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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 76 Number 11

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JUNE 23, 2021

Follow Me: Most COVID restrictions lifted

On June 18, Bishop Terry R. LaValley sent a letter to diocesan priests and deacons notifying them that most COVID protocols have been lifted.

"New York State announced that COVID-19 restrictions are lifted immediately because 70 percent of New Yorkers aged 18 or older have received at least one vaccination. The State health guidance and guidelines, including social gathering limits, capacity restrictions, social distancing, cleaning and disinfection, wearing of face coverings for the vaccinated, health screening and contract tracing, are lifted and are now optional."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

KNIGHT OF THE YEAR



Deputy Grand Knight Garry Stevens is presented the Knight of the Year award by Grand Knight Brian Thompson of Father John Cosmic Council 291 in Carthage. 'Garry's involvement and leadership in the past year has been a blessing to our Council,' shared the Grand Knight. The award is for the 2020-21 Columbian year, which ends in June.

SHARING OUR STORIES



Shirley Kenney of Massena continues her work repairing dolls for kids in need despite hardships. Read about Kenney in this week's installment of "Sharing Our Stories; Sharing Our Faith," a series highlighting how lay Catholics are living out their faith in the North Country. To nominate an individual or couple to be featured in this series, contact Darcy Fargo, editor, at dfargo@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Jesus prays for everyone, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Jesus is always praying for each and every person, desiring that his word would help people in their lives and that they never would feel alone, Pope Francis said.

"Jesus prays for me — each one of us can keep this in our heart. Do not forget it, even during those terrible moments," the pope said June 16 during his weekly general audience.

With the grace of being

able to pray to God and knowing we have been "prayed for," the pope said, "we have only to have courage and hope" to be able to journey on in life and give glory to God.

The audience was held in the San Damaso Courtyard of the Apostolic Palace, where the pope first walked along the barricades, greeting people, shaking hands, signing books and giving his blessing. While attendees were

obliged to wear masks, many had them down or pulled them down during their moment with the pope.

In his main audience talk, the pope concluded his series on prayer, which he began May 6, 2020, offering a total of 38 reflections on the theme.

"Prayer is one of the most evident features of the life of Jesus," the pope said. "He prayed and prayed a lot," immersing himself in

it "because dialogue with the Father was the incandescent core of all his existence."

At the Last Supper, Jesus intercedes for his disciples and for all those who will believe in him through their word and, even during the darkest hours of suffering on the cross, Jesus continues to pray, showing he is "the absolute intercessor: he prays for others, for everyone, even for those who have con-

demned him," he said.

"Jesus prayed for everyone, he also prayed for me, for each one of you. Each one of us can say that Jesus, on the cross, prayed for me," and still prays for everyone each day, he said.

"Even in the most painful of our sufferings, we are never alone. Jesus' prayer is with us," he said.

On the cross he offers his love, "that is, he brings about our salvation," Pope Francis said.

NORTH
COUNTRY
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The journey is important, too

We drove an hour for ice cream.

Like nearly everyone else, the Fargo family didn't get a lot of opportunities to run the roads and travel for over a year. Now that life is starting to show some signs of normalcy again, we're eager to get out of the house and into the world.

So, with not much to do last weekend, and while my husband was occupied, Jake and I decided to make the hour-long trek to the Saranac Lake area for no other reason than to get ice cream at Donnelly's.

For those who don't know, Donnelly's is a locally owned ice cream stand that offers one flavor per day of homemade soft-serve ice cream. Donnelly's ice cream is delicious! We figured it was worth the drive.



**Darcy L.
Fargo**

On the hour-long drive through the Adirondack Park, Jake and I marveled at the beauty of the mountains, lakes and trees. We chatted about school, work, football, music, a planned vacation... We just chatted. We sang obnoxiously with the radio (Ok, that was me; Jake mostly

laughed at me).

We arrived at our destination, waited in line and ordered our cones. The flavor of the day was chocolate/vanilla twist.

The ice cream was good! In fact, I'd say the ice cream was excellent!

But the ice cream wasn't the best part of the experience. The journey – the time with Jake – was the best part.

It's easy for me to focus on outcomes, goals and destinations. I often lose sight of the importance of the journey.

It's even true in my spiritual life. When God shows me areas of my life I need to change, I want the change to

be instant. I want to get where I'm supposed to be.

Time and time again, though, God reminds me that change happens on his timeline, and it's usually a gradual process that requires a healthy dose of both God's help and hard work.

While I'd still rather the changes be instant, I've found great joy in the journey. While there are struggles, there's also great rejoicing with each success.

I need to be willing to cooperate with God's grace and enjoy the journeys, and I need to be willing to drive for those changes like I'm willing to drive for ice cream.

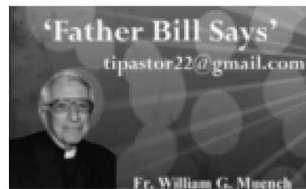
All grads could hear the same message

It is graduation time! I am so pleased that so many graduations were able to happen almost properly. I am reminded of so many graduations that I have attended and so many graduations I was a part of. I have been asked to be involved in college graduations, in high school ones, in junior high graduations, even in kindergarten graduations.

This past year, we have all experienced virtual graduations. The good thing was that everyone could tune in – not just a few tickets for a family. The disappointing thing was that it was just like a television show. But they all had the usual graduation talks.

I have listened to many graduation talks. Just this past week I listened to a streamed talk given by the singer, Celine Dion, a talk she gave to the graduates of the Berklee School of Music. This is where my great niece Anna studied and graduated. This task included gratitude for being recognized and a fine reminder to the graduates that their future is just beginning.

Now here I am, so many



years after my graduation from high school. I must admit I have forgotten completely who spoke at my high school graduation. By the way, do you remember who spoke at your high school graduation?

My graduation from the seminary lead immediately to my ordination as a priest. I moved right into my future. That was a gift. I know that most of you had to search and try many roads of life until you were certain of the path you should follow. I suppose there were many different jobs or careers until you were certain that you had found your place.

I believe that a speaker could give the same graduation talk to those graduating from seminary and those graduating from some other college – a school of music or receiving a degree in English or science. I believe that the way to happiness must in-

clude a life that includes reaching out with concern to others, helping those in need and living without selfishness.

So, graduates spend several years of study and developing a powerful lifestyle. A graduation speaker could, I believe, bring to each dissimilar group the very same message. You can make this world so much better by recognizing that you are the person who will be needed. We hope you will find the energy and the awareness to reach out to help those many who are going to need you. This is the message for each and every grade level – from high school to college.

That is why I propose Jesus as the greatest graduation speaker. Jesus has so many stories to tell, and actually he can be rather humorous also. So, Jesus could again tell his story of the Good Samaritan. A man falls among thieves. He is robbed and injured badly. Along comes a priest, but the priest does not want to get soiled on the Sabbath. He decides not to be of help. He walks on by.

Then comes a Levite, a

temple assistant. He also doesn't want to get soiled, so he decides to walk on by this fellow.

Then comes a Samaritan. He knows that he is a foreigner. He ignores the fact that Samaritans don't associate with Jews. He decides he must be of help. He binds up the man's wounds, and he takes him to a nearby inn. He makes certain the man will be properly cared for, and he pays for it all.

