

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Follow Me: Day of Healing and Reconciliation | PAGE 3

'You never retire from being a priest' | PAGE 7

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 76 Number 21

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS!



Father John K. Ojuok is currently serving as chaplain for the Little Sisters of St. Joseph in Nairobi. Father Ojuok returned to Kenya to visit and celebrate Mass with family and friends before starting his role as chaplain for the sisters. See the full story on Page 12.

SHARING THE EUCHARIST



Anita Soltero, assistant director of Faith Formation for the Eastern Region, presents "The Mystery of the Holy Eucharist: Believe. Celebrate. Live" in person at St. Agnes School in Lake Placid on September 17 while Bishop Terry R. LaValley participates via video. The presentation was part of a two-day event hosted by the diocesan Department of Education in locations around the diocese.

FULL STORY, PAGE 24

Share God's love, pope tells bishops

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Bishops and others in the Catholic Church often lament the declining number of Christians, but rarely do they examine their own behavior and failure to show others how much God loves them, Pope Francis told the presidents of European bishops' conferences.

"Consider how many people no longer hunger and thirst for God! Not because they are evil, but because there is no one to

awaken in them a hunger for faith and to satisfy that thirst in the human heart," the pope said Sept. 23 as he concelebrated the opening Mass of the plenary assembly of the Council of European Bishops' Conferences.

"So many people are induced to feel only material needs, and not a need for God," the pope told his brother bishops during the early evening Mass at the Altar of the Chair in St. Peter's Basilica.

"Certainly, we are 'preoccupied' by this, but are we really 'occupied' with responding to it?" Pope Francis asked.

"It is easy, but ultimately pointless, to judge those who do not believe or to list the reasons for secularization," the pope said. Instead, "the word of God challenges us to look to ourselves. Do we feel concern and compassion for those who have not had the joy of encountering Jesus or who have lost

that joy? Are we comfortable because, deep down, our lives go on as usual, or are we troubled by seeing so many of our brothers and sisters far from the joy of Jesus?"

The plenary of the Council of European Bishops' Conferences brought together the presidents of 33 national bishops' conferences and a dozen other Eastern- and Latinrite bishops from across the continent. The meeting Sept. 23-26 was to cel-

brate the council's 50th anniversary and review its service to the continent in the light of Pope Francis' encyclical, "Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship."

After the Mass, the bishops were to renew their profession of faith at the tomb of St. Peter and pray at the tombs of St. Paul VI, Pope John Paul I and St. John Paul II – the popes who accompanied the early years of the council's existence.

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLIC

Box 326

Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
USPS 0039-3400**BISHOP TERRY
R. LAVALLEY**

President

REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN

Vice President

JAMES D. CROWLEY

Secretary-Treasurer

DARCY L. FARGO

Editor &

Communications Director

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

(315) 608-7556

E-mail:news@northcountry
catholic.org**Entered at the****Post Office:**

Ogdensburg, NY

13669 and

additional mailing offices as
Periodical Postage.**Subscription:**

For one year:

In-Diocese Rate: \$27

Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication

should be

addressed to

PO Box 326

Ogdensburg, NY 13669

and should be received by

Thursday prior to

publication.

Paper is printed each

Monday;

deadline is Wednesday.

Member, Catholic Press

Association.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to

North Country Catholic,

PO Box 326

Ogdensburg, NY

13669-0326

He brought Jesus to me

He brought Jesus to me in the teachings he intelligently, articulately and patiently presented to me, teachings that combatted all the arguments I presented regarding why I had turned away from God and thought I was smarter than his Church. He helped me get to a point where I could be open to God's word, God's grace and God's love. He helped bring me home.

He brought Jesus to me as I watched him correct my son, who had made a mistake while serving on the altar. There was no anger in him. He was smiling. He was kind. He was simply happy Jake was trying to serve, and he made Jake feel welcome, appreciated and in-

cluded.

He brought Jesus to me when I wasn't in a good place in my life. He brought Jesus' mercy in the sacrament of reconciliation, and he brought Jesus – body and blood, soul and divinity – in the Eucharist. He brought Jesus to me in just his willingness to go out of his way to minister to me and in his calming, peaceful presence.

**Darcy L.
Fargo**

He brought Jesus to me by sharing his seemingly unending joy and his words of wisdom that often resonate with me, including wisdom delivered in very comical ways ("if you can't behave, at least keep it venial" is possibly my favorite advice

of the year).

So, who is he? He's not just one person. Each "he" is a different priest of our diocese whose ministry has brought me closer to our Lord. And these are just some of the stories I could tell from my life. I've seen countless other times priests of our diocese have brought Jesus to me and others either literally – in the Eucharist – or figuratively through their teaching, ministry, compassion and love.

Our priests do amazing things. They are the conduits through which God turns water and wine into the literal body and blood of Christ. They are vehicles of God's forgiveness in the sacrament of reconciliation. They instruct us. They guide us. They help keep the churches that nurture our faith run-

ning. They lead and participate in ministries that help the most disadvantaged among us, including the sick, the poor and the imprisoned. And that's just a short list of the amazing work our priests do. They do much, much more.

I appreciate our priests. We appreciate our priests.

One note: While we appreciate all our priests, there are some who aren't mentioned in these pages. Despite best intentions, people miss deadlines. People forget to submit their notes of thanks. Though they may not be mentioned, these priests are still appreciated and loved.

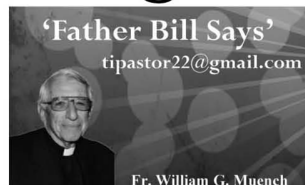
Please keep our priests in your prayers and don't forget to thank them for saying "yes" to God's call and the countless ways they help us all.

Appreciating the priests in my life

Today, I would like to join in with this week's issue on Priest Appreciation. Personally, when I think of Priest Appreciation, I think back to the priests who have influenced me during my life. I have found help and support from so many priests in my life. However, most of them are now with the Lord. I would like to tell you about a few of them.

When I was 10 years old, I remember that I spent time at Lourdes camp, a summer camp on Skaneateles Lake. I remember the priest chaplain was Father Shields Dwyer. I remember the day he invited me to go for a walk with him. That was the day that he took me aside to tell me that my mother had died.

As a priest, when I think of Priest Appreciation, first off, I think of the bishops for whom I served. Our diocese has had several bishops over my years as a priest. I want you to know I truly have appreciated their care and interest in our diocese. That

**Fr. William G. Muench**

certainly includes, Bishop Terry LaValley, our present bishop, a native of the diocese.

Over my years as a priest, there have been many priests that made a difference in my life. I truly appreciate them all. Let me look back with you.

First off, there is my first pastor after my ordination as a priest. That was Father Joseph Bailey. He helped me to realize all that it takes to be a good pastor of a parish. In addition, he challenged and helped me to become a good preacher. I must admit, he was a great influence on me and on my ministry as a priest, and he came along at the very beginning of my priesthood.

Okay, a few others: There

was my friend, Father Peter Riani, who truly helped me find the way. He was a fantastic theologian and a great teacher. So many times, he helped me understand some difficult idea. In addition, he taught me how to ski. I can remember many times he helped me with a presentation while riding up a ski lift. I so appreciate the many good times that he gave me, as well as the help and guidance.

Another friend who helped me to be a better person was Father Richard Sturtz. He was always prepared to listen and offer my advice, often a challenge on how to be a better priest and person. In addition, he shared with me his love of travel. I joined him on many wonderful trips. Even now, I continue to appreciate his guidance.

Then there was my friend, Father Bernard Kellogg, who added so much wise guidance to my life as well as a touch of humor. He came to my rescue many, many times. For this, I am so deeply appreciative.

Let me also mention my friend Father Tim Soucy, who brought joy and happiness into each day. He knew how to make time I worked with him – and all the days of his ministry as a priest – filled with peace and happiness. What a gift he was to my priesthood! For this, I am truly appreciative.

And they are all with the Lord now. Actually, my list is much, much longer. I have been blessed with so many great, even brilliant priests who have helped to make my life as a priest more alive. I continue to be so appreciative.

Let me also add that there are many priests now working in the diocese who I consider a powerful influence on my life, priests from whom I have learned so much about the priesthood, even as I grow older. I certainly must add them to my list of appreciation.

Thank you, Lord. You have enriched my life with such great priests.

GATHERING OF LAY MINISTERS

(Top) Jimmy Law, President of the St. Lawrence-Franklin-Adirondack Commissioned Lay Ministers (CLM) Deanery chats with Bishop Terry R. LaValley at the deanery's annual meeting, held at Guggenheim on Sept. 19. Both Law and Bishop LaValley gave presentations during the event. (Middle): Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrates Mass aided by Deacon John Fehlner during the St. Lawrence-Franklin-Adirondack Commissioned Lay Ministers deanery meeting. (Below) Law presented to fellow Commissioned Lay Ministers on the significance of their ministry and ideas about keeping and getting more CLMs involved.



FOLLOW ME

Day of Healing and Reconciliation

Editor's Note: On September 30, Canada will mark a National Day of Healing and Reconciliation to honor those impacted by the legacy of residential school.

As Roman Catholics, we believe that every person is born in the image and likeness of our God. We believe that every person has great dignity and value and is loved immeasurably by God from the moment of conception to that of natural death. We believe God calls us to reflect that

souls of the departed as we seek healing and reconciliation for all those impacted by these tragic deaths.

September 30, 2021 has been designated as a National Day of Healing and Reconciliation in Canada. Let us implore the Lord to



Bishop Terry R. LaValley

help us all find healing and peace in the face of hurt and tragedy. Particularly on this day, we ask God to help us grow in love of one another in our commitment to seeing and serving Jesus Christ in one another.

love – His love – in our relationships with others.

As I expressed in one of my previous columns in the *North Country Catholic*, we felt profound sadness upon the discovery of unmarked graves on the grounds of former residential schools for indigenous children. We continue to mourn and pray for the

We know that healing and reconciliation cannot be accomplished on a single day. Healing and reconciliation can be realized only through continual efforts in the search for truth and pursuit of justice. Our hearts go out, in a special way, to our friends and neighbors at Akwesasne. Blessed are those who mourn.

Msgr. Murphy,

Thank you for being so kind and caring to me during my time of need.


~Janice Egenhofer



Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

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

 Find us on Facebook!





Father Albert J. Hauser celebrated 40 years of priesthood on May 2 at St. Patrick's Church in Port Henry. Joining the celebration was, from left, Tom Yakalis, Father Joe Giroux, Father Howard Venette, Father Al Hauser, then-deacon/now Father Fernando Solomon, Father John Pietropaoli L.C., Dave Heywood. Tom Yakalis is currently a seminarian in the Albany Diocese; Dave Heywood was a high school classmate of Father Al's. The two served at the altar for the anniversary Mass. Father John Pietropaoli was present (in his parents' arms) for Father Al's Ordination and First Mass in 1981; Father Al was present when Father John was ordained to the priesthood and offered his First Mass in Rome in 2012.

