagan in 1985.

The tradition of invocations at presidential inaugurations goes back to 1937 and Catholic leaders have been in this role for several presidents. The Southern Baptist minister, Rev. Billy Graham, offered this prayer for presidents Richard Nixon, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

In 1961, when John F. Kennedy was sworn in as

the first Catholic president, Boston Cardinal Richard J. Cushing delivered the invocation, which said in part: "Strengthen our resolve, oh Lord, to transform this recognition of others into a principle of cooperation. Inspire us to practice this principle of cooperation both in ideal and action in these most dangerous, but soul-stretching times."

Four years later, Archbishop Robert E. Lucey of San Antonio gave the invocation at President Lyndon B. Johnson's inauguration.

His prayer included a description of the time saying: "In these days of tragedy and crisis all that we hold dear is challenged – belief in God, respect for human responsibility, honor, integrity, and every freedom of the human spirit. All these are at stake and our country, champion of truth and justice, must lead the nations of the world to the dawn of a brighter hope."

He also prayed that God would "make clear to our president the path of honor and of peace, the path of freedom and justice, the path of brotherhood and truth."

Twenty years later, in 1985, Father Healey who was then Georgetown University's president, delivered the invocation at Reagan's inauguration, urging the crowd to join him in saying the Our Father.

A Catholic leader didn't lead say a prayer at another presidential inauguration until 2017 when New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan was one of several religious leaders at Trump's inauguration ceremony. The cardinal read

a brief passage from the Book of Wisdom which said: "Give us wisdom, for we are your servants, weak and short lived, lacking in comprehension of judgment and of laws ... Indeed, though one might be perfect among mortals, if wisdom, which comes from you, be lacking, we count for nothing."

Most of the details for this year's inauguration ceremony have not yet been announced, except for changes to the usual routine. Instead of a traditional parade and inaugural balls, the inaugural committee will host a virtual parade, which is expected to be similar to the virtual Democratic National Convention featuring Americans across the country along with musical acts and poets paying tribute to front-line workers during the pandemic.

The ceremony also will not include an inaugural luncheon at Statuary Hall in the Capitol, a tradition that dates back to 1897.

The inauguration committee plans to host a memorial tribute to those who lost their lives to COVID-19 in a lighting ceremony around the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool the day before the inauguration ceremony and members of the inauguration committee will take part in the National Day of Service on Jan. 18, Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Invitations to the inauguration will only be given members of Congress and one guest. Former presidents and vice presidents, governors, Supreme Court justices and other high-ranking government officials also will be allowed to attend, according to the congressional committee.



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