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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 76 Number 18

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPTEMBER 8, 2021

CELEBRATION GATHERING



Guggenheim alumni staff celebrated the ordination of Alex Pacelli (Father Pier Giorgio) at the Guggenheim Lodge on August 27 with a mass and cookout. Pictured are (back row) Joey Izzo, Kevin McCullough, Father Martin Cline, Nicholas Olley, Conner Cummings, (front row) Kelly Bobak Smith, Mary Catherine Izzo, Erin Miner Leader, Ellen Miner McBride, Father Pier Giorgio and Johnny McBride. Father Pacelli, who spent part of his youth in Lake Placid, was ordained in July.

LAY ASSOCIATES GROW THEIR FAITH IN COMMUNITY



Some members of the Sisters of St. Joseph Associates gathered on August 15, The Feast of the Assumption, to renew their commitment as associates. Additional commitment ceremonies will be held in the future with associates who were unable to attend. The Sisters of St. Joseph Associates are currently planning three interest meetings, one in each of the three areas where they meet.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope: Euthanasia is sign of 'throwaway culture'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Increasing calls to legalize euthanasia in several European countries, as well as the disregard for vulnerable people and the unborn, are signs of a "throwaway culture" that is gaining ground across the continent, Pope Francis said.

"What is (deemed) useless is discarded. Old people are disposable material; they are a nuisance. Not all of them, but of course, in the collective subconscious of the

throwaway culture, the old, the terminally ill, and unwanted children, too; they are returned to the sender before they are born," the pope said in an interview with COPE, the radio station owned by the Spanish bishops' conference, broadcast Sept. 1.

"This throwaway culture has marked us. And it marks the young and the old. It has a strong influence on one of the tragedies of today's European culture," he said.

In March, Spain's parliament passed a law legalizing euthanasia in the country, making it the fourth European country to legalize physician-assisted suicide after Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

Other European countries, such as Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Finland and Norway, allow for what is known as "passive euthanasia," in which patients, under strict circumstances, can elect to not

receive treatments, such as nutrition or hydration, that would prolong their lives.

Recently, in Italy, 750,000 people signed a petition to abolish a clause in the Italian criminal code that makes assisted suicide punishable by five to 12 years in prison.

Supporters of euthanasia, the pope said, often use "the idea of compassion, 'that this person may not suffer.' But what the church is asking is to help

people to die with dignity. This has always been done."

Pope Francis also lamented "the demographic winter" in Europe, particularly due to increased cases of abortion.

The pope said that while he does "not like to enter into discussions" on whether abortions are "possible up to here or whether it is not possible up to there," what is indisputable is the existence of human life.

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'It's ok to fall apart sometimes'

It's one of my newer shirts, but it's quickly become my favorite top for casual days. It's a simple, gray t-shirt with an image of a taco on it and text that says, "It's ok to fall apart sometimes. Tacos fall apart all the time, and we still love them."

We all hit tough times in our lives. I refer to them as moments of "drama and chaos." In my life, they've manifested over the last few years as health issues, emergencies and efforts to tackle personal problems in drastic ways.

More than a few times, I've

let the "tough times" cause me to fall apart and fall into feelings of despair.



**Darcy L.
Fargo**

I allow myself to slip into thoughts of "why does God let things like this happen to me?" or "I don't deserve this." Sometimes, I even despair to the point where I stumble in my relationship with the Lord, and I let my spiritual life and prayer life fall to the wayside, and I slip into self-reliance.

Sometimes, it's like I give up on God.

Luckily, God doesn't give up on me.

While I may blind myself to his working in my life in

moments of acute stress or hardship, God has a strange way of making his presence known.

God makes his presence known in the loved ones – family and friends alike – who offer their ears to listen, shoulders to cry on and arms in loving embraces. God makes his presence known in the mentor who encourages me to work through my problems and not allow myself to wallow in sadness and self-pity. God makes his presence known in the urgings I feel to take my problems to him in prayer, even if the only prayer I can muster is an exasperated "please help me."

Whether I acknowledge it or not, God makes his pres-

ence known and gives me the strength and resolve I need to continue moving forward in hard times.

And when I'm focused on my struggles, failings and unworthiness, God reminds me he loves me despite my weaknesses and struggles. God reminds me he doesn't have to make me whole to make me holy, or at least to make me want to be holy (I'm certainly not there yet). He's working on me where I am now.

Where am I now? In a place where I'll fall apart and fall away sometimes.

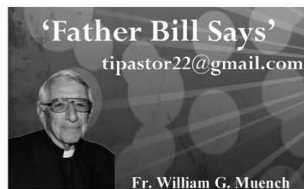
As my shirt says, though, it's ok to fall apart. It gives God a chance to put us back together and bring us back to him.

Praying to the Lord from the heart

A few weeks ago, I planned my Sunday homily around the Gospel reading from Mark 7, in which Jesus quotes Isaiah who speaks in prophecy as from God: "This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts."

Praying to the Lord from the heart. In my homily, I wanted the people to realize how important and necessary it is to pray to God from the heart. As an introduction to my homily, I decided to use as an example of what it is like to live or play from the heart. I had been watching the Little League Baseball World Series that day. So, I began the homily speaking of how impressed I was with the enthusiasm and spirit these 12 year olds displayed playing for their teams. In baseball parlance, this is called playing with heart.

Jesus asks that our hearts are not far from him in prayer and dedication as his



disciples. Often, our prayers can be much too wordy. We know the words of so many prayers; we've learned them by heart since we were children. We know the words, but often we do not know what they should mean to us. We really don't realize how our words should make us act. Praying from the heart – we mean to act as we pray – our actions bear witness to what our prayers are saying.

I am often asked how we know that we are truly praying from the heart. Let me say, first of all, that I believe that each of us should truly realize immediately just how meaningful are prayers are meant to be. Prayers should transform our lives. We have to ask ourselves, do

my prayers truly transform my life? My prayers should establish for me a good relationship with the Lord, a relationship that will make me a different person, a person that is more alive to the Lord, a person truly living in love with my God.

