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DOVS DAY AWAY



The Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society (DOVS) had its annual day or reflection at the Lodge at Guggenheim recently. Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, a Sister of St. Joseph and future diocesan Vocations coordinator, gave a brief talk on charisms and asked each to think of their own charisms given to us by God to be given away in service.

NEW CONVENT IN LISBON



On Sept. 15, Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated Mass with the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod at the sisters' new convent in Lisbon. Sisters living in the new convent – currently Sister Maria Flavia D'Cost and Sister Shine Devis – will serve at St. Joseph's Nursing Home in Ogdensburg. The sisters living at the convent were joined at the opening Mass by Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod from Cadyville and Watertown, diocesan Episcopal Delegate for Religious Sister Bernadette Marie Collins, a Sister of St. Joseph, and Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, Sister of St. Joseph. Father Joseph Morgan and Father Kevin O'Brien concelebrated the Mass.

FULL STORY, PAGE 16

Pope: Leadership is distorted by thirst for power

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis praised Catholic lay movements and associations for living out the Gospel in their everyday lives and for promoting education, social support and evangelization in the world's peripheries.

They show how "we don't have to wait for a priest to come, for the priest to evangelize or a missionary," he said, applauding the way many movements have reawakened the understanding that all the baptized have the duty to evangelize and be a missionary church.

However, just like the

world's religious orders and congregations, the pope said, lay movements and associations of the faithful are just as susceptible to abuses and problems, all of which stem from an abuse of power.

All associations, not just some or just the large ones, must learn what good governance entails, he added.

The pope spoke Sept. 16 in the Vatican's synod hall to people taking part – online and onsite in Rome – in a meeting organized by the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, focusing on the issue of responsi-

ble governance in lay movements and associations. Participants included "moderators" of associations of lay faithful, movements and new communities.

The pope told them: "To govern is to serve. The exercise of governance within associations and movements is a topic that is particularly close to my heart, especially considering – what I said before – the cases of different kinds of abuse which have occurred in these situations, too, and that they always find their roots in the abuse of power."

"This is the cause – the abuse of power," the pope said.

The issue of abuse of power and good governance is so close to his heart that the pope's already lengthy original talk of four pages became five pages as his off-the-cuff remarks expanded on particular points, offered explanations and provided colorful examples.

For example, to hammer home the toxic nature of entrenched leadership that refuses to prepare future leaders to take the reins, the pope recalled one religious institute

whose members surreptitiously referred to their leader as "Odiobilia," that is, "hateable," instead of her actual name, "Amabile," which meant "lovable," because, he said, "they realized that woman was 'Hitler' in a habit."

There are two obstacles to the call to use leadership as a way to serve others: the desire for power and unfaithfulness to one's vocation as a Christian, that is, leading a double life that is no longer dedicated to God, but to other things, which always include money, he said.

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Something you don't hear every day

It's a whole day of hearing and saying what would normally seem like crazy sentences.

"Can you help me carry this coffin? Nanny needs it."

"Hand me that ribcage, please!"

"We need to move the electric chair to get to the outhouse."

"What's going to be easier: carrying the 12-foot skeleton through the intersection or having dad move it with the tractor?"

Long-time readers of this column may have guessed it, but Saturday was my family's annual Halloween decorating day.

Every September, my

mother designates a day for what we refer to as "the build," and my sisters and their families, and my family and I descend upon my parents' home in Bombay



Darcy L. Fargo

to install the majority of a really large Halloween display (it's actually two separate scenes; there's one on each side of their home). My parents also go all out for Christmas, and we have a similar build day in late November or early December, but the Halloween build is bigger and more labor intensive.

While these decorating days are generally fun times with family, those weird sentences we get to say during

them are probably my favorite part. It would be very difficult to keep track of the number of times someone says some variation of, "there's something you don't hear every day," or "I don't think other grandmothers ask their grandchildren to... (carry their skeletons, add blood to their guillotine, dig a very shallow grave)."

At least to me, it's the uncommon sentences and uncommon conversations that typically stand out as meaningful in my memory. That's true of Halloween build day, and it's true of life in general.

Thinking back over the last few months, there are a number of conversations I've had with friends, family, a beloved mentor and trusted advisors/professionals that

stand out in my memory. These conversations stand out because they weren't typical, especially in this secular society. They're conversations in which these people in my life have uttered phrases like, "have you taken it to prayer?" or "don't forget that God is with you, helping you through this," "is this God's will or yours?" or "can I pray with you about that?"

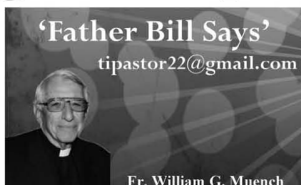
As Christians, we're called to share God's love with the people around us. We don't have to do it in huge ways. We can do it with simple, uncommon sentences – sentences that have the power to resonate with those that hear them.

And there's nothing crazy about that.

Gathering with priests of the diocese

Last week, I attended the yearly priest's convocation for all the priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. As a rule, this meeting is usually held in the spring of the year. The problems caused by the covid resulted in the cancelation of the meeting the past year. This year's meeting was now in September.

Let me take a little time today to tell you about this convocation. The first and possibly most important reason for all of us, priests, is that we get together for a day or two. This is the most enjoyable experience is spending some time with all the other priests of our own diocese. It has been over several months since I had last seen many of my brother priests. This diocese spreads out across the North Country, so our priests are spread out in their various parishes. There are a few celebrations for us to get together – like at our Cathedral Church for the Chrism Mass each Holy Week – however, this is only for



Fr. William G. Muench

the Mass. This convocation gives us the opportunity to spend a few days together with each other and with our bishop. This gathering strengthens the unity of the diocese. All the Catholic Church is truly represented.

One of the high lights of this annual convocation is the opportunity to celebrate the Jubilee Anniversaries of certain priests. This is an important occasion – we celebrate the ministry and service of those who were ordained 25 years, 40 years and 50 years. Personally, I do remember the year of my fiftieth anniversary. My classmates and I who were ordained 50 years before were celebrated at the convocation that year. It was rather great to have all the priests celebrate us.

Part of the convocation each year is to invite a speaker, usually an outstanding expert in some important field of interest to all the priests. I remember not too long ago that Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the archbishop of New York was our speaker. I must admit he gave several very meaningful talks. Over the years, there have been many fine speakers at our convocations.

And, of course, our own bishop, Bishop LaValley, spends time at this convocation to share with all the priests important messages about diocesan matters and also concerns of the Catholic Church Universal. I know the bishop is always open to private conversations with one of the priests. This convocation is a unique opportunity for each of us, priests, to seek out some private time with the bishop.

I do want to assure you that this convocation has plenty of time for prayer. Each session during the day

is begun with a prayer. And, of course, there is the celebration of Mass each day. One Mass is an opportunity to celebrate and remember this year's Jubilarians, and there is a prayer service to remember in prayer those deacons and priests who have died during the past year. Each priest is encouraged to spend some time in personal prayer in the chapel before the Blessed Sacrament.

Often, the convocations allow for time for the priests to get together – sort of some free time – to hike, to play golf, to visit something of interest nearby, or just time to hang out together to renew a friendship or to develop a new friendship among the priests of this diocese. This has become rather valuable in recent years with the international priests serving and ministering in our diocese.

Did I mention that usually the committee makes certain that the food is rather good also?

Meet the soon-to-be deacons

OGDENSBURG— In two Masses scheduled a week apart, Bishop Terry R. LaValley will ordain 14 men to the diaconate.

Through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, Bishop LaValley will Ordain to the Order of Deacon Randy N. Besio, Gerald F. Bouchard,

Brent M. Davison, Daniel G. LeRoy, Michael A. Lieber, Jr., Kenneth L. Lushia, Roderic O. Roca, Lee M. Trudeau, Robert S. Uttendorfsky, Noel D. Voos, Mark T. Webster and Peter J. Wooschlager on Saturday, Oct. 2, at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

The ordination is open to the public, and it will also be livestreamed at rcdony.org/ordination.

A week later, on Saturday, Oct. 9, Bishop LaValley will ordain James P. Carlin and Leagon J. Carlin to the Order of the Deacon at 10 a.m. at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh,

New York.

James Carlin will serve as a permanent deacon, while his son, Leagon, is a seminarian for the Diocese of Ogdensburg and will be a transitional deacon.

That Mass will also be livestreamed at rcdony.org/ordination.

Current COVID protocols

will be in effect at both Masses.

Below, meet some of the men who are scheduled to be ordained to the diaconate. Other candidates will be featured in future editions of the *North Country Catholic*.



