

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Funeral Mass celebrated for Sister Edward Marie Tesiero | PAGE 3

New invocations added to Litany of St. Joseph | PAGE 7

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 76 Number 15

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

AUGUST 11, 2021

Follow Me: Vaccine divide should not spill into our pews

In this week's *Follow Me*, Bishop Terry R. LaValley asks the faithful of the North Country to remember Gospel values as they interact with those who may espouse differing opinions on COVID vaccines.

"We are a welcoming and supportive community of faith. When differences arise, we show patience, understanding and compassion. Let us continue to pray for our families as we meet all the challenges in staying healthy and supporting one another in the midst of this pandemic."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

KNIGHTS ON PILGRIMAGE



Knights of Columbus from around the diocese, as well as their wives and family members, traveled to St. Anne's Shrine for their annual pilgrimage on July 18. See the full story on Page 16.

FAMILY ON A MISSION



Nicole Mangan of Copenhagen, along with her daughters Anastasia, 18, and Marie, 16, recently traveled to Anchorage, Alaska on a mission trip. There, they ministered to youth in public parks.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope: Only Jesus reveals the true Gospel

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The true Gospel has been revealed by Jesus Christ, not by individuals or founders of movements, Pope Francis said during his weekly general audience.

"With the truth of the Gospel, one cannot negotiate. Either you receive the Gospel as it is, as it was announced," or one embraces something else, he said Aug. 4 to those gathered in the Paul VI audience hall at the Vatican.

"One cannot compromise. Faith in Jesus is not

a bargaining chip; it is salvation, it is encounter, it is redemption. It cannot be sold off cheaply," said the pope, as he led his first general audience since his colon surgery July 4 and after the usual suspension of general audiences for the month of July.

Continuing with a new catechesis series reflecting on St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians, Pope Francis focused on the apostle's insistence that the faithful be loyal to the Gospel Jesus preached

and not be swayed by new missionaries who "wish to pervert the Gospel of Christ."

St. Paul understands the need to keep the young community safe from that which threatens its foundations, that is, a new "gospel," which is "perhaps more sophisticated, more intellectual," but which distorted "the true Gospel because it prevents (people) from attaining the freedom acquired by arriving at faith," the pope said, emphasizing

the key here was "freedom."

The true proclamation is "that of the death and resurrection of Jesus as the source of salvation," he said. "Whoever accepts it is reconciled to God, is welcomed as a true son or daughter and receives the inheritance of eternal life."

Instead, some of the Galatians seemed to be veering off onto another path: listening to new missionaries who think "that by circumcision they will be even more devoted to

the will of God and thus be even more pleasing to Paul," the pope said. They seem to be "inspired by fidelity to the tradition received from the fathers and believe that genuine faith consists in observing the law."

St. Paul, therefore, seems unorthodox with regard to tradition, but he knows "that his mission is of a divine nature – it was revealed by Christ himself, to him" as something that is radically and always new, the pope said.

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLICBox 326
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
USPS 0039-3400**BISHOP TERRY
R. LAVALLEY**

President

REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN

Vice President

JAMES D. CROWLEY

Secretary-Treasurer

DARCY L. FARGO

Editor &

Communications Director



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

Editorial Office:
622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.**Telephone:**
(315) 608-7556**E-mail:**
news@northcountry
catholic.org**Entered at the
Post Office:**
Ogdensburg, NY
13669 and
additional mailing offices as
Periodical Postage.**Subscription:**
For one year:
In-Diocese Rate: \$27
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30Matters for publication
should be
addressed to
PO Box 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

Peer pressure! Peer pressure!

"Peer pressure! Peer pressure! All the cool kids are doing it!"

I use that line when I'm trying to convince a family member or friend to join me in some adventure, project, outing or shenanigans.

I find most people regard peer pressure negatively. We think about the "say no to drugs" education programs and teen education programs intended to get youth to think independently and not follow crowds.

Sometimes, though, peer pressure can pressure us to do what we should be doing

or things that will benefit us.

A few weeks ago, I joined two friends for dinner at an area diner. As we chatted during dinner, both of my friends indicated that they were listening to "The Bible in a Year" podcast featuring Father Mike Schmitz. Produced by Ascension Press, the podcast (downloadable audio program) includes readings from sacred Scripture and reflections about

those readings every day for a year, and the podcast takes listeners through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Both friends spoke of how much they were enjoying the

**Darcy L.
Fargo**

program.

These two friends were not the first of my friends to recommend this podcast to me, but they're the closest friends who have done so. I suddenly felt like I was missing out on something potentially great.

The next Monday, prior to leaving home to commute for work, I added "The Bible in a Year" to the podcast library on my phone. I've been starting my day with the series at least a few days each week since. Some mornings, I'll listen to two or three episodes during my commute. Other days, something in the readings or reflections strikes me in my first episode, and I'll spend the rest of my com-

mute reflecting on and praying with what struck me.

Thanks to the peer pressure from my friends, I'm starting a lot of my days with the word of God on my mind and in my heart. Thanks to the peer pressure from my friends, I'm starting my day in a more prayerful way.

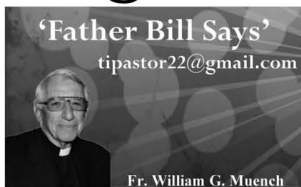
God has blessed me with outstanding people in my life – family, friends, colleagues and acquaintances who love me, support me and help me grow closer to our Lord. I'm frequently reminded of how important it is to have a community of faith working together to help each other get to heaven.

All the cool kids are doing it.

Continuing reflections on John 6

Today, let us continue our consideration of John 6. As you remember, the Gospel readings at Mass on the Sundays of August are all from John 6, the section is called Jesus' discourse on the Bread of Life. So, each and every Catholic Church throughout the whole world is studying John 6 this month, studying the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. I hope you have had the opportunity to personally read John 6 this week. If not, then John 6 is your homework.

A large part of John 6 is this discourse of Jesus, his dialogue with a crowd of people. In it, Jesus proclaims, "I am the bread of life." After the multiplication of the loaves, this crowd of people followed Jesus and the disciples. Then follows this dialogue between Jesus and the people concerning the "bread of life." The people remember well the story of the Exodus, the story of the Hebrew people journeying through the desert toward the Promised Land. They are saved from hunger by the manna. They see this as bread from



heaven. Jesus tells them the true bread from heaven is himself. We recognize that the "bread from heaven" is Jesus coming to us in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

For us, Catholics, we believe in the real presence of Jesus in the consecrated bread and wine at Mass – the Blessed Eucharist. For us this is our bread from heaven. To receive the gift of the Eucharist is to receive the Lord Himself.

As you remember, the word Eucharist is from Greek and means gratitude. Each time, we, Catholics, gather for Eucharist, it is a time to express our gratitude to all that Jesus has done for us, and we are a blessed people. We recognize the sacrifice and love that Jesus brought to us. This is a time for gratitude. Each Eucharist is a celebration of gratitude. Jesus is our Bread

of Life, and for this we are grateful. Thank you, Lord, for your presence in our Mass, in our sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

In John 6, Jesus helps us to understand so much of his presence among us. Jesus speaks of being the Bread of Life: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. And the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

At this point, the people find this too much to believe. They say, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Yet Jesus goes on to teach them – and us, his people of all time – a message that we, Catholics, believe in faith: "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink."

In faith, we believe in "the real presence of Jesus" in the Sacrament of the Blessed Eucharist. To receive the gift of the Eucharist is to receive the Lord Himself. Through the Blessed Eucharist a spiritual

bond is forged between us and Jesus. The Eucharist enables us to grow in intimacy and friendship with the Lord. We are also united to one another through mutual love, forgiveness, and concern.

Jesus comes to us in power and glory in the Blessed Eucharist, which is sent from the Father in Heaven. The Lord comes to us in love, God's love for us through Jesus, ever present in the Blessed Eucharist.

This love that God gives to all of us is a model for how we should love one another. The Eucharist demonstrates Christ's love through his life with us and his death for us, a saving act for us and an example to us. We are called to love one another as Jesus – the Jesus who suffered for us – loves us.

We are called to live selflessly for one another in imitation of our savior, learning to treat one another with dignity and respect. An encounter with one another is an encounter with the image of God. Do you encounter God in your interaction with others?

Funeral Mass celebrated for Sister Edward Marie Tesiero

Sister Edward Marie Tesiero (Edwina Mary), 85, a Franciscan Sister of the Atonement from Graymoor, peacefully transitioned into God's glory on Sunday, July 25, 2021 in the Lurana Healthcare Residence of St. Francis Convent, Graymoor, Garrison, New York.

Sister Edward Marie was born in Amsterdam, New York on October 15, 1935 to Sarah (Boyd) and Edward Tesiero. Predeceased by her parents and sister, Marilyn Sickler, she is survived by her Sisters in Community, her brother Edward Tesiero of Amsterdam, and several nieces and nephews.

Edwina Mary entered the community on September 8, 1959. She received the name Sister Edward Marie on May 5, 1960 when she became a novice. She professed her first vows on May 15, 1961 and her final vows on August 27, 1966. As an Atonement missionary for 60 years, she served in parish, catechetical, pastoral and educational ministries throughout her years as a sister. Her first mission assignment was in 1962 at Mt. Carmel, Connecticut.

