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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 76 Number 25

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

OCTOBER 27, 2021

Chunkin' pumpkins, sharing fellowship

It's an annual fall tradition, but it's the first time the campus ministry program in Potsdam has participated in "Punkin Chunkin."

In "Punkin Chunkin," teams build devices – trebuchets, air cannons... – to launch pumpkins as far as possible. A chunkin' event is held annually in Clayton, and pumpkins are launched into the St. Lawrence River.

Though they decided to participate at the last minute, the Potsdam team constructed a trebuchet, transported it to Clayton, received some much-needed assistance to overcome obstacles and was able to successfully launch

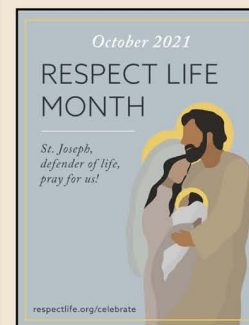
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EARLY HOLIDAY GIVING



St. Augustine's (Peru) Knights of Columbus Council 7273 Grand Knight Cormac O'Callaghan presents a \$500 council donation to Peru JCEO Outreach Worker April Wright. The outreach will use the money to supplement the Food Shelf's Thanksgiving and Christmas family food baskets.

RESPECT LIFE MONTH



Every October, Respect Life Month is celebrated. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning to the end of their lives, and at every point in between. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life. In this edition, we celebrate 50th anniversaries for both Birthright and Champlain Valley Right to Life. This year's theme is "St. Joseph, defender of life, pray for us."

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Pope: Creating better world means seeing, helping

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Catholics striving to bring greater justice and hope to the world need to see the suffering people around them, stop to help and be open to continual conversion, Pope Francis said.

In a message Oct. 21 to participants in the Italian church's Social Week, Pope Francis used the image of

three road signs that he said would help guide Catholics and Catholic organizations committed to promoting justice and peace, ending poverty, assisting migrants and safeguarding creation.

The first sign, he said, is a reminder to "watch the crossings."

"Too many people cross

our paths while they are in despair," he said, including young people forced to migrate, the unemployed, women forced to choose between motherhood and a job, elderly people who are abandoned and businesses subject to threats by the Mafia.

"These are faces and sto-

ries that challenge us: we cannot remain indifferent," the pope said. "These brothers and sisters of ours are crucified and await resurrection."

The second sign says, "No parking," the pope said.

Members of a diocese, parish or church agency can get tired with all the

challenges they face, but "God's love is never static," he said. "It impels us and forbids us to stop. It sets us in motion as believers and disciples of Jesus on our way through the streets of the world, following the example of the One who is the way and has walked our roads."

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Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
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R. LAVALLEY**

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It makes me think of my grandma

Every year, this Respect Life edition makes me think of my paternal grandmother.

When my sisters and I were quite young, I remember grandma being very active in the pro-life movement. She attended meetings. She attended prayer events. She distributed brochures and information. She took her grandchildren to the national March for Life.

As I thought about it this year, it occurred to me that grandma decreased her participation in the formal movement at some point. I don't remember the brochures in her house or her leaving to attend events

when we were older children or when my much-younger cousins were growing up.

Grandma wasn't any less pro-life as her grandchildren aged. I recall she still frequently prayed for the unborn as she prayed the rosary. She was busy being pro-life in other ways.

When my parents were young and starting our family, they didn't have a lot. It would've been an extreme hardship for them to pay for childcare. Both sets of grandparents helped, but my paternal grandmother provided care and supervision for us far more often than anyone else.

**Darcy L.
Fargo**

When my father's sister, my aunt, was young and starting her family, she was in the same situation. Grandma provided care for her kids. You can repeat this scenario for both my twin sister and me. Grandma watched both of our sons when they were babies and we were at points of our lives when we needed help.

When her great-grandchildren became too heavy for her to provide care for them (she wasn't very young at this point, and my twin sister and I make big babies), grandma was still actively pro-life. Even when driving and other tasks became difficult for her, grandma could still knit. After making mittens and hats for everyone in the fam-

ily, she started knitting mittens to send to her great-grandchildren's schools for kids who needed them. She never stopped providing warmth, love and kindness to others. She never stopped affirming the dignity and value of the human person.

Respecting life encompasses a lot of things. It's advocating for and helping the unborn, the infirm and the elderly. It's valuing and loving every human. It's supporting families and individuals in need. It's caring for the sick. It's forgiving and visiting the prisoner.

Respecting life is part of being who Christ calls each of us to be.

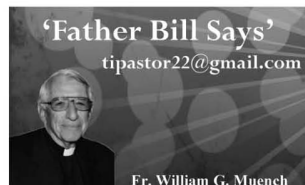
And it makes me think of my grandmother.

'You ought to wash one another's feet'

Do you remember the recent Sunday Gospel that told of the incident in which two of the apostles, James and John, approached Jesus with the request for a place of honor when the Lord would come into his glory? They came to him seeking a place of power in the community. The other apostles were interested and upset. They each were interested in some sort of power.

I have no doubt that at that moment Jesus became very disappointed and displeased with his twelve apostles. He realized that they did not understand all that he expected of them as his followers. They had missed something so important. I believe that he became determined to find some way to demonstrate to them what his hopes were for his followers, for his twelve friends.

So, at the last supper, Jesus did something rather dramatic: he decided to wash their feet. As you remember, in that desert country it was



to have a servant who would welcome a guest by washing their feet. The thirteenth chapter of the Gospel of St. John describes for us, how Jesus stepped forward and accepted that task. He became the servant who washed the feet of the guests. He also used that moment to teach the apostles something important.

These are the words of Jesus: "Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me Teacher and Master and rightly so for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the Master and Teacher have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow so that as I have done for you, you should also do."

Jesus wanted his followers to learn that Jesus did not come to be served, he came

to serve – as they must.

This unique action of Jesus has been incorporated into our Catholic liturgy. On Holy Thursday, each pastor is asked to wash the feet of a few people in their parish as a model to demonstrate that as pastor he is called to serve. As pastor, he makes this promise with the image of washing the feet of his people.

I am always so impressed with Pope Francis in this regard. He celebrates his Holy Thursday Mass each year in a nearby prison. He offers this Mass with these young criminals and then washed their feet. He wants to tell them he will always be ready to serve them. Our Holy Father, after washing and drying their feet, bows down and kisses their feet. It's such a powerful demonstration of his readiness to serve.

