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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 76 Number 13

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JULY 14, 2021

## LAY MINISTERS COMMISSIONED



JESSE SOVIE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Bishop Terry R. LaValley commissioned 20 lay ministers on June 27 at St. Mary's Cathedral. The lay ministers were commissioned after completing the two-year Formation for Ministry program. See more photos, the list of the individuals commissioned and a story on Pages 4 and 5.

## SUMMER SCHEDULE

The *North Country Catholic* is now on summer schedule and prints every other week. There will be no newspaper next week. The next edition will be July 28.

## SHARING OUR STORIES



Anne Thomas of Sackets Harbor wasn't raised in a typically religious household, but her parents, especially her father, helped sew the seed of faith in her. Thomas tells how she became Catholic and continues to grow in her faith in this week's installment of *Sharing Our Stories*, *Sharing Our Faith*, an ongoing series highlighting how lay Catholics are living out their faith here in the North Country. To nominate someone to be featured in this series, contact Darcy Fargo, editor, at [dfargo@rcdony.org](mailto:dfargo@rcdony.org) or 315-393-2920.

FULL STORY, PAGE 7

## Pope leads Angelus from hospital

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pilgrims and well-wishers gathered at Rome's Gemelli hospital to greet Pope Francis as he made his first public appearance in a week after undergoing intestinal surgery.

Appearing on a balcony at the hospital July 11, the pope was greeted with applause and shouts of "Viva il papa" ("Long live the pope") from the crowd.

"I thank you all," the pope said. "I have felt your closeness and the support

of your prayers. Thank you very much."

Pope Francis arrived at Gemelli hospital July 4 to undergo "a scheduled surgical intervention for a symptomatic diverticular stenosis of the colon," the Vatican said. The pope has recovered steadily from his surgery and resumed working from the hospital.

In his address, the pope reflected on the Sunday Gospel reading from St. Mark, in which Jesus sent out his disciples to anoint

the sick with oil and heal them.

The oil, he said, not only represents the comfort given through the sacramental anointing of the sick, but also symbolizes "the closeness, the care, the tenderness of those who take care of the sick person."

"It is like a caress that makes you feel better, soothes your pain and cheers you up. All of us, everyone, sooner or later, we all need this 'anointing'

of closeness and tenderness, and we can all give it to someone else, with a visit, a phone call, a hand outstretched to someone who needs help," he said.

Pope Francis said that his time in the hospital gave him the opportunity to experience "once again how important good health care is" and that free, universal healthcare, especially for the most vulnerable, is a "precious benefit (that) must not be lost."

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Box 326  
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669  
USPS 0039-3400  
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 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: \$30

Matters for publication  
should be  
addressed to  
PO Box 326  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
and should be received by  
Thursday prior to  
publication.  
Paper is printed each  
Monday;  
deadline is Wednesday.  
Member, Catholic Press  
Association.

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

# It's in the little things

My husband, Adam, sent me a text message with a photo he had taken at an antique store. The photo was of a box full of large, brass numbers, coated with multiple layers of paint.

"They're from the prison in Dannemora," the text message said. I immediately pushed the button on my phone to voice call my husband. Some conversations just can't wait for a text message.

"Hello," Adam answered. "I'm not sure what we'd do with those numbers, but I feel like we need a couple," I told Adam, completely forgoing

any greeting. "That's exactly what I was thinking," Adam responded.



**Darcy L.  
Fargo**

I laughed so loudly it woke up two of my cats (no small accomplishment; I'm pretty sure they could sleep through a nuclear explosion).

"I'm pretty sure neither of us could be married to any other human on the planet," I told Adam, laughing. "I'm not sure other

people appreciate our particular type of weird."

Adam and I had a great weekend together. Our son, Jake, is visiting his grandparents in Watertown for a while,

so we're home alone. We went out for lunch. We ran errands together. We visited my family.

Despite all the good things we did together, this probably 30-second exchange about the brass numbers in a box at an antique store was the highlight of my weekend. It made me laugh. It reminded me that God definitely brought Adam and I together for a reason, even if that reason is that our types of weird align.

It also reminded me how important the little moments can be.

It's easy for me to fall into the trap of expecting to see God working in big ways. I know he can do that. He can work miracles. He can give us

profound moments where we feel his love. But often, experience tells me, God chooses to show his love in small ways – in that awe we experience when we see a beautiful sunrise, in the calm joy we feel when a cool breeze blows on our faces, and in the every-day expressions of love.

But like I had to be willing to see the humor, love and joy in the common weird I share with my husband, we have to choose to cherish the small gifts given to us by our Lord.

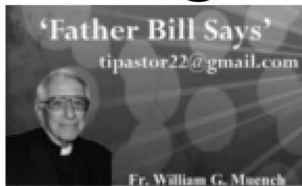
Those gifts are even better than antique brass numbers with history (though we're pretty sure the few we purchased will look interesting in our house).

## Discovering the Catholic faith

Each year, I am pleasantly surprised by the many persons who decide to become a member of the Catholic Church. They take the time to enter the program that helps them understand the message of the Catholic Church as they prepare themselves to become a Catholic.

These programs are successful because of the dedicated people – the priests and sisters as well as the many dedicated lay men and women – who give their time to teach those who are investigating the Church, showing them the gifts of the Catholic Church. These are very special people who make the programs knowledgeable and enjoyable for those interested, hoping to encourage them to become a Catholic.

I also want to include in this action the many who take the opportunity to invite, to encourage a friend or a loved one to investigate becoming Catholic. There are so many dedicated Catholics who take the time to accompany a friend or loved one on their journey of finding the message of the Catholic Church. These are dedicated and caring people who help others



learn the message of Jesus and encourage them to make the decision to become Catholic.

I mention this today because someone reminded me this week of the message of Jesus we find in the Gospels – "the harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few." The Lord gives so many Christians unique opportunities to lead others to the Church. I believe that each of us can open the doors of the Catholic Church for others and invite them to discover the Lord and to make a decision for Jesus. There are so many wonderful ways to assist others in finding the Lord and the Catholic Church.

Today, I was fortunate to hear the story of a missionary priest who shared his story in his homily at Mass. He told us of his experience in the Sudan. His story was of a time when the government of that region became very oppres-

sive. The government literally drove all the Catholic priests out of the region and closed all of the churches. For 15 years, the people had no priests, no Mass, no sacraments.

When the priests were able to reenter – and they did – this missionary told us that they discovered a people still alive with a deep and powerful faith in God and in being Catholic. They had helped each other to develop a community of faith with a faithful recognition of the importance of being Catholic. When the priests returned the people joined again for Mass and demonstrated their readiness to bring the life of being Catholic alive in their community. The people demonstrated their faithfulness with God and each other. They had lost nothing of being Catholic.

I believe that we will discover the power of the Catholic faith when we come to the end of this pandemic. May all of us, young and old, recognize the importance of our praying together at Mass and the sacraments – a life that is truly spiritual. May our Church recognize with Jesus, "the harvest is great, the la-

borers are few." May there be faithful laborers of the Lord working to build a community of faith.

So, we pray that our Catholic faith stays strong for us all and for our communities, for our parishes. We pray there will be an increase in seminarians ready to dedicate their lives to the Lord. We pray there will be priests and deacons for the future of our Church to bring the message of Jesus to our world and to bring the Church's sacraments to all Catholics. This will demand dedicated and loving disciples.

Jesus calls all of us – clergy and lay Catholics – to be active as members of our Catholic Church. I believe that each of us has many unique opportunities to put new lie into our own faith community, our own parish. I believe that the Lord guides us in many wonderful ways to live well as Catholics and to show the world the power of the Catholic faith. Pope John XXIII urged each one of us as a Church to throw open the doors and windows of our Church so that all may recognize the joy and happiness of living as a Catholic.



## FOLLOW ME

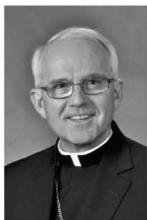
# Supporting the ministry of our missionaries

Dear Friends in Christ,

Missionary enthusiasm has always been a telling sign of the vitality of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The annual collection for the **Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg (MPDO)** offers us the opportunity

to further our own zeal in supporting the ministry of our missionaries who faithfully serve in often forgotten places in our world.