Brent Davison

Family: Wife, Nikki Davison; children, Kayleigh Raville, Jordan Deno, Brendan Davison, Evan Davison, Marissa Davison, James Davison and Timothy "Joey" Davison; and several grandchildren.

Parish: Currently attend worship at Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh.

Background: Retired from U.S. Army National Guard. Four years active duty, 12 years U.S. Army Reserves and four years VT National Guard. Currently a captain in the New York State Police. Have worked there for approximately 25 years. AAS in Criminal Justice from Clinton Community College and Approximately 20 credits from the University of Virginia through the FBI National Academy Leadership Program.

How have you changed through your participation in the formation process? During my formation, my relationship with our Lord has grown stronger as well as the bond between myself and the men who also attended the Deacon Program. I gained a solid background in our faith and continually discerned my calling to the Permanent Diaconate.

How will you serve your parish as a deacon? I will serve my parish in the liturgy of the Mass, as well as through the outreach and catechesis programs.

What are you looking forward to about your new ministry? As someone who has served my country and my community, I look forward to serving Christ and his Church. I look



Lee Trudeau

Family: Wife, Lisa, and sons, Connor and Luc
Parish: St. Augustine's North Bangor & St. Mary's Brushton

Background: Bachelor's Degree in Secondary English/Education (SUNY Potsdam), Master's in Special Education (SUNY Plattsburgh), Pre-Theology Certificate (Wadhams Hall), and two years of graduate theological studies. I've worked as a Special Education Teacher in Malone for 32 years and have recently retired.

How have you changed through your participation in the formation process?

I've read that we never stay in one place in the spiritual life: we're either growing or declining. The deacon formation program has allowed me to increase my knowledge about the Catholic Church and also to grow a lot in my personal faith. The teachers and fellow Deacon Candidates have been great; I've been blessed to spend the last four years with them.

How will you serve your parish as a deacon? God always has a lot of surprises for us. Right now I'm helping out with our religious education program. I suppose that other roles will come about according to the needs of our parishes. I'm sure there will be some surprises!

What are you looking forward to about your new ministry?

The Catholic communities of Brushton and North Bangor have a lot of great people. I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone better and walking our faith journey together.



Peter Wooschlager, OFS

Family: Wife, Kathy, and children, Adriana (28), Lillia (25), Clare (22), Timothy (19)

Parish: St. Stephen's, Croghan

Background: 34 Years as a Public School Music Teacher (primarily a High School Band Director). Bachelor of Music (Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam), Master of Science in Music Education (University of Illinois), additional credits from Salzburg College, Austria (University of Miami), Youth Ministry Certification (Franciscan University at Steubenville).

How have you changed through your participation in the formation process?

Through my time in the Diaconate Formation Program, I have grown stronger in my faith, much deeper in my spirituality and more knowledgeable of the many aspects of life as a Deacon. I spend more time in prayer, at Mass and before the Blessed Sacrament. All of this has impacted my work within the parish.

How will you serve your parish as a deacon? I look forward to continuing my work with music ministry, youth ministry, and catechesis while beginning my responsibilities at Mass.

What are you looking forward to about your new ministry? I look forward to assisting our pastor, Father Donald Manfred at liturgies and with all other aspects of parish life where needed. It will be an honor and privilege to serve the people of St. Stephen's parish as a Deacon.



James Carlin

Family: Beth and I are the proud parents of three, Sarah Carlin Favro (Matthew), John Carlin, and Leagon Carlin, and the grandparents of three beautiful children Colin, Addison, and Lucy-
Parish: Holy Cross Parish, Plattsburgh

Background: I have a BA in Political Science from Plattsburgh State University and have been the owner of Centennial Abstract Company, Inc. since 1997 with offices in Clinton, Essex, and Franklin Counties

How have you changed through your participation in the formation process? Through the studies, fellowship and experiences shared with my classmates, the formation program has helped to deepen my faith in and relationship with Christ. Going into the program, I did not have a great appreciation for the scripture. Over the last four years, my increased appreciation and understanding of scripture have been a key to my growth in understanding and living my faith.

How will you serve your parish as a deacon? I hope to continue to work with our community meal and continue to help teach in the Confirmation program. I'm also open to any other areas of service needed in our Parish and the Diocese.

What are you looking forward to about your new ministry? I'm looking forward to seeing where God will take me on this continued journey. He has already taken me places I thought I'd ever go and I'm excited to see where He leads me next.

Grant, schools deliver books to kids

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

OGDENSBURG—While one of Dolly Parton's most famous tunes focuses on "9 to 5," The Healthy Families for a Hopeful Future (HFHF) program in diocesan Catholic schools is partnering with the singer's foundation to focus on providing reading materials to children from birth to age 5.

Through HFHF, Diocese of Ogdensburg Catholic schools are offering subscriptions to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which "is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books free of charge to children from birth to age five, through funding shared by Dolly Parton and local community partners."

Program participation was proposed by diocesan Assistant Superintendent of Schools Karen Donahue, and the program is administered by family support coordinators of the Healthy Families for a Hopeful Future program located in each diocesan school.

"Through the generous support of the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, we are able to offer this program to children aged birth to 5 years residing near one of our schools," said Donahue. "Our goal is to build fam-



ily-based literacy experiences that help young children develop a love for reading and prepare them for kindergarten. As we have come to understand these early experiences build a strong foundation for early elementary school education. We support and encourage parents to sign up their children and to foster the age-old tradition of reading together at home. The books offered are grouped by chronological age, so each year offers unique books to their readers. Books are chosen by an independent committee that includes renowned children's authors, writers and experts in the field of child development. Strict guidelines

ensure books are age appropriate, wholesome, and contain positive messages. All children receive The Little Engine That Could as their first book, along with a letter from Dolly Parton. After that, they receive one book a month until their fifth birthday. They receive a special final book and a letter from Dolly Parton congratulating them on becoming readers and encouraging them to continue to explore the world of books."

The HFHF program will also offer community programs for parents/guardians/grandparents and their young children focusing on readiness and reading. We are consulting with Pre-K teachers and local librarians and hope to partner with them.

"We'll be reaching out to families in our communities – not just our school families – to get kids from birth to aged 5 signed up for the program," said Michele Lallier, Coordinator of the diocesan Dolly Parton Imagination Library initiative. "After they sign up, children will

receive an age-appropriate book every month until they turn 5. So, if a child is signed up at age 3, he or she will receive a book every month until age 5."

Books are sent directly to the child's residence. Families with more than one child under age 5 can receive one book each month for each child.

"There are designated books for each age group," Lallier said. "If a family had twins registered, they'd receive the same book every month, because it's based on age. If a family had kids at different ages, they'd get different books."

Family support coordinators are reaching out to families in their communities in a variety of ways, Lallier said.

"Some have events planned at their schools, and they'll be reaching out to families during those events," she said. "Some are putting brochures in doctor's offices or partnering with local libraries that have preschool groups. Some are partnering with hospitals to provide brochures in the gift bags they send home with new babies. Some are reaching out through local head start programs."

All families are invited to participate regardless of income.

"I have a teaching background, and my master's degree is in reading and language arts. In my family, we've seen it in our own children and grandchildren; being introduced to books as infants made them more verbal and does so much for brain development," said Lallier. "Many children don't have books in their

homes, and they may not be introduced to books until they're in school. This is a great program! It brings books into homes. We're really excited to participate, and we're grateful we've had grants to help provide these opportunities."

The response to the program has been enthusiastic thus far.

"We're just starting, and we already have more than 60 children registered," Lallier said.

As the partnering agency, the Diocese of Ogdensburg will cover the cost of shipping the books to participating families.

"The Dolly Parton Foundation assumes the cost of book purchased," Donahue explained. "They also handle shipping and handling expenses. Initial funding for this local program is provided by the Healthy Families for a Hopeful Future program grant from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation. We welcome donations from local groups and individuals to purchase subscriptions for children aged birth to 5 years old. We hope local organizations and church groups will be willing to donate to this effort, as there are many children aged birth to 5 years old living in the diocese. We have the potential to impact their lives in such a positive way."

To register a child to receive books through the program, contact your local diocesan Catholic school and ask for the family support coordinator.

Learn more about the Dolly Parton Imagination Library at imaginationlibrary.com.



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Watertown parishes choose new name

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon
Contributing writer

WATERTOWN – The Pastoral Council of three of the four Watertown parishes has chosen “The Blessed Sacrament Parish” as the name for its linked parishes.

The council picked the name from four submitted to parishioners earlier this month.

