

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Natural Family Planning: God really does know best | PAGE 5

Couples from St. James Carthage renew their wedding vows | PAGE 7

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 75, Number 44

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 24, 2021

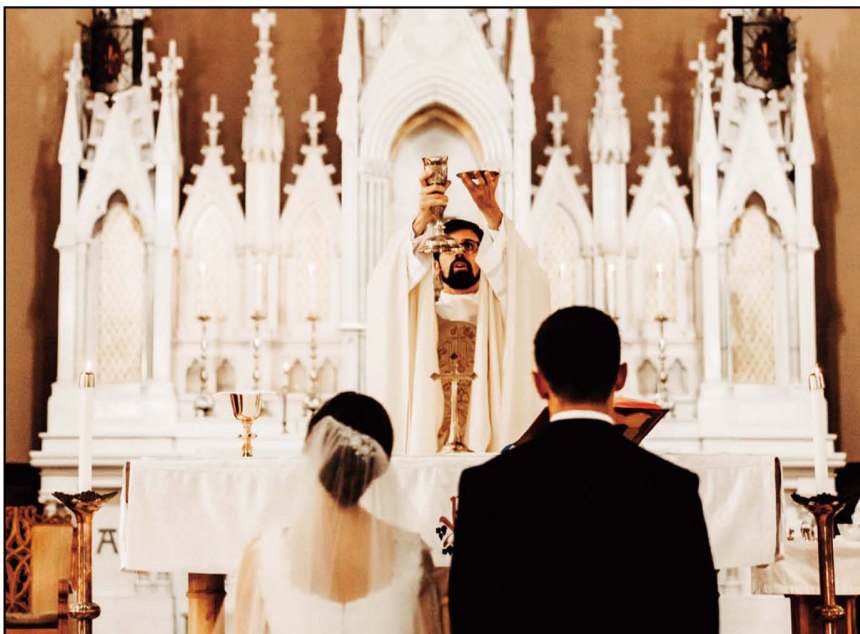
Follow Me: St. Joseph, a model of hope

On March 20, Bishop Terry R. LaValley delivered his homily to the Sisters of St. Joseph on their feast day.

"When a close family member of mine (I'll refrain from mentioning her name) learned that her older son's wife was pregnant, she said that she would not have the child call her "grandma" because she felt that she wasn't old enough to be a "grandma." She would need to think up another name that wouldn't seem to imply that the infant's grandmother was an elderly woman. After all, she wasn't the "grandma type."

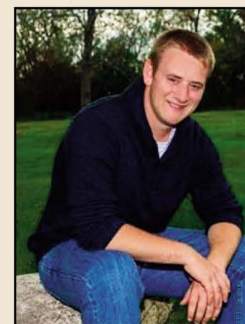
FULL STORY, PAGE 3

UNITED AS ONE



Michael and Grace Leader Bobak were married July 31, 2020 at St. Mary's Church in Potsdam. The Bobak's share their experience about how living as a single person to a married couple is vastly different. Michael says "We are like a dynamic duo that has each other's backs and can tackle anything life throws at us with the help of God. This underlying love and support are the greatest part about being married." Read the full story on pages 8 & 9.

Remembering Peyton Morse



Peyton Morse dreamed of being a professional fireman. At 21, he was preparing for that dream at the State Fire Academy, a new recruit for the City of Watertown Fire Department. Something went very wrong during training and Peyton died nine days later. Members of his church community share memories of Peyton's love for his faith.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Vatican says "No" to same sex marriage blessing

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - While homosexual men and women must be respected, any form of blessing a same-sex union is "illicit," said the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The negative judgment is on the blessing of unions, not the people who may still receive a blessing as individuals, it said in a statement published March 15. The statement was a response to a question that came from priests and lay faithful looking for clarification of the issue.

The response to the question, "Does the church have the power to give the blessing to unions of persons of the same sex?" was

"Negative."

"It is not licit to impart a blessing on relationships, or partnerships, even stable, that involve sexual activity outside of marriage -- i.e., outside the indissoluble union of a man and a woman open in itself to the transmission of life -- as is the case of the unions between persons of the same sex," the doctrinal office said in an explanatory note accompanying the statement. Pope Francis approved both the statement and the note for publication.

"The Christian community and its pastors are called to welcome with respect and sensitivity per-

sons with homosexual inclinations and will know how to find the most appropriate ways, consistent with church teaching, to proclaim to them the Gospel in its fullness," the explanatory note said.

The statement came days before the launch March 19 of a yearlong reflection on "Amoris Laetitia" that will focus on the family and conjugal love.

Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation "Amoris Laetitia" ("The Joy of Love"), affirmed church teaching on family life and marriage, but also underlined the importance of the church meeting people where they are in order to help

guide them on a path of discernment and making moral decisions.

The doctrinal congregation said the church does not and cannot have the power to impart her blessing on homosexual unions and, therefore, "any form of blessing that tends to acknowledge their unions as such" is illicit.

That is because a blessing "would constitute a certain imitation of the nuptial blessing invoked on the man and woman united in the sacrament of matrimony," it said, citing paragraph 251 of "Amoris Laetitia."

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLIC

Box 326

Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669

USPS 0039-3400

BISHOP 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@northcountrycatholic.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

Living with the filth

It's pretty gross.

The exterior of my Jeep is completely coated in that disgusting mixture of road salt, mud and whatever else splashes off the roadways and other vehicles. If I accidentally brush up against it, I instantly become coated in road grime. The back-up camera on my Jeep has been useless for weeks.

Full transparency? The interior of my Jeep is also a mess. I spend a lot of time in my car. A lot of time! I eat and drink in my car. I spill things in my car. I drop things in my car. I have a bad habit of tossing napkins, receipts,

empty food packaging and other stuff onto the back seat to make room for a passenger.



Darcy L. Fargo

I'm also convinced it's not worth taking it through a car wash on a warmer day. It's just going to get coated with the disgusting road-grime cocktail again, possibly the same day. I am equally convinced I don't have time to fully clean the interior either.

I know I should clean my Jeep. Over time the salty grime is bad for the paint job. I know those loose items in the back can become projectiles in the event of a collision. I know I

should clean it, yet I continue to live with the filth.

Recently, as I was wiping off the road grime my Jeep had deposited onto my black pants and thinking about the fact that I really should wash it, it occurred to me that my views on the Jeep and its disgusting condition are like my views on sin and confession.

Typically, I go to confession once a month. That doesn't mean I'm especially holy. It means I'm especially efficient at sinning.

Every once in a while I go longer between confessions. Sometimes much longer. I sometimes get this feeling like, "why bother? I'll be in a state of grace for about 5 seconds and I'll sin again."

Or, "hey, I'm on a run here. Might as well continue adding to my sin list." Bad! I live with the filth.

While I'm still trying to keep my positive Lenten practices, I'm also spending time this Lent reflecting on my relationship with sin and confession. I'm really going to try to not deviate from my "confession every month" practice moving forward. It makes me more aware of areas where I need to improve. Admitting my weaknesses to another human being and to God makes me humble. And I am forgiven. That's the best thing of all.

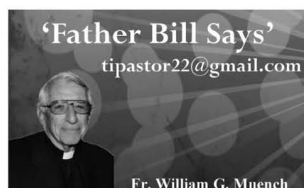
I'm still not committing to washing my car, though.

Love God, love your neighbor

"The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

We call these the Two Great Commandments. Jesus was asked by a Jewish scribe to decide which of the Hebrew religious laws is the first among them all. Jesus answers the Two Great Commandments. The Two Great Commandments give us a fuller understanding of the Lord's message during our Lenten Journey.

It is almost like Jesus was being tested on his knowledge of the Hebrew Law. There were some scribes then who thought there was no way anyone would know all of the Law well enough to answer this question. They had the idea that Jesus was not that brilliant. Jesus was, after all, just an ordinary carpenter. However, Jesus chooses to reach back to the



Book of Exodus and responds by quoting the Two Great Commandments. Jesus teaches us, today, that the love of God will always be first among the apostles of the Lord. We Christians affirm this best by demonstrating our love for our neighbor as ourselves.

The love of God demands a strong and confident faith. The faith we have in God will lead us to trust God above all. As those who truly love God, we believe that God will make all things good, God is in control. God watches over us with a powerful and loving spirit. So, we love and trust God ourselves. It is God who leads us to live in the spirit of the Two Great Commandments. Because of Him, we know

how to love God and love our neighbor.