Which one made the world a better place? It is interesting to me that we know who the priest is and who the Levite is, but we do not know the business or the position that the Samaritan held. Yet we know what he did. He made the world a better place because he cared.

Have you ever been helped by a Good Samaritan? I know that I have and many times.

I do hope I will have the opportunity to be a Good Samaritan. I pray for the awareness that I will recognize the opportunities to be a Good Samaritan. I pray for the compassion to help another.

May this be my purpose for the rest of my life.

FOLLOW ME

Most remaining COVID restrictions lifted

Editor's Note: The following letter from Bishop Terry R. LaValley was distributed to priests and deacons of the diocese on June 18.

Dear Father and Deacon,

I am writing to communicate more particulars about the lifting of the COVID-19 restrictions by the State of New York. All policies, guidelines and protocols issued between March 2020 and May 2021 relating to the celebration of the Eucharist and administration of the Sacraments during the Pandemic are hereby rescinded with the exception of those listed in the protocol update below.

COVID-19 PROTOCOL UPDATE

June 18, 2021

New York State announced that COVID-19 restrictions are lifted immediately because 70 percent of New Yorkers aged 18 or older have received at least one vaccination. The State health guidance and guidelines, including social gathering limits, capacity restrictions, social distancing, cleaning and disinfection, wearing of face coverings for the vaccinated (including during the distribution of Holy Communion by the priest, deacon or Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist), health screening and contract tracing, are lifted and are now optional.

Unvaccinated individuals continue to be responsible for wearing masks under CDC directives. Additionally, health guidelines for large-scale indoor events (5,000 persons or more), pre-k to grade 12 schools, public trans-

portation, homeless shelters, correctional facilities, nursing homes and health care settings remain in effect per CDC guidelines.

HEALTH AND OBLIGATION TO ATTEND MASS:

I lifted the general dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass on the Feast of Corpus Christi, June 6, 2021. However, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass does not apply to individuals who are sick, in a vulnerable category (elderly, individuals with weakened immune systems, people with long term conditions such as cancer, diabetes, heart conditions, respiratory conditions and the like), those who continue to have significant anxiety or concerns about returning to Mass in person. I request that the streaming of Sunday Eucharistic celebrations be maintained for the benefit of those who are still not in a position to attend Mass in person.

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

The Instructions of the Universal Church and our Diocese for the worthy and reverent celebration of the Eucharist and the Sacraments are to be followed, with the following exceptions:

- The distribution of Holy Communion will

continue to be under one form, namely the Sacred Host. Continue to encourage reception of Communion in the hand.

- The principal celebrant's chalice is not shared; concelebrating priests should receive both Sacred Species by intinction (or they should have individual chalices for the reception of the Precious Blood).

- The optional sign of peace may be exchanged in some form that does not involve physical contact: for example, a bow toward or wave to others. It also can continue to be omitted.

- Our churches, as houses of God, should continue to be kept clean, specifically the sanitizing of frequently touched surfaces and objects. Cleaning between Masses is no longer required.

- Holy water may be placed in fonts, provided that the Holy Water is replaced at least weekly and fonts cleaned. Otherwise, Holy water fonts should remain empty.

- Churches should continue to assure good ventilation by introducing fresh air, whenever possible.

- Hand sanitizer should remain available at the entrances of our churches and buildings and should



Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley

be available for those serving in any ministry at Mass, particularly before the distribution of Holy Communion.

BAPTISMS AND ANOINTINGS

- Baptisms continue to use only fresh water for each baptism and the fonts are to be cleaned afterwards.

- Anointing of the Sick may be celebrated in the normal fashion, i.e., without the use of cotton balls.

- Cotton balls are no longer necessary for Confirmations.

In implementing these protocols, prudential judgment should be used in serving those entrusted to your pastoral care. I encourage you to discuss these matters with your

parishioners and in consultation with your parish pastoral councils, if possible.

Pastors are asked to recognize that it will take time for all in our communities to feel comfortable in resuming pre-pandemic activities. Please communicate that there are no longer any capacity restrictions on houses of worship, and to err on the side of caution we will continue prudent and sensible practices to clean our churches and assure the safety of our parishioners.

I am most grateful to you for your patience, dedication, cooperation, and your pastoral outreach to your parishioners during this trying time. May God bless you all!

FORMATION FOR MINISTRY

Is God calling you to do more in your church?

Enrollment open for 2021-2023 cycle

- Two-year program
- Online courses through Boston College for convenient learning
- In-person workshops
- Interested?
Contact Formation for Ministry Director,
Cathy Russell at crussell@rcdony.org
- Application deadline is July 15.

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Diocese of Ogdensburg



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'To grow in love for him'

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

MASSENA—Though she's lost her sight almost completely, Shirley Kenney hasn't lost her faith or her desire to help others.

Kenney, 85, is a parishioner of St. Peter's Parish in Massena.

"I was brought up with faith," Kenney said. "My mother married a non-Catholic. Boy, she made sure we knew which faith we were supposed to follow."

In addition to regularly praying the rosary as a family, Kenney said her mother sent her and most of her five siblings to Catholic school.

"I went from Catholic school to the Catholic school for nursing in Watertown – Mercy Hospital," Kenney said. "I've been educated by Catholic teachers all along."

Kenney said her faith drove many of the decisions in her life, including who she would marry.

"I was very strong for my faith all the time," she said. "I went out with a couple boys who were not Catholic. It even got to the point of talking about marriage. They weren't interested in promising to raise any kids we'd have Catholic, so that was the end of that."

Then, one snowy Valentine's Day during nursing school, she met the Catholic man she'd later marry.

"There was a Valentine's Day dance at school," Kenney said. "Ross was one of the local boys who came for the dance. Because there was a snowstorm, there were hardly any boys there – maybe five or six. They made the rounds dancing with all the nursing students. Ross danced with one student, then he came and asked me to



Shirley Kenney

dance. Then he danced with another student, and he came and asked me to dance again. We ended up just dancing with each other. We started dating, and a year and a half after that, we got married. He was a good Catholic. He was brought up Catholic, and he was an altar boy and all that stuff. He was friends with the priest."

Kenney worked as a private-duty nurse early in the couple's marriage. Once their fifth child (of six) was born, Kenney became a stay-at-home mother. It was one of those children that gave Kenney one of the biggest trials of her life.

Kenney said her son, Mike, moved to the west coast more than 30 years ago. Initially, Mike remained in contact with his parents despite the distance. Eventually, though, letters to Mike started coming back undeliverable.

"I haven't heard from my son, Mike, in 30 some years," she said. "I've been praying about that ever

since. That's all you can do is keep praying. You know you're going to find out what happened sooner or later. Even if you have to be in heaven to find out, you will."

When her husband, Ross, retired from his career in the aluminum industry, the couple attended Mass together daily.

"While Ross and I were both healthy enough, we went up to Sacred Heart Church for noon Mass every day," Kenney said. "That was wonderful for me. After he died, I reached a point where I couldn't walk very far. I was in my 80s by then. I had to quit going. I'm not an early riser. I can't make myself get up early enough to go to the 8:15. Now, I say my rosary every day. And I have all these prayer cards, and I say the prayers on them every day."

One of the prayer cards, a particular favorite, is a prayer to St. Jude.

Oh holy St. Jude, apostle and martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near



kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present urgent petition, in return I promise to make your name know and cause you to be invoked.

