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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 75, Number 42

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 10, 2021

Bishop issues statement on Coronavirus vaccines

On March 4, Bishop Terry R. LaValley released a statement on the available Coronavirus vaccines.

Bishop LaValley is encouraging Catholics in the North Country to receive any of the coronavirus vaccines that are available to them.

"In light of conflicting information, I encourage people to be vaccinated against the virus," said Bishop LaValley.

"In the current pandemic, given the limited vaccine options available, it is morally permissible to receive any of the vaccines," he added.

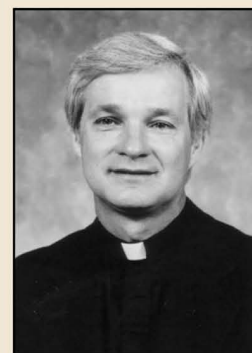
FULL STORY, PAGE 3

LINKED BY KINDNESS



Students at St. Agnes School in Lake Placid took part in a school-wide Kindness Challenge for the month of February. Each time students saw a classmate or a teacher doing something kind, they received a link for the chain. The chain reached from the beginning of the schools hallway to the end.

REMEMBERING FR. WERTMAN



Father Raymond J. Wertman died March 2 while under the care of Hospice in the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida, where he had resided since retiring in 1998. Father Wertman, along with a parishioner of Holy Family Church in Watertown, founded Credo Foundation, a treatment facility for individuals battling addiction.

FULL STORY, PAGE X

Pope at Mass in Irbil: Cleanse your hearts of anger

IRBIL, Iraq (CNS)— Having witnessed or even experienced persecution for their faith, the Christians of Iraq must be careful not to harbor thoughts of revenge, Pope Francis told them.

After a full morning paying tribute to the victims of Islamic State violence, Pope Francis reached the last major event of his trip to Iraq: Mass March 7 with some 10,000 people at Irbil's Franso Hariri Stadium. Many ignored the social distancing measures put in place, and few wore the masks they were required to have because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Irbil, capital of the Kurdistan autonomous region in northern Iraq, hosts Syrian refugees and hundreds of thousands of displaced people, particularly Christians, from Mosul, Qaraqosh and other towns that had been under the thumb of Islamic State militants in 2014-2017.

After blessing the altar with incense, Pope Francis blessed a partially restored statue of Mary from a parish in Karmless. The Islamic State militants decapitated the statue and cut off its hands. The restoration re-attached the head, but left the hands dangling.

"Here in Iraq, how many of your brothers and sisters, friends and fellow citizens bear the wounds of war and violence, wounds both visible and invisible," the pope told the crowd. "The temptation is to react to these and other painful experiences with human power, human wisdom," but the path of Jesus was to serve, to heal, to love and to offer his life for others.

Referring to St. John's Gospel account of Jesus cleansing the temple, Pope Francis said Jesus did not want his Father's house to be a marketplace, and "neither does he want our hearts to be places of tur-

moil, disorder and confusion."

"Our heart must be cleansed, put in order and purified," the pope said.

Anything that leads a person away from God or causes them to ignore the suffering of others must be cleansed, he said. "We need the baneful temptations of power and money to be swept from our hearts and from the church."

But, the pope told them, "to cleanse our hearts, we need to dirty our hands, to feel accountable and not to simply look on as our brothers and sisters are suffering."

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EDITOR'S NOTE

'Awwwww! That's so cute'

"Who's cooking tonight?" my friend asked, knowing that my husband, Adam, cooks dinner as often or more often than I do.

"We're cooking together," I responded. "Right now, I'm chopping veggies and getting the rice cooker going while Adam works on the chicken."

"Awwwww! That's so cute," my friend replied. "I love that you two cook together."

"Cute? We're hungry! We want to make the food as fast as possible so we can eat the food as soon as possible. This is an efficiency thing."

I was thinking about my

friend's assessment the next time Adam and I cooked together. While the main purpose of our cooking combination is, in fact, efficiency, it is sort of cute.



Darcy L.
Fargo

When we cook together, Adam and I chat about our days, we playfully joke with one another, and we're constantly making physical contact with one another, even if it's just our shoulders touching as we cross in the narrow space between the refrigerator and the kitchen table as we go to or from the pantry.

We both really enjoy cooking and experimenting with

new recipes and types of foods. It's one of the few hobbies we have in common.

While cooking is essentially a necessary task and part of running our household, cooking together is also a way we share our love. It's time for us to devote to ourselves and our relationship.

I've been trying to incorporate that same concept in my spiritual life. I've been trying to find ways to take everyday moments and tasks and use them to develop my relationship with the Lord.

I typically don't find tasks like folding laundry (second worst job in household maintenance, in my opinion; the worst is putting the laundry away) to be mentally stimulating. Normally, my mind

just wanders while I'm completing tasks like that.

I've been trying to use those tasks as opportunities for prayer. It may not be the deepest prayer in my day, but they're moments just to express gratitude, to tell my Lord what's on my heart or to just listen.

Just like cooking with my husband is an opportunity for us to develop our relationship, folding laundry, washing dishes, commuting or completing any of the other mundane tasks can be opportunities to develop my relationship with the Lord.

To me, any opportunity to develop that relationship is beautiful.

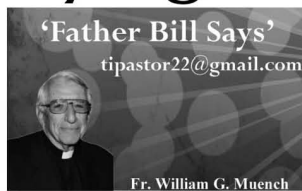
Though I still wouldn't call it "cute."

Praying with Psalm 51

We are in the middle of Lent with our eyes constantly on Holy Week. Ash Wednesday was rather different this year, but Lent did begin for all of us that day. So, my question for you is, how are you doing with your Lenten Program? Is it truly preparing you to walk with Jesus up the hill of Calvary?

Today, I would like to share with you a prayer, a special prayer for Lent and Holy Week. I am not going to write this prayer out for you here. I am going to ask you to go find it and look it over and pray it. This prayer is easy to find. It is one of the Psalms, Psalm 51. I would like to take some time to write a bit about this Psalm here today. This will be my introduction for your reading and praying the Psalm over and over, making it part of your prayer time. Remembering these Psalm are really songs, so maybe you should sing it also.

This Psalm begins with a



Fr. William G. Muench

prayer to our merciful God for kindness. We begin our prayer with a realization of our sinfulness. So, we turn to the Lord seeking kindness in our repentance as we admit our sins and failing. In this song, we pray, "In your compassion, God, blot out my offense. Wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin." Only then will I be able to find true conversion and become a new person – when God washes me clean.

Only God can help me to solve the challenge of my guilt. I know so well that I am not good at this. Guilt has often led me to depression and unhappiness. So, in this psalm, I pray that God will wash away my guilt. I ask

God to help me to be healed so that guilt will not hurt me so much. My guilt is often caused by my repeated selfishness. God helps by showing me and leading me to realize how much I need to reach out by helping others.

Our Psalmist leads me to pray, "A pure heart create for me, O God." So, here, I join in the song of the Psalmist, maybe David, singing to God in prayer that I will be transformed with love. I pray that I will be a person who will love with a pure heart – a heart free from demands – and with a love that is real. With the Psalmist I pray, "Put a steadfast spirit within me."

