

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Follow Me:
'This is the day the Lord has made' | PAGE 3

Online Alpha to start
April 5 | PAGE 6

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 75, Number 45

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 31, 2021

Bishop issues statement on Equality Act

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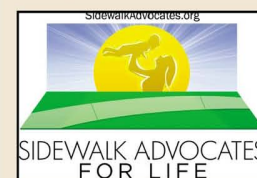
FULL STORY, PAGE 3

IHC MYSTERY PLAYERS



The IHC Mystery Players will be livestreaming "The Way of the Cross" Covid Edition on April 2, 2021 (Good Friday). The Play will start at 7:30 p.m. You can login starting at 7:15 p.m. by going to www.catholicwatertown.org and then click on the Mystery Players link.

SIDEWALK ADVOCATES TRAINING



Collen Miner, Director of the Diocesan Respect Life Office, shares details about a new program being offered by the diocese starting in April. The educational opportunity is aimed to equip those who wish to help others choose life. The online, 10 course, 5 hour program has saved thousands of lives across the United States. Sidewalk Advocates for Life is a compassionate, peaceful, prayerful ministry that helps women feel confident to choose life.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

Mary comforts all those who die alone, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Mary, the mother of God, has been present during the COVID-19 pandemic, and she was by the side of all those who died alone, Pope Francis said.

"If someone is alone and abandoned, she is the mother and she is there nearby just as she was next to her son when everyone else abandoned him," the pope said March 24 during his weekly general audience.

"Mary was and is present in these days of the pandemic, near the people who, unfortunately, concluded their earthly journey in isolation, without the comfort of or the closeness of their loved ones," he said.

"Mary is always there, near us, with her maternal tenderness," the pope said.

During the audience, which was livestreamed from the library of the Apostolic Palace, Pope Francis continued his series of talks about prayer by looking at prayer in communion with Mary and her role in people's lives.

As he has underlined often, the pope reiterated that Mary is not a "co-redemptrix." For decades, some Catholics have been petitioning the popes to recognize Mary as co-redemptrix to highlight the essential role she played in redemption.

In his audience talk, Pope Fran-

cis said, Christ is the one and only redeemer, and "there is no other name by which we can be saved."

Christ is also the supreme mediator, he added, the "bridge that we cross to turn to the father."

Jesus entrusted Mary to humanity as a mother, "not as a goddess, not as co-redemptrix," he said, adding that love motivated some people to call her "co-redemptrix," but love often leads people to "exaggerate."

Mary "occupies a privileged place in the lives of Christians, and therefore, in their prayer as well, because she is the mother of Jesus," he said.

However, she is "always in relation to her son and in connection with him," he said. Jesus is the center, and "Mary is completely directed toward him."

"This is the role Mary fulfilled throughout her entire earthly life and which she retains forever: to be the humble handmaid of the Lord, nothing more," he said.

The feast of the Annunciation March 25 reminds people that Mary said, "yes," and promptly welcomed the angel's invitation.

"Mary is there, praying for us, praying for those who do not pray, praying with us. And why? Because she is our mother," he said.

NORTH
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EDITOR'S NOTE

What a difference a year makes

I will never forget Holy Week of 2020. I will never forget standing in an empty church with my iPhone mounted on a tripod my husband engineered for that purpose and recording Holy Week services and the Easter Vigil for our parish's livestream.

I will never forget how unnatural it felt for the church to be empty, especially during the Easter Vigil. The space that is usually filled with people and sounds was strikingly empty and uncomfortably silent. It

made even Easter – usually such a joyful celebration – feel sad.

I know I was incredibly blessed to be at Mass. I was one of only two people in my parish (we had a two-person camera crew; one shooting video for a Facebook livestream, and one recording for YouTube) who were able to be in the building worshipping with our pastor, Father Raymond J. Moreau. I was able to

Darcy L.
Fargo

receive the Eucharist. I was incredibly blessed and incredibly bummed out at the

same time.

Fast forward a year to this Holy Week. The pandemic continues, but we can gather in worship, even if in limited numbers.

I find myself more excited for Easter than I remember being in previous years. In addition to celebrating the fact that our Savior became man, suffered and died for us before rising to new life and conquering death, it feels like a sort of Easter for our churches, too. It feels like, compared to last year, our churches have gone from dead to again having life.

I will never again take for granted how beautiful it is to

worship with others. Our church buildings are obviously important. I love my home church. But the building is not the real church, we are. I look forward to being with you, the Church, as we enter into Christ's passion, his death and his eventual resurrection.

We at the North Country Catholic wish you all a blessed Holy Week and a happy Easter, and we look forward to worshipping with you. We hope you experience the blessings of the risen Christ.

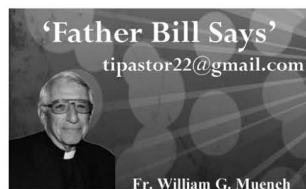
That makes a real difference.

Holy Week, proof of God's love for us

Holy Week – the holiest week of the Church year. This is the week we recognize each year the events of our salvation. This is the week that we celebrate by walking each day with Our Lord Jesus – a week when we take the opportunities to recognize each day God's great love for us. We are truly a loved people.

Recognizing God's great love for us, this is the important time for each of us to build up our relationship with our God. In this way, we discover the simple answers of life. Realizing that God's love for us is unconditional – God loves us – and asks nothing from each of us, we respond by surrendering to God's love. We surrender as we live, by bringing God's love, his Spirit, to others with kindness, compassion and understanding.

To find this Spirit requires we find some quiet time with God. Holy Week is a perfect time for this contemplative time with our Lord and Sav-



ior. Alone time with God gets us out of our heads and into our hearts. It is a time of quiet silence. There are no words necessary when we spend time with our friend, Jesus. As we walk with Jesus in his sufferings, he asks only for our love. The Lord seeks our love – no words to say, no words to read – only a love given in silence and surrender.