"All you can do is hope and believe," Kenney said. "Even St. Jude has to go by God's plan. If I don't get the healing I'm asking for, it's not his fault. He's praying for me."

In more recent years, Kenney has been facing additional hardships. Glaucoma and other optical issues have largely robbed her of her sight. Despite the challenges that poses, she has continued with a giving ministry – repairing and improving dolls to donate for the annual Christmas toy drive in her parish community.

"My husband was the toy drive manager for the (Knights of Columbus)," she said. "That got us thinking about toy drives. One time, somebody gave (the Kenney family) an en-

tire toy box of toys for the toy drive. We brought it home. The toys were all dumped in there any old way. Parts to games were all mixed with toys and crayons. Our kids had the best time sorting it all out and putting all the pieces with the games for the toy drive. I thought, 'that was pretty darned good. I could do stuff like that.' I started to go to garage sales, and I'd see old dolls. I started buying dolls. I'd bring them home, clean them up and get clothes on them. That first year, I did ten to 12 dolls."

Soon, though, she earned a reputation as "the doll lady," and people began donating or saving dolls for her. Now, years later, Kenney still spends free time crocheting doll bonnets and shoes, sewing felt booties and repairing dolls to donate to the toy drive.

Kenney said repairing the dolls helps her fill her time and allows her to show love to others. She said showing love to others is almost as important as growing in love of God.

"That's what we're here for," she said. "It's what God made us for – to grow in love for him."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Tony Beane's Letter to the Editor in the North Country Catholic on June 16th claims Father Tad Pacholczyk's Covid-19 vaccine articles that "bring up the cell lines from abortions that occurred long ago muddies the water and confuses people." I disagree. Father Tad, a priest and director of Education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center (nbc-center.org), has published many articles that clarify issues relating to medical ethics, including the new COVID-19 vaccines. His background, including a doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and post-doctoral work in molecular biology at Harvard, affords an invaluable perspective.

Dr. Beane's letter offers several problematic claims. He says that "having college students on crowded campuses make 'informed choices' on whether to get vaccinated will not get us over this pandemic." Father Tad's column entitled "Vaccine Mandates and Catholic Colleges," refutes this view, explaining that having college students make informed choices will have the effect of getting us over this pandemic. If we carefully form and teach college students, their responses become tailored and proportional to the risk, rather than blind, reflexive, and fearful responses. Calm, careful and case-by-case discernment is crucial. Fear doesn't achieve rational thinking.

As Father Tad puts it, "Mandating vaccines for everyone involves a flawed assumption that there are only benefits and no significant burdens" such as allergies, immune systems intolerant to vaccines, or which already have the antibodies. The ethical concerns about how the vaccines are made, specifically their connection to cell lines derived from abortions, are real concerns that should give us pause, even if we ultimately discern that we receive such vaccines as the Church permits. Vaccines are never morally obligatory, especially when such vaccines are new, not FDA approved, and we have limited knowledge of their side effects and efficacy.

Dr. Beane argues that "overcoming polio required vaccinating all children starting in the 1950s. We were trying to keep children from dying or being paralyzed for the rest of their lives." But overcoming polio did not require that "all children" be vaccinated. It only in-

Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the author only and do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper or the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

volved achieving herd immunity, not universal vaccination. Also, there are key differences between polio and COVID-19, which again, requires careful discernment about how to counter specific disease threats. For those under 30, the risks of serious morbidity and mortality are close to zero from COVID-19, strikingly different than polio. Responses must be tailored.

Dr. Beane states he "understands why governments have to mandate certain vaccines or movement restrictions to see animals healthy in the face of disease outbreak." We are humans with intellect, eternal souls, moral responsibility, and primacy of conscience, not merely animals. Catholics must weigh moral implications.

Evidence-based information and moral principles rather than government mandates and fear tactics leads to a society filled with people with formed consciences, making informed decisions. Dr. Beane concludes his disjointed reflections by urging, "we must all get vaccinated as soon as possible. Let's do the right things for ourselves and for others." Revisit Father Tad's other articles in the NCC, "Should We Take Whatever Vaccine is Offered?" and "Should I Get Vaccinated?" (FatherTad.com). A "one size fits all" or a "knee-jerk" response is not appropriate. Father Tad is more realistic and balanced in his response. When it comes to partaking in this vaccine, the "right thing" for you may not be the "right thing" for others.

**Colleen Miner
Saranac Lake**



*Support And Pray
For Vocations*

Rest in Peace

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

June 23 – Rev. Edward Chevalier, O.M.I., 1894; Rev. Donat Morrisette, O.M.I., 1976

June 24 – Rev. John Simard, 1943; Msgr. Timothy P. Holland, 1948; Rev. Joseph P. Ryan, 1968; Rev. W. Cyril Rapin, 2006

June 25 – Rev. J. Rodrigue Lauzon, 1944

June 26 – Rev. Charles F. Turgeon, 1888; Rev. Jean Baptiste Frigon, O.M.I., 1930; Rev. Arthur St. Cyr, O.M.I., 1957

June 27 – Rev. Auguste A. Brunet, O.M.I., 1866; Rev. Francis X. Charbonneau, 1928

June 28 – Rev. John J. Regnery, O.S.A., 1954

June 29 – Rev. Pierre Huet de la Valiniere, 1806; Rev. Adonat L. Dufresne, 1940; Rev. Gilbert J. Faucher, 1981; Deacon Francis E. LeRoux, 1996

To Report Abuse

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

For a New or Used Car
Mort Backus & Sons
On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.
315-393-5899

CHEVROLET

Bishop's Public Schedule

June 23 – 9:30 a.m. – Gathering with the Seminarians followed by Mass and lunch at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake

June 24 – 11 a.m. – Development Board of Advisors Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

5 p.m. – An Evening of Insight on Children's Mental Health in the North Country hosted by the Claxton Hepburn Medical Center Foundation at the Gran View in Ogdensburg

June 26 – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral with a special presentation by the Knights of Columbus

June 27 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

11 a.m. – Installation Mass of Reverend James W. Seymour as Pastor of St. James Church in Gouverneur, Sacred Heart Church in Edwards and St. Hubert's Church in Star Lake at St. James Church in Gouverneur

3 p.m. – Commissioning of Lay Ministers at St. Mary's Cathedral

June 29 – Noon – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

June 30 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

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.

Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters from readers of the North Country Catholic.

- Due to space limitations, we ask that letters be limited to 500 words.

- We cannot accept letters which support ideas which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

- Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or e-mail to news@northcountrycatholic.org

- Join the conversation!

Environmental Stewardship

Thoughts from our youth

This week we are blessed again with more creative works from our youth on their efforts to care for God's creation and "our common home."

This contributor is from St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga and participated in the Pope Francis *Green Apple: Care for Our Common Home Project*. This Project was co-sponsored by the Syracuse and Ogdensburg Dioceses' Laudato Si Committees. In the coming weeks we will hear about more projects and writing of the Catholic students across the Diocese.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

By: Gracie Wells

This poem about recycling was inspired by my love for recycling and making the earth a better place for us to live in. I want to grow up in a world where everyone acknowledges the beauty of our earth. This isn't a job for just me, I can only do a part other people will have to chip in too. But I will do whatever I can to make the world a better place.

