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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 76 Number 27

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

NOVEMBER 10, 2021

## No newspaper the week of Nov. 17

The *North Country Catholic* is taking a planned week off. There will be no *NCC* for Nov. 17.

We will resume our normal print schedule on Nov. 24.

## Church celebrates 150 years

St. Joseph's Church in the Olmstedville hamlet of the Town of Minerva recently celebrated its 150th anniversary.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## EXPERIENCING SYNODALITY



Regional meetings for parish delegates for the Synod on Synodality were held Nov. 3 in Clayton, Nov. 4 in Colton (pictured above) and Nov. 5 in Morrisonville. Bishop Terry R. LaValley opened each session with adoration before the delegates had the opportunity to participate in a synod discussion and learn more about the process.

## FROM CARTHAGE TO ROME



Catherine Bracy, a Carthage resident and recent graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville, participated in the university's first summer semester in Austria. Bracy reflects on her travels and what she learned on the trip.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

# Pope: World needs people who care for others

**ROME (CNS)**— People need to be passionate about serving others and caring for those who suffer, Pope Francis said.

"Lord, we entrust to your heart the vocation of care — let us make every person who approaches us in need feel special," he said in a homily to medical and teaching staff, students, patients and others at a Mass held outside the medical school connected to Rome's Gemelli hospital, where he was a patient for 10 days in July.

The pope presided over the Mass at Rome's University of the Sacred Heart, Nov. 5. The university,

which was founded in Milan and has four satellite campuses in Italy, is one of the largest Catholic universities in the world and is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

The Mass marked the 60th anniversary of the founding of the university's Agostino Gemelli Department of Medicine and Surgery in Rome, known informally as "the pope's hospital" as it is where popes typically go for medical treatment. Pope Francis underwent colon surgery there in July.

In his homily, the pope recognized the fatigue and challenges medical staff

face, not just in their day-to-day duties, but also when it comes to dealing with rare or undetected diseases and wanting to give everyone the same high-quality health care.

"We might get discouraged. This is why we need comfort," he said. Comfort can be found in Jesus' sacred heart, "which beats for us, always to the rhythm of those words, 'Have courage, do not be afraid, I am here.'"

"Have courage brothers and sisters, do not give up, the Lord, your God, is greater than your ills, he takes you by the hand and caresses you, he is near,

compassionate and gentle. He is your comfort," the pope said.

People, particularly those in the field of health care, also need the strength of memory, he said. Reflecting on the sacred heart of Jesus reminds people of the boundless goodness and love he offers freely and unconditionally.

People are usually so busy each day that they forget to remember this love and to feel the same compassion for others, he said.

During "this time of pandemic, it would be good for us to also remember

those more trying times, not to make us sad, but to not forget and to guide us in our choices with the light of a very recent past," he said.

The "art of remembering" should be practiced by not letting the day end in exhaustion but rather by taking note of and appreciating all the faces, smiles and friendly exchanges that happened throughout the day, he said. Remembering these small gestures are important for giving meaning to those who are ill, too, he said, explaining that the "therapy of remembering" restores and heals the heart.

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# It doesn't make much sense

I'm not sure why I care about this, but I do.

If my husband or son replaces an empty roll of toilet paper with a new one, there's a 50-50 chance the roll will be placed in a way I consider "the wrong way" (to me, that means with the loose end under the roll). If that happens, I don't say anything, but I flip the roll to "the right way," my preferred way. Confession: I've actually done this – flipped the TP roll to my desired position – at work and in other

homes/establishments.

Does it really matter which way the paper hangs on the roll? No. It's yet another way I try to conform the world around me to my will, my preferences and my way.



Darcy L.  
Fargo

I thought of my paper-flipping habit as I talked with a friend about aspects of my relationship with the Lord.

I can think of times in my life when I've been angry or upset with God. Typically, my negative emotions stem from the fact that I don't understand

some part of God's plan and/or something doesn't turn out as I hoped or intended.

I get upset with God because I'm not him.

I like getting my way. I like when my plans come to fruition. I like when outcomes are predictable. I have a habit of causing myself unnecessary stress trying to make situations and people conform to my ways and my will. I struggle to surrender my will to God as I'm called to do.

As I discussed this with my friend, he pointed out that there's grace and beauty in not having to be

God.

There's freedom in knowing I don't have to be in control, and I don't have to work hard to make things fit my will. I don't have to make things perfect. God is perfect enough, and he has everything under control.

God gives us the gift of being able to say, "I don't need to worry; the outcome isn't mine to control."

It's a beautiful gift, yet I somehow fight not to take it by holding onto my will and my worry as I pursue my way.

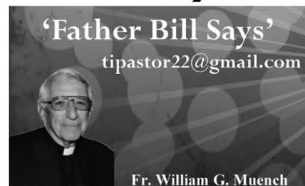
It makes about as much sense as my habit of flipping toilet paper rolls.

## All Souls Day Mass to remember

Today I would like to tell you about a very impressive All Souls Day Mass of Remembrance that I attended this week. You are aware that our Catholic Church observes All Souls Day as a day of prayer for all the faithful departed every November. Each year, All Souls Day is a day of faith and prayer as each of us remembers our departed loved ones.

The folder for this All Souls Mass I attended had a welcome on the first page from the priests of the parish, the deacons and the Bereavement Committee that read: "We share your sorrow and your hope. We know that words alone cannot ease your loss. We ask God to comfort you, to rekindle our hope in the joyous resurrection promised to us all by Jesus. May you know that we support you and pray for you. May the love of Jesus and your faith family, the gift of memories and the healing of time console and restore you."

On the next page was the list of all those who died from the parish during the last year and those whose funerals were held at the



'Father Bill Says'

tipastor22@gmail.com

Fr. William G. Muench

parish.

At the beginning of this Mass, a deacon read this list slowly and reverently. Truly this was an impressive moment, especially for the various families who were present. The pastor then asked us all to take a few minutes in silent prayer to remember and offer a prayer of gratitude for our loved ones who have gone on before us. Again, a moment of impressive silence as we all prayed.

After the Scripture readings of the Mass and the homily, there followed a lighting of candles in a seven-candle menorah as each prayer was offered in the Prayer of the Faithful. I was so impressed by these various prayers, so I want to share each one with you today.

"We will now remember our loved ones who have gone before us and rest in

the peace of Christ.

1st candle: We light a candle in memory of those who have handed us the gift of life... We remember mothers and fathers, grandparents and great-grandparents and all our ancestors through the ages. We remember also those who were as mother or father to us, loving us by choice.

2nd candle: We light a candle in memory of those who have shared our heredity and who have experienced our common bonds... We remember sisters and brothers, aunts and uncles, relatives near and distant throughout time.

3rd candle: We light a candle in memory of those we hold dear in our hearts; those we have held lovingly in our arms and in our dreams... We remember children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren who have gone before us.

4th candle: We light a candle in memory of those who brightened our days with affection and who let up our lives with devotion... We remember wives and husbands, closest friends, those who helped us love life, our-

selves, and God.

5th candle: We light a candle in memory of those who have walked beside us in so many ways; who have made our lives more enjoyable and our experiences in this world more memorable... We remember friends, neighbors, and associates who lifted us and expended our horizons.

6th candle: We light a candle in memory of those who died today. As a light of their life on earth is extinguished, may the light of eternity welcome them home... May those who mourn and find darkness overwhelming at this time, be up lifted and strengthened by the light of faith.

7th candle: We leave the final candle unlit, aware that the time will come when we ourselves will pass through the barrier separating one form of life from another... May our reflection here strengthen our desire to let our own unique light shine more lightly day to day. Let us pause for a moment and pray for the strength to accept, with love and courage, the time of our own passing to eternal life.





Parishioners of St. Joseph's in Olmstedville celebrated the church's 150th anniversary in September with a Mass, picnic and group photo.