I have stood with families in hospitals praying with them for a loved one, who is a patient. I am certain that they were all praying from the heart. I have counseled many who have been in crisis, and we have prayed together. I have no doubt that they were praying from the heart. I have officiated at many weddings and have prayed with each couple. I would like to believe that each couple prayed from the heart, praying about their future with hope and confidence.

So, what about you and me? As we go through life living out our various vocations – often rather ordinary vocations – praying and worshipping the Lord, can we

honestly say that we are praying from the heart? I believe that it begins with our relationship with the Lord Jesus. You see, if the Lord is our friend, if Jesus is truly a part of our lives, if the presence of the Our Lord is a powerful part of our life, I am certain that our prayers will unite us in a most perfect way with the Lord from our hearts.

Why do we pray? As Catholics and followers of the Lord Jesus, in faith we have made a decision, a decision for Jesus. We have made a decision that we want Jesus to be part of all that we do. We want Jesus to be our friend. We want Jesus to be our Savior. To make this possible, our prayers must be more than lip service to the Lord. We must truly pray from the heart. In this morning's Morning Prayer, the antiphon for the Canticle from Samuel says: "My heart leaps up with joy to the Lord, for he humbles only to exalt us."

FOLLOW ME

Grant me the serenity...

Eleven years ago, at a Labor Day Weekend Mass, Father Joseph Morgan presented me a backpack filled with school supplies. Students were going back to school that week and so was I. I was beginning New Bishops' School in Rome and the Cathedral parish family, at Father Morgan's prompting, I'm sure, wanted to be sure that I was prepared for the days of rigorous study to come.



Bishop Terry R. LaValley

As I was reflecting on that Labor Day weekend of 2010, I recalled the conversation I had with Archbishop Siambi, Papal Nuncio to the United States, when he called to tell me that Pope Benedict XVI had selected me to be the new Bishop of Ogdensburg. Among his words of advice to me in that conversation were: "Be serene."

I found that to be a rather curious statement. I mean, did he know something about me that I should be especially attuned to? Had he heard that I was "un-serene" like? I wondered why he offered me these words of counsel.

Serene is not a commonly used word in my vocabulary.

Be serene. Don't worry or be anxious. Be at peace. Stay calm and unruffled.

During these most turbulent of times, how is that possible? It seems that everybody has got a beef with somebody. Often our language reveals a certain internal restlessness and, at times, even a fierce animosity towards those who see things differently than we

do. We've moved to the extremes and found life at the poles anything but serene.

Extreme political partisanship has caused just plain decency and mutual human respect to suffer. The pandemic has created huge gaps between us due to our acceptance of health care protocols such as vaccinations and facial coverings. Even the Eucharist, the reception of Holy Communion has become a topic of controversy and heated debate among some. Many of the letters that I receive these days reflect the passionate position that some individuals hold regarding many of these concerns. There are few hints of serenity in the correspondence that crosses my desk.

More and more, people are becoming unreclected, fiercely independent, distracted, angry and torn (anything but serene). With such a heightened state of emotion, unsettledness and fear, too often clear thinking, genuine listening, human respect and faith have been found wanting in our decision-making process.

Clearly, school isn't over yet for me. I've learned that challenging times such as these can help us gain insight into our personal weaknesses and shed light on areas of spiritual growth that need our attention.

One area of growth and need for revival is our appreciation of the Mass. The Eucharist is an expression of our unity and vital nourishment in help-

ing us maintain communion with one another and our Triune God. The Eucharist is a Mystery to be believed, to be celebrated and to be lived. I hope that we can all make ourselves available to participate in our parish and diocesan efforts to strengthen our Eucharistic Spirituality. It can go a long way in creating the space for serenity and inner peace while retaining our Spirit-instilled passion.

Reinhold Niebuhr penned a familiar prayer that you might find helpful in your search for serenity in these troublesome times:

*God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time;
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is,
not as I would have it;
trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will;
that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him
forever in the next.
AMEN.*



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Lay Associates grow their faith in community

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

For more than 20 years, the Sisters of St. Joseph Lay Associates have been helping men and women from around the diocese grow in their spiritual lives and their connections to Christ, the Sisters of St. Joseph, each other and their communities.

"After Vatican II, religious communities were invited to go back to their roots," said Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, a Sister of St. Joseph. "Researching their histories, many communities found they had lay associations in addition to vowed members."

Sister Bethany said many communities re-activated those lay associations and third orders, and other communities created new associations. The Sisters of St. Joseph Lay Associates were created in the late 1990s as a result of that resurgence in lay involvement with communities.

Associates meet monthly to learn about the spirituality and history of the Sisters of St. Joseph, pray together and share ways to deeper their spiritual lives. Currently, there are more than 70 lay associates spread throughout the Diocese of Ogdens-

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LAY ASSOCIATES

Sisters of St. Joseph invite you to a meeting to learn about their Lay Associate Program that is open to women and men. Introductory Meetings will be held in these diocesan locations:

- St. Patrick's Parish Center, Colton on Saturday, Sept. 11 at 1 p.m.
- Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, Watertown on Sunday, Sept. 12 at 1:30 p.m.
- St. John XXIII Newman Center, Plattsburgh on Sunday Sept. 12 at 2:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Sister Kathleen DeBolt at skmdebb@yahoo.com (Watertown area) or Sister Bethany Fitzgerald srbethssj@gmail.com (Colton and Plattsburgh areas) or 315-782-3460

burg.

"The Sisters of St. Joseph were founded in France in 1650," Sister Bethany said. "We discuss how that spirituality founded in 1650 still relates to the world today and today's needs and how it helps the heal the brokenness of our world today. Our charism is about building the relationship with God, each other and the dear neighbor and unity, reconciliation and inclusive love."

Anne Miller of Norwood said being a lay associate has "fulfilled a need" in her life.

"I've learned a lot about myself, and my prayer life has been strengthened," she said. "It's also changed the way I look at things. I'm turning more to God and less to me, more to prayer and less to doing things myself. It's a whole

support unit I now have."

