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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 76 Number 17

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPTEMBER 1, 2021



Pope: Protect dignity from tech

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Lawmakers need to regulate and develop sound policies regarding today's digital technology, specifically targeting the problems of child pornography, personal data violations, cyber attacks on critical infrastructures and fake news, Pope Francis told Catholic and Christian legislators.

"Prudent legislation can guide the development and application of technology in the service of the common good," he said during an audience at the Vatican Aug. 27.

"I heartily encourage you, therefore, to make every effort to undertake serious and in-depth moral reflection on the risks and possibilities associated with scientific and technological advances, so that the international laws and regulations governing them may concentrate on promoting integral human development and peace, rather than on progress as an end in itself," the pope said.

Pope Francis was speaking to members and representatives of the International Catholic Legislators Network, who were in Rome for an annual conference.



(Above) Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown will have a larger student body when the school year begins this year thanks to enrollment gains made due to the school's ability to offer safe, in-person instruction last school year, as well as an increase in efforts to promote the school's programs. (Left) With help from a grant provided by the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, Augustinian Academy in Carthage offered a summer Vacation Bible School program to the school and parish community. See the *North Country Catholic's* Back to School coverage on pages 3 through 6 and 12.

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A lot of uncertainty

It happened almost overnight. I had a one-on-one aide helping him maintain his focus and attention in his core subjects – English, social studies, math, science and Spanish. After making honor roll third quarter of last year and just barely missing high honor roll in the fourth quarter, my husband and I, along with Jake and his educational team, decided to allow him to try navigating his coursework

alone, with the exception of math and science. Jake also asked us to remove language requiring that he get extra time to complete his tests from his educational plan. He indicated he didn't use

the extra time last year, and he has no intention of using it this year. While I'm incredibly proud that he's advanced in his capabilities and worked very hard to succeed academically, I'm also nervous about how he'll do without that support person keeping him focused and without those additional accommodations. I know we can re-open his educational plan if there's a problem, but I'm still uncertain if we did the right thing. It seems like uncertainty is all around us this school year.

In addition to rapidly changing in height, other things are changing with Jake, too. His child-like voice has been replaced by a deep, manly voice. He has the faintest hint of a mustache. Also new... he's starting high school this year.

As I've mentioned before, Jake is on the autism spectrum. Up until this point in his academic career, he has

Darcy L.
Fargo

schools be able to continue offering in-person instruction every day of the week? Will they be safe from the virus? What are the impacts of the educational upheaval we've experienced thus far? So much uncertainty. Despite the uncertainty, I have certainty, too. I'm certainly thankful for the individuals who help educate my child and all our children – the teachers, administrators, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, aides, janitors... I'm certainly praying they all are given wisdom and strength as they navigate another challenging year. I'm certainly praying for a great school year. Please join me in that prayer.

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In addition to the decisions we're making about Jake's education, we're facing another year of education during a pandemic. Will the

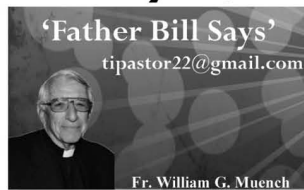
community of my friends. Having Jesus as my friend has led me to change my way of praying. I have noticed this. In fact, when I speak of prayer and speak of prayer to someone in the Sacrament of confession, I urge them to simply talk with Jesus, for Jesus wants to be our friend. I want them to have a good relationship, a good friendship with the Lord. This will help them realize how much the Lord cares about them. They will realize how the Lord is so ready to forgive us of our sins.

Let me add one more thing: I want to reaffirm my faith in Jesus as my God and Savior who lived, died and rose to new life. Jesus is my Lord and Savior. I know that Jesus wants to be part of my life. The real presence of Jesus in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist and the presence of Jesus in my life every day is such a magnificent and blessed part of my life as a Catholic. Yet, this Jesus wants to be my friend.

Dear Darcy: Jesus is our friend

Today I would like to write a letter to my editor, Darcy Fargo. So...

Dear Darcy, I loved your column last week. My answer to your question, last week's question is "you, bet." You asked us, "Is it a healthy relationship." You brought up the question in regard to making Jesus your friend. Darcy, I love the idea of thinking of our relationship with Jesus as a friendship. I do believe that Jesus wants to be our friend, the friend of all of us. I want to tell you what happened to me last week at the morning Mass. I was celebrating a daily Mass. It was the Feast of St. Bartholomew, the apostle. I had prepared a short homily for that Mass on the importance of the apostles. They are the very foundation of our Church. I planned to remind the folks that they, as followers of Jesus, should be like the apostles in their daily lives. I believe that as apostles we are called to bring Jesus to our world.



Now, at that Mass, during the reading of the Scriptures, at the Responsorial Psalm, the response caught my attention. "Your friends make known, O Lord, the glorious splendor of your Kingdom." At that moment, I remembered that all the apostles were more than just followers of Jesus. They were his friends. So I changed my homily. We can be like the apostles by being friends of Jesus. Darcy, I continue to believe that this is a healthy relationship for us all, so in that homily I shared about our friendship with Jesus. I want to establish a good relationship with Jesus, who wants to be my friend. St. John's Gospel tells us that Jesus spoke of this at the Last Supper. He said to his

apostles and to us, "This is my commandment, love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you... I have called you friends because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father." Jesus is my friend. I believe this in faith. I have many good friends that have made a huge difference in my life. I have shared and depended on them for their support and guidance. They have kept me on the way of truth and constantly showed me the way. Sadly for me, most of them are now with the Lord. How I miss them. However, they left me with so much wisdom and solid ideas that they come to mind often. I often seek their help in writing this column.