I am certain that you all know Jesus' Parable of the Good Samaritan. As you remember, a man stops to give help to a victim who has been seriously injured by robbers. The man takes care of this victim. He takes him to an Inn to be cared for, a typical response in those days. The important lesson of Jesus' story is that the man who helped the injured Jewish man was a Samaritan. Recall the Jews had nothing to do with the Samaritans. Jews considered Samaritans enemies. Yet this Samaritan felt it important to help the injured man even if he was Jewish.

The fact that the helper was a Samaritan must have surprised the people who listened to Jesus' parable. The hero of the story is a Samaritan. Those who listened to Jesus teach the parable and we are encouraged to live just like that Samaritan.

Are we ready to be a loving and caring person just like the Good Samaritan? He took the time and trouble to help the needy, in this case a Jew, a person he should dislike.

Love God above all things and love your neighbor as yourself.

We are now preparing to celebrate Holy Week and Easter. We remember the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection as we follow Jesus and recognize the Lord's powerful love. We realize this as we walk with the Lord up the hill of Calvary.

I believe that God gives us opportunities to demonstrate our love for our neighbor each and every day of our lives. Sometimes it may be just a little thing, a simple ordinary thing. Sometimes the opportunity may require a huge, serious effort on our part.

FOLLOW ME

St. Joseph taught us to offer ourselves to God

Editors Note: Homily of Bishop Terry R. LaValley's to the Sisters of St. Joseph on their Feast Day.

When a close family member of mine (I'll refrain from mentioning her name) learned that her older son's wife was pregnant, she said that she would not have the child call her "grandma" because she felt that she wasn't old enough to be a "grandma." She would need to think up another name that wouldn't seem to imply that the infant's grandmother was an elderly woman.

After all, she wasn't the "grandma type." She was really into denial. She thought: "Me? Grandma? I don't think so!" She was in a delightful, new place, but in denial, for a while anyway!

I wonder if Joseph would not have had a totally different reaction. "Me? A father, guardian of God? I don't think so." He found himself in a puzzling new place, to say the least. Still, not having all his questions answered, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

With Joseph as our guide, we can step forward, embrace all that we are called to be now, in these puzzling times, and look into tomorrow's uncertainties and possibilities with the hope and trust that was so characteristic of St. Joseph's life.

Joseph is the can-do saint. Without words or fanfare, he gets the job done. Here we have not a man of few words, but a man of no words. As Pope Francis noted in his reflection on St. Joseph, in which he introduced this

Holy Year, (With a Father's Heart), he reminds us that "those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all" – all, who without fanfare labor in the Lord's vineyard.

As I was reflecting on the Holy Father's words, on this your patronal Feast Day, I couldn't help but think of the many, many sisters of St. Joseph who, for generations, have played an incomparable role in the faith life of so many here in the North Country and beyond. This community of consecrated women who possess such a precious devotion to St. Joseph, deserve respect and gratitude from this local Church. I mean, just think of the variety of ways that you have ministered to the people of our beloved North Country. Schools, parishes, prisons, colleges, hospitals, nursing homes, seminary, have all provided the environment in which the Sisters of St. Joseph have ministered here in Jesus' Name for over a century.

Some of you who now call this Motherhouse "home" probably feel isolated, especially during this pandemic, hidden, in the shadows of years gone by when you had the vigor and good health to be actively involved out there in the Lord's vineyard. I am here to tell you that you are not forgotten. Your lives are not without impact. Your value has not diminished. I am here to tell you that we cherish your presence among us. I am here to plead for your continuing prayers and support.

All consecrated religious have a major role to play in the Church. By your lives of courage and trust, you continually recall what it is to be offered, consecrated to the glory of God. Your life, the life of a consecrated religious is like a great offering. Cardinal Sarah writes that your consecrated life "teaches an essential aspect: every baptized person must live in a state of oblation and offering. Our life must become a great liturgy, a spiritual sacrifice."

It took courage and lots of trust for Joseph to obey the angels' commands, particularly at the rocky, treacherous beginnings of our Savior's life here on earth. As Pope Benedict XVI wrote: "...in the crisis of a world full of conflicts and dangers, (his) faith opened up the path of salvation."

Like Joseph, you con-



Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley

tinue to devote yourselves completely to Jesus in these, most unsettling and troubling of times and you become for others the means by which they can take the path to salvation. Sisters, never, never minimize the power of your prayer and witness.

"Joseph was called by God to serve the person and mission of Jesus directly through the exercise of his fatherhood," the Holy Father reminds us. Clearly, each of you, dear Sisters, has been called and continue to be called by God every day to serve the mission of Jesus through your sisterhood, bride of Christ that you are, and we are blessed as a result.

As God told Joseph, "Be not afraid" (Mt.1:20), so you, too, heed those words as you live out each day with a creative courage that continues to

build up the local Church. For that, I am truly grateful.

Sometimes we might be tempted to look to the future with real discouragement, maybe even fear. But, as Pope Francis tells us, "God always finds a way to save us, no matter our circumstance, provided we show the same creative courage as the carpenter of Nazareth, who was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting always in divine providence."

And so, we confidently trust that the carpenter of faith, this Guardian of our Church, will continue to be a model of hope for you and me. The times, yes, they are a changing, but the Lord's love and care is the same yesterday, today and forever! Good St. Joseph pray for us! Happy Feast Day everybody!

Give them
a gift
subscription
today!
It's a gift that
will be
enjoyed all
year.

Do you know a newly married couple
who would enjoy reading the

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLIC?

A gift card will be sent.

Send a check for \$27 payable to the
NCC, PO Box 106, Canajoharie, New York, 13317

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Parish _____
From _____
Giver's Address _____



Peyton Morse, a giving person

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon
Staff Writer

The Catholic communities in LaFargeville and Clayton said goodbye to Peyton Morse last Friday. Members of professional and volunteer fire departments across New York State rang their fire bells to remind members a comrade, Peyton Morse, had died in service. Brother Knights of Columbus, classmates, family friends joined mourners at St. Mary's in Clayton to pray for Peyton Morse during the funeral Mass and interment in St. John's Cemetery in LaFargeville. He was 21 when he died but the impact this young man had on so many will live on.

Peyton Morse was following his dream when he was hired by Watertown

Fire Department Chief Matthew Timmerman to join the department. Timmerman and Morse were both parishioners at St. John's in LaFargeville. Part of the training for new recruits in the Watertown FD is the eleven-week course at the State operated fire academy near Watkins Glen.

Prior to leaving, Morse asked his pastor, Rev. Arthur J. LaBaff, for a blessing and prayers. Among items he took downstate was a well-worn bible and a St. Florian medal. St. Florian is the patron of firefighters.

Morse was hospitalized in Pennsylvania after suffering a medical emergency March 3, 2021 during a training exercise at the New York State Fire Academy in Montour Falls, New York.

Parishioners prayed for their former altar server. Deacon Neil Fuller, Pastoral Associate at St. Mary's and St. John's, said the parishes held a Holy Hour specifically to pray for Peyton. His former pastor, Rev. Christopher C. Carrara, visited Peyton in the intensive care unit at Guthrie Robert Packer hospital in Sayre, Pennsylvania. Father Carrara anointed the young man he had welcomed as an altar boy at St. John's soon after Peyton made his First Communion.

"Peyton had a generosity of spirit," Father Carrara said. "He was filled with life."

Father LaBaff agreed, "He had a great love and respect for his faith in Jesus Christ and lived it well. His faith was nourished in Jesus Christ at St



Peyton (right) pictured with Rylee Gill (left) at their First Communion.

John's. The Franciscan Mystery Players with his brother, Parker, was an enriching and enabling experience for six years. He was a faithful member of

our Knights of Columbus Council 350."

Peyton grew up in LaFargeville and attended LaFargeville Central

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Diocese of Ogdensburg Family Life Office

Helping to build strong families with programs and activities that strengthen family life.

Don't just pray for more priests and religious...pray for faithful, sacramental marriages, because that's where vocations to the priesthood and religious life come from.



Do you want to:

- ◇ Build a marriage that has a less than 3 percent chance of ending in divorce?
- ◇ Learn how you can strengthen your marriage and your family?
- ◇ Know why families fall apart and what you can do to prevent this?
- ◇ Benefit from a network of support with other faithful families in this diocese?

