

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Parishes, faithful honor Year of St. Joseph | PAGE 5

Mass of Christian Burial celebrated for Frances Reemer | PAGE 20

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 75, Number 43

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 17, 2021

Diocesan Special Fund Report

In this edition of the *North Country Catholic*, Bishop Terry R. LaValley, along with diocesan Fiscal Officer Michael Tooley present the *Report of Special Funds*.

"I am happy to call your attention to the attached Report of Special Funds for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020," Bishop LaValley said. "As we present this report for your review, we complete our accounting of all the funds entrusted to the Diocese of Ogdensburg for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year. The monies highlighted in this report are those set aside for specific purposes and investments."

FULL STORY, PAGE 8

CELEBRATING SENIORS



Rose Gonas of St. Michael's (Fort Drum), Sarah Kamide and Julia Netto of Our Lady of Sacred Heart, Samantha Malbouf and Armeet Aujla enjoyed celebrating Senior Night at Immaculate Central high school at the Girls' Basketball game vs. Carthage on March 8.

WELCOME, FR. RIMONDS



Father Clement Rimonds, a priest with the Heralds of Good News, says he is excited to get to know the people of the North Country as he serves in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Father Rimonds arrived in the United States Feb. 24, and he's currently serving in St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Tupper Lake.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Papal preacher: Jesus wasn't just good, he is God

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Plenty of non-Christians believe that Jesus was a real person and that what he taught can make the world a better place, but what makes a person a Christian is believing that Jesus is God, said the preacher of the papal household.

"Belief in the divinity of Jesus is the highest peak, the Everest of faith. Believing in a God who was born in a manger and who died on a cross requires

much more than believing in a far-off God does," said Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa March 12 as he offered a Lenten meditation to Pope Francis and officials of the Roman Curia.

Speaking in the Vatican audience hall, where the pope and officials could sit socially distanced from one another, the cardinal said that too often modern Christians – just like their nonbelieving counterparts – focus so much

on improving how they live what Christ taught, especially through acts of charity, that they forget to stop and think about one of Jesus' frequent questions to his disciples: "Who do you say that I am?"

"The cornerstone of the edifice of Christian faith is the divinity of Christ," he said. "Without that, everything shatters and crumbles."

Today, like 2,000 years ago, "Jesus is not inter-

ested in what people say about him but what his disciples – we – believe about him," the cardinal said. It's not about "repeating ancient formulas," but coming to a personal recognition of the divinity of Jesus and allowing that recognition to motivate repentance, conversion and true charity.

Cardinal Cantalamessa said that many people today seem to think that people are not looking for the ultimate meaning of

their lives, but the reflections many people made and are making during the COVID-19 pandemic and its lockdowns would seem to suggest otherwise. And while people may find meaning in their careers, in fame, in power, in relationships or even in their youthful energy, those things all will fade away.

But faith in Christ, fully human and fully divine, gives people the most profound sense of meaning, he said.

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLICBox 326
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
USPS 0039-3400BISHOP TERRY
R. LAVALLEY

President

REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN

Vice President

JAMES D. CROWLEY

Secretary-Treasurer

DARCY L. FARGO

Editor &

Communications Director



Publish 45 issues per year: Weekly except skipping every other week beginning July through Aug. and skipping one week in Dec. by the Diocese of Ogdensburg. 622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Editorial Office:
622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Telephone:
(315) 608-7556

E-mail:
news@northcountry
catholic.org

**Entered at the
Post Office:**
Ogdensburg, NY
13669 and
additional mailing offices as
Periodical Postage.

Subscription:
For one year:
In-Diocese Rate: \$27
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication
should be
addressed to
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
and should be received by
Thursday prior to
publication.
Paper is printed each
Monday;
dateline is Wednesday.
Member, Catholic Press
Association.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to
North Country Catholic,
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY
13669-0326

EDITOR'S NOTE

Training with 'Church Yodas'

"Is there ever going to be a time when I don't need a Church Yoda?" I asked Deacon James Crowley, the chancellor of the diocese, as I asked him yet another question about theology, church structure...

I've read a fair number of books about theology and spirituality. I've taken more than a few courses or workshops on various spiritual topics. I once thought I was decently knowledgeable about theology.

Then I started this job. I'm constantly running into

terms, concepts or ideas that are unfamiliar to me. Sometimes, it's easy to sort out the new idea, term or concept with a simple Google search. Sometimes, Google searches just create more confusion.

When I hit that point of confusion, it's time to turn to my "Church Yoda." I have more than one, actually. I have a few people I can turn to when I can't figure something out on my own.

For those unfamiliar with the Star Wars series, Yoda is a wise Jedi master, and he fre-

quently shares his wisdom and counsel with younger Jedis and Jedis-in-training.

When I asked Deacon Crowley if we ever hit a point where we don't need a "Church Yoda," he noted that he had consulted two people wiser than himself to clarify points about which he was unsure earlier that day.

Our Church is so beautiful, deep and complex, we could learn about her and her teachings every minute of every day and still not know everything. There's always room to grow in our knowledge.

And it's similar with our relationships with the Lord. Re-

gardless of how much we develop our relationships with the Lord, we can always grow and go deeper. God's love is so huge, we can really only ever comprehend a tiny bit of it. There's always more there.

Sometimes, our "Church Yodas" can help us with that part of our growth, too. They can help us overcome the stumbling blocks that hinder our relationship with the Lord, and they can teach us spiritual practices to develop that relationship.

And as Yoda put it, "the more we learn, the more we discover how much we do not know."



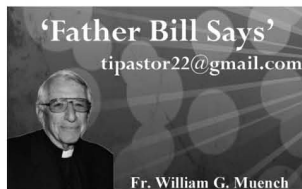
Darcy L.
Fargo

'The Mass is our best prayer'

Note 1: I was saddened to learn this week of the death of Mrs. Betty Lucia, the mother of Bishop Douglas Lucia, the bishop of Syracuse. Mrs. Lucia lives in Altona. Before becoming a bishop, Bishop Lucia was a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. I now live in Bishop Lucia's diocese. I wish to send my regards to Bishop Lucia and his family. His mother will be remembered in my Masses and prayers.

Note 2: I notice that this issue of the North Country Catholic will be out during the week of St. Patrick's Day. I remember well when I was a child, I am certain that my mother considered St. Patrick's Feast Day to be a Holy Day of Obligation, a major Feast Day. She made certain that everyone knew I was Irish, at least part of me. So, I send my greetings and prayers to all you Irish.

Today, I would like to take some time with you to continue some thoughts about the prayers of our Lenten



Journey. For us, Catholics, prayer means and begins with the celebration of the Holy Mass. The Mass is first and most important for us. The Mass is our best prayer, for our Savior, Jesus Christ, is present in a special way in the Holy Eucharist. In this Lenten Journey, we draw close to Our Lord's passion and death and resurrection through our participation in Mass. The celebration of the Blessed Eucharist builds our relationship with Our Lord Jesus.

We are now rushing toward Holy Week and Easter. Through our celebration of the events of Holy Week, each Mass will be a celebration of the life, death and resurrection of our Lord. We draw ever closer to the sufferings of our Savior. Each Mass allows us to stand with

Jesus at the Last Supper and at the cross and to remember his resurrection.

The Sacred Scriptures for these next few weeks and those of Holy Week become a time of prayer as we become personally involved in the Lord's passion, death and resurrection. The readings of the Old Testament recall for us the Jewish Exodus. As you remember, Moses is guided by God to lead the Hebrew people to freedom from the slavery in Egypt. The Hebrew people would find protection from the last plague on Egypt by taking the blood of a lamb and placing it over the door of their homes. This would be the first celebration of the Passover, a celebration that continues to be celebrated each year in Jewish homes.

We, Christians, are saved by the blood of Jesus, who suffered and died for us on the cross. Jesus is our Paschal lamb. Jesus dies for us. Jesus truly spills his blood for us. The Masses of Holy Week, especially on

Holy Thursday and Good Friday and Easter allow us to celebrate our salvation. We are truly united with our Lord and Savior through the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. We celebrate the presence of the Lord Jesus though this magnificent sacrament. Jesus is with us in a special way.

As a priest, I recognize this as the anniversary of my ordination in the events of Holy Week. I truly believe I stand with Jesus at the Last Supper each time I celebrate Mass. As Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist, he called the apostles and the priests of all time to bring his Body and Blood the people of God everywhere. During the Masses of Lent and Holy Week we, priests and people, must offer our gratitude to our God and the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit for bringing this wonderful Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist and the ordination of the Holy Orders that continues to lead priests to the Church and brings the Lord's Sacraments to the Lord's people.

Father Rimonds now serving in our diocese

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

TUPPER LAKE – Father Clement Rimonds, a priest with the Heralds of Good News, says he is excited to get to know the people of the North Country as he serves in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

"I am excited and happy that I am in this part of the country. There is quite a lot of things to figure out and to get to know," said Father Rimonds, who is serving at St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Tupper Lake along with Father Douglas A. Decker, pastor. "At this stage, I only wish if I could get to know my people here in the parish, learn their names as quickly as possible, get to learn American slang so that I can communicate better, to be available for the parish community, and if possible and time permits, try and explore more of America and its life."

Father Rimonds, 37, is a native of Vizhinjam, Trivandrum, Kerala, India. He has been in the United States since Feb. 24.

"Welcome to Siberia!" That is how Father Doug (Decker) welcomed me as I deplaned in Syracuse airport," Father Rimonds said. "Father Chris (Carrara) and Father Doug had already given me some idea about the weather here, but I never realized until I was really into it. I remember, as I met Father Doug at the airport, before we could even greet each other, he had already covered me with a long jacket that he carried with him for me. I had watched snow in many Hollywood movies, and I am seeing and living it right now. I know that I am in a new world, and I had a snowy welcome. I am loving it. I



Father Clement Rimonds, HGN

loved shoveling the snow. Father Doug is kind enough to drive me in his car and let me have some street view."

Father Rimonds said he "always loved and wanted to be part of overseas missions and ministry," and he is happy to be serving in the United States.

"While in the seminary during my formation period many of our missionary priests used come to our seminary and share their beautiful experiences of working with the different people and culture in the overseas mission. It was always motivating and inspiring. We have many of our priests working in various countries including some of the African countries, not forgetting the first world countries. I always wanted to be part of overseas ministry and fortunately my lot fell for United States of America. I consider it as God's doing to be in this part of the world. America and American history always fascinated me."

The major downside, though, was leaving his parents behind.

"It is always tough and saddening to leave home, but being a priest, I know

I am not meant for home," Father Rimonds said. "Nevertheless, the sentiments of the family always stick around. So also, with me. Parents always want their children to be near them no matter what we have become. My parents are no different. It was indeed a heart break for my mother, as she could not take it that I am going to travel to this distance. She was in tears the day I left her. I had to console her saying it is not that far but only few hours of travel by air. She was not convinced by my explanations though. My father as usual, as strong as he is, though I saw tears well up his eyes. It is always hard to leave home. I pray that God protects them."

