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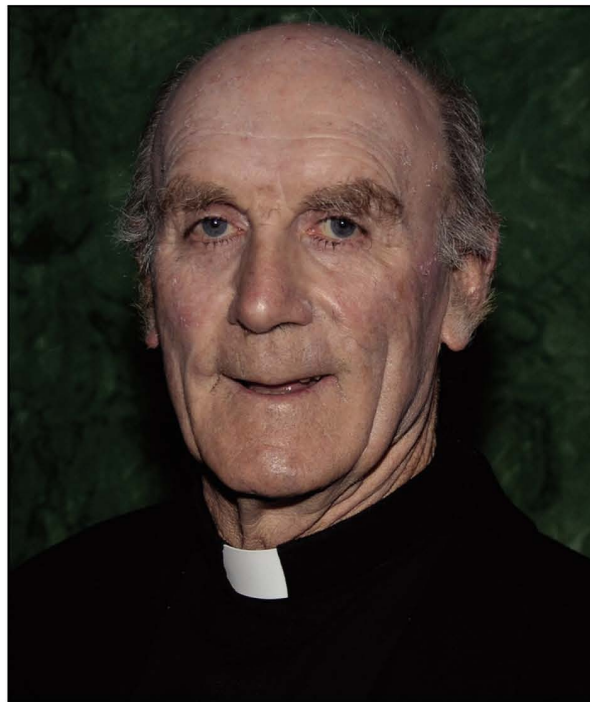
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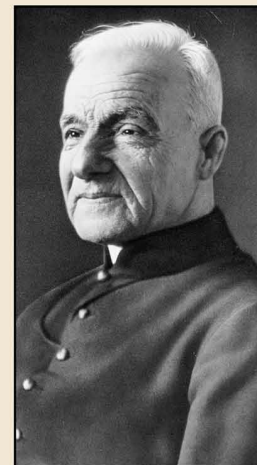
JANUARY 12, 2022

REMEMBERING FATHER GALLAGHER & FATHER O'REILLY



Father Adrian Gallagher (left), pastor of Holy Angels Church in Altona and St. Ann's Church in Mooers Forks, died unexpectedly on January 5. Father Patrick J. O'Reilly (right) died January 2 in his home country of Ireland. Remembrances of and an obituary for Father Gallagher are on page 3. Remembrances of and an obituary for Father O'Reilly are on page 4.

CELEBRATING ST. ANDRÉ



In celebration of St. André Bessette's feast day on January 6, Msgr. Joseph G. Aubin of Holy Cross Parish, Plattsburgh, and Mary Steenberge of Malone, a cousin of St. André Bessette, reflect on the saint with local ties has played in their lives.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

Ordinary people called to be extraordinary witnesses

Living out and proclaiming the Gospel are inseparable aspects at the heart of an authentically Christian life and witness, Pope Francis said in his message for World Mission Sunday.

"Every Christian is called to be a missionary and witness to Christ. And the church, the community of Christ's disciples, has no other mission than that of bringing the Gospel to the entire world by bearing witness to Christ," the pope wrote in his message for the celebration, which will be held Oct. 23.

The theme chosen for the 2022 celebration is taken from the Acts of the Apostles: "You will be my witnesses." The Vatican released the pope's message Jan. 6.

In his message, the pope reflected on three key "foundations of the life and mission of every disciple," beginning with the call to bear witness to Christ.

While all who are baptized are called to evangelize, the pope said the mission is carried out in communion with the church and not on "one's own initiative."

"Indeed, it was no coincidence

that the Lord Jesus sent his disciples out on mission in pairs; the witness of Christians to Christ is primarily communitarian in nature," the pope wrote. "Hence, in carrying out the mission, the presence of a community, regardless of its size, is of fundamental importance."

Furthermore, he added, those who follow Jesus are called not only to proclaim the Gospel, but to bear witness to it by the way their life their lives.

"Missionaries of Christ are not sent to communicate them-

selves, to exhibit their persuasive qualities and abilities or their managerial skills," he said. "The example of a Christian life and the proclamation of Christ are inseparable. One is at the service of the other. They are the two lungs with which any community must breathe if it is to be missionary."

Jesus sent and continues to send his disciples out to evangelize the whole world, the pope said, and that has and continues to involve bearing witness to Christ even amid persecution.

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There's nothing ordinary about it

"It's a good thing we don't have a normal family. Darcy would have nothing to write about."

Those wise words came from the mouth of my niece, Emma.

Emma has been featured in this column before, most recently for her ability to look stunning in what is otherwise a really ugly sweater.

I've written about other members of my family, too. I've written about my family's antics at Halloween. I've written about some of the funny happenings associated with

being a twin. I write regularly about my husband and son, our adventures and our conversations.

My family is full of characters. Most of us are loud and a bit silly. When we get together, it's a bit chaotic.

We have a saying in our family: "Normal is just a setting on the dryer (or washer, depending on the family member and their appliance setup)." We don't strive for normal. We enjoy the crazy things that happen when we're all together.

I thought of Emma's wise

and funny words as I reflected on the fact that we've entered "Ordinary Time."

A Google search tells me that Oxford Languages defines "ordinary" as "with no special or distinctive features; normal."

I feel like "Ordinary Time" is a misnomer.