Reduce,
Reuse,
Recycle

Three things

All contributing to one main idea
Making a better world
Making a better place to grow up

Reduce
Reduce the amount of straws used
Reduce the amount of plastic used
Use products with less packaging
Your reduction of plastic
Eventually reduces pollution
in the air
Reuse

Use things that can be reused Things such as:
Water bottles
Grocery bags
Cups

Reusing helps the environment by, reducing the amount of plastic
Reducing pollution
And eventually slowing global warming
Recycle
Recycle things like
Cans and bottles
Paper and Cardboard
Recycling things is very important
Not just for the community
For the whole world

'Our family still prays to Saint Brother André'

By Mary Beth Bracy
North Country Catholic

During this Year of St. Joseph, it is hard not to recall the intercession of St. Brother André Bessette, whose inspiration and tireless labor were instrumental in the building of St. Joseph's Oratory in Montréal.

Born August 9, 1845, St. André died on January 6, 1937, at the age of 91 and his funeral was attended by over a million people. St. André visited our diocese numerous times, touched the lives of countless North Country residents and still has relatives here.

Father Normand C. Cote of Holy Cross Parish, Plattsburgh explained that St. André was faithful to the humble task of doorkeeper, and God was able to work miracles through him for souls.

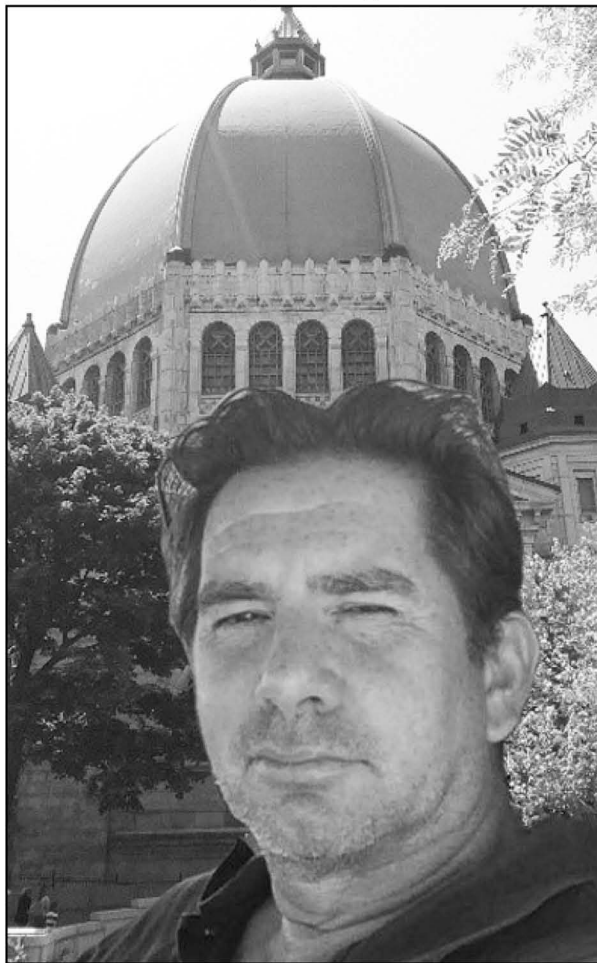
Mary Clark is St. André fourth cousin three times removed. In 2011, her family donated a table at which Brother André prayed to St. John's Church in Plattsburgh. It is now located to the right of the sanctuary, underneath the statue of Brother André, near the St. Joseph statue.

"My mother (whose maiden name was Bessette) and her family would sit at that table and pray with him when he came to Malone to visit," Clark said. "He held a very special place in their hearts. Our family still prays to Saint Brother André."

Clark said the family feels very blessed he is now a Saint.

"There was always a candle in the drawer (of the table) to use when he came for prayer. When we were in Rome for the canonization, I bought a candle with Saint André on it, and placed it in the drawer," said Clark.

St. André is often remembered for bringing hope to the sick through the inter-



Stephen Hebert in front of St. Joseph's Oratory in Montréal.

cession of St. Joseph. Stephen Hebert of Plattsburgh, a Montréal native, developed Meningitis C in February 1991. Ten people contracted it and, at the age of 24, he was the only survivor.

"This bacteria plunged me into a 10-day coma and created a bunch of complications; every single one of them could be deadly," Hebert said. "To give you a general idea of the state I was in, I had five cardiac arrests, kidney failure, an edema to the brain and one to a lung, and my blood pressure was so low, I was losing circulation to my right foot."

Regarding his Near-death experience, Hebert says that he could write a book.

"For some strange reason, there was a chain of prayer done for me throughout the province of Quebec," he said. "I believe I was saved because of the 15 promises of the Rosary, which I practiced since I was a teenager. But, I only realized that later in life, living for a long time with survivor's guilt."

Other heavenly friends interceded for him as well.

"Since I was living on the south shore of Montréal, I had easy access to the St. Joseph's Oratory," Hebert said. "I always loved and still love that place. The

walls of a section of one of the entrances are decorated with the crutches and canes of people who were miraculously healed by Brother André. Brother André wasn't canonized back then, but he was still a legend in Quebec.

"After the coma, pretty much all my organs got back to normal, and I was regaining strength. But, my right foot from the heel to the toes turned black like charcoal from necrosis. The doctors' prognosis wasn't good. They would have to amputate half of my foot. I was pretty discouraged, and I thought that I would do a trip to the Oratory before the operation. I had nothing to lose."

Hebert didn't tell anyone about his plan.

"I think St. Joseph heard me because a couple of days later my uncle, who was a priest, came to visit me at the intensive care with a piece of cloth that belonged to Brother André and some St. Joseph's oil. He knew an old priest at the Oratory and told him about me, so that's how my uncle got the cloth. He wrapped my foot in the cloth with St. Joseph's oil, to the great despair of doctors, and told me to be patient. After about a week, the necrosis was gone except for the tip of the toes. I had those amputated, but just the last articulation of each toe (all five). It was much better than losing a foot. I was able to do any sport and climb anything, so this is truly one of the many miracles I had and also the fact of getting the piece of cloth, that relic without telling anyone."

St. André's intercession for Hebert didn't end there.

"Later in life, I met my soulmate and got married," he said. "She's an American. I moved to Upstate New York where we got married at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh. Guess what? In that church there is a chapel

dedicated to Brother André with his picture on the front entrance. I could never have foreseen this coming . . . God acts in mysterious ways."

'If it wasn't for Brother André, I wouldn't be alive'

When Father Joseph W. Giroux first arrived in Malone, some parishioners were going to St. André's canonization in Rome. Someone had to back out at the last minute, and they offered Father Giroux the ticket.

"This was long before we had thought of merging the parishes or certainly of naming them after him," Father Giroux said. "When I returned, I was visiting with my grandparents in Plattsburgh and my grandfather (Leo Giroux) told me a story that I couldn't believe I had never heard before about his mother (Corine Guay Giroux). After she'd had her first child, she had some difficulty with her legs and was no longer able to walk."

It was thought that her first child was going to be her only child.

"Brother André prayed with her, and she was cured," Father Giroux said.

She went on to have Father Giroux's grandfather and a number of other children. Father Giroux realized that "if it wasn't for Brother André, I wouldn't be alive."

The pilgrimage, along with St. André's visits to Malone, planted the seed in Father Giroux's mind to name the parishes after him.

