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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 75, Number 35

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JANUARY 20, 2021

Follow Me: Promoting a Culture of Life

As we prepare to mark the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision and the legalization of abortion, Bishop Terry R. LaValley reflects on our responsibility to build a Culture of Life.

"Pope St. John Paul II wrote, in The Gospel of Life, 'To defend and promote life, to show reverence and love for it, is a task which God entrusts to every person' (no.42). Each one of us is called to oppose abortion by every legal means available and to voice that opinion in the public square. We are called to support women and families whose circumstances may lead them to seek an abortion."

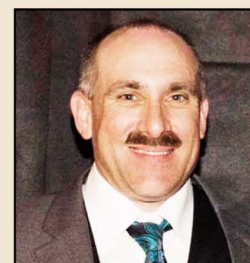
FULL STORY, PAGE 3

FOLLOWING A STAR



The JK5 class at Watertown's Immaculate Heart Central Elementary re-enacted the Epiphany on January 6. These students performed under the direction of their teachers Nicole Murray and Kerri Gonas.

SHARING OUR STORIES



Darin Chartrand, a parishioner of St. Peter's Parish in Massena, says his faith has helped him through challenging times, especially in his career as a New York State Trooper. Read about Chartrand's journey of faith in this week's installment of "Sharing Our Stories; Sharing Our Faith," a series highlighting how lay Catholics are living out their faith here in the North Country. To nominate an individual to be featured in the series, contact Darcy Fargo, editor, at dfargo@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

Praising God purifies the soul, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – It may seem illogical, but Christians are called to give God praise – not complaints – in times of darkness and difficulty, Pope Francis said.

Jesus and the saints "show us that we can always give praise, in good times and bad, because God is the faithful friend – this is the foundation of praise, he is the faithful

friend and his love never fails. He is always by our side; he always waits for us," the pope said Jan. 13 during his weekly general audience.

This is why, he said, "praising God is like breathing in pure oxygen. It purifies the soul, it helps you look at the horizon" and not see oneself as imprisoned or trapped in the current

moment.

Livestreamed from the library of the Apostolic Palace, the pope continued his series of talks on prayer, reflecting on the prayer of praise.

He reflected on the time in Jesus' early ministry when his great works and miracles were still met with unbelief: St. John the Baptist, who had been imprisoned, was unsure

whether Jesus was truly the Messiah; some towns remained unrepentant; and the wise and learned had rejected his preaching.

According to St. Matthew, "Jesus does not lift up a lament to the Father, but rather a hymn of jubilation" and praise during this time of crisis and disappointment, he said.

"Why?" the pope asked.

"First and foremost, he praises him for who he is: 'Father, Lord of heaven and earth.' Jesus rejoices in his spirit because he knows and he feels that his father is the God of the universe" and he is "my father," he said.

"Praise springs from this experience of feeling" that he is the son of God and is loved.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

More often than I'd like to admit

It happens to me far more often than I'd like to admit.

I made a plan. I took steps to put the plan into motion. I was doing some difficult work, but it was paying off. My plan seemed to be unfolding better than I expected.

Then, everything fell apart. An unforeseeable set of circumstances developed that made executing my plan impossible.

To say I was not thrilled was an understatement. I was pretty upset. I was venting about the situation to an older and wiser friend.

"I hear a lot of 'I' in what you're saying," my friend said. "I think it might've been your plan, not God's plan."

My friend was right.

This is one of my biggest struggles in my journey of faith – surrender. I'm very good at being self-reliant. I rely on my intellect, humor, charm and knowledge gained through life experience to make plans, make decisions and move through life. Sometimes I pray about my plans and decisions and try hard to follow God's will. Sometimes – most of the

Darcy L.
Fargo

time really, if I'm honest – I don't.

I want to be in control. I want life to unfold according to my plan.

Maybe that's why God gives me these reminders that He's in control, not me.

Those reminders can be painful, but they can also be blessings.

As I indicated, I was upset when my plan fell apart. I was angry and sad. But reflecting on my friend's wise words and praying more about this situation, I've also found some peace in the fact that God is in control. If this plan is meant to work out, it'll happen on God's time and on God's terms, not

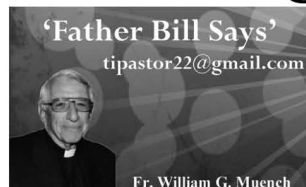
mine.

Accepting that as the week went on has brought me peace. I can worry less about the situation now that I truly know it's not mine to worry about.

But I know how this usually plays out, too. God reminds me He's in control. I'll struggle and then see graces in the situation. I'll try very hard to surrender to God's will for a while. But the more removed I get from the reminder, the more likely I am to slip into my old habits of self-reliance and feeling like I'm in control.

I'm pretty sure that's why this happens to me far more than I'd care to admit.

Learning to listen



powerful only if we become good listeners of the message of Jesus.

First of all, Jesus reaches out to us to teach us through the Sacred Scriptures. At Mass, the Scriptures are important. It is good and important to read some Scripture during private prayer. However, we must be good listeners. We must not miss the Lord's message that comes to us again and again, leading and guiding us, showing us the way to live well and how to discover God's great love and peace.

Jesus teaches us each time we take some time to pray, each time we pray at the celebration of Mass. The Lord Jesus teaches us and preaches to us. We must be

ready. We must and can listen to the Lord's message, a message that is alive with the love of the Savior and the power of the Holy Spirit. It is so easy to miss the Lord's message. I like to believe that in prayer we will find Our Lord's message when we listen with our heart as well as with our ears. Our heart must be open and loving, or we will hear nothing. Scripture tells us that Jesus came to soften our hearts. The events of life can harden our hearts, so that the message of the Lord cannot reach us.

The message of Our Lord often comes to us each day in small, yet real ways. I believe the Lord speaks to us often, and we must not be afraid to recognize the message and to listen to the Lord. I would like to share an example with you: I am suggesting to you the example of music – listening to music at Mass or in prayer. We may discover the Lord in a very special way. I have noticed

this in the power of a symphony orchestra – powerfully bringing a message of peace, a message of love.

I am not a musician. I confess I do not understand music well. I guess I do know what I like. I know the music that truly touches my soul. I have been helped by many great musicians to realize that music can be one of the ways that my Lord reaches out to me – the kind of music that I have learned to listen to with my heart as well as my ears.

