

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Challenging childhood gender transitions | PAGE 10

Hundreds of bodies found at residential school | PAGE 12

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 76 Number 12

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JUNE 30, 2021

TALKING FAITH & CULTURE



During the "Faith around the world: the Philippines" Eastern Region Commissioned Lay Ministers Association (ERCLMA) Spring Event, Father Pedro Edgardo N. De La Rosa, known as "Father Jay," parochial vicar at St. Alexander's, Morrisonville, St. James, Cadyville, and St. Augustine's in Peru, talked about faith, his vocation and culture.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

A GIFT OF THANKS



In honor of her years of service to the community, the people of Akwesasne presented Sister Mary Christine Taylor, a Sister of St. Joseph, a quilt featuring many colors of the people of Akwesasne and three white crosses expressing God's love for His people. Read the full story on Page 5.

SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS

The *North Country Catholic* is starting its summer schedule of printing every other week. There will be no newspaper next week. The next edition will be July 14.

Follow Me: Bishops hold meeting

Bishop Terry R. LaValley outlines some of the discussion that took place at the recent United States Conference of Catholic Bishops meeting, held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While a number of topics were discussed, the Eucharist was a primary focus of the gathering.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope: Suffering pushes Christians to seek unity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – After receiving the gift of a chalice from leaders of the Lutheran World Federation, Pope Francis said divided Christians should suffer because they cannot share the Eucharist, but that suffering should spur them to work and pray harder for Christian unity.

As the formal Catholic-Lutheran dialogue proceeds, "it will be important

to examine with spiritual and theological humility the circumstances that led to the divisions, trusting that, although it is impossible to undo the sad events of the past, it is possible to reinterpret them as part of a reconciled history," Pope Francis said June 25 as he welcomed the LWF delegation.

Archbishop Panti Filibus Musa, president of the LWF,

told Pope Francis that 2021 "is marked by one of those difficult memories: the 500 years of the excommunication of Martin Luther. We cannot change history, but we can retell it in a way that it carries the promise of a better future, thus becoming our story of reconciliation."

And, presenting Pope Francis with the chalice and a paten, he explained that

the gifts were made by members of the ecumenical Community of Taizé in France and that the glaze used was made from the sand taken from the refugee camp in Zaatari, Jordan, the world's largest camp for Syrian refugees.

"Sharing the Lord's Supper together is also bearing the burdens of all those who have lost everything," the archbishop told the

pope. The solidarity shared at the altar "shapes who we are and ought to become: a people who, seeing the transfigured face of Christ, walk into the valley to see Christ in the disfigured faces of the exploited, the hungry and the poor. In this journey, we become fully church, together. Let us act together now, deepening into visible solidarity our union in prayer."

Congratulations, commissioned lay ministers!

After completing the two-year Formation for Ministry program, new lay ministers were commissioned by Bishop Terry R. LaValley at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday. Congratulations for the lay ministers can be found in this edition. Coverage will be in the July 14 *NCC*.

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLICBox 326
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
USPS 0039-3400

BISHOP TERRY

R. LAVALLEY

President

REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN

Vice President

JAMES D. CROWLEY

Secretary-Treasurer

DARCY L. FARGO

Editor &

Communications Director



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

Editorial Office:

622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Telephone:

(315) 608-7556

E-mail:

news@northcountry
catholic.org

Entered at the

Post Office:

Ogdensburg, NY
13669 and
additional mailing offices as
Periodical Postage.

Subscription:

For one year:
In-Diocese Rate: \$27
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30Matters for publication
should be
addressed to
PO Box 326Ogdensburg, NY 13669
and should be received by
Thursday prior to
publication.

Paper is printed each

Monday;

dateline is Wednesday.

Member, Catholic Press
Association.

POSTMASTER:

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

The inspiration of an ugly sweater

It's quite possibly the ugliest sweater I've ever seen.

When my mother asked my niece, Emma, now age 14, what she wanted for her birthday, Emma sent her a photo of a celebrity wearing a sweater with blocks of varying colors all over it. Emma asked my mother, a talented crocheter, to make her a similar sweater.

When I received a photo of the sweater, then placed on a flat surface for display purposes, I laughed out loud. This sweater is ugly. That's not a commentary on my mother's workmanship; mom did a great job. It's an ugly pattern.

Later, my sister sent me a photo of my niece wearing that sweater as they traveled around a nearby city celebrating Emma's birthday. While I still don't understand how she tolerated wearing a sweater on an 80-degree day, I can say with all honesty that Emma looked great in that sweater.

Darcy L.
Fargo

Emma marches to the beat of her own drum. She knows what she likes, and she really doesn't care what others think of her clothing choices (ugly sweaters), hair styles (currently shaved) or preferred activities (quirky craft projects and watching

hockey). She seems to have a pretty good idea of who she is, and she's comfortable taking that young lady into the world.

Frankly, I wish I could be as brave as my 14-year-old niece.

I know who I am. I'm a child and follower of God. Unlike Emma, I'm not always brave enough to take that out with me into this world and be who I am without apprehension or fear.

In this secular society, it's hard to proclaim our faith to family, friends, colleagues... When I feel called to do so, I know there's a risk that others will think I'm weird or worse. That risk – that fear – causes me to hesitate, at best, and sometimes pre-

vents me from sharing the Gospel at all.

This week, I was participating in a conversation with another individual, a trusted professional, when the conversation went in a direction that made me think about our faith, specifically to the forgiveness our Lord shows us and we're called to show others. While I considered sanitizing my presentation of my ideas to remove the faith reference out of fear, I then thought of Emma. If a 14-year-old young lady has the fortitude to be completely herself, I should, too.

I talked about the faith reference with that trusted professional.

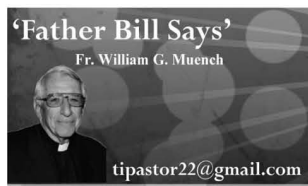
All because of an ugly sweater.

Confession from a priest's perspective

Once more on confession: I would like to take a few moments with you to share the unique position of a priest as a confessor. I noticed that at one of my daily Masses recently, a Gospel reading told the story of Jesus teaching his disciples – then and now – the Lord's Prayer. You will remember how much I love this prayer. I know that I have often been with a family around a hospital bed of a loved one and I wanted them all to join with me in prayer. I always turned to the Lord's Prayer. It is a perfect prayer.

So, there are many lessons each time we say the Lord's Prayer. Today I am thinking of forgiveness. "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Jesus calls us to be a forgiving people. Jesus promises us that God is a forgiving God. Our Catholic Church is a forgiving Church.

So, a few minutes today on forgiveness. I truly realize how necessary forgiveness is as I act in my priestly min-



istry as a confessor, acting as a disciple of Jesus. Each week, I spend an hour or more in the celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation – hearing confessions of the faithful. This sacrament is an important, even necessary part of the life of a Catholic.

For the priest as a confessor, this sacrament is an amazing opportunity. I, as an ordained priest, bring God's forgiveness to all who come to me to confess with repentance. I can bring them the grace of God's love and forgiveness. I want them to realize that despite any failings they are loved. Our God always loves them unconditionally. God is calling them to a new life – through conversion – to come alive with love and courage and to truly

find love for others and change what must be changed with faith.

The priest as a confessor is not a judge. Our task as a confessor is to guarantee forgiveness and to encourage a newness of life. As a priest, I promise the love and support of the Savior Jesus. Jesus made it very clear by his life, his sufferings, his crucifixion, his resurrection that all was a demonstration of the forgiveness of God for all of us sinners. During Mass, at the time of Communion, we all pray, "Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us."

I often say to those who find confession difficult that the joy and happiness and peace that comes when we discover the forgiveness of the Lord. The real difficulty in this sacrament is that each of us as sinners must promise our readiness to change. When our confession indicates that there is something, some failing that is interfering with our friend-

ship with our God, then it is time for conversion. My task as a priest is to encourage and lead a sinner to a new life with the Lord's constant help. Through this conversion each person will find peace and happiness – a forgiveness that bring joy.