Let me tell you: I was a pastor and washed the feet of parishioners many times. However, I must tell you that I never kissed their feet. Pope Francis would probably

ask me why not.

Jesus wanted his apostles at that Last Supper and his apostles of all time to never forget that they were called to follow him by washing the feet of those in need. Jesus wants you and I to realize that we live our Christian life. He wants us to follow our Lord and Savior as we wash the feet of each other.

Each time we reach out to help someone in need, we are washing his or her feet. Each time I spend some time with someone who is lonely and despondent, I am washing his or her feet. Each time I try to make someone happier, I am washing his or her feet. Each time I bring someone closer to the Lord, I am washing his or her feet. Each time I make this world a better place by living in the spirit of my savior, Jesus, I am washing someone's feet.

Let me quote my friend, Catherine Doherty, here: "We exist to wash the feet of men and women, as Christ washed the feet of the apostles. This means entering into every place of their life."

RESPECT LIFE

Plattsburgh Birthright celebrates 50 years

By **Mary Beth Bracy**
Contributing Writer

PLATTSBURGH – On October 21, Plattsburgh's Birthright – the first pregnancy center in New York State – celebrated its 50th anniversary with a luncheon at the Newman Center.

Sally Fisher, Director of Birthright, testified to their success as an “act of the Holy Spirit.” She said that volunteers give a “glimpse of love” and “belonging” to women in need.

During COVID, Fisher noted, Birthright was able to continue its efforts. In recent years, Birthright has had Christmas parties for women and children. At one party, a woman who attended didn't have clothes to dress her baby in for the party, and Birthright provided the baby with a new Christmas outfit. They have also sent donations to the Hour Children Program at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility.

Deacon Ken Lushia offered an opening prayer and remarks at the anniversary luncheon, recalling the example of St. Joseph, whose picture was on his stole. Board member Eric Buzzell spoke about Birthright as “Hope for Tomorrow” and gave thanks to God for His “inspiration in sustaining Birthright,” and to everyone for their “faithfulness in praying and volunteering.”

Birthright needs more volunteers, Buzzell relayed noted.

“Be bold in spreading information about Birthright . . . ambassadors, diligent in spreading the word,” he said.

Board member Allison Collier talked about the “Earn while you learn” initiative, which helps par-



Mary Szydluk, a founding member of Plattsburgh's Birthright, at her garden in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. Plattsburgh's Birthright recently celebrated its 50th anniversary.

ents “learn how to become the best parent you can be.” Participating parents earn points for items in Birthright's Blessings Boutique, including clothes and diapers, while building mentor/client relationships. Mary Skillan, Birthright board chair, offered the closing remarks and expressed gratitude to those present and her predecessors in Birthright, people she said made it possible to “move forward to the next level as an organization.”

When asked about Birthright's early days, Mary Szydluk, who lived in Plattsburgh for many years and was a founding member, noted that God provided.

“We needed different things and they all came, by the grace of God, an office and what we needed to use,” Szydluk said. “The most important thing that we needed was how to build our relationship with the women. Birthright still holds that as its main tool to this day.”

She noted, though, that the volunteers benefited from their service, as well.

“The women gave us so much more than we gave them,” Szydluk said. “They taught us so much, so much about heroism because they were going through some very tough times. Every one of them had some obstacles in the way. Dr. John Middleton trained us at our houses and covered the calls for us 24 hours a day until we could do it ourselves. We happened to be at Gerre Ryan's house and the phone rang. Gerre answered it and it was a call for Birthright. And so there Gerre was yet in this training session, and she had to deal with a very, very difficult situation. It was a teen pregnancy. So, she did her very best, but the situation just blew her away. At the end, we learned it was Dr. Middleton's daughter. It was a set up. It was such a great tool that Dr. Middleton used. He was probably chuckling all the while but Gerre and the rest of us were sweating it.

“Dr. John and Claire Middleton and Dr. John and Joanna Boule were the founders,” Mrs. Szydluk continued. “The Middle-

ton's and Boule's went to Toronto and met Louise Summerhill (Birthright's founder) and, in the middle of their conversation with her, she excused herself to go and take care of a woman who needed help at that time. It impressed them so much that she would go to see a woman at that hour of the night. They decided that was the organization that we would belong to.”

Other founding members were: Dr. Arthur and Evelyn Bickford, Walter and Peggy Crist, Don and Catherine Delorm, Dan and Karen Froehlich, George and Sharon Kasper, Don and Julia Ryan, Marty and Gerre Ryan, Wayne and Monique Seymour, Paul and Mary Szydluk, and Gary and Barb Ward.

Birthright volunteers, Szydluk added, “need to be able to focus on the woman, not on the politics; they need to focus on the woman and the needs of the woman. Birthright's motto is ‘It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth and the right of every child to be born.’ The corollary to that is that every woman has the right to the resources she needs to carry that baby to term. The essence of this is love. We are doing this for love, the love of the woman and the love of the baby. We love them both.”

Szydluk reflected on what inspired her to become involved. “Abortion was such a horrible thing, and my mother almost

aborted me without her knowledge. The doctor told her that her heart was very bad and she would not survive this pregnancy so, unbeknownst to her, the baby would be aborted to save her life. My Aunt Caroline, a nurse, was with her and found out.”

Instead, Szydluk's father took her mother to stay with family in Utica.

“The doctor in Utica agreed with the prognosis but was able to stick with my mother, as long as my mother would live,” she said. “Everybody prayed. I have a 100-year-old cousin, Sister Mary Loyola, who is a Sister of Charity, and she remembers praying for me as a teenager. My mother lived through the delivery and to be 67. She saw 5 of her 6 grandchildren.”

Szydluk reminisced how some people even sheltered women in their homes. “There's always a need for volunteers in so many different ways. It's not just working in the office. We had people working behind the scenes. Definitely these women were in God's heart. There's a very important reason to take care of the women. Of course, we love them both. If the woman can be in a calm, peaceful place, she can make a good decision for herself and her baby.”

For more information, to donate, or volunteer, please contact Birthright at: 518-563-4300 or 50 Clinton St., Plattsburgh.



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going south for the winter!

Notify our office so you don't miss a single issue of the *North Country Catholic*! Call (315) 608-7556 with your winter address.

RESPECT LIFE

'We need to show unconditional love'

By Mary Beth Bracy
Contributing Writer

Champlain Valley Right to Life (CVRTL) is celebrating 50 years of caring for mothers and babies this year. They continue to promote a greater respect for human life in the North Country with events ranging from the recent Life Chain on Respect Life Sunday, October 3, to setting up displays at fairs and participating in 40 Days for Life. Following the COVID lockdown, CVRTL is working on doing more educating and other community activities again and needs volunteers to help.