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.

Bringing Jesus to others

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Staff Writer

CROWN POINT – “The priesthood is the heart of the love of Jesus.”

The words are St. John Vianney's, but they resonate clearly in Father Albert J. Hauser's reflections on his 40 years of priesthood. In fact, that truth helps to explain why he became a priest, and why after four decades he still finds joy in sharing that love with others.

“Back in the '60s, Catholic school students all thought about becoming a priest or religious: we used to write away for vocation materials,” Father Hauser said. “When, in high school, I talked to my parish priest about my interest, I was encouraged to go to college. There I met the Charismatic Renewal, which brought a new dimension to my faith as an adult. Meeting Jesus personally and experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit made me want to share that with others. At first that meant through Charismatic Renewal, then thoughts of priesthood grew stronger. I wanted to bring the living Lord, Jesus, to others.”

Since his ordination at St. Mary's Cathedral on May 2, 1981, the priest has never lacked for opportunities to do just that. Bringing Jesus to people in the sacraments was, and is, central and irre-

placeable: “The celebration of the Eucharist, in which Christ becomes present on the altar, body, blood, soul and divinity, is the very heart of my priesthood,” he said. “Similarly, Jesus' love and mercy are shared through the sacrament of reconciliation. It is so powerful to hear the confession of someone who's been away for 30 or 40 years! It is the parable of the Prodigal Son come to life to witness such love, mercy and joy, and to welcome that person back to the family home!”

Helping people to encounter Jesus in the sacraments is central to the life of a parish priest, and Father Hauser has had abundant opportunities for this in the various parishes and other roles in which he has served. He recalls his first assignment at St. Patrick's in Watertown.

“The pastor, Father James Ruddy, was a great model and mentor to a new priest,” Father Hauser said. “He also assigned me to offer morning Masses at the Precious Blood Monastery, which began for me a dear, rich and lasting association with the sisters.”

After a year in Watertown, Father Hauser was assigned to Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg for one year. For the next five years, he served both in the chancery and as secretary to Bishop Stanislaus

Brzana.

“He was such a humble man, with his quiet, unassuming holiness,” Father Hauser said. “I learned more about what it means to be a servant. I also got to know the priests and parishes of our diocese, which was especially important to me having come from Rochester.”

Father Hauser's next assignment took him to Rome for two years, where he studied biblical languages and biblical Theology at the Pontifical Biblical Institute and at the Gregorian.

“I have always loved the Scriptures, where God speaks directly to me,” he said. “To be able to study them and hear them in their original languages was awe-inspiring. To bring that to others has been one of my principal joys. In a unique way, I was able to share the power of God's word in our lives at Wadhams Hall, where I taught from 1990 to 2002.”

His Scripture studies also served Father Hauser well as director of the diocesan Worship Office, a role he held from 1990 to 2006.

“That position allowed me to share my love for the Liturgy of the Word in many venues, including Formation for Ministry, emphasizing how God speaks to us in the here and now,” he said. “For years I was involved with deacon formation in our diocese and in the then-Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall. Those were great experiences, as I was privileged to teach Scripture and homiletics preparation. The purpose and measure of a good homily is simple: only if we encounter God each day in his word, lighting a flame




Fr. Pat Ratigan,

We are Blessed to have you in
our lives.

Thank you for being a first rate
Shepherd, Priest, Spiritual Director, role model,
mentor and friend.

You are always in our prayers.

Jimmy & Robin Law

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Bringing Jesus to others

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

and kindling our own hearts, can we share this with those at Mass."

After the seminary closed in 2002, Father Hauser's parish assignments resumed. He became pastor at St. Louis Church in Louisville where he had previously served as assistant to then-pastor Msgr. Floyd Brown during the latter's final illness.

"It was a wonderful experience," Father Hauser

said. "Msgr. Brown was an amazing priest, and he had assembled a great staff, both lay and religious, all working together as a Catholic community in the small, close-knit community of Louisville."

That one-parish-one-community experience proved to be unique; all his subsequent assignments involved multiple churches in multiple locations. From Louisville he moved to

Morristown/Hammond/Rossie, and from there to the newly-combining parishes of Our Lady of Victory, Plattsburgh and St. Mary's of the Lake, Cumberland Head—"all good parishes, all good people, all doing their best to meet the challenges of consolidation."

Similarly, in 2012, Father Hauser became pastor of the Catholic Community of Moriah with worship sites in Mineville and Port Henry; Crown Point was subsequently added to his care. In these areas of Essex County, he has again met many faithful parishioners; he also encountered a demographic severely affected by loss of the younger generations resulting from loss of industries in the region.

But, bolstered by his recent annual experience of

the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola, Father Hauser remains hopeful.

"The retreat emphasized 'the definitive victory of indestructible love,'" Father Hauser said. "Whatever comes, the Lord is ready. In the Gospels, everyone who asked, received."

One hopeful sign the priest sees in the diocese is the revival of Cursillo, a renewal movement started in Spain in 1944.

"Founded by lay people for lay people, Cursillo helps awaken laity to their call to be evangelizers, to be leaven in the world of work and family," Father Hauser explained. "So many people today do not have a personal experience of Jesus. Cursillo can offer that. It is what drew me in when I was invited to join the team as spiritual director."

Even beyond Cursillo, that "personal experience of Jesus" is central to Father Hauser's life and ministry.

"I was blessed this year to realize that as a priest I am called not only to make Christ present sacramentally, but to actually embody Christ's love and concern through my own life. On retreat, I understood that if I open my heart to this, God will do it! How else can I show God to those who do not know him? A priest is another Christ, yet all are called to be his hands, his feet, his face to a hurting world. For everyone, prayer is the daily opportunity to dialogue with the Lord, listen to him, and let his love become real, present and tangible. With St. Paul, 'I want to know Christ and the power of his Resurrection!'"

BARSTOW

AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION BUICK PONTIAC GMC BE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE SUBARU

"Family owned dealership serving the North Country for over 56 years!"

For more information, visit our Website at: www.barstowmotors.com

MARKET ST., POTSDAM, NY • (315) 265-8800

Father Arthur LaBaff and Father Douglas G. Comstock,

We are beyond blessed to have your ministry among us!

Thank you for all that you do for our parishes.

From Deacon Gary & Gayle Frank, Deacon Bernie Slate, Deacon Bruce & Liz Daugherty,

Deacon Joel & Dawn Walentuk, and Deacon Neil & Dee Fuller

along with your parishioners,

St. Mary's Church, Clayton

St. Cyril's Church, Alexandria Bay

St. Francis Xavier Church, Redwood



St. Mary's Church, Clayton



St. Cyril's Church, Alexandria Bay



St. Francis Xavier, Redwood

Environmental Stewardship

Sustained by
'Mother Earth'

On Oct. 4, we will celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi and close of this year's Season of Creation. This season began on Sept. 1 with World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment. How fitting that it should end on the feast day of a man who, hundreds of years ago, recognized the interconnectedness of all creation and our need to care for her as expressed in his *Canticle to the Sun*.

In the St. Anthony Messenger, author Kyle Krammer, reflects on the phrase "Mother Earth" in Francis' *Canticle*. Why do we call our common home, the earth, Mother? Like our human mothers, Mother Earth gives birth to us all. She knits us together growing the seeds of our being in her soil, forming us from the dust of ancient stars, gathering atoms and molecules, imbuing them with the divine miracle of life itself – this amazing organism that is our body, animated by God's breath and bearing God's image. Most mothers instinctively nurture and protect their children. So does Mother Earth. She provides everything we need to thrive, from the "various fruit and coloured flowers and herbs" praised by St. Francis, to the breathable air, drinkable water, shielding from cosmic radiation, and the vast array of complex conditions that make life on this planet possible.

Generous and strong as Mother Earth is, she's also vulnerable. Mother Earth needs our care, not because age has weakened her, but because we have abused her generosity. Our gratitude needs to take the shape of practical, individual, and collective actions that will stop causing her harm and will undo the damage we've done. We can all express our thankfulness in the choices we make about how to live as responsible members of the earth community, from the food we eat, to the jobs we do, to the policies we support.

What concrete action(s) will show my gratitude for Mother Earth this week?

Submitted by Patricia Fanning
Watertown Faith and Ecology Group

Rest in Peace

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

- Sept. 29** – Rev. Patrick O. Thompson, 1954; Most Rev. James J. Navagh, 1965
Sept. 30 – Most Rev. Bryan J. McEntegart, 1968
Oct. 1 – Rev. Hermenegilde Brisson, 1954
Oct. 2 – Msgr. Joseph D. Creedon, 1944; Rev. Ambrose Raphael Hyland, 1954; Most Rev. James J. Navagh, 1965
Oct. 4 – Rev. George Drummond, 1839; Rev. Daniel F. O'Reilly, 1946; Rev. Thomas P. Fogarty, O.S.A., 1950
Oct. 5 – Rev. Victor Balcerak, O.F.M.Conv., 1960; Rev. Eurenne Beaucage, O.M.I., 1984

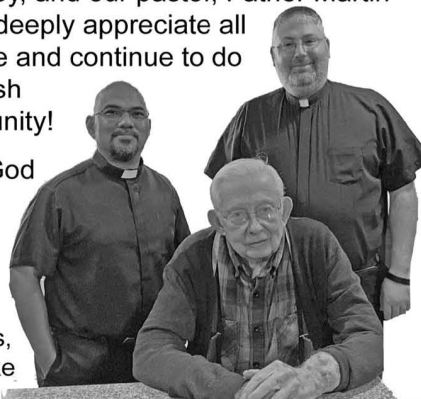
To Report Abuse

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

Thank you Father Alex Guimpol, Monsignor C. J. McAvoy, and our pastor, Father Martin Cline. We deeply appreciate all you've done and continue to do for our parish and community!

We thank God for you!

Catholic Daughters
Court 787
St. Bernard's,
Saranac Lake



Bishop's Public Schedule

Sept. 29 – Noon – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg
Sept. 30 – Noon – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg
Oct. 1 – 10 a.m. – Mass with students at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga followed by classroom visits
Oct. 2 – 11 a.m. – Ordination to the Diaconate of Randy Besio, Gerald Bouchard, Brent Davison, Daniel LeRoy, Michael Lieber Jr., Kenneth Lushia, Roderic Roca, Lee Trudeau, Robert Uttendorfsky, Noel Voos, Mark Webster and Peter Wooschlager at St. Mary's Cathedral

Oct. 3 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
 2:30 p.m. – Diocesan Marriage and Consecrated Life Jubilee at St. Mary's Cathedral followed by a Reception in Brzana Hall
Oct. 4 – Noon – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg
Oct. 5 – 9:30 a.m. – Mass with students at Augustinian Academy in Carthage followed by classroom visits
Oct. 6 – 9:30 a.m. – Diocesan Department Head Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

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.

