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Follow Me: 'Live what we say we believe'

In his homily for the Fifth Sunday of Easter, Bishop Terry R. LaValley talks about playing a "waiting game" for the "good life."

"In terms of realizing our potential to become complete human persons, in terms of experiencing the "good life" that we all need and want, we all play a waiting game. We lean into tomorrow. We imagine that genuine life-enrichment depends on some future happening. We forget that the true source of the good life is fully present to us now. There are scores of middle-aged people all over this land who are convinced that the glory bus has passed them by because they have not made it big."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

RITE OF ACOLYTE



Deacon candidates from the Diocese of Ogdensburg were installed into the Rite of Acolyte by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on Friday, April 30. The candidates are pictured with Bishop LaValley and Deacon John Drollette, director of Deacon Formation. See the story and more photos on page 16.

SHARING OUR STORIES



Dan Charlebois of Watertown says he's always felt "like being at home" in the Catholic Church. Read how Charlebois, principal at Immaculate Heart Central, is living out his faith in this week's installment of Sharing Our Stories; Sharing Our Faith. To nominate someone to be featured in the series, call Darcy Fargo, editor, at 315-393-2920 or email dfargo@rcdony.org.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

Pope prays rosary to kick off month of prayer

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Under the gaze of a seventh-century icon of Mary, Pope Francis launched a monthlong, global recitation of the rosary, pleading for Mary's intercession for the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

And he prayed May 1 that Mary would move people's consciences "so that the enormous amounts spent to increase and perfect weapons are instead used to promote research to prevent similar catastrophes in the future."

The pope and about 160 young adults and families from Rome prayed in St. Peter's Basilica and were joined remotely by people at the National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham in England, the first of 30 Marian shrines around the world that will lead the rosary every day throughout May.

"At the beginning of the month dedicated to Our Lady, we join in prayer with all the shrines around the world, the faithful and all people of good will to

entrust to our holy mother all of humanity so harshly tried by this pandemic," the pope said, introducing the recitation of the glorious mysteries of the rosary.

The Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization coordinated the rosary marathon, the scheduling of the shrines and the assigning of a specific prayer intention for each day of the month traditionally devoted to Mary.

The pope said those intentions would include

people who have died or fallen ill with the virus, their loved ones and the medical personnel who cared for them, people who had lost their jobs and students who longed to return to school and to their friends. The prayers, he said, also would remember "the people, especially women, who endured violence within the home" during the pandemic lockdowns.

"Mother of Succor, welcome us under your mantle and protect us, sustain

us in times of trial and light in our hearts the lamp of hope for the future," the pope prayed, standing before the Marian icon.

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception was scheduled to lead the prayers "for all world leaders and for all heads of international organizations" May 17, and the Quebec Shrine of Notre Dame du Cap was to lead prayers for "for all law enforcement and military personnel and for all firefighters" May 23.

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I let its presence consume me

"They're more scared of you than you are of them." People often tell me that when they learn I'm afraid of rodents and spiders.

I know these fears are not rational, yet when I saw a tiny spider crawling in the handle of the door of my Jeep, I was instantly terrified. Fear is not always rational.

As I found a safe spot to pull off the road, I kept trying to remind myself that the spider was more afraid of me than I was of it.

"Well," I thought, "that little creepy crawly must be terrified because I'm scared!"

Once safely parked, I tried to scoop up the spider with a piece of paper with the intention of guiding it out the window. When I attempted

to get the spider onto the paper, the tiny object of my terror jumped (I didn't know they could do that)!

Darcy L.
Fargo

I squealed, flung the piece of paper and completely lost sight of where the spider landed.

I looked all over my Jeep. I couldn't find it. I even got out of the vehicle and looked where I was sitting and all over my coat, pants and shoes. There was no sign of it.

I got back in my vehicle and back on the road.

The entire drive, I was convinced the spider was attempting to crawl up my leg. I swatted at my pants every time I felt even the slightest itch. Of course, because I was thinking about the spi-

der, my legs itched every few minutes throughout the commute. I repeatedly convinced myself I saw something bug-sized moving on the passenger's seat, on the door, on the floor...

About halfway through my trip, the absurdity of the situation struck me as funny. This spider was truly tiny, smaller than the end of a pencil eraser, but I still let it take over my thoughts. I let its presence consume me, and I couldn't let myself forget that it might be near me.

It struck me that it's easy to spend the better part of an hour dwelling on my proximity to a spider, but I forget so easily and so often that God is with me in every moment. While I'm glad I don't have a terror response to our Lord, I wish I could focus on his presence as

easily as I could focus on the presence of a tiny bug.

I've been trying to do that. For the last six months (possibly longer), I've been making a conscious effort to spend a portion of my drive every day in silence and listening for what the Lord is saying to me. I'll admit it: Sometimes, I don't hear anything. But there are also times I hear, through fleeting ideas or feeling urged in a particular direction, God inspiring me or calling me to a particular task or to say something specific here in these pages or in my life.

I never did find the spider in my car, but I find God working in my life every day, and I hear him calling me.

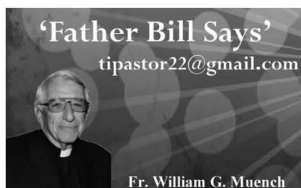
I just have to remember to listen and try not to be afraid.

Called to be shepherds like Jesus

Today, I would like to share with you about Jesus as our Good Shepherd. Recently, we all celebrated a Sunday during the Easter Season in honor of the Good Shepherd. I am certain that you remember this. You have heard much of this already. So, what do you remember?

As you remember Jesus thought of himself as the Good Shepherd. He pointed out in the Gospels that a Good Shepherd carefully protects the sheep he watches and cares for, even to the challenge of giving up his life for his sheep. These are the many qualities of a good shepherd that lead us to think of Jesus.

The story that Jesus refers to himself about the shepherds in those days is this. Each evening every shepherd in the area would bring their flock to a common pen where they had a gate keeper who watched over them over night, protecting them from thieves or dangerous ani-



Fr. William G. Muench

mals.

Each morning, the shepherds come to lead their sheep out to pasture. The story says the sheep recognized their own shepherd. They knew their shepherd's voice. They would not follow a stranger. Spiritually speaking, this an exact description of Jesus: a protector and guide for his disciples, and his followers recognize and follow his voice and his lead.

Jesus teaches us that he recognized this description as himself. He promised his disciples that he will lead and guide them. As a disciple of Jesus, I often recognize the hand of God touching my life. Jesus has always been a real shepherd for me. I truly believe that as my Good Shep-

herd, the Lord Jesus carefully guides me to good pasture and continues to lead me even today.

I must share with you one more thing. Each year it comes to me as I prepare for Good Shepherd Sunday. I remember that my life has been filled with many individuals who are truly my shepherds—my good shepherds. They guided me and supported me, especially during my early years. And I must admit, even today, a shepherd occasionally comes along to guide me and show me the way. I am still directed in unique ways, sometimes by a teacher or a speaker or a preacher, to enter into a study or an activity of some sort. Now, Jesus is always my Good Shepherd. Yet, my life has been filled by so many shepherds who have supported and guided me like a shepherd. My list is long. I would imagine that you have a long list also.

Let me share with you one example that I think of today.

There were many individuals who were shepherds for me during my youth. One that I do remember well is my grandfather. I remember so well how he often supported me. He would tell me often of my possibilities, telling me what a good person I was and could be, telling me that I was capable of doing great things. I know he told me things like this so often that I truly began to believe him. I lived a good life with his support. He made me a more confident person. He was truly my Good Shepherd.

So, today, I want to use this opportunity to encourage you to be that Good Shepherd that will guide and support someone you care for, someone who truly needs you. Your example is the Lord Jesus. He is truly a Good Shepherd. He changes lives constantly. You can be like him. Jesus gave himself for all of us. We also can give of ourselves for others, for those who need a shepherd.

FOLLOW ME

'Never be afraid to live what we say we believe'

The following is Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily for the Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 2, 2021.

Recently, I read about several people standing at a corner of New York City's Fifth Avenue, waiting for a bus. An elderly man spoke to the young fellow standing next to him. "Today is my 81st birthday and it seems as though the only thing I can remember all these years is the time I spent waiting." "Waiting?" the young man asked. "Yes, all my life I've been waiting for something or someone. I couldn't wait to go to school. I couldn't wait to be able to shave. I couldn't wait to get my driver's license. I couldn't wait to be 18. I couldn't wait to have my first date. I couldn't wait to be married. I couldn't wait to have my first child. I couldn't wait to have my first grandchild. I couldn't wait to retire."