God is always loving and never condemning. The reason we walk with Jesus in his sufferings is not because we feel guilty for our failing and sins. Jesus suffered to demonstrate how much God loves us – God is always loving.

Each year we again remember all that Jesus did for us as we read the Sacred Scrip-

tures of Holy Week. I want to remind you again that the Sacred Scriptures are always about us – you and I – now. In this present moment, you and I, must be experiencing that God always loves us. God's love is so powerful, so perfect, that he reaches out to us even now that we may realize just how wonderfully God cares for us today.

I must admit to you that I know only too well that I have had my day when – and there is no other way to put it – I have resisted God's love. I have literally searched for ways so that I could block God's love and concern. My heart has been in so many other places. However, God breaks through all of those efforts to find satisfaction in other places. I have noticed that every year during Holy Week that God finds me and transforms me with his love – even in a year that is filled with illness – even in a year when there is a pandemic. I can only say we must be open and never get in God's

way.

We will change our world, we will make our world a better place, when we live in the love of our God. We are noticed by others and without realizing it we can lead others to God's love by the path of gentle goodness, patience and kindness we walk. Today as I was considering these words, I came upon an image that fits here – Jesus coming along to help me carry my cross. Each one of you has experienced a cross of different sorts – a cross that seems too much to carry – and Jesus comes along to be the one who helps us – who steps in to help us carry our cross.

One more thought – greater commitment to silent contemplation changes our lifestyle and makes us more respectful and accepting of others as they are. I hope you will see that truth in your life experience.

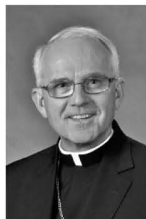
FOLLOW ME

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!"

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Psalm 118 is the Church's great Easter hymn of thanksgiving. It is the Responsorial Psalm for Easter Sunday Mass and from it comes the great Easter shout: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad." The last several months we have been told what we cannot or should not do in combating COVID-19. Pandemic or not, this Easter festival we must shout out, unrestrained, what our God has done and continues to do for you and me.

Why do we shout it out? Maybe



**Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley**

we are not in the mood. We might feel that we have had nothing but nervous tension, misery and sorrow these last few months. We shout it out because we are an Easter people, and in a world that is increasingly deaf, even hostile, to the Godly, we must call attention to the fact that our God was born, suffered and died for every person and HE HAS RISEN FROM THE DEAD. Out of immense gratitude for such a Gift, we desire, we are compelled to share this Good News and express resurrection joy, yes, even in the midst of life's trials and

tribulation.

How do we shout it out? We will not allow any facial covering to mask our Resurrection Faith. Shouting it out is not about volume but is about an unashamedly confident witness of joy and hope. Our daily witness shouts out an attitude of gratitude fed by fervent prayers and heart-filled joy as we serve the needs of our neighbor. We shout it out in worship and praise as we come to Mass as a family of faith and are nourished by His very Body and Blood, food for the journey.

Who should shout it out? All those who have reason to thank God for the gift of His Son who has won eternal life for all who

would believe. No one is excused. Everyone is a recipient of the Good News. Everyone has reason for hope. Yes, we shout **"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!"**

Happy and Blessed Easter to you and all your loved ones!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

**Most Reverend
Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg**

Social worker and teacher Sr. Teresa Magdalen Nichols, SSJ dies

Sister Teresa Magdalen Nichols, SSJ, died Monday, March 22, 2021, at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse at the age of 99.

She was born in Newton Falls on April 24, 1921, daughter of Homer and Mary Lagasse Nichols. She graduated from Harrisville High School and Watertown School of Commerce.

Sister Teresa Magdalen entered the Sisters of St. Joseph on November 29, 1947. She received the habit on May 16, 1948 and made Final Profession on August 27, 1953.

Sister Teresa Magdalen studied Elementary Education, with a focus on social work. Sister Teresa Magdalen worked with Sr. Mechtilde at St. Patrick's Social Center. She taught primary grades at Sacred Heart, Holy Family, Wa-



Sr. Teresa Magdalen Nichols, SSJ

tertown and St. Joseph's, Malone. She tutored at St. Joseph's, Massena, and was a group coordinator at St. Patrick's Children's Home, Watertown. Sr. Teresa Magdalen ministered at Mater Dei College, Ogdensburg.

Sister was a volunteer in the Green Thumb Program in the Malone Adult Center, helped prepare

food for the meals-on-wheels program, and also helped serve meals at the center. Sister Teresa Magdalen enjoyed visiting and playing cards. Sister's love for life could be found in her smile and laughter. On June 23, 1993 the Franklin County Association of Senior Citizens named Sister Teresa Magdalen the Senior Citizen of the Year. Governor Mario Cuomo awarded the Certificate of Merit. She retired at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown, NY.

Sister Teresa Magdalen is survived by her sister Genevieve McGraw, Evans Mills and Watertown. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Besides her parents, she is predeceased by her brothers Francis and Joseph and sister Delores

Green.

Funeral arrangements are with Cummings Funeral Service, Inc. Due to the Coronavirus, there will be no waking hours at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse. The funeral liturgy will be held privately at the Motherhouse Chapel.

Contributions may be made to the Sisters of St. Joseph, 1425 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601. Online condolences to her family may be posted at www.cummingsfuneral.com.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley invites us to
"Come to the Eucharist and be among us"
this Easter season

Scan this QR code to view the invitation video



Check with your parish for Mass times.

Equality Act is neither equal nor tolerant

Editor's note: H.R. 5 – Equality Act. The bill defines and includes sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity among the prohibited categories of discrimination or segregation. It passed in the House of Representatives on February 25, 2021 by a vote of 224-206. The bill is now on the US Senate agenda.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan wrote an informative article entitled, Stand Against Unjust Discrimination: Oppose the Equality Act, in which he acutely demonstrates that the Act is not about equality nor tolerance. (See the article at Stand Against Unjust Discrimination: Oppose the Equality Act (thepublicdiscourse.com.) The Equality Act, while purporting to have the noble goal of protecting vulnerable people, burdens consciences, eliminates religious freedom, and fosters an intolerance for beliefs that are sincerely held by faithful Christians. Instead of calling us to respectful tolerance of differing views, the Equality Act forces a "highly contested understanding of human nature on all people," while labeling alternate understandings as intolerant, ignorant and destructive.

