

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Seminar teaches 'Loving Authentically' to deacon class | PAGE 3

Guggenheim will not open for teen camp | PAGE 11

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 76 Number 3

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

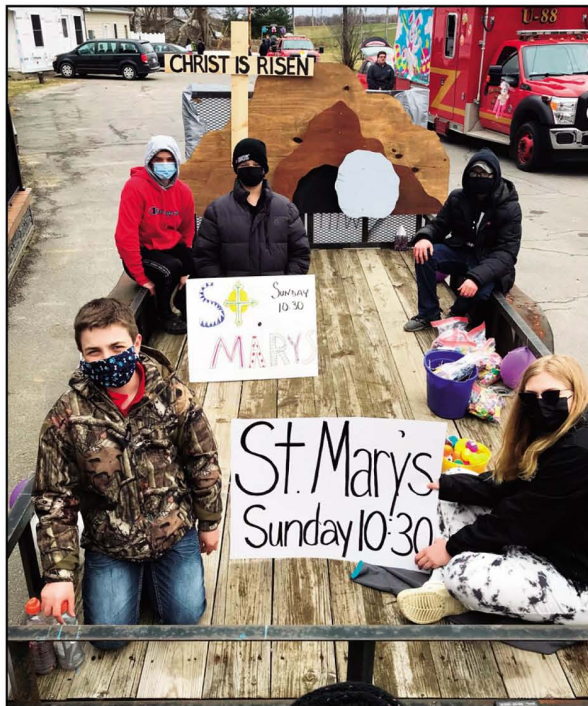
APRIL 28, 2021

Promise to protect

Bishop Terry R. LaValley discusses April's Child Abuse Prevention Month: "President Ronald Reagan first proclaimed April to be National Child Abuse Prevention Month in 1982. It is a tradition that continues today. During this month especially, and throughout the year, we raise awareness of child abuse prevention. We educate clergy, employees, and volunteers about how they can help prevent abuse and neglect of children. The Diocese of Ogdensburg remains committed to its pledge to address the clergy sexual abuse scandal. Our Child & Youth Protection Policy promotes healing and reconciliation with victims/survivors of abuse, requires an effective and immediate response to allegations of sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults, and protects the faithful in the future with procedures that ensure accountability."

FULL STORY, PAGE 8-9

TAKING FAITH ON THE ROAD



Fort Covington Volunteer Fire Department sponsored its first Easter Parade this year, and St. Mary's Church entered a float highlighting the empty tomb of Christ and inviting town residents to Mass. Confirmation students Lucas Oakes, Karissa Lindley, Austin Bickford, Liam Reardon and Brennan Oakes decorated the float and threw candy to kids along the parade route.

SHARING OUR STORIES



Carol Gonthier of Norfolk compares her faith journey to her art background. "People ask me, 'how did I come up with that idea? What made me create that?' It came to me," she said. "That's the same way with my faith. When there's a need, and of course I prayed for it, the need is answered." Read about how Gonthier is living out her faith in this week's "Sharing Our Stories; Sharing Our Faith," our ongoing series highlighting the ways Catholics are living out their faith here in the North Country.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

Pope calls for 'prayer marathon' to end pandemic

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis has called for a global prayer marathon for the entire month of May, praying for the end to the pandemic.

"The initiative will involve in a special way all shrines in the world" in promoting the initiative so that individuals, fami-

lies and communities all take part in reciting the rosary, "to pray for the end of the pandemic," said the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization in a press release April 21.

"It is the heartfelt desire of the Holy Father that the month of May be ded-

icated to a prayer marathon dedicated to the theme, 'from the entire church an unceasing prayer rises to God,'" it said.

The theme refers to the miraculous event recounted in the Acts of the Apostles (12:1-12) when all the church prayed for

Peter, who was imprisoned until God sent an angel to free him, illustrating how the Christian community comes together to pray in the face of danger and how the Lord listens and performs an unexpected miracle.

Each day in May, there will be a livestream from

one of 30 chosen Marian shrines or sanctuaries to guide the prayer at 6 p.m. Rome time (noon EDT) on all Vatican media platforms, including social media.

The pope will open the monthlong prayer May 1 and conclude it May 31, the council said.

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLIC

Box 326
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
USPS 0039-3400
BISHOP TERRY
R. LAVALLEY
President
REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN
Vice President
JAMES D. CROWLEY
Secretary-Treasurer
DARCY L. FARGO
Editor &
Communications Director



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

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

Telephone:
(315) 608-7556

E-mail:
northcountry
catholic.org

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

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

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

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

It no longer feels like penance

It's one of the toughest penances I've ever been given, and it's been given to more than once.

After hearing my confession, a particular priest of our diocese, one I'm very fond of, has instructed me to "make a list of 10 things you love about yourself" as penance.

This priest has given me that penance at least twice. Each time, his instructions elicited a groan and a look of disgust.

As someone who tends to dwell on my weaknesses and sinfulness, that penance is tough. Knowing how I've struggled with that penance, I don't know what I was thinking when I committed to this year's Lenten exercise.

In a previous column, I noted that I was committing to an exercise of gratitude to try to combat that part of my personality that focuses on negatives. My plan was that each day, I'd "make a list of three things for which I am grateful – one gift/talent/positive attribute I see in myself, a place I see God working in the world around me and one non-defined reason for which I am grateful (a free space of sorts)."



**Darcy L.
Fargo**

As one reader wrote to me in response to that Lenten practice, "it's deceptively easy, until it isn't."

He wasn't kidding. While I'll admit I wasn't perfect in that commitment, and I didn't complete the gratitude exercise every single day of Lent,

I really tried to stick to it. The first week or so were relatively easy. In fact, I found it relatively easy to find "a place I see God working in the world around me and one non-defined reason for which I am grateful" nearly every day. Predictably, it was finding that "gift/talent/positive attribute I see in myself" that was difficult as the weeks continued.

Despite the difficulties, the practice proved to be fruitful. I wrote most of these gratitude items in my journal, and I'd often flip back through my previous entries to ensure I expressed gratitude for something different each day. There were days it would take me 15 to 20 minutes of praying and reflecting to come up with a "gift/talent/positive attribute" I hadn't already used.

God helped me find something for every day. Honestly, that shocked me. It also helped change me.

While I'll likely always battle that part of me that dwells on my weaknesses and sinfulness, through that Lenten practice, God has equipped me with additional strength and grace to wage that battle. He's helped me see myself more honestly, and he's helped me see the multitude of gifts he's given me. And focusing on where I see God working in the world has made me more grateful and more joyful.

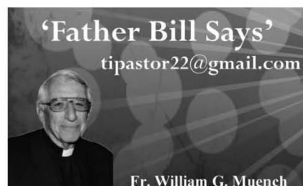
Even though Lent is over, and we're celebrating the Easter season, I'm trying to continue the gratitude exercise.

Seeing the fruits its bearing in my life, it no longer feels like penance.

Joining in the celebration of Pentecost

The celebration of the joy of the Easter Season leads us to hope for the future. As we remember and celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, we should be filled with the confidence to bring God's love to others. Then we are given the hope to join in the celebration of Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles of the Lord of all times with power and wisdom and bringing hope that our future will be alive in the Lord.

The Gospels describe to us how those original apostles recovered their faith and hope in the Lord. It seems that they had lost all hope with the crucifixion of Jesus. Can you imagine how those apostles felt with the arrest of Jesus and his crucifixion? I often wonder where they were. I wonder why none of the apostles showed up as Jesus carried the cross to Calvary. None of them were there to help the suffering Jesus. However, I must admit that I don't think I would have



Fr. William G. Muench

been bold enough to walk with Jesus or try to help him.

Everything changed for them with the Lord's Resurrection. Their faith came alive. They discovered a new hope for the future. They suddenly discovered an enthusiasm in the Holy Spirit. They became witnesses for the apostles of all time. They demonstrated a readiness to carry the message of Jesus to others – the message of God's great love for them.

This Easter season continues to bring a powerful message to every Christian, a message for you and me. As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord in these weeks after Easter, we will be renewed with a dedication to the following of the Lord.

Jesus will touch our lives and help us to remember our baptism and discover hope for our future.

As we celebrate this Easter season, we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Holy Spirit in Pentecost, our Pentecost. You know the story of the first Pentecost. The apostles were gathered in the upper room. They were afraid and lacking all confidence. Then when the Holy Spirit touched their lives, they were transformed with new power and hope. They were no longer afraid to speak out the message of Jesus.

You and I must be ready again to allow the Holy Spirit to put new life into our hearts. Each and every day should be a Pentecost. Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will bring the same enthusiasm to us as was given to those original apostles.

Today I want to encourage you to celebrate the joy of the resurrection of the Lord each day of this Easter season, and

I encourage you to be ready and prepared with an open, loving heart for the coming of the Holy Spirit in your Pentecost. This will give you hope and confidence now in the midst of this curious time of Pandemic. Pentecost will ready you to bring the Lord's spirit of love and peace and nonviolence to the world.

