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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 76 Number 26

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

NOVEMBER 3, 2021

DOVS HONOR COORDINATORS



At the group's October meeting, held at St. Mary's Parish Center in Brushton, the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society (DOVS) honored Catherine Russell, former diocesan vocations coordinator, for her service to the group and welcomed the new diocesan vocations coordinator, Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, a Sister of St. Joseph.

Celebrating Vocations Awareness Week

Editor's Note: National Vocations Awareness Week is November 7-13. Bishop Terry R. LaValley offers his reflections on this celebration.

National Vocations Awareness Week is a week-long celebration of the Christian vocation. It provides us with a special opportunity to foster an appreciation of all vocations while focusing specifically on those individuals discerning a vocation to the consecrated life and those discerning a vocation to ordained ministry. It's, also, a good time to remember to keep in our prayers our fine seminarians.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

CLOSING EDUCATIONAL GAPS



After securing a grant from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, St. Agnes School in Lake Placid now provides specialized services, including speech, occupational and physical therapy, to students in need of assistance. The grant also enabled the school to create a sensory room (pictured above) where those services could be provided and where students can work to self-regulate when they're feeling overwhelmed.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

Pope may visit Canada as part of healing process

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis is willing to travel to Canada as part of "the long-standing pastoral process of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples," the Vatican press office said.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has invited the pope to visit the country, the press office said Oct. 27, although no date or time frame for the trip was mentioned.

A delegation of Indigenous leaders, accompanied by several bishops, is scheduled to meet with Pope Francis at the Vatican in December to listen to their experiences of how they and their people have been treated by Catholics in Canada, with special attention to the impact on the Indigenous communities of Canada's residential schools, many of which were run by Catholic religious orders

or dioceses.

"Pope Francis will encounter and listen to the Indigenous participants, so as to discern how he can support our common desire to renew relationships and walk together along the path of hope in the coming years," the bishops' conference said in a statement after their September meeting.

"We pledge to work with the Holy See and our Indigenous partners on the

possibility of a pastoral visit by the pope to Canada as part of this healing journey," the bishops said.

The statement was part of the first formal apology the bishops as a conference made to Canada's Indigenous people.

Acknowledging the "grave abuses" perpetrated, the bishops acknowledged "the suffering experienced in Canada's Indian Residential

Schools. Many Catholic religious communities and dioceses participated in this system, which led to the suppression of Indigenous languages, culture and spirituality, failing to respect the rich history, traditions and wisdom of Indigenous peoples."

In 2015, the Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action asked for such an apology from the entire church in Canada.

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He gives us the gifts we need

#notmyvocation

That was the entire message. I sent it to an acquaintance at the end of a recent text message exchange that began with us talking about marriage and the diaconate and moved into the topic of the priesthood and consecrated life.

When I was a teen, I very seriously considered whether God was calling me to consecrated life. As I moved on to college and young adulthood, though, God made it clear to me that I was called to be a wife and mother.

God knows what he's doing.

I've lost count of the number of times I've had a con-

versation with a priest, deacon or religious sister and had them describe some aspect of their lives that made me think, "nope. I could never live that life." I've had experiences in which a priest or religious sister, upon hearing me or someone else describe some aspect of married life or parenting, says something similar.



**Darcy L.
Fargo**

God gives us each unique gifts. He gives us each unique personalities and preferences.

Those gifts, personalities and preferences are part of what God uses to help us determine how he's calling us to serve him.

As I moved from high school to college, I discovered I really don't do well living with more than one or two other people. I discovered I have an independent streak and boldness that sometimes cause me to struggle with authority. Religious life probably wasn't for me. As I moved into my vocation as a wife and mother, I found amazing happiness with my life serving God as a wife and mom in a small family. I found my independence and boldness were assets as I advocate for a son with a disability and as my husband and I try to raise him to navigate this world.

God gave me what I needed to live the vocation to which he called me. I could give

countless other examples that demonstrate it.

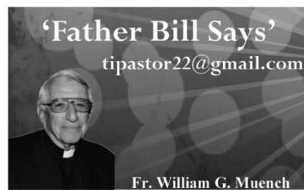
Similarly, as I interact with the deacons, consecrated religious and priests of our diocese, I see how God equips them to serve according to his call. I see the gifts God gave them enabling them to share Christ in different ways to different people.

As we celebrate National Vocations Awareness Week, may we all take the time to thank God for the gifts he has given us that have helped us know our vocations and live our vocations. May we also pray for those who are still discerning their vocations, that they may discover their gifts and use them in the service of our Lord as he has called them.

All Saints Day reflections

Today, I would like to consider with you All Saints Day. Each year we take this opportunity of All Saints Day to celebrate our own saints – those men and women who have transformed our lives and walked with us to lead us to holiness. Our saints also remind us what life is all about, becoming saints ourselves.

Our Catholic Church has canonized many saints to help us find these wonderful guides and models showing us the way. These saints transform who we are and what we can become. Often, we meet a saint by chance and are surprised to discover how they can be such powerful models. A few years ago, I had the wonderful opportunity to make a personal retreat in Assisi. This became a time for me to meet St. Francis through his writings and from those who wrote about him. Doing this in the very place where Francis lived made such a difference. I walked the streets that he walked, prayed in the



churches and places where he prayed, saw the sights that were a constant part of his life... This all had a profound effect on my life. I can truly say that my life was changed by that retreat.

All Saints Day encourages us all to rediscover the saints that touched our lives. We remember our own saints. Many of the saints that have changed my life were never canonized by the Catholic Church. However, I knew them personally, and I am absolutely certain that they are saints. They lived lives of holiness and are with the Lord in Heaven.

I think of my own mother. She was not with us for a very long time. She died young. Yet, her love and concern for her family made a deep influence on each of

us, her children.

I think today of many wonderful friends of mine – firstly the priest friends. I knew so many well. I saw how they ministered as priests and brought the love and peace of the Savior to so many families. I listened to them as they preached and taught. I know how they touched my life in such a profound way. They truly helped to lead me to find the Lord Jesus in a deeper way. And because of their friendship, I knew their own holiness. They were truly saints in every way. My own life is better because of they were there to guide me and show me the way.

There were many other friends also – friends to me and friends of the Lord. They were part of my life helping me to discover how to find holiness. I know that most of them would be rather shy in hearing me call them saints today. I guess they wouldn't feel holy enough. And yet I recognized that they lived such

good lives. They brought Jesus to other people and to their part of the world. I think here of the many dedicated parents who helped me understand what forming a family truly means. I think also of so many wonderful people who were dedicated parishioners in some of the various parishes where I was blessed to serve. Again, I learned so much from them. They were truly saints.