“The Blessed Sacrament is the body and blood of Jesus Christ and is His real presence in the form of bread and wine,” said Father John M. “Mickey” Demo, pastor of St. Anthony, St. Patrick and Holy Family in Watertown. “The name celebrates that important belief among Catholics and proclaims our faith and trust in our savior, Jesus Christ.”

Father Demo has been Pastor at Holy Family in Watertown since June 1, 2019. On July 8, 2020, Bishop Terry R. LaValley announced that Father Demo would become pastor of St. Anthony’s and St. Patrick’s in addition to Holy Family. Father Demo was formally installed by Bishop LaValley as pastor of those two parishes on August 30, 2020, during a Mass at St. Patrick’s.

“Think of the new name as an umbrella,” Father Demo said. “Each of the churches in The Blessed Sacrament Parish will retain its name and identity. St. Anthony’s Church is one of the worship sites in Blessed Sacrament parish, for example.”

In the future, the linked parishes will become one.

“Eventually the parishes, now officially linked under one pastor, will be merged. That’s a



St. Patrick's Church



Holy Family Church

legal step, a corporate step if you will,” Father Demo said. “Each church will retain its traditions, its unique charisms and its name.”

The merger of the three parishes was first announced in 2016 when Bishop LaValley accepted a proposal from a local study group for a pastoral plan for the parishes. It was part of the diocesan Living Stones initiative.

The Living Stones Planning Committee presented a plan of parish configuration to Bishop LaValley in August of 2016. That plan included suggestions for the linking or merging of certain parishes in the diocese. The proposal to merge the three parishes in Watertown was part of that plan.

Similar mergers and the adoption of a single name have already occurred in Plattsburgh, Malone and

Massena.

“We will begin calling ourselves Blessed Sacrament Parish in the near future,” Father Demo explained. “Actual merger is still a long way off, but we have already started acting like a single parish. The Pastoral Council includes elected representatives from all three churches. We have had a common business office for years. We have combined our Catholic Youth Formation, Christian Initiation process, weekly bulletin and many liturgical services already. We recently moved some of our ministries into the former St. Patrick’s school on Massey Street.”

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, the fourth Watertown parish, will not be part of the merger.

Although a diocesan parish, Sacred Heart is staffed by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, not diocesan priests.



St. Anthony's Church

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Environmental Stewardship

What breaks your heart?
Call to action part II

Each day we become more aware of the pain and suffering of our sisters and brothers resulting from the sickness caused from the pandemic and the sick of our planet caused by human activities. How do we respond? Where to begin and what to do, as the suffering is so immense? In the Gospel Jesus, who must also have been overwhelmed at times with the suffering he witnessed, seemed to listen to His heart and act in accordance. We might ask the same question: What breaks my heart the most as I witness the devastation of our earth and its effects on all of God's children?

Perhaps our first response may be like that of the religious Brother who took the newspaper to Chapel. When asked by a fellow Brother why he did it, he responded, "So that I know what to pray for today!" Lifting up in prayer those in pain and suffering can be a powerful response to our hurting world today.

However, our prayer intentions need to find ways to flow into our actions. While we can't heal the whole world, we can do one thing today that can allow the light of God's love shine in our world today. In his encyclical, *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home*, Pope Francis presents us with a perspective on our world today illuminated by our faith and he provides us with concrete ways to respond. He calls us to an 'ecological conversion.' This conversion calls us to see the 'cries of the poor' and the 'cries of the earth' not as separate issues but one intricately intertwined. As noted in last week's column the Vatican has called every parish, youth organization, religious congregation, university, etc. to join the *Laudato Si* Action Platform. This plan provides us with concrete markers on how to measure our response to this urgent call to action.

Suggested action:

Read and discuss with others *Laudato Si* – available on-line from USSCB web site or order a copy. Group Discussion Reading Guide entitled: *On Care for Our Common Home* by Bill Huebsch is available from Twenty Third Pub.

Bishop's Public Schedule

Sept. 22 – NYS Catholic Conference of Bishops Meeting in Douglaston, NY

Sept. 23 – NYS Catholic Conference of Bishops Meeting in Douglaston, NY

Sept. 24 – Noon – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

Sept. 25 – 11 a.m. – Confirmation at St. Mary's of the Fort Church in Fort Covington with The Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River

4:30 p.m. – Mass at the Campus Ministry Retreat at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake followed by Dinner

Sept. 26 – 2 p.m. – Blue Mass at St. Andre Bessette (at Notre Dame Church) in Malone

Sept. 29 – Noon – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

Rest in Peace

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

Sept. 22 – Rev. John McDermott, 1870; Rev. Pierre L'Esperance, M.S.C., 1942; Msgr. John Michael Hogan, 1951

Sept. 23 – Rev. P. Phillips, 1872; Rev. Marcel Dupont, M.S.C., 1982

Sept. 24 – Rev. John Talbot Smith, 1923; Rev. Leo Staves, O.M.I., 1994; Rev. Jude Belisle, 1994; Deacon Reginald F. Merrill, 2005

Sept. 25 – Rev. Frederick P. Shue, 1989

Sept. 26 – Rev. Francis Van Compenhandt, 1880; Rev. Stephen Royet, M.S.C., 1933; Rev. Michael F. Gallivan, 1939; Rev. Joseph Ludger Desjardins, 1941; Rev. Earl Mayo, 1994; Msgr. Francis A. White, 2007

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.

Funeral Mass planned for Deacon Edward A. Wight

QUEENSBURY – A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated for Deacon Edward Allen Wight at 11 a.m. on Sept. 25 at St. Ann's Church in Wells. Burial will follow in the parish cemetery.

Deacon Wight, 80, passed into the arms of the Lord on Monday, September 13, 2021.

Ed was born August 16, 1941 in Amsterdam, NY, the son of the late Charles "Charlie" and Elizabeth "Betty" (Craig) Wight.

He graduated from Wells Central School and Buffalo State College. In 1962, he married his high school sweetheart, Wendy Sage at St. Ann's Church in Wells.

Ed and Wendy made their home in Long Lake, where he was an Industrial Arts Teacher at Long Lake Central School for 30 years. He wore many hats at LLCs including Driver's Ed Teacher, soccer coach, bus driver and Assistant Principal.

Ed loved the Adirondacks and said it was "God's Country."

He was an avid outdoorsman, having learned to



Deacon Edward A. Wight

hunt and fish at a young age with his grandfather, Hiram cdlig. Ed was a Lion's Club member and vital part of St. Henry's Parish in Long Lake.

He was ordained a deacon in 1983 and served as the Parish Administrator of St. Henry's as part of his ministry. He was the Children of Yahweh Youth Group leader and active in Marriage Encounter.

Deacon Wight also operated various businesses. He sold his pottery at Ed's Pot Shop in Long Lake and later opened Creations Plus, a craft consignment shop featuring the work of many artists including his own. He also operated Northern Delight ice cream and fast food shop in Long Lake.

When he retired from teaching, he and Wendy moved to Bath, where he

built a new Creations Plus business and sold many one of a kind creations featuring his wood crafts. He moved to Queensbury in 2014. He loved to play pool at the Queensbury Senior Center with his pal Frank.

Ed is survived by his daughter Kelly (Carol Baker); and their children: Maria, David, Peter and Jackson, son Scott (Karen) and their son Brennan, daughter Lynn (Donald Stonier); and their sons: Stephen, Paul and Daniel; six great-grandchildren; his brothers: Paul, Bruce (Bonnie) and Glen (Patty); and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and his wife Wendy.

At Ed's request there will be no calling hours. Arrangements are in the care of the M.B. Kilmer Funeral Home, Fort Edward.

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
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 Serv-
ice** at 800-276-1562 or
www.ReportBishopAbuse.org.

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

The moral analysis of boxing

In 1996 when Muhammad Ali lit the Olympic flame on international television, the issue of sports-induced brain damage was raised to new prominence. One of the greatest boxers in history, his evident frailty and overt Parkinson's tremors led many to question the sport of boxing and its future. Since then, countless other athletes, not only from the world of boxing, but from football, hockey, mixed martial arts, soccer and beyond, have shared tragic stories of debilitating sports-related concussions.

Although many sports involve the risk of unintentional injuries, boxing for many raises the issue to an entirely different level. Indeed, it is important for us to inquire about the intended purpose or goal of boxing.

Literature describing the ancient practice of the sport of boxing makes it clear that Greek athletes sometimes suffered permanent injuries or even died during tournaments. During Roman gladiatorial boxing events, they basically fought to the death. Any sporting activity where the declared goal would be to kill one's opponent would, of course, automatically raise serious moral objections.