From there, she ministered in Maine (Limerick), California (Merced, Bakersfield), Oregon (Bandon), New York (Albany, Graymoor, Canajoharie, Amsterdam, Schuylerville, Massena and Morristown), New Hampshire (North Conway), and a three-month stay in Bethlehem, So. Africa.

From 1991-1996, Sister



Sister Edward Marie Tesiero

Edward Marie served on the Leadership Team of the congregation and from 2001-06, she was the appointed secretary general. She returned to Graymoor in January 2018.

The year before she entered the community, 1958, Edwina received a bachelor's degree from the College of St. Rose in Albany. In 1970, she studied Theology for one year at Regina Mundi in Rome, Italy, and in 1971, she began studies at St. Louis University, Missouri where she received a master's degree in Theology in 1973.

From 1975 to 1980, Sister Edward Marie was the directress of Higher Studies for the junior sisters of the congregation. Sister Edward Marie was well known as a catechist

and director of religious education in the numerous parishes in which she ministered. Sister once wrote, "My finest and most treasured memories are moments when, as a catechist, I observed surprise and joy come over a child's (or teen's or adult's) face as he or she 'caught' and recognized the truth of God's Presence as real, and in them, and with them in their personal life."

A funeral Mass was celebrated on July 31. Services were held in the Motherhouse convent chapel at Graymoor. Interment was in the sisters' cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to: Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement, 41 Old Highland Turnpike, Garrison, NY 10524.

FOLLOW ME

Vaccine division 'should not spill over into our pews'

As the coronavirus crisis continues, we see widespread divisions arising between those who are vaccinated and those who are not. That division should not spill over into our pews.

While we strongly encourage vaccinations, we need to recognize that there are a variety of reasons why individuals might choose not to be vaccinated.

Some have personal health conditions that put them at higher risk of suf-

fering serious side effects of the vaccine. Some are allergic to it. We should respect such concerns.

We are a welcoming and supportive community of faith. When differences arise, we show patience, understanding and compassion.

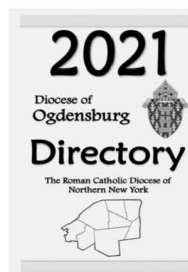


Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley

Let us continue to pray for our families as we meet all the challenges in staying healthy and supporting one another in the midst of this pandemic.

St. Joseph, Patron of Families, Pray for us

Diocesan Directories now available!



The Official 2021 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.

2021 Directories now available!

Online at www.northcountrycatholic.org for faster delivery or fill out form below (Please cut out and send entire ad)



Make checks payable to
North Country Catholic
PO Box 106

Canajoharie, NY 13317

(Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery when mailing in form)

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for _____ directories

SALE
\$5.00
each

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



(Left) Nicole Mangan of Copenhagen, along with her daughters Anastasia and Marie, lead music for youth in a public park during the Mangans' 2021 mission trip to Alaska. (Above) Youth with no supervision gather in public parks in Alaska due to a lack of available care.

Family on a mission: Sharing faith in Alaska

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

COPENHAGEN – “It’s important to give others salvation,” said Anastasia Mangan, 18, of Copenhagen. “It’s a gift that’s given to us, why not give it to others? That’s our mission in life as Christians – getting everyone around us to heaven.”

With that missionary spirit, Mangan, along with her mother, Nicole, and sister Marie, age 16, recently traveled to Alaska with GraceWorks, a Christian not-for-profit organization that hosts mission trips around Alaska.

“We went in July of this year, and we went in 2019 also,” said Nicole Mangan. “We originally planned to go to Nicaragua with Sister Debbie Blow (and North Country Mission of Hope). That trip was cancelled because of the unrest where we were going to land. We still wanted to do something. We started looking around on the internet for short-term missions. We

didn’t want a vacation. A lot of the trips out there have you do maybe one little project and the rest is mostly sightseeing. We didn’t want that.”

With GraceWorks, they found an organization that provides direct services predominately to youth in public parks and trailer parks.

“These kids have rough lives,” said Nicole Mangan. “From what we were told, all of them have experienced abuse in some form by the age of 12. They’re left alone all day at these parks. They’re dropped off by parents and hopefully the parents are there to pick up the kids at the end of the day. Some of the kids are kicked out for the day, and the doors of their homes are locked. Some of the kids are dropped off, and the parents never come back. These parks are hubs for human trafficking, since it’s daylight all the time, and the kids are left unsupervised.”

“It’s sad,” added Anasta-

sia Mangan. “You don’t realize how much you’re blessed and how important family is until you go see a child younger than you that has nothing. If you show these kids care and that you want to help them, they cling to you.”

The Mangans noted that services for the homeless youth are lacking in Alaska.

“There’s a women’s shelter, men’s shelter and teen shelter, but there’s nowhere for kids to go,” Nicole Mangan said. “Only the most severe cases end up in care. Most of these kids are just left on their own all day. Some are homeless.”

When the kids are in the public park, GraceWorks provides food, some supervision and lessons about Christianity and the Bible.

“(Volunteers participating in the missions) are hosted at a church,” said Anastasia Mangan. “We go to the parks and play games and spend time

with (the kids) to let them get to know you. Our name tags let them know we’re safe. We get to know their names and where they’re from and some information about their circumstances. Then, we have ‘tarp time.’ We put a tarp on the ground or set up on a picnic table, everyone gathers around for snacks and to discuss the Bible and maybe do songs and crafts.”

“In 2019, we were in a park with smaller kids,” said Nicole Mangan. “This year, it was older kids. They were tough. These kids were at the point where they needed to know the truth and decide. Either they can go the worse way, or they can let God change them and have better lives. We told them about salvation. We told them about God. We handed out Bibles and did Bible studies with them.”

“We also share our own testimonies with them,” added Anastasia Mangan.

“We didn’t want them to

think we had never done anything wrong,” said Nicole Mangan. “We do things wrong, too. The kids could relate to that.”

To participate in the mission trip, the Mangans raised funds by selling goods they produced or crafted on their homestead and by performing jobs for others in their community.

“Anyone can go to this, and they always need volunteers,” said Nicole Mangan. “They don’t have an age limit or minimum. Kids are able to participate and play with the kids there. Sometimes, kids the same age as the ones in the park are able to be better witnesses than adults can be.”

The Mangans said they plan to return to Alaska for future mission trips. Anastasia and Marie said they hope to help create “drop-in housing,” where youth could have a safe place to stay with structure and expectations.

To learn more about GraceWorks, visit graceworksak.com.

DOVS: Supporting vocations in the diocese

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

OGDENSBURG— A presence in the diocese for around a decade, the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society (DOVS) is looking to grow its membership as the organization works to support and foster vocations.

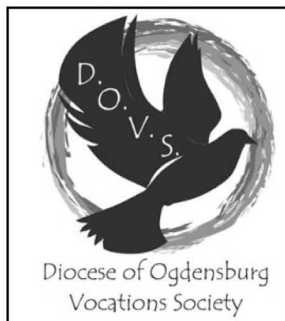
According to the organization's page on the Diocese of Ogdensburg website, DOVS "is a group of faithful Catholics with the intention of promoting and supporting vocations to the priesthood, permanent diaconate, and consecrated religious life throughout the North Country."

"Currently, we have 43 members," said Connie Randall, DOVS president. "We also have patrons – donors who support our mission, but don't actively participate."

DOVS members typically gather once a month for meetings, though the pandemic slowed meetings for a time. Currently, because the majority of DOVS members reside in St. Lawrence and Franklin counties, meetings are held in that area. DOVS would like to hold meetings in other parts of the diocese, as well.

"From a diocesan perspective, DOVS isn't just important as a group that supports vocations, but it's also a real ministry for lay people to get involved in and exercise their baptismal commitment," said Diocesan Vocations Coordinator Cathy Russell, the group's liaison to the diocesan Vocations Office. "Everyone in DOVS grows spiritually."

"I've grown in my faith through my participation in DOVS," added Shirley Therrien, one of the DOVS two vice-presidents. "And I've met some really great



people."

As an organization, the DOVS support events and efforts of the Vocations Office, as well as diocesan seminarians, clergy and religious. DOVS have provided snacks and gift packets for middle school vocations retreats; funding for snacks or meals for clergy events, including continuing education; books promoting vocations to area Catholic schools; picnic lunches for seminarians at their annual summer gathering; gifts for newly ordained priests; holy cards praying for diocesan seminarians and vocations; and luncheons for consecrated religious, priests and deacons.

"We get to know the seminarians," said Therrien. "It's nice because then we know them when they become priests and may be assigned to our parishes."

"We've been looking at what more we can do for our consecrated religious," added Randall. "We're looking at having an event with the Sisters of St. Joseph."

Randall said the event may include Mass and a Holy Hour, and possibly a speaker and luncheon.

The DOVS also send cards or gifts to priests and consecrated religious celebrating anniversaries or feast days, seminarians celebrating birthdays, and for other occasions and happenings.

Members of the DOVS can be frequently seen vol-



In 2019, the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society (DOVS) took its annual pilgrimage to Ottawa. While the pilgrimage has been on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization hopes it will return in future years. DOVS, an organization that supports vocations in the diocese, hopes to expand its membership.



Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, Father Scott Belina and Father Stephen Rocker enjoy a Mardi Gras lunch put on by the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society. Each year DOVS hosts an appreciation luncheon for diocesan clergy and consecrated religious.

unteering at diocesan events or attending them as a group.

"The DOVS wear sashes that identify them," Russell said.

The organization also typically hosts a pilgrimage each year to visit sacred sites and pray for vocations, as well as to foster

fellowship within the organization. Pilgrimages have been on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the DOVS hope to host pilgrimages again in the future.

The organization also holds an annual event, typically at the Lodge at Camp Guggenheim, exclusively

for DOVS members. The event includes prayer, time for fellowship and a guest speaker.

To learn more about the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society, or to join the DOVS, visit rcdony.org/vocations/dovs or contact Randall at 315-265-2762.

Environmental Stewardship

'T'is a wee bit of Heaven'

In front of a lovely cottage along Lake Ontario there is a sign that reads "T'is a wee bit of heaven."

As one gazes out over the shoreline to the azure blue waters of the lake and the islands in the distance, the message of the sign comes to life.

Whether in your own backyard or on a drive in the area, gazing on the beauty of the riotous colors in the summertime flowers can take your breath away.

The lush corn fields, the green trees and vegetation can fill one with a sense of wonder at the fruitfulness of God's creation.

The lapping waters of the lakes and flowing waters of rivers in our North Country can refresh our minds and spirits.

The presence of rabbits, chipmunks, deer and woodchucks, along with all kinds of birds, reminds us that we share our "home" with many other creatures.

When watching the national news that reports all kinds of natural crisis from forest fires to floods and droughts, the place we live in seems in contrast more and more like "a wee bit of heaven."

During this past week we celebrated the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. In the readings, the disciples get a glimpse from Jesus of the amazing delights that God has prepared for us in the time to come.

If the goodness of earth around us can fill our senses and heart with gladness, what might the Lord have in store for us? Wherever our footprints take us during the summer days, let us remember to take off our shoes because we are indeed on "holy ground."

Where did you find a "wee bit of heaven" this week?

Rest in Peace

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

Aug. 11 – Rev. Gilbert Monroe, O.F.M., 1958; Rev. John M. Kennedy, 1979

Aug. 12 – Rev. Pierre Gagnon, O.M.I., 1901; Rev. John M. Varrilly, 1913

Aug. 13 – Msgr. Bernard F. Kellogg, 1993

Aug. 14 – Rev. Patrick Foley, 1839; Rev. George Dermody, O.S.A., 1956

Aug. 15 – Rev. Alfred Onesime Boyer, 1959; Msgr. Cornelius A. Collins, 1967

Aug. 16 – Rev. Peter Paladini, S.A.C., 1990 (Per his folder in our office)

Aug. 17 – Rev. Joseph Winfrid Vinet, 1907

Aug. 18 – Rev. Leoneo Proulx, O.M.I., 1979

Aug. 19 – Rev. J. N. Emery, O.M.I., 1933; Rev. Richard A. Maher, O.S.A., 1959

Aug. 20 – Rev. J. McCarthy, O.S.A., 1931; Msgr. Griffith J. Billmeyer, 1988

Aug. 21 – Rev. Albert G. Salmon, 1997

Aug. 22 – Rev. James W. M. Rensing, 1936

Aug. 24 – Rev. Louis Lewis, O.M.I., 1938; Msgr. Paul George Brunet, 1991

To Report Abuse

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

Bishop's Public Schedule

Aug. 11 – Noon – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at Holy Ghost Parish Center in Tupper Lake

Aug. 12 – Noon – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

Aug. 13 – Noon – Diocesan Staff Picnic on the Lawn behind Bishop's Residence

Aug. 14 – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Aug. 16 – 5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at St. Augustine's Parish Center in Peru

Aug. 19 – Noon – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at St. Anthony's Parish Center in Inlet

Aug. 20 – Noon – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

Aug. 21 – 4:30 p.m. – Mass at the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod Motherhouse followed by dinner

Aug. 22 – 10:30 a.m. – Installation Mass of Reverend Justin Thomas, HGN as Pastor of St. Elizabeth Church in Elizabethtown, The Catholic Community of St. Philip of Jesus and St. Joseph in Willsboro and St. Philip Neri Church in Westport (at St. Philip of Jesus Church in Willsboro)

Aug. 23 – 5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at the Savory Downtown (Best Western) in Watertown

Aug. 24 – Noon – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at Martin's Field Club (Knights of Columbus) in Ogdensburg

Aug. 25 – 9 a.m. – Virtual Vocations Presentations to Catholic Schools and Principals

5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at Holy Ghost Parish Center in Tupper Lake

5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at Holy Ghost Parish Center in Tupper Lake

5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at Holy Ghost Parish Center in Tupper Lake

5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at Holy Ghost Parish Center in Tupper Lake

5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at Holy Ghost Parish Center in Tupper Lake

5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at Holy Ghost Parish Center in Tupper Lake

5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at Holy Ghost Parish Center in Tupper Lake

5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at Holy Ghost Parish Center in Tupper Lake

5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at Holy Ghost Parish Center in Tupper Lake

5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at Holy Ghost Parish Center in Tupper Lake

5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at Holy Ghost Parish Center in Tupper Lake

5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at Holy Ghost Parish Center in Tupper Lake



The Plattsburgh Police Fife and Drum Corps is planning to return to the Peru Applefest parade on Sept. 18.

Peru plans for Applefest's return

Peru – As of now, Peru's Applefest is going to happen in 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the festival's cancellation last year, but this year the 43rd Annual St. Augustine's Applefest will occur on Saturday, September 18.

Traditionally a two-day event, the Applefest will be packed into one day of fun.

The parish center will be filled with crafters and will open at 10 a.m.

Food booths begin opening at 10:30 a.m., followed by games and raf-

fles.

The community parade leaves the Peru Elementary School at 11 a.m.

The Plattsburgh Police Fife and Drum Corps will march and perform.

The rocking On Three Band will perform throughout the afternoon.

There will be several new games for children of all ages, plus apple fritters, fried dough, hot dogs, Michigans, burgers, sausages and the Knights of Columbus' famous chicken BBQ.

COVID regulations in effect on the date of the event will be in place.



Service Available

D.L. CALARCO
Funeral Home, Inc.

135 Keyes Avenue
Watertown • 782-4910

Protecting God's Children

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

Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

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

Find us on Facebook!



New invocations added to Litany of St. Joseph

By Sister Helen Hermann

Sisters of St. Joseph

On May 1, the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, the Vatican announced that Pope Francis approved seven new invocations to be added to the Litany of St. Joseph. They are:

- Protector of the Redeemer
- Servant of Christ
- Minister of Salvation
- Support in Difficulty
- Patron of Refugees
- Patron of the Afflicted
- Patron of the Poor

Protector of the Redeemer: We can think of many instances in which St. Joseph protected Jesus and Mary. The one that comes to mind is the time he had to leave for Egypt to protect his family from Herod's massacre of all babies under the age of 2. Even though the flight into Egypt was problematic for St. Joseph, he did what was necessary to make sure that Jesus was safe.

Servant of Christ: We know that Jesus was obedient to Joseph, his foster father. Yet, St. Joseph was servant to the divine will and divine plan. His hand guided, but was also submissive. His face protected, but was also attentive. He, the adult was and is at the service of the child.



St. Joseph's Corner

Minister of Salvation: St. Joseph brings people closer to the good Lord. He is helping them achieve their salvation.

Support in Difficulty: Throughout his life, St. Joseph experienced difficulties, especially when he found out that Mary was expecting a baby and knowing that it was not his child. Joseph worked through this difficulty and every other difficulty he encountered. Likewise, St. Joseph will help us in our difficulties. We encounter violence in our world, in the instances of racism, and in the challenges presented because of climate change and destruction of our common home. We turn to St. Joseph for support.

Patron of Refugees: I think of the children and families who are seeking entrance into our country. They need to know that St. Joseph understands their

plight. He, too, was a refugee when he had to take his family into Egypt and make a living for his family.

Patron of the Afflicted: There are so many people who are suffering from COVID. It is not only those who have the virus, but their families as well. It is heartbreaking. St. Joseph will wrap his cloak around them and bring them comfort.

Patron of the Poor: Poverty takes many forms. It is always the poor who are most affected by global warming and unjust practices in our society. The homeless, children from families that are not able to provide for them adequately, the elderly are all in need for St. Joseph's patronage.

During this year of St. Joseph, we are called to reflect on the many attributes of St. Joseph and ask his help in our daily lives.

Revised Litany of St. Joseph

Lord, have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us, Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us, Christ, graciously hear us.
God the Father of heaven, have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the World, have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.
Holy Mary, pray for us.
St. Joseph, pray for us.

Renowned offspring of David, pray for us.
Light of Patriarchs, pray for us.

Spouse of the Mother of God, pray for us.

Guardian of the Redeemer, pray for us.
Chaste guardian of the Virgin, pray for us.
Foster father of the Son of God, pray for us.
Diligent protector of Christ, pray for us.

Servant of Christ, pray for us.

Minister of salvation, pray for us.
Head of the Holy Family, pray for us.
Joseph most just, pray for us.

Joseph most chaste, pray for us.
Joseph most prudent, pray for us.
Joseph most strong, pray for us.
Joseph most obedient, pray for us.