In terms of realizing our potential to become complete human persons, in terms of experiencing the "good life" that we all need and want, we

all play a waiting game. We lean into tomorrow. We imagine that genuine life-enrichment depends on some future happening. We forget that the true source of the good life is fully present to us now. There are scores of middle-aged people all over this land who are convinced that the glory bus has passed them by because they have not made it big.

Our hope of glory isn't that we will be able to live trouble-free, not that we will have a beautiful second home, retiring when we hit 50, not that we will win the multi-million-dollar lottery. Our hope of glory is that we will be able to experience and embrace the living Christ within us now, today. My hope of glory is to let Christ's Spirit permeate my entire being: my mind, my emotions, my body, my soul. Our hope of glory is to let Christ shape our lives from within and develop each of us into the beautifully

fulfilled persons our loving God intends us to be. As we just heard in John's Gospel, "Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing."

My friends, our Catholic faith can not just touch the borders of our lives today. It must be who we are through and through wherever we find ourselves today. What we profess, what we celebrate within these sacred walls must find expression in our walks of life outside those doors or our faith is dead. The risen Christ must remain within us, deep within us, wherever we find ourselves. Today we must give witness to the fact that we are children of God.

Jesus' rising from the tomb lifts the clouds that threaten to darken our lives. His concern for us is complete. In His risen life, He now embraces us. We are His sisters and brothers, children of the

resurrection. He is the vine, we are the branches. We must remain in Him.

The Church exists precisely to make that happen – to preach the Good News, to heal those who are sick and to bring back those who are lost. Like the Lord Himself, we will often be dismissed, and the message ignored or rejected outright. We shouldn't be surprised at this. Instead, we are called to imitate the Lord, who loved people and who was prepared to lay down His life for them.

It is the witness of our lives today, more than anything, which speaks powerfully to people and tells them of the hope that is in us. Paul and the other apostles, filled with the same Spirit that has been given to you and me, were not afraid to bear witness by their lives and their words to their Good Shepherd, risen from the dead to dispel the darkness and gloom of this world. We are called to do the same. This is no time to wait. No need to lean into tomorrow, God remains with us today – yes, even

in the midst of a pandemic!

In our days, when in vast areas of the world, the faith is in danger of dying out like a flame which no longer has fuel, the overriding priority is to make God present and show women and men the way to God. In these United States, indeed, in our own North Country, so often it seems that our faith has run out of fuel. We don't speak or live the faith with the boldness of a St. Paul.

The consequences of such God-less living are clear and sobering: "Anyone who does not remain with me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned." These are not words concocted by an old-fashioned Church to make life miserable and fearful for people. We'll find them in today's Gospel.

My sisters and brothers may you and I never be afraid to live what we say we believe. May God praised...forever may God be praised!



**Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley**

May 29 ordination to be livestreamed

Through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, the Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg, will ordain to the Order of Priesthood Deacon Matthew Stanley Conger, Deacon John Kennedy Ojuok and Deacon Fernando Valdez Solomon, Jr.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic limiting the seating capacity in St. Mary's Cathedral, we invite you to join us via livestream at www.rcdony.org/ordination on Saturday, May 29, 2021 at 11 a.m.

The ordination Mass program will be available at the same link shortly before the ordination.



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Grey Nuns from diocese celebrate jubilees

Three Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart from the Diocese of Ogdensburg celebrate jubilee years this year, also the 100th anniversary of the community.

Sister Eileen Murray, originally from Ogdensburg, celebrates 80 years with the community; Sister Mary Teresa LaBrake, born in Winthrop, celebrates 70 years; and Sister Mary Lee Farrell, also originally from Ogdensburg, celebrates 60 years with the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart.

Sister Eileen Murray (Sister Paul Francis)

Educated by Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, Sister Eileen Murray entered the Grey Nun community after graduating from St. Mary's Academy.

Over her years in ministry, she was a teacher and principal at schools in Buffalo and Jackson Heights, New York, in Lowell, Massachusetts, and in Atlanta, Georgia.

According to a recent publication by the Grey Nuns celebrating the community's jubilarians, Sister Eileen's "lessons and classroom experiments in middle school science are still remembered by many of her former students. She made science exciting!"

Sister Eileen's ministry years (1945-1960) at St. Joseph's Orphanage in Ogdensburg are dear to her heart because they provided her with the experience of mothering children. One man remembers her "calmly and lovingly" tending to the boys in her care. He always sends flowers to her on Mother's Day.

From 1986 until her retirement in 2010, Sister Eileen engaged in a Ministry to the Elderly at St. Jude the Apostle Parish in Atlanta, bringing the Eucharist, friendship and en-



Sister Eileen Murray

couragement to the homebound and to nursing home residents.

At age 97 Sister Eileen is a beloved member of the Grey Nun community who remembers in prayer all of those whose paths have crossed hers.

"In my 80 years as a Grey Nun, I have taught at almost every grade level," Sister Eileen said. "At Holy Angels Academy, I taught young women the beauty of art, design, watercolor, oil and other mediums. These were blessed years. In my retirement at the Motherhouse, I was a willing chauffeur for many. Eventually, it was time to slow down. Now I spend time in prayer and reading. I muse often at how blessed we all are to be here and to have each other. Being a Grey Nun and sharing my everyday life for these 80 years is a blessing. I consider myself most fortunate!"

Sister Mary Teresa LaBrake

(Sister Maria Goretti)

Growing up with 13 siblings on a 165-acre farm, Sister Mary Teresa attended St. Mary's School in Ogdensburg, a school that was staffed by the Grey Nuns.

After becoming a Grey Nun and spending several years teaching in elemen-



Sister Mary Teresa LaBrake

tary school, she volunteered to replace the Principal at Immaculate Conception School in Eden, New York, on a temporary basis. This led to similar positions at St. Rose of Lima School in Buffalo, and Ogdensburg Catholic Central School. Sister Mary Teresa later became assistant superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, and she was often on the road visiting from one school to another.

When her father became ill, she lived with and cared for him, all the while continuing her ministry. She found great fulfillment in her position as pastoral associate in the Cathedral Parish in Ogdensburg. There, her interaction with parishioners brought her great joy.

Sister Mary Teresa also served for 10 years on the Board of Directors for Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center.

After moving to Holy Redeemer Lafayette in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, she continued to use her pastoral skills to reach out to residents there through visits and phone calls.

"In reflecting upon my 70 years as a Grey Nun of the Sacred Heart, I am ex-



Sister Mary Lee Farrell

tremely grateful for my parents, who allowed me to enter our Grey Nun Community at the age of 17 and to the Grey Nuns for providing me with the education needed for my career," said Sister Mary Teresa. "My prayer has always guided me in decision making, and I felt God's guidance in moving from a school setting to the position of pastoral associate in the Cathedral in Ogdensburg. My educational skills were needed also in the Catechumenate Program and in Adult Education Programs. It was while ministering in the parish that the Lord drew me into His care and concern for the sick in the hospital, nursing home, or homebound. I am especially grateful for my Grey Nun sisters, and for bishops, priests, deacons, family members, and the many lay people who have loved, guided and walked with me on my journey."

Sister Mary Lee Farrell (Sister John Michael)

An educator with a Ph.D. in Higher Education, Sister Mary Lee has taught in elementary, secondary and college classrooms as well as in an inner-city neighborhood art school, including two years (1967-1969) teaching

Latin, religion, English and math at St. Mary's Academy in Ogdensburg.

As director of Adult Learning at Villa Maria College in Erie, Pennsylvania, Sister Mary Lee implemented and directed an innovative program that enabled working adults to earn college degrees by attending classes on weekends.

In addition to her work as an educator and her service as a member of the Grey Nun leadership, Sister Mary Lee has been a musician, a singer and a grant writer along the many paths of her ministry life. As an instructor and grant writer at the Neighborhood Art House in Erie, she taught inner city children the skills of writing, music and drawing on computers and gave trumpet lessons to young musicians.

During her 22 years in Erie, Sister Mary Lee also served as research assistant to Sister Joan Chittister for the contemporary spirituality communications platform Benetvision.

Currently, Sister Mary Lee works in the Grey Nun Congregational Advancement Office and looks forward to a return to cantoring at area churches.

