

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Church grieves after mass grave discovery | PAGE 4

What revisions to Canon Law mean for safeguarding | PAGE 8

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 76 Number 9

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JUNE 9, 2021

## GENERATIONS OF FAITH



On May 21, Bishop Terry R. LaValley visited St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Tupper Lake to bestow the Rite of Confirmation. As part of the confirmation program, Father Douglas A. Decker has each student choose a parish job, such as lector, choir member, or Sunday school teacher's aide. Lauren (Catherine) La Mere is pictured with her sponsor, her great-grandmother, Pat La Mere.

## 'I THANK GOD FOR CALLING ME'

Newly ordained celebrate first Masses



Father Fernando V. Solomon Jr., Father John K. Ojuok and Father Matthew S. Conger, all three ordained by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on May 29, reflect on their ordination, their first celebrations of the Mass and their first assignments.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3; ORDINATION PHOTOS PAGES 6-7

## Pope: Prayer is source of strength in dark times

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Christians can rest assured that in moments of trial, suffering or even sin, Jesus is interceding for them before God, Pope Francis said.

"Even if our prayers were only mutterings, if they were compromised by a wavering faith, we must never stop trusting in him," the pope said June 2 during his weekly general audience.

"Don't forget: 'Jesus is praying for me,'" he said. "In the moment of trial, in

the moment of sin, even in that moment, Jesus with so much love is praying for me."

Arriving in the San Damaso Courtyard of the Apostolic Palace, the pope spent some time greeting pilgrims, blessing children and religious articles.

Continuing his series of talks on prayer, the pope reflected on how prayer was fundamental to Christ and his mission, especially when it came to choosing his disciples.

Recalling St. Luke's account of Jesus praying the day before he chose his disciples, the pope said that "judging from how those men were to behave, it would seem that the choice was not the best because they all fled, they left him alone before the Passion."

However, "it is precisely this – especially the presence of Judas, the future traitor – that demonstrates that those names were inscribed in God's plan," he

said.

Jesus' moments of prayer on behalf of his disciples, especially for Peter who would deny Christ, were an act of love that showed that even in times of failure, "the love of Jesus does not stop," the pope continued.

"Jesus' love and prayer for each of us does not stop, indeed it becomes more intense, and we are at the center of his prayer!" Pope Francis said. "We must always remem-

ber this: Jesus is praying for me; he is praying now before the Father and he is showing him the wounds he bore, so that the Father can see the price of our salvation; it is the love that he has for us."

Reflecting on other moments in the Gospels, including Peter's profession of faith and the Transfiguration, the pope noted that the "great turning points of Jesus' mission are always preceded by prayer."

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# Keeping the change

I felt like more would've changed.

It's been more than a year since our lives were upended with the arrival of continuance of the coronavirus pandemic.

It's been hard for lots of people and for lots of different reasons, but there were blessings, too. For many of us, the world slowed down. We spent more time at home with our families. We had more time to read, relax and enjoy simple pleasures like gardening, backyard fires and card games.

Now, the world is beginning to reopen. While I'm ex-

tremely grateful that's happening, I also feel like I'm rapidly leaving behind some of the lessons I thought I had learned.

**Darcy L.  
Fargo**

Maybe some of it is a reaction to having gone so long with a nearly empty in-person social calendar, but I now find myself with several nights a week booked with engagements. Of those, roughly 95 percent don't involve my husband or son. Most of these engagements involve gatherings

with friends I haven't seen in well over a year. They're good gatherings. They're fun gatherings.

After months and months

of time I should've been learning the value of time with family, I find myself spending far too much time away from my family.

A kind reader once wrote to me and noted that she had been advised by a spiritual director to limit her outside engagements – commitments that took her away from her family – to no more than two a week. I had roughly been trying to follow that wisdom prior to the pandemic.

While occasional exceptions to that policy are bound to occur, I think it's a policy to which I need to return. God called me to my life as a wife and mother. While I believe God calls me to other roles (friend, em-

ployee, volunteer), and I appreciate and value those other roles, I need to be mindful to ensure I'm meeting the needs of my primary vocation. It has to be my first priority.

I was partly inspired to this realization by my conversations this week with the newly ordained priests of our diocese. They speak so excitedly of their desire move forward living their vocations, serving God and God's people.

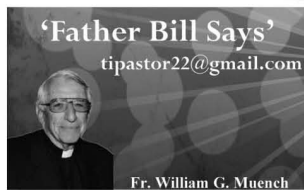
These are men who have been changed by their ordinations and the start of their fulfillment of their vocations, and they're already helping God change others.

At least they've helped (hopefully) change me.

## Remembering my first Mass

One of the joyful celebrations for a Catholic diocese is the ceremony of the ordination of new priests. Then this is completed by the celebration of the first Mass that the newly ordained celebrates at his home parish with his family and friends. We know well that the Catholic Church needs more priests. We need an increase of ordinations each year. The Diocese of Ogdensburg was blessed this year with three ordinations, three new priests.

