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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 75, Number 41

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 3, 2021

## Grants boost schools, help those in need

Last week, the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation announced that it had awarded more than \$100 million in grants around the state to benefit programs that improve the health and wellbeing of disadvantaged New York residents.

Schools in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, as well as parishes and service organizations were among the recipients.

The grants will allow the recipients to create or continue programs that benefit children, the elderly, the infirm and those facing food insecurity or other hardships.

Learn more about the recipient entities and the programs they're creating and extending thanks to this funding opportunity.

SEE STORIES, PAGES 4 & 5

## A DAY OF PLAY



On Feb. 18, St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga offered an Outdoor Play Day for its students. This event gave students the opportunity to get together during Winter Break and have some fun. The event included a campfire with s'mores, a picnic-style hot dog lunch, sliding, a snow volcano, snow painting, and a lot of running and chatting. Family Support Coordinator Pam Arzberger organized the event and had faculty, parent, and school board members volunteering with the day. "The children had a fantastic day and a lot of fun," said Arzberger. "It was a great break for many to get away from home and enjoy the outdoors." About 30 children participated.

## SHINING LIGHT INTO THE DARKNESS



Msgr. Dennis J. Duprey, pastoral administrator of St. Augustine's Church in Peru, leads the Lenten Stations of the Cross at Mother Cabrini Shrine and St. Patrick's Oratory in West Peru. The oratory and shrine will host the Stations of the Cross every Wednesday night at 6 p.m. through Lent.

FULL STORY, PAGE 12

## Meditation: Conversion is call to renew faith

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Conversion means believing that God became flesh to make all things new and offer his kingdom to everyone, said Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, offering the first meditation of Lent for leaders of the Roman Curia and Vatican employees.

Pope Francis was not present for the meditation Feb. 26 in the Vatican's

Paul VI audience hall.

The day also marked the end of a week of spiritual exercises for the pope and Roman Curia; the retreat, however, was not held at the usual retreat center outside of Rome due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, the pope had invited "the cardinals residing in Rome, the heads of dicasteries and the superiors of the

Roman Curia to make their own personal arrangements, withdrawing in prayer" from Feb. 21 to 26, the Vatican said Jan. 20.

As is customary during the retreat week, the pope suspended all of his engagements, including his weekly general audience.

In his meditation, Cardinal Cantalamessa talked about how the meaning of

"conversion" changed in the New Testament.

Before Jesus, "conversion" meant a call to "turn back," to stop and return to the covenant made with God, he said. Conversion was "painful," a moral mandate with a lot of "don'ts" concerning one's behavior, he added.

Everything changes with Jesus, he said. Now "conversion" is no longer

going backward but "a leap forward" to believe in Jesus and enter God's kingdom to obtain that salvation Jesus came to offer everyone freely.

Conversion also means changing one's idea of God from a God who "orders, who threatens, to the idea of a God who comes with his hands full to give us everything," the papal preacher said.

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

## Alexis' magical muffins

It was two blueberry muffins, and they meant the world to me.

There's a new young woman, Alexis, in the office next to mine. Alexis works for the Pontifical Mission Society.

Alexis is young, relatively fresh out of college and in her first office job. The wall between our offices is on the thin side. Sound travels pretty readily between our spaces.

Poor Alexis.

We hadn't worked together for a week before I had to apologize to her for the strange conversations that

take place in my office. But Alexis wasn't phased by the strange. She embraced it. She enjoys it!

**Darcy L.  
Fargo**

I quickly liked Alexis.

Recently, I was having a super busy, stressful day. I arrived at work late due to a personal appointment, and then I found out I had more work to do than I initially thought - way more work.

Running into her as she was leaving the office to get lunch, Alexis said something like, "have a good lunch."

"I'm going to skip lunch and try to catch up," I told

her.

Alexis asked if I was going to make it through the workday with no food.

"I have weird eating habits. I'll be fine."

I was not fine. I was overwhelmed, and I was hungry.

Almost an hour later, as I was putting the finishing touches on a page of this paper, I noticed Alexis in my door. She walked over to my desk and set down two homemade blueberry muffins. She noted she baked them using a mix and wasn't sure how they'd taste.

They tasted like a gourmet meal! Mix-made blueberry muffins are apparently magical when you're super hungry. Or maybe her kind

gesture was.

Alexis' gesture (and her muffins) were magical because they were a kindness exactly when I needed one. Alexis saw me struggling, and she took actions to show me she cared. She showed love.

From what I've observed of Alexis, she's trying hard to serve the Lord. She's trying hard to do what she's called to do and be what she's called to be. She sees opportunities to be a conduit of God in everyday moments.

She reminded me that we can make big impacts with little gestures made with love.

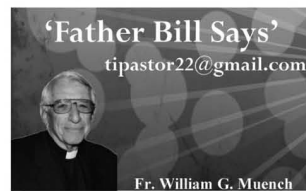
And love can look like muffins.

## Spending time in silence, prayer

I want to tell you today how grateful I am to God for Lent. I admit making a good Lent is not easy. Every year, Lent is a new challenge. However, I know I become a better person when I accept the challenge. Yet, I am so grateful. The whole spirit of the season of Lent is certainly one of my favorite times of the Church year. I am so grateful that the Church insists that I do Lent. I know that this time of Lent leads to the joy of Holy Week and Easter.

The goal of each Lent is to make me a better, a more grateful person, a person who is truly worthy to walk with Jesus to Calvary. You see, often when I think of being on Calvary with Jesus on the day of Jesus' crucifixion, I feel very unworthy. I need Lent - many Lents - to make myself worthy. I must immerse myself into Lent.

Lent gives me the opportunity to form my relationship



with the Lord Jesus more and make it more intimate. Lent reminds me that I have gotten away from the good practices that keep me close to God each day - prayer, Scripture, Mass, meditation. Lent focuses my attention on each of these that I may remember better who God is and who I am.

To answer these questions, I need one of the gifts of Lent: silence. Taking a time of silence allows me to pray, even contemplate, on the great love that God has for me. That love is full of forgiveness. So, I am a loved person, a person God loves so much that God's forgiveness is always offered to me each day.

Mass is important. Praying before the Blessed Sacrament is important. The words of prayer are important. But I know I must add times of silence. You see, I have discovered in silence that my God finds me. When I allow my mind and heart to be open in silence, God comes with his love. This is one of the gifts of Lent that I am truly thankful for.

We all know so well that God's forgiveness means that I must be a forgiving person. Recently, the Gospel at a Lenten Daily Mass was the story of Jesus' teaching the apostles the Lord's Prayer. I remember that day well because the third graders attended that Mass with the ordinary community. So, I was pleased that we could talk about this special prayer with them.