I must admit that even now as I am getting older, I am just now learning of how powerfully music made a difference in my prayer life. I had to be taught how to listen. I was surprised that the Lord can be speaking to me when I truly listen. I have been gifted with a great niece, A.C., a wonderful musician, who has guided me to learn how to listen to music, how to love listening to music. I thank her for her guidance in this regard.

FOLLOW ME

Promoting a Culture of Life

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Pope St. John Paul II wrote, in The Gospel of Life, "To defend and promote life, to show reverence and love for it, is a task which God entrusts to every person" (no.42). Each one of us is called to oppose abortion by every legal means available and to voice that opinion in the public square. We are called to support women and families whose circumstances may lead them to seek an abortion. "We are asked to love and honor the life of



Bishop Terry R. LaValley

every man and woman and to work with perseverance and courage so that, our time, marked by all too many signs of death, may at last witness the establishment of a new culture of life, the fruit of the culture of truth and love" (The Gospel of Life, no.77). This is our time for witness.

The Church of the North Country continues to accept our responsibility to promote a Culture of Life in a resistant society. For the last several years, here in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, a special Respect Life Collection is

taken up to support our diocesan Respect Life efforts. Colleen and John Miner, from our Diocesan Respect Office, faithfully coordinate the steps we need to take in promoting and protecting the dignity and worth of every human life.

Every year at this time, we are given this opportunity to support the efforts this local Church makes in promoting the Culture of Life. Grants from this collection support such ministries as Gabriel Project which aid struggling new mothers with a compassionate ear and with material assistance to care for their newborn child. Grants also assist Birthright, an

interdenominational organization helping women with unplanned pregnancies. Other grants have supported educational programs, Catholic radio in the Adirondacks and a variety of other pro-life efforts. Grants have also provided buses for our youth and college students to participate in the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Thank you for your

prayers, witness, and generous support of the 2021 Respect Life Collection, helping to build a Culture of Life, one life at a time.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

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

Find us on Facebook!



Support the **Respect Life Collection** of the **Diocese of Ogdensburg** in our parishes the weekend of **January 23-24**



Proceeds will be distributed through grants



to various North Country parishes, organizations, and programs for the support of a variety of respect life initiatives.

Thank you for your generosity toward this most special need.

Please continue to pray that all will recognize, honor and protect the precious gift of life.

www.rcdony.org/pro-life

Encountering Christ, others in the 99 program

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

OGDENSBURG—"The name of the program refers to lost sheep," said Marika Donders, director of the diocesan Office of New Evangelization. "The good shepherd – Christ – leaves the 99 behind and goes out to find the one that's lost. We're trying to reach the people who see themselves as the 99. They're there and they're safe. And every one of us is sometimes the one that wanders away."

The Office of New Evangelization is now offering "The 99 Experience" via Zoom. More than 60 participants from around our diocese, as well as some from the Diocese of Syracuse, will gather for three Tuesday night workshops.

"The program approaches the person in pew both from the idea that we're all the lost one at some point and that they need to go find the lost one," Donders said. "I liked the evangelization aspect, and I liked the process."

The 99 process, Donders explained, involves three parts.

"There's a Master Class," she said. "That part teaches parish leaders to evangelize and how to think about evangelization. It's things they may



Participants in the 99 Experience, now being offered in online sessions, watch short videos about topics intended to help them look at their relationship with Christ and then discuss the videos in small groups. In this video clip, former model Leah Darrow discusses her conversion experience.

already know, but maybe haven't put together. That part is meant to create leaders who could go do a parish mission for the average people in the pews – that's the 99 Experience. That's about 'what's my relationship with Christ and how am I living my life?' For those that want to go deeper, there's the 99 Handbook. It's a synopsis of what our faith is all about. It's good for use with small groups."

Donders staged the Master Class in the fall.

"The 99 Experience we're doing now was open to everyone," she said. "With the Master Class, we wanted groups that would be connected to a parish. It becomes an evangelization team training. Then, the parish has people interested in

evangelization. And the Master Class feeds the Experience. The hope is that people who participate in the Experience will then want to do the Master Class, creating evangelization groups."

The Master Class focuses on equipping participants with the ability to talk about their faith.

"It encourages people to talk about their faith in a safe environment with other Catholics and put words to their faith," Donders said. "There's a quote people often attribute to St. Francis, though I doubt he actually said it, 'spread the Gospel, and if necessary, use words,' or something to that effect. It is necessary to use words. We need to teach people to talk about their faith and get the familiar with how to put words to

this stuff. It's hard to talk about faith, and we need to practice doing it."

Some of the participants of that fall Master Class are currently assisting with the online offering of the 99 Experience.

"In the 99 Experience, each session includes videos that look at very specific pieces of the relationship between a person and Christ," she said. "Right now, we're doing a version that includes small-group discussion after the videos."

Donders noted that if the program were used for a parish mission, small group discussion could be held, or participants could be given reflection questions for personal reflection.

In an in-person offering at a parish, the first night of the 99 Experience would include videos and discussion or reflection. The second session focuses on mercy and would typically end with adoration and confession. The third session includes a Mass.

"Since we're online this time, we can't do confession or a Mass, so we had to adapt the plans," Donders said. "I'm hoping we

can get the participants together at some point for a Mass."

Participants in the 99 Master Class were also given the third portion of the program, the 99 Handbook, for further reflection.

Donders said one of her favorite aspects of the 99 program is that it fits well into an overall series of offerings from the New Evangelization office all meant "to allow people to talk about where they are now."

"The 99 Master Class/99 Experience, Alpha and The Search are all similar in the sense that we want to get people talking about faith, sharing faith with others and growing their relationships with Christ, but they all address different starting points. Alpha is meant for people who are not practicing their faith or who are not familiar. The Search is for people in the pews. It looks at what we believe and why. The 99 Experience goes deeper. It's for Catholics who want to learn to put their faith into words. The Master Class is more about how I invite others into it. And (all three programs) lead to encountering Christ where they're at."

Donders said she hopes to offer the 99 programs again in the future.

"We can run it repeatedly and get new people involved," she said.

For more information about the 99 or any Office of New Evangelization program, please contact Marika Donders at the Office of the New Evangelization at mdonders@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920 or visit rcdony.org/evangelization.