I was not able to attend this year's ordination, however, I did watch the ceremony and Mass through live streaming on television. I also watched the first Mass celebration of Father Matthew Conger. Father Matt celebrated his first Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg. Father Matt was ordained a priest at St. Mary's Cathedral by Bishop Terry LaValley on Memorial Day, along with Father John Ojuok and Father Fernando Solomon Jr.



Watching Father Matt's First Mass, I was rather pleased to see several of the younger priests of our diocese in the sanctuary assisting and supporting this newly ordained priest, Father Matt. It was so great seeing these young priests, sort of a demonstration of a strong foundation for our diocese. By the way, there were several older priests of the diocese at this Mass also.

As you might have imagined, as I watched Father Matt's first Mass, I remembered many things from my own first Mass so many years ago. I was ordained a priest with six others by Bishop James J. Navagh at St. Mary's Cathedral – a long time ago.

After my ordination, I headed to Syracuse and

home to prepare for my first Mass at Holy Cross Parish. I must admit on that Sunday Mass, there were more people in attendance than I imagined. Present there were lots of family and friends, including many folks I had not seen in a very long time.

I wasn't worried about making mistakes at Mass. Among all the theology and Sacred Scripture courses that made up my studies during my major seminary studies, I also took many liturgy courses focusing on the understanding and celebrating of the sacraments of the Catholic Church. I believe I was well prepared.

I do remember that the homilist at my first Mass was Msgr. Joseph Bailey. Msgr. Bailey had a profound influence on my formation as a priest. At Wadhams Hall, Msgr. Bailey presented a course in public speaking each year. This course helped me a great deal to become a priest and preacher. I know only too well how his

guidance helped me become a better speaker before people, a preacher of the word of God at Mass in church.

The interesting thing was that Father Bailey became my pastor for the first year of my priesthood. He continued to show me a great deal about being a good priest, a good pastor and a good preacher. So, I want to take a moment right here to offer a prayer to God and a note of gratitude for Father Bailey's place in my life and for the wisdom and support he demonstrated to me.

This reminds me of many other priests who were such great influences on my life as a young priest. I was blessed. And now, all these years later, I continue to realize how much I owe to so many pastors and priests who touched my life as a young priest. I must add also that I learned so much about preaching from many great preachers, simply by watching and listening. God has given me such great examples. Thank you, Lord.

# New priests ordained, celebrate first Masses

**Darcy Fargo**  
Editor

**OGDENSBURG**—“It was a joyous moment, of course,” said newly ordained priest Father Fernando V. Solomon Jr. “I thank God for calling me to this life and sustaining me with all the blessings I needed to continue and never give up on this very long journey.”

Father Solomon was ordained by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on May 29 in St. Mary’s Cathedral along with Father Matthew S. Conger and Father John K. Ojuok.

## Father Fernando V. Solomon Jr.

Father Solomon, originally from the Philippines, said he wished his family could’ve attended the ordination, but was grateful for the support he received.

“I’m thankful for all the people who helped me and guided me,” he said. “There was joy and happiness sharing that moment with those people, whether they were there or livestreaming. It was a really wonderful, great celebration.”

Father Solomon said he was especially excited to have his mentor, Father Albert J. Hauser, in attendance. Father Hauser was originally scheduled to be out of the area on the day of the ordination, but his trip was cut short due to unforeseen circumstances.

“Because Father Al wasn’t supposed to be there, Father Bryan (Stitt) was vesting me,” Father Solomon said. “Father Bryan was still there in front of me, and Father Al vested me. I got to have two!”

Father Solomon celebrated his first Mass on May 30 at St. Patrick’s Church in Port Henry.

“I was so nervous,” said Father Solomon. “It feels



JESSE SOVIE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

**On May 29, Bishop Terry R. LaValley ordained Father John K. Ojuok, Father Fernando V. Solomon Jr. and Father Matthew S. Conger at St. Mary’s Cathedral. Additional ordination photos can be found on pages 6-7.**

really different. The Holy Spirit really guides you and helps you with what to do.”

Father Solomon said he was especially grateful for the presence of diocesan seminarian Leagon Carlin, who served as cantor for the Mass.

“He told me, ‘Father Fernando, you look professional,’” Father Solomon said, laughing. “I was thankful for Leagon. He told me it was really great.”

Father Solomon will begin his next assignment at St. André Bessette Parish in Malone on June 16.

“It’s happy and challenging,” he said. “I’m moving to a new place. I need to learn more. It’ll be a continuous learning for me and continuing education. It’s really good.”

## Father John K. Ojuok

“There ceremony on Saturday was so powerful, and I was so blessed to be part of it,” said Father Ojuok. “I used to watch ordinations. Now, I’m finally a priest. I’m so, so, so happy! The homily given by Bishop (LaValley) was so incredible, with every bit of it going deeply into the heart. That day started

many, many years ago, and it came to be fulfilled.”

Father Ojuok said he was also sad his mother was not able to attend in person, but he was happy she was able to watch via livestream.