Fr. Arthur LaBaff

Thank you for your continued support to all of us. Our lives and the lives of others are so blessed by you.

The Commissioned Lay Formation Ministers and Candidates of St. Mary's Parish, Clayton, NY

Dear Fr. Todd Thibault,

The faith communities of St. James Church, Carthage, NY, St. Mary's Church, Copenhagen, NY and Augustinian Academy (Pre-K - Grade 8) want to take this opportunity to welcome you as our pastor. We are proud to have you to shepherd us with the love, mercy, justice and compassion of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd. "May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your heart and your mind in Christ Jesus." Phil 4:7

*May God bless you and your ministry to our Parish!
Pastoral Staff and Parishioners of St. James & St. Mary's
Students & Staff of Augustinian Academy*



327 West Street
Carthage, NY 13619
315-493-3224
stjames@twcny.rr.com



317 West Street
Carthage, NY 13619
315-493-1301
smacollinssj@yahoo.com



9790 NYS Rte 12
PO Box 12
Copenhagen, NY 13626
315-688-2683
stmarycope@westel.com

Established in 1885...in the Tradition of the Sisters of St. Joseph

'You never retire from being a priest'

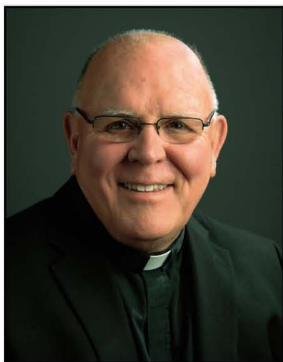
Editor's note: As part of this Priest Appreciation edition, the North Country Catholic is highlighting several retired priests of the diocese and how they continue to live out their vocations here in the North Country.

By Mary Beth Bracy
Contributing Writer

PERU – Even in retirement, Msgr. Dennis J. Duprey is still a few steps ahead of the rest of us. Sitting on his porch, he recounted humorous anecdotes about the days when Msgr. Joseph G. Aubin, Father Patrick W. Mundy, and Father Eduardo C. Pesigan III ate dinner together with him at St. Peter's in Plattsburgh. Msgr. Duprey recalled some of their jokes and how they doubled over in laughter. Able to converse on any topic, Msgr. Duprey soon shifted to a discussion on Christianity and culture. He also grows stellar tomato plants.

On June 16, 2021, Msgr. Duprey retired. Though he was originally supposed to retire last year, Bishop Terry R. LaValley asked if he would go to St. Augustine's in Peru. Msgr. Duprey was happy to do so and likened it to transitioning half way out of full ministry. St. Augustine's is a "wonderful parish," he shared. There are "lots of ideas" and the faithful are a "great help."

Due to COVID, Msgr. Duprey publically celebrated his 50th anniversary a year late, as it was scheduled and rescheduled several times. A special Mass and dinner were held at St. Peter's in Plattsburgh on August 15. Bishop LaValley and several priests were in attendance. Faithful from around the North Country came to share this special milestone with their pastor, family member, and friend.



Msgr. Dennis J. Duprey

Though no longer pastor at St. Augustine's, Msgr. Duprey continues to reside at the rectory and offers Mass there a few weekends or concelebrates weekday Masses there. Additionally, he sometimes fills-in at parishes throughout the diocese on weekends. Always ready to help, Msgr. Duprey recently oversaw the Apple Fest at St. Augustine's.

Moreover, Msgr. Duprey remains dean of Clinton County and visits each of the parishes once a year. He is pleased to take "a load off of other priests who would usually have to do that," and is able to complete tasks associated with the role more easily with his flexible schedule.

Very appreciative of the slower pace of retirement, Msgr. Duprey enjoys the moments to "do nothing." Not being required "to keep a regular schedule all the time" is welcomed, and "as you get older" it is nice to live at a "slower, more deliberate pace." It provides "more opportunity for reflection."

Retirement also provides Msgr. Duprey with time to visit his many relatives and friends. He recently visited one of his sisters for a week and was able to accompany a relative to a medical appointment. When he goes on a trip, Msgr. Duprey said he no longer needs to hurry

back to oversee things at a parish as he did when he was a pastor. He is able to stop and play golf with other retired priests.

Msgr. Duprey plans to drive to Florida this year and visit loved ones along the way. The trip will take a month, whereas in the past he would only have about 11 days in Florida each year.

"Retirement affords you to see people you do not see, people you've touched or who have touched you," he reflected.

It means your "adjusting to a pace you're capable of," that will "enrich your life and others." It is important to keep a "rhythm to life," so it is "not haphazard." The contribution of retired priests is needed and, in some ways, he shared that they function like a community of religious. They also help with confession services throughout the year.

In the future Msgr. Duprey said he would like to do more "outreach to others" and volunteer in various activities, whether with the St. Vincent de Paul society or soup kitchens.

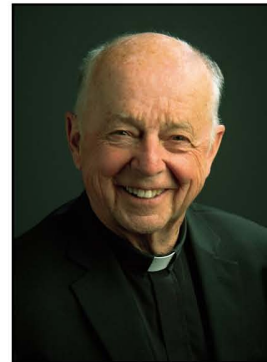
"Recreation is important," said Msgr. Duprey, who walks several times a week and noted Peru is a great community for walking, whether in the downtown or on hiking paths. "September is the best golf month for the year. The trees are beautiful, the weather is best, and there are fewer people" on the courses.

Msgr. Duprey also enjoys reading, when it doesn't put him to sleep, and watching television. He calls others more regularly and talks with Msgr. Aubin several times a week.

"You never retire from being a priest," concluded Msgr. Duprey, you "simply retire from administrative duties."

'Grateful to be a pastor'

By Mary Beth Bracy
Contributing Writer



Father Philip T. Allen

INDIAN LAKE – Some of us struggle to go hiking when we're young but, in his late eighties, Father Philip T. Allen is still trekking along. In fact, he's climbed the 46 peaks in the Adirondacks over 25 times, sometimes just because a friend needed a companion to make the journeys. Father Allen also hiked the Appalachian Trail in a series of trips and trekked on other continents.

"Father Larry Cotter got me into hiking in the Adirondacks in the early

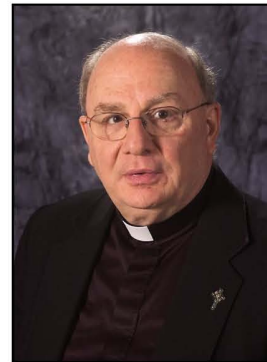
1960s," Father Allen said. "It is a wonderful hobby."

His daily morning walk has kept him healthy, he said. It is "a good practice for reflection, prayer, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Podcasting and praying

By Mary Beth Bracy
Contributing Writer



Father J. Roger McGuinness

PLATTSBURGH – Father J. Roger McGuinness continues to teach during his retirement, but through a different means – podcasting. It was something that he was interested in for a while and then, thanks to the tech savvy of Father Christopher J. Looby, this ministry became a reality. Father McGuinness provides the inspiring content weekly – right from his home – and Father Looby does the recording, formatting, and editing.

Father McGuinness also continues to provide counseling, spiritual di-

rection, and prayers for people in ministry. In his spare time, Father McGuinness catches up on reading.

"You can always learn more about spirituality

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

'Grateful to be a pastor'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7
meeting people."

One of Father Allen's most memorable hiking experiences was recounted in his 2015 interview with Adirondack Explorer. Father Allen shared: "One time I rescued a guy. It was back in the '60s, in December. They had lean-tos then at Indian Falls on the trail up Marcy. There were no tracks in the snow so nobody had been up that day. Well, in one of the lean-tos I found a fellow and he hadn't been out, even to get water. He had the idea

that he wanted to end the year by fasting and doing yoga. So I climbed Marcy and came back and gave him my peanut butter-and-jelly sandwiches.

"I worried about him, and I went back a week later just to go that far. It was almost Christmas. He was still there. Nobody had come along in a week. That wouldn't happen nowadays. He had been eating brown rice, and he'd given up eating completely for five days. His sleeping bag was thin. He had put on all the socks he had and plas-

tic bags around his feet. And he had loafers with rubbers on them. They had frozen. They could have been wooden. I persuaded him to come out. Getting his feet into those shoes was really hard. He stepped out of them and didn't even know. His feet were numb. I got him out of there.

"He could walk but unsteady. I put him up [for] a few days. He spent a lot of time in the bathtub, soaking his feet. He got sick on the first meal."

Father Allen gave the man a new pair of boots and sent him back home to Boston, along with "a little advice."

Always charitable, visiting Africa allowed Father Allen to "get to know Catholic Relief Services (CRS) work." He also went to Ethiopia.

"CRS supports work in developmental relief in so many countries," Father Allen said. "They even have three active offices right now in Afghanistan, with the turmoil and all. They are very strong in their services, very respected in their services. They deserve all the support that we can give them."

When Father Allen traveled to Africa, he climbed Mount Kenya in Kenya and Mount Kilimanjaro in Tan-

zania. He said that "Mount Kenya and Kilimanjaro are awesome to see from a distance." It required several "days of walking," and they were "great experiences." To climb Kilimanjaro, travelers are required to spend at least three days with a hired guide, Father Allen noted. His group chose to take seven days for altitude adjustment.

Father Allen has also traveled to Haiti, Kosovo, and Iraq. He was impressed at "how CRS works with people in these countries in understanding what needs to be done." They help "people in taking responsibility for their own medical care, agriculture, and conservation of the land. They promote the welfare and dignity of people and peace."

For instance, when he visited the Holy Land, Father Allen saw CRS efforts in the occupied territories, what they were doing for the Palestinians and their projects.

Another place Father Allen visited was Peru, South America, where he trekked the white snow-capped mountains. While there, he visited where our diocesan priests were serving in Mollendo. Father Daniel L. Chapin, who in retirement became a Maryknoll missionary associate,

and the late Father George F. Maroun were stationed there at the time.

Another time he trekked Ellesmere Island – located in the far north of Canada, closest to North Pole – with his sister Frances. Still, Father Allen is "very happy to be in the Adirondacks."

"A few of my more successful homilies were prepared while walking or hiking," he said. "There's not just a literal perspective, but other aspects too."

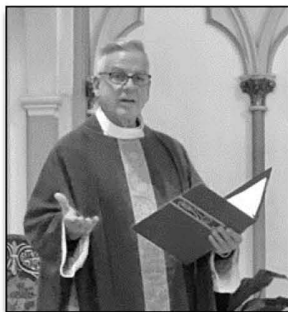
True to his character, Father Allen is always giving back. He grows garden vegetables at the farm where he grew up in Peru. It was in his family for several generations and is now owned by his brother. The Knights of Columbus in Indian Lake will sell the pumpkins and squash he grew at the Moose Festival to raise money for home heating charity.

Most of all, Father Allen said "I'm very grateful to God to be able to do ministry as a pastor at this point in life." Although there are some challenges in retirement, he noted the generosity of lay people who make it easier. Father Allen is "grateful to have good companions." Father Allen still goes hiking and doesn't really have a favorite mountain. He loves them all.