Our Church is coming to a time of real transition. I wonder, as you may also wonder, what the future of life as a Catholic will be. Our joyful celebration of the resurrection of Jesus and the powerful coming of the Holy Spirit will bring us the hope that all will be a time of happiness and love in the Lord. Our hope in the Lord must mean that we do not have to be afraid. Please join me as we pray together that we will all be united in the possibilities of a Church alive in the love of the Lord – working to bring a strong faith in God and hope in the following of our Savior.

Seminar teaches 'Loving Authentically' to deacon class

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon
Contributing Writer

OGDENSBURG – “Loving Authentically” is a leadership seminar developed by the diocesan offices of Family Life and Natural Family Planning. Deacon candidates of the diocese recently extended their formation weekend by a day to participate in the first seminar conducted by the group.

Sub-titled “Sex, Happiness and Catholic Teaching,” the presenters took their mission from St. Paul’s warning in 2 Timothy, “the time will come when people will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance with their own desires.”

Wives of the deacon candidates could also attend the session.

Family Planning Director Stephen Tartaglia told the candidates the presentation is intended to educate Church leaders about Church teachings related specifically to contraception and sexual relations.

The presenters included Dr. Maura Hearden Fehlner, a Catholic theology teacher at the undergraduate and graduate levels for the last 20 years, Deacon John Fehlner of Lake Placid, founder and current president of Light of Truth, Inc.

Light of Truth is “a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to educating the general public about the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church.”

Also presenting were Angelo and Suzanne



DEACON KEVIN MASTELLON/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC
Dr. Maura Hearden Fehlner presents Church teaching on “Loving Authentically” to diocesan deacon candidates. The candidates’ wives could also attend the presentation.

Pietropaoli, Malone. They are the Natural Family Planning (NFP) directors for the diocese and certified NFP educators and Pre-Cana instructors.

The presentation included a viewing of the movie “Unprotected: A

Pope, A Pill And The Perils of Sexual Chaos.”

Tartaglia told the group the seminar was being presented for the first time. Additional presentations to diocesan leadership groups are planned.



DEACON KEVIN MASTELLON/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Bishop Terry R. LaValley hosts a meeting with diocesan deacons at St. John the Baptist Church in Plattsburgh. The meeting was one of three sessions Bishop LaValley held to meet with diocesan deacons. Similar meetings were also held with diocesan priests.

Bishop meets with priests, deacons

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon
Contributing Writer

PLATTSBURGH – Bishop Terry R. LaValley completed a series of meetings with priests and deacons of the diocese in Plattsburgh April 12, 2021.

Over the course of the previous week, Bishop LaValley met with the clergy five other times in Ogdensburg, Clayton, Massena and Morrisonville.

“It is always a pleasure to meet with my fellow priests and deacons,” Bishop LaValley said. “I come away from these gatherings confident in their work among the people of God and inspired by their spirit.”

It has been a tradition for Bishop LaValley to meet with the clergy annually for “listening sessions” at the Priest and Deacon Assemblies in the spring. Those gatherings had to be cancelled this year due to restrictions on the size of gatherings during the pandemic.

“I still wanted to meet with them,” Bishop LaValley said, “so we developed this format.”

A total of six meetings were held in the diocese over a seven-day period.

The sessions provided opportunities for the priests and deacons to ask questions and voice concerns, as well as an opportunity for fellowship

Clergy had the option to attend the sessions either in person or via digital means.

Enjoy the renewal of spring with a subscription to the *North Country Catholic*, the newspaper for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.
**Send payment to: North Country Catholic,
PO Box 106, Canajoharie, NY 13317**

Name _____ Inside Diocese \$27
Address _____ Outside Diocese \$30
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ \$35 \$50
Parish _____ \$100 \$250



Joelle Lamica

Catholic Charities local director to receive award

ALBANY— New York Assemblyman D. Billy Jones recently announced Joelle Lamica as a 2021 Woman of Distinction Award winner under the category of Community/Civic Affairs.

"Joelle Lamica currently is the local director of Catholic Charities of Franklin County and has worked tirelessly during the pandemic to serve the North Country," Jones wrote in a social media post. "She worked with multiple agencies to ensure that those in need had access to essentials like food, clothing, sanitizers, and medications. In 2020 alone, Catholic Charities provided service to approximately 6,000 individuals.

"Additionally, for many years Joelle has coordinated the Toys for Tots program, managed the Youth Employment Program and created, initiated and directed the Soup Kettle. Throughout all these programs, regardless if Joelle worked with or helped them, she always treated every individual with respect, dignity, kindness. Joelle always leads by example by being as charitable as possible."

The Woman of Distinction Awards will be presented in an online ceremony planned for April 28 from 6 to 7 p.m. To obtain the Zoom link, visit Assemblyman Jones' Facebook or Twitter. The link was posted April 18.

Formation for Ministry bolstered faith, marriage

By Jessica Hargrave
Contributing Writer

ADAMS— What's meant to be will always find a way. Kevin and Maryann O'Rourke had been wavering on whether to go through the Diocese of Ogdensburg's Formation for Ministry program for quite a while. It was when they heard the 2019-2021 program would be held at their home parish of St. Cecilia's Church in Adams that they thought the timing was perfect.

Father Martin E. Cline, then pastor in Adams, reached out to Kevin to see if he had interest in the program, but after talking with his wife, Maryann, they decided to do the program together.

"We have always found strength in each other when we pray together and this could only strengthen our faith and marriage," said Maryann.

Much of the two-year program is now online to accommodate busy schedules and to afford more flexibility except for in-person workshops in Tupper Lake and retreats twice a year. The courses explore the core foundations of the Catholic Faith including the Eucharist, the history of the Church, and Catholic social teaching, which opens meaningful discussion amongst program candidates.

The couple agrees the courses expanded on their knowledge of the faith.

"When you think you know everything about your faith, you go through the Formation for Ministry program and



Kevin & Maryann O'Rourke

find out that there is a lot more to learn about your faith. We always say that we are all a work in progress," Maryann admitted.

The program going completely online took some adjustment, but Kevin and Maryann feel the online discussion allows people to feel more comfortable to open and share than in an in-person group setting and creates a sense of community. Candidates can build on those friendships when they finally see and speak face-to-face at the workshops.

"Meeting and bonding with our classmates was very rewarding. It was great being able to share our faith stories with one another," said Maryann.

The O'Rourke's believes the program enriched their marriage and allowed them to dig deeper into their Catholic Faith.

"We have always found it rewarding and intimate when we share our faith openly with each other," Maryann said. "After almost 33 years married,

we tend to take each other for granted. Taking this course as a couple, has reenergized not only our faith but our marriage."

Kevin and Maryann will be Commissioned Lay Ministers this June when they will receive a blessing from Bishop Terry R. LaValley and their certificates. The COVID-19 vaccine has made them both optimistic and excited to pursue their ministry in family outreach and hospitality and look forward to reaching out to get their church families back in the pews.

Registration for the 2021-23 Formation for Ministry program is now open.

If you believe you are called to serve your parish as a commissioned lay minister, you are encouraged to discuss it with your pastor.

If your pastor agrees your gifts are needed, contact Formation for Ministry Director Cathy Russell at crussell@rcdony.org or call (315) 393-2920.

'I want for others what I grew up with'

Editor's Note: The following is an installment of "Sharing Our Stories, Sharing Our Faith," an ongoing occasional series highlighting how lay Catholics are living out their faith here in the North Country. To nominate someone to be featured in the series, email dfargo@rcdony.org or call 315-393-2920.

By Jonathan Monfiletto
Contributing Writer

NORFOLK – Carol Gonthier compares her faith journey to her art background.

"People ask me, 'how did I come up with that idea? What made me create that?' It came to me," she said. "That's the same way with my faith. When there's a need, and of course I prayed for it, the need is answered."

To live your faith, she said, you have to be involved with it. And, she added, always look for the best.

"I try my best to look for the positive in anything. That drives me forward," Gonthier said. "You can always draw on the bad. There's enough of it, but if you look for the positive, it's there."

Gonthier doesn't see her faith as something she does but as something she is; she doesn't see her faith separately from who she is as a person. Growing up in a large Irish Catholic family of seven children – she jokingly calls herself "Irish trapped in a French name" – faith is something that has always been part of Gonthier's life.

With her parents and siblings, she attended Mass every Sunday at 10 a.m.; the family also went to Mass on holy days. All of the holidays revolved around Mass and church activities, including going to confession on Christ-



Carol Gonthier

mas Eve.

"It was part of us," said Gonthier, who lives in Norfolk and attends Church of the Visitation. "It was integrated totally into who we were."

Faith remained part of Gonthier's life as she worked as a graphic artist while following her husband's Air Force career from place to place around the country. She shared her Catholic faith with the people around her by getting involved in her parish however she could.

Gonthier said she shares her faith "first of all by living it," but she started out as a catechist and then became involved in the Altar and Rosary Society. From there, she became a director of religious education and also got involved with family ministry and became a lay minister, a youth director, and a catechist trainer.

"If there was a need and I was able to help, I offered," she said. "People who know me know I don't do things kind of. I throw myself into it. It's that Irish background."

Gonthier said her efforts to share her faith with others relate back to the faith she experienced as a child and still experiences today.

"I want for others what I grew up with and still feel today," she said. "Too often, it seems like our faith is becoming more and more obscure. It's something that in its simplest form, I want to bring that light and interest especially to the youth."