“She was able to watch it online,” he said. “She watched my ordination and first Mass. I was told mom could not help but cry, cry! She was very happy with everything.”

Father Ojuok said he was “a bit nervous” but “confident” when saying his first Mass, celebrated May 30 at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

“It’s very different practicing it and doing it,” he said. “Father Bryan (Stitt) was there helping. My brother priests were there in good number. Seeing that love and fraternity gave me strength. I think I did my best. I was really overwhelmed. There’s power in saying Mass. The Holy Spirit is in the Holy Mass. I can testify to that.”

Father Ojuok said he’s looking forward to starting his first assignment at Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh.

“I don’t know what lies

ahead of me, but I’m certain all is going to be well,” he said. “I’m very happy to work with Father Kevin (McEwan) as my pastor. I’ve known him a few years. I’m looking forward to being part of that community.”

The upcoming assignment isn’t the only thing that’s new.

“People will say, ‘Father, Father, Father,’” he said. “And I still don’t know it’s me being called. It’ll come. Everything is a blessing.”

**Father Matthew S. Conger** “It’s still kind of surreal, I suppose,” said Father Conger. “Just having people call me ‘Father’ now is so weird, but weird in a very good way.”

Father Conger said his ordination was a pivotal moment in his life.

“I don’t know how to describe it,” he said. “It was a wonderful moment. So many aspects of the ordination were just amazing. My whole vocation was finally coming to fulfillment. Everything I’ve been working toward and planning toward was being fulfilled. It’s happy and exciting. With Father Bryan (Stitt) and Father Martin

(Cline) being there helping, I was really able to just enter into the ordination and make it a prayerful time, able to lay it all out there for the Lord, giving my life over to the service of the Church.”

Father Conger said he initially wasn’t nervous ahead of his first Mass, celebrated May 30 at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg.

“As the clock ticked by, the nerves started to build,” he said. “As we’re walking down the main aisle, it hit me: you’re the priest leading this Mass. You’re the priest saying Mass for the people right now. At that point, I was definitely nervous. Having my brother priests with me definitely helped. It was nice to see all the priests that came and celebrated and took part in the liturgy.”

Father Conger looks forward to starting his first assignment at St. Patrick’s, St. Anthony’s and Holy Family churches in Watertown.

“I’m just getting ready to get settled in, get to know the parish and get to see the people,” he said. “Watertown is only an hour from Ogdensburg, where I grew up. I’ve gone there to shop, but now I’m going there to live and become part of that community. It’s a little scary, but I can’t wait!”

Father Conger said looks forward to serving his life as a priest and he is thankful to the people of the diocese who have supported and prayed for him.

“The people of God are so generous and kind with their support and prayers,” he said. “I’m so grateful. So many people traveled from far and wide to come to these celebrations. I’m so grateful to all of them and to the Church of the North Country.”

# Church grieves after Mass grave discovery



PHOTO PROVIDED

A memorial of children's shoes, signs and a large banner has been placed at the entrance of St. Regis Mission, the church serving the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation. The memorial honors 215 children whose bodies were found in a mass grave on the site of a former residential school in British Columbia.

After the discovery of an unmarked burial site containing more than 200 bodies near a former residential school in Kamloops, British Columbia, St. Regis Mission, the church serving the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation, has become the site of a makeshift memorial.

On May 30, the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation reported the discovery of the bodies of 215 children buried on the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School, what was once Canada's largest Indigenous residential school.

The residential school opened in 1890 and was operated by Catholics and the Canadian federal government. It was the largest in Canada's residential school system, with enrolment reaching a high of 500 students in the early 1950s.

Members of Indigenous communities grieved the discovery by creating memorials of children's shoes on former residential school grounds and Catholic churches around Canada and portions of

the United States.

Shoes and a banner were installed at the site of the St. Regis Mission. The church issued the following statement:

*With you, we were shocked by the discovery of 215 lost indigenous children and youth in a mass grave at the Kamloops Indian Residential School on the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation in British Columbia. Our hearts break for these lost souls and all who were traumatized in this part of Church and Canadian history.*

*We are members of this community, and we join you all in grieving for those lost children. We pray for their souls. We sympathize and empathize with those who wish to honor their lives and who wish to see light shed on dark truths.*

*We join you in prayerfully marking the lives lost through the memorial of shoes placed on our church steps. We ask drivers to use caution in the area out of respect for those gathering there.*

The statement also offered hotline numbers individuals could call if they were experiencing anguish as a result of the discovery.

Archbishop J. Michael Miller of Vancouver announced a plan to offer increased support and transparency to First Nations people in the wake of the discovery.

Archbishop Miller reiterated the apology he gave before the National Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2013: "I wish to apologize sincerely and profoundly to the survivors and families, as well as to all those subsequently affected, for the anguish caused by the deplorable conduct of those Catholics who perpetrated mistreatment of any kind

in these residential schools."