I have been so blessed to have such great friends, and they continue to be part of my life. I know that Jesus is an important part of my

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BACK TO SCHOOL

A new beginning

By Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ
Superintendent of Schools

Here we are again at the beginning of a new school year! Last September, our schools opened with five days of in-person instruction. Our principals, faculty and staff confronted the challenges of the pandemic and provided a safe, secure learning environment while implementing all required New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) protocols. Throughout the year, school personnel remained resilient and dedicated to the care of their respective school communities.

Although we hoped the COVID-19 virus would be contained by the beginning of this school year, we realize now that the Delta variant continues to circulate and the transmission rate increases, especially among children under age 12. As our schools open for five days of in-person instruction for the current academic year, we are aware of the responsibility to ensure the health and safety of each member of our school communities. To that end our schools will follow the Center for Disease Control's guidance for K-12 Schools and the American Academy of Pediatrics' Guidance for Safe Schools. In addition, schools will work with the local county health department in which they are located for assistance with contact tracing, quarantine regulations and specific guidance driven by the intensity of the Delta variant in the local area.

We believe adherence to the above noted guidance and any additional guid-

ance that may be offered by the NYSDOH provide us with the protocols that will keep students and staff healthy and safe and allow our schools to maintain in-person instruction five days a week.

The beginning of a new school year is an opportunity to recall the distinctive mission of a Catholic school. "The specific purpose of a Catholic education is the formation of boys and girls who will be good citizens of this world, loving God and neighbor and enriching society with the leaven of the gospel, and who will also be citizens of the world to come, thus fulfilling their destiny to become saints" (Teaching on Catholic Schools, Archbishop, J Michael Miller, CSB).

We believe that the students entrusted to our care are destined for eternal life. Thus, our schools educate the whole child tending not only to the mind and body but also to the spirit and soul of its students.

We believe

- every student is made in the image and likeness of God.

- students are citizens

of this world and called to become citizens of the world to come.

- our schools are special places where students encounter the living God in His Son, Jesus.

- all aspects of the curriculum should combine Catholic faith and teachings with academic excellence.

- the education program and the school's environment promote a life of virtue modeled on the life of Jesus.

- a welcoming and safe environment support teaching and learning.

- moral development and self-discipline are vital areas of personal development.

- service to others is an integral component of education.

- our schools set high standards for student achievement.

- partnership with parents is essential in the faith development of students.

- the witness of adults within the school community, administrators, faculty and staff is a vital part of the school's Catholic identity.

- students can develop their full potential within

a community of faith where people share a common faith and set of values, respect others and can work with and on behalf of others

Catholic schools are integral to the Church's mission to proclaim the Good News. Their effectiveness relies to a great extent on the teachers, administrators and staff who serve in these schools.

"Conduct is always much more important than speech; this fact becomes especially important in the formation of students. The more completely an educator can give concrete witness to the model of the ideal person that is being presented to the students, the more this ideal will be lived and imitated." (Lay Catholics in Schools: Witness to the Faith, Sacred Congregation of Catholic Education).

I take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to the teachers, administrators, and support staff in our Catholic schools. Pope Francis refers to teaching "as an act of love; it is like giving life" (3/1/14).

Since March 2020, the efforts of our school personnel to provide instruction for their students, maintain contact with students and parents despite restrictions imposed by the pandemic and adjust often to changes during challenging times are evidence of their interest and care for students and families.

A special word of gratitude also to the pastors who support our schools and to the parents who, often at a great sacrifice, choose a Catholic school for their children. May God bless the new school year.



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'New life' at Massena's Trinity

MASSENA – 2020-21 certainly presented its challenges, but Trinity Catholic School has come out on the other side with our heads above the water.

The school, serving grades pre-kindergarten through six, is ready to begin another school year.

The school's theme reflects their enthusiasm: "Behold! New Life Has Come." The school community looks forward to the refreshing new life the upcoming school year has in store for them.

Trinity Catholic School took time to reflect on the importance of the Eucharist, as suggested by Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

"We realized how much we missed not being able to attend Friday Masses at Sacred Heart Church as a school community. The Eucharist should be the central focus of all we do at Trinity, and we were lacking the grace that comes from receiving Communion."

This year, Trinity Catholic School is offering some after school enrichment clubs again, including yoga, beginning piano, astronomy and computer coding.

The school also offers advanced math and ELA clubs for fifth and sixth grade students.

Trinity Catholic School students have always excelled academically, and we look forward to continuing that tradition.

New programs at St. Bernard's

SARANAC LAKE – St. Bernard's School theme for 2021-22 is: "Grateful for Our Gifts."

Throughout the year, the school will focus on cultivating gratitude in small and big ways. Additionally, St. Bernard's will highlight a Gift of the Spirit each month during the school's weekly prayer services. A special emphasis will be placed on recognizing, appreciating, and sharing each individual's gifts and talents.

St. Bernard's is pleased to announce that the school will be adding to its academic and extracurricular programming this year. A World Language program is an exciting addition to the

"Specials" curriculum. Students in kindergarten, second and fourth grades will learn French, while students in first, third and fifth grades will learn Spanish. The exposure to different languages and cultures will help the students build new neural connections while also encouraging them to become more empathetic and knowledgeable world citizens.

St. Bernard's is also adding an After School STEM program. Students will be engaged in fun Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math topics such as Ecology, Robotics, and the Engineering process.