## Church celebrates 150th anniversary

By David McNally  
For the NCC

MINERVA – September 5 was a day of celebration at St. Joseph's Church in the Olmstedville hamlet of the Town of Minerva. Following the celebration of Mass by Father Philip T. Allen, approximately 60 parishioners and friends celebrated the 150th anniversary of the church.

Before sitting down under a tent on the rectory lawn to share a meal and fellowship, parishioners gathered at the altar for a group photo arranged by JJ Raymond and taken by Erika Leigh. Betty LeMay, Diane McNally and Amanda Savarie organized the pot-luck brunch that included an anniversary cake made by Jan Hogan, former owner of Lil Nony's Bakery and Sandwich Shop.

Though St. Joseph's is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, records of a strong Catholic faith in town date back to the mid-19th century. In the 1830s, people were drawn to Minerva for jobs in the tanneries, in logging or for other opportunities for work in a

burgeoning population. A preponderance of Irish families pioneered the area. Though not all were Catholics, many were.

As the book published for the 100th anniversary of St. Joseph's Church in 1971 explains, "The task of these men was to blaze the trail of faith in the Adirondack wilderness and make homes for their families."

There are no records of a priest visiting Minerva until 1842. Mass was quite infrequent, but when it was celebrated, it was done so usually in the homes of one of the parishioners.

In 1847, the Catholics in Minerva began erecting a church, St. Mary's, that opened in 1848 in the Irishtown section of town. Within 20 years, it became clear the parishioners would need a bigger church. Thus, the cornerstone was laid in 1871 for a larger one a little over two miles from St. Mary's. The new church was dedicated and named St. Joseph's the following year.

The church – its congregation as well as its building – has been well maintained over the years.

The building underwent extensive renovations in 1889, for its 50th anniversary in 1921, in 1949-55, for its 100th anniversary in 1971, and in 1982-83. The last extensive renovations in 2001-02 included removing some pews and part of the altar railing for better access and movement, the installation of a ramp into the church, and the construction of a gathering area and restroom.

Though the church has modernized through the years, many aspects of its interior, including the stained-glass windows, side altar murals, the large lighting figures and stations of the Cross, and the numerous statues, would look quite familiar to earliest parishioners.

A number of devoted priests have led and served the parishioners over the years. Father Frederick Hatch served as pastor the longest, from 1917-61. Father Richard Sturtz served for 19 years before retiring in 2014. Since that time, the parishioners of St. Joseph's have felt blessed and thankful for the Reverend Philp Allen of St.

Mary's Church in Indian Lake who has faithfully served St. Joseph's parishioners in Olmstedville.

God has done  
great things  
for us!

As recipients of God's bountiful  
gifts, we are called to:

*Receive*  
those gifts gratefully,

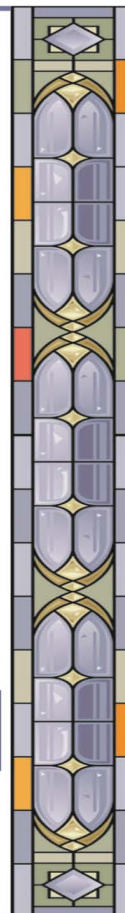
*Cultivate*  
those gifts responsibly,

*Share*  
those gifts in justice and love,

And return them with increase  
to the Lord

Stewardship Weekend  
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# From Carthage to Rome: A European experience

*Editor's Note: Catherine Bracy, 22, of Carthage, is a recent graduate of the Franciscan University of Steubenville with a degree in English. As part of her studies with the university, she completed summer studies in Europe. Here, she shares her reflections about that experience.*

**By Catherine Bracy**  
For the NCC

This past spring, I had the wonderful opportunity to be a part of Franciscan University of Steubenville's first Austria Summer Program. It was my first time flying... anywhere! Many other thoughts were concerning me. I was unsure of my finances, the language, and all the logistics involved with traveling. Yet, when everything fell into place, I found myself on a journey that seemed like a dream, and which becomes even more so with hindsight. My trip to Austria was, to use the simple yet profound term my *Theology of the Body* professor repeatedly emphasized, a gift.

Having arrived a little early, I spent a week getting acquainted with my cozy little room and some people in the Kartause, a beautifully renovated 12th-century Carthusian monastery. Most of the students and staff lived there, attended



Catherine Bracy, left, at the Shrine of Divine Mercy in Poland with friends Rebecca, Beth, Laura and Mayleigh. The friends traveled to Europe as part of Franciscan University of Steubenville's first Austria Summer Program.

noon Mass in the chapel, ate and went to class. I was thrilled to see one of my longtime friends there, as well as that one of Franciscan University's more laid-back friars, Father Matthew Russick, TOR, had come across to be our chaplain.

It wasn't long before it was time for the big week-long pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi! Having a slight notion of what to expect, we took a bus through the night to reach our hotel, settled in, then off we went the next morning to celebrate our first pilgrimage Mass at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. Sometimes we were free to break off into our own groups and explore, though a few days were spent walking many

miles on group tours. Most tours were of local churches around Rome, however, we were able to stop at other places as well. Halfway through the first tour, our program director, Brian Kissinger, took us to the gelato shop that had purportedly been John Paul II's favorite, the *Gelateria Giolitti*. The ice cream lived up to its reputation!

I was able to pray in front of many saints' tombs, such as St. John Paul II's at St. Peter's Basilica, and in front of the original icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Mass during one of these days was celebrated in the Basilica Crypt near the tomb of St. Peter himself! One of my greatest opportunities – aside from exploring some of the city, seeing the recommended Capuchin Crypt, and visiting the Vatican Museum – came from shaking the Holy Father's hand at a general audience. Mr. Kissinger, had arranged to bring us since he and his family had gone for a few years. Pope Francis even paused by Brian's son to kiss and bless him, since his son

was dressed like the pope!

The next day, we were off to Assisi. I was instantly struck by the charming, narrow cobblestone streets, buildings, and the peace that seemed to permeate the city. The healthier, homier hotel food was a definite bonus.

Our first day, after Mass in the Basilica of Saint Clare, was spent hiking up to the Cave Hermitage where Franciscan University's patron and his brothers often retreated to pray. The next afternoon after Mass and another tour was spent simply wandering the streets of Assisi, exploring some churches, happening upon the tomb of Blessed Carlo Acutis, and buying more gelato and a few souvenirs, of course!

During our walk, a kind man in a shop asked our names. A few of us gave them, and he used a sewing machine to stitch our names in cursive on paper as a gift. Another time, we gave a belly rub to a beautiful black dog lying in a store's open door, wondering at the peacefulness of the animals and the people. We supposed that Saint Francis' influence had always protected Assisi.

I returned to the Kartause, already so in awe of the opportunities I'd received, I thought there were hardly any left. There were still three weeks of a class to start and finish! So I, along with half of the program, found ourselves taking *Theology of the Body* with the very passionate Dr. Maria Wolter. She would often go on tangents about profound points we were reading in John Paul's work *Love and Responsibility*, specifically about how

love between man and woman was meant to be at the beginning of Genesis, a gift, freely given and meant to be appreciated. I can definitely say it was the most impactful class I've ever taken. In the midst of reading sections of the pope's work and writing weekly papers, I attended Mass, made friends, joined in praise and worship, and went on a few hikes and swims.

Finally, before our last full week of class, some of us decided to orchestrate our own trip to Poland. Our eventual goal was to visit both Auschwitz and the original Shrine of Divine Mercy. I realized later that the transition – from the sobering barracks, pictures, and barbed wire of Auschwitz to the beautiful Divine Mercy Chapel with the original image, where the Sisters sung and chanted a Chaplet – seemed divinely inspired. It was as though through that course God was showing us how His mercy can always overcome the world.

There are many more small instances I can remember and share, though I'll stick with my brief original theme. I realize now that on this journey God excelled in His overabundant love, not just through material experiences, but at times spiritually, for me personally.

I am exceedingly thankful to my parents, my now Alma Mater Franciscan University and its study abroad program, and others who enabled me to go. The whole trip was a gift: freely given, making it all the richer, a reflection of the ultimate Giver and His love, fully committed to another's happiness.