Adding that apologies must be followed with concrete actions, the archbishop committed to five "first steps" to support First Nations people and others affected. They are:

- Being "fully transparent" with archdiocesan archives and records regarding all residential schools and encouraging other Catholic and government organizations to do likewise.

- Offering and supporting mental health support and counselling for people whose loved ones may be buried at the Kamloops site.

- Offering assistance with "technological and professional support" to help Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc and other First Nations people affected to honor, retrieve, and remember their children in whatever way they choose.

- Committing to supporting the same for all First Nations where Catholic-run residential schools were located within the historical bounds of the Vancouver Archdiocese.

- Renewing efforts to listen to Indigenous people about how best to walk together "along the path of justice."

"Each time new evidence of a tragedy is revealed, or another victim comes forward, countless wounds are reopened, and I know that you experience renewed suffering," he said.

"We recognize that there is so much work that remains to be done, yet we hope that, if we persevere in these commitments with humility, we can restore the trust among us that will bring healing."

Catholic bishops across Canada have expressed sadness over the news.

*Catholic News Services contributed to this report.*

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# 2021

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## Directory

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# Private Funeral Mass celebrated for Sister Monica Flaherty, SSJ

Sister Monica Flaherty died on May 31, 2021 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse at the age of 96.

She was born on March 2, 1925 in Ogdensburg, the daughter of Augustine Flaherty and Mary Lawrence Flaherty.

Sister Monica is a graduate of St. Mary's Academy, Ogdensburg and entered the Sisters of St. Joseph on September 8, 1947. She received the habit on April 11, 1948 and made Final Profession on August 27, 1953.

She received her Bachelor's Degree in education from Villanova University, PA and a Master's Degree from SUNY Potsdam.

Sister Monica did graduate work at Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey, at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington as well as at Fordham University, Bronx, New York.

Sister Monica has taught in the following schools in the Diocese of Ogdensburg: Holy Family and Sacred Heart Watertown, Holy Name, AuSable Forks, St. Patrick's, Port Henry, St. Mary's, Ticonderoga, St. James, Gouverneur, St. Joseph's, Massena and St. Mary's in Fort Covington, where she was both principal and superior.

Sister Monica was an instructor and tutor in the Learning Skills Center, and Counselor in the Higher Education Opportunity Program at the former Mater Dei College, Ogdensburg.

In addition, Sister Monica taught at the Ogdensburg Riverview Correctional Facility.

Sister Monica has worked in pastoral ministry at St. Cecilia's Church, Adams, St. Martin's Church, Port Leyden, St. John's Church, Lyons

Falls, St. Mary's Church, Constable and St. Patrick's Children's Home, Watertown. Sister Monica's prayer ministry continued at the Motherhouse where she resided.

Sister Monica is survived by her nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents, she is predeceased by her brother John and her two sisters Nancy Wilson and Barbara Faluszczak.

Funeral arrangements are with Cummings Funeral Service, Inc. Due to the Coronavirus, there will be no waking hours at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse.

The funeral liturgy will be held privately at the Motherhouse Chapel.

Contributions may be made to the Sisters of St. Joseph, 1425 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601. Online condolences to her family may be posted at [www.cummingsfuneral.com](http://www.cummingsfuneral.com).

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**June 9** – 7 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Paul's Church in Black River with St. Mary's Church in Evans Mills

**June 10** – Noon – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

**June 11** – 7 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Patrick's Church in Rouses Point with St. Mary's Church in Champlain

**June 12** – 10:30 a.m. – Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting at St. Bernard's and St. Edmund's Parish (at St. Edmund's Church) in Ellenburg

**June 15** – 9:30 a.m. – Diocesan Department Head Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

**June 16** – 1 p.m. – Virtual USCCB Summer Plenary Assembly

## 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](mailto:jgrizzuto@rcdony.org) or 315-393-2920 x 1413.

## Rest in Peace

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

**June 9** – Rev. James Bolton, O.S.A., 1925; Rev. John W. Ryan, 1982

**June 10** – Rev. Augustus Gaudet, O.M.I., 1895; Rev. Alfred J. Boulterice, 1952; Rev. Rupert P. Hajna, O.F.M.Conv., 1979

**June 11** – Rev. Lawrence K. Brady, 1993

**June 12** – Rev. Eugene A. Kelly, 2001; Rev. Francis J. Coryer, 2012

**June 14** – Rev. Hermisdas Mayer, 1927; Rev. Thomas A. Kiley, O.S.A., 1954; Rev. William J. Deacy, O.S.A., 1960; Rev. Arthur Desrosiers, 1963; Msgr. Walter T. Cleary, 1968

**June 15** – Rev. Francis C. A. Cornish, 1960

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## Environmental Stewardship

### Societal cancer

Cancer is a condition, not caused by a virus, bacteria or other pathogen, but rather an illness that results when one part or section of the body begins to act abnormally and starts to interfere with other tissues, organs and body systems. The ever-deepening divide that is occurring in our communities, nations and around the planet may be likened to a developing global cancer, as anger, hatred, unrest, and violence are expanding across the globe which is seriously impacting our ways of life.