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'I try to live a life of gratitude'

By Jonathan Monfletto
Contributing Writer

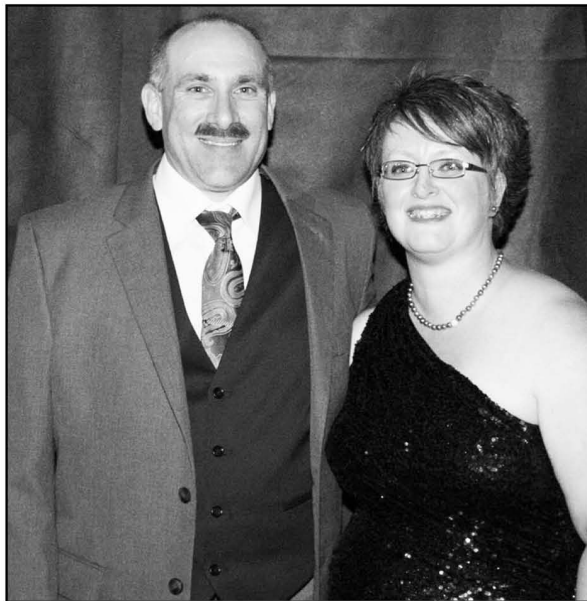
MASSENA – From his first day on the job as a New York State Trooper until he retired 23 years later in 2019, Darin Chartrand learned to rely on his faith as a lifelong Catholic to help him get through the difficult situations his career presented to him.

"My faith is important to me because it really helps me get through the tough times. (As a Trooper), a lot of times you're dealing with untimely deaths and just bad situations that turn people's lives upside down," he said, noting the numerous times he had to investigate suicides, fatal car crashes and other deadly incidents that ran the gamut of ages from the young to the elderly. "The one thing that helped me get through that was my faith. It was also comforting to the people we were dealing if we were able to share a little bit of that with them to get them through the hard times."

Chartrand, who lives in Massena and attends St. Mary's/St. Joseph's Church with his wife, Michele, and their four children, recalled one specific incident when he was a brand-new trooper undergoing a 10-week field training with a senior trooper.

While traveling back roads and learning the area he would patrol, Chartrand and his colleague received a report of a fatal agricultural accident involving a teenage girl.

"We were literally right up the road, so we beat the ambulance there by quite a few minutes," he said, noting it was his



Darin & Michele Chartrand

first experience with such a tragedy. "There was literally nothing we could do to save her except to pray with her family."

Calling the family "very faith-filled," Chartrand noted he and the family used their shared faith to help one another and said that moment set the stage for the rest of his career as a trooper.

"No matter how bad the situation was, I knew my faith would get me through," he said.

As a cradle Catholic, Chartrand said his faith has sustained him through his personal life as well as his professional career. He grew up in Croghan as the oldest of five boys, and his next youngest brother was born with severe cerebral palsy and dealt with several medical conditions throughout his whole life.

"That brought our family very close together," Chartrand said. "One thing that my mom and dad always made sure was that we were in

church every Sunday. Our faith is what bonded us together and got us through the hard times. It got us through growing up with all the challenges my younger brother had."

Faith continues to carry Chartrand and his family through life's ups and downs. He and Michele have four children – a 23-year-old son, a 19-year-old daughter, then "a long gap," he called it before a 7-year-old son and a 2-year-old daughter.

"We try to lead by example, if you will," Chartrand said. "We're a very tight-knit family."

One of the things that has kept the family tight over the years has been their experiences of family weekends at Camp Guggenheim, which Chartrand noted helped them not only grow closer as a family but also grow closer to other families.

"You make lifelong friends down there. All of our kids enjoyed it," he said. "The families you meet, you become life-



long friends."

The Chartrands taught third-grade faith formation for many years in their church until the two parishes combined. He served as an extraordinary minister of the Holy Eucharist, and since churches reopened amid the pandemic he has served as a greeter to welcome people and help them find a seat in the sanctuary while practicing social distancing.

The Chartrands also went through the Formation for Ministry program together and commissioned as lay ministers in 2015 – a process that involved their then-newborn son sitting in his stroller in the back of the classroom.

"Stuff gets thrown at you in life that you didn't (expect). I know it's all God's plan," Chartrand said, adding his younger daughter was born the day he was supposed to turn his uniforms in upon his retirement. "I wouldn't trade any of it for the world. I'm sure God's got a plan."

Along the way, he calls Michele "one of my

biggest inspirations." She attended church with him for a number of years before going through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Now, she is "very devout," Chartrand said, and serves as a Servite of Mary.

"Her spirituality, I really admire it and I really get a lot of strength from it, from the example she sets," Chartrand said. "She's kind of my strength also as we all struggle through the journey of life."

In his prayer life, Chartrand calls himself a private person – he likes to pray in the sanctuary of his bedroom and enjoy the quiet as he communes with God. At the same time, he tries to set an example of faith for his children by praying with them before meals and at bedtime so they can develop their own relationship with God.

"I try to live a life of gratitude," Chartrand said. "That's the most important thing. Kids need to see their parents praying. They pick up on that."

Environmental Stewardship

The work of Christmas begins

As the familiar poem goes, "When the Song of the Angels Is Stilled... When the kings and the princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flocks, The work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations, To bring peace among people, To make music in the heart."

On the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus that ended the season of Christmas, we heard the voice of the Father say that He is well pleased with His Son. Jesus immediately goes off to his ministry of healing and teaching God's people. We, too, are sent off in the Season of Ordinary Time to heal our broken world and broken hearts.

During the month of January, we are called by the Gospel to imitate Jesus' work in so many situations. January 11 is designated as Human Trafficking Awareness Day while the entire month is declared as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. This alerts us to the horrendous crime that enslaves more than 40 million children, women and men around the world in labor and sex trafficking. On Monday, January 18, we observe the Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. who sacrificed his life for the sake of the Gospel message to treat all people with love and respect. On January 24 we celebrate Respect Life Sunday calling us to take care of life in all its forms. January 29 is the date set for the March for Life in Washington to advocate for the rights of the unborn.

One challenge as Christian that affects and encompasses all our human concerns is to care for the well-being of our earth. What you do to earth, you do to yourself. If the earth is sick, so will its people be sick. In the midst of these stressful days, doing one action that I know will impact the quality of life as we know it can be healing balm for my soul and that of our world. Think about it and do something, no matter how small!

FRANKLIN

TAKE-OUT ROAST PORK DINNER

Brushton — A roast pork take-out dinner will be held.