Modern boxing has no such goal, though certain elements of bodily harm and violence continue to characterize the sport, with an average of 10 boxing deaths occurring each year since 1900. Among the more serious forms of harm that can occur from competitive boxing is physical damage to the brain. From January of 1960 to August of 2011, for example, 488 boxing-

related deaths were reported, with approximately 65 percent of those deaths involving grave neurological damage.

If the goal of a professional boxing match is "just" to knock out the opponent to gain victory, the purpose of the competition itself still raises moral concerns, because participants are striving to inflict potentially serious harm to their opponent's brain by causing a concussion, a type of traumatic brain injury.

Suffering a concussion can result in a panoply of symptoms and problems, including fuzzy thinking, painful vision, harmful reactions to light, difficulties with memory and learning, and loss of the ability to focus. Sometimes repetitive brain trauma can result in progressive neurodegenerative disease with significant symptoms arising years later, including dementia.

Our ability to recognize and understand traumatic brain injury is continuing to improve with time. Several proteins, released by nerve cells when they are damaged following a concussion, can often be detected as "fluid biomarkers" either in the blood or in the cerebrospinal fluid. Testing for the presence of these proteins can aid in identifying and confirming even mild traumatic brain injuries that may not be obvious on first assessment.

Neurologists, of course, are among the first to emphasize that a concussion represents a serious medical condition. Treatment

options generally remain limited, and tend to include the need for extended time to allow the neurological impairment to heal.

Young athletes can be so desperate to compete, nevertheless, that they will say they are fine after suffering an injury even when they are not, and seek to return to the competitive event. A second insult to the brain, without allowing for full healing of the first, can significantly increase the risk for prolonged symptoms.

Considering the intensity of competitive pressure, particularly among young people who may have a limited ability to consider the consequences of their actions and the potential future effects of injuries, the question arises whether there isn't a broader moral obligation in the community to "save players from themselves" and for those around them to refrain from applying undue pressure to perform on young athletes. Regrettably, undue pressure to participate sometimes arises

from parents and coaches, and outside mediators are sometimes needed to assure that young people's best interests are protected.

One element of responsible gamesmanship in today's sporting events involves the development and use of appropriate gear to protect athletes from accidental harm. Another involves the establishment of rigorous penalties for players and teams that intentionally seek to cause harm to their opponents during competitions and tournaments.

For the sport of boxing, however, such measures reveal a contradiction. If one were to completely protect a boxer, for example, with appropriate body padding to avoid injury, the sport would lose much of its energy and appeal, since causing injury is central to the process of engagement. If one were to be penalized for intentionally seeking to harm the other boxer, as may be done for other sports like hockey, again, boxing would become eviscerated of much of its core.

There are obvious meritorious considerations to boxing, like the intense

training, personal discipline, and resilience involved, all of which are clearly valid on their own terms. St. Paul even uses the analogy of boxing to describe the way we should exercise heroic discipline in the Christian life (1 Cor 9:25-27).

But while there are various elements that can attract us to the sport, the violent goal of the engagement remains gravely problematic at a moral level. The sport of boxing not only risks serious impairment and even death, but poses many uncomfortable questions for us regarding our own appetites as spectators, and our willingness to allow for certain elements of brutality and even barbarism in the practice of sporting events.

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



Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk Ph.D.

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Abortion is nothing to celebrate

By Kathleen M. Gallagher
 Director of Pro-Life Activities
 New York State Catholic Conference

In response to the new Texas law that protects unborn children from abortion after their hearts begin to beat, New York State politicians appear to be somewhat hysterical. They held a political event in New York City earlier this month, blasting the law as “shocking,” “draconian” and “dangerous.” They whooped and hollered and cheered New York’s forward-thinking on the issue of abortion.

New York’s new governor, Kathy Hochul, joined US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, US Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and scores of state legislators for the occasion. Governor Hochul called the Texas law “grotesquely unfair” and vowed to ensure that New York would be a “safe harbor” for anyone seeking abortion. She laid out a series of steps she plans to take, including the development of a patients’ “Bill of Rights for Abor-

tion Care.” Seriously? Is there anyone in the country who doesn’t know that New York is the Abortion Capital of the world? New York legalized abortion three years before Roe vs Wade, has one of the highest abortion rates of any state, and expanded its abortion law in 2019 to allow abortions to be performed by non-doctors, even through the ninth month of pregnancy. There are effectively no restrictions on abortion here, and abortions are virtually



Kathleen Gallagher

free of charge – Medicaid pays for them for women who are poor, and commercial health insurance policies are forced to cover them, with no co-pays allowed.

The 2019 Reproductive Health Act (RHA) specifically codified a pregnant person’s fundamental right to choose to either carry the pregnancy to term and give birth, or have an abortion. Where is the NY Bill of Rights for women who choose to give birth? Shouldn’t they be informed of where they can get good prenatal care, the health insurance to cover it, and child care for their babies? Why is abortion always considered the highest good?

No woman celebrates

abortion the way New York politicians did when they lit up state buildings upon the signing of the expanded abortion law. Or the way they just did in Manhattan as they engaged in political posturing to see who could be the most pro-abortion elected official on the planet.

Abortion is a tragedy for both mother and child. Science makes clear that abortion ends the life of a developing human. It’s not the same as losing an appendix or losing your tonsils. People may disagree on the level of protection a developing unborn child deserves in law, but for the sake of women and the agonizing decisions they sometimes face, let’s not pretend that abortion is a societal good to cheer about at a political rally.

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www.northcountrycatholic.org

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

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Visit us on the web at:
www.rcdony.org/bfa

Clip and Mail to:
 The Bishop's Fund Appeal
 PO Box 150
 Ogdensburg, NY 13669

CLINTON

HARVEST DINNER

Chazy – Sacred Heart Parish will be having their Harvest Dinner.

Date: Sept. 26
Time: 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: Adults, \$12; Children 5-12, \$5; under 5, Free; all take-outs, \$12
Menu: Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, turnip, corn, coleslaw, cranberry sauce, rolls and butter, plus beverage. Apple or pumpkin pie.

Features: Take a moment to shop our "Sinners' Den" where you will be tempted by sinfully delicious treats and take a chance on our raffle.

TURKEY DINNER

Lyon Mountain – St. Bernard's and St. Edmund's to have a turkey dinner.

Date: Sept. 26
Time: Noon to 4 p.m.
Place: Lyon Mountain American Legion Post #1623

Cost: Adults, \$12; Children 6-12, \$6; 5 and under, Free
Contact: For more information call 518-594-3907, 518-578-2638 or 518-593-2052

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.

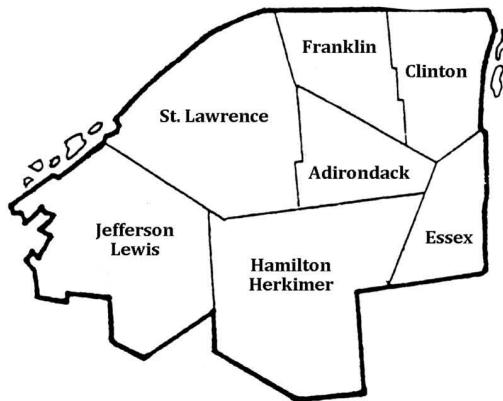
JEFFERSON-LEWIS

BASKET RAFFLE

Houseville – St. Hedwig's Church to have their Annual Basket Raffle.

Date: Oct. 10, 17, 24 and 31
Time: Noon to 1 p.m.
Features: The Raffle baskets will be on display and tickets will be available for sale after the celebration of the 11 a.m. Mass. No tickets will be sold during Mass. Tickets are \$1 each, or \$5 for 6 tickets. One silent auction item will be available- a hand-crafted Shaker-style cherry coffee table by Ed Knapp. On Oct. 31, we will have the drawings for the baskets at 1 pm, following a bake sale.

Contact: If you wish to donate a theme basket, baked goods or make a monetary donation to St. Hedwig's Society contact: Elaine 315-486-5532, Lydia 315-348-7006, or Mary Ann 315-348-6260.



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.

EXPLORING THE SOJOURN WITH CHRIST IN THE EUCHARIST

Watertown - The Commissioned Lay Ministers Association of the Jefferson-Lewis Deanery is excited to announce the fall event, Exploring a Sojourn with Christ in the Eucharist.

Date: Oct. 14
Time: 5:15 p.m. Mass following a dinner and presentation by Deacon Tom Yousey
Place: St. Anthony's Church
Cost: Dinner \$13 per person
Contact: Register at www.rcdony.org/clm-event. The deadline to register is Oct. 7.