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# How to counter a culture of cruelty

*Editor's Note: Author, teacher, public speaker, and radio talk show hostess, Dr. Maura Hearden Fehlner earned her Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Marquette University after earning bachelor's and master's degrees in theater; she has been teaching theology to college students for nearly two decades. She and her husband, Deacon John Fehlner, reside in Keene.*

**By Dr. Maura Hearden Fehlner**

There has been a great deal in the news of late about disturbing public displays of cruelty. In addition to actual criminal behavior, our children worry about bullying – especially cyber bullying – and adults worry about cancel culture. Public figures who fall from grace are objects of unbridled ridicule and ordinary people who hold the “wrong” political or social opinions are often quite literally afraid of speaking their minds. Increasingly, fear and hostility seem to dominate public sentiments. How do we, as Catholic Christians counter this culture of cruelty?

Remedies always begin with an analysis of causes. How did we get here? A complete answer to that question could easily fill a book, but for now, I'd like to focus on one foundational factor: the promotion of religious “neutrality” in the public square.

At first, this factor might seem rather disconnected from the problem of cruelty. After all, Americans have traditionally regarded religious neutrality within our civil institutions as a safeguard against religious persecution – and there's

a good deal of truth in that idea. It is dangerous for both the Church and the state to mix institutional authorities for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is an increased risk of totalitarian control over individual consciences.

However, making a formal distinction between our civil institutions on the one hand and our religious institutions on the other, is



**Dr. Maura Hearden Fehlner**

not quite the same thing as striving for religious neutrality in the public square. I would argue that, while the former is a good idea, the latter is a very bad idea and, ultimately, impossible.

Human beings may not all practice a particular, formally recognized religion, but we are all inherently religious creatures. We all want to know the answers to ultimate questions

about life in the universe: Does God exist? If God exists, what is God's relationship with creation? What does this mean for the way I live my life? These are religious questions, and our answers to them determine what we think about everything else including the way we structure our relationships with other people, communities, and the environment. They also determine what we think about law, politics, education, art, economics, technology and science.

The answers that we give to religious questions form the very core of our personal and cultural identities. They cannot be artificially extracted from our hearts and minds when we enter the public square. Nor should they be.

As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI has pointed out on more than one occasion, even the agnostic (a person who leaves the God question open) must live out his or her life as though God either does

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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## Environmental Stewardship

## Where to begin

So where do we begin our journey of restoring the beauty of the garden that God has entrusted to us to care for? St. Therese of Lisieux may give us valuable advice for our spiritual journey to integral ecology. She invites us to practice the little way of love, not to miss out on a kind word, a smile or any small gesture which sows peace and friendship. An integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures which can make a difference in us, in the earth and for all that share this planet.

\*Avoiding single-use plastic can be one of these simple practices. Single-use plastics are the waste products of a throwaway culture that treats plastic as a disposable material rather than a valuable resource to be harnessed. These plastics find their way into our water, soil and air. Plastic elements have now successfully entered into our food chain.

Single-use plastics account for about half of the plastic waste in the world. The most common single-use plastics found in the environment in order of magnitude are: drinking bottles, bottle caps, food wrappers, grocery bags, lids, straws and stirrers, and other types of plastic bags and foam take-away containers. Packaging is responsible for an extraordinarily high proportion of waste.

Check your waste basket to see how much single use plastics are in it.

We all know that using refillable water bottle or pitchers for table gatherings reduces plastic, since only about 10% of world's plastic gets recycled. But did you know that a single liter of bottled water takes as much as 2,000 time and energy as it takes to produce the same amount of water that comes out of your tap? Bringing along a mug or container may not be convenient, but it is one simple doable act that makes a difference.

Bringing grocery bags is becoming a habit for many. What about bags for fresh fruits and veggies? Did you know there are plastic-free mesh options? Using reusable bags to buy in bulk reduces packaging.

Each small act done with love, as St. Theresa advises, can be a light in the darkness!

\*Taken from: Ecological Sustainability Guide by Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

## Culture of cruelty

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

or does not exist. Agnosticism looks reasonable on paper, but indecision cannot be put into practice. Action requires decision. If this is true for individuals, it is also true for whole so-

## Rest in Peace

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

**Nov. 10** – Msgr. Francis M. Kenny, 1952; Msgr. Raphael A. Hoffman, 1968

**Nov. 11** – Rev. Edward O. Hervieux, 1947; Msgr. Bernard E. Christman, 2012

**Nov. 13** – Rev. S. Alphonse Vollmer, 1931; Rev. Victor Van den Hende, 1939; Most Rev. Francis J. Monaghan, 1942

**Nov. 14** – Msgr. Edward Joseph Pierce, 1980

**Nov. 15** – Rev. Medard Zywicki, M.S.C., 1980

**Nov. 16** – Rev. Alexis Trudeau, O.M.I., 1885; Rev. Martin C. Mullen, 1904; Rev. John Henry O'Rourke, 1930; Rev. George C. Egan, O.S.A., 1957; Rev. John H. McCloskey, O.S.A., 1957; Rev. J. Lee Snow, 2003; Rev. George F. Sykes, 2007; Rev. Roland G. Gonyo, 2011

**Nov. 17** – Rev. Edward V. Murphy, 1907; Rev. George D. Boucher, 1954; Rev. Romuald A. Wolski, O.F.M. Conv., 1976

**Nov. 18** – Rev. Edward J. Shea, O.S.A., 1931

**Nov. 20** – Rev. Robert Joseph Booth, 1939

**Nov. 21** – Msgr. Joseph L. Tierney, 1968

**Nov. 22** – Rev. Bernard Caraher, 1893; Rev. James F. Lamitie, 2010

**Nov. 23** – Rev. Louis Brisson, 1963

## 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.

cieties. There is no such thing as a religiously neutral society. Societies make laws, create and direct institutions, educate, produce art, and engage in a host of other activities – all of which transmit values and assumptions about God, humanity and the world we live in.

More often than not, our efforts to maintain religious agnosticism or neutrality in the public square involve functioning as though God does not exist. We seem to think that cutting the whole idea of God out of the public square is the best way to avoid taking a position on the God question. The problem with this idea is that, when we function as though God does not exist, we have already answered the God question. We have said, "God does not exist."

The resulting phenom-

ena is "functional atheism." Many of us might believe in God when we are in Church or in the privacy of our own homes, but, in every other aspect of our lives, we function as though He does not exist. Functional atheism undermines civility in dramatic ways because it eliminates any moral standard that might transcend individual or group preferences. If there is no transcendent standard to which people can appeal when conflicts arise, there is no way to settle disagreements other than by making an appeal to power. Power can take many different forms: physical, financial, social, political, the power of the majority, etc., but, in a society without God, power will win the day. Might will make right. This is the very definition of tyranny. In this system, the bully wins.

Our "religiously neutral" public square is a functionally atheistic space that relies on brute force to establish order and this reliance on brute force is spilling over into our personal interactions. It is

creating a culture of cruelty.

What is the remedy? Public sanctity. We must live our religious beliefs in the light of day and re-inject Christianity into the public square by consciously allowing our faith to direct our behavior. As confirmed Christians, it is our job to pray, dialogue, and provide public witness to Truth. There are many loving and respectful ways to do this. We can make sure that we pray over meals, making the sign of the cross even when we're at a restaurant. We can make a conscious effort to recognize God's direction and blessings in our own day-to-day routines and share those insights with our children and family members. We can place Catholic art inside and outside of our homes and wear our medals and crucifixes where people can see them. And, of course, we can share our beliefs with those who are willing to listen.

The world needs Christ to be its best self. In the words of Gaudium et Spes, "Christ, the new Adam, in the very revelation of the mystery of the Father and his love, fully reveals man to himself and brings to light his most high calling" (§22). When we reject Christ, we lose our humanity. When we embrace Christ, we gain a better life in this world and the next.