Cardinal Dolan urges us to learn about this legislation and to oppose it. I encourage you to put his article on your "to read" list.

Cardinal Dolan begins by explaining the Christian understanding of sex and gender, which is at odds with the gender ideology underlying the Equality Act. The Church has always seen one's identity as being inseparable from one's body, explains the Cardinal. We are a unity of body and soul.

Christians see sexual difference as a fundamental dimension of human life and that the complementarity between male and female finds meaning in the flourishing of human life. The Scriptures and our Tradition build on the understanding of marriage as a

fruitful and loving union between male and female. "Christianity," Cardinal Dolan writes, "becomes incomprehensible if we accept that marriage is based merely on strong affection or that gender can be untethered from biological sex". For Christians, our existence as a person and our sexuality are inseparable, for our sexuality is a gift from God who created us as a male or female.

Gender ideology presents a counter anthropology, which claims that one's given body can somehow contradict one's sexual identity. It can refer to a person's belief his or her sex assigned at birth does not match their gender identity. The gender ideology underlying the Equality Act seeks to prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation. Andrew Walker in his article, The Equality Act: Bad Policy that Poses Great Harms, states while purporting to protect LGBT individuals from discrimination, the Equality Act would discriminate against those who do not agree with an understanding of human nature that denies sexual complementarity. "It would thus create a new form of discrimination by socially isolating certain beliefs," he writes (The Equality Act: Bad Policy that Poses



Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley

Great Harms - Public Discourse (thepublicdiscourse.com).

Cardinal Dolan goes on to point out that not every American will accept the Christian view of sexuality, which is deeply rooted in natural law. Some will not accept the

Christian understanding of the human person. His goal is not to impose the Christian view of the human person or sexuality on anyone, although he would be happy if he were able to persuade others to see the wisdom of such views. Neither does he want the gender ideology underlying the Equality Act imposed on anyone. Cardinal Dolan objects to the way that the Equality Act ends dialogue about human sexuality and the human person. The Cardinal states, "One of the great benefits of living in a free society... is that we can reason together about how best to live... with our differences. Pope Francis offers much wisdom... when he teaches that dialogue allows us the room to seek the truth together in a pluralistic society." Cardinal Dolan is asking that Christians be allowed a place in the dialogue about such important matters.

The Cardinal is not exaggerating when he states that the Equality Act is discriminatory and coercive. "The Equality Act seems to go out of its way to target religious. It exempts itself from the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA)," a bill that says that if the government is going to burden religious, it needs to have a good reason and needs to show that there

is no other way to avoid the imposition it places on religion. "So, if a Catholic women's shelter decides that it would be best not to house a biological man who self-identifies as a woman in the same space as women who have suffered domestic abuse, that ministry would not be protected under the Equality Act." Christian hospitals that refuse to perform abortions are threatened with loss of government funding or licensing. A Catholic nurse will not be allowed to follow his or her conscience in deciding whether it is moral for him or her to assist in a medical procedure that is against their religious beliefs.

The bottom line is that the Equality Act does not treat people equally and it is not tolerant of the beliefs of religious people.

We believe that all people, even people we disagree with, should be treated with dignity and respect. Christians believe that individuals with same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria should be accepted and treated with love. At the same time, we should not allow religious people, who have serious questions about the transgender political movement to be silenced or marginalized. Christians have a unique contribution to make to our understanding of sex, gender, and morality. No law should seek to take away, threaten, punish, or limit the right to take part in the dialogue. I encourage you to read Cardinal Dolan's article and make your opposition to the Equality Act known.

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name a priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul; take over his entire personality and life.

Replace him with yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always. O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of priests, pray and intercede for (...)
Amen.



APRIL

2021

DIOCESE OF
OGDENSBURG, NY

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

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CHAPIN

4 REV. MARTIN E.
CLINE 5 REV. DOUGLAS
G. COMSTOCK 6 REV. ROBERT L.
DECKER 7 REV. DAVID
DELUCA,
MSC 8 REV. GARVIN J.
DEMARAIS 9 REV. RICHARD
D. DEMERS 10 REV. POPE FRANCIS
11 REV. PEDRO
EDGARDO
DE LA ROSA 12 REV. DOUGLAS
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VF 22 RETIRED
PRIESTS 23 REV. GUY F.
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FLYNN 27 REV. J. MICHAEL
GAFFNEY 28 REV. ADRIAN
GALLAGHER 29 DECEASED
PRIESTS 30 REV. GARRY B.
GHOUX

For more information visit us online at www.mprrequest.com
A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated. The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by: Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society www.nyvocations.net

Sidewalk Advocates Program offered in diocese

By Colleen Miner

Director Diocesan Respect Life Office

Ever wonder if you'd know the 'right thing' to say to a woman who finds herself in an unplanned pregnancy? Afraid to say the wrong thing? Some people don't say anything at all.

Situations arise in life that require tactful comments - whether overhearing a conversation in a grocery store or seeing someone quietly slip into church to pray - the opportunity may arise to help another. The contact may be by chance or because you've shared your prolife beliefs or maybe because you've placed yourself on the sidewalk outside an abortion facility. Wherever the time or place, it's important to be prepared to help others make life-affirming deci-

sions by offering help.

Starting in April, the Diocese of Ogdensburg has been approved to offer an educational opportunity to equip those who wish to help others choose life. The online, 10 course, 5 hour program has saved thousands of lives across the United States. Sidewalk Advocates for Life is a compassionate, peaceful, prayerful ministry that helps women feel confident to choose life.