And finally, I think today of the wonderful writers and speakers who have taught me so much and helped to form my life. The list is so long! Most of them have not been canonized and yet have brought such great wisdom and holiness to me and to many others. They are truly saints and among my own personal saints.

I write this today in deep gratitude to the Lord who has brought these many saints into my life to guide me that I may one day join them in that Communion of Saints.

FOLLOW ME

Celebrating Vocations Awareness Week

National Vocations Awareness Week (November 7-13) is a week-long celebration of the Christian vocation. It provides us with a special opportunity to foster an appreciation of all vocations while focusing specifically on those individuals discerning a vocation to the consecrated life and those discerning a vocation to ordained ministry. It's, also, a good time to remember to keep in our prayers our fine seminarians studying for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

We must highlight the importance of Church vocations in our local parishes. As you know, here in the North Country, we continue to address our diocesan Priorities of *Creating a Culture of Vocations*, *Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Life and Building Parishes with Living Stones*. We have heightened our awareness that each of us, by virtue of our baptism, is called to reflect on our own Christian vocation as we encourage others to respond to the Spirit's promptings in their lives.

It's not easy to discern

one's vocation. The Holy Father said that, for this reason, "There needs to be a renewed commitment on the part of the whole Church...to provide young people in particular with opportunities... that can open the way to discovering God's plan, above all through prayer, meditation on God's Word, Eucharistic adoration and spiritual accompaniment."

Particularly during this Year of St.

Joseph, we look to Joseph as an outstanding example of acceptance of God's plans. For St. Joseph, service, as a concrete expression of the gift of self, did not remain simply a high ideal, but became a rule for daily life. Pope Francis wrote, "What a beautiful example of Christian life we give when we refuse to pursue our ambitions or indulge in our illusions, but instead care for what the Lord has entrusted to us through the Church. God then pours out His Spirit and creativity upon us; He works wonders in

us, as He did in Joseph."

I am grateful for the many ways in which our parish families promote vocations. We know how important it is for us to personally invite young women and men to consider a Church vocation. It's good to reflect on the attitude we display in our homes towards the Church and Church leaders. Are we respectful or cynical? Do we exude the joy of

the Gospel or the indifference of secularism? As a family, do we pray and talk about the gift of a Church vocation? Parish vocation committees can be important means by which a parish family focuses on vocation promotion. The Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society (DOV's) is a great source of vocation promotion and support. We are always looking for new members.

This has been a graced year in the Diocese of Ogdensburg as we celebrated the ordinations of four-

teen men to the diaconate and three men to the priesthood. We thank God for their families, friends and parishes who supported and continues to sustain their vocational journey. Through personal prayer, public worship, personal invitation and creative activities, we

must be intentional in our vocational promotion. We are grateful to Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ, Diocesan Vocation Coordinator, and Father Chris Carrara, Director of Vocations and Seminarians, for their tireless efforts in vocation promotion in the North Country.



**Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley**

Jules A. Faubert

October 25, 1934 - October 15, 2021



Jules A. Faubert age 86 of East Main Street Road, Malone, NY, passed away unexpectedly at his home on October 15, 2021.

Born October 25, 1934 in Massena, NY, the son of Juliette Dufour and J. Treffle Faubert. He attended Notre Dame School, St. Joseph's Academy, and graduated from Franklin Academy in 1953 in Malone, NY. He enlisted in the National Guard and served several years.

He was united in marriage to Carolyn Shane October 31, 1953 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fort Covington, NY by Msgr. Edmund Dumas. He was very active in sports, music and antique Buick cars as his family owned Faubert Buick Sales for many years.

Jules will be remembered for his "special" voice being soloist for many funerals and weddings in many churches and radio announcer at WICY radio in Malone. He and his family entertained at many functions. After graduation he worked at ALCOA in Massena, WICY radio for 40 years as an announcer, advertising and sales, Combined Insurance CO for 20 years, along with Service Manager at Faubert Buick. He was presently a Medical Driver for JCEO. He has several old Buicks he restored.

He is survived by his wife Carolyn Faubert; daughter, Maureen Faubert of Malone, NY; son Shane and wife Alison Faubert of Fort Covington, NY; grandchildren, Madeleine and Juliette Faubert; brother, J. Treffle Faubert; sisters-in law, Elizabeth Danielak, Patricia Thompson, Vernita Shane, Dawn McDonagh; and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by parents, Juliette and J. Treffle Faubert; brothers, John and Guy Faubert; sisters, Pauline Faubert, Carmen Laurin, Jeannette Deleel, Juliette Routh, in-laws, Mr and Mrs. Emmett Shane, Mary Frances Shane, Lyle Thompson, Albert Conto, and Walter Danielak.

Funeral services were held October 23, 2021 at Frary Funeral Home in Malone.

A WIN-WIN SITUATION

Adele Finazzo of Brasher Falls is pictured with Father John Yonkovig of St. Agnes in Lake Placid and the new Subaru Forester Finazzo won in the St. Agnes School raffle on Oct. 10. "The students of St. Agnes School are the true winners because this raffle supports 115 youngsters getting the best that education can offer – the smartest start for your child," Father Yonkovig said. Father Yonkovig thanked so many who so generously supported the raffle.



Vocations week: 'I have called you by name'

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSI
Diocesan Vocations Coordinator

"I Have called You by Name." Is God knocking in your heart to serve Him in a special way as a priest, a deacon, a consecrated religious? We have seen pictures of Jesus knocking on the door with no latch on the outside. Jesus waits for the person on the other side of the door to open it. He calls each of us by name to love and to serve Him in a special way. He says, "You are mine."

God has a history of calling people by name to carry forward a special mission, for example Abraham, Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, John the Baptist, Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Peter, Paul. If we read these "Call Stories" in the Old and New Testament, we can identify with their questions, resistance, and struggle as they pondered God's summons to accept the call. Only with the promise of God found in Isaiah 43:1-5, do we hear: "Fear not, for I

have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine." It was a call to a deeper love of God for God for the sake of some mission. And so, too for each of us.

How do we "let God in the door of our hearts" so that we can do more for Him? God is never static. God's gift of His Son and the Spirit constantly stirs deep within each of us His grace to flourish and to grow. Our relationship with God is a love affair, and God desires our hearts to love Him in a special way that no one else can be or do. In the very depth of our hearts, the tabernacle, that holy place where God dwells, let us consider and reflect on these questions: *What activity of God is stirring in your life and in your world? How is God's work being done in and around you in the world? How are you contributing to God's work in your home, workplace, or parish? Is there more that you can do?*

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, challenged Peter with the questions:

"Do you love Me?" three times. Each time, Peter answered, "You know, Lord, that I love you." And each time, Jesus said, "Then feed my lambs," "Feed my sheep," "Follow me" (John 21:15-21).