We may not be celebrating Easter or Christmas, and we may not be observing Lent or Advent, but our lives as Christians don't seem very "ordinary."

In my nearly four years writing this column, I frequently hear about how my writing reflects the fact that I see God working in every-

day life.

Our God loves us.

God is working in our lives every day, every minute, every second. His work doesn't stop because we're not celebrating a specific season. That's pretty extraordinary.

Our God has gifted us his Church, through which we can grow our relationship with him. He's given us the opportunity to receive our Lord body and blood, soul and divinity. That's pretty extraordinary.

These may be "ordinary times," but our God is extraordinary.

There's nothing "normal" about him.

**Darcy L.
Fargo**

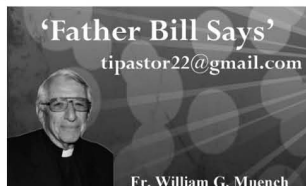
Reflecting on the sacrament of baptism

Today, let us consider baptism. Every time you walk into a Catholic Church, a Catholic has been taught to dip their fingers into the Holy Water font and bless themselves. This acts as a reminder of their baptism.

The Feast of the Baptism of Jesus that we celebrate at the end of the Christmas Season acts as a reminder to us of our own baptism also. This feast day also provides us with an important opportunity to dedicate ourselves once again to living our Christian life.

So, the sacrament of baptism is a time to realize that we are called, we are dedicated, we have a vocation. As a Catholic, my most important vocation is to be a disciple of Jesus. At my baptism, I answer Jesus' call: "Come, follow me." This is my vocation. This is the call to be a disciple of Jesus.

My Christian vocation is the call to be "the salt of the earth; to be the light of the world." For me, Christianity is about how to live, not just



about what to believe. Faith must be translated into action. As my friend, Catherine Doherty, would say, "Don't bother proclaiming that you believe unless you act accordingly."

We, Christians, have a very positive role to play in the world today. Never forget how much you have to offer; our world desperately needs all that we have to offer. As we read in the Gospel, we will discover that as a Christian we have a deeper and more authentic way of living our lives. Our Christian vocation causes us to have a vision of a higher and a purer life to rise before us. Living out our Christian vocation expands the possibilities of human love and courage. We are welcomed into a be-

lieving community. We are challenged to make that community better and more alive.

Today, as we consider our Baptismal vocation, let us consider the sacrament of baptism. The Feast of the Baptism of Jesus gives us a defining moment in the life of Jesus – the beginning of his public ministry. The Gospel tells us that at the baptism of Jesus by St. John the Baptist, that Jesus prayed, and the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in a bodily form. The Father put his seal of approval on Jesus and on the mission he is about to begin.

Let us take a moment to remember the actual ceremony of our baptism. This ceremony is filled with so many important images that help us understand all that baptism should mean to us. We are given a name, as we are somebody, chosen and welcomed into the family of God's people. We are signed with the Sign of the Cross, the mark of Christ's

love for us all.

Water is poured over us. Water is a symbol of cleansing. In baptism, we are cleansed of sins. Water is a symbol of life. We are given a share in the undying life of God.

Just as kings, prophets and priests are anointed with oil and marked out as God's ministers to the community, we are anointed with the oil of chrism, so that we may be envoys of Christ in this world. We have a vocation. We are called to a ministry. We are called to make a difference in this world.

A white garment is offered as a sign of Christian dignity. A candle is lighted to demonstrate the precious light of faith.

From a spiritual point of view, baptism is the greatest thing that can happen to us. To be baptized is to be christened – made like Christ. It is a lifetime task to learn what it means to be a Christian and to grow into it.

Father Gallagher was 'a priest in the vineyard'

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

ALTONA – A quiet and reserved man, Father Adrian Gallagher will be remembered for his love of the Church and the sacraments and his ability to reach others.

"He was something," said Father Michael J. Jablonski, pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Danemora and Church of the Assumption in Redford. "He wasn't a flashy man. He didn't like attention on him. He was a worker – a priest in the vineyard. Through that, he worked with the people the Lord sent him."

Father Gallagher, pastor of Holy Angels Church in Altona and St. Ann's Church in Mooers Forks, died unexpectedly on Jan. 5. He was 58. A complete obituary can be found below.

Father Jablonski said he



Father Adrian Gallagher

became friends with Father Gallagher around five years ago through their common connection with Father Gilbert Boisvert.

"(Father Adrian) and Father Gilbert knew each other from when Father Gilbert taught at (Mount Assumption Institute) in Plattsburgh," Father Jablonski said. "I met him

through Father Gilbert. We'd all go out to eat together. As Father Gilbert's health grew worse, we swapped numbers, and our friendship grew from there. (Father) Adrian became my spiritual director."

Father Jablonski said he will always remember his friend's "love for the Church."

"He loved the Church the Lord established, and he loved the sacraments and saw them as a gift from God," he said. "He really felt strongly that it was important for people to be formed. It was important to him to teach the sacraments and celebrate them worthily."

Father Jablonski noted that Father Gallagher recently oversaw renovations at St. Ann's Church.

"He wanted things to honor our Lord and king," Father Jablonski said. "It was all part of the love he

had for the Church and the sacraments."

Despite his quiet and reserved nature, Father Jablonski said Father Gallagher was loving and caring to others.