"I never knew there was Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer in the Church," added Pat Fanning, a lay associate from Watertown. "The sisters introduced me to that. Now, I do Morning Prayer 'religiously.' I have a greater appreciation of the Psalms. I've gotten closer to God."

"I love the sense of community," added Mary Skillan, a lay associate from Plattsburgh. "It's being with like-minded individuals whose faith is important to them. It's a sense of connectedness to the sisters, the community and their charism. I feel a connection to their charism. They are a joyful bunch of ladies, and they're always focused on the dear neighbor and practicing radical hospitality."

Joining the Lay Associates is a two-year process that typically begins with attending an interest meeting.

"Come and see what we're about and what our spirituality is about," said Sister Bethany. "See if it connects with where you are in your spiritual journey. The roots of our spirituality has influences of Jesuit spirituality and St. Francis de Sales. St. Francis de Sales wrote 'The Introduction to the Devout Life.' His spirituality is very down to earth. He talks about reaching out to the lay people and everybody having a vocation. Jesuit spirituality is about finding God in all things and deepening of prayer. Jesuit spirituality also includes an incredible method of discerning what does God want me to do with my life, with today and with tomorrow. The richness of those spiritualities are intertwined in our spirituality. It's exciting to see anyone else who is called and has that charism so we can share in finding God in all things, reaching out to the dear neighbor and deepening our relationships with God and neighbor."

Interested individuals participate in learning and discernment for a two-year period before committing to the Sisters of St. Joseph Lay Associates.

"It's two years to explore and discern," Sister Bethany said. "At any time within that period, a person can decide it's not the right timing or it doesn't feel like where they are called."

After the two years, a ceremony is held committing the individual to the association for one year. Associates re-commit to the organization annually.

As associates, participants draw together

monthly in groups spread around the diocese. Currently groups meet in Plattsburgh, Watertown and Colton.

"We always open with prayer," Fanning said of the meetings. "There might be a book that's been selected to read. We discuss parts of the book in small groups, and then we bring the discussion back to the larger group and discuss more. I enjoy the book discussions. It makes us see what we've missed when we read that part of the book."

"Listening to what other people are saying, thinking and praying, I get to open myself up more and more to what God is telling me," added Miller. "It's good to have a group to grow spiritually with."

Skillan also noted that the associates attend annual retreats during Lent and Advent.

"They're extra opportunities for prayer and reflection," she said.

She said each associate is also paired with a sister as a "prayer partner," committing to praying for one another.

The Sisters of St. Joseph Lay Associates is currently planning several interest meetings (see box with this story) for individuals who want to learn more about the associates and their spirituality.

"If an individual comes to explore, there's no commitment," said Fanning. "There's no commitment associated with trying it out. And there's never any cost."

"Come and see," added Skillan. "I think you can get a sense almost from the get-go if this is the order you would want to be a part of, but you don't really know until you go check it out and see if you feel a connection."



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Volunteers needed for 'Friendship' program

Community Health Center of the North Country (CHCNC) is pleased to announce the expansion of their Community Friendship Volunteer Program (CFVP) into St. Lawrence County.

The mission of CFVP is to help build age friendly communities by ensuring older residents remain in their own homes, retain their independence, have access to services and recreation in their community, and remain out of long-term care facilities unless that level of care is required.

The program has been serving older residents in Northern Franklin County for more than eight years and currently serves approximately 90 clients with around 45 volunteers.

According to Ray Babowicz, director of Communications and Marketing, "Older residents will need our support more than ever in the coming years. The unique caregiving constraints of living in the North Coun-

try such as long distances from services, cold and severe winters, and lack of adequate home and community based services will be amplified, as the aging population grows and government resources diminish. Fewer family caregivers will be available than in the past as younger generations continue to move away for education and better job prospects, leaving their parents behind. Combine this with the ongoing shortage of home healthcare workers, and it is easy to see why the reliance on volunteer programs is growing exponentially."

Donna Elliott, the incoming coordinator of the Program in St. Lawrence County added, "The expansion and enhancement of the Community Friendship Volunteer Program provides a benefit to the community by allowing seniors to contribute to our social, economic, and intellectual resources. We provide comprehensive and compassionate sup-

port to vulnerable older residents and their families, free of charge, through Friendship Volunteers. Due to income restrictions, many seniors 'fall through the cracks' of traditional programs. This is not only the right thing to do, but it saves the healthcare system millions of dollars that can be reinvested in other ways."

Volunteers offer services including: home visits, crafts or gardening, assistance with meal preparation, phone conversations, coordination of transportation to medical appointments, prescription pick-up, recreational activities, assistance with housework or grocery shopping and access to art/music/literature.

Although the program will not start serving clients until later this year, volunteers are what make this program successful.

Therefore, Community Health Center of the North Country invites anyone in St. Lawrence

County who is interested in becoming a Friendship Volunteer to attend an orientation at the Ogdensburg Health Center, located at 102 Ford Street, on September 15 and 16 from 9 a.m. to noon.

This orientation will also be available via Zoom for those unable to attend in person. Pre-registration is required. To request registration information, please contact Ray Babowicz at CHCNC by calling 315-713-9369 or Donna Elliott at 315-379-8345. They can be reached by e-mail at rbabowicz@chcnorthcountry.org or dellott@chcnorthcountry.org. Those interested can also go directly to www.chcnorthcountry.org/cfvp.

Volunteers of all ages are encouraged and invited to participate. A separate orientation will be held on Nov. 3 and 4.

"Volunteers are the heart of this program," Babowicz added. "However, without generous financial support from the Northern New York Com-

munity Foundation, the Adirondack Foundation, the Sweetgrass Foundation, and most recently from the New York State Office for The Aging, the expansion into St. Lawrence County would have certainly been delayed. So, a big thank you goes out to their teams for throwing their support behind this project."

The program was also aided by grant funding from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation.