One more thing to mention to you that is an important responsibility of each priest: the seal of the confession. The catechism explains this: "The Church declares that every priest who hears confessions is bound under very severe penalties to keep absolute secrecy regarding the sins that his penitents have confessed to him. He can make no use of knowledge that confession gives him about penitents' lives. This secret, which admits of no exceptions is called the 'sacramental seal' because what the penitent has made known to the priest remains 'sealed' by the sacrament." You have probably heard stories of just how serious all priests are about this seal of secrecy.

FOLLOW ME

Bishops gather for meeting, Eucharist is focus

Twice a year, the full body of the Bishops of the United States gather, normally in June and November, in what are referred to as plenary sessions. Due to the pandemic, our recent gatherings have found us meeting virtually. On June 16-18, we held our most recent plenary session virtually. For the bishops of New York State, it has been even longer since we last met. We were in Rome for the ad limina visit with the Holy Father in November 2019, the last time the U.S. bishops convened in Baltimore.



**Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley**

At our recent meeting, one of the first agenda items that required action by the bishops included votes that advanced the causes of canonization of Joseph Lafleur, Diocesan Priest and of Marinus Leonard LaRue, professed Brother of the Order of St. Benedict. There was overwhelming support for both causes.

The bishops also approved the development of a new formal statement of and comprehensive vision for Native American / Alaska Native ministry. I found this to be especially timely in light of the recent discovery of the buried remains of over 215 lost indigenous children at the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia about which I wrote in my column in the June 16 issue of the North Country Catholic.

I was privileged to be invited to a special Farewell Gathering held in Akwesasne on June 19 when the parishioners of St.

Regis Mission honored Sister Mary Christine Taylor, SSJ for her remarkable ministry to the Native Americans at Akwesasne for over forty years. Many inspiring stories were told of Sister's devoted service and loving presence to the native Americans. Congratulations and thank you Sister Christine and Sisters of St. Joseph!

Our virtual meeting also saw the bishops approve some edits in liturgical books, including the Liturgy of the Hours and the Order of Penance. Also approved was a proposed draft of "Pastoral Framework for Marriage and Family Life Ministry in the United States."

In addition to such "Action Items," reports were offered by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) regarding the pastoral care of migrants, refugees, and travelers; The Catechism of the Catholic Church; "A National Framework on Youth and Young Adults;" and a report and discussion on urgent immigration matters.

The chairwoman of the National Review Board, Ms. Suzanne Healy, commended the American bishops for the progress that has occurred since 2002 when the sex abuse scandal rocked the church. She cited several examples of significant improvements that have been instituted since the promulgation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. She challenged the bishops to continue with outreach efforts to address the ongoing needs

of survivors.

A few weeks ago, I held regional meetings with the priests of our diocese and then with our permanent deacons. This was a good opportunity for us to share our pastoral and personal experiences during the pandemic and speak of our concerns as we move forward, hopefully soon, out of the emergency mode into a state of somewhat normalcy.

A concern that surfaced at all our local gatherings was participation at Eucharist. Would the faithful return to Mass? How can we increase Mass attendance beyond what it was before the coronavirus reared its ugly head? Livestreaming was a wonderful tool for those who did not come to Church, but it does not substitute for actual presence. From these discussions, there was a consensus that now is the time for us to focus our efforts on the Eucharist. This is a "teachable" moment. With that in mind, several weeks ago, the clergy of our diocese took part in an online program on the Eucharist presented by the editor of Adoremus and director of the Office for Sacred Worship in the Diocese of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, Christopher Carstens.

Monsignor Robert Aucoin is coordinating our diocesan efforts to address the centrality of the Eucharist in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Simultaneous to this, the USCCB is proposing a Eucharistic Revival 2022-2024 that will include: Diocesan Revival, Parish Revival and National Revival. This national project is in its formative stage. We plan to integrate our local efforts with the national

project.

Given the times in which we live, I believe it essential to focus on the Eucharist, the "source and summit" of who we are and what we believe as Catholic Christians. I strongly support the decision that approved the request of the Committee on Doctrine to proceed with the drafting of a formal statement on the meaning of the Eucharist in the life of the Church. In its development, I hope the document will focus on: The Eucharist: A Mystery to be believed, to be celebrated, and to be lived. The proposed document would include teaching on the Real Presence of the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion as well as moral transforma-

tion.

As a pastor of souls, I have the responsibility of teaching what Christ has handed on to His Apostles and, through them, the Church. No Catholic Christian, politician, clergy or lay person, is exempt from developing a well-informed conscience and living what Christ has taught. This is to be a teaching document on the Eucharist, not a public indictment against certain individuals. The bishops have a responsibility to proclaim the Truth with conviction and clarity, regardless of what the opinion polls indicate. The truth should strengthen, not weaken our unity.

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.

Your Bishop's Fund at Work for You!



Diocese of Ogdensburg



'Father Jay' reflects on culture, faith

By Mary Beth Bracy
Contributing Writer

MORRISONVILLE – We are “Gifted to give – faith is a gift from God.” Father Pedro Edgardo N. De La Rosa, known as “Father Jay,” parochial vicar at St. Alexander’s, Morrisonville, St. James, Cadyville, and St. Augustine’s in Peru, brought this message with him from across the world.

During the “Faith around the world: the Philippines” Eastern Region Commissioned Lay Ministers Association (ER-CLMA) Spring Event, Father De La Rosa talked about faith, his vocation and culture. Held on June 16 at St. Alexander’s, the evening began with Mass, followed by the reflection, time for questions and refreshments.

On March 14, 2021, Pope Francis celebrated 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines. Father De La Rosa explained that in 1521, Ferdinand Magellan brought Catholicism to the Philippines and 800 people were baptized. On Easter 2021, the Philippine Church began to commemorate this fifth centenary. Archbishop Romulo Valles, president of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines, declared the theme: “Gifted to give” and that “Faith is a gift from God. And so, we are joyful in this special jubilee year.”



DOROTHY MCDEVITT /FOR THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Father Pedro Edgardo N. De La Rosa discusses his culture and his vocation during ‘Faith around the world: the Philippines,’ held June 16 in Morrisonville.

Father De La Rosa proclaimed “the joyful witness to evangelical charity” that Catholics in his homeland reflect “in hard times.” “It is joyful to believe and entrust our lives in Jesus,” our faith is “strong amidst the storms of life, assured of Our Lord’s Presence.” It is our “duty to evangelize,” Father De La Rosa relayed. The “seed of faith in their hearts,” planted by their forefathers, helps the faithful and those they serve, including the needy and marginalized.

Most Rev. Leonardo Legaspi, Archbishop Emeritus of Father De La Rosa’s diocese of Caceres, began the Caceres Mission Aid Program on May 26, 1997. Since then, priests from Caceres have been sent to 37 dioceses, including several in the United States, and in numerous countries.

Describing his life and call, Father Pedro Edgardo

“Jay” De La Rosa, mentioned that he’s not sure where his nickname came from. His paternal grandfather, Pedro, and father, Edgardo, are both good looking. So, he likes to joke, “here I am.” His mother, Ida, along with his father, are retired government employees who now live in the United States. In 3rd grade, he became an altar server and assisted at Mass every Sunday. It was then that he first considered a vocation, since he enjoyed being with priests and seminarians.

However, in high school, Father De La Rosa planned on becoming a physical therapist. Then, there was a vocation campaign, and students who attended could miss a class. He went to get out of math and ended up entering seminary, he said.

As a priest, he’s served in several areas. First, he was a professor and formator at Holy Rosary preparatory seminary for five years. Father De La Rosa is grateful that 18 of his former students are now priests.

In 2011, Father De La

Rosa became the “pioneer priest” of St. Francis Parish, which began as rice fields. Father De La Rosa oversaw the construction of the church, rectory and parish hall. Through “sweat and blood,” Father De La Rosa and his parishioners “sacrificed a lot for fundraising activities.” One of the most popular was singing Christmas Carols. They attribute the success to nine days of votive Masses in honor of the Blessed Mother. The “Mass of the Rooster” began at 4 a.m. each morning and was held from December 16 to 24. Father De La Rosa’s day began at 2 a.m., when he prepared the church; following Mass he spent his day tending to the needs of the parish, offered 6 p.m. Mass and helped with caroling, often until midnight.