Jesus tells us that when we pray to God, we remember that God wants to be our Father. Each time we approach

God - in Mass, in prayer - it is a time of approaching a loving Father. This changes our recognition of what our relationship should be. This is how we should lovingly and boldly approach this God who wishes to be Father.

In the second part of the Lord's Prayer, we make a covenant with God: "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." God, treat me as I treat others. Each time we say this Lord's Prayer, we are telling our God that we are willing to be treated just as we treat others.

This Lord's Prayer is such a wonderful gift from our God. I know that whenever I wish to pray with a sick person in the hospital, or with a family around a loved one who is close to death, or with a community as some sort of public gathering, I can call upon them to join me in the Lord's Prayer.



# Deacon Solomon incardinated into our diocese

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

After encountering the Diocese of Ogdensburg early in his time in the United States, Deacon Fernando Solomon said he hoped to be a part of this diocese. That hope became a reality nearly 10 years later, as Deacon Solomon, a transitional deacon seeking ordination to the priesthood, has been officially incardinated into the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

"I am really, really so happy," Deacon Solomon said. "It's overwhelming."

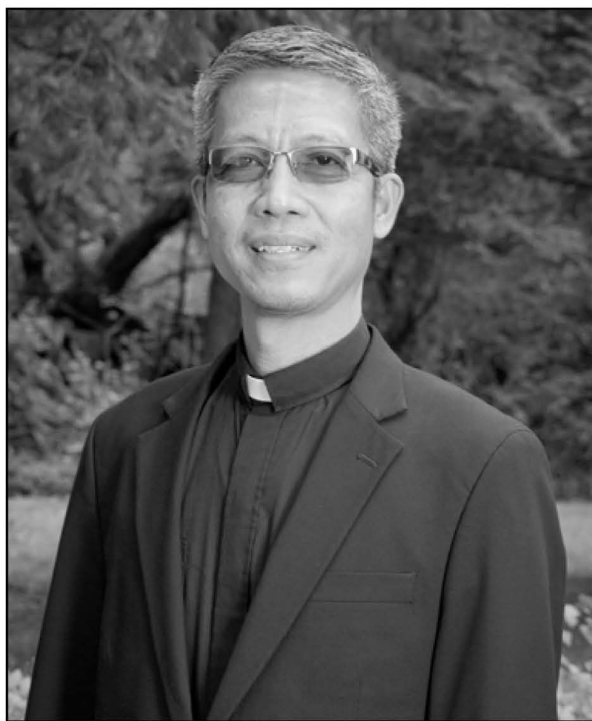
"Incardination is the canonical institution of permanent attachment of bishops, priests and deacons to a particular church or other ecclesiastical entity for the primary purpose of the service of the people of God," according to the New Commentary on the Code of Canon Law.

Canon Law states that "every cleric must be incardinated" and "unattached or transient clerics are not allowed at all."

After completing his seminary education in the Philippines, Deacon Solomon was ordained as a deacon in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. To be incardinated into this diocese, Deacon Solomon had to obtain permission from the bishops of both dioceses.

Prior to being incardinated, Deacon Solomon had been serving a pastoral year in the Catholic Communities of Crown Point, Moriah and Port Henry. There, he serves with Father Albert J. Hauser.

"The Diocese of Ogdensburg is happily blessed to welcome Deacon Fernando to the



Deacon Fernando Solomon

North Country as a newly incardinated transitional deacon," said Bishop Terry R. LaValley. "He continues to assist Father Hauser and serve the faithful of the Catholic Community of Crown Point and Moriah. We look forward to his ministry in the Lord's Name in the years ahead. Welcome Aboard, Deacon Fernando!"

Deacon Solomon said he first visited the diocese not long after arriving in the United States from the Philippines in 2011 to serve with missionaries for a deaf apostolate.

"They had a camp in Old Forge," Deacon Solomon said. "In 2012, I met some of the priests of the diocese, and that was the beginning of me getting to know the diocese. I met Father Shane (Lynch), and he introduced me to Father Bryan

Stitt, who was Vocation director at that time. Sometime around 2012, 2013, I inquired for the diocese. I was (in the United States) on a religious workers visa. It did not work out at that time because of immigration issues."

Years later, Deacon Solomon found himself living in the Utica area with priest friends. He again thought of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

"I always said God really works in different ways, even in mysterious ways," he said. "I started communicating with (Vocations Director) Father Chris (Carrara). In February of last year, Father Chris told me he talked to the bishop, and the bishop says we'll give you a shot. They told me they want me to come on March 31. That's my birthday. It was a wonderful gift."

Deacon Solomon said

his time with the people of the Catholic Communities of Moriah, Crown Point and Port Henry have also been a gift.

"Usually, we can talk to people after Mass," he said. "We can't do that now, but people have been reaching out. It's so nice. In the 10 years I've been in the U.S., this was the most wonderful Christmas I've had. People are so nice."

Deacon Solomon said he also appreciates the mentorship of Father Hauser.

"It's been a blessing and a grace for me because God really put me in the right place with Father Al, my mentor," he said. "He's a wonderful mentor and trainer. He's mentoring me mentally, spiritually and physically. I say physically because he shared with me 'the Fit Father' – it's working out with dumbbells and other exercises."

Despite hailing from a warmer climate, Deacon Solomon said he's also come to love the North Country and its seasons and beauty.

"I'm very thankful I came here and adjusted easily. I love the cold weather," he said, before laughing. "Well, sometimes, it's just too much. It's nature. I try to enjoy it. It's so close to nature here. These mountains and this view! "I'm like,

'wow!' I can really feel God is really here. So I love to do the mountain climbing and hiking. Before winter, parishioners invited me to do the Moriah Challenge. It was four mountains. We got a badge for the challenge."

More than anything, though, Deacon Solomon is grateful to be pursuing his vocation to the priesthood.

"I really enjoy and love continuing this path," he said. "It's a wonderful life. I'm very thankful to God for giving me this gift of calling as a priest, especially in this place."

Deacon Solomon is scheduled to be ordained to the priesthood May 29.

While he said he looks forward to nearly every aspect of the priesthood, he says he hopes he can find a way to use skills he's obtained over the years to help the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

"I had a special ministry doing sign language," he said. "If someone needs help in a situation serving the deaf people in the diocese, that's an area I can help. And back in the Philippines, before I came here, I did course work in special education. I have experience with autism and other issues. I know there will be challenges, but I'm very thankful and blessed to be here in this diocese. I am on cloud 9."

## North Country Catholic has Green option

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# Schools get boosts from Cabrini Foundation

By Darcy Fargo &  
Deacon Kevin Mastellon  
North Country Catholic

Last week, the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation announced it was awarding a round of more than 400 grants totaling \$115 million to programs serving vulnerable New Yorkers across the state, and schools within the Diocese of Ogdensburg were among the grant recipients.

Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown, St. James School in Gouverneur and Trinity Catholic School in Massena were each awarded \$75,000 to offer counseling services.

"We're able to add an elementary school counselor to help kids manage stress and personal issues," said Teresa Lucas, business manager for Immaculate Heart Central (IHC). "This counselor will be able to help teachers, as well."

Lucas said IHC already had guidance counselors serving students in middle school and high school, but the school had never been able to offer counseling services to its youngest students.

"We're now able to offer them that type of care throughout their time at IHC," said Lucas. "We're calling the project, 'Sustained Hope for the Future.'"

St. James School's new school counselor begins work this week.

"We're very thankful we were able to get this grant and that we're able to offer these services to our students," said Jeanne Sweeney, bookkeeper and secretary for St. James Parish and School.

Trinity Catholic School has hired a licensed social worker/therapist to its staff, as well.

"This has been a difficult

## HOSPITALS, CHARITIES BENEFIT

In addition to grants to Catholic Schools, the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation provided grants to several parishes and diocesan organizations (see story on the next page).

Also, the Diocese of Ogdensburg Education Department was the recipient of three grants, and St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg received a grant, as well. Stories about those grants will be in a future edition of the *NCC*.

Other Mother Cabrini Health Foundation Grants received in the area include:

- Alice Hyde Medical Center in Malone will receive \$100,000 for its "Improving Community Based Health" program.
- Canton-Potsdam Hospital Foundation will receive \$100,000 for its "Community Aging in Place – Advancing Better Living for Elders (CAPABLE)" program.
- Carthage Area Hospital was awarded \$120,000 for "Healthcare Transportation Program."
- Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization will receive \$138,504 for "Health Career Army Pathways Program."
- Massena Independent Living Center was awarded \$80,000 for a program for "Enhancing Independence in the Home."
- Massena Meals on Wheels will receive \$10,000 for "Enhancing the service and protection of clients."
- North Country Prenatal/Perinatal Council, Inc., based in Watertown, was awarded \$118,500 for its "Choices for Children" program.
- Watertown Urban Mission received two grants totaling \$330,338 for the BEST (Building Economic Stability for Tomorrow) and the Getting Ahead & Staying Ahead in the North Country programs.

*Editor's note: Some grant recipients from the North Country may have been inadvertently omitted from this list. The list released by the Cabrini Foundation did not include the locations of grant winners. We apologize for any omissions.*

year, not only for the students, but also for the teachers," said Trinity Principal Joyce Giroux. "There's been a lot of stress and anxiety. The counselor can offer individual or group work with children as they deal with loneliness, issues related to quarantine and anxiety, and the counselor can work with the teachers, who have been dealing with overwhelming stress of teaching remotely and the uncertainty of not knowing who will be in class on any given day."

Giroux said the school had hoped to hire a counselor for years, but it wasn't feasible within the existing budget.

"It was in our five-year plan to hire a counselor, but it was a lofty goal," she said. "This gave us the funding to do it. And it rounds out our staff to

complete. We have a counselor from Citizen Advocates that comes in one day a week, and now we can offer that service on a much more regular basis with our own counselor."

Augustinian Academy in Carthage received \$75,000 to establish "Wholistic and Healthy Activities for After School Programs."

"We are so excited!" Principal Mary Ann Margrey exclaimed.

The after-school program envisioned by the Augustinian team will have a different theme each month. The first students will be exposed to a STEM (science, technology, engineering & mathematics) computer technology program using LEGOS. Future activities will feature dance classes, martial arts and other disciplines the children have expressed a desire to pursue.

After school classes begin soon on Monday and Wednesday from 3 to 4 p.m.

"We have a large military population," Margrey said. "So, an after-school program is important to them. But we will address the needs of all our families and will eventually reach out to the wider community and connect with lower income families, whether they are part of the Augustinian Academy family or not."

St. Agnes School in Lake Placid received \$75,000 for a "Gap Services" program.

"We're an early education environment here," explained St. Agnes Principal Catherine Bemis. "This will allow us to provide supports to students who have areas of need, but don't qualify for special education services. We see it all the time. Through assessments and teacher observations and data collection, we'll be able to identify students who could benefit from occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech, counseling services, sensory-motor integration. We'll be able to provide those students with services and try to address any gaps."

Bemis said St. Agnes School has offered limited gap services up to this point.

"We were funding it on a limited capacity through our budget," she said. "This grant allows us to expand those services for all students in a way we wouldn't otherwise be financially able to."

The school will offer the students by contracting with the providers for each respective service.

"We are so very grateful to the Cabrini Foundation for this grant," said Bemis. "It will allow us to meet our mission and support the needs of all learners,

regardless of where they are in their learning path. It's really special, and we feel a lot of excitement about what this is going to do. In a normal year, this would be an amazing opportunity. Now, with the pandemic, the delays are even more significant, and the needs are different. The students who were behind are even more behind. This will really help us set them up for success."

Seton Catholic was also awarded \$75,000 for nursing services and its After-School Program.

"We had an existing school nurse, and that position was funded with funding from the public school system," explained Seton Business Manager Christine Boulé. "The funding from the public school had been reduced. This helped us bridge that gap."

Boulé said the school has also had to increase the size of its after-school-care staff to serve all the students in need of care while meeting the required COVID protocols.

"To meet social distancing requirements, we needed additional staff," Boulé said. "This grant enabled us to serve more kids than we would've been able to otherwise. It also provided snacks for all the program. We can offer a safe place for kids, ensure they're fed, and ensure we're complying with all COVID protocols."

The Mother Cabrini Health Foundation is one of the largest foundations in the United States and the largest foundation focused exclusively on New York State. The Foundation originated from the 2018 sale of Fidelis Care, a nonprofit health insurer, inspired by the bishops of the Catholic diocese to increase healthcare access for New York's poor.



# Grants help parishes, agencies aid those in need

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

Parishes and organizations within the Diocese of Ogdensburg hope to be able to better serve the most vulnerable in their communities thanks to grant funding received from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation.

## St. André Bessette Outreach Center

St. André Bessette Parish in Malone was awarded a \$275,000 grant for its St. André's Outreach Center, specifically to help its Food Insecurity Program.

Father Steven M. Murray, pastor of St. André Bessette Parish, said the grant will advance the parish's efforts to convert the former Holy Family School building into an outreach center.

"The outreach center currently contains our St. Vincent's thrift shop, the Good Samaritan food pantry, and we're looking to open St. Angela's Café," Father Murray said.

St. Angela's Café, named after St. Angela Merici, founder of the Ursuline Order, will serve hot meals to individuals in need.