The parishioners of St. Lawrence, Jefferson, and Lewis Deaneries will be given an opportunity to support our missionaries during the weekend



**Bishop  
Terry R.  
LaValley**

Masses of July 24th and 25th. This year, our focus continues to be the Diocese of Latakia in Syria where our twinning initiative continues. Located on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, Latakia is home to the oldest Christian settlements on earth. Our *"Solidarity in Faith"* endeavor will provide

concrete ways for the faithful of our diocese to learn about Latakia while supporting their relief programs. They are experiencing a large influx of refugees which has doubled their relief efforts but depleted their resources to do so effectively. Our financial sacrifices will assist with their marriage

preparation program as well as faith formation programs for children and adults.

The **Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg** collection will also continue to be used to provide financial support of our former mission in Mollendo, Peru, support

the United States Bishops' annual appeal for Latin America and assist with other missionary projects throughout the world as part of our evangelization efforts.

I am very grateful for your gift to this year's **MPDO** collection. God bless you for your gener-

ous support of the Church's missionary efforts.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

*† Terry R. LaValley*

**Most Reverend  
Terry R. LaValley  
Bishop of Ogdensburg**

## KNIGHTS MAKE DONATION



Bishop Terry R. LaValley accepts a \$10,000 donation from New York Knights of Columbus State Deputy Wally Wych at the Annual Bishop's Burse Dinner hosted by Ogdensburg Council 258 earlier this year. Following the State Deputy's presentation, Grand Knights and Faithful Navigators representing North Country councils and assemblies presented gifts totaling almost \$16,000. The Bishop's Burse donations will be used to support the education of seminarians and vocations.

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JESSE SOVIE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Bishop Terry R. LaValley blesses the new lay ministers commissioned on June 27 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

## New lay ministers commissioned

### **CLINTON DEANERY** St. Mary's Church, Champlain & St. Patrick's Church, Rouses Point

Jeffrey Morelock  
– Ministry to the Sick  
and Elderly  
Renee Morelock  
– Ministry to the Sick  
and Elderly  
Sponsor: Rev. Clyde A.  
Lewis

### **Sacred Heart Church, Chazy**

Susan Barriere  
– Faith Formation  
Sponsor: Rev. Theodore  
A. Crosby

### **St. Augustine's Church, Peru**

Gordy Burdo  
– Liturgical Ministry  
Sponsor: Msgr. Dennis J.  
Duprey

### **The Roman Catholic Community of St. John the Baptist Church, Plattsburgh**

Desiree M. Kirk  
– Faith Formation  
Sponsor: Rev. Kevin D.  
McEwan

### **HAMILTON-HERKIMER DEANERY**

### **St. James Major Church, Lake Pleasant**

Jean Doell  
– Liturgical Ministry  
Frank Sczerzenie  
– Liturgical Ministry  
Sponsor: Rev. Sony G.  
Pulickal, VF

### **St. Bartholomew's Church & St. Anthony of Padua Parish of Inlet and Racquette Lake, Old Forge**

Alesia M. Olney  
– Faith Formation  
Sponsor: Msgr. John R.  
Murphy

### **JEFFERSON-LEWIS DEANERY**

### **St. Cecilia's Church, Adams**

John Ferry  
– Parish and Family  
Outreach  
Laura Mallan

– Ministry to the Sick and  
Elderly

Kevin O'Rourke  
– Parish and Family  
Outreach

Maryann O'Rourke  
– Parish and Family  
Outreach

Sponsor: Rev. Robert L.  
Decker

### **The Roman Catholic**

### **Community of Brownville & Dexter**

Christopher M. Lapointe  
– Faith Formation  
Sponsor: Rev. J. Michael  
Gaffney & Rev. William  
G. Muench

### **The Roman Catholic Community of Cape Vin- cent, Rosiere and Chaumont**

Paul DuFlo  
– Liturgical Ministry  
Sponsor: Rev. Raymond  
Diesbourg, MSC

### **St. Mary's Church, Clay- ton**

J.B. Kavanaugh – Parish  
and Family Outreach  
Wanda Kavanaugh  
– Parish and Family  
Outreach  
Sponsor: Rev. Arthur J.  
LaBaff, VF

### **St. Stephen's Church, Croghan**

Mikayla Ferguson  
– Youth Ministry  
Sponsor: Rev. Donald J.  
Manfred

### **Catholic Community of St. Peter and St. Mary and St. Hedwig, Lowville**

Gayla M. Ortlieb  
– Ministry to the Sick



DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Catherine Russell, Formation for Ministry program coordinator, gives opening reflections at the lay ministry commissioning held June 27.

and Elderly  
Sponsor: Rev. Scott A.  
Belina & Rev. James W.  
Seymour

Sponsor: Rev. James W.  
Seymour & Rev. Shane M.  
Lynch

### **ST. LAWRENCE DEANERY** St. James Church, Gouverneur

Melissa Terpstra  
– Youth Ministry

### **St. Peter's Parish, Massena**

Nicholas Tsibulsky  
– Faith Formation  
Sponsor: Rev. Mark R.  
Reilly, VF





JESSE SOVIE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

(Left) Bishop Terry R. LaValley gives his homily at the commissioning of lay ministers held June 27 in St. Mary's Cathedral. (Right) Candidates for commissioning are presented to Bishop LaValley.

## Journeys of lay ministers 'have only just begun'

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

OGDENSBURG – After two years of classes, workshops, retreats and discussions, 20 individuals from around the diocese were commissioned by Bishop Terry R. LaValley as lay ministers on June 27.

The commissioning was held in St. Mary's Cathedral in conjunction with vespers, evening prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours.

Catherine Russell, program coordinator for Formation for Ministry, kicked off the event sharing a reflection from one of the individuals who was commissioned.

"One of the candidates shared a reflection that I think pretty well sums up how all of you feel, and I'd like to share it with you right now," Russel said. "These past two years have been life changing, to say the least. Throughout this

time, I have been blessed with being able to share this experience with my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, all of whom have become not just my friends but family as well. I thank God for having gifted me with such a loving, charitable and spiritually strong family of believers. Their inspiration and wisdom are the two things I will cherish for the rest of my life. Our journeys have only just begun. I pray each of my fellow ministers finds fulfillment and a joyful spirit in carrying out the ministry of Christ in his Church."

Russell also advised the new ministers to remember advice given by Pope Francis.

"I just read recently something that Pope Francis said," Russell said. "He talked about God's style of pastoral work. He said there are three aspects: closeness, compassion

and tenderness. That's my wish for you 20 candidates: to remember those three words."

In his homily, Bishop Terry R. LaValley noted that the new ministers are a blessing to the diocese and their parishes.

"We are blessed because you decided to participate in our Formation for Ministry program," Bishop LaValley said. "You have taken the time to allow the lord, through his body the Church, to help equip you for discipleship."

Bishop LaValley encouraged the newly commissioned to exercise their ministries with the joy of the Gospels.

"Saint Paul tells the Corinthians, blessed be God, the God of consolation, who encourages, who comforts us so that we may be able to encourage others with the comfort and encouragement we received from our God,"

Bishop LaValley said. "The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and minds of all who encounter Jesus. In his apostolic exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel, the pope encourages the Christian faithful, encourages you and me, to embark on a new chapter, a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey for years to come."

Bishop LaValley also encouraged the new ministers to cooperate with the Lord and others as they

move forward in their ministries.

"This isn't a graduation ceremony," he said. "Far from it. This is a formal, public commitment of your continuing discipleship. Never forget that you are commissioned. That is – you're on mission with your brothers and sisters, members all of the one body of Christ. We never serve alone. Thank you. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about your Catholic faith and for committing to share it with others."