Father Rimonds said his parents were especially important in giving him a foundation of faith and later fostering his vocation.

"I am coming from a traditional catholic family," he said. "No matter what we put God first and leave the rest to God. My parents are very devoted and pious Catholics. Going to church daily in the morning is a pious practice, and we would stick to it faith-

fully. The Christian faith and devotion have been given to us by our pious and God-fearing parents. I can clearly recollect those moments of our parents holding our hands and leading us to church – beautiful memories to cherish. They gave me the foundational faith, and I along with my sisters and brother grew up in that faith convincingly."

Father Rimonds said his father, especially encouraged him to be open to the priesthood.

"I can remember him taking me to the church daily early in the morning and he would literally point me towards the altar and tell me one thing every day: 'Clement, I want to see you one day like the priest over there at the altar,'" Father Rimonds said. "Being a child, I probably did not understand exactly what he meant at that time but for sure the idea of getting at the altar as a priest was always there deep down in my heart. For sure, without the careful nurturing of my parents particularly my father, I could have not made it up to be here. Being the first child in the family, I had my own responsibilities, but my parents were very understanding and let me have my heart's desire fulfilled. I am happy that I am a priest today. To be very personal, I never saw my father shed tears except that day when I was at the altar offering my first Holy Mass. It is an unforgettable moment in the life of both of us."

He entered the seminary after completing tenth grade.

"There used to be vocation promotion camps organized in our churches at the end of the academic year, and the boys and

girls who desired to become priest or nun come to the camp," Father Rimonds said. "The camp would have many fathers and sisters from various religious orders. I was attracted to the charism and the very name of my order – Heralds of Good News. Unquestionably every priests and nuns are primarily called to Herald the Good News of the Lord. This is how I got into the order of Heralds of Good News. I am blessed that I am a member of this family, to do the mission of Christ."

It was in seminary where he became fluent in English.

"We get candidates to seminary from different parts of our country, and we all speak different languages. I am not exactly sure how many languages we have in India. Hence it is not possible to have many languages to be spoken in the seminary. That would be a mess. English was the common language, and we are supposed to learn it."

Father Rimonds also has a master's degree in English Literature, and he enjoys the Shakespearean drama. He also holds a master's degree in social work and a bachelor's degree in education.

Father Rimonds was ordained to the priesthood in 2007.

In addition to serving in two assignments as assistant parish priest, Father Rimonds served as dean of studies at St. Aloysius Minor Seminary in the Diocese of Bongaigaon; as central regional coordinator of Prison Ministry India; and as spiritual director, and later vice-rector and rector of St. Theresa's Minor Seminary in the Archdiocese of Bhopal.

'Rediscovering the beauty of the Mass'

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

OGDENSBURG – Priest and deacons of the diocese are "Rediscovering the Beauty of the Mass" in an online Lenten series.

"We had Bishop (Terry R.) LaValley saying he's aware of the pandemic, and he's aware of the studies finding a decrease in people believing in the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist," said Father Bryan D. Stitt, worship director for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. "The pandemic is keeping people away, we're not confident they'll be back. People are not believing in the Real Presence, and we as Church seemed to sud-

denly find out the internet is something we can use. We're all stuck at home, let's take advantage of that. We wanted all the priests and deacons to get a shot in the arm and give the people of God something good and beautiful to come back to."

Father Stitt reached out to Christopher Carstens, director of the Office for Sacred Worship in the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin, a visiting faculty member at the Liturgical Institute at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois, editor of the Adoremus Bulletin, and one of the voices on The Liturgy Guys podcast, and "Rediscovering the Beauty of the Mass" was

born.

"At first, we weren't sure what we were even asking for," Father Stitt said. "We know we need good catechesis, and that's often what we go with first. We have to give people more information. They don't know about Jesus being body, blood, soul and divinity in the Eucharist, so we have to teach them. We also wanted an evangelical component. We want to teach them to go out to friends, neighbors and family. Third, I would argue we want to give them something good and beautiful to come back to, something to show up for. We need to let the beauty of the Mass speak to them. We need to rediscover that beauty. That's where the name came from."

"God is present and active at all times and in all places in our lives," Carsten said. "But there's something especially substantial and privileged about the celebration of the Mass. When we leave Mass and study, those are just reflections about the real deal of what happens at the Mass. There's something almost primary about that real-life encounter with Jesus in the Mass that is the source of Christian life."

The series includes six videos, each about 25 minutes in length. Topics include "Art, Architecture and the Door," "Ceremo-

nial and the Entrance Procession," "Language and the Gospel," "Music and the Order of the Mass," "Priesthood and the Eucharist," and "Dismissal into the World and the Call to Holiness."

"The first half of the video lays out what is the spiritual meaning of this, the second half illustrates it with some example from the Mass," Carstens said. "It's one thing to speak theoretically about beauty in the liturgy, but we have to tie it in and show this is how abstract thought becomes visible and tangible in the liturgy. The videos end with how the priest might incorporate the concept into how they celebrate the liturgy or, for a lay person, what he or she should expect or be open to when celebrating liturgy."

"We're also doing two live discussion sessions," Father Stitt added. "We did the first one (March 9), and we do the second one on March 23."

Carstens and Father Stitt said they targeted the workshop to priests so they could share their learnings with the faithful of the diocese.

"Whenever we assemble at Mass, we assemble as the body of Christ, head and members," Father Stitt said. "The priest stands in persona Christi capitis, in the person of Christ the head. It's not being clerical, it's being real. We have to get the priests on board. And there's been so much joy and optimism in the responses. Nobody goes into this to offer really

ugly, pragmatic Masses that are uninspired and uninspiring. This is about giving us a chance to remember what this is all about and maybe for the first time see what some of the documents say and what the Church asks."

"I would hope the name says it all," Carstens added. "We want liturgy and especially the Mass to be celebrated in a more beautiful way. We talked about in the presentations that the reason the Mass is beautiful is because God is beautiful. He's the reality of the Mass. It's the minister's job to let the beauty of Christ radiate to the Church. It's the role of the laity to soak up that beauty and radiance and to reflect it in their homes, workplaces, diocese and state. It's a big hope, but it's the Church's hope. That's how it's supposed to work. It's all we're asking for: salvation of the world. Thankfully, it's not up to us, but we have to do our parts."

Father Stitt noted that Carstens has agreed to make the video series available for pastors to use in their parishes.

"These are available if parishes want to share them," Father Stitt said. "Some guys have already said they want their people to know about this. The priests and deacons are talking about it and pondering where it goes from here."

Carstens said he just hopes to increase people's appreciation for the Mass.

"Mass is an awesome thing," he said. "You have to know what it is and how to engage in it to appreciate its excellence. If this project can help priests and laity see how glorious it is, that's when Mass becomes indispensable and life-changing."

for
everything
that counts®

**NBT
BANK**

800.NBT.BANK nbtbank.com

Member FDIC



*Support And Pray
For Vocations*

BARSTOW
AN AMERICAN
R-**EVOLUTION** GMC SUBARU
For More Information, Visit Our Web Page
at: www.barstowmotors.com
MARKET ST., POTSDAM, NY 4 (315) 265-8800
Your NNY Regional GM & Subaru SuperCenter

Parishes, faithful honor Year of St. Joseph

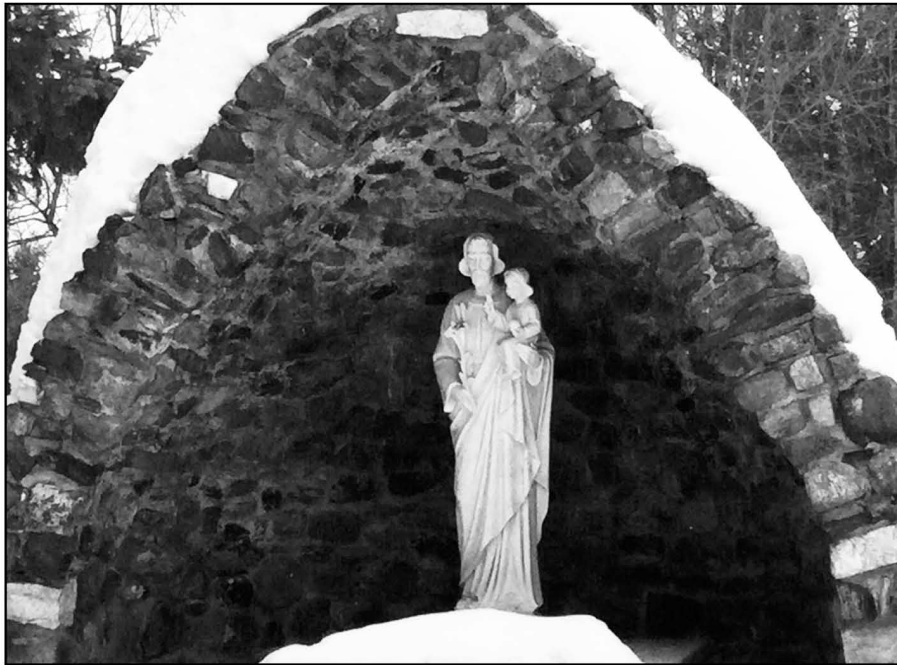
By Mary Beth Bracy
Contributing Writer

Faithful throughout the diocese are celebrating the Year of St. Joseph with various devotions and activities. Pope Francis announced the Year of St. Joseph to take place from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021. Bishop Terry R. LaValley consecrated our diocese to St. Joseph on May 1, 2020. Our diocese continues to honor St. Joseph in a special way through the consecration, education about this great saint, and pilgrimage to holy sites under his patronage.

"We have several prayer cards in the Churches for people to take and seek St. Joseph's intercession," shared Father John M. "Mickey" Demo, pastor of Holy Family, St. Patrick's and St. Anthony's in Watertown. "On Monday afternoon's from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. during Lent and Eastertide, we have what we call 'An Afternoon with St. Joseph' where parishioners engage in an informal discussion on the life of St. Joseph. On Sundays at 4 p.m., we have been praying 'The Seven Sorrows and Seven Joys of St. Joseph' in anticipation of his Feast Day on (March 19). Last year several of the members of St. Anthony's Church did the Consecration to St. Joseph."

Father Demo said his parishes "will be organizing trips to some of our diocesan parish churches under the patronage of St. Joseph."

"There is a lot of devotion here to St. Joseph and we are inclined to do more," said Father Philip T. Allen, pastor of St. Joseph's, Olmstedville, St. Mary's, Indian Lake, St. Paul's, Blue Mountain



St. Joseph's Church in Olmstedville is planning to improve the scenery around its St. Joseph Grotto as part of its festivities for the Year of St. Joseph.

Lake. His parishioners are "happy that St. Joseph is getting some more attention and will find ways of bringing that attention forward."

Parishioners of St. Joseph's are hoping to have a parish pilgrimage to St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal in September or October, "after the border opens up and COVID is under control."