"We could document certain days that St. André was in the village of Malone over the years, and we knew for a fact that he'd come to Mass and prayed at Notre Dame Church," Father Giroux said. "He still has the relatives there. Many people had memories of him. Even more, in Brother André we found things of each of the parishes that were being

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Saint Brother André

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

united. Obviously, there was his devotion to St. Joseph and that was connected to St. Joseph's, the oldest and original Church in Malone. His work as a doorkeeper was at Notre Dame College in Montréal and he certainly had great devotion to our Blessed Lady, so that was connected to Notre Dame Parish. He had great devoted care to the sick and to the poor and to children, which was a link to St. John Bosco, who did much of the same. And he had a heart for the down trodden."

There were other connections, as well, Father Giroux explained.

"He belonged to the order of the Holy Cross," he said.

St. Helen discovered the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, which made a connection to the parish in Chasm Falls.

"So, there was all of those various connections that made Brother André seem like he was the obvious patron around whom we could rally and unite," Father Giroux said. "I think, in many ways he seemed to accomplish that. To me he was the obvious and, in many ways, only choice. We do well to have these holy patrons. It helps people to rally and helps bring people together, under a new identity, as one.

"We made sure that we would celebrate his feast day. Very graciously, St. Joseph's Oratory in Montréal presented a relic to the parish on the day that it was founded. We've had veneration of his relic on his feast and at other times to incorporate him into the churches. I was always touched to see – there was already a present devotion to St. André, prior to the merger of the Churches – but it grew. To see people praying at his statue, lighting a candle there, it just affirmed for me that we'd



The statue of St. Joseph at St. Mary's Church in Canton

done the right thing."

"When we merged the parishes, we had an evening where a number of people shared their personal stories of St. André because there were a number of his relatives in Malone who used to visit there, some cousins who used to live on Main Street, where unfortunately there is a Gas Station now," Father Giroux said. "Some of his distant relations are still around and they came. A number of people told stories of meeting him. There was one parishioner, she'd grown up in Montréal, whose father was one of St. André's chauffeurs. He would drive St. André around for various obligations he had. So, she had some recollections of him from her childhood. Others spoke of his intercession and miraculous things that had happened, healings in particular, in their lives and their families over the years."

I always will have a strong devotion to St. Joseph and Brother André'

"At the age of seven and at the end of October 1935, I caught pneumonia," shared Father Gilbert B. Menard. "I had a fever of 104. Dr. Gagnier sent me to the then Champlain Valley Hospital in Plattsburgh. In those days, there was no penicillin, so the doctor punched a hole in the side of my back and inserted a tube to drain all the puss from the back of my lungs (maybe also inside, I do not know). I was in the hospital for 31 days. When I was released, Dr. Gagnier mentioned to Dad and Mom that nothing else could be done. If the pneumonia came back, I would not live. Within two weeks, the pneumonia came back. All I know was that I was very sick."

Father Menard continued "Mother then called Msgr. A. M. Gilbert of St. Ann's

Church, Mooers Forks, mentioned my problem, and what Dr. Gagnier had said. Msgr. Gilbert came with a medal of St. Joseph and a little prayer card of Brother André. Mom mentioned to me that he prayed over me, placed the medal of St. Joseph on my sealed incision which is in the form of a cross. Finally with Mom he recited the prayer of Brother André from the little card. Msgr. Gilbert said to Mom, 'Be prepared with lots of pieces of cloth, because within two hours the puss on his lungs will all come out.' Mother mentioned to me later that within two hours, the sealed (healed) incision opened and all of the puss came out."

"I was weak for two months but at the end of February in 1936, I was strong enough to go back to school," Father Menard remembered. "I always had, still have, and always will have a strong devotion to St. Joseph and Brother André, now St. André Bessette."

Father Philip T. Allen, pastor of St. Joseph's in Olmstedville, St. Mary's in Indian Lake, and St. Paul's in Blue Mountain Lake, reechoed his devotion to St. Joseph and St. André.

"When I was a little boy I knew that Brother André came down to St. Catherine's Church Clintonville and St. Patrick's in West Peru," Father Allen said. "Those neighboring parishes had direct contact with Brother André through their pastor Father Francis Cornish. My father went to boarding school at the College of St. Lawrence (high school) in Montréal. Since there wasn't a Catholic school in Plattsburgh in the early 1900s, his pastor suggested it. He was very interested in Mt. Royal and what Brother André was doing. Father Cornish was pastor first in Clintonville, then

West Peru, and later of Immaculate Conception in Keeseville. Brother André came to visit there as an elderly man."

Most clearly, Father Allen remembers "(Msgr.) Peter Riani's story about Brother André wanting Father Cornish to have a Holy Hour at his parish at Immaculate Conception every Sunday. Brother André was very strict about it and Father Cornish did it."

"That was a lasting mark on that parish," Father Allen said. "He wanted vocations prayed for and they got the vocations, Msgr. Riani and Father Jack Downs, who were ordained in 1955. They, as boys, had gone to that Holy Hour that Brother André had asked for. Father Cornish saw that it was carried it out every Sunday."

Greatly devoted to the Holy Eucharist, Brother André led weekly Stations of the Cross and a Holy Hour in the small chapel before the Blessed Sacrament. He often spent his nights in prayer before our Eucharistic Lord. Brother André's bedroom, where he cared for the sick and dying, overlooked the chapel. He cut out a window in his room so that he could look at the tabernacle and pray to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament day and night.

Brother André, was "a holy man, a miracle worker, that we knew about. Montréal didn't seem that far away," reflected Father Allen. Brother André was "well-known and well-authenticated, he never took any credit for it himself, people knew that it was because he was promoting devotion to St. Joseph that the miracles happened. Go to Joseph!" He was "a very humble man, a man of such poor health, and lived so long."

Editor's note: Additional stories in this series will appear in a future edition of the North Country Catholic.

Bishops vote to draft document on Eucharist

The U.S. bishops approved by a wide margin a plan to draft a document to examine the "meaning of the Eucharist in the life of the church" following a lengthy debate during their spring general assembly.

The action to move forward passed with 168 votes in favor and 55 votes against it. There were six abstentions.

The results, announced June 18, the final day of the virtual spring assembly, allow the bishops' Committee on Doctrine to draft the document and present it for discussion when the bishops reconvene in person in November.

For more than two hours June 17, 43 bishops shared their views on whether such a document was necessary at a time when Catholics are returning to regular Mass attendance as pandemic restrictions ease or if it should even be considered lest it be perceived as fracturing the unity of a church already faced with numerous challenges.

The bishops reached no consensus during the discussion. They voted electronically immediately after the second day of the meeting concluded late in the afternoon.

As expected, viewpoints varied among the bishops.

Most bishops welcomed the idea of strengthening teaching about the Eucharist, especially given that the bishops have embarked on a multiyear National Eucharistic Revival initiative that is part of the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' 2021-2024 strategic plan, "Created Anew by the Body and Blood of Christ: Source

of Our Healing and Hope."

In a prerecorded presentation, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, chairman of the doctrine committee, reviewed an outline of the document, which would include three parts, subtitled "The Eucharist, A Mystery to be Believed," "The Eucharist, A Mystery to be Celebrated" and "The Eucharist, A Mystery to be Lived."