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**Nov. 10** – Noon – Lunch with local pastors and the Fort Drum Chaplain at the Hilton Garden Inn in Watertown

**Nov. 11** – Noon – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

**Nov. 13** – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Nov. 14-18** – United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Plenary Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland

**Nov. 19** – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

**Nov. 20** – 11 a.m. – Confirmation at St. Regis Mission in Hogansburg  
4 p.m. – Installation of Reverend Michael J. Jablonski as Pastor of the Church of the Assumption in Redford and St. Joseph's Church in Dannemora (at St. Joseph's Church)

**Nov. 21** – 11 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Nov. 22** – Noon – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

**Nov. 24** – Noon – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

## 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.

For a New or Used Car  
**Mort  
Backus &  
Sons**

On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.  
**315-393-5899**





# The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg

## Building A Bridge For The Future



**The Foundation Office of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg**  
**622 Washington Street • Ogdensburg**  
**Scott Lalone, Executive Director • 315-393-2920 (Ext. 1330)**

## 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

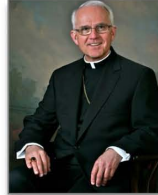




# Passing Our Living Faith to Future Generations

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Pope Francis has recently convoked a Synod of Bishops with its theme: "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission." Throughout this process, which will conclude with the Bishops' Synod in Rome in October 2023, Pope Francis hopes there will be a greater appreciation for the laity being "co-responsible" for the Church's well-being and action.



Locally, we have begun the diocesan phase of the Synod where we will soon begin a process that will enhance our sense of shared responsibility. We will continue to follow the Holy Father's lead in being attentive to the expressed needs that exist across the Diocese of Ogdensburg. We as a Catholic Community continue to unite our efforts in building up the local Church.

In 2007, in order to "Build a Bridge for the Future" and continue a strong sense of commitment and attentiveness in meeting future needs, the Foundation was established. It supports our Diocese and Parishes, Schools, Ministries and Missionary Projects of the Diocese. It plays a pivotal supportive role in the financial, charitable, spiritual, educational, and temporal works of the Catholic family here in the North Country.

Since its establishment, fifty-four Endowments have been created in the Foundation. They are listed on the back page of our insert which also lists the beneficiaries. Please take a moment to review these as well as our Mission Statement, indicating what a Catholic Foundation truly is and how it functions.

I am extremely grateful to those who have had the generous foresight in contributing to the Foundation to benefit the future work of the Church. These gifts are a perpetual source of revenue for the Diocese, Parishes, Schools, Nursing Home, Ministries and Missionary Projects of the Diocese.

As I am pleased to present you this 2020 Annual Report, I would like to express my gratitude to Scott Lalone and to the Foundation's Board of Directors for their willingness to serve, providing proper financial oversight, ensuring legal and ethical integrity, and providing effective organizational planning for the Foundation.

Wishing God's blessing to you and your loved ones, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley  
Bishop of Ogdensburg

## The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg Statements of Financial Position June 30, 2020 and June 30, 2019

	6/30/2021	6/30/2020
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 197,725	\$ 51,432
Accrued Interest	8,337	10,022
Investments at Fair Value	8,253,518	6,796,497
Charitable Gift Annuities	1,852	1852
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 8,461,432</b>	<b>\$ 6,859,803</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$ -	\$ 15,396
<b>NET ASSETS (DEFICIT)</b>		
Without Donor Restrictions	(128,079)	(117,519)
With Donor Restrictions	8,589,511	6,961,926
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>8,461,432</b>	<b>6,844,407</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 8,461,432</b>	<b>\$ 6,859,803</b>

\*\*The Foundation's IRS Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt Form Tax, is available for inspection upon request\*\*

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of The Foundation is to pass our living faith to future generations by financially supporting the charitable, spiritual, educational and temporal works of the Catholic Community of the Diocese of Ogdensburg by accepting donations or endowment funds from donors and the administration of these funds.

In fulfilling its mission, The Foundation will:

- Provide estate planning and charitable giving information and assistance.
- Provide gifting vehicles in which the Church or related entities are the designated beneficiary.
- Provide responsible and financial management and distribution of earnings that further the mission of the Catholic Church.

Catholics are called by God to protect human life, to promote dignity, to defend those who are poor, to strengthen the Church and to seek the common good. The Foundation exists to help Catholics live out this sacred mission of the Church, through the wise stewardship and thoughtful sharing of their financial resources.

The Foundation will provide permanent endowments and memorial funds for donors who want to give lasting support to parishes, schools, religious and social service ministries in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

## Board of Directors

**Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley**  
Bishop of Ogdensburg  
President

**Reverend Joseph A. Morgan**  
Vicar General  
Vice President

**Mr. Michael J. Tooley**  
Diocesan Fiscal Officer  
Treasurer

**Sister Mary Eamon**  
Lyng, SSJ  
Ogdensburg, NY

**Reverend Kevin**  
McEwan  
Pastor

**Mr. Thomas Hannan**  
Ogdensburg, NY

**Mrs. Mary Anne**  
Bukolt-Ryder  
Plattsburgh, NY



# Passing Our Living Faith to Future Generations



Trinity Catholic School, Massena

## Endowment Beneficiaries Can Include

- The Diocese of Ogdensburg
- The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg
- Your Parish or Catholic School
- The Education of Priests & Seminarians
- The Priests Retirement Fund
- The Priests Disability Fund
- The Bishop's Fund
- Any Ministry or Program of the Diocese
- Catholic Charities
- Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg
- St. Joseph's Nursing Home
- Any Diocesan institution of your choice

## PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

We recognize and understand as a Catholic Foundation entirely separate from the Diocese but in all ways accountable to both the Diocese and our donors, we are sustained by public trust and laws that confer upon us a special responsibility to society and the Roman Catholic Church. We further acknowledge that this responsibility can be met by full, open and public disclosure of all our affairs.

## HOW THE FOUNDATION WORKS

The Foundation solicits and receives planned gifts to benefit the people and communities of the Diocese as designated by donors. Prudent financial management of the funds is entrusted to the Board of Directors comprised of distinguished Church, business and civic leaders. A professional staff administers the day to day operation of The Foundation and oversees the distribution of annual earnings from the funds. Assets are managed by investment professionals.

## Methods of Giving

Type of Gift	Form of Gift	Benefit to Church	Benefit to You
<b>Outright Gift</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cash</li> <li>• Stocks/securities</li> <li>• Real estate</li> <li>• Insurance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perpetual income</li> <li>• Interest income used by The Foundation, parishes, schools and organizations in diocese</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income tax deduction</li> <li>• No capital gains tax on Appreciated gifts</li> </ul>
<b>Wills &amp; Bequests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cash</li> <li>• Real estate</li> <li>• Personal property</li> <li>• Percentage of estate</li> <li>• Remainder of estate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bequest will be held in perpetuity and invested to fund The Foundation needs as designated by the donor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible estate tax deduction</li> <li>• Opportunity to make perpetual gifts</li> </ul>
<b>Charitable Gift Annuities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cash</li> <li>• Stocks/securities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upon the death of the donor or last surviving annuitant remaining assets generate interest income for The Foundation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible estate tax deduction</li> <li>• Opportunity to make perpetual gifts</li> </ul>
<b>Insurance Policies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name The Foundation as policy owner and/or beneficiary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Foundation receives full face value of policy upon death of the donor, or may receive current surrender value prior to donor's death</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to make substantial future gift to The Foundation at current manageable cost</li> <li>• Income tax deduction for value of the policy when transferred</li> <li>• Premium payments may be deducted as gifts</li> </ul>
<b>Real Estate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home</li> <li>• Land</li> <li>• Vacation Home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Foundation receives the proceeds from the sale of the property at your death or sooner if so desired by the Donor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be given with life use</li> <li>• Can be given without incurring tax on the appreciation</li> </ul>
<b>Charitable Remainder Trusts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cash</li> <li>• Stocks/securities</li> <li>• Real estate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Foundation receives substantial future gifts to support the work of The Foundation and the charities named by the donor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variable or fixed income</li> <li>• Option to defer income</li> <li>• Income tax deduction</li> <li>• Reduction of estate taxes</li> <li>• No capital gains tax on appreciated gift (or deferred in some instances)</li> </ul>
<b>Retirement Plan/IRA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name The Foundation as beneficiary of death benefit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant gift upon death of donor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to make a major gift</li> <li>• Estate and income tax savings</li> </ul>
<b>Endowment Fund</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any of the above types of gifts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The final beneficiary(ies) will have a perpetual source of revenue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making a lasting gift that is a permanent legacy of your faith</li> </ul>