"In many ways, I find it hard to believe that 60 years have passed," Sister Mary Lee said. "Time and grace have unfolded my life in ways and places and people I would never have foreseen. I have never been bored, but often surprised. I have never been more sure that I was in charge than just before a major crisis. I welcome jubilee as a time to rejoice in all that has been and look forward with great enthusiasm to whatever surprises await in the next 60 years!"

'Letting Him work through us'

By Jonathan Monfletto
Contributing Writer

WATERTOWN – Dan Charlebois has always felt comfortable, “like being at home,” he said, in the Catholic Church and with his Catholic faith.

“It’s who I am,” he said of his faith. “It’s my foundation. It guides me. It gives me a lot of hope as well, so I find joy even when times are tough. This past year has been very, very, very challenging, but deep down inside there’s a joy and a hope knowing ultimately God’s got it.”

As the principal of Immaculate Heart Central School (IHC), the Watertown resident and Holy Family Church parishioner said the past year “has been the most challenging year,” not only because he is leading a school district through the COVID-19 pandemic but also because he is leading the school as its new principal while attending graduate school for his administrative degree at the same time.

“It’s been an extremely stressful year,” Charlebois said, noting a piece of advice he received from his professors in the University of Notre Dame Mary Ann Remick Leadership Program: “You’ve got to take care of yourself. If you don’t take care of yourself, how can you feed others? You have to feed yourself first... If you don’t spend time with God, if you don’t let him fill you up, you’re never going to be able to fill up other people. You’re going to wither.”

Charlebois likens this advice to Jesus Christ declaring that He is the true vine and we are the branches. We have to stay attached to Him, or we will wither.

He carries that advice, and the words of Jesus, in the back of his mind every morning when he goes into the school chapel to spend some quiet time reading Scripture, meditating on it and praying before the start of the school day.

“You’ve got to fill me so that I can then in turn fill others,” Charlebois said he prays. “Fill my bucket back up.”

And feeding the students and faculty of IHC is what Charlebois tries to do through his leadership as their principal. The focus this year, he said, has been his reading of Jean Pierre Medaille’s maxims during the morning meetings at the high school.

“Lots of vulnerability,” he said of how he reaches the students. “Students tend to respond to honesty. They can pick out somebody who’s genuine or not. I lead being very humble and vulnerable with the students.”

He has no problem telling stories about himself and sharing his faith journey with the students and faculty.

“I want to be as open and honest with the faculty too and students,” he said. “This is who I am. This is my story. Just being forthright and honest. That helps to break down a lot of walls that kids tend to put up.”

In Charlebois’ story, he grew up Catholic with both of his parents being Catholic and with church every weekend being the norm. When he was in college, though, his faith started to wane little by little; he found excuses all the time for not going to Mass. Still, God and his faith were always present to him.

“There was this restlessness that was there.



Dan Charlebois

There was always this call back,” Charlebois said. “The way I put it is, I questioned an awful lot, and every time I kept questioning things, God gave me an answer of some kind. There was always this leading forth.”

Right after college, Charlebois began his career working in Catholic schools, first at Bishop Grimes High School in Syracuse and later at IHC. He said he has always found a home within the Catholic Church, and his career has always given him a sense of being home.

Charlebois said he finds God through the intellectual.

“It’s that honest questioning of things,” he said. “It’s not like absorbing things blindly. I questioned God a lot when I was in college, but the key thing is, it was an honest questioning I went through.”

As an adult and leading a school, Charlebois said he has a solid foundation, having gone through some challenges and knowing what God has called him to do.

“It’s challenging. I know



the things the kids are going through are different than when I went to school with technology and things like that and the pressures that they have to go through that I never did,” he said. “There’s a zeal within me. This is what God is calling me to do. Even though sometimes I may not have the answers, it’s OK.”

When it comes to feeding himself so he can feed others, Charlebois said he likes reading Catholic authors – from the contemporary, such as Bishop Robert Barron, to the classical, such as St. Augustine, whom he considers his favorite saint.

Most of all, he said he loves reading Scripture and finding God through Scripture, not only finding God through the written word but hearing God speak to him through His word.

“There’s sometimes where I’ll need a certain thing, so as I’m going through the reading of the day or something like that, it’s like boom, it’s exactly what I needed,” he said.

From his own faith journey and his own experi-

ence, Charlebois offers another piece of advice from the words of Jesus to other people so they can feed themselves and feed the people around them: “Be not afraid.”

“The more people are vulnerable and honest, that I found breaks down a lot of pieces,” he said. “Really, what our Catholic faith is calling us to do is to be in relationship with one another. I tell the teachers and I tell the students, Jesus always had this calling and He met people where they were at. If they weren’t quite ready yet, it was OK. Just keep calling, keep calling... Be honest, be open, be vulnerable, and let God do the work. It’s not on us. It really isn’t. It’s just letting Him work through us.”



*Support And Pray
For Vocations*

Environmental Stewardship

How is racism connected to the environment?

Recently someone engaged in a project to care for creation invited a local minister to participate in the activities. Having just come from working with the disadvantaged in Chicago, her response was, "Oh no, that is your concern. My concern is working with the poor." Shortly after this conversation, the Flint Michigan incident was captured in the media. The minister then came back to the person and said, "Now I get it. They are not separate issues after all, but they are all connected."

This illustrates the message of *Laudato Si'* that urges us to listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor not as separate issues but as an interconnected one. If we pollute and neglect the earth and fray the relationships that keep it fertile and sustaining, we trigger droughts and starvation. If we neglect and exploit the poor, we trigger illnesses that plague our cities and destroy our economies.

What then does the term "environmental racism" mean? The pattern of racism links pollution and poverty. Caught in a spiral of poverty and environmental degradation, the poor and the powerless bear the burden and suffer disproportionately from the effects of pollution. Some facts that show this connection provided by the Sisters of the Americas:

- Three out of five African Americans and Latino Americans live in communities with abandoned toxic waste sites.
 - Forty-six percent of housing units for the poor, mostly people of color, are within a mile of factories that reported toxic emissions to the Environmental Protection Agency.
 - African American children are five times more likely to be victims of lead poisoning than Caucasian children.
 - Asthma and air pollution are linked. African American populations are concentrated in cities that failed the EPA's ambient air quality standards. African Americans and Latinos are almost three times more likely than Caucasians to die from asthma.
- Being aware of this reality can make us more alert to proposals involving disposal sites for trash and toxic waste. If needed, make our voices heard.

Help save the Hyde Amendment

By Kathleen M. Gallagher
Director of Pro-Life Activities
New York State Catholic Conference

For 45 years the Hyde Amendment has prevented Americans' federal tax dollars from funding most abortions. Named for a former Illinois Congressman, it's a rider attached to various appropriations bills and renewed annually. It has always enjoyed strong bi-partisan support, including from many Democrats, even Senator Joe

Biden... before he ran for President, that is.

Now President Biden has joined with some Congress members in denouncing the policy as discriminatory and calling for it to be scrapped. Some, like Representative Barbara Lee of California, have called the Amendment "anti-choice and blatantly racist."

How can a policy that has been in place for decades and enjoyed overwhelming Congressional

support suddenly become biased and harmful?

The simple answer: it's not.

Look, abortion is legal; it's been held to be a constitutionally protected right. Those of us who believe in the sacredness of human life consider that a tragedy, however we know it's the law of the land.

But since when is Congress required to subsidize the laws of the land? Americans may have the constitutional right to bear arms, but that doesn't mean taxpayers are required to cover the cost of their gun purchases.

In 1980 the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Hyde Amendment and ruled that a woman's right to abortion does not carry with it "a constitutional entitlement to the financial resources to avail herself of the full range of protected choices" (Harris vs McRae). In fact, the Court said that government, including state governments, may legitimately "make a value judgment favoring childbirth over abortion, and may implement that judgment by the allocation of taxpayer funds."

Indeed. The vast majority of states follow the federal government's lead on this issue and prohibit state taxpayer dollars from funding abortions through Medicaid. (Not New York, of course. New Yorkers are forced to fund abortions with our state and local tax dollars; repeal of the Hyde Amendment would add in our federal tax dollars as well.)

Those who want to rescind the Hyde Amendment suggest it is discriminatory because "health care" is a human

right that should not depend on one's income or zip code. Notice how they

seek to mainstream abortion as just another run-of-the-mill health service.

But that's just not so. In that same Harris v. McRae Court decision, the Court said this: "Abortion is inherently different from other medical procedures, because no

other procedure involves the purposeful termination of a potential life." Duh. Abortion isn't the same as getting your gallbladder removed or your cataracts fixed. It's a profound life-altering event that always ends a developing human life and affects many other lives physically, psychologically and spiritually.