"The Ursulines were instrumental in the education of young people here in Malone for many, many years," Father Murray said. "We thought it was a fitting tribute to name the café St. Angela's."

To house the café and to make the outreach center more sustainable, the grant will cover the cost of several renovations.

"We need to make renovations to the room and to the kitchen to house the café," Father Murray said. "And the building needed renovations to make it more energy friendly going forward."

The grant is intended to help you set up a program, but they want it to be viable and able to fund itself. Our thrift store helps generate income. That income, along with various grants, allow us to be able to feed people (from the Good Samaritan Food Pantry) on a monthly basis. At one point, we had to go from monthly to every other month due to cost. Quadrupling the size of the thrift store enables us to generate a good deal more income, which makes us able to feed more people who are hungry through the food pantry and, eventually, the café, and the efficiency improvements will reduce what we're spending on heat and lights."

In addition to the parish offerings, the Outreach Center also houses Catholic Charities and Families R Us, a family resource center.

"We were delighted to receive this grant," Father Murray concluded. "We were planning frugal renovations, but we couldn't afford them without this funding. We're eternally grateful for the assistance we received from Catholic Charities. They helped us apply for the grant and get the grant."

## Mercy Care for the Adirondacks

Mercy Care for the Adirondacks in Lake Placid was awarded \$356,100 for a project the organization's executive director says will allow a whole new population – St. Lawrence County – to benefit from its "Age-friendly Communities Initiative."

Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is partnering with Community Health Center of the North Country to begin offering services connected to the

health center's locations in Potsdam/Canton, Ogdensburg, Gouverneur and Massena.

"The goal of the grant is to extend the model of Mercy Care's Age Friendly Communities Initiatives to four new communities," said Mercy Care for the Adirondacks Executive Director Donna Beal. "We've been running that program successfully in the Tri-Lakes area – Saranac Lake, Lake Placid and Tupper Lake and surrounding communities – for years. We now have a Memorandum of Understanding in place with Community Health Center of the North Country. We'll provide the training, technological assistance and tools so they can establish their own program."

As part of that Age-friendly Communities Initiative, Mercy Care for the Adirondacks serves over 100 elderly residents by relying on a team of over 100 volunteers.

"Mercy Care for the Adirondacks was established in 2007, and it was sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy," Beal said. "They established Mercy Care to fill the need of relieving isolation and loneliness of elders living in our communities independently."

With a staff of only six, and relying on its large network of volunteers, Mercy Care for the Adirondacks fulfills its mission with a three-pronged approach.

"First, we have our direct service programs – Friendship Volunteer Program, Parish Nurse Program and Caregiver Friend program," she said. "Services we provide to the elders are all free of charge, and there are no income guidelines. We're

supported totally by charitable contributions and private foundation grants. We receive no government income, no reimbursements. The community supports Mercy Care through volunteer service and generous financial support."

The second part of Mercy Care's strategy involves community empowerment.

"We facilitate and host a Caregiving Working Group for Essex and Franklin counties," Beal said. "And we have the Tri-Lakes Aging in Place Task Force. It's made up of people in the community who want to help our communities be more aging friendly."

The third part of the strategy includes education and advocacy. To meet that goal, Mercy Care for the Adirondacks typically hosts an annual educational forum at Paul Smiths College. The forum brings together health and human service agencies from several counties and gives them an opportunity to network and hear from top experts in the field of aging issues.

It's the direct care portion of their strategy that Mercy Care for the Adirondacks first hopes to expand into St. Lawrence County.

"We'll be working on the Community Friendship Volunteer Program and Parish Nurse Program," Beal said. "From spring into fall, we'll be training the trainers. We'll be in St. Lawrence County working with Community Health Center of the North Country to help them recruit and train volunteers, and we'll be training Community Health Center and their staff on how to carry this program on going

forward."

Beal said Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is excited about the opportunities this grant has afforded the organization.

"This grant is transformational for Mercy Care," she said. "We're living the dream of being able to help more elders because of it. We pursue our mission through partnership. We're thrilled to have the support of the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation as we create a new partnership with Community Health Center of the North Country. This support and partnership make it possible to carry on and assist elders in St. Lawrence County with the same kind of supports that support healthy aging in the Tri-Lakes Area."

Other grants awarded Additionally, the Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander & St. Joseph in Morrisonville was awarded a \$250,000 grant for its outreach center; St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg was awarded \$664,00 for a program to address "Various Social Determinants of Health"; and the Diocese of Ogdensburg Department of Education was awarded three separate grants. The North Country Catholic hopes to include articles about those grants in future editions.



*Support And Pray  
For Vocations*

## Environmental Stewardship

## Lessons from God's green earth

One message we may have heard from our parents or grandparents was, "Waste not, want not." The meaning, of course, is "If you are not wasteful with the resources you have now, then, at a later date, you will have those resources to use as you want and need. By not wasting, you will not be needy later."

Where did this saying come from? Researchers tell us it dates back to 1772 in Europe. It would seem this practice goes back much farther and was part of Jesus' upbringing, too. After the multiplication of the bread, we hear Him instruct the disciples "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." (John 6:13)

In the rhythms of nature, we discover that nothing is wasted. Whatever is produced in nature becomes energy for something else. It knows how to take care of any "waste." Examples: the fallen leaves decay into nourishment in the soil for the next plants. This cycle of regeneration begins with birth and moves through death to new life. We have much to relearn from observing how nature. Many of our current practices of what we do with our waste interferes with this process; thus, we have enormous landfills.

One simple practice to live more sustainably on our earth is to compost our food wastes. Food waste that decomposes in landfills releases methane, a greenhouse gas that is at least 28 times more potent than carbon dioxide. (The Washington Post). Perhaps you know about it, but have never seriously looked into how to do it. Consider a Lenten practice to do it. If you don't have a compost bin, consider creating one or researching compost options in your community. Watch: Laudato Si' Generation's "Learn how to compost" webinar."

