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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 76 Number 6

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MAY 19, 2021

Protecting youth while online

After online exploitation led to the deaths of two area residents recently, diocesan Respect Life Co-Director John Miner, retired from the New York State Police, offers suggestion for keeping youth safe online:

"Recent events in the news and in our North Country yet again put a spotlight on criminal online behavior and have prompted questions like, 'how could someone be so ruthless,' 'what could I have done,' 'how can we recognize the symptoms,' and 'how can we stop this?' Experts abound. According to public records, I have been court-recognized as one of those "experts" in at least one area of digital forensics, but the real answers do not reside in computer examinations or even in criminal investigations."

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LEADING THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH



Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated Mass and gave the homily at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse on May 9. He presided at the election of the new major superior for the Sisters of St. Joseph. Sister Shirley Anne Brown, SSJ, was elected as the new major superior. Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ, presided at the election of the councilors. The new members of the Council are Sister Bernadette Marie Collins, SSJ, assistant to the major superior, 1st councilor, Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ, 2nd councilor, Sister Kathleen DeBoalt, SSJ, 3rd councilor, Sister Mary Anne Croitz, SSJ, 4th councilor. The new major superior and council will begin their leadership on July 11. Pictured are, from left, Sister Shirley Anne Brown, Sister Bernadette Marie Collins, Sister Kathleen DeBoalt, Sister Mary Anne Croitz and Sister Bethany Fitzgerald.

SHARING OUR STORIES



Beth Carlin of Plattsburgh recounts how her faith became important to her and how she's living it here in the North Country in this week's "Sharing Our Stories; Sharing Our Faith," an ongoing series highlighting how lay Catholics are living out their faith here in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. To nominate someone for this series, contact Darcy Fargo, editor, at 315-393-2920 or dfargo@rcdony.org.

FULL STORY, PAGE 6

Pope talks about the power of prayer at audience

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Holding a general audience with visitors and pilgrims present for the first time in more than six months, Pope Francis said he was very pleased to see people "face to face."

"I'll tell you something: it's not nice to talk in front of nothing, just a camera. It's not nice," the pope told about 300 people who at-

tended the audience May 12 in the San Damaso Courtyard of the Apostolic Palace.

Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the last general audience open to the public was Oct. 28. After that, the pope returned to livestreaming the audience from the library of the Apostolic Palace.

Greeting Polish speakers

at the audience, the pope noted that May 13, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, marked the 40th anniversary of the attempt to assassinate St. John Paul II.

The Polish pope, who was riding in the popemobile at the start of a weekly general audience when he was shot by Mehmet Ali Agca in 1981, was convinced "that

he owed his life to Our Lady of Fatima," Pope Francis said. "This event makes us aware that our lives and the history of the world are in the hands of God."

In his main audience talk, Pope Francis focused on overcoming obstacles to prayer, but also on the power of prayer.

Prayer, he told the crowd,

is not always "a walk in the park."

While it may be easy to "parrot" prayer, "blah, blah, blah," he said, real prayer requires effort.

Prayer "certainly gives great peace, but through inner struggle, at times hard, which can accompany even long periods of life," he said.

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'We're all sort of bananas'

I'm not complaining, since there are much worse foods we could consume in large quantities, but my family of only three people goes through what seems to me like an absurd number of bananas.

Last time I went grocery shopping, I bought two large bunches of bananas. One of the bunches was ripe and ready to eat. The other bunch was almost completely green. I was acting on the assumption that the green bunch would be ripe by the time the ripe bunch was eaten.

That was optimistic. As I

watched the ripe bananas disappear quickly, I decided to make a move to ensure I'd get at least a couple bananas:

**Darcy L.
Fargo**

I ripped a green banana off the bunch and brought it with me to my office.

I placed the lone, green banana on my desk.

As the week continued, I noticed something: The bananas at home were ripening quickly, while the banana on my desk was still pretty green.

Maybe it had something to do with the climate in the two spaces being different, and maybe it was because of some other factor I hadn't considered, but I im-

mediately credited the inconsistency in ripening to the notion that bananas ripen faster when connected to other bananas in a bunch.

It reminded me that people are sort of like bananas in that way. We get better when we're linked together.

While there are times and situations that require us to try to grow in solitude, my experience suggests that improving that way is harder and/or less complete.

For example, I can learn a lot by reading a book, but I tend to learn even more when I read that book and then discuss it with someone else who is familiar with it. Discussing a book exposes me to someone else's interpretation of it. Another

person may notice details I missed or focus on concepts I thought were less important.

Similarly, I find it easier to grow my faith in community.

While I can and do grow my relationship with the Lord through private prayer and spiritual reading, growing that relationship also requires my participation in community – in Mass and the sacraments (none of those are celebrated alone), and in sharing the fruits of my prayer and spiritual reading.

I grow better, holier when I'm connected to others in community than I can in isolation. I think we all do.

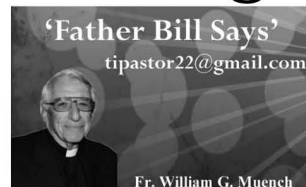
We're all sort of bananas.

Celebrating the Holy Spirit

In celebration of Pentecost, I would like to take some time with you as we celebrate the Holy Spirit. Pentecost remembers the coming down of the Holy Spirit on the apostles. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit at the Last Supper. He used words like the advocate, the counselor. The apostles wondered what this Holy Spirit would accomplish for them. Yet, they keep their faith in Jesus and found transformation in the Holy Spirit.

At the Last Supper, Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of Truth, which the world cannot accept because it neither sees me nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you and will be in you." (John 14:15)

The Holy Spirit came down on the apostles, transforming them. They were no



longer afraid. They were ready to accept the challenge, willing to bring the message of Jesus to the world. With the power of the Holy Spirit, they began to preach and teach about the Lord Jesus to all who would listen.

I believe, today, that the Holy Spirit continues to transform the Church through the sacraments of confirmation and holy orders. I believe that the Holy Spirit comes down with power upon those who accept ordination as a priest and on those who accept confirmation just as on that first Pentecost.

As a newly ordained priest, I had many questions about the gift of the Holy Spirit and my future min-

istry. I knew that Jesus promised his apostles all the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In faith, I knew how much I needed the guidance and help of the Holy Spirit. I had been taught how important it was for me to surrender completely to the Holy Spirit. I know even now I must continue to depend on the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus made it very clear at the Last Supper. He said, "I am the truth, the Way, and the Life." With the help of the Holy Spirit, my ministry will be successful if I follow.

Truth – truth about God, truth about myself – is a gift of God. God is the possessor and giver of all truth. The Holy Spirit reveals to me as a priest that which is true and right and good. This truth liberates me from all that is false and misleading.