Those who are interested are asked to complete a short registration form at www.sidewalkadvocates.org. At the bottom of the page, in the yellow box, click the "Join- Get trained as a Sidewalk Advocate". Once the form is completed, it will be sent to the diocesan Respect Life Office who will contact you for payment (\$10)



and arrange to get a workbook to you. The workbook will have a unique code for you to go online and complete your studies. While the courses are designed for those 18 years of age and older, those who are younger are able to be trained, either alone or with a guardian by completing the Parental Permission Form. Once training is com-

plete, you'll be asked to sign the Integrity Pledge and receive a certificate of completion. You'll then be ready to schedule sidewalk time anywhere in the US! This is perfect for those who travel or snowbirds who spend part of their year in another state. Each Sidewalk Advocate location is listed on the website. The two locations listed for our diocese are

Plattsburgh and Watertown because they are the two known surgical abortion locations. Other locations that are active and offer chemical abortions (RU-486) will be added as needed.

"Covid has presented this opportunity for us. While we are waiting for the 'okay' to gather in person, we can be trained online for this valuable ministry that can be used throughout life, wherever you are, to save lives."

Also, since the Youth Buses for Life could not travel to DC this year for the March for Life, this might be something that teens can complete with their parents. Teens ask about ways to continue prolife efforts when they return home. Demographics tell us that the majority of abortions are done while women are college-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Bishop LaValley to hold special Healing Mass

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

All are welcome to attend.

The Mass will also be livestreamed on the diocesan YouTube channel at www.rcdony.org/livemass

April 11, 2021
11 AM

St. Mary's Cathedral
Ogdensburg

For more information, contact the Safe Environment Office at (315)393-2920

FORMATION FOR MINISTRY

Is God calling you to do more in your church?

Enrollment is now open for the 2021-2023 cycle.

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

Thursday, March 25 at 6:30 pm
Saturday, April 10 at 1:00 pm
Wednesday, April 28 at 6:30 pm

Registration is required to attend a session.
Go to www.rcdony.org/infoes

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

Diocese of Ogdensburg

Environmental Stewardship

Why water?

During the Easter Vigil this Saturday those who have been preparing to become members of the Church will be baptized with water. We will be sprinkled with holy water as we renew our baptismal promises. We know that John and Jesus were baptized with water. But why water?

This past week World Water Day was observed by people around the globe. The question we were asked to ponder was 'What does water mean to you?' During conversation about the significance of this Day three people shared their firsthand experiences of the value of water in Papua, New Guinea, India and Kenya.

In the rural areas they had witnessed people carrying water for miles for daily use, and in the large cities there was lack of clean water from polluted rivers. The realization was so stark; without water there is no life!

The conversation then turned to how we take for granted the availability of clean water - we who can simply turn on the water with the flick of our wrist. Consider how many taps there are in your home for both hot and cold water. They are in the kitchen, bathroom sinks, toilets, showers and maybe a faucet in the garage for outside purposes. It may be difficult for us in the North Country where there is an abundance of rivers and lakes to realize that climate scientists tell us that there is a water crisis globally, nationally, as well as locally in some areas. For more information, search for: World Water Day.

"There are a few simple things you can do at home to ease the burden on your local water supply and save money in the process. Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth. Invest in a water filter for your faucet to ensure clean water and reduce use of bottled water. Only run the washing machine and dishwasher when you have a full load. Use a low flow shower head. Fix dripping faucets." www.americanrivers.org

Next time you drink a glass of water or bless yourself with holy water, take a moment to give praise and thanks to God for this precious gift!

Bishop's Public Schedule

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

April 1 - 9 a.m. - Morning prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral
7 p.m. - Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 2 - 9 a.m. - Morning prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral
7 p.m. - Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord at St. Mary's Cathedral followed by confessions

April 3 - 9 a.m. - Morning prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral
8 p.m. - Easter Vigil at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 4 - 8 a.m. - Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 6 - 1 p.m. - In Person and/or Virtual Listening Sessions with the Priests at St. Mary's Social Hall in Massena

April 7 - 1 p.m. - In Person and/or Virtual Listening Sessions with the Priests at St. Alexander's Jubilee Hall in Morrisonville

To Report Abuse

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

Protecting God's Children

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

Online Alpha starts April 5

You're invited. Try Alpha Online.

#TryAlpha

Alpha

Ogdensburg - Do you know anyone who is not a practicing Catholic, barely practicing Catholic, or a non-practicing Catholic? Do you know anyone who is interested in faith but just not sure where to go to talk about it? Invite them to Alpha.

Alpha is a place to explore the Christian faith with others. It's a series of conversations focused on the questions of life, faith, and meaning.

Each session includes a time to connect with others, hear a talk on some element of faith, and then a chance for people to share their own questions and perspectives with the group.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg is running an online Alpha starting April 5 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. via Zoom. Guests can

join from the comfort of their own home. All that they need is a computer with a mic/camera or a smart phone.

A registration form is

available at www.rcdony.org/alpha. For more information contact Marika Donders, Office of Evangelization at mdonders@rcdony.org

Rest in Peace

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

March 31 - Rev. Louis Lopic, 1873; Rev. Gabriel Volkert, 1873; Rev. Henri Langlais, O.M.I., 1980

April 1 - Rev. James H. Roche, 1927; Msgr. Herbert J. Hannan, 2002; Rev. Mark McDonald, MSC, 2018

April 2 - Pope John Paul II, 2005

April 3 - Msgr. Philias Garand, 1942

April 4 - Rev. Ronald Brabant, 1963; Rev. Francis J. Beyette, 1984

April 5 - Rev. Florence McCarthy, 1901; Rev. Amedee Lacasse, M.S.C., 1941; Msgr. Francis P. Devan, 1992

April 6 - Rev. Joseph E. Berard, 1942; Msgr. Arthur M. Gilbert, 1965

Sidewalk

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

-aged so training in high school really makes sense and can benefit those headed off to college.