Though it required a lot of sacrifice, it was “very fulfilling,” because it was “not for ourselves but for God.” Due to this, it really “pains” him that dioceses in the United States have parishes that are closed due to lack of priests and faithful. In many places, he commented, former churches have been turned into restaurants and stores.

After eight years, Father De La Rosa was transferred to Divine Mercy Parish. He became the Divine Mercy Association director for the Archdiocese of Caceres and his parish became the shrine. They needed to construct a large parish hall. Thankfully, it only took five months, and in May 2019 it became the House of Mercy.

Then, Father De La Rosa was asked to come to the Diocese of Ogdensburg. It was difficult, at first, since he was “happy and ful-

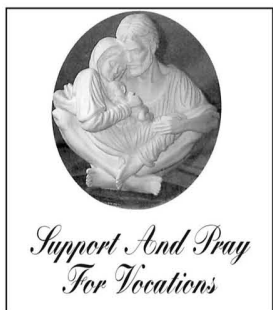
filled” in the Philippines. It meant “leaving the comfort of the place (where he grew up,” loved ones, and his dog. It has been an adjustment to work as a parochial vicar, adapt to our weather and food. Most of all, it is different not celebrating Mass in his native language. Still, Father De La Rosa said that he is “happy and fulfilled” here, and grateful to Father Scott R. Seymour, Father William L. Gordon, Bishop Terry R. LaValley and other diocesan staff.

Father De La Rosa emphasized that family is the center of the Filipino social structure – including extended family and Godparents, who are much closer and sometimes live with their adult children, etc. There are not nursing homes in the Philippines, and there is no divorce by law. They affectionately call elders Tita (literally meaning aunt) and Tito (uncle). They “kiss” the hand of priests and elders (placing their forehead on their hand). The reason they “kiss” priests hands is because holy oil is poured on them at ordination.

Father De La Rosa added that, when Filipinos do not “live up to norms of conduct, (they) bring shame on (their) families.” Though poor, they are lavish in generosity to show hospitality (e.g. at parties). They also offer their best to guests and invite people for meals, regardless of the individual. Filipinos visit their neighbors often.

“Everbody knows everyone in a town,” he said.

In the end, shared Father De La Rosa, “no culture (is) better than (an)other, it’s how we’re reared and molded.” We need to “respect differences.”



BARSTOW
BY AMERICAN REVOLUTION GMC ELSELE
For More Information, Visit Our Web Page at: www.barstowmotors.com
MARKET ST., POTSDAM, NY # (315) 265-8800
Your NNY Regional GM & Subaru SuperCenter

Community honors Sister M. Christine Taylor

AKWESASNE – Parishioners and friends from St. Regis Church and Akwesasne honored, celebrated, and thanked Sister Mary Christine Taylor, a Sister of St. Joseph, at the Rourke home on Saturday, June 19.

Sister Mary Christine was honored as a devoted servant of our Lord who responded to the call of the Holy Spirit, to serve the people of Akwesasne. The people responded greatly through the past 47 years of her dedicated and loving service to the community of St. Regis Parish and to the community of Akwesasne.

Father Jerome Pastores, pastor of St. Regis Church, began with a prayer welcoming everyone and giving thanks for the dedication and service Sister Mary Christine gave to the parish and to the community. A delicious meal, prepared by the people, was served.

Following the meal, Bishop Terry R. LaValley spoke of Sister Mary Christine's dedicated spirit because of her prayer and passion for serving the people by bringing the love of God to them.

Grand Chief Abram Benedict of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and Chief Michael Conners of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe presented Sister Mary Christine with a plaque recognizing her achievements for the people.

Minerva White shared the background and history of Mater Dei College responding to the call to open an extension of Mater Dei for the people. Sister Mary Christine was responsible for the beginning of the Mater Dei Extension and its many years of educating the people of Akwesasne.



Sister Mary Christine Taylor, a Sister of St. Joseph, addresses a crowd gathered at the Rourke home on June 19 to honor her for her years of service to the St. Regis Mission and the people of Akwesasne.

The Mater Dei Extension educated hundreds of students from the Reservation.

The people have expressed their gratitude for their education in

their service given back to their community and beyond. Former Chief Alma Ransom, who praised Sister Mary Christine's tenacity, expressed this deep appreciation.

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone."

1 Corinthians 12:4-5



We congratulate...

**+ JOHN FERRY + LAURA MALLAN
+ KEVIN O'ROURKE + MARYANN O'ROURKE
...as they are commissioned as Lay Ministers!**

*From, Fr. Robert Decker, the staff, and all the faithful of
St. Cecilia's, Adams & Queen of Heaven, Henderson*

Sister encouraged the people to become educated, and the strength of her faith in God spurred them forward. Her prayer and efforts bore fruit as they would carry forward their hopes and dreams to build a better world.

Matt Rourke, Sister Mary Christine's first secretary at Mater Dei College, also praised sister for her faith and guidance. He called her the second "Lily of the Mohawks" because of her love for God and for the people of Akwesasne. Matt invited the choir from St. Regis to sing the Our Father in Mohawk and the people joined in prayer and song.

The program concluded with the gift from the people of Akwesasne, a quilt of many colors of the people of Akwesasne and three white Crosses expressing God's love for His people.

Sister Mary Christine spoke to her people expressing her gratitude to them for her service. Above all, she thanked God for her gift of being with the people of Akwe-

sasne and the parish at St. Regis.

Sister Mary Christine promised continued prayer for them, especially those she wished to visit again, the people in the Nursing Homes.

Her final words were: "All for the honor and glory of God and for the 'dear neighbor.'" She closed with the prayer to Saint Kateri.

"O Saint Kateri, Lily of the Mohawks, Your love for Jesus, so strong, so steadfast, pray that we may become like you. Your short and painful life showed us your strength and humility. Pray that we may become forever humble like you. Like the bright and shining stars at night, we pray that your light may forever shine down upon us, giving light, hope, peacefulness, and serenity in our darkest moments. Fill our hearts, Saint Kateri Tekakwitha with your same love for Jesus and pray that we have the strength and courage to become one like you in Heaven. Amen."

Congratulations Susan Barriere

On your commissioning as a
Lay Minister
and on your first year as
Faith Formation Director
May Jesus and Mary always
bless you and your ministry.

*Father Ted
and the parishioners of
Sacred Heart, Chazy*

Environmental Stewardship

Future is in our hands

This quote on a poster with a photo of a tiny tree in a person's hands reminds us that the future IS in OUR hands. . . . young, old and everyone in between. The beauties of this season of summer abound around us and beckon us outside to bask in them with all our senses. It also calls us to become increasingly aware of the ways that we can be good environmental stewards of this precious yet fragile gift and to act NOW for generations to come.

This week we continue share some thoughts and experiences of our young people on caring for God's Creation. This week we hear first from Corinne Woods from the Middle School at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga. Her project, entered in the Pope Francis Green Apple diocesan project, is titled, "How Gardening can help save the Earth."

"Gardening is a way of life.

. . . getting your hands dirty

. . . seeing life in the dirt like worms or other insects

. . . providing for others (your neighbor, charity)

Gardening can save the world. People everyday day use this source for food. It helps keep our environment healthy – fewer pollutants, less processed food, no factories involved. It is a natural resource for food. Animals can eat natural food. This has not been processed. No factories involved. It is a healthy way of eating. . . . less trash and waste is used. . . . no plastic bags, bottles or cans used in this process." Corinne's poster is decorated with tiny plants and surrounded with delicious looking fresh fruits and veggies!

The third graders from St. Agnes School in Lake Placid made art pieces made of a world with legs and feet attached to a pledge that each individual student wrote on "HOW I CAN MAKE THE WORLD MORE BEAUTIFUL." Some pledges included: pick up trash, use less plastics, plants flowers, etc. to mention a few.

These are all tips that we may want to do or add our own list and put them into practice now!

See more of the Green Apple projects on Pages 8 and 9 of this edition.