Jesus knew that the apostles at the Last Supper would need the ongoing guidance and help of the Holy Spirit after he returned to the Father in Heaven. Jesus contin-

ues to make that promise of the Holy Spirit to each newly ordained priest. I know this has brought happiness to my vocation as a priest. The happiness that I have found through the gift of the Holy Spirit. This happiness is God's gift to all his disciples throughout the ages, a gift given so that they could live in the freedom of his love and truth.

So, today, as we celebrate Pentecost, we again remember that the Holy Spirit is our life. The Holy Spirit gives us the guidance to proclaim our faith – the same faith that the apostles taught. It continues to be our message: Jesus died, and was buried, and rose again on the third day, and will come again to judge, to raise the dead and give everlasting life.

So, the question for is: Do you listen attentively to God's word and allow the Holy Spirit to give you understanding of God's truth and plan for your life?

Keeping youth safe from exploitation online

By John Miner
Co-Director, Respect Life Office

He is real but he is not who he appears to be. He does not care about you – your life, your feelings, your thoughts, your dreams, your future. He only cares about his own little world. He has various motives: money, self-gratification, entertainment, or just a desire to be someone besides who he really is. His goal is to get you to do things that you would not do willingly until it is too late.

I have met him. I have executed hundreds of search warrants on his homes, his businesses, his computers, and his phones. I arrested him more times than I can count. He sits in prison sometimes, but sometimes nobody knows who he is. I have met his victims. Sometimes they don't even know yet how their lives have been turned upside down, some of them do and manage to set into the storm and plow through it; some of them feel defeated and turn to despair. If he (or she) sounds familiar, and maybe a bit diabolical, that's because he (or she) has, as Russian novelist Solzhenitsyn described in *The Gulag Archipelago*, the line separating good and evil passing through his heart, and it is overwhelmed by evil.

For seven of my 27 years with the New York State Police, I was an investigator with the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC), a national network that works closely with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). I don't know how many times I have seen how computers and technology enhance whatever they touch – the good for the better, the bad for the worse. One of my certifications is something

called Undercover Chat. We spent a week in a computer lab going into Internet chat rooms and starting or engaging in random conversations with unknown people on the web. It was quite common, when posing as a teen, to be "approached" by persons who would propose all kinds of behavior, most often including a meeting "IRL" (in real life). The typical time into these conversations was less than ten minutes, and many times they were nearly instantaneous when logging on. Social media has taken precedence over chat rooms, but the predators remain. Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Twitter are just more sophisticated means of making connections and creating online personas.

Recent events in the news and in our North Country yet again put a spotlight on criminal online behavior and have prompted questions like, "how could someone be so ruthless," "what could I have done," "how can we recognize the symptoms," and "how can we stop this?" Experts abound. According to public records, I have been court-recognized as one of those "experts" in at least one area of digital forensics, but the real answers do not reside in computer examinations or even in criminal investigations. The human heart is the place where these things take place. I write that because any technology-related suggestions or guidelines that may be helpful are, by their nature, inadequate. That is because technology is only a multiplier of problems that are as old as original sin. Suggestions are not completely useless, however.

Here are some general observations:

- Bad attracts worse – "regular" pornography is merely a step toward more extreme forms. I put "regular" in quotes because, contrary to what our current "enlightened" culture suggests, regular pornography is insidious and always has victims, including the viewer. In our computer examinations, our standard question was not "is there pornography?" but "where is the pornography?" It was not often difficult to locate. "Sexting" (which often qualifies as child pornography) can evolve into "sextortion," in which the victim is extorted for money under a threat of exposing the photos to friends or family.

- Kids who have unsupervised access to the Internet ALWAYS access harmful content. It is a window to the world and all its nature, including the fallen part. A moral sewer is the best analogy. An unmonitored smart phone is a tool with which most adults have problems, and children/teens have no business in that world.

- Personal communication is unprecedented in our time. That means that the wolves have unprecedented access to our children. There was a time in my memory when, if you wanted to communicate with my child, you could not do it but through me. That time has passed for any child with a cell phone. If we don't strictly monitor that communication, an intruder can step in. We cannot raise our children the way our parents raised us because that was a world that no longer exists.

So, what can be done? In the scores of presentations I have done over the years for parents, there was a consistent pattern: the parents who showed up were, by and large, the parents who already were paying

close attention to their kids' online behavior. For certain though, things have gotten more difficult due to the ubiquity of cell phones even among pre-teens. I would personally advise parents to go against the grain and do not let your child have a cell phone. If your teen has a phone, parents must have monitoring capability and use it. Some good apps for this are KidsGuard, Net Nanny, Norton Family, Qustodio, and Kaspersky Safe Kids, but there are many more. Part of responsible parenting is to have full and unquestioned access to any device being used by your child. The key is to make it a prerequisite to having the phone in the first place.

Another thing that is crucial is to pay attention to the most vulnerable around us. These are the people who the wolves target. What makes certain kids more vulnerable? The most common situations are family violence,

breakups and divorce, creating situations in which children are looking for something better. Those who would victimize others look for a missing piece and move in to fill it.

Evil acts are all around us, and those acts of the criminal sort tend to be more obvious to us. When the perpetrator can hide in anonymity, the depths to which he can stoop can be frightening. I will not leave this topic, however, without the thing that everyone needs: hope. Hope counters despair. Hope perfects the memory. Even when it seems like there are no more alternatives and no good choices, hope can lift a soul. That is perhaps the most important thing we can all provide to those who are vulnerable and become victimized.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.icactaskforce.org/Pages/InternetSafety.aspx>

<https://www.missingkids.org/>

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Second time in isolation: Transplant, then COVID

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

CANTON – When Matilda Smith was only six weeks old, a liver transplant saved her life and cast her and her family into a period of isolation. Despite being thrust back into isolation by the pandemic, the Smith family remains full of faith and hope.

Kelly and Tyler Smith welcomed their baby girl, Matilda, into the world shortly after moving to the North Country.

"We had just moved her from Montana," Kelly said, noting the couple moved her when her Tyler accepted a position as a professor at Clarkson University. "We didn't know anyone."

Matilda showed signs that she wasn't well very early in life.

"She was about a week old," Kelly said. "That's when she started getting sick. I kept bringing her back to the doctor, back to the hospital. She was



During the pandemic, Matilda Smith is confined to her home due to a liver transplant 8 years ago. Nevertheless, she and her brother Parker, parishioners of St. Mary's in Canton, enjoy growing in their faith thanks to the parish's new religious education program through Sophia Institute Press.

lethargic and not eating well. Things just didn't seem right."

After a blood test alerted physicians that Matilda's liver wasn't functioning properly, the infant was immediately transported to Syracuse for further medical evaluation and treatment.

"When we got to Syracuse, they ran more tests," Kelly said. "They told us

'she is so sick, she's probably not going to make it. If she does make it, she's going to need a liver transplant.'"

Matilda was then moved to Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City.