Fr. Jay Seymour
We appreciate you and
your service!

Parishioners of
St. James, Sacred Heart, St. James and
the Knights of Columbus of
Star Lake St. Hubert's



Rev. Steven Murray
Pastor

From a truly faith-filled community, thank you
for your sacrifices and leadership.
Your examples inspire us all to truly live the
Gospel!

St. André Bessette Parish is blessed!



Rev. Fernando Solomon
Parochial Vicar

Podcasting and praying

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

and faith," he said. "You never know it all. I am always amazed at the insights I can gain."

Father McGuinness also prays the Rosary and celebrates Mass daily. Retirement, he said, is "lovely, I was busy for over 50 years." He "loves the peace and quiet."

At the same time, Father McGuinness said he enjoys the fact that there are children in his Plattsburgh neighborhood, so he still sees a cross section of people. When you retire, Father McGuinness ad-

vised, "make sure that you look around and see what's available and what you can be comfortable with. Check it out for your own good."

With retirement, there is a "role reversal. I gave a lot to people during my 50 years as a parish priest; it's time to let them give me comfort and life."

Father McGuinness said he "enjoyed being a parish priest, having too much fun, doing for others. Retirement gives more time for prayer and meditation, chatting with friends, not running here and there."

In addition to parish work, Father McGuinness also did vocation work, continuing education, and attended a few 30-day Ignatian retreats.

During Advent, he uplifted listeners by podcasting on the themes of hope, love, joy, peace and St. Joseph. His podcasts received about 1,000 hits. He is currently part way through his next series "Holiness: Journey."

"The series is based on three statements that Bishop Barron discussed in a talk on spirituality: finding your center, knowing you are a sinner and realizing that life is not all about you," Father McGuinness noted.

He also referenced the statement in the Vatican II document *Lumen Gentium*: "spirituality is part of you."

One of the foundations to his "Seven Steps to Holiness" is the Shema, "Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise." (Deut 6:4-7) The last words are especially significant. Orthodox Jews recite the Shema five times a day,

Father McGuinness explained, and some even wear it on their foreheads as a reminder.

Current topics and descriptions in the Holiness series include:

1) God's Love for Us: Discusses Genesis and God yesterday and today

2) God's Promise to Us: 10 Commandments

3) New Life in Jesus: Promise in the Garden, Annunciation, Incarnation, Paschal Mystery, and Resurrection

4) God's Gift Through the Holy Spirit: Pentecost and Witness to the Truth of Christ

5) Living the Sacramental Life: Sacraments of Initiation, Healing, and Vocation

6) Spiritual Growth: through prayer and formation in the community of faith, the Beatitudes and Works of Mercy

7) Transformation in Christ Jesus: Come see, Come follow Me, Lord to whom shall we go

8) Conclusion: Sending forth, Making disciples, Do this in remembrance of Me

The series progresses and provides a whole view of the spiritual life based on a Lay Ministry outline he used.

"It is not intended to be purely instructional," Father McGuinness said, the goal is "to remind listeners to be disciples of Jesus and their Baptismal role. To help them appreciate the gift of faith, they are invited to go forth to be disciples. Ephphatha: be thou opened."

The duo of priests, Father McGuinness and Father Looby, don't predetermine the length of the podcasts, "one may be longer than another, [they are] relatively balanced even though we pack a lot in," he continued.

In his series, Father McGuinness includes many other uplifting stories and quotes from St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, St. John Henry Newman and his Prayer of Absolute Truth, Thomas Merton and his Prayer and Trust and Confidence, and the Anima Christi. He also relays the story of Ernie Larson, a recovering alcoholic who lost everything, and draws from his writings on several occasions. Larson said: "What we see, we learn; what we learn, we practice; what we practice, we become." Father McGuinness adds: "What we become has consequences and responsibilities."

Something Father McGuinness has often reminded people of over the years are Henri Nouwen's words that "Prayer is not a substitute for ministry. Ministry is not a substitute for prayer. Prayer and ministry go together." When priests and religious left their vocations, Father McGuinness shared, it was because they forgot to pray.

In the future, he is planning to do a series on "Spirituality: Prayer" to discuss "the role of prayer in the spiritual life and different forms of prayer." In some of his discussions he compares the value of each Sacrament to Erik Erikson's stages of development.

Father McGuinness reflects on what we do and how we become. Soon he will discuss St. Therese and the Little Way. At present, he is conducting research for his next podcasts. Listeners can tune in and hear previous podcasts at: www.route74catholics.org Click on the "More" option at the top of the screen and select "The Father Roger Podcast."

Fr. Allen,
You make us want to
"climb" higher in
everything that we do!

Deacon Jim & Chris Chaufy



For a New or Used Car

**Mort
Backus &
Sons**

On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.
315-393-5899



We appreciate our priests!

Thank you,
Fr. Mickey Demo
and
Fr. Matt Conger,
for all you do for us!



We are truly blessed by your joyful
ministry and
so very grateful for your leadership.

*From the People of
St. Patrick's, St. Anthony's &
Holy Family,
Watertown*

*With Sincere Thanks
for your Priestly Ministry*



Fr. Scott, Fr. Gordon & Fr. Jay

St. Alexander's Morrisonville.

Our sincere appreciation for all you do!

Jim & Vi



Fr. Don,

the encouragement
and empathy you have
given to our
St. Stephen's Parish
throughout these
difficult pandemic
times is so very much
appreciated.

THANK YOU!



**Thank you
FR. RAY**

for all that you do for
your faith families at
St. Mary's, Brushton
&
St. Augustine's,
North Bangor

In recognition of
Priest Appreciation
Fr. Martin Cline
Fr. Alex Guimpol
Msgr. C. J. McAvoy

Thank you!

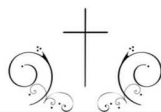
~Jimmy and Robin Law



Father Joseph Morgan

Thank you for ALL
you do for ALL of us.

~The Bateman Family



Fr. Robert Decker
*Thank you for being a priest and
providing us with spiritual guidance*

Your Brother Knights in Adams, NY



FATHER O'BRIEN

St. Raphael's Church, Heuvelton and
Ss. Philip and James Church, Lisbon
appreciate all that you do.



Father Fish

Thank your for your
leadership and direction.

~The Plante Family



Fr. Andrew Amyot
Thank you for all that you do for so many.
A good priest, friend and neighbor.
~Paul and Nancy Paige

Fr. Shane Lynch



We are blessed and
grateful. Your enthusiasm is
wonderful and contagious.

Thank you for all you have done
for us in just 6 months.

Parishioners of St. Mary's in Evans Mills and
St. Paul's in Black River.

**Thank you
Fr. Clyde Lewis
&
Fr. Alan Shnob**

For all that you
have done and
continue to do for
our churches.

*The Champlain Knights of
Columbus 3525*

Far from home diocese, Father Ojuok still serves

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

NAIROBI— When immigration issues forced Father John K. Ojuok to return to Africa shortly after his ordination, it wasn't how he envisioned starting his priesthood.

"I miss my ministry there," Father Ojuok said of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, participating in a video interview from Nairobi. "I didn't know what was coming when I left the United States. God planned everything be-

fore me. Everything came together and was so successful so fast. All is going well. Bishop (Terry R.) LaValley and (diocesan Vicar for Clergy) Father Chris (C. Carrara) helped make things very easy for me with their support, and our Lady, my patron, has really helped take care of things. I'm grateful, and I'm happy."

What "came together" was an opportunity to serve as chaplain for the Little Sisters of St. Joseph, a community of sisters that previously didn't

have a priest or regular opportunity for Mass. In addition to formation centers for women joining the community, the sisters run a retreat center, Father Ojuok said.

"I celebrate Masses daily for the sisters," he said. "And I provide the sacraments and recollections at the retreat houses. There's also a parish that has Masses in the evening, and I've been helping there."

While he hasn't been there long, Father Ojuok says the sisters have welcomed him warmly.

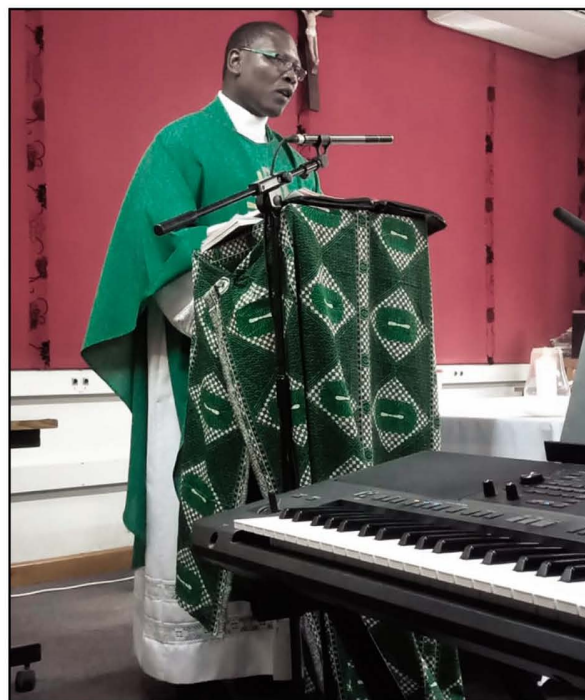
"They are so nice," he said. "I do really have a good experience with them. I hear confessions weekly, and we share breakfast after morning Mass. They say it's a blessing to them. It's also a blessing for me."

Prior to Father Ojuok's arrival, the sisters could not afford expenses related to having a resident chaplain. Because Father Ojuok remains under the care of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, he's able to minister to their needs without the community incurring a significant expense.

Father Ojuok joined the sisters permanently after spending nearly a month at home in Kenya.

"I was able to celebrate a Mass where I was baptized and where I was raised one week apart," he said. "And I was invited to celebrate Masses around the diocese. It was truly a blessing, and it overwhelmed me to see the many people who came to the Mass and the many priests joining and organizing. It was really a blessing."

After his first Mass, a traditional ceremony was held installing him as an elder in the community.



Father John K. Ojuok celebrates Mass in a parish near where he is serving as chaplain for a community of Little Sisters of St. Joseph in Nairobi.

"They bring traditional things – a shield, a spear and a stool," Father Ojuok explained. "I sat in the stool, holding the spear and shield. It's a sending out as a priest and as an elder. When counseling and listening to people, it's sitting in the stool. When enemies come, you fight with this spear and protect with the shield."

After the ceremony, it is customary that the individual is referred to by a special term that means elder or leader.

"Even your mom calls you that," Father Ojuok said, laughing. "That was weird for me, though."

Speaking of his mother, Father Ojuok noted he is happy to be able to see her, despite living nearly seven hours away from her home in Kenya.

"She hopes I will see her every month," he said. "I hope to get home every two to three months."