The COVID-19 pandemic has offered a challenge Gonthier has been able to meet with her passion for serving God and His people and "a really good team of catechists," she said.

With health issues among her group, both with the children and the catechists, Gonthier said the group didn't feel comfortable meeting in person at the parish center. So, she reached out to the diocese and to Google to receive permission to use Google Classroom to continue catechism classes virtually.

"People kept saying I



couldn't. Why can't I? We are education. We are offering education," she said. "We did all the proper documents, and we have Google Classroom set up for our program so we could communicate with everybody."

Again, despite the obstacles toward hosting catechism classes virtually, Gonthier felt driven by her desire to serve God and His people.

"I didn't give up because I knew the Lord wanted it. I knew we needed it," she said. "This is our way of communicating with our families. In a lot of ways, it's helped us communicate even more out of need."

To strengthen her own faith, Gonthier jokes that she and Bishop Robert Barron, an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and author, speaker and theologian, "are close friends," as she regularly and avidly consumes his materials regardless of the format, or time of year.

"I don't get enough of him. There's such a spiritual drive in him that I connect with," she said. "He has that interest too. He wants to help people to

come to understand their faith, not just think their living it."

She also points to the work of Catholic authors such as Matthew Kelly and Scott Hahn, as well as Bishop Barron's "Word on Fire Bible," especially the artwork within, as sources she uses to develop her relationship with God.

Gonthier also credits "the people along the way" and the relationships she has made for not only strengthening her faith but also encouraging her desire to serve God and His people.

"Any time that I would've had something that could've been a road bump, there was either someone or some people that, it's not that they didn't allow me to pull away from my faith, they were living their faith, which helped me to live my faith," she said, adding from her undergraduate years to moving from state to state to her life now people have been there to help grow closer to God. "Somebody believed I had the interest and talked me into it. The Lord has placed people in my way to help me."

Environmental Stewardship

What's our role as Church?

Our Sacred Scriptures are filled with references to the earth. Did you know that trees are mentioned more than 90 times beginning in the first book of Genesis? Perhaps you have noticed how many times the Psalms refer to the natural world around them. Of course, we know that Jesus must have been very in tune with the earth, as He often used aspects of it to teach lessons about life.

On April 22, we celebrated Earth Day. This Day was founded in 1970, as a day not only to celebrate the goodness of the earth and but especially to educate us on the harm that some of our human activities were having on the quality of life we all share.

This Day has become a global observance which sometimes extends into Earth Week, focusing on green living. In 1992, the first world United Nations Earth Summit was held in Rio De Janeiro to provide a plan to reconcile worldwide economic development with protection of the environment. It provided blueprints for international action on environmental issues.

During this period of time, what was our Church's response to these evolving ecological concerns? In 1979 St. Francis of Assisi was made the patron saint of ecology. Kateri Tekakwitha was beatified in 1980 by Pope John Paul II and canonized in 2012 by Pope Benedict, and she is the patron of environmentalists. In 1990, Pope John Paul II's World Day of Peace message made statements on ecological concerns, followed by U.S. bishops' statements on climate change. Pope Benedict incorporated environmental concerns in his encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* (2009.) In 2015, Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home* sees "care for the earth" not just an Earth Day slogan but as a moral and ethical call to protect people and the planet, as an integral part of living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation.

What will you do this week to be a good steward? Suggestion:

Arbor Day is April 30. Why not plant a tree or donate to have one planted for you?

Funeral celebrated for Bernice Bushey

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Mrs. Bernice M. Bushey on Friday, April 23, 2021, at St. Edmund's Church in Ellenburg.

Bernice went to join the Lord on Saturday, April 17, 2021, at University of Vermont Health Network CVPH Medical Center. She was 95 years old.

She was born in Holyoke, Massachusetts, on Feb. 25, 1926, the daughter Frank and Anna (Longevison) Lashway.

On June 14, 1944, she married Leonard Bushey.

Bernice worked at the slipper factory in Mooers Forks for four years and later at Georgia Pacific for 16 years.

For 40 years, she worked for the Diocese of Ogdensburg as a housekeeper for Rev. Howard McCasland. Bernice was a Franciscan from 1984 until her passing. Over the years she received numerous awards for her work, including, The Bishop Leo R. Smith Award for Outstanding work and interest in youth, and a special proclamation from Most Reverend Gerald Barbarito



Bernice M. Bushey

and from President George Bush for her dedicated service to the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

For the past 10 years she lived in what she called her "apartment" at Skilled Nursing at CVPH Medical Center.

She is survived by five children, Kenneth (Joan) Bushey, Judy Lyons, Mary (John) Weightman Sr., Sue Davison, Rod (Donna) Bushey and Karen (Douglas) Trombley; 16 grandchildren, Kevin, Tony,

Johnny and Amy Boutin Bushey, Art and Paula Whitlock Lyons, John Jr., Penny and Jimmy Weightman, Victoria Davison Heroux and Thomas Davison, Kasey and Lyndsie Bushey, and Krrynne Trombley Vincent, Danyelle and Joel Trombley; 20 great-grandchildren, four great-great-grandchildren; her brother, Francis "Maynard" Lashway; a sister Geraldine Kimbler; and several nieces and nephews.

Bernice was predeceased by her parents; her husband, Leonard; twin boys, Gary and Larry; a son, Daniel; two sons-in-law, Robert Davison and Art Lyons Sr.; and 13 siblings, Frank Jr., Clarence, Leon, Amos, Harold, Gerald, her twin brother, Bernard, Kenneth, Irene Bushey, Lillian Fountain, Evelyn Riley, Mildred Dame and Shirley Jarvis.

Burial will be in Holy Angels Cemetery in Altona.

Donations in her memory may be made to the St. Bernard's and St. Edmund's parish.

Bernice's family wishing to thank the staff of skilled nursing for all the care they provided her over the years.

Arrangements are entrusted to the Brown Funeral Home, 3123 Miner Farm Road, Altona, N.Y.

Online condolences may be offered at www.brown-funeralhomeinc.com.

Bishop's Public Schedule

April 28 – 9 a.m. – St. Joseph's Home Board of Managers Meeting at St. Mary's Cathedral (Brzana Hall)

7 p.m. – Confirmation at The Catholic Community of St. Augustine in North Bangor and St. Mary's Church in Brushton

April 29 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

April 30 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

7 p.m. – Deacon Candidates Class at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg; Institution of the Deacon Candidates to the Ministry of Acolyte at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

May 1 – 4 p.m. – Parish Nurses Commissioning Service at St. Marguerite D'Youville Academy in Ogdensburg

May 2 – 2 p.m. – Confirmation at Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh (at St. John the Baptist Church)

May 3 – 7 p.m. – Confirmation at The Roman Catholic Community of Keeseville (at St. John the Baptist Church) with the Catholic Community of Holy Name and St. Matthew in Au Sable Forks and St. Margaret's Church in Wilmington

May 4 – 1 p.m. – Committee on Assignments Review Committee Meeting at St. André Bessette Roman Catholic Parish in Malone

7 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Joseph's Church in West Chazy with Sacred Heart Church in Chazy

May 5 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
7 p.m. – Confirmation at the Catholic Community of St. Peter and St. Mary and St. Hedwig (St. Peter's Church) in Lowville

Rest in Peace

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

April 28 – Rev. J. A. Larose, 1967

April 29 – Rev. Arthur C. Kenny, 1945; Rev. Peter Mullen, M.M., 1999

April 30 – Rev. Michael W. Holland, 1906; Rev. Louis Grenier, M.S.C., 1958

May 1 – Rev. Joseph J. Halde, 1891; Rev. Edward P. Burns, 1985

May 2 – Rev. Jean Marie Royer, O.M.I., 1905; Rev. Joseph M. Blais, 1948; Rev. Leon LaPorte, 1954; Rev. Burchard Murray, O.S.A., 1966

May 3 – Rev. Cormac Walsh, O.F.M., 1977

May 4 – Rev. J. Napoleon Pelletier, O.M.I., 1935

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.

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
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.

For a New or Used Car

**Mort
Backus &
Sons**

On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.
315-393-5899



Safe Environment Office prepares for audit

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

OGDENSBURG – Though the format of the compliance audits has changed, the Diocese of Ogdensburg Safe Environment office is confident the diocese is complying with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and working hard to protect children.

Working with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and companies with which USCCB contracts for auditing, the Safe Environment efforts every diocese in the United States are reviewed annually.