Sidewalk Advocates for Life is already active in two dioceses in our state: The Archdiocese of NY and The Diocese of Buffalo who have found it be a valuable asset. Several

dioceses across the United States have Sidewalk Advocates for Life as their sidewalk counseling ministry so we are blessed to join those who are already active.

Please contact The Respect Life Office at 518-524-0774 or email cminer@rcdony.org with questions concerning this new educational opportunity.



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MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

Should we take whatever vaccine is offered?

On March 1, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker told residents in the town of Mattapan that when it comes to the various COVID-19 vaccines, "These are all very effective. People don't need to pick one from another. People should get vaccinated. If you have a chance to get a vaccine, you should take it, whatever it is."

The governor's sweeping statement seems to imply, first, that everybody should get a COVID-19 shot, and second, that it's not necessary to distinguish among the different vaccines currently on the market, like Moderna, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson and eventually others.

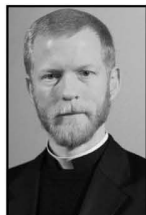
Such a perspective fails to acknowledge the important factors that are part of deciding whether to receive a particular COVID-19 vaccine or any other vaccine.

When new or experimental treatments become available, including novel vaccines, and we have limited knowledge of their side effects, adverse events, efficacy, and long-term consequences, it's important to realize that such treatments are never morally obligatory for an

individual, nor for a whole population. Achieving herd immunity, while clearly an important goal, in no way demands that everyone must be immunized.

For those individuals who are young and in good health, for example, and with no comorbidities, the risk of adverse outcomes from a COVID-19 infection, statistically speaking, are very low, on a par with the generally low risks of being vaccinated. They may reasonably, therefore, decide to decline receiving an inoculation.

For those, meanwhile, who are more vulnerable to the coronavirus and its potentially damaging effects, like those who are obese, elderly, diabetic, or facing other comorbidities, it makes sense for them to consider the potentially safer path of vaccination, rather than risking a harmful (or deadly) encounter with the virus itself. Each person must make a careful determination about whether a COVID-19 vaccination is appropriate for his or her set of circum-



Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk
Ph.D.

stances.

This is no different from making decisions about other vaccines like the shingles vaccine or the annual flu shot. When people get older, their chance of getting shingles, for example, increases and the

CDC recommends the shingles vaccine for those over 50. Similar to COVID-19, the older you are, the greater the risk, and the greater the need to consider the possibility of vaccination to avoid the painful effects of shingles.

But it is not mandatory that everyone should take the shingles vaccine — or the flu shot or the COVID-19 vaccine — because not everyone faces the same risks or would benefit from it to the same degree.

When deciding which vaccine to receive from among the FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccines, some may be considerably more effective than others, and some may incur side effects for certain individuals.

For example, a compound called polyethyl-

ene glycol (PEG) has been identified as a possible trigger for rare allergic or anaphylactic reactions in some vaccine recipients, even in trace amounts. According to FDA documents, both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines contain PEG, while the Johnson and Johnson vaccine does not. Thus, individuals with a PEG allergy effectively have only a single choice among the three emergency-use authorized vaccines in the US.

Another distinction among vaccines from Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson is their association with cell lines that were originally derived from human abortions. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are not directly produced or manufactured by relying on these abortion-related cell lines while the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is directly grown in such cells. All three vaccine manufacturers, however, have carried out ancillary or side-testing procedures using these cell lines.

Using abortion-derived cell lines in scientific research and industrial development raises significant ethical concerns.

When several vaccine candidates are available that are equally safe and effective, Catholics may discern in conscience the need to receive a candi-

date that is not associated at all, or more distantly associated, with abortion-derived cell lines. People at relatively low risk may also decide to wait for a vaccine with no connection to abortion if one is not yet available. They can make these choices as matters of conscience to avoid entanglements with the morally unacceptable practice of abortion. All of us have a right to vaccines with no connection to these cell lines. Nonetheless, the Church also reminds us that we are permitted to take, under protest, any of the currently available vaccines, even those most directly associated with cell lines from abortions, if we discern in conscience that there is a serious or proportionate reason to do so. We need to give each of these options real prayerful and thoughtful discernment.

Taken together, these considerations show us how it is important not to gloss over the distinctions among various COVID-19 vaccines and imply, as Governor Baker does, that everybody should get the first version that is available.

Rather, each of us needs to make careful decisions about our own health while also making conscientious choices in the light of legitimate moral concerns.

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



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CHEVROLET

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Dante honored for contributions

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The life and works of the famed Italian poet Dante Alighieri remain a lasting treasure that embodies the virtue of hope so desperately needed in today's world, Pope Francis said. In an apostolic letter commemorating the 700th anniversary of Dante's death, the pope said he appreciated the Catholic poet's work for the "enduring warnings and insights it contains for humanity as a whole, not simply believers. According to the Italian news agency ANSA, scholars believe that on March 25 the Italian poet began his allegorical journey through hell, purgatory and heaven, chronicled in the "Divine Comedy." Born in Florence in 1265, Dante played an essential role in Italian literature by writing in the vernacular, not Latin, making literature more accessible to the wider public.

Policeman in Colorado shooting a Catholic

BOULDER, Colo. (CNS) - Officer Eric Talley, an 11-year veteran of the Boulder Police Department, was the first to arrive at the scene of a mass shooting at a King Soopers grocery store the afternoon of March 22 and the first of 10 to be killed. A Catholic, Talley often stopped by St. Martin de Porres Church just across the street from the store "and participated in its events, even though he wasn't a parishioner there," Denver Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila said. "We ask for the intercession St. Martin de Porres, the patron of the parish, that God would bring good out of this great evil," he added. Police arrested 21-year-old Ahmad Al Aliwi Alissa of Arvada, Colorado, charging him with 10 counts of first-degree murder and one count of attempted murder.