Joseph most faithful, pray for us.
Mirror of patience, pray for us.
Lover of poverty, pray for us.

Model of artisans, pray for us.
Glory of home life, pray for us.
Guardian of virgins, pray for us.
Pillar of families, pray for us.

Support in difficulties, pray for us.
Solace of the wretched, pray for us.
Hope of the sick, pray for us.

Patron of refugees, pray for us.

Patron of afflicted, pray for us.

Patron of the poor, pray for us.

Patron of the dying, pray for us.

Terror of demons, pray for us.

Protector of Holy Church, pray for us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, O Jesus.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Jesus.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us, O Jesus.

He made him the lord of his household, And prince over all his possessions.

Let us pray:

O God, in your ineffable providence you were pleased to choose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of your most holy Mother; grant, we beg you, that we may be worthy to have him for our intercessor in heaven whom on earth we venerate as our Protector: You who live and reign forever and ever.

Protecting the painting

By Kathleen M. Gallagher

"Praise be to you, my Lord!"

Those are the words most often on my lips as I paint. I love to paint. Painting is my passion. I enjoy experimenting with watercolors, oils and acrylics, splashing them onto can-

vas, driftwood, bottles, anything at all, to see what they will do.

For me, painting is not only my hobby and passion, it's also my prayer. My focus is intense. Whether it's a bold portrait of a friend or the subtle reflection of the moon, I find myself so engrossed in my

subject matter that I am often in a state of prayer.

And because the subject of my painting is most often nature—flowers, foliage, waves and winged creatures—my prayer most often takes the form of glory and praise for the awesome beauty of God's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

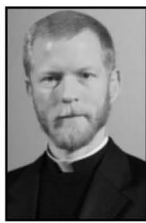
MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

What young people should hear about marriage

Young people today experience various pressures and expectations that can make them anxious. In a recent essay, Professor Timothy P. O'Malley, of Notre Dame's McGrath Institute for Church Life, crisply describes some of the over-the-top pressures that graduating college students are likely to encounter in commencement addresses:

"Notre Dame students are told that their degree is not exclusively an accomplishment earned through the completion of credit hours but a pledge to change the world. They are charged by a commencement speaker to go cure cancer, secure a spot on the Supreme Court, end political polarization and corruption, and renew communities on the margins through being a transformative teacher.... In other words, the bar of anxiety is raised. The future is presented to these students as a series of endless

accomplishments that they must complete to be judged as worthy by their alma mater.... No wonder students get drunk and hook up on weekends to escape the impending and seemingly impossible responsibility of changing the very arc of human history before they reach the age of thirty."



**Father Tadeusz
Pacholczyk
Ph.D.**

He notes that marriage and family life are seldom part of what commencement speakers at Notre Dame and other institutions of higher education propose to graduates. Students, he says, are "told, sometimes quite explicitly, to bracket out marriage and family life for the sake of their professional careers. And when the marriages and children of prominent commencement speakers are publicly raised on the commencement platform, they are always considered a lesser accomplishment."

Putting our human accomplishments into proper

perspective can be challenging. We can be tempted, like many commencement speakers, to invert the relative order of their importance. In the face of unrelenting pressure to change the world, climb the career ladder, build a nest egg, acquire expensive homes, and travel the globe, we can easily convince ourselves that marriage and children are a hindrance.

But as we approach the end of life, we can often see with greater clarity what matters most.

I remember a chat I had with my father as he was declining in health. He had had a long career as an astrophysics professor at the University of Arizona. As we were talking about colleges, universities, and the world of academia, I mentioned how impressive his professional accomplishments had been, not only in teaching and research, but also in authoring various notable books with titles like "Radio Galaxies," "The Catastrophic Universe," and "Radio Astrophysics."

"Ah, the real achievement," he retorted, "what really matters, that would be the children."

He underlined that the demanding intellectual work and mountains of scientific output were insignificant compared to what he deemed his "real accomplishment" — the gift of his family. After more than 50 years of marriage and raising five children he signaled what authentic satisfaction and human fulfillment had come to look like for him.

The commitments we make and faithfully fulfill are a source of stability and strength, particularly against the backdrop of life's turbulence and uncertainty. While there are conflicts, boredom, trials, and other challenges, the consequential adventure of marriage and family life offers a fulfilling pathway toward human flourishing.

O'Malley notes that this is a narrative that young people are interested in: "They want to hear how to be happy, and they want this happiness not to be tied to their accomplishments."

They want to be able to say, "I cannot control every dimension of the future, but I can dwell with this person for the rest of my days. I can commit to a common project, to a hopeful future with this man or woman." This is an important message for us to pass on to younger generations, especially as they commence post-university life.

In a sense, marriage and raising a family are becoming revolutionary acts in today's world. They declare something positive and hopeful about the future and push back against the fear and insecurity that plague our human condition. They ground us in something beyond the passing security of worldly accomplishments and challenge us to a higher and more enduring goal.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See nbccenter.org and fathertad.com.

Protecting the painting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

gifts — the lily blossom, opening its petals to devour the morning sunshine; the tranquility of the river at sunset; the delicate patterns in a butterfly's wings.

I think it's no coincidence that Pope Francis uses the phrase "Praise be to you, Lord!" as the foundation for his landmark 2015 encyclical about care for God's creation, called *Laudato Si'*. After all, the Earth is His canvas, and He has created for us a stunning masterpiece, a magnificent painting that changes every day with the tides and the

winds and the seasons.

To damage it, to pollute it, to fail to protect God's creation, is to profoundly disrespect the Creator. I think about how I would feel if someone dumped garbage all over one of my paintings. Indeed, disrespecting the environment disrespects all human life, because life is dependent upon the environment for sustenance and survival. As the Holy Father says, "Everything is connected."

Our common home is falling into disrepair, and much of it can be linked to our "throwaway" culture of convenience and greed.

Forests have been stripped to make way for high rise buildings and over-development. We rely too much on fossil fuels like oil, carbon, and gas. Our land, air and water have all been contaminated.

Pope Francis reminds us that when we don't responsibly care for God's creation, everyone suffers, but it's the poor and vulnerable who suffer the most. Pollution, food and water insecurity, and conflicts over declining resources first affect those on the margins, the least of our brothers and sisters, whom Jesus entrusts to

our particular care and concern.

In this November's elections, there'll be an amendment to the New York Constitution on the ballot to add the right to clean air and water and a healthful environment for all New Yorkers. That's something to support, for sure, but each of us has to do our part. Don't throw your plastic water bottle in the parking lot. Better yet, don't use the plastic water bottle; use a re-usable container instead. Share important documents (like *Laudato Si'*) electronically instead of printing them

out and wasting all that paper. Recycle. Reduce your water waste.

Not all of us are called to understand the science and specifics of climate change. But each of us can take some small steps to change our lifestyle and consumption habits to make a big difference.

Don't disrespect the Master Painter. Help protect the painting. Praise Him always for the wondrous work of art He has created for us!

Kathleen Gallagher is the director of Pro-Life Activities for the New York State Catholic Conference.

OBITUARIES

Canton – Margaret L. “Peggy” (Connelly) Cashman, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 9, 2021 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Canton – Maurice F. Cotter, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 25, 2021 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Canton – Edward K. “Edd” White, 83; Mass of Christian Burial July 31, 2021 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Carthage – Joseph A. Abbass, 88; Mass of Christian Burial July 31, 2021 at St. James Church.

Carthage – Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin A. Fielding, 52; Mass of Christian Burial July 28, 2021 at St. James Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Carthage – Robert W. Nabewanic, 71; Funeral Services July 26, 2021 at Bezanilla – McGraw Funeral Home.

Champlain – Linda Gonyo-Horne, 65; Mass of Christian Burial July 29, 2021 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Joseph’s Cemetery, Moores.

Champlain – Paul Albert LaFontaine, 77; Graveside services to be held at a later date at St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Chasm Falls – Shirley Ann (Elliott) Johnson, 97; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 5, 2021 at St. Helen’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Clayton – Patricia A. (Garnsey) Link, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 6, 2021 at St. Mary’s Church.

Constable – Roger and Betty Tremblay; Mass of Christian Burial July 31, 2021 at St. Francis of Assisi Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Constableville – Juanita G. (Kirk) Yousey, 81; Mass of Christian Burial July 28, 2021 at St. Maru’s Church; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery.

Croghan – Kevin Joseph Boliver, 68; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 5, 2021 at St. Stephen’s Church; burial in St. Stephen’s Cemetery.

Croghan – Charlotte M. “Tiny” (Roy)

Gerow, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 6, 2021 at St. Stephen’s Church; burial in St. Stephen’s Cemetery.

Croghan – Helen Elizabeth Louis, 91; Mass of Christian Burial at St. Stephen’s Church; burial in St. Stephen’s Cemetery.

Croghan – Charles J. “Chuck” Pomerville, 70; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 3, 2021 at Stephen’s Church; burial in St. Peter’s Cemetery, New Bremen.

Croghan – Margaret T. (Hanno) Turck, 93; Mass of Christian Burial July 30, 2021 at St. Stephen’s Church; burial in St. Stephen’s Cemetery.

Fort Covington – Leo J. Cartier, Jr., 72; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 6, 2021 at St. Mary’s Church.