It should be self-evident that when our government subsidizes certain conduct, it encourages the behavior. Government should not be encouraging abortion using our tax dollars to do so.

The Hyde Amendment does not discriminate against the poor or persons of color. And using public monies to destroy the lives of innocent unborn children does not magically liberate their mothers or provide them the education, jobs, and child care they need to help lift them out of poverty. Again, duh. Low-income pregnant moms need support, resources, material assistance and accompaniment to enable them to bear their children and raise their families with dignity.

Go to www.notaxpayer-abortion.com to sign the petition and learn more about how you can help save the Hyde Amendment.



Kathleen Gallagher

Bishop's Public Schedule

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

May 6 – 10:30 a.m. – Priests Personnel Board Meeting at Bishop's Residence

May 7 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

7 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Andre Bessette Roman Catholic Parish (at Notre Dame Church) in Malone

May 8 – 10 a.m. – Confirmation at St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga with Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Schroon Lake

May 9 – 9:30 a.m. – Mass and Election of the Major Superior at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown

May 10 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

May 11 – 7 p.m. – Confirmation at The Catholic Community of Alexandria (at St. Cyril Church) in Alexandria Bay with St. Mary's Church in Clayton and St. John the Evangelist Church in LaFargeville

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.

Rest in Peace

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

May 6 – Rev. P.A. Lynch, O.S.A., 1927

May 7 – Deacon Thomas R. Finnegan, 1996; Rev. John Cosmic, 2017

May 8 – Msgr. Harold J. Martin, 1958

May 9 – Rev. William J. McCormick, O.S.A., 1935; Msgr. Clarence M. Devan, 2001

May 10 – Deacon Edward L. Mazuchowski, 2019

May 11 – Deacon Richard D. Hart, 2007

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-
annyanulavich@yahoo.com](mailto:terri-
annyanulavich@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 Serv-
ice** at 800-276-1562 or
www.ReportBishopAbuse.org.

Why climate action matters to young people

By James Buttner and Dominic Wilkins

Editor's note: Pope Francis issued his encyclical letter "Laudato Si' ("Praise Be"): On Care for our Common Home" in May 2015. The Diocese of Ogdensburg's Laudato Si' Committee is working the Diocese of Syracuse's Laudato Si' Task Force to encouraging prayer, liturgy, dialogue, and actions promoting the beauty and value of God's creation.

The following guest commentary comes from two individuals tapped by the Syracuse Task Force to address the encyclical and climate change from young people's perspectives. This column first appeared in The Catholic Sun.

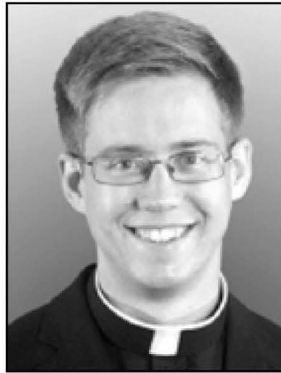
James Buttner is a seminarian for the Diocese of Syracuse and currently on Pastoral Year at Holy Cross in DeWitt. Prior to seminary, he received a bachelor's degree in physics from Colgate University.

Dominic Wilkins is a doctoral student at Syracuse University, where he studies the socio-political dimensions of nature-society relationships, specializing in Catholic engagements with climatic and environmental issues.

We were invited by members of the Diocese of Syracuse's Laudato Si' Task Force to discuss youth perspectives on Pope Francis's encyclical and climate change more broadly. Given that we



Dominic Wilkins



James Buttner

have each spent a lot of time over these past few months thinking about these topics, we readily accepted this invitation.

Despite our initial interest in this topic, however, we found it difficult to know where to start. Climate change and "Laudato Si'" are both broad, complex topics.

As we began reflecting on conversations about climate change we've had with friends and family around our age, we recognized a common theme: the more people learned about the magnitude of the climate crisis and the scope of changes needed to address it, the more anxiety inducing it became.

Climate change is, put bluntly, terrifying. This is something both of us have felt personally, and it's an emotion increasingly common among our peers.

This attitude is largely due to the fact that climate change is something we as a generation cannot avoid. Its overwhelming, brutal effects

are already being experienced around the world – indeed, within many oppressed communities these effects have been present for quite some time – and will affect the rest of our lives. When younger folks learn that, by 2050, temperature rise is expected to lead to water shortages and drought, make it far harder to grow food, and contribute to widespread death via heatstroke, this impacts us differently than those in other generations. What's perhaps most distressing, however, is that the situation will get far worse.

Younger people are constantly asked to think about the trajectories our futures may take. This allows and requires us to think in timescales far longer than the next fiscal year or quarter as we try to figure out what career or vocation we are called to and how we want to live our lives. For us and our peers, 2050 is not some distant date but the middle of our lives – James will be 57 while

LET US DREAM

The Diocese of Ogdensburg and Diocese of Syracuse Laudato Si' organizations will host "Let Us Dream," a series of 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: More information about speakers and topics will be announced closer to the event.

Get involved: To get involved in the Diocese of Ogdensburg Laudato Si' Committee, contact Marika Donders, director of New Evangelism, at 315-393-2920 or mndonders@rcdony.org.

Dominic will turn 55. It is not some far-off future generation that is likely to suffer from climate change but the young people alive today. It bears repeating, of course, that such catastrophes have already harmed far too many around the world.

Yet while climate change is quite fearsome, it is crucial that we are neither immobilized nor set climate change aside as a problem for another day. If, as we each believe, human actions will dramatically change the world to come for good or ill, we all must act with the aim of making change. This does not mean we must always be perfect or wait until we know everything – neither, frankly, is possible – but that we do what we can while striving to do better. As Pope Francis writes in "Laudato Si'," we must "draw constantly from [our] deepest convictions about love, jus-

and peace" as "we set out on the long path of renewal." The time to act on climate change is now.

We want to conclude, therefore, by suggesting a few ways that you can start responding to Pope Francis's call. First: Talk to someone about this article. What caught your attention or surprised you? Did anything make you uncomfortable? Where do you personally get hung up when it comes to acknowledging, understanding, or addressing climate change? Second: Check out our diocesan task force, especially in light of the questions above. Consider that the Task Force is made up of people such as yourself who continue wrestling with these same questions. Finally, as Pope Francis urges, get involved. While we don't know what precisely the future will hold, we know that we can make a better, more just world if we all act together.

Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

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

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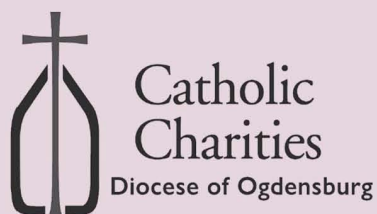


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Catholic Charities Mother's Day Appeal



2 0 2 1

Mother's Day Annual Appeal

Please help us reach our GOAL: \$ 165,000



This year's special collection will aid families, victims,
and anyone affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.



For more information: Call (315) 393-2255
or
visit our website: www.cathcharities.org

Dear Friends in Christ:

As faithful disciples of Christ and as a Church in action, we work together to respond to those in need and offer guidance through quality services designed to respect the dignity of each person.

Inspired by the Gospel, the many programs and services that are offered by Catholic Charities throughout our diocese, focus on building a just and compassionate society that embraces the gifts given to us by Christ.

Especially today, when the North Country is facing the almost unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the response of our diocese and by Catholic Charities to the poor and underprivileged has become critically important. With unemployment and daily poverty reaching more deeply into our North Country communities, our charitable response needs to be greater than ever.

As always, Catholic Charities depends on your financial support to continue reaching out to those who need our help. As your Bishop and chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities, I ask you to please consider making a generous gift to this wonderful organization that extends Jesus' love and concern, particularly for those in need.

The *Mother's Day Annual Appeal* for Catholic Charities will take place in all of our parishes on the weekend of May 9, 2021. Let us continue to **Give Help** and **Create Hope** for the many families of the North Country that we serve as we continue the work of Christ on earth.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg



Catholic Charities Mother's Day Appeal

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

As we prepare to celebrate spring in the north country, we are grateful for the help Catholic Charities has received from our generous donors during the past year. The pandemic has been a challenge for us primarily because individuals and families who had never experienced hunger and poverty firsthand, were suddenly in need of food, clothing, and shelter assistance. Our agency's response to the needs of the most vulnerable members of our communities was made possible by your willingness to support our programs and services through the Mother's Day and Christmas appeals.