Father Allen also noted that the parish is celebrating the 150th anniversary of St. Joseph's Church in Olmstedville.

"The cornerstone was laid in 1871, the same year that Pope Leo XIII declared St. Joseph the Patron of the Universal Church, so the Church was named for St. Joseph," Father Allen said. "Pope Francis has named this year the year of St. Joseph because of the dedication of Pope Leo XIII."

St. Joseph's Church plans to celebrate a spe-

cial Sunday Mass and outdoor parish picnic in August to commemorate the milestone anniversary.

Father Allen also noted that they have a Grotto Shrine to St. Joseph near the outside of the Church, and there are plans to improve the appearance of that area. Books, "The Life and Glories of St. Joseph" by Edward Healy Thompson, and "The Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father" by Father Donald Calloway, are recommended and circulating at St. Joseph's Parish.

Individuals with connections to St. André Bessette Parish in Malone also practice devotions to the saint.

"Even after St. Joseph's (in Malone) closed, and after Mass was no longer offered in St. Joseph's Church, we continued to pray the Litany of St. Joseph during Adoration. It made me happy, St. Joseph is my patron," re-

flected Father Joseph W. Giroux, former pastor at St. André Bessette Parish.

He commented that the parish held 40 hours of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament a few times when he was in Malone. Suzanne Pietropaoli of Malone conveyed that St. André Bessette Parish is having a Eucharistic Holy Hour this year on the feast of St. Joseph in honor of this Patron of the Universal Church.

Father Giroux collected some meditations and prayers from various devotions around the Seven Sorrows and Seven Joys of St. Joseph. He put this resource together for a retreat he gave to a couple that was trying to discern if they should be married.

"I knew the young man fairly well, and I knew he had a great devotion to St. Joseph, so something told me that was the direction to go in with this retreat," Father Giroux said. "The

couple found it very fruitful, and they are now engaged."

He had this resource available and "polished it up," then forwarded it to Bishop LaValley for the Year of St. Joseph.

"I am making the seven Sundays myself. It was not a devotion that I was familiar with before I made the Consecration to St. Joseph, by Father Donald Calloway last year," noted Father Giroux.

At St. Mary's in Canton, there is a new statue of St. Joseph "right up front," shared Father Bryan D. Stitt, pastor. "I'm so pleased that Pope Francis has invited us to honor St. Joseph this year. For, St. Joseph points to Christ... He welcomed Mary into his home, he served, he protected, he cared for her and the Christ Child. He taught the carpenter's trade to Jesus and taught him to be a man. He teaches us to act with faith... He worships, yes, he goes to the temple and worships, he brings Christ there and teaches him to keep holy the Lord's day. He first and foremost receives and honors Christ into his very heart."

After every Mass, St. Mary's parish is offering a prayer to St. Joseph. Also, at the end of Father Stitt's homilies he says "St. Joseph," and the people respond, "pray for us."

Although with COVID they aren't able to have their annual St. Joseph's table, "We are, of course, including the petitions at Mass each weekend in observance of the Seven Joys and Sorrows of St. Joseph as Bishop LaValley requested," explained Father Theodore Crosby, pastor of St. Joseph's, West Chazy and Sacred Heart, Chazy. The parish will be plan-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Environmental Stewardship

Have you noticed?

Driving around the North Country, you may have noticed an increase of solar panels or solar farms appearing in fields. You may also have received in your mail an invitation from an energy company to sign up for solar or some other renewable energy source. What is it all about? Why would I want to switch from my regular provider?

While you may have many good questions before making any decision, there are some reasons to be considered as a steward of God's creation. Switching from energy produced by burning fossil fuels to invest in renewable sources, i.e. solar, wind, hydro can greatly improve air quality that affects our health and that of all creatures. Changing from natural gas as the source of our electricity can preserve the precious gift of fresh water that becomes toxic waste in the process of fracking.

Some people install solar panels on their property as a source of energy. However, two other options are available to use renewable energy: subscribing to a community solar farm and/or choosing an energy supply company (ESCO) that offers renewable energy. Solar companies are subscribing utility customers at no cost to solar farms being built in and around the North Country, replacing the burning of natural gas. It is also possible to purchase your electricity from a wide array of ESCOs scattered across the Northeast. National Grid has some of these "renewable energy" companies listed on their website, or you can search for them on-line. One note of caution: using an ESCO for your supply may wind up costing you more over the long run.

As a consumer and good steward of God's earth, you may want to invest in an energy source that has the least negative impact on the quality of life shared by all. Lent calls us to conversion or a change. This is one change that can have positive effects on only ourselves but the quality of life for all creation. Next week we will hear from a parishioner who has made the switch.

Bishop's Public Schedule

March 17 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

March 18 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 19 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 20 – 11 a.m. – Mass and Celebration of Saint Joseph's Day at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown

March 21 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

11 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral followed by the Knights of Columbus Annual Bishop's Bourse Dinner at the Martin Field Club Building Association, Inc. in Ogdensburg

March 22 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 24 – 9 a.m. – St. Joseph's Home Board of Managers Meeting at St. Mary's Cathedral (Brzana Hall)

10:30 a.m. – Council of Priests In Person and/or Virtual Meeting at St. Mary's Cathedral (Brzana Hall)

Rest in Peace

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

March 17 – Rev. Michael Froc, O.M.I., 1905; Rev. Francis X. Parisian, 1955

March 18 – Rev. Joseph Murtagh, 1928

March 19 – Rev. Andronique Blaignier, 1958; Msgr. Thomas J. Robillard, 2009

March 20 – Most Rev. Joseph H. Conroy, 1939

March 23 – Msgr. Paul T. Joly, 1987; Deacon David L. Clark, 2020

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.

Year of St. Joseph

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

ning additional ways to honor St. Joseph this year as well.

Individuals are also offering devotions in honor of the Year of St. Joseph. Msgr. Joseph G. Aubin of the Plattsburgh Catholic Parishes says prayers to St. Joseph daily and is saying a special novena in preparation for his Feast day. He will also offer Mass for three days – the day before, on his feast, and one day after – to honor St. Joseph. Jokingly, Msgr. Aubin tells St. Joseph: "You are honored to be my patron saint."

Young people in our diocese are also learning about St. Joseph.

"With this being the year of St. Joseph, we are trying to introduce the Man, the Saint to the Sunday school program," relayed Desiree Kirk, DRE at Plattsburgh Catholic Parishes. "As you know, we are both in-person and remote learning. So, we created a website for both versions of our classes. The ones who attend do everything but the lesson and those who are remote do the whole

program each week we are in session.

"On January 24th we did a whole day dedicated to St. Joseph. Our segment on 'Parish the Thought' was about St. Joseph and we spoke about the Altar. We also did 'Saint of the Week' about St. Joseph. Both in-person and remote students were given a handout to create an altar in their homes for St. Joseph. The cutouts had labels with the meaning of each item. The kids colored it and built it with their families and it seems like it was a big hit. Many families called to thank us and express their joy in the project."

To see the children's work, visit PlattsburghCCD.wixsite.com/religious-ed. It is listed under week 11, with the Parish the Thought and the Activity about the Altar.

"We are going to keep doing more things about St. Joseph in March and keep sending projects home for the kids to honor this Saint," said Kirk. "We had so much fun with this!"

Teresa Malskis of Jay shared: "I am finally reading the 'Consecration to Saint Joseph,' by Father Donald Calloway. I am surprised with learning so many things about this great hidden saint. I especially like the reflection 'Saint Joseph is the shadow of the Heavenly Father.' Just to meditate on that is awesome. 'God the Father chose Joseph to

be His most tangible image on earth."

"Personally, I am saying a daily rosary novena to St. Joseph, and keeping our president in my intentions," relayed Patricia Moosbrugger of Potsdam.

"I find it very encouraging to see renewed interest in the Saints, especially those who have connections to the North Country or our personal patrons, it helps keep the faith human to focus on real people who have lived before us, some of whom have had shared very similar experiences to ours," added Father Giroux. "To have the assistance of their prayers but also the witness of their example, it makes it easier to be a Catholic at the time when it isn't always easy to be a Catholic. It bodes well for the future of the faith in the North Country to see people drawing closer to the saints. We can use some extra back up these days."


"We will be doing a novena to close out the Year of St. Joseph and the Bishop will be celebrating the Mass at the Cathedral," offered Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ, Major Superior, Sisters of St. Joseph. The Church is offering numerous ways to obtain plenary indulgences during the Year of St. Joseph. More information is available at: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2020-12/apostolic-penitentiary-plenary-indulgence-year-st-joseph.html>

To Report Abuse

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

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

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

 Find us on Facebook!



Funeral Mass celebrated for Betty Lucia

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Betty Kathleen Lucia, 92, of Altona, on March 12 at Holy Angels Church in Altona, with her son, the Most Rev. Douglas J. Lucia, Bishop of Syracuse, as principal celebrant, and with the Most Rev. Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg, as homilist.

Betty went home to the Lord on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 after a time of declining health with her family by her side.

She was born in Champlain, on October 22, 1928, the daughter of Henry and Rayaw (Baker) Pepin.

A graduate of St. Mary's Academy, Class of 1948, she married Leward E. Lucia at St. Patrick's Church in Rouses Point on October 31, 1959. She retired in 1989 as the Recording Clerk for Clinton County. She was a devoted communicant of Holy Angels



Betty Kathleen Lucia

Church in Altona and worked for many years at parish events. In December 2013, Pope Francis bestowed upon her the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice cross for her service in the Catholic Church.

She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Leward; her children, David and Laurie Lucia, Bishop Douglas Lucia, Ann and Barry Chauvin, and Paul

and Krista Lucia; and her grandchildren, Adam Lucia and his wife Kathryn, Nicholas Lucia and his fiancé Brianna, Ashley Wahl, and Brittany Lucia. Surviving, as well, are her siblings, Shirley Hyde, Howard Pepin, Joan St. John, and Kenneth and Vicki Pepin; her sisters-in-law, Irene Young, Marie LaValley, and Ella Lucia, and her sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Theresa and Richard Naro. She is survived also by her aunts, Theresa Fitzgerald, Bernice Trottier, Marion Burdo, and Vivian Fournier, along with nieces and nephews and cousins.

In addition to her parents she was predeceased by her brother, Henry; brothers-in-laws, Charles St. John, Harold Hyde, Herman LaValley, Donald Lucia, and Donald Young; sister-in-law, Patricia Pepin; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Charles and

Doris Goodrow, Roger and Hildred Lucia, and Dolphus and Bessie Lucia.

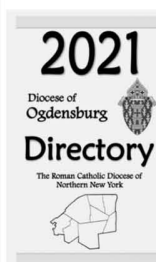
Spring burial will be in Holy Angels Cemetery in Altona.

Donations in Betty's memory may be made to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, 214 Caroline Street Og-

densburg, NY 13669 or Alzheimer's Disease Caregiver Support Initiative, 101 Broad Street, Plattsburgh, NY 12901.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Brown Funeral Home, Plattsburgh. Online condolences are at www.brownfuneralhome-inc.com

2021 Diocesan Directories are now available!



**\$15.00
each**

The Official 2021 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.