Father Ojuok also looks forward to returning to his new home in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

"I made a home there," he said of the diocese. "I hear from some of my brother priests, and I miss the people I know there. I hold everyone in my heart, in my Masses and in my prayers. I do miss them a lot. I miss the seasons, too. We don't have the changes here like we do there. We get a little winter in June, July and the middle of August. It's chilly, but there's no snow. There's no fall. There's very little spring. I miss that."

While the exact timing of his return to the diocese has yet to be determined, Father Ojuok said he's trusting God and looking forward to that time.

"Things will work out, and I will come back," he said. "I can't wait!"

WIN
A 2021 Subaru Forester*
*Or \$15,000 Cash

Drawing Sunday, October 10, 2021

Tickets \$20 each or 6 for \$100

Your support of our annual car raffle helps make possible a wonderful school year for 115 students! Thank you!

**SAINT AGNES
SCHOOL**

Buy tickets here: www.winthisauto.com

To order tickets by mail, please complete form and enclose with your check made payable to:

ST. AGNES CHURCH
169 Hillcrest Ave.
Lake Placid, NY 12946

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Tickets _____ Amount of check \$ _____

Winner need not be present to win.



Mercy Care Friendship May 2021 Volunteer Training Class, from left, Marilyn Duffy, Chris Crane, James Crane, Jodi Gibbs, Paul Brannigan, Katie Byrne, Kay Pauquette, Steve Sonneberg, Donna Walsh, Ruth Izraeli and Kathy Kernan.

Friendship volunteers needed

Lake Placid – Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is recruiting new volunteers and has scheduled a Friendship Volunteer Training Program in Lake Placid on the mornings of October 19 and October 20. Both mornings are required to complete the training.

Mercy Care's Friendship Volunteer Training Pro-

gram is free of charge but pre-registration is required. To request registration information, please contact Sarah Kane, Elder Care Manager by e-mail at skane@adkmercy.org or by calling 518-523-5585. To register online, please visit at adkmercy.org

Mercy Care invites new volunteers to join our 100+

volunteers from Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, Tupper Lake and surrounding areas to help elder neighbors age in place more successfully.

New Volunteers will help their elder neighbors stay connected to their communities and help to make their lives a little easier and happier.

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name a priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul; take over his entire personality and life.

Replace him with yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always. O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of priests, pray and intercede for (...)

October

OCTOBER
The Most Holy Rosary

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY		2021						BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY												
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	FRIDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SATURDAY											
<small>For more copies contact: Diocese of Ogdensburg PO Box 369 Ogdensburg, NY 13669</small>																				
3 REV. JOHN J. LOOBY	4 REV. SHANE M. LYNCH	5 REV. DONALD J. MANFRED	6 REV. LAWRENCE E. MARULLO	7 MSGR. C. JOHN MCAVOY	8 OUR PASTOR	9 REV. KEVIN D. MCEWAN	10 REV. J. ROGER MCGUINNESS	11 REV. GILBERT B. MENARD	12 REV. BERNARD D. MENARD	13 REV. RAYMOND J. MOREAU	14 REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN VG	15 POPE FRANCIS	16 BENEDICT XVI POPE EMERITUS	17 REV. WILLIAM G. MUENCH	18 MSGR. JOHN R. MURPHY	19 REV. STEVEN M. MURRAY	20 REV. FRANK NATALE, MSC	21 REV. JUDE C. SINADRUGHAGHA	22 RETIRED PRIESTS	23 REV. KEVIN J. O'BRIEN
24 REV. JOHN R. O'DONOHUE	25 REV. PATRICK J. O'REILLY	26 REV. JEROME PASTORES	27 REV. TERRENCE R. PATTERSON	28 MSGR. LEEWARD J. POISSANT	29 DECEASED PRIESTS	30 REV. SONY G. PULICKAL VF														

A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated. The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by: Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society www.nyvocations.net

Family Of
Faith
In Action

2021 Bishop's Fund Appeal
Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg

Please use my/our gift to continue the good works of our Church and help support the ministries of the Diocese.

Gift **4 Pledge Payments**

- \$1,000 \$250
- \$800 \$200
- \$400 \$100
- \$200 \$50
- \$100 \$25
- Other _____

Gift/Pledge Total \$ _____
Amount Enclosed \$ _____
Balance \$ _____



OR Please charge my credit card for \$ _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Signature: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please Print Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Parish: _____ Parish City/Town: _____



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

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

Besio, Gerald Bouchard, Brent Davison, Daniel LeRoy, Michael Lieber Jr., Kenneth Lushia, Roderic Roca, Lee Trudeau, Robert Uttendorfsky, Noel Voos, Mark Webster and Peter Woolschlager on Saturday, Oct. 2, at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral in Og-

densburg.

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

On Oct. 9, Bishop LaValley will ordain James Carlin and Leagon Carlin to the Order of the Deacon at 10 a.m. at St. Peter's Church in

Plattsburgh.

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*.



Roderic Roca

Family: Wife, Donna; grown children, James and Victoria; five grandchildren ranging in age from 6 to 25.

Parish: St. Mary's Cathedral Parish, Ogdensburg

Background: I have had a varied professional career. Starting out for many years I was a Medical Lab Technologist and then worked for 6 ½ years as an Administrator/Program Developer of residential and day program services for an organization which served developmentally disabled adults. My final career from which I retired in 2017 was as a Registered Nurse working in a community hospital in the Emergency Department and Ambulatory Surgical Unit as well as the Post Anesthesia Care Unit. My education includes an AAS from Morrisville College in Medical Laboratory Technology, an AAS in Registered Nursing from Canton College, a BPS in Health Services Management from SUNY Polytechnic Institute in Utica. I also attended Syracuse University for graduate work in Adult Education.

How have you changed through your participation in the formation process? I believe formation has challenged me to be even more inquisitive and contemplative in my prayer life. It has also challenged me to listen to people more and speak less to ascertain where they are at in their spiritual journey. Formation also has given me an even greater appreciation for the role of the deacon in the Church and in parish life.

How will you serve your parish as a deacon? I'm expecting to be involved with the visitation of the homebound and those hospitals or nursing homes. I also expect to continue serving on the parish vocations committee as well as serving at Mass both on the weekends and during the week. My pastor has already given me the job of officiating at a burial a couple of weeks after my ordination. Additionally, as a convert to the Church I have a special interest in RCIA and am hoping to serve in this capacity as well.

What are you looking forward to about your new ministry? In my new ministry I am looking forward to interacting with all parishioners and being of service to them in any way I am able. I especially look forward to the opportunity to share Christ's message with those who are homebound and are unable to get out to attend Mass.



Robert S. Uttendorfsky

Family: I have been married to my wife Melissa for over 30 years, and we have two sons, John and his wife Shannan, and Andrew.

Parish: Catholic Community of Saint Peter and Saint Mary and Saint Hedwig, Lowville

Background: I received my Bachelor's in Meteorology and Oceanography, along with my CG 3rd Mate's license from SUNY Maritime College. I am currently the Director of Information Systems at Lewis County General Hospital where I've worked for over 20 years.

How have you changed through your participation in the formation process? Being in Diaconate Formation opened my eyes, my heart and my spirit in so many ways. Through formation I've experienced Sacred Scripture to a depth and richness that I never have before. Through education and experience I've entered into the worship and the beauty of our sacred liturgies. And I've gained a greater sensitivity and appreciation for the needs of each individual person as part of the health and vibrancy of our greater universal Church.

How will you serve your parish as a deacon? I'm blessed to join a great group of established Deacons in our parish. I will be joining them in bringing forth the sacramental life of the Church for the people of our parish, through Baptism, Matrimony, and Funeral liturgies. I will also be bringing Communion to our homebound parishioners, serving as a Catechist for Confirmation students, and continuing to serve our parish wherever I am needed.

What are you looking forward to about your new ministry? I'm both humbled and inspired to be beginning my service as Deacon in this unique and challenging time in our history. There is such a great need in our world today for people to encounter Jesus, to heal our divisions and rediscover the unity and peace that knowing Christ brings. I look forward to accompanying others on their journey with compassion, and becoming that guidepost that shows them the way to a healing encounter with our Lord.



Mike Lieber

Family: I am married to my wife of eleven years Jean Lieber. We have four children. A 9-year-old daughter named Faith, a 3-year-old son Henry, a 2-year-old son Isaac, and a seven month old baby girl named Keira.

Parish: St. Mary's, Constableville

Background: I work for the New York State School for the Deaf as a general mechanic. My job is to repair any carpentry, electrical, or plumbing maintenance problems on campus.

How have you changed through your participation in the formation process? I have changed in many ways through the formation process. I have developed a deeper faith and greater love for God and the Church. It has also helped me to develop a better character and lose some of my bad traits.

How will you serve your parish as a deacon? I will be serving my parish as a youth minister and religious education instructor. My wife and I will be conducting our youth program and various community events involving families.

What are you looking forward to about your new ministry? I am looking forward to exercising my Diaconate ministry in the various ways I will be called to in my parish such as weddings, baptisms, and funerals. I am also excited to participate in Mass and be the proclaimer of the Gospel. In addition I am looking forward to conducting Eucharistic adoration and helping people to grow closer to God.

Audit: Diocese is in compliance with Charter

OGDENSBURG – The Diocese of Ogdensburg was determined to be in compliance with all articles of the Charter for the Protection of Child and Young People during a three-day on-site audit that concluded on September 2, 2021.

The audit was conducted by StoneBridge Business Partners, a Rochester-based firm hired by the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops to perform audits determining compliance with the Charter in all U.S. dioceses.

This year, the scope of the audit was expanded, and the on-site auditors reviewed data and documentation generated over a three-year period. In previous years, the audits reviewed only the most recent year's information, and data collection reviews were conducted in the years between on-site audits.

The first day of the on-site audit consisted of an extensive day of interviewing diocesan clergy

and employees who are responsible for implementing the diocesan safe environment program.

Several members of the Diocesan Review Board were also interviewed. The Review Board is comprised of mostly lay members, many of whom are subject-matter experts on abuse (counselors, medical providers, law enforcement...), who provide guidance to Bishop Terry R. LaValley when addressing allegations of sexual misconduct among clergy.

As part of the audit process, dioceses can choose to have on-site audits conducted at parishes, schools or other diocesan entities. Bishop LaValley chose this option, and the auditor selected St. Patrick's Church in Colton, St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Church in Tupper Lake, St. Bernard's Grade School in Saranac Lake and St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg for field audits.

John Morrison, director

of the Safe Environment Office, accompanied the auditor on the field audits.

"The main purpose of the field audit is to confirm that diocesan policies and procedures relating to child protection are being implemented in our parishes and Catholic schools," Morrison said. "In this regard, I couldn't have been more pleased. Our parish and school staff were well prepared, had their records organized, and answered the auditor's questions accurately and confidently".

Morrison went on to note that his office collaborates with entities around the diocese to ensure the Charter and diocesan Safe Environment policies are implemented fully and consistently.