## 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.

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

## Seven Sorrows

1. The doubt of St. Joseph. (Matt. 1:19)
2. The poverty of Jesus' birth. (Luke 2:7)

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**March 3** – 10 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

**March 5** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

7 p.m. – Deacon Candidates Class at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

**March 6** – 7 a.m. – Mass at Wadhams Hall Chapel in Ogdensburg

4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**March 7** – 8:30 a.m. – Mass with the Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay (at St. Patrick Church in Chateaugay)

**March 8** – Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, Inc. Virtual Meeting

**March 9** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

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

## Rest in Peace

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

**March 3** – Rev. Francis McCranor, O.S.A., 1914; Rev. John G. Fitzgerald, 1925; Rev. Cyril Stevens, 1963; Deacon David N. Hennigan, 2009

**March 4** – Rev. Jeremiah S. O'Brien, 1899; Rev. Thomas D. Hurley, 1934

**March 5** – Rev. Edward J. Murtaugh, O.S.A., 1951; Rev. Paschal Rys, OFM Conv., 2013

**March 6** – Rev. Louis F. Lussier, 1915; Rev. John G. Craven, 1921

**March 7** – Rev. Alexander K. Klauder, 1934; Rev. Cornelius O'Mahoney, M.S.C., 1940

**March 8** – Rev. William B. Nyhan, 1914; Rev. William J. Reilly, O.S.A., 1925

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

3. The Circumcision. (Luke 2:21)
4. The prophecy of Simeon. (Luke 2:34)
5. The flight into Egypt. (Matt. 2:14)
6. The return from Egypt. (Matt. 2:22)
7. The loss of the Child Jesus. (Luke 2:45)

## Seven Joys

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

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

## March 7, 2021

Great was St. Joseph's grief when, oSt. Joseph was filled with sorrow when he experienced fear at returning to his homeland after Herod's death. That God will calm our fears and that we place our worries in His loving hands we pray...

St. Joseph experienced great joy when the angel of God directed him to

go to Nazareth where he lived peacefully with Jesus and Mary until his happy death. For the grace to die peacefully under the special protection of Jesus and Mary we pray...

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

## Act of Consecration to St. Joseph

*O dearest St. Joseph, you your faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, consecrate ourselves to your honor and give ourselves to you, that you may always be our father, our protector, and our guide in the way of salvation.*

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

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

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

*The Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, New York*

Case No. 20-30663

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT** on June 19, 2020, The Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, New York, ("**Diocese**") filed for protection under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "**Bankruptcy Code**").

**The Bankruptcy Court has established April 15, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. (prevailing Eastern time) as the deadline to file proofs of claim against the Diocese (the "**Bar Date**").**

**If you have a claim against the Diocese including, without limitation, a claim related to sexual abuse committed by any person connected with the Diocese, you must file a claim on or before the Bar Date with Stretto, the appointed Claims Agent.**

Please visit <https://case.stretto.com/dioceesofsyracuse> or call (855) 329-4244 for more information on how to file your proof of claim.

**IF YOU DO NOT TIMELY FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM, YOU MAY FORFEIT YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ON ANY PLAN OF REORGANIZATION AND TO SHARE IN ANY FUTURE DISTRIBUTIONS TO CREDITORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE DIOCESE'S CHAPTER 11 CASE.**



# St. Joseph the Carpenter had a dream

*Editor's note: In May of 2020, Bishop Terry R. LaValley consecrated the Diocese of Ogdensburg to St. Joseph. To celebrate, the NCC will be featuring occasional columns highlighting St. Joseph.*

By Pam Ballantine

On May 1, on the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Watertown, our Bishop, Terry R. LaValley, consecrated our diocese to St. Joseph, a dedicated family man who is the most just, practical, resilient, obedient and faithful servant of God.

When I think of St. Joseph, I sometimes wonder why there is so little about him in Scripture. But then the small tidbits that are there are very powerful and can fill our minds and hearts. In Matthew's Gospel, God speaks to Joseph in a number of precarious instances before and after the birth of Jesus, and in each instance, Joseph immediately responds. When an angel tells Joseph he has nothing to fear and to take Mary as his wife, Joseph showers her with his unconditional love and takes her into his home. What an incredible task to be trusted with – full of responsibility, too complex to understand... but Joseph said yes without asking for clarifications or even proof. When he is told to take Jesus and his mother and flee to Egypt, Joseph doesn't falter and heads out that very night. And when Joseph is warned in a dream not to go to Judea, he immediately changes course and settles the family in Galilee.

We also, know Joseph was a carpenter, a hard worker, and I am sure he provided for all those in his care. Another way to describe Joseph is that he may have been the "handyman" of the neighborhood

who helped everyone with their projects, whether they were big or small. Another word to describe this man would be a "craftsman."

This interpretation sheds more light on the work of St. Joseph and his foster-son Jesus. I can picture the two of them going around the village and being asked by everyone to come over and fix something in their house. This also may explain why everyone in Nazareth knew Jesus as the "carpenter's son." Joseph and Jesus would be a frequent sight throughout the town, helping everyone with their projects.

Being the daughter of a carpenter, my dad and I shared many comical moments as he tried to teach me the basics of carpentry. He used to tell me I hammered like lightning because I never hit twice in the same place. Another lesson, measure twice and cut once. I never got that one down either.

My husband, Dan, who also has a workshop and a love for working with wood, also has to put up with my erratic carpentry skills. So my main job was to find projects for him to do. This was easy to do working for the Church and the love of his ministry.

We have a sign in the shop that hangs over the door that says, "St. Joseph the Carpenter had a dream." When I say this, he knows that there is a project that needs to be done. He has unselfishly made keychains for all the teachers in our Catholic Schools, Catechist gifts, diocesan decorum for Superintendent's Day, signs for the Knights of Columbus, Eucharist Minister Medallions and other projects for our home parish. It has become the norm that someone would call him up and say, "St. Joseph the Carpenter had a dream," and he knows a project is on the horizon.

Yes, St. Joseph is our go to

Saint in the workshop and the both of us wouldn't have it any other way. There are three lessons we have and continue to learn from the Holy man, and this is to have Silence so we can listen, Trust in where God is leading us and Apprenticeship to learn from the Master. St. Joseph guides us and helps us open our hearts to God's plan.



*St. Joseph's  
Corner*

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Jesus  
IN DISGUISE**

**SUPPORT THE CATHOLIC  
RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION**

[www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief)

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

**Collection Weekend: March 13 & 14**

## Attorneys: Equality Act is an overreach, may backfire

If it becomes law, the Equality Act, which has been described as one of President Joe Biden's top legislative priorities, will be an overreaching use of federal power to shut down religious liberties and traditional views on gender, according to attorneys tracking the measure.

"It is so expansive," said Paul Jonna, a California-based special counsel with the Thomas More Society in Chicago. He has represented various California agencies or businesses that have come under fire for policies based on the traditional understanding of marriage and gender.

"The act is essentially an all-out assault on religious freedom; it is Congress imposing their views on gender, dismissing sexual differences and presenting gender as a social construct," Jonna told Catholic News Service in a Feb. 25 phone call.

"It is a threat to free speech, to careers, to churches and faith-based facilities to force them to host events that are opposed to their beliefs," he said.

Democratic lawmakers and advocates say the Equality Act would make significant progress toward legal protections for all Americans, including LGBTQ+ individuals, who advocates say do not have sufficient protections from discrimination, especially with regard to employment.