"The harvest is great, but the laborers are few" (Luke 10:2). By our baptism, all of us are called and commissioned to go out to proclaim the Gospel message. Some are being called by the Good Shepherd to labor in the vineyard as priests, deacons or as consecrated religious priests, brothers or sisters. Can you hear and recognize the voice of the Shepherd calling you? Will you open the door and let the Shepherd in to the call "Follow Me?"

In your prayer, ask, seek, and knock on the door of Jesus' heart to know His love and His will for you to serve Him well. He has called you by name to continue the mission of the Church, to build up His kingdom of love, justice, peace and righteousness. In our perse-

vering prayer, we receive, find and the door is opened. It is an act of faith and trust that the "Father Knows Best," what is good for each one of us.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, then I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me"(Revelation 3:20).

Prayer – Hymn – "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

*Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands,
and let them move
At the impulse of thy love;
Take my heart, it is thine own;
It shall be thy royal throne.
Take my voice, and let me sing
Always my intellect, and use
Every power as thou shalt choose.
Take my will, and make it thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever only all for thee.*

Diocese kicks off participation in synod

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

OGDENSBURG—With the diocesan kickoff Mass held Oct. 17, the Diocese of Ogdensburg has kicked off its participation in the Synod on Synodality.

Pope Francis officially opened the two-year synod on Oct. 10.

"The purpose of the synod is to learn how to be synodal," said Marika Donders, diocesan director of Evangelization and chairperson of the diocesan participation. "The theme is 'Mission, Communication and Participation.' The objectives are to look at what the Holy Spirit is saying to the church and how we are to walk forward together. It's an invitation of the Holy Spirit for us to go on pilgrimage together, in a sense, as a church and to see who we will encounter and how we will encounter

Christ on this journey and how he'll walk with us."

The synod centers around consultation and dialogue.

"It's basically an exercise in listening," Donders said. "It's listening to the Holy Spirit and to each other and listening not with that sense of 'I need an answer' or 'I need to solve a problem,' but coming together. We're all baptized and have received the Holy Spirit. We all have something to say, share and contribute in terms of the process of being church. We're all church together. It's a whole sense of co-responsibility – it's not just the priests and bishop who are responsible for the church. We all have something to contribute to the process. We all walk together. We've all received gifts to share."

Additionally, the process will build on the diocesan envisioning process con-

ducted in 2014.

"As a result of that process, our diocesan priorities were developed," Donders said. "We'll be continuing that process of envisioning. It's time to look at the priorities and see what we need to do next, what we need to tweak and where we go from here."

In terms of the process, Donders noted the synod would be conducted in three phases locally.

"It's a series of conversations that we'll have on different levels," Donders said. "In the parish, there are three phases. The first phase is conversations with existing groups – parish councils, Knights of Columbus, ministerial groups. The second phase is reaching out to those in the pews. The third phase is reaching out to those beyond the church doors. It's not just answering a sur-

vey; the questions are more like prompts for discussion about what we're seeing in the church and society, how we're responding to the Holy Spirit, what the Holy Spirit is calling us to do as church and where we go from here."

Pastors were asked to identify delegates in their parish who could assist in the synodal process in their communities. Bishop Terry R. LaValley invited those delegates to the diocesan opening Mass of the synod, and he'll meet with them this week in sessions planned for Nov. 3 in Clayton, Nov. 4 in Colton and Nov. 5 in Morrisonville.

The synod is also intended to include individuals having one-on-one and group conversations.

"An individual might have coffee with their friends and discussions

with them," Donders said.

After prayerful conversations, themes can be shared with the diocese for consideration in preparation of the diocesan report to the Vatican.

"We'll have an online form to respond back to us," Donders said. "Anyone can respond. It centers around the conversations. We're asking people to talk about themes that came up – listening, authority, what does the church's mission look like, how are you participating in the church, what does community mean to you..."

The diocese is providing delegates and parishes resources and sample questions to guide the conversations held as part of the synodal process.

To learn more about the Synod on Synodality, visit synod.va/en.html. A diocesan website for the local efforts will be live soon.

Grant helps St. Agnes close educational gaps

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

LAKE PLACID – St. Agnes School is closing a gap in services to its students in need of additional assistance with help from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation.

“(Superintendent of Schools) Sister Ellen Rose (Coughlin) approached the principals and let us know about the opportunity with the Cabrini Foundation,” said Catherine Bemis, principal at St. Agnes School. “She really challenged us to think about what would complete our schools and allow us to reach that dream – that thing we wanted to do but couldn’t, usually for financial reasons. It’s long been a dream of ours to provide gap services. It’s something we had been working toward very slowly over the last five years. We wanted to provide specialized services to students who would benefit from them, services like speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, or visits with a counselor or psychologist. It also includes extension services like advanced math options, enrichment opportunities in literacy and numeracy.”

St. Agnes School secured a Mother Cabrini Health Foundation grant that allows the school to provide those gap services, services both public and private schools typically struggle to provide.

State education standards are used to determine when a student qualifies for specialized services. Those standards require that a child be diagnosed with a disability and/or hit specific criteria – they have to be far enough behind – to qualify for academic intervention



PHOTO BY DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

In addition to providing funding for St. Agnes School to offer specialized services to its students, a grant from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation enabled the school to create a “sensory room” that includes specialized seating, bubble lights, weighted blankets and other tools that help students self-regulate when over-stimulated.

services, speech therapy, occupational therapy or physical therapy.

“Only the neediest students receive specialized services,” Bemis said. “It’s been proven time and time again: the younger you add specialized services, the easier it is to close gaps or prevent them from even forming. It allows us to catch and address needs before they become significant, and it prevents some students from falling through the cracks.”

Providing gap services also allows the school to provide services to students who are awaiting further evaluations and potential diagnoses that would qualify them for special education services.

With the grant funding

provided, St. Agnes School has been able to contract with specialized service providers. Those providers work with the school’s classes to aid all students. Doing so also allows them to identify students who may need additional one-on-one instruction.

“We had been exploring teletherapy options even before the pandemic,” Bemis said. “It’s not ideal in early-education settings, but it would’ve been better than nothing. Fortunately, we’ve been incredibly blessed to find an amazing team willing to work with us, and we have not experienced a shortage as we anticipated we might. We have a number of different therapists, including some who were working with us

already providing services to students with (special education services). We had a couple occupational therapists move into the area, and one was willing to do an intervention program for occupational therapy and fine motor skills. That provider goes into every classroom every week and works on age-appropriate skills. It might be teaching scissor skills and pencil grip with the youngest students and more complex fine motor skills with older students. Through that, students in need of additional support can be identified.”

The Cabrini Foundation grant is also allowing St. Agnes School to train its staff to provide specialized services.