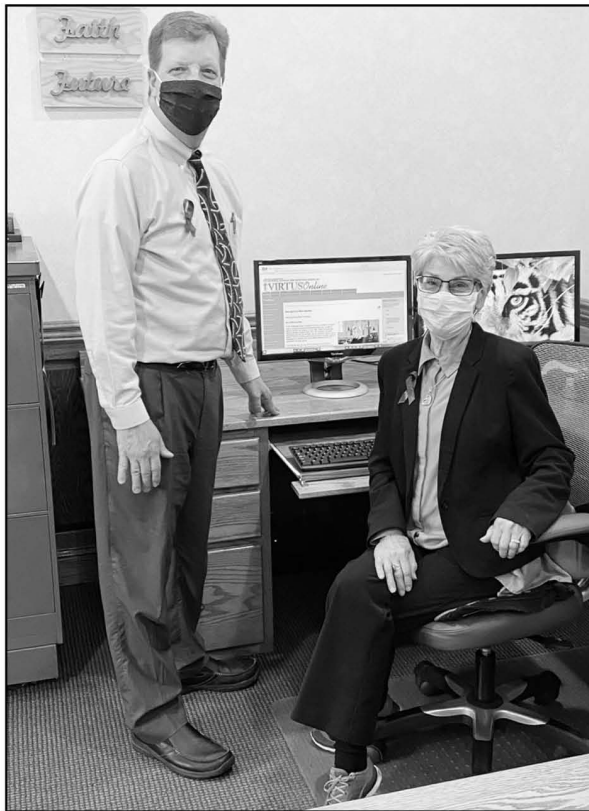
"This year, we have an on-site audit," explained John Morrison, diocesan director of Safe Environment and coordinator of Charter Compliance. "On-site audits are every three years. In the two years in between, they conduct what are referred to as 'data-collection audits.' In the data-collection audits, they ask us to collect similar information for reporting, but they're not here reviewing the supporting paperwork and documentation."

Previously, the on-site audit reviewed compliance for only one year. This year, the on-site audit will include the two previous years, as well.

"July 1 to June 30 is our audit year," Morrison said. "So instead of covering the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, this year's on-site audit will also cover the two preceding years."

The on-site audit will take place likely in late summer or early fall.

"We're tentatively scheduled for late August or early September," Morrison said. "But the actual date will be confirmed



John Morrison, diocesan director of Safe Environment and coordinator of Charter Compliance, and Jeannie Grizzuto, secretary for the Office of Safe Environment, are available as resources for diocesan offices, parishes, schools and organizations as they work to ensure compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, as well as the diocesan Youth and Child Protection Policy.

about 45 days in advance."

In addition to the time period covered by the audit changing, the "audit instrument," a questionnaire the diocese is asked to complete to report its Safe Environment compliance efforts, has also changed.

"Now the questions cover a three-year period," Morrison noted. "And some of the questions have changed, as well."

As part of the efforts to ensure diocesan compliance with the Charter, the audit team also reviews three parishes and one school at each in-person

audit.

"whether they do school and parish visits are at the bishop's discretion," Morrison said. "Our bishop opted to do that. Those reviews are typically done on the second day of the three-day audit."

Morrison noted, though, that "in-person," may not necessarily mean the auditors visit each site.

"Because of the size of our diocese, they may do that review remotely," Morrison said. "They prefer not to drive more than an hour from the main audit location, which is the Chancery here in Ogdensburg in our case."



Though this is the first year with the new audit procedures and new audit instrument, Morrison said he is confident the diocese will be found to be in compliance with the Charter in its upcoming audit.

"It's not just the first year we're seeing this audit process and audit instrument; it's the first year it's being used," Morrison said. "We're guinea pigs in some respects. Even with the changes, I'm confident people we know are involved in their parishes, schools and the diocese are in compliance."

Morrison said he feels the diocese and its entities are working hard to protect young people from abuse.

"We continue to do compliance reviews with schools and parishes on an annual basis," he said.

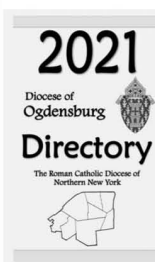
"Those reviews simulate the on-site audits. We also meet with schools, pastors and (directors of religious education) to help them ensure they're in compliance. There have definitely been challenges in this pandemic year, but we've seen people getting creative and developing ways to ensure their programs can continue and be in compliance with the Charter in a tough year."

Morrison said his office works to serve as a resource to diocesan parishes, schools and organizations.

"Most (directors of religious education), pastors and schools know we want to work with them and help ensure they're in compliance and doing everything the right way," Morrison said. "We want them to know they can call our office and know they'll get good answers, and we'll work with them to help them reach their goals while also protecting kids."

To learn more about the diocesan Safe Environment Office, the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and the diocesan Youth and Child Protection Policy, visit rcdony.org/safe-environment.

2021 Diocesan Directories are now available!



**\$15.00
each**

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

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

315-608-7556

to order yours today!

PROMISE TO PROTECT



PLEDGE TO HEAL

Dear Friends in Christ:

President Ronald Reagan first proclaimed April to be National Child Abuse Prevention Month in 1982. It is a tradition that continues today. During this month especially, and throughout the year, we raise awareness of child abuse prevention. We educate clergy, employees, and volunteers about how they can help prevent abuse and neglect of children. The Diocese of Ogdensburg remains committed to its pledge to address the clergy sexual abuse scandal. Our *Child & Youth Protection Policy* promotes healing and reconciliation with victims/survivors of abuse, requires an effective and immediate response to allegations of sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults, and protects the faithful in the future with procedures that ensure accountability.



Those who have suffered abuse are encouraged to contact our Victim Assistance Coordinator, Terrienne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC. Dr. Yanulavich's contact information is listed on the opposite page. She will assist with reporting the allegation as well with starting the healing process. The Diocese will continue to report all allegations to local authorities in its pursuit of justice. Victims are also encouraged to notify the local authorities of the allegation.

Mr. John Morrison, our Safe Environment Director and Charter Compliance Coordinator, works with our parishes, Catholic Schools, and other entities, to ensure that the national and diocesan policies to establish and maintain safe environments are fully implemented and revised, as necessary. One of the most notable recent changes to Diocesan policy is the addition of procedures that govern reporting and investigative actions when the accused is the Diocesan Bishop.

The Diocese is independently audited annually to determine compliance with national standards. While the Diocese has always been found to be in compliance in these audits, we recognize that this is an on-going process. To create and maintain a culture of safety and trust, we must remain fully committed and dedicated to the cause.

I am so grateful to our clergy, employees, and volunteers who assist with the implementation of our Safe Environment programs. By working together, we can uphold our promise to protect and our pledge to heal. "Behold, sons and daughters are gifts from the Lord, the fruit of the womb, a reward" (Psalm 127:3).

With a Shepherd's care and concern,

Terry R. LaValley

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg



A PRAYER FOR HEALING

Dear Lord,
We pray for anyone who is suffering because of abuse. Please protect them, remove abuse from their life, and restore the damage that has been done. Let Your power heal their hearts and bring comfort to them. Please renew their spirit and help them not to fear. Rebuild trust and confidence. Help them to regain strength, courage, and hope for better days. May Your Holy Spirit cover them in Jesus' name, AMEN!



WHAT IS THE DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG DOING TO PROTECT CHILDREN?

Our Commitment to Children's Safety:

- Criminal History Background Checks
- Initial, Continuous, and Refresher Safe Environment Training (VIRTUS)
- Adherence to a Code of Conduct
- Annual Training for Children
- Enhanced Misconduct Reporting Procedures
- Supervision of In-Person and Virtual Instruction, Activities and Events for Children

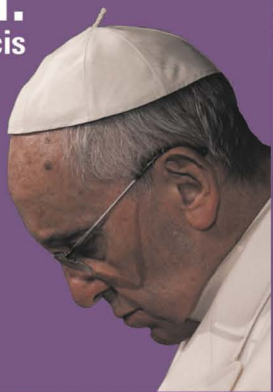
DIOCESAN STATISTICS 7/1/19 to 6/30/2020



Roman Catholic
Diocese of Ogdensburg

- 2,828 Students received Safe Environment Training in Faith Formation programs
- 1,106 Students received Safe Environment Training in Catholic School
- 654 Background checks completed on clergy, employees, and volunteers
- 405 Clergy, employees and volunteers received VIRTUS (safe environment) training in "live" sessions
- 234 Employees and volunteers completed online VIRTUS refresher training
- 40 VIRTUS "live" training sessions conducted

**"Words cannot fully express my sorrow for the abuse you suffered."
—Pope Francis**



Human Trafficking

The recruitment, transportation, harboring or receipt of persons by means of force, fraud, or coercion...for the purpose of exploitation.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/human-trafficking.cfm>

NATIONAL TRAFFICING RESOURCE HOTLINE:
1-888-373-7888
REPORT ABUSE OF VULNERABLE ADULTS
Local: 518-402-6513
NYS Only
(Adult Protection Services):
844-697-3505



DO(s) and DON'T (s) of ONLINE SAFETY

Do

- turn off GPS tracking in your phone and disable it in apps that don't need it.
- tell children in your care to talk to you or another safe adult about people they meet online.
- check the apps on your child's phone and use the strongest security and privacy settings.
- monitor the use of technology on all electronic devices for the children in your care – know what apps are downloaded, how they are being used, and who they are communicating with online.
- Manually set all social media and cell phone apps to private.
- report any suspicions of sexual exploitation to the Cybertipline at <https://report.cybertip.org/>
- research about different apps targeted for teens.
- have frequent conversations with the children in your care about online safety and what they can do to keep themselves safe.