TO CONTACT THE DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG  
 FOUNDATION OFFICE  
 622 Washington St., Ogdensburg  
 Or Call: Scott Lalone Executive Director 315-393-2920 (x1330)



## *Endowments Established in the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, New York, Inc.*

**Reverend Norman Poupore Endowment** – Support of Priests' Disabilities  
**Catholic Charities Endowment** – Corporate purposes  
**Society of the Sisters of St. Joseph Endowment** – Corporate purposes  
**Society of the Propagation of the Faith Endowment** – Corporate purposes  
**St. Joseph's Home Foundation Endowment** – Corporate purposes  
**Catherine Aurelia Endowment** – Bishop's Charities and Religious Works  
**Reverend Anthony A. Milia Endowment** – Support of the Diocesan Archives  
**Building For Tomorrow Endowment** – Operating expenses of the Catholic Community of Alexandria  
**Education of Seminarians Endowment** – Funding to the annual operating budget  
**Faylene LeRoux Endowment** – Support of Catholic Education  
**Formation For Ministry Endowment** – Parish financial assistance and annual operating budget  
**Guggenheim/Hughes Endowment** – Support of capital needs of Guggenheim Center  
**Leona Schlafly Endowment** – General purposes of the Diocese of Ogdensburg  
**Reverend James Meehan Endowment** – Special care of priests  
**St. Mary's Cathedral Endowment** – Support of general operations  
**Joseph & Joyce Sylvester Endowment** – General operating needs of St. Anthony's, Watertown  
**Guggenheim Maintenance Endowment** – Maintain the main camp building, boathouse and grounds  
**Spratt Memorial Endowment** – Support capital needs  
**St. Alexander's Catholic Education Endowment** – Support of Catholic education at parish  
**Alice Austin Trust Mass Endowment** – Masses at St. Andrew's Church, Sackets Harbor  
**Lawrence R. Robinson Trust Mass Endowment** – Masses at St. Andrew's Church, Sackets Harbor  
**St. Augustine's Church Endowment** – General purposes of St. Augustine's at Peru.  
**Margaret Brothers Endowment** – General purposes of St. Patrick's Church, Rouses Point  
**Victor West Endowment** – General purposes of St. Patrick's Church, Rouses Point  
**St. Mary's Champlain NY Endowment** – Support of St. Mary's Academy and St. Mary's Church  
**Reverend W. Cyril Rapin Endowment** – Support of disabled priests  
**Good Samaritan Endowment** – Christian charity to the people of the North Country  
**Holy Family Strauss Educational Endowment** – Promote Catholic education  
**Deacon Adam Crowe Scholarship Endowment** – Education of Seminarians  
**William Cornish Endowment** – St. Henry's Church, EWTN, Diocese  
**Donald J. Grant Endowment** – General purposes of RC Community of Brownville & Dexter  
**St. Lawrence Church Endowment** – General purposes of St. Lawrence Church in North Lawrence  
**St. Patrick's Church Shamrock Endowment** – General purposes of St. Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls  
**Queen of Heaven Church** – General purposes of Queen of Heaven Church  
**Church of St. Patrick/Stumpf Family** – Catholic Education  
**ME Walton Good Samaritan Endowment** – Needs of parishioners at St. Cyril's and St. Francis Xavier  
**Special Care of Priests Endowment** – Funding for annual operating budget  
**Alice Austin Mass Endowment** – Masses at Queen of Heaven Church, Henderson  
**St. Francis of Assisi Endowment** – 50% Diocese, 50% Covenant House  
**William L. Patnode Endowment** – Education of Seminarians  
**Gertrude J. Tyo Endowment** – Education of Seminarians  
**Chapin, McCarthy, LaBelle Families Endowment** – General purposes St. Augustine (North Bangor)  
**Chapin, McCarthy Families Endowment** – General purposes St. Martin de Porras, Peru (Missionary Projects)  
**St. Patrick's & Mother Cabrini's Shrine of Peru, NY Endowment** – General purpose of Shrine  
**Thomas and Ann Fiacco Endowment** – General purposes St. Mary's Catholic School, Canton, NY  
**Thomas and Ann Fiacco Endowment** – General purposes Trinity Catholic School, Massena, NY  
**Bishop Brzana Chapter Vocations** – emergency medical/dental assistance to active Seminarians  
**Brian E. McManus & Alison E. McManus Endowed Scholarship Fund in Memory of Dorothy W. McManus** – Tuition assistance for students of financial need at St. Agnes Catholic School  
**Halsey J. Seguin Memorial Scholarship Fund** - to benefit poor students of St. Bernard's Catholic School as they see fit  
**Education of Seminarians/St. Joseph's Home Endowment** – Education of Seminarians & St. Joseph's Nursing Home Foundation general purposes  
**Leonard J. Furnia Endowment Fund** – Support of Education of Priests & Seminarians  
**Saint Ignatius Special Needs Endowment Fund** – special need grants for extra ordinary, emergency, one-time situations  
**Francis & Constance Kehoe Memorial Endowment Fund** – Education of Seminarians and Graduate Studies for Clergy of the Diocese of Ogdensburg  
**The Leary Family Endowment Fund** – General purposes Trinity Catholic School, Massena NY, and St. Peter's Parish, Massena NY

**Donor Restricted Net Assets as of June 30, 2020 - \$8,589,511**





## VIRTUAL EVENTS

## 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](http://mwcatholics.org/pivotal).

## ADIRONDACK

## CONVERSATION ON THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Lake Placid – St. Agnes invites you to a conversation on the least read book in the New Testament – 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. We are fortunate to have Jeff Wiegand leading us in this hourlong conversation. In preparation, you are encouraged to read Revelation!

## CLINTON

## 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

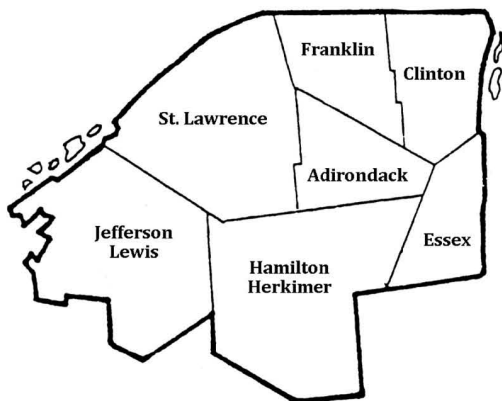
**Cost:** Adults, \$12; Children 6-12, \$5; under 5, Free

**Features:** Delivery to your car curb-side, or delivery, walk in and carry out.

## CRAFT FAIR

Chazy – Sacred Heart Church is having their Fabulous Fall Craft Festival.

**Date:** Nov. 20



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

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

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

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Place:** Parish Center

**Features:** Vendors from New York and Vermont. Hot lunches, Silent Auction and more. Masks required.

**Contact:** For more info, contact Sharon Nephew, 518-493-2914.

## ADVENT WREATH MAKING

Ellenburg – You are invited to Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer to make your own Advent Wreath.

**Date:** Nov. 28

**Time:** 3 p.m. to 5

**Features:** Come by yourself, with your kids, grandkids, family or friends! Supplies are free and refreshments will be served! It's a fun way to begin your Christmas season!

**Contact:** Space is limited, Please call 518-534-9976 or 518-846-3060 (Sarah) to register. Please leave your name and telephone number.