Church leaders urged to work together for disarmament

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Ecumenical and interreligious dialogue is an essential part of peacemaking and promoting disarmament because it helps religious communities focus on the sacredness of human life, the obligation of compassion and the yearning for peace, said speakers at a Vatican-sponsored webinar. "Pope Francis has noted on several occasions that the arms race is based on a culture of fear and suspicion, and the antidote to armament, in fact, is a culture of dialogue that fosters mutual trust among individuals and groups and prompts the common good," said Cardinal Miguel Ángel Ayuso, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. Ela Gandhi, the granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi, told participants in the webinar March 23 that everyone must make a commitment "to the true practice of our faiths; through this we can build a culture of compassion, love and responsibility toward others, toward animals and toward our environment." The webinar, "Advancing Integral Disarmament in Times of Pandemic," was hosted by the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development in collaboration with the SCRAP Weapons campaign of the SOAS University of London.

Oregon family has commitment to St. Joseph

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) - Joe and Millie Hoffman traveled a half hour from Beaverton, Oregon, to attend the Mass for the feast of St. Joseph March 19 at St. Mary's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Portland. St. Joseph is their man. Not only is Joe named for the earthly father of Jesus, but the whole family has consecrated themselves to the saint. For the past 15 years, the Hoffmans have prayed a novena leading up to March 19, and Joe looks to St. Joseph for help in being a good example of manhood and faith for his grandsons. During the Mass, Archbishop Alexander K. Sample said the saint "is a strong, silent, gracious, chaste husband and father. Boy, do we need his example today."

CLINTON

SPRING SALE

Peru - St. Vincent's Thrift Store will be holding its annual spring sale of gently used spring/summer clothing and footwear.

Date: April 8 to April 10 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; April 8, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

ESSEX

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 are required)

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

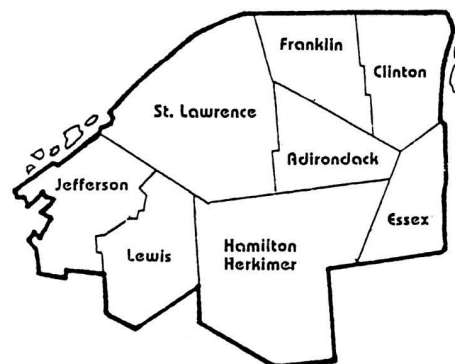
Place: St. Marguerite D'Youville Academy

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

Contact: Please contact Sister Catherine Cummings, RSM at ccummings@adkmercy.org or 518-523-5582.

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AROUND THE DIOCESE



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 e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

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. 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. 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>

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

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Live with Christ in glory, Alleluia

The Resurrection of Jesus from a tomb of solid rock is a pivotal event in world history.

It's not a myth - it's a fact of history. The tragic events of the days before the Resurrection were understood by the Apostles until his last torturous breath on Calvary's cross. His closest friends and companions thought they knew

all about him. In reality, they only half-listened when he warned them, more than once, how it would all end.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

On Saturday night, as they had huddled in fear in that same place where Jesus had celebrated with them on Thursday, all they could think of was the soldiers who came to the garden to hustle him away. They had run in the other direction, all except John who stood firmly to the end at the foot of the cross.

And now, in the early hours before dawn, Mary Magdalene comes banging at the door with a wild story of an empty tomb. When Peter and

April 4

Easter Sunday

READINGS

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Colossians 3:1-4

John 20:1-9

John went to the tomb with her, only John really believed. Peter must have gone back to bed, until some women reported seeing a "young man" at the tomb with the news Jesus was risen and gone to Galilee. It would take several personal appearances of Jesus to change his doubts to belief.

Today's first Easter reading is from the preaching

of a changed Peter, now filled with the Holy Spirit, who tells a crowd that he has seen the risen Christ with his own eyes and eaten with him. He gives firm and unquestionable testimony to the central belief of Christian faith.

The second Easter reading is from St Paul who, after being knocked from his horse and instructed by the risen Christ Himself, tells the Colossians what it's all about. The message is we must think of what's above, live as though already with Christ in glory. An alternate reading for today tells us to be like fresh dough, made with new

yeast, and ready to rise to new life.

Easter is not the end of the story of Jesus Christ - it's the beginning of His new life in His followers who have been baptized and anointed, with a transformed hope for the world whom Jesus redeemed by His blood. Easter should "loosen up" our unwilling tongues to sing and stir up our energy to live courageous lives of witness. In the words of the Easter Sequence: "Christ indeed from death is arisen, our new life obtaining. Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning! Amen. Alleluia".

CALLED TO SERVE

Holy Week celebrations will still be different

Holy Week 2020 was almost a year ago. Actually, Easter was on April 20, 2020. Do you remember the Easter Vigil last year? Probably not. How about the ceremonial washing of feet during the parish celebration of The Lord's Supper? That is not coming back to you? Do you recall lining up for the veneration of the Cross on Good Friday? No, again.

You do not recall those traditional Triduum events because we did not have public ceremonies in our churches. The COVID-19 pandemic took care of that and a lot of other things too.

But now we have vaccines, people are feeling positive about things even though we still have folks testing positive for the virus and winter appears to be almost finished with us. All that suggests the Holy Week Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Fri-

day and Holy Saturday and then Easter Sunday will be celebrated like we remember from years gone by, before 2020. Right? Not quite.

At least this year we are having public liturgies. Liturgist Chris Carstens in Wisconsin says Rome wants pastors to "weigh the faithful sacred celebration of the rites on the one hand with prudent health precautions on the other."

"We will be pretty much following the recommendations of the diocese," said Reverend Raymond Diesbourg, MSC, pastor of the churches in Cape Vincent, Rosiere and Chaumont. His answer was "no" to washing feet, kissing the Cross or parishioners lighting individual candles during the Vigil.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley shared guidelines with pastors as they planned for Holy Week. The guide-

lines included discouraging the washing of feet this year. It is always optional.

A Eucharistic Procession at the end of the Holy Thursday liturgy is possible, but only with strict enforcement of social distancing and then exercising control over the number of people visiting the Lord at the altar of repose. Many pastors will opt not to process.