It is impossible to pinpoint what the causes are for the expansion of distrust and faltering cooperation among people, but the development of our technological way of life is partly to blame. We have become increasingly more prone to receiving news, stories, opinions and gossip from internet outlets like Facebook or from cell phone posts. We are seeing one another more as pictures on a screen, and voices that come in 50-character text messages. Over the past year especially, we have isolated ourselves and have all too often become immersed in receiving a view of the world from some cable news channel. This has allowed for a build-up of bitterness, anger and hatred, which are critical agents needed to nourish this cancer.

We must learn to put down, and turn off our cell phones, turn off the TV, especially if the channel is set to any 24-hour news station. It is vital to get outside, if it is only on your back porch, and sit quietly with nature. Take a walk through a park, or into the woods, or stroll along the shore of a lake and breathe in the fresh air, smile at the other people you encounter along the way, and chat with a neighbor or passerby if possible. It is also vital to spend time praying for those around you, especially those that you do not like, or share the same opinions with. It is friendliness, kindness, compassion, and most of all love that is needed now more than ever. We must open our hearts to everyone that we encounter, and trust in the healing abilities of the peace of Christ and the love of our Lord to narrow this societal divide and eliminate this cancer.

**By Tom Kalenowski,**  
St. Bernard's, Saranac Lake  
Faith and Ecology Group

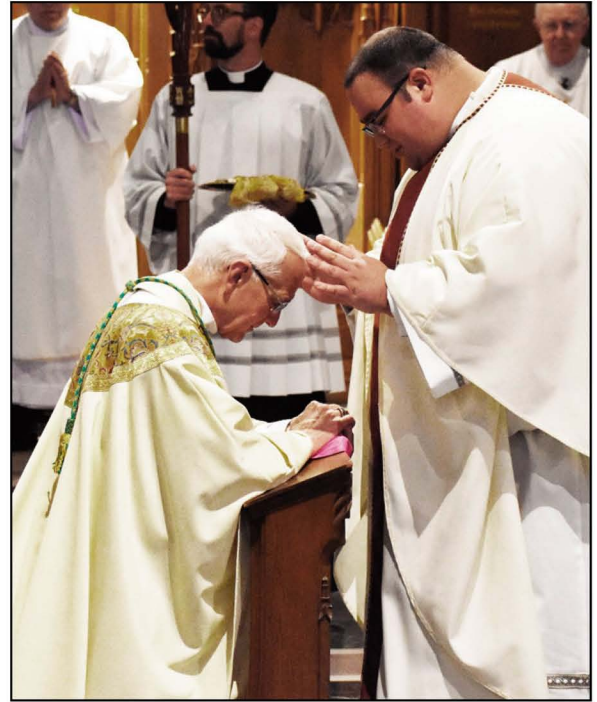
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# AT THE ORDINATION

PHOTOS BY JESSE SOVIE & DARCY FARGO





# What the revisions to Canon Law mean for safeguarding

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The new series of laws and provisions set out in the revised section on crimes and penalties in the Code of Canon Law will help the Catholic Church in its efforts at safeguarding, said two canon lawyers.

And yet, like with every new norm and measure, its success will depend on following through on enforcement, being mindful in interpreting still unclear aspects and working on remaining gaps, they said.

Pope Francis promulgated the new changes in "Book VI: Penal Sanctions in the Church," and they will go into effect Dec. 8 – the feast of the Immaculate Conception. The revisions reflect almost two decades of work in updating, adding, clarifying and strengthening what the church considers to be crimes and what provisions for sanctioning are available.

Much damage has come from not understanding how applying sanctions is part of exercising charity and establishing justice, the pope said, as "charity and mercy require a father to commit himself also to straightening what at times becomes crooked."

Claudia Giampietro, a canon lawyer and project officer at the office for care and safeguarding for the International Union of Superiors General, told Catholic News Service that this mindset of respect and protection is a significant change.

The ultimate principle of safeguarding "is recognizing that a wounded humanity needs respect, and this must inform every single act performed within and outside of the Catholic Church," she told

CNS in an email response to questions June 3.

It shows how the revisions have been informed by and reflect "the voice of victims and survivors of abuse, which is making the church aware and, therefore, responsible" in turning their requests "into canonical provisions which can support the healing process involving the entire ecclesial community," she added.

Also, she said, by putting abuse, indecent exposure, pornography and grooming in a new chapter that adds the term "dignity," – under the heading "Offences Against Human Life, Dignity and Liberty" – this shows an understanding that such crimes "harm the inalienable dignity of human beings acknowledged in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," and are not just a violation of the Sixth Commandment.

"I believe that this choice of language expresses at its best the mind of a legislator (the pope) who has been always defending the inestimable value of every human life in his pontificate and in his entire life," Giampietro said.

Msgr. Robert Oliver of the Archdiocese of Boston and formerly of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors told CNS that "the one thing that stands out for safeguarding is that the Holy Father has introduced legal requirements that suspected offenses be reported and that bishops respond to these reports by making use of the church's penal procedures" for the restoration of justice, the reform of the offender and the repair of scandal.