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# New director named for deacon formation

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

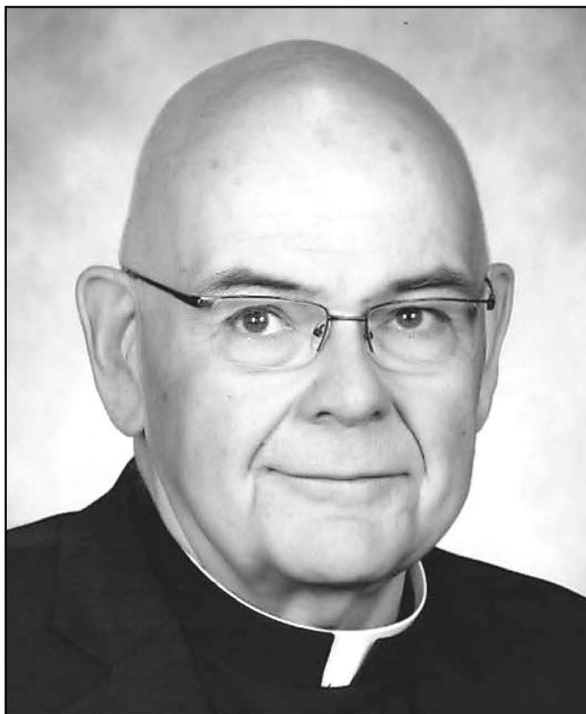
**OGDENSBURG** – The formation program for permanent deacons has a new director, but it's not his first time directing the program.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley recently named Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin director of the program. He replaces Deacon John J. Drollette, who is retiring from the position. Deacon Drollette will continue the formation process with the current class of deacons, scheduled to be ordained in October.

Msgr. Aucoin will also continue in his role as Episcopal Vicar for Education and the New Evangelization and as pastor at St. Mary's in Waddington and St. John the Baptist in Madrid.

Msgr. Aucoin said he previously directed the program when it was centered at Wadhams Hall, and he was the rector of the seminary college.

"At one time, the deacon formation program was sort of housed at Mater Dei College," Msgr. Aucoin said. "When Mater Dei closed, it came to Wadhams Hall. Many of the teachers in the program were already teachers at



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

Wadhams... Bishop Barbarito was the bishop at the time, and it was suggested that he just let Wadhams run the deacon formation program, since the majority of the teachers were from Wadhams. He needed someone at Wadhams to run the program. I was rector at Wadhams, so I ended up becoming director."

Msgr. Aucoin noted that Wadhams Hall closed in 2002, and it was then that deacon formation program was developed as it exists now, with participants taking both in-person and online courses.

"Under Bishop Barbarito first and then Bishop Cunningham, we designed the program as it exists right now," Msgr. Aucoin said. "When Wadhams closed, many of the teachers were moved, since they would no longer be at Wadhams. We then went with a mix of online courses and on-site courses. It's been operating that way since 2003ish."

The online courses are taught by University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

"There are some courses that we cannot get online – Canon Law, public speaking, liturgy practicums," Msgr. Aucoin said. "Those courses aren't readily available in

the same format as the other courses."

One of the advantages to the Notre Dame program, Msgr. Aucoin explained, is that the course offerings are known years in advance, allowing the program to plan its curriculum and fill any identified course gaps.

Knowledge of future course offerings has been especially helpful as the program plans for its next round of candidates.

"Right now, we have nine people who have applied," Msgr. Aucoin said. "I'd like to see that number bigger."

To participate in the permanent deacon formation, candidates must first complete the Formation for Ministry program. The deacon formation is then a four-year program, starting with a year that's primarily focused on discernment and foundational knowledge.

"The program is funded by the Bishop's Fund in great measure," Msgr. Aucoin said. "The candidates come on Friday evening. We start with Evening Prayer, a course on Friday night and social hour. On Saturday morning, there's Morning Prayer, Mass, breakfast, two courses, lunch, two courses, Evening Prayer, and we're done."

In addition to running the next class of deacon candidates, Msgr. Aucoin said he'll also be working with a diocesan committee formed to codify the diocesan formation process.

"Our program as it exists has never been formalized on paper," he said. "One of the tasks is to work with the committee to formalize the program of deacon formation for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The (USCCB)

document speaks in broad terms, but we need something specific to the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Other dioceses, like us, don't have formalized written documents. The formation process was just passed on from generation to generation. They, too, are in the process of formalizing their formation programs."

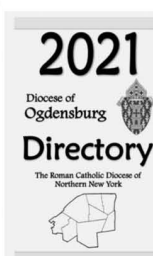
Msgr. Aucoin said he also hopes to evaluate the Notre Dame program to ensure the course offerings align with diocesan goals and meet the program's needs.

"We get comfortable with the way we're doing things, and it might not always be the best way," he said. "I've been away from the course offerings for about 10 years. I'd like to see what they're offering and see what resources we have for courses we need to teach locally."

Mostly, though, Msgr. Aucoin is looking forward to working with the formation candidates and program.

"I'm glad to be involved in it again," he said. "Deacon John Drollette did a wonderful job. He'll be leaving the program to retire. His predecessor, Deacon John White, did a great job, too. I'm looking forward to getting into it and seeing the best way to form deacons. Our deacons are engaged in more and more ministerial efforts. We need that help, along with the help of the lay people who come from the Formation for Ministry program. We need a strong formation program to begin with. The candidates in it continue to the deacon program and have that strong formation background."

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# 'God is right there with me'

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

**SACKETS HARBOR** – While her parents weren't Catholic and didn't attend any church, Anne Thomas' faith grew from a seed planted by her father and a flower.

"We had the Bible read to us, but we didn't go to church," said Thomas, a parishioner of St. Andrew's Church in Sacket's Harbor. "Mother was Episcopalian. Dad's family was Methodist, but my grandfather had some sort of falling out with the church, and dad didn't like to go to church very much. We grew up in Shenango County, which is very rural. There was this little Congregational Church. As kids, we used to go when-

ever the mood struck us and participate in the kids' stuff... My parents were moderately religious. I think they were people of faith. One of my earliest remembrances, I can never get it out of my head, I think was the seed or root of something. I was the next to the youngest of seven, and I loved to follow dad around the farm. My mom would say, 'you have sons to be out there, why do you have to have my daughter out there?' But I loved to be out there. I must've been about five or six years old. I was out helping – I probably wasn't helping that much – dad fix fences down in the pasture, and I brought him a flower I picked. He stopped what he was doing and showed me the flower, showed me every part. He said, 'who but a great God could create anything so perfect?' That stuck in my mind forever. I think it's the root of my faith."

As she grew into an adult, Thomas said she tried several different denominations as she "searched for a church home." It was when she at-



Anne Thomas

tended nursing school near the New York City metro area when she was exposed to Catholicism.

"I wanted to be an airline hostess," she said, smiling. "Back then, in order to be an airline hostess, you had to be a nurse. When I checked into it further, I learned there was also a size requirement to be an airline hostess. You had to be between 5-foot-2 and 5-foot-5. I never made it to 5'2." I figured, oh well. I might as well be a nurse."

She attended a nursing school in Westchester County. She chose the school because it didn't charge tuition. Nurses at the school trained while working in an affiliated hospital.

"Where I grew up, there were hardly any Catholics," Thomas said. "We used to laugh about it. When we had release time, there was a Protestant teacher – non-denominational – who would come in and teach us religion. There were a couple Catholic kids who had to go down to the boiler room for instruction. I had next to no contact with Catholics. Being out-

side New York City in nursing school, a lot of my classmates were Catholic. I started going to Mass with them every now and then. It was intriguing. It was all in Latin. I had no idea what was going on, but I just knew there was something there. I really can't say what it was. I just felt that this was where I was going to feel comfortable. I started taking instruction to become Catholic."

Once she discovered her new faith, Thomas said she threw herself into it.

"I had searched it out, and I found where I was home," she said. "Once I landed in the Catholic Church, I didn't want to be just a social Catholic. I don't think I had been in the Church very long when I started out teaching religious ed. I learned the most about my faith teaching it to kids. If I wasn't working and I had time, I taught religious ed for years. When Father (Douglas G.) Comstock was here, I became the religious ed coordinator."

Thomas was part of the first Formation for Ministry class, graduating in 1992,



right around the time she took over the religious education program at her parish.