Fort Covington – Monica Josephine (Southwick) Lauzon, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 5, 2021 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Fort Covington – Yvonne (Lauzon) Wolchok, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 9, 2021 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Old St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Gabriels – Roger E. Smith, 59; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 6, 2021 at Church of the Assumption; burial in Mountain View Cemetery.

Lake Placid – Joseph Edward Kerigan III, 70; Mass of Christian Burial July 27, 2021 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Lowville – F. Edward Cataldo, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 2, 2021 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lowville – Edward M. Russell, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 7, 2021 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lyon Mountain – Debbie (Duquette) Varin, 62; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 7, 2021 at St. Bernard’s Church.

Malone – Shirley (Dufrane) Boileau, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 4, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Malone – Marilyn Law Dumont, 84; Mass of Christian Burial July 28, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. John Bosco Cemetery.

Malone – Linn M. (Rousell) LaPage, 50; Funeral Services Aug. 6, 2021 at the Bruso-Desnoyers Funeral Home; burial in St. George’s Cemetery, Burke.

Malone – Earl K. Slyman, 69; Funeral Services Aug. 10, 2021 at the Bruso-Desnoyers Funeral Home.

Malone – Phyllis A. Smith, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 6, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Joseph’s Cemetery.

Massena – Julia K. (LaRue) LaShomb, 91; Private services to be held.

Massena – R. Carroll (Smith) White, 98; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 5, 2021 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Norwood – Lucille R. (Hoke) Penny, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 5, 2021 at St. Andrew’s Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Wayne “Michael” Bell, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 6, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Otis M. Bishop, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 5, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Foxwood Mausoleum.

Ogdensburg – Lawrence B. Burnett, 97; Graveside Services at Foxwood Me-

memorial Park Mausoleum.

Ogdensburg – Frederick R. Corrice, 73; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 4, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Donna L. (Osgood) Dominie, 75; Funeral Services Aug. 4, 2021 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Ogdensburg – Doris I. (Grenier) Knapp, 84; Graveside Services Aug. 20, 2021 at Hillcrest Cemetery.

Peru – Mark Allen Rock, 44; Funeral Services Aug. 5, 2021 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine’s Cemetery.

Peru – John Mohr “Jack” Williams Jr., 78; Funeral Services July 26, 2021 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

Plattsburgh – Robert Decamp, 70; Mass of Christian Burial July 31, 2021 at St. John’s Church.

Plattsburgh – Jeannie Marie (Beardard) Guay, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 6, 2021 at St. John’s Church.

Rouses Point – Joseph H. Bailey, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 4, 2021 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery.

Rouses Point – Therese P. (Brothers) Connelly, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 2, 2021 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery.

Rouses Point – Kenneth Linihan Jr.;

Memorial Mass July 31, 2021 at St. Patrick’s Church.

Sackets Harbor – Jorene “Joey” Carole (Briggs) Dame, 78; Private Services to be held.

Sackets Harbor – Mary Diane Phillips-Daymont, 65; Mass of Christian Burial July 29, 2021 at St. Andrew’s Church; burial in Lakeside Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Bernard “B.J.” McCormick, 37; Funeral Services July 29, 2021 at Fortune-Keough Funeral Home.

St. Regis Falls – Rita A. (Ploof) Haynes, 86; Funeral Services Aug. 6, 2021 at Hammill Funeral Home; burial in St. Ann’s Cemetery.

Watertown – John F. Converse, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 5, 2021 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Watertown – Donna E. Fields, 72; Graveside Services Aug. 6, 2021 at North Watertown Cemetery.

Watertown – Robert F. Greene, 79; Funeral Services July 31, 2021 at the Hart & Bruce Funeral Home.

Watertown – Cecile M. (Chatelain) Hosmer, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 3, 2021 at St. Anthony’s Church; burial in St. Hubert’s Cemetery, Star Lake.

Watertown – Gary E. Powell, 77; Graveside Services Aug. 12, 2021 in Glenwood Cemetery.



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

Summer's Here!

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

OR Send this coupon with payment to:
North Country Catholic

PO Box 106, Canajoharie, New York, 13317

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

Inside Diocese \$27 Outside Diocese \$30
I want to be a Patron: \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250
 New Subscription Renewal

Please send my subscription to my e-mail address:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parish _____

Priests urged not to give exemptions for vaccines

WASHINGTON (CNS) – As some Catholics are seeking a religious exemption to the coronavirus vaccine mandates that are becoming more common in workplaces and even some public venues, priests in the Archdiocese of New York have been advised not to get involved in that process.

"There is no basis for a priest to issue a religious exemption to the vaccine," said a memo sent to priests in the New York Archdiocese July 30. An image of the memo was published by a news correspondent on social media two days after it was issued.

An archdiocesan spokesman confirmed with Catholic News Service that this communication was accurate and was sent by Msgr. Joseph LaMorte, archdiocesan vicar general, and John Cahill, archdiocesan chancellor.

The memo not only advised priests not to be involved in issuing religious exemptions but stressed that if they did issue them they would be "acting in contradiction to the directives of the pope" and "participating in an act that could have serious consequences to others."

The archdiocesan leaders wrote that they "occasionally hear from Catholics who have a sincere moral objection to the COVID-19 vaccines due to their connection to abortion. This concern is particularly acute among people who are strongly pro-life and very loyal to the teaching of the faith. It is a serious issue for some people who often seek guidance and support from the church."

They said New York Car-

dinal Timothy M. Dolan had suggested that "clarity be provided to assist our priests in response to requests of this nature which they are receiving."

The memo distinguished individual vaccine decisions from getting backing by one's parish priest on this issue, stressing that "any individual is free to exercise discretion on getting the vaccine based upon his or her own beliefs without seeking the inaccurate portrayal of church instructions."

"Our priests should not be active participants to such actions," it said.

It also echoed what church leaders have said about the COVID-19 vaccine, noting: "Pope Francis has made it very clear that it is morally acceptable to take any of the vaccines and said we have the moral responsibility to get vaccinated. Cardinal Dolan has said the same."

The direction for New York's archdiocesan priests comes just days before New York's Mayor Bill de Blasio announced that New York City would be the first U.S. city to require proof of at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine for most indoor events, effective Aug. 16.

"If you want to participate in our society fully, you've got to get vaccinated. It's time," he said during an Aug. 3 news conference.

And the mayor's announcement is on the heels of a July 29 message from President Joe Biden that said his administration will require all civilian federal workers to provide COVID-19 vaccination status or face strict testing measures, social distancing and masking require-

ments.

Similarly, around the country, particularly amid the rising number of COVID-19 cases and the spread of the Delta variant of the virus, workplaces have been modifying previous decisions on vaccine requirements – going from strongly encouraging, but not requiring them, to saying employees must show proof of vaccination.

One Catholic organization supporting such a mandate for employers is the St. Louis-based Catholic Health Association, which represents more than 2,200 Catholic hospitals, nursing homes and long-term care facilities in the U.S. The group issued a statement July 23 urging "all health care workers to get vaccinated against COVID-19."

Also in July, two Catholic organizations issued statements against imposing a coronavirus vaccine mandate without conscience, religious or medical exemptions.

The Catholic Medical Association said in a July 28 statement that it "opposes mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations as a condition of employment without conscience or religious exemptions," adding that an "individual Catholic's decision to be vaccinated should be informed by the clear and authoritative moral teaching of the church on vaccinations."

And the National Catholic Bioethics Center said in early July that it "does not endorse mandated COVID-19 immunization with any of the three vaccines" that have received emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Official: Spiritual abuse occurs more frequently than believed

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The Vatican is investigating about a dozen founders of congregations of consecrated or religious life, and the most common allegations involve abuse of power or conscience, financial corruption or problems associated with "affectivity," said a top official. Spanish Archbishop José Rodríguez Carballo, secretary of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, spoke about his office's work overseeing religious congregations in an interview July 30 with "Vida Nueva," a Spanish weekly magazine on religion. He said the church has very "clear and precise criteria" when it comes to discerning the authenticity of a religious charism when determining whether to approve a new congregation or religious order. Among these criteria, he underlined: "communion with the church; the presence of spiritual fruits; the social dimension of evangelization; high regard for other forms of consecrated life in the church; and the profession of the Catholic faith," referring to the doctrinal congregation's 2016 letter "Iuvenescit Ecclesia" to the world's bishops regarding charismatic gifts in the life and the mission of the church. "Sadly, it must be confessed that, at times, it is difficult to discover the authenticity and originality of a charism in some realities," the archbishop said.

Vatican: 'Killer robots' pose threat to innocent civilians

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The use of "killer robots" and other lethal autonomous weapons systems violate international treaties because innocent civilians could be erroneously targeted, the Vatican said during a U.N. meeting in Geneva. The potential of having "swarms of 'kamikaze' mini drones" and other advanced weaponry using artificial intelligence raises "serious implications for peace and security," the Vatican permanent observer mission to U.N. agencies in Geneva said in a statement Aug. 3 to the 2021 Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS). "The use of swarms in urban areas could lead to high risks for civilians," the statement said. "If functioning without any direct human supervision, such systems could make mistakes in identifying the intended targets due to some unidentified 'bias' induced by their 'self-learning capabilities' developed from a limited set of data samples." For years the Vatican, particularly the observer mission in Geneva, has warned against the use and development of LAWS or, so-called killer robots, which include military drones, unmanned vehicles and tanks and artificially intelligent missiles.