I know and continually find that my love is strengthened when I allow God to be present to me – that God will truly be a constant part of my life. For me this is a constant challenge of my prayer time. It's a challenge to always be open and truly allow God to be present to me through the power of the

Holy Spirit. This prayer says, "God do not deprive me of your Holy Spirit."

So, take some time and find the psalm. Make it your prayer. I believe it will help you realize who you are and who God is. This time of Lent is so important to realize just how loving and forgiving God is toward us. You and I are a loved people. We are loved with a powerful love that will help us recognize how precious our lives are, how much God wants us to be part of his people, part of his family. Like me, you will need time each of these Lenten days to consider your life and realize just what is keeping you from being the person God wants you to be. Then turn to your God and seek God's forgiveness. In our psalm we have recognized the compassionate love that God has for us. This will bring us the peace and joy that you can walk with the Lord Jesus during those events of Holy Week.

FOLLOW ME

Bishop issues statement on COVID vaccines

Editor's note: Bishop Terry R. LaValley issued the following statement on Coronavirus vaccines on March 4.

Bishop LaValley is encouraging Catholics in the North Country to receive any of the coronavirus vaccines that are available to them. "In light of conflicting information, I encourage people to be vaccinated against the virus," said Bishop LaValley. "In the current pandemic, given the limited vaccine options available, it is morally permissible to receive any of the vaccines," he added.

Bishop LaValley issued his response to clarify the morality of taking the vaccines. In assessing the morality of the vaccines, Catholic teaching considers many factors, including any connections



**Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley**

between the vaccines and abortion, the urgency of the pandemic, and the opportunity to promote the common good.

Last December, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith declared it "morally acceptable" to take vaccines that relied on cell lines derived from aborted fetuses in their research and production "when ethically irreproachable Covid-19 vaccines are not available." The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines used fetal cell lines from abortions in the 1970s and 1980s in their testing phase but did not use these lines in the development or production phases. As a result, the fetal cell lines are not in the injection. The connection to abortions is remote, and the use of these vaccines is morally acceptable.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine employed abortion derived cell lines in both development and production of the vaccine. That makes the connection to abortion less remote, causing bishops and theologians to encourage Catholics to opt for the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine if given a choice.

However, if the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is the only one available, they advise that Catholics may receive the vaccine.

Bishop LaValley noted that the reality we are facing in this pandemic is complex and Catholic moral teaching is nuanced. "I want to make it clear to Catholics that

while we should continue to insist that pharmaceutical companies stop using abortion-derived cell lines, given our current urgent situation, it is permissible to take any of the available vaccines. Being vaccinated is an act of charity that serves the common good," the Bishop noted.

NEWS BRIEFS

Jefferson, Lewis deaneries combine

After consultation with the deans of the Lewis and Jefferson Deaneries, the pastors of the Lewis Deanery, and the Council of Priests, Bishop LaValley has decided to combine the two deaneries into one. The new deanery will be called the Jefferson-Lewis Deanery with Father Arthur LaBaff, V.F. as the dean. This became effective March 3 with the move of Father James Seymour, V.F. to his new assignment.

Scholarship opportunity for high school senior

Are you a Catholic High School Senior who currently resides in the Diocese of Ogdensburg and is planning to attend a Catholic College or University in the Fall? The Mater Dei College Foundation is pleased to offer a Scholarship opportunity to qualifying students going on to study liberal arts and sciences at a degree granting Catholic College or University. To request an application form, please email Valerie Mathews, Mater Dei Foundation Scholarship Chair at vmathews@rcdony.org. Application deadline is June 1.

Chrism Mass to be livestreamed

At the Chrism Mass, the priests are invited to join the Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley in the renewal of their priestly commitment and for the Blessing of the Holy Oils, and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism for use in all the churches of the Diocese symbolizing that we are one family in Christ.

Bishop LaValley along with the clergy, consecrated religious, seminarians and deacon candidates will celebrate the Chrism Mass on Tuesday, March 30, at 1 p.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral. Due to the COVID-19, safe distancing guidelines seating capacity is limited. We encourage the lay faithful to join us via livestream at rcdony.org/livestream.



SUPPORT THE WORKS OF THE HOLY FATHER THROUGH THE
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mercy.

[Jesus] journeyed from one town and village to another, preaching and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. Accompanying him were the Twelve . . . and many others who provided for them out of their resources.

—Lk 8:1, 3

The Peter's Pence Collection allows participants to support the Universal Church and help the Holy Father as he shows mercy to the neediest people around the world, in recognition of the common humanity shared by peoples of all ethnicities and religious backgrounds.

In this spirit of mercy, Pope Francis helped the people of Iran when they suffered death and catastrophic damage from floods in March and April 2019. More than 10 million people suffered property damage, and the city of Ahwaz and numerous villages were evacuated. Two million people required immediate assistance. Pope Francis donated €100,000 to direct relief efforts coordinated by the Iranian Red Crescent Society, in which Caritas Iran also participated.

By participating in the Peter's Pence Collection, you join the Holy Father's efforts to show mercy to all in two ways: you support the ongoing activities of the Holy See, and you contribute to the charitable works of the Holy Father on behalf of those who are most in need. Our Catholic tradition calls us to provide for the material needs of the Church, and the Peter's Pence Collection is one of the opportunities we have to do so. When you answer the call, you build up the Church so that it will continue to minister to all for generations to come.

Collection Weekend: March 13 & 14

Father Wertman, founder of Credo, dies at 80

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

After spending the bulk of his priesthood ministering to individuals battling addiction, Father Raymond J. Wertman died March 2 in the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida, where he had been residing since his retirement in 1998. He was 80 years old.

A Buffalo native, Father Wertman began priestly training at the Diocesan Preparation Seminary in that city. His major seminary studies were at St. John Vianney and St. Bernard's in Rochester. He was ordained Oct. 27, 1972 by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana.

Father Wertman served for a short time as assistant pastor at Holy Family in Watertown before starting the Credo Foundation in 1973, a rehabilitation program for young people with drug problems. He headed that organization until he was assigned as an assistant pastor at St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake in 1983.

"He was very dedicated to the Credo program," said Father Peter M. Berg, pastor of St. Henry's Church in Long Lake and St. Therese Church in Newcomb and friend of Father Wertman's.

Father Berg said Father Wertman was inspired to start the program as he tried to help a parishioner of Holy Family Church.

"A mother came into the rectory at Holy Family very concerned about her son, who was addicted to something," Father Berg said. "(Father Wertman) looked around town to find someone to help him. At that time, there were no programs in Watertown, or at least he couldn't find any. He and a lady in the parish created the Credo Foundation."

Father Wertman founded Credo Foundation with Edith E. Marsala of Watertown. Marsala died in 2019.

"(Father Wertman) was very, very dedicated to young people in Watertown," Father Berg said. "He was certainly a worker, and he was dedicated to people with addictions."