Date: Feb. 6; pre-order on Feb. 5.

Time: 3 to 6:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center, 769 County Route 7 (Gale Road), Brushton.

Bishop's Public Schedule

Jan. 20 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 22 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 24 — 8 a.m. — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

11 a.m. — Mass for Life at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 25 — 9:30 a.m. — Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, Inc. Virtual Meeting

10 a.m. — NYS Board of Bishops Virtual Meeting

Jan. 27 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

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-
annyanulavich@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 Serv-
ice** at 800-276-1562 or
www.ReportBishopAbuse.org.

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg uses the training, Protecting God's Children for Adults. There are no live trainings scheduled. If you need to complete VIRTUS training, contact Jean Grizzuto, jgrizzuto@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920 x 1413, who will coordinate online training.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Features: Menu of roast pork, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, squash, applesauce, roll and dessert.

Cost: \$10 per dinner

Contact: Pre-order by calling 518-529-6580 between 8 a.m. and noon on Feb. 5 or from 9 a.m. until all meals are sold on Feb. 6. Pre-ordering is preferred, but not required.

ST. LAWRENCE

NOVENA CANCELLED

Massena — The Novena of Wednesdays planned at Sacred Heart Church has been cancelled.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

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

Rest in Peace

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

Jan. 20 — Rev. William D. O'Byrne, 1928; Rev. Joseph Erhard, O.M.I., 1936; Rev. Victor Viaud, O.M.I., 1937; Rev. Joseph Pontur, 1940

Jan. 21 — Rev. Albert W. Giroux, 1991; Rev. Adam Zajdel, O.F.M. Conv., 1997; Rev. Patrick C. Callaghan, O.F.M., 2001

Jan. 22 — Rev. James Edward Joy, 1950

Jan. 23 — Rev. Jeremiah C. Manning, 1909

Jan. 24 — Rev. Joseph N. Beaudry, 1897; Rev. M. A. Ryan, O.S.A., 1924

Jan. 25 — Rev. Eugene Gauvin, O.M.I., 1890

Jan. 26 — Rev. Antoine Paillier, O.M.I., 1916; Rev. Henry Thameling, O.F.M. Conv., 1929; Rev. Leon Lamothe, O.M.I., 1937; Rev. Daniel E. Cahill, 1945; Rev. John Emmett Weir, 1990; Rev. Earl W. Nichols, 2002

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 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 ways 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 or Cathy Russell at crussell@rcdony.org.

DISCERNMENT TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Do you dream of doing what he did as a Catholic Priest? There will be a ZOOM meeting for the Spring 2021 Priesthood Discernment Program.

Date: Jan. 13

Time: 3 p.m.

How to join in: Meeting will be held through Zoom. Mtg. ID: 762 7621 3515 Passcode: K1Spz6

Contact: Father Howard Venette (hvenette@gmail.com) for more information

VIRTUAL VOCATION RETREAT

The Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist invite you to join them on their 2nd Virtual Vocational Retreat!

Date: Feb. 13-14

Features: This online retreat will include talks given by the Sisters and Father David Meconi, S.J. on prayer, Dominican spirituality, the spirituality of DSMME, Eucharistic and Marian Devotion, and much more.

Contact: Register now at www.sistersofmary.org/news-events/events/

VIRTUAL FAMILY LIFE CONFERENCE

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

Description: see videos from the Virtual Family Life Conference or submit a video of your family demonstrating a skill or doing something fun!



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'I'm praying to be his next miracle'

Family members, Knights pray for canonization of Blessed Father Michael McGivney

By Mary Beth Bracy
Contributing Writer

MALONE—"I hope that I can be his next miracle because I have cancer of the uterus," shared Betsy McGivney, a distant cousin of Bl. Father Michael J. McGivney, from Malone. "I pray to him all of the time and my family does too."

Betsy says the prayer for his canonization and intercession for a miracle daily.

Father McGivney, the eldest of 13 children, tirelessly worked to provide his flock with sacraments in the midst of a pandemic. He fostered conversions and vocations, inspiring two of his brothers to become priests. Known as "the Priest of the Beatitudes," Father McGivney once adopted a boy who would have otherwise been orphaned due to his father's death. He also visited a young man on death row daily to minister to him spiritually. Desiring to provide a Catholic fraternal society, during a time of persecution, Father McGivney was inspired to begin a lay organization. His first approved miracle was the healing of an unborn baby with a fatal condition and no hope of survival.

"We're all very pleased that his beatification happened and that we're part of his family," Betsy's sister-in-law Elaine McGivney, of Brushton, reflected. "We're hoping for another miracle soon so that he can become a saint."

David Petrelli, a third degree Knight and member for 15 years, is mar-

ried to Betsy's niece. His Malone Council 308 sponsored a Mass at Notre Dame in November for all of the local Knights that passed away over the last year. Father Michael J. Jablonski, a Knight, was celebrant.

"A bunch of my wife's family was there," Petrelli said. "We invited all our brother Knights from all of the councils around us to the Mass."

"Since Father McGivney was beatified on October 31, we thought it was very appropriate to add veneration of his relic," Mr. Petrelli continued. "Within our council we have been discussing his beatification. With social distancing there really were not guests available to attend at the Cathedral (in Hartford, CT) for the actual ceremony, we all had to livestream it. I know a bunch of our members did watch the ceremony, a pretty big ceremony, but it was very minimally attended, maybe two dozen people, and most of them were clergy."

Cory Haynes, a 4th degree Knight and member of the 4th degree assembly of Our Lady of Victory, which covers the Franklin deanery, brought the Father McGivney relic to the Mass.

"It's a second class relic, a piece of clothing in this case, worn by Father McGivney."

Haynes, who belongs to St. Francis Regis Council 7321, located at St. Ann's, obtained the relic from "the Father McGivney Guild, when his cause was first established by the vice-postulator, they had a little inquiry form that

you could fill out and request to obtain a relic."

"He has been a great intercessor for many families and ours," Haynes said. "We've prayed to him in times of need, economic and spiritual needs, temporal, corporal. We've prayed for his beatification. The Knights, in particular, are promoting his canonization, for people to join the guild and, if they have any particular intercessory needs, to send those in. They will include them in the Masses. Of course, if there are any miracles that could be attributed, people should contact them and let them know, so hopefully they can pass them on to the vice postulator and include that."