"I hadn't chosen catechism as my main focus; I chose family," she said. "I was able to go to some of the catechism workshops later. I had been working with kids, so I gave it a try. It worked out pretty good, if I do say so myself. I had a lot of fun."

Thomas said she also grew in her relationship with the Lord through Madonna House, an apostolate "of Christian lay men, women, and priests, striving to incarnate the teachings of Jesus Christ by forming a community of love." She was introduced to the community by Father William G. "Bill" Muench.

"Madonna House was a big part of the foundation of my faith," she said. "When you go there, there are mirrors all over the place. Every mirror says, 'I am third.' God is first. You're second. I am third. I really believe that, and I try to live it. I don't always manage it perfectly, but that's where I'm at."

Now, at age 93, Thomas continues to nurture her faith by learning about it.

"I'm a secular Franciscan," she said. "I have been for 30 years. I also read a lot. I do a lot of spiritual reading. I pray the rosary. It took me a long time to get into praying the rosary."

That faith she's worked with the Lord to grow has helped her through many difficult times, Thomas said.

"In 1969, our son, a senior in high school, took off and left a note," she said. "He was heading out with one of his buddies. They didn't know where they were going. He thought maybe California. I was crushed. I didn't know what to do. I didn't know where my kid was. There were drugs all over the place."

Thomas found peace in the situation when she attended Mass, then being held in a gym after a fire at Sacred Heart in Watertown.

"I was sitting in the top tier of bleachers," she said. "It was the responsorial Psalm. The 34th Psalm. I know it every time I hear it. 'The Lord is close to the broken hearted, the crushed in spirit he saves.' The tears were about to flow. It just grabbed me. It wasn't the person who was

## Environmental Stewardship

## Connecting to creation

It is during these weeks of greatest daylight and warm temperatures that people are most likely to spend time outdoors, whether it is hiking, biking, relaxing on a porch or sitting around a picnic table. It is also when we get closest to nature, and occasionally take the time to appreciate our natural world.

Despite the seemingly random distribution of trees, weeds, wildflowers and other plants throughout our forests and fields, and the capricious movement of bugs, birds, fish, frogs and mammals, there is order within our natural world. And regardless of any observed confrontational behavior, or predatory action, there is harmony in nature, as every living entity has a specific role to play in this ecological drama.

Since Europeans arrived on this continent, the natural dance among the living entities of this hemisphere has been upset. This has led to a significant deterioration in the balance of nature. Even the health and well-being of our atmosphere has become damaged by the action of the non-native inhabitants with their industrial and consumer based ways-of-life.

Our prayer today is one that asks God for His help to bring our attitudes more into line with those previously held by the indigenous people that once dominated this continent.

Divine Spirit of Creation, over billions of years, you patiently fashioned the face of our planet. You then cloaked it with an incredibly rich tapestry of life that reflects your magnificence and your love. Help us to experience a sense of awe and wonder as we are exposed to your handiwork. Give us the insight to understand the importance of every living thing. Help us to protect all your many creations and guide our everyday actions so that we may limit the damage that we inflict on this home that you formed for all of us, and for those many generations that are yet to come. Thank you, Lord, for your patience and for your love. Amen.

Submitted by Tom Kalinowski, St. Bernard's, Saranac Lake Ecology and Faith Group

# August is Make-A-Will Month

Having a Will not only ensures that your wishes are carried out after your passing, but it also protects your loved ones from potentially lengthy and expensive proceedings. Common misconceptions of making a Will are you think you are too young; you think creating one is too expensive, and you believe that your possessions will immediately go to your next of kin.

With August being National Make-A-Will month, what better time to stop

putting off something that has been on your mind for a while now and begin the process. Creating an estate plan does not have to be expensive and without one the state will determine what happens to your property, and your wishes of what you may want specifically left to family or charitable organizations may be ignored.

For many years now, the Diocese of Ogdensburg, many of its parishes and schools and other institutions within the Diocese

have been remembered through bequests from people who thought it was a good idea to have a Will or Estate Plan and make a lasting difference to the Church that they loved.

If after prayerfully consideration you are thinking you want to leave a gift with the Diocese, beneficiary choices can include: your parish, your Catholic school, education of seminarians, priests retirement fund, priests disability fund, the Bishop's Fund, Catholic Charities, Mis-

sionary Projects of the Diocese, St. Joseph's Nursing Home, the Diocese of Ogdensburg, the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, or any diocesan institution/ministry of your choice.

If you would like more information on Wills and beneficiary choices within the Diocese of Ogdensburg, contact the executive director of Development Scott Lalone at 315-393-2920 or slalone@rcdony.org.

## Rest in Peace

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

- July 15** — Rev. John Conlon, 1881; Rev. Charles D. Thomas, 1895; Msgr. Armand Dussault, 1963; Rev. Joseph F. Quinn, 1970; Rev. Joseph F. Dowd, 1983; Rev. Joseph L. Quinn, 1970
- July 16** — Rev. Eugene Carroll, 1882; Rev. H. T. Regan, O.S.A., 1937; Rev. James Torsney, 1958;
- July 18** — Msgr. Joseph Domina Brault, 1966
- July 19** — Rev. Thomas M. Carroll, 1884; Rev. Francis E. Gilbert, 1939; Rev. James Karlton Dewey, 1963; Rev. Arthur J. Trudel, 1967; Msgr. Donald M. Kelly, 1969; Rev. Thomas A. Moody, 2010
- July 20** — Rev. Francis Leo Desrosiers, 1956; Rev. Gerald F. McGrath, 2016
- July 21** — Msgr. John H. O'Neill, 1938
- July 23** — Rev. Pierre Casenave, O.M.I., 1884; Rev. Francis J. Casey, O.S.A., 1958
- July 24** — Rev. George Burque, 1897; Rev. James Joseph Gainor, 1946; Rev. Bartholemew Aloysius O'Connell, 1963; Rev. Henry Wilcott, 1965; Rev. Francis Edic, O.F.M. Conv., 1975
- July 25** — Rev. Simon Wallace, M.S.C., 1941
- July 26** — Rev. J. Owen Barry, O.S.A., 1978
- July 27** — Rev. John B. Chappel, M.S.C., 1884; Rev. Matthew J. Sweeney, 1935; Rev. Daniel A. Harron, O.S.A., 1942; Rev. Harold J. P. McCabe, 1976; Rev. Daniel F. Lyddy, 2002

## 'God is right there with me'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7  
reading. God was speaking to me."

Thomas said her faith also helped her through other family difficulties, as well as through the isolation of the coronavirus pandemic and an injury

## Bishop's Public Schedule

- July 15** — Noon — Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg
- July 17** — 4 p.m. — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
- July 18** — 12:15 p.m. — Mass at the 73rd Annual New York State Knights of Columbus Pilgrimage at St. Ann's Shrine in Isle La Motte in Vermont
- July 20** — Noon — Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg
- July 22** — Noon  
Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg
- July 24** — 4 p.m. — Installation Mass of Reverend Scott A. Belina as Pastor of the Catholic Community of St. Peter and St. Mary and St. Hedwig (at St. Peter's Church) in Lowville
- July 25** — 10:30 a.m. — Installation Mass of Reverend Donald A. Robinson as Pastor of The Roman Catholic Community of Brownville and Dexter in Brownville and St. Andrew's Church in Sackets Harbor (at St. Andrew's Church)
- July 26** — Noon — Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg
- July 28** — Noon — Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

she faced around the same time.

A little over a year ago, Thomas fell and broke her arm. After a prolonged period of attempting other means of healing, she underwent surgery on the arm.

"I had to learn it was ok to have people do things for me, and it was ok for me to not be in charge," she said. "It was ok to be 92 and a half years old with a broken arm and just let it be. After I broke my arm, they transferred me to (a rehabilitation facility) to make sure I could

handle things on my own before I went home. It was right after COVID started. Nobody could come to see me. It made me feel sorry for myself. It made me really aware of how terrible it is for people in nursing homes without family members there for them. Also when COVID hit, I was no longer able to go to church. It made me realize how very, very much I needed the Eucharist. People said I could watch it on television. I couldn't get Communion on television. Besides, I don't have a television. It was very, very hard. That was about the bottom for me. I don't get depressed easily, but that really got to me."