"Being at the fair was encouraging, people were very happy," shared Nancy Belzile, president of CVRTL. "It was our first year at Essex County Fair.

We set up a beautiful display, more people picked up materials, we had fetal models, and bracelets. People were very friendly and shared a lot of hard stories with us. It was a good healing experience."

Presently, CVRTL is participating in 40 Days for Life. People should "pray where they are, pray at the vigil site, fast and get others involved," Belzile said. They can contact her to sign up, "if they need someone to pray with on different days we can work that out too."

Belzile and Deacon Ken Lushia, vice-president of CVRTL, pray in front of Planned Parenthood in Plattsburgh every Monday at 10 a.m. during 40 Days for Life. People can "go there to connect and get involved." They are passing out bracelets and

hand sanitizer.

Deacon Lushia reflected that "The breakup of families is basically because of the introduction of birth control, and what it's done just continues. There's no moral dilemma to have casual sex anymore. To get rid of abortions, that can only start by following the commandments. God gave us the commandments through Moses, and it hasn't changed. You shall not covet or commit adultery."

People try to argue about when life starts, Deacon Lushia noted.

"The issue is saving sexual activity for marriage," he said. "People are afraid to become knowledgeable about abortion because they don't want to get involved. They rely on that it's a bunch of cells, not a baby. Some people say that life doesn't start until it's in the womb. They argue about the number of weeks. One of the most pro-life statements is 'Happy Birthday.'"

"We have to work on getting our moral compass back. We support the Plattsburgh Pregnancy Center (PPC) and encourage supporting the new crisis pregnancy center in Saranac Lake. We do side-walk counseling in front of Planned Parenthood," Miss Belzile added. "We talk to women about free ultrasounds, pregnancy tests and counseling about abortion at the PPC, educating women and their partners about the side effects. Educating women who have started a medical abortion which can be reversed is new. Hopefully it will be available locally. Thousands of babies have been saved by this progesterone treatment, something that Planned Parenthood does

not offer."

Belzile said she wishes more people would take note of this issue.

"Personally, I think that abortion is the number one issue in our world," she said. "126,000 babies will be killed today. I don't know how we sleep at night. That's just surgical abortions that we know of."

"There are a lot more chemical abortions and babies destroyed by birth control," Deacon Lushia added.

CVRTL used to hold regular meetings and "will be holding a meeting soon, the date is to be determined," noted Deacon Lushia.

Champlain Valley Right to Life is planning a "Peace in the Womb" event during in which participants sing traditional Christmas carols in front of Planned Parenthood and hold an empty manger.

One way that people can help is by attending their monthly meetings.

"We share what's happening in NYS and the national level, it's a very informative meeting," said Deacon Lushia. "A lot of education is needed. People don't understand that Roe vs. Wade took power away from the states to decide about abortion. At previous meetings, we watched videos like 'I lived on Parker Ave' and '180.' '180' shows that kids on the streets didn't know anything about history or abortion. They didn't know about the Nazis or Holocaust or any of that stuff. In the video they were talking to young kids and had them do a 180 on their thoughts. There was real life situations."

Deacon Lushia noted that anyone can partici-

pate in the Right to Life movement.

"Our main weapon is the Rosary. If you're at the site, we ask no more than prayer at the site. Or, at the Life Chain silence," Deacon Lushia said. CVRTL also benefits from financial support to print more educational materials. People can remember the organization in their wills, as well.

Deacon Lushia noted the organization also needs volunteers "to help at the fair in the summer, Clinton and Essex County, and perhaps start going to Franklin County. We invite people to show up for Life Chain."

"40 Days for Life is held in the spring and fall," Belzile added. "On October 27 at 10 a.m. we will have the closing ceremony for 40 Days for Life. It will start again on Ash Wednesday and go to Palm Sunday. There will be Stations of the Cross at Planned Parenthood on Good Friday."

CVRTL also needs a treasurer and a secretary. People can find CVRTL announcements about upcoming events in their Church bulletins. CVRTL is also getting the word out through articles and interviews, and are able to provide information on healing from abortions as well.

"We are trying to revive it and keep it going," Belzile said. "We can't give up. We need to show unconditional love, listen more, pray more, love more. Be there, God has someone for you to meet."

Contact CVRTL if you need a prayer partner, would like to make a donation, or for more information at PO Box 2992, Plattsburgh, NY 12901 or 518-593-6024.

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

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

(With ecclesiastical approval)

NOVEMBER

DIocese of OGDENSBURG, NY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY	2 REV. WILLIAM G. REAMER	3 REV. MARK R. REILLY VF	4 REV. CLEMENT RIMMONS, HGN	5 REV. DONALD A. ROBINSON	6 REV. STEPHEN ROCKER
7 REV. JOSEPH N. SESTITO	8 OUR PASTOR	9 REV. JAMES W. SEYMOUR	10 REV. SCOTT R. SEYMOUR	11 REV. ALAN D. SHNOB	12 REV. F. JAMES SHURTELEFF	13 REV. FERNANDO V. SOLOMON
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November
Holy Souls

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A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated.

The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by:  Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society www.nyvocations.net

Chunkin' pumpkins and sharing fellowship

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

CLAYTON – “Punkin Chunkin,” attempting to launch pumpkins through the air and into the St. Lawrence River, provided an opportunity to unite college students, Potsdam area parishioners and complete strangers.

Punkin Chunkin is an annual event hosted by the Clayton Chamber of Commerce. As part of the event, teams build air cannons and trebuchets to launch pumpkins as far as possible and into the St. Lawrence River.

“I grew up in Alex Bay, and I knew this was an event they do every year,” said Conner Cummings, campus minister in Potsdam. “I was trying to think of good events to get Clarkson students involved. A lot of them are studying engineering. I brought up the idea at a Friday dinner, and the group sounded super interested.”

Cummings noted, though, that the idea to participate came to him rather late.

“We did the whole thing in like a week and a half,” he said. “More time would’ve been good, but we were able to get it done. It would’ve been nice to be able to get in more test shots, but it all came together and worked out well.”

The Newman Club team used a garage space and tools belonging to the Cragg family, parishioners at St. Mary’s in Potsdam.