"He had a good sense of humor," he said. "He reached people by joking with them in his own way. And his rectory was always open. It went back to his Franciscan charism. He believed in helping people in need. He gave of himself. He was always available to hear a confession or lend an ear. He always tried to be available and bring Jesus to those around him."

Father Jablonski said he learned a lot about how to be a pastor from Father Gallagher.

"He was my spiritual director and dear friend," he said. "It's been a blessing to me to hear the stories he shared about

being a friar, about the people he met and about how the witness of Christ they showed him. It baffled my mind. He had beautiful stories. He also showed me to remember the dignity of the sacraments of the church. We need them walking this Christian life. They're our Lord's hands working in our reality."

In 2017, as he celebrated 25 years of priesthood, Father Gallagher reflected on his vocation and ministry.

"I am very humbled and blessed to be a priest of Jesus Christ," he said. "Each Mass reminds me of the tremendous gift God has bestowed upon me. In these 25 years, my greatest blessing has become the deeper depth of faith I have acquired in being exposed to the faith of those who have remained faithful despite tremendous hardship."

Funeral Mass for Father Gallagher is on Jan. 11

Reverend Adrian Gallagher, 58, pastor of Holy Angels Church in Altona and St. Ann's Church in Mooers Forks, died unexpectedly with the hope of eternal life on Wednesday, January 5, 2022.

Born Bret Douglas Adrian Gallagher in Malone on June 8, 1963, he was the son of Douglas L. And Ellen Marie (Wallace) Gallagher. His parents survive.

Reverend Monsignor Dennis J. Duprey, V.F. will preside over the reception of the body at 3 p.m. on January 10 at Notre Dame Church in Malone. Calling hours will follow until Evening Prayer at 6 p.m. led by Monsignor Duprey. Calling hours will continue from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on January 11 in the

church.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at noon on January 11 at Notre Dame Church. Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, will be the principal celebrant. Most Reverend Douglas J. Lucia of the Diocese of Syracuse and the priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg will concelebrate.

Following the Mass, burial will be in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Malone.

Father Gallagher graduated from Franklin Academy in Malone before following God's call and entering Wadhams Hall Seminary College in 1982. After two years at the seminary, he joined the Conventual Franciscan Friars, St. Anthony

Province, in Ellicott City, Maryland. He made his First Profession of Vows on August 15, 1984, and he made his Solemn Profession of Vows in the Order of Friars Minor Conventual on August 2, 1988, in Our Lady of the Angels Church in Albany, New York. During that time, he received a bachelor's degree in Philosophy at St. Hyacinth College and Seminary in Massachusetts, and a master's degree in Theology at DeSales School of Theology in Washington, DC. He was ordained to the priesthood July 18, 1992, in Baltimore by His Eminence William Cardinal H. Keeler.

With the friars, Father Gallagher served as parochial vicar at Mater

Dolorosa Parish in Holyoke, Massachusetts, and at St. Stanislaus Basilica in Chicopee, Massachusetts; as instructor at Archbishop Curley High School in Baltimore, Maryland, and St. Francis High School in Athol Springs, New York, where he also served as campus minister; as guardian delegate at St. Hyacinth Senior Friars Residence in Chicopee, Massachusetts; and as pastor at Our Lady of Hope Church in Coal Township, Pennsylvania, and St. Patrick's Church in Trevorton, Pennsylvania. He was also a member of the Marian Apostolate Council and the Senior Friars Commission.

During his summers in western New York, Father Gallagher worked with

runaways and teens battling addiction.

In 2013, Father Gallagher returned to the Diocese of Ogdensburg to be closer to family. He was incardinated as a priest of the diocese on February 29, 2016. He was appointed pastor of St. Joseph's in Mooers and St. Ann's in Mooers Forks in 2014 and was given additional responsibilities as pastor in Altona and Sciota in 2017.

In addition to his parents, Father Gallagher is survived by a sister, Amy Gallagher; brothers, Brendan and Brian Gallagher; a niece, Norah; and a nephew, Dylan.

Funeral arrangements are under the care of Brusco-Desnoyers Funeral Services Inc. in Malone.

Remembering Father Patrick J. O'Reilly

Memorial Mass to be held Jan. 13

Reverend Patrick J. O'Reilly, 84, died peacefully with hope of eternal life on Sunday, January 2, 2022, at the Midland Regional Hospital in Portlaoise, Ireland, where he had resided since 2014.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated by the Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, at 11 a.m. on January 13 at St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake. Priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg will concelebrate, and Father Mark R. Reilly will be the homilist.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Wednesday, January 5 at St. Peter and St. Paul Church, in Portlaoise, Ireland.

Burial will be in Clonalvy Cemetery, Ardcath, Garistown, County Dublin, Ireland.

Father O'Reilly was born in Ireland on Nov. 17, 1937, the son of Thomas and Marcella O'Reilly. His parents predeceased him.

Father O'Reilly was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Patterson, New Jersey, in Ireland on June 6, 1965. He arrived in the Diocese of Ogdensburg on June 6, 1973, and he was incardinated as a priest of the diocese on June 1, 1977.