Order online at www.northcountrycatholic.org or call our office at

315-608-7556
to order yours today!

Investing in Our Community

At Manning & Napier, we care about investing for the future. For 50 years we've been investing for our clients to help them meet their long-term goals and provide true solutions in today's world. We're committed to serving our community and are proud to help organizations create meaningful change.

It is our great honor to support The Diocese of Ogdensburg.

MANNING & NAPIER
Foundation

www.manning-napier.com



Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg Report of Special Funds

A Letter From The Diocesan Fiscal Officer

A Message from Bishop Terry LaValley

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

I am happy to call your attention to the attached *Report of Special Funds* for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020. As we present this report for your review, we complete our accounting of all the funds entrusted to the Diocese of Ogdensburg for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year. The monies highlighted in this report are those set aside for specific purposes and investments.

Your personal sacrifice and generous support, in a very difficult year, provide the needed resources for the Diocese of Ogdensburg to proclaim the Good News and minister faithfully to our sisters and brothers in Christ throughout the North Country. Christ-led, Christ-fed and Hope-filled, the mission of the Church continues to be fueled by your generous support.

This local Church is blessed to have Michael J. Tooley serve as our Diocesan Fiscal Officer. He oversees a most competent and dedicated staff that safeguards all the financial resources that have been entrusted to our Diocese, ensuring that they are used for the purposes intended. I am also most grateful to the members of the Diocesan Finance Council and our Investment Advisory Committee who meet regularly and offer their expert counsel and prudential judgment in service to our Church. We are committed to being good stewards of the gifts entrusted to our care.

All the members of our faith family are to be congratulated. The Diocese of Ogdensburg is gifted with so many faith-filled persons whose generous hearts make ours a vibrant Church that beats with such a self-sacrificing heart. I continue to ask the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph to bring your cares and that of your loved ones to the bosom of Jesus. Keeping you and your family in my thoughts and prayers, I am

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg



The Diocesan Fiscal Office is pleased to present in the *North Country Catholic* the Report of Special Funds for the year ended June 30, 2020, along with comparisons to prior years. Special Funds are funds that the diocese holds for special purposes, such as Disability Insurance, Property and Liability Insurance, Missionary Projects, Priests Retirement, Lay Employees Retirement and Unemployment Insurance. Also included in Special Funds are funds that belong to diocesan institutions which have been forwarded to the diocese for investment, such as the Diocesan Trust Fund and the Deposit & Loan Fund. All Special Funds statements for 2019-2020 presented herein have been extracted from the audited financial report that was published in the November 18, 2020 issue of the *North Country Catholic*.

DIOCESAN TRUST FUND

As of June 30, 2020, the Diocesan Trust Fund had principal assets with a cost of \$27,948,236 and a market value of \$32,015,971. The investment's portfolio had a rate of return of 9.9% in 2019-20. In the first six months of the 2020-21 fiscal year the Diocesan Trust Fund had a rate of return of 6.6%, and its market value is \$29,145,916 as of December 31, 2020, the market value lower than on June 30 due to the withdrawal of diocesan central office investments in the Fund for reinvestment in a different portfolio. The diocese paid dividend distributions from the Fund in the amount of \$875,000 during the fiscal year, a rate of return of 2.73% on investments in the Fund.

DEPOSIT & LOAN FUND

The Deposit & Loan Fund had an increase of \$924,293 in its net assets in 2019-20, bringing its net asset balance to \$3,553,972. The interest rate to depositors was 3% in 2019-20, but effective July 1, 2020 the rate decreased to 1.5%. The interest rate on loans is 4%. In the first six months of 2020-21 the Deposit & Loan Fund net assets increased by \$1,102,770, primarily due to investment performance. As of June 30, 2020, total deposits in the Fund, including diocesan central office monies, totaled \$23,970,491, and the balance of loan principal due the Fund amounted to \$2,925,587.

PROTECTED SELF-INSURANCE PROGRAM

Revenue exceeded expenses in the Protected Self Insurance Program by \$526,023 in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. The program remains financially sound, as it has reserves for claims in the amount of \$1,087,311, and net assets of \$1,801,221 as of June 30, 2020. The Note Receivable of \$1,533,354 is monies forwarded to the program by excess insurance carriers to cover claims submitted by St. Mary's Church in Champlain for their fire loss in 2014-15. Claims Payable of \$1,533,354 is related to this loss.

LAY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT FUND

The Lay Employees' Retirement Fund had a decrease in net assets of \$568,035 during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, bringing its total net assets to \$26,838,868. The investment's portfolio had a rate of return of 6.5% in 2019-20. During the first six months of fiscal year 2020-21 fund investments saw a rate of return of 17.7%, bringing

its market value to \$29,311,210. The Fund's July 1, 2020 actuarial valuation determined the Fund remains underfunded, seeing a decrease from 74.5% to 71.4% in its funded status. The Plan is funded as it relates to covering obligations to current retirees (103.6% funded). Diocesan employers contribute 10% of lay employee wages to fund the Plan.



UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUND

The Unemployment Insurance Fund had a decrease in net assets of \$78,994 for the year ended June 30, 2020, bringing total net assets to \$208,707. This decrease is due to claims of \$88,653 in 2019-20, versus \$21,314 one year earlier, plus a grant of \$50,000 to the diocesan Operating Fund.

MISSIONARY PROJECTS FUND

The Missionary Projects Fund had an increase in net assets in the amount of \$20,159 for the year ended June 30, 2020, bringing its net assets as of that date to \$228,487. The Diocese of Ogdensburg continues to provide monthly financial support to its former mission in Mollendo, Peru, as well as other missions in the world as deemed appropriate by Bishop LaValley. Moneys are given to support the U.S. Bishops' annual appeal for Latin America. Additionally, with Bishop LaValley's approval, financial support is given from the Fund to urgent need collections taken at times of global emergency/crisis.

DISABILITY INSURANCE FUND

The Disability Insurance Fund had a surplus for the year ended June 30, 2020 in the amount of \$16,787. Claims paid in 2019-20 were \$16,788 lower than in 2018-19. Net assets of this Fund as of June 30, 2020, are \$258,821.

PRIESTS RETIREMENT FUND

The net assets of the Priests Retirement Fund increased by \$58,453 in the year ended June 30, 2020. The Fund had investment income of \$245,858 and gains on investments in the amount of \$790,622 in the fiscal year. Support from Christmas collections was \$235,904, as compared to \$235,334 the prior year, as the diocese maintained a contribution of 75% of parish Christmas collections to support the Fund. A modest ad hoc pension increase was approved for retired priests effective July 1, 2020.

The Diocesan Fiscal Office is available to answer any questions that may arise following review of the Report of Special Funds. Please feel free to call the Diocesan Fiscal Office at (315) 393-2920, ext. 1210, email at mtooley@rcdony.org or visit the Fiscal Office at 604 Washington Street in Ogdensburg during normal office hours.

Michael J. Tooley
Diocesan Fiscal Officer

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
Diocesan Trust Fund Principal
January 1, 1977 - June 30, 2020
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN PRINCIPAL

	January 1, 1977 - June 30, 2018	July 1, 2018 June 30, 2019	July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020	January 1, 1977 - June 30, 2020
Opening Balance	\$0.00	\$27,933,081.96	\$27,240,810.38	\$0.00
Net Deposits	14,856,301.88	(215,928.53)	(422,360.49)	14,218,012.86
Net Realized Gain on Sales	23,083,181.93	400,364.16	1,817,078.10	25,300,624.19
Fees [Custody/Management]	(2,712,235.17)	(229,680.18)	(324,593.27)	(3,266,508.62)
Transfers to Pay Dividends	(12,253,026.66)	(875,000.00)	(875,000.00)	(14,003,026.66)
Net Adjustments*	4,958,859.98	227,972.97	512,301.07	5,699,134.02
Closing Balance (Book)	<u>\$27,933,081.96</u>	<u>\$27,240,810.38</u>	<u>\$27,948,235.79</u>	<u>\$27,948,235.79</u>
Market Value	<u>\$30,583,623.11</u>	<u>\$30,664,130.12</u>	<u>\$32,015,970.51</u>	<u>\$32,015,970.51</u>

* includes income reinvested for fund, funds in transit, etc.

** Assets at NBT Bank, Dimensional Fund Advisors, Christian Brothers Investment Services & The Investment Fund for Foundations.

NBT BANK INVESTMENTS	Book Value	Market Value	% Yield (Book)	% Yield (Market)
Bonds & U.S. Government Agencies & Bond Funds	\$9,876,878.72	\$10,295,212.30	5.03%	4.83%
Equities & Equity Funds	11,361,751.55	13,901,498.31	1.57%	1.29%
Real Estate and Real Estate Trusts	323,528.78	414,671.01	3.06%	2.38%
Money Market	238,057.30	238,057.30	0.16%	0.16%
TOTAL NBT BANK INVESTMENTS	<u>\$21,800,216.35</u>	<u>\$24,849,438.92</u>	<u>2.17%</u>	<u>1.91%</u>
CHRISTIAN BROTHERS INVESTMENT SERVICES				
Bond Funds	\$1,786,216.97	\$1,870,867.38	2.60%	2.48%
Equity Funds	\$3,578,732.47	\$4,621,699.94	0.96%	0.74%
TOTAL CHRISTIAN BROTHERS INVESTMENT SERVICES	<u>\$5,364,949.44</u>	<u>\$6,492,567.32</u>	<u>1.51%</u>	<u>1.24%</u>
DIMENSIONAL FUND ADVISORS	<u>\$626,000.00</u>	<u>\$489,393.27</u>		
THE INVESTMENT FUND FOR FOUNDATIONS	<u>\$157,070.00</u>	<u>\$184,571.00</u>		
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	<u>\$27,948,235.79</u>	<u>\$32,015,970.51</u>		

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
Deposit & Loan Fund
July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2020