As proposed, each part includes three topics that would be addressed including, respectively, the real presence of the body and blood of Christ in Communion; unity, beauty and identity as the "fount and apex of the whole Christian life"; and moral transformation, eucharistic consistency and missionary discipleship.

He said the document was never intended to present national norms for the reception of the Eucharist, but to serve as a teaching tool for Catholics about the reception of holy Communion as a grace-filled gift.

He said the document was developed in light of the decline in the belief among Catholics in the Real Presence in the Eucharist as well as the long absences from regular Mass attendance, which may have led people to place less significance of the Eucharist in their lives.

He said the committee wanted to address the "need therefore for a unified and strong revival for the meaning of the Eucharist in the life of the church."

During a news conference at the conclusion of the day's meeting, Bishop Rhoades said that the committee had no plans to de-

velop a statement on the Eucharist despite the conference's strategic plan until Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, USCCB president, asked it to develop a document on "eucharistic consistency" earlier this year.

He also told reporters that May 7 correspondence from Cardinal Luis Ladaria, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican, to Archbishop Gomez influenced the committee's thinking on the document.

Cardinal Ladaria in his letter urged the U.S. bishops to proceed with caution in their discussions about formulating a national policy "to address the situation of Catholics in public office who support legislation allowing abortion, euthanasia or other moral evils."

"We took that (national reference) out even though our intention wasn't to develop national norms. Our plan wasn't to go in that direction," Bishop Rhoades said.

The third part of the document drew the broadest objections from more than a dozen bishops, who said that it appears to single out a single category of Catholics – those in political life who support keeping abortion legal.

Bishop Robert M. Coerver of Lubbock, Texas, said he was concerned the document was being developed in time to be used as a political cudgel given that congressional elections are on tap for 2022 with a presidential campaign two years later.

Other bishops expressed concern that the process to adopt the document appeared to be "rushed."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Bishops discuss pastoral framework on youth, young adults

WASHINGTON (CNS) – In a June 17 presentation to the U.S. bishops at their annual spring assembly, which was virtual again this year, Dallas Bishop Edward J. Burns announced a proposal to develop a new national pastoral framework on accompanying youths and young adults in the church. He said the work, if the bishops vote for it to proceed, will be presented to the body of bishops for review at their November 2022 meeting. It will be developed by the bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth. Bishop Burns, a member of that committee and the youth episcopal liaison to World Youth Day 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal, said this new pastoral framework would be in light of "Christus Vivit" ("Christ Lives"), Pope Francis' 2019 reflections on the previous year's Synod of Bishops on young people. That work encouraged young people about their place in the church and also urged older people not to stifle the enthusiasm of the young.

EU bishops criticize report for stance on abortion

BRUSSELS (CNS) – The bishops of the European Union, while applauding a proposed EU report on expanding the access of all women to adequate health care, take strong issue with the report's characterization of abortion as a human right and its claim that "a total ban on abortion care or denial of abortion care is a form of gender-based violence." The report, submitted to the European Parliament by Croatian deputy Predrag Fred Matic, is scheduled for a vote June 23; approval of the report would not dictate changes to any EU nation's laws, but could influence policy debates and public opinion. In a statement June 17, the secretariat of the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union applauded "the fundamental concern of the report to protect the health and rights of women," but expressed serious concern about its "one-sided perspective throughout, particularly on the issue of abortion," because nowhere does it acknowledge that the life of the unborn child is at stake. In addition, the bishops said, "the draft resolution does not reflect the tragedy and complexity of the situations in which mothers considering aborting their unborn child find themselves." The report, they said, cannot pretend that abortion must be legal in all 27 countries of the European Union.

Ruling seen as win for children, foster parents, religious liberty

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) – As a consequence of the U.S. Supreme Court's unanimous ruling June 17 in *Fulton v. Philadelphia*, faith-based and other agencies across the country may not be forced by a government agency to violate their deeply held beliefs against placing children in households led by same-sex or cohabitating adults. In a decision seen as a victory for religious freedom in the United States, the court ruled the city of Philadelphia acted improperly and violated the church's First Amendment rights when it ceased referring foster children to Catholic Social Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia three years ago because of the agency's practice of not placing children in same-sex households. Philadelphia Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez said the ruling was a victory for at-risk children and he noted the contributions of "foster parents who give of themselves freely." He also said the work of Catholic social ministry would continue beyond that of foster care as it has in the archdiocese through "pioneering programs" for more than 200 years. "The Catholic Church in Philadelphia is steadfast in its commitment to continue serving the temporal and spiritual needs of all – now and for the long term," Archbishop Pérez said.

CLINTON

ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

Morrisonville – The RCC of St. Alexander and St. Joseph to hold their 16th Annual Golf Classic.

Date: July 9

Time: Shotgun start at noon

Place: Barrack's Golf Course

Cost: \$50 for Barrack members and \$60 for non-members (includes golf, cart, complimentary gifts, BBQ chicken dinner and much more.)

Contact: Applications can be picked up at the Barracks or by calling Jackie at the Parish Office at 518-561-5039. Registrations are due by July 2. For more information call the parish office or Cheryl Dodds at 518-572-4622.

ESSEX

LATIN MASS

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

Schedule: 1 p.m. on Sundays

Place: St. Patrick's Church

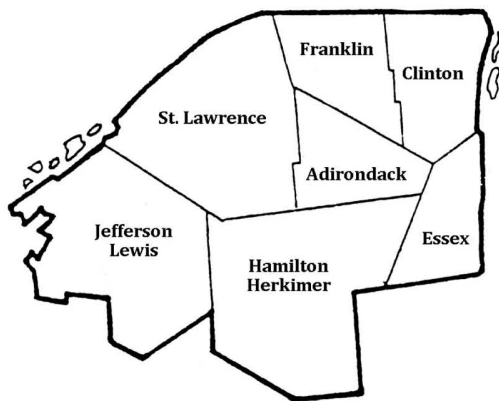
Features: The traditional Latin Mass celebrated according to the 1962 Missal of St. John the XXIII.

FRANKLIN

ROSARY NOVENA WALK

Malone – Mark your calendars to participate in the St. André Bessette Parish Rosary Novena Walk and Eucharistic Adoration for the intentions of an end to violence against human life, for conversions, and for parish priests.

Dates: June 23, 30; July 7, 14, 21, 28; Aug. 4, 11



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@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church

Features: The Rosary will begin in the church processing out to Arsenal Green to Elm Street down to Main Street ending back inside Notre Dame. For those unable to join the rosary procession walk, there will be Eucharistic Adoration and the recitation of the rosary inside of the church.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Port Leyden – St. Martin's and St.

John's will hold their annual Strawberry Social as a drive thru.

Date: June 27

Time: 3 to 5 p.m.

Place: Port Leyden Community (Fire) Hall

Features: To benefit numerous building projects. The Social is offering a picnic menu: hamburgers, hot dogs, hot and sweet sausage, strawberry shortcake, sundaes, and milkshakes. There will be a Chinese Auction, a fancy cake silent auction and several raffles.

Contact: To pre-order, call Stacey McCall at 315 348-5138 or Chris Chauffy at 315-766-6897.

FEAST DAY OF STS. PETER & PAUL
South Colton – Father Joseph Giroux

ST. LAWRENCE

will celebrate a Mass on the feast day of Sts. Peter and Paul.