ST. LAWRENCE

PRAYER AND ADORATION

Massena – Commissioned Lay Ministers are invited to gather for Adoration and Rosary.
Date: Every third Wednesday of the month (Oct. 20)
Time: 6:30 to 7 p.m.
Place: Sacred Heart Church

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 con-

DIOCESAN EVENTS

tact 315-769-2469 or www.masse-nacatholics.com
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 with Bishop Terry R. LaValley. Mass to be followed by dinner, and plenty of time for personal prayer, reflection, socializing and simply enjoying the beauty and peace of Guggenheim.

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

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: The entire New York

North Country Community is invited to join in prayer for the safety and well-being of all first responders and public safety personnel. Current COVID protocols will be observed.
Contact: For more information contact, Father Chris Carrara 315-605-1039 or ccarrara@rcdony.org

YOUTH OVERNIGHT

Saranac Lake – Youth Leadership overnight retreat to be held.
Date: Oct. 1, 5 p.m. to Oct. 2, 6 p.m.
Place: Guggenheim
Cost: \$49 per teen (Overnight dorm, meals and special gift)
Features: God created each of us intentionally, out of love, and for a purpose. Our hearts search for God and will not be content until united with Him. During this retreat, we will embark on the search for God together. It is easy to look to Google for answers, but only God reaches into our lives and gives us a personal response. During this overnight youth retreat we invite teens into a relationship with God by encouraging them to ask the big questions about the purpose of life and answering them with the Gospel Message. Along the way, they will have a ton of fun while enjoying a true "camp" experience. We have a full line up of activities planned and special guest Music Ministry leaders and presenters, MJM7. MJM7 is a Catholic family band.

Contact: For more information about COVID regulations and how to register go to www.rcdony.org/leadership.

DEACON ORDINATION

Ogdensburg – You are cordially invited to join us at the Deacon Ordination Mass of Mr. Randy N. Besio, Mr. Gerald F. Bouchard, Mr. Brent M. Davison, Mr. Daniel G. LeRoy, Mr. Michael A. Lieber, Jr., Mr. Kenneth L. Lushia, Mr. Roderic O. Roca, Mr. Lee M. Trudeau, Mr. Robert S. Uttendorfsky, Mr. Noel D. Voos, Mr. Mark T. Webster and Mr. Peter J. Wooschlager.
Date: Oct. 2
Time: 11 a.m.
Place: St. Mary's Cathedral
Features: The Ordination Mass will also be livestreamed at www.rcdony.org/ordination. Please note this may be subject to change due to COVID-19.

MARRIED AND RELIGIOUS JUBILEE

Ogdensburg – The annual Jubilee Mass

to be held.
Date: Oct. 3
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Place: St. Mary's Cathedral
Features: The Mass is to honor the Religious Sisters for their decades of service to the Church and all married couples celebrating anniversaries (from one year and up). Family and friends of the honorees are welcome to attend. Bishop LaValley will host a light reception immediately following Mass in the Brzana Hall.
Contact: Couples only please register for the Mass through your parish or register at https://www.rcdony.org/jubilee by Sept. 24, 2021. For further information, please contact Steve Tartaglia at (315) 393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org or Sister Bernadette Collins, SSJ at (315) 393-2920 or bcollins@rcdony.org.

LIFECCHAIN

Stand up for life. Join in the annual peaceful, prayerful, public, pro-life witness. Rain or shine. All faiths welcome.
Date: Oct. 3
Locations: Plattsburgh, Potsdam, Saranac Lake
Time: 2:30 p.m. to 3:30
Features: Signs provided. Lifechain practices social distancing.
Contact: Visit Lifechain.net for more info.

DEACON ORDINATION

Plattsburgh – You are cordially invited to join us at the Deacon Ordination Mass of Mr. James P. Carlin and Mr. Leagon J. Carlin.
Date: Oct. 9
Time: 10 a.m.
Place: St. Peter's Church
Features: The Ordination Mass will also be livestreamed at www.rcdony.org/ordination. Please note this may be subject to change due to COVID-19.

VIRTUAL LEAD EVENT

Catechetical Leaders and Catechists, Update your Parish Faith Formation Program, with information from the New Directory of Catechesis. Keep current in today's social environment.
Date: Oct. 23
Time: 9:45 a.m. to Noon
Contact: Register on-line at www.rcdony.org/lead and a zoom link will be provided. Questions, contact Anita Soltero asoltero@rcdony.org



Stand up for LIFE at this year's LIFECHAIN SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

Join in the 34th annual peaceful, prayerful, public, pro-life witness to the sanctity of life. Rain or shine. All faiths welcome.

LOCATIONS

Plattsburgh - Smithfield Blvd at Route 3
2:30 p.m. to 3:30

Potsdam - Market Street at Main Street
2:30 p.m. to 3:30

Saranac Lake - Bandshell Park at River St.
2:30 p.m. to 3:30

For information about the LIFECHAIN in your area:
www.lifechain.org



Foster Grandparent Program-

The Foster Grandparent Program's Purpose is to provide opportunities for low income persons aged 55 and older (that reside in Franklin, Clinton, Essex, St. Lawrence, and Jefferson Counties), to provide person to person services in health, education and the welfare of children ages 21 and below. Foster Grandparents are placed in a classroom setting with children who need development of basic learning skills, to provide friendship, and unhurried help. You'll also receive a small non-taxable stipend bi-weekly that can not be held against any current benefits you may have. You also get paid mileage for your travel and you receive paid holidays, vacations, sick and personal leave. If this is something that would interest you please call Melissa Howard @ (518) 359-7688.



RSVP

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Franklin Counties purpose is to provide meaningful opportunities for older Americans ages 55 and older. RSVP shows you how you can apply the skills and wisdom you've acquired throughout your life to make a positive difference in the lives of others by placing volunteers in home-bound and hard to reach areas, so that we can make a tangible difference in your community. We offer insurance, mileage reimbursement and there's no set hours, just the time you are willing to make for others. If this is something that would interest you please call Melissa Howard @ (518) 359-7688.

QUIET TIME WITH BOOKS



Middle School students at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga spend time growing their reading skills early in the 2021-22 school year.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

DIOCESEAN YOUTH COUNCIL

Become a DYC member and be part of something great! The Diocese of Ogdensburg Diocesan Youth Council (DYC) is a group comprised of members in grades 10-12 who live in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Each member serves on DYC for a one-year term (members are able to re-apply annually to serve

for up to three total terms).

Features: The purpose of Diocesan Youth Council is twofold:

1. Members will grow in spiritual development and leadership skills so they may take a more active role in their local parishes, particularly in youth ministry efforts on the local level.
2. Members will help plan and facilitate diocesan-sponsored events (youth rally, Lenten retreat days) and help promote diocesan-sponsored events (youth rallies, Camp Guggenheim, March for Life, regional events, Catholic Heart Work Camp, etc.)

Diocesan Youth Council is an opportunity to grow in leadership, build friendships, and have fun. It is also a significant responsibility, requiring maturity and commitment. Applying to DYC should be taken seriously and with prayerful consideration.

Contact: Thomas Semeraro at tsemeraro@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920 for full requirements to join.

SIDEWALK ADVOCATES FOR LIFE

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

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

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

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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Donation called expression of affection for Paris cathedral

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington has collected and donated nearly half a million dollars to assist the restoration and rebuilding efforts of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, which was extensively damaged in a fire two years ago. The donation was made Sept. 16 during a Mass celebrated by Washington Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory in the national shrine's Crypt Church. He called the gift to "our sisters and brothers in France" for the cathedral's repair "an expression of our deep affection and support as they continue the restoration of Notre Dame de Paris. Our local response (to the blaze) in the United States of America was to join millions of people in pledging to help to restore this world treasure," Cardinal Gregory said. Cardinal Gregory was the principal celebrant of the Mass.

Church leaders frustrated by lack of progress in nuns' murders

JUBA, South Sudan (CNS) – One month after two Catholic sisters were executed on a road in South Sudan, their killers remain unidentified, and church leaders are losing patience with an apparent lack of progress in resolving the murder. In a Sept. 15 pastoral message, the country's bishops stated that they "condemn unreservedly" the Aug. 16 killing of Sacred Heart Sisters Mary Daniel Abud and Regina Roba, who died with several others during an attack on their chartered bus on the road between Juba and Nimule. While government leaders quickly condemned the killings, they suggested responsibility lay with a rebel group with which they've been at war since 2013. Survivors of the attack, however, reported the killers wore military uniforms and spoke Dinka and Arabic, suggesting that they were government soldiers. On Aug. 17, President Salva Kiir said the attack demonstrated the lack of commitment to peace among those who did not sign a 2018 peace agreement, and thus the government would "reconsider its position" toward ongoing talks, with the holdout groups mediated by the Community of Sant'Egidio. While the bishops called for forgiveness, they demanded that the killers be "identified and held to account."