If the answer to any of those questions is yes, contact:



Steve Tartaglia
Director of Family Life
Diocese of Ogdensburg
(315) 393-2920
startaglia@rcdony.org

Natural Family Planning: God really does know best

Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli
Directors of the NFP Office

Todd and Emily were a picture-perfect couple: young, attractive and very much in love. What brought them to Natural Family Planning class? Todd did not want his bride exposed to the continuing risks of "The Pill." Emily disliked the pill but was also motivated by her faith. "God is so good to us," she said, "we want to honor him in our marriage, to do things his way." Together Todd and Emily easily mastered the art of observing, recording, and evaluating the changing biomarkers of the fertility cycle. One year into their new way of life, the couple is "very satisfied with NFP, and delighted with the way it has changed their relationship. We are more in love than ever."

In his book, *Natural Family Planning Blessed Our Marriage: 19 True Stories*, Fletcher Doyle admits leaving contraception behind was not easy, but acknowledges "NFP brought about a profound change in the way I look at my wife. She became even more beautiful to me as I learned to avoid the trap of thinking of her as someone taking care of my needs. My life with my wife became more an act of giving than of taking. I became fully aware of my blessings, which brought me great peace. God really does know best."

Doyle's wife Tracy agrees. "I am now able to see God's hand in everything. With NFP I don't say one thing and live another. The total surren-

der of my fertility to God has allowed me to surrender in other areas of life as well. I feel at peace with my faith and with my sexuality, and I am happier than I have ever been."

A couple in Doyle's book, Michael and Lauri Hahn, reconsidered using the Pill when they had their first child baptized. "When you promise to bring you child up in the faith," Mike said, "I thought, 'What am I promising here?'" So, they learned NFP. The decision had a residual benefit Michael said, "One of the biggest benefits of NFP has been its impact on our relationship, because our conversation about the method opens us up. It becomes a conduit to a better relationship. We learned about each other's fears and feelings, much more so than when Lauri just took a pill every day."

Lauri agrees. "The spiritual growth that I have had these past few years, and the stronger relationship with Mike, have convinced me that NFP is one of the best things we could have done for our marriage."

Matt and Mary Wenke also feel blessed by NFP. "Each month we talk about our level of openness," Mary is quoted in the book. "If you are sterilized or contracepting, the possibility of another child is rarely broached. Because we can talk about something this personal so easily, it helps us communicate in other areas of our marriage. We talk about intimate things on a regular

basis. We are very close." Matt Wenke agreed. "NFP has helped make our sex life more a matter of mutual decision. We discuss this every month. As a mental

health counselor, I see a lot of couples who don't discuss sex at all. There isn't the open, ongoing communication that we have in order to use this method.

Matt also maintains that the times of abstinence built into NFP are beneficial to their marriage. "Because intercourse isn't there all the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Live the truth and beauty of God's plan for married love!

It's about love. It's about life.
It's about freedom. It's about gift.



Natural
Family
Planning

usccb.org/nfp



Diocesan NFP Office

www.rcdony.org/nfp

Email: apietropaoli@rcdony.org • Tel: 518-483-0459

Environmental Stewardship

Thoughts of spring and creation

Lent is a time of hope and a time of thanksgiving. Of course, I'm not talking about the Thanksgiving of pumpkin pie and turkey. I'm talking of thanksgiving for the Pascal Mystery and the glorious hope of the resurrection. Hope is the treasure, and hope is the inspiration to arise each day.

Hope is personified in the unfolding of springtime. As I look forward to the rebirth of the spring flora and fauna, I also think of people who inspire us. There are famous people like Rachel Carson, author and activist for clean water, Jacques Cousteau, Captain of the Calypso, ocean conservationist, Sr. Dorothy Stang, martyred for supporting indigenous people and land in the Amazon and Greta Thunberg, the teen-ager activist for the earth. These people are inspirations for those of us who see creation being recklessly plundered.

Even better, there are youth who inspire us as did those school children who received our Pope Francis' Green Apple Award for taking action to care for God's creation. This is what keeps us going to effect change that will bring about a better future for generations, regardless of how small or incremental the change.

They all represent hope. The hope we experience every spring after the long winter. Even the melting snow is hope as it melts and seeps deep into the earth. The March wind is hope as it slowly moves the ice in and out of the bays along the lakes and rivers.

In this season of hope we can revel in the joy of creation. Today, I saw the first crocus buds begin to appear. I heard geese flying overhead. There is life and movement. This is the hope of creation and I am so very thankful. So I pray in thanksgiving for all the blessings bestowed upon us in God's Creation as we walk the Pascal Mystery and muse upon all those inspirational people.

*Contributor: Tracey Cheever
St. Cecilia Parish, Adams
Watertown Faith and Ecology Group*

Rest in Peace

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

March 24 – Rev. George Roskwitalski, O.F.M. Conv., 1980

March 25 – Rev. Michael D. Charbonneau, 1909

March 26 – Rev. Thomas J. Rodgers, O.S.A., 1971; Msgr. William E. LaVallee, 1976

March 27 – Rev. Bernard Marron, 1927; Rev. Henry Cormerais, 1938; Rev. Lawrence J. Gerrity, O.S.A., 1981; Rev. John L. Gallagher, O.S.A., 1982

March 28 – Rev. Francis McShane, O.S.A., 1932; Rev. Walter C. McMahon, 1978; Rev. Lawrence A. Mallette, 1989; Rev. Joseph P. Trombley, 2001

March 29 – Rev. Hillary Hemmer O.M.C., 1934; Rev. J. Aime Troie, 1955; Rev. Ross A. Garnsey, 1986; Rev. Euclid Marier, 2003

March 30 – Rev. Joseph Chartrand, O.M.I., 1960; Rev. Victor Lamore, 2017

Bishop's Public Schedule

March 24 – 10:30 a.m. – Council of Priests in Person and/or Virtual Meeting at St. Mary's Cathedral (Brzana Hall)

March 25 – Noon – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

March 26 – Noon – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

March 28 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 29 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 30 – 1 p.m. – Chrism Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral (Clergy, Consecrated Religious, Seminarians, and Deacon Candidates only due to Social Distancing Guidelines. The Mass will be Livestreamed.)

March 31 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Natural Family Planning

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

the time, there's always an excitement in our relationship. If it isn't a time when intercourse is available, then we work on the communication part of our relationship. Periodic, predictable abstinence actually improves our relationship and our sex life. With NFP, I don't take our intimate time for granted."

"A relationship based only on sexual intimacy loses the emotional connection. We are dedicated to building the strong emotional bonds necessary to keep our marriage alive and flourishing,"

Mary said. "We look for ways to communicate with each other and to connect with each other, other intimacies besides sexual intimacies. This strong emotional connection in turn builds desire and excitement in our sexual intimacy. So NFP is not only about family planning; it is about building strong marriages."

"The great strength of NFP," concludes Fletcher Doyle, is that it requires a spouse to focus on what's best for the other and not on his or her own wants in the most intimate aspect of their married lives. They acknowledge that

life may not go as planned, and they pledge to stand by each other regardless of circumstances. This embodies 'til death do us part.' Natural Family Planning is not a cure-all. However, many couples attest to the fact that NFP promotes communication, commitment, mutual respect, faith in God and sexual compatibility. When it comes to a successful marriage, that's a pretty good place to start."

[To learn more, contact the Diocesan NFP Office via email apietropaoli@rcdony.org. Phone 518-483-0459. Visit www.rcdony.org/nfp.]

Morse

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

School. He was a member of the Catholic Community of St. John's Church, assistant fire chief of the LaFargeville Volunteer Fire Department and a volunteer in the Shaker Road-Loudonville Fire Department when he attended Sienna College.

"Family was central to all

To Report Abuse

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

that he did," Father LaBaff said, referring to Peyton's parents, David and Stacey Morse and his love for his brother, Parker. "He always was there for Parker." Parker is visually impaired, but the brothers served at the altar together at St. John's "with Peyton always watching out for his brother, making sure he never had a misstep," Father Carrara said.

Peyton's remains were brought from Pennsylvania to Clayton March 15. A motorcade of police and fire units accompanied the hearse the entire way. Fire Department personnel stood in silent attention at overpasses on Interstate 81 and on the

streets in Watertown. The procession passed by the Massey Street fire station which Peyton would have called his. Chief Timmerman awarded Morse his badge while Morse was in the hospital.

"He was always a giving person," Father Carrara said. In death, Peyton Morse was still giving to others. He was an organ transplant donor. At least three other people received organs from Peyton Morse.

Peyton is survived by his wife, Celeste, parents, brother, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was predeceased by his grandfather Samuel Snyder Sr.

For a New or Used Car

**Mort
Backus &
Sons**

On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.
315-393-5899



CHEVROLET

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.