Community Health Center of the North Country, one of Northern New York's premiere providers of healthcare services for people of all income levels, is part of a national network of community health centers serving over 29 million patients including 300,000 veterans, 1 in 6 Medicaid beneficiaries, nearly 1.2 million homeless, and over 7.5 million children. They have locations in Canton, Gouverneur, Malone, and Ogdensburg. More information is available at www.chcnorthcountry.org.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Blue Mass to honor police, corrections, fire and EMS personnel

Bishop Terry R. LaValley cordially invites all police, corrections, fire and EMS personnel to the Diocese of Ogdensburg Blue Mass at 2 p.m. on September 26. This year, the Blue Mass will be at Notre Dame Church in Malone. The community is invited to join in prayer for the safety and wellbeing of all first responders and public safety personnel. For more information, contact Father Chris Carrara at 315-605-1039 or ccarrara@rcdony.org, or visit rcdony.org/bluemass.

Diocesan Youth Council seeks members

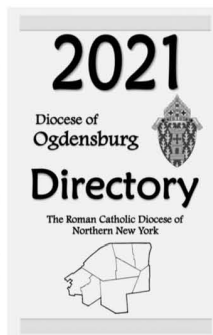
Comprised of members in grades 10-12 who live in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, each member serves on Diocesan Youth Council (DYC) for a one-year term. Members can apply to serve for up to three terms.

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.
2. Members will help plan, facilitate and promote diocesan-sponsored events (youth rally, Lenten retreat days..).

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, director of Youth Ministry, at tsemeraro@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920 for full requirements to join.

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Environmental Stewardship

What is the Season of Creation?

The Season of Creation is celebrated around the world and in many faith traditions. The season began on September 1, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and runs through October 4, the Feast of St. Francis, who is the patron saint of ecology in many traditions. It is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home."

The theme for 2021 is "A Home For All? Renewing the Beloved Community of God." The earth, our common home, belongs to God, and each beloved creature belongs to this community. The earth is a gift, and we are called into kinship to protect and support this gift so generously given. Throughout the month-long celebration, the world's 2.2 billion Christians come together to care for our common home.

As Catholics we celebrate the giving of thanks in Eucharist (eucharist) as its source and summit of our faith. Studies even reveal that gratitude helps us live more sustainably, reins in anxiety about changing of climate and bolsters our immune system for the challenging days and years ahead. When you consider being alive on earth at this time in human history, what are you most grateful for? Rooted in that wellspring of wonder, how do you choose to take part in the healing of our world?

Grounded in gratitude for those particular places that are special or sacred to you, consider committing time and energy to their preservation and protection. September is National Clean-up Month, and Sept. 18th is World and National Clean-up Day. From coast to coast, organizations and individuals volunteer to clean up parks, trails, beaches, mountains and open spaces. Search your region for opportunities to sign up, or create your own project with others in your parish or community. Enjoy: WORLD OF GRATITUDE SEASON OF CREATION 2021 on YouTube

Bishop's Public Schedule

Sept. 8 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

Sept. 9 – Noon – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

Sept. 10 – 12:05 p.m. – Bishop's Heritage Circle and Memorare Legacy Society Mass at Holy Cross Parish (at St. Peter's Church) in Plattsburgh followed by a luncheon

Sept. 11 – 10:30 a.m. – Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting at St. Mary's Parish Center in Brushton

Sept. 12 – 10 a.m. – Mass in Celebration of the 200th Anniversary of St. James Minor Church in Carthage and the Installation of Reverend Todd E. Thibault as Pastor of St. James Minor Church in Carthage and St. Mary's Church in Copenhagen

Sept. 13 – 10:30 a.m. – Investment Advisory Committee Meeting at Bishop's Residence

Sept. 14 – Presbyteral Gathering at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

8 a.m. – Mass at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown

Sept. 15 – Presbyteral Gathering at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

1 p.m. – Council of Priests Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

5 p.m. – Mass with the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod at the new convent in Lisbon

To Report Abuse

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

By **Stephen Tartaglia**
Director of Family Life

The mission of the Christian family is to sanctify and transform our present society according to God's plan. Spouses are responsible

Rest in Peace

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

Sept. 8 – Rev. Michael Jacobs, S.J., 1988; Rev. William H. Coffey, 2000

Sept. 9 – Rev. Michael Olivetti, 1863; Rev. Thomas P. Fitzgerald, 1914; Rev. Antonio Audet, 1957

Sept. 11 – Rev. J. A. Langlois, 1872; Rev. Hyacinth Rueberg, 1913

Sept. 12 – Rev. Vincent Skiba, 1984

Sept. 14 – Rev. Russell Charles O'Neil, 1951

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.

Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters from readers of the North Country Catholic.

• Due to space limitations, we ask that the number of words be limited to 500.

• We cannot accept letters which support ideas which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

• Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or e-mail to news@northcountrycatholic.org

• Join the conversation!

to help each other get to heaven, generate children, and raise their children to be physically, mentally and spiritually healthy. The Church teaches that the traditional nuclear family, the man and woman united in marriage and their children, is the norm and that public authorities have an obligation to recognize it.

It should come as no surprise that God's plan for marriage and family life is actually good for society, after all the family is the building block of society.

Studies have shown that traditional nuclear families are economically stronger, more law abiding, more active politically, more productive with fewer days off school and/or work, have less childhood poverty, their children experience better educational outcomes, and present less of a financial burden on the state than other non-traditional families.

Unfortunately, we live in a culture that works against God's plan for marriage and family life in many and various ways. In the last two generations, there has been a dramatic rise in irregular marital situations and, consequently, fewer children are brought to wor-

ship at Mass, to learn Church teaching in parish catechesis classes or in Catholic schools, and to receive the sacraments. Deprived of the knowledge of God and the opportunities to receive His Grace, these children are statistically more likely to be involved in irregular marital situations themselves as they grow older.

The Family Life Office exists to help families live God's plan.

We support families through several different ministries and activities, including marriage preparation and marriage enrichment, ministry to separated and divorced families, retreats for men, women and the entire family, grief workshops, and celebration of married couples in the annual Married/Religious Jubilee. We provide materials to parishes in support of family ministries, and we collaborate with other Diocesan Offices in workshops, and special diocesan wide events.