Critics say if the bill becomes law, it would portray time-honored religious beliefs as un-American and would go well beyond employment protections – and without reasonable religious exemption clauses.

Jonna, who also is president of the San Diego Chapter of Legatus, an organization of Catholic business leaders, said the Equality Act would result in a tidal wave of religious liberty litigation and may well create even stronger pushback.

"It is definitely being used as a tool to advance an agenda of those who have a distorted view of human nature and who want that imposed on all of society – and it will backfire, creating way more problems than it solves and it will do great damage to women and completely destroy the concept of male and female in our culture and undermine the goals it seeks to advance," Jonna told CNS.

"We expect a lot of litigation; I am sure we will be involved in litigation around this and many other religious freedom law firms as well," he added. "Our only saving grace is that we have a conservative majority in the U.S. Supreme Court."

The House passed the bill, H.R. 5, in a 224-206 vote Feb. 25. It amends the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing, public accommodations, public education, federal funding, the credit system and jury duty.

House Republicans planned to introduce a compromise measure Feb. 26 called the Fairness for All Act. The Washington Blade reported Feb. 24 that one difference from H.R. 5 is it would "clarify protections based on race, color and national origin."

Also, the compromise

bill, unlike the Equality Act, does not say the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act, or RFRA, cannot be used "as a defense in court against allegations of illegal anti-LGBTQ discrimination," the Blade said.

A Senate version of the Equality Act has yet to be introduced; it would need 60 votes for passage. If it were to pass, differences between the Senate and House measures would have to be reconciled, and then sent to Biden to sign.

The St. Thomas More Society's Jonna said that until now, no federal law has exempted itself from RFRA – approved by Congress in a bipartisan vote and signed into law by President Bill Clinton to ensure religious freedom interests are protected.

That the Equality Act would exempt other laws from RFRA is an indication of just how radical it really is, he said.

"The scope of industries and organizations included (for protection) in this massive piece of legislation is a great threat to religious freedom. It puts at risk people of faith who will be excluded: Either compromise your beliefs or get out of the way," Jonna told CNS.

He has assisted in defending a Catholic Charities residential program in California for female victims of human trafficking when local officials tried to force the program to admit biologically male, transgender persons.

"We worked out a resolution to that case, but a law like this would destroy the scientific definition of gender and a home like this would have to be open to males," Jonna said.

## CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

### Catholic organizations urge Biden to return U.S. to Iran deal

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- A contingent of national Catholic organizations has called on President Joe Biden to undertake steps to have the United States rejoin the Iran nuclear deal in an effort to promote peace and international security. The 26 organizations also said in a Feb. 25 letter that the U.S. could lift economic sanctions against the Iranian government in an effort to bring the country's leaders back to the negotiating table as a demonstration of "good faith." In May 2018, President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, saying it was insufficient in blocking Iran from developing nuclear weapons. The 2015 agreement was negotiated with Iran by China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and the U.S., the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, plus Germany. Since its withdrawal, the U.S. has reimposed numerous economic sanctions on Iran that had been lifted under the agreement. Released by the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, the letter said Iran was complying with the JCPOA when the U.S. withdrew from the deal and that the action by the Trump administration harmed U.S. credibility with partners in the agreement. "You cannot now leverage that mistrust, especially in an election year in Iran, when hardliners are using U.S. noncompliance to discourage further negotiations," the letter said.

### Emotional, psychological toll of pandemic beginning to be felt

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The psychological and emotional trauma of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic is only now beginning to be felt, and is bound to keep affecting American workers for some time to come. "The other virus that we're dealing with is fear," said Jesuit Father Thomas Florek, part of the Hispanic-Latino formation development team at the University of Detroit Mercy, during a Feb. 24 webinar sponsored by the Catholic Labor Network, "Ministering to Workers in the Time of COVID." "Right now, it's a very vicious circle. I see the deaths as a kind of holocaust for the 21st century," said Father Florek, who accompanied human rights workers recently in Mexico. "People don't have to die; decisions have been made, structures have allowed half a million people in this country to die."

### German bishops elect female general secretary

BERLIN (CNS) -- The German bishops' conference elected a woman as general secretary during a virtual assembly that turned into a crisis meeting focused on the church's handling of sex abuse. Beate Gilles, a 50-year-old theologian, became the first noncleric and woman to head the bishops' secretariat. She will take up her post July 1. "Last year, there was still the debate of whether a woman could hold such an office here. Now we know it is possible," she said Feb. 23 at the news conference after her election. Limburg Bishop Georg Bätzing, president of the bishops' conference, said the appointment was a strong signal "that the bishops are honoring their agreement to promote women in leading positions." Yet Gilles' election could not distract from the fact that the Catholic Church in Germany is under pressure and at a critical point. It has fallen into disrepute among its members after a litany of accusations of inadequate investigations into and cover-ups of past sexual abuse. "As long as there is no honest, open and complete reappraisal of sexual abuse in all German dioceses set at a high scientific level and with the same standards for all, the reform efforts ... will come to nothing," said a statement from the Catholic Lay Alliance.



## NOW PLAYING

## THE MAURITANIAN

**NEW YORK (CNS)** – The fact-based film "The Mauritanian" (STX) doesn't adhere to the conventions of a legal drama or a police procedural. Instead, it focuses on the moral implications of the struggle to free a falsely accused prisoner – with brilliant results.

In lieu of courtroom histrionics, director Kevin Macdonald's adaptation of Mohamedou Ould Salahi's 2015 memoir "Guantanamo Diary" provides an exploration of the author's internal struggles. Screenwriters M.B. Traven, Rory Haines and Sohrab Noshirvani, moreover, are not shy about including a variety of explicitly religious elements in their script.

For Salahi (Tahar Rahim), a Muslim who was imprisoned for 15 years beginning just two months after

9/11, the initial challenge is to fortify his will to live. Thereafter, he also has to learn to forgive the months of physical and psychological torture inflicted on him by the U.S. military, an ordeal that culminated in his signing of a forced confession.

He stood accused of being a member of al-Qaida and of helping the hijackers – and even Osama Bin Laden himself – to plan their attacks.

The movie also charts the long spiritual journey of the man charged with prosecuting Salahi, Marine Lt. Col. Stuart Couch (Benedict Cumberbatch). A friend of the co-pilot of the second plane to hit the World Trade Center, Couch volunteers to handle the case against Salahi, hoping it will end with the death penalty.

But then Couch undergoes a conversion experience while attending a baptism. As shown here, during the ceremony, the congregation was admonished to "respect the dignity of every human being."