St. Patrick's Cathedral rector denies 50-year-old abuse claim

NEW YORK (CNS) – Msgr. Robert T. Richie, rector of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, told cathedral parishioners in an Aug. 3 letter he has been named in a civil lawsuit alleging he "sexually abused a child on one occasion" nearly 50 years ago. "I completely and without reservation deny this allegation," he wrote. "Nothing like this has ever occurred during my 50 years as a priest, or at any other time in my life. I am confident that once this matter is litigated in court, the allegation will be found to be absolutely false." The suit was filed under New York state's Child Victims Act, which went into effect in 2020. Gov. Andrew Cuomo recently signed into law a bill to extend the deadline for filing suits under the law to Aug. 14. The law lifted the statute of limitations on abuse cases to allow victims to file claims regardless of when or how long ago the alleged abuse occurred.

Top Knight: Charity 'demands' renewed focus

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS) — Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly, the CEO of the Knights of Columbus, told his fellow Knights that their "highest calling" — charity — "demands our renewed focus."

"Where there's pain, let us heal. Where there's grief, let us comfort. Where there's need, let us meet it, in new and creative ways," he said Aug. 3.

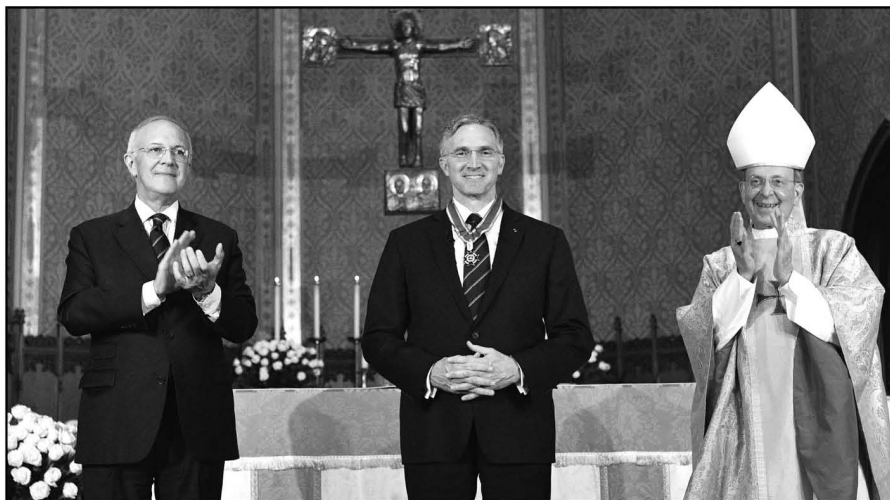
The end of the pandemic "is an invitation to action" on "almost every front," Kelly said, calling on Knights to find creative solutions to adapt to the challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the cultural challenges facing Catholics and the societal pressures on their values.

He made the remarks in his first annual report to the Knight of Columbus, delivered during the Knights' 139th annual convention Aug. 3-4. It was held virtually, with key events being broadcast from the Supreme Council's headquarters in New Haven and members from around the world participating online.

Kelly was elected to the Knights' top post by the organization's board of directors Feb. 5. He succeeded Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson, who held the post for over two decades and retired Feb. 28 upon reaching the organization's mandatory retirement age of 70.

On June 11, Kelly was formally installed in his position during a Mass celebrated at St. Mary's Church in New Haven by Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, the Knights' supreme chaplain.

In his annual report, Kelly committed his tenure to strengthening the faith of men and their families and serving oth-



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly, CEO of the Knights of Columbus, stands between retired Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson and Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori during Mass at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn., June 11, 2021. Kelly was formally installed in the top post at the Mass, which was celebrated by Archbishop Lori, the Knights' supreme chaplain.

ers in the face of what he described as daunting health, economic and social challenges.

"Our growth depends on empowering men to be the husbands and fathers that God wants us to be," he said. "It is harder than ever, and for that reason, we must push forward as never before. It will require creative courage."

To put their faith into action effectively, Kelly said, the Knights must be "bold in faith," following the example of St. Joseph.

The day Kelly was installed as the supreme Knight, his first act was to consecrate his administration to St. Joseph, whom he called "guardian of the family" and "guardian of the truth" in his annual report.

Like Joseph, the Knights must be guardians of the family in a culture that is becoming increasingly hostile to the family, he said.

A documentary about the life of St. Joseph has been produced by the Knights of Columbus and it is scheduled to air on

ABC affiliates starting Oct. 10.

The other man whose example Kelly said each Knight should follow is Blessed Michael McGivney, the founder of the Knights of Columbus. Blessed McGivney also lived in a time of families in crisis facing a hostile culture and a church under attack, Kelly note, but he did not shrink from those challenges.

"In the mold of St. Joseph, (Blessed McGivney) stepped into the breach, with creative courage," Kelly said, adding the priest "listened to the Lord, fought for the family and the faith, and devoted himself to our Blessed Mother."

Blessed McGivney successfully rallied the men of his parish to lead lives of charity, unity and fraternity, which are the founding principles of the organization and, Kelly argued, are still the solutions to today's most serious problems of our time.

"By elevating our founder, the Lord has called us to greater depths

of courage and faith, and greater heights of charity, unity and fraternity," he said. "In the (2020) beatification of Blessed Michael McGivney, the Lord has not only confirmed where the Knights have been in the past. He is showing us where we must go, in the future."

Kelly said the Knights are called to defend the truth incarnate of Jesus Christ in a time of bigotry and intolerance, in which "key truths — about life, marriage, the nature of the family and the meaning of freedom — are increasingly denied and even vilified."

In an overview of the Knights' legacy of defending life and working to build a culture of life over the years, Kelly said these efforts include playing a leading role in national and state marches for life since those events began and continuing support for legislation that protects the right to life of unborn children.

He also pointed to a growing ultrasound initiative that has placed over 1,400 of the machines in

pregnancy resource centers, including one in South Korea that was dedicated in April.

"The fight for life has many fronts," Kelly said. "They all require our creative courage, and the coming year will be pivotal. I look forward to the day when together we march to victory!"

Kelly also noted the Knights' support for the National Eucharistic Revival initiative of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which aims to "renew the church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the holy Eucharist."

The three-year effort will promote added emphasis on the Eucharist at all levels of the church beginning next summer and will culminate in a large-scale national event in 2024.

"Working with our bishops and priests, we will strive to renew belief in the Eucharist and build up the church," Kelly said. "We are a force for unity, and we will prove it by pointing to the source of unity. As 'Knights of the Eucharist,' we proudly proclaim this truth."

Kelly thanked Anderson for his 20 years of faithful leadership, and said the retired leader was a prime example that "faith and courage compel us to be men of charity."

During Anderson's tenure, he said, the fraternal order grew dramatically "in every measurable way."

"Our charitable donations soared by more than 60%. Insurance in force nearly tripled. Membership rose by nearly 400,000 and surpassed 2 million," Kelly said, "And the order expanded internationally for the first time in a century, to Europe and mainland Asia."

ADIRONDACK

MASS OF THANKSGIVING

Lake Placid – Rev. Pier Giorgio Pacelli, son of Steve and Liny Pacelli and a former parishioner of St. Agnes in Lake Placid, was ordained to the Carmelite Order on July 17 in Hubertus, WI. Fr. Pier Giorgio O.C.D. will offer a Mass of Thanksgiving.

Date: Aug. 29

Time: 10 a.m.

Place: St. Agnes Church

CLINTON

ANNUAL REDFORD PICNIC

Redford – Church of the Assumption to have their 166th Annual Redford Picnic with the country's oldest carousel.

Date: Aug. 15

Time: Following the 10:30 Mass

Features: Events will start at 11:30 a.m. Ham and roast beef dinners will be served in the parish center gym. There will be a variety of games for people of all ages, such as Skilo, Pie Wheel, Fancy Booth, Craft Fair and our main attraction, a ride on one of the oldest merry-go-rounds in North America. Musical entertainment will be provided from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Come and join us for a fun-filled day.

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.

ESSEX

LATIN MASS

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

Schedule: 1 p.m. on Sundays

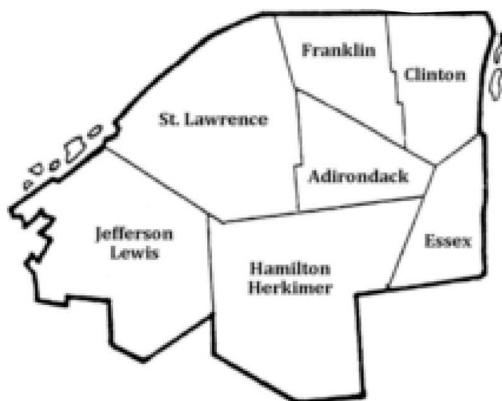
Place: St. Patrick's Church

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.



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

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

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

Dates: Aug. 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

BLESSING OF FLOWERS, HERBS AND GRAINS

Houseville – St. Hedwig's to observe the Polish custom of blessing flowers, herbs and grains.