Couples exchange vows...again



22 couples have vow renewal dinner at St. James Church, Carthage

Carthage -As part of the 200th anniversary celebration at St. James Catholic Church Carthage, 22 couples from the parish attended a reception at Augustinian Academy in late February. The married couples renewed their wedding vows at Mass as part of the observance. Setting the mood, the

gymnasium was decorated with wedding photos of those in attendance. Church music director Michael Perfetto played music throughout the evening and a dinner was provided by Joanne Sligar and Kenneth Paragon.

Among those attending the event was the couple married the longest time,

Vinnie and Mona Paragon, former St. James parishioners, with 61 years and David and Dawn Jobson who at 4 years have been married the shortest amount of time of those gathered. Also in attendance were four couples celebrating their 50th anniversaries this year, John & Pat Heindorf, Robert & Carol LaPlatney, Michael & Joanne Sligar and Dan &

Janet Zehr.

"Even though we had restrictions due to Covid, the committee was able to pull together a wonderful event," Tammy Charette, committee chair, said. She expressed thanks to the committee members for "all their hard work and expertise in making this event a great success."

The vow renewal was

part of the yearlong celebration of the 200th anniversary of the current St. James Church building in Carthage. The parish was founded in 1785. At that time, it was the third parish organized in the state. Additional monthly observances are scheduled for the anniversary year.

Pre-Cana Stays Virtual

By Stephen Tartaglia
Director of Family Life

Normally in the Marriage edition of the North Country Catholic we post the Pre Cana schedule. We have not held any in-person Pre Cana sessions since March 2020 due to the pandemic. We have, however, continued to offer Pre Cana virtually as a temporary alternative. The plan was to offer this virtual alternative for a few months but here we are, one year later, still meeting virtually. In that time, 45 engaged couples have registered for the program and 26 of these couples have completed

it. The couples work at their own pace, but the average duration from registration to completion has been 91 days.

We will continue offering the virtual program until we are confident that it is safe to offer in-person sessions again. Once we resume the in-person sessions we will discontinue the use of the virtual alternative and the in-person Pre Cana schedule will be posted.

The virtual alternative offers the exact same content. Once a couple registers, the Family Life Office mails a package with all of the Pre Cana materials the couple will

need. The package includes directions for access to the video content of the program, offered through FORMED, an online platform. There are two parts of the program.

The first part, led by Deacon Ron and Michele Gingerich, involves watching a series of videos from the Beloved program and answering questions from the accompanying workbook. The answers to these questions are emailed to Deacon Ron and Michele who review the answers, connect with the couple, and answer any questions the couple has. The second part is led by An-

gelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli, the Diocesan Directors of Natural Family Planning. Couples watch a video about Natural Family Planning online and then email the answers to a few questions to the Pietropaolis, who review the answers, connect with the couple, and answer any questions the couple has. Once these two parts are completed the Family Life Office mails the Certificate of Completion to the couple.

To register for Pre Cana, couples should go to the Diocese of Ogdensburg Website www.rcdony.org/, and select Pre Cana on the

Offices tab. On the Pre Cana page, click on the Registration tab. The direct link for the Registration page is www.rcdony.org/pre-cana/other-locations-registration.html. Once the couple has completed the form they should click on the Submit button at the bottom of the page. They will be directed to the payment page. The cost for Pre Cana is \$85.

All questions should be directed to Steve Tartaglia, Family Life Director, at startaglia@rcdony.org, or (315) 393-2920.

A more perfect plan

Editor's Note: Our contributing writers Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli, interviewed two married couples for this edition of the North Country Catholic. There are similarities in the marriage stories but the most obvious common thread is the presence of God in their marriages.

Joey Izzo and Mary Catherine Jadlos

Joey Izzo and Mary Catherine Jadlos planned to walk the Camino together. The Camino is the Way of St. James, a network of pilgrimages leading to the shrine of the apostle Saint James the Great in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in northwestern Spain. The pilgrimage has not happened, yet. God had other plans for the pair, whose friendship began when they were counselors at Camp Guggenheim, an Adirondack Great Camp in Saranac Lake operated by the Diocese of Ogdensburg. On June 2, 2018, they were married at St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid.

Mary Catherine, friends call her "MC", told us, "In 2016 I was living in Ohio and (was) engaged to someone else, which ended abruptly three days before the wedding and left me in a state of confusion, anger, and feeling very lost in my vocation. But I felt oddly peaceful that perhaps one plan fell through so that a more perfect plan could take its place.

Meanwhile, Joey had moved back to Lake Placid after college. He was also trying to figure out what God had planned for him. "Turns out, when you have a friendship rooted in faith and trust in God's

plans - no matter how surprising - that relationship is just drenched in grace," MC said.

The Guggenheim Connection

"MC and I met at Guggenheim years ago," Joey said. "Working there together was great for our friendship long before we started dating. You learn a lot at that job about being patient, humble, and compassionate. At the time, my only thoughts on MC were that she rocked at that job and was legitimately passionate about her faith, not just for show."

Include God in your lives

Shared faith matters as MC explains. "Marriage is hard and requires intense trust and openness - to God and each other. We did not expect a perpetual, blissful honeymoon, but we craved the sacramental grace of marriage to turn every trial and every joy into an opportunity to grow together in holiness. As a couple, the greatest growth in holiness comes through the encounter of suffering and uncertainty; we can only rely on each other if we also trust that the other is leaning on God. My greatest prayer has been for continued openness to Divine Providence. God has answered every single prayer and provided in every desperate moment - from unexpected financial recovery to finding us a home to live in."

Comparing expectations of marriage with reality, Joey recalls hearing someone ask a husband what life had been like after a year of marriage. "He purposely responded with a very general 'better.' That really was my main hope: that my life would be bet-



Joey, Mary Catherine and their daughter Emmy

ter because of my wife, her life would be better because of me, and our children's lives would be better because of us. That really has been the case, thankfully. Better does not mean easy, especially from a Catholic perspective, but now hardships and struggles are seen through a lens that makes even tough times joyful during difficulties that could tempt you to be bitter or think, 'why me?' I hope to just chip away at being a better husband and father. I've quickly come to see that not trying to improve my patience and compassion negatively impacts the family over time."

Managing Time

In fact, says Joey, "I'd say the hardest challenge has been balancing time. As a full-time musician working in performance, production, engineering, and education, I have a job that doesn't really have an off button. I can be working any hour of the day or night. But if I'm needed for Daddy duty (daughter Emmy is 2 and a new baby is due this summer) I can't let my mind be pulled away. Otherwise, I'm not present enough to really

be a good example for my daughter or a good companion for MC."

Adding to the stress of Joey's schedule, MC is currently completing her nursing degree. Even so, the couple's faith connects and sustains them. "Our faith life has often revolved around community and service," MC relates. "I think we best 'come alive' together in our faith when we can share with others the joy we find in our faith. Providing music ministry has been an incredible gift, continuing into our marriage. Currently we provide music for our parish, St. Agnes (in Lake Placid). We marvel at how much of a gift it is to be able to pray with each other in that way while leading others in prayer. We try to approach each Mass as a prayer, not a performance. I can do this 'job' well only because it is with him! Marriage is a song and a prayer in and of itself, so to watch the fruits of that in practice is an awesome experience."

Joey acknowledges the importance of this shared experience. "MC was a passionate Catholic from the beginning at Guggen-

heim. She wasn't just inspirational to me, but to the hundreds of kids impacted by her work. I never doubted she would want faith to be at the center of our marriage because it was always the center of our friendship. Our Catholic faith and its inherent goal of sainthood works hand in hand with the goals of being a good husband and father. I need to stay honest with myself about how consistently I am working towards holiness."

On being parents

Parenthood helps. "We both agree," says MC, "that having children early in our marriage was an immense blessing which caused us to really forego selfishness and turn to service of each other and our daughter. Our relationship has grown and matured, but also exploded in joy! Parenthood makes us reflect on why we do what we do - for the sole purpose of walking with each other and our children to heaven."

"Emmy has been so good for us! Any parent knows that self-sacrifice is at the heart of parenthood. Giving yourself to this new life through work, time, knowledge and prayers gives you constant practice in how fellow humans should be treated," Joey said.

Words of wisdom? "With forgiveness, conversation, and prayer, you can come back stronger from disagreements. Avoiding that process because 'it's not my fault' is dangerous. Honest conversation is key to moving forward. The 'gospel of me' has no place in a Christ-centered marriage. Embracing 'we' gives hope for this life, and a glimpse of joy in life to come."