In other words, where previous canons suggested what "can" be done when an offense has been committed, now the rules are what "must" be done and making sure the law is applied.

Giampietro said all the changes and new provisions created over the years "needed to be codified in the universal law to give clear normative directions to the whole church."

It also includes changes "that had to be included in the code more permanently," she said, such as those found in "Vos Estis Lux Mundi," which was promulgated "ad experimentum," for greater accountability of church leaders.

Another significant change is expanding the application of canons dealing with abuse to religious and laypeople who have a role, office or function in the church – not just to clergy, she said.

"It was a very much needed change as religious always felt that there was a gap in the legislation concerning them in relation to abuse cases," she said, underlining how the women's UISG has a safeguarding office and organizes online formation together with the men's Union of Superiors General and the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.

Here, "canon law is being studied and discussed as one of the instruments which can help to establish safe environments," she said, and "it is encouraging, as a laywoman, to see how much superiors general work together for the care and protection of minors and vulnerable persons."

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Pope names new envoy to Israel, Palestine

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis named Archbishop Adolfo Yllana to be apostolic nuncio to Israel and to Cyprus and apostolic delegate in Jerusalem and Palestine. The Vatican announced June 3 the transfer of the 73-year-old native of the Philippines, who had been nuncio to Australia since 2015. In the Middle East, Archbishop Yllana will succeed Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli, who was named nuncio to India in March. Born in Naga City, Philippines, Feb. 6, 1948, Archbishop Yllana worked in seminaries in the Philippines before being sent to Rome to study canon law and civil law. In Rome, he entered the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy, which trains Vatican diplomats. After completing his doctorate in canon law and civil law, Archbishop Yllana was posted to West Africa in 1984, where he served the church in Ghana, Togo and Benin.

## Award nominees called Catholic Church's 'hidden heroes'

CHICAGO (CNS) – The 34 nominees for Catholic Extension's 2021-2022 annual Lumen Christi Award are "as varied as the church itself and have shown great resolve during this most difficult year," said the Chicago-based organization. The award – which is Latin for the "Light of Christ" – is Catholic Extension's highest honor, and is bestowed on a missionary working in the United States. Those up for the award have been nominated "as hidden heroes of the church who are serving their communities selflessly to bring faith and hope to the forgotten corners and peoples of our country, inspiring those around them to be the 'Light of Christ' as well," a news release said. "This diverse group of clergy, lay leaders, religious, and community groups show the enormous breadth of the Catholic Church across the country," it added. Catholic Extension supports 86 dioceses across the country and annually asks bishops of those dioceses to nominate their most inspiring people for the annual Lumen Christi Award. The full list of nominees, announced May 24, as well as their stories can be found at <https://www.catholicextension.org/lumen-christi-award>.

## Chicago business provides clerical garments for over 100 years

CHICAGO (CNS) – The House of Hansen, an unassuming small business in Chicago, makes and supplies vestments and liturgical wear – like bishops' mitres and zucchetos – to clergy locally and around the country. It is one of the few remaining suppliers of handmade clerical garments in the United States and has been in business for over 100 years. Perhaps one of the most identifiable calls for their expertise comes when a new bishop is named. The bishop-designate needs all of the garments that go along with the position: mitres (tall headgear) in the colors of every liturgical season, a black cassock and cassocks (full-length garments) for Mass as well as rochets (white vestments), zucchetos, (skullcaps), birettas (square caps) and mozzette (vestment capes). The Chicago business provides all of those custom-made and tailored by hand, said Gerard "Gerry" Arens, the shop's owner. In most cases, the new bishops need the items quickly, so the staff works fast to obtain the proper measurements and make the items. For example, each mitre is made to custom fit the head of the bishop who ordered it, so the measurements have to be accurate. "It is a little bit of a process. We have different people do different parts of the vestments," Arens explained, walking through the back of the shop where several staff members were working on items.



## 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 16, 23, 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

## STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

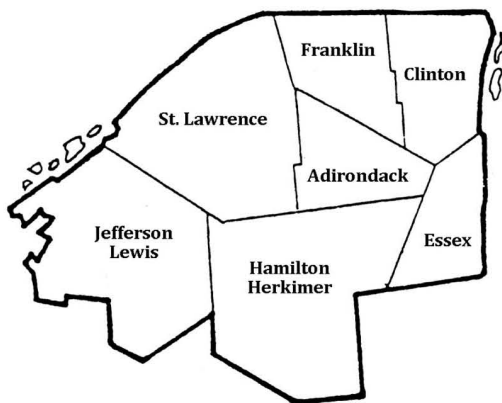
Port Leyden – St. Martin's and St. John's will hold their annual Strawberry Social as a drive thru.

**Date:** June 27

**Time:** 3 p.m. to 5

**Place:** Port Leyden Community (Fire) Hall

**Features:** To benefit numerous building projects. The Social is offering



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.