Knights will continue to promote Father McGivney's cause and they "hope one more miracle can be attributed to him, so that he can be canonized a saint," relayed Petrelli. Father McGivney "was looking out for the men and families in his congregation, at a time when there was no such thing as life insurance, where a lot of Catholics were the minority and immigrants. They actually didn't have the safest jobs and so there were occasionally mortalities. When that happened to the bread winner, the family had no resources. When Father McGivney was going to college his father actually died and he had to go back for a time and support his family, before a Bishop sponsored him to finish his studies to become a priest. When he saw the same thing happening to members of his congregation, it really hit home for him. He started the Knights just as a local group and since that time it has spread worldwide."

Prayer for the Canonization of Father Michael J. McGivney

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church.

Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify your venerable servant Father Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.)

Please report all favors to the Father McGivney Guild, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510.

Though Father McGivney only lived to be 38, "it was not uncommon for that generation to die so young, just because medical treatment was not what it is today, and the demands were pretty high. There was a lot of physically demanding work. His Church was in dire financial challenges so, on top of ministering to his congregation, he had to figure out how to pay down the debt," Petrelli said.

"Many Councils have been praying for Father McGivney's canonization for a number of years now. In our Council, we end our meetings with a prayer for him to pray for us," explained Steven Forgette, a Fourth Degree Knight of Council 255. "Our Council is named in honor of Msgr. Morris L. Dwyer. He was a priest at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh."

Mike Sligar, a 4th degree Knight of the Father John J. Cosmic Council 291 in Carthage, shared that—in response to Father McGivney's beatification—

they have formed a group under his patronage. Spearheaded by their Grand Knight Brian Thompson, one of their initial brainstormings is "centered on establishing a budgeted account that would offer a small stipend of sorts to the grieving family of a deceased Brother Knight," conveyed Sligar. "This is in line with the very reason the K of C was formed in the first place. Our founder spent years establishing our organization, and we have and continue to dedicate our time, energy and talents to further the efforts of our founder."

The Bl. Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center opened in New Haven, CT on Nov. 1.

For more information visit fathermcgivney.org or kofc.org. Check out the documentary "Father Michael McGivney" and read the book *Parish Priest: Father Michael McGivney and American Catholicism*, by Douglas Catholick and Julie M. Fenster.

March for Life goes virtual

WASHINGTON (CNS)—For the first time since 1974, when it first began, the message of the national March for Life to participants is: Stay home.

Like the satellite events connected to the annual National Mall rally and march to the Supreme Court, including the Rose Dinner, a youth conference and the Mass for Life, the rest of it will be online only.

March organizers had already hired a production company to make a livestreamed event possible in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, and to enforce mask wearing and social distancing.

But the plan was still to have as large a live rally as could be arranged. Many of the bus caravans from the Midwest, long a staple of the event, were canceled last fall as a result of the pandemic, and the assault on the U.S. Capitol Jan. 6 and threats of subsequent violence by domestic ter-

rorist groups, as reported by the FBI, made security impossible.

"The protection of all of those who participate in the annual March, as well as the many law enforcement personnel and others who work tirelessly each year to ensure a safe and peaceful event, is a top priority of the March for Life," Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life Defense and Education Fund, said in a statement issued late Jan. 15.

"In light of the fact that we are in the midst of a pandemic which may be peaking, and in view of the heightened pressures that law enforcement officers and others are currently facing in and around the Capitol ... the annual rally will take place virtually and we are asking all participants to stay home and to join the march virtually."

There will still be a small in-person presence. "We will invite a small group of pro-life leaders from across

the country to march this year," Mancini said.

"These leaders will represent pro-life Americans everywhere who, each in their own unique ways, work to make abortion unthinkable and build a culture where every human life is valued and protected," she added.

Marches in recent years had drawn at least 100,000 participants, and last year's event, when President Donald Trump spoke at the rally, was believed to have had the largest attendance in its history. The smallest March for Life previous to this was in 1987 during a snowstorm, and drew an estimated 5,000.

The march is held on or near the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, which legalized abortion on demand.

The National Park Service closed "core areas" of the National Mall Jan. 15. They will remain closed at least through Jan. 21.

Bishops applaud adoption, foster care rule change

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Department of Health and Human Services modified rule that helps ensure that faith-based social service providers will not be excluded from certain federally funded programs was met with approval by the chairmen of three U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops committees.

The rule modification affects agencies that provide adoption and foster care services. It will allow faith-based social service providers "to continue partnering with the government to assist children in need," the chairmen said.

Welcoming the change were Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, chair of the Committee for Religious

Liberty; Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chair of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; and Bishop David A. Konderla of Tulsa, Oklahoma, chair of the Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage.

The rule modification affects a 2016 regulation put in place by President Barack Obama's administration. The change would allow faith-based adoption and foster care agencies to continue receiving federal funding for their work that follows their religious beliefs.

The chairmen noted how Catholic and other faith-based agencies annually serve thousands of families

through adoption and foster care. "Many of these agencies have been doing this work long before the government became involved," their statement said.

"It is a sad reality that state and local government agencies in multiple jurisdictions have already succeeded in shutting down Catholic adoption and foster care providers who operated in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church," the chairmen said. "With over 400,000 children in foster care, we need to work together to take steps to increase — not decrease — opportunities for children to be placed with safe and loving families."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Panelists address concerns raised over vaccines, fetal cell line

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Participants in a Jan. 14 webinar sponsored by the Institute for Human Ecology at The Catholic University of America discussed concerns raised by some over a fetal cell line being used in some phase of COVID-19 vaccine development but concluded the cell line is probably sufficiently removed from the "original evil" to ameliorate Catholic apprehensions. A Dutch researcher in the 1970s developed HEK-293, or human embryonic kidney 293 cells. Their original source was an aborted female fetus. The cell line is used to manufacture the spike protein of the coronavirus, which, in a vaccine, triggers an immune response. Melissa Moschella, a philosophy professor at Catholic University, framed the argument as "the fact that there's a past injustice that we're benefiting from." She observed the cell line, "which is immoral," does not, by itself, link to previous abortions. "All these vaccines can be used with a clear conscience," agreed Paul Scherz, a Catholic University moral theology professor.