Dynamic duo with the help of God

Michael and Grace Leader Bobak

"We got engaged in October 2019 on top of a mountain, during a fall hike in the Adirondacks," explain Michael and Grace Leader Bobak, "and we planned our wedding throughout a global pandemic. We were married, July 31, 2020, at St. Mary's Church in Potsdam. We were able to have a beautiful and safe Mass and reception with friends and family. It was a day we will always cherish."

But the path to that day began long before, when Grace and Michael met as 7-year-olds at Guggenheim Family Camp. Despite living 4 hours apart (the Leaders in Gouverneur and the Bobaks in Buffalo), the families remained close. As teenagers, Grace and Michael returned to Guggenheim as campers, and later as camp counselors when both were students at Franciscan University of Steubenville.

Today the couple lives in the Buffalo area and are parishioners of St. Stephen Church, Grand Island; they are expecting their first baby in July. Michael is in his first year at University of Buffalo Dental School; Grace is Director of Youth Ministry at Queen of Heaven Parish in West Seneca, NY.

Reality sets in

"Much of what we imagined about marriage has differed from the reality. However, this is mostly because we have matured, our relationship has matured, and we have been open to God's will shaping our lives," Grace told us. "In a way, we have even been blessed through Covid: with virtual classes and working from home, we are often able to eat lunch together and see

each other throughout the day, which has helped our relationship."

According to Michael, "Living as a married couple is vastly different from living as a single person. It takes some time to get used to the other person's habits, quirks, and things that drive you crazy! Everyone has these quirks that make them unique, and it is challenging to get used to them. Yet those quirks are nothing in comparison to the love, help and support that we give each other. We are like a dynamic duo that has each other's backs and can tackle anything life throws at us with the help of God. This underlying love and support are the greatest part about being married. You have someone trying to get you to heaven!"

Married less than a year, Grace can already see changes in their relationship. "We can see now that life will look different throughout the stages of our marriage. Life is already different now than it was before I was pregnant, and we know that it will be different once the baby is born, and every year after. We understand that life is unexpected, and God's plans are always greater than our own."

Sometimes the ways of God can be hard to understand. Grace said, "The greatest challenge we have faced as a couple was the unexpected death of Michael's father this past fall. As we continue to grieve and support one another, we have realized more and more the importance of communicating with one another, being honest, and keeping prayer even more central to our relationship than it already was. Every day we continue to support one

another and be patient as we strive to deal with this new reality. It takes great patience, and the grace of God, as well as mutual love and support."

Marriage is our Vocation

Michael and Grace are as confident of God as they are of each other. "It is beautiful to see how God has worked in our lives over the years, and how we were taught by our families to discern our vocations." Both considered religious life but recognized a different calling.

"From a young age," says Grace, "I desired to be a wife and mother, raising children in the faith. Michael felt the same passion towards being a father." Michael said, "Our faith was an important part of our upbringing, and of our personal growth. While our lives are much busier now, we continue to make time for prayer. Each night after dinner we read a daily reflection from The One Year Love Language Minute Devotional and join family for a nightly Rosary virtually. We plan to continue structured family prayer when we have children."

Their first child is due July 3rd. The two "have always seen children as a beautiful gift from God," explains Grace. "While we were open to children, we were planning to wait until Michael was further along in dental school. But we are so thankful for God's plan and timing in blessing us with our first child. We anxiously await our new son or daughter."

"We are so thankful for this blessing and challenge we have been given. We have seen our relationship grow, change, and mature during Grace's pregnancy, and are ex-



Michael and Grace Leader Bobak

cited to see how life will change moving forward. Becoming parents has strengthened our vocation. It has already allowed us to step outside ourselves, to be more selfless and serve the needs of each other and of our growing baby," Michael said.

"We are so thankful to be living out our vocation to married life," Grace continues. "It is more beautiful than we imagined, and we are confident that the love of Christ can help overcome any challenges. We are so excited and blessed to bring our first baby into the world, raise the child in the faith, and lovingly accept any other children God gifts to us."

Michael agrees, "It is very important that we

continue to strengthen our relationship with God for our own sakes, our marriage, and the sake of our children. We know that a life centered on Christ differs greatly from one that is not. We continue to ask God what He wants of us, and plan on doing that."

What would Michael and Grace like other young couples to know? "Keeping God central to your marriage is the most important thing you could do. It is a beautiful responsibility to love unconditionally for your whole life, and it is a challenge that should not be taken lightly. Trust that God is leading you, and that his plan is always greater than your own."

Year dedicated to families aims to strengthen joy, hope, cardinal says

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Families need the care and attention of the church, but they also have so much to

offer its pastoral programs and priests, said Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life.

Dedicating the next year,

which started March 19, to the pastoral care of families will be an important initiative, particularly at a time of pandemic and its consequences, he said during an online Vatican

news conference.

Coming at a time when people need hope, outreach and solidarity, the year will be a key opportunity "to show the world that God's plan for the family is a source of joy and hope. It is truly good news!" he said.

The cardinal and others spoke at the event to present a few details about the "Amoris Laetitia Family Year," which is meant to strengthen the church's pastoral support of families and to deeper reflection on "Amoris Laetitia," Pope Francis' 2016 apostolic exhortation on family life.

"The pandemic has had very painful consequences for millions of people," the cardinal said. "But it has been the family, even though it's been hard hit in many ways, that has shown once again its face as a 'guardian of life,'" and its place as a home to authentic and loving relationships.

Gabriella Gambino, undersecretary of the dicastery, said at the news conference that their office would be providing some resources on the website, www.laityfamilylife.va, for parishes and dioceses throughout the year, and called for ongoing exchanges and ideas from everyone.

They will also release a new video each month, featuring Pope Francis and different families, talking about ways "Amoris Laetitia" can guide people's lives, and they will publish short pastoral guides for groups or individuals for reflection, she said.

Published five years ago, "Amoris Laetitia" still needs to be fully embraced in people's hearts,

turning its teachings into actual practice, Cardinal Farrell said.

"Families need pastoral care and dedication," he said, particularly when it comes to "couples and families in crisis, supporting those who have been left all alone, and poor and broken families."

The year will offer parishes, associations and Catholic individuals the chance to reach out to families in need, the cardinal said, "not just to help them not feel alone facing difficulties, but to walk with them, listen and launch pastoral initiatives that help them to cultivate their love each day."

One aspect of pastoral renewal requires improved formation for educators, pastoral workers and clergy, he said.

Those involved in formation must be able to show families how the grace that flows from the sacrament of marriage is what helps them be able to respond to the challenges in everyday life, he said.

It will be important that clergy around the world embrace the pope's invitation "with generosity and enthusiasm," he said, so that they can be "brothers and fathers, ready to help families, but also to learn from them."

Married couples and families are a model of the grace of spousal love, showing what it means "to live love as giving."

By being with families, priests and deacons can be enriched by this special grace so their ministry becomes more joyful and spiritually fruitful, he said.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER FOR THE DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

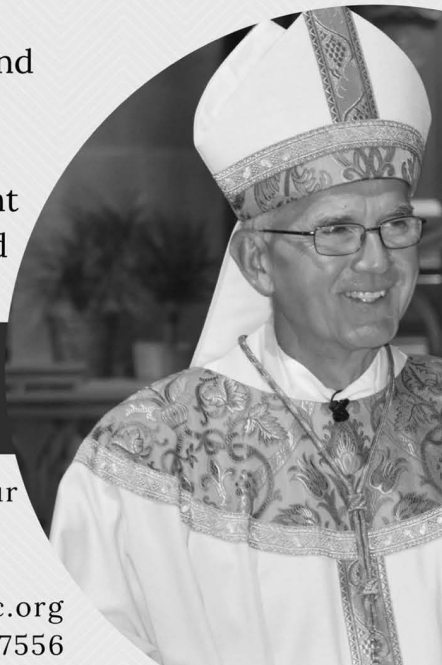


EXPERIENCE OUR FAMILY OF FAITH

- Personal stories of faith
- Parish and Diocesan News
- Important messages from Bishop Terry LaValley
- A fresh perspective on Catholic news from around the nation and world
- Scripture Reflections
- Receive your copy in print by mail or have it emailed to you!

SUBSCRIBE OR RENEW TO THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC TODAY!