“It was stressful,” Cummings said. “We had a lot of long nights trying to conquer problems we ran across in the design. It’s a big jump from looking at the design the students put together and actually building it. It was a lot of



(Above) Abby White (Clarkson), Jaeide Jawahill (Clarkson), Conner Cummings (Campus Minister), Paulo Constantino (Clarkson), and Salvator Valeriano (US Army) pose with the trebuchet the Potsdam Newman Club built for Clayton’s Punkin Chunkin event. (Right) Jawahill, Constantino and White work to build the trebuchet for the event.



problem solving and a lot of late night at the Craggs’ house, and we were doing it all working around schedules and the students’ midterms and other obligations.”

The team hit another challenge, one typical of the times, as well.

“Two team members got COVID,” said Abby White, 22, of Duquesne, a civil structural engineering major at Clarkson. “They were working the opposite shift, so we hadn’t been near them while they were sick, but we lost pretty much half the team. The rest of us really had to pull

together. It was a really great group of people.”

“When we lost them, progress got pretty slow,” added Paulo Constantino, 19, of Brewster, an aeronautical engineering major at Clarkson.

Once the basic trebuchet was constructed, the campus ministry team had very little time to test it and deliver it to Clayton.

“The main part of the trebuchet broke during testing,” Cummings said. “We weren’t sure what we were going to do. We had to deliver it to Clayton that night.”

Arriving on the Punkin

Chunkin site on event day, the team immediately began attempting to repair their trebuchet.

“Grindstone Fabrication gave us a nice steel rod to hold the weight of our counterweight – the part that had failed,” Cummings said. “They gave it to us free of charge. Everyone was very generous and supportive. A team took a piece off their trebuchet and gave it to us.”

Despite the repairs, the team’s first launch wasn’t exactly successful.

“The first pumpkin launched straight into the ground,” Cummings said.

“We put the ‘chunk’ in punkin chunkin.”

The group was aided by other teams in the event to get their trebuchet firing.

“We made last minute changes, and people from other teams came over to help and give us tips,” Cummings said. “In the end, we launched about 50 feet. We were underdogs for sure. When we were finally able to launch, the whole crowd blew up.”

The participating students said they enjoyed the opportunity to work with people who share their faith.

“Projects like this are a good way to get a group closer,” said Constantino. “This was a new experience for me. I had a lot of friends I’d do projects with growing up, but they weren’t part of a church or anything. Having this common thing was very special. It was very rewarding. I hope we do it again next year. The hard work is over. Now, we could work on the little details.”

“It was a good way to build community and friendship,” added White. “I would absolutely do it again.”

In addition to Cummings, White and Constantino, the Potsdam Campus Ministry Punkin Chunkin team included Lucas Roberts Williams (Clarkson), Alex Koberda (local young adult), Jaeide Jawahill (Clarkson), Joshua Fontana (Clarkson), Kevin McCullough (SUNY Potsdam), Salvator Valeriano (U.S. Army) and Charles Hatch (local young adult). In addition to the Craggs, the team was also aided by Milt Snell, who transported the trebuchet from Potsdam to Clayton.

Environmental Stewardship**Despair or opportunity?**

The answer to the question whether we see a crisis as cause for despair or as an opportunity will depend upon what lens we use. If, in these turbulent times, our lens come mostly from the daily news media, we are most likely to experience a sense of despair. However, if we use the Gospel lens of love, we may experience this moment as an "opportunity" like none other.

In these past months, there are three major world-wide events happening simultaneously. Two of these events are within our Church and one is within the world-wide community. This past Sunday, October 17, Bishop LaValley, along with the bishops around the world, celebrated the opening of the Synod. This three-year process calls us to listen to the needs of our times and find ways to be the light of Christ that is so needed today. The second event in our Church was the initiation of the Laudato Si Action Platform. This calls us to develop a seven-year plan of action that will provide a sustainable future for next generations.

The third worldwide event is the COP 26, a gathering of leading scientists from 196 countries, including our own country, in Scotland to discuss the present situation of the increasing rises of temperature on the planet, its devastating effects on the planet and people, and how to respond as a world community to act to reduce the human causes of this warming while there is still time.

There is much happening that can give us reason to hope, and there is much happening that calls us to action NOW. Our Church has always been a force to reckon with the current needs of our neighbors. What a gift our Church is, and what an opportunity for us as Church to engage in contemporary situations and become a force of healing today.

What can I do?

Seize this moment and resist the temptation to discouragement. Spend time in prayer seeking wisdom and courage to do God's will. Be informed about these major events as they unfold. Using the lens of Gospel justice, commit to being the healing presence of Christ to your neighbors near and far.

Bishop's Public Schedule

Oct. 27 – 11:30 a.m. – Roman Catholic Center Board Meeting at Kateri Hall in Hogsburg

Oct. 28 – Noon – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

Oct. 30 – 10:30 a.m. – Council of Deacons Meeting at St. Mary's Cathedral (Brzana Hall)

Oct. 31 – 9:30 a.m. – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

Nov. 2 – 11 a.m. – Catholic Charities Corporation Meeting at Bishop's Residence

Nov. 3 – 1 p.m. – Annual Catholic Charities Board of Trustees Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

6 p.m. – Regional Synod Meeting at St. Mary's Church in Clayton

Rest in Peace

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

Oct. 27 – Rev. John M. Fagan, O.S.A., 1966; Msgr. George Norton Whittaker, 1971; Msgr. Gerald H. Service, 2002

Oct. 28 – Deacon Richard Gaebel, 2008; Msgr. George M. Phillips, 2011

Oct. 29 – Rev. James R. Scanlon, 1880; Rev. Peter F. Cody, 1888; Rev. John Canning, 1998; Deacon Robert V. Ruddy, 2013

Oct. 30 – Rev. Michael F. Burns, 1921; Rev. Thomas E. Owen, 1945; Rev. Peter N. Butler, 1973

Oct. 31 – Rev. James Rooney, 1863; Rev. Lucien Jean, M.S.C., 1964; Rev. Ivan G. Boyea, 1996

Nov. 2 – Rev. Thomas Walsh, 1888; Rev. John Henry Lyons, 1931; Msgr. James J. Ruddy, 1987

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.

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrienne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terriannyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father

Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rcdony.org Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340. If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at 800-276-1562 or www.ReportBishopAbuse.org.

October 2021

RESPECT LIFE MONTH

*St. Joseph,
defender of life,
pray for us!*



respectlife.org/celebrate

**THE RESPECT LIFE OFFICE
DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG**
www.rcdony.org/pro-life



St. Joseph, defender of life, pray for us!