Father Berg said he and Father Wertman, both having similar backgrounds, became friends in their first year of seminary studies.

"We were both veterans – (Father) Ray was Army, I was Navy," Father Berg said. "We were older. We both started out for the Buffalo Diocese."

Since they were assigned to parishes for work for a month of every summer, Father Berg said it was nearly impossible for the seminarians to find outside employment for their one free month of the summer, so the pair began painting houses along with another seminarian.

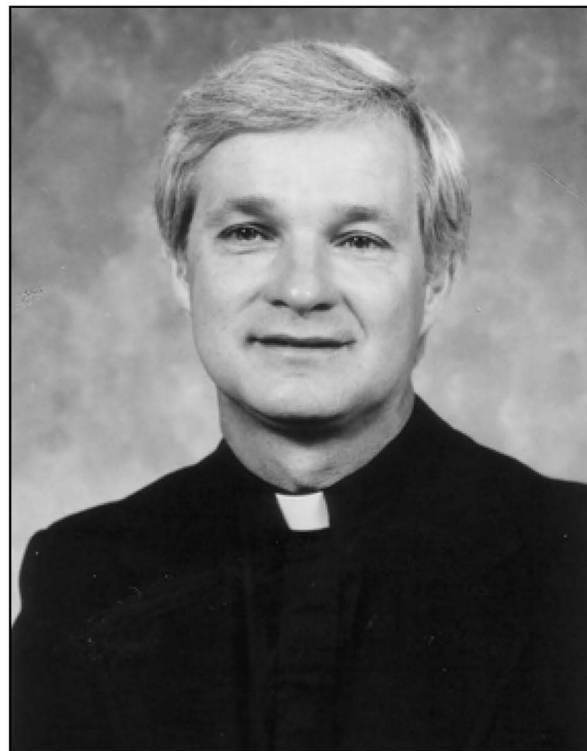
"We had one parish I'll al-

ways remember," Father Berg said. "(Father Wertman) was assigned to the north side of Buffalo, and the parish had a very large, two-story rectory, and we were hired to paint the interior. The pastor was Msgr. DiGiovanni. I remember him telling us, 'you know guys? I'm Irish. My mother is right from Ireland.'"

Father Wertman also served as pastor in Port Leyden from 1984 until 1988, when he returned to work for the Credo Foundation until his retirement.

Credo Foundation, which started with a farm for youth addiction treatment, is now Credo Community Center for the Treatment of Addictions. It offers outpatient and inpatient chemical abuse and dependence services to men, women and youth.

A complete obituary can be found on page 7.



Father Raymond J. Wertman

FORMATION FOR MINISTRY

Is God calling you to do more in your church?

Enrollment is now open for the 2021-2023 cycle.

Interested? Attend a virtual information session on Zoom hosted by Formation for Ministry Director, Cathy Russell:

Thursday, March 25 at 6:30 pm

Saturday, April 10 at 1:00 pm

Wednesday, April 28 at 6:30 pm

Registration is required to attend a session.

Go to www.rcdony.org/infosos

A link to the session will be emailed as the date approaches.

Diocese of Ogdensburg



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Grants enable schools to help those in need

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

OGDENSBURG – Three grants from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation will enable diocesan Catholic schools to further serve their communities, as well as students and families in need.

The Cabrini Foundation announced recently that the education department would receive \$550,000 to continue funding its “Healthy Families for a Hopeful Future” program; \$250,000 to continue its “Scholarship Program for Low Income Students”; and \$250,000 for a new program to fund “Technology for Low Income Students.”

“The Mother Cabrini Health Foundation has provided us with wonderful advantages for our students and their families, as well as the wider communities,” said Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, a Sister of St. Joseph and superintendent of Catholic schools.

Healthy Families for a Hopeful Future

The largest grant, funding for the Healthy Families for a Hopeful Future program, will allow the Catholic schools of the diocese to continue employing full-time family support coordinators.

According to Karen Donahue, assistant superintendent of diocesan schools, the program and its family support coordinators work to promote healthy family lifestyles and choices, provide services to strengthen and support families, communities and school engagement, offer programs to provide access to information and resources to enhance health, education and social-emotional well-being, and work closely with the local community

to identify and obtain services and programs to help children succeed.

“In the beginning, we ran into some challenges finding qualified staff for each school,” Donahue said. “In those locations, we had to be creative and modify the program. Eventually we met our goal of a family support coordinator for every school.”

The family support coordinators have worked to develop extensive networks with community partners.

“Over the past year, the family support coordinators have established agency contacts and working relationships with 224 organizations and over 324 individuals within those agencies across the diocese,” Donahue said. “They’ve had contact with 622 families, which include 3,894 family members.

Donahue said the support coordinators also work to help families access the services of those partner agencies.

“The family support coordinators can’t provide counseling services, but they work with families in other ways,” she said. “Sometimes the families need a sympathetic ear to listen to them and say – objectively – ‘here are some options moving forward. Here are some agencies that can help. We’ll help connect you with them and help you fill out the applications. We’ll help develop a plan of action.’”

Some of the family support coordinators are scheduling times to be available to help community members fill out paperwork required to access services. “Filling out paperwork can be very challenging,” Donahue said. “A couple (of

the family support coordinators) are offering open office hours in public spaces to help people with paperwork. It’s starting to become known in the communities that they’re offering those services.”

During the past year, the family support coordinators also held 462 events or outreach activities.

“With COVID-19, they had to be creative with outreach,” Donahue explained. “Before COVID-19, they were offering public activities – family nights, weekend events, events during the school day. They were running camps during winter breaks – STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) camps and themed camps. They had to switch to virtual book clubs and outdoor activities. St. Mary’s in Ticonderoga recently had an outdoor play day. It allowed for social time, fun and learning in a safe, outdoor setting with lots of room for social distancing.”

The family support coordinators also undergo extensive professional development.

“They’ve participated in almost 150 events, training activities and webinars,” Donahue said. “They do a lot of research finding resources that fit their communities and schools at little or no cost. It’s opened doors and given families, teachers and schools additional resources.”

For example, a family support coordinator discovered a Math through Movement program. “It gets the students using their brain while physically moving, and it better engrains the material in the students’ minds,” Donahue said. “And they love learning math that way.”

Scholarship, tech programs funded

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

OGDENSBURG – Two related grants will help low-income students and families have access to Catholic education and to the technology they need to advance in that education.

The Mother Cabrini Health Foundation awarded the diocesan Department of Education a \$250,000 grant to provide scholarships to attend Catholic schools and another \$250,000 to provide access to technology for low-income students and families.

“The Mother Cabrini Health Foundation focuses on low income and underserved families,”

said Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, a Sister of St. Joseph and superintendent of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. “We have to make a case for the fact that we’re going to aid low income and underserved families, and that they will benefit from the grant. The scholarship grant for 2020-21 gave us the opportunity to assist families currently enrolled in our Catholic schools and attract new families.”

The Mother Cabrini Foundation renewed the scholarship grant for the 2021-22 school year.