Date: June 29

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: St. Paul's Oratory

Features: Father Giroux will lead a procession to Sacred Heart Shrine after Mass. An ice cream social will follow. Bring a lawn chair.

PATRIOTIC ROSARY

Ogdensburg – The Legion of Mary will host a Patriotic Rosary.

Date: July 4

Time: After 9:30 a.m. Mass

Place: Notre Dame Church

Features: Join us to pray and sing along with an historical and lively celebration of the founding of our country.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

PILGRIMAGE TO ISLE LAMOTTE

Vermont – Knights of Columbus from throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg will participate in their 73rd annual pilgrimage to St. Anne's Shrine in Isle LaMotte.

Date: July 18

Features: Bishop Terry R. LaValley will celebrate Mass at 12:15 p.m. Knights and their families can enjoy lunch in the shrine cafeteria, or they can bring a lunch to enjoy on the shrine's beautiful grounds. St. Anne's Shrine is located on the shores of Lake Champlain, only a few miles from the Rouses Point Bridge.

Contact: For more information, please call Pilgrimage Coordinator Peter Keenan at 518-643-9241.

FORMATION FOR MINISTRY

Looking to grow in faith and service? God continues to call everyone to use their gifts in service to others. Formation for Ministry registration is open!

Contact: For more information about the two year program, go to www.rcdny.org/formation/candidate or contact Cathy Russell at 315-393-2920 or email at crussell@rcdny.org. Registration deadline is July 15th. "Be not afraid" of God's invitation!

SIDEWALK ADVOCATES FOR LIFE

Experience Sidewalk Advocates 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 next steps for accessing the online training.

NOW PLAYING

A FATHER'S LEGACY

NEW YORK (CNS) – The work of God's providence is central to the drama "A Father's Legacy" (Cinedigm), which comes to theaters for one night only June 17 as a Fathom Events presentation.

The simple yet touching story of a son searching for a dad he has never known, the film makes apt viewing for Father's Day.

Tobin Bell plays Billy, a solitary widower whose tranquil life is passed in a secluded cabin by a picturesque pond. Billy's calm routine is suddenly

and dramatically interrupted one night when a young man named Nick (Jason Mac) barges into his home wielding a gun and demanding that Billy hide him from the police.

Nick needs a place to lie low after committing armed robbery. He also has to do something about the gunshot wound he sustained while carrying out the crime.

Despite his blustering manner, it soon becomes clear that Nick is no hardened felon. So Billy

tends to his captor's injury and, as Nick convalesces, the two carry on conversations that become increasingly personal and revelatory.

Nick's wife, Jean (Rebecca Robles), is pregnant. She thinks he'll be a great dad but, never having known his own father, Nick himself has his doubts. Having hired a private investigator to locate his dad, Nick was driven to larceny to pay the man.

Predictably, Billy becomes a paternal figure to Nick, patiently impart-

ing nuggets of wisdom and calling him son.

Mac, who also wrote and directed, scores big with his pairing of characters who are gruff and conflicted, yet also vulnerable and capable of showing compassion. The moments of prayer interspersed throughout his script, moreover, will be especially welcome to believing moviegoers.

As a faith-based study of familial relationships, "A Father's Legacy" could be a good conversation starter for parents and teens, despite the mildly

off-color vocabulary that occasionally crops up in the dialogue.

The film contains a handful of crass terms. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association.



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Readings focus on life

You probably don't remember the movement that swept our country almost 40 years ago. Enthusiastic, clean-cut youth singing their theme song, "Up, Up with People"? Although they traveled worldwide, it seemed so to fit with the American dream. Every July 4th holiday, we try hard to polish the tarnish off that dream!



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

The readings for this 13th Sunday in Ordinary time fit so well with our dream since they're all about life. They remind us that God and people are especially bonded! He created us for happiness, freedom, and life to the

full. "God did not make death, nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living", the Book of Wisdom declares. So, then, who did invent death? Satan the Destroyer! All who submit to his rule will experience death! How then, do we escape death? Through clinging with all our strength and will to the commandments of God, and

the teaching of His Son, Jesus. In particular, we find the key to life (the second reading) in letting go of self and sharing generously of all that we have and are with the "have nots" in our midst. By giving up His life, Jesus re-

June 27

13th Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15

Mark 5:21-43

stored eternal life to all.

The Gospel has that interesting "sandwich" type of story-telling – two stories in one. It's the story of the healing of a prominent Jew's daughter. Jairus falls before Jesus, acknowledging his power to heal, and begs Jesus to come to his house, where his 12-year old daughter is on the point of death. Jesus goes immediately with Jairus, a large crowd following. Now comes the "story within a story." A poor woman who has ex-

hausted all her money on doctors, none of whom can cure her from her serious illness, sees Jesus coming, and quickly comes up behind Jesus. Now, it's important to know that she is legally "unclean," and therefore cannot touch anyone. Nevertheless, she reaches out and touches Jesus' cloak. Both she and Jesus know that healing power has gone forth. Jesus turns around, inquiring who is the one who has touched him. Fearfully the woman admits that she is the one. Jesus immediately calms her fear, telling her to go home in peace, for she is healed. Then, he proceeds to the house of Jairus, where he learns that the little girl has died. Quietly all the commotion, he

goes in with the child's parents and Peter, James and John. Taking the hand of the girl, he brings her from death to life, ordering that some food be brought to her. How thoughtful of him!

Today's theme is all about life. God is the creator, the source of life. Wherever there is "death," either through sin, disease or distress of any kind, He brings healing and an end to fear. He brings even more life than existed before. No, God did not invent death, nor does he rejoice in it. Death in the name of religion is a contradiction! What a great God we have, worthy of our constant gratitude, our praise, and our love! Let us always adhere to His truth.

CALLED TO SERVE

Things don't always go my way

Andersonville is a little city of 250 folks or so in southwest Georgia. There is a national historic site there commemorating a Civil War prison. One encyclopedia entry tells us, "the Confederate army established Camp Sumter at Andersonville to house incoming Union prisoners of war. The overcrowded Andersonville Prison was notorious for its bad conditions, and nearly 13,000 prisoners died there. After the war, Henry Wirz was convicted for war crimes related to the command of the camp."

I mention that because the camp is also known as the location of a "dead line." The phrase figured prominently in Wirz trial. If a prisoner escaped and crossed the "dead line," the do-not-cross line, he was captured and killed.

Over time the phrase found its way into newspaper editorial offices to mean "I have to have that story now or it won't be published in the next edition." Reporters constantly worked toward the next deadline. They still do today. The presses will roll at a certain time, the Evening News happens at 6 p.m., the radio newscast is on the hour. Those are definite times, deadlines for people in that business.

We live each day chasing real or imagined deadlines. A friend of mine writes a column for publication in some parish bulletins. She has set a personal deadline, the 15th of the previous month, to distribute columns for the next month bulletins.

Darcy, the talented editor of the *North Country*

Catholic, sets deadlines for reporters and columnists to have our material in her hands each week.

Recently I created a deadline for myself. I had a one-hour window to get a bunch of stuff accomplished before a scheduled (aka deadline) electronic meeting. No problem.