Bishop's Public Schedule

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

July 1 – 11 a.m. – Feast of the Precious Blood Mass at the Precious Blood Monastery in Watertown

July 10 – 11 a.m. – Mass and Celebration of the 50th Jubilee of Sister Diane Marie Ulsamer, SSJ at Sacred Heart Church in Watertown

July 11 – 11 a.m. – Mass in Celebration of the 101st Anniversary of St. Mary's Church in Glenfield

July 12 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

July 14 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Rest in Peace

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

June 30 – Rev. George F. Maroun, 2016

July 1 – Rev. Norbert Callahan, M.S.C., 1909; Rev. William A. O'Connor, 1922; Rev. P. Leon Legault, 1991

July 2 – Rev. Richard A. Gleason, O.S.A., 1939; Rev. Denis F. Finnegan, 1951; Msgr. John A. Stone, 1964; Msgr. Francis J. Connors, 1977; Rev. George A. Lemieux, 1993; Rev. John M. Crable, 2012; Deacon Francis F. Bateman, 2019

July 3 – Rev. E. Leonard Murphy, 1954

July 4 – Rev. Joseph L. St. Jacques, 1952

July 5 – Rev. Paul F. Ledermann, 2016

July 6 – Rev. Armand Baron, O.M.I., 1936

July 7 – Rev. Felician Fehlner, O.F.M. Conv, 1952

July 9 – Rev. John Rogers, 1887; Rev. Joseph H. Emard, O.M.I., 1924

July 10 – Rev. Mary Ignatius Grom, 1936; Rev. John F. McNamara, 1971; Deacon Victor Fisher, 1999; Rev. James A. Delbel, 2013

July 12 – Rev. James Salmon, 1835; Rev. John J. Brennan, 1881; Most Rev. Albert Pascal, O.M.I., 1920

July 13 – Rev. George Garand, 1941

Protecting God's Children

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

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri- anne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terri- 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 Service** at 800-276-1562 or www.ReportBishopAbuse.org.

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

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

(With ecclesiastical approval)

Mass
Rosary
Fasting
Day Offering
Eucharistic Adoration
Offering of Sufferings
Divine Mercy Chaplet
Or whatever the Lord
inspires you to offer Him



JULY

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY		2021		1		2		3	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	FRIDAY	FRIDAY	FRIDAY	FRIDAY
For more copies contact: Diocese of Ogdensburg PO Box 369 Ogdensburg, NY 13669						BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY		REV. DONALD A. ROBINSON	
						REV. STEPHEN ROCKER			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
REV. JOSEPH N. SESTITO	REV. JAMES W. SEYMOUR	REV. SCOTT R. SEYMOUR	REV. ALAN D. SHNOB	OUR PASTOR	REV. F. JAMES SHURTLIFF	REV. FERNANDO V. SOLOMON	14	15	16
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
REV. BRYAN D. STITT	REV. PHILIP P. TAH	REV. TODD E. THIBAUT	REV. JUSTIN THOMAS HGN	POPE FRANCIS	BENEDICT XVI POPE EMERITUS	REV. SEVERINUS A. K. TORWOE	21	22	23
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
REV. HOWARD J. VENETTE	MSGR. PAUL E. WHITMORE	REV. LEO A. WILEY	REV. JOHN R. YONKOVIG V.F	RETIRED PRIESTS	REV. PHILIP T. ALLEN	REV. ANDREW J. AMVOY	28	29	30
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	DECEASED PRIESTS	MSGR. ROBERT H. AUCCOIN	REV. DEEPAK BARU, HGN

For more information visit us online at www.mprpapistate.com

A donation to help support
THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS
will be appreciated.

The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by:



Diocese of Ogdensburg
Vocations Society www.myvocation.net

*Fr. Sony and the parishioners from
St. James Major, Lake Pleasant
and St. Ann's, Wells
would like to wish*

**Jean Doell
&
Frank Sczerzenie**

PRAYERFUL
CONGRATULATIONS ON
YOUR RECENT
COMMISSIONING AS
LAY MINISTERS.



WALKING WITH JESUS



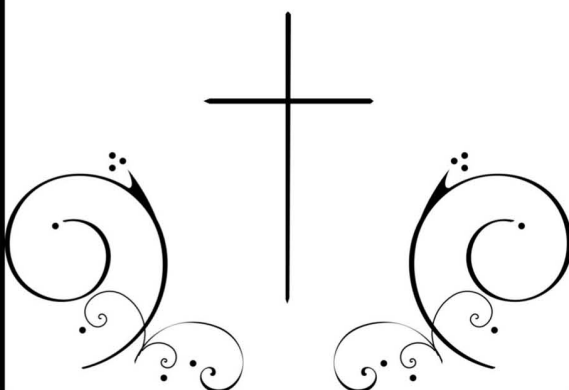
More than 60 parishioners of St. Mary's in Fort Covington participated in a Corpus Christi procession on the June 6 solemnity. Several others stayed in the church during the procession to pray the rosary. Participants made their way around the block near the parish, stopping at three altars. At each altar, a Gospel reading related to the Eucharist was proclaimed and a hymn was sung. The procession returned to St. Mary's for Benediction.



*Congratulations
and
God's Blessings
on
Mikayla Ferguson*

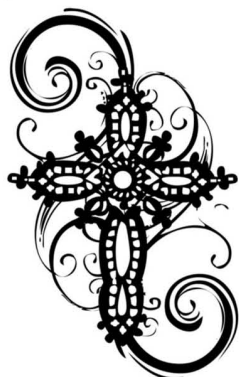
*On your commissioning as
Lay Minister.
We are very blessed to
have your ministry
among us!*

From
Father Don Manfred and
the parishioners of
St. Stephen's Parish,
Croghan



*The Roman Catholic Community of
Cape Vincent, Rosiere and Chaumont
offer sincere
congratulations to
Paul DuFlo*

*On your recent commissioning as Lay Minister.
We look forward to your years
of service with our parish.*



Green Apple Awards

Pope Francis Caring for our Common Home Green Apple Awards are awarded to families, schools, organizations or faith formation classes for collaborative endeavors that “encourage action steps to ‘care for God’s creation’” and sharing these endeavors with their schools, parishes and communities.



Students in Natalie Wylie’s kindergarten class at Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh did a ‘Green Team Challenge’ for Earth Day. Students completing the challenge became official Green Team members and received a badge and prize. Students learned that every day is Earth Day, not just one day a year, and they completed a ‘trash walk’ collecting garbage around the school. Pictured with Wylie and Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ, are kindergarten students Elijah Maggy, Ryan Meschinelli, Siobhan Lawliss, Oliver Henry, Emily Baker, Arianna LeClair, Avery White, Milan McLean, Anthony Christodoulou, Edward Bleeker, Caleb Chase and Eva Blais.



Students at St. Agnes School in Lake Placid took place in a Clean up Day to pick up trash on the streets around the school. The students who are pictured are Emily, Eleanor, Jace, Henri, McKenzie, Celia, Knox, Louise, Harry, Adrianna and Sean.



Sister Kathleen DeBoalt’s second grade students at Immaculate Heart Central planted daffodil bulbs in the fall in front of the school’s statue of the Blessed Mother. Pictured are Giovanni Moran, Christian Alteri, Sully Perin, Mason Granger, Gabe Nicol, Ezekiel Ryave, Jason Shah, Victoria Dean, Ruth Larpenteur, Alexandra Vrooman, and Madison Ficht. Not pictured but helped with the planting were Gabriel Windmueller, London Taylor and Finley Aiken as well as the other second graders.




On April 24, a dozen IHC students donated their Saturday morning to cleaning up a 2 ½ mile stretch of roadway and wetlands near the school. This service event, in support of Habitat for Humanity's 'Earth Day Roadside Clean-Up,' provided the students an opportunity to celebrate the earth while demonstrating Immaculate Heart Central's commitment to being a "good neighbor." A week later another group of IHC's service-minded students (pictured above) were back at it helping plant 50 bare-root trees alongside volunteers from Tree Watertown and Rotary International. In June each Earth Day participant was recognized as a recipient of the Diocese of Ogdensburg's 2021 Green Apple Award.