"The Safe Environment Office has been visiting our parishes and Catholic schools annually to complete Compliance Reviews which are very similar to the external au-

dit," he said. "This process has helped prepare our parishes and schools which do a wonderful job at fostering safe environments."

The final portion of the audit was the records review. This step is taken to verify that clergy, employees and volunteers have been background checked, have completed Safe Environment training, and adhere to a well-publicized Code of Conduct.

"Our Information Technology and Data Processing department has done an outstanding job building a database that allows us to track compliance very efficiently and effectively," Morrison said. "The last 18 months have been very challenging due to the pandemic. Many of our ministries were on pause and volunteer activities dropped off significantly. Fortunately, we were able to shift to online Safe Environment training to ensure that this requirement continued to be met."

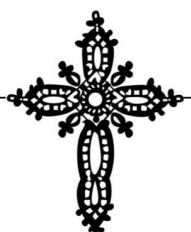

Bishop LaValley expressed his appreciation for the hard work conducted at all levels and locations of the diocese in implementing the Charter and Safe Environment protocols, as well as preparing for the audit.

"Compliance is not the work of one person," Bishop LaValley said. "It takes all of us working together to establish and foster a culture of safety for our minors and vulnerable adults. Our clergy and Catholic school administrators, as well as our religious, staff and volunteers, take this responsibility very seriously, and I believe the audit results confirm that."

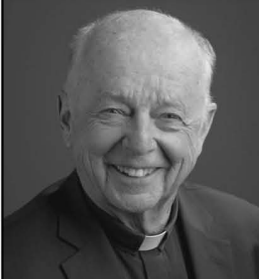
Bishop LaValley expressed special appreciation for the great care and diligence Mr. Morrison has given to the Church in the North Country as the Coordinator of diocesan Safe Environment efforts.

The next on-site audit for the Diocese will occur in 2024.


Fr. Garry Giroux
 Many prayers and a huge "Thank You" for all the work, sacrifices and untold acts of kindness you do for the parishes of Norwood, Norfolk and Brasher Falls. God Bless You!

Fr. Sony Pulickal,
 The people of St. James Major parish are grateful for your ministry. May God shower you with blessings!



Thank You
 Father Phillip Allen, Our Pastor, Avid Hiker & Accomplished Gardner.
 We are so grateful for your seven years of service.
 Parishioners of St. Joseph's Church, Olmstedville



Fr. Kevin O'Brien
 Thank you for being there for myself and my family during our time of need.
 Thank you for being there for our parish, it is greatly appreciated.
 ~Betty & Butch Franche

Fr. Chris Looby
 You are such an inspiring "Good Shepherd!"
 Thank you, Deacon Bernie Slate



House OKs abortion bill called 'far outside the American mainstream'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a 218-211 vote Sept. 24, the U.S. House passed what opponents consider one of the most extreme abortion bills ever seen in the nation — the Women's Health Protection Act.

"This bill is far outside the American mainstream and goes far beyond Roe v. Wade," Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., co-chairman of the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus, said in remarks ahead of the vote. "This bill constitutes an existential threat to unborn children and to the value of life itself."

H.R. 3755 codifies the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion nationwide. The measure establishes the legal right to abortion on demand at any stage of pregnancy in all 50 states under federal law.

"For the first time ever by congressional statute, H.R. 3755 would legally enable the death of unborn baby girls and boys by dismemberment, decapitation, forced expulsion from the womb, deadly poisons or other methods at any time until birth," he said,

"A significant majority of Americans are deeply concerned about protecting the lives of unborn children," the Catholic congressman said.

He pointed to a 2021 Marist Poll that found 65% of Americans want Roe v. Wade "reinterpreted to either send the issue to the states or stop legalized abortion."

The bill nullifies requirements to provide women seeking abortion

with specific information on their unborn child and on alternatives to abortion; laws requiring a waiting period before a woman receives and abortion; laws allowing medical professionals to opt out of providing abortions; and laws stating that only licensed physicians can perform abortions.

"This deceptively named bill is the most extreme pro-abortion bill our nation has ever seen," Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee, said Sept. 24. "H.R. 3755 is not about the health of women, but only about eliminating any and all protections for unborn children — including baby girls."

If it became law, "it would lead to the deliberate destruction of millions of unborn lives, leaving countless women with physical, emotional and spiritual scars," he said in a statement.

"This bill assumes that abortion can be the only, or best, solution to a crisis pregnancy" and "is built on a false and despairing narrative that utterly fails women," he continued. "In treating abortion as the moral equivalent to the removal of an appendix, this proposal is radically out of step with the American public."

"As a nation built on the recognition that every human being is endowed by its Creator with the unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, this bill is a

complete injustice," Archbishop Naumann said.

"Congress should embrace public policy that respects the rights of mothers, their children and the consciences of all Americans," he added, "not advance a radical 'abortion on demand until birth' policy that is completely out of step with our country's principles."

The Senate version of the Women's Health Protection Act, S. 1975, is not expected to pass, but sponsors of the House bill said their vote still sends a message about the outrage they say has been felt by women over the new Texas law banning abortion after six weeks.

The vote also comes ahead of the Dec. 1 oral arguments to be heard by the high court in an appeal from Mississippi to keep its ban on abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

Supporters of the law are urging the court to re-examine its previous abortion rulings, including Roe.

"In the United States, the tragically pervasive acceptance of abortion has resulted in more than 62 million abortions since Roe v. Wade," Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, said in a statement.

"Still, today the U.S. House of Representatives voted to impose abortion on demand nationwide — and thus double down on daily murder of the defenseless — by passing the false and deceptively named 'Women's Health Protection Act,'" he said Sept. 24.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Cardinal: Catholics should debate issues, not debase each other

ROME (CNS) — Honest and open debate about different points of view in the Catholic Church are fundamental, but Catholics should not be demonizing the individuals with those views, Cardinal George Pell said. Asked about the different polarized positions among Catholics that can be found online, he said that many of the issues being discussed are "very important, and I don't think there can be any compromise on the fundamental issues of what is the apostolic tradition." The church's stance on issues should be clearly explained, but there is "a hierarchy of truths, not everything is equally important," which means Catholics "should not be disagreeing violently over too much at all but certainly not over matters which are of less importance," he said in an interview in Rome streamed live Sept. 23 and uploaded the next day by the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross. As Catholics try to choose among many sources and offerings online, what they should be looking for and contributing to "is regular courtesy, a regular commitment to the truth, to dialogue, debating, arguing about the issues" themselves and not attacking the people who hold a different point of view, said the cardinal, who is the former prefect of the Vatican Secretariat for the Economy and retired archbishop of Sydney.

Bishops: Collegiality needed to face challenges in Europe

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Heads of several bishops' conferences and councils around the world called for greater collegiality and communion among bishops to confront the challenges facing the church in Europe and across the globe. Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, who addressed the plenary assembly of the Council of European Bishops' Conferences Sept. 24, called on the bishops to "support one another in communion in order to bear witness to the Lord's presence in all areas of life on our continent, which seems increasingly to be forgetting its history and its roots." The time of preparation for the 2023 world Synod of Bishops, which will reflect on synodality, communion, participation and mission, will be a "propitious occasion to reflect on the work of evangelization that awaits us in the face of the challenges of our present time, which is also in need of knowing the immutable truth of Christ and the Gospel," Cardinal Parolin said. The Sept. 23-26 plenary of the Council of European Bishops' Conferences, which is comprised of the presidents of 33 national bishops' conferences and a dozen other Eastern- and Latin-rite bishops from across the continent, was held in Rome.

SSPX leader says vaccination can be morally 'prudent'

ROME (CNS) — While denouncing as an "abuse of power" coercive measures to promote vaccination against COVID-19, a leader of the traditionalist Society of St. Pius X said getting vaccinated "may sometimes be an eminently prudent act in the moral sense of the term." Father Arnaud Sélégné, secretary general of the SSPX, also said if hospitals or nursing homes admit only chaplains who are vaccinated, priests should comply. "If it is impossible to approach the dying to confer on them the sacraments without being oneself vaccinated, we should prefer the salvation of our neighbor to our own health or tranquility," he wrote in an article posted Sept. 24 on the congregation's website, fsspx.news. "The absolute and categorical positions that are often widespread, such as that which tends to consider the vaccinated as Judas and those who refuse to do so as martyrs, or vice versa, seem at the very least excessive and sometimes mark an obvious lack of charity," wrote Father Sélégné in his article.

We appreciate our priests!

The Knights of Columbus Council 291
would like to thank and welcome

Father Todd Thibeault

for becoming our parish priest for
St. James, Carthage
and St. Mary's Copenhagen.
May God bless you always!



Father Marullo

**Thank you for all
that you do!
We appreciate it!**

St. John's Church, Lyons Falls
St. Martin's Church, Port Leyden
St. Mary's Church, Constableville
St. Mary's Nativity, West Leyden

Monsignor Whitmore,
It's been a wonderful
20 years of marriage for
us! Because of you it has been a
great dream of yours come true!



Love,
Deacon James and Christine Chaufy

Thank you to our
Pastor, Fr. Scott Seymour
and to
Fr. Jay de La Rosa, Parochial Vicar
for making these parish communities a joy.

We also thank
Fr. William Gordon and Fr. Gilbert Menard,
for the help you give us here at St. Alexander's and St. James Church.
Your hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed.

From your staff & all your parishioners.



Our Gratitude!



We appreciate our priests!

Fr. Kris Lauzon

There's a saying that goes like this: Sometimes, the people we count on the most are the ones who hear "thank you" the least. So thank you Father Kris for all you do for the Catholic community of Keeseville and beyond. You make a huge difference with your thoughtfulness, your caring, your kindness and your generosity. You are always there when called upon to give support no matter the time of day. In fact, your work day is more than the usual 8-12 hours. You definitely go beyond-the-call-of-duty.

There are two animated characters: Winnie-the-Pooh and Piglet; the conversation goes like this: "Pooh?" "Yes, Piglet." "Oh, nothing," Piglet said, "I just want to be sure of you." That's how we feel about you Father Kris. We know we can be sure of you and that's a great feeling! And for that we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

God Bless you and keep you safe.

The Altar Rosary Society and
The Keeseville Knights of Columbus



May God bless our current and
former priests of
Sacred Heart Church, Massena
~The Dishaw Family

Thank You

Msgr. Whitmore
with love & gratitude



Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood

In abundance of appreciation to



Father Alan Shnob

A man of deep faith and a friend of
our family for many years.

Thank you for your spiritual
guidance.

Scott & Doreen Wilson
Louisville, NY

A Harvest of
Good News!