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## DAY OF REFLECTION

Virtual presentation about putting forgiveness into practice.

**Date:** June 19

**Time:** 9:45 a.m. to Noon

**Place:** Zoom

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

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 Chaufty at 315-766-6897.

## ST. LAWRENCE

## PRAYER AND ADORATION

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

**Date:** Every third Wednesday of the month (June 16)

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. to 7

**Place:** Sacred Heart Church

be Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ.

**Contact:** There is no cost to participate. To register go to [www.rcdony.org/reflection](http://www.rcdony.org/reflection) Zoom link will be emailed as date approaches.

## 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 A. 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 Cen-

ter 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.

Register at:

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

## 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](http://www.rcdony.org/formation/candidate) or contact Cathy Russell at 315-393-2920 or email at [crussell@rcdony.org](mailto: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, YOU'RE INVITED to fill out the brief application at [sidewalkadvocates.org/trainingapp](http://sidewalkadvocates.org/trainingapp). Upon receipt, we'll be in touch with next steps for accessing the online training.

## OBITUARIES

**Carthage** – Joanne Murphy LaDuc, 89; Mass of Christian burial June 10, 2021 at St. James Church; burial in St. Francis Solanus Cemetery, Harrisville.

**Chateaugay** – Donovan J. Rogers, 65; Mass of Christian Burial June 5, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Clayton** – Charles F. Singer Jr., 88; Funeral Services May 30, 2021 at the T.R. Jetty Funeral Home; burial in Riverside Cemetery, Wellesley Island.

**Colton** – William H. Sullivan, 85; Mass of Christian burial June 8, 2021 at St.

Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Lowville** – Edward W. Mushtare, 93; Funeral Services June 2, 2021 at Iseneker Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in Beaches Bridge Cemetery.

**Malone** – Shirley A. (Santamore) Bannon, 88; Mass of Christian Burial June 4, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Malone** – Lionel "Mike" Gagnon, 91; Mass of Christian Burial June 7, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

**Malone** – Bryan John Hughes, 76; Mass of Christian Burial June 4, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Burke Center Cemetery.

**Massena** – Jacob Louis Cook Jr., Akwiréntha, 66; Funeral Services June 5, 2021 at Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Hogsburg.

**Massena** – Delsie E. Day, 64; Funeral Services June 2, 2021 at the Donaldson Funeral Home.

**Massena** – Patsy L. (Deshane) Henderson, 63; Mass of Christian Burial

June 2, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Norwood** – Dennis G. Dockum, 67; Funeral Services June 7, 2021 at Buck Funeral Home.

**Ogdensburg** – Philip C. Bernhard, 87; Mass of Christian Burial July 6, 2021 at Notre Dame Church.

**Peru** – Dorothy Anne (Jarvis) Chauvin, 94; Funeral Services to be held at a later date.

**Ticonderoga** – Betty Jean (Grinnell) LaRock, 81; Mass of Christian Burial

June 5, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Jayne L. (Ford) Pecori, 78; Funeral Services May 31, 2021 at Glenwood Mausoleum.



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

**'We walk by faith and not by sight'**

This Sunday's sudden jump to the Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time ensures that we will cover all 34 Sundays before the end of the Church year in November.

The theme of Scripture today is the tension that exists between human, natural



**Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore**

growth of the "seed" and God's plans for their development.

He intervenes directly when He needs to, as with the House of David. This line of David began to falter after King David's death.

It would have disappeared completely if God had

**June 13**

**11th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

READINGS

Ezechiel 17:22-24

Corinthians 5:6-10

Mark 4:26-34

not intervened directly by transplanting a "tender shoot" to a high mountain (first reading), and there transformed it with astounding results.

Ezechiel's prophecy is seen fulfilled in the boyhood of Jesus as a "Nazarean," a name whose root means "sprig or shoot." Now we know that the House of David will never fade again.

In the Gospel, through the parable of the mustard seed, we know that no matter how small and meager our lives and activities seem to be, God transforms our human

effort through His vitality and life into something significant and spiritually fruitful.

St. Paul in the second reading, assures us that, if only we walk by faith and not by sight, courageously longing to be away from our bodies, and at home in the Lord, then we will indeed experience a merciful judgment and receive a just recompense for our lives.

## CALLED TO SERVE

**Are you ready to spread your branches?**

Why do retirees smile all the time? Because they can't hear a word you are saying!

*Rimshot: (ba-dum-bum-CHING)*

I wear hearing aids. Without them I miss a lot of the noise that goes on around me, some good noise and some not so good. The point is I would miss all that, so I am grateful for the assistance.

Hearing impairment did not come as a surprise. My lifestyle was a harbinger. As a former disc

jockey and the product of the music of the 1960s, I expected my hearing to be one of the first bodily blessings to suffer from too much abuse. Headphones and cranked up volume in my younger days eventually led to diminished hearing. My past caught up with me, and it is one more sign of aging.