"She was put on life support," Kelly said. "They didn't think she was going to make it. She had swelling in her brain and a number of other issues. That was day 10 of her life. It was hard! We had her baptized that next day, and we prayed."

Those 10 days were followed by several difficult weeks,

"After five weeks waiting in the hospital, she was so sick," Kelly said. "She had to be resuscitated more times than we can count. She definitely went to heaven and came back multiple times. We just had to watch it happen. My husband was talking the other day about the fact that people don't understand what it's like to be watching your child die. Matilda was in the (Pediatric Intensive Care Unit), because once you leave the hospital, you can't go back to the (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit). We watched and overheard multiple chil-

dren pass away and listened to parents experiencing that. It was an open room. They weren't private rooms."

Kelly said she and Tyler were extremely close to God during this time.

"Both my husband and I look back, and we know it was a really beautiful time in our lives," Kelly said. "There was a lot of suffering and sadness, but I felt so close to God. It was like we were in a place between heaven and earth. She was in that place, moving between heaven and earth. We could feel the presence of God in an extraordinary way. I knew that if I went to those dark thoughts of asking the questions of 'why,' I would spiral and go to a dark place. I didn't allow myself to do that. There were days that were hard – harder than others, when it just felt like too much. For the most part, though, I consciously tried to be positive and tried to celebrate. I thought, 'I don't know how long we'll have with her. It could be a day; it could be a week. As long as we have her, I want to celebrate her life and make best of it.' I read to her, sang to her. We weren't always allowed to hold her, but I could stand by her, hold her hand and pray. We prayed a lot. We asked a lot of others to pray for us. Sometimes I couldn't think of the words. That's where memorized prayers are really handy. I couldn't put together my thoughts, but I could say an Our Father or Hail Mary, and I could let other people pray for me. I could feel the gift and grace of prayer lifting me up. It wasn't easy, but the only thing I had to do was love. I didn't have a toddler to care for. I didn't have dinner to make, clothes to wash. I had

nothing to do but love my daughter."

While Tyler and Kelly stayed by Matilda's side, they had to arrange care for their son, Parker, who was two years old at the time.

"He couldn't be with us," Kelly said. "We flew him back to Montana to be with family. That was the best place for him to be mentally and physically. It's hard to think about the fact that we had two healthy children one day, and the next day, I had neither of them with me. That was difficult."

All Soul's Day arrived, and Kelly attended Mass. She also spoke to the priest about Matilda receiving the sacrament of the sick.

"She was dying," Kelly said. "They were saying it was going to be any day. While she was getting the sacrament, the phone rang. There was a liver. The donor was a two-week old in Missouri. A team flew and got the liver and brought it back. Matilda had surgery the next day."

Just getting a liver was a miracle of sorts, Kelly said.

"People don't want to think about organ donation when they're dealing with an infant loss," she said.

The surgery was successful, but the family had to remain in New York City for four more months to attend post-surgical appointments.

"Even after we got back to Canton, we had to drive to New York City once a month for labs and to be checked by a doctor," Kelly said. "As she got older, it was every three months. Then every six months. Now, it's once a year, though she has labs locally pretty often."

Once home, the family

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



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Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg

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Dr. Gerry Gacloch



Ms. Gina Fiorile



Second time in isolation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

had to take precautions to protect Matilda due to her weakened immune system.

"The first three years of her life, we did the social distancing thing," Kelly said. "She didn't leave the house except for medical appointments, people coming into the house had to wear masks and immediately shower or wash up. My son came home from preschool, and I'd immediately bathe him. Her immune system was non-existent in the beginning. If she had a fever for any reason, we had to be back in New York City for a liver biopsy. We wanted to make sure she didn't get the flu or any other type of sickness."

Gradually, Matilda's medical team eased restrictions as her immune system strengthened. She was eventually cleared to attend school.

"I was like, there's no way," Kelly exclaimed. "How can we keep her isolated for three years and then she can go to preschool? But I trusted (the medical team). It was a way to build up her immune system. That first year, she was sick every week. She had her tonsils and adenoids out, and that helped a lot. She was still sick a lot that first year of kindergarten, so the transplant team suggested giving her another year to catch up. She did another year of kindergarten. Last year, she was in first grade, and she wasn't sick at all."

Then, the pandemic began.

"We're following the guidelines the transplant team is giving us, and we've been completely isolated," Kelly said. "We don't go to grocery stores, and no social gatherings.

My husband is teaching remotely. I'm teaching second grade at Canton remotely.

"At first, we were like, 'Ok. We've already done this. We've got this. We already knew the techniques and how to live like this. It was also daunting because we know the loneliness of it. And our kids are older, and they want to be with their friends. We have to explain it to them in a way they understand, but it's hard when they see other kids out playing or doing things together. We're trying not to scare them, but we're making sure we explain that the decisions other families make aren't right for our family.'"

The pandemic has, however, increased options for individuals in isolation.

"We can still celebrate Mass together as a family and participate online," Kelly said. "It's not the same, but it's a close second. If we didn't have the option of participating in Mass online, we wouldn't be able to go. It doesn't matter how much I want to be there and want to be in the building experiencing that with community, it would not be safe for my family. Mass online gives us an opportunity to continue on with our faith and stay connected. Father (Bryan) Stitt doesn't see me every week, but I see him."

Religious education is also offered in an online format in Canton.

"It could've been offered in person for those who could go, and she would've had to miss that

year," Kelly said. "Opening it up as an online program makes it accessible to everyone."

Kelly asks community members to be vigilant following pandemic protocols and encourages any eligible person to get vaccinated.

"In order for her to be protected, everyone else needs to have the vaccine," she said. "We have to work as a community to protect people who need extra protection – people

with suppressed immune systems. There have always been controversies about vaccines, but the reality is my family won't be able to go back into the world until our community is vaccinated."

To read more of Kelly's story, visit her blog, cloudydaygray.com.

Rest in Peace

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

- May 19** – Msgr. Arthur M. Leary, 1968; Deacon Vincent J. Frattali, 2003
- May 20** – Rev. Eugene Noury, O.M.I., 1961; Rev. P. Andrew L'Esperance, M.S.C., 1962
- May 21** – Msgr. John Pendergast, 1998
- May 22** – Msgr. Claudius Gobet, 1961
- May 23** – Deacon Richard A. Menke, 2003
- May 24** – Rev. Francois X. Therien, O.M.I., 1902; Rev. Antoine A. Amyot, 1927; Rev. Julien Racette, O.M.I., 1937; Rev. Joseph O. Levesque, 1938; Msgr. George L. Murray, 1942
- May 25** – Rev. J. Hector Mignerone, 1958

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-
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Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-
569-0612 evenings; or Father
Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal
Vicar for Clergy;
ccarrara@rcdony.org Phone: 315-
393-2920 ext. 1340. If you have a
complaint of suspected sexual
abuse or related misconduct by the
bishops, contact the **Catholic
Bishop Abuse Reporting Serv-
ice** at 800-276-1562 or
www.ReportBishopAbuse.org.