DON'T

- give out personal information to people you only know online.
- agree to meet people in person who you have met online.
- use the same username on more than one website.
- make your email address public and searchable on social media.
- check in on social media unless your account is 100% private

PROMISE TO
PROTECT



PLEDGE TO
HEAL

To report sexual abuse and related misconduct by
Diocesan Bishop, contact:
CATHOLIC BISHOP ABUSE REPORTING SERVICE
(800) 276-1562
[www. ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org)

IF YOU SUSPECT A CHILD HAS
BEEN HARMED OR IS AT RISK:

**EMERGENCY
DIAL 911**

**Mandated Reporters
1-800-635-1522**

**Non-Mandated Reporters
(can remain anonymous)
1-800-342-3720**

To report sexual abuse and related
misconduct by Diocesan clergy, religious,
employees or volunteers, contact:
Victim Assistance Coordinator:
Terrienne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC.
518-651-2267 (Days); 518-569-0612 (evenings)
terriannyanulavich@yahoo.com

This centerspread is provided by:
Diocese of Ogdensburg Safe Environment Office: 315-393-2920
<https://www.rcdony.org/safeenv.html>

Caring adults and reporting abuse

Editors Note: April is "Abuse Prevention Month." This is the third article in a series this month explaining how you can help prevent abuse from happening and/or respond to potential abuse. This content is provided by Virtus.

Every person involved in the life of a child, even when on the "periphery," has the opportunity to make a significant difference in that child's life – regardless of their role. This article addresses the intersection of caring adults and reporting, what is required by law for situations of child maltreatment, and tips for caring adults who all share the commonality of ethical reporting.

What is child maltreatment?

Child maltreatment refers to all types of abuse and neglect of anyone under the age of 18 by a parent, caregiver, or other person with the responsibility of safeguarding the child. The vast majority of children who are abused are abused by someone they know and trust. This includes coaches, teachers, clergy, volunteers, family and others.

The four most common forms of child maltreatment include physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect. Consistent with prior data, in the past year alone, research estimates one in seven children have experienced maltreatment. When children are exposed to one type of abuse, they may also be experiencing other forms, too, known as polyvictimization. Every type of abuse causes harm to children, even if a child appears to be coping well. Maltreatment is associated with an abundance of ad-

verse outcomes for children, including negative effects on neurobiological, social, emotional and cognitive development within the brain. The effects of abuse can be immediate, or may be long reaching.

What is a mandated reporter?

Anyone can report suspected or known child abuse, anytime, day or night.

Mandated Reporters are persons who are legally required to report suspected cases of abuse or maltreatment to child protective service agencies when they are suspected or disclosed. In some states, every adult is considered to be a mandated reporter. In other states, you are more likely to be a mandated reporter based on your profession or interaction with children.

However, regardless of the law, everyone has an ethical obligation to report known or suspected child abuse. Additionally, even if the law in your state does not specifically denote you as a mandated reporter, it is possible that your organization might have a policy that obligates you to make reports per your role.

What are "Child Protective Services" agencies?

Every state has statutes regarding mandatory reporting laws, along with a child protective services agency that is typically referred to as Child Protective Services (CPS) or something similar. Most of the agencies maintain a 24/7, toll-free help and reporting hotline and maintain a database of cases.

Child Protective Services agencies are charged first with protecting children, and when possible, with keeping families together. CPS is responsible for screening incoming calls,



evaluating the content and then classifying the risk level of imminent danger. In many cases, the elements of the call must meet specific criteria before CPS can officially "register a report" within their system. If the report contains enough information to conduct an investigation, the investigation is coordinated between a multi-disciplinary team involving CPS and local law enforcement.

The dilemma: what if I do not have proof?

As an employee or volunteer, it is not your responsibility to provide proof of harm, and it is not your role to investigate cases of suspected or disclosed child abuse. But, it is your role to communicate reasonable suspicions to the right entity – which, in most cases, is CPS or a local law enforcement agency. And, keep in mind that "good faith" reports of a reasonable suspicion of abuse are protected by law, even those that end up being deemed unsubstantiated or cleared of any wrongdoing.

How do I know whether I have a suspicion of abuse?

At the most basic level, having a "suspicion of abuse" means the thought that abuse may be happening. Either you saw something, heard some-

say something, a child told you something, or your intuition is sounding alarms that something is wrong.

While not an exhaustive list, here are some common scenarios that would cause the average person to suspect that a child is being, or has been, abused or maltreated:

- A child discloses directly to you, or someone else

- A child discloses that someone else is being abused

- A child creates a story about a victim of abuse, and then "retracts" the story if you show concern

- Another adult communicates that they have concerns that abuse is happening (or has happened)

- Knowing specific family dynamics that cause you to be concerned about youth welfare

- Finding disturbing images of children via an adult's technology device

- Finding disturbing messaging or images sent to a child on a child's technology device

- You, or someone else, observes a child acting out sexual behaviors that are unusual for his/her age

- A child is dressed inappropriately for the weather (such as no jacket in the cold, or long sleeves and pants in the heat), appears overly hungry or tired, and may have excessively worn or dirty clothing

- Seeing multiple injuries in various stages of healing on a child, in places that are surprising, with explanations that do not make sense, and,

- Observing other red flag indicators children exhibit that are frequently associated with child abuse.

What if I am wrong?

Always err on the side of safeguarding the child. It is common for many adults to feel apprehensive or reluctant about communicating child abuse concerns. In these cases, please rest assured that both law enforcement and CPS (and, children themselves) would much rather that you err on the side of caution to protect the most vulnerable person – the child. Reporting a concern or suspicion is being a protector of a child (even if it ends up finding no harm to the child).

The child, anyone under the age of 18, should always be at the center of the equation when it comes to safety. Any fears or concerns that we have about whether we are doing the right thing about reporting should always circle back to what is best for the child. Children have a right to be safe. Communicating your concerns to the appropriate entity is a significant step you can take to help keep youth safe.

What else do you need to know?

You do not need to tell the parents or the person you suspect when you make a report (doing so could compromise a potential investigation). Law enforcement or CPS will reach out if needed; let the multi-disciplinary team conduct their investigation.

You still need to report even if you heard about the suspicion from someone else. The source of the information is irrelevant, it is not hearsay to relay material from another person. Anyone who becomes aware of child abuse or has a suspicion of it, should report it per the mandated reporting laws

Guggenheim will not open for teen camp

By Thomas Semeraro
Director of Youth Ministry

As the Director for the Office of Youth Ministry, I feel it is important that I speak to you directly regarding the decision not to operate Summer Camp Guggenheim in 2021. Much time and energy was spent in discernment, discussions, and most importantly, prayer. Many factors contributed to reaching this decision. Many of them centered

on COVID Pandemic mitigation requirements set forth by the New York State Department of Health. We also applied thoughtful consideration of campers and their families, counselors, staff, Pastors, and their health and safety amidst this Pandemic. I know that we so desperately want to be done with this Pandemic but, we must remain vigilant. COVID is still here, and it is still a public health challenge.

As discouraging as this may seem, there is great hope as we forge ahead. This Pandemic has brought much pain and discomfort to all of us, but I feel that it also has opened our eyes and our hearts to Grace. We have learned new ways to live and a new understanding about the human condition. With Hope and Grace in our hearts and minds, we will take this 2021 pause and dedicate energy and time to grow-

ing the Summer Camp program along with the camp facility itself.

The new look of the Summer Camp Guggenheim program will be well crafted and balanced. It will provide young people with a fulfilling experience of church, an opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, and an immersive experience in nature. We will strive to continue the Summer Camp Guggenheim tradition and fulfill

its mission as set forth by the original creators of the Summer Camp program.

I see a future filled with Hope and Joy for our young people in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

If you would like to be part of the journey with our youth, please feel free to reach out to me personally at any time.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

God Bless.

Caring adults and reporting abuse

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

or ethical responsibilities – the duty of reporting is on the person who becomes aware that abuse could be happening. If information comes "through the grapevine," it should still be communicated to CPS.

There are specific questions that CPS will ask you during the call. But, even if you do not have all of the facts, you can still report the information you do have.

Children do not often disclose about abuse to people in positions of authority, and when they do, it is rarely a lie. Fewer than half of child victims disclose about the abuse that has happened to them, and it usually is not to their parents or an adult. Of the children who tell someone, it is more likely to be to their friends (referred to as "peer-to-peer" or "friend-to-friend"), and that information does not typically make it to an official report to child protective services. When children do disclose about child sexual abuse, fewer than 5% of their initial disclosures are intentionally false. This means that there is a 95% chance that they are telling the truth! A

report of child abuse should always be treated as if it is true.

How should I react if a child discloses abuse to me?

It is paramount to reflect upon the immense power we each have when communicating with others about the subject of child sexual abuse. You may one day have the privilege of hearing a youth's disclosure of abuse that occurred to them. How you respond, in your words and actions, has a significant impact. Let them talk and listen carefully. Address their feelings, letting them know that you trust them and believe them. Be careful to limit your questioning. Do offer discretion, but do not offer confidentiality – depending on the situation, you may need to report the information. You will want to be honest with the youth about next steps.

How do I actually report or communicate my concerns?

If you are aware of an adult exhibiting behavior that is against the code of conduct or organization's policy: speak to a supervisor. Keep communicating "up the chain" of com-

mand until your concerns are addressed.

- If you are aware that a child is, or could be, in immediate danger: call 911.