In the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Father O'Reilly served as parochial vicar in St. John the Baptist Church in Plattsburgh, St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga, Our Lady of Victory Church in Plattsburgh, St. Joseph's Church in Malone, St. Patrick's and St. Augustine's churches in Peru, St. Mary's Church in Champlain, Holy Family Church in Watertown, St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid, Immaculate Conception and St. John the Baptist churches in Keeseville, and St. Catherine Church; and as administrator of St. John the Baptist Church in Madrid and St. John the Evangelist Church in Lafargeville.

After retiring in October of 1994, Father O'Reilly continued to serve as chaplain at Uihlein Mercy Center in Lake Placid and Tupper Lake.

In addition to his parents, Father O'Reilly was predeceased by his brothers, Darragh, Eamon and Christopher O'Reilly.

He is survived by his sisters, Margaret, Mary and Sheila; his brothers, Philip and Myles; sisters-in-law; a brother-in-law; and nieces and nephews.

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

Known for his heavy Irish accent, Father Patrick J. O'Reilly will be remembered for his joy, patience, positive attitude and love of the Lord.

"He was my associate for four years in Keeseville," said Msgr. Joseph G. Aubin. "We got along very well. He was a character. There's no question about it."

Father O'Reilly died Jan. 2, 2022, at the Midland Regional Hospital in Portlaoise, Ireland.

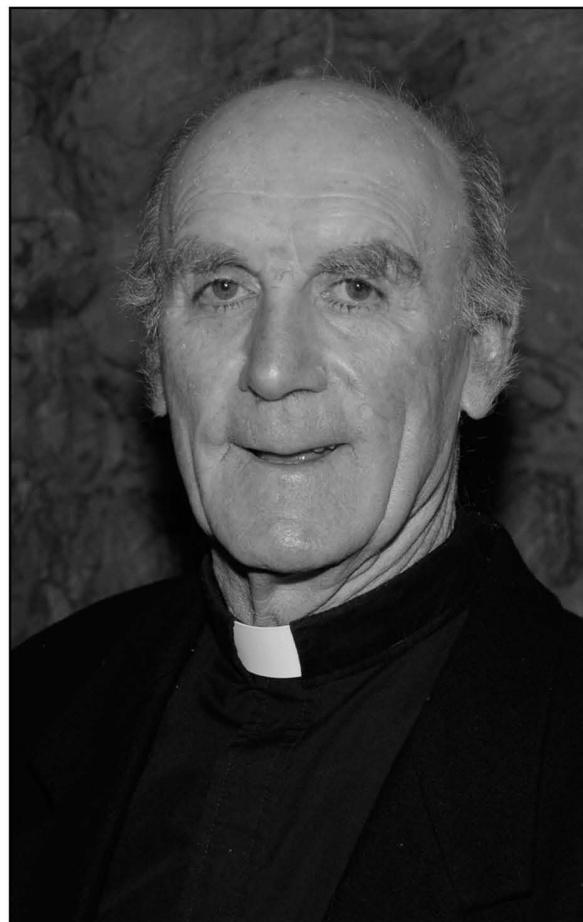
Msgr. Aubin said Father O'Reilly had gifts that enabled him to help parishioners and individuals in need.

"He wasn't so organized about appointments, but he had a gift for talking to the elderly and downtrodden," Msgr. Aubin said. "He was a great talker. He could talk forever without stopping. When people asked, I always said, 'I would take Father O'Reilly back if I had the opportunity.' People were surprised by that because of his organization problems. I always said, 'he reaches people I don't reach.' There was no limit to his patience. Sometimes, he would spend a whole afternoon with one person. People loved him."

That love overcame difficulties surrounding Father O'Reilly's heavy Irish accent.

"He could be very difficult to understand," Msgr. Aubin said. "But people would say, 'I don't know what he's talking about most of the time, but I love him anyway.' Nothing bothered him. He had a real holy way about him. He was always so positive."

Msgr. Aubin said he re-



Father Patrick J. O'Reilly

membered fondly members of Father O'Reilly's family visiting their shared rectory in Keeseville.

"He came from a very large family," he said. "He had 13 or 14 nieces and nephews who would come to visit. They were all characters, the whole bunch of them."

While Father O'Reilly loved the North Country, he visited his native Ireland annually, often returning to his small hometown.

"He came from just north of Dublin," Msgr. Aubin said. "I visited his home once. It was a very small village. The main square had four pubs in it.

I saw a man there, and I told him I was a priest from the United States, and there was a priest who served there with me for four years who came from here. Right off, the man said, 'Father Patrick O'Reilly.' I was very sad to hear he died, but I wasn't surprised to hear he died near Dublin. That was his favorite part of Ireland."


A Memorial Mass will be celebrated by the Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, at 11 a.m. on January 13 at St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake.

"He was a good man," Msgr. Aubin concluded. "People loved him."

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'St. André is such a special person to me'

By Mary Beth Bracy
Contributing Writer

MALONE – St. André Bessette's feast day – January 6 – reminds us to always seek his patronage. So many faithful in the North Country have and continue to be blessed by their patronages. When visiting St. Joseph's Oratory in Montréal, pilgrims are greeted by a beautiful state of St. Joseph. On the base of the statue are the words: "Go to Joseph!"

St. André was clear whose intercession miracles were wrought through: St. Joseph. Msgr. Joseph Aubin of Holy Cross Parish, Plattsburgh shared that three of his aunts were Sisters of St. Joseph. In 1935, one of his aunts and his mother traveled from Rochester to Montréal. Msgr. Aubin's aunt had arthritis and his mother said "We'll go down to Brother André and see if he will bless you."