As we prepare to celebrate Mother's Day 2021, we are asking for your help once again. As we begin our recovery from this Covid 19 health crisis, the demand for our services remains quite high. We need our volunteers, our supporters, and our benefactors to journey with us on this continuing mission of charity and justice. It is your financial gift to Catholic Charities that provides the resources that allow Catholic Charities to respond.

Catholic Charities continues to serve the neediest and most underserved in our eight counties across northern New York. Through our food pantries, soup kitchens, migrant outreach, parenting education and financial assistance to individuals and families, we help those with the greatest of needs.

But soon, thousands of north country residents will face financial crisis and difficulty paying utility bills because the protections provided by moratoriums will expire. I am hopeful that because of your financial gift, Catholic Charities can be there for them. We see the hungry, the homeless, the addicted, the sick, the lonely, and all those who are suffering.

**Through providing these persons help...
we create hope.**

Your financial gift will provide essential programs and services to people throughout all eight counties that we serve.

On behalf of those who are hungry and homeless, people who are alone and isolated, and families that struggle with poverty... **Thank You!**

With gratitude,



Dcn. Patrick J. Donahue LMSW D. Min
Diocesan Director



CATHOLIC CHARITIES MOTHER'S DAY ANNUAL APPEAL 2021 GOAL: \$165,000

CREATING HOPE

Catholic Charities will be there for your family members, neighbors

&

our community during and after this pandemic. We are working tirelessly to provide any and all support to our communities and we cannot do it without YOUR help.

YOUR GIFT PROVIDES:

\$75 = Groceries for furloughed/low-income family

\$150 = Helping needy family during COVID-19

\$500 = Housing assistance for homeless individuals and veteran

\$1,000+ = Support our overall mission and 2021 GOALS

EVERY DOLLAR MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

I support the mission of Catholic Charities with my gift of \$ _____ Check #: _____

Donation: (Check one) Monthly _____ Quarterly _____ One time payment: _____

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

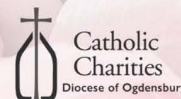
Street /P.O. Box, City, State, Zip Code

My Parish: _____

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Hyde Amendment has an uncertain future

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The Hyde Amendment, born in 1976, has had a fairly long congressional history, but it could be marked for extinction.

The amendment, which bans federal Medicaid funding of abortions, must be renewed each year. Hyde's reach has extended to bans on federal funds for abortion in federal worker health plans, women in federal prisons, women in the military, Peace Corps volunteers and international family planning programs that use non-U.S. funds to perform or advocate for abortion.

The Hyde Amendment has itself been amended over the years. While it originally barred federal funds for paying for any abortions, it later allowed for abortions when the mother's life is endangered and was modified again to include cases of rape and incest.

It has been a part of every Cabinet-level annual appropriations package that covers health care – originally the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and later by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Yet even though the Hyde Amendment has been included in appropriations bills when Democrats controlled both the White House and both chambers of Congress – taking in the presidencies of Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama – there is the gnawing sense that it won't have that easy a time under President Joe Biden, despite the narrow margins by which Democrats control the House and Senate.

The Democratic National Committee's 2016 platform called for the rescinding of the Hyde Amendment. The Republican-led House, in response, passed a bill in 2017 that would have made the Hyde Amend-

ment permanent. But the GOP-led Senate never took a vote on the bill.

Biden, when he was still an aspirant for the Democratic nomination in 2020, reiterated his support for the Hyde Amendment, but quickly reversed course after an outcry from his fellow Democrats. Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., co-chair of the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus, derided Biden's about-face. "He's the abortion president," Smith told Catholic News Service in an April 28 phone interview.

Smith said he was there at the beginning as executive director of New Jersey Right to Life, "lobbying my own congressman" as Henry Hyde, an Illinois Republican, introduced the amendment. He said Hyde found a century-old precedent that convinced the House parliamentarian to rule Hyde's amendment in order. "But that's not going to happen again," said Smith, who has served in the House since 1981.

Pro-life Democrats are an endangered species. The Congressional Pro-Life Caucus, a historically bipartisan group, no longer has a Democrat as co-chair since the primary defeat in Illinois last year of Dan Lipinski. The caucus' website lists only three Democrats among their membership – and, when contacted by CNS for interviews, two of the spokesmen said these representatives were no longer caucus members.

It is possible to thread a political needle – to declare support for legal abortion but to oppose federal funding for it. That's the hope of Democrats for Life of America. Its executive director, Kristen Day, said the group plans to run newspaper ads in the districts of some of the six Democrats still in the House who voted for the Hyde Amendment in 2009. That year, it was attached to the Affordable Care Act and intro-

duced by then-Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Mich.

Stupak was vilified by Democrats for sponsoring a Hyde Amendment-like proviso, and by the GOP for his support of the ACA, which became law in 2010. Stupak chose not to seek reelection, saying that with the ACA's passage, he had accomplished what he had set out to do when he first came to Congress; that seat has been in Republican hands ever since.

One indication of Hyde's wavering support came in February, when the Senate rounded up 53 votes in favor of including it in the American Rescue Plan. However, because of the process used to move the bill through Congress, the amendment needed 60 votes to be part of the bill. Three Democrats could be found to back Hyde in the 50-50 Senate, but not 10.

The U.S. bishops signaled their distaste after the American Rescue Plan's signing. Without mentioning Hyde by name, Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, along with six bishops who chair committees of the bishops' conference, said it was "unconscionable that Congress has passed the bill without critical protections needed to ensure that billions of taxpayer dollars are used for life-affirming health care and not for abortion."

Why did the bishops get so exercised? "The American Rescue Plan allocated funds that don't go through the appropriations bills, so they wouldn't be subject to Hyde" or the Helms Amendment, its international-policy counterpart, said Greg Schleppebach, associate director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

"Any bill that appropriates money separate from the normal appropriations process, we advocate for

health care services and funding. We advocated that Hyde has to be a part of that. Otherwise, it doesn't otherwise control those funds," Schleppebach said.

"The sad reality of the fact that abortion advocates characterize it as health care, and so anything, any legislation that would appropriate money to health care that doesn't go through the health care process, the money can be used for abortion," Schleppebach said. "The courts have ruled on this. This is why we're always tracking any legislation that has anything to do with health care."

Democrats for Life say the lives of 2 million babies have been saved as a result of the Hyde Amendment. Smith put the figure at 2.4 million. "Sixty thousand a year are alive today because the money was not there to effectuate their demise," he said.

While there may be a cost saving in terms of federal tax dollars not being spent on abortions, some 40% of women who get abortions live in low-income households. If they were to bring their babies to term, those new mothers could be eligible for other federal benefits, among them Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Women, Infants and Children feeding program.

How can Hyde survive?

Schleppebach's predecessor at the secretariat, Richard Doerflinger, detailed the process by which the HHS appropriations bill gets written: The House committee that oversees HHS has a dozen subcommittees. Each subcommittee has a portion of the HHS budget to authorize. Once authorized, it goes to the full committee. If OK'd by the committee, it then goes to the House floor for

approval first before being sent to the Senate.

If Hyde isn't in the House-passed version, someone in the Senate would likely move to include the amendment to include it. Doerflinger said he was heartened by the fact that three Democrats had voted to add Hyde language to the American Rescue Plan. "That bodes well when you're back in regular (legislative) process," he said.

One scenario would see continuing resolutions passed until a new bill is authorized, according to Doerflinger; the current HHS funding bill contains Hyde language. A related scenario could have a Senate unwilling to pass an HHS funding bill without the Hyde Amendment, he said, "and you shut down the government for a while, or part of it. Then you have a game of chicken – who flinches first."

Smith anticipates a Senate filibuster. "The filibuster in the Senate side will be critical to maintaining Hyde," he told CNS, adding he took part in one such filibuster in 1984. "We'll do the most robust debate imaginable," he vowed.

The effects of an appropriations bill without Hyde, Doerflinger said, would include requiring states to use federal funds for abortion services just as they would for any other kind of health care.

A handful of states pay for abortions via legislation, and more than a dozen others do so by court order. There are also some states that have constitutional language forbidding the use of tax dollars to pay for abortion, but Doerflinger said but they would be overridden by the U.S. Constitution's supremacy clause.