Congratulations
to
Jeffrey Morelock
&
Renee Morelock
on your
commissioning
as lay ministers
for our parish.

St. Mary's Church,
Champlain
&
St. Patrick's Church,
Rouses Point


At St. Bartholomew's Parish, Old Forge
and St. Anthony's Parish, Inlet
We are thankful for the commissioning of
Alesia Olney
Congratulations!
We rejoice with you and appreciate
the ministry you offer among us.



Congratulations
Christopher Lapointe

For becoming a newly commissioned
Lay Minister for our parish.

*The Catholic Community of
Immaculate Conception,
Brownville*




Our parish family is very grateful to

Desiree Kirk

*for responding to the call to
serve the church as a
Commissioned Lay Minister.*

*May God bless you abundantly for
all the good you have done
and continue to do.*

Holy Cross Parish
Plattsburgh, NY



MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

Challenging childhood gender transitions

A 23-year-old woman named Keira Bell recently brought a pivotal lawsuit against the National Health Services Gender Identity Development Clinic in London, better known as the Tavistock Clinic. Keira experienced significant personal harm from puberty blockers, testosterone and an operation to remove her breasts. She claims the medical staff at the clinic failed to challenge her seriously about her decision as a teenager to transition to a male. In a landmark ruling delivered in December 2020, a British court upheld her claim that she'd been rushed through gender reassignment without proper safeguards.

Keira represents the leading edge of a new class of young people struggling with gender

dysphoria who, as they become adults, are starting to push back against various "gender affirmation" interventions perpetrated against them, even, in some cases, seeking legal recourse and financial redress. As these intrepid individuals challenge the status quo, they are becoming known as "trans-desisters" or "detransitioners."

When Keira was 16 and struggling with gender dysphoria, she was referred to the Tavistock Clinic and was almost immediately launched down the medical path. After three one-hour long visits to the medical facility, she was prescribed puberty blockers, powerful drugs that

delay the development of signs of puberty. In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation, she stated that there hadn't been adequate investigation or therapy prior to that stage.

"I should have been challenged on the proposals or the claims that I was making for myself," she said. "I think that would have made a big difference."

Later she was prescribed the male hormone testosterone, to help her develop male features like a beard, moustache and a deep voice. A few years later she underwent a mastectomy.

"Initially I felt very relieved and happy about things, but I think as the years go on, you start to feel less and less enthusiastic or even happy about things."

"You can continue to dig yourself deeper into this hole or you can choose to come out of it and have the weight lifted off your shoulders."

She stopped taking the cross-sex hormones at age 22 and says she has come to accept being female now. She remains upset, however, about what had happened to her over the last decade.

"I was allowed to run with this idea that I had, almost like a fantasy, as a teenager... and it has affected me in the long run as an adult."

Vulnerable young people, caught up in the pressure of the moment, have too easily been drawn into life-altering pathways involving medications and scalpels with their frequently irreversible ef-

fects. Puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and complex surgeries can all lead to permanent damage, even the destruction of a young person's reproductive organs and fertility.

Now in her early 20s, Keira soberly observes, "I'm very young. I've only just stepped into adulthood and I have to deal with this kind of burden or radical difference."

Parents have a serious obligation to protect their children from the gender-reassignment industry, which profits handsomely from the lucrative, long term hormone prescriptions and the multiple complex surgeries. When parents give consent for cross-sex interventions on their children, they will often do so under pressure from clinicians and professional societies like the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

Keira and other detransitioners insist that extended waiting periods, with appropriate questioning and challenging of young people, need to occur as part of a good psychotherapeutic response to claims of gender dysphoria. The AAP, meanwhile, strongly discourages such approaches, telling pediatric primary care providers, in an official statement, "to be a reliable source of validation, support, and reassurance," and exclusively to pursue "affirmation-based approaches" for children's mental health services, including pharmacological and surgical interventions.

As James Cantor, Director of the Toronto Sexual-ity Centre, noted in a critical review of the AAP statement, "Although al-

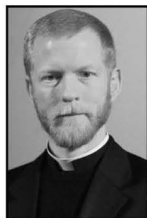
most all clinics and professional associations in the world use what's called the watchful waiting approach to helping gender-diverse children, the AAP statement instead rejected that consensus, endorsing gender affirmation as the only acceptable approach."

The available studies reveal, moreover, that the majority of pre-adolescent children who present as "trans" eventually revert to the identity that accords with their biological sex. Those studies indicate at least 67 percent of gender diverse children cease wanting to transition by puberty as long as "gender affirmation" approaches are not pursued or advocated.

Keira sums up her experience this way: "I look back with a lot of sadness. There was nothing wrong with my body. I was just lost and without proper support. Transition gave me the facility to hide from myself even more than before. It was a temporary fix."

These first-hand testimonies from brave and outspoken detransitioners like Keira Bell should prompt us to listen closely to their stories and beware of "affirmation-based approaches" that often cloak the betrayal of our gender-confused youth.

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



Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk Ph.D.



*The Catholic Community of
St. Peter's, St. Mary's &
St. Hedwig's congratulate*

Gayla M. Ortlieb

*on her completion of the
Formation for Ministry program!*

*We are deeply grateful for the
many years of faithful service
from all of our Commissioned Lay
Ministers. May God continue to
bless you abundantly!*

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 30; July 7, 14, 21, 28; Aug. 4, 11

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Carthage – Through a generous grant from the Mother Cabrini Foundation, Augustinian Academy is excited to offer: Treasured Vacation Bible School!

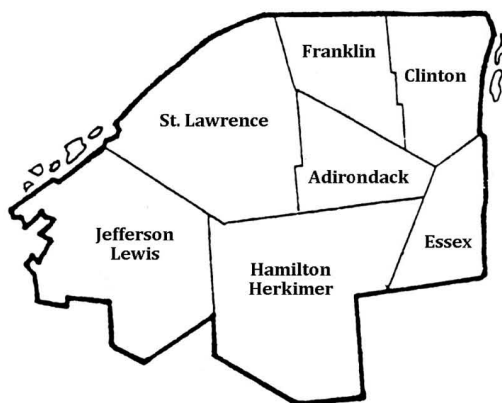
Date: Aug. 23-27

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 8

Place: Augustinian Academy.

Features: VBS is for children in kindergarten through sixth grade. It is open to the public, and all denominations are welcome.

Contact: For more information and



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.

registration forms please visit the school website at www.c-augustinian.org.

ST. LAWRENCE

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.

PRAYER AND ADORATION

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

Date: Every third Wednesday of the month (July 21)

Time: 6:30 to 7 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

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.

MYSTERY OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Special event to be held for those serving in any ministry in their parish. Time to refocus our attention on the Holy Eucharist as a "Mystery to be believed, a Mystery to be celebrated, a Mystery to be lived."

Date: Sept. 18

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Locations: IHC in Watertown, St.

James School in Gouverneur, St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga, Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh, St. Edmund's Parish Center in Ellenburg, St. Peter's Church in Lowville, the parish center in Waddington, and St. Mary's Parish Center in Brushton

Features: This is an in-person event only. Attendees must bring their own lunch. Light refreshments will be provided.

Contact: Registration is due by September 1. Space is limited therefore registration is first come, first serve.

Register at:

<https://www.rcdony.org/mystereucharist>

CLM ANNUAL MEETING & BBQ

The Commissioned Lay Ministers Association in SLFA Deaneries are invited to attend an annual meeting and barbecue. For the St. Lawrence, Franklin and Adirondack deaneries.

Date: Sept. 19

Time: 1 p.m. to 4

Place: Camp Guggenheim

Features: Celebrate Mass with Bishop LaValley at 1 p.m. It is free to attend, just enjoy the beautiful scenery and a hotdog and hamburger cookout.

Contact: Registration to attend is required at: www.rcdony.org/clm-event

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.rcdony.org/formation/candidate or contact Cathy Russell at 315-393-2920 or email at crussell@rcdony.org. Registration deadline is July 15th. "Be not afraid" of God's invitation!