The stuff included going to a bank for a quick transaction, picking up some dry cleaning, taking those items to church and hanging them up, and dropping off some paperwork to the parish secretary, then scooting out to the pharmacy to pick up a prescription. No problem. I had the most efficient route all figured out so this could all be accom-

plished in the time allotted... before the deadline.

Things went awry from the start. A great Evening News producer at WWNV-TV7, Ted Ford, used to say, "when did we lose control?"



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

I was going to the ATM machine at the bank. Of course, a couple of bank staff people were reloading the machine when I arrived. That caused a delay, but not insurmountable.

The plan was to drive directly to the dry cleaners. But I forgot it was farmers market day, and that convenient street was blocked-off. So, I had to use an alternate, longer route.

When I got to the dry cleaners, the vestments and Altar cloth that were

supposed to be ready that day were not. We agreed to a new "ready" date.

I still had to go to the parish office to drop off the paperwork but I had to use another, longer, alternate route.

The clock is ticking. At the pharmacy, the prescription was not available. Something about a certification from the doctor to the insurance company...whatever, this trip was in vain.

The electronic meeting would begin in five minutes. I can make it.

The meeting was cancelled, not because of me, it just was.

All I could do was smile. The phrase, "not my will but God's" kept rumbling around in my head.

Ever had an hour, a day, a year like that?

Haven't we all!

Remembering priests and sisters who died

FIDES missionary news service
Pontifical Mission Societies

The Catholic Church in India remembers the missionary commitment, the gift of oneself, the supreme sacrifice of priests and nuns who died of Covid-19 because they did not hesitate to perform their pastoral and social service in total dedication to the sick and the suffering. On May 30, 2021, 204 priests, 212 nuns and 3 bishops died. Suresh Mathew, Capuchin friar and Indian journalist, editor-in-chief of the English-language magazine "Indian Currents" was responsible for monitoring the situation at the national level and establishing the list of priests, nuns and bishops who died due to Covid-19. "Most of the priests and nuns who died were in rural areas to carry out the



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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pastoral work and did not have access to timely health services," explains Father Mathew to Agenzia Fides.

Many of them died while actively engaged in their ministry: "The sisters were infected while on duty in the hospital. Some priests performed funeral rites or administered the sacraments and gave spiritual assistance to the sick. And, once infected, many of our priests working in remote parts of the country did not have access to adequate hospital care. Perhaps, if they had been in

cities with better health infrastructures, they would not have lost their lives," said the Capuchin friar. "They worked among the poor, the indigenous, the forgotten who did not have access or could not afford specialized care and hospitals. They remained by their side in difficulty, scarcity and destitution," he added.

"They were people who, consciously, did not want to shut themselves up or isolate themselves, but wanted to continue their work, giving themselves, to bear witness to the mer-

ciful and compassionate face of God who looks at the suffering, even at the risk of their lives," he concludes.

"We are all saddened by the death of so many nuns, brothers, priests and missionaries. We feel a lot of pain because we knew many of them," confirms to Fides Father Anand Mathew, a member of the Indian Missionary Society, a congregation that lost three priests "At the same time, we recognize and remember the death of many lay Christians and many young missionaries, as well as the sacrifice of people of various faiths, during the second wave of Covid," said Father Anand Mathew, social worker and communications expert.

Archbishop John Barwa, at the head of the community of the Archdiocese of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar, in

Orissa, in eastern India, reports to Fides that his diocese has lost two priests due to Covid: "The priests were pioneers in the most remote missions in the Kingdom of God. The loss of such zealous missionaries is a great loss for the Church, for society and for the country."

"They died while carrying out their pastoral service and their mission. Their contribution to the Church and her mission will be remembered forever," notes Father Dibyasingh Parichha, priest and lawyer in Orissa. "We thank God for the gift of these people and, following their example, we promise to continue dedicating our lives to God, the Church and God's people, in love and service, especially during the period of the pandemic," concludes Father Parichha.

OBITUARIES

Canton – Gerald J. Smilgin, 80; Mass of Christian Burial June 19, 2021 at St. Mary's Church.

Chateaugay – Patricia A. (Mellon) Landry, 87; Services to be held at a later date.

Constable – Ronald A. Conners, 72; Mass of Christian Burial June 18, 2021 at St. Francis of Assisi Church; burial in St. Francis Cemetery.

Croghan – Donald R. "French" Proulx, 91; Mass of Christian Burial July 17, 2021 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Dannemora – Phyllis June (Kennedy) Maggy, 84; Mass of Christian Burial June 19, 2021 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Gouverneur – Vernon "Brother" William Fuller Jr., 52; Mass of Christian Burial June 18, 2021 at St. James Church; burial in Hailesboro Cemetery.

Keeseville – Catherine McDowell, 69; Funeral Services June 16, 2021 at

Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Memorial Cemetery, Willsboro.

Massena – Joseph R. Charette, 94; Mass of Christian Burial June 16, 2021 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Simon G. Perry; Mass of Christian Burial June 18, 2021 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in Saranac Cemetery.

Norfolk – Michael A. Bregg, 66; Graveside Services July 23, 2021 at Visitation Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Richard G. Legault, 73;

Funeral Services June 26, 2021 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Harry Louis Lucchetti, 80; Mass of Christian Burial June 16, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Peru – Robert Stevenson Halstead, 90; Mass of Christian Burial June 21, 2021 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Peru – Gloria M. (Cusson) Pratt, 79; Mass of Christian Burial June 12, 2021 at St. Augustine's Church.

Plattsburgh – James Dugan, 88; Mass to be held at a later date; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery, Mooers Forks.

Plattsburgh – Michael Kemp, 71; Mass of Christian Burial June 18, 2021 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Alice Church Mannix, 85; Mass of Christian Burial June 17, 2021 at St. Peter's Church.

Plattsburgh – Anthony J. Tarricone, 94; Mass of Christian Burial June 14, 2021 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Potsdam – Marcy (Collins) Bailey, 89; Memorial Mass June 12, 2021 at St. Mary's Church.

Potsdam – Clarence "Lee" Donah, 83; Funeral Services June 17, 2021 at Garner Funeral Service.

Ticonderoga – Sandra Lee Maloney Davies, 64; Graveside services June 26, 2021 at St. Mary's Parish Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Marilyn Ann (Charboneau) Pozzouli, 76; Funeral Services June 18, 2021 at the Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Parish Cemetery.

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Bishops discuss Native American ministry

WASHINGTON (CNS) – U.S. bishops were asked June 17 to consider authorizing development of a new formal statement and comprehensive vision for Native American and Alaskan Native ministry, since the last one approved was over 40 years ago.

Bishop James S. Wall of

Gallup, New Mexico, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee on Native American Affairs, said Catholic Native American leaders at a summit requested that a complete pastoral plan be developed and presented to the general assembly of bishops.

"During the summit, the Catholic Native leaders presented their concern that there was a perceived lack of interest in Catholic Native ministry by the Catholic Church in the United States," said Bishop Wall, addressing prelates via Zoom on the second day of their three-day

spring general assembly, held virtually due to the pandemic.

"A pastoral plan will help reassure Catholic Natives that their ministry has a high priority in the church," he said. "The last time the general assembly passed a major pastoral plan for Native Americans

was 1977."

Much has changed in those 44 years, Bishop Wall said, including approaches to racism, the canonization St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the first North American Indian saint, and new approaches to aspects of social justice in native communities.

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