- For a suspicion or knowledge of abuse, including if a child discloses directly or indirectly: call the child abuse hotline (for Child Protective Services) for the county or the state, or local law enforcement.

- For possible exploitation via technology: If you suspect that a child is being groomed or exploited via technology (online, gaming, cell phones, social media, etc.), communicate your concerns via the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's tipline, at www.cybertipline.com.

- For possible abuse within your employee or volunteer organization: If you suspect or know a child is being, or has been abused, by a diocesan employee or volunteer, first call the child abuse hotline for your state, and then notify the diocese immediately (typically through the safe environment or child protection office).

Safe adults prioritize the safety of children. Are you a safe adult? Ultimately, it

does not matter whether your role directly involves children or not. What is critical, however, is your awareness and courage to speak up on behalf of a child or youth to the right person or entity. You have great power to positively

impact a child or youth's life and healing journey – the way you respond, and the actions you take, could drastically affect the child's future. You matter; you are needed. Thank you for your willingness to be a protector of children.

REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?


— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

Eternal Father, we lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

(With ecclesiastical approval)

Mass
Rosary
Fasting
Day Offering
Eucharistic Adoration
Offering of Sufferings
Divine Mercy Chaplet

Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him



MAY

DIocese OF OGDENSBURG, NY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 REV. JOSEPH W. GIROUX	3 REV. I. WILLIAM GORDAN	4 REV. ALEX V. GUIMPOL	5 REV. ROLLAND A. HART	6 REV. ALBERT J. HAUSER	7 REV. PETER G. HELFRICH	8 OUR PASTOR
9 REV. MICHAEL J. JABLONSKI	10 REV. DANIEL T. KEEFE	11 REV. PAUL J. KELLY	12 REV. JOHN P. KENNEHAN	13 REV. THOMAS E. KORNMAYER	14 REV. STEVE KOVACEVICH	15 POPE FRANCIS
16 BENEDICT XVI POPE EMERITUS	17 REV. DONALD F. KRAMBERG	18 REV. ARTHUR J. LABAFF	19 REV. ALAN J. LAMICA	20 REV. ROBERT O. LAMITTE	21 REV. KRIS C. LAUZON	22 DECEASED PRIESTS
23 REV. CLYDE A. LEWIS	24 REV. CHRIS LOOBY	25 REV. JOHN J. LOOBY	26 REV. SHANE M. LYNCH	27 REV. DONALD J. MANFRED	28 REV. LAWRENCE E. MARULLO	29 NEWLY ORDAINED PRIESTS

1
BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY

For more copies contact:
Diocese of Ogdensburg
PO Box 369
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

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.myvocation.net

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST

Pro-lifers will meet to pray, honor organizations

DALLAS (CNS) – Thousands of pro-life advocates from across America will gather together online and in person for the National Prayer Luncheon for Life April 30 to honor "high-impact pro-life organizations" and award \$85,000 in grants for ongoing effective pro-life ministry and advocacy.

The nominees are: And Then There Were None, Focus on the Family, Sidewalk Advocates for Life, Students for Life of America and the Susan B. Anthony List.

They were selected "for their demonstrated significant, quantifiable impact and measurable successes in saving lives and winning battles against the abortion industry," said spokesperson Karen Garnett, executive director of the pro-life event.

Winners will be chosen based on total vote tallies as cast by pro-life participants across the country via the website national-prayerluncheonforlife.org. Besides voting, which ends April 23, those interested in participating in the luncheon also can register on the site.

One group will be named the winner of the luncheon's 2021 Pro-Life Impact Award, which includes a \$50,000 grant. Two additional pro-life organizations will be named second- and third-place winners, receiving grants of \$20,000 and \$15,000, respectively.

This year's event is being held both in person at the Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center in Grapevine, Texas, and virtually because of the pandemic. Several hundred are expected at the convention center and thousands more are expected to par-

ticipate via the livestream.

By mid-April, 6,000 pro-lifers across the country had already participated in the voting process for the Pro-Life Impact Award and related grants. That number was already double 2020's participation, according to Garnett, vice president of culture for Heroic Media.

This year's featured speakers include evangelist Alveda King, niece of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and executive director of Civil Rights for the Unborn, and David Bereit, founder and former CEO of 40 Days for Life.

The program also will feature the Bishop Edward J. Burns of Dallas, along with Bridget VanMeans, president and vision leader of Thrive Nation, Astrid Bennett Gutierrez, president of the VIDA Initiative, and Garnett, whose Heroic Media is producing the event.

The program and awards will be presented live online April 30 from noon to 1 p.m. (Central time), at no cost, with the winners of the Pro-Life Impact Award and grants announced live at the end of the program.

The National Prayer Luncheon for Life began in 2016 "as the brainchild of Heroic Media's founder, Brian Follett, to hold a same-day, same-time prayer luncheon as a direct counter to Planned Parenthood's annual awards luncheon held in Dallas," Garnett told CNS.

Heroic Media designs and runs professionally made online ads that connect women considering abortion to pro-life facilities that save babies' lives. It raises money to place the ads, its website says.

"From 2016-2020, the

goals at the annual prayer luncheons were to gather to pray, and to both outnumber and outraise Planned Parenthood, so that, as Planned Parenthood was raising money to advance their agenda to destroy life through abortion," Garnett said.

"Heroic Media would raise money to counter them year-round through our daily competing ... internet ads as the first line of defense to save lives from abortion."

That she said, are known as OAASYS – for On-demand Alternatives to Abortion SYSTEM.

"In 2020," Garnett continued, "all three National Prayer Luncheon for Life goals were achieved for the very first time: in addition to gathering to unite in prayer, nearly 3,000 gathered in person – nearly triple to Planned Parenthood's attendance – and \$1.83 million was raised to fund Heroic Media's OAASYS mission, compared to \$1.1 million raised by Planned Parenthood."

She noted that this year, Planned Parenthood is not having its annual luncheon until the fall.

Asked her assessment of the new Biden administration's impact on the pro-life movement so far, Garnett noted "there are grave concerns about the reversals of Trump administration pro-life policies."

However, she said, "we remain hopeful that the makeup of the U.S. Supreme Court has shifted to a pro-life majority, and many state legislatures are continuing their concerted efforts to implement legislation to protect women and preborn babies from the tragedy of abortion."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Police seize altar wine in Quebec, say it's illegal to import

QUEBEC CITY (CNS) – Police have seized large quantities of altar wine in the province of Quebec, creating a situation where buying a bottle is nearly impossible. On April 9, police officers seized sacramental wine from Bertrand, Foucher, Bélanger, Inc. in Montreal, Procure Ecclésiastique, Inc. in Quebec City and Chandelles Tradition MB, Inc. in Saint-Constant. Sandra Dion, spokeswoman for the Quebec City Police Department, said the wine was seized following an investigation. The seizures appear related to laws governing the resale of alcohol within provinces, although some distributors claim they are within the law and have licenses. The altar wine available in Quebec comes from two Californian producers: Mont La Salle Altar Wines and Cribari Premium Altar Wines. However, since the Société des alcools du Québec (SAQ) – the provincial liquor board – does not sell these products, the wines had to be imported from other Canadian provinces. Although that was the practice for many years, police now says it's illegal. "Officers from the Montreal Police Department showed up with a warrant," said Alain Denis, general manager at Bertrand, Foucher, Bélanger, Inc., a store specializing in church goods. The warrant mentioned illegal possession and selling of alcohol. Chandelles Tradition MB did not return calls.

Pandemic prayer hotline is so successful, it'll continue

EMMITSBURG, Md. (CNS) – When the world shut down last year because of the pandemic, the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton decided it was time to reach outward. The question was how – when, for a time, people couldn't even visit the shrine in Emmitsburg? The answer was simple, profound and one that Mother Seton, America's first native-born saint, would have appreciated: Pray. So, buoyed by dedicated staff members and seminarians from nearby Mount St. Mary's Seminary, the shrine in the Baltimore Archdiocese created a prayer hotline last April that has proven so successful, it plans to continue well after COVID-19 has receded. To date, over 2,000 calls have been logged, and many of them have turned into relationships that have changed the lives of people on both ends of the line. The hotline – (866) 202-4934 – is available between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (EDT). The shrine also has a prayer request page on its website, <https://setonshrine.org/prayer-requests-2>. "We are sometimes the only ones they talk to; the only ones who say their name," said Rebecca Corbell, evangelization programs manager at the shrine. "Having that connection; having a person who knows your name builds a relationship that is so powerful."

Pope celebrates name day at Vatican vaccination clinic

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Celebrating his name day, the feast of St. George, Pope Francis was serenaded by hundreds of Rome's most vulnerable residents and the people who assist them. The pope, who was born Jorge Mario Bergoglio, marked his birth saint's feast April 23 by visiting people who came to the Vatican for the second dose of their COVID-19 vaccinations. Close to 600 people were scheduled to receive the inoculations throughout the day. Photos of the pope with the special guests and Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner, showed stacks of sandwiches, fruit juice and cookies, as well as a large chocolate Easter egg, which was cracked and shared. Pope Francis personally greeted those waiting for their shots in the atrium of the Vatican audience hall as well as those who had just received the vaccine and were under observation in case of an allergic reaction. "As he left, those present sang" their best wishes to the pope for his name day, the Vatican press office said.