Court says abortion drugs must be obtained in person

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court Jan. 12 reinstated a federal requirement that women who are seeking abortion-inducing drugs must do so in person, not by mail, as a federal judge had allowed last year due to the pandemic and the high court had let stand. In its 6-3 order, the justices said women must follow previous Food and Drug Administration requirements that they had to visit a doctor's office, hospital or clinic in person to obtain Mifeprex, the brand name for mifepristone, also called RU-486, which is used to end pregnancies during the first 10 weeks. FDA regulations initially required patients to receive the drug in person after signing a form acknowledging risks associated with it. "We welcome the Supreme Court's reinstatement of the FDA's ability to enforce important and long-standing health and safety requirements related to chemical abortion drugs," said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities. Using mifepristone received by mail order for an abortion, he said, is a "dangerous, painful and emotionally bleak process" that results "in the death of innocent unborn lives and often has lasting negative impacts on women."

Canadian high court declines to hear appeals on abuse claims

OTTAWA, Ontario (CNS) — The Archdiocese of St. John's is responsible for paying victims of child abuse at the Newfoundland's infamous Mount Cashel Orphanage. In a decision announced Jan. 14, the Supreme Court of Canada has declined to hear one last appeal from the archdiocese, which has always denied it was responsible for the abuse that occurred at Mount Cashel dating back to the 1950s. The orphanage was run by the Christian Brothers of Ireland, which declared bankruptcy in 2012 while settling abuse lawsuits. The orphanage itself was demolished in 1992. The archdiocese has argued before the court that it was not involved in the orphanage's day-to-day operations and that the Christian Brothers was a lay organization whose members were not ordained priests of the archdiocese. The lower court ruling in Newfoundland that exposed the Catholic Church to financial liability could have implications not only in St. John's and across Canada, but the case was also being closely monitored internationally. Court cases related to what went on at the Mount Cashel orphanage have been ongoing for more than two decades after the Hughes Inquiry in 1989 exposed the abuse suffered by children at the orphanage.

NOW STREAMING HERSELF

NEW YORK (CNS) – A miracle story about St. Brigid proves pivotal to the emotionally complex Irish drama "Herself" (Amazon).

It's one of several details in director Phyllida Lloyd's powerful profile in endurance that faithful and pro-life movie fans will appreciate.

Potential patrons should be aware, however, that repeated depictions of a harrowing physical assault, though dramatically justified, make the film challenging material even for grown-ups.

Victimized by that attack is working-class Dublin wife and mother Sandra (Clare Dunne, who also co-wrote the script with Mal-

colm Campbell). In its aftermath, she succeeds in escaping the perpetrator, her abusive husband, Gary (Ian Lloyd Anderson). But Sandra's struggles, it turns out, are just beginning.

Dissatisfied with life in the cramped government subsidized hotel room assigned to her and her two young daughters, Molly (Molly McCann) and Emma (Ruby Rose O'Hara), Sandra soon discovers that the prospect of obtaining better housing by working with the bureaucracy is remote. So she strikes on the idea of building her own modest home.

The thought is originally kindled by a video Sandra comes across on the inter-

net. But she's also inspired by an incident in the life of the Emerald Isle's female patron saint recounted to her by Emma.

According to this well-known legend, St. Brigid asked the King of Leinster for land on which to establish a monastery.

When the monarch proved reluctant, she restricted her request to only as much ground as her cloak could cover. The sovereign agreed to this apparent trifle, only to see the holy woman's initially small garment miraculously expand in all directions.

Sandra's ambitious project gets a boost from Peggy (Harriet Walter), the afflu-

ent doctor for whom she works as a housekeeper, as did her mother before her. Based on her close friendship with Sandra's mom, Peggy, whose gruff exterior disguises a kind heart, volunteers to give Sandra part of her suburban property and lend her the capital she'll need.

Others help too, most prominently building contractor Aido (Conleth Hill). At first, Aido discourages Sandra, but he finds his outlook transformed by a gesture on the part of his grown son Francis (Daniel Ryan), a lad whose generous nature is unmarred by the Down syndrome to which he's subject.

Thus the tale of Sandra's

aspirations also becomes one of infectious community spirit as the proceedings take on the tone of an old-fashioned barn raising. This is not the kind of crowd-pleasing movie, however, in which a happy ending is achieved with unrealistic ease.

The film contains harsh scenes of spousal abuse, several uses of profanity, about a half-dozen milder oaths as well as much rough and occasional crude and crass language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is R – restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

The Aftershocks of Roe

By Kathleen M. Gallagher

Director of Pro-Life Activities

New York State Catholic Conference

As the 48 anniversary of Roe vs. Wade approaches, I'm pondering how far we've tumbled since that shameful decision. It's clear to me that respect for life has eroded for humans across the board, no matter their size, location, age, color, religion or other defining characteristic.

I do think the legalization of abortion is much to blame. A society which allows innocent infants to be arbitrarily destroyed under the mantle of law will inevitably undermine respect for lives in other contexts.

When public policies, like those in New York, encourage and subsidize abortion for any reason throughout pregnancy, it threatens human lives on a much wider scale. It hardens people, coarsens them to the inherent sacredness of every individual human life. They no longer see it.

They become so numb to it that they are willing to tolerate and accept other acts that demean, damage and destroy human lives.

Allow me just a few examples.

An NPR news story last month detailed cases in Oregon where people were being denied basic medical care because of their disabilities. It was horrifying. Human beings were being deprived of COVID tests, treatments and ventilators because someone assessed their "quality of life" too low or judged their worth to be beneath that of other persons. People with developmental disabilities who lived in group homes were being discouraged from going to emergency rooms, and being encouraged to complete DNRs and other forms to limit their medical care.

One man, a quadriplegic who can't speak and who is fed through a tube, was running a high fever so the staff at his home took him

to a local hospital. Once there, medical staff reportedly refused him a coronavirus test, with one health provider suggesting it would be "a waste of valuable PPE."

Another recent news story detailed the last days of a black woman who died of coronavirus and its complications in an Indiana hospital. A medical doctor herself, Susan Moore said she was denied pain medications and made to feel like a drug addict. She maintained to the end that she received inferior treatment because of the color of her skin.

Then there was the Associated Press report that described how, during the height of the pandemic, thousands of elderly patients in nursing facilities had died from despair and isolation, or because overburdened staff hadn't been able to give them the care they needed. Nursing home watchdogs said they were flooded with reports of

"residents kept in soiled diapers so long their skin peeled off, left with bedsores that cut to the bone, and allowed to wither away in starvation or thirst."