SIDEWALK ADVOCATES FOR LIFE

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

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

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

Congratulations

*On your commissioning as
lay ministers*

J. B. Kavanaugh



Wanda Kavanaugh

*From the Catholic Community
at
St. Mary's Church,
Clayton*



Nicholas Tsibulsky

*Congratulations on your recent commissioning as a
Lay Minister.*

Your parish family at St. Peter's Parish, Massena

Hundreds of bodies found at former residential school

TORONTO (CNS) – The Cowessess First Nation will put a name to each of the hundreds of bodies found at the unmarked graves on the former Marieval Indian Residential School, vows Chief Cadmus Delorme.

"We will put a headstone and a grave to each of them," Delorme said at a June 24 news conference to announce the discovery of hundreds of bodies on the southeast Saskatchewan First Nations' lands.

The chief announced the discovery of up to 751 unmarked graves at the site of the Catholic residential school on its territory, the news coming almost a month after the discovery of 215 children's bodies buried at another residential school in Kamloops, British Columbia.

The graves at Marieval – which Delorme said were not part of a mass grave – were discovered by ground-penetrating radar which the First Nation, with the help of Saskatchewan Polytechnic, had been using since earlier this month on the grounds of the cemetery. He also said it's not yet certain if all the bodies are children from the school. Delorme also stressed there could be a 10% margin of error, so he was working on the assumption there are "over 600" bodies buried at the site.

"We always knew there were graves here" through oral history passed along from elders in the community, he said.

The Marieval school, located about 85 miles east of Regina, Saskatchewan, opened in 1898. It was run by Catholic missionaries and funded by the federal government until 1968,

when the government took over full control before handing over responsibility for the school to the Cowessess First Nation in 1987. The school closed in 1997 and was demolished in 1999.

In a statement addressed to Delorme and members of the Cowessess nation hours after the news conference, Archbishop Donald Bolen of Regina, said, "Words fail in the face of the news."

"I can only imagine the pain and waves of emotion that you and your people are experiencing right now," said Archbishop Bolen, who has met with the Cowessess people in the past.

"The gravesite work brings us face to face with the brutal legacy of the Indian Residential School system, a product of a colonialist history which has left so much suffering and intergenerational trauma," the archbishop said. "The operation of the Marieval Residential School at Cowessess left many people deeply wounded by various kinds of abuse.

"As you have communicated elsewhere, Chief Cadmus, even for those of us who were not there or not involved, it is nonetheless the painful legacy that we need to carry. The incredible burden of the past is still with us, and the truth of that past needs to come out, however painful, as only truth can lead to reconciliation. As you said of the gravesite, 'the truth is there.' Thank you for your courage as chief and that of your whole community as you seek out the truth and search for a reset that brings an end to racism and opens a path to justice

and to healing."

Archbishop Bolen said he had apologized in the past, "but I extend that apology again and pledge to do what we can to turn that apology into meaningful concrete acts – including assisting in accessing information that will help to provide names and information about those buried in unmarked graves – and to stand by you in whatever way you request."

At the news conference, Delorme said the graves had been marked in the past, but in 1960 the headstones were taken down by Catholic Church representatives.

"We didn't remove the headstones, that's a crime in this country," he said.

By putting a name to each and every person buried there, "we want to make sure we keep that place so we can heal," said Delorme.

"A lot of the pain we see in our people comes from there," said elder Florence Sparvier, a knowledge keeper in the Cowessess community.

Sparvier attended the Marieval school and recalled how the children were not treated very well by the Oblate missionaries and the nuns who ran and taught at the school.

"They made us believe we didn't have souls," said Sparvier, 80.

In 2019, the Archdiocese of Regina agreed to pay \$70,000 to help mark the unidentified graves and add fences and trees to the Cowessess cemetery.

At the time, Archbishop Bolen said he was hopeful the funds would help move forward some of the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Official: Catholics must know how Peter's Pence is spent

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The head of the Vatican Secretariat for the Economy said he hopes efforts at financial transparency and reform will foster Catholics' trust ahead of the annual Peter's Pence collection. In an interview with Vatican News June 25, Jesuit Father Juan Antonio Guerrero Alves, prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy, said Catholics "have the right to know how we spend the money given to us. Sometimes contradictions arise from a lack of knowledge, which, in turn, comes from a lack of transparency," Father Guerrero said. Peter's Pence is a papal fund used for charity, but also to support the running of the Roman Curia and Vatican embassies around the world. The collection for the fund occurs each year around June 29, the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul. However, several reports in recent years have alleged that only a small portion of the money received annually was used for charity while the majority of the contributions were used to fill the gap in the Vatican's administrative budget. More recently, in September, questions arose as to whether funds from the Peter's Pence collection were used to finance the Vatican Secretariat of State's purchase of a majority stake in a property in London's Chelsea district, a purchase which incurred major debts.

USCCB website answers questions about Communion document

WASHINGTON (CNS) – A page on the website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops answers a series of questions regarding the bishops' vote to approve drafting a document on the Eucharist during their spring general assembly June 16-18. Presented in a question-and-answer format, the page reviews four questions including why the document is being developed and whether the bishops voted to ban elected officials from receiving holy Communion. The webpage – www.usccb.org/meaning-eucharist-life-church – is dated June 21, three days after the bishops announced the vote to allow the Committee on Doctrine to draft the document and present it for discussion when the bishops reconvene in person in November. The U.S. bishops approved advancing 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 assembly, held virtually due to the pandemic. The action passed with 168 votes in favor and 55 votes against it. There were six abstentions.

Officials urge Congress to make Hyde permanent

WASHINGTON (CNS) – House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., and several other Republican leaders in the House asked their Democratic counterparts June 22 to take up a measure introduced by Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., that would make the long-standing Hyde Amendment permanent. The Hyde Amendment, which first became law in 1976, prohibits use of federal Medicaid dollars for abortion except in cases of rape, incest or when the life of the woman would be endangered. Smith's bill, titled the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2021, or H.R. 18, had 166 co-sponsors. On June 23, in a late afternoon vote, all 218 Democrats in the House approved a procedural "previous question" motion that prevented the House from debating and voting on the measure. The Republican vote against the motion was 209. Smith told Catholic News Service that House Republicans then began a series of unanimous consent requests on the floor asking that H.R. 18 be immediately discharged from three committees and brought to the floor for debate and a vote. "We are going to do this every day until the August recess," he said.

NOW STREAMING

LUCA

NEW YORK (CNS) – While it does nothing to solve the perennial problem for real-life parents that obedient children rarely have adventures, director Enrico Casarosa's animated fantasy "Luca" (Disney+) is otherwise a winsome tale full of charm and Italian flair.

Too complicated for tots, who also might be frightened, it's thoroughly enjoyable fare for all others.

The film's premise is indeed fantastical since the titular protagonist is a young sea monster (voice of Jacob Tremblay) living in the waters off the coast of Liguria. A gentle shepherd of fish, Luca's benign nature, like that of all those by whom he's surrounded, completely belies the threatening moniker humans have given them.

Though timid, Luca is also curious and, with the encouragement of Alberto (voice of Jack Dylan Grazer), a more daring and experienced peer he accidentally meets, he makes the startling discovery that he and his new pal are both transformed into preteen boys when on dry land (something of which Alberto is already aware). Luca is understandably anxious to explore the unknown world thus laid open to him.

After his overprotective mom, Daniela (voice of Maya Rudolph), and well-meaning but distracted dad, Lorenzo (voice of Jim



CNS PHOTO/DISNEY AND PIXAR

A scene from the animated movie "Luca," now streaming on Disney+. The Catholic News Service classification is A-I – general patronage. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG – parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

Gaffigan), learn of Luca's secret activities, they threaten to send him to live with his deep seawelling Uncle Ugo (voice of Sacha Baron Cohen). So Luca and Alberto make a break for it and set off for the nearby town of Portorosso.

There, they befriend Giulia (voice of Emma Berman), a strictly human local girl, and enjoy the hospitality of her fisherman father, Massimo (voice of Marco Barricelli). Plucky Giulia has a long-standing rivalry with arrogant Ercole (voice of Saverio Raimondo), the town bully, who has repeatedly defeated her in

Portorosso's annual triathlon.