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St. Agnes School resumes classes on Sept. 7

LAKE PLACID – As Lake Placid’s only early elementary learning center, St. Agnes School meets the academic, social, and developmental needs of young students age 3 to grade 3. The St. Agnes faculty set high expectations for their 115 students and offer a highly intentional curriculum that includes accelerated learning opportunities in technology, literacy, math, music, foreign language and art. The 2021-22 school year will begin on September 7, following St. Agnes’ 9-week SPARK (STEM, Play, Art & Recreation for Kids) Camp.

“Perhaps most importantly,” says Catherine Bemis, who has served as principal for 11 years, “we integrate programs that encourage creativity and problem solving, including SEL (social-emotional learning) and GAP (growth achievement program), to ensure that we differentiate teaching and individualize learning.”

St. Agnes School has met the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic by operating safely and continuously, offering in-person instruction, over the past year.

“At the start of the last school year, we created smaller learning cohorts, reduced student-staff ratios, converted our gym into three well-equipped classrooms, and made significant investments in learning technology, building upgrades, and enhanced cleaning and safety equipment,” explains Bemis. “All of this was done with a commitment to the continuity of students’ experience. We have every expectation that our students will have another wonderful year in 2021-22.”

A recipient of the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation regional grant, as well as numerous community, private, and family foundation

grants, St. Agnes School continues to enroll fully and early, as well as receive accolades and excellent reviews in print and on online platforms, including an “exemplary” rating for its Universal

Pre-K program from the state Education Department.

“In all that we do, we encourage students to deepen their faith through understanding the teachings of the Catholic faith.

We are proud that our students embrace gospel values and practice acts of kindness, and we are grateful that our families entrust us with their children’s preschool and primary school education.”



Students at St. Agnes School in Lake Placid will return to their classrooms for the first day of instruction on Sept. 7.

Now is the perfect time to volunteer.

With everything that has happened in our community this year, it is more important than ever for volunteers to stand up and support their friends and neighbors. When joining **RSVP**, not only are you helping your community, but you’re joining a family who cares as much as you.



The RSVP Program is hosted by the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and supported by AmeriCorps Seniors, a federally funded agency responsible for building volunteer based programs for over 50 years and counting.

Upcoming opportunities

There are so many ways you can help your community out that you might not even know about! Here are some examples of what you can do!



Be a Friend

Check on friends, share a meal, help around the house, go for a walk or just stop by to catch up.



Give a Ride

Drive your neighbors to their appointments, to pick up prescriptions or to the store.



Help at School

Volunteer at local elementary schools, tutor students, or be a mentor to those in need.



Give a Meal

Support the local food pantry by shopping, organizing, cooking, or anything else.



Meals On Wheels

Donate your time to your local Meals on Wheels program and prepare or deliver meals.

Not only do you get the benefit of feeling amazing after helping someone, RSVP will help pay some of your mileage (.56 cents/mile) and honor your efforts at a yearly recognition event.

Opportunities available in Franklin and Hamilton County Want more info about how to get started?

Hamilton County: Hanna Smith
hsmith@cathcharities.org
Franklin County: Melissa Howard
mhoward@cathcharities.org

Clinton and Essex County:
Kate Gardner
518-566-0944
kgardner@cathcharities.org

PHONE: (518)359-7688

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Environmental Stewardship

Home energy tips for late summer

With the arrival of cooler temperatures during these next few weeks, it is important to focus some attention on ways to improve the energy efficiency of your home.

1. Seal up as many cracks and holes around windows and doors as possible.

Most sealants require warm weather for application. Forming an effective bond when the weather is still well above freezing is often critical in achieving maximum success for these products.

2. Get your heating system cleaned and checked before it becomes time to turn it on.

Even wood stoves and boilers need periodic cleaning and maintenance. Along with cleaning all soot from the chimney, it is vital to check for any cracks in the burn chamber.

Repairing any defects adds not only to the efficiency of the device, but to its safety.

3. Vacuum radiators that are a part of any heating system before they are used.

A build-up of dust can reduce the transfer to thermal energy to the surrounding air and decrease its efficiency.

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-
anneyanulavich@yahoo.com
Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-
569-0612 evenings; or Father
Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal
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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 Serv-
ice** at 800-276-1562 or
www.ReportBishopAbuse.org.

New students, activities at Augustinian

By Mary Ann Margrey
Augustinian Academy Principal

CARTHAGE – The beginning of a new school year is always exciting! As a school community, we meet new people and reconnect with old friends. There will be lots of adventures to share with each other!

Augustinian Academy is excited about beginning a new school year! The school's enrollment has grown significantly this year, and there are several new staff members. The school's goal is to work together to help everyone discover and share the

gifts and talents God has given them. While there will be health and safety guidelines in place, Augustinian Academy is looking forward to an amazing new year.

The school looks forward to working to keep everyone healthy and safe as they return to in-person learning. All students, staff and visitors will be required to wear masks while in school, and social distancing requirements will be in place. As always, healthy habits, such as proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette, will be promoted.

Additional cleaning and disinfecting will take place. The school will work with Public Health to address any potential positive cases of COVID and possible quarantines. I continue to serve on the Carthage Central Reopening Committee to stay up to date on any changes or possible collaborations.