What kind of society have we become? Who gave anyone the authority to decide that one life doesn't have the same intrinsic value as another's and can be cast aside because of disability, skin color, or old age? And how different is this, really, from judging that an unborn baby's life doesn't matter because she is unwanted or inconvenient?

We need to take a step back and look at the big picture here. We're not just talking about abortion anymore, but about the aftershocks it has wrought and the society it has helped to fashion. It's not a pretty picture.

Pope Francis gets it right when he speaks of the need to heal the "throwaway culture," with its tendency to dispose of those deemed useless or unproductive.

He says we need to develop habits that resist the temptation to judge, exclude, mock and mistreat those who are different from us.

Amen to that. We need to take a page from the book of Jesus, who welcomed all and loved all. More than that, he gave priority to those people forgotten or kicked to the curb because of their supposed insignificance; he knew they deserved special consideration and extra protections.

In this New Year, Lord, help us to resolve to defend the defenseless, speak for the voiceless, and love one another as you have loved us.



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Theme of urgency runs through readings

While the Christmas celebrations are gone, the work of discipleship has just begun. Our first reading today is from the Book of Jonah. We all know the story of his time spent in the belly of a whale. We call Jonah the “reluctant prophet,” since he really didn’t want to be the cause for the conversion of these wicked Ninevites. After all, they were bitter enemies of Israel. Jonah would



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

much rather see them suffer the full punishment they deserved than to actually repent of their crimes and escape the wrath of God. But Jonah obeyed the Lord and preached vigorously throughout the whole length of this very large city. Like many “righteous” people before and since, Jonah would rather have seen them “fry” than be saved! The Gospel is Mark’s

January 24

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

version of the very beginnings of Jesus’ mission. Following his baptism by John and the thunderous witness from God the Father in a recent Gospel that this man, Jesus, is really the Son of God, we hear today Jesus’ own words, “Repent and believe in the Gospel.” Since

John is in prison, Jesus takes up where John left off, and goes now in search of His own followers. What power must have flowed from Him, for Simon Peter and his brother Andrew, James and his brother John drop everything, leave their families and their fishing nets, and follow the Lord.

The theme of urgency is found in all of today’s readings. Jonah tells the Ninevites that God is giving them one last chance. Jesus declares that the “time of fulfillment” has come... the kingdom has

arrived.” And in the second reading for today from St. Paul’s Epistle to the Corinthians, we hear the warning, “...time is running out...for the world as we know it is passing away.”

In these extremely dangerous times of the covid-19 pandemic, and as we enter a new political administration, we must act as the challenges face us. We are called and we are chosen to defend Christ’s teaching on life, freedom and family life. May the Holy Spirit strength us in our discipleship.

CALLED TO SERVE

It was full of ups and downs

My attitude toward writing this column was pretty good at the start of last week. There were a couple of conversations about events in the spring that folks were very optimistic about. With the vaccine available now, my colleagues seemed inclined to think we will return to “normal” by May, maybe June, certainly July.

Then the bubble burst. Father Vicente Jazmines, pastor in Black River, died

from COVID-related health issues. A dear friend in Brooklyn was diagnosed not once, but twice with COVID. She tested positive but to now is asymptomatic. Then another friend of mine in Watertown returned a positive test, and to cap it off a former co-worker, Jeff Shannon, died as a result of the virus. Jeff was 59.

All my optimism turned sour in the course of a couple of days. It wasn’t related to COVID, but I noticed next Saturday is the feast of St. Vincent, a deacon from Spain. He was martyred because he

would not turn his back on the scriptures. Actually, his tormentor, the Roman governor Dacian, offered to free Vincent from arrest if he would throw a copy of scripture into a fire. The deacon refused. Vincent was tortured, filleted and burned, much like another deacon, St. Lawrence. Both are martyrs.

Reading Vincent’s story on top of all the other current bad news was not directing my writing to the positive,

upbeat, things-will-get-better piece I originally envisioned.

As I often do when things get me down, I turned to scripture. Next Sunday’s first reading has Jonah telling the people of Nineveh they’ve got 40 days before God destroys their city. Paul tells the Corinthians the world as they know is passing away. Mark’s gospel starts with Jesus warning his listeners to repent.

Kathy and I have been following the Bible in 365 days Podcast of Father Mike Schmidt. He has been reading and reflecting from Genesis. The deeper you get into that first book of the bible, the more it sounds like a soap opera. Things are going downhill fast.

Then all of a sudden, things got positive again. We actually succeeded in

scheduling appointments for the vaccine. Our grandson has been invited for auditions by three different colleges. We had very good parish committee meetings this week. I’m feeling good again.

Is your life full of ups and downs like that? I suspect they are. It’s the second part of that Gospel of Mark that gives me hope.

Jesus started picking men to be his apostles. We will hear about Simon, Andrew, James and John, all trying to make a living as commercial fishermen. Jesus asks them to give it up and follow him. They do.

Perhaps that’s what Jesus is asking of us today. Deal with the dips and rises in our lives by staying steady and follow Him.

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



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

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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Respecting life in all its forms



“Christ needs you to enlighten the world and to show it the ‘path to life’ (Psalm 16:11). The challenge is to make the Church’s ‘yes’ to Life concrete and effective. The struggle will be long, and it needs each one of you. Place your intelligence, your talents, your enthusiasm, your compassion and your fortitude at the service of life!” (Homily on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 1993)

These heartfelt words by Pope John Paul II serve as a reminder of the importance we all play in upholding the sanctity of life.

This message is especially important in a time when life has become harder to maintain in the face of worldwide hardships. For the less fortunate and sick in the poorer areas of the world, maintaining their safety and wellbeing is now an even greater challenge. Food, water, shelter, basic healthcare, and now masks and personal protective equipment are all too hard to find for the less fortunate of the world.

As we take care of our friends and loved ones during this difficult time, may we also not forget the old, the young, the sick and the poor who are struggling. Our prayers and offerings of love and sacrifice go a long way to spreading the light of Christ to a world that so desperately needs it.

Whether a life is born or unborn, old or young, rich or poor, God made each and every one in his image, and each of us has a special role to play in building his kingdom here on earth. So even as we leave the Christmas season behind, may our hearts continue to be filled with generosity and zeal for preserving God’s precious gift of life, especially for the most vulnerable among us.