Now, Thomas is able to get to Mass and serve at Mass again, and she's grateful to God for getting her through the recent hard times.

"My faith has taken me through every hard, difficult time in my life," Thomas concluded. "It hasn't taken them away, but it's taken me through. My faith has shown me and proved to me that God is right there with me. I never have to be alone. I never have to be afraid."

## To Report Abuse

**If you have a complaint** of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrianne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-651-2267; 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 a bishop, contact the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at 800-276-1562 or [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org).



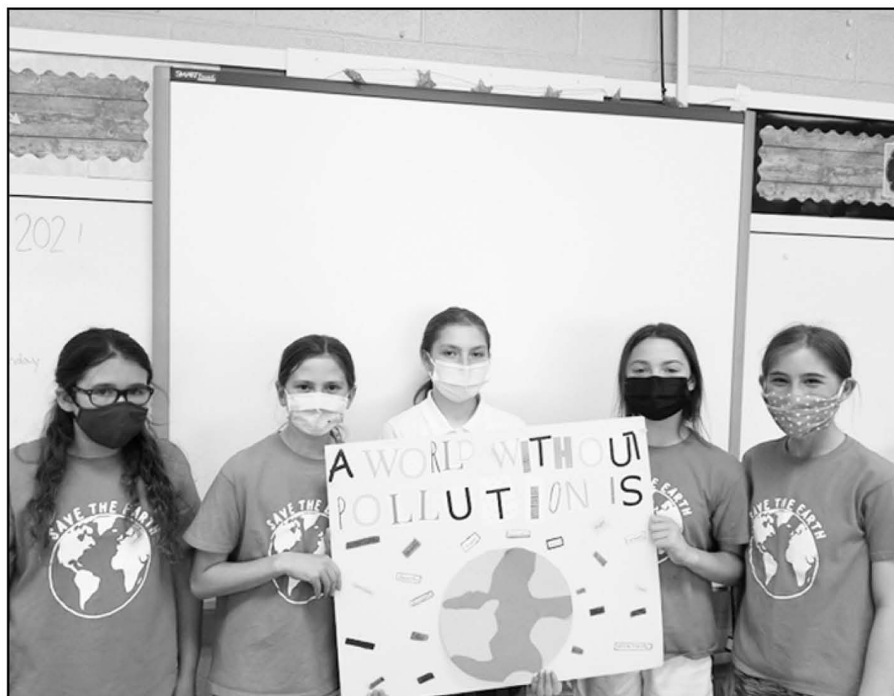
# Augustinian students care for God's creation

*Editor's Note: The following was submitted by fifth-grade students at Augustinian Academy in Carthage as part of their "Pope Francis Caring for Our Common Home Green Apple Award" submission. The awards were given to individuals, classes, organizations and youth groups for projects that promote collaboration in care for God's creation. Students at Augustinian Academy also planted a butterfly garden, recycled shirts into shoulder bags and built garden boxes for their families.*

The girls in the fifth-grade class of Carthage Augustinian Academy think of each other as family. We also think that we should be taking care of God's great green earth. We all know that the Lord gave us this earth and we should take care of it so that the future generations can have the same beautiful world that so many people have had before them. Our names are Aubree, Ali, Alexis, Aubryana, and Mariella, but there have been many other people that have helped us. We want to inspire people all over the world to take care of our earth.

It all started when we were in fourth grade. We heard about wildfires in Australia. None of us thought that we could help out until we started researching and learning more about things we could do.

We chose raising money. So we went to our awesome principal and asked if we could start raising money. She happily said yes and we started. We made posters, a slideshow, and things



Augustinian Academy fifth-grade students Alicia Eldridge, Alexis Walseman, Aubryana Wood, Mariella Eddy and Aubree Brown show the poster they made as part of their Green Apple Award project.

we would sell.

We decided to make small pockets out of old jeans instead of buying new fabric. We hand sewed them or we used our own sewing machine. All though it took a lot of time we made them with all of our hearts. We really worked hard and it paid off. We raised over 200 dollars! One of our teachers donated 100 dollars! We were really proud of our school and how much money we made. We donated the money to the Australian Zoo. They would try and help save as many animals as possible.

This year in science, we learned about pollution. It did not sit well in our minds. We decided that we needed to do something to help stop pollution. So like the year before we went to our great principal and asked

if we could start raising money. Without hesitation she said yes. Before we started we needed to find a good website to donate to. After looking for a while, we finally found the Marine Conservation Institute. We began making pockets, but we thought that people might want something else. So we started thinking about other things that people might want. We came up with clay pencil toppers and rubber band animals and food.

So we started selling our items and have reached our goal of 75 dollars. We gave presentations to the younger kids, so that they could learn about how horrible pollution is to the world around us. We knew that they were going to have a huge impact on the next generation. They asked

questions and got involved with it. It was great seeing people engage in helping the planet.

Like the years before, we are hoping that we can raise money again next year. Maybe we could raise money for the Humane Society and make small dog pillows. Or we could donate to the Pencils of Promise and sell cool pencil toppers. Or even raise money for a local food pantry and we could sell pockets with

different foods on it. We will do anything we can to help God's earth. We hope that the next generation of people will fight for the greater good. We are excited to see how much money we will raise and what will happen in our future. One little kid asked us how they could help.

This shows that kids are standing up to these horrible problems. If only there could be more people like that young kid, this world might just be a whole lot better.

This is only the beginning for us. Although some of us are moving or changing schools we will always be family and want to change the world for the better.

In our future we want to help people stop all the bad things in the world. We are so grateful for our principal and for our awesome school, for all of those who have inspired us to do this. We are extremely grateful for those who helped us with this idea.

We would like to win this award not to brag about it, but to inspire people to love this world, just like we do. We really love this world and appreciate all the gifts that God has given us. Our slogan is, "Save the World, it is the Only One We Got!" And we believe that is true.

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# Pew: Catholic homilies mention election, racism less than Protestant ones

WASHINGTON (CNS) – As news events made headlines across the United States for months last year – particularly the 2020 election, the coronavirus pandemic and racism in America – priests' homilies did not mention these events nearly as much as did sermons by Protestant preachers, according to a report issued July 8 by the Pew Research Center.

Compared to their Protestant counterparts – whatever the stripe, be it mainline, evangelical or historically Black – Catholics brought up the rear when it came to sharing at least one sermon about the election last fall. Overall, 67% of churches did, but just 41% of Catholics. And just 19% of Catholic parish websites mentioned the election, compared to 28% of all churches surveyed.

While 20% of Catholics' election-referenced homilies encouraged voting – on par with all Christian sermons surveyed – just 36% discussed issues, candidates or political parties, the lowest percentage of all Christian groups.

During the time period studied – which not only included the election but the pandemic and months of racial protests spurred by the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer – Catholics came up last in those two categories as well.

While 69% of Catholic parishes heard at least one sermon relating to COVID-19, at least 82% of other Christian denominations registered hearing a sermon on it. And just 32% of Catholics heard a sermon mentioning racism, while 44% of Protestant Chris-

tians did.

The Pew study, "Pastors Often Discussed Election, Pandemic and Racism in Fall of 2020," conducted its analysis is based on the texts of 12,832 sermons shared online by 2,143 U.S. religious congregations – nearly all of them Christian churches – delivered between Aug. 31 and Nov. 8, 2020, a period Pew noted that included the presidential election and the Sunday following Election Day.

Pew's data set includes sermons from 438 evangelical Protestant congregations, 388 mainline Protestant congregations, 235 Catholic parishes and 205 historically Black Protestant congregations. Pew said the remaining congregations could not be reliably classified, belong to other Christian traditions such as Orthodox Christian denominations, or belong to other faiths.

"There are a couple of fundamentals at work" on why Catholic mentions of topics in the news may not be as prominent in sermons as those by Protestants, said Dennis Quinn, a computational social scientist for Pew, who was the principal researcher for the study and a similar one based on sermon texts from 2019.