“One of our main concerns was if we secured the grant, would we be able to find service providers in the area,” noted Bemis. “To address that, we included a number of professional development opportunities that would allow us to access expertise and build the skills we have here in-house. We wanted our teachers to be able to continue the work in the absence of the specialized care.”

The grant also funded the creation of a “sensory room,” a space for service providers to work with students and for students to “self-regulate when over-stimulated.”

“We have spaces where services can be delivered – table and chairs for speech therapy and occupational therapy, open spaces for physical therapy and gross motor activities,” said Bemis. “And there’s a ‘cozy corner’ with a number of sensory items – bubble tubes, weighted blankets, fiber optic lighting, soft seating. It’s a place where

students can go to self-regulate when they’re over-stimulated or feeling overwhelmed.”

Creating the space allowed the involved therapy providers to choose the equipment, tools and toys that would best allow them to help students.

“It’s been great,” said Trish Friedlander, a speech language pathologist working with St. Agnes School. “As a private speech pathologist, I’ve never had anyone ask what materials I’d like to use or give me the opportunity to order materials I wanted like that.”

More than that, though, Friedlander said she’s appreciating the opportunity to help students in need who might otherwise not qualify for services.

“We’re seeing tons of progression, and the school year just started,” she said. “The key is that kids who wouldn’t get services are getting services, and they’re improving their communications skills in and out of the classroom.”

That ability to aid students has been especially instrumental given the current needs, Bemis said.

“We thought this grant would be meaningful and impactful when we initially wrote the application before the pandemic started,” she said. “Now, seeing it in action during this pandemic fallout, it’s so much more than we thought it would be. We’re able to do more than we thought and help more kids.”

Ultimately, that helps the school meet its educational goals.

“Our education philosophy here at St. Agnes is to provide individualized programs and a curriculum that allows students to work at their own level and be supported,” Bemis said. “This really goes with that.”

Environmental Stewardship

Crisis or opportunity?

Shortages, shortages everywhere, and every day brings word of yet another type of shortage. It can be quite frustrating when items that were so common and have become so integrated into our lives are now absent from store shelves. The disruption to our daily routine may cause anger and irritability towards anyone and everyone around you. However, we must remember that these failures to our supply chains are well beyond the control on any individual or group.

Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si* emphasizes that most of us have become addicted to a culture of consumerism, and we have placed too much emphasis on the desire to purchase items that we want rather than those few items that we really need. Our habit of whimsically acquiring far more stuff than what we have room for is causing the depletion of much of our planet's resources and producing more waste material than can be imagined.

As various items disappear from store shelves or from online shopping sites, it is important to be patient and maintain a pleasant attitude toward those around you. This seems to be the perfect time to try to live with less and adopt the simpler life style that is so desperately needed to slow the rate of global warming. With the Christmas season rapidly approaching, curtailing your shopping instincts and refocusing your view of the upcoming holiday with fewer store bought gifts and more homemade items can have a very positive impact on the health of our common home.

There is no shortage of beauty in the natural world, as it can be found when looking carefully at a tree in your yard, a bird at a feeder or a spider crawling across a ceiling. There is also no shortage of God's love for each and every one of us, and we should spend more time sitting quietly and appreciating His presence in our lives. As the time arrives to get gifts for loved one in your life, try to become less of a consumer and more of a giver of the gift of your time and presence to family members, friends and to the source of all life.

By Tom Kalinowski, Saranac Lake
Member of Faith and Ecology Group

Bishop's Public Schedule

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

Nov. 4 – 10:30 a.m. – Diocesan Finance Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

6 p.m. – Regional Synod Meeting at St. Patrick's Church in Colton

Nov. 5 – 10:15 a.m. – Mass with the students at St. James School in Gouverneur followed by classroom visits

6 p.m. – Regional Synod Meeting at The Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph (at St. Alexander's Church) in Morrisonville

Nov. 6 – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Nov. 7 – 10:30 a.m. – Mass at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Watertown followed by Destination Confirmation gathering

Nov. 9 – 11 a.m. – Development Board of Advisors Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

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

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri-
anne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terri-
anneyanulavich@yahoo.com
Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-
569-0612 evenings; or Father
Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal
Vicar for Clergy;
ccarrara@rcdony.org Phone: 315-
393-2920 ext. 1340. If you have a
complaint of suspected sexual
abuse or related misconduct by the
bishops, contact the **Catholic
Bishop Abuse Reporting Serv-
ice** at 800-276-1562 or
www.ReportBishopAbuse.org.

Funeral Mass celebrated for Sister Alice Moran

A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Alice Moran, an Ursuline, was celebrated on Friday, October 29 at the Ursuline Province Center in New Rochelle.

Sister Alice Moran, OSU, an Ursuline of the Roman Union, died peacefully on October 23, 2021, at Andrus on Hudson.

Born in New York in 1931, Alice was the daughter of Catherine and Edward Moran. Sister Alice received her early education in the Bronx and graduated from the Academy of Mount St. Ursula.

After completing her novitiate training, she received a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in English. She was known as Mother Mary Columba.

Sister Alice's entire life was one of service to others whether it was in the classroom or as principal, spiritual director or retreat director. She was a faculty member at the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, The Ursuline School, Principal of Ursuline Academy, Wilmington,



Sister Alice Moran, OSU

Delaware and taught at several parochial Schools including St. Angela's, St. Philip Neri, Our Lady of Mercy, St. Jerome's, all in the Bronx, and Corpus Christi in Jennings, Missouri.

Sister Alice served the Diocese of Ogdensburg for many years as a spiritual director and as a board member of Bishop Brzana's Pastoral Council and the Formation for Ministry program.

Within the community, Sister Alice served as the

superior of the North Ave. and St. Jerome's communities. As director of novices and instructor in the inter-community novitiate, Sister Alice worked with young women who were entering religious life. Sister Alice was a member of the Provincial Council and the Board of Ursuline Associates.

A true daughter of Ireland, Sister Alice always had a smile that could light up a room. She was exceptionally close to her Irish cousins. She is the last of her immediate family having been predeceased by her parents, Catherine and Edward.

Donations in memory of Sister Alice may be made to the Ursuline Province, 1338 North Ave., New Rochelle, New York, 10804.

Rest in Peace

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

Nov. 3 – Rev. Thomas Plunkett, 1904

Nov. 4 – Msgr. Benjamin Harrison Staie, 1970

Nov. 5 – Most Rev. David E. Bacon, 1874; Rev. Bernard Wyzkowski, 1969; Rev. John Michael Wyzkowski, 1969

Nov. 7 – Rev. Dennis Nolan, 1911; Rev. William Ouellette, O.M.I., 1936; Msgr. William, H. Brennan, 1986

Nov. 8 – Rev. Patrick McGilligan, 1828

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.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

PIVOTAL PLAYERS
PRESENTATION

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.

ADIRONACK

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.