The Family Guggenheim program, a week-end family retreat at Camp Guggenheim, has a history going back over 30 years. It has touched multiple generations of hundreds of families within the Diocese of Ogdensburg and many that have moved away but return to participate in the program with their children and grandchildren.

I whole-heartedly thank God for allowing me to be involved in ministering to you and your families. This office is supported through the Bishop's Fund, I whole-heartedly thank you for your ongoing support as well.

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CHEVROLET

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Former Cardinal McCarrick pleads not guilty

WASHINGTON (CNS) —Former Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick pleaded not guilty Sept. 3 in a Massachusetts court, where he is facing three counts of sexually assaulting a teenager in the 1970s. Local news reporters posted video on Twitter of the 91-year-old McCarrick, wearing a face mask and slowly heading toward Dedham District Court with the aid of a walker as protesters shouted, "Go to hell, McCarrick," and "How many lives, how many children?" He was not taken under custody but was ordered to post \$5,000 bail and have no contact with the alleged victim or children. The former high-ranking, globe-trotting church official also was ordered not to leave the country and surrendered his passport. The day before the arraignment, a former employee and a former priest of the Archdiocese of Newark filed lawsuits alleging unpermitted sexual contact by McCarrick for alleged incidents in 1991. The Massachusetts case is the first time, however, that McCarrick has faced charges for assault of a minor, which is alleged to first have taken place at a wedding reception and continued over the years in different states.

Pope plans to visit climate change conference in Glasgow

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis said he plans to make several papal trips before the end of the year, including to Scotland in early November to attend the U.N. Climate Change Conference. During an interview broadcast Sept. 1 with COPE, the radio station owned by the Spanish bishops' conference, the pope was asked if he planned to attend the meeting, known as COP26, in Glasgow. "Yes, in principle, the plan is that I go," he said. "It all depends on how I feel at the time. But in fact, my speech is already being prepared, and the plan is to be there." Pope Francis is expected to host about three dozen religious leaders from around the world at a meeting at the Vatican and in Rome Oct. 4 in preparation for the summit. Speaking to a group of Orthodox clerics June 28, Pope Francis said he was looking forward to an October meeting with Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, an early leader in the Christian ecology movement.

Vatican: No 'semblance of truth' in claims against bishop

NEW YORK (CNS) — The Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has determined that allegations of sexual abuse of a minor against Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn were found "not to have the semblance of truth." The finding was announced Sept. 1 by the Archdiocese of New York, which had initiated an investigation into the allegation under "Vos Estis Lux Mundi" ("You are the light of the world"), the norms issued by Pope Francis in 2019 to address sexual abuse allegations against bishops. "Given this finding, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith will not authorize any further canonical process to address the accusations," the archdiocese said. After the announcement, Bishop DiMarzio reiterated that the allegation was false, a stance he has maintained since it was first made in November 2019. "I repeat what I have said from the beginning. There is no truth to these allegations. Throughout my more than 50-year ministry as a priest, I have never abused anyone," he said in statement released by the Brooklyn Diocese. He also said he cooperated with the inquiry by the New York Archdiocese "because I know I did nothing wrong."

Supreme Court rules against blocking Texas' abortion rules

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a late-night decision Sept. 1, the Supreme Court ruled against blocking a Texas law banning abortions at six weeks of pregnancy.

The 5-4 vote, issued with a one-paragraph unsigned opinion, said the challengers to the Texas law — which went into effect Sept. 1 — did not adequately address the "complex and novel antecedent procedural questions" in this case.

"This order is not based on any conclusion about the constitutionality of Texas' law, and in no way limits other procedurally proper challenges to the Texas law, including in Texas state courts," the opinion said, leaving open the possibility that the state's abortion providers could challenge it in other ways.

The Texas abortion providers had come to the Supreme Court with an emergency appeal to stop the law, but the court initially did not respond.

Chief Justice John Roberts joined Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Stephen Breyer in dissenting votes and each of them wrote separate statements expressing their disagreement with the majority.

A key part of the law that the dissenting justices took issue with is its emphasis on private citizens bringing civil lawsuits in state court against anyone involved in an abortion, other than the patient, but including someone who drives the patient to a clinic.

Sotomayor said the majority opinion in this case was "stunning." She said that when the court examined a "flagrantly unconstitutional law engineered

to prohibit women from exercising their constitutional rights and evade judicial scrutiny, a majority of Justices have opted to bury their heads in the sand."

Kagan similarly called the Texas law "patently unconstitutional," for its emphasis on encouraging "private parties to carry out unconstitutional restrictions on the State's behalf."

Roberts said the "statutory scheme" involving citizens' enforcement of the law "is not only unusual, but unprecedented."

"The legislature has imposed a prohibition on abortions after roughly six weeks, and then essentially delegated enforcement of that prohibition to the populace at large. The desired consequence appears to be to insulate the state from responsibility for implementing and enforcing the regulatory regime."

He also noted that the case is not shut, saying that although the court denied the emergency relief sought by the applicants, its order is "emphatic in making clear that it cannot be understood as sustaining the constitutionality of the law at issue."

In a statement just after the court's decision, Nancy Northup, president and CEO of the Center for Reproductive Rights, which represents abortion providers challenging the Texas law, said these challengers would keep fighting.

"We are devastated that the Supreme Court has refused to block a law that blatantly violates Roe v. Wade," she added.

The law, signed by Republican Gov. Greg Abbott in May, became effective

at midnight central time Sept. 1. It is one of the strictest abortion measures in the country, banning abortions in the state after a fetal heartbeat is detectable. The law has an exception for medical emergencies but not for rape or incest.

The night before this took effect, court watchers on both sides of the issue kept vigil at the Supreme Court waiting for an order that never came. Abortion providers in the state had argued that the law would prevent about 85% of abortions in the state and will likely cause many clinics to close.

Currently, at least 12 other states have legislation banning abortions early in pregnancy, but these bans have been blocked by courts.

"Hopefully, this law will begin saving the lives of tens of thousands of Texas babies and we look forward to the day that babies' lives will be spared across America," said Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life.