Bishop's Public Schedule

- May 19** – 11 a.m. – Pontifical Mission Society Board Meeting at Bishop's Residence
- May 20** – Noon – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg
- May 21** – 6:30 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Tupper Lake
- May 22** – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
- May 23** – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
3 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg with Saints Philip and James Church in Lisbon, St. Raphael's Church in Heuvelton, St. John the Baptist Church in Madrid, St. Mary's Church in Waddington and St. Peter's Parish in Massena
- May 24** – Noon – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg
- May 25** – 7 p.m. – Confirmation at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart with the Church of the Holy Family, St. Anthony's Church and St. Patrick's Church in Watertown
- May 26** – Noon – Memorare Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg followed by lunch at St. Mary's Cathedral (Brzana Hall)

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.

Environmental Stewardship

A time to act

Are you familiar with the song from "Beauty and the Beast" titled "Love Changes Everything?" The words of it are so powerful: "Love changes everything. . . Hands and faces, earth and sky. . . How you live and how you die. . ." This song captures well an experience of being loved and how that can affect our perspective of everything.

As we pray this week for a greater openness to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, are we not seeking to fall more deeply in love with the Creator whose love can change the way we see everything? Many of the saints, mystics and poets have discovered the divine presence in all things, large and small. How would those experiences change the way we interact with the natural world?

To learn some different ways to take better care for our "common home," register now for the Program, "Let us Dream: The Path to a Better Future." At rcdony.org/dream. This virtual Event, co-sponsored by the Diocese of Syracuse and Ogdensburg Laudato Si Committees, is scheduled for May 25, 26, 27 evenings. The third evening offers breakout sessions on some concrete ways to create a better future.

- Energy conversion to carbon neutrality: (Chris Carrick - HeatSmart) with application by Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Endicott;

- Food conversion: (Tammy Morgan – Lake Placid High School): buy local, consume less meat, minimize food waste, and access to composting;

- Getting our hands dirty: gardening and other forms of habitat enhancement (Cindy Quackenbush - pollinator gardens, Ogdensburg, and Amy Samuels and Jane Allen for habitat gardening, Syracuse).

- Parish creation care team: Importance, start up, parish initiatives, policy advocacy (Ed Judge and Beth from Holy Cross Parish, Dewitt, and Kathy Gosh from All Saints Parish, Syracuse, creation care teams along with with input from Gina Fiorile and Dr. Curt Stager, Ogdensburg).

- Practical Household solutions: (John Tenbusch, Ogdensburg) - Recycling and reuse at home and at parishes, minimizing use of single use plastics, replacing Styrofoam, etc.

For more details see ad on page 4 of this edition of the *NCC*.



'He is there with you even in the bad times'

By Jonathan Monfletto
Contributing Writer

PLATTSBURGH – From growing up in Protestant services on military bases around the country to being solid in her Catholic faith and the mother of a seminarian now as an adult, Beth Carlin said she has relied on her faith throughout her whole life.

"I've always relied on my faith, God, my higher power," said Carlin, who lives in Plattsburgh.

Carlin said she was raised Presbyterian, but she noted military bases often use the same church building for different services, so she grew up going to Protestant services in North Carolina and elsewhere. Still, this experience helped her develop a solid faith that sustained her when her parents divorced when she and her brother were teenagers.

"We didn't have an easy life. It's not that my parents weren't wonderful or whatever, but they just had their own issues," she said. "So, I've always turned to God, and I was always involved in the youth groups of the churches we were at."

Because her mother was always searching in religion – "even though she was Presbyterian, she was always searching for something," Carlin said.

Carlin jokes she was baptized at least four times since she was baptized anew every time her mother tried out a different faith.

But it was when Carlin got married to her Catholic husband and they started going to Mass together that Carlin became Catholic.

Carlin's husband, James, had been married before, so they needed to have that marriage annulled in order to have their marriage blessed in their



church. At that point, Carlin wanted to convert since they were raising their son, Leagon, in the Catholic Church, and she wanted to be a part of her husband and son's faith.

"I found such a comfort in the Catholic Mass when I started going," she said. "It's always the same and you knew exactly at which point what you were doing, and you were going to hear Scripture. ... We always have Scripture. We always have the Eucharist. ... That's when the journey started, my Catholic journey."

Now, Leagon – a seminarian who will be ordained a transitional deacon later this year – has influenced his mother's faith more than she has influenced his, she said. Carlin added her husband is in the diaconate program and will soon be ordained a permanent deacon.

"He's (Leagon) helped me more along in my faith rather than the other way around because he grew up with it," she said. "As he started maturing and deciding what he was going to do, it's made me stronger and wanting to make sure I'm going to

Mass and doing a holy hour if it's available and adoration. It's helped my faith rather than the other way around."

When it comes to sharing her faith with others, Carlin said she likes to do that more by how she lives than by what she says. She uses a quote attributed to St. Francis to encourage her in this regard: "Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words."

Working in local government and public service for the City of Plattsburgh, Carlin noted much of the discussion in her office revolves around politics rather than religion – "it's all government, and it's professional," she said. Still, she tries to influence others through her actions, and she certainly doesn't hide the fact that she is Catholic; in fact, she added, she has the church calendar on her desk where people can see it.

That influence became apparent when a coworker – a peripheral coworker, she noted, instead of the person at the next desk or cubicle – brought back a rosary from the Vatican to give to her.

"That's what I try to do.

I've never been one that can talk eloquently or all that kind of stuff, but definitely if somebody asks me and everybody knows," Carlin said, adding people will come into the office and talk about their children in college so she will talk about her son in seminary. "I get things like that all the time."

Still feeling like she is new in her Catholic faith, although she has been practicing for more than 20 years, Carlin said she enjoys going to Mass every week and experiencing the Eucharist, among other spiritual practices.

"It's very real to me every single time when I go to Mass and say, 'Please let me have this hour of quiet,'" she said. "I try every day to say a prayer in the morning or in the evening sometimes just to connect, even if it's not always wanting something, just there with God. I do try to do the rosary sometimes."

Another favorite spiritual practice is joining her husband and his fellow diaconate candidates for virtual evening prayer.

"I always join in that when I'm home at the same time they're doing it," Carlin said. "That has been such a wonderful blessing to have that with everybody. It keeps you connected but also to have the prayer and the community with everyone."

A time when Carlin really relied on her faith was when her parents were going through their struggles and divorce; Carlin, 14 at the time, lived with their mother while her brother, then 17, lived with their father because the siblings felt each of them should stay with one of the parents.

"I know I turned to God a lot just to help me get through that," Carlin said. "My mom had some mental

illness, so I had to turn to Him a lot, basically turn to my faith."