In the Bible, we see that St. Joseph makes sacrifices out of his love for Jesus and Mary. Over and over, he shows himself to be a faithful protector of them both.

This page has been graciously supported by the following parishes, organizations & individuals:

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- ◆ Staff & Students of Augustinian Academy
- ◆ Norman and Kathleen Bechard
- ◆ Deacon James and Beth Carlin
- ◆ Deacon James and Christine Chaufty
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- ◆ St. Mary's Church, Evans Mills
- ◆ St. Patrick's Altar & Rosary Society, Watertown
- ◆ St. Patrick's Church, Rouses Point
- ◆ St. Paul's Church, Black River
- ◆ Ss. Philip & James Church, Lisbon
- ◆ St. Raphael's Church, Heuvelton
- ◆ Vocation Office

**We invite you to visit the
DIOCESAN RESPECT LIFE OFFICE
website at: www.rcdony.org/pro-life**

More information can be found at respectlife.org and usccb.org/prolife

Vatican formalizes process for approving translations

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Four years after Pope Francis modified canon law to emphasize the responsibility of bishops' conferences for judging the accuracy and suitability of liturgical translations and adaptations, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments published an executive decree formalizing the new process.

"At the heart of this change is the desire to draw the people of God to the liturgy and the liturgy to the people of God," Archbishop Arthur Roche, prefect of the congregation, told Vatican News Oct. 22.

The goal, he said, is to promote the liturgical life of the Latin-rite church "in a climate of collaboration and dialogue," placing the congregation at the service of the bishops in fulfilling their responsibilities.

Archbishop Roche was appointed prefect of the congregation in May, succeeding Cardinal Robert Sarah, who was head of the office in 2017 when Pope Francis promulgated "Magnum Principium" ("The Great Principle"), changing in canon law the process for approving liturgical texts. In general, translations adopted by a bishops' conference now require "confirmation" by the congregation rather

than the more rigorously studied "recognition."

In a letter the pope sent to Cardinal Sarah two months after ordering the change, he said the Vatican is not to "impose" a specific liturgical translation on bishops' conferences, but rather is called to recognize the bishops' authority and expertise in determining the best way to faithfully translate Latin texts into their local languages.

Pope Francis said in the same letter that the changes to canon law take precedence over the norms for translation contained in "Liturgiam Authenticam," a 2001 instruction from the congregation. "One can no longer hold that translations must conform in every point to the norms of 'Liturgiam Authenticam' as was done in the past," the pope wrote.

The revised canon 838 requires bishops' conferences to "faithfully prepare versions of the liturgical books in vernacular languages."

The decree issued by the congregation Oct. 22 said, "The adverb 'faithfully' implies a threefold fidelity: firstly, to the original text, secondly to the particular language into which it is translated and finally to the comprehension of the text by the ad-

ressees who are introduced to the vocabulary of biblical revelation and liturgical tradition."

It also quoted Pope Francis' 2017 instruction: "While fidelity cannot always be judged by individual words but must be sought in the context of the whole communicative act and according to its literary genre, nevertheless some particular terms must also be considered in the context of the entire Catholic faith because each translation of texts must be congruent with sound doctrine."

The new document, urging attention to the way local languages are actually spoken and are evolving, seemed to open the way to wider use in English translations of inclusive language, such as "people" or "men and women" instead of "men," and to translations which may not be word-for-word, but still convey the teaching of the church.

However, it said, "The adoption of vernacular languages in the liturgy must, among other things, take into account that the fundamental criterion is the participation of the people in the liturgical celebrations and not other types of considerations, such as social issues or issues related to identity."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

It takes a lot of faith to do science, Jesuit astronomer says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — According to a self-described "fanatic" about science and "a bit of a nerd" for the Catholic Church, people should not ask this Jesuit astronomer why a scientist would believe in God. The more interesting question is, "Why do I believe in science?" which is actually a "brave thing to do nowadays when people try to throw up doubt about science," said Jesuit Brother Guy Consolmagno. "But I believe in it, and I believe in it so much that I am dedicating my life to being a scientist," he said in his introductory remarks Oct. 21 during an online "MasterClass for Global Leaders" focusing on the work of NASA and the Vatican Observatory. The class was organized by the CTN Foundation and the Pontifical Council for Culture. The three-hour event featured several speakers and expert panelists from the world of science, technology, philosophy, art and economics to discuss themes related to the event's title, "The Future of Man, Economy and the Universe." Brother Consolmagno, who specializes in planetary science, said he had once lost his faith in science. Before becoming a Jesuit, he had worked as a postdoctoral fellow at MIT and suddenly felt science was no longer worth doing.

'What is love?' Pope, other elders share stories for Netflix

ROME (CNS) — Pope Francis, Martin Scorsese, Jane Goodall and a group of less famous "over 70s" talk to young filmmakers about love in the first episode of a four-part documentary available worldwide on Netflix on Christmas Day. The episode "Love," part of the series "Stories of a Generation," premiered at the Rome Film Festival Oct. 21. The documentary is based on "Sharing the Wisdom of Time," a book in which Pope Francis called for creating "an alliance between the young and old people" by sharing their stories. Published by Chicago-based Loyola Press in 2018, the book featured an introduction by Pope Francis, the stories of 30 older people and reflections by a handful of younger people on "What I learned from an elder." Simona Ercolani, director and producer of the Netflix series, told reporters Oct. 21 that she started working on the project after reading the book, and then the COVID-19 pandemic struck, hitting Italy early and devastating its elderly population.

Global community is obligated to aid Haiti's, says U.N. nuncio

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — As Haitians seek to rebuild their country, "it is imperative that the international community take a shared and concrete interest in their plight," the Vatican's U.N. nuncio said during an informal meeting of the Security Council on Haiti's dire situation. "The international community must fulfill its duty to protect and provide humanitarian assistance," Archbishop Gabriele Caccia said. "While immediate gestures are necessary, true solidarity demands a long-term vision that engages all levels of Haitian society, with the support of the region and the wider international community," he said. The archbishop, who is the Vatican's permanent observer to the U.N., spoke at the Security Council's Arria Formula Meeting on Haiti held virtually Oct. 15. An "Arria" meeting is a gathering that can be convened by any Security Council member or members to discuss a matter of serious concern when an official council convening is not scheduled. "The problems faced by the Haitian people are multifaceted and interconnected," Archbishop Caccia said, adding that he was grateful to be able to address the meeting "to encourage a national dialogue and reconciliation process in Haiti, in favor of the Haitian people so dear to the heart of Pope Francis, as seen in his appeals and gestures of solidarity."