Mark's Gospel next weekend reminds us how we function as God's creation. After working all day, in this case planting seeds, we "sleep and rise

night and day," while God impacts our lives continuously, nurturing us and those around us to "sprout and grow."

Very few of us are able to look back at our days and say with certainty that we knew when we were young what we would accomplish, what successes we would have, what failures we would endure on our life journey. God knows. God knows.

While we were sleeping and rising each day, the Holy Spirit was preparing the ground we tilled and planted while we were awake. He will

guide us, influence us towards the harvest.

"Once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade."

Each one of us has the potential to be the largest of plants. Rev. Jesse Jackson put it another way, "I am - somebody." We are set up by God to succeed as a human, in our body, if we stay true to Him.

Everything we do in life prepares us for today. I doubt that is an original thought, but it is a maxim

I have adopted. It varies a tad from the motivational mantra "everything you're going through is preparing you for *what you've asked for*." The difference is a recognition that what I want is not always what God wants.

St. Paul wrote the Corinthians, "We are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight." It is that inspired courage that allows us to face each day, each new opportunity, each new crisis knowing that God has prepared the path for us.

Stay true to him and decisions you make today will prepare you for what's next. "Aspire to please him, whether (you) are at home or away." Listen to him with your mind and heart. No hearing aid required.

*Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown.*

*He is the Director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.*



**Deacon  
Kevin Mastellon**

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# The eyes of God, the hand of hope

By Sister Debbie Blow, OP  
North Country Mission of Hope

There are defining moments in each of our lives. I believe there are also defining moments in the life of an organization. One of those moments is now for the North Country Mission of Hope.

The World Food Program recently stated that 1.2 million Nicaraguan children in a country of 6 million, live in emergency conditions. At least 40% of our Nicaraguan brothers and sisters under the age of 5 are chronically malnourished.

Located in what is called the "dry corridor" means that climate change is "climate shock" in Nicaragua, due to the fact that the country is repeatedly devastated by prolonged droughts followed by devastating hurricanes and flooding. Two massive hurricanes in late 2020 destroyed more than 60% of the crops. This is further impacted by 70% of Nicaragua being dependent on agriculture. Food costs in the last year alone have risen an estimated 40-80% if and when food is even available. Now add into the mix Covid, whereas of this past week, only 1.3% are vaccinated, and the socioeconomic and sociopolitical realities thrust our Nicaraguan brothers and sisters into life threatening insecurity.

I invite you to look into the eyes of the child in the photo. This photo hangs on the wall in Sister Stephanie's bedroom. Sister Stephanie's defining moment on that first February Mission trip in 1999 was captured in this photo where she saw the "eyes of God" through this hungry child. Sister's hand reaching out to feed this child, was a "defining



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

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

moment of Hope" for all who witnessed that emotional encounter.

Realization quickly set in for the North Country Mission of Hope, that our ability to make a difference would need to be a balance of emergency response AND long-term efforts to provide stability.

Just a few weeks ago in 2021, families came to our facility to receive emergency supplies of food for very young children, disabled and elderly. Behind their hand-sewn masks are smiles of joy and gratitude because someone knows they are alive, someone cares. They are smiles of HOPE, and they know that the Mission of Hope strives to be the "hands of Hope." These families living on the fringes still reflect the eyes of God! Also note that the food supplied is very basic rice and beans and oil. This program is separate from our long-term feeding program for school age children where we feed almost 7,000 daily.

Food insecurity is an understatement in Nicaragua. The lives of

our brothers and sisters are endangered. We need your generosity now. We need you to be the hand of hope now, just as you have been over the past 23 years.



## SAVE LIVES ON THE SIDEWALK

### Experience Sidewalk Advocates for Life's NEW VIRTUAL Basic Training 2.0!

You're invited to attend Sidewalk Advocates for Life's comprehensive, nationally-renowned **Sidewalk Advocacy Basic Training 2.0** from the comfort of your own home ...and become a trained Sidewalk Advocate!

**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!

With this new, virtual training option, you can quickly learn how to peacefully and effectively extend Christ's love to abortion-minded women and men, on and off the sidewalk.

To get started, YOU'RE INVITED to fill out the brief application at [sidewalkadvocates.org/trainingapp](http://sidewalkadvocates.org/trainingapp). Upon receipt, we'll be in touch with next steps for accessing the online training. Thanks so much!

**Please contact the Respect Life Office with questions:  
518-524-0774 or [cminer@rcdony.org](mailto:cminer@rcdony.org)**

For Sidewalk Advocates for Life's public statement regarding abortion outreach in a pandemic, visit [sidewalkadvocates.org](http://sidewalkadvocates.org) and click "STATEMENT: ABORTION OUTREACH IN A PANDEMIC."

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Sidewalk Advocates for Life is a peaceful, prayerful sidewalk advocacy program that trains people how to most effectively offer loving, life-affirming alternatives to women and men entering the abortion facility.

For more information, see  
[www.sidewalkadvocates.org](http://www.sidewalkadvocates.org)





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### **At a Glance**

The Catholic University of America  
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