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

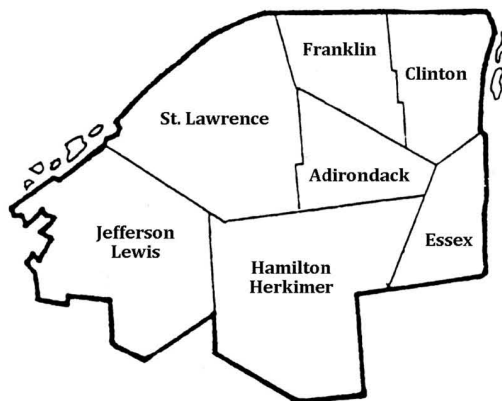
Time: 2 p.m.

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

Plattsburgh – First Annual Holy Cross



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.

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: Delicious Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans, gravy, dinner 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.

CRAFT FAIR

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

Date: Nov. 20

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.

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.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

MUSICAL MISSION

Watertown – Catholic Churches of Watertown to have their 9th Annual Musical Mission.

Date: Nov. 4

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8

Place: Holy Family Church

Features: Evening of patriotic and light tunes from students & local artists including Indian River Strings, Turning Point barbershop quartet, and a jazz band. Free admission. Free-will offering will be taken up to benefit Watertown Urban Mission.

Contact: For more information call 315-788-1101

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

CHICKEN & 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

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY Massena - Sacred Heart Church to have first Saturday Rosary Devotion.

Date: Nov. 3

Time: 3:15 p.m.

Features: First Saturday Rosary Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. Confessions will be available. Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 p.m.

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 & 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

Time: 5 p.m. to 7:30

Place: Brzana Hall below St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: We have no curriculum; YOU 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. 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

their 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.

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: Wadhams Hall, Ogdensburg. Presenter will be Jamie Burns, a teacher from Trinity Catholic School. If you choose to stay for lunch it will be \$15. Eastern Region: Newman Center, Plattsburgh. Presenter will be Sister Jackie Sellappan, SCC. Simple lunch will be provided.

Cost: \$10

Contact: Register at 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: 3 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: rcdony.org/lovingauthentically. For information, contact Faith Formation Assistant Director Cathy Russell at crussell@rcdony.org or call 315-393-2920.

Biden says pope told him to continue receiving Communion

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis and U.S. President Joe Biden had an unusually long meeting at the Vatican Oct. 29, talking about the climate crisis and poverty, but not about abortion, the president said.

Some U.S. bishops have argued that Biden, who regularly attends Mass, should not receive Communion because of his support for legalized abortion, while Catholic Church teaching emphasizes the sacredness of human life from conception to natural death.

Asked if abortion was one of the topics of his meeting with the pope, Biden responded, "We just talked about the fact he was happy that I was a good Catholic, and I should keep receiving Communion."

Biden spoke to reporters at Rome's Palazzo Chigi where he was meeting Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi after meeting Pope Francis.

The Vatican described the president's meetings with both the pope and with top Vatican diplomats as consisting of "cordial discussions," with both sides "focused on the joint commitment to the protection and care of the planet, the health care situation and the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic."

They also discussed "refugees and assistance to migrants," the Vatican said, and "reference was also made to the protection of human rights, including freedom of religion and conscience."

The pope and the president also exchanged "views on some matters regarding the current international situation, also in the context of the immi-

grant G20 summit in Rome, and on the promotion of peace in the world through political negotiation," it said.

According to a statement released by the White House, "President Biden thanked His Holiness for his advocacy for the world's poor and those suffering from hunger, conflict and persecution."

"He lauded Pope Francis' leadership in fighting the climate crisis, as well as his advocacy to ensure the pandemic ends for everyone through vaccine sharing and an equitable global economic recovery," the statement said.

During a nearly 90-minute meeting in the library of the Apostolic Palace, which included 75 minutes of closed-door discussions between the two leaders, Pope Francis gave Biden a large painted ceramic tile of a pilgrim walking along Rome's Tiber River and pointing to St. Peter's Basilica in the distance. It and its border of shell designs symbolize "protection from adversity" during one's spiritual growth and the hope of reaching a deeper and more fulfilling purpose at the end of this spiritual journey, according to an explanation of the artistic piece.

Pope Francis also gave the president a signed copy of his message for World Day of Peace 2021, a collection of his major documents, including his document on human fraternity, and the book, "Why Are You Afraid? Have You No Faith? The World Facing the Pandemic." The book contains photographs and homilies, messages and prayers the pope delivered during the pandemic, emphasizing

the importance of love, hope, solidarity and the common good.

Biden presented Pope Francis with a framed, handwoven "fiddleback" chasuble that had been made by Gamarellis, the famous Rome tailor shop, in 1930, for Jesuits in the United States. The White House was also making a donation of winter clothing to charities in the name of Pope Francis to commemorate the World Day of the Poor Nov. 14.

Biden also gave the pope a copy of his memoir, "Promise Me, Dad: A Year of Hope, Hardship, and Purpose," about losing his firstborn son, Beau Biden, to brain cancer at the age of 46 and a presidential command coin inscribed with the unit of his late son, who had been deployed to Iraq in 2008.

Biden explained the reason for the coin to the pope, "I'm not sure this is appropriate, but there's a tradition in America that the president has what is called a command coin that he gives to warriors and leaders and you are the most significant warrior for peace I've ever met."

"And with your permission, I'd like to give you this coin," he said, saying, "I know my son would want me to give this to you."

"The tradition — I'm only kidding about this — next time I see you, if you don't have it, you have to buy the drinks," Biden said, adding, however, "I'm the only Irishman you've ever met who's never had a drink."

Later, as the pope walked Biden to the door, he thanked him for the visit and "for this," he said, clutching the coin.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Survey: Americans favor separation of church, state

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Nearly three times as many Americans favor the federal government enforcing the separation of church and state than want to see the government stop doing so. Fifty-four percent of those polled by the Pew Research Center on the issue favor the continued separation of church and state, while 19% would rather the government stop enforcing it. The percentage of those opposed finished behind the 27% who said they didn't know or refused to answer. By an even larger margin, 67% said the Constitution reflects the vision of those who wrote it, "not necessarily God's vision" — nearly four times as great as the 18% who said the document was "inspired by God" and "reflects God's vision for America." These are two key findings of online polling of more than 12,000 Americans in a study released Oct. 28. In the poll, sizable majorities also said the federal government should never declare any religion as the United States' official religion, and that it should advocate moral values "held by people of many faiths." The percentages of those who feel that the United States should be declared a Christian nation, or that the government should advocate Christian values, were in the teens.