Catholic news from around the world and the
Diocese of Ogdensburg delivered to your home with a
subscription to the *North Country Catholic*

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

OR Send this coupon with payment to:
North Country Catholic

PO Box 106, Canajoharie, New York, 13317

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

- Inside Diocese \$27 Name _____
- Outside Diocese \$30 Address _____
- New Subscription
- Renewal City _____ State _____ Zip _____
- I want to be a Patron: Parish _____
- \$35 \$50 Please send my subscription to my e-mail address:
 \$100 \$250 _____

NOW PLAYING

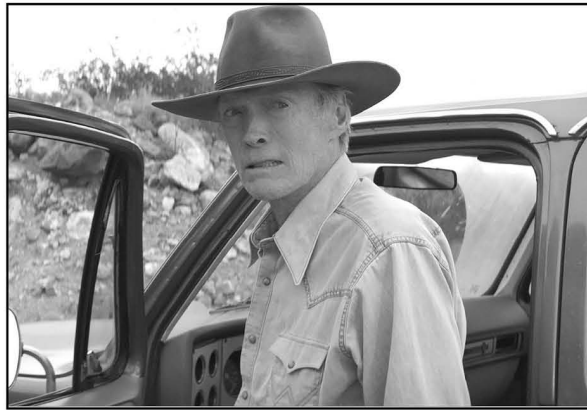
CRY MACHO

NEW YORK (CNS) – Clint Eastwood directed and stars in the gentle, though naive, road movie "Cry Macho" (Warner Bros.).

While believers will appreciate the occasional religious detail in the film, salty language and a briefly touched-on backstory about the sexual exploitation of a youngster make it unsuitable for kids.

Eastwood plays Mike Milo, a burned-out, hard-drinking rodeo star in 1980 Texas. At the behest of his ex-boss, rancher Howard Polk (Dwight Yoakam), Mike travels to Mexico to locate Howard's preteen son Rafo (Eduardo Minetti) and bring him to the States to live with his dad.

The journey that ensues, which finds the pair eventually bonding with a warmhearted cafe owner called Marta (Natalia Traven), is more an amble than a scramble. But there's a kindly tone to



CNS PHOTO/WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Clint Eastwood stars in a scene from the movie "Cry Macho." The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG-13 – parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Nick Schenk and N. Richard Nash's script, adapted from a novel by Nash, that goes a long way toward redeeming the slow pace and predictable story arc.

Still, the screenplay is sometimes jarringly off-key, especially in early scenes featuring Rafo's wealthy, loose-living

mom, Leta (Fernanda Urrejola). Leta not only abruptly attempts to seduce Mike, we learn that she has, in the past, been known to sell Rafo to one of the men with whom she habitually parties. Rafo also has been subjected to physical abuse while living with Leta.

Such utter degradation

on the part of a mother seems out of keeping with the otherwise laid-back, and mostly proper, proceedings.

As the plot gets back on track, Mike teaches Rafo how to ride a horse and demonstrates his skill as an amateur veterinarian. A buttoned-up curmudgeon at the outset, he also softens under the influence of Rafo's company – and that of Rafo's pet rooster, Macho.

The fact that, before Mike's arrival on the scene, Rafo has been making a scanty living by entering Macho in cockfights represents another uncomfortable topic over which the picture skims. Happily, the only such contest depicted is broken up by the police before it even gets under way.

At one point, Mike and Rafo take shelter in a little chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary. This becomes the occasion for Rafo to

express his doubts about whether, as a non-Catholic, Mike has any hope of eternal salvation. Less controversially, Marta insists on saying a brief grace before she, her two visitors and the grandchildren for whom she cares dig into the fried chicken Mike has thoughtfully prepared.

Viewers will know where "Cry Macho" is headed from the outset. But the tranquil trek is paved with decency and its destination is friendship.

The film contains mature themes, including child prostitution, brief, mild scatological humor, several profanities, a couple of milder oaths and sporadic crude and crass language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG-13 – parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

'How to Read (and Write) Like a Catholic'

By Mitch Finley
Catholic News Service

"How To Read (and Write) Like a Catholic" by Joshua Hren. Tan Books (Gastonia, North Carolina, 2021). 462 pp., \$34.95.

If you want a book that will introduce you to the depth and breadth of Catholic literature, this is the one for you. However, if you want actual instruction on "how to read (and write) like a Catholic," note that this book is aimed at fiction writing only, and it's theoretical not practical.

Writers of nonfiction or poetry, for example, will not find helpful practical insights here. What you get

is extensive, detailed – and not infrequently entertaining – essays on various themes found in classic works of fiction by Catholic authors. This isn't light reading, but the reader who is prepared to focus and pay attention will learn a great deal.

Co-founder of the online master of fine arts program at Houston's University of St. Thomas, the author of this book clearly knows what he is talking about when it comes to discussing the Catholic literary tradition. His book is organized into five parts and 35 chapters. Two appendices offer "101 Books to Read Like a Catholic"

and a supplemental list of books titled "Further Forays" into reading and writing like a Catholic.

The titles of the five parts give a good overview of the material the book covers: "Reading (and Writing) Like a Catholic," "Reading Christ-Haunted Fictions," "Reading Human Nature," "Reading Catholic Fictions" and "How to Write (Like a Catholic)."

Broadminded – in the technical sense of the word, "catholic" as it can be – Joshua Hren's book includes not only writers who were or are "practicing" Catholics, such as Flannery O'Connor, J.F. Powers and Walker Percy,

but also some who left Catholicism behind but – consciously or unconsciously – retained a Catholic worldview.

These "cultural Catholics" include James Joyce, contemporary short story writer and novelist George Saunders and the 1950s and '60s "Beat" writer Jack Kerouac, all of whom Hren discusses at some length. Further evidence of this book's wide focus is the author's inclusion of Russian and French authors of classic works, as well as the 14th-century Italian Dante Alighieri.

Some readers may be surprised by the author's inclusion of American Wal-

ter M. Miller's 1959 post-apocalyptic science fiction novel, "A Canticle for Leibowitz." Surprise, however, is likely to be replaced by gratitude, for valuable insights to be gleaned from "Canticle" soon become clear.

"How to Read (and Write) Like a Catholic" deserves to become a modern classic itself.



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.

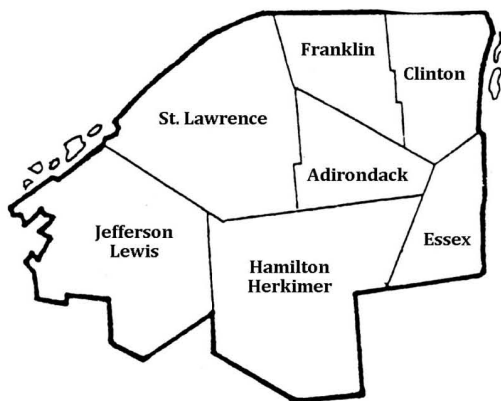
Contact: If you wish to donate a theme basket, baked goods or make a monetary donation to St. Hedwig's Society contact: Elaine 315-486-5532, Lydia 315-348-7006, or Mary Ann 315-348-6260.

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



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.

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

DIOCESAN EVENTS

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 & 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 their 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 Sr. Bernadette Collins, SSJ at (315) 393-2920 or bcollins@rcdony.org.

LIFECHAIN

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.

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 online at www.rcdony.org/lead and a zoom link will be provided. Questions, contact Anita Soltero asoltero@rcdony.org

DIOCESAN 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 tsemarero@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920 for full requirements to join.

**Is your subscription going to expire soon?
How to tell by looking at your mailing label.**

Expire Date

****AUTO**5 DIGIT 12345 05/27/2020

Mr. and Mrs. John Doe
123 Church Rd
Anywhere, NY 12345

If your label is showing that your account is going to expire soon, Please cut out this entire ad and fill in your information below or pay online at

www.northcountrycatholic.org

Inside Diocese \$27 Outside Diocese \$30

I want to be a Patron: \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

**Send this entire ad with payment to:
North Country Catholic
PO Box 106, Canajoharie, New York, 13317**

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Thoughts on marriage and family

This week's readings are all about marriage and family. The second reading from Hebrews gives the key to a successful attitude. In this marvelous letter to second-century Christians, the writer says: "He who consecrates and those who are consecrated all have one origin." It's clear from the context that coming to glory through suffering is what we have in common



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

with Jesus. As His whole purpose was giving glory to the Father through our redemption, so our whole purpose, whether married or not married, is the same as Christ's. If married, then our purpose is to help our spouse *give God glory through the communion of sacrificing love.*

So, if a spouse's self-fulfillment and personal pleasure-seeking has to take a back seat to

October 3

27th Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

Genesis 2:18-24

Hebrews 2:9-11

Mark 10:2-16

the good of the other, then so be it! Compromise, openness to his ideas or her ideas, praying together, listening to each other, just being for one another – all makes marriage a holy alliance. Incidentally, this kind of communion of spirit as well as communion of

flesh makes for faith-filled acceptance and understanding that, at times of family tragedy, God is still loving and caring for us.

If we have this understanding of marriage, then Jesus' advice to the Pharisees in today's Gospel is possible and doable: Therefore, what God has put together, let no human being separate! Now when there are deep-seated troubles that go back before a couple married, then the Church's annulment process is all about dis-

cerning whether God in his far-seeing providence really willed to join this couple. This is the reason for in-depth preparation for the sacrament. Please consult your pastor if you would like advice in this matter.

Above all, in our terribly troubled world, marriages according to Christ's understanding are so needed for growth in the faith by our children, and that we ourselves be a light in the darkness. Family life lived well brings peace and joy beyond words.

CALLED TO SERVE

No whiners allowed

Now the day has arrived. What seemed so far away four years ago is here. The ordination of 12 men as permanent deacons will occur this Saturday at St. Mary's Cathedral. The following weekend, there will be another ordination in Plattsburgh, a candidate for permanent deacon will be ordained alongside his son, who will be ordained a deacon as he moves along on his journey to the priesthood. This is truly a time for this diocese to celebrate.

I recall being captivated by Bishop Thomas Costello's words at my own ordination 18 years ago. He told us we were "configured to Christ." At the time, the notion that I would be, by virtue of ordination, something more than a foot soldier in the church's ranks was a bit scary. But over time the mark has become apparent to me.

In his homily address to candidates in Syracuse in 2010, Bishop Robert Cunningham said, "The Church selects these men, called by God, for the role of service. Their service is linked to the servanthood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. There are deacons in the Church only because Jesus Christ came to serve and because service is His legacy to the Church.

By their ordination, these men are configured to Christ in His servant role."

Among other things, deacons proclaim the Gospel of Christ. But more than just proclaiming it, we are called to live the Gospel. By our example, teach. The words of the bishop in the ordination ceremony as he presents a Book of the Gospels to each candidate are often quoted, "Receive the Gospel of Christ

whose herald you have become ... believe what you read, teach what you believe, practice what you teach."

Bishop Terry R. LaValley added punch to that phrase in 2017 when he told that class of candidates, "Dear brothers, as ministers of Jesus Christ, who came among His disciples as one who served, do the will of God from your heart: serve all people in love and joy as



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

you would the very Lord Himself. There is absolutely nothing Christ-like about a joy-less, dour, rigid, whiny disciple. No, our ministry should be inspired by resurrection hope and joy. Never allow yourself to be turned away from the hope offered by the Gospel."