Date: Aug. 15, The feast of the Assumption

Time: 11 a.m. Mass

Features: To honor our Blessed Mother, Matka Boska Zielna, Our Lady of the Greens. There are over 2,000 plants named after our Blessed Mother. All are welcome to bring bouquets, pots, vases and stalks of flowers, herbs and grains and place them in front of the altar. These blessed plants can then be taken to the home or cemetery, or be given as gifts.

Contact: Call 315-348-6260 for more information.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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

Date: Aug. 23-27

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 8

Place: Augustinian Academy.

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

Contact: For more information and registration forms please visit the school website at www.c-augustinian.org.

PRAYER AND ADORATION

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

Date: Every third Wednesday of the month (Aug. 18)

Time: 6:30 to 7 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

ST. LAWRENCE

PARISH PICNIC

Canton – St. Mary's to celebrate parish feast day.

Date: Aug. 15, Feast of the Assumption

Time: 10 a.m. Mass Followed by Marian Procession, Picnic BBQ with fun & games on the lawn.

Contact: Info at cantoncatholics.com or call 315-386-2543.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Gouverneur – SJS Vikings to have their Annual Golf Tournament.

Date: Aug. 22

Time: 9 a.m. Registration; 10 a.m. Shotgun start

Place: Emerald Green Golf Course.

Cost: \$50 per person, \$200 per team. Includes green fees, cart, welcome gift, hot dog lunch, cash bar, dinner and a

chance to win great prizes.

Features: \$1000 cash split for best team score. Proceeds to benefit St. James School.

Contact: Pre-register at St. James Parish office or print a form from FB page or www.stjamesk-6.org. For more information call 315-287-0114 or 315-487-8173

SPECIAL PRAYER SERVICE

Canton – Prayer Service before the icon of Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians.

Date: Sept. 2

Time: 2 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: Social hour to follow featuring our famous peach cobbler.

Contact: More info at canton-catholics.com or call 315-386-2543.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

HEALING MASS

Saranac Lake – Healing Mass to be held for Separated and Divorced.

Date: Aug. 18

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: Camp Guggenheim

Features: Join in prayer for all those hurting from the pain and loss of separation or divorce. Resources available.

Contact: For more information contact the Family Life Office 315-393-2920 Ext 1420 startaglia@rcdony.org

DIGITAL CATECHESIS

Join us for a look at "Digital Catechesis" – understanding the interaction and effects of the digital environment on our Faith Formation programs. How do we combat isolation, and engender accompaniment instead?

Date: Aug. 21

Time: 9:45 a.m. to Noon

Presenter: Kathy Hendricks of Sadlier Publications

Contact: Register at: <https://www.rcdony.org/digital-catechesis>

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/mystryeucharist>

CLM ANNUAL MEETING AND BBQ

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

Date: Sept. 19

Time: 1 p.m. to 4

Place: Camp Guggenheim

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

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

SACRED HEART FOUNDATION DINNER

Watertown – Sacred Heart Foundation to have 48th Annual Benefit dinner with Bishop Lucia as guest speaker.

Date: Sept. 21

Time: 6 p.m. social hour, 7 p.m. dinner

Place: Hilton Garden Inn

Cost: \$40 per person (tickets must be pre-purchased at www.sacred-heartfoundation.com/benefit-dinner)

BLUE MASS

Malone – Bishop Terry R. LaValley cordially invites all Police, Corrections, Fire and EMS Personnel to the Diocese of Ogdensburg Blue Mass.

Date: Sept. 26

Time: 2 p.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church

Features: Join in prayer for the safety and wellbeing of all first responders and public safety personnel.

Contact: Registration is appreciated for planning and social distancing: <https://www.rcdony.org/bluemass>

For more information contact, Father Chris Carrara 315-605-1039 or ccarrara@rcdony.org

NOW PLAYING

STILLWATER

NEW YORK (CNS)— Matt Damon plays a man in search of redemption and renewal in the bleak yet touching drama "Stillwater" (Focus).

Directed and co-written by Tom McCarthy, the film succeeds on a personal and cultural level, though its brief forays into overtly political territory are far feebler. Its ambiguous treatment of faith, together with other elements, marks it as rare for grown-ups.

Damon portrays Bill Baker, an unemployed and widowed oil-rig worker from the Oklahoma city of the title. Five years after his college-age daughter, Allison (Abigail Breslin), an exchange student, was imprisoned in Marseille for the murder of her lesbian lover, Lina — a crime of which she insists she is innocent — Bill relocates to the French port city to follow up a new lead in the

case.

Stymied by the refusal of Allison's lawyer, Maitre Leparq (Anne Le Ny), to pursue the fresh evidence, Bill is forced to investigate on his own. Yet he's a fish out of water in his new surroundings, understanding neither the national language nor the local rules of behavior.

He turns for help to a chance acquaintance, stage actress Virginie (Camille Cottin), a single mother who, with her young daughter Maya (Lilou Siauvaud) in tow, is staying at the same hotel as Bill while waiting to move into a new apartment. The two strike up a friendship and, once Virginie and Maya get settled, Bill moves in with them.

Romance with Virginie looms as Bill, whom Allison regards as a failed father, seeks a second

chance at successful parenthood through his nurturing of Maya. But his prospects for emotional fulfillment are threatened by the rashness with which he is willing to act to find the real culprit behind the killing.

The script, penned in partnership with Marcus Hinchey, Thomas Bidegain and Noé Debré, is effective in examining the strained relationship between Bill and alienated Allison. It also captures the clash between the values of the American heartland Bill personifies and those of Europe, though its approach to this topic sometimes feels facile.

Along with his gun ownership, one of the aspects of Bill's lifestyle that Virginie finds hard to fathom is his heartfelt, though nondenominational, piety. Thus, when he quietly in-

sists on saying grace before eating, it feels like a faux pas to which she reacts with mildly amused bewilderment.

It's also clear that Allison merely pretends to join in Bill's prayers during his visits to her. Where viewers' sympathies are meant to lie, however, is less apparent.

While Allison's ongoing emotional tie to Lina is clearly established, murky circumstances prevent this from having much of a wider, real-world application. McCarthy and his fellow screenwriters take it for granted that the relationship was not, in itself, morally questionable — and adopt a similar stance toward the possibility of Bill and Virginie moving in together.

Yet the fatal outcome of Allison and Lina's bond makes it obvious that it

was a dangerously volatile one. As a result, the movie avoids sending any particular message about homosexuality as a general matter.

Flawed but affecting, "Stillwater" avoids caricature, though it doesn't always steer clear of acourant sentimentousness. Still, it's a thoughtful production to which Damon brings a winning degree of understatement.

The film contains mature themes, including homosexuality and suicide, cohabitation, a premarital bedroom scene, a few mild oaths, frequent rough and crude language and some crass expressions. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is R — restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

Author eyes practical, purposeful online habits

"#Rules of Engagement: 8 Christian Habits for Being Good and Doing Good Online" by Ann M. Garrido. Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame, Indiana, 2021). 112 pp., \$13.95.

Social media can be a maelstrom. This "sea of pings and dings, tweets and posts, 'likes' and hashtags," as author Ann M. Garrido calls it, grips us and won't let go. Yet it also gives us many opportunities to respond to the Gospel call to do good in the world. In this succinct, practical guide, she shows how we can practice Christian values online.

Garrido is a homiletics professor at Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis who has written seven books, including "Redeeming Conflict." Her gift of inspiring thoughtful approaches to everyday

challenges shines in "#Rules of Engagement."

In lively prose, she outlines eight practical habits for Christians using social media, based on recent World Communications Day addresses of Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis. They include, first of all, to "clarify your purpose," which means to think intentionally about why you use social media. "If your purpose ... has nothing to do with building connection and community, you should step away from the keyboard; you are not yet ready to engage social media as a Christian," Garrido writes.

Another key habit is to "know your sources," and she offers precise, practical tips to evaluate their truthfulness and accuracy. It's more important than ever to identify and rely on

trustworthy news sources, especially after the last two elections, which have highlighted the dominance of bots and troll farms that seek to create societal discord.

No one has the time to fact-check every social media post in their feed, so Garrido recommends that either you "scroll on by" or run the source by Media Bias/Fact Check (mediabiasfactcheck.com), or other fact-checking sites she lists. She cautions that if a story has a strong emotional effect on you, first check on its factualness before sharing it online. This can go a long way toward reducing the onslaught of online "fake news."

And resist the temptation to post content that's "intentionally inflammatory ... for the sake of the

common good."

Garrido also shares the insight that it's vital for Christians to recognize their own biases. Here she quotes the words of Pope Francis from his 2018 World Communications Day address: "Many people interact in homogeneous digital environments impervious to differing perspectives and opinions. Disinformation thus thrives on the absence of healthy confrontation with other sources of information that could effectively challenge prejudices and generate constructive dialogue; instead, it risks turning people into unwilling accomplices in spreading biased and baseless ideas."

To avoid these online "echo chambers," we can seek to enlarge our social media bubble to include people and sources (fact-

checked, of course) that offer a broader perspective. The goal here is not to react, but to learn.

Ultimately, it's vital to recognize there's a real person present behind the messages they post on social media. This is "a person who feels and struggles and has up and down days, just as I do," Garrido writes. Aim to treat this person with dignity, even when you disagree with their ideas. And remember face-to-face, in-person contact is the gold standard.