On Good Friday the guidelines agree there is danger in allowing dozens of people to kiss the cross as a form of veneration. "We are definitely not going to kiss the Cross," said Reverend Martin E. Cline in Saranac Lake "but I would think a quick procession through the church wouldn't hurt anybody."



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

None of the parishes we surveyed will use personal votive candles at the Easter Vigil. The usual lighting of the Easter Candle will take place as will the Sacraments of Initiation.

The guidelines specifically note "the sprinkling of Holy Water (at the Vigil and on Easter Sunday) is to occur."

Many parishes have taken to streaming liturgical services since the limits on congregation size were imposed last March. Parishes are using a variety of platforms to provide the liturgy to those who do not wish to attend or can't. "We'll probably get more people watching than would have come to the service," said Reverend Steven M. Murray in Malone. "We have a lot of

people stuck in their home and we seem to have a large following when we stream."

"Many priests are not happy about the restrictions," Carstens said on the Podcast, The Liturgy Guys. Father Cline agrees. "I am not in favor of doing a lot of these things this year. I'd rather do a full service. But it's better than last year when we had no people at all. We have to simplify things and change them a little for the times but having no people there at all, that was awful."

The doors are open, social distancing is still in force, masks must be worn, limits still exist on church capacity but Holy Week will be celebrated with the people of the parishes. All the priests we spoke with are grateful for that.

Jesus is laid in the tomb

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.

Thirteenth Station

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

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

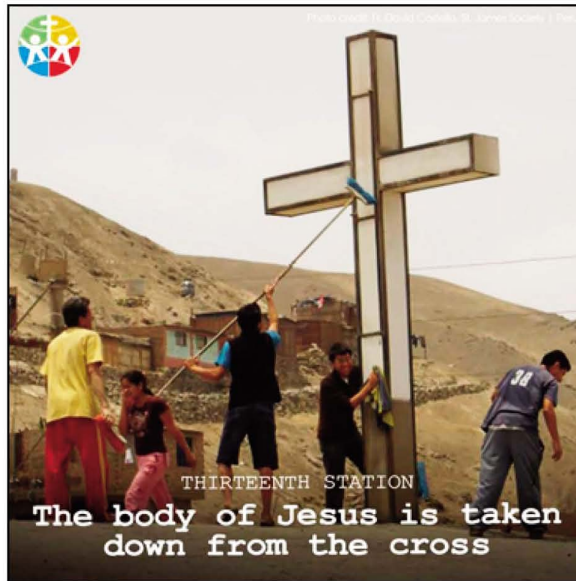
Reader: It is hard work to live in the missions of Peru where everything is surrounded by dirt. Yet, your children take great care to make sure Your



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

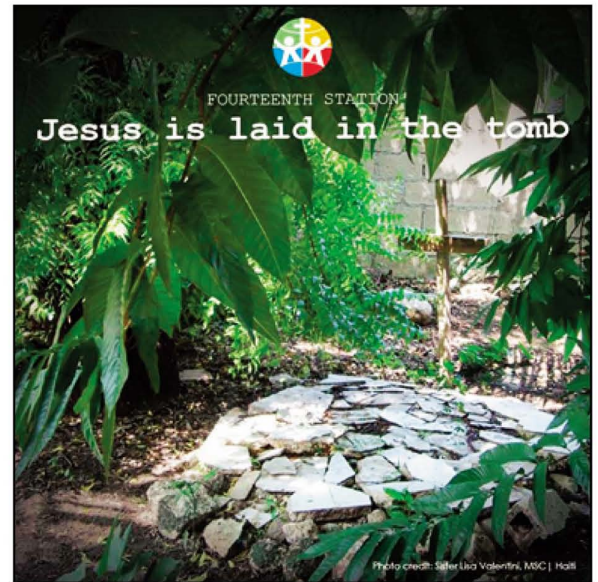
The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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



Cross is clean – a symbol of faith of the Body of Christ, for all the world to see. Lord Jesus, help us to

be a living, breathing symbol of the body of Christ to the world!



Fourteenth Station

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

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

Reader: This grave marks the final resting spot of three seminarians who perished in the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Lord

Jesus, help us to recall, in prayer, the people who go before us marked with the sign of faith. May we live our lives to be worthy of the cross placed on this tomb.

OBITUARIES

Boonville – Priscilla B. Wilbert, 94; Mass of Christian Burial June 5, 2021 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, West Leyden.

Brownville – Clifton k. "Skip" Couse, 91; Mass of Christian Burial March 22, 2021 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Brownville Cemetery.

Brasher Falls – James F. Peets, 85; Mass of Christian Burial March 26, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Canton – Elizabeth "Betty" (Fullerton) Bessette, 88; Mass of Christian Burial March 24, 2021 at St. Mary's Church.

Carthage – Frank A. Nevills, 82; Private services to be held; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Copenhagen.

Carthage – Benjamin P. Renzi, 88; Mass of Christian Burial March 27, 2021 at St. James Church.

Chateaugay – Robert G. "Bob" Patnode, 78; Mass of Christian Burial March 26, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Clayton – Ann L. (Denesha) Dorr, 73; Mass of Christian Burial March 26, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Grove Cemetery, La Fargeville.

Croghan – Nancy A. (Lyndaker) Jackson, 75; Mass of Christian Burial March 29, 2021 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Malone – Gerald Lawrence Collette, 71; Mass of Christian Burial March 26, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Victor A. LaClair, Sr., 80; Mass of Christian Burial March 22, 2022 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Plattsburgh Community Entombment.

Plattsburgh – Edward L. Pepper, II, 56; Mass of Christian Burial March 27, 2021 at St. Peter's Church.

Port Henry – Patricia Anne (Vosburg) Lemza, 84; Mass of Christian Burial March 27, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church.

South Colton – Kathryn Rose Hayes, 85; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at St. Paul's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Colton.