The day they went there were about 50 people pressing to see him in a small waiting room, Msgr. Aubin recalled his mother saying.

"It was a mob scene," he said.

They were only there for about a minute and a half. When they met Brother André, he looked at Msgr. Aubin's aunt and said to her: "Sister, aren't you a Sister of St. Joseph? Why bother me, go to your patron."

St. André was a first cousin to the grandfather of Mary Steenberge (née Bessette), a Malone resident. She still has a lot of cousins in that area. Brother André visited her uncle in Chateaugay around the late 1920s. As a family, they've always prayed for St. André's intercession. They took a trip once to where St.



MARY BETH BRACY/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC
Statues of St. André and St. Joseph located at St. Frère Andre Chapel, St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh.

André was born in St-Grégoire-d'Iberville, Québec. For several years, Steenberge said she has read every book that she could find on St. André.

"St. André is such a special person to me, he was chosen by God from the moment he entered the world," she said. "When he was born, they didn't expect him to live. One of his relatives baptized him immediately. How precious that was that God accepted him and purified him from the moment he was here.

"His life was typical of the way life was in those days," Steenberge continued. "They were extremely poor and lived in a one-room cabin."

Steenberge noted that life was "extremely hard"

for St. André, the ninth of 13 children, four of whom died in infancy.

"His father was killed by a tree that fell on him," said Steenberge. "His mother died when he was 12, and he was very close to his mother. He was farmed out with other relatives. He was very prayerful and he always said, as French families did and my family did, the Rosary at night. When saying the Rosary, he was always at his mother's knee. His little fingers would be on the Rosary with hers. It was normal in those days. It was so simple, it was God, Jesus, Mary and Joseph and that was their faith. They worked hard and did a lot of sacrificing."

Steenberge said she believes St. André was gifted

by God and was gifted to God's people.

"He just was a very special child, and I've always thought that God had him from the beginning," she said. "He was just a miracle from the time he was born. God's hand was out there and said that 'you are mine, you will always be mine,' and he was. His faith was given to him by God, not any book, he couldn't read or write. It just shows that God chooses those that are so empty that He can work with them. And that's how he accomplished everything, prayer was with him perpetually."

Some of the books Steenberge read said that when he was with his relatives, St. André would spend a lot of time in a corner of the barn looking at the Crucifix that one of his uncles had bought for him.

"His whole life was one of sacrifice and openness to God and to St. Joseph," Steenberge said. "It was normal for all families at that time to pray to St. Joseph, to the Blessed Mother, and Jesus. That's all they knew. It was just that blind faith and hope, these theological virtues were things they lived on."

Speaking of St. André, Ms. Steenberge relayed "The history of how God used him through the years, because he was so open, he didn't question, he truly believed. That's just how his life unfolded."

A lot of St. André's sisters were in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island where there was a lot of employment opportunity, she explained, but "his health was so fragile that he had to go back to Canada. It was a miracle that the Holy Cross Fathers accepted him. He was so holy and they sensed that he was like a

living saint. He was a door-keeper for more than 40 years. Miracles started there. He was such a quiet, gentle person, but he did have a lot of humor. He spoke very little. There were a lot of people that thought he was crazy or when he started healing people, they were against it. This didn't distract him; it's the Holy Spirit was involved him all along the way."

St. André, Steenberge said, "had a lot of innocence. The story is how he healed. He and St. Joseph, in my mind, are so much alike because St. Joseph was such a humble, chaste, and obedient man. God was able to mold him into what the world needed. My personal feeling is that there is a mystery that surrounds St. André that we will never know, we will never know as humans how close he was with God, St. Joseph, and Our Blessed Mother. It is a great, great secret, when God uses people. St. André was empty so God was able to mold him into what He wanted."

Only in Heaven will we know the vast numbers of people who have been healed through the intercession of St. Joseph and St. André. On a personal note, when my maternal grandmother Bertha Hamel Bennett was a young child she was brought to see Brother André because she was suffering from debilitating arthritis. When Brother André prayed over her, she was healed. As a result, my family has always had a devotion to Brother André, so much so that one of my nephews is named André. I think it's safe to say that, if it wasn't for the intercession of St. Joseph and St. André, I also wouldn't be here right now.

Environmental Stewardship

Lessons in diversity

Many lessons can be learned in observing nature and an appreciation of diversity is a primary one. For example, a summer meadow with its wide array of wildflowers, ferns, grasses, weeds, and small shrubs provides an amazing scene of assorted shapes, colors, smells and sounds. Yet such a vibrant location also contains countless insects for pollination, an army of soil critters that help form the nutrients in the dirt, and the small predatory creatures that keep leaf eating organisms and everything else in check.

Similarly, in our human society, the more diverse our communities become, the richer the culture tends to develop around it. Everyone, regardless of their race, ethnic background, or intellectual or economic standing contributes differently and provides for a deeper reservoir of talents. And just as the ecological health of a meadow begins to fail as its diversity dwindles, so too does the richness and health of any society that loses its diversity.