NOW SHOWING

FRANCESCO

NEW YORK (CNS) – Award-winning documentary filmmaker Evgeny Afineevsky ("Cries From Syria") issues a call for action with his film "Francesco" (Discovery+).

The unspoken summons comes through allowing viewers to witness the influence one man, Pope Francis, has succeeded in having over the many social and other issues of our time.

Rather than present a linear biography, the movie takes its form from the Holy Father's own agenda. As depicted here, the pontiff's primary goal is to bring the message of human dignity to the world by shining a light into some of the darkest corners of the globe, where political, social, economic and religious injustices have taken – and, in some cases, are still taking – place.

Afineevsky, for instance, brings his audience to the Philippines, ravaged by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, as Francis talks about climate change and the call to protect our common home.

The plight of refugees is highlighted through the pope's visit to Lampedusa, a modern-day Ellis Island

in the Mediterranean Sea through which thousands of Tunisian and Libyan migrants have passed, fleeing political upheaval in their home countries. The passage from the North African coast to Lampedusa is considered one of the world's deadliest migration routes.

The pontiff also visits the island of Lesbos in Greece to which many Syrian migrants fled in the wake of their nation's civil war. One interviewee calls the Syrian refugee situation "the greatest humanitarian crisis since World War II." Pope Francis not only gave words of comfort to refugees – he followed them up with action, sponsoring the immigration to Italy of three Muslim families.

"Francesco" also address other hot-button topics such as clergy sexual abuse, homosexuality and the building of walls between peoples.

Through the experience of Juan Carlos Cruz, a Chilean survivor of clergy sexual abuse recently appointed to the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, Afineevsky takes us through

the journey Pope Francis experienced from initially making comments many viewed as hurtful to arriving at a better understanding of the plight of victims.

The film's treatment of homosexuality and same-sex marriage and Afineevsky's use of the pope's words on the subject may leave viewers confused. Pope Francis has said that civil recognition of same-sex couples may be appropriate in order to protect their legal rights, but he has always been clear that marriage is only the union of a man and a woman.

Rather, Pope Francis calls for respect to be shown toward all, based on each individual's inherent dignity as a human being. Thus, when asked by a same-sex couple whether they should take their children to their home parish, Francis encourages them not to deny the graces of the church to their kids, while also saying that not all will understand their choices.

Where does the pontiff get the inspiration to do all he does? Afineevsky takes us back to the life of young Jorge Bergoglio, especially stressing the influence that his grandmother, Nonna

Rosa, had on his growing faith and spirituality.

From his decision to become a priest, to joining the Jesuits, to becoming the archbishop of Buenos Aires and a cardinal, Pope Francis has been consistent in his action on behalf of others. In other words, the film shows that what Francis has done since his 2013 election to the papacy is just a continuation of what he had done up to that time.

Of special interest to American viewers will be the interviews with Sister Norma Pimentel, a Missionary of Jesus. As head of Catholic Charities in South Texas' Rio Grande Valley, she has worked closely with refugees from Mexico and Central America.

During a virtual papal audience, Sister Norma was recognized by the pope and, as a representative of all the religious women in the United States, was thanked for her service to the church.

Francis also has been instrumental in appointing women to important posts in the Vatican. They include Silvia Monica Correale, the first female

postulator on the staff of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints and Barbara Jatta, the current director of the Vatican Museums.

With a running time just under two hours, "Francesco" is quite long for a documentary. But, among other things that sustain viewer attention, Afineevsky uses news headlines and posts from the @pontifex Twitter account to great effect.

In fact, an April 23, 2020, message from that account aptly summarizes the basic theme the documentary seeks to promote.

"The pandemic reminds us," the pope tweeted, that "there are no differences or borders between those who suffer. We are all frail, all equal, all precious. May we be profoundly shaken: Now is the time to eliminate inequalities and heal the injustice undermining the health of the entire human family!"

The film contains mature themes and some scenes of war violence. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II – adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

ESSEX

LATIN MASS

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

Date: Sundays

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

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

Massena – First Saturday Rosary to be held.

Date: May 1

Time: 3:15 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

Features: The first Saturday rosary devotion will be to Our Lady of Fatima. Confessions began at 2:45 p.m. and Saturday Mass Vigil starts at 4 p.m.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

DEACON CLASS INFORMATION

The Deacon Formation Department will hold information meetings for men interested in the ministry. The next class will be seated in the fall. **Schedule:** St. Anthony's in Watertown, May 11 at 6 p.m.; St. Peter's in Plattsburgh May 18 at 7 p.m. and at St. John's in Morristown May 20 at 6 p.m.

Contact: For further information contact Deacon John Drollette at 518-726-0019 or jdrollette@rcdony.org

LET US DREAM

Virtual presentations to address and

discuss our responsibilities to SEE + CHOOSE + ACT for a better future on God's Earth.

Date: May 25, 26 and 27

Time: 7 p.m. to 9

Place: Via Zoom

Features: This is a joint project of the Laudato Si Committees of the Dioceses of Ogdensburg and Syracuse. More information to come.

DAY OF REFLECTION

Virtual presentation about putting forgiveness into practice.

Date: June 19

Time: 9:45 a.m. to Noon

Place: Zoom

Features: We all know from the Scriptures that we are called to forgive others and ourselves as well. We also know the challenge this call can be in our daily encounters. This reflection day will consider the dynamics of forgiveness, obstacles often experienced in becoming a forgiving person, and aids from our Catholic tradition. It includes presentations, time for prayer and reflection with opportunities for sharing. The speaker will be Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ.

Contact: Cost is free. To register go to www.rcdony.org/reflection Zoom link will be emailed as date approaches.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

The teaching of the vine and branches

Soon after the early Church began to grow, a major event occurred. Saul of Tarsus, one of the most feared and hated persecutors of Christians, miraculously converted to Christianity. No one could have predicted the startling accident that befell Saul on his way from Jerusalem to Damascus. He was knocked off his horse and struck blind by a divine shaft of light that left him blind and helpless. He was directed by a Voice to seek out one Ananias, who would give him further directions.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

The rest is history. After some time in prayer and solitude, Barnabas, a man respected and trusted by the Christians, brought him to Jerusalem, and introduced him to Peter and the other leaders. At first, distrust and fear kept them at a distance, but gradually he was accepted.

Despite many severe trials, Paul's theology prevailed. The Church would never be the same again.

It was surely a miracle of grace that often-bitter fighting between various

May 2

Fifth Sunday of Easter

READINGS

Acts 9:26-31

1 John 3:18-24

John 15:1-8

factions did not split the Church apart and destroy it. Furthermore, many were sorely tested when friends and relatives opposed them or even betrayed them to the authorities.

What saved the whole enterprise was surely the teaching we find in today's second reading. John tells his followers "...love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." We must not merely "mouth" the

beautiful teaching of Jesus, but we must work on the difficult task of living those words.

All the disciples must likewise have found consolation in the powerful image of today's Gospel. In the great farewell address of Jesus at the Last Supper, He tells his disciples: "I am the vine; you are the branches."

Think about it! As a branch cannot survive if it is separated from the vine, neither can we survive if we sever our connection with Jesus. He is constantly strengthening us with grace, just as a vine gives life moment by moment to its branches.

Sometimes we take to ourselves all the credit for

the resulting growth within us. We even try to control the directions in which our faith life is shared. We like to pick our own ministries rather than allow the Lord, through the Church, to have a say in the decision.

Then, when our activities are "pruned" through failure – or a call to another ministry, we can complain or become bitter. At those times, we need to be more trusting, and realize that perhaps God's Providence has broader plans for our growth and the growth of His kingdom.

This is what Jesus meant by "pruning." Let's hope it's all for a closer grafting on the vine.

CALLED TO SERVE

Even masked, we receive the Body of Christ

From the back of a chapel recently, I could not help but notice how nice everyone's masks looked. It was before a liturgy, and I was between prayers. That was my excuse for looking around instead of meditating. Mea Culpa!

Anyway, everyone's masks were tight to their cheeks, the elastic ties, over the ears, were taut, and the colors, prints and embroidery were quite stylish. I was impressed. We've come a long way in mask design.

Masks have become a fashion item. You probably

have four or five of them strategically located in your car, home or favorite coat. Maybe you have one or more in each location.

How many times have you entered a church or business and realized you did not have your mask on? More than once I've done a 180 and returned to my car to secure a mask.

Do you recall your first experience with a face mask? I can remember the Lone Ranger wearing one to hide his identity. Superman didn't wear one. All he had to do was take off

his Clark Kent glasses, and no one recognized him. Zorro wore a mask. So did every guy, and the occasional gal, who held up a bank in the west-erns of long ago.

Most of us wear the kind the mask that covers your mouth and nose, steams up your glasses when you exhale, and, for some people, makes it difficult to breathe while walking briskly, running or even singing. Some people wear a scarf like those we have seen people wear in desert environments. They are called shemagh or keffiyeh. I think they are cool looking, but I suspect they take longer to put on and take off than the over-the-ear type.