She also applauded the efforts of the Texas Right to Life and "pro-life Texans who have been devoted to providing a voice for the voiceless. We praise all of our state affiliates who have diligently and tirelessly worked with state legislators to protect unborn babies by passing laws that protect children whose hearts have begun to beat," she said in a Sept. 1 statement.

Two months after the law was signed, abortion providers challenged it in court, saying it violated patients' constitutional right to end a pregnancy before viability, when a fetus is said to be able to survive on its own.

CLINTON

CHINESE AUCTION

Lyon Mountain – Chinese Auction to be held.

Date: Sept. 5

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: Lyon Mountain American Legion Post

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

APPLEFEST

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

Date: Sept. 18

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Schedule: Craft booths at 10 a.m.; Food booths at 10:30 a.m. followed by games and raffle. Community parade will begin at 11 a.m. leaving the Peru Elementary School. The rocking On Three Band will perform throughout the afternoon. There will be several new games for children of all ages, plus apple fritters, fried dough, hot dogs, Michigans, burgers, sausages and the K of C's famous chicken BBQ.

Features: Covid regulations in effect on Sept. 18th will be in place. As of July 15th, masks are required indoors for all unvaccinated individuals.

HARVEST DINNER

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

Date: Sept. 26

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cost: Adults, \$12; Children 5-12, \$5; under 5, Free; all take-outs, \$12

Menu: Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, turnip, corn, coleslaw, cranberry sauce, rolls and butter, plus beverage. Apple or pumpkin pie.

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

ESSEX

150TH ANNIVERSARY

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

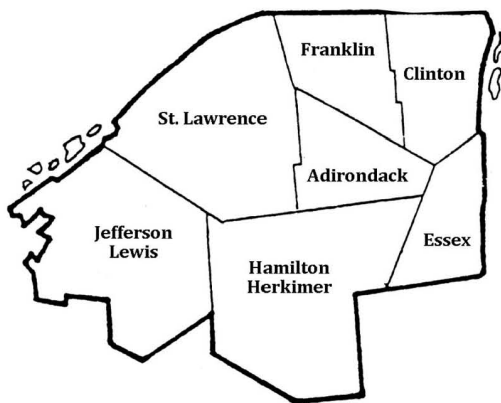
Date: Sept. 5

Time: 11 a.m.

Features: Potluck luncheon to be served.

LATIN MASS

Port Henry – Extraordinary Form Latin



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

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

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

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

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

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

Date: Sept. 11

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

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

DRIVE THRU DINNER

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

Date: Sept. 15

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6

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

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

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

EXPLORING THE SOJOURN WITH CHRIST IN THE EUCHARIST

Watertown – The Commissioned Lay Ministers Association of the Jefferson-

Lewis Deanery is excited to announce the fall event, Exploring a Sojourn with Christ in the Eucharist.

Date: Oct. 14

Time: 5:15 p.m. Mass following a dinner and presentation by Deacon Tom Yousey

Place: Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse

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 (Sept. 15)

Time: 6:30 to 7 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

CABBAGE ROLL SALE

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

Date: Sept. 18

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

Place: St. Andrew's Church

Cost: \$4

Contact: Pre order is requested. Please call Mark Tebo at 315-353-8821.

ALPHA

Massena – You're invited to ALPHA.

Schedule: Tuesdays Starting Sept. 21 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 and Saturdays starting Sept. 25 from 9 a.m. to 11

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Features: Explore life and the Christian Faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. No pressure. No follow up. No charge. Alpha runs for 11 weeks and includes food, a short talk and time to share your thoughts.

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

DIOCESAN EVENTS

MYSTERY OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Special event to be held for those serving in any ministry in their parish. Time to refocus our attention on the Holy Eucharist as a "Mystery to be believed, a Mystery to be celebrated, a Mystery to be lived."

Date: Sept. 18

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Locations: IHC in Watertown, St.

James School in Gouverneur, St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga, Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh, St. Edmund's Parish Center in Ellenburg, St. Peter's Church in Lowville, the parish center in Waddington, and St. Mary's Parish Center in Brushton

Features: This is an in-person event only. Attendees must bring their own lunch. Light refreshments will be provided.

Contact: Registration is due by September 9. Space is limited therefore registration is first come, first serve. Register at: <https://www.rcdony.org/mysteryeucharist>

CLM ANNUAL MEETING AND BBQ

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

Date: Sept. 19

Time: 1 p.m. to 4

Place: Camp Guggenheim

Features: Celebrate Mass with Bishop LaValley at 1 p.m. It is free to attend, and lunch will be provided.

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

SACRED HEART FOUNDATION DINNER

Watertown – Sacred Heart Foundation to have 48th Annual Benefit dinner with Bishop Douglas Lucia, bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse, as guest speaker.

Date: Sept. 21

Time: 6 p.m. social hour, 7 p.m. din-

ner

Place: Hilton Garden Inn

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

YOUNG ADULT DAY OF REFLECTION

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

Date: Sept. 25

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

Place: Guggenheim

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

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

MARRIED AND RELIGIOUS JUBILEE

Ogdensburg – The annual Jubilee Mass to be held.

Date: Oct. 3

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: The Mass honors religious sisters for their decades of service to the Church and married couples celebrating anniversaries (from one year and up). Family and friends of the honorees are welcome to attend. Bishop LaValley will host a light reception immediately following Mass.

Contact: Couples only please register for the Mass through your parish or register at rcdony.org/jubilee by Sept. 24, 2021. For further information, please contact Steve Tartaglia at (315) 393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org or Sister Bernadette Collins, SSJ at (315) 393-2920 or bcollins@rcdony.org.

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.

Contact: Visit Lifechain.net for more info.

AT THE MOVIES

CANDYMAN

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

NEWYORK (CNS)—With his duo of recent films, "Get Out" (2017) and 2019's "Us," Jordan Peele has employed the horror genre as a vehicle of social commentary to both critical and popular acclaim.

Now he has co-written the script for the thriller sequel "Candyman" (Universal) with an eye to the same end. Morally, however, this latest project diverges widely from his earlier movies, and the upshot is unsettling.