Through the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation grant for "Establishing Wholistic and Healthy After School Activities," Augustinian Academy is delighted to be able to offer extra-curricular activities and new programs for the students. The

school has partnered with Cornell Cooperative Extension to offer mindfulness activities, a healthy habits program and a bike safety course. Augustinian has been blessed to be able to offer programs last spring and during the summer, including a robotics club, Science Olympiad, martial arts and self-defense classes, and fitness classes. Our Family Support Coordinator and the St. James 200th Anniversary Committee partnered to offer a family zoo program in April and a Movie "Watch Party" in June.

Over the summer, the school offered a four-day STEM Camp, which was attended by 30 students in grades one through five with eight middle school volunteers. The school also held a five-day Vacation Bible School for 55 students in grades kindergarten through six and 10 middle school and high school volunteers to remind the students that they are treasured gifts from God. Augustinian was also able to offer tutoring in reading, writing, and Math for students who required some academic support. The response by families have

been overwhelming.

To give the families an opportunity to meet before school begins, Michelle Martin, Augustinian Academy's Family Support coordinator, offered two family events: "Popsicles in the Park" on August 20 and "Stories & S'mores" at Camp Oswegatchie Educational Center on August 31. As we move into a new school year, the grant will support additional activities for the students.

Augustinian Academy looks forward to extending fitness classes for our seventh and eighth graders, as well as our staff, to promote good health and provide a little social-emotional learning. There will be yoga classes for the younger students. The school will be able to offer sports again. The modified boys and girls will be able to participate in basketball, and Augustinian will collaborate with the Carthage sports program to offer a Saturday sports program for students in kindergarten through grade 6. Cornell Cooperative Extension will be offering a four-week cooking class in October, and Augustinian is looking to have a Fine Arts program to include painting and dance. Augustinian's Before & After-school Program will continue with health and safety guidelines in place as well.

Rest in Peace

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

Sept. 1 – Rev. Michael Guth, 1864; Rev. John B. Martin, O.S.A., 1955

Sept. 2 – Rev. Timothy J. Mahoney, 1938; Msgr. Claudius Sechi, 1966; Rev. Thomas G. Votraw, 2007; Rev. Floyd J. Bleaux, 2009

Sept. 3 – Rev. David W. Driscoll, O.S.A., 1963; Rev. John S. Branche, 2003

Sept. 4 – Rev. Walter J. Charbonneau, 1982; Msgr. Robert J. Giroux, 2000; Rev. Patrick Mundy, 2017

Sept. 5 – Rev. Arthur Tardiff, O.M.I., 1961; Rev. John Sullivan M.S.C., 1962; Rev. Louis C. Gardner, 2000

Sept. 6 – Rev. James Connor, 1930

Sept. 7 – Rev. Manuel Belleville, 1964

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.

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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Head of twinning program hopes U.S. parishes will help Haiti

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — Theresa Patterson, the Nashville-based executive director of the Parish Twinning Program of the Americas, has been acting as a clearinghouse for information about all the destruction caused in Haiti by a magnitude 7.2 earthquake. The program pairs congregations in the United States with needy parishes in Haiti and other countries to provide material and spiritual support, and Patterson has been collecting reports from throughout Haiti since the Aug. 14 quake. "It is deeply saddening and hard to fathom that Haiti has once again endured such unbelievable devastation and suffering," Patterson wrote in an email to all the congregations that participate in the program. To date, the quake's death toll was more than 2,200 and 12,000 people were injured, according to World Vision. An estimated 53,000 homes were destroyed in the quake, with about 77,000 more damaged, the BBC said. She asked the congregations to share any information they might have, and reports started pouring in of buildings destroyed and people hurt or killed.

Catholic Medical Association joins suit over 'transgender mandate'

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — The Philadelphia-based Catholic Medical Association Aug. 26 joined in a lawsuit challenging the Biden administration's mandate that doctors and hospitals perform gender-transition procedures on any patient despite any moral or medical objections of the doctor or health care facility. "Biological identity must remain the basis for treating patients," said Dr. Michael Parker, president of the association, a national, physician-led community of more than 2,300 health care professionals in 114 local guilds. The suit was filed Aug. 26 in U.S. District Court by Alliance Defending Freedom, a national faith-based nonprofit in Arizona that focuses on legal advocacy. Other joining the suit are Dr. Jeanie Dassow, a Tennessee OB-GYN doctor who specializes in caring for adolescents, and the American College of Pediatricians, made up of more than 600 physicians and other health care professionals in 47 states who treat children. A news release said the association and the college joined the suit on behalf of their members. It was filed in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee in Chattanooga. The suit over what it opponents call a "transgender mandate" names as defendants Secretary Xavier Becerra, head of the Department of Health and Human Services, and Robinsue Frohbose, acting director and principal deputy of the HHS Office for Civil Rights.

Italian priest recounts harrowing escape from Kabul

ROME (CNS) — Although Barnabite Father Giovanni Scalese, head of the Catholic mission in Afghanistan, found himself back in his native Italy after the fall of the Afghan capital, his thoughts remained on the church he was forced to leave behind. "We continue to pray for Afghanistan. We cannot abandon this country and its suffering people," Father Scalese said in an interview published Aug. 26 with SIR, the news agency of the Italian bishops' conference. Father Scalese was among thousands of foreigners who had to flee the country after the Taliban, an extremist Islamic movement that ruled Afghanistan until ousted by a U.S.-led coalition nearly 20 years ago, took control of the country prior to the withdrawal of U.S. forces. He, along with five Missionaries of Charity nuns and 14 orphaned and disabled children and young adults in their care, landed safely at Rome's Fiumicino airport Aug. 25. According to a report by the Italian newspaper La Repubblica, the orphans, many of whom are in wheelchairs, are between the ages of 6 and 20. "Our center is no longer open, it is closed and we are destroyed," a Missionary of Charity nun from Madagascar told La Repubblica. "It is done, there is no hope in Kabul."