Climate change is gradually making conditions on our planet more difficult for many organisms to survive. It is estimated by numerous research groups that from 50 to 100 species become extinct each and every day. This loss of biodiversity is eroding the ecological base of our common home. Not only is the natural beauty of many ecosystems diminishing, but their health and wellbeing are also suffering. This is what Pope Francis refers to when he talks about the "Cry of the Earth" in his encyclical *Laudato Si*.

In an effort to combat climate change, we must learn how to live with less, and refrain from buying many items that are used only once and then thrown away. We also have to develop a deeper appreciation for our surroundings and learn to better embrace the diversity that exists in the various spaces around our homes, our neighborhoods, our communities, and our nation. Please remember that life is like a precious gem with many intricate facets, and a gift from the Creator.

By Tom Kalinowski
St. Bernard's Parish
Faith and Ecology Member

Pro-life activities director to retire

Kathleen M. Gallagher, who for the better part of four decades has served as director of pro-life activities for the New York State Catholic Conference, is retiring at the end of January.

In that time, she has not only represented the New York State Bishops, but has been a national leader in the pro-life movement, advocating against abortion, capital

punishment and euthanasia, and in favor of supports for pregnant women in need and people near the end of life.

"No one in New York State or across the country has done more to advocate on behalf of all human life from conception until natural death than Kathy Gallagher," said Timothy Cardinal Dolan, archbishop of New York and president of the NYSCC. "She is a giant of the pro-life movement, who my brother bishops, past and present, have depended for nearly four decades to fight for the most vulnerable among us. We thank her for her tireless service. While she is moving into retirement, we're thrilled that Kathy has agreed to serve as a valued consultant on the many issues related

to respect for life that we continue to encounter. God knows we need her voice."

Gallagher is a native of Long Island who graduated from the New York Institute of Technology, and joined the Conference in 1984 after a brief stint working in the state legislature. She has served the Conference in that time as its pro-life lobbyist and spokesperson.

Among her many other duties, she served as staff liaison to the Catholic prison chaplains. She has received the Diocesan Pro-Vita Award from the Dioceses of Rockville Centre, Brooklyn and Buffalo, and the Bishop Broderick Award from the Diocese of Albany. Her monthly Respect Life column continues to appear in numerous diocesan publications across the state.

"I am grateful to Cardinal Dolan and the Bishops for allowing me to represent them for so long, and blessed beyond measure to have received a salary to advocate for moral principles in which I deeply believe," Gallagher said.

In addition to fighting against such threats to life as abortion, the death penalty, and assisted suicide, Gallagher has also had notable affirmative pro-life victories, including the enactment of the Prenatal Care Assistance Program, serving low-income mothers and their babies; the continuation

of the state-funded Maternity & Early Childhood Foundation, which provides alternatives to abortion; and the enactment of the Health Care Proxy Law, containing considerable protections for the most vulnerable populations, thanks to amendments she helped draft.

She helped build formidable coalitions, including New Yorkers for Life, which was responsible for holding off New York's egregious abortion expansion law for more than a decade, and the New York Alliance Against Assisted Suicide.

She is a principal author of *Now and at the Hour of Our Death*, an NYSCC-published booklet which offers guidance on end-of-life decision making, and she spearheaded the creation of a video and website based on the booklet.

The website, catholiclifedoflife.org, offers national resources for nearly every state.

"I've been fortunate to work side by side with Kathy for my entire 21-year tenure at the Conference," said Executive Director Dennis Poust. "I've learned so much from her, and just as important, I've been blessed with her friendship. Pro-life work is not an easy vocation, but Kathy never lost faith. She has continued to put all of her passion into her work to implement policies that protect human life in the law and to convert hearts toward a Culture of Life."

Gallagher has been married to the radio personality Joe Gallagher for 34 years.

The couple have two sons and are expecting their first grandbaby in the spring.

Bishop's Public Schedule

Jan. 13 – 11 a.m. – Memorial Mass for Reverend Patrick J. O'Reilly at St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake

Jan. 14 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 15 – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 16 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

11 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 17 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 18 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 19 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Rest in Peace

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

Jan. 12 – Msgr. Francis Joseph Maguire, 1978

Jan. 14 – Rev. John M. Neenan, M.S.C., 1879; Rev. Benedict Scharff, O.F.M. Conv., 1964; Deacon Francis Bradley, 2000

Jan. 15 – Msgr. James Joseph Lacey, 1942

Jan. 16 – Msgr. James Alexander Fix, 1969; Rev. Herbert Skurski, O.F.M. Conv., 1996

Jan. 17 – Rev. Francis A. Menard, 2009

Jan. 18 – Rev. Hugh Shields, 1881; Rev. Telesphore Campeau, 1935; Rev. Paul Martin Hagan, 1980

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg uses the training, Protecting God's Children for Adults. If you need to complete VIRTUS training, contact Jean Grizzuto, jgrizzuto@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920 x 1413.

To Report Abuse

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



CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Biden administration unveils changes to asylum policy

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Biden administration officials announced Jan. 3 additional legal help for migrants seeking asylum in the U.S. who are being forced to stay in Mexico under a Trump-era policy that has been difficult to revoke. Even as the administration seeks in its own way to make improvements to the Migrant Protection Protocols, or "Remain in Mexico" policy, government officials have asked the Supreme Court to step in and end it. The policy, also known as MPP, keeps asylum-seekers waiting across the southern border until their cases can be heard by U.S. immigration courts. Immigrant supporters have long complained about the danger and conditions migrants face while they wait in dangerous border towns. But U.S. government officials said they now have a system in place to transport migrants safely to shelters and to provide them access to legal representation, two of the main complaints about the policy. In 2018, with cooperation from Mexico, the Trump administration implemented the policy, seeking to deter asylum-seekers from entering the United States. President Joe Biden paused MPP as soon as he took office in 2020, and then formally ended it. But his administration was forced to implement it again in early December 2020 after a court said officials had not ended it properly.