## CRAFT SHOW

Morrisonville – Come to the North Country Christmas 9th Annual Craft Show.

**Date:** Dec. 4

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Place:** St. Alexander's Church

**Features:** Local vendors selling Jewelry, Quilts, Homemade Crafts, Wood Crafts, Candles, Adirondack items, Fresh Wreaths, and much more. Lunch available at Padre's Café. Take-out only. Bake Sale and home made chocolates.

## CRAFT FAIR

Peru – Fall into winter craft fair to be held.

**Date:** Dec. 4

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Place:** St. Augustine's Parish Center

**Features:** One stop Christmas shop.

**Contact:** For more information contact Judy Akey, 518-643-8716

## JEFFERSON-LEWIS

## SPAGHETTI &amp; 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

## CHICKEN &amp; BISCUIT DRIVE THRU

Lyons Falls – Chicken and Biscuit drive-thru to be held.

**Date:** Nov. 15

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 6

**Place:** St. John's Church

**Cost:** \$10

**Contact:** Pre-orders would be appreciated by Nov. 12 by calling 315-348-8945 and 315-315-348-8577. There will be limited dinners available that evening. We will try to accommodate everyone for a dinner! Remember - deliveries are available.

## 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

## 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. Classes are self-contained units. Didn't make it in October, you are still invited for November, December. . .

**Contact:** If you have questions or concerns that can't wait, contact Deacon Jim Crowley via email [jcrowley@rcdony.org](mailto:jcrowley@rcdony.org) or Jessica Hargrave via email [jhargrave@rcdony.org](mailto: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, Skilo, Quilt Raffle, Country Store, Cake Walk, Children's Games and Activities, Religious Items.

## 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

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

teaching on natural law and sexual morality and to give participants a basic understanding of the ethical basis of the teaching.

**Schedule:** Two remaining opportunities to attend. 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](mailto:crussell@rcdony.org) or call 315-393-2920.

## DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL

Become a DYC member and be part of something great! The Diocese of Ogdensburg Diocesan Youth Council (DYC) is a group comprised of members in grades 10-12 who live in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Each member serves on DYC for a one-year term (members are able to re-apply annually to serve for up to three total terms).

**Features:** The purpose of Diocesan Youth Council is twofold:

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

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

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

**Contact:** Thomas Semeraro at [tsemmeraro@rcdony.org](mailto:tsemmeraro@rcdony.org) or 315-393-2920 for full requirements to join.

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

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

Find us on Facebook!



## AT THE MOVIES

## ETERNALS

**NEW YORK (CNS)**— A mixed bag, both ethically and cinematically, director and co-writer Chloé Zhao's Marvel Comics adaptation "Eternals" (Disney) is presented on an undeniably large scale.

Yet the big canvas on which Zhao works ends up feeling remarkably empty.

In following the exploits

of an ensemble of alien superheroes belonging to the titular class of imaginary beings — one of several cooked up by artist and writer Jack Kirby more than 40 years ago — Zhao and her script partners, Patrick Burleigh and Ryan and Ryan Firpo, alternate battle scenes with sequences focused on the relationships

among the extraterrestrials. Yet neither basic ingredient really works.

The confrontations pitting the Eternals against dinosaurlike predators called Deviants — our heroes were dispatched to Earth thousands of years ago by a higher power called Arishem (voice of David Kaye) to protect humans from

these marauding monsters — feel puerile. The sight of the good guys zapping Deviants with beams and balls of energy was likely more impressive on the printed page back in the '70s.

As for the romantic and other bonds uniting the admittedly well-delineated principals, they range from the straightforward to the morally tangled. An instance of the former is the friendship that prompts burly, lighthearted Gilgamesh (Don Lee) to shield normally dignified Thena (Angelina Jolie) from the worst effects of the fits of mental instability and aggression to which she's subject.

Yet, even the backstory of the main couple, empathetic Sersi (Gemma Chan) and hard-driving Ikaris (Richard Madden), by contrast, has its serious complications. Shortly after their first night of passion centuries ago, the two were married in a Hindu ceremony. But Ikaris subsequently deserted Sersi.

So, after waiting for her husband's return for hundreds of years, Sersi, as the picture opens, has recently taken up with human Dane (Kit Harington), her co-worker at London's Natural History Museum. They also get prematurely physical, only to have a global emergency lead to Ikaris' reentry on the scene.

As interstellar warrior-turned-Bollywood-star Kingo (Kumail Nanjiani) perceptively intuits, his

diminutive colleague Sprite (Lia McHugh) also carries a torch for Ikaris. But since, no matter how long she lives, Sprite remains perpetually a 12-year-old girl, her yearnings can never be fulfilled.

These days, the Mouse House seldom misses an opportunity to wave the rainbow flag. So nothing will do but Phastos (Brian Tyree Henry), the group's tech whiz, must be given a civil spouse in the person of Ben (Haaz Sleiman), with whom Phastos is raising a young son.

Once the Eternals discover that the purpose of their mission is not what they have always believed it to be, they face a dilemma based, in part, on the connection they have formed with humanity. The working through of this problem finds the characters on a more Scripture-friendly foundation, with most of them rejecting the idea that a good end can justify destructive means.

So, at least some of this sci-fi adventure's values are on target. And the banter in the dialogue does draw the occasionally laugh. But, overall, there's more space than substance on display, despite lavish production values and a more-than-ample running time.

The film contains frequent stylized combat, a suicide, semi-graphic premarital sexual activity, an adulterous situation, a benignly viewed homosexual relationship, a same-sex kiss, at least one mild oath, a few crude terms, a single crass expression and an obscene gesture. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



## BUILDING Our Mission to the Missions

**T**he Black and Indian Mission Collection (BIMC) exists to help diocesan communities to build up the Church and preach the Gospel of Jesus among the African American, Native American, and Alaska Native people of God.

Every year, it is the amazing generosity of Catholic faithful, just like you, who enable the Black and Indian Mission Office to support the following important priorities:

### Enlivening Parish Life & Catechesis

Grant funds from the BIMC support parish-based catechetical programs, which form and train catechists who form children to be disciples of Jesus in the world and who put bibles and catechisms in kids' hands so they can learn the ways of the Lord and take their place around his altar.



### Empowering Evangelizers

BIMC grant funds support African American and Native American ministries to sponsor events and formation that encourage living the Christian life in culturally appropriate ways. The religious sisters shown here, serve Native American Catholic communities across the United States.



### Helping Educators Reach Kids

With your contribution to the BIMC, you will help support the placement of good teachers to educate African American and Native American children. In 2020, your generous donations reached over 5,000 students in more than 400 schools and parishes across the United States.



### Encouraging Vocations

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# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Eucharist document needs consensus, dialogue panelists say

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The much-awaited proposed statement on the Eucharist from the U.S. bishops is striving for a consensus that may be hard to come by, said a longtime church journalist. Originally characterized as a statement that would give bishops cover to deny Communion to President Joe Biden and other Catholic elected officials who support legal abortion, said panelist Christopher White, "there's been a lot of backtracking in recent months. It's not about politicians, it's reminding Catholics about the importance of the Eucharist," said White, Vatican correspondent for the National Catholic Reporter, who covered Biden's Oct. 29 meeting with Pope Francis. "But it's hard not to see politics baked into its DNA," White added. He and other panelists commented on the proposed document during a Nov. 1 dialogue, "Catholic Faith, Communion and Public Life: Voices in the United States and a Report From the Vatican," sponsored by the Georgetown University's Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life. White noted that when the bishops meet in Baltimore Nov. 15-18, they will meet in executive session the first day, followed by two days of public sessions. Executive sessions have customarily been reserved for the last days of the meeting. He said this was "so that they can craft some real consensus or compromise" on the Eucharist document.