- Place your envelope in your parish collection
- Online at our website: www.northcountrycatholic.org
- Call our office at 315-608-7556



CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Abuse report exonerates Cologne cardinal

COLOGNE, Germany (CNS) - A much-anticipated report on the handling of abuse cases in the Archdiocese of Cologne exonerates Cardinal Rainer Maria Woelki but incriminates Hamburg Archbishop Stefan Hesse and Cologne Auxiliary Bishop Dominik Schwaderlapp. The report by the law firm Gercke Wollschläger accuses Cardinal Woelki's predecessors, the deceased Cardinals Joseph Höffner (1906-1987) and Joachim Meisner (1933-2017), of many breaches of duty in the handling of abuse cases. The report also incriminates others which led the cardinal to relieve a bishop of his duties. The cardinal said he review the report and consider further consequences.

Migrants at the border

TORREON, Mexico (CNS) -- Migrants riding atop northbound trains break from their trips to refresh at the Jesuit-run day center in this industrial city, about 500 miles south of the U.S.-Mexico border at El Paso, Texas. On a recent weekday, Josué -- a skinny Honduran teenager with short hair and stud earrings in both ears -- was among the migrants waiting for breakfast, along with a chance to shower and claim a fresh change of clothes. When asked why he left Honduras, Josué, 17, mentioned several motives, starting with street gangs, which he says killed his father and 13-year-old brother. "They target young people," he said. "If you don't pay them extortion you have to join them." He also spoke of twin hurricanes that battered Honduras in November and "left us homeless." The first hurricane ripped off the roof and the second knocked down the walls, he said. Josué also yearned to reunite with relatives living in the United States. "I'm seeking a better life there," he said. Child and adolescent migrants like Josué are heading toward the United States in increasing numbers. U.S. border officials detained 561 unaccompanied minors March 15. In February, more than 9,400 children and teenagers crossing on their own were stopped, a 60% increase from January, according to The Associated Press.

Pope urges pastors to avoid tendency to possess new parish.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Like St. Joseph who had other plans for his life, but lovingly embraced his role as Jesus' foster father, a priest assigned to a new parish cannot impose his own ways on that community, Pope Francis said. At times, even with the best intentions, priests can "sometimes end up getting lost" and have a "tendency to 'grab' and 'possess' what happens to us, rather than welcoming it primarily as it presents itself to us," the pope said in prepared remarks March 18 to students and faculty of Rome's Pontifical Belgian College. A community where a new priest is assigned, he explained, has "its own history, made up of joys and wounds, riches and small miseries, which cannot be ignored in the name of ideas and personal pastoral plans that one cannot wait to apply. This is a risk we can fall into. The new parish priest must first love the community, freely, just because he has been sent to it; and by loving it, he slowly will come to know it in depth and be able to help set it on new paths," he said.

Poverty now hits Syrians as fighting wanes

Editors notes: The Diocese of Ogdensburg has a "winning relationship" with the Diocese of Latakia, located in Syria. Bishop Antoine Chbeir shepherds this Maronite Catholic Diocese of about 45,000 Catholics. War has wreaked havoc on the region. In addition to normal pastoral activities, the Church in Latakia also must minister to thousands of displaced Syrians who seek a safe refuge.

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Food, cooking fuel, jobs and, especially, hope are hard to come by in Syria, said two Catholic leaders reflecting on the 10th anniversary of the war.

"We feel forgotten. The sanctions have thrown the country further into desperation: 83% of the population is below the poverty line. We can't do it anymore. Enough," said Maronite Archbishop Joseph Tobji of Aleppo.

"We feel abandoned by the international community," he told Vatican News March 17. But he said he

and his fellow Syrians were grateful for Pope Francis' repeated calls for peace and for prayers.

The 10th anniversary of the war was March 15. In the past decade, an estimated 585,000 people have been killed and more than 11 million civilians have been displaced, including some 5.6 million Syrians who have sought refuge outside the country.

Vatican News marked the occasion by interviewing both Archbishop Tobji and Cardinal Mario Zenari, the apostolic nuncio to Syria since December 2008.

"Syria is no longer the country I knew when I arrived 12 years ago as apostolic nuncio," he said. "Today, going out onto the streets of Damascus, I see long lines of people outside the bakeries patiently waiting their turn to buy bread at prices set by the state; often it is the only food they can buy. You never saw such scenes before, not even in the hardest years of the war."

While it is true that several regions of Syria are no longer seeing bombing campaigns, he said, "what has exploded is what you could call the 'bomb' of poverty."

"The Syrian pound has lost most of its value, and

prices of basic goods have risen to the stars," the cardinal said. "The people call this phase of the conflict the 'economic war.'"

Archbishop Tobji said that while the Christian churches and humanitarian organizations are working with Muslim communities and organizations to respond to the dire humanitarian situation, Syria's Christian community has been decimated.

"Today there are fewer than a quarter of the Christians there were when the conflict began," he said. "Young people and those who are skilled flee while the poor and vulnerable are left behind."

"Despite everything, we are doing what we can to keep going," he said. "But we are in a bad mood, we see no hope -- and that's true not only for Christians but for everyone."

Archbishop Tobji also said he does not think most of the Christians who fled the country will return. "They are not happy in the new places that welcomed them, but they are not willing to return to this horrible hell."

Prayer to Blessed Virgin
Oh most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendor of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity.

Oh, Star of the sea, help me and show me you are my Mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity (make request).

There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times). Holy Mother, I place this prayer in your hands (3 times).
With grateful thanks, ND.

BARSTOW

AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION BUICK PONTIAC GMC SUBARU
WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE

"Family owned dealership serving the North Country for over 56 years!"

For more information, visit our Website at: www.barstowmotors.com

MARKET ST., POTSDAM, NY • (315) 265-8800

ESSEX

LATIN MASS

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

Date: March 25

Time: Noon

Place: St. Patrick's

FISH FRY

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

Date: March 26

Time: 4 p.m. to 6

Cost: \$12

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

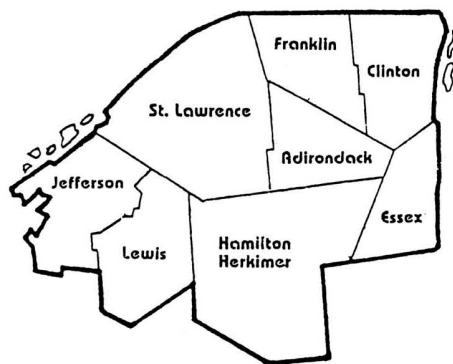
Contact: Order ahead by March 24 for pick-up by calling 518-963-4524 or 518-873-6760 or email rccowe@gmail.com. You can also drive-by on day of dinner. Delivery available to shut-ins.

LENTEN PARISH MISSION

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

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

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



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

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

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

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.

LATIN MASS

Port Henry – Extraordinary Form Latin Mass to be held each Sunday.

Date: Beginning April 4

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: St. Patrick's Church

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

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 sessions 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

Is your subscription going to expire soon? How to tell by looking at your mailing label.

Expire Date

*****AUTO**5 DIGIT 12345 05/27/2020
Mr. and Mrs. John Doe
123 Church Rd
Anywhere, NY 12345

If your label is showing that your account is going to expire soon, Please cut out this entire ad and fill in your information below or pay online at www.northcountrycatholic.org

Inside Diocese \$27 Outside Diocese \$30

I want to be a Patron: \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send this entire ad with payment to:
North Country Catholic
PO Box 106, Canajoharie, New York, 13317

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@adkmercy.org or 518-523-5582.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

IHC MYSTERY PLAYERS
LIVESTREAMED

The IHC Mystery Players will be livestreaming "The Way of the Cross" – Covid Edition.

Date: April 2 (Good Friday)

Time: Play starts at 7:30 p.m.; can log on around 7:15 p.m.

Features: To watch go to <https://catholicwatertown.org/> and click on the Mystery Players link.

HEALING MASS

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. In conjunction with CAPM, Bishop LaValley will hold a special Healing Mass.

Date: April 11

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral and Livestreamed

Features: Please plan to attend and pray for all victims/survivors of child abuse.

Contact: For more information contact Safe Environment Office at 315-393-2920

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

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

High School Junior men and older are invited to join Fr. Marty Cline & Fr. Howard Venette as they livestream from St. Bernard's, Saranac Lake, to discuss vocation discernment and the Priesthood with you!

Date: April 18

Time: 3 p.m. to 4

Place: YouTube Channel "Ogdensburg Fishers Club"

Features: Participants can be "almost" live by forwarding comments and questions to ogdiscern@gmail.com during the broadcast.

CAMP GUGGENHEIM REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

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

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

NOW PLAYING
THE FATHER

By Kurt Jensen,
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) - "The Father" (Sony Classics) has nothing new to say about the challenges of dementia.