China forbids foreigners from spreading religious content online

HONG KONG (CNS) — On Dec. 22, the Chinese government issued a new norm that proscribes all foreign institutions and individuals from spreading religious content online. China cited national security interests for enacting the new law, the first of their kind to monitor online religious affairs, reported ucanews.com. The new rules were made two weeks after Chinese President Xi Jinping attended a national religious work conference. In his address to that conference Dec. 4, Xi stressed making religions Chinese in orientation and developing them in the Chinese context. The United States, the United Nations and others have criticized China's repression of 1 million Uyghur Muslims, in Xinjiang province, where China allegedly is holding Uyghurs in detention camps. Michelle Bachelet, U.N. high commissioner for human rights, has sought to visit Xinjiang for years to verify the prosecution of Uyghur Muslims on religious grounds, but a U.N. spokesman said so far, no such visit had been made possible by the Chinese government. China denies abuses in Xinjiang and says its policies and detention camps are meant for vocational training and to curb Islamic extremism.

Indian officials say lease expired, force nuns off land

NEW DELHI (CNS) — The Missionaries of Charity congregation has been forced to shut Nirmala Shishu Bhawan, a home for orphaned, destitute and abandoned children in Uttar Pradesh state, after its lease expired. The Defence Estates Office demanded \$250,000 from the nuns for trespassing. The closure came on the heels of the federal government's refusal to renew the congregation's Foreign Contribution Regulation Act registration for foreign donations to carry out its charitable works across the country. Ucanews.com reported India's defense establishment claimed the Uttar Pradesh home was built on its land, for which the lease had expired in 2019. It claimed the Missionaries of Charity were trespassers and would have to pay penalty charges or face eviction. Sister Prema Pierick, the congregation's superior general, felt it prudent to surrender to army authorities and handed over peaceful possession of the home to the Defence Estates Office Jan. 3, Ucanews.com reported. The 11 remaining children, most of whom were severely handicapped, were relocated.

Annual March for Life still on this year in Washington

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The 49th annual national March for Life — with a rally on the National Mall and march to the Supreme Court Jan. 21 — will go on as scheduled this year amid a surge in the omicron variant in the nation's capital.

Outdoor events are not affected by the District of Columbia's vaccine mandate for indoor gatherings, but participants should expect to wear face masks. Indoor events associated with the annual march will have to comply with city COVID-19 restrictions.

The national Pro-Life Summit, sponsored by Students for Life, is also scheduled to take place Jan. 22 at Washington's Omni Shoreham Hotel. The event will feature former Vice President Mike Pence as its keynote speaker. Pence has been a frequent March for Life speaker, and in 2020 he introduced President Donald Trump at the event's rally.

The March for Life has canceled its three-day Pro-Life Expo and is combining two planned Capitol Hill 101 panel discussions Jan. 20 into a single event. The organization is still holding its annual Rose Dinner Gala.

Participants who are 12 and older attending the panel discussion or dinner will have to provide proof of receiving one COVID-19 vaccination by Jan. 15, or, if they are seeking a medical or religious exemption, they must have proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 24 hours of the event.

The Pro-Life summit is also requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination following the city's regula-

tions. The summit, which in previous years has drawn more than 2,000 high school and college students, notes on its website that it is accepting vaccine exemptions "for a strongly (or sincerely) held religious belief ... in writing or orally" and it is also requiring masks at all events.

March for Life never projects attendance figures, but an informal survey by Catholic News Service of a few groups planning to attend this year's march indicates that the turnout may approach pre-pandemic levels.

Last year's march was turned into a virtual event due to the pandemic and the violence at the Capitol on Jan. 6. Only an invited group of 80, joined midway by more than 100 others, marched from the nearby Museum of the Bible to just behind the Supreme Court. It was the first outdoor event in Washington since the Capitol violence, with both the Capitol and Supreme Court surrounded by high fences.

In previous years, total attendance for the rally and march up Constitution Avenue was estimated to be as high as 100,000.

"We have nearly 250 students and faculty headed to D.C.," said Ed Konieczka, assistant director of university ministry at the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota. "That is five full buses — our largest contingent since leading the march in 2017."

A similar number was estimated by organizers of the bus caravan for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-

South Bend, Indiana.

However, the Diocese of Manchester, New Hampshire, decided in December 2021 that the COVID-19 risk was too high to sponsor a bus caravan.

Bevin Kennedy, diocesan secretary for communications, cited "the difficulty of monitoring and mitigating the COVID risk with a group of over 100 participants."

The march is held annually on a date nearest the anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision, which legalized abortion.

The first march was held Jan. 22, 1974, organized by Nellie Gray, a government lawyer, and the Knights of Columbus. The idea was to form a "circle of life" around the Capitol and the Supreme Court. Jeanne Mancini assumed leadership of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund after Gray died in 2012.