## Pope names woman secretary-general of governing office

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis has appointed Sister Raffaella Petrini, an Italian member of the U.S.-based Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist, to be secretary-general of the office governing Vatican City State. The appointment, which includes overseeing departments as diverse as the Vatican Museums, post office and police force, effectively makes the 52-year-old Rome native the highest-ranking woman at the Vatican. The position previously had been held by a priest, who was named a bishop shortly after becoming secretary-general. Sister Petrini holds a doctorate in social sciences from Rome's Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas and a master of science in organization behavior from the Barney School of Business at the University of Hartford, Connecticut. In addition to working at the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples since 2005, she teaches courses in sociology and economics at the University of St. Thomas Aquinas.

## CRS works to help Afghan farmers facing drought, hunger

AMMAN, Jordan (CNS) — Overshadowed by the political and military turmoil engulfing Afghanistan with the Taliban takeover in August, climate change — particularly drought — is relentlessly striking this Central Asian nation with dire consequences, warns a Catholic aid agency official. "CRS has been working on a response to this climate-induced drought over the past two years. But the rest of the world is only waking up to the fact that we have the worst climate-induced drought in the world right now — the worst in living memory in Afghanistan," said Kevin Hartigan, the Middle East regional director of Catholic Relief Services. "It was not apparent to people because there was so much focus on the political and military crisis. Now that has calmed, you are seeing the United Nations and the rest of world waking up to this enormous climate phenomenon, drought and hunger," Hartigan told Catholic News Service. The lack of rain has compounded Afghanistan's problems. Hartigan cited a U.N. report saying 2 million Afghans are experiencing hunger, the risk of food deficit, and potential famine-like conditions as people enter the winter months.

# Culture of death includes all forms of abuse, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Every form of abuse — sexual, psychological or an abuse of power — is part of "the culture of death" that needs to be eradicated through the conversion, education and the active participation of everyone, Pope Francis said.

"May the safeguarding of minors be an ever more concrete and regular priority in the church's educational efforts and may it be promoted as a service that is open, reliable and authoritative" and aimed at combating "every form of domination, affronts to personal intimacy and complicit silence," he said in a written message.

Guaranteeing safe environments for minors and vulnerable people is a journey that everyone in the church must embark on together, driven by "the sorrow and shame for not always having been good guardians protecting minors who are entrusted to our educational and social activities," he wrote.

The pope's message was sent to participants in a congress held online and onsite in Rome Nov. 4.

The congress, dedicated to creating safe environments and promoting the safeguarding of minors during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, was sponsored by several Italian Catholic lay associations. The associations, which include the John XXIII Community, Catholic Action and the Catholic Italian Sports Center, have joined together for a project called "SAFE" for encouraging and helping church-based organizations in Italy adopt and follow child protection policies.

In his message, which

was read aloud during the congress, the pope repeated an appeal from his "Letter to the people of God" in 2018, saying "no effort must be spared to create a culture able to prevent such situations (of sexual abuse, the abuse of power and the abuse of conscience) from happening, but also to prevent the possibility of their being covered up and perpetuated."

He said these efforts must involve every member of the church and require a "process of conversion" and urgently needed "renewed formation" of all those who are involved in education or work with minors in the church, in the community and in the family.

Only through coordinated and "systematic" efforts in an alliance aimed at prevention, he said, "will it be possible to eradicate the culture of death, which is the herald of every form of abuse — sexual, of conscience and of power."

"If abuse is an act of a betrayal of trust that is a death sentence for those who experience it and creates profound fissures in the context where it happens, prevention must be a permanent path of promoting an ever renewed and assured reliability toward life and the future, which minors must be able to count on," Pope Francis wrote.

Adults must rediscover their vocation as faithful "artisans in education," which means working with those they teach in ways that encourage their talents, respect their limits, freedom and dignity, and avoids the temptation "to seduce or lure, which only in appearance can fa-

cilitate relations with younger generations," he wrote.

Pope Francis encouraged young people to play a greater role in these efforts, noting they would be important in recognizing and flagging where there are risks and in reminding people of their responsibility in safeguarding.

U.S. Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley of Boston, president of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, was one of the conference speakers and delivered his remarks online.

He praised the lay Catholic associations promoting the "SAFE" project, noting their groups work in "almost every area of the lives of children and young people today: in their homes, schools, recreational activities and sporting associations."

"In some countries, there is a perception that children are not at risk in community organizations and recreational groups," he said. "This can lead to a false sense of security that unintentionally leaves children and young people at risk of abuse."

Based on the papal commission's work in offering guidelines and best practices, the cardinal offered some suggestions for the SAFE project.

"Firstly, even the most stringent protection policies, educational programs and victims' assistance services are fruitless if there is no regular verification of their implementation and efficacy" with open and transparent audits by outside third parties, he said.

Second, they should include survivors as partners in their work, he said.

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Marking the end of the Church year

Today we celebrate the second to the last Sunday of the Church year (from the First Sunday of Advent to the Feast of Christ the King). Its readings can inspire great fear, but they can also be seen in a more positive light. It can be seen as a wake-up call to destroy our complacency, clean out sin from our lives, and strive harder for readiness for the particular



**Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore**

judgment (the moment we die) and final judgment for the entire world.

Our first reading from the Book of Daniel shows this prophet's assurance to his people that no earthly ruler can really harm them if they will only trust totally in the promises of God. He speaks of the great prince (the

Archangel Michael) who will protect them from any

**November 14**

**33rd Sunday of the year**

READINGS

Daniel 12:1-3

Hebrews 10:11-14; 18

Mark 13:24-32

evil force. The final victory will come when they will rise from death (the first mention of the resurrection) and will reward the wisdom and perseverance. They will shine like the stars of heaven.

In the second reading

from Hebrews, they are reminded that Jesus has offered one sacrifice for sin. He offered that once, and that was enough.

Our Gospel today is one of the most difficult passages for us to understand. Jesus tells us that there will be tremendous upheaval and chaos before the end of the world. It will affect the sun, the planets, and all of nature. It certainly will happen, because Jesus speaks with authority. However, we are warned not to panic and to think

it's around the corner. No one knows when it will happen. Only God the Father.

Let's us take this as a time to "clean up our act." It's not a time for fear but for action. After all, we start a new Church year with Advent. I don't think there are any more challenging passages in Scripture to make us ready for the best, most fervent, and most devout Advent ever. If we do, then ours will be the victory at judgment time.

## CALLED TO SERVE

## Your blessing, Father

Do you remember a teacher directing the class, starting with a particular kid, to begin reading aloud from the text book? The role of reader would move from student to student, paragraph by paragraph, until the section the teacher wanted was completed by the readers.

Reading aloud was easy for some kids, they effortlessly flowed over difficult words, their pronunciation and diction were really good.

Other kids struggled. It was almost painful to lis-

ten to them read, and your mind spent more time struggling with the reader and less time absorbing the content.

Reading aloud is an acquired gift. We can be taught to be better readers but not everyone should be designated a lector at Mass.

The readings at Mass are the inspired Word of God. The Old Testament readings, the readings from Paul and others, are loaded with great ideas for us to think about but we will miss the message if our

minds are busy critiquing the reader.

At Mass, the reading of the Word of God in the Gospel is reserved for the deacon.

We treat the Gospel proclamation differently. For good reason.

The first and second readings, even the psalm that is sung or recited, are the inspired Word of God. They are incredibly important to our understanding of God's message to each of us as we listen.

The Gospels recorded by Matthew, Mark, Luke and

John are inspired too, but they tell us what Jesus said during a particular time. Jesus speaks those words each week, teaches us again, as the Gospel is proclaimed by the deacon.

The deacon asks the priest celebrant to bless him and the priest says, "May the Lord be in your heart and on your lips that you may proclaim his Gospel worthily and well, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

We all stand when the deacon asks for that blessing. Those two actions alone, standing and the blessing, should suggest there is something special going on.

Then the deacon ceremoniously carries the Book of the Gospels to the pulpit (sometimes called the ambo or lectern). The deacon may be preceded by servers carrying incense and candles. More symbols that set this reading apart

from the others.