So, even after 45 years, Doerflinger said, "it's not the end of the debate, it's the beginning."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope hopes Venezuelan's beatification will spur reconciliation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Amid the suffering due to a devastating economic crisis and a global pandemic, the beatification of José Gregorio Hernández, affectionately known as the "doctor of the poor," is a testament of the faith and hope of the people of Venezuela, Pope Francis said. In a video message released by the Vatican April 29, the pope said Hernández's beatification "is a special blessing of God for Venezuela" and an example for Venezuelans to follow as they work toward reviving the country "with a spirit of reconciliation. This is a grace that should be asked for: the spirit of reconciliation," he said. "Because there are always problems in families, in cities, in society, there are people who look at each other with asperity, who see each other badly, reconciliation is always needed." Due to the pandemic, a pared-down beatification Mass was to take place April 30 at the Central University of Venezuela in Caracas. Hernández studied medicine in Venezuela and at the famed Pasteur Institute in Paris. While in Europe, he attempted on two occasions to join a monastery, but weak health prevented him from becoming a monk. Upon his return to Venezuela, he practiced medicine and would often visit sick patients without asking for payment for his services. His generosity led to locals calling him "the doctor of the poor."

Biden order raising federal contractor minimum wage welcomed

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Catholic labor advocate welcomed President Joe Biden's executive order to raise the minimum wage paid by federal contractors to \$15 an hour. Clayton Sinyai, executive director of the Catholic Labor Network, said the higher hourly rate would benefit workers employed by government contractors who are struggling to support their families at the current minimum wage of \$10.95 an hour. "Fifteen dollars an hour is \$30,000 a year. That's hardly a princely sum. But it's a lot closer to a living wage," Sinyai told Catholic News Service. "The government is ordered to serve the common good and not to make profits and that includes being a model employer and asking that those who are benefiting from taxpayer contracts pay a just wage to their employees," he said. Signed April 27, the higher wage is expected to take effect next year for hundreds of thousands of workers, the White House said. Sinyai expressed hope that the new wage would spur more state and local governments and private companies to follow suit and raise the hourly pay of their employees. "None of us are entitled to goods and services at a price that requires the workers involved to live in poverty," Sinyai said.

Deaf Catholics laud Vatican's sign language service on YouTube

HOUSTON (CNS) — When the Easter livestream of Pope Francis' general audience and the Angelus was broadcast for the first time in American Sign Language on the Vatican's YouTube channel, the deaf Catholic ministry group in Texas took particular notice. Redemptorist Father Len Broniak, chaplain and program director of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston's deaf ministry called it a "great step forward for open access to the pope's messages. I'm glad awareness is growing. The deaf community has been overlooked for such a long time. I hope this heightens awareness of the bishops throughout the world," the priest added. The Vatican's new "No One Excluded" project offers interpreters in Italian and American Sign Language. Along with the YouTube channel dedicated to accessibility for people with communication challenges, an app will be made available in the next few months for people with sensory disabilities, Vatican News reported. The effort is being piloted for one year, and there are hopes of expanding it to include other sign languages.

In new measure, pope places cap on personal gifts

Catholic News Service

Pope Francis approved a new set of laws that require Vatican officials and employees to sign a declaration stating they have not been and are not suspected of committing crimes, including money laundering, corruption or exploitation of minors.

The measures, issued "motu proprio," on the pope's own accord, and published April 29, also prohibit all Vatican employees from "accepting or soliciting, for themselves or for parties other than the entity for which they work, by reason of or on the occasion of their office, gifts, presents or other benefits with a value greater than 40 euros," the equivalent of about \$48.

The pope said that while laws he promulgated in June 2020 covered contracts for the purchase of goods, property and services for both the Roman

Curia and Vatican City State offices, corruption can still "be manifested in different manners and forms even in various sectors other than that of procurement."

For this reason, the pope wrote, "internationally accepted regulations and best practices require transparency from those holding key roles in the public sector for the purpose of preventing and combatting conflicts of interest, patronage practices and corruption in general."

The new laws also will ensure that Vatican officials and employees will uphold their "responsibility of making concrete the fidelity spoken of in the Gospel, acting according to the principle of transparency and in the absence of any conflict of interest," the pope wrote.

The heads of Vatican dicasteries, as well as officials who carry out

"administrative, judicial or supervisory functions," must sign a declaration when hired and again every two years attesting that they have not been convicted of a crime in Vatican City State or any other country. They must also declare to have not been pardoned or received amnesty for a crime nor to have avoided being charged with a crime due to the statute of limitations.

Among the crimes specified in the new norms are fraud, corruption, tax evasion, money laundering, organized crimes, as well as the exploitation of minors and human trafficking.

Those who sign the document also must declare they do not hold investments in companies located in countries at high risk for money laundering and attest that all the goods they own were obtained legally.

Pope updates laws so bishops, cardinals can face trial

Catholic News Service

Updating the laws that govern the Vatican's civil judicial system, Pope Francis stated that cardinals and bishops accused of a crime can now be tried in a Vatican court.

The pope said the new measure, issued "motu proprio," on his own accord, reflects the "fundamental equality of all" by ensuring that the Vatican judicial system conforms to the principle that "among all the faithful there is true equality in dignity and in action."

The pope also stressed the need for changes to

the current judicial system "to ensure the equality of all members of the church and their equal dignity and position, without privileges that date back to earlier times and are no longer in keeping with the responsibilities that each person has in building up the church."

"This requires solidity of faith and consistency of behavior and actions," he wrote in the document published April 30.

Still, the new law says, the pope must give his "prior consent" before a cardinal or bishop is tried by city-state's court. The

court handles crimes against Vatican civil law, not the Catholic Church's Code of Canon Law.

Showing his intent that cardinals and bishops will be tried like anyone else who violates the civil code, Pope Francis also abolished Article 24 of the current law, which stated that only the Court of Cassation -- the Vatican's appellate court consisting of three cardinals and several associate judges -- "is competent to judge" cases against cardinals and bishops.

The new measures, Pope Francis wrote, go into effect immediately.

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.

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 this year.

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.

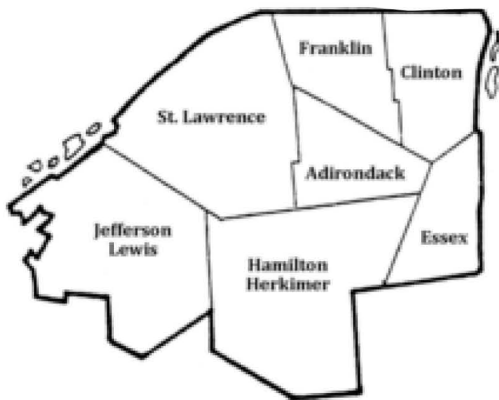
Contact: For further information contact Deacon John Drollette at 518-726-0019 or jdrollette@rcdony.org

DAY OF REFLECTION

Virtual presentation about putting forgiveness into practice.

Date: June 19

Time: 9:45 a.m. to Noon



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

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

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

Place: Zoom

Features: 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 opportunities for sharing. The speaker will be Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ.

Contact: There is no cost. To register go to www.rcdony.org/reflection

'The Way Back,' Dolly Parton special win awards

NEW YORK (CNS)—The feature film "The Way Back," a documentary on Father Patrick Peyton, and a Christmas special featuring Dolly Parton were among this year's Christopher Award winners.

ABC News also claimed two awards among the 22 overall winners announced in New York by the Christophers, whose motto is "It's better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."

"The Way Back," which starred Ben Affleck, one of four feature film winners, told the story of a former basketball star mired in alcoholism who returns to the Catholic high school where he first found fame to coach the team.

"Pray: The Story of Patrick Peyton" tells the tale of the Holy Cross priest who founded Family Theater and coined the phrase: "The family that prays together stays together."

"Clouds" dramatizes the final six months of 17-year-old Zach Sobiech's life as his faith inspires him to pursue his musical dreams despite his cancer, living all his days to their fullest with the people he loves most.

"Sky Blossom: Diaries of the Next Greatest Generation" shows young people ages 11-26 who juggle school and work while lovingly caring for family members enduring medical problems or injuries sustained in war.

Of the six TV-cable-streaming awards, ABC's pair were for "World News Tonight With David Muir" and "Nightline," both of which featured stories on the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp.

PBS also earned two awards. One was for "Extraordinary: The Bill Atkinson Story," which chronicled one man's efforts to become the first quadriplegic Catholic priest. The other was for "Broken Places," which examines why some children are damaged by sexual abuse, parental rejection or poverty, while others are able to thrive and move beyond the trauma.

Parton starred, wrote the music, and served as an executive producer for "Christmas on the Square," a modern-day retelling of "A Christmas Carol."