Couch subsequently refused to proceed with the prosecution and ultimately resigned from the case after learning of the abuse to which the defendant had been subjected. In a 2009 talk at the University of Virginia, Couch – who lectures frequently on morality – referred to the line that inspired his moment of awakening as "a thunderclap upside the head."

Salahi's defense attorney, Nancy Hollander (Jodie Foster), experiences a voyage of spiritual discovery as well, though hers consists of doggedly fighting gov-

ernment efforts to suppress the evidence. The New Mexico-based lawyer, who expresses no particular faith, has a sometimes-querulous assistant in Teri Duncan (Shailene Woodley).

The sum of all this is a highly balanced and underplayed narrative that neither minimizes Salahi's torture – in fact, it shows excerpts of all the techniques – nor undermines its own effectiveness by indulging in impassioned monologues. The intent is to build the audience's outrage without preaching.

Sequences involving Salahi's anguished dreams and hopeful visions of seeing his mother again slow the story. But the message they convey – that inhuman means of interrogation never work, they only de-grade – is, of course, a valu-

able one.

For the lawyers on both sides, there are bureaucratic snags and byzantine security procedures at the prison to be endured. For Salahi, there's the constant horror of being in a windowless cell in between sessions of torment. In the midst of this, he keeps to his discipline of daily prayers.

The film contains frequent depictions of torture, including brief sexual abuse, fleeting profanities and some crude and crass language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is R – restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

## ESSEX

## 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 podcast can be found on the parish website [route74catholics.org/father-roger](http://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](mailto:fatherlooby@gmail.com).

## FRANKLIN

## TAKE-OUT DINNER

North Bangor – St. Augustine's to have a take-out Chicken and Biscuit Dinner.

**Date:** March 6

**Time:** 3 p.m. to 6:30

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

**Cost:** \$10

**Menu:** Chicken and biscuits, stuffing, vegetable, cranberry sauce, and dessert

**Contact:** Pre-orders can be made March 5 8 a.m. to Noon and March 6 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. by calling 518-483-6674, though it is not necessary.

## LEWIS

## DRIVE THRU CHICKEN &amp; BISCUIT DINNER

Lyons Falls – St. John's Church to have their next drive thru Chicken and Biscuit dinner.

**Date:** March 10

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

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Children 6-12, \$6

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

**Menu:** Dinners consist of Chicken and homemade Biscuits, Gravy, real Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Cranberry Sauce and dessert.

**Contact:** To ensure your dinner ahead of time, please call 315-348-8945 or 315-348-8577 to order. Please leave a message with a phone number. That day, you can call the church hall at 315-348-6599. There are limited dinners, so make sure you call today! Deadline for pre-orders is March 5. Deliveries are available!

## 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.

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## MARCH RETREAT

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

**Date:** March 13

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Place:** Virtual on Zoom

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

**Contact:** To register email [srbethssj@gmail.com](mailto:srbethssj@gmail.com) or 315-212-6592

## LEAD: LIGHT THE FIRE, SPREAD THE FLAME

A live zoom event to be held about the

sacrament of Confirmation, its symbolism, its sense of mission, and ideas for implementing an effective program.

**Date:** March 13

**Time:** 9:45 a.m. to Noon

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

**Contact:** Adults only are welcome to register. The Zoom link will be sent as the event date approaches. To register go to:

<https://www.rcdony.org/ffleadreg>



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Displays of righteous anger

Our readings for this Sunday are heavy with righteous anger, calling us to justice. In the first reading, we have Moses coming down the mountain bearing the ten commandments of a new covenant. They had been fused in fire and smoke on two stone tablets. As you recall, Moses broke those tablets in his anger when he found the people worshipping a golden calf! Only when he had "cooled down," and the people had repented, did he make two more



**Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore**

tablets, writing down God's words from memory. The first three commandments told the people that there is only one God, and Him alone should they worship every seventh day. If they were faithful to God, then the other seven commandments, commanding right relationships with their neighbor, would be easy.

Just as Moses had displayed righteous anger because of the people's injustice, so we witness the righteous anger of Jesus

**March 7**

**Third Sunday of Lent**

READINGS

Exodus 20:1-17

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

John 2:13-25

toward their lack of respect for His Father's house. What a scene he creates, overturning tables, driving people and animals helter-skelter in all directions! Once he has "cleaned house," He himself takes possession of the temple, and begins to teach the people. Of course, the Pharisees object at once, demanding a sign that he has authority

to do these things. What a sign he gave! "Destroy this temple (meaning His Body), and I will rebuild it in three days." Only when he rises from the dead did the apostles understand what he meant.

There is a place for "righteous anger" in this year's Lenten journey. Are we angry with those who will not wear face masks or keep social distance in this pandemic? Are we angry with governments that refuse to protect life in the womb and even beyond? Are we angry with our legislators for failing to treat immigrants justly in regards to their human dignity and aspirations

for education, health and security as persons? Are we angry with power-hungry corporations that swallow up small-time farmers and that steal from other small businesses? Are we angry enough to protest loudly? Are we angry at the poverty of so many of our citizens because of inability to find work or pay for transportation to get to work?

The readings for this Third Sunday provide much to help us shape our prayer, our fasting, and our almsgiving this year. Lent is a time for Catholics to bring their faith into the public square.

## CALLED TO SERVE

## The pious sacramentals are waning

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you because, by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.* We use those words as we stand to pray before each of the 14 stations of the Way of the Cross or Stations of the Cross, as they are commonly known.

I can't think of a Catholic church I've been to that doesn't have, placed on walls around the inside of the church, plaques of engraved wood or plaster or tapestry or metal representations of the events in the Passion of Christ, from his condemnation by Pontius Pilate to his entombment. These are the Stations of the Cross. During Lent and Holy Week, we pay special attention to those stations as we walk them and meditate on the significant scenes from Jesus' journey to human death, His *Via Do-*

*lorosa*, His painful way. On Palm Sunday and Good Friday, we read the entire Passion of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. These wall-tiles take us to that terrible day in Jesus' life, all year, every time we walk them.

There is no requirement for these hangings. I'll defer to those who know such things, but I do not think the Congregation for Divine Worship or any other Vatican office stipulates the presence of stations in worship sites. It is believed early Christians would follow the path Jesus walked in and outside Jerusalem, and carried his cross, as they remembered Him and prayed at each place. "As Christianity spread in the years after Christ's death, pilgrims went to the Holy Land to follow in his footsteps, as a devotion. Eventually, Catholic churches

incorporated the stations into their designs, allowing parish members to replicate the experience."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches "Christian prayer loves to follow the way of the cross in the Savior's steps. The stations from the Praetorium to Golgotha and the tomb trace the way of Jesus, who by his holy Cross has redeemed the world." (2669)

During Lent we pray at the Stations of the Cross once a week in each of the churches I serve. Last week, a friend suggested many churchgoers do not know why we have plaques on the wall or the foggiest notion about praying "Stations." She is right.