Vatican extends traditional All Souls' Day indulgences

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With the COVID-19 pandemic still underway and with restrictions on gatherings still in place in some countries, the Vatican has again extended the period of time when people can earn a plenary indulgence for visiting a cemetery and praying for the souls of the faithful in purgatory. Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, head of the Apostolic Penitentiary, a Vatican tribunal dealing with matters of conscience, said the indulgences traditionally obtained during the first week of November can be gained throughout the entire month of November, the Vatican announced Oct. 28. The cardinal said he was acting in response to "pleas recently received from various sacred pastors of the church because of the state of the continuing pandemic." Traditionally, the faithful could receive a full indulgence each day from Nov. 1 to Nov. 8 when they visited a cemetery to pray for the departed and fulfilled other conditions.

Vatican extends until August initial listening phase for Synod

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — To ensure all Catholics have an opportunity to share and to listen as part of the initial process leading up to the Synod of Bishops in 2023, the Vatican has extended the local phase by more than three months. Pope Francis officially opened the process Oct. 10 and bishops were to do the same in their dioceses a week later, opening a six-month period of prayer and discussion with the aim of involving any Catholic who wanted to participate as well as reaching out to people who no longer practice their faith and to the Catholic Church's ecumenical partners. "During this period, we have heard, over and over again and from many quarters, the request to extend the duration of the first phase of the synodal process in order to provide a greater opportunity for the people of God to have an authentic experience of listening and dialogue," the synod office said in a note Oct. 29. "Aware that a synodal church is a church that listens, considering that this first phase is essential for this synodal path and evaluating these requests, and always seeking the good of the church, the Ordinary Council of the Synod of Bishops has decided to extend until Aug. 15, 2022, the deadline for the presentation of the summaries of the consultations" by bishops' conferences and the Eastern Catholic churches, it said.

NOW PLAYING DUNE

NEW YORK (CNS)—The gripping sci-fi epic "Dune" (Warner Bros.) arrives on screen with a notable real-life backstory.

The 1965 novel by Frank Herbert on which it's based is considered a classic of the genre — and may be its best-selling title of all time. Director David Lynch's 1984 adaptation, on the other hand, was both a critical and box-office disaster.

It may have taken some courage, then, for the new version's helmer and co-writer, Denis Villeneuve, to make a fresh bid at interpreting Herbert's saga. Happily, he succeeds, thanks in large part to characters with whom it's

easy to sympathize and to a tone in the script Villeneuve penned with Jon Spaihts and Eric Roth that mostly manages to convey a sense of gravity without indulging in self-importance.

The plot centers on Paul Atreides (Timothée Chalamet). The heir to a powerful dynasty of intergalactic warriors, Paul also may be the messiah figure foretold in various prophecies.

After the ruler of the empire to which Paul and his family belong appoints his father, Duke Leto (Oscar Isaac), governor of the titular world — a desert planet rich in a highly-prized spice — the forces the duke commands get caught up

in a battle for control of its population and resources. Their principal opposition comes from a rival clan, the villainous Harkonnen.

As the struggle unfolds, Paul seeks to emulate his sage and enlightened dad. But his priestess mother, Lady Jessica (Rebecca Ferguson), steers him toward a more mysterious destiny.

Combining elements of a costume drama, an against-the-odds quest and a parable about imperialism, the movie features a complex religious mythos requiring careful reflection on the part of viewers. There are hints, for instance, that the empire is vaguely Christian — some of its officials wear outfits

reminiscent of liturgical vestments — while the inhabitants of Dune, aka Arrakis, seem quasi-Muslim.

As for the spiritual role Paul may eventually assume, it appears to align more closely with a combative military and political savior than with the suffering servant spoken of by Isaiah and highlighted in the New Testament. Paul and his mom — who, we learn, is Duke Leto's concubine, not his wife — also share an occult ability to overcome other people's free will.

Parents will probably find "Dune" acceptable for those older adolescents capable of sorting through such material. Like their

elders, teen moviegoers will appreciate the straightforward dramatic appeal of Paul's coming-of-age story while perhaps being inclined to let its slightly dicey transcendental elements slide.

The film contains non-scriptural beliefs, much stylized but sometimes intense violence, cohabitation, partial nudity, brief sexual references, a few mild oaths and at least one crude term.

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.

March for Life: Unborn part of inequality debate

WASHINGTON (CNS)—It's a question Jeanne Mancini has already been asked so many times, she has an answer ready to go.

On Dec. 1, the Supreme Court hears oral arguments in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, an appeal by Mississippi to remove a lower court's injunction on its law banning most abortions after the 15th week of pregnancy.

Should the court rule in favor of the state law in a decision to be handed down next year, overturning *Roe v. Wade* and sending the abortion issue back to the states, will there still be a need for the annual rally and march in Washington?

Or will March for Life, a fixture since January 1974, instead become a decentralized arrangement of statewide marches?

"We will make an announcement if and when that happens," Mancini, president of the March for

Life Education and Defense Fund, told Catholic News Service.

State marches that began a few years ago, she said, were not planned in anticipation of any Supreme Court decision, but rather as a way "to strengthen the grassroots" and provide opportunities for activism for those who don't make the long trip to Washington.

Carrie Severino, president of Judicial Crisis Network, identified the challenge should the court uphold the Mississippi law. "It really just puts the ball back in (the states') court. There should be 50 Marches for Life," she said during the Oct. 27 announcement of next year's theme, "Equality Begins in the Womb."

"We want to expand this rigorous debate about inequality" to the unborn, Mancini said at the Heritage Foundation, where the theme was announced.

Calling the theme a cry

for "inherent human dignity because of who we are in our essence," she added, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to injustice everywhere, including in the womb."

Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, said in a statement that "it reclaims a key word — equality — and reminds us that unless children in the womb enjoy it, the rest of us lose it as well."

The March for Life is scheduled for Jan. 21. The event, which starts with a rally near the National Mall followed by a march to the Supreme Court, is always held on a date near the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 rulings, *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*, companion rulings that legalized abortion nationwide.

"It's going to be one of the most significant years for the march yet," said Severino. "This court has an opportunity like none it has had before with the

Dobbs case."

The Mississippi law was enacted in 2018, but it never took effect because a federal appellate court immediately blocked its enforcement. The state's single abortion clinic is still performing them.

With Justice Amy Coney Barrett joining Justices Brett Kavanaugh and Neil Gorsuch, as well as Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas, Severino said, "we now have a majority of justices on the court who believe the Constitution must be interpreted according to its original understanding, and its original meaning."

She predicted that "a lot of Americans would be relieved" at a decision overturning *Roe*, and accused "the dark-money left" of trying to add liberal justices to the court by increasing its membership.

Also speaking at the Heritage Foundation was Ryan Bomberger, co-founder of the Radiance Foundation, who criticized a statement

Vice President Kamala Harris made during an Oct. 21 event marking the 10th anniversary of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial: "We must defend and strengthen the right that unlocks all other rights: the right to vote."