“For the first year of the grant, we awarded scholarships to 315 students

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Through partnerships with Cornell Cooperative Extension, the family support coordinators are also offering education on nutrition and healthy eating.

The family support coordinators also continue to identify and work to address community needs.

“We know there are a lot of grandparents who are primary caregivers,” Donahue said. “We’ve been trying to help grandparents support their grandchild’s education and working with them to ensure everyone has all the essentials they need. We’re discovering one of the essentials is just human contact and conversation. The family support coordinators find their most valuable role is sometimes just being available to listen. Family support coordinators have also been

working on parenting strategies programs and parent classes that enable parents to help children in the early phases of literacy skills development. Early support and intervention are so critical.”

The role of the family support coordinators will continue to evolve, as well.

“It will always evolve, since it’s a reflection of the community” Donahue said. “You don’t have to be a student or family connected to a Catholic school to participate in the family support coordinators’ services. Anyone in the geographic area of one our Catholic schools can access services. And as additional needs are identified, the family support coordinators continue to develop ways to help meet those needs.”

Environmental Stewardship

Another look at almsgiving

We have so much to learn from God's creation about ourselves and how to live together. One aspect of creation experienced by mystics, poets and many contemporary scientists is the interconnectedness of all life. The poet, William Blake, describes his experience of creation in his poem:

*"To see a World in a Grain of Sand
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower,
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand
And Eternity in an hour."*

St. Francis of Assisi describes his experience of being intricately connected in his Canticle of the Sun. Native people like Chief Seattle express their awareness of this connectedness in these words: "This we know the earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the blood that unites us all. Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself."

The simple act of eating can provide us with an experience of this interconnectedness. As you eat your breakfast (any meal) consider how it connects you to the sun, rain, soil, fertilizer that produced the grain for your cereal or toast, the bean for your coffee, or the fruit you are enjoying. Then, consider how this meal connects you to the farmer, the people who harvested the crop, the workers who packaged it, the truckers who delivered it, the grocery store managers and checkout people, and most of all, to the Giver of all these wonderful gifts!

One way to honor this connection is to purchase fair trade products i.e. coffee, tea, cocoa. They are carried in many grocery stores now. This movement helps producers in developing countries to get a fair price for their products so as to reduce poverty, provide for the ethical treatment of workers and farmers, and promote environmentally sustainable practices. Fair trade practices protect vulnerable families from the volatile world market that looks only for cheapest prices of goods. The income not only helps the individual family but extends to the community needs for education, health care, etc. Since these products can be more costly, it can be a way of giving alms this Lent.

Rest in Peace

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

March 10 – Rev. Hector Maurio, O.M.I., 1895

March 11 – Msgr. Edmund Charles M. J. DePauw, 1911

March 12 – Rev. Joseph L. Stickelmyer, 1984

March 13 – Rev. James Keveny, 1880; Rev. Ferdinand J. Ouellet, 1929; Rev. Joseph A. Bachand, 1950

March 14 – Msgr. Maurice John Bellamy, 1958; Msgr. Edgar A. Gallagher, 1961; Rev. John Quinn, M.S.C., 1962; Rev. Joseph E. Turcotte, O.M.I., 1980; Rev. Edward C. Rivette, 1981; Rev. Timothy J. Soucy, 2009

March 15 – Rev. Charles J. McMorrow, 1898; Rev. Howard G. Goiser, 1984

March 16 – Rev. William A. MacDermott, 1913; Msgr. Noel V. Zimmerman, 1994

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; terrianeyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rcdony.org Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340. If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at 800-276-1562 or www.ReportBishopAbuse.org.

Protecting God's Children

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

Scholarship, tech

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

they don't have the financial resources," said Sister Ellen Rose. "This funding helped enroll 59 new students in our schools, representing 43 families. The grant targeted low-income families and families with extenuating circumstances affecting their ability to pay tuition. We saw a number of families with extenuating circumstances last year, primarily due to COVID and the number of people who lost jobs."

This new round of scholarships will be awarded similarly.

"We'll follow the same protocol," said Sister Ellen Rose. "We do two rounds of applications. The first set is due in May. In that round, we ensure the families currently enrolled in school have access to the financial assistance they need for the following school year. The second round, due at the end of August, targets not exclusively, but intentionally new families who may be interested in a Catholic school education but think

Bishop's Public Schedule

March 10 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 11 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

1 p.m. – College of Consultors and Diocesan Finance Council Conference Call

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

March 14 – 9:30 a.m. – Mass with The Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River (at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Constable)

March 15 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 16 – 10:30 a.m. – Bishop's Fund Pastors' Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting

March 17 – 9:45am – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

to students and families.

"This is meant to benefit the students even when they're not in school," she said. "So many of our schools have procured Chromebooks or other devices used in instruction, and we've been able to make those available for remote learning. There are still some places where devices may be needed, and there are areas where internet access and technology services are needed."

The technology grant is a new grant for 2021-22 and is "an add-on to the scholarship grant," Sister Ellen Rose explained. The purpose of the Educational Technology Grant is to level the playing field for eligible students who may not have access to technology needed or schooling and other educational activities.

"The technology grant also focuses on our low-income and underserved families," she said. "There's an eligibility requirement. The student already has to be receiving a scholarship or financial aid."

For students and families eligible for assistance, the program will look different in each school. "Our schools have a range of needs," said Sister Ellen Rose. "Rather than writing the grant application according to what we thought was needed, we had each school will submit a plan indicating how they it will spend its portion of the grant. The money can be spent in three areas: technology devices, for example Chromebooks, internet access and technology services."

Sister Ellen Rose noted that each school's portion of the funding was determined by student population size, and assistance will be provided directly

to students and families.

"This is meant to benefit the students even when they're not in school," she said. "So many of our schools have procured Chromebooks or other devices used in instruction, and we've been able to make those available for remote learning. There are still some places where devices may be needed, and there are areas where internet access and technology services are needed."

The grant will ensure all students have the ability to connect.

"We want all students and families to be prepared if we have to go all remote again," Sister Ellen Rose said. "But it's not just for remote learning. There are other educational opportunities that can be realized with a Chromebook and access to the internet. It gives the students access to information to help with homework, research, and other opportunities."

Sister Ellen Rose said the Catholic school system is thankful the Cabrini grants have enabled the schools to better serve families in need.

"The need isn't going away," she said. "Right now, over 25 percent of our families receive assistance from the diocesan (tuition assistance program) based on eligibility for free and reduced-price lunch. We serve a number of low-income families. We were surprised looking at the figures for our new families. With the first scholarship grant, we aimed for 40 new students. We got 59. We suspect many were families who would not have considered Catholic education because of the cost of tuition. These scholarships made it within their means."

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CHEVROLET

No public funeral Mass for Father Wertman

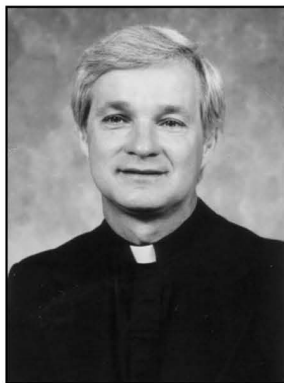
Reverend Raymond J. Wertman, age 80, passed into new life on March 2, 2020 while under Hospice care in Palm Harbor, Florida. He will be cremated for burial in his native Buffalo, New York.