BALANCE SHEET**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE**

	June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019		July 1, 2019 June 30, 2020	July 1, 2018 June 30, 2019
ASSETS			INCOME		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,053,488.09	\$1,357,102.99	Interest on Notes Receivable	\$91,358.39	\$77,378.22
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00	\$0.00	Investment Income	812,750.08	885,775.89
Interest Receivable	96,770.30	110,032.10	Unrealized Gain (Loss) On Investments	(254,698.65)	608,496.42
Notes Receivable - Borrowers	2,925,586.76	2,972,339.67	Realized Gain (Loss) On Investments	1,509,942.22	406,435.69
Reserve	(598,709.00)	(669,260.00)	Other Income	0.00	0.00
Investments	20,810,833.04	32,127,223.49	TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$2,159,352.04</u>	<u>\$1,978,086.22</u>
Investment - Diocesan Trust Fund	753,369.50	718,714.12	EXPENDITURES		
Due From Operating Fund	2,558,252.40	0.00	Interest on Notes Payable	\$953,448.92	\$951,296.43
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$27,599,591.09</u>	<u>\$36,616,152.37</u>	Investment Management Fees	193,377.75	147,016.16
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE			Fiscal Office Administration	158,322.36	155,965.00
Notes Payable - Depositors	\$23,970,490.90	\$33,868,439.99	Office Supplies	460.55	527.58
Accrued Interest Payable	75,128.04	117,085.19	Office Equipment	0.00	0.00
Liability to Others	0.00	948.50	Increase in Reserves	(70,551.00)	225,602.00
Fund Balance	3,553,972.15	2,629,678.69	Loans Forgiven	0.00	0.00
			Departmental Grant	0.00	560,000.00
			Contributions	0.00	0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u>\$27,599,591.09</u>	<u>\$36,616,152.37</u>	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>\$1,235,058.58</u>	<u>\$2,040,407.17</u>
			EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES	<u>\$924,293.46</u>	<u>(\$62,320.95)</u>

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
Diocesan Lay Employees' Retirement Fund
July 1, 2016- June 30, 2020

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019	June 30, 2018	June 30, 2017
Accrued Income	\$27,951.61	\$35,523.70	\$26,910.14	\$25,453.34
Accounts Receivable	94,413.85	40,343.68	37,795.45	71,964.09
Prepaid Expenses	0.00	0.00	243,274.16	235,134.97
Cash & Investments	<u>26,961,397.05</u>	<u>27,946,496.46</u>	<u>27,862,187.60</u>	<u>27,056,267.56</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$27,083,762.51</u>	<u>\$28,022,363.84</u>	<u>\$28,170,167.35</u>	<u>\$27,388,819.96</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
Due for Office Expense	\$244,894.51	\$604,678.33	\$318,579.11	\$403,435.53
Deferred Revenue	0.00	10,783.02	124,401.00	551,486.00
Fund Balance	<u>26,838,868.00</u>	<u>27,406,902.49</u>	<u>27,727,187.24</u>	<u>26,433,898.43</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$27,083,762.51</u>	<u>\$28,022,363.84</u>	<u>\$28,170,167.35</u>	<u>\$27,388,819.96</u>

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

ADDITIONS	July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020	July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019	Sept. 1, 1967 - June 30, 2019	Sept. 1, 1967 - June 30, 2020
Employer Contributions	\$1,195,557.97	\$1,372,320.79	\$27,099,185.91	\$28,294,743.88
Department Grants	0.00	0.00	500,000.00	500,000.00
Gain (Loss) on Investments (net)	1,178,101.30	979,416.54	23,613,616.96	24,791,718.26
Investment Income	<u>576,759.81</u>	<u>560,054.91</u>	<u>19,542,517.18</u>	<u>20,119,276.99</u>
TOTAL ADDITIONS	<u>\$2,950,419.08</u>	<u>\$2,911,792.24</u>	<u>\$70,755,320.05</u>	<u>\$73,705,739.13</u>

DEDUCTIONS	July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020	July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019	Sept. 1, 1967 - June 30, 2019	Sept. 1, 1967 - June 30, 2020
Benefit Payments	\$3,213,525.60	\$2,977,611.23	\$37,270,463.26	\$40,483,988.86
Administration Expense	304,928.20	254,465.76	6,077,543.68	6,382,471.88
Loss on Security Deposit	0.00	0.00	410.62	410.62
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	<u>\$3,518,453.80</u>	<u>\$3,232,076.99</u>	<u>\$43,348,417.56</u>	<u>\$46,866,871.36</u>
NET (ADDITIONS MINUS DEDUCTIONS)	<u>(\$568,034.72)</u>	<u>(\$320,284.75)</u>	<u>\$27,406,902.49</u>	<u>\$26,838,867.77</u>

CASH & INVESTMENTS	Book Value	Market Value
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$204,221.27	\$204,221.27
U.S. Government & Agency Obligations	\$1,550,861.74	\$1,806,582.20
Corporate Obligations	426,270.60	430,783.59
Equities	9,387,301.27	11,303,881.77
Manning & Napier Advisors Investment Funds	5,215,834.81	5,213,490.21
Dimensional Fund Advisors - Emerging Markets	1,034,250.00	832,675.56
Christian Brothers Investment Services - Funds	5,765,333.74	6,972,661.45
The Investment Fund for Foundations - Real Opportunities Fund	167,735.00	197,101.00
TOTALS	<u>\$23,751,808.43</u>	<u>\$26,961,397.05</u>

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
Diocesan Lay Employees' Retirement Fund
Annual Amounts (Book and Market Value) of Investments

	Book Value	Market Value
August 31, 1968	\$32,855.00	\$33,344.00
August 31, 1969	\$105,040.00	\$97,828.00
August 31, 1970	\$167,236.00	\$144,704.00
August 31, 1971	\$244,322.00	\$248,784.00
August 31, 1972	\$328,375.00	\$341,430.00
August 31, 1973	\$397,979.00	\$357,121.00
August 31, 1974	\$442,091.00	\$374,519.00
August 31, 1975	\$485,652.00	\$502,393.00
August 31, 1976	\$651,402.00	\$661,536.00
August 31, 1977	\$746,759.00	\$758,276.00
June 30, 1978	\$907,676.00	\$873,290.00
June 30, 1979	\$1,091,077.00	\$1,066,747.00
June 30, 1980	\$1,333,304.00	\$1,240,533.00
June 30, 1981	\$1,637,330.00	\$1,468,851.00
June 30, 1982	\$1,966,375.00	\$1,685,948.00
June 30, 1983	\$2,332,800.00	\$2,766,951.00
June 30, 1984	\$2,866,861.00	\$2,832,430.00
June 30, 1985	\$3,314,597.00	\$3,748,256.00
June 30, 1986	\$4,200,610.00	\$5,189,275.00
June 30, 1987	\$5,686,447.00	\$6,363,937.00
June 30, 1988	\$6,280,104.00	\$6,713,049.00
June 30, 1989	\$6,849,652.00	\$7,569,606.00
June 30, 1990	\$7,716,476.00	\$8,434,613.00
June 30, 1991	\$8,285,622.00	\$8,951,313.00
June 30, 1992	\$9,025,501.00	\$10,401,337.00
June 30, 1993	\$11,107,406.00	\$11,674,275.00
June 30, 1994	\$11,653,168.00	\$12,127,575.00
June 30, 1995	\$12,338,738.00	\$13,734,082.00
June 30, 1996	\$13,031,227.00	\$15,645,877.00
June 30, 1997	\$14,013,278.75	\$18,380,013.00
June 30, 1998	\$15,646,840.00	\$21,676,585.00
June 30, 1999	\$16,243,414.85	\$24,534,082.00
June 30, 2000	\$18,392,037.89	\$27,831,968.70
June 30, 2001	\$21,013,619.31	\$23,928,040.75
June 30, 2002	\$21,362,600.49	\$20,539,548.82
June 30, 2003	\$19,524,487.79	\$20,622,312.68
June 30, 2004	\$22,017,665.13	\$22,691,213.55
June 30, 2005	\$22,914,541.47	\$24,896,701.34
June 30, 2006	\$24,356,734.29	\$27,020,394.56
June 30, 2007	\$25,561,684.80	\$30,676,999.67
June 30, 2008	\$27,564,499.16	\$28,332,067.06
June 30, 2009	\$23,030,415.60	\$20,674,813.27
June 30, 2010	\$21,625,470.32	\$21,322,358.36
June 30, 2011	\$22,640,200.15	\$25,259,932.71
June 30, 2012	\$23,074,757.16	\$24,490,220.68
June 30, 2013	\$23,845,778.35	\$26,396,266.72
June 30, 2014	\$25,462,693.87	\$29,928,554.01
June 30, 2015	\$26,826,021.72	\$28,222,276.89
June 30, 2016	\$25,720,922.66	\$26,053,449.19
June 30, 2017	\$25,237,148.73	\$27,056,267.56
June 30, 2018	\$25,528,622.35	\$27,862,187.60
June 30, 2019	\$25,317,160.55	\$27,946,496.46
June 30, 2020	\$23,751,808.43	\$26,961,397.05

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
Diocesan Unemployment Insurance Fund
July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2020

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019
Money Market	\$0.00	\$0.00
Investments (DTF)	148,097.93	141,285.35
Due From Operating Fund	57,473.67	143,280.37
Prepaid Expenses	3,135.00	3,135.00
Accrued Interest Receivable	0.00	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$208,706.60</u>	<u>\$287,700.72</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		
Claims Payable	\$0.00	\$0.00
Reserve For Claims*	0.00	0.00
Due to Operating Fund	0.00	0.00
Fund Balance	<u>208,706.60</u>	<u>287,700.72</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u>\$208,706.60</u>	<u>\$287,700.72</u>

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

INCOME	July 1, 2019 June 30, 2020	July 1, 2018 June 30, 2019
Unemployment Premiums	\$72,028.44	\$76,757.03
Gain (Loss) on Investments (Net)	6,812.58	(20,581.89)
Investment Income	4,037.12	10,955.11
Transfer from Other Funds	0.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$82,878.14</u>	<u>\$67,130.25</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Claims Paid	\$88,652.84	\$21,314.37
Consultant	6,270.00	6,270.00
Diocesan Administration	16,949.42	16,514.72
Departmental Grants	<u>50,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>\$161,872.26</u>	<u>\$44,099.09</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES	<u>(\$78,994.12)</u>	<u>\$23,031.16</u>

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
Missionary Projects/Ogdensburg
July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2020

<u>FUND BALANCE - JULY 1</u>	<u>July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020</u>	<u>July 1, 2018- June 30, 2019</u>
	\$208,328.19	\$177,261.74
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Diocesan OPA Collection	\$35,289.18	\$42,466.89
Missionary Coop Collection	0.00	0.00
Parish OPA Donations	0.00	0.00
Interest	6,711.20	5,743.23
Special Gifts	0.00	0.00
General Donations	0.00	0.00
Bequests	<u>2,961.51</u>	<u>10,017.73</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	44,961.89	58,227.85
TOTAL JULY 1 FUND BALANCE AND RECEIPTS	\$253,290.08	\$235,489.59
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		
Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$528.62
Advertising	0.00	54.00
Department Grants	5,000.00	0.00
Budget Grants and Donations	<u>19,802.88</u>	<u>26,578.78</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	24,802.88	27,161.40
FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30-	<u>\$228,487.20</u>	<u>\$208,328.19</u>

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
Diocesan Health*/Disability Benefits Program
July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2020