As Afghanistan convulses, Catholic organizations help

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An already tense situation in Afghanistan took a turn for the worse early Aug. 26 when two explosions near the Kabul airport led to casualties and injuries still being calculated.

Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie, head of U.S. Central Command, said in an Aug. 26 video news conference that 12 U.S. service members were killed and 15 were wounded in the attack.

"While we're saddened by the loss of life, both U.S. and Afghan, we're continuing to execute the mission," said McKenzie, adding that an extremist Islamic State group was behind the attack involving suicide bombers.

Afghans, U.S. citizens and others eager to leave the country had been flocking to Kabul's international airport after a Taliban takeover in the capital in mid-August when the Afghan military collapsed following withdrawal of U.S. troops and contractors.

On the other side of the world, the Catholic Church, particularly in the U.S., has been "involved in the reception and establishment" of those seeking safe haven, participating in the effort with other faith-based aid groups and organizations such as the International Rescue Committee, said Bill Canny, executive director of Migration and Refugee Services for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

While some of those fleeing are U.S. citizens, many are refugees who don't have family members in the country nor have been in the U.S. before and left their lives behind at a moment's notice

with little beyond what they could carry.

"These are people who have been persecuted in their countries and they need new homes, their kids need to get into schools, they need to find work," said Canny in a Aug. 25 telephone interview with Catholic News Service, speaking about the dire situation unfolding by the minute in Afghanistan.

Faith-based groups, including Catholic organizations, also have been calling on the Biden administration to speed up the evacuations.

"Our government owes a debt of service to the Afghan people, not to mention the moral responsibility it has to help the women and children of Afghanistan who are now in imminent danger. The National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd calls on President Biden to immediately not just to welcome but to fervently work to get out those in danger," said Fran Eskin-Royer, the organization's executive director, in an Aug. 26 statement.

Anna Gallagher, executive director for Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc., said Aug. 24 on Twitter that Afghans had "risked their lives for us, and we must now make every effort to protect theirs."

The George W. Bush administration sent troops to Afghanistan after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in New York and Washington, trying to pin down al-Qaida militants who planned the attack, including Osama bin Laden, who was believed to be in and out of Afghanistan hiding with help from the Taliban.

U.S. troops remained

there under previous administrations from both political parties and in October 2020, President Donald Trump tweeted that he would withdraw U.S. troops from Afghanistan by Christmas. Biden continued with the plan but with a different timeline. However, analysts have blamed all previous administrations—from George W. Bush to Biden — with the unfolding drama.

Some Catholics say what is important is to help those affected by it.

"All politics must remain out of this decision. These are our brothers and sisters, and we must receive them with great dignity and respect," Gallagher said.

President Joe Biden said Aug. 22 that the military had evacuated 28,000 people since Aug. 14 from the Kabul airport and seemed set on an Aug. 31 full withdrawal of troops in what analysts said was to prevent precisely the kind of attack that took place Aug. 26.

McKenzie said at least 1,000 Americans were still in Afghanistan and the U.S. would do everything possible to get them out, "but not everybody wants to leave," he said.

For its part, the church has been helping Afghans as best as it can, given that certain systems to move refugees along, in the U.S., are "still slow and recovering from the previous administration," said Canny.

"Over the last month, we've begun to rebuild the system in preparation of more arrivals ... since those arrivals haven't been able to get started, it's a good moment to welcome those families being resettled," Canny said.

CLINTON

CHINESE AUCTION

Lyon Mountain – Chinese Auction to be held.

Date: Sept. 5

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: Lyon Mountain American Legion Post

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

APPLEFEST

Peru – The 43rd Annual St. Augustine's Applefest to be held.

Date: Sept. 18

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Schedule: Craft booths at 10 a.m.; Food booths at 10:30 a.m. followed by games and raffle. Community parade will begin at 11 a.m. leaving the Peru Elementary School. 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 K of C's famous chicken BBQ.

Features: Covid regulations in effect on Sept. 18th will be in place.

ESSEX

150TH ANNIVERSARY

Olmstedville – St. Joseph's Church celebrating their 150th Anniversary.

Date: Sept. 5

Time: 11 a.m.

Features: Potluck luncheon to be served.

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.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

100TH ANNIVERSARY

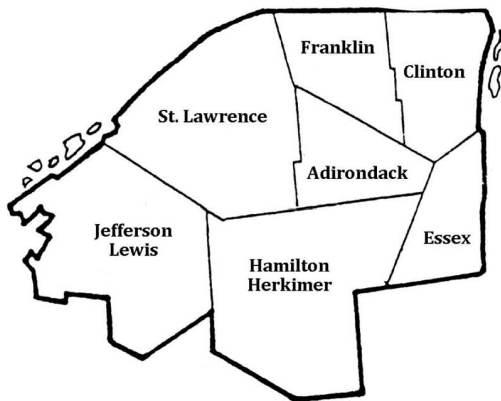
Watertown – 100th Anniversary celebration of the worldwide Association of the Legion of Mary.

Date: Sept. 7

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Holy Family Church

Features: Annual Acies Ceremony with the Rosary and consecration prayers to the Blessed Mother Mary. All



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

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

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

are welcome.

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – The Indian River Knights of Columbus #7471 to have a spaghetti and meatball dinner.