Raymond Wertman was born on July 21, 1940, the son of Raymond and Mary (Kelly) Wertman. He is a 1958 graduate of Buffalo Diocesan Preparatory Seminary, served in the United States Army from 1959 through 1962 and worked for the Erie County Department of Buildings. He returned to Diocesan Preparatory and then Saint John Vianney Seminary in East Aurora, New York, and completed

his Master of Divinity at Saint Bernard Seminary in Rochester.

He was ordained a deacon for the Diocese of Ogdensburg in 1970 and served at Sacred Heart Church in Massena and then at Holy Family Church in Watertown. The Most Rev. Stanislaus J. Brzana called him to the Order of Priesthood on October 27, 1972. He continued serving as Parochial Vicar at Holy Family.

Father Wertman had great interest in helping those with addictions. He actively expanded his knowledge through contacts and attended several programs to



Father Raymond J. Wertman

understand the disease and the latest treatment techniques. In 1973, he was instrumental in creating the CREDO Foundation in Watertown. Father Wertman described

CREDO as, "a thorough and intense therapeutic community whose program is essentially spiritual and enables drug-dependent persons to leave the drug culture and become alive."

Father Wertman was an administrator at CREDO until 1983, when he served as parochial vicar at Saint Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake and then as pastor of Saint Martin's Church, Port Leyden and Saint John's Church, Lyons Falls. He returned to fulltime work at CREDO in 1989.

In 1998, Father Wertman was granted permission to move to Clearwater, Florida due to

health concerns and to assist his father. He provided ministry at Saint Cecelia Parish and later at Saint Brendan Parish in Clearwater Beach. From 1998 until his 2016 retirement, he served as a Catholic Chaplain at Morton Plant Hospital.

Father Wertman is survived by his sisters Margaret (Danny) Sansone and Patricia Labeledz. The family suggests memorial gifts may be given to Credo Foundation or the Priests' Retirement Fund of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

At Father Wertman's request, there will be no calling hours or public funeral Mass.

NOW PLAYING

RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON

NEW YORK (CNS) – The lively and colorful animated adventure "Raya and the Last Dragon" (Disney) teaches viewers that trust is the necessary basis of peaceful coexistence while showcasing the ills produced by greed and aggression. Yet it also includes quasi-religious behavior that might confuse impressionable viewers.

Well-catechized teens, by contrast, will easily shrug off such elements. They will also be proof against scenes that might frighten little kids.

Extensive exposition introduces us to a world made up of five territories that were once united but are now in violent conflict. This turmoil has partly been brought about by a dark supernatural force that, among other evil doings, has turned many of the inhabitants

of these domains into stone statues. This negative power was once held in check by benevolent dragons, but they have since disappeared.

To defeat this baleful energy, the teen of the title (voice of Kelly Marie Tran) sets out on a quest. Her first goal is to locate Sisu (voice of Awkwafina), a fire breather who, according to legend, lives on in hiding.

After that, Raya hopes, with Sisu's help, to reunite the fragments of a magical gem that, once made whole again, will restore peace and revive the petrified, including Raya's beloved dad, Benja (voice of Daniel Dae Kim). Along the way, the duo enlists the aid of, among others, a young mariner named Boun (voice of Izaac Wang) and Tong (voice of Benedict Wong), a fear-

some but good-hearted warrior.

Betrayed, early on, by Namaari (voice of Gemma Chan), a peer from a rival realm she had tried to befriend, Raya has trouble putting faith in anyone. But Sisu stoutly insists that the risk involved in showing confidence in others will ultimately reap rewards.

Driven, in large measure, by the energy with which Awkwafina infuses innocent, lighthearted and ever-enthusiastic Sisu, co-directors Don Hall and Carlos Lopez Estrada's film rollicks along, adding an anti-violence message and a story of redemption to its other lessons. Yet, as scripted by Qui Nguyen and Adele Lim, the movie depicts forms of worship and displays of reverence alien to Biblical norms.

At one point, for instance, Tong addresses Sisu as "divine dragon." And the human characters not only make gestures of respect toward her, they fall on their knees both in front of Sisu and before the pieces of the mystical jewel as well. In another sequence, Raya and her companions hold flowers up to their foreheads before dropping them into the water in a way that suggests they're engaged in a religious rite.

Tots unable to interpret such actions properly might also be scared by various images in the movie as well as by the peril in which the good guys frequently find themselves. But those who can successfully assign any non-Judeo-Christian spirituality to the fictional, strongly Asian-

accented setting in which the picture is set will appreciate the positive secular values it upholds.

The film contains non-scriptural practices, stylized combat, including swordplay and martial arts fighting, potentially frightening sights and childish scatological humor. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II – adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG – parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.



Life triumphs as Christians rebuild in Iraq, pope says

QARAQOSH, Iraq (CNS)—Amid the rubble and bombed out remains of four churches destroyed by Islamic State militants, Pope Francis paid tribute to Iraqi Christians who endured persecution and even death.

But visiting Mosul and Qaraqosh in northern Iraq March 7, he also urged the Christians to live up to their faith and honor the sacrifice of those who died by promoting peace and reconciliation.

Much of Mosul's old city center remains in ruins or under reconstruction. And Pope Francis stood in Hosh al-Bieaa, church square, facing some of those ruins: the remains of the Syriac Catholic, Armenian Orthodox, Syriac Orthodox and Chaldean Catholic churches all destroyed between 2014 and 2017.

His message was clear:

"If God is the God of life – for so he is – then it is wrong for us to kill our brothers and sisters in his name.

"If God is the God of peace – for so he is – then it is wrong for us to wage war in his name.

"If God is the God of love – for so he is – then it is wrong for us to hate our brothers and sisters."

In Mosul, 250 miles north of Baghdad, Pope Francis listened to the stories of Christians forced to flee, the fear many have to return and the encouragement of Muslim neighbors committed to making the city a thriving, multicultural metropolis again.

But he also heard choirs of children singing in welcome, women ululating to honor his arrival and the cheers of young people waving flags.

Father Raid Adel Kallo,

pastor of Mosul's Church of the Annunciation, told the pope that he and many of his people left the city in June 2014; at that point, he said, his parish had 500 families. "The majority have emigrated abroad," but 70 families have returned. "The rest are afraid to come back."

The 2003 invasion of Iraq by U.S. and coalition forces battered the city but the biggest, most horrifying blow came in early June 2014 when militants of the Islamic State group launched an offensive. They controlled the city for three years, terrorizing the population, executing hundreds and kidnapping, raping and selling women. They blew up major landmarks, both Muslim and Christian. They destroyed libraries and museums and tens of thousands of lives.

Offering prayers "for all the victims of war and armed conflict," Pope Francis said. Mosul is concrete proof of the "tragic consequences of war and hostility."