"Not exactly, Madam Vice President," said Bomberger. "Life is the right that unlocks all other rights. Human rights begin when human life begins."

The turnout of more than 100,000 people for the 2020 March for Life is considered the all-time high for the event. Attendees packed the National Mall to hear President Donald Trump address the rally in person.



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Readings highlight God's generosity

Our readings this week are most appropriate for Stewardship Sunday, since they highlight God's generosity to those who give to God "until it hurts"! God, in turn, is even more generous than they are.

Take the poor widow, for instance, in the first reading from the first Book of Kings. Elijah, who is on the run from the wicked King Ahab, finds her out picking up sticks so she can make a



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

fire. Elijah is hungry and asks the woman to please make him a little cake. He soon finds out that the woman has nothing in the house except a small bit of flour and oil. It's going to be the last meal for herself and her son before they die! Nevertheless, out of this little bit, she feeds Elijah first. He tells her that, as a reward, her oil and flour will last until the rains come again (which turns out to be a

November 7

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

1 Kings 17:10-16

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44

whole year). God will not be outdone in generosity!

Mark's Gospel narrates a really moving story about Jesus in the Temple observing those who are putting in collection money. He's really impressed with a poor widow who puts in two copper coins, all she has to live on. In her humil-

ity, she probably hoped that no one would see this, since there were many rich people around her putting in large sums. Far be it from Jesus to discourage the wealthy from making big donations! He's merely pointing out how more admirable is sacrificial giving than just giving from what one has left over!

Jesus had a soft spot in his heart for widows. They were the most vulnerable people in the society of his time, for there was no "social security" of any kind, and no husband to protect and provide for them. He

has just finished a scorching condemnation of the religious authorities for their insensitivity to the plight of these widows. Instead of helping them, they were taking away what little they had through unbearable temple taxes.

These are difficult times for us to ponder what we can give to our church and its many needs. With so much unemployment and real poverty in our own country, it takes real trust in God to decide what He expects of us. May the Lord be pleased with our sacrifice.

CALLED TO SERVE

The deacon's role when Mass begins

There aren't many events the Catholic Church has not anticipated. There is a rubric for everything. A rubric is a direction in a liturgical book as to how a church service should be conducted.

Perhaps the Church has not authored the proper procedure to follow when a mouse runs in front of the first pews, or a confused sparrow buzzes the congregation in the nave, but everything else seems to be covered.

The rubrics tell deacons, all the participating ministers in fact, what they are supposed to do and not do

in the course of the celebration of the Mass.

If he is not carrying the Book of the Gospels, the deacon walks in the opening procession at the side of the celebrant. It's different if the celebrant is a bishop, but let's not go there just now.

At the Mass, the deacon will assist the celebrant. If no other minister is present, like an altar server, the deacon carries out those functions too.

Lighting candles comes to mind. Celebrants usually delegate that job, lighting candles for Mass, to an altar server. But if

there is no altar server, the deacon makes sure the candles are lit.

Which brings to mind the time I was walking next to my then pastor, Father Art LaBaff, in the opening procession for Mass. We were joyously joining the congregation in the opening hymn when Father interrupted his singing long enough to say to me, "what do you think, should we have candles at this Mass or not?" Oops. I had forgotten to light the candles. With great pomp, I proceeded to light the candles while the hymn was finishing and Father was

greeting the congregation. Lesson learned. Back to the opening of Mass.

The celebrant and deacon bow or genuflect at the entrance to the sanctuary. As a rule, if there is a tabernacle in front of us, we genuflect (if we can) otherwise we bow. Whether we bow or genuflect is a function of age and dexterity. Either is reverent.

Then the priest and deacon proceed to the altar and kiss it.

The altar is the table of sacrifice. It is the table on which the bread and wine will become the body and

blood of Jesus. Kissing the altar is a sign of reverence and respect.

The celebrant greets everybody, we bless ourselves and immediately recognize that we are sinful people who humbly come to church to hear God's Word and receive his Body and Blood. We beg God to look on us with mercy, His mercy. The penitential rite is a significant beginning to the Mass. The deacon will usually lead this prayer unless the celebrant decides to use a different form, like the Confiteor for example.

There are some variations to the opening of Mass depending on the occasion or season, but that is generally how things start. Next week, the Liturgy of the Word.



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

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 Find us on Facebook!

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

A 'thank you' from Pope Francis

A "thank you" and the request for "a big applause" for "the many missionaries – priests, men and women religious and lay faithful – who spend their energies in the front line in the service of the Church, paying personally – sometimes at a high price – for their witness". Thus, on World Mission Sunday, celebrated all over the world by the Catholic Church on the penultimate Sunday of October, Pope Francis wanted to express his gratitude to all the baptized involved in the "missio ad gentes", highlighting that they do this "not to proselytize, but to bear witness to the Gospel in their lives in lands that do not know Jesus."

Before the Angelus, Pope Francis commented on the Gospel passage in which Jesus restores sight to Bartimaeus and had also suggested that an unmistakable trait of Christian life – and therefore also



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSI, Director
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mbrett@rcdony.org

of every missionary work and every experience of authentic holiness – is the begging of miracles, gestures that can only be carried out by Christ himself, starting with the miracle of change that he alone can work in the hearts of men and women.

"Bartimaeus," Pope Francis pointed out, "had lost his sight, but not his voice! For, when he heard Jesus was about to pass by, he begins to cry out: 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus hears, and immediately stops. God always listens to the cry of the poor and is not at all disturbed by Bartimaeus' voice, rather, he realizes it

is full of faith, a faith that is not afraid to insist, to knock on the door of God's heart."

Bartimaeus – the Pope added – "does not ask for some loose change as he does with passersby. No. He asks for everything from the One who can do everything. He asks people for loose change; he asks everything from Jesus who can do everything: 'Have mercy on me, have mercy on all that I am.'"

When faith is alive – the Pope remarked – prayer is heartfelt.

"It does not beg for spare change, it is not reduced to momentary needs. We must ask everything of

Jesus, who can do everything. Do not forget this. We must ask everything of Jesus, with my insistence before Him. He cannot wait to pour out his grace and joy into our hearts; but unfortunately, it is we who keep our distance, through timidity, laziness or unbelief."

To offer a concrete image to confirm his exhortations, Pope Francis also re-proposed an episode drawn from his long pastoral experience.