Carlin said her mother struggled with severe mental illness, and she took care of her mother from the time she was 13 until her mother forced her to leave at 19. Carlin described her mother as "very religious" and always changing churches and religions whenever she perceived someone was being mean or hypocritical toward her.

"I feel proud and fortunate that I didn't turn away from religion because I equated it with mental illness," Carlin said. "I relied heavily on my faith and daily prayer with Jesus and know that is the only way I survived, became a productive member of society, found love, marriage and children."

Later in life, Carlin said, her faith helped her to be a good parent, not only to her own son but to the two children from her husband's first marriage.

"You always are concerned for your children. Your focus changes," she said. "That's (faith) gotten me through a lot of struggles and worry and those kinds of things and normal everyday life."

Now, with the COVID-19 pandemic, Carlin said her faith has been something she cherishes. She particularly relished watching Mass when churches were not open, spending time with her husband – and son, when he was home – and sitting down together to experience God and stay connected to Him.

"I don't know how you can get through everything we're going through (without faith)," she said. "You have to keep that faith. That's what I have to keep thinking of, that He is there with you even in the bad times."

ESSEX

LATIN MASS

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

Schedule: May 23 at 1 p.m.; May 30 at 9:15 a.m.

Place: St. Patrick's Church

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

ST. LAWRENCE

PRAYER AND ADORATION

Massena – Commissioned Lay Ministers are invited to gather for Adoration and Rosary.

Date: Every third Wednesday of the month (May 19)

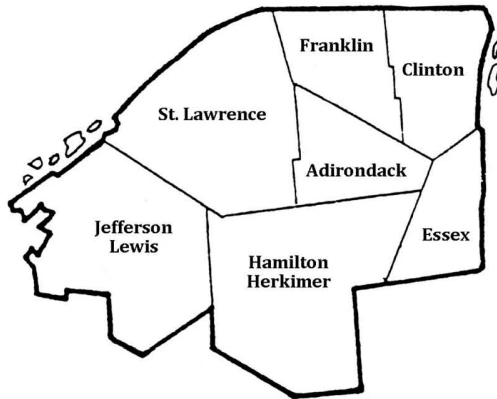
Time: 6:30 p.m. to 7

Place: Sacred Heart Church

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 of



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 315-394-0670;
e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

this year.

Schedule: 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 Roman Catholic 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, some obstacles often experienced in becoming a forgiving person,

and some aids from our Catholic tradition. It includes presentations, time for personal prayer and reflection with opportunities for sharing. The speaker will be Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ.

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

SIDEWALK ADVOCATES FOR LIFE

Experience Sidewalk Advocated for Life's new virtual basic training 2.0.

Features: Sidewalk Advocates for Life employs peaceful, prayerful, loving, and law-abiding outreach outside of abortion centers to aid mothers in crisis and connect them with life-affirming resources in the effort to save their preborn children and end abortion. By God's grace, this effort has witnessed over 9,000 women turn around at abortion centers and CHOOSE LIFE!

Contact: To get started, YOU'RE INVITED to fill out the brief application at sidewalkadvocates.org/trainingapp. Upon receipt, we'll be in touch with steps for accessing the training.

NOW SHOWING

FINDING YOU

NEW YORK (CNS) – In adapting Jenny B. Jones' 2011 young adult novel "There I'll Find You" into a big-screen romantic comedy, writer-director Brian Baugh has shortened its title to "Finding You" (Roadside).

He also has somewhat downplayed the book's Christian themes. Yet a sense of God's providence and care does seep into this coming-of-age story about an aspiring musician.

Things don't begin too well on that score, however. After violinist Finley Sinclair (Rose Reid) fails her audition for a New York City music conservatory, she feels God has let her down. "So much for prayer," she gloomily concludes.

On the rebound from her disappointment, Finley decides to spend a semester abroad in the same small coastal town in Ireland where her deceased

brother, for whom she still grieves, had lived for a time years before. As savvy viewers will easily foresee, the experience that follows proves life-changing.

Finley's transformation begins with a coincidence. On the plane, she's seated next to Hollywood heart-throb Beckett Rush (Jedidiah Goodacre) who, as it happens, is on his way to a movie shoot in the same village where Finley will be staying. He's making the latest installment in an ongoing franchise that's filmed there.

Beckett is delighted that Finley maintains her cool around him. But her initial nonchalance deepens into skepticism about Beckett after she sees a magazine article detailing his bad-boy reputation. In response, he introduces one of the script's major topics by observing that things are not always as they

seem.

Whatever her feelings about Beckett, Finley won't be getting away from him anytime soon. Her host family, the Callaghans, it turns out, own the B&B where he'll be lodging.

Since the Callaghans – mom Nora (Fiona Bell), dad Sean (Ciaran McMahon) and daughter Emma (Saoirse-Monica Jackson) – are too busy to take Finley sightseeing, Emerald Isle veteran Beckett insists on being her guide to all that her new environment has to offer. Through Beckett, Finley meets local fixture Seamus (Patrick Bergin), an elderly homeless gent who is also (what else?) a fantastic fiddler.

As the result of a school service project that requires her to "adopt" a local senior citizen, Finley ends up paired with grouchy nursing home resident Cathleen Sweeney (Vanessa Redgrave). Al-

though Cathleen makes it clear at the outset that she wants nothing to do with Finley, the latter persists in visiting and the two slowly develop a bond.

By spending time with her newfound friends, Finley learns to look beneath the surface and see into people's hearts, thus enabling her own heart to heal. Musically, Seamus helps her to discover that playing with sincere emotion is at least as important as getting the notes right.

"You've got to play the sorrow as well as the joy," he tells her. "They're united. You can't have one

without the other."

Given the significance of the lessons Finley learns – and their congruity with Gospel values – "Finding You" is probably acceptable for teens, some touches of vulgar language notwithstanding.

The film contains a few crude terms. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG – parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.



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Momentum for Laudato Si' gears up for next decade

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – When the special Laudato Si' Anniversary Year closes May 24, it will celebrate progress made over the past five years, and it will launch a new wave of initiatives for the next decade in an ongoing response to Pope Francis' call for the care of creation.

"For we know that things can change" is the theme of hope for the church's worldwide celebration May 16-25 of Laudato Si' Week – the "crowning event" of an anniversary year that began during a global pandemic.

Even though "we certainly understood that we had one common home before COVID," seeing a crisis in health and hygiene in China cause lockdowns in Europe and job losses in Africa revealed even more clearly how interconnected the world really is, said Tebaldo Vinciguerra, the official leading the "ecology and creation" desk at the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

The message of Pope Francis' encyclical, "Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home," continues to be prophetic for a pandemic-hit and post-pandemic world, the dicastery says on its website, as the document provides a "moral and spiritual compass" for a "new way of living together, bonded together in love, compassion and solidarity" and in a more "harmonious relationship with the natural world, our common home."