This is a special time for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Over the next two weeks, 14 men will be ordained

to ministry in our local church. God bless them, their wives and families who have supported them in formation. We pray they trust the Holy Spirit, who called them to this ministry, to guide them, to our Patrons Mary and Joseph, for their gentle love and to Jesus Christ, in whose servant role they are configured.

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

Fr. Don Manfred

You are a Blessing to
St. Francis.
We are fortunate to
have you.

~Jill Carpenter

**MONASTERY CARD SHOP**

Cards for All Occasions

Mass Enrollments for your living & deceased loved ones.

Precious Blood Monastery

OPEN: 9 AM - 5 PM

SATURDAY 9 AM - 12 PM

400 PRATT ST., WATERTOWN

315-788-1669

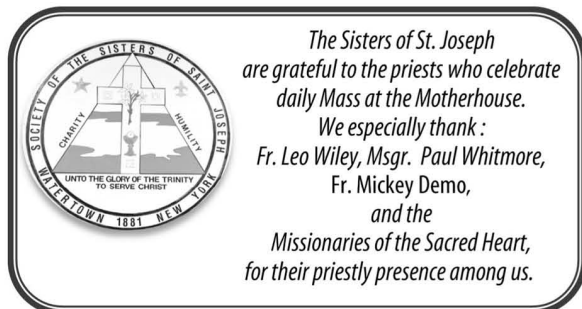
www.sisterspreciousblood.org

**Fr. Scott A. Belina
&
Fr. Deepak Baru**

St. Hedwig's is very blessed by your presence.



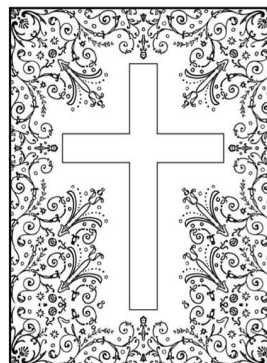
We appreciate our priests!



*The Sisters of St. Joseph
are grateful to the priests who celebrate
daily Mass at the Motherhouse.
We especially thank :
Fr. Leo Wiley, Msgr. Paul Whitmore,
Fr. Mickey Demo,
and the
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart,
for their priestly presence among us.*

Father Fish,
Thank you for
all your prayers.

A Friend



Father Kris Lauzon

With Gratitude!

*~Catholics Along the
AuSable River*



The parishioners of
Our Lady of Grace
Parish,
Morristown,
Hammond, and Rossie
are grateful to
Father Chris Carrara
for his dedication and
service to our parish.

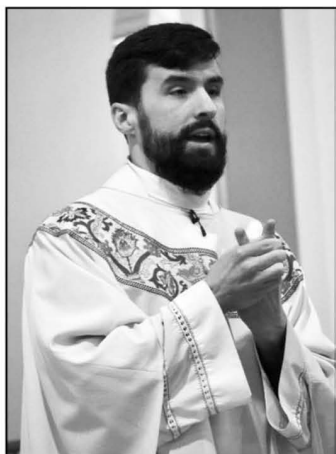
**Fr. Steven Murray
Fr. Fernando Solomon**

Thank you for your guidance
and all that you do for our parish.



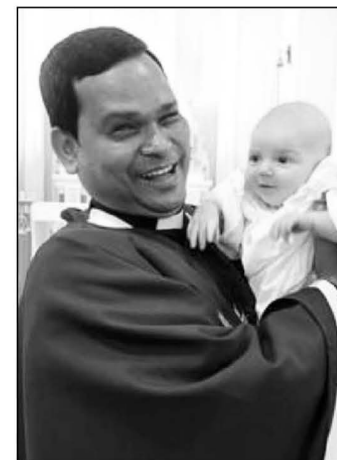
From The Morning Church Ladies!!!

**Fr. Mike
Jablonski,**
Thank you for
saying 'yes'.



Rev. Scott A. Belina
Pastor

We are
Thankful to God
for our
Faithful Priests



Rev. Deepak Baru
Parochial Vicar

May Christ, in whose place you stand as priest,
bless you as you inspire, guide, and support your parish families.

Catholic Community of St. Peter ~ St. Mary ~ St. Hedwig

5457 Shady Avenue, Lowville, New York



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296
mbrett@rcdony.org

Grateful for our priests

We begin each day with grateful hearts for all our priests and their continued service to the Church. It is only because of their continued hard work and support that we can complete the work we do every day in the Mission Office.

We are especially grateful for their efforts with this year's Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and Missionary CO-OP appeals. It has been a difficult year with the changing COVID protocols, and we thank them for their flexibility and patience every step of the way.

We would like to especially thank Bishop Terry R. LaValley, Father Joseph A. Morgan, VG, Father James R. Seymour and Father Kevin J. O'Brien for supporting us on our Board of Directors. Your guidance, as well as the time and effort you put into helping us, is invaluable.

This year, we would like to highlight the service of Father Mark R. Reilly.

Father Reilly has been a priest for 24 years. He entered the seminary after serving in the U.S. Marines and then became a Navy chaplain after ordination.

Father Reilly was deployed in August of 2012 to Djibouti, Africa, where he served for a year.

After returning to the United States, Father Reilly maintained contact with the bishop and some of the priests and sisters of Djibouti. He now works to help ensure some of the priests are able to participate in our Missionary CO-OP.

This year, Father Reilly spoke himself at various churches, as COVID prevented the international priests from doing it.

The religious in Djibouti use the funding they receive to educate children, assist the poor, support religious orders, run a clinic, help refugees to pass through the country to the Red Sea, and to run a trade school that teaches mechanics and carpentry.

Father Daniel L. Chapin, who we highlighted last year, continues to serve the poor in South America.

Thank you to all our priests from both of us,

Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ
Director, Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese
of Ogdensburg

Alexis Michael
Secretary/Bookkeeper

OBITUARIES

Champlain – Robert “Bob” Mesec, 44; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 23, 2021 at St. Mary's Church.

Chazy – Herwood “Woody” J. Mayo, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 23, 2021 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Constable – Ann Margaret (LaMere) Tremblay, 82; Graveside services Sept. 23, 2021 at St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery.

Ellenburg – Donna Marie (Frennier) Premo, 70; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 22, 2021 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in Immaculate Heart cemetery, Churubusco.

Inlet – Mary L. (Bristol) Suplee, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 30, 2021 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Riverview Cemetery, Old Forge.

Fort Covington – Rhonda Lynn (Black) Dunaway; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 24, 2021 at St. Mary's of the Fort.

Fort Covington – Leon W. Richards, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 27, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Sand Hill Cemetery, North Dickenson.

Lowville – Chandler Dolan, 4; Private Services at Iseneker Funeral Home; burial in Turin Cemetery.

Peru – Joyce Ann (Garrow) Tromblee, 88; Funeral Services Oct. 1, 2021 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. John's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Carolyn (Weatherwax) Burakowski, 90; Mass of Christian Burial at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Rouses Point.

Plattsburgh – Marguerite Eisinger, 82; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at a later date.

Saranac Lake – Elizabeth “Betty” Amelia Sauvie, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 25, 2021 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Schroon Lake – Bill Calmbacher, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 29, 2021 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church; burial in Our Lady of Lourdes Cemetery.

West Chazy – Shirley Miller Hanson, 62; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 24, 2021 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

West Chazy – Donald K. Woodley, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 6, 2021 at St. Joseph's Church.



FLOATING AWAY WITH THE SEASON

On Sept. 5, St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga invited youth to go on a tubing trip. Several young people and parents attended and tubed down the Hudson River. The trip was funded by the parish and the Healthy Families Hopeful Future Grant from the Mother Cabrini Foundation. The event was an opportunity for the youth and their families to mark the end of summer and enjoy God's creations!



(Above) Facilitator Cathy Russell leads a discussion on how the Eucharist sustains us on our spiritual journey. (Far left) Participants share keywords and phrases with facilitator Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ about what stood out to them during a video session on how the Eucharist unites us with Jesus. (Right) Father Mark Reilly of St. Peter's Parish in Massena speaks explains the difference between the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge and Evil during a discussion on The Story of the Eucharist.



Sharing knowledge of the Holy Eucharist

By Jessica Hargrave
Contributing Writer

At the Chrism Mass on March 30, 2021 Bishop LaValley addressed the need to re-focus our attention on the Holy Eucharist, "as a Mystery to be believed, a Mystery to be celebrated, a Mystery to be lived...There is a strong need for catechesis, renewed devotion, increase of missionary spirit and a rejuvenated understanding of ecclesial communion that can only occur through a deepened understanding and reinvigorated belief in the Eucharist."

In light of Bishop LaValley's announcement, the diocesan Department of Education held an event,

"The Mystery of the Holy Eucharist: Believe. Celebrate. Live" on Friday, September 17 for Catholic School teachers at eight Catholic Schools – Trinity in Massena, St. Bernard's School in Saranac Lake, St. Agnes School in Lake Placid, St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga, St. James School in Gouverneur, Seton in Plattsburgh, Immaculate Heart Central (IHC) in Watertown, and Augustinian Academy in Carthage. On Saturday, September 18 the presentation was repeated for parishioners involved in parish ministry at eight parish locations around the diocese – Waddington Parish Center, St. James School, Seton, Brushton's St.

Mary's Parish Center, St. Edmund's Parish Center in Ellenburg, St. Mary's School, IHC, and St. Peter's Church in Lowville.

Participants were shown the video series *Presence* from Augustine Institute (available on FORMED), which explores the truth and significance of Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist, its origins in Scripture, and its role in the life of the Church.

Each of the three videos were followed by enriching discussion amongst participants who shared their experiences and ideas pertaining to the Blessed Sacraments and its effect on their faith and church community.

Facilitators and locations included:

Schools on Sept. 17

- IHC: Karen Donahue and Marika Donders
- St. Agnes School: Anita Soltero
- Seton Catholic: Pam Ballantine and Tom Semeraro
- St. James School: Michele Lallier
- Trinity Catholic: Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ and Catherine Russell
- St. Mary's School: Sister Mary Gregory Munger, SSJ
- St. Bernard's School: Michelle Meyers
- Augustinian Academy: Steve Tartaglia, Sister Bernadette Marie Collins, SSJ

Parishes on Sept. 18

- Ellenburg: Tom Se-

meraro

- St. Mary's School: St. Mary Gregory Munger, SSJ
 - IHC: Karen Donahue, Michelle Meyers, Sister Bernadette Marie Collins, SSJ
 - Seton Catholic : Pam Ballantine and Anita Soltero
 - Waddington Parish Center: Catherine Russell and Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ
 - Brushton's St. Mary's Parish Center: Marika Donders
 - St. James School: Michele Lallier
 - St. Peter's Church, Lowville: Steve Tartaglia
- The Department of Education is offering to facilitate this workshop at a parish level for those who are interested.