Partly for Giulia's satisfaction and partly to win enough prize money to buy the Vespa they both long to own, Luca and Alberto agree to enter the event as her teammates. But their plan may be thwarted since Daniela and Lorenzo, having taken on human form, are in hot pursuit of their son.

Touches of humor – the

triathlon consists of biking, swimming and pasta-eating – consistently appealing characters and picturesque visuals combine to make this Pixar production top-flight. Such themes as the tensions that develop among the central trio, with Alberto offering Luca the prospect of a carefree, Tom Sawyer-Huck Finn lifestyle while studious Giulia has him yearning to go to school, are well-

handled.

The closest thing to the kind of scatological material that so often crops up in movies for youngsters is a fleeting scene in which Alberto picks his nose. The Italian fondness for conveying ideas physically is depicted by a few nonverbal expressions of disdain. But these are more boisterous than harsh.

In the midst of a comic situation, a momentarily endangered child makes the sign of the cross in what those on the lookout for objectionable elements might consider a frivolous way. As for Portorosso's priest (voice of Jonathan Nichols), he is portrayed as a community fixture – a pleasant, though bland, presence among his parishioners.

Colorful and touching, "Luca" is a quality offering fit for almost all ages.

The film contains characters in peril and a couple of rude gestures. The Catholic News Service classification is A-I – general patronage. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG – parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

For a New or Used Car

Mort Backus & Sons

On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.
315-393-5899

CHEVROLET



Relax this summer with your subscription to the North Country Catholic, The newspaper for the Diocese of Ogdensburg

Summer's Here!

Visit our website at www.northcountrycatholic.org to pay by Credit Card for immediate delivery.

OR Send this coupon with payment to:
North Country Catholic
PO Box 106, Canajoharie, New York, 13317

****Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery when mailing in your renewal****

Inside Diocese \$27 Outside Diocese \$30
I want to be a Patron: \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250 Please send my subscription to my e-mail address:
 New Subscription Renewal

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Parish _____

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

How do we view, use authority?

Today is Independence Day, the anniversary of our beloved country. Today, we celebrate our freedoms – life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. As Catholic Christians, we believe true happiness is found through faith, God's grace, and living according to the commandments of our Creator. The ultimate happiness comes from Christ, who died for the salvation of all people, not for just a few.

Now let's take a look at the readings for this fourth Sunday.

How often we are amazed when someone

from our neighborhood achieves national prominence. We almost splutter, "But I knew him (or her) as a young kid in shorts. I had no idea she would end up as a glamorous singer (or a famous ball player). And if we're on a committee to select a speaker for some important occasion, we are much more inclined to seek out someone from at least a hundred miles away. The inhabitants of Nazareth, especially his relatives, felt the same way about Jesus. Where did He get all this knowledge?

As a result, they did not



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

July 4

14th Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

Ezekiel 2:2-5

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Mark 6:1-6

put any faith in him! Without an environment of faith, Jesus refused to perform miracles for their entertainment, as though He were a vaudeville magician. They were looking for a show, while Jesus wanted them to listen and believe in His Word. To act otherwise would be a betrayal of the power He shared with the Father.

How do we use the authority that God has bestowed on us as public servants, parents, teach-

ers, or employers, foremen or supervisors? Everyone has power over someone (even if it's only the dog). Do we flaunt our authority as though we were responsible for our own excellence? Or worse, do we abuse that authority, causing real harm to those "under" us? We will all be held accountable some day for how gently or how cruelly we have acted.

Without real love for those entrusted to our care or guidance, a love that is stronger than the desire for personal advantage or "glory," we will be liable to exceed the boundaries of right relationship. The right use of authority demands discipline and humility, while the right acceptance of

that same authority demands trust and respect.

How much was lost by the skeptical Nazarenes who were so lacking in faith. Like so many of us, they had already put Jesus in a little box, dismissing him with the too-easy judgment that they knew him, and knew all they needed to know about him. Jesus was so frustrated and disappointed in them. He had so much that He wished to teach them!

Surely there are important lessons for us from this week's readings. One of the most important is for us to pray that our leaders will be governed by God's laws of justice and mercy.

And we cry "God bless America!"

CALLED TO SERVE

Recognizing moments of reverence

Something has been bothering me. If you don't mind, I would like to vent for a minute or two about something I have noticed at Mass, not just in the parishes I serve, but in general wherever I travel. That something is a lack of respect, perhaps bordering on disrespect, during the institution narrative and consecration by some folks who just do not know better.

Here's what I am talking about. After the gifts of bread and wine are brought forward by the people, the deacon, representing the community, presents these gifts to the celebrant. The celebrant, in turn, prays over the gifts and then washes his hands, "a rite that is an expression of his desire for interior purification"

the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) tells us.

Then the priest invites us to join him in prayer over the gifts and prepare for the sacred mystery that is about to occur.

Father says, "the Lord be with you" to us and begins the Eucharistic Prayer. The GIRM says of this part of the Mass, "now the center and summit of the entire celebration begins. The Eucharistic Prayer demands that all listen to it with reverence and in silence."

All too often, I have observed, folks do not grasp the importance of what is about to take place.

It is like Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts is a cue to take the kid to bathroom, or for the ush-

ers to reorganize the gathering area or all sorts of other actions that are not consistent with what we came to Mass in the first place and certainly not consistent with the reverence and silence suggested in the GIRM.

"A little before the consecration, a server rings a bell as a signal to the faithful." Some parishes don't bother with that signal. I think that's a mistake.

Before we celebrated Mass in English, when the celebrant had his back to us and said the prayers in a language 99% of us did not know, Latin, that single bell was a true signal. Everything stopped. It

was an alert that something important was about to take place.

I remember watching ushers take to one knee. I remember Sister teaching us that if we should happen to be standing along the side or back walls of the church, we should kneel when that bell sounded. I remember folks who, for whatever reason, were sitting after the Sanctus, shuffling

forward in their pew seat to a half-kneeling position. All those actions acknowledged what was about to happen.

Even today, at the sound of the warning bell, the deacon kneels in reverence. That attention

getter has purpose and should not be arbitrarily cast aside.

The bell ringing tells us that a holy of holy moments is about to occur. The priest, in the person of Jesus Christ, will transform bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ. The consecration.

And out of the corner of my eye I see little Johnny and his father come back from the bathroom and scoot to their seat oblivious to the miracle that has just taken place.

When we talk about teaching the real presence, re-educating Catholics about the meaning of "do this in memory of me," perhaps we should start with simple etiquette.

Thank you. I feel better.



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

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

Annual St. Peter Apostle Appeal

Prayers and greetings to you as summer begins! How good to connect with you! Know that your prayers and assistance support the vast and great needs of the Mission Church as it provides pastoral care and the Lord's compassion to the world's most vulnerable communities.

I write to you today about young men preparing to serve God's people as priests in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and remote regions of Europe and Latin America. These current and future missionaries are lacking resources. However, they continue in hope – following where the Lord has called them, especially in these times of pandemic and recovery.

For example, 2,600 seminarians are preparing for the priesthood in India. They join priests and religious who are on the frontlines in the fight against COVID-19, which is devastating that country. Many priests and Sisters have given their very lives in this service, victims themselves of the coronavirus. Seminarians in India have also at times faced strong opposition to Christianity. Yet, as one seminarian noted, "we are preparing to be courageous witnesses for Jesus Christ." As priests, in their celebration of the Eucharist, they will make Christ present in His Body and Blood for the suffering, the persecuted, and the poor.

With your help, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith/Society of St. Peter Apostle supports some 30,000 young men preparing for the priesthood in mission seminaries in India and throughout the Missions. Your donation enables us to provide textbooks, technology, housing, food, and medical care – even at times, beds to rest from studies. In this way, and with your prayers, you will genuinely join these young men as priests as they serve the poor, proclaim the Gospel, build the Church, and celebrate the Sacraments.

These future priests and religious Sisters and Brothers will make Jesus, and His saving works known by their ministries because of your prayer, sacrifice, and devotion. My grateful heart acknowledges your generosity as well, assuring you of my prayers for you and your intentions, as I ask the Lord to be present in your own life's journeys, as we all continue in hope.