<u>BALANCE SHEET</u>			<u>STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES</u>		
	<u>June 30, 2020</u>	<u>June 30, 2019</u>		<u>July 1, 2019 June 30, 2020</u>	<u>July 1, 2018 June 30, 2019</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>			<u>INCOME</u>		
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00	\$0.00	Premiums	\$72,144.00	\$83,142.00
Cash & Money Market Funds	5,055.96	5,055.96	Retiree Drug Subsidy	0.00	0.00
Investment in Deposit & Loan Fund	0.00	0.00	Gain (Loss) on Investments (Net)	0.00	0.00
Due From Operating Funds	<u>253,765.11</u>	<u>236,977.83</u>	Investment Income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$258,821.07</u>	<u>\$242,033.79</u>	TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$72,144.00</u>	<u>\$83,142.00</u>
<u>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</u>			<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		
Reserve for Claims**	\$0.00	\$0.00	Claims Paid	\$20,174.66	\$36,963.09
Deferred Revenue	0.00	0.00	Administrative Fees	0.00	0.00
Due To Operating Funds	0.00	0.00	Health Insurance - Retired Priests	0.00	0.00
Fund Balance	<u>258,821.07</u>	<u>242,033.79</u>	Fiscal Office Administration	35,182.06	33,726.17
			Transfers to Other Programs	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u>\$258,821.07</u>	<u>\$242,033.79</u>	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>\$55,356.72</u>	<u>\$70,689.26</u>
			EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES	<u>\$16,787.28</u>	<u>\$12,452.74</u>

*Self insured health insurance program was terminated August 31, 1997

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

Priests' Retirement Fund

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2020

	July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020	July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019
FUND BALANCE - JULY 1	\$9,936,661.03	\$10,204,905.77
ADDITIONS		
Share of Christmas Collection	\$235,903.92	\$235,334.29
Diocesan Assessment	73,362.00	73,313.00
Donations in Lieu of Christmas Collection	248.00	8,144.00
Bequests and Donations	25,504.96	344.96
Investment Income	245,857.86	237,122.90
Gain (Loss) on Investments (Net)	<u>790,621.81</u>	<u>426,413.61</u>
TOTAL ADDITIONS	<u>1,371,498.55</u>	<u>980,672.76</u>
TOTAL JULY 1 FUND BALANCE AND ADDITIONS	\$11,308,159.58	\$11,185,578.53
DEDUCTIONS		
Payments to Retired Priests	\$902,138.66	\$880,193.66
Retired Priests' Health Insurance	227,689.11	231,892.39
Diocesan Administration	<u>183,217.48</u>	<u>136,831.45</u>
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	<u>1,313,045.25</u>	<u>1,248,917.50</u>
FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30	<u>\$9,995,114.33</u>	<u>\$9,936,661.03</u>

FIFTY-TWO YEAR SUMMARY

	1968-2020
ADDITIONS	
Share of Christmas Collection	\$8,777,571.17
Assessment Per Priest	1,487,279.70
Diocesan Assessment	675,314.44
Donations in Lieu of Christmas Collection	416,223.41
Bequests and Donations	3,052,230.09
Investment Income	7,649,295.12
Net Realized & Unrealized Gains on Investments	13,135,983.07
Self-Insurance Fund Grant	90,000.00
Loan Account Interest	119,838.70
Loan Account Grant	<u>30,000.00</u>
TOTAL ADDITIONS	\$35,433,735.70
DEDUCTIONS	
Payments to Retired Priests	\$19,655,313.80
Retired Priests Health Insurance	3,476,001.70
Diocesan Administration	<u>2,307,305.87</u>
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	<u>25,438,621.37</u>
FUND BALANCE - June 30, 2020	<u>\$9,995,114.33</u>

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FUND ASSETS

	<u>Book Value</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents - NBT Bank	\$201,054.14	\$201,054.14
Accounts Receivable	\$8,943.63	\$8,943.63
Due to Operating Fund	(2,249,798.07)	(2,249,798.07)
Interest Receivable	19,125.90	19,125.90
Stocks	2,811,457.29	3,509,344.65
Bonds and U.S. Government Obligations	3,525,322.87	3,675,135.40
Manning & Napier Funds	1,645,632.06	1,671,711.96
Christian Brothers Investment Services	2,309,544.92	2,794,584.20
The Investment Fund for Foundations: Real Opportunities Fund	65,446.00	76,903.00
Dimensional Fund Advisors - Emerging Markets Social Core Equities	<u>364,750.00</u>	<u>288,109.52</u>
TOTAL ASSETS - JUNE 30, 2020	<u>\$ 8,701,478.74</u>	<u>\$ 9,995,114.33</u>

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

Priests' Retirement Fund

The Fund Balance has Accumulated as Follows:

1968	\$17,500.80
1969	10,330.23
1970	20,579.08
1971	19,265.60
1972	27,914.97
1972-1973	5,070.97
1973-1974	18,329.14
1974-1975	55,740.80
1975-1976	44,465.90
1976-1977	36,976.48
1977-1978	54,045.99
1978-1979	66,581.55
1979-1980	133,679.84
1980-1981	113,242.58
1981-1982	22,235.30
1982-1983	99,793.90
1983-1984	173,959.28
1984-1985	30,889.45
1985-1986	153,452.78
1986-1987	111,359.14
1987-1988	204,214.85
1988-1989	188,566.80
1989-1990	226,548.99
1990-1991	143,441.06
1991-1992	445,497.41
1992-1993	272,881.17
1993-1994	463,490.02
1994-1995	491,107.10
1995-1996	960,060.25
1996-1997	1,021,061.17
1997-1998	408,417.16
1998-1999	829,004.36
1999-2000	719,110.30
2000-2001	660,809.56
2001-2002	(1,184,839.10)
2002-2003	330,280.74
2003-2004	1,009,257.04
2004-2005	693,492.98
2005-2006	722,134.05
2006-2007	1,178,509.12
2007-2008	(1,037,244.76)
2008-2009	(1,814,310.57)
2009-2010	92,956.71
2010-2011	1,351,134.50
2011-2012	(403,955.22)
2012-2013	632,958.28
2013-2014	1,249,004.22
2014-2015	(400,661.47)
2015-2016	(1,078,531.11)
2016-2017	610,630.75
2017-2018	4,465.63
2018-2019	(268,244.74)
2019-2020	<u>58,453.30</u>
FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30, 2020	<u>\$9,995,114.33</u>

Speaker: Pandemic shines light on inequities driving human trafficking

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The COVID-19 pandemic has shined a light on "overlapping inequalities" in society around the globe, said Good Shepherd Sister Winifred Doherty.

In doing so, it "has revealed fault lines" in current systems and structures that are "the carriers" of root causes of human trafficking for labor and sexual exploitation, she said in a keynote speech March 8.

"COVID-19 has exposed and exploited overlapping inequalities as well as weaknesses in our social, economic and political systems and is now threatening to undo and reverse years of human development," she said during a virtual conference on human trafficking.

"The global public health crisis that is COVID-19 is exacerbating gender injustice while furthering economic inequalities in countries and between countries," Sister Doherty added.

The pandemic also "has been a wake-up call with regard to our interconnectedness across the planet," she said.

Sister Doherty, who represents the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd at the United Nations, spoke on the first day of the two-day "Shine the Light Human Trafficking Conference: Root Causes and Intersections on Human Trafficking," which included survivors, service providers and advocates as speakers and drew close to 500 participants.

It was sponsored by the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good

Shepherd along with Migration and Refugee Services of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach, and the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas' Justice Team.

The day Sister Doherty spoke was International Women's Day, and she wished participants well for the observance but quickly added: "For so many girls and women, it is not a happy day, as girls and women for the most part do not experience gender justice or have their dignity upheld."

Quoting U.N. statistics for 2018, the latest figures available, she said for every 10 victims detected globally, about five were adult women and two were girls, and about one-third of the overall detected victims were children – girls and boys – while 20% were adult men.

"Trafficked children detected in low-income countries are more likely to be exploited in forced labor, and in higher income countries, (they're) more frequently trafficked for sexual exploitation," she added.

Sister Doherty said she calls the main drivers of human trafficking – for labor and sex – the five Ps: pleonexia, or extreme greed for wealth or material possessions; privilege; pleasure; power; and profit.

These "intersect with persons in poverty who are vulnerable, marginalized, dark-skinned and migrant," she said, and disproportio-

nately impact girls and women.

She praised anti-trafficking efforts that have brought about various policies and legislation to address the scourge of trafficking, but she challenged conference attendees to engage in newer levels of advocacy to address systems and structures that "privilege the few while creating and exploiting the vulnerable among us."

"We need to look at the big picture – the interconnectedness of the web of all existence, the planet and all its people and raise our voices for new systems and structures that seek to uphold care economies, gender justice, eco-justice, social justice," she explained. "If we don't do this, we're merely addressing symptoms.

"Once we see interconnectedness, we move beyond symptoms – and then we are truly on a journey of change."

"There are no easy answers, (but) if now is not the time to act on what the light has revealed, when will that time be?" she asked.

U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., also delivered remarks to the virtual gathering. Smith, an honorary co-chair of the conference, is the author of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. He also wrote four other anti-trafficking laws over the years.

In the 1990s, when he first introduced what became the 2000 law, he said, it "was met with a wall of skepticism and outright opposition – dismissed by many as a solution in search of a problem."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope names woman Scripture scholar secretary of commission

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis has named Sister Nuria Calduch-Benages, an Old Testament scholar and professor at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University, to be secretary of the Pontifical Biblical Commission. The Spanish member of the Missionaries of the Holy Family of Nazareth is the first woman to hold the position, which involves coordinating the work of the 20 biblical scholars from around the world who study topics in Scripture studies and interpretation on behalf of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. According to the norms of the commission, as revised by St. Paul VI in 1971, the secretary of the Pontifical Biblical Commission also serves as a consultant to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Sister Calduch-Benages, who will celebrate her 64th birthday March 26, was born in Barcelona, Spain, and earned a bachelor's in theology from the Pontifical Urbanian University in Rome. She earned her license and doctorate in sacred Scripture from Rome's Pontifical Biblical Institute and has taught at the Gregorian University since 1991.

Cardinal: Collection invaluable to Christians in Middle East

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The support of Catholics worldwide is an invaluable resource for small Christian communities in the Middle East who have been devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic, a Vatican official said. In a letter sent to bishops around the world and released by the Vatican March 11, Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, prefect of the Congregation for Eastern Churches, asked for continued support for the traditional Good Friday collection for the Holy Land. "If this small gesture of solidarity and sharing – St. Paul and St. Francis of Assisi would call it 'restitution' – fails, it will be even more difficult for many of them to resist the temptation to leave their country, more demanding to support the parishes in their pastoral and educational work and harder to sustain the social commitment to the poor and suffering," Cardinal Sandri said. The collection, taken up at the request of the pope, is administered by the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land and the Congregation for Eastern Churches, which uses it for the formation of candidates for the priesthood, the support of the clergy, educational activities, cultural formation and subsidies. The Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, an administratively autonomous province of the Franciscan order, also uses the collection to carry out its mission of preserving most of the shrines connected with the life of Jesus as well as for providing pastoral care to the region's Catholics, running schools, operating charitable institutions and training future priests and religious.