Under the large green canopy of a 100-year-old London planetree in a small city square near his Vatican office, Vinciguerra

told Catholic News Service May 12, it is important the church "leads by example."

The key to Laudato Si' is seeing, living and working in ways that piece life's many facets together and that create bridges to bring diverse people together toward a common goal, he said.

"It's not just 'I have a solar panel,' full stop," he said.

Some of the best things to emerge from people acting on the encyclical, he said, are their responses to a call for dialogue among experts in diverse fields, creating new and needed combinations and partnerships, such as: an architect sitting down with a theologian; a bishop choosing impact investing for his diocese; and a Caritas branch practicing due diligence and transparency.

Some dioceses and bishops' conferences have put great effort into promoting "integral" action among their own offices, for example, he said, asking staff working on "pro-life, family, transparency, (procurements), ecology, justice and peace, social teaching, liturgy, etc., to do something together."

The Archdiocese of Mumbai, in fact, has an environmental office that blends catechesis with the use of more ecological materials, including not just avoiding single-use plastics, but encouraging shroud burial at church funerals to save precious wood and as a way of following what Jesus did.

A good project aims at helping the entire community bring different elements together and offers an alternative to what is available, Vin-

ciguerra said, for example, a farm that cultivates nutritional crops from local species, involves the efforts of marginalized community members, utilizes composting, avoids post-harvest food losses by giving away what would otherwise be wasted and directs profits to fund schooling for single-parent families.

The dicastery will unveil a preview of a Laudato Si' Action Platform May 25 – ahead of its full launch Oct. 4 – as part of a "road map" of action for the next decade, he said. The platform is meant to help those who want to increase their commitment to bringing Laudato Si' to life by promising a set of actions over a period of seven years.

Parishes, dioceses, families, businesses, NGOs or religious congregations can register to assess what they are doing now and to see how they can further contribute to the seven Laudato Si' goals, he said.

Among the challenges still out there, Vinciguerra said, is to convince people to act on Pope Francis' call that everyone must contribute to the common good.

How people choose to live day-by-day is very important, even with the smallest gestures of love, he said, as well as the larger policies and practices on all levels in agriculture, trade, economics, debt and finance, patents and supply chains.

This is why politics has to be driven by love for the common good, which is seen "as a set of social conditions that allow for a full harmonious development of people and the community," he said.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

As COVID-19 spikes, Indian church officials help

NEW DELHI (CNS) – Catholic officials in India are working to help citizens get help during the second wave of COVID-19 and the accompanying lockdown. "Our priority now is to save as many lives as possible," Archbishop Victor Henry Thakur of Raipur told ucanews.com. He said with movements restricted, the archdiocese is reaching out to as many people as possible through neighborhood networks to provide food and medical help, including getting patients admitted to hospitals. Bishop Jose Chittooparambil of Rajkot told ucanews.com: "We are providing medical care to people under trees and makeshift tents, as our priority is to save as many lives as possible." Suspected patients who need home quarantine are provided accommodation in church buildings, he said, since most village families live together in small mud houses where quarantine is not possible. Archbishop Thakur said that, during the first wave of the pandemic last year, Catholic activists helped migrant workers with cooked meals, drinking water and other basic requirements. "The priority has changed now," the archbishop said. Ucanews.com reported medical facilities are overwhelmed with more than 300,000 new infections across India daily.

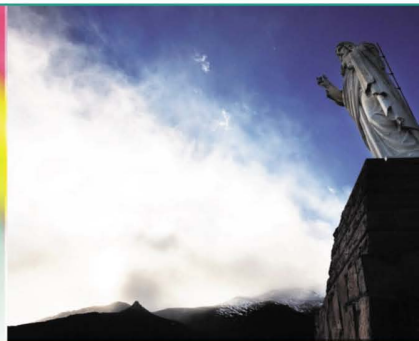
U.S. bishop urges end of Holy Land violence

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace called on Israelis and Palestinians to end the violence in Jerusalem and Gaza that has claimed dozens of lives and left hundreds of people injured. "The maiming and killing of one's neighbor only serves to demonize one's adversary and deepen passions that divide and destroy," Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, Illinois, said in a May 13 statement released by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. In calling for peace between Israel and the Islamic political party Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip, Bishop Malloy cited the words of Pope Francis, who on May 9 expressed concern over the ongoing clashes between Palestinians and Israelis in Jerusalem. "I invite everyone to seek shared solutions so that the multireligious and multicultural identity of the Holy City is respected and fraternity prevails," the pope said then. "Violence begets violence. Enough with the clashes." He also said bishops were "saddened that simmering tensions erupted into violence in the Holy Land." The statement comes in the wake of the most violent fighting in several years between Israel and Palestinian militants.

Officials: Arson caused fire that destroyed landmark church

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) – Federal investigators have ruled arson was the cause of a blaze that destroyed a Catholic church once considered the heart of Northeast Philadelphia's historic Tacony neighborhood. Early in the evening May 9, fire ravaged the former St. Leo the Great Church, gutting the structure. The blaze, which originated in the church, also severely damaged the former parish rectory, home to permanent diaconate candidate Pasqual Mota and his family, who had purchased the residence from the Philadelphia Archdiocese in 2016. The Philadelphia Fire Marshal's Office and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives announced May 13 that the fire had been deliberately set, although officials did not specify the details of their findings. According to ATF Supervisory Special Agent Charles Doerger, the new owner – whom authorities said is cooperating with the investigation and is not a suspect – had planned to lease the former church either to another congregation or a performing arts group.

STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH AT HOME



SPECIAL COLLECTION TO BE HELD THE WEEKEND OF MAY 22 & 23, 2021

In their 2000 pastoral letter *Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration*,* the bishops of the United States called the faithful to embrace an approach to criminal justice that takes into account the dignity of crime victims and their families, communities, and offenders.

The Catholic Home Missions-funded Diocese of Santa Rosa is answering this call for an approach that upholds justice and healing in its six counties of northwestern California, stretching from Napa in the south along the coastline to the Oregon border. The diocese's Catholic Restorative Justice Ministries program (www.restorejusticesantarosa.org) works to fulfill the bishops' vision through a variety of activities that include support for inmates reentering society, as

well as pastoral ministries for crime victims and their families, justice system personnel, and inmates. The program's broad range of goals are being implemented, expanded, and refined yearly with financial assistance from the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. When you participate in the appeal, you join in the Church's healing mission of mercy to all.

* To read this letter online, visit www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/criminal-justice-restorative-justice/crime-and-criminal-justice.cfm.

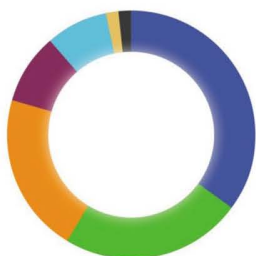
Support CHMA and strengthen the Church at home.