In crafting a follow-up to the eponymous 1992 movie — one adapted, like its predecessor, from the short story "The Forbidden" by Clive Barker — director Nia DaCosta, who collaborated on the screenplay with Peele and Win Rosenfeld, keeps the focus squarely fixed on her protagonist, Chicago painter Anthony McCoy (Yahya Abdul-Mateen II). Though successful in the past, Anthony is currently artistically blocked.

Searching for fresh inspiration, Anthony eventually finds it in his own backyard. Together with his cohabiting girlfriend, gallery director Brianna Cartwright (Teyonah Parris), Anthony lives in a gentrified neighborhood that was formerly home to the Windy City's notorious Cabrini-Green housing project.

Along with other circumstances, a chance en-



CNS PHOTO/UNIVERSAL PICTURES AND MGM PICTURES

Yahya Abdul-Mateen II and Colman Domingo star in a scene from the movie "Candyman." The Catholic News Service classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association rating is R — restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

counter with William Burke (Colman Domingo), a veteran resident of the once-deprived area, prompts Anthony to investigate the urban legend concerning the hook-handed murderer of the title that long prevailed among the denizens of Cabrini-Green. His interest in the grim but compli-

cated story soon becomes obsessive.

Even from the start, the nature of this picture's antecedents makes the harnessing of a blood-soaked slasher flick for the purposes of satire feel like an unequal — and therefore awkward — yoking. By the time of its conclusion, however, "Candyman" has

degenerated into a fantasy of racial revenge wholly at odds with Gospel values.

To have a rampaging killer unleashed on the fictional representatives of real-life injustice not only appeals to the audience's basest instincts. It also represents an un-

helpful pseudo-solution to problems that require sensitive and thoughtful assessment.

Thus, unlike Peele's earlier work cited above, "Candyman" ultimately does little or nothing to provide viewers with insight or to advance dialogue in the real world about the vital topics on which it touches.

The film contains much gory violence, gruesome images, a vengeance theme, cohabitation, a benignly viewed homosexual relationship, drug use, a couple of profanities, about a half-dozen milder oaths, frequent rough language as well as considerable crude and crass talk. The Catholic News Service classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association rating is R — restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

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Tuesday, September 21, 2021

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Bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse
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7:00 pm Dinner

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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Getting out of our comfort zones

There are many meanings to the phrase “comfort zone.” For some people, their comfort zone is sitting in an easy chair with a good book. As a teenager, my mother would constantly pry me out of my “comfort zone” with a gentle reminder that I was not a “star boarder” in our home.

Jesus applied a stronger “shock treatment” than that to the comfort zone of his apostles in this week’s



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

Gospel. After he had challenged them to confess that He was more than just a human teacher, one with divine authority, He then announced to them the sobering news that He would soon suffer a humiliating passion and death at the hands of His enemies. Ironically, it was Peter who had just publicly proclaimed that He was the Son of God, who immediately rebuked Jesus for such defeatist

September 12

24th Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

Isaiah 50:5-9a

James 2:14-18

Mark 8:27-35

talk. And Jesus swiftly retorted, “Get thee behind me, Satan!”

Do we modern-day disciples do any better at accepting a Messiah who calls himself a “suffering servant”? How good are we at joining our own sufferings with Jesus’ redeeming passion and death? Perhaps it’s some-

thing small, like a cut finger, or a toothache or a minor ear infection. But it also might be something much more serious – a heart problem or cancer.

It takes faith to unite our sufferings with the Passion of Jesus, just as it takes faith for the less painful actions of love and service in the community of our Church.

It’s all part of the faith plus good works that St. James speaks about in today’s second reading. He insists that faith without loving works is dead. For centuries, battles have raged about “faith

alone” or “faith and good works” being necessary for salvation. Of course, we cannot pull ourselves into heaven without the grace of God, but faith without actions that flow from that faith is useless and hollow.

So, we need to get out of our comfort zone from time to time. We’re not star boarders in this world. We’re loving followers of Jesus who must be prepared to go all the way with Him to Calvary. If we are willing to do that, He will take us the rest of the way to the eternal joy of heaven.

CALLED TO SERVE

May they rest in peace

We would hear Nick coming before we saw him. Nick was a regular visitor to the newsroom I worked in during the 1970s and 1980s. He was disabled. I never knew why, perhaps a palsy or childbirth issue, but Nick had a difficult time walking. One foot would land with a thump as he slowly maneuvered forward.

The disability never stopped Nick from making his rounds each day. We enjoyed his daily visit to the newsroom because Nick was the kind of guy people would tell things. And Nick knew what things were worth passing on to reporters. He was a great source.

Nick also had a speech impediment. A severe one. That made it difficult to get what he was saying sometimes, but he was patient and would persevere until the message was delivered.

After the customary greetings Nick would usually start a conversation with one question. “Who died?”

Nick, who must have been in his sixties or seventies when I knew him, appeared to be fixated on death. Now I realize his was more than morbid curiosity. Nick really cared. He wanted to measure how the community would change with each person’s passing.

How an individual, now dead, had left a mark, a legacy, on his or her immediate and larger families.

Our parishes in Watertown celebrated six lives last week. Over the course of seven days there were six funeral Masses in our churches. Each funeral had some unique characteristics just as each person being remembered brought something memorable to the world.

Each of these people died of natural causes. For their time with us and the marvelous memories we thank God.

Deacons are privileged

to assist the celebrant at a funeral Mass. Occasionally a deacon will preside at a funeral if it takes place in a setting other than Mass, in a church or funeral home or even at the grave site. Deacons often preside at the final commendation at the grave.



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

The funeral Masses allowed me time to reminisce about my relationship with each of the people. The liturgies also

came at a time we, as a world community, are mourning those who died in the 20-year war in Afghanistan, the men and women who died needlessly in Kabul when a bomber took his life and the lives of 100 people including 13 U.S. service members, those who died because of hurricanes Grace in Haiti and Ida in Louisiana, Maryland, New

Jersey Pennsylvania and New York.

And it is impossible to forget the 2,996 innocents who died on September 11, 2001, and so many who have died as a result of medical issues stemming from their rescue efforts that day.