Date: Sept. 11

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$9; Senior Citizens, \$8; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free if eating at the parish center; Sauce, \$5 per quart

DRIVE THRU DINNER

Lyons Falls – St. John's Church to have a drive thru Chicken and Biscuit dinner to benefit St. John's Catholic Church and St. John's Altar and Rosary Society.

Date: Sept. 15

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 6-12, \$6

Menu: chicken and biscuit with homemade biscuits, real mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, cranberry sauce and dessert.

Contact: This is a pre order, drive-thru dinner. Please call 315-348-8945 or 315-348-8577 before September 10th. Deliveries are available!

ST. LAWRENCE

PRAYER AND ADORATION

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

Date: Every third Wednesday of the month (Sept. 15)

Time: 6:30 to 7 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

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.

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

Massena – First Saturday Rosary to be held.

Date: Sept. 4

Time: 3:15 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

Features: Praying the Rosary to Our Lady of Fatima in reparation to her Immaculate Heart and for World Peace. Confessions will be available starting at 2:45 p.m. Saturday Mass Vigil is at 4 p.m.

CABBAGE ROLL SALE

Norwood – The Norwood Knights of Columbus will be having a Cabbage Roll sale.

Date: Sept. 18

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. or until all are sold.

Place: St. Andrew's Church

Cost: \$4

Contact: Pre-order is requested.

Please call Mark Tebo at 315-353-8821.

ALPHA

Massena – You're invited to ALPHA.

Schedule: Tuesdays Starting Sept. 21 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 and Saturdays

starting Sept. 25 from 9 a.m. to 11

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Features: Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian Faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. No pressure. No follow up. No charge. Alpha runs for about 11 weeks and includes food, a short talk and time at the end where you can share your thoughts. This is a wonderful opportunity to ask about the big questions in life and share with others in an inviting and welcoming environment.

Contact: For more information contact 315-769-2469 or www.masse-nacatholics.com

DIOCESAN EVENTS

INVITATION TO LAY ASSOCIATE PROGRAM

Sisters of St. Joseph invite you to a meeting to learn about their Lay Associate Program that is open to women and men. Associates meet monthly to learn about the spirituality and history of the sisters, pray together and share ways to deeper one's spiritual life.

Schedule: Introductory Meetings will be held in these Diocesan locations: St. Patrick's Parish Center, Colton, Saturday, Sept. 11; Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, Watertown on Sunday, Sept. 12 and St. John XXIII Newman Center, Plattsburgh, Sunday Sept. 12.

Contact: For more information, contact Sister Kathleen DeBoalt skmdeb@yahoo.com (Watertown area) or Sister Bethany Fitzgerald sr-bethssj@gmail.com (Colton and Plattsburgh areas) or 315-782-3460

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

NEWS IN BRIEF

On June 11, 2021 His Holiness, Pope Francis, granted the request of Jeffrey Alan Hubbard for dispensation from celibacy and from the obligations arising from Sacred Ordination to the Priesthood. Mr. Hubbard is returned to the lay-state.

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 9. Space is limited. Register at: rcdony.org/mysteryeucharist

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, 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

YAM DAY OF REFLECTION

Saranac Lake – Young Adult Day of Reflection to be held.

Date: Sept. 25

Time: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Place: Guggenheim

Features: A day to rest, pray, socialize and deepen your faith, including talks by Father Matt Conger and the Young Adult Team, brunch, opportunity for confession, Mass with together with the College Students Retreat at the Point with Bishop Terry R. LaValley. Followed by dinner, and plenty of time for personal prayer, reflection, socializing and simply enjoy the peace and beauty at Guggenheim.

Contact: For more information and registration go to: rcdony.org/yamretreat

NOW PLAYING

PAW PATROL: THE MOVIE

NEW YORK (CNS) – Since premiering on Nickelodeon in 2013, the Canadian-produced cartoon series "PAW Patrol" has succeeded in gluing the eyes of many a tot to their TV or computer screens.

With the arrival of "PAW Patrol: The Movie" (Paramount), the titular rescue crew of pups bring their adventures to a multiplex near you. The result is a breezy, tenderhearted film suitable for all.

Led by preteen boy Ryder (voice of Will Brisbin), the team has traditionally served the small community of Adventure Bay. But when their long-time nemesis, egotistical politician Humdinger (voice of Ron Pardo), is corruptly elected mayor of the much-larger Adventure City, Ryder and his friends are summoned to the metropolis to cope with the series of potential disasters to which his incompetent scheming gives rise.

There, they gain the help of Liberty (voice of

Marsai Martin), an enthusiastic dachshund with an abundance of local knowledge. But their tasks are complicated by the self-doubts troubling Chase (voice of Iain Armitage), the German shepherd who serves as their policeman.

The script, on which director Cal Bruner collaborated with Billy Frolick and Bob Barlen, carries built-in lessons about the nature of heroism and the value of cooperation. Accompanying adults will recognize a subplot they include pitting clueless Humdinger against well-informed scientist Kendra Wilson (voice of Yara Shahidi) over a meteorological issue as a parable about climate change.

Really objectionable elements are nil. But the very smallest movie fans might be frightened by the dangerous situations our brave band – which also includes fire-dog Marshall (voice of Kingsley Marshall), aviator Skye (voice of Lilly Bartlam) and hard-hat Rubble (voice of Kee-

gan Hedley) – is called upon to resolve.

Cuddly for kids and pleasant for parents, this extension of a hugely successful franchise recalls the charm of puppies cavorting in a pet shop window. And yes, Patti Page, thanks to global merchandising, that doggie sure is

for sale.