"Today, however, we reaffirm our conviction that fraternity is more durable than fratricide, that hope is more powerful than hatred, that peace more powerful than war," the pope said. "This conviction speaks with greater eloquence than the passing voices of hatred and violence, and it can never be silenced by the blood spilled by those who pervert the name of God to pursue paths of destruction."

Dr. Rana Bazzoiee, a 37-year-old pediatric surgeon, who fled Mosul to Irbil in 2013, told reporters, "I don't like to remember that moment."

Before the Islamic State fighters came, "we were living here in Mosul all together – Christians, Muslims" – and "we couldn't believe something like that would happen. I think nobody stayed here. All the Christians left."

Explaining that her Muslim and Yazidi friends helped her in those dark days, Bazzoiee said she is not angry, and she hopes the pope's visit will help the process of getting life back to normal.

"Why not?" she said. "We lived together for a long time in Mosul."

After the prayer service and a private visit to the ruined churches, Pope Francis took a helicopter about 20 miles Qaraqosh, a majority Christian city that also suffered devastation at the hands of the Islamic State group. Less than half of the city's inhabitants have returned since the militants were ousted in 2016.

Mounir Jibrahil, a 61-year-old math teacher, said he came back in 2016, but only finished rebuilding his house last year.

"Now it's safer here," he said. "It's great to see the pope; we never expected him to come to Qaraqosh. Maybe that will help to rebuild the country, finally bringing love and peace."

The largest crowds of the pope's March 5-8 visit to Iraq lined the streets in Qaraqosh. While security concerns meant leaving the popemobile in Rome and using an armored Mercedes-Benz in the town, the pope had the window down and the driver going slow enough that the police and security officers on foot did not even have to jog.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Many Texas parishes to keep face masks, even with no mandate

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Many Catholic parishes in Texas will continue to ask parishioners to wear face masks and will limit capacity for Masses even though the state's governor, Greg Abbott, announced March 2 these pandemic restrictions would be lifted the following week. Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso said he has been getting a lot of questions after the governor's announcement wondering if it would affect parish coronavirus safety practices. "The short answer is no!" he said in a March 4 statement, noting Abbott has often pointed out that "churches are free to exercise their religious liberty and set their own protocols. The protocols we have established were intended to collaborate with state and local practices but were not undertaken under the direction of these entities," Bishop Seitz said. He stressed that the Catholic parishes in El Paso County "will not be making any changes at the present time to the protocols we have presently set in place. For the time being, churches will be limited to a maximum of 25% of their capacity. Social distancing and masks will be required in all church facilities."

Lenten meditation: Jesus, his beatitudes are model to follow

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Jesus offers humanity a concrete model for holiness that can be lived each day, said Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, offering the second meditation of Lent for leaders of the Roman Curia and Vatican employees. "The life Jesus proposes to others is his way of being. The beatitudes are the self-portrait of Jesus. He teaches by what he does," the cardinal said March 5 in the Vatican's Paul VI audience hall. The pope was not present as he was in Iraq, but the cardinal led the "Hail Mary" with those present "so that Our Lady may protect the pope during this trip." In his meditation, Cardinal Cantalamessa talked about how the center and focus of the church and of each Christian's life needs to be Jesus Christ. Jesus "is not a man like all others; he is the man all others must be like," he said. After the ancient Greek philosopher Protagoras declared, "man is the measure of all things," the cardinal said, "now we know which man is the measure of all things. This man – Jesus."

First-person accounts in CARA report on what inspires vocations

WASHINGTON (CNS) – A new report on vocations to men's and women's religious orders from the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate is filled with facts that can help everyone from pastors to formation directors foster more vocations. But the report's inclusion of many first-person vignettes of factors that helped and hindered their own vocation makes for compelling reading. "The more recent cohort of women and men religious in the United States is more culturally and ethnically diverse than their older cohorts. While this diversity enriches religious life, it also challenges the leadership and the membership of religious communities to better welcome and adjust to the cultural changes in many aspects of their religious life together," said the report, "Cultural Diversity in Vocations to Religious Life in the United States: A National Study of New Religious Members," issued in February. CARA sent surveys to 3,196 men and women in formation or new members in religious life, and got what it called "usable responses" from 1,163 of them, or 38%. "White respondents make up two-thirds of those who have entered religious life since 2005, with the other third reporting ethnic backgrounds of Asian (12%), Hispanic (11%), Black (4%), and all 'other' ethnicities (5%)," the report said.

ESSEX

LATIN MASS

Port Henry - Solemnity of the Annunciation, Extraordinary Form Latin High Mass to be held.

Date: March 25

Time: Noon

Place: St. Patrick's

FISH FRY

Willsboro - St. Philip's Church will be offering a take-out fish dinner.

Date: March 26

Time: 4 p.m. to 6

Cost: \$12

Menu: Fish, fresh-cut fries, choice of mac 'n cheese or coleslaw, with a brownie.

Contact: Order ahead by March 24 for pick-up by calling 518-963-4524 or 518-873-6760 or email rccowe@gmail.com. You can also drive-by on day of dinner. Delivery available to shut-ins.

LENLEN PARISH MISSION

Ticonderoga - St. Mary's Church is offering a special Lenten Parish Mission podcast hosted by Father J. Roger McGuinness!

Date: Starting Feb. 16th and new episodes added each week.

Features: Father J. Roger McGuinness has been a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg for over 50 years. He has been a pastor, seminary and university professor, retreat master, college chaplain and vocation director. Now retired from active ministry he continues to write and give spiritual direction. Father Roger will be leading us in a Lenten mission featuring weekly reflections on the Sunday gospel readings. He will also offer a special reflection on the life of St. Joseph on March 19th, the Feast of St. Joseph. The podcast can be found on the parish website route74catholics.org/father-roger It can also be found at Apple

Podcasts, Google Podcasts and Spotify.

Contact: For more information or questions contact Father Chris Looby at fatherlooby@gmail.com.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

ST. JAMES PARISH MISSION

Carthage - Bill Wegner from Good News International will be conducting a Parish Mission at St. James Church.

Date: March 21-24

Schedule: March 21, 7 p.m. presentation; March 22, 9 a.m. Mass and 7 p.m. presentation; March 23, 9 a.m. Mass and 7 p.m. presentation; March 24, 9 a.m. Mass and 7 p.m. presentation.

Features: Bill is a Catholic Lay Evangelist and comes with a reputation for being a dynamic, humorous and engaging speaker, whose sessions are both challenging and inspiring. He travels internationally as well as across the U.S. to proclaim the Good News. Everyone is invited.

Contact: For more information contact St. James Church, 315-493-3224

ST. LAWRENCE

DRIVE THRU FISH FRY

Gouverneur - Drive thru fish fry to be held every Friday during Lent.

Date: Feb. 19 to April 2

Time: 4:30 p.m. until gone

Place: Casablanca Restaurant

Cost: \$12

Features: To benefit St. James School

Contact: Call 315-287-0130 to pre-order.