Ireland's bishops plan synod to hear from people who left church

DUBLIN (CNS) – Ireland's Catholic bishops plan to hold a synod within the next five years to – among other things – hear from people who were raised Catholic but have walked away from the church. A March 10 statement released after the bishops' conference virtual general assembly explained that the prelates believe "a synodal pathway leading to a national synod is inviting us to journey together in discernment of what the Holy Spirit is saying to the church in Ireland at this time." The bishops said they are "acutely aware of the huge challenges to the Catholic faith" that have emerged during the past 50 years, including the rapid transformation and secularization of society, that have led to a fewer people practicing the faith and a decline in religious vocations. They also expressed concern for the many people who left the church and "in some cases feel ignored, excluded or forgotten" and that those voices need to be heard.

Bishops laud relief; decry lack of Hyde protections

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act, signed into law March 11 by President Joe Biden, will provide relief to Americans in need amid the pandemic, but it lacks "protections for the unborn," the U.S. bishops said.

Their March 10 statement quickly followed U.S. House passage of the measure in a 220-211 vote. After the Senate passed its version of the bill March 6, it was sent back to the House where members reconciled its changes with the version they approved Feb. 27.

It then went to Biden for his signature.

In a joint statement, Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the chairmen of six USCCB committees praised "positive provisions" that "will save peo-

ple from extremely desperate situations and will likely save lives."

But they called it "unconscionable" that Congress passed the bill "without critical protections needed to ensure that billions of taxpayer dollars are used for life-affirming health care and not for abortion."

Unlike all of the previous pandemic relief bills, Hyde Amendment language was not included in this measure. Hyde outlaws federal tax dollars from directly funding abortion except in cases of rape, incest or when the life of the woman would be endangered.

In addition to Archbishop Gomez, the committee chairmen who signed the statement are: Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, Committee on Pro-Life Activities; Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, Committee on

Domestic Justice and Human Development; Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, Committee on International Justice and Peace; Bishop Michael C. Barber of Oakland, California, Committee on Catholic Education; Bishop Shelton J. Fabre of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana, Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism; and Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville of Washington, Committee on Migration.

"As the American Rescue Plan Act was being written, Catholic bishops reached out to every House and Senate office to express our support for providing additional relief to help poor and vulnerable people who are most at risk of harm from this pandemic, and our strong conviction that this relief should also protect the unborn and their right to life," the bishops said.

"We are grateful this legislation addresses many positive provisions, including unemployment assistance, child and earned income tax credit enhancements, nutrition funding, vaccine distribution funding, health care funding, housing assistance, international assistance to regions stricken by COVID, conflict and hunger," they said.

But "unlike previous COVID relief bills," the bishops said, "sponsors of the American Rescue Plan Act refused to include the long-standing, bipartisan consensus policy to prohibit taxpayer dollars from funding abortions domestically and internationally."

Hyde Amendment language "was needed because this bill includes many general references to health care that, absent the express exclusion of abortion, have consis-

tently been interpreted by federal courts not only to allow, but to compel, the provision of abortion without meaningful limit," the bishops said.

"The many important, life-saving provisions in the American Rescue Plan Act have been undermined because it facilitates and funds the destruction of life, which is antithetical to its aim of protecting the most vulnerable Americans in a time of crisis," they added.

In remarks after its passage, Biden said the American Rescue Plan Act "represents a historic, historic victory for the American people."

"Everything in the American Rescue Plan addresses a real need – including investments to fund our entire vaccination effort. More vaccines, more vaccinators and more vaccination sites," he said.



*Serving the insurance needs
of the
Diocese of Ogdensburg*

ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER & CO.

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

Willboro – 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.

LENTE 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 McGuin-

ness 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 PREPARATION

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 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-mercy.org or 518-523-5582.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

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

Our team assembles the assets you need to win . . .



. . . in an increasingly complex world.

Plan. Innovate. Execute.

Insurance Risk Management · Employee Benefits

Retirement Plans and Financial Asset Management

Human Resources · Income and Estate Tax Strategies

Business Valuation and Succession Planning



PointGuard[™]
ADVISORS NETWORK

108 Buchmans Close Circle, Fayetteville, NY 13066

877-872-3615 | 315-370-9965 | assist@pointguardadvisors.com

PointGuard Advisors Network does not provide legal, financial or tax advice. These services are provided directly by PointGuard Advisors Network Members.

NOW PLAYING

COMING 2 AMERICA

NEW YORK (CNS) – It has been more than three decades since Prince Akeem (Eddie Murphy), heir to the throne of the fictional African nation of Zamunda, set out to seek a worthy consort in the New York borough of Queens.

Murphy and his collaborators have not been overly hasty in updating Akeem's adventures. Despite the long period it's been given for gestation, however, the sequel they've put together, "Coming 2 America" (Paramount/Amazon), turns out to be a slight and mostly unsatisfying comedy.

The follow-up sees Akeem succeed his revered and intimidating father, Jaffe Joffer (James Earl Jones), as king. Shortly before this event, he discovers that he has a son back in the States called Lavelle (Jermaine Fowler).

Lavelle was conceived during a marijuana-addled one-night stand. Yet, since neither Meeka (KiKi Layne), Akeem's eldest daughter by his long-cherished spouse, Lisa (Shari Headley), nor her two younger sisters can legally succeed him,

Lavelle must be trained to become Zamunda's ruler.

The arrival of this unpolished lad and his equally down-to-earth mother, Mary (Leslie Jones), sets up a clash of manners at court as well as a rivalry with Meeka. Political complications, meanwhile, are brought on by the schemes of Gen. Izzi (Wesley Snipes), the military dictator of an impoverished neighboring country.

As Akeem's adviser Semmi (Arsenio Hall) and Lavelle's Gotham-based mentor Uncle Reem (Tracy

Morgan) vie to influence the future sovereign, Lavelle learns similar lessons to those Akeem took on board in the first movie. Principally, these consist of being true to oneself and recognizing the realities of his complicated romantic situation.

Lavelle is initially happy to agree to an arranged wedding with Izzi's bombshell of a daughter, Bopoto (Teyana Taylor). But the mere lust she evokes in him is in contrast to his deeper feelings for Mirembé (Nomzamo

Mbatha), one of the servants he's been assigned.

Working from a script by a quartet of screenwriters – Kenya Barris, Barry W. Blaustein, David Sheffield and Justin Kanew – director Craig Brewer relies on spectacle and low-minded gags to fill out their insubstantial story.

Good-natured mugging draws the odd smile. But when the dialogue turns serious, as it does with a recurring feminist theme – why shouldn't Meeka inherit her dad's role? Isn't Mirembé's independent

streak much to be preferred to Bopoto's boring submissiveness? – the baldness of the proceedings cannot be disguised.

The film contains much sexual and some scatological humor, references to prostitution, several mild oaths, about a dozen crude terms and considerable crass talk. 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.

COMPLIMENTS OF

FRANK J. WALTERS ASSOCIATES, INC.

Mindful Retirement Management Since 1957

Consulting Actuaries
for the
Lay Employee and
Priests Retirement Plans

58-13 Seabury Street
Flushing NY 11373-4825

Tel: (718) 779-8404
Email: sfennell@fjwalters.com

For a New or Used Car
Mort
Backus &
Sons
On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.
315-393-5899

CHEVROLET



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Entering the last weeks of Lent

These last two weeks of Lent were formerly referred to as Passiontide. All crosses and statues in churches were covered with purple cloth. It is time for us to commiserate with the oft-broken heart of a God whose love has been spurned by the indifference and infidelity of us all. In the readings today, we realize how much God is at times almost desperate for our love. In the Old Testament times, God often tried to bind the people to Himself in a covenant of fidelity. When His beloved Israelites



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

tried to break that bond and pull away from his love, God is angry for a time, but then, He mercifully forgives them and tries once more to draw them to Himself. In today's reading from Jeremiah, he promises that, this time, he will write the Law in their hearts. He promises to "remember their sin no longer."

The words of Jesus in John that come after the Transfiguration have failed to impress them. They're not listening as he tries in vain to prepare them for His Passion and Death. He uses

March 21

Fifth Sunday of Lent

READINGS

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Hebrews 5:7-9

John 12:20-33

the familiar experience of seed falling to the ground and dying. By that very action, the seed is transformed from its tiny ugliness into a magnificent grain of wheat. As we hear that story today, we are aware of friends and family who have died from the pandemic, of serious poverty that has come from unemployment or business closings. Losses are painful, yet many times losses are

necessary if we are to trust more in eventual justice.

Today's Gospel is a great source of consolation and hope for all of us. What Jesus was trying to tell his disciples, He says to us today. "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat. But if it dies, it produces much fruit." The way out of death and into life for both our lost loved ones and ourselves is the same that Jesus experienced for us long ago by His patient endurance of being lifted up on a Cross and dying. From it came resurrection and joy unimaginable.

Soon we reach the climax of Lent: Jesus' tri-

umphant ride into Jerusalem, the Last Supper with His apostles when he consummates His love in the institution of Eucharist, Good Friday when we are invited to unite intimately in His death through the reading of the Passion, and the veneration of the Cross, and then the great Easter Vigil. Here, the seed that was buried in the ground breaks through into new life through the blessing of the Easter candle and baptismal water. May it bring to all of us new determination to commit ourselves in faith to the process of dying and rising – over and over again – until Jesus calls us to joy everlasting.

CALLED TO SERVE

Connections to St. Patrick

By my count, there are eight parishes in the diocese that claim the patronage of St. Patrick, Bishop of Armagh, Ireland back in the 5th Century. Eight is the number of parishes currently operating in the diocese. There were others dedicated to the legendary Irish bishop, but those parishes have been dissolved, or merged or something.

Still operating are St. Patrick's in Brasher Falls, Chateaugay, Colton,

Rossie, West Peru, Port Henry, Rouses Point and Watertown, the latter being my home parish. The geographical distribution of the St. Patrick parishes helps us understand how important the migration of Irish settlers was to the colonization of Northern New York. With the French, Germans, some Spanish and French-Canadian folks, the history of the white man moving into "God's country" as New York Governor

Al Smith once called this part of the State, takes shape.

There's a story in the diocesan history written by Sister Christine Taylor, a Sister of St. Joseph, of Father John Salmon "offering Mass in a log cabin" at the Irish Settlement near Waddington. "Since the parishioners were too poor to support a priest, he (Father Salmon) had to



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

support himself through farming." St. Patrick didn't have an easy time of it either. His call to return to Ireland after being enslaved there and escaping came to him in dreams. In between his teenage slavery and his return to Ireland, this Scot became a priest and a bishop and did wonderful

work in Rome... but his call was to Ireland. He obeyed the call and ultimately converted an entire nation through his soft-spoken preaching of the Word of God.

To this day the Irish celebrate "Paddy's Day" as a national holiday. St. Patrick's Day is a global celebration of Irish culture.