Gratefully in the Lord,

Sr. Mary Ellen

Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ

OBITUARIES

Brasher Falls – Elizabeth M. Demo, 55; Private services to be held.

Cape Vincent – Mark L. Smith, 69; Mass of Christian Burial Jun 22, 2021 at St. Vincent de Paul Church.

Chateaugay – Linda I. "Gram" (Soucia) Pickering, 70; Mass of Christian Burial June 26, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Francis Cemetery, Constable.

Croghan – Edward Davoy, 69; Mass of Christian Burial June 25, 2021 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in Riverside Cemetery, Beaver Falls.

Dannemora – Frances E. Carter, 79; Mass of Christian Burial June 24, 2021 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Essex – Rose Marie (Sulkosky) Fine, 86; Mass of Christian Burial June 29, 2021 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Lakeview Cemetery.

Lowville – James Michael Bellanca, 73; Mass of Christian Burial July 6, 2021 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Brantingham Cemetery.

Lowville – Lucy A. (Smith) Nortz, 92; Mass of Christian Burial June 28, 2021 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Malone – Margaret (Benware) Premo, 91; Mass of Christian Burial June 25, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

North Bangor – William J. Gardner, 77; Mass of Christian Burial June 19, 2021 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Lionel L. Gagnon, 93; Mass of Christian Burial June 22, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Sharon Marie (Bennett) Wells, 77; Services to be held in the Fall.

Saranac Lake – Thomas N. "Mouge" Lewis, 90; Graveside Services June 24, 2021 at St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Ramona J. (Rayno) McCaughin, 91; Mass of Christian Burial June 28, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Valley View Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Emma Jean (Cross) Williams, 87; Mass of Christian Burial June 30, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Anna Osier Woods, 106; Mass of Christian Burial June 25, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Watertown – Betty (Mahon) Belanger, 92; Graveside services to be held at a later date.

Watertown – Mary M. (LaPlante) Brouty, 102; Mass of Christian Burial June 23, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Alicia Marie Conklin, 39; Services to be held in the summer at St. Patrick's Church.

Watertown – Vita (Leone) Messina, 104; Mass of Christian Burial June 22, 2021 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Mausoleum.

Watertown – Benjamin W. Piazza, 69; Mass of Christian Burial June 24, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

St. André, 'has truly been a friend for our family'

Editor's note: This is the second installment in a series about the North Country's devotion to St. André Bessette. More installments of this series will appear in future editions of the North Country Catholic.

By **Mary Beth Bracy**
Contributing Writer

"I was not familiar with the story of St. André Bessette until I moved to Northern New York many years ago," shared Carolyn Pierce, mother of seminarian Carter Pierce. "My first introduction was through hearing about St. Joseph's Oratory in Montréal. I

made a trip there when my children were very young to see the nativity display there during the Christmas season. I made subsequent trips there with confirmation groups and with family. I was instantly taken with the devotion and humility of André and the miracles worked through his devotion to St. Joseph. The oratory has a palpable sense of holiness."

It has been said that sometimes it is the saints who chose us to be under their special patronage.

"During the year of faith, when the diocese issued 'passports' to visit diocesan places on pilgrimage,

my children and I made a stop at St. Augustine in Bangor to see the statue of André Bessette and read about his visits to the church," Pierce said. "Then, after André was canonized, and his relics were brought to St. Mary's Cathedral, we were at the Mass. At the time, I was dealing with a non-healing wrist fracture, and after Mass, Father Joseph Morgan suggested I venerate the relic for healing. It eventually healed, but I'm not sure it was 'miraculously.' So, I have had a long devotion to André, and to his beloved St. Joseph."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

St. André 'has truly been a friend'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

This was only the beginning of St. Joseph and St. André's intercession in Pierce's life.

"When I was pregnant with my youngest son in 2005, the doctors told me he might be born with disabilities," she said. "I put my child under the protection of Mary and Joseph, praying for the child's health, and planning to name the child Mary or Joseph at birth. When my son was born, he was perfectly healthy and named Michael Joseph."

This wasn't the only time Pierce would pray for intercession on Michael's behalf.

"Fast forward to 2014 when our family was at a large farm trade show," she said. "It had been a family tradition to visit the show each summer. We live on a small farm and with five boys and two girls, there was always lots of equipment and demonstrations they loved to see. Even though my older children were in college, we all met there for a family day. At one point, we split up, with the boys going off to see more equipment, and the girls and I heading to the animal exhibits. Just before we joined back together, my youngest son Michael was involved in a terrible accident involving some equipment and sustained very severe head trauma. As I arrived and saw him, I just started telling – maybe shouting – to my family to 'pray to St. Joseph, pray to St. André.' The miracles

began right away. There was a life flight helicopter and crew nearby, so it was available to fly Michael to Upstate Medical Children's Hospital. As I followed in a car, I called many people asking for prayers for Michael's life; one was a dear friend at the cathedral, and I asked her to spread the word to priests and church community and beg for prayers. When Michael arrived at Upstate, there was a surgery crew already there; a special nurse, who was just about to go off duty, stayed to help with the surgery. She came to be a special friend, supporter, and advocate for us during our stay. Michael had surgery for a skull fracture and brain trauma, and we were told it would be several days before we knew if he would survive."

Michael started his recovery in an Intensive Care Unit before moving on to a pediatric ward and eventually a rehabilitation unit.

"At first, he couldn't breathe or eat or move," Pierce said. "Wonderful priests at the hospital came and anointed him several times. Miraculously – because I truly believe that's what it was – he started to make progress. Even the nurses and doctors later told us that, with his injuries, they didn't expect he would recover without serious disabilities – if at all. Each follow-up surgery and visit brought more 'miracle' reports, from healing of eye problems, no damage

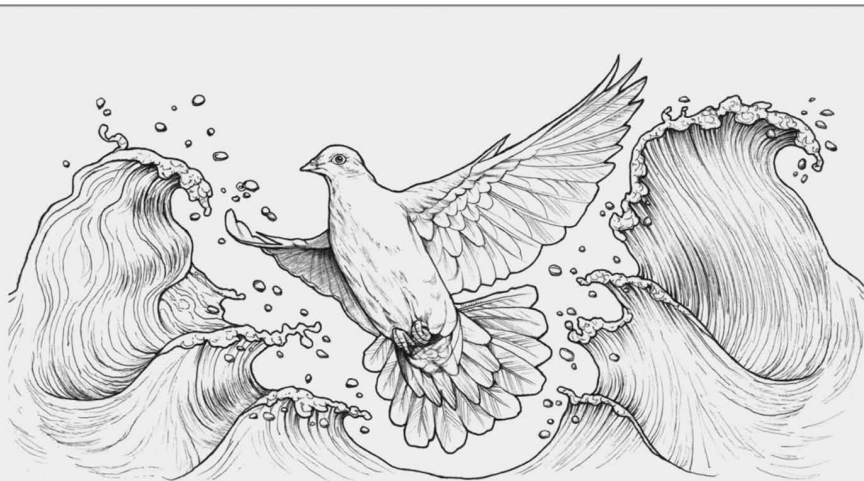
to hearing, repairing his skull, walking and talking and eating again."

The Pierce family's prayers for the intercession of St. Joseph and St. André continue.

"Today Michael is 15 and has very little residual physical problems," Pierce

said. "He has developed a seizure disorder in the past two years, and we are again appealing to St. André and St. Joseph for healing, blessing Michael with oil from the oratory. In the fall of 2019, Michael, his sister Meaghan and I made a stop at St. Joseph's Oratory so

Michael could see for himself the tomb of St. André and pray in the oratory. Michael will be confirmed this spring and has chosen André for his confirmation name. St. André, and his counsel to go to St. Joseph, has truly been a friend for our family."



*"Jesus said to them,
Peace be with you.*

*As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
And when he had said this,
he breathed on them and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit." Jn 20:21*



Congratulations to all Lay Ministers in the
Diocese of Ogdensburg.

May you carry welcome and joy to the world!
Deacon Tom and Mary Lou Kilian

Congratulations

Melissa Terpstra

On becoming a Lay Minister
for our parish.

From your faith family at
St. James Church,
Gouverneur