PARISH NURSE COURSE

Ogdensburg - Mercy Care for the Adirondacks will offer preparation for the role of Parish Nurse.

Date: April 9, 10, 16, 17, 30 and May 1 (All six session is required)

Time: Fridays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: St. Marguerite D'Youville

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Academy

Features: This course is open to registered nurses and others who are interested in health ministry in their parishes. Parish Nurses (Faith Community Nurses) assist the members of their faith community to maintain or regain wholeness in body, mind and spirit. They promote wellness by health screening, health education, advocating for clients, connecting them to services in their community, listening and providing support. Course is free.

Contact: For more information please contact Sister Catherine Cummings, RSM at ccummings@ad-kmrcy.org or 518-523-5582.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

MARCH RETREAT

"Walking with St. Joseph as our Guide." In preparation for the Feast of St. Joseph (March 19) during this year dedicated to St. Joseph, this Retreat Day will consider the mind and heart of Joseph, as reflected in his actions and reflect on ways that he might be a faithful guide and companion on our own faith journeys. It will also provide opportunities for prayer and sharing.

Date: March 13

Place: Virtual on Zoom

Features: The Facilitator will be Sr. Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ. No cost. If you wish to make an offering for the retreat, mail to: Sisters of St. Joseph, 1425 Washington St, Watertown, New York 13601

Contact: To register email brbethsj@gmail.com or 315-212-6592

LEAD: LIGHT THE FIRE, SPREAD THE FLAME

A live zoom event to be held about the sacrament of Confirmation, its symbolism, its sense of mission, and ideas for implementing an effective program.

Date: March 13

Time: 9:45 a.m. to Noon

Speakers: Deb Mullin from Catholic Community of St. Peter, St. Mary, St. Hedwig in Lowville & Peter Wooschlager from St. Stephen's Church in Croghan.

Contact: Adults only are welcome to register. The Zoom link will be sent as the event date approaches. To register go to: <https://www.rcdony.org/ffleadreg>

VIRTUAL YOUTH RALLY

The Diocesan Youth Office is excited to offer the 2021 Youth Rally virtually. The theme will be: Courage to Rise - Answering the call to love one another.

Date: April 17

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30

Features: Young people in grades 7 to 12 are welcome to "zoom" into a fun, enriching, and engaging virtual rally. Key note speaker will be Doug Tooke is a dynamic and energetic speaker with more than 20 years in Ministry. Doug's presentations inspire and motivate people to seek a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Bishop Terry R. LaValley will round out the event with a Q&A/Discussion, and Blessing. Your host for the event will be Thomas Semeraro, the Diocesan Director for the Office of Youth Ministry.

Contact: Although there is no fee to

attend this virtual event, registration is required. Register at <https://www.rcdony.org/80-youth19/2147-youth-rally.html>

FORMATION FOR MINISTRY

Is God calling you to do more for the church? The Formation for Ministry Program is a two-year program that prepares men and women to serve in their parish. Enrollment is open for the 2021-2023 cycle.

Schedule: Virtual informational sessions to be held on Zoom on: March 25 at 6:30 p.m.; April 10 at 1 p.m.; and April 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Contact: Register at www.rcdony.org/infosos or contact Cathy Russell at crussell@rcdony.org

CAMP GUGGENHEIM REGISTRATOR NOW OPEN

We are excited and hopeful to be able to offer the opportunity for our youth to attend summer camp in 2021. Although it may look a bit different because of the anticipated COVID protocols, we feel that it will still be a wonderful experience for all.

Contact: Tom Semeraro, Director for the Office of Youth Ministry with questions or inquiries. 315-393-2920 ext. 1415 www.rcdony.org/youth/camp.

VIRTUAL FAMILY LIFE CONFERENCE

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

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

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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Reasons for hope on Laetare Sunday

This Fourth Sunday of Lent is still called "Laetare (rejoice) Sunday" because the opening words of today's Mass are from Isaiah, 66:10-11 "Rejoice, Jerusalem...you who mourned for her." This past Thursday marked the mid-point of Lent, so for centuries Christians on this day have "taken a breather" and let up a little on their strict(!) penances. We also rejoice in the new insights into God's mercy and great



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

love for us, which we find in all three readings.

Second Chronicles (first reading) gives the history of Israel from Solomon, the last king of the united kingdom, to King Cyrus of Persia. Princes, priests and people had "added infidelity to infidelity" by mistreating the prophets and ridiculing God's message. Enraged, God had sent them into exile in Babylon for 70 years. But in his great mercy, he uses a pagan,

March 14

Fourth Sunday of Lent

READINGS

2nd Chronicles 36:14-16

Ephesians 2:4-10

John 3:14-21

King Cyrus, who had conquered the Babylonians, to release the enslaved Israelites, sending them back to Jerusalem loaded with gold and materials for rebuilding the Temple, the center and soul of their worship.

What striking similarities there are in our own day. All we have to do is

read surveys and follow the news to know how many in our country wish to make laws that would overturn God's laws on life, marriage, and family. We need to pray that God will forgive us for this flaunting of His law, including abortion, and freedom to practice our religion according to our conscience. If we do not pray and do penance, all who wish to remain faithful to God's values may end up in isolation and exile in our own country!

A further reason for hope, however, is found in today's Gospel. There, we

find one of the most consoling texts in all Scripture: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life." What follows is Jesus' plea that we shun the darkness. "For whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God."

Our reason to rejoice then lies in our resolution to live by the light of God's truth, and to stir up our faith and hope in His incredible and ever-present love and mercy.

CALLED TO SERVE

Bending to lead us to the light

There was a management style that kind of caught on briefly in the 70s called Commitment Management (CM). It is still practiced by some companies today. In its early iterations, companies built on a commitment management model had no hierarchy of management. There might be a chief executive officer, maybe a financial officer and human relations expert but they were resource people to the real worker bees of the company, committees. Women and men hired to work in such companies were more interested in the success of the company than they were in titles and compensation.

In those companies, there were very few titles but that does not mean people worked for nothing. In fact, historically, employees were compensated quite well, but the paycheck was secondary to the company doing well, and it was a committee that decided if you got a raise or not.

Today the definition of a Commitment Management company is more refined. It is "an organization that applies quality principles to business terms, policies, practices and processes to drive improvement in negotiation, contract performance and governance standards."

The key words in that

definition, to me, are "quality principles." Parishes are not built on the CM model of management, but those words can be applied to the efforts we have seen in parishes this past year to continue to spread the good news. They have succeeded in the midst of incredible restrictions on systems and practices that have been in place for generations.

The diocese has been working to "do the right thing," too, in its recommendations to pastors for best practices during the pandemic and in other areas. The valued opinions of several people led to the decision last week to cancel the annual Priest's Convocation and Deacon Assembly schedule for later this year. Even though the vaccine has made us all a little less



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

wary of COVID-19, it is prudent to continue safe practices. Large gatherings of priests, deacons and deacon's wives, would not have been a smart move. A consensus, quality decision was reached and recommended to bishop to cancel.