For more information about the Catholic home missions, visit www.usccb.org/home-missions.

What Is a Home Mission Diocese?

Home mission dioceses are those Catholic dioceses in the United States, its territories, and former territories that cannot provide basic pastoral services without outside help. Basic pastoral services include Mass, the sacraments, religious education, and ministry training for priests, deacons, religious sisters, and laypeople. Right now, over 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are considered home missions.

CHMA FINANCIALS 2019

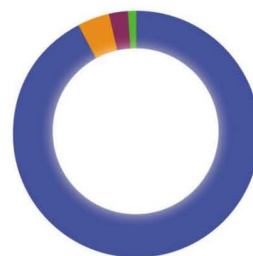


Totals by Program Area

• Diocesan and Parish Assistance:	\$3,615,000
• Faith Formation:	\$2,430,000
• Priestly and Religious Vocations:	\$2,125,000
• Cultural Ministries	\$940,000
• Strengthening Marriage and Family Life	\$840,000
• Professional Development for Mission Dioceses	\$163,150
• New Bishop Installation Support	\$156,000

Total Expenses Including Internal Grants:

\$11,261,121



• Grants and Donations:	92.46%
• Program Costs:	3.96%
• Promotions and Fundraising Expenses:	2.73%
• Administrative Expenses (Including Internal Grants):	0.86%



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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

'We must listen to the Holy Spirit'

Today, Pentecost Sunday, is truly the birthday of the Church. Just as every birthday celebrates the beginning of life, so too it is an occasion for asking ourselves, "Where do we go from here?" What was begun with fire that changed forever the lives of the Apostles can remind us that our Baptism and Confirmation "branded" and empowered us to be followers of Jesus. Whether or not we are always conscious of being marked for life with the fire of the Spirit, those



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

sacraments changed us forever. The question we ask today is "How serious am I about my role as a Catholic Christian, and how determined am I to let the Holy Spirit change me in the years of life that are left to me?"

Today, we live again the experience of that first Pentecost when the Upper Room in Jerusalem shook with hurricane force as the wind of God's Spirit and the fire of His love descended on twelve apostles, changing them forever. They rushed out

May 23

Pentecost Sunday

READINGS

Acts 2:1-11

Galatians 5:16-25

John 15:26-27, 16:12-15

into the streets and boldly proclaimed the truth of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. As thousands were baptized that day, the Church was born in the presence of Christ's own mother and countless of other witnesses. Today, through the Eucharist, we celebrate the Holy Spirit's coming again to give a "booster shot" to all of us.

The Word still has not

gone out to every nation. We are the ones who must carry it there.

First, we must listen to the Holy Spirit as He speaks in the person of Our Holy Father, Pope Francis. We must carry His words through prayer and sharing to our fellow Catholics, to other Christians, and those of other religions, as well as to those who do not believe in God. We must share it with all whose hearts and minds need what the Spirit is saying today.

We need to be re-consecrated today in the Truth that God is love and lives in us as in a fleshly temple. In the renewal of our life-

time commitment, our faith is rekindled so that our light will more effectively destroy the indifference and violence and immorality that threatens to engulf our nation and the world.

Today is the day to let the fire of Truth burn in our hearts and then in the hearts of those around us. In this time of pandemic, violence and political division, there is greater need than ever before in our lifetime for strong witness of the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. In a real sense, Christ Himself depends on us to be His voice and His love to an ever-living Church.

CALLED TO SERVE

Introibo ad altare Dei

Father John M. Demo was administering the sacrament of reconciliation before the noon Mass on the Feast of the Ascension. Put another, more familiar way, Father Mickey, my pastor, was hearing confession. Mass would not begin for another ten minutes so I started rummaging through the texts we have on a bookshelf in the sacristy.

Laying on one of the shelves was a little missal. You may remember the kind I am talking about. It was a little black book

with the Latin text on the left side of the page and the English translation on the right.

Finding this gem was like riding a time machine back to my youth. I proudly acknowledge I am 72 years of age. That places me in service to the Church back in the days of the Traditional Latin Mass, the Tridentine Mass. It was the only form permitted from 1570 to 1962. Those of us who wanted to serve at the High Altar needed to learn the moves and memorize the Latin responses to the prayers, spoken in Latin, by the priest.

For instance, as Mass started, we would process to the bottom steps of the altar and Father would say, "Introibo ad altare Dei" (I will go unto the altar of God) and the altar boys would respond, "Ad Deum qui lætificat juventutem meam" (To God,

who gives joy to my youth).

We altar boys, altar girls did not come along until the early 1980s, rarely knew what we were saying in Latin, but we sure had the lines memorized.

I guess I've been an altar boy in my heart ever since. It is a great honor to serve at the altar during Mass. It was then, and I hope it is for young people today.

During the information night in Watertown for men interested in the diaconate, I started the presentation by saying deacons are not mini-priests and are not "over-achieving altar boys."

Over 120 men have been ordained as permanent deacons in our diocese since Bishop Brzana introduced the Order of Deacon to Ogdensburg in

1972. My hope is we have debunked the notion that men who are called to be



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

deacons really want to be priests. The word "permanent" precedes "deacon" for a reason. Permanent deacons are ordained ministers of the Word, Liturgy and Service. They do not hide a secret ambition to be a priest.

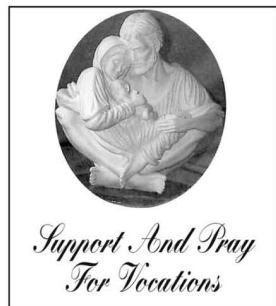
They have been called to serve as deacons.

Nor are they grown-up altar boys. The thought of serving God and church may have found fertile ground in the lad who served at the altar in his parish back in the day, but a lot has happened in that boy's life since. Usually, the candidate is looking to serve his Church in a greater way, wants to learn more about his faith, wants to grow spiritually

or any combination of these reasons. If the man is married, the candidate needs the complete support of his wife as he is joined to the church as a cleric. Once ordained, a candidate vows to remain celibate if single or if his spouse predeceases him. He will also assume a prayer life unlike any he might have experienced before.

A candidate for the diaconate does not want to be priest. Nor is he an altar boy any longer. However, the response at the foot of the altar still rings. *Ad Deum qui lætificat juventutem meam* seems appropriate at any age. Keep men considering a vocation to the diaconate in your prayers.

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





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
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mbrett@rcdony.org

New national director named

Monsignor Kieran E. Harrington of the Diocese of Brooklyn has been named the new national director of the Pontifical Mission Societies. The appointment was made by Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

Monsignor Harrington succeeds Father Andrew Small, OMI, who is completing his second five-year term.