Vatican publishes letters to rabbis

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis has not devalued the Torah and does not question the fact that the Torah is crucial for modern Judaism, Cardinal Kurt Koch told two prominent Jewish leaders. "Pope Francis fully respects the foundations of Judaism and always seeks to deepen the bonds of friendship between the two faith traditions," wrote the cardinal, who is president of the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations With the Jews. The cardinal's remarks were in response to concerns and requests for clarification regarding a catechesis the pope gave during an Aug. 11 general audience talk on St. Paul's teachings regarding the role of Mosaic law for non-Jewish Christians. The cardinal's remarks were contained in two letters published Sept. 10 on the website of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, which the cardinal also heads. The letters, whose main text was the same, were addressed to Rabbi Rasson Arussi, chair of the commission of the chief rabbinate of Israel for the dialogue with the Holy See based in Jerusalem, and to Rabbi David Sandmel, vice chair of the New York-based International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations. The two rabbis had both written separately to the cardinal in August, expressing similar concerns that the pope had seemed to suggest in his audience talk that Jewish law was obsolete.

Maryknoll Sisters celebrate century of ministry in China

WASHINGTON (CNS) – It was 100 years ago – on Sept. 12, 1921 – when the Maryknoll Sisters assigned its first group of sisters to China, the order's first mission.

One sister has been there nearly half that time, 49 years to be exact. To mark the 100th anniversary, Maryknoll Sister Michelle Reynolds spoke on a panel detailing the situation in China during the sisters' general council in Maryknoll, New York.

"Many of the sisters were asking what is happening in Hong Kong," where she's ministered since 1972, Sister Reynolds told Catholic News Service in a Sept. 13 phone interview during a break at the general council.

Sister Reynolds, from Saugus, Massachusetts, said she was attracted to Maryknoll for two reasons: Her father always had a copy of Maryknoll magazine around the house, and her own inclination toward religious education led her to discern a vocation with Maryknoll.

She has been a member of the order for 60 years, including four years teaching in New York City's Chinatown district.

As with seemingly nearly everything else in life and society, so much has changed since she first was assigned to Hong Kong.

When she first went, the people Sister Reynolds worked with were "in a little village parish," she said.

"Many of them had been refugees out of mainland China. They were extremely poor. Their living conditions were little one-room cottages. My first 10 years I worked in that

parish," Sister Reynolds said. "But the people were very strong as a community and very close to the point that even now, after all those years, I will have contact with many of them."

From that village parish, Sister Reynolds moved to an area where the government had "reclaimed the land and demolished all their homes so they were all relocated into high-rises – and so I moved with them, and continued in the parish for a couple of years and so got more or less stable," she said.

"Then there was a request for someone to work in the 'new territories,'" living and working close to Hong Kong's border with mainland China, Sister Reynolds added. "For myself, I was initially open to whatever the needs were. So that's why I said when I moved out to the new territories, it was a whole area that was developing. So I was happy to be there."

She remembers fondly the "pastoral sisters' association" of Maryknollers and nuns from other religious institutes ministering on Hong Kong.

"We used to make trips kind of regularly up to (mainland) China. We would connect with other religious communities there. We were a kind of support group, whether they needed support for their schools or what have you," she told CNS.

There are eight Maryknoll Sisters currently ministering in Hong Kong, although one has been stuck on the Chinese mainland for the past year due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Sister Reynolds said there also are five

Maryknoll priests present, including one who teaches at a university in northern China.

"There was more communication back and forth with the pastoral groups. But now a lot of that has been stopped because of COVID," she said.

As for her own communication methods, "I speak Cantonese and I've studied Mandarin, so sometimes I can follow conversations. But when I open my mouth Cantonese comes out instead."

Now, at age 80, Sister Reynolds is retired. If you can call it that.

"Being retired, I'm responsible for a diocesan building. We have groups coming for activities," she explained. "We are open to the village using the space. We have a little chapel for occasional liturgies. We've got catechumen classes. Besides that, because of my previous connections with Catholic schools in the area, I'm on the board of the Independent School Management Committee."

"That's being retired!" Sister Reynolds said with a hearty laugh.

She has been on U.S. soil since July, and expects to return to Hong Kong in mid-October.

Beyond the changes in ministry over the past half-century, much has changed in Hong Kong itself in just the past few years.

"The situation has very much deteriorated" since then, she said. The season of mass demonstrations in Hong Kong over a proposed extradition law and related issues "was a very difficult period," she said. "When I left, things were still very much in a state of turmoil."

Court to hear case on religious schools barred from Maine choice program

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The Supreme Court is going back to school this term.

The justices are taking up a challenge by two sets of parents in Maine against a state education department rule that lets families who live in towns without public schools receive public tuition funds to send their children to another public or private school as long as it's not a religious school.

By mid-September, religious liberty groups had weighed in with amicus briefs in support of these parents who wanted to use state funds to send their children to Christian schools in the state.

The parents took their case to federal court, arguing that the program violated their constitutional rights.

The case, *Carson v. Makin*, will decide the future of tuition reimbursement for schools with a religious affiliation and is likely to be a key decision in the future of government oversight and parental choice in education.

The state program currently remains in place because it was upheld by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 1st Circuit, which said religious schools could be excluded because state funds would go toward religious instruction.

In a similar case last year, the Supreme Court ruled in *Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue* that states are not required to subsidize private education, but they can't exclude religious

schools from receiving tuition funding simply because they are religious.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops praised the *Espinoza* decision, which they said "means that religious persons and organizations can, like everyone else, participate in government programs that are open to all."

The Maine case looks at an issue that wasn't resolved in the *Espinoza* case: Does a state violate the Constitution with a program that provides students with money to attend private schools but bars them from attending schools that provide religious instruction?

On Sept. 10, the Notre Dame Law School Religious Liberty Initiative filed an amicus brief on behalf of elementary and secondary schools from three faith traditions – Catholic, Muslim and Jewish – in support of the Maine parents.

The groups represented in the brief are Partnership Schools, a group of nine Catholic schools in New York and Cleveland; Council of Islamic Schools of North America; and the National Council of Young Israel.

Nicole Garnett, a law professor at Notre Dame Law School who signed the brief, said in a statement that the "protection of school choice in the form of tuition reimbursement programs is a fundamental right for American families."

She also called the gov-

ernment's blocking of tuition reimbursement for religious institutions "a direct violation of this constitutional standard."

Becket, a religious liberty law firm, also filed an amicus brief in this case Sept. 10 that emphasized states have had a long history of excluding religious institutions from public benefits, often because of the Blaine Amendments passed during a time of anti-Catholic sentiment in the last 19th century.

It pointed out that the Supreme Court has long recognized that the Constitution prevents laws that burden religious beliefs or actions just because they are religious. The Becket brief also noted that in the *Espinoza* case, the court ruled Montana couldn't single out religious schools for exclusion from its state scholarship program.

"It's not right to target religious parents, students and schools for a denial of government benefits," Diana Thomson, senior counsel at Becket, said in a statement.

"The Supreme Court has said that schools cannot be excluded for their religious status – that should have been enough" she said. "But now it should clarify that this rule includes schools that want to actually teach the faith to their students."

A date for oral arguments in this case has not been given. The court begins its new term, in person, Oct. 4.

Pope: Handle Communion debate as shepherds

ABOARD THE PAPAL FLIGHT FROM SLOVAKIA (CNS) – The debate about denying Communion to politicians who support abortion must be handled in a pastoral way, not by public condemnations that seek to "excommunicate" Catholics who are not in line with church teaching, Pope Francis said.

During his return flight from Bratislava, Slovakia, Sept. 15, the pope said that while there is no question that "abortion is homicide," bishops must look take a pastoral approach rather than wade into the political sphere.

"If we look at the history of the church, we can see that every time the bishops did not act like shepherds when dealing with a problem, they aligned themselves with political life, on political problems," he said.

The pope told journalists that when defending a principle, some bishops act in a way "that is not pastoral" and "enter the political sphere."

"And what should a shepherd do? Be a shepherd. Not going around condemning," the pope added. "They must be a shepherd, in God's style, which is closeness, compassion and tenderness."

"A shepherd that doesn't know how to act in God's style slips and enters into many things that are not of a shepherd."

The pope said that he preferred not to comment directly on the issue of denying Communion in the United States "because I do not know the details; I am speaking of the principle" of the matter.

During their virtual spring general assembly in June, 75% of U.S. bishops approved the drafting of a document, addressed to all Catholic faithful, on eucharistic coherence. During long discussions on the document before the vote, several bishops specifically pointed to President Joe Biden and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., who are Catholic, for not actively seeking to end legal abortion, and they said such politicians should be denied Communion.