But sometimes lost in the public parades and festivals, céilís (dancing), and the wearing of green attire or shamrocks, is the important work Patrick did for God. One prayer to St. Patrick says, "May the Wisdom of God instruct us. May the Hand of God protect us. May the Way of God direct us. May the Shield of God defend us." Best known is the prayer

called St. Patrick's Breastplate:

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in the hearts of all that love me,
Christ in the mouth of friend and stranger.
Praise to the Lord of my salvation,
Salvation is of Christ the Lord.
Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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

North Country Catholic has Green option

Our E-paper is now easier to read online. You can receive your *North Country Catholic* in your e-mail rather than in the mail. Fill in your information and send this form to:

Please switch my current NCC subscription to E-mail

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

PO Box 326

Ogdensburg,

NY 13669

OR Call

Christine at

315-608-7556

to make the

change

Jesus falls a third time

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.

Ninth Station:

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

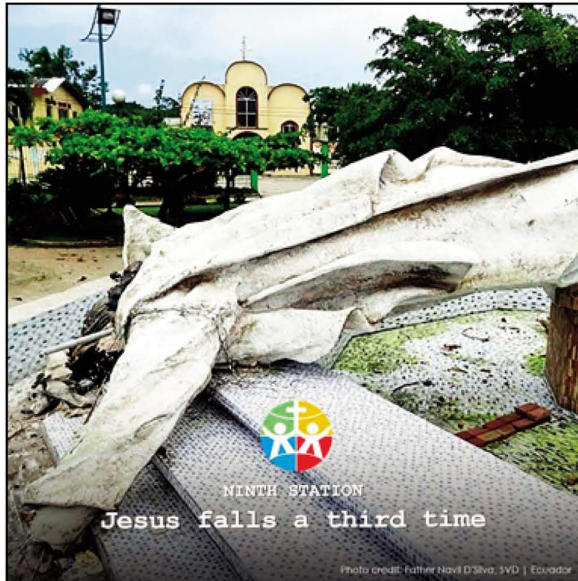
All: Because by your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

Reader: Unlike this statue in Ecuador, when a child's life is shattered by poverty or violence, it is not so easily mended.

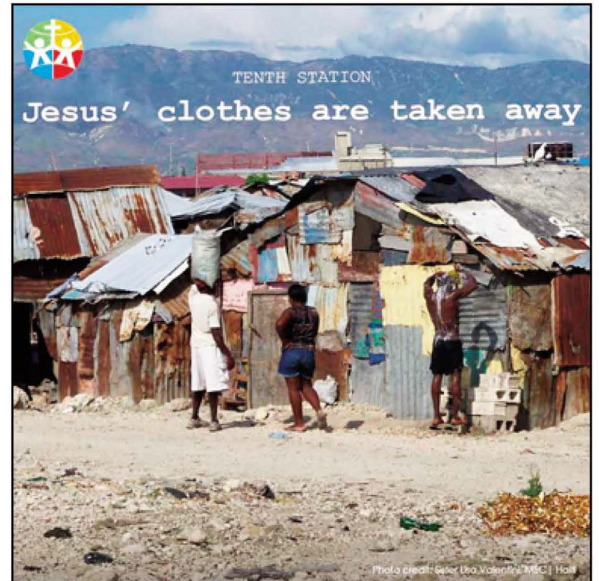


The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.

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@rcdony.org



Lord Jesus, help us to reach out to victims of hardship and cruelty so that they may feel Your loving embrace through our actions.



Tenth Station:

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

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

Reader: Many people, like those seen here in the slums of Haiti, must live without the very basics we take for granted –

even an indoor shower or a different outfit to wear most days. Lord Jesus, help us to be content with what we have – the toys, clothes, shoes, and other possessions – and to sacrifice for Your children, who have so little in this world.

OBITUARIES

Black Brook – Robert John McIntyre, 85; Burial in St. Matthew's Cemetery.

Brownville – Charles Edward Reff, 92; Private funeral to be held; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Lake Clear – Mary M. (Mertz) Wirsing, 81; Burial in St. John's in the Wilderness Cemetery.

Lyon Mountain – Brenda J. (DuBrey) Clukey, 60; Mass of Christian Burial March 11, 2021 at St. Bernard's Church.

Massena – Louise M. Leatherland, 73; Mass of Christian Burial March 8, 2021 at the Church of the Sacred Heart.

Ogdensburg – Helen N. (Comins) Messina, 94; Mass of Christian Burial March 9, 2021 at St. Mary's Cathedral;

burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Lisa Kelleher, 60; Mass of Christian Burial March 10, 2021 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery, Morrisonville.

Plattsburgh – Joseph M. "Cecil" Livey, 45; Mass of Christian Burial March 12, 2021 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – John A. Tousignant, 93; Mass of Christian Burial March 8, 2021 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, West Chazy.

Tupper Lake – Joanne Edith (Young) Dechene, 79; Mass of Christian Burial April 17, 2021 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Watertown – Patricia A. (Wood) Brabant, 87; Mass of Christian Burial to be

held in May.

Westport – Dorothy May Bashaw

Montville, 90; Mass of Christian Burial May 12, 3.32 at St. Philips Neri Church;

burial in parish cemetery.



Warm up with a subscription to the *North Country Catholic* and find out what is happening with the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Warm up with Good News!

Visit our website at www.northcountrycatholic.org to pay by Credit Card for immediate delivery.

OR Send this coupon with payment to:
North Country Catholic

PO Box 106, Canajoharie, New York, 13317

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery when mailing in your renewal

Inside Diocese \$27 Outside Diocese \$30
 I want to be a Patron: \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250
 New Subscrip- tion Renew-

Please send my subscription to my e-mail address:

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Parish _____

Funeral Mass celebrated for Frances Reamer

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Frances Reamer on March 13, at St. Anthony's Church in Butler, New Jersey.

Mrs. Reamer, a resident of Pompton Plains, New Jersey and native of Brooklyn, New York passed away March 7, 2021, at the age of 102.

She was loved and cherished by many people in-

cluding: her parents, William Anthony and Edna Mc Guirk Geoghan; her husband Raymond V. Reamer; her children, Raymond V. Reamer, Jr. of Sarasota, Fla., Rev. William G. Reamer of Plattsburgh, Paul A. Reamer (Mary Theresa), Thomas R. Reamer of Westwood, N. J., Rev. Mark G. Reamer, O. F. M. of Siena College,

Loudonville, Sister Mary Alice Reamer, RDC, of Yonkers, Anne R. Vinchiarello (Frank) of Dover Plains and Jean P. Reamer Keam (Graeme) of Downingtown; her grandchildren, Raymond, Mary Anne, Kathleen, Joseph, Catherine, Christopher, Jeanne Marie, Tanya and Alaina; her great grandchildren, Kevin, Meghan, Kate-

lyn, Michael, Anna Clare, Andrew, John, Eleanora, Frankie, Julia, Connor, Eloise and Willow; her brother William A. Geoghan; and her daughter-in-law Helen Duke Reamer. She was also cherished by several nieces and nephews.

Burial was in the Mt. Calvary Cemetery (106 Bartholdi Ave, Butler, NJ

07405).

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory are appreciated to St. John the Baptist School 670 Yonkers Avenue Yonkers, N. Y. 10704 or the Franciscans of Holy Name Province, c/o St. Anthony's Guild 144 West 32nd Street New York, N. Y. To plant Memorial Trees in memory of.

Pope, priest: Vice, virtue are woven in hearts

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With Lent as a time for conversion, Pope Francis has laid out a handy guide in a new series reflecting on the seven virtues and their opposites — a host of "parasites" that will feast away without the fortifying "vitamins" of virtue in one's daily diet.

Soon to be aired on Italy's Discovery channel and published in early March as a book in Italian, "Vices and Virtues: A Conversation with Pope Francis" is the latest sit-down interview between the pope and Father Marco Pozza, a chaplain in a maximum security prison in the northern Italian city of Padova.

Father Pozza, 41, has already used the same television series and book formats for sharing the pope's reflections on the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Hail Mary.

This time he sought to tackle something broader

and deeper — how to journey through this thing called life and make sense of all the lights and shadows present in the world and in one's own soul.

A reflection on "the struggle and the beauty of everyday life," the priest and pope said in the book's joint introduction, is a reflection on vices and virtues.

The pope — dressed in white, the head of the universal church — and the priest — dressed casually in darker hues, a minister to the condemned — was the juxtaposition Father Pozza sought to highlight, the same way Giotto did with his stark black and white depictions of virtues and vices decorating the Scrovegni Chapel in Padova.

The 14th-century maestro arranged his frescoed masterpieces so that as visitors face a spectacular scene of the Last Judgment, they are also

flanked by a series of personified virtues on the sun-soaked "warm" wall facing south and personified vices on the opposite "cold" and humid north wall of the chapel, the book said.

Giotto presents attractive, noble depictions of the four cardinal and three theological virtues on one side and their disfigured, miserable polar opposites — rather than traditional capital vices — on the other, making the choice look easy. But, the priest asked the pope, "Why are vices able to fascinate more than virtues?"

"People are like fish, when they see the bait, they are drawn to it," the pope replied.

Vices seem to be offering something wonderful with nothing required in exchange, like "those aunts and uncles miseducating kids by giving out candy. How nice! But then your tummy starts to

hurt," making vices "a bad kind of free" with instant pleasure now, pain later, he said.

Everyone is vulnerable and people need to take their vulnerability seriously, Pope Francis said. By reflecting on vices and virtues, "we can understand better where our life is heading, and in what direction we need to go."

"Virtues are like vitamins, they help you grow, push you forward. Vices are essentially parasitic," making the person weaker, pulling them "just a little bit" lower each day like doing the limbo, until they hit the ground, he said.

Each chapter in the book is dedicated to the priest and pope detailing each virtue and its opposite pairing that Giotto presented in Padova: Justice-Injustice; Fortitude-Lack of Constancy; Temperance-Wrath; Prudence-Foolishness; Faith-Infidelity; Charity-Envy; and Hope-Desperation.

Inconstancy, for example, the pope said, is an "I'll get to it later" approach to life that shows no progress, no courage to take the initiative, no ideals or no willpower to "make them concrete today, right now."

Its opposite, fortitude,

is "true prophecy," which is seen in people who concretely "show that the Gospel is possible" and who say and do tough things when needed to serve others, the pope said.

"Fortitude is the virtue of the poor. To survive a person who is poor must be strong," sustained by solid values, refusing to be beaten down, he said.

"Fortitude is the capacity to get back up. Or to let ourselves be helped to get back up," he said.

When it comes to foolishness, "it is convenient to act the fool," the pope said.

It is living "in a continual present, without having problems, without making 'history,'" without "fruit" and without the roots of memory which are "the strength that gives life."

There is foolishness in wealth, "in believing that heaven is here," becoming "a slave to lies, slaves to what has been created instead of followers of the Creator."

Prudence, on the other hand, is the essential virtue of governance.

"Because people are hot-blooded, they need something that tells them, 'Stop, stop and think,' and to have abundant empathy, the pope said.