Monsignor Harrington has served as vicar for communications for the Diocese of Brooklyn since being appointed to the role in 2006 by Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio. In this role, Monsignor Harrington has been responsible for overseeing the diocesan public information office, government affairs and public policy office, NET, the cable station of the Diocese of Brooklyn, and The Tablet newspaper of the Diocese of Brooklyn. Monsignor Harrington is the rector of the Co-Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Brooklyn and graduated with honors from St. John's University with a degree in philosophy. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception and a Master of Business Administration from New York University's Stern School of Business.

"I am humbled by the trust placed in me to serve the Church in this most important area of missionary evangelization," said Monsignor Harrington. "I look forward to working with the bishops and dioceses to support the pastoral work of the pontifical missions."

Father Small warmly welcomed the news of Monsignor Harrington's appointment, adding, "Having gotten to know Monsignor Kieran over the last ten years, I am delighted that someone of such ability and passion has been chosen as the next National Director of the Holy Father's mission societies."

The Pontifical Mission Societies are organizations that are under the direction of the Holy Father. Their purpose is the promotion of a universal missionary spirit among all baptized Catholics. There are four societies: the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Holy Childhood Association, the Society of St. Peter Apostle, and the Missionary Union of Priests and Religious. These four societies each received the title "pontifical" in 1922 to indicate their status as official instruments of the pope and of the universal Catholic Church. The national director heads the four societies in the United States and oversees the World Missions Sunday Collection, which is taken up on the third Sunday of October each year. For more information, please visit www.onefamilyinmission.org.

Press release courtesy of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

OBITUARIES

Altona – Lawrence G. Boulrice, 86; Mass of Christian Burial May 11, 2021 at Holy Angel's Church; burial in Holy Angel's Cemetery.

Au Sable Forks – Gary R. Woodside, 83; Mass of Christian Burial May 29, 2021 at Holy Name Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

Champlain – Amy L. (Willette) Patrie, 70; Mass of Christian Burial May 14, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Clayton – Miriam J. (Heath) Bowes, 81; Mass of Christian Burial May 18, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Croghan – Bonnie L. (Pate) Branagan, 67; Mass of Christian Burial May 12, 2021 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Croghan – Cheryl A. Godwin, 58; Funeral Services May 13, 2021 at the Scanlon Funeral Home.

Dannemora – Betty Newell, 71; Mass of Christian Burial May 12, 2021 at St. Joseph's Church.

Fort Covington – Leta Ruth (Brokaw) Zerella, 86; Mass of Christian Burial May 15, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Henderson – Janina (Popielarczyk) Osgood, 73; Mass of Christian Burial June 26, 2021 at Queen of Heaven Church; burial in St. Cecilia Cemetery.

Louisville – Marguerite (Carroll) Quinn, 96; Mass of Christian Burial May 15, 2021 at St. Lawrence Church.

Lowville – Crandall R. Simpson, 72; Funeral Services at Isenecker Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery, Croghan.

Lake Placid – Anton Ziegler, 85; Funeral Services May 10, 2021 at M.B. Clark Inc. Funeral Home.

Massena – Phyllis (Diagostino) O'Neill, 85; Mass of Christian Burial at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Shirley A. (Langlois) Parrott, 83; Mass of Christian Burial May 14, 2021 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Lucile Anna Legault Perkins, 88; Private services to be held.

Norfolk – Harvey W. Pearson, 92; Mass of Christian Burial May 11, 2021 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Bixby Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Patricia Livingston Bishop, 89; Funeral Services May 13, 2021 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Ogdensburg Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Thomas Wayne Gooshaw, 73; Funeral Services May 19, 2021 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Ogdensburg Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Lorraine (Martel) LaRose, 94; Mass of Christian Burial May 18, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Ogdensburg – Francis "Frankie" H. Milowski, 63; Funeral Services May 7, 2021 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Hillcrest Cemetery, Heuvelton.

Ogdensburg – Irene "Renee" M. (Taylor) Palmateer, 67; Funeral Services May 15, 2021 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Ogdensburg – Keith (Hilborne) Tupper, 84; Mass of Christian Burial May 10, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Old Forge – Theresa McNally Winslow, 92; Mass of Christian Burial May 14, 2021 at St. Bartholomew's Church; burial in Riverview Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Lawrence W. Carpenter, 87; Mass of Christian Burial May 20, 2021 at St. Peter's Church.

Ticonderoga – Marika Critsimilios Alfano, 92; Mass of Christian Burial May 14, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Valley View Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Maureen A. (Hull) Root, 91; Mass of Christian Burial May 14, 2021 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.



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HONORING THE BLESSED MOTHER



(Above) On May 2, children of all ages processed down the center aisle at St. Aphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Tupper Lake with flowers in hand to give to our Blessed Mother, Mary. This year, Father Douglas A. Decker brought in his "Monta" (cape), made in Arequipa, Peru. Father's twin brother, Father Robert L. Decker, brought this exquisite piece of cloth with stunning needlework back when he was stationed in Peru. (Right) Kaleigh Dukette Crowns the Blessed Mother at St. Aphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish.



Stewart's grant boosts Catholic Charities work

OGDENSBURG – Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg announced that it has recently received a grant from Stewart's Shop through the company's Holiday Match program in the amount of \$9,750.

Catholic Charities executive director Deacon Patrick Donahue said the funds will continue to support low-income families which have been impacted financially by the pandemic. In addition, Catholic Charities will

continue to provide clothing, food, personal care items, and school and household supplies to children and families in need. Catholic Charities serves the entire area of the north country and has regional offices in Plattsburgh, Malone, Ogdensburg and Watertown.

"This year has been one of the most challenging and most trying years we have ever had, I think,"

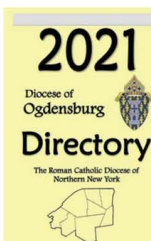
Deacon Donahue said. "We have always faced obstacles in meeting the needs of the poor but the losses of funding attributable to the Covid 19 pandemic have been difficult for all agencies like Catholic Charities. We always remain hopeful. And we are blessed to have "guardian angel" such as Stewart's Shop as a prime example of the good will of our commu-

nity supporting our mission to the poor and underprivileged."

These funds will be used to aid individuals and families in critical need in Jefferson, Lewis, Franklin and St. Lawrence counties.

For more information about the programs offered by Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, visit cathcharities.org.

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St. Andrew's parishioners honored

SACKETS HARBOR – Two parishioners of St. Andrew's Church in Sackets Harbor have been honored by the village.

In the village Mayor's Report dated May 12, Mayor Eric Constance

noted that Briggs McAndrews was named Citizen of the Year in Sackets Harbor, while Cecelia Perkins was named Volunteer of the Year.

Both McAndrews and

Perkins are parishioners at St. Andrews.

"They both contribute to our community in many ways," said Constance. "Thank you from the Village Board for their contributions."