The Mass, Quinn said, will "by definition be more structured than the services of other groups. That reduces the opportunity for this happening, like an election" mention. Also, "Catholic homilies are by and large shorter than the sermons or homilies of other groups," he noted, which means priests have "substantially less time" to get a point across.

"Even among Catholics

who were the least likely to talk about the three topics we look at in the study, fewer than half of the congregations at least touched on the election," Quinn told Catholic News Service in a July 7 phone interview.

"All else aside, Americans were essentially deluged with information in 2020 about the issues that dominated the airwaves. We can see here that the hours spent in the pews was not a respite from that informational deluge," he said.

The 36-page study was split fairly evenly between the results and the methodology.

"Among the congregations included in this study for which researchers were able to identify a religious tradition, 52% were evangelical Protestant; 22% were mainline Protestant; 4% were Catholic; and 1% were historically Black Protestant churches," the Pew study said.

Quinn noted they were weighted to more closely reflect each faith group's presence in the U.S. population. "Because Catholic congregations are so much larger," he said, "there are far fewer of them. We could end up with a ton of evangelical Protestant (churches in the study otherwise) because they are so much smaller."

Compared to the first survey of sermon texts from 2019, fewer homilies from 2020 were examined. Quinn acknowledged that many houses of worship were closed for months last year, yet at the same time – because they lacked the ability to deliver their message face-to-face – churches more aggressively posted sermons online.

## CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

### Institute aims to overcome challenges to effective catechesis

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Accompaniment is the key to addressing modern catechetical challenges, a method that's at the center of a new entity being created under the direction of Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee on the Catechism. A proposal to create an Institute for the Catechism was presented at the bishops' spring meeting in June, which took place virtually. Rather than a physical structure, the institute will be a new process by which publishers of catechetical materials and the developers of catechetical content will work with the subcommittee to address modern challenges to catechesis. The second main component of the institute will be a yearly, in-person training conference and retreat for diocesan catechetical leaders, with a separate track for publishers. Current challenges to effective catechesis are many, Bishop Caggiano said, including the fact that parish resources often don't allow for extensive formation of catechists and that catechetical resources in Spanish lack crucial cultural considerations. Other barriers to effective catechesis include the influence of the secular world, the strain families are under, and the fact that many parents, teachers and catechists were part of a generation that was not well catechized.

### Bishop supports apology on bulls that justified oppression

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (CNS) – Bishop Douglas J. Lucia, whose downtown Syracuse office sits on the ancestral lands of the Onondaga Nation, hopes to meet with Pope Francis "to re-examine" 15th-century Vatican documents that justified colonization, land takeovers and oppression of Indigenous peoples. In the last decade, numerous congregations, denominations and faith-based organizations – including several women's religious communities – have urged the Vatican to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery, which asserts European Christianity's superiority and power over other lands. Bishop Lucia appears to be the first U.S. Catholic bishop to publicly call for the Vatican and the U.S. Catholic Church to acknowledge the damage those documents caused and apologize for harming Indigenous peoples in the United States. Beginning with the 1452 "Dum Diversas," several papal bulls outline directives Christian nations and European monarchs used to condone conquest of the Americas and other lands. "Basically, it was taking away the right to ownership. Literally. It was subjugating them. They became second-class citizens," Bishop Lucia told The Catholic Sun, the diocesan newspaper. "Today we talk about white supremacy. This was white supremacy."

### Pope names relator general for 2023 synod

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis has chosen Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich of Luxembourg to serve as relator general of the Synod of Bishops on synodality. The appointment of Cardinal Hollerich, who also serves as president of the Commission of Bishops' Conferences of the European Union, was announced by the Vatican July 8. The relator is responsible for providing a comprehensive outline of the synod's theme at the beginning of the meeting and for summarizing the speeches of synod members before work begins on concrete proposals for the pope. The theme chosen by the pope for the next synod is: "For a synodal church: communion, participation and mission." Cardinal Mario Grech, secretary-general of the Synod of Bishops, told Vatican News in May that, although originally scheduled for 2022, the synod will take place in October 2023 to allow for broader consultation at the diocesan, national and regional level.



## CLINTON

## INDOOR YARD SALE

Chazy – Sacred Heart Church to have their Annual Indoor Yard Sale.

**Date:** July 17 and 24

**Time:** 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Place:** Parish Center

**Features:** Something for everyone! Furniture, appliances, household items, electronics, toys, books, games, knick knacks, dishes, collectibles, tools, gardening, holiday and much, much more.

## CHINESE AUCTION

Lyon Mountain – Chinese Auction to be held.

**Date:** Sept. 5

**Time:** 3 p.m.

**Place:** Lyon Mountain American Legion Post

**Features:** There will be a 50/50, Michigan platter, and some special drawings. If you would like to donate gifts or gift cards, please give to Jean LeClair (518-735-4782) or leave them at the Legion with your name on it so we will know who donated it.

## 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:** July 14, 21, 28; Aug. 4, 11

**Time:** 6 p.m.

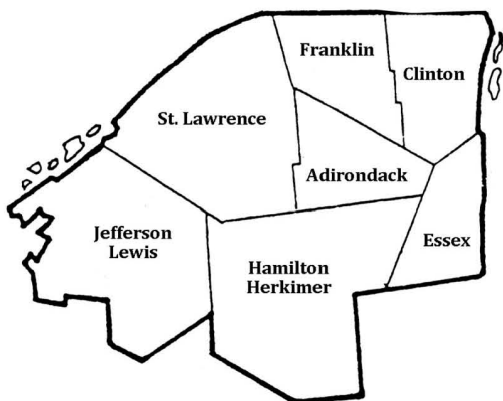
**Place:** Notre Dame Church

**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.

## GIGANTIC YARD SALE

Brushton – St. Mary's Church to have a gigantic yard sale.

**Schedule:** July 23 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and July 24 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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.

**Features:** Variety of items, good prices. Have lunch and enjoy our famous Michigans, hot dogs, hamburgers and food sale items.

## JEFFERSON-LEWIS

## SUMMER SOCIAL

Constableville – St. Mary's to have their Summer Social.

**Date:** July 14

**Time:** 5 p.m. to 7

**Features:** Same delicious picnic menu starting with Millers Hamburgers and ending with Stewarts Ice Cream. Ala carte pricing. Come and enjoy an inexpensive and fun evening out with games, raffles, and socializing with friends.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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

**Dates:** 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 registration forms please visit the school website at [www.c-augustinian.org](http://www.c-augustinian.org).

## ST. LAWRENCE

## 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

## HOLY EUCHARIST SERIES

Ogdensburg – Deacon Bill O'Brien will be presenting this 6-week series on the Holy Eucharist called "PRESENCE: The Mystery of the Eucharist."

**Date:** Starting every Wednesday Aug. 4 to Sept. 8

**Time:** Two options to choose from, 9:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** Brzana Hall, Cathedral

**Features:** Come join us exploring the Church's teaching on the Real Presence in the Eucharist. Come see what the Bible has to say about this teaching, what the Church Fathers believed, and why each of us is so blessed by the Real Presence. Workbooks will be provided.

**Contact:** Please sign up by emailing Deacon Bill at [billlob315@gmail.com](mailto:billlob315@gmail.com) by July 25 to ensure having a workbook for the study.

## 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.

## GUGGENHEIM SUMMER FUN DAYS

Saranac Lake – Camp Guggenheim to have summer fun day camp.

**Date:** July 29 and July 30th for 12 to 15 years old and July 31 for 16 to 18 years old.

**Cost:** \$15 per day

**Features:** Choose which day you would like to attend. There will be swimming to Super Scavenger Hunt, Beach Luau, youth focused Liturgy and more! You are guaranteed a great day at Camp Guggenheim. We will provide snacks and drinks. Please bring your own bag lunch. You will also need to bring a bathing suit, towel, sunscreen, and bug spray. You must be vaccinated for the COVID-19 virus to attend and participate in a Guggenheim Summer Fun Day.