The film contains characters in peril and brief, extremely mild scatological humor. The Catholic News Service classification is A-I – general patronage. The Motion Picture Association rating is G – general audiences. All ages admitted.



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For more information and to view the 2021 Bishop's Fund video, please visit www.rcdony.org/bfa

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

God's Word fulfilled in tense times

Ever since the terrorist attack at the World Trade Center, America has lived with fear and insecurity. This has steadily increased with the pandemic, and now with the terrible strengthening of the Taliban, Isis, Boko Haram and other terrorist organizations. Add to all of this increasing floods, fires and hurricanes, and it would seem that our world is spinning out of control.

In this Sunday's first reading from Isaiah, the times were also tense.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

Both the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel and Judea were in grave danger from Assyria. Hope seemed futile. But then God tells them, "Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes to save you..." Then He adds, "Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf will be cleared..."

Eight hundred years later, God's Son, Jesus, fulfills that prophecy, as Mark tells us in today's Gospel. Jesus is tired of the lack of faith

September 5

23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

Isaiah 35:4-7a

James 2:1-5

Mark 7:31-37

and the constant attacks of the Pharisees in Judea and Galilee, so He travels up to pagan territory called the Decapolis (the Ten Cities). Here people are delighted to see Him. They bring before Him a man who can neither hear nor speak, and they beg Jesus to heal him. Taking the man aside, the Master heals him. At this, the Gentiles proclaim that the

prophecy of Isaiah has been fulfilled through Jesus, saying, "He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

God's word is always fulfilled. It may take a long time, but His power will always come through. In our own day, we need to pray harder and believe more strongly that God can heal the brokenness of our society, crush the evil that threatens, and restore peace and justice in our land. The price, of course, is for us to work harder for the poor and destitute, to relieve the poverty which has reached alarming proportions in our country.

That often means sacrificing some of our own possessions. After all, God usually favors the poor. As St. James teaches us in today's second reading, "Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that He promised to those who love him?" On Judgment Day, we will be happy to be counted among those who have little, rather than with those who have gathered much of the goods of this world but have failed to share them. For those in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, an excellent way to share is through this year's Bishop's Fund!

CALLED TO SERVE

The tale of three deacons and a bat

There are things clergy do not learn in seminary or deacon formation. I do not recall a class in toilet repair. "Deacon, the toilet is running and won't stop." That usually comes about five minutes before Mass is to begin from a well-intentioned parishioner.

I heard a pastor lament once at a meeting that the first thing he had to deal with after becoming a pastor for the first time was a faulty furnace. "I didn't become a priest to fix furnaces!" was his comment.

Deacons are formed through intensive study as well as practical experiences and mentoring. The formation program builds on the four pillars of formation: *Human*, developing your personality so that it is a bridge and not an obstacle in helping others encounter Christ; *Spiritual*, establishing and nurturing the practices that advance your personal relationship with Christ and your commitment to the Church and its mission in the world; *Theological*, intensifying

your knowledge of the faith, tradition and the doctrine of the church, through intensive, systematic study; and *Pastoral*, developing your capacity for ministry to others; witnessing the Gospel to all, especially the poor, needy and those on the fringes of society.

The National Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States doesn't mention bats.

I read somewhere that bats are by nature gentle animals. They do not attack people. People get into trouble with bats when they attempt to pick them up. Any wild animal is going to act defensively when someone attempts to pick it up.

Uh huh. Tell that to the screaming mothers and

pregnant women I tried to calm down during baptism prep many years ago as a bat joined the class. "Class dismissed," I belatedly over the bedlam. Class was almost over anyway. The bat found its way into the church. In one of life's great ironies, we found a bat, maybe the same one, dead in the baptismal font



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

the next day. Bring up bats in a clergy meeting and you will get several dozen whoppers of personal encounters in the Lord's house. Bishop Terry R. LaValley told us the other night about his encounter with a bat in the sacristy of the cathedral when he was rector. "Deacon Spike Bateman knocked him down with a broom handle!" Bishop marveled at that accomplishment.

Three deacons tried to down a flying bat in Clayton recently. The deacons were making sure all was ready for a post-funeral luncheon when the bat flew into the parish center. I won't mention names but Deacon the Youngest told Deacon the Newbie to knock the bat to the floor. "They won't move once they are on the ground." Wrong.

Deacon the Newbie popped the senior deacon's wife in the head with a mop during his frantic flailing. She wasn't hurt.

The bat eventually flew into the church and Deacon the Senior shooed it out the door.

A day in the life. I probably would have slept through that class anyway, if it was offered.

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown.

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

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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

Well wishes for students, schools

This has been a long and trying few years for all of us, and our school systems have been particularly hard hit. Teachers and administrators have had restructure and rethink how they were going to continue teaching our children in a safe yet effective manner.

While things haven't always worked out as planned, plans have had to change last minute, and new unforeseen challenges have arisen in the midst of every other hardship, they have risen to the challenge. They have done their best to keep our children both safe and educated.

This school year is starting off much the same as the last, and while things aren't looking up, it does not mean that this year won't provide many opportunities to grow in ways that none of us could imagine.

The Lord works in mysterious ways, and the Mission Office would like to wish all teachers and students returning to school in the coming weeks a healthy and fulfilling school year – whatever it is that school year brings.

We are especially thankful to the faculty and staff of our Catholic schools for their continued commitment to spread knowledge and the faith to the youth of our diocese.

For more information on the Mission Office' Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) "children helping children" appeal, please visit <https://www.rcdony.org/mission-office.html>.



Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will. [rcdony.org/mission](https://www.rcdony.org/mission)

OBITUARIES

AuSable Forks – Barbara Elizabeth (Cave) Benway, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 26, 2021 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Brownville – Stanley Joseph Wojtarowicz, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 26, 2021 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Brownville Cemetery.

Champlain – Roger Coulombe; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 21, 2021 at St. Mary's Church.

Croghan – Linda M. (Zehr) Gerow, 69; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 27, 2021 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Fort Covington – Leta Catherine (Russell) Collette, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 26, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Bombay.

Morrisonville – Kevin P. Juneau, 65; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 17, 2021 at St. Alexander's Church.

Norfolk – Margaret A. "Peg" (Belgarde) Smith, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 26, 2021 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Mark S. Amo, 62; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 27, 2021 at Notre Dame Church.

Ogdensburg – Marlene J. (Wisnowski) Morrissey, 82; Funeral Services Sept. 11, 2021 at the LaRue & Pitcher Funeral Home; burial in Hillcrest Cemetery, Heuvelton.

Plattsburgh – Herman Gerald Brunelle, Sr., 83; Funeral Services Aug. 27, 2021 at R.W. Walker Funeral home; burial in Plattsburgh Community Mausoleum.

Potsdam – Sergeant Ryan P. Shelly, 45; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 24, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Watertown – Kathryn S. (St. Amour) Marshall, 99; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 27, 2021 at Holy Family Church.

Watertown – Adolfo L. Prieto, 66; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 27, 2021 at Holy Family Church.

Watertown – Mary L. Clemo Smith, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 31, 2021 at Holy Family Church; burial in North Watertown Cemetery.

Celebrate your favorite priest in the

NCC PRIEST APPRECIATION ISSUE

Join the North Country Catholic in honoring the special priests in your life. The NCC will be honoring our priests in the Sept. 29 issue of the paper.

Priesthood Sunday will be Sept. 26

We invite you to send a message to your pastor, spiritual advisor or priestly friend.

\$20 - a 1 column X 2 inch ad with a short message (e.g., Father Smith, we appreciate your service, from the Jones Family)

\$40 - a 2 column x 2 inch ad featuring your message, a photo or graphic design

\$135 - Quarter page ad

\$250 - Half page ad

\$475 - Full page ad

If you have a specific budget that is not listed we can design an ad based on that.

If you would like your ad in color please add \$25 (The North Country Catholic provides design services)

Must be returned to the NCC by Sept. 20, 2021

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New faces, new sports at Immaculate Heart

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

WATERTOWN – The new school year will feature new faces at Immaculate Heart Central School.

"We have a fair number of new teachers this year," said Rob Paskill, IHC's director of Advancement & Marketing. "It's pretty typical to have some turnover. We have a very strong Catholic base right now, which is nice."

IHC will also host 12 international students for the 2021-22 school year, up significantly from last

year.

"I'm housing two myself," Paskill said. "We're really looking forward to having the international community be a part of our school. We feature the flags from their home countries in our cafeteria."

In addition to the new international students, Paskill said IHC will have a number of new students joining its ranks this year.

"Enrollment is up," he said. "We've been pushing to get the school's name out there, especially in the military community. Our enrollment is almost at

400 for this year. We were down in the low 300s last year. It's nice to have the new families."

Paskill said the new families seem to be drawn to the school by its record of safety during the pandemic, its strong academic programs and the school's increasing ability to offer sports programs.

"The enrollment is so large in the lower grades, we had to move grade six to the high school to make room," Paskill said. "We have 40 kids coming into kindergarten. The middle school is now completely in its own wing. The families saw that we have the space to maintain distance and still offer in-person education five days a week. Some families are concerned about how their child was faring with the online learning or hybrid set-up. With the Delta variant and all the other things going on, they don't want to risk it. They came to us with the hopes of being in school five days a week."

Toward that goal of staying open, Paskill said IHC, like other schools, will be requiring all students, teachers and staff to wear face coverings. Three feet of distance will be maintained between students in the classroom, and that distance will increase to six feet when students are eating. The school will also continue monitoring temperatures, conducting extra cleaning protocols



Enrollment at Immaculate Heart Central has grown this year, partly due to the school's ability to maintain in-person education five days per week last year.

and limiting sharing of classroom supplies.

To offer more sports, Paskill said IHC has been developing partnerships with other entities and schools.

"We offered the Black Rock Soccer Academy," he said. "We had 12 boys from all over the world in the dorm at St. Anthony's – formerly the rectory. Our soccer coach, Craig Wilkinson, started that program within the last couple of years. We're trying to foster the soccer community, including our international students. We're seeing positive results from it. It's open to our students and non-students in the local community. The community has been great about accepting our students for some sports, and

we accept other students for soccer and hockey.

This year, Watertown is taking our kids for wrestling, and lacrosse is going to be with Indian River. We haven't had those offerings in recent years, and those were very positively received. We continue to work to develop those partnerships with the community."

Also new to the school this year, a new priest will be seen wandering the halls and popping into religion classes.

"Father Matt Conger has been a blessing," said Paskill. "He looks forward to coming and being part of the school day and having a presence here. Father Mickey (Demo) has been great to us, and he does as much as he can, but he's pulled in many different directions. Father Matt is all in, and he's really excited about it."

Paskill said the IHC community is looking forward to "an awesome year."

"We look forward to having the students back in the building, and we look forward to our new students, new teachers and new sports," he said.

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