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Assumption: Mary's feast, our feast

Today's feast of the Assumption of Mary body and soul, into heaven, provides all Christians with a model hope in our own resurrection into heaven one day. Mary is also a model of how we are to live our lives that we may achieve that goal. Just as Mary has risen to new life through her faithfulness to God's will, so we too can expect what God



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

planned for all humanity. The first reading from the Book of Revelation pictures a male child as the Son of God, human in every way. He is ruler over all. His mother is a woman crowned with stars. Despite the attempts of Satan to destroy her, she escapes and is exalted together with her Son. Preserved from sin from her conception,

August 15

Feast of the Assumption

READINGS

Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

Corinthians 15:20-27

Luke 1:39-56

Mary freely assents to God's request for her to give birth to Jesus. This changes her own plans completely.

Accepting all this, she visits her cousin Elizabeth and sings her great song, the Magnificat. In that song, we see that all the

values of the world are turned topsy-turvy, and the poor of the world become God's favorites.

All through life, Mary put others first, suffers much, and only gradually comes to understand fully who her Son really is. She accepts the role finally as a disciple of the Lord. She even shares in the shattering power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

It takes all of us sometimes years to realize our own dignity. We, too, have a destiny for glory. Early on, we know what it is to

love, to know joy and sadness, to strive for our needs and wants.

If we grow in faith and trust in God's promises, and live as children of a merciful God, then we will realize that one day we like Mary will be taken up body and soul into heaven.

Mary, Mother of Jesus and our mother, intercede for us, and ask God to protect us from all the temptations that could keep us from our glorious destiny. This is not only Mary's feast, but eventually ours.

CALLED TO SERVE

Remembering The Baltimore Catechism

Would all of you who studied Latin in high school or college please raise your hands? There are more of you than I expected. That's great.

Remember *Gallia est omnis divisa in tres partes?* That's how Julius Caesar started his personal account of the Gallic Wars. For those of you who did not take Latin in school, the phrase is translated "Gaul is a whole divided into three parts." It is the first sentence in *Commentarii de Bello Gallico*, a mainstay in Latin instruction because of its simple, direct prose. The sentence was a flashback. We were re-

quired to study Latin in the Catholic High School we attended in the Diocese of Brooklyn/Queens. I say, "we" because Kathy, my wife, and I met in high school. The boys were taught by Brothers of the Sacred Heart. The girls by Sisters of Charity of Halifax.

On a City of New York bus one day, I recall us debating, arguing might be a more appropriate descriptive, the correct pronunciation of "veni, vidi, vici" (I came, I saw, I conquered). Since the boys took Classical Latin and the girls Modern Latin, we were taught a slightly different way to pronounce

certain letters, like "v". I steadfastly argued the "v" is pronounced as it should be "v". Kathy was equally certain the "v" is pronounced with the "w" sound, "weni, widi, wici." The argument was left unsettled. The Latin flashback occurred because of something else.

Someone must have been cleaning out some bookshelves the other day and left a bunch of "religious" books on a table at church. Two items jumped out at me. One was a 1931 pamphlet entitled *How To Serve Low Mass*. I had to have that. It was before my time but things didn't change at Mass until the Second Vatican Council, and I am a gratefully nostalgic altar boy.

The other item was a little booklet, circa 1941, entitled *The Revised Edition of the Baltimore Cat-*

echism with explanations. Oh my! That came home with me too.

For those of you who were never blessed with learning about our faith from the Baltimore Catechism, let me explain something. The Baltimore Catechism was the standard Catholic grade school text in the country from 1885 to the late 1960s. I fit in there somewhere.

The Baltimore Catechism was written as a dialogue. The author would ask a question, 499 of them in all, and then answer the question. The answers "conform(ed) in every respect to the regulations set forth by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine."

Who of us blessed with that little text can forget how it started: "1. Who made us? *God made us*. 2. Who is God? *God is the Supreme Being, infinitely perfect, who made all*

things and keeps them in existence. 3. Why did God make us? *God made us to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him in this life and in eternity*."

Sister would quiz us regularly about the catechism. Woe to anyone who did not quote the answer perfectly.

The answers survive to this day. Like "343. What is the Holy Eucharist? *The Holy Eucharist is a sacrament and a sacrifice; in it Our Saviour, Jesus Christ, body and blood, soul and divinity, under the appearances of bread and wine, is contained, offered and received*. 366. What is Holy Communion? *Holy Communion is the receiving of Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist*."

Deo gratias! Thanks be to God!

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

BARSTOW

AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION BUICK PONTIAC GMC SUBARU
 "Family owned dealership serving the North Country for over 56 years!"
 For more information, visit our Website at: www.barstowmotors.com
 MARKET ST., POTSDAM, NY • (315) 265-8800



**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

Monk condemned as 'supporter of terrorists'

Article from FIDES missionary news service of the Pontifical Mission Societies

Mardin Criminal Court has handed down a 25-month prison sentence against the Syrian Orthodox monk Sefer Bileçen, finding him guilty of complicity with terrorist organizations and activities.

The priest, a member of the Mor Yakup monastery in Nusaybin, had been arrested on January 9, 2020 along with two other people, accused of having offered food and cover to members of the People's Defense Forces (HPG), the military arm of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), classified as a terrorist organization by the Ankara government.

The accusation, based mainly on images collected by drones used by the Turkish intelligence services to monitor the life of the monastery from above, attributes to the monk the responsibility of receiving HPG militiamen in the monastery for a few days at the end of September of 2018. On January 16, 2020, the monk had been authorized to leave prison pending trial, with the obligation not to leave his residence.

During the trial, as reported by Agenzia Fides, several testimonies had confirmed that the alleged "complicity" contested by the Turkish authorities to the Syrian Orthodox monk consisted in simply offering food and drink to people who said they were hungry and thirsty.

An HPG militiaman arrested in September 2019 by Turkish security forces had also confessed to having visited the Mor Yakup Monastery several times just to eat, drink and refresh.

The monk, Sefer Bileçen himself, in the testimony made public through his lawyers, confirmed that he had given food and water to the militiamen as a pure sign of monastic hospitality, reserved for anyone in need, without imagining that the people welcomed were members of HPG.

"I will give food and water to anyone who comes to my door," Father Sefer said during his statement. "I have to do it," he added, "because of my spiritual and philosophical beliefs. And I cannot lie because I am a monk and a priest."

*Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.
rcdony.org/mission*

MONASTERY CARD SHOP
Cards for All Occasions
Mass Enrollments for your living & deceased loved ones.

Precious Blood Monastery
OPEN: 9 AM - 5 PM
SATURDAY 9 AM - 12 PM
400 PRATT ST., WATERTOWN
315-788-1669
www.sisterspreciousblood.org

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



CHEVROLET

H E A L I N G M A S S

FOR SEPARATED & DIVORCED
AUGUST 18 - 4 PM - GUGGENHEIM



Join in prayer for all those hurting from the pain and loss of separation or divorce. Resources available.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT THE DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG FAMILY LIFE OFFICE

Steve Tartaglia, Director of Family Life
startaglia@rcdony.org 315-393-2920 Ext. 1420



(Left) Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated the Mass at the diocesan Knights of Columbus annual pilgrimage to St. Anne's Shrine on July 18. (Above) Thirty-four pilgrims traveled from the Watertown and Adams area to the annual pilgrimage on a bus organized by former state Warden Bill Ose, who could not attend this year's event due to health challenges. (Below) Dr. Charles Robinson, former state warden and state secretary for the Knights, presented donations to St. Anne's Shrine on behalf of state and regional Knights of Columbus.

Diocesan knights make pilgrimage to VT shrine

By John Ryan
Contributing Writer

ISLE LAMOTTE, VT – The day started rainy at St. Anne's Shrine, but as 12:15 p.m. Mass approached, the showers receded. By Mass time, only a few light showers remained.

Despite the forecast showers, 115 knights, spouses, families, and friends were present as Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated the Mass as part of the diocesan Knights' annual pilgrimage to St. Anne's Shrine on July 18. Shrine Director Rev. Brian Cummings and Msgr. Dennis Duprey con-celebrated, and Deacon James Chaufy assisted.

Northern Conference

Chairman John Delles and his wife Lorna represented the North Country Knights.

On behalf of state Deputy Charles Exposito, former state Warden/state Secretary Dr. Charles Robinson presented a \$1,000 state council gift to the shrine and a \$1,000 gift from the North Country's Bishop Brzana Knights of Columbus Chapter.

Pilgrimage Coordinator Peter Keenan announced that after more than 20 years of service, this was his last year as pilgrimage coordinator. Peru Council 7273 member Gordon Burdo will succeed Keenan.

Following Mass, the shrine staff served a boun-

tiful summer luncheon, and Bishop LaValley chatted with the pilgrims. Several people attended the pilgrimage for the first time. They said they loved it and would return. The pilgrimage to St. Anne's Shrine is a day of prayer and a time to renew and make friendships.

Father Cummings and Dr. Robinson asked everyone to keep former state Warden Bill Ose of Adams in their prayers. Unfortunately, health challenges prevented Ose from attending the pilgrimage this year; however, he still organized a busload of 34 pilgrims from the Watertown-Adams area. Bill has organized the busload for 27 years.