**Contact:** To register go to: [www.rcdony.org/summer-fun-days-guggenheim](http://www.rcdony.org/summer-fun-days-guggenheim) For questions contact: Jeannie Grizzuto, Youth Office Administrator at: [jgrizzuto@rcdony.org](mailto:jgrizzuto@rcdony.org) or 315-393-2920 ext. 1413

## 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/mys->

teryehucharist

## CLM ANNUAL MEETING AND 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 to 4 p.m.

**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 hot dog and hamburger cookout.

**Contact:** Registration to attend is required at: [www.rcdony.org/clm-event](http://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](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 15. "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](http://sidewalkadvocates.org/trainingapp). Upon receipt, we'll be in touch with next steps for accessing the online training.

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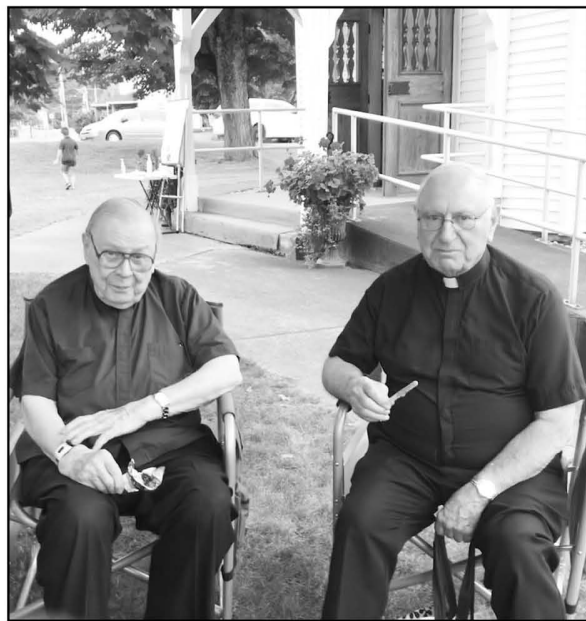
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CHEVROLET

## FEAST DAY CELEBRATION



St. Patrick's Parish in Colton celebrated the Feast of Saints Peter & Paul with Mass at St. Paul's Oratory in South Colton, concelebrated by Father Joseph W. Giroux, Father John L. "Jack" Downs and Father Andrew J. Amyot. Mass was followed by a procession with song and prayer at the Sacred Heart Shrine and an ice cream social. Father Giroux was also welcomed as the new pastor of the parish at the event. (Left) Father Giroux celebrates Mass at St. Paul's Oratory. (Right) Father Downs and Father Amyot enjoy a snack and social time at the Feast of Saints Peter & St. Paul.

## AT THE MOVIES

## THE BOSS BABY: FAMILY BUSINESS

NEW YORK (CNS) – Its chaotic plot and somewhat colicky disposition may leave viewers of the sequel "The Boss Baby: Family Business" (Universal) wishing the stork had stayed home this time.

Admittedly, there's little to object to in returning director Tom McGrath's follow-up to his 2017 animated comedy, at least for teens and grown-ups. Yet the movie's laughs are few, its pace frenetic and its tone irritating.

Decades, rather than mere years, have passed

for the two main characters of the first film, brothers Tim (voice of James Marsden) and Ted (voice of Alec Baldwin) Templeton. Now grown to maturity, the pair – whose rivalry-turned-partnership was charted in the kickoff – also have become estranged.

Tim is a dedicated husband (his spouse, Carol, is voiced by Eva Longoria) and father of two girls. Ted, by contrast, is a hard-driving unmarried tycoon too busy to nurture relations with his relatives. In-

stead, he contents himself with buying them lavish presents.

The odd-couple siblings are compelled to work together, however, after Tim's infant daughter, Tina (voice of Amy Sedaris) – who is inexplicably endowed, as was her Uncle Ted at her age, with some of the attributes of an adult – learns of a plot to disrupt family life worldwide.

The maniacal genius behind this scheme is none other than Dr. Erwin Armstrong (voice of Jeff Gold-

blum), the principal of the school Tina's older sister, prodigiously smart Tabitha (voice of Ariana Greenblatt), attends. To enable Tim and Ted to infiltrate this establishment, Tina provides them with a magic potion that temporarily returns them to the ages they were in the original.

Goldblum evokes smiles with his scattered, wandering mad scientist act. But, for the most part, the rest of the humor falls flat.

A few lapses into language unsuitable for kids prevents endorsement for the youngest movie fans. And viewers of faith may be vaguely irked by a scene in which Tabitha seems at first to be saying bedtime prayers but instead turns out to be reciting the elements from the periodic table that hangs


above her bed.

Otherwise, this is a harmless, though poorly crafted, picture, derived, like its predecessor (and the Netflix series "Boss Baby: Back in Business"), from the work of author and illustrator Marla Frazee. Michael McCullers' script does promote teamwork and clan unity. But such positive values get lost amid breakneck action scenes seemingly designed to paper over a storyline as thin as it is erratic.

The film contains perilous situations, a mild oath and at least one crass term. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II – adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG – parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

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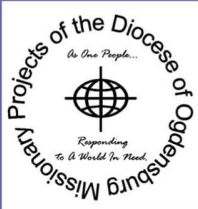
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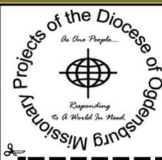
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# ● Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg 2021 ●

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Ideas on good, bad shepherds

Today's readings are all about God's ideas on good shepherds and bad shepherds. In the first lesson from the Prophet Jeremiah, God shows his great displeasure at those leaders who had neglected to nourish and protect the people of Israel. In His anger, "I myself will gather the remnant of my flock...and bring them back to their meadow." He will do his



**Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore**

own appointing of good shepherds so that none will be missing. This chief shepherd will be His own Son. In the New Testament, Jesus frequently calls Himself the Good Shepherd.

In the second reading, St. Paul elaborates on what this will entail. Jesus will, through His saving redemption, unite all the many divisions into unity and peace. This will take much

**July 18**

**16th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**READINGS**

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Ephesians 2:13-18

Mark 6:30-34

reconciliation among factions.

In the Gospel, Jesus wants to take his apostles for a little rest. This plan was soon frustrated when people found out where they had gone. People found out where they were going and arrived there

even before Jesus and his followers. Instead of being angry, the compassionate Lord pitied that crowd. Why? Because "they were like sheep without a shepherd."

Pope Francis has written that because Jesus is alive and present today as He was then, Jesus can liberate us, transform us, and console us. He is very much alive! Christ is the one who can bring us through our struggles and our fears, through anything that threatens us. For this reason, we are to

live in joy. Of course, the pope says, we must be willing to encounter the Lord, and let Him love and save us. And this offer is with us throughout our entire future.

What a remarkable caring shepherd we have! With our present shortage of priests, it's more important than ever for us to be shepherds ourselves to all who are in need of consolation, instruction and encouragement. These are critical times for the Church and for our country.

## CALLED TO SERVE

# A retreat, not necessarily a vacation

The men who have written letters to Bishop Terry LaValley requesting ordination as permanent deacons will be on retreat in a couple of weeks. They have completed four years of mental and physical preparation for ordination. Now comes the next part of their spiritual formation: the pre-ordination retreat required by church law in Canon 1039.

Retreat in this context means a period of meditation, prayer or study. It is

not a vacation, although to some the five days at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg might seem like an extended period of leisure and recreation, especially since the men will be away from home and all their usual responsibilities. Stuff like going to work or addressing the mile long list of things to do around the house (notice I was very careful not to say "honey-do" list!), collect the recyclables and garbage or go to the dump. Stuff like

that. Actually, most guys like going to the dump, but that's for another column.

Wadhams Hall does not have a pool. It doesn't have an exercise room. A Hyatt Regency it is not. But Bill and Elaine Seymour are gracious hosts, and no one will leave the retreat hungry for food or complaining about the accommodations.

Before you rush off to look-up Canon 1039, it says "all candidates for any order are to make a

spiritual retreat for at least five days. Before the bishop proceeds to ordination, he must be certain that the candidates properly made this retreat." The three orders of clerical state are deacon, priest and bishop.

In clergy shorthand, this is the "canonical retreat" called for in 1039. Rev. Simeon Gallagher, a Franciscan priest, is the retreat master.