Yet, in adapting his play with co-screenwriter Christopher Hampton, director Florian Zeller does succeed in presenting the difficulties resulting from that illness in an innovative way. His drama portrays the mental confusion of a man in his 80s by keeping the viewer off-balance as well.

Thus Anthony (Anthony Hopkins) sometimes sees different women (Olivia Colman or Olivia Williams) as Anne, the daughter with whom he lives. Additionally, he's often taunted by a strange man (Mark Gatiss) who announces that he also lives in their London apartment and sometimes describes himself as Anne's husband, Paul -- even though Anne has been divorced for five years.

Later, Rufus Sewell turns up as Paul.

Anthony is usually good-natured, although sometimes cranky. His fears don't last very long at first, and he never goes outside by himself. But



Olivia Colman and Anthony Hopkins star in a scene from the movie "The Father." 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. (CNS photo/Sean Gleason, Sony Classics)

clearly, with Anne about to move to Paris to pursue a live-in and -- she hopes -- permanent new romance, it's time for Anthony to go into a nursing home.

Zeller shows Anthony's perception of the apartment and the people around him as vividly as Anthony experiences it. And, when that shifts, it's never clear which is the reality and which is the illusion.

That's particularly true

where Anne's motives and behavior are concerned. She handles her father with immense patience, compassion and humor, especially when he lashes out at Laura (Imogen Poots), his final at-home caregiver, and accuses everyone in sight of stealing the wristwatch to which he clings -- along with his many opera recordings -- as an emblem of reality.

Financial considerations and assorted health prob-

lems other than mental decline are not the issue. Instead, Anne -- contrary to what initially appear to be her selfish motives in the matter -- comes disinterestedly to the very sad and inevitable realization that Anthony needs to be looked after with more resources than she can provide for him on her own. Anyone who has cared for an elderly parent will identify with the pathos of Anne's situation.

Skillfully understated

performances by Hopkins and Colman, moreover, make this a moving experience even for those with no firsthand experience of the kind.

Anthony isn't quite "losing" his mind. Rather, his brain functions like an ancient radio in which the tubes are blowing out one at a time. Nor is he ever violent, only fearful like a child. Some may see that as Zeller dodging one of the most troubling -- and all-too-frequent -- symptoms of Anthony's condition.

Even if that omission does provide a polite veneer to the proceedings, though, "The Father" is admirably courageous in other respects, delving into moral depths and laying bare family relationships.

The film contains mature themes and fleeting coarse language. 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.



Enjoy the renewal of spring with a subscription to the North Country Catholic, the newspaper for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Welcome Spring!

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 Subscription Renewal

Please send my subscription to my e-mail address:

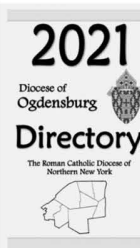
Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parish _____

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!

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Holy week means suffer, die with Christ

If ever there was a time for Christians to make reparation for the presence of evil in our world, it is Holy Week. The sufferings of many thousands of Christians, threats to religious freedom, destruction of family life as God intended all remind us of the taunts and jeers of those who brought about Christ's death for the salvation of the world.

Holy Week begins this Passion (Palm) Sunday with the waving of palm branches and cries of "Hosanna to the King". We can imagine a stranger in Jerusalem asking, "What's happening?" A shopkeeper would reply excitedly, "They're going to make this Jesus a King! King for a day! What a



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

shallow mockery that became when it is repeated with blows and spittle by the soldiers just a few days later! A thorn-crowned King! How fickle their allegiance really is. Now, his heart is really broken as He sees how He has failed to win their loyalty and love. This year, the Gospel of Mark is used for the Passion narrative. The horrors of

the Passion are proclaimed, and we must with reluctance raise our voices with the crowd clamoring "Crucify Him!"

How could have events have accelerated at such a dizzying pace between Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday? The forces of darkness were never more vicious in their attempt to terminate the Mission of

March 28

Passion (Palm) Sunday

READINGS

At the Procession of the Palms:

Mark 11:1-10

At Mass:

Isaiah 50:4-7;

Philippians 2:6-11

Mark 14:1---15:47

Jesus on this earth. That the religious leaders of that time were made instruments of evil is a tragic lesson to all religions, even to the present day. That these leaders scandalized their own people, making them agents of falsehood, is another warning to those of unwary and careless piety. How easily the righteous can be lulled into blind activity that can do harm! We wonder if any of the many that Jesus healed in his journeys were among

those crying out against Him. The Passion narrative is the most powerful story ever written about the sacrifice of the innocent to evil, and the blind consent of crowds to those in power.

Holy Week offers us the opportunity to personally suffer and die with Jesus for the sinfulness of our world, the sin of the past which seems so remote and the sin of our present which is all too real, and, in our fear, threatens to overwhelm us. We often cannot understand our own behavior. We fail to carry out the things we want to do, and find ourselves doing the things we hate.

It is often a cause for sadness among clergy and religious that so few people take part in the Holy Thursday re-enactment of the Last Supper. The washing of the feet forces

us to feel the humiliation of Peter when Jesus waited on him. When will we allow Jesus to do what he wants with us? The special attention given on this day to Jesus' truly leaving His body and blood with us until the end of time stirs us to come more frequently to adore Him really present on our altars every day. Holy Week is a time for us to examine the flaws in the practice of our faith. The only remedy for our weakness is love for the Crucified One.

Along the street called the Via Dolorosa, Jesus, carrying His cross, must have walked over the withered palms! Are we ready to pick up one and take it with us all the way to Calvary?

This indeed is a week like no other, leading to the triumph of love—the Resurrection.

CALLED TO SERVE

Hey Deacon, can you marry us?

Since this is the wedding issue of the North Country Catholic it occurred to me this is a perfect time to write about the deacon at weddings. You know me too well. You are anticipating this article could go anywhere. True.

I could talk about that wonderful day Kathy and I said our "I do's" at St. Mary's Church in Laurel-

ton, NY a little over 50 years ago. But I won't.

Perhaps you want to hear about the time a good friend of mine was taken by his groomsmen from his wedding reception to be thrown into the fountain on Public Square in Watertown. Nah.

How about the wedding I presided at in Queens? That marriage unfortu-

nately didn't last. But I did learn a lot about presiding in another diocese. That doesn't interest you either?

Well then, let's chat about wedding ceremonies and deacons.

Deacons may preside at nuptials IF the ceremony is not during the Eucharist Liturgy. If the couple exchanges wedding vows during Mass, the celebrant of the Mass, a priest, says the appropriate prayers and leads the celebrants of the ceremony, the man and woman, through the various parts of the ritual.

I have heard of occasions when a priest celebrant will permit a deacon to preside over parts of the wedding during Mass.

That is unusual and is often because there is a family relationship between the deacon and the bride and/or groom.

Deacons can preside without a priest presider if the wedding is outside of Mass. The wedding has to be in a Catholic Church, unless there is a dispensation granted by the bishop. If the deacon is not assigned to the parish, the pastor will delegate authority to preside to the deacon.

In many parishes a deacon is involved in marriage preparation, helps to schedule Pre Cana classes or Couple to Couple ses-



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

sions and may be involved in the required pre-nuptial investigation.

Most deacons are married men so, with his wife, may be a good contact for the bride and groom to be. Ultimately the pastor will decide how involved the deacon will be in your planning and ceremony.

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown NY.

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

MONASTERY CARD SHOP

Cards for All Occasions

Mass Enrollments for your living & deceased loved ones.

Precious Blood Monastery

OPEN: 9 AM - 5 PM
SATURDAY 9 AM - 12 PM

400 PRATT ST., WATERTOWN

315-788-1669

www.sisterspreciousblood.org

Jesus is nailed to the cross

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.