"Many of us, when we pray," noted the Pontiff, "do not believe that the Lord can work miracles. I am reminded of the story – which I have seen – of the father who was told by the doctors that his 9-year-old daughter would not spend the night; she was in hospital. And he took a bus and travelled 70 kilometers to the Shrine of Our Lady. It was closed and, clinging to the gate, spent the whole night praying: 'Lord, save

her! Lord, give her life!' He prayed to Our Lady, all night long, crying out to God, crying from his heart. Then in the morning, when he returned to the hospital, he found his wife weeping. And he thought: 'she is dead.' And his wife said: 'No one understands, no one understands, the doctors say it's a strange thing, she seems to have healed.' The cry of that man who asked for everything," Pope Francis remarked, "was heard by the Lord who had given him everything. This is not a story: I saw this myself, in the other diocese. Do we have this courage in prayer? To the One who can give us everything, let us ask everything, like Bartimaeus, who was a great teacher, a great master of prayer. May Bartimaeus, with his genuine, insistent and courageous faith, be an example for us."

Article from FIDES missionary news service of the Pontifical Mission Societies

OBITUARIES

Brownville – Theodore E. Stevens, 74; Private Services held.

Brownville – Jill M. (Doull) Wojtarowicz, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 27, 2021 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Brownville Cemetery.

Cadyville – Eugene L. Sears, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 30, 2021 at St. James Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Carthage – Thomas A. Lofink, 56; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 29, 2021 at St. James Church.

Champlain – Jeremy W. Patrie, 45; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 29, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Chazy – Yolanda (Curtis) Kirby, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 29, 2021 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Clayton – Irene Mae Peters-LaLonde-MacGregor, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 30, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Colton – Richard F. Ensbys, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 26, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Ellenburg – Gary W. Begor, 65; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 28, 2021 at St. Edmund's Church.

Houseville – Stanley J. Szalach, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 29, 2021 at St. Hedwig's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lake Placid – John Henry Rickard III, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 29, 2021 at St. Agnes Church.

Louisville – Victor Delford Smith, 61; Memorial Services Nov. 6, 2021 at St. Lawrence Church.

Malone – Paul R. Normandeau, 56;

Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 28, 2021 at Notre Dame Church.

Morrisonville – Florence Mary (Demary) Rock, 96; Private services to be held; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery.

Norwood – Deborah A. (Tynon) Gravlin, 69; Funeral Services Oct. 30, 2021 at Buck Funeral Home.

Norwood – Freda (Mallory) LaBrake, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 29, 2021 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Garfield Cemetery, Potsdam.

Ogdensburg – James "Jim" C. Bice, 95; Funeral Services Oct. 26, 2021 at Frary Funeral Home; burial Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Rebecca L. (Gibson) Gilbo, 65; Funeral Services Oct. 25, 2021 at LaRue & Pitcher Funeral Home; burial in Ogdensburg Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Patricia (Redden) Sargent, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 30, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Peru – Earl "Tom" Sears, 74; Funeral Services Oct. 27, 2021 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

Saranac Lake – Mary Jean (Losey) Poirier, 78; Funeral Services Oct. 29, 2021 at Fortune-Keough Funeral Home; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Scott D. Baker, 37;

Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 26, 2021 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Watertown – David I. LaParr, 76; Private Services to be held.

Watertown – Josephine A. "Nana" (Capone) Ossola, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 28, 2021 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Sharon (Greco) Redden, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 6, 2021 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Wilmington – Dorothy (Egan) Malkin, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 30, 2021 at St. Margaret's Church; burial in Haselton Cemetery.

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MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

Decisions of consequence

I recently watched a compelling video prepared by a group called "Heartbeat International." They provide women, who regret having taken an abortion pill, the chance to reverse their decision through a treatment involving progesterone. The protocol, though not yet officially "peer-reviewed," appears to work well if the woman doesn't wait too long, and the video includes pictures and rescue dates of many beautiful babies who have been saved this way.

What also caught my attention were the stories of several nurses working at Heartbeat International.

"I wanted to help out in a meaningful way," one of them, named Amanda, said. "I was very excited to hear about abortion-pill reversal for the first time... I thought: God just brought that in front of me, and I think that's what I'm meant to do."

She went on to share a follow-up from two mothers whom she had recently assisted.

"They sent me pictures on WhatsApp after they had their babies. ... I'm so thankful for their courage

and their bravery. They talked about how much they love their babies and I'm just so happy for them. I'm just so grateful God gave me that opportunity to speak with both of them.

I've never had this kind of fulfillment in any previous nursing job that I've had - that feeling of Yes! - I'm making a difference in someone's life, ... a difference in eternity."

Every child saved this way is someone who now enjoys the opportunity to grow up, go to school, get married, have kids, grandkids and great-grandkids. It clearly makes an incalculable difference for that child, as well as for untold others. An "eternal difference."

Each of us would like for our lives and our work to "make a difference," and especially to make a lasting, impactful, and eternal difference.

It should come as no small consolation to understand that whenever we make deliberate moral choices for the good or turn away from what is

wrong, we are already starting to make those "eternal differences." Through such decisions of consequence, we align our own will with God's, and contribute, in his wisdom, to rectifying the many patterns of sin around and within us. Such decisions enable us to collaborate with his all-encompassing redemptive plan.

In the field of bioethics, these "decisions of consequence" arise with great

regularity. When one of our ethicists at The National Catholic Bioethics Center, for example, helps a husband and wife to understand the moral problems surrounding in vitro fertilization, not only can this help them avoid the tragedy of trapping their young offspring in "frozen orphanages," but it can also help them reflect on deeper questions like, "What does our infertility really mean?," and, "How does God want us to be fruitful?" This can lead them to consider new paths of grace, like reaching out to kids in the com-

munity who are parentless, through mentoring programs such as Big Brother/Big Sister, or through pursuing the generous path of foster parenting and adoption. Such generosity is another "decision of consequence" where we stand to make an eternal difference.

Our "decisions of consequence" need not be great or lofty gestures; they can be quite simple. I recall a true story first relayed by John W. Schlatter in 1993, that has circulated widely since.

Bill was walking home after his junior high school classes, his arms full of books and other items from his locker. At a certain point, everything spilled out of his arms, and another boy named Mark witnessed it and came over to help him pick it up off the ground, making some friendly small talk. The two of them decided to spend part of the afternoon together, playing games and goofing off. In succeeding weeks and months, they became friends.

Years later, Bill was reminiscing with Mark, and he brought up the day they first met.

"Did you ever wonder why I was carrying so many things home that day?" he asked. "I cleaned

out my locker because I didn't want to leave a mess for anyone else. I had stored away some of my mother's sleeping pills and I was going home to commit suicide. But after we spent some time together talking and laughing, I realized that if I had killed myself, I would have missed that time and so many others that might follow. So Mark, when you picked up those books that day, you did a lot more: you saved my life."

In a sense, each day for us involves a walk along the threshold of eternity, through small and not-so-small gestures, even though we may not always see the full implications of each of our decisions. Each day we have a chance to make beautiful, potentially life-saving and indeed eternal "decisions of consequence."

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org and www.fathertad.com.



Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk Ph.D.



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