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

rcdony.org/mission

OBITUARIES

AuSable Forks – Home Snow, 89; Mass of Christian burial Jan. 13, 2021 at Church of the Holy Name; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Cadyville – Loretta E. (Donah) Delisle, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 16, 2021 at St. James Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Cape Vincent – Francis Vincent Aubertine, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 16, 2021 at St. Vincent of Paul Church; burial in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery, Rosiere.

Carthage – Alice Elizabeth Jones Young, 100; Mass of Christian Burial to be held in the Spring at St. James Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

Champlain – Karen C. (Benjamin) Linney, 71; Private Services to be held.

Croghan – Edna (Monnat) Ritz, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 12, 2021 at St. Stephen’s Church; burial in St. Stephen’s Cemetery.

Croghan – Shannon L. Bush Waldron, 51; Services to be held in the Spring.

Ellenburg – Annabelle (Miller) Campbell, 85; Mass of Christian burial to be held at a later date at St. Edmund’s Church.

Lyons Falls – George Richard Cataldo, 90; Mass of Christian Burial to be held in the Spring; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery, Constableville.

Malone – Rose (Patterson) King, 78;

Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 9, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in North Burke Cemetery.

Massena – Herrick T. Bulger, 67; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 9, 2021 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery, Waddington.

Massena – Thomas W. Pratt, 85; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at a later date; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Jean Snelgrove Zagrobelny, 100; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 18, 2021 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Mooers – Annette E. (Lawton) Devan, 89; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at a later date.

Morrisonville – Louise E. (Hastings) Gibbs, 59; Mass of Christian Burial June 3, 2021 at St. Alexander’s Church.

Ogdensburg – Anita (Rumble) Kennedy, 101; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 15, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

St. Regis Falls – Robert James Berger, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 15, 2021 at St. Ann’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery, Brushton.

Sackets Harbor – Margaret Sally

(Waterman) Cullerton, 96; Graveside Services to be held in the Spring at Lakeside Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Jane Marie (Montbriand) Clark, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 13, 2021 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Valley View Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Evelyn L. Crammond, 93; Mass of Christian Burial in the Spring at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Watertown – John R. Bonner, 74; Memorial Mass to be held at Holy Family Church at a later date; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Joan H. (Derouin) Derigo, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 16, 2021 at St. Anthony’s Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Eleanor J. “Ellie” (Bush) Kirch, 73; Graveside Services to be held in the Spring.

Watertown – Jon. M. Wilder, 79; Graveside Services to be held at a later date.

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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MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

Vaccines and other entanglements with abortion

As the new COVID-19 vaccines are being rolled out, several people have told me, "I don't want a vaccine with any connection to abortion."

This is a valid sentiment that most of us would likely echo. At a minimum, it should serve as an important "call to action" for each of us during the course of this pandemic.

Even if we decide to get inoculated with a vaccine that was produced using abortion-derived human cell lines — which for a serious reason and in the absence of alternatives would not be unethical — we still face a real duty to push back and make known our disagreement with the continued use of these cells by researchers in the pharmaceutical industry and academia.

We can do this in several ways.

We can write a letter to the editor to heighten public awareness, or contact the pharmaceutical companies that make vaccines, urging them to discontinue their use of abortion-derived cell lines. If they do so, we should also thank them.

We can similarly initiate discussions with friends or relatives who work in research labs about whether their company

or university uses cells derived from abortions.

One of the "silver linings" of the COVID-19 pandemic is that it affords us the opportunity to raise awareness about these moral concerns and improve the way that biomedical research is conducted by scientists.

As one bishop I was speaking with reminded me recently: "We need to teach, educate and confront this issue more widely. It's everyone's duty." Such efforts will help build real momentum for change.

I'm often asked whether sample letters are available to help with writing to vaccine manufacturers who use abortion-derived cell lines. An example would be:

"I am writing in regard to your COVID-19 vaccine. It is my understanding that a cell line originally derived from an abortion is being used in the production of your vaccine. I am contacting you to request that your company stop relying on these cells in the pharmaceutical work that you carry out. Please understand that as one of your potential customers, I am

very concerned about these issues. It is my understanding that alternative, non-abortion-derived cell sources are available or could be made available. It is important for all of us to show our respect for the remains of those children whose lives were taken prematurely, and one way we can do this is by avoiding these cell lines in scientific research and pharmaceutical development. Thank you."

Archbishop Joseph Naumann, Archbishop of Kansas City and Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, has also prepared a more detailed letter (available at: <https://www.usccb.org/resources/Letter-to-FDA-urging-ethical-COVID-vaccines.pdf>) that addresses the need to develop vaccines free of entanglements with abortion.

While such entanglements remain a significant concern, we also need to be aware how some of our daily activities may have a much more direct connection to the abortion industry.

Dr. Melissa Moschella recently observed how getting a vaccine made with the help of an abortion-derived cell line has "less connection to the ongoing evil of abortion than other actions we engage in on a regular basis, such as doing business with the many companies that donate money directly or indirectly to Planned Parenthood, including Nike, Heinz, Energizer, Clorox, Facebook, JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, CVS, Walmart, Liberty Mutual, Aetna, and hundreds of others."

To put it another way, each time we purchase Tostitos/Frito Lay products, fill our gas tank with ExxonMobil gas or buy Pepsi products, our contribution to the continuation of abortion is significantly more direct than when we receive a vaccine manufactured with abortion-derived fetal cell lines.

Each of these large consumer-oriented corporations make large financial contributions to Planned Parenthood, which promotes and directly performs the killing of unborn children in the United States and in other countries.

Widespread corporate collusion in the evil of abortion does not, of course, mitigate the ethical concerns about using cell lines taken from fetal cadavers to produce vaccines.

But it does represent another important area where letter-writing, boardroom votes, boycotts, and other focused efforts by stockholders, employees and customers can make a difference when it comes to scaling back the support mechanisms that Planned Parenthood and other abortion-minded organizations rely on.

As the Vatican emphasized in its recent "Note on the Morality of Using Some Anti-Covid-19 Vaccines," the reception of an inoculation made from abortion-derived cells "does not in itself constitute a legitimation" of the practice of abortion.

Receiving the stick of the needle today does not mean we are somehow cooperating in an abortion that occurred decades ago and for reasons independent of vaccine production.

Each of us has a serious obligation to witness to the inviolability of human life. We need to take the time to speak up so that future vaccines and medicines will be developed without any reliance on abortion-derived materials.

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