I thought the readings for next Sunday appropriately prepare the candidates for their retreat. The reading from the prophet, Jeremiah, warns clerics to be extra careful about what they say and do as ordained ministers of the Church. "Woe to the shepherds who mislead and scatter the flock of my pasture," says the Lord.

The candidates will do well to mediate on the awesome responsibility that comes with ordination. The commentary on

the canon says a candidate "should enter the clerical state with a humble spirit, appreciative of how he will need to rely upon the Lord's constant care for him."

In the Gospel, Mark tells us that Jesus recognized the need for a retreat from the pressures of daily life sometimes. He

told his disciples when they returned from their mission trips, "come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while."

Jesus often took off to be alone to mediate and pray.

The retreatants welcome your prayers for them, for their families, for those in the flock they will eventually serve as deacons.



**Deacon  
Kevin Mastellon**

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



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# Aid for vaccines for poor countries

Article by *FIDES* news service of the Pontifical Mission Societies

The Archdiocese of Seoul has sent US \$1 million to the Holy See to ensure equal access to Covid-19 vaccines for poor countries and populations in need. The donation is the result of a fundraising campaign carried out in the Archdiocese of Seoul. The campaign aimed to raise awareness among the faithful and all citizens to ensure equitable, timely and universal access to Covid-19 vaccines for all the countries of the world. Funds were raised by 234 parishes and organizations in Seoul at the initiative and coordination of the "One Body One Spirit Movement" ecclesial movement born on the occasion of the 44th International Eucharistic Congress held in Seoul in 1989.

The initiative was launched in recent months in line with the exhortation of Pope Francis to guarantee universal access to vaccines. For this reason, the Bishops' Conference of Korea (CBCK) decided to launch the "Vaccine Sharing Campaign" at its general assembly last spring. The campaign aimed to raise awareness and offer a direct contribution to help the universal distribution of vaccines in the world, especially in the poorest countries. The organizers recalled that Pope Francis and the Holy See have launched an appeal to the rich nations of the world to ensure that anti-Covid vaccines are available as soon as possible for people living in poor countries.

Adding to this concern, Cardinal Andrew Yeom Soojung, Archbishop of Seoul, launched a public appeal to raise funds encouraging the faithful to make donations.

Father Matthias Young-yup Hur, spokesman for the Archdiocese of Seoul, stated in a message sent to Fides by the Archdiocesan Communication Office: "We are very concerned about the fact that the gap between rich and poor countries has widened during the coronavirus pandemic. All the faithful in Seoul sincerely hope that this fundraising campaign will be a small step to overcoming obstacles together."

The campaign will last until November 27, 2021, the last day of the Jubilee of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Saint Andrew Kim Tae-gon, the first Korean Catholic priest and patron saint of Korea.

The organization is guaranteed above all thanks to the presence of the volunteers of the "One Body One Spirit Movement," committed to "working to create a world of peace according to the spirit of the Sacrament of the Eucharist." Started by the late Cardinal Stephen Kim Souhwan in 1988, the movement is now an active part of the Caritas Seoul network, and operates in many fields such as international development cooperation and social services.

## OBITUARIES

**Alexandria Bay** – Terrance W. "Terry" Running, 80; Mass of Christian Burial; July 10, 2021 at St. Cyril's Church; burial in Redwood Cemetery.

**Altona** – Maude A. (Reome) Brown, 87; Mass of Christian Burial June 30, 2021 at Holy Angels Church; burial in St. Louis de France Cemetery, Sciota.

**Altona** – Lucille R. (Bulriss) LaFontain, 86; Mass of Christian Burial July 6, 2021 at Holy Angels Church; burial in Ellenburg Mausoleum.

**Brasher Falls** – Dennis E. Macy, 74; Services to be held at a later date.

**Brushton** – Patrick J. Curran, 84; Mass of Christian Burial July 1, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Canton** – Dr. Rita Goldberg, 87; Mass of Christian Burial June 28, 2021 at St. Mary's Church.

**Cape Vincent** – Rosalyn M. "Rosie" (Bush) Robbins, 84; Mass of Christian Burial June 28, 2021 at St. Vincent of Paul Church; burial in St. Vincent of Paul Cemetery.

**Chateaugay** – Arthur W. Rankin, 91; Mass of Christian Burial July 6, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Chaumont** – Bernard Wilford LaClair, 92; Mass of Christian Burial June 30, 2021 at All Saints Church; burial in Three Mile Bay Cemetery.

**Clayton** – Brenda Joyce Hyde Aubertine, 76; Graveside services June 29, 2021 at St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Clayton** – Carol E. (Ludlow) Reff, 78; Mass of Christian Burial July 10, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Constableville** – Dolores "Dee" (Rzepka) Dury, 78; Mass of Christian Burial July 9, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Croghan** – Lyle F. Davoy, Sr., 64; Graveside Services July 2, 2021 at St. Stephen's Cemetery.

**Dannemora** – Linda L. McCasland, 78; Mass of Christian Burial July 8, 2021 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens, Plattsburgh.

**Fort Covington** – Odelia "Dolly" (Muehl) Leroux, 81; Mass of Christian Burial July 2, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in the new St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Gouverneur** – Jan (Fitzgerald) Smith, 80; Private Services held.

**Keeseville** – Gerald Leroy "Jerry" Vassar, 71; Funeral Services July 6, 2021 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. John's Cemetery.

**Lowville** – Shirley J. (Gardner) Grandjean, 89; Mass of Christian Burial July 2, 2021 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Martinsburg 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** – Rosemary Nancy Gokey-Gearwear, 68; Mass of Christian Burial June 30, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Moers Forks** – Lionel J. Barcomb, 85; Mass of Christian Burial July 10, 2021 at St. Ann's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Garden Mausoleum, Ellenburg Depot.

**Morrisonville** – Velma T. Ducatte, 86; Mass of Christian Burial June 29, 2021 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Elizabeth J. (Barr) Farley-LaShomb, 90; Mass of Christian Burial June 30, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Richard E. King, Jr., 55; Funeral Services July 9, 2021 at Frary Funeral Home.

**Ogdensburg** – Jerry George Peo, 80;

Funeral Services July 2, 2021 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Ogdensburg Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Anna Rose Nardelli, 86; Mass of Christian Burial July 9, 2021 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Kathryn (Ryan) Reiter, 84; Mass of Christian Burial July 7, 2021 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Port Henry** – Joseph T. Velsini, 78; Mass of Christian Burial July 5, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church; burial St. Peter and Paul Cemetery, Moriah.

**Rouses Point** – Eileen M. (Hogan) Ashline, 91; Mass of Christian Burial July 8, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Coopersville.

**Rouses Point** – Theresa P. (Hebert) Boutin, 89; Mass of Christian Burial July 7, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** – Sheila A. (Longtemps) Stephenson, 86; Mass of Christian Burial July 12, 2021 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

**St. Regis Falls** – Eileen J. Susice, 73; Funeral Services June 28, 2021 at the Hammill Funeral Home; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery, St. Regis Falls.

**Ticonderoga** – Antone P. teRiele, 30; Mass of Christian Burial June 29, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Parish cemetery.

**Watertown** – John B. Butler, 89; Mass of Christian Burial July 7, 2021 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Leonard G. Edus, 87; Funeral Services June 30, 2021 at the Reed & Benoit Funeral Home; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.



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# Seminarian summer gathering

Seminarians of the Diocese of Ogdensburg gathered at Camp Guggenheim in late June for their annual summer gathering, which included Mass, prayer, fellowship, workshops and discussions with director of Vocations and Seminarians Father Christopher C. Carrara and Bishop Terry R. LaValley.



Joining diocesan director of Vocations and Seminarians Father Christopher C. Carrara (second from left) at Camp Guggenheim for the summer seminarian gathering were, from left, Kevin McCullouch, Tyler Fitzgerald, Venes Laine, Carter Pierce, Michael Lennox, Leagon Carlin, Lukas Gruber, Douglas Schirmer and Tuon "Joseph" Vuong. Missing from the event was seminarian Dennis Ombongi, who was visiting family at the time of the gathering.



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