The History Channel's "Black Patriots: Heroes of the American Revolution," hosted by basketball legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, explored the little-known role Blacks played in fighting for U.S. independence.

The awards also chooses a number of book winners, both for children of various ages and for adults.

The winners in the books for adults category were: "After the Last Border" by Jessica Goudeau, "A Knock at Midnight" by Brittany K. Barnett, "Nothing General About It" by "General Hospital" star Maurice Benard with Susan Black; "Voyage of Mercy" by Stephen Puleo; "Wheels of Courage" by David Davis, and "Grace from the Rubble" by Jeanne Bishop, which chronicled the unlikely friendship that developed between Bud Welch, who lost his daughter, Julie, in the 1995 bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City, and Bill McVeigh, whose son, Timothy, carried out the bombing.

MOVIE REVIEW CAPSULES

NEW YORK (CNS)—The following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by Catholic News Service. **"Demon Slayer the Movie: Mugen Train"**

Created and marketed, largely if not exclusively, for the fan base of the Japanese comic book and television franchise from which it's derived, this animated fantasy offers others neither timetable nor road map. As the steam-powered vehicle of the title thunders through the night in early 20th-century Japan, screenwriter Koyoharu Gotoge and director Haruo Sotozaki fill in the backstory of a

flame-haired fiend killer (voice of Mark Whitten) while also following the efforts of the boy with whom he eventually allies himself (voice of Zach Aguilar) to figure out why passengers aboard the train keep disappearing. Mature themes, frequent knife violence with blood effects. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is R – restricted. **"Mortal Kombat"**

By turns brutal, ponderous and silly, director Simon McQuoid's feature debut is a reboot adaptation of a series of video games previously brought to the big screen via a couple of movies dating from the mid-1990s. It charts the exploits of a mixed martial arts fighter (Lewis Tan) whose languishing career is suddenly put on hold when he gets mixed up in a prolonged smack-

down pitting the underdog forces of planet Earth (led by Tadanobu Asano) against those of a realm called Outworld (headed by Chin Han). The bloody mayhem that results includes the demise of characters, some human, others monstrous, by incineration, dismemberment and reduction to pulp. The fact that the protagonist is primarily motivated by the desire to protect his family (Laura Brent and Matilda Kimber) is a feeble offset to such savagery or to a convoluted myths involving various "gods." Nonscriptural religious ideas, excessive gory violence, gruesome sights, a couple of mild oaths, pervasive rough and some crude and crass language. The Catholic News Service classification is O – morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association rating is R – restricted.



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

'Remain in His love'

The Holy Spirit blows where He will, and in the early church, He acted powerfully and swiftly in a way that was far ahead of the decisions of the Apostles. At Pentecost, the earth shook as flames of fire came upon their heads. They were transformed.

In the first reading today from Acts, the Spirit filled the household of Cornelius with faith and other charisms. Skipping all Jewish laws,

Peter baptized them on the spot. The door was opened for all Gentiles to become Christians. The Church grew by leaps and bounds.

In the second reading from John's first epistle, we are given the dynamic teaching that we are invited and commanded to love God, for God first loved us, not the other way around. In love He sent his Son Jesus to redeem and save us. In His love,



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

May 9

Sixth Sunday of Easter

READINGS

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

1st John 4:7-10

John 15:9-17

and in our obedient response, we have life – eternal life.

Today's Gospel of John is the capstone of Jesus' teaching to His Apostles. As He is about to enter into His passion, He makes an impassioned plea that they remain in His love. In this farewell address, Jesus begs them

to love Him as He loves them. How? By keeping His commandments. They are now His friends, and He has taught them everything He has heard from His Father. The key word is "remain" – persevere, love me and all others, no matter how difficult and unpleasant they can be. This is our work for the whole journey of life.

This Thursday is the Feast of the Ascension. May we gather with Mary in prayer to prepare for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Each one of us is called personally by the

divine Advocate. Through Him, we grow in knowledge of who we are. Through listening to His daily inspirations, we grow more in love of God and of our neighbor.

Today is Mothers' Day, a time to honor and appreciate all our mothers, living and dead. We well know how often we take their love and sacrifice for granted. We commend them to our Mother Mary, whose love we celebrate, especially this month. She is our mother, to whom we can always turn in supplication to help us love Her Son as she did.

CALLED TO SERVE

When will the dispensation be lifted?

In May 2020, Bishop Terry R. LaValley issued a decree for the Diocese of Ogdensburg Decree for Partial Opening of Churches and Public Worship Phase 1 Guidelines. The decree dealt with social distancing in church, who should wear masks (that would be just about everyone all the time), reception of Communion guidelines and other pertinent matters.

As of this writing, that decree remains in force.

The Center for Disease Control relaxed some of its recommendations last week about wearing masks outside, but in regard to indoor spaces, the CDC said "fully vaccinated people should continue to wear a mask that fits snugly against the sides of your face and doesn't have gaps, cover coughs and sneezes, wash hands often, and follow any applicable workplace or school guidance." For the unvaccinated it is a no-

brainer. Wear a mask all the time.

Dennis Poust, who at the time was the communications director for the New York State Catholic Conference, said late last year "our churches have been eager partners with the state in protecting the health of our parishioners, clergy, staff, and surrounding communities during this devastating pandemic."

There have been announcements from the governor's office about bars and restaurants, the State Fair, and a bunch of other venues recently. Large-scale outdoor event venues can increase spectator capacity from 20% to 33% beginning May 19; casinos and gaming facilities can increase capacity from 25% to 50% beginning May 15; offices can increase capacity from 50% to 75% beginning May 15; gyms/fitness centers outside of New York City can increase capacity

from 33% to 50% beginning May 15; Churches have been absent from the list of revisions so far. Our diocese advises parishes to observe a 50% capacity for Mass and other events.

This brings us to the dilemma Bishop LaValley faces as he wrestles with the timing of a new decree that might lift the dispensation.

Church leaders want to encourage people to return to regular attendance at Mass. The current dispensation from Mass is contradicted by people who find it completely acceptable to go to the gym, or the movies, or a restaurant, or the mall or countless other places but deem it "unsafe" to get to Mass.

"The Church obliges the faithful to take part in the Divine Liturgy on Sundays

and feast days and strongly encourages the faithful to receive the holy Eucharist" at those services "or more often still, even daily."

Receiving the Word of God in person or by podcast or streamed is terrific, but nothing takes the place of receiving the Eucharist at Mass.

Bishop discussed lifting the dispensation and the return to church when he met recently with the priests and deacons of the diocese. He made it clear those who are ill or have other legitimate reasons to miss Mass will continue to be free from the obligation, but most of us do not fall into those categories. In fact, it is a "grave sin" to deliberately miss Mass.

Our parishes in the Church of Ogdensburg



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

have been compliant and disciplined about common sense reaction to the pandemic and regulatory edicts. Bishop is faced with wanting to make our churches more accessible but safe. He wants to restore our churches as places of community and fellowship but not incubators of germs. Bishop LaValley wants to make Jesus available to everyone who wants to receive him in Eucharist but not place any communicant in jeopardy.

Tough call. I suspect bishop would appreciate a mention in your prayers.

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CHEVROLET

What is a Foster Grandparent?

Foster Grandparents are role models, mentors, and friends to children with exceptional needs. The program provides a way for volunteers age 55 and over to stay active by serving children and youth in their communities. They are placed in a classroom setting with a child or children who are in need of emotional support, development of basic learning skills, friendship, companionship, encouragement, individual attention, and unhurried help. The program currently has 40 volunteers and serves more than 100 kids per year.

The Foster Grandparent Program is hosted by the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and supported by AmeriCorps Seniors, a federally funded agency responsible for building volunteer based programs for over 50 years and counting.



“Sometimes when you get to be my age, you wake up and say what good am I and along came the Foster Grandparent Program that keeps me going!”

Roy Foote
age 83
Foster
Grandparent



Am I Qualified to be a Foster Grandparent?

All you need to join is the ability to give the kind of comfort and love that sets a child on the path toward a successful future. If you're 55 or older and want to share your experience and compassion, you have what it takes to be a Foster Grandparent.

You'll also receive a small bi-weekly, non-taxable stipend that cannot be held against any current benefits you may already have as well as paid mileage for your travel. Additionally, you receive paid holidays, vacations, sick and personal leave.



**Catholic
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Diocese of Ogdensburg

Want more info about how to get started?