The deacon greets the people, "the Lord be with you" and makes the Sign of the Cross on the reading, his forehead, lips and breast. I learned as a youngster to say, "May the Word of God be in my mind, on my lips and in my heart."

The Word of God is proclaimed and at its end we proclaim again the importance of the reading, "praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!" and the deacon kisses the book and quietly says, "Through the words of the Gospel may our sins be wiped away."

Powerful stuff. All the actions surrounding the Gospel are important but really are show. The real substance is the Word proclaimed and then explained. The homily next.

*Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown.*

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



**Deacon  
Kevin Mastellon**



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# Honoring single people

This week, the Mission Office would like to honor all of those that remain single while continuing to follow their faith. Your unique calling allows you the ability and freedom that married and consecrated persons do not have to spread love and message of Jesus to those around you and the rest of the world. A single life filled with generosity and holiness is a beautiful example of Jesus' call to follow him.

A man also called by God to a generous single life was Saint Giuseppe Moscati. Saint Giuseppe Moscati was born in Naples, Italy in 1880. He grew up in a devout family and decided to study medicine after he had to care for his injured brother during his adolescence. He proudly attended the openly agnostic, amoral,



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and anti-clerical University of Naples, and graduated with his doctoral degree in 1903.

After graduation, Saint Giuseppe Moscati taught classes at the university and became an administrator at the Hospital for Incurables in Naples. He believed in treating both the body and the soul of the injured and sick, endeavoring to make them feel loved and wanted even as they struggled with their illness. As such, Saint Giuseppe Moscati was constantly followed by interns

who were inspired by both his medical and humanitarian techniques. He was known to treat patients free of charge as well as give them the money for their prescriptions.

In April of 1906, Saint Giuseppe Moscati helped evacuate the patients at a nursing home during the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The last patient was safely removed just minutes before the building's roof collapsed. He later assisted during the cholera epidemic in 1911. Choosing to serve his patients in-

stead of pursuing an academic career, he wrote, "Not science, but charity has transformed the world" (catholiceducation.org).

Saint Giuseppe Moscati died peacefully in 1927 and was canonized on October 25, 1987. His feast day is November 16. Hopefully everyone can join us in praying for his intercession, particularly for those who are suffering with COVID-19.

O Saint Joseph Moscati, doctor with a huge heart, in the exercise of your profession you cured the body and spirit of your patients, turn towards us too who now run to you with faith in your intercession. Give us physical and spiritual health, so that we can serve our

brothers with generosity. Alleviate the pain of those that suffer, give comfort to the sick, consolation to the afflicted, and hope to the hopeless. Make that the sick might encounter doctors like you: human and Christian. The youth find in you a model of life, the workers, an example, the old, comfort, and the dying, hope in eternal salvation. Be for all of us a sure guide: teach us to work with serenity, honesty and charity, to be able to complete in a Christian way our everyday tasks. Saint Joseph Moscati pray for us!

*Prayer courtesy of fiamc.*

## OBITUARIES

**Belleville** – John H. Bice, 82; Funeral Services Nov. 4, 2021 at the Carpenter-Stoodley Funeral Home; burial in Adams Rural Cemetery.

**Brownville** – Barbara J. (Eamer) Brownwell; Memorial Services Nov. 12, 2021 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Brownville Cemetery.

**Brownville** – Anne (O'Brien) Valentine, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 13, 2021 at Immaculate Conception Church.

**Burke** – Darrel Joseph Manley, 85; Private Services to be held; burial in North Burke Cemetery.

**Canton** – Clara R. (Montroy) Burke, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 5, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Carthage** – Leroy J. Homan, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 5, 2021 at St. James Church; burial in Sunnyside Cemetery, Naumburg.

**Champlain** – Clifton F. Gamache, Sr., 82; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 6, 2021 at St. Mary's Church.

**Chateaugay** – Ernest L. Gero, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in North Burke Cemetery.

**Colton** – Renace A. "Renny" (Regan) Yorker, 55; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 5, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Dannemora** – Harold John Ryan, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 5, 2021 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Independence Cemetery, Saranac.

**Gouverneur** – Judy M. Fishel, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2021 at St. James Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Gouverneur** – Mary (Curcio) O'Donnel, 97; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 5, 2021 at St. James Church; burial in Riverside Cemetery.

**Lake Placid** – Dorothy (Causse) Taube, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 6, 2021 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

**Lyon Mountain** – Gary H. Gardner, Jr., 57; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 5, 2021

at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

**Madrid** – Raymond C. O'Neil, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 1, 2021 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Massena** – Dale C. (Jacobs) Bintz, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2021 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Hogsburg.

**Morrisonville** – Julie L. (Supernaw) Duquette, 57; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 8, 2021 at St. Alexander's Church.

**North Bangor** – Bruce Allen Gonia, 73; Graveside Services Nov. 4, 2021 at Stevens Cemetery.

**North Bangor** – George Moise Poirier, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 6, 2021 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**North Lawrence** – Virginia M. (Judware) LaBrake, 70; Funeral Services Nov. 12, 2021 at Hammill Funeral Home; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Elaine (Thompson)

LaRose, 60; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Peru** – Norine A. (Trimper) Calkins, 62; Funeral Services Nov. 3, 2021 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Evergreen Cemetery, Keeseville.

**Potsdam** – James R. Sullivan, Sr., 74; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 2, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Redford** – Cynthia Lee Smart, 62; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2021 at Church of the Assumption.

**Redford** – Rita A. (Terry) Wilson, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 6, 2021 at Church of the Assumption.

**Rouses Point** – Thomas Cyril Duffy, 70; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 26, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** – Jeff Reilly, 58; Funeral Services Nov. 6, 2021 at St. Bernard's Church.

**Watertown** – Rae Kathryn Griffin Valianos, 88; Funeral Services Nov. 4, 2021 at D.L. Calarco Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

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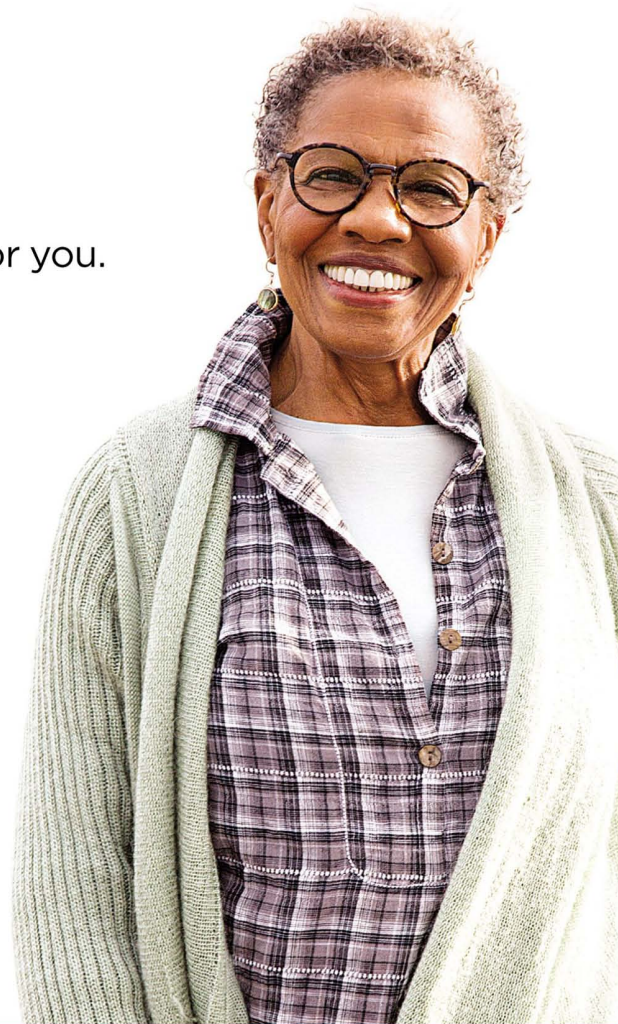
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