When asked if he had ever publicly denied Communion to someone, Pope Francis emphatically said, "No, I have never denied the Eucharist to anyone; to anyone! I don't know if someone came to me under these conditions, but I have never refused them the Eucharist, since the time I was a priest."

But, he added, "I was never aware of anyone in front of me under those conditions that you mentioned."

Recalling his apostolic exhortation, "Evangelium Gaudium," the pope said that "Communion is not a prize for the perfect," but rather "a gift, the presence of Jesus in his church and in the community. That is the theology."

Global initiative seeks to 'unlock' Catechism

WASHINGTON (CNS) – When is the last time you cracked open the Catechism of the Catholic Church? Odds are, it's sitting on your bookshelf collecting dust.

A new global project, Real + True, seeks to "unlock" the catechism and modernize the way church teaching is presented to a digital age.

The catechism "is not just a technical book," said Real + True co-founder Edmund Mitchell, "but it's written to really change our relationship with Christ."

Launched Sept. 7, the initiative includes videos, social media content and a podcast organized along the four pillars of the catechism. Each month a new unit will be released, with 12 units for each pillar, totaling 48 units.

Aimed at millennial and Generation Z audiences, the content is meant to supplement evangelization and catechesis efforts that already exist as well as be a resource to those seeking answers to questions online, said co-founder Edmundo Reyes.

The material is free and available on realtrue.org in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French.

Reyes said the inspiration for Real + True came six years ago in Portland, Oregon, when he encountered BibleProject, a nonprofit organization with a library of resources to help people read and understand the Bible.

While the organization isn't Catholic, he was impressed by their work, which he'd "never seen done in a church setting." After learning about BibleProject's creative process, he came back "with the hope of one day doing something similar with the church."

When Reyes returned home, something unexpected happened. He started watching BibleProject's videos on his phone and three of his children joined him.

"They kept saying, 'let's watch the next one, let's watch the next one.' And at the end my son said to me: 'Dad, I feel I learned more about my faith from those videos than all my years of religious education,'" Reyes said.

"That moved me in two ways," Reyes said. "One is a bit of sadness of like man, I'm letting my kid down here, but also a lot of hope that the message that we proclaim, the Gospel message, it's truth and it's beauty and it's attractive in itself. We just need to be able to communicate that message in a way that is relevant to them, in a way that they can understand it."

The church is moving in the direction of an "evangelizing catechesis," said Reyes, citing the example of Pope Francis instituting the ministry of the catechist in May and the Vatican updating the "Directory for Catechesis" June 2020. He sees Real + True as participating in that evangelizing catechesis.

Reyes quoted the catechism, which states: "Periods of renewal in the church are also intense moments of catechesis." And with the 30th anniversary of the catechism next year, the time seemed ripe to launch the initiative.

A video with more information about the Real + True project can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zMlc-2-RyQE>



CNS PHOTO/KERRY BROWN, AMAZON

Camila Cabello and Nicholas Galitzine star in a scene from the movie "Cinderella." The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

NOW PLAYING CINDERELLA

NEW YORK (CNS) – Writer-director Kay Cannon's screechy romance "Cinderella" (Amazon) is an obnoxious corruption of the classic folk tale, the most familiar version of which was penned by French writer Charles Perrault in the 17th century.

A so-called jukebox musical, the film recycles songs originated, among others, by Queen and Madonna. The result is aesthetically unimpressive and morally off-kilter.

Camila Cabello plays the namesake character. In this take, Cinderella aspires to become a fashionable dressmaker, but finds her ambition thwarted by the wildly retrograde view of a woman's proper role that prevails in her fictional, quasi-medieval society.

Cannon thus sets up what is, in a contemporary Western context at least, a largely irrelevant straw

man – something between a truculent Taliban and the ghost of Bobby Riggs – for her righteous feminism to overturn.

As Cinderella battles both the misogyny of her world at large and the oppression to which she's subjected by her stepmother, Vivian (Idina Menzel), she captures the heart of handsome Prince Robert (Nicholas Galitzine). Adrift, but determined to find true love, the heir to the throne is as uneasy with his prescribed role in life as Cinderella is with hers.

As she's about to miss out on the big ball at the palace to which Prince Robert, while wandering around incognito, has invited her, Cinderella is rescued by the Fabulous Godmother (Billy Porter), a flashily attired transvestite anxious to fulfill her every wish.

Between Porter camping

it up and the central couple's later decision to live together rather than marry, this is obviously not fare for children. Wrong for kids, it's a wilted fantasy likely to strike even grown-ups as rancid.

The film contains sexual references, including to cohabitation, a cross-dressing character and several mild oaths. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG – parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Considering leaderships

No matter how good a leader is, many people will grumble and complain about his leadership. In today's first reading from the Book of Numbers, Moses was discouraged at all the complaints he receives from the Israelites. "If only we had meat to eat," they cried. God, seeing Moses' frustration, decides to lighten the burden of leadership. He pours the divine Spirit also on 70 elders who will share Moses' authority. Now, two of the elders were not present at the



**Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore**

ceremony but received the Spirit anyway. When they began prophesying on their own, Moses' young assistant, Joshua, became envious. "Moses, stop them!" he cried. To Joshua's surprise, Moses praised the two and told Joshua he wished everyone had that gift.

Jesus, in today's Gospel, teaches the same lesson. When a few of his disciples complained to Jesus that some, not of their company, were driving out demons, Jesus, like Moses, rebuked his fol-

September 26

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Numbers 11:25-29

James 5:1-6

Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48

lowers for being so exclusive. "Whoever is not against us, is for us" became Jesus' rule for his Church.

Years ago, many pastors did not welcome help from the laity. Often, they did not even allow their priest assistants to use their talents and their energy to the fullest. Those days are gone forever. With the current priest shortage, the help of dea-

cons is absolutely essential to the smooth running of a parish. In addition, we have many hundreds of the laity who have trained and commissioned as lay ministers. Pastors now urge all Catholics to take seriously their baptismal consecration and become active in church ministries.

Those who respond are welcomed with open arms as they learn how to visit the sick and shut-ins, how to teach the beautiful truths of the Gospel to our children, and how to work with our youth, to name just a few.

By opening up the apostolate, our Church is as-

sured of longevity. Christ promised to remain with it until the end of time, and that "the gates of hell" would not prevail against it. Our readings teach very clearly that the God never intended his church to be an "old boys club," but that all baptized Catholics have a right and an obligation to actively share in its role of teaching, governing, and sanctifying.

Under the guidance of our hierarchy, including bishops, priests, and deacons, may our parishes become ever holier, boldly proclaiming the Gospel, and witnessing to Christ's great love and concern for all.

CALLED TO SERVE

Preparing for ordination

I remember the weeks preceding my own ordination as relatively normal. That's probably because Kathy was doing all the work, like she usually does. My bride was making sure anything I was supposed to have with me was ready, and she was putting the finishing touches on the reception in Watertown the evening of the Mass at the cathedral.

My memories are probably the same, with slight

variations, as every bishop, priest or deacon who has received Holy Orders. The titles, bishop, priest and deacon, have been with us since ancient times. They constitute the degrees of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. St. Ignatius of Antioch is quoted in the Catechism of the Catholic Church as saying:

Let everyone revere the deacons as Jesus Christ, the bishop as the image of the Father, and the presbyters (priests) as the senate of God and the assembly of the apostles. For without them one cannot speak of the Church.

In the coming weeks, 14 men will be ordained to the degree, Order of Deacon, for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. They are trying to keep things in their

lives normal in these final days before ordination. They know, or should by now know, there will be nothing normal about their lives after they receive the sacrament and embark on the ministry they have been called to by God.

Twelve of the men will receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders from Bishop Terry R. LaValley during Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral on October 2. The following weekend, one of their classmates and his son will become deacons at St. Peter's in Plattsburgh. The father, James, will be a permanent deacon. His son, Leagon, is a seminarian who hopes to eventually become a priest of the diocese. His ordina-

tion will be to the order of deacon, but he is considered in transition to the priesthood. He will be called a transitional deacon.