Contact **Melissa Howard, Volunteer Coordinator**

PHONE: (518) 359-7688 | **EMAIL:** mhoward@cathcharities.org

80 Park Street, Suite 2, P.O. Box 701, Tupper Lake, NY 12986

Letters from Ecuador efforts

Dear Friends,

Our Mission in Quito, Ecuador serves poor families who need a hand up. Families, like so many in Ecuador and elsewhere, are trying to eke out an existence selling whatever they can in the streets. The competition for selling items in the street is very high. Most cannot make ends meet. The pandemic is still rampant and of course the poor are hit the hardest. Our mission in Quito gives a ray of hope to poor families. We provide: food, educational opportunities, medical care, attend to spiritual needs and a sense of belonging to the member families. The programs we have respect social distancing until the people can get vaccinated. Vaccines have not been made available but, a vaccine from China, has arrived in the Country. Our mission will expand programs as soon as the virus no longer dictates the way of life. Until then, we will continue



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

to provide the care that we can, to help families have confidence to look forward to becoming the agents of change to help each other out of their poverty.

The following letter is from Fr. John Halligan, SJ. He is from the Province of New England. Padre has been serving the poor in Ecuador since 1962. You can take the boy out of the Bronx but not the Bronx out of the man.

– Sister Cindy Sullivan,
BVM

From the desk of Padre.

Dear Folks,

Lent is over. I didn't make and as usual not keep my penance type resolutions

this time around. It was honest and enlightening enough to think about and pray for all the victims of the virus. Ecuador can't afford to develop or buy preventives, but it has a big force of heroic citizens risking themselves to save victims. This awareness keeps the mystery of heroic suffering with Jesus in mind and calls for imitation. We know that Jesus, who is all love, lets us share in His agony of forty days in the desert and His crucifixion to balance our score for justice's sake. He wants us to join with Him in getting the human family to Heaven. But that doesn't cancel out joy right here and now. Easter's here

with a spring in our every step. Bright gratitude scatters all the dark and fear-some. All bad is forgiven. Tell everyone. Even the evil virus, handled with love, becomes an instrument of Jesus-like generosity to others.

Here in South Quito, like I suppose happens in innumerable places around the world, the poverty has gained extra deadly strength from the virus. Nights of cold sleep separate full days of standing with junk to sell or just begging in the gutters between rows of cars with not enough customers buying or benefactors tossing coins. Dirt poor Ecuadorian citizens are joined by Venezuelan immigrants with mutual sympathy and no resenting foreign invasion of the work site. Against that background, the very little help that our Working Families Foundation can give is not only not resented but even deeply appreciated. This

mutual understanding is living Christ's love in us all.

In our desire and determination to improve things, there's reason why we don't lose mind and heart. We have been meeting with other social work nuts like ourselves and planning to combine our programs very soon into more widely effective changes. For instances: there's a priest who wants to share some empty land where we can start technical education for good jobs and there's a sister who has contact with professionals who are serving but need more efficient ways. And, of course, there are the crowds of poor we have contact with who gratefully wait for God to change things because we tell them you will help bring his evidence of loving salvation.

As usual, thanks for the confidence. God Bless.

– Father John Halligan,
S.J.

OBITUARIES

Cape Vincent – Martha J. (Schwandt) Chase, 83; Mass of Christian Burial May 6, 2021 at St. Vincent of Paul Church.

Lisbon – Betty (LeVac) Grant, 81; Mass of Christian Burial April 27, 2021 at St. Philip and James Church; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Madrid – Vernon F. "Joe" Dawley, 86; Graveside services May 17, 2021 at St. John the Baptist Church.

Malone – Phyllis (Canning) Barber, 84; Mass of Christian Burial May 8, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Joseph's Parish Cemetery, Dannemora.

Malone – Jeremiah Jones, 72; Mass of Christian burial April 28, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Joseph' Cemetery.

Massena – Eugenia Mae (Bordeaux) LaShomb, 98; Mass of Christian Burial April 27, 2021 at Sacred Heart Church;

burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Margaret (Mantle) McDonald, 99; Mass of Christian Burial April 30, 2021 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Thomas J. Premo, 66; Mass of Christian Burial April 28, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Mound Hill Cemetery, Nicholville.

Massena – Betty Joyce (LaFrance) Sunday "Karehà:es", 85; Funeral Services April 28, 2021 at the Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery, Akwesasne.

Moers Forks – Robert P and Jane R. Provost; Mass of Christian Burial April 29, 2021 at St. Ann's Church; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Amy (Lobdell) Brokos, 64; Mass of Christian Burial April 30, 2021 at St. Alexander's Church;

burial in parish cemetery.

Newcomb – Douglas Garand, 94; Graveside Services April 13, 2021 at Newcomb Town Cemetery.

Norfolk – Kurt B. Hayes, 68; Mass of Christian Burial April 28, 2021 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Timothy J. Baker, 69; Mass of Christian Burial April 28, 2021 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Peru – Joshua Scott Bechore, 32; Funeral Services April 27, 2021; burial in Church of the Assumption Cemetery, Redford.

Saranac Lake – Amanda L. Winderl, 36; Funeral Services April 29, 2021 at the Fortune-Keough Funeral Home; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

South Colton – Brother Richard

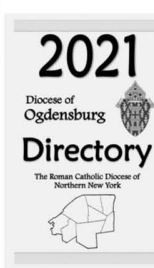
James, 86; Memorial Mass May 5, 2021 at St. Paul's Church.

South Colton – Dr. Reuben J. James, 88; Mass of Christian Burial May 5, 2021 at St. Paul's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Colton.

South Colton – Jean (Pflager) Lyth Supernault, 92; Graveside Services to be held at St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Watertown – Mary (Malatino) Alteri, 95; Private Mass held at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

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(Left) Bishop Terry R. LaValley conveys the Rite of Acolyte on Ken Lushia of West Chazy during the Rite of Acolyte, celebrated with members of the class studying for the permanent diaconate on April 30. (Above) Deacon John Drollette, director of Deacon Formation, aids Bishop LaValley in the celebration of the Rite of Acolyte with 13 men studying for the permanent diaconate.

13 installed as acolytes

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

OGDENSBURG—Thirteen men from around the diocese were installed to the Rite of Acolyte by Bishop Terry R. LaValley at Wadhams Hall on Friday, April 30.

As acolytes, the men, studying for the permanent diaconate and scheduled for ordination in October, are charged with assisting the deacon and the priest in liturgical celebrations, the Mass in particular.

Bishop LaValley told the aspiring deacons that he is praying “that our God of mercy will instill within you a lifelong desire to grow always in faith and love and so build up the Church.”

“Notice the action words,” Bishop LaValley said. “Grow and build. I chose an action word for my Episcopal Motto: ‘Follow Me.’ Action means movement. I cannot grow, I cannot build nor follow if I am inactive, if I stay put where I am. There can be no growth nor building, no following if I become com-

fortable with what I know, or think I know; if I am content with my relationship with my God, if I think I know the answers to all the ills of the world and of the Church; if I get stuck with a mindset and attitude that inhibits God’s Spirit from entering my prayer and maybe changing my life.”

Bishop LaValley encouraged the men to continue practices that feed their faith.

“These exercises have become an important part of your lives: the Liturgy of the Hours, Holy Mass, Eucharistic adoration, spiritual reading, reflection on Scripture,” he said. “These prayers and devotions give you the desire to deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ and his body, the Church. Let these practices energize and challenge you.”

Bishop LaValley noted, though, that the men must be careful not to bend their faith to their whims.

“We can, as many do, use their version of ‘the movement of the Spirit’ as a reason or excuse for veering

from Church teaching and divine law into an arrogant ‘I know better than the Church’ attitude,” he said. “Certainly, such an attitude has infiltrated society today, where so many design God and the Church according to their own desires and wishes. However, a dynamic relationship with Jesus pulsates with an obedient, sacrificial heart that yearns to follow the Lord. Such a heart does not expect the Lord to follow the creature’s whims.”

Aided by Deacon John Drollette, director of Deacon Formation, Bishop LaValley celebrated the Rite of Acolyte with Randy Besio of Massena, Gerry Bouchard of Cape Vincent, James Carlin of Plattsburgh, Brent Davison of Plattsburgh, Daniel LeRoy of Theresa, Mike Lieber of Constableville, Ken Lushia of West Chazy, Roderic Roca of Ogdensburg, Lee Trudeau of Brushton, Robert Uttendorfsky of Lowville, Noel Voos of Evans Mills, Mark Webster of West Chazy and Peter Wooschlager of Croghan.

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