How often do you see

someone just walking and praying the Stations in church? We used to see that all the time. Less so today. In many Catholic families, Lenten attendance at "Stations" was mandatory, along with attendance at the parish Lenten retreat. Before COVID-19, we were happy to see our churches half-filled at these services. Remember when a parish retreat was standing-room only?

Scores of people baptized and raised as Catholic have lost their devotion to things like Stations, or the Rosary, or First Friday observances, grace before meals and on and on. I am guilty because I did not adequately share my sacramental experiences, my memories

of those observances and practices that helped mark me Catholic, with others. How about you? Perhaps this Lent can be a time for us to revisit those devotions we once held so close. If you have never heard of these devotions, perhaps this Lent is your time for discovery.

Back in the first century the church fathers recognized the importance of Sacramentals at the Council of Nicea II. "The religious sense of the Christian people has always found expression in various forms of piety surrounding the Church's sacramental life." Like stations of the cross.

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



**Deacon  
Kevin Mastellon**



# Fifth, sixth Stations of 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.

## Fifth Station:

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

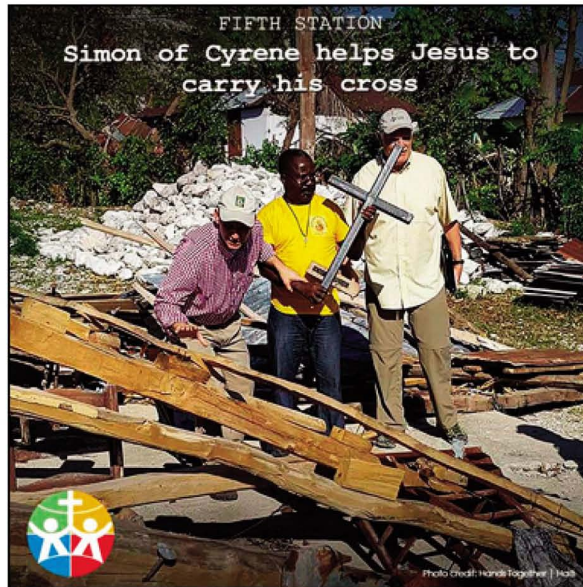
All: Because by your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

Reader: The missionaries of Haiti are stepping forward to help people rebuild their lives after so



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith  
Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director  
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296  
mbrett@rcdony.org



many disasters – natural and man-made. Lord Jesus, we pray to always be ready to help others



carry their burdens and share the problems that life brings to them.

## Sixth Station:

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

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

Reader: In Zambia, the simple gesture of helping someone to be clean can bring the loving touch of God to them. Lord Jesus, help us to value the gifts we have like clean water, as we share our blessings so that others may feel Your gentle touch through us.

## OBITUARIES

**Bombay** – Judy (Cunningham) O'Neil, 77; Mass of Christian burial to be held in the spring.

**Champlain** – James A. Patnode, 92; Privates Services to be held.

**Gouverneur** – Joseph Carl Pistolesi, 72; Private services at Green Funeral Home; burial in New St. James Cemetery.

**Massena** – Joseph Carlo Palmisano, 86; Private services Feb. 25, 2021 at Phillips Memorial Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Morrisonville** – Curtis W. Furnia, 78; Mass of Christian Burial March 3, 2021 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Matthew's Cemetery, Black Brook.

**North Bangor** – Esther Marie (Jones) LaRocque, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 25, 2021 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in Coal Hill Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Betty V. (Trombly) Pavone, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 25, 2021 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Frank Rabideau, 87; Funeral Services Feb. 24, 2021 at Brown Funeral Home; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Port Leyden** – Alan Marmon, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 23, 2021 at St. Martin's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** – Robert "Bob" William Douglas, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 27, 2021 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

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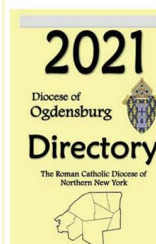


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## Shining light into darkness

*Editor's note: The following article appeared in the Press-Republican, based in Plattsburgh, on Feb. 26. It is reprinted here courtesy of that publication.*

**By Robin Caudell**  
Press-Republican

PERU—Valley views. Candlelight. Lenten Stations of the Cross.

"This year we held them outdoors in the snow at Mother Cabrini Shrine and St. Patrick's Oratory," Msgr. Dennis J. Duprey, pastor of St. Augustine's Church in Peru, said. St. Patrick's Oratory and the shrine are in West Peru.

"We had a little over 40 attend. I was surprised. It was six o'clock at night, so it was really dusk.

"We had the traditional 14 Stations of the Cross, which is also referred to as the Way of the Cross that Jesus walked on his way to the Calvary (Golgotha) from the time of his judgment and his walk to Calvary."

The Stations, which can be pictures or carvings, mark the various incidents that happened according to scriptural accounts of the Passion of Christ.

According to Britannica.com, the Stations of the Cross are: (1) Jesus is condemned to death, (2) He is made to bear his cross, (3) He falls the first time, (4) He meets his mother, (5) Simon of Cyrene is made to bear the cross, (6) Veronica wipes Jesus' face, (7) He falls the second time, (8) The women of Jerusalem weep over Jesus, (9) He falls the third time, (10) He is stripped of his garments, (11) He is nailed to the cross, (12) He dies on the cross, (13) He is taken down from the cross, and (14) He is placed in the sepulchre.

"Those traditional 14,

they can be divided up any number of ways, but that is the way the Catholic Church has done it over centuries," Msgr. Duprey said.

"There is a stop at each one of them, usually a reference to a scripture that would refer to it, and a silent prayer. Then, you move to the next one."

At Mother Cabrini Shrine, the Stations of the Cross are spaced over an acre of land.

"They are to the left of the Shrine," he said. "They are to the left of St. Patrick's Church. It's a gorgeous view of the valley below.

"At the time, it was slightly raining, sprinkling in Peru, and beautiful snow that came down in West Peru while we were up there on the hillside."

Parishioners carried the Crucifix, candles and umbrellas as they walked the stations.

"We had it outdoors, so we could do social distancing, keep everybody safe and just move around," Msgr. Duprey said.

"For those who were not so sure of foot were inside afterward at St. Patrick's. That was nice, too. There were fewer people there because most of them decided to come outside."

This was the largest group that has come out over the last several years.

"We're going to hold that every week at six o'clock at Mother Cabrini's through Lent," Msgr. Duprey said.

"They last for about 20 to 25 minutes at the most," he said.

"We have pathways that go through the snow. They can stand at a big distance or they can come in closer.

"They can stand away from people, but you can always hear. The voices will carry through the whole place."



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