Most of us have accepted

wearing some kind of facial covering to prevent us from breathing directly onto another person and potentially infecting them with the virus called COVID-19. Several localities and states have discontinued requiring a face mask. We'll see how that works out. There was an "expert" on a radio program the other



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

day saying masks probably do not make much difference when you are outside, unless you happen to be standing around outside chatting with the same group of people for more than a minute. "Then," he said, "cover up."

We still wear masks in church. Folks have identified a variety of techniques for moving the

mask out of the way when they receive the Body of Christ. I found a YouTube produced by a parish in Massachusetts that describes a "proper" technique. Leave your mask on while you receive the Eucharist in your hands. Cover the host by putting one hand over the other while you move a few steps left or right, facing the altar. At this point you lower your mask, put the host in your mouth and cover-up again before moving back towards your pew.


Others may have a better plan. As we have learned, different rules in different places. When in doubt, ask your pastor.

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

Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

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

 Find us on Facebook!





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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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

Hope is alive part 2

Below you will find part two of the letter sent to us from the North Country Mission of Hope. Part one was featured last week.

D. Education sponsorships: Close to 700 children are sponsored through our regular education program in more than 15 schools in the barrios. In addition, over 100 girls are also being educated thanks to a Buddhist Global Relief grant we have received. Over 100 children are also being supported within our Orphans' Hope Program in four orphanages, as well as 110 HIV children in foster homes where we partner with Caritas Nicaragua and Cardinal Brenes. Hope is alive.

E. Home Shelters: Twenty-five home shelters will be constructed for homeless families between now and the end of June thanks to the donations of many. Shelters are desperately needed because of the two hurricanes that struck Nicaragua in November. Our one-room shelters are like mansions to the extremely poor families in Nicaragua. Hope is alive.

F. Fuller Empowerment Program: We also have a program funded by the Fullers who coordinate various education endeavors which may also lead to ways of employment. Hope is alive.

G. ECO water tanks and latrines: We are continuing the ecological efforts of constructing latrines and setting up water tank systems. Right now, we are in the midst of doing this for a family with two severely disabled children. Many of the schools we support already have the water tanks we've provided...and hope is alive.

H. Food insecurity: Due to the ongoing Covid pandemic as well as the sociopolitical upheaval in Nicaragua, thousands of our Nicaraguan brothers and sisters struggle to find food. We are still feeding over 6,700 children every day. In addition, we are providing emergency food rations to over 145 families.

So, lest you thought we were just vegetating at home during COVID, I assure you we are not. While we've been unable to travel to Nicaragua due to the political unrest, our projects and programs continue.

MOHtown, our warehouse in Peru, is now open once again. Hours will be 9 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays, and all COVID protocol will be enforced. Even though our warehouse has been closed for a few months, we have continued to network with local families and healthcare professionals to provide medical equipment and supplies. YES, hope is alive. AND, at the end of April, we will be shipping a 40-foot container of equipment and supplies to Caritas Puerto Rico. The contents will be distributed to those in greatest need.

On behalf of all served by the North Country Mission of Hope, please accept my heartfelt gratitude for all of your prayers and financial support.

– Sister Debbie Blow, OP, Executive Director

Funeral Mass celebrated for Sister Rita Mary Morrissette

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Monday, April 19, 2021 for Sister Rita Mary Morrissette, a sister of the Servants of Mary (Servite).

Sister Rita died April 14, 2021. She was 93 years old.

Sister Rita served in parish ministry at St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake from 1993 to 2006, and she served in volunteer ministry at Sacred Heart in Massena from 2006 to 2013.

She celebrated her 70th jubilee in 2017.

She retired to the Servants of Mary Motherhouse in Omaha, Nebraska. In her retirement, she worked at the reception desk at the Motherhouse and spent time sewing daily, making



Sister Rita Mary Morrissette, OSM

bags, aprons, coasters, quilts, table runners and hats, as well as other projects.

"I didn't really retire, I more retreaded myself," Sister Rita was quoted as saying in a Sisters of Mary

publication.

Sister Rita was preceded in death by her parents, Delma and Vina (Julius) Morrissette; her step-mother, Cordelia Morrissette; brothers, Raymond, Leo, and Kenneth Morrissette; and sisters, Lena Bennett, Rose Evans, Linda Sasser, Jeannette Greenwood.

She is survived by siblings, Philip Morrissette (Betty), Thomas Morrissette (Karla), Donald Morrissette (Mary Lou), Pauline Bordeau, Gloria McClay (Don), Joyce Smith, Theresa Ferguson (Hal), Joyce Smith; and a sister-in-law, Barbara Morrissette.

Memorial donations may be made to the Servants of Mary, 7400 Military Avenue, Omaha, NE 68134.

OBITUARIES

Brushton – Lorraine F. Martin, 91; Mass of Christian Burial April 27, 2021 at St. Mary's Church

Gabriels – Ronald "Ron" John Smetanick, 79; Mass of Christian Burial April 24, 2021 at Church of the Assumption.

Malone – Adrien Brooks, 80; Funeral Services April 25, 2021 at Frary-Spaulling Funeral Home.

Malone – Virginia (Russell) Hogan, 75; Graveside services to be held.

Massena – Michael Louie "Wische" Adams, 46; Funeral Services April 22, 2021 at the Donaldson Funeral Home.

Norwood – Kevin A. Patterson, 63; Private Services held.

Ogdensburg – Lavonne M. (Booth) Brouse, 96; Funeral Services April 21, 2021 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Ogdensburg – Calvin Smith Williams, 89; Mass of Christian Burial April 22, 2021 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Suzanne L. "Coach Sue" (Carpenter) Connors, 87; Mass of Christian Burial April 19, 2021 at St. John's Church; burial in Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Port Henry – Josephine (O'Kusky) Yelle, 89; Mass of Christian Burial April 23, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church.

Rouses Point – Brian Power, 73; Mass of Christian Burial April 24, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church.

Theresa – Raymond A. Desrosier, 79;

Private Services held.

Ticonderoga – Evelyn L. Crammond, 93; Mass of Christian Burial April 30, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Parish Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Lawrence Herman Matte, 87; Funeral Services April 17, 2021 at the Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Parish Cemetery.

Watertown – Francis "Chick" Anthony Garifo, 80; Private Services held.



Support And Pray
For Vocations



BRINGING FAITH TO LIFE



Middle school students from St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga held the Living Stations of the Cross on Wednesday, March 31 at St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga.

St. Joseph, Lover of Poverty

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

By Sister M. Christine Taylor, SSJ

"They came to offer in sacrifice . . . a pair of turtle doves or two young pigeons." – Lk.2:24

A poor carpenter from Nazareth, Joseph could only afford to present to the Eternal Father a meager offering to thank Him for the most stupendous of gifts – the Baby Christ being circumcised and his chaste Spouse, Mary, being purified.

From that day of the Presentation in the Temple of Jerusalem, Joseph surrendered to God all that he had. He responded to a night dream to take the Child and His Mother to foreign Egypt, a flight



St. Joseph's Corner

into unknown dangers and challenges. How did they live there without his usual carpentry subsidy and home security?

Another dream commanded Joseph to return to Nazareth, again with Mary and Jesus and unsure of what sufferings they would endure en route. Finally settling in a poor home and a poor town, "What good can come out of Nazareth?" the carpenter set up his home shop to fashion beams for houses, or tables and chairs for furniture. He taught Jesus his trade and together they

worked daily in the village among friends and relatives who only said of Jesus, "Is this not the carpenter's son?"

Joseph recorded no words in Sacred Scripture. We hear only of the fateful Passover trip to Jerusalem when Jesus was twelve and got separated from his parents. For three days they searched painstakingly for Him among the relatives, finally returning to the Temple where Jesus was teaching the learned Scribes and Pharisees about God's Love for them. Not Joseph, but Mary spoke, "Why have

You done this to us? Your Father and I have been searching for You in sorrow."

Then Jesus returned with them to Nazareth, as they pondered His words in their hearts. He progressed under Joseph and Mary "in wisdom and age and grace before God and men." Lk. 2:51. At some unknown moment, Joseph died, having fulfilled all that the Eternal Father expected of him, before Jesus began His public life. Without obituaries or accolades, this poor carpenter of Nazareth passed away into eternity.

Today we remember Joseph, lover of poverty, as we also try to live a life of poverty. We seek out the Poor in deed and in fact. "Two turtledoves – two pigeons..." are so meager to redeem Jesus and Mary. Yet in God's eyes, they represent lives of tremendous love and self-sacrifice as we surren-

der our very substance, and not merely our surplus to serve Christ's Poor. Sisters of St. Joseph reach out to the sick, the lonely, the addicted, the abandoned, the derelicts seeking the comfort of Jesus and His parents of Nazareth.

Aware of over 820,000 hungry in our world's population and of the 4,924, 166 people ill with the coronavirus today, with those numbers daily increasing the death toll, we do the little that we can to alleviate the poor. The most "poor" are the billions in the world who do not know Jesus, whose souls must be saved so they do not die without repentance.

We "Go to Joseph" to beg him to embrace with a father's love each and every soul needing grace at this time. Joseph, lover of poverty, lead us to Jesus and Mary who constantly praise the Triune God of love and mercy!