Eleventh Station

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

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

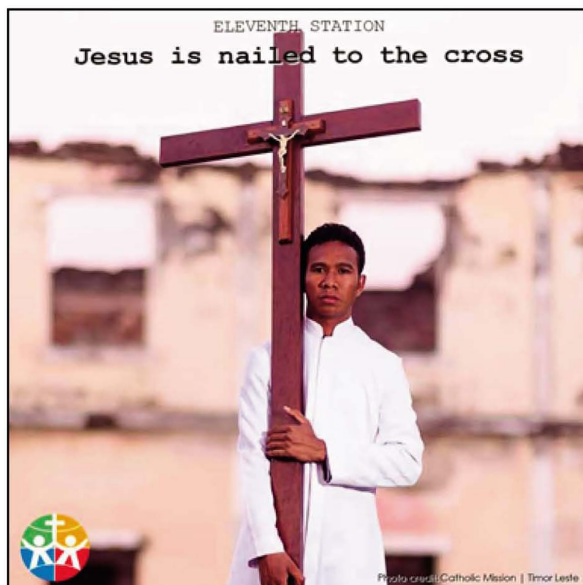
Reader: We can't imagine Your pain, Jesus, as You are nailed to the Cross. This young man, studying to follow Your



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

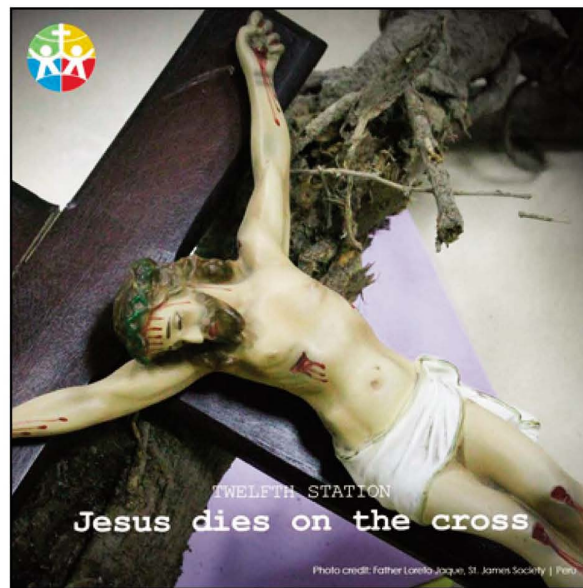
The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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



call to the priesthood, lives in Timor Leste, an island country off the

coast of Australia. Help us to be like him, Jesus, listening to you as we



pray and answer your call to follow.

**ALL KNEEL AND PAUSE
FOR A MOMENT
ALL RISE**

Twelfth Station

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

All: Because by your

Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

Reader: Lord Jesus, you sacrificed your life so that we may all one day join You in heaven. Help us to be your missionaries, spreading Your message of peace, hope, and love to all we meet, so that they too, may see You in heaven!

OBITUARIES

Canton – Deitre T. “Dee” (Thorbahn) Gilson, 72; Funeral Services March 19, 2021 at O’Leary Funeral Home.

Clayton – Peyton Lane S. Morse, 21; Mass of Christian Burial March 19, 2021 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. John’s Cemetery, LaFargeville.

Constableville – James P. Duppert, 81; Mass of Christian Burial March 15, 2021 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery.

Croghan – Clifford L. Aueter, 85; Mass of Christian Burial March 18, 2021 at St. Stephen’s Church; burial in Ellington Cemetery, CT.

Croghan – LeRoy “John” Bush Sr., 84; Mass of Christian Burial March 27, 2021 at St. Stephen’s Church; burial in

St. Stephen’s Cemetery.

Croghan – Bernadette A. (Boliver) Planty, 97; Mass of Christian Burial March 17, 2021 at St. Stephen’s Church; burial in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery, Belfort.

Elizabethtown – Ross Garulski, 79; Mass of Christian Burial March 20, 2021 at St. Elizabeth’s Church; burial in Saranac Lake.

Ellenburg – Bernadette M. (Tourville) Peets, 87; Mass of Christian Burial March 17, 2021 at St. Edmund’s Church.

Keeseville – Mary Jane (Novosad) Clark, 92; Mass of Christian Burial March 19, 2021 at Immaculate Conception Church burial in Evergreen Cemetery.

Lowville – Candy K. Jantzi, 58; Mass of Christian Burial March 20, 2021 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in Beaches Bridge Cemetery.

Massena – Marie E. (Phelix) Guilbert, 82; Mass of Christian Burial March 13, 2021 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Shirley P. (Darrah) St. Louis, 86; Mass of Christian Burial March 15, 2021 at St. Alexander’s Church.

Morrisonville – James Francis Trombley, 86; Mass of Christian Burial March 20, 2021 at St. Alexander’s Church; burial in St. Alexander’s Cemetery.

North Bangor – William J. Gardner, 77; Services to be held at a later date.

Norwood – Noreen F. (White) Hop-sicker, 100; Graveside Services to be in the spring at Calvary Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Laura M. (Coates) Beaudet, 89; Mass of Christian Burial March 19, 2021 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Kurt F. Tobrocke, 69; Mass of Christian Burial March 20, 2021 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Potsdam – Marjorie A. (O’Brien) Scott, 83; Mass of Christian Burial March 13, 2021 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery, Louisville.

Tupper Lake – Doris Rose (White) Barkley, 88; Funeral Services March 18, 2021 at Frary-Stuart Funeral Home.

Tupper Lake – William Crouse, 92; Mass of Christian Burial March 15, 2021 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Watertown – Roland J. Donato, 81; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at Holy Family Church at a later date.

Watertown – Gerald F. O’Leary, 92; Mass of Christian Burial March 16, 2021 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

West Chazy – Bessie Jane (LeClair) Senecal, 86; Mass of Christian Burial to be held in May at St. Joseph’s Church.

West Chazy – Paul Steven Senecal, 86; Mass of Christian Burial to be held in May at St. Joseph’s Church.

GOLDEN ROSE AWARD



On March 14, prior to the 9:30 a.m. Mass at St. Augustine's in Peru, Msgr. Dennis J. Duprey presented the Golden Rose Award to Bob and Jane Woods and Bob and Linda Manchester citing their committed service to the parish's service and liturgical life. Retired St. Augustine's Pastor Rev. Alan Shnob, who began the Golden Rose tradition at St. Augustine's, offered congratulations and concelebrated the Mass. The Golden Rose Award Plaque reads, "On This Fourth Sunday during the Holy Season of Lent The Pastor, Pastoral Council, and the people of the Parish present Robert and Jane Woods/ Robert and Linda Manchester The Golden Rose Award for the service given to God's people and for God's honor and glory. "Well done, good and faithful servants!"

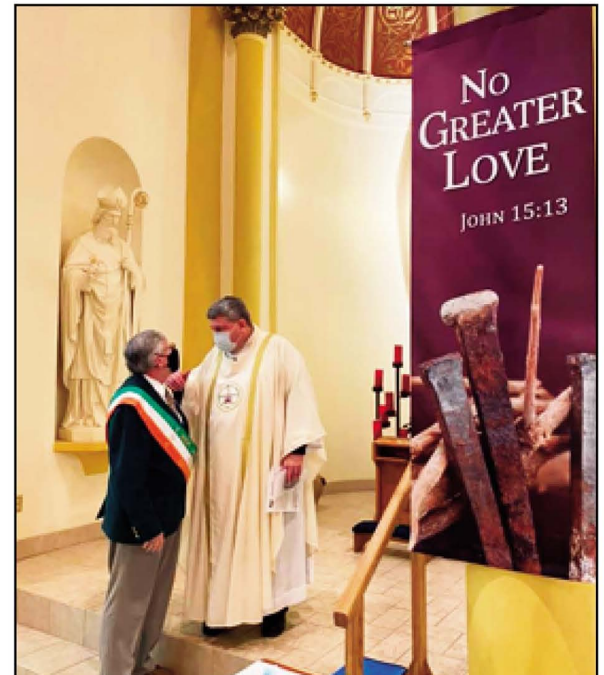
FAITH AND PAINT



Youth group members from the Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander's, St. James, St. Joseph's and the Church of the Assumption participated in a popular activity offered by the parish Youth Ministry Program. A guided paint activity can be done following all the COVID-19 protocols and these youth painted a Lenten theme picture. The youth group is made up of students from grade 6-12.

FACES OF FAITH

ST. PATRICK PARISH CELEBRATES



Catholic parishes named for St. Patrick celebrated the bishop's patronage last week. At St. Patrick Church in Watertown, the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) and Knights of Columbus Color Guard assisted parishioners at a commemorative Mass. Rev. John Demo, Pastor of St. Patrick Church, greets William J. Flynn III, President of the Msgr. James A Ruddy Division of the AOH.

Remember me? Snookie, from Wholesale Homes of Malone

I'm back and dedicated as always! Let me help provide you with the home you have always wanted to own - not a rent receipt! I have single, doublewides and modular homes waiting for you to purchase that will fit your budget.



Make your dream a reality!

PLATTSBURGH WHOLESALE HOMES

EXIT 39 OFF THE NORTHWAY (NEAR CRETE CIVIC CENTER)

PLATTSBURGH, NY 12901

518-563-1100 • 1-800-640-1833 • www.pwmh.com