St. Regis Falls – Monique L. Musgrove, 67; Mass of Christian at St. Ann's Church.

Theresa – Nancy Elaine (McCallops) LaFave, 83; Private Mass of Christian Burial held March 26, 2021; burial in St. Michael's Cemetery, Antwerp.

Ticonderoga – Victor John Blowers, 61; Funeral Services March 26, 2021 at the Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home.

Watertown – Robert A. Irvine, 85; Funeral Services March 28, 2021 at D.L. Calarco Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Robert J. Keggins, 82; Mass of Christian Burial March 25, 2021 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

West Chazy – Jeffrey C. Barnes, 62; Mass of Christian Burial March 26, 2021 at St. Joseph's Church.

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Cursillo forms disciples for evangelization

By Marika Donders
Director for Evangelization

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Mt 28:19-20)

For Catholics to be able to share the faith to the ends of the earth, we need to get beyond our parish doors; we need to get out of ourselves. Our faith needs to get out of our hearts and heads into the world around us, outside of ourselves. We need to openly express faith in words and deeds. We need to stop keeping our relationship with Jesus and

this church to ourselves like some big secret. This secret is one that needs to be shared and taught and expressed in words.

One of my least favorite expressions is a quote often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi: "Preach the Gospel always, and if necessary, use words." The implication is that words are not necessary to share the faith or at least, many people use it as an excuse not to use words. Yes, we can live a good Catholic life and show good example, which may draw some people to the faith, but at some point, you need to be able to use words and share what is the reason for your hope, your joy, and why you are living the way you do.

You may ask, what does

this have to do with Cursillo? Isn't Cursillo just a weekend retreat?

Cursillo starts with a retreat, but it is much more than that. It is a movement in the Church, which forms disciples. The slogan is "Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ." Cursillo, at its heart, is about evangelization and discipleship. Through the weekend and beyond, friendships are formed and faith is shared in small groups. The individual Cursillistas come to know and deepen their faith and learn to practice sharing that faith with others so when the opportunity occurs, they are comfortable with sharing their faith with others.

The power of Cursillo really rests in living out what was begun in the

Cursillo weekend by sharing our daily lived faith in small groups. It is in the opportunity to get together regularly and consistently with a small group to share how you have lived the faith that week, where you encountered Christ in prayer, study and action.

I have found through faith sharing that faith is lived in the ordinary little things in life, and it affects the way you live, not in the big things, but in the little everyday things you do for love of Christ. It is through these seemingly insignificant actions such as the study that may present one small new insight, or that moment of prayer that provides just a little more clarity, that we are ever so slowly being formed into better disci-

ples of Christ, allowing his image in us to become more and more evident, more obvious.

Our faith is not a one-and-done. It is a slow maturing of faith, and to mature in faith, we need to reflect on our faith and talk about it. Not in a "Hey! Look at me!" way, but in a way that expresses in word and action what Jesus Christ has done for me, and can do for you and through you, for all those whom you will meet.

To learn more about Cursillo, or to apply to attend a Cursillo weekend, see www.rcdony.org/evangelization/cursillo.html or contact nccsec2019@gmail.com

First Communion, a year in the making

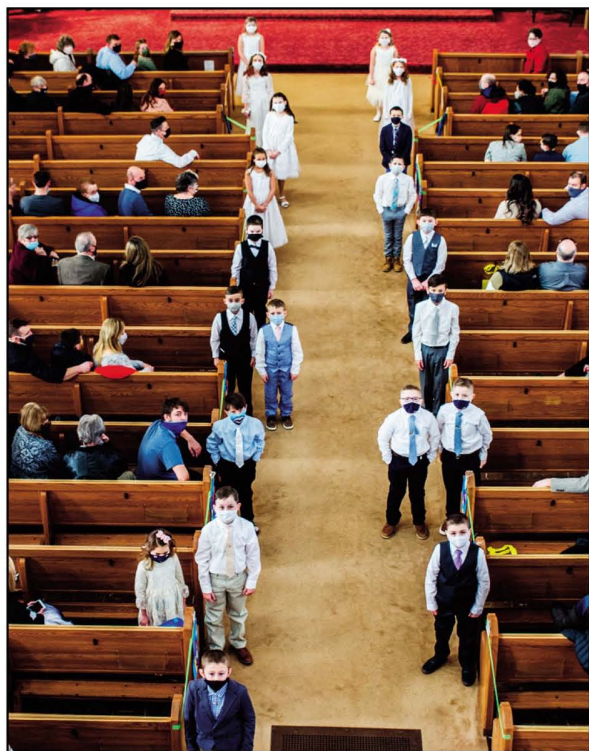


PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE

20 students from St. Mary's Cathedral Parish Religious Ed Class celebrated their First Eucharist on March 6, 2021 at Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg.

OGDENSBURG – During a Mass that was more than a year in the making, 20 young students of St. Mary's Cathedral Parish Religious Ed Class celebrated their First Eucharist on March 6, 2021.

The students were second graders when the Covid pandemic halted classes in February 2020. They were preparing for their first Reconciliation.

The Religious Ed teachers, under the direction of Sister Bernadette Collins, SSJ, devised Family Faith on the Run. Sr. Bernadette and the religious educa-

tion teachers developed plans for each grade to study and learn what was expected for that level. The staff chose the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies Faith Formation Program (Pflaum Publishing Group, Dayton, Ohio) for most of the children.

Those 3rd graders who had not yet received their First Communion, and current 2nd grade students preparing for First Communion were tutored separately. Catechists Mrs. Brenda Trivilino and Ms. Lorraine Carney, used Signs of Grace (Augustine

Institute, Denver, Colorado) to prepare those children for Reconciliation and Communion.

Through email, phone calls and drive-thru, the children received their assignments and lessons every 8 weeks. The catechists worked at the former St. Marguerite D'Youville Academy Catholic School.

The children, including those who had waited a year for the opportunity, celebrated the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg.

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