There is a prayer in the Roman Missal that sums up the lives of all those people who have died over the years. “We pray, almighty God, that they may advance our salvation and bring pardon to the souls of your servants, for whom we implore your mercy.”

“Who died?” Nick would ask. He did. We all will.

“Let us console one another in the faith of Jesus Christ.”

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

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www.northcountrycatholic.org

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- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more

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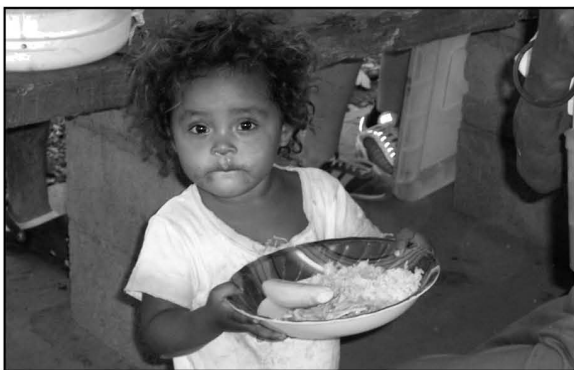
Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669

(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296

mbrett@rcdony.org

Photo reflections



"My absolute personal favorite is the little girl at the dump, looking up at me and thanking me for coming back to feed her (and hundreds of others). She says, "I had hoped you would come back"! A couple days previous to that photo, she came up to me and grabbed me around the knees, pleading with me to feed her. I truly sobbed and told her the truth, i.e., I didn't have any food that day but would try to help soon."

— *Image and story courtesy of Sister Debbie Blow of North Country Mission of Hope*

Use papal teaching to discern 'ecological conscience'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairmen of two U.S. bishops' committees echoed Pope Francis' invitation to cultivate an "ecological conscience" in response to growing environmental challenges that affect human life in a message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

"Our times require robust consciences, capable of wise discernment in the face of complex moral problems," said Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, Illinois, chairman of the Committee on International

Justice and Peace.

Observed Sept. 1, the day opens the Season of Creation, a five-week period set aside annually to allow individuals to reflect and pray about how they can protect the earth from the unfolding ecological crises resulting from climate change, widespread pollution and degradation of the environment.

While focusing largely on the pressing need to address environmental concerns, the prelates' message also quoted Pope Francis' March 2021 speech celebrating St. Alphonsus Liguori as a doctor of the church. The pope then cited "countless challenges" to humanity, including the

OBITUARIES

Black River — Theresa (Pratt) Fuller, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 31, 2021 at St. Paul's Church; burial in Black River Cemetery.

Brushton — June C. (Ghostlaw) Woods, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 4, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Canton — John L. Jadlo, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 1, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Bayside Cemetery, Potsdam.

Carthage — Lena M. (Genito) Burgey, 98; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 3, 2021 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Carthage — Hedwig S. Taylor; Services to be held at a later date at St. James Church.

Chateaugay — David A. Baker, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 4, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Gouverneur — James Brian Robarge, 57; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 4, 2021 at St. James Church; burial in Hermon Cemetery.

Malone — Jean (Perry) Eggleston, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 3, 2021 at Notre-Dame Church; burial in St. John

Bosco Cemetery.

Malone — Judith M. (Connors) Jarvis, 74; Funeral Services Sept. 7, 2021 at the Bruso-Desnoyers Funeral Home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena — Joseph A. Gabri, Jr., 70; Mass of Christian burial at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Alex S. Krywanczyk, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 1, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Moers Forks — Joyce Mae (Boadway) Hough, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 6, 2021 at St. Ann's Church; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery.

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

Ogdensburg — David F. "Zeke" Seymour, 65; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 30, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Peru — Beverly Jean Perry, 68; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 3, 2021 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh — John "Jack" Jarvis, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 20, 2021

at St. John's Church; burial in Divine Mercy Cemetery.

Redford — David R. Pellerin, 67; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 3, 2021 at Church of the Assumption.

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

Watertown — Ida Jane (Spaziani) Alteri, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 2, 2021 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Margaret C. Casey, 97; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 3, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Gary F. Gerken, 70; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 30, 2021 at Holy Family Church.

Watertown — Paul E. Spano, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 4, 2021 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

West Chazy — Mary T. (Guimond) Favreau, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 2, 2021 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Plattsburgh Community Mausoleum.

defense of life, advancing artificial intelligence, threats to democracy and "the urgency of brotherhood."

"These 'countless challenges' must be met with a deep and well-formed faith," the three-page statement said. "Indeed, one of the underlying drivers of our current crisis, both moral and ecological, is a radical world view that has placed excessive trust in the power of mankind and disregarded God."

Such challenges, they continued, require "a well-formed reason that can integrate knowledge and information from different secular disciplines."

"It is a mistake to think

that faith alone is sufficient for the Christian life, especially when it comes to complex moral problems that require both faith and reason, they said, referencing St. John Paul II's 1988 encyclical "Fides et Ratio" ("Faith and Reason"). "We must especially hold reason and conscience to the highest standards."

The bishops acknowledged that the environmental problems confronting humanity can be difficult to understand because of the complexity of information being shared. They also said understanding is complicated by what Pope Francis called in his encyclical "Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship," the

flood of information that at times is "deliberately used to confuse and manipulate consciences."

Still, they called people to remember that "our times require robust consciences, capable of wise discernment in the face of complex moral problems."

Regarding the environment, the bishops encouraged people to "seriously consider" the findings of the most recent assessment report of the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released Aug. 9. It determined that severe flood, long-term drought, wildfires and extremes of heat and cold are all resulting from climate change.



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Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg

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- Natural Family Planning Office
- Respect Life Ministry
- Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund
- Formation for Ministry Program
- Office of the New Evangelization
- Continuing Education and Formation of Priests
- Priests' Graduate Studies
- Vocation Office
- Permanent Deacons
- Deacon Formation
- Tuition Assistance Program
- Campus Ministry Program
- Matching Gifts to Catholic Schools
- Department of Faith Formation
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- Young Adult Ministry
- Guggenheim Center
- Department of Worship

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