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VIRTUAL EVENTS

ZOOM GATHERINGS FOR WOMEN

Join other women throughout the diocese with the topic of preparation for total consecration to Jesus Christ through Mary according to St. Louis de Montfort. Book to be used will be "Preparation for Total Consecration to Jesus Christ Through Mary" by Father Hugh Gillispie, SMM. Please purchase before first zoom meeting through www.montfortpublications.com. Cost is \$8.50

Dates: Oct. 27, Nov. 3, 10, 17, 22 and Dec. 1

Time: 7 p.m. to 8:30

Contact: To register go message mdillenback@womenofgrace.com or call 315-771-1377

THE PIVOTAL PLAYERS

Msgr. Aucoin will lead an online presentation entitled The Pivotal Players. This Program is a multi-part series that illumines a handful of saints, artists, mystics, and scholars who not only shaped the life of the Church but changed the course of western civilization.

Date: Starting Nov. 1

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Features: These pivotal players are great persons who have clearly understood Jesus' message and have found their own way to make that message come alive. These are the players who will be studied: Saints Augustine, Benedict, Francis Assisi, Thomas Aquinas, Catherine of Siena, Ignatius Loyola, John Henry Newman, plus Bartolomé de las Casas, G.K. Chesterton, Fulton J. Sheen, and Flannery O'Connor. Sessions last about one hour online. Each session stands on its own. So, you can attend as many sessions as you wish.

Contact: Registration is required so in order to get the code to join online via Zoom. Register at mwcatholics.org/pivotal.

ADIRONDACK

FIRST FRIDAY PRAISE & WORSHIP

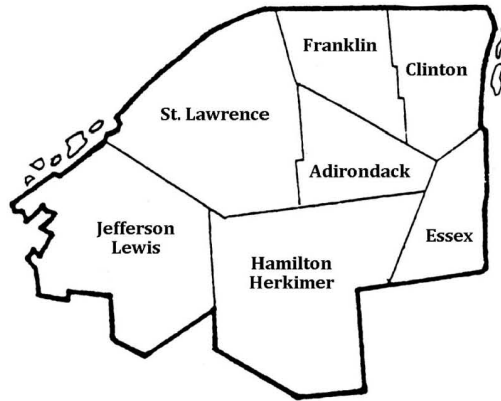
Lake Placid – Monthly praise and worship to be held.

Date: First Friday of the month

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: St. Agnes Church

Features: Music led by Joey and MC Izzo. Time for fellowship and snacks afterwards. Will be livestreamed as well on St. Agnes Facebook page.



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

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

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

CONVERSATION ON THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Lake Placid – St. Agnes invites you to a conversation on The Book of Revelation.

Date: Nov. 14

Time: 2 p.m.

Features: It is a challenging book that deals with the "end times" and the apocalypse. Jeff Wiegand will lead the conversation. In preparation you are encouraged to read Revelation!

CLINTON

HARVEST DINNER

Plattsburgh – First Annual Holy Cross Parish Harvest Dinner to be held.

Date: Nov. 7

Time: Noon to 5 p.m.

Place: Our Lady of Victory Outreach center (behind church)

Cost: Take-out only, \$12

Features: Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans, gravy, roll, butter, coleslaw, cranberry sauce, & pumpkin pie!

HARVEST DINNER

Morrisonville – St. Alexander to have take-out Turkey Harvest Dinner.

Date: Nov. 14

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: St. Alexander's Church

Cost: Adults, \$12; Children 6-12, \$5; under 5, Free

Features: Delivery to your car curbside, or delivery, walk in and carry out.

ESSEX

LATIN MASS

Port Henry – Extraordinary Form Latin

Mass to be held each Sunday.

Schedule: 1 p.m. on Sundays NO MASS ON NOV. 7

Place: St. Patrick's Church

Features: The traditional Latin Mass celebrated according to the 1962 Missal of St. John the XXIII.

FRANKLIN

CABBAGE ROLL SALE

Brushport – St. Mary's will be selling homemade cabbage rolls.

Date: Nov. 2

Time: 6 a.m. until gone

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center, take-out only

Cost: \$5

Contact: Pre-order Nov. 1 and 2 by calling 518-529-6580

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

BASKET RAFFLE

Houseville – St. Hedwig's Church to have their Annual Basket Raffle.

Date: Oct. 31

Time: Noon to 1 p.m.

Features: The Raffle baskets will be on display and tickets will be available for sale after the celebration of the 11 a.m. Mass. No tickets will be sold during Mass. Tickets are \$1 each, or \$5 for 6 tickets. One silent auction item will be available - a hand-crafted Shaker-style cherry coffee table by Ed Knapp. On Oct. 31, we will have the drawings for the baskets at 1 pm, following a bake sale.

Contact: If you wish to donate a theme basket, baked goods or make a monetary donation to St. Hedwig's Society contact: Elaine 315-486-5532,

Lydia 315-348-7006, or Mary Ann 315-348-6260.

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – Indian River Knights of Columbus 7471 to have a spaghetti and meatball dinner.

Date: Nov. 13

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$8; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free

Contact: For more information contact 315-629-4678

ST. LAWRENCE

PRAYER AND ADORATION

Massena – Commissioned Lay Ministers are invited to gather for Adoration and Rosary.

Date: Every third Wednesday of the month (Nov. 17)

Time: 6:30 to 7 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

HARVEST DINNER

Gouverneur – St. James School to have a Harvest Dinner.

Date: Nov. 4

Time: 4:30 p.m. until sold out

Cost: \$15

11TH AND 12TH GRADE RELIGION CLASSES

Ogdensburg – St. Mary's Cathedral Parish is kicking off its 11th & 12th grade religion class. Youth in the applicable grades from outside the Cathedral Parish are welcome to attend.

Date: Monthly Nov. 21, Dec. 19, Jan. 23, Feb. 13, March 13, April 10, May 15

Time: 5 p.m. to 7:30

Place: Brzana Hall below St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: We have no curriculum; YOU will help decide what we discuss! Lots of discussion, less lecture. Games with prizes. Dinner included. We ask families to consider taking a month and providing dinner. Past families have been very creative from spaghetti dinners to breakfast dishes to bringing in pizza or subs. Classes are self-contained units. Can't make it in October, you are still invited for November, December... No makeup assignments! Guests welcome! Bring a friend!