Bishop Terry LaValley hopes to accomplish one of the benefits of meeting with the clergy, their input and opinions on matters of interest, when he holds a series of gatherings with the clergy around the diocese in the spring.

The Gospel readings for the fourth Sunday of Lent drive us to seek quality in our lives by searching for the light of Christ to guide us. Jesus tells Nicodemus in the passage from John that "light came into the world" and "whoever lives the truth comes to the

light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God." The gospel for parishes sharing the scrutinies tell the story of the man born blind. Jesus restored the man's sight. Jesus tells us He is the true source of power and light that sustains life and overcomes the darkness of sin, confusion and spiritual blindness.

The church can hardly be accused of having a commitment management model of governance. It is a much more top-down model. This diocese does incorporate a lot of CM concepts though in its effort to lead us to the light of Christ. Thankfully, our parishes and diocese have been flexible and understanding as we continue that journey.

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

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www.northcountrycatholic.org

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- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more



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Stations of the Cross continue

Instead of our regular reflections, throughout this holy season of Lent, the Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg will be featuring Stations of the Cross.

Since many of us cannot gather together in these times of pandemic, we thought we could pray these stations of the cross together, despite our separation.

These Stations of the Cross were assembled by Maureen Crowley Heil, director of Programs and Development for the Pontifical Mission Societies and the Archdiocese of Boston.

Seventh Station:

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

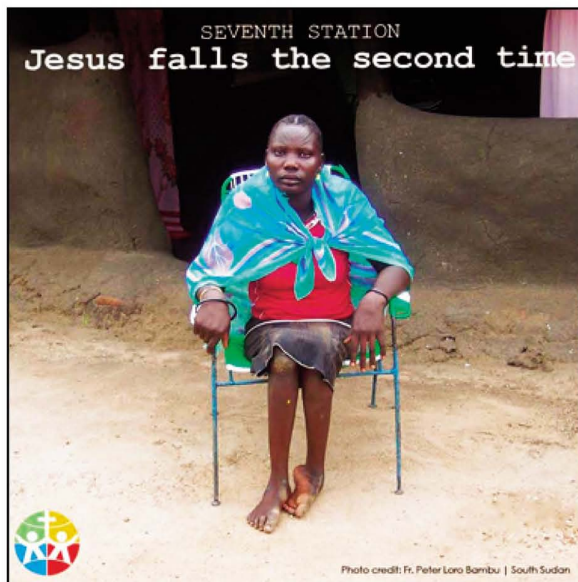
Reader: Children born in South Sudan with physical disabilities have no choice in life – health care is unavailable because of ex-



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSI, Director
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296
mbrett@cdony.org



treme poverty and ongoing civil war. Lord Jesus, many of Your children

need our help to stand again in safety and health. Help us, this Lent to re-



member them in prayer and sacrifice.

Eighth Station:

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

Reader: Lord Jesus, when you met the women

of Jerusalem, you told them not to weep for you, but for their own children. When we think of every mother's child in the missions who may be hungry, sick, or unsafe today, we may want to cry. Help us to turn our sadness into action for our brothers and sisters who need us.

OBITUARIES

Chazy – Leona Lapier, 88; Mass of Christian Burial March 2, 2021 at Sacred Heart Church.

Croghan – Ceyril E. "Sonny" Bush, 80; Mass of Christian Burial March 2, 2021 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Dannemora – Susan E. (Goddeau) Gallagher, 73; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Church of the Assumption Cemetery.

Fort Covington – Raymond P. Brosseau, 77; Private Mass of Christian Burial held at St. Mary's of the Fort; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Lake Placid – Mary Caroline (McCarthy) Kelley, 73; Mass of Christian Burial March 4, 2021 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Norwood – Mandy (Mashaw) Boyd, 41; Mass of Christian Burial March 3, 2021 at St. Andrew's Church.

Ogdensburg – Albert "Zeke" J. Montroy, 85; Mass of Christian Burial held March 1, 2021 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Peru – Bernice M. (Drollette) Rock, 86;

Funeral Services March 3, 2021 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

Plattsburgh – William C. Holzer, 57; Mass of Christian Burial March 4, 2021 at St. Peter's Church.

Port Henry – Sheila Bobbie Simard, 72; Private services to be held at St. Patrick's Church; burial in All Saints, Moriah.

Saranac Lake – Louise Bernadette (Smart) Tedford, 76; Mass of Christian Burial March 6, 2021 at St. Bernard's Church.

Tupper Lake – Catherine Ann (LeFever) Richardson, 72; Funeral Services March 8

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DEVOTION TO THE SEVEN SORROWS AND SEVEN JOYS OF ST. JOSEPH

The Devotion to the Seven Sorrows and Seven Joys of St. Joseph is observed on the seven Sundays preceding the March 19 feast of St. Joseph (starting Jan. 31).

Seven Sorrows

1. The doubt of St. Joseph. (Matt. 1:19)
2. The poverty of Jesus' birth. (Luke 2:7)
3. The Circumcision. (Luke 2:21)
4. The prophecy of Simeon. (Luke 2:34)

5. The flight into Egypt. (Matt. 2:14)
6. The return from Egypt. (Matt. 2:22)
7. The loss of the Child Jesus. (Luke 2:45)

Seven Joys

1. The message of the Angel. (Matt. 1:20)
2. The birth of the Savior. (Luke 2:10-11)
3. The Holy Name of Jesus. (Matt. 1:25)
4. The effects of the Redemption. (Luke 2:38)
5. The overthrow of the idols of

- Egypt. (Is. 19:1)
6. Life with Jesus and Mary at Nazareth. (Luke 2:39)
 7. The finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple. (Luke 2:46)

March 14, 2021

St. Joseph was in great sorrow when he lost, through no fault of his own, the Child Jesus for three days. For those who feel lost and alienated from God, that they may open their hearts to God's ever present and unconditional love, let us pray...

St. Joseph had great joy when he found Jesus in the Temple. We ask that we may find Jesus, who is Divine Mercy itself, in the temple of our hearts, especially in the hour of our greatest need...

Our Father..., Hail Mary..., Glory be...,
Act of Consecration to St. Joseph

Act of Consecration to St. Joseph

O dearest St. Joseph, we your faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, consecrate ourselves to your honor and give ourselves to you, that you may always

be our father, our protector, and our guide in the way of salvation.

Obtain for each one of us a greater purity of heart and fervent love of neighbor. After your example, may we do all our actions for the greater glory of God, in union with the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

O Blessed St. Joseph, pray for this Church of the North Country. O Blessed St. Joseph, pray for our families that we may all grow in faith, hope and love so that we may faithfully serve Jesus, Christ our Lord, all the days of our lives.
AMEN

**HELP
Jesus
IN DISGUISE**

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The Catholic Relief Services Collection helps **Jesus in disguise**. Funds from this Collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad.

Collection Weekend: March 13 & 14

FUN IN THE SUN & SNOW

Sledding was one of many activities offered as part of an Outdoor Play Day at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga. The event was offered as an opportunity for youth to socialize and have fun during the winter break.

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