**Deacon
Kevin Mastellon**

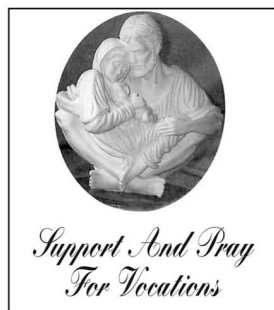
Permanent or transitional, the men are deacons. The Holy Spirit does not differentiate when the bishop lays hands on the candidate. The Catechism beautifully defines the order in number 1570:

The sacrament of Holy Orders marks them with an imprint ("character") which cannot be removed and which configures them to Christ, who made himself the "deacon" or servant of all. Among other tasks, it is the task of deacons to assist the

bishop and priests in the celebration of the divine mysteries, above all the Eucharist, in the distribution of Holy Communion, in assisting at and blessing marriages, in the proclamation of the Gospel and preaching, in presiding over funerals, and in dedicating themselves to the various ministries of charity.

Every one of us is called to ministry by God when we are baptized. Christ calls some of the baptized to ordained ministry. We are grateful these men have answered that call and pray for them and their families.

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



From the desk of Padre Juan

Editor's note: The following update was provided by Father John Halligan, a Jesuit, who serves with Lenity Project in Quito, Ecuador, and Sister Cindy Sullivan. Lenity Project is supported by the Diocese of Ogdensburg's Mission Co-Op.



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSI, Director
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mbrett@rcdony.org

Dear Folks,

With good reason, the Ecuadorian health authorities have been keeping tight control over any activities involving people's physical contact with one another. So, our Working Families Foundation's programs have had to adapt to strict restrictions. Our conferences about the moral values and our medical attention, distribution of food bundles and our helps to the kids with their homework and all such activities have been scheduled

at a one at a time family by family attention. Since the country is accepting international assistance, the whole populace will soon be vaccinated. So, we look forward to a very soon relaxation of the epidemic's regulations. Meantime we have all had the experience of staying still in contemplation of our surroundings here in Quito nestled in a high rugged range of the Andes Mountains. While fear of the epidemic has imposed taking many

special precautions, confidence in our Creator's providence has also soared. Our majestic surroundings inspire awe and participation in His shared existence and providence along with the rest of His creation. Even the increased number of ill-clad beggars and sellers of fancifully wrapped junk on all the streets reveals His presence with us. Half of those poor street persons are foreigners who have sneaked out of Venezuela

and Haiti. The half that is Ecuadorian miraculously befriend and do not resent the invaders of their gold mine income on the streets. So, a holy happiness still reigns.

But, of course, we can hardly wait for our chance to get back to our normal, full operations with our new foundation. We are in steady at-a-careful-distance contact with the more than fifty families who joined us before the virus became such a threat. And we have not only been planning full operations but have also been organizing new spaces and new furnishings. No matter that they ain't first class; they're ours and ready for use.

The new government here in Ecuador is all in favor of technical education in the trades and for good jobs. So, there won't

be any opposition from city hall. Also, we have fifty successful years of experience in helping poor people achieve jobs, salaries, self-confidence, and awareness of God's providence. We're sure that even before this year ends, we'll be full speed in that process. We have you on our side.

God Bless.

– Last week's article incorrectly identified the location of the Lenity Project's school Olympics project. That project was in Quito, Ecuador. The Mission Office would like to apologize for this error.

Please remember the Pontifical Mission Societies when preparing your Will. rcdony.org/mission

OBITUARIES

Alexandria Bay – Thomas J.

Bradley, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 17, 2021 at St. Cyril's Church; burial in St. Cyril's Cemetery.

Belfort – Barbara J. (Company)

Widrick, 61; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 16, 2021 at St. Vincent de Paul Church; burial in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery.

Brownville – Joan M. (Kempney)

Antonelli, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 17, 2021 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Canton – Donald "Jake" Corbine, 91;

Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 13, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in North Russell Cemetery.

Canton – Gloria (Shoulette) Spadacini, 89;

Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 13, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Parish Cemetery.

Chateaugay – Irving G. Monette, Sr.,

78; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 21, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Chateaugay – Shirley M. Wood, 80;

Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 24, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Colton – Bernice A. (Campbell)

Robert, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 14, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Colton – Sandra (Pryor) Snyder, 77;

Graveside Services Sept. 20, 2021 at Pleasant Mound Cemetery.

Louisville – Allan G. Wilson, 81;

Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 16, 2021 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Lowville – Gilbert M. "Gilly" Stoffle,

82; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 20, 2021 at St. Peter's Church.

Malone – Patricia Clar Dow, 69;

Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 18, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Ft. Covington.

Malone – Orin M. VanEss, 88;

Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 17, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena – Joseph B. Hull, 86;

Private services to be held.

Massena – John J. Ross, 61;

Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 13, 2021 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Mooers Forks – Daylord Richard

Trombley, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 18, 2021 at St. Ann's Church; burial Mooers Catholic Cemetery.

Norfolk – Louis J. Simmons, 60; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 22, 2021 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Mark Robert Mor-

row, 24; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 22, 2021 at Notre Dame Church.

Peru – Zoa Howard;

Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 15, 2021 at St. Augustine's Church.

Peru – Guy P. Rotz, 80;

Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 14, 2021 at St. Augustine's Church.

Plattsburgh – John F. "Jack" Jarvis,

92; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 20, 2021 at St. John's Church; burial in Divine Mercy, Cumberland Head.

Star Lake – Doris "Dory" (Hogan)

Brickey, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 16, 2021 at St. Hubert's Church; burial in Cranberry Lake.

Star Lake – Joseph J. Shene, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 20, 2021 at St. Hubert's Church; burial in St. Michael's Cemetery, Fine.

Ticonderoga – Kristy Marie Allen,

48; Graveside services Sept. 16, 2021 at Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Richard J. Papineau,

74; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 20, 2021 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Watertown – Patricia M. (Cannon)

McAuliffe, 91; Private Services to be held at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Frederick Z. Zimmer-

man, 77; Funeral Services Sept. 20, 2021 at Cummings Funeral Service, Inc.

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Sisters open new convent

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

LISBON—The Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod have been a familiar presence in the Diocese of Ogdensburg since 2009, but with the opening of a new convent in Lisbon, the community has expanded its ministry.

"We moved in the first of September, and we've been settling in," said Sister Maria Flavia D'Costa, a Sister of the Cross of Chavanod. "Sisters from Watertown and Cadyville came and helped us move and make the transition."

The sisters in Lisbon, currently Sister Flavia, a nurse, and Sister Shine Devis, a phlebotomist, will provide medical care and ministry to residents at St. Joseph's Nursing Home in Ogdensburg.

Sister Flavia said the new convent was established after Bishop Terry R. LaValley had expressed a desire to have more Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod working in the diocese to the community's provincial and mother general.

"At that time, Cadyville and St. Joseph's Nursing Home were on our list (of places where the community's presence was wanted)," she said. "The Cadyville community was formed. Our next target was St. Joseph's Nursing Home. We had sisters ready to come from India last year, but then COVID hit. Everything was at a standstill. Then, sisters with religious visas and nurses were able to work in nursing homes. After a change, only sisters with a green card could work in the nursing home. We had a sister in Cadyville who met that requirement."

On September 15, cele-



Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrates Mass to open the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod's new convent in Lisbon. Bishop LaValley was joined at the Mass by Father Joseph Morgan and Father Kevin O'Brien.

brated Mass at the new convent.

Sister Flavia said the sisters were initially scheduled to start orienting at the nursing home Sept. 20, but circumstances have required that start date to be pushed back.

"(Sister Shine's) father is in critical condition, so she's leaving tomorrow to see her father," said Sister Flavia. "(The sisters' start date) will now be dependent upon any restrictions related to international travel."

Sister Flavia, who has been serving as a hospital chaplain in Watertown, said she has a bit of anxiety about returning to nursing.

"I don't have anxiety about (COVID)," she said. "Being a nurse, we know how to protect ourselves. But having been a chaplain, I have a bit of anxiety about jumping from that ministry to this ministry."

She noted, though, that there's an element of ministry in nursing.

"With COVID, no family visits patients," she said. "For many patients, I was the only visitor. That really helped increase my skills. I'm a little anxious,

but I have faith and trust in God. When I was told I was going to be going to the nursing home as a nurse, it was ringing in my ears, 'my grace is sufficient for you.' It gave me the push I needed. Whether a chaplain there or a nurse here, God's grace is with you."

While Sister Shine is home visiting her father, Sister Flavia said she plans to return to Watertown to stay with the sisters in the community there. She noted, though, that she looks forward to continuing to transition to her new home.

"In the beginning, it was hard to come from Watertown," she said. "There, it's busy, busy streets, and you hear sirens. Here, it's so quiet. Here, you hear one train go by in the evening, and you hear Amish buggies. You don't hear them in Watertown, even though they're there, because it's so noisy. Here, you hear the horses running on the road. Lisbon is nice and small. The faith community — people have been so welcoming and so happy to have sisters among them."