Contact: If you have questions or concerns that can't wait, contact Deacon Jim Crowley via email jcrowley@rcdony.org or Jessica Hargrave via email jhargrave@rcdony.org.

ANNUAL BAZAAR

Massena – St. Peter's Parish to have its

Annual Bazaar.

Date: Nov. 13

Time: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Features: Win \$2500 in Big Draw; Turkey Dinner and More Food from Concession! Turkey Raffles, Pull Tabs, 50/50, Poker, Skillo, Quilt Raffle, Country Store, Cake Walk, Children's Games and Activities, Religious Items.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

LEAD EVENT

The Department of Faith Formation to present The Liturgy of the Word: Jesus Present and how to share it. A continuation of the Mystery of the Holy Eucharist.

Date: Nov. 6

Time: 9:30 a.m. to Noon

Place: Western Region: Lobster House, Norwood. Presenter will be Jamie Burns, a teacher from Trinity Catholic School. If you choose to stay for lunch it will be at your own cost.

Eastern Region: Newmar Center, Plattsburgh. Presenter will be Sister Jackie Sellappan, SCC. Simple lunch will be provided.

Cost: \$10

Contact: To register go to: www.rcdony.org/liturgyword

LOVING AUTHENTICALLY

Commissioned Lay Ministers and candidates are invited to this program that is designed to strengthen the participant's conviction about the truth, beauty and importance of church teaching on natural law and sexual morality and to give participants a basic understanding of the ethical basis of the teaching.

Schedule: Three different opportunities to attend. Nov. 6 at Wadding Parish Center; Jan. 29 at Emmaus Room, St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh; April 23 at St. Peter's Church, Lowville.

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Presenters: Deacon John Fehlner & Dr. Maura Fehlner, Mr. Steve Tartaglia and other members of the Family Life Department.

Features: Cost is free and all are welcome. Must watch an 80-minute video prior to the event. Link to video will be sent after registration. Bring your own lunch.

Contact: Register at: <https://www.rcdony.org/lovingauthentically>. If you have questions, contact Faith Formation Assistant Director, Cathy Russell at crussell@rcdony.org or call 315-393-2920.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Looking at love in familiar readings

This Sunday's readings (eros) and giving love are all about love. They're (agape). Many people consider so familiar that we're in great danger of not listening to what Jesus is really saying. So, let's "dig in" to find something in them that we haven't understood before. Pope Benedict XVI has done that for us in his Encyclical, *God is Love*. In it, he tells us that love is basically a journey that combines two kinds of love – possessive love



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

separate them that way. Many people consider divine love and human love to be miles apart, both in their nature and in their practice. That's because we identify divine love with *spirit* and human love with *flesh*. We think of one as very objective and disciplined, and the other as warm and passionate. The pope tells us not to

October 31

31st Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 12:28b-34

The Old Testament is full of references to God's love for Israel as warm and passionate. God's creative love is full of mystery and power, but God's love for people is similar to human love... therefore perfect love includes both *possessive* love and *giving* love.

Isn't that awesome! Love is a journey in which we gradually progress from imperfect love (loving God without loving our neighbor or loving our neighbor without loving God) to perfect love which includes both. As the pope says, we can't always be giving of ourselves to others. We have to "fill up" on God's love through prayer, as well as allowing other people to love us.

That's why Jesus insists that there are two great commandments, and not just one.

If we exclude either one, we will not be complete human persons as God intends. This wonderful work of Pope Benedict has given me insights I did not have before. And I know I have some ways to go yet on love's journey.

Today is Halloween, the vigil of All Saints' Day. What better day than this to prepare to celebrate what will hopefully be our own feast day? Loving as Pope Benedict describes will ensure we are included one day with the communion of saints in heaven.

CALLED TO SERVE

Why does the deacon do that?

The opening prayer for next Sunday, the thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, praises God for the privilege of serving him. "Service" is the key word in understanding the role of the deacon in the hierarchy of the Church.

A bishop possesses the fullness of holy orders. He is a successor of the apostles, the first bishops, who travelled with Jesus during his ministry on earth, continued to spread the Good News, and led the

church after Jesus' ascension.

Priests and deacons are ordained to help a bishop.

Priests, sometimes called presbyters, are invested with powers at ordination to celebrate Mass, remit sins, preach, administer the sacraments, direct and minister to the Christian people.

This is an oversimplification, but the priest is in persona Christi, in the person of Christ, when he says Mass and forgives

our sins in confession.

All bishops are priests and deacons. All priests are deacons. Deacon is the third order of hierarchy in the church. The deacon is configured to Christ, the servant. Remember Jesus says in the gospels, "I came to serve, not to be served."

At Mass, the deacon assists the celebrant (bishop or priest). Over the next several weeks, I'll use this forum to explain what it is a deacon does at Mass and

why. It is important to remember the bishop is a deacon, the priest is a deacon, so in the absence of a deacon at Mass, the celebrant can perform all the functions reserved at Mass for the deacon. However, a celebrant should not perform one of those functions when a deacon is present.

I had the privilege to assist a bishop at a particular Mass a few years ago. When it came to the final dismissal, the bishop started to say, "The Mass is ended..." and stopped suddenly. He turned to me, smiling and said "Oh, that's your part. Sorry!" I don't think Bishop Cunningham would mind me telling that story.

It is a good example of the functions at Mass reserved for the deacon.

Deacons are clerics who live in the lay world. Deacons are usually married, have children, own a

home, pay taxes, buy food and pay bills. When the deacon announces or chants "go forth, the Mass is ended" he is "following the laity right out the doors of the church to stand with them" in the world and help them spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. Thanks to Deacon James Keating for that description.



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

That's one example of what the deacon does at Mass and why. Beginning next week, we will walk through the Mass together for a few weeks to answer the question, "why does he do that?" Hopefully, along the way, you will have a better understanding of one piece of what the deacon does in your parish.

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



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Beatification of Pauline Jaricot announced

The Mission Office is excited to announce this exciting news of the foundress of the Pontifical Mission Societies Pauline Jaricot.

Jaricot will be blessed on May 22, 2022. This was announced by the Secretary General of the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) in France, Gaëtan Boucharlat de Chazotte, through a video message sent to Fides. The foundress of the Association of the Propagation of the Faith and of the Living Rosary Movement will be raised to the honor of the altars in Lyon next May 22, on the bicentenary of the foundation of the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith, during the Eucharistic celebration presided over by the Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of peoples, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle.

Pauline-Marie Jaricot (1799-1862), foundress of the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith, was declared Venerable on February 25, 1963, by Saint John XXIII. On May 26, 2020, Pope Francis authorized the publication of the decree recognizing the miracle attributed to the intercession of the Venerable.

Born into a rich family in Lyon, after 15 years of a comfortable life, she experienced physical and spiritual suffering, in the context of which she had, through the sacraments, a profound experience of God. Forgiveness and profound prayer led her to overcome a serious trauma and from that moment her existence changed radically. Pauline consecrated her life to God with a solemn vow in the chapel of the Virgin of Fourvière in Lyon and devoted herself exclusively to serving God in the poor and the sick, visiting hospitals and incurable people daily, putting bandages on their wounds and offering words of comfort.

Helping the needy was accompanied by a life of intense prayer, she received the Eucharist daily, interceded for the conversion of sinners and for the evangelization of the world. Realizing the economic difficulties of the missions, Pauline promoted initiatives to raise funds: thus was born what will later be called "Society of the Propagation of the Faith" which was officially founded on May 3, 1822.

Article from FIDES missionary news service of the Pontifical Mission Societies

OBITUARIES

Carthage – Keith Waltz Jr., 83; Services to be held at a later date.

Champlain – Lorena B. (ASHline) Lees, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 18, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Croghan – Joseph Anthony Schack, 65; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 22, 2021 at St. Stephen's Church; burial St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Dannemora – Brenda (Drollette) Kramer, 71; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 22, 2021 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Fort Covington – Carl M. Tarbell, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 18, 2021 at St. Mary's of the Fort.

Gouverneur – Glenda J. Raven, 71; Graveside Services Oct. 20, 2021 at Hailesboro Cemetery.

Heuvelton – Sandra L. (Donnelly)

Fishbeck, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 18, 2021 at St. Raphael's Church; burial in Hillcrest Cemetery.

Lyon Mountain – George Ronald Baker II, 64; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 23, 2021 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia.

Morristown – Ann Marie (Newcomb) TenEyck, 55; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 19, 2021 at St. John the Evangelist Church.

Ogdensburg – Gary LaRue, 76; Funeral Services Oct. 22, 2021 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Virginia L. O'Marah, 92; Funeral Services Oct. 25, 2021 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Joyce G. (Lemieux) Sutter, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Oct.

21, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Potsdam – Terry R. Davis, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 22, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Angie (Marks) Frizzell, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 19, 2021 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – David F. Voudren, 66; Funeral Services Oct. 19, 2021 at the Fortune-Keough Funeral Home.

Tupper Lake – Danie Gordon Satterre, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 19, 2021 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Watertown – Richard L. Burnett, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 20, 2021 at Holy Family Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery, Croghan.

'Increasing understanding of the goodness and beauty'

By Angelo & Suzanne Pietropaoli
Diocesan NFP Directors

"Please share our story," Annie wrote. "We can't stress enough how having an NFP refresher course in our thirties, after several children, has been so valuable. Having in-person instruction and working with you both has been so helpful in our current season of marriage. We appreciate that the diocese makes this available, and we appreciate how you have helped our family. That help is priceless!"

This email comes to mind as we reflect on the many ways that our diocese – "A Family of Faith in Action" – touches people's lives. In the Natural Family Planning Office, we are especially privi-

leged to witness the blessings that come to couples and families through the generosity of the Bishop's Fund.

Annie's words point to one aspect of the work of this office: providing instruction and follow-up in the Sympto-Thermal Method of NFP – a safe, healthy, holistic, highly effective (99%) approach to family planning. Honoring God as the Author

of life, NFP educates couples to live in harmony with their fertility rather than suppressing it with drugs or destroying it with surgery. By learning to understand the naturally occurring alterations of fertility and infertility, couples choose to be obedient to God's design for life and love. That choice tends to deepen their faith, enrich their rela-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

BARSTOW

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'Increasing understanding'

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tionship, and increase their openness to the gift of children, which in turn blesses the whole Church.

Increasing understanding of the goodness and beauty of this way of life is central to our work in the NFP Office. A primary opportunity for promoting God's plan for marriage is, of course, in Pre-Cana and other marriage preparation settings. There we offer couples a comprehensive introduction to both the theology and the biology of Natural Family Planning. When the pandemic shut down in-person presentations, diocesan Pre-Canas moved to a virtual model, and we integrated our presentations into that format. It re-

mains in place for now.

Again this year, our office participated in NFP Awareness Week (July 25-31), an annual initiative sponsored nation-wide by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Bishop Terry LaValley once more marked the week-long observance with an outstanding pastoral letter, in which he highlighted the value of children and the fact that "...we owe it to ourselves to understand Church teachings." To that end, our office supplied bulletin announcements and USCCB/NFP Week posters to all parishes.

In addition, we mailed new informational material to all parishes: produced by the Archdiocese of St. Louis, "What Can Natural Family Planning

Do for You?" features a multi-color user-friendly format presenting clear presentation and excellent documentation.

Other opportunities to spread this good news come in the form of general inquiries and requests for information, which can open to fruitful conversation about NFP. Some contacts come from couples who have previously learned a different NFP system and need to connect with an instructor in that specific methodology. By accessing the national resource listings provided by the USCCB/ NFP Office, we can help them make those important connections. An increasing number of questions involve serious cycle dysfunction, infertility, or other

medical issues.

We are happy to be able to refer these inquirers to the Gianna Center in Albany. There, Dr. Jan Patterson, MD, whose women-only practice focuses on finding and addressing the root causes of these women's health issues.

A highlight of this year has been our work, with Family Life Director Stephen Tartaglia and Deacon John and Dr. Maura Fehlner, of LOVING AUTHENTICALLY. This program focuses on Catholic sexual teaching from the perspective of Natural Law and the nature of happiness; it also explores the damage done, especially to women, by fallout from the Sexual Revolution, and proposes a way for-

ward via Theology of the Body, rooted in our identity and our destiny as sons and daughters of God.

In April, we were privileged to present LOVING AUTHENTICALLY to the deacon-candidates who were preparing for ordination in October. On November 6, this team will present LOVING AUTHENTICALLY at a Formation for Ministry event.

In season and out, through the generosity of the many people who support the Bishop's Fund, we are blessed to share in the many facets of this work which seeks to strengthen faith and families. To Bishop LaValley, and to all whose support makes this possible: thank you, and God bless you!

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