This year's theme is "Equality Begins in the Womb." The rally is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. with a performance by singer Matthew West. The march starts at 1:15 p.m. after the political speeches are completed.

There is considerable anticipation that this year's march could be the last one with the Roe decision hanging in the balance.

Later this year, the Supreme Court will announce its decision in the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, an appeal by Mississippi to remove a lower court's injunction on its law banning most abortions after the 15th week of pregnancy.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

THE CHOSEN SEASON 2

Join the Office of New Evangelization and the parishes of St. Mary of the Fort in Fort Covington/St. Mary in Waddington for a viewing and discussion of the second season of THE CHOSEN, either in-person or via zoom.

Date: Starting Jan. 4

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8

Place: Virtual or at St. Mary's Parish Center, Waddington or Fort Covington Adult Center

Features: It is highly recommended that participants have seen season 1 before participating in this second series of 8 episodes. We will watch the video via zoom

Contact: Online Registration is required at www.rcdony.org/chosen

BROWNBAG CHAT

The Office of New Evangelization will be running a new Brownbag Chat on Wednesdays.

Date: Starting Jan. 5

Time: Noon to 1 p.m. via zoom

Features: We will use the Revive Parishes Series by Bishop Andrew Cozzens on The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church. We anticipate running the series in seven sessions. In each session, we will watch a video together via zoom and then have an informal discussion. The Eucharist is indeed Jesus Christ, and as Catholics, a gift that requires our response. And what a gift it is! In this groundbreaking new course, Bishop Cozzens breaks open the new document published by the USCCB: "The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church." This is the perfect companion resource!

Contact: If you would like to join us this series of lunch-time chat discussions, please sign up online at <https://www.rcdony.org/brownbag>. For more information, contact Marika Donders at mdonders@rcdony.org

ADIRONDACK

FIRST FRIDAY PRAISE AND WORSHIP

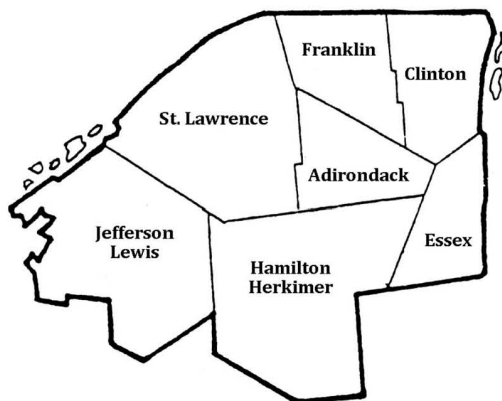
Lake Placid – Monthly praise and worship to be held.

Date: First Friday of the month

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: St. Agnes Church

Features: Music led by Joey and MC Izzo. Time for fellowship and snacks afterwards. Will be livestreamed as well on St. Agnes Facebook page.



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.

CLINTON

BRUNCH

Lyon Mountain – Lyon Mountain American Legion to have brunch.

Date: Jan. 23

Time: 9 to Noon

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children under 12, \$7

Menu: Scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, pancakes, garlic parmesan wings, breaded mushrooms, homefries.

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

RESPECT LIFE PRAYER GATHERING

Watertown – Liferight to hold a respect life prayer gathering.

Date: Jan. 24

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Watertown Municipal Building

Features: Join as we pray for renewed respect for all human life, particularly those most vulnerable. Refreshments to follow at the First Presbyterian Church. Social distancing guidelines will be followed.

HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY

Houseville – A Holy Hour of Adoration

with the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be observed the first Sunday of the month.

Date: Feb. 6

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

ST. LAWRENCE

PRAYER AND ADORATION

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

Date: Every third Wednesday of the month (Jan. 19th)

Time: 6:30 to 7 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

11TH AND 12TH GRADE RELIGION CLASSES

Ogdensburg – St. Mary's Cathedral Parish is kicking off its 11th & 12th grade religion class. Youth in the applicable grades from outside the Cathedral Parish are welcome to attend.

Date: Monthly Jan. 23, Feb. 13, March 13, April 10, May 15

Time: 5 p.m. to 7:30

Place: Brzana Hall below St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: We have no curriculum; YOU will help decide what we discuss! Lots of discussion, less lecture. Games with prizes. Dinner included. We ask families to consider taking a month and providing dinner. Past families have been very creative from spaghetti dinners to breakfast dishes to bringing in pizza or subs. Classes are self-contained units. Can't make it in October, you are still invited for November, De-

ember... No makeup assignments! Guests welcome! Bring a friend!

Contact: If you have questions or concerns that can't wait, contact Deacon Jim Crowley via email jcrowley@rcdony.org or Jessica Hargrave via email jhargrave@rcdony.org.

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY DEVOTION

Massena - Sacred Heart Church to have first Saturday Rosary Devotion.

Date: Feb. 5

Time: 3:15 p.m.

Features: First Saturday Rosary Devotion to OUR Lady of Fatima. Confessions will be available. Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 p.m.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

LOVING AUTHENTICALLY

Commissioned Lay Ministers and candidates are invited to this program that is designed to strengthen the participant's conviction about the truth, beauty and importance of church teaching on natural law and sexual morality and to give participants a basic understanding of the ethical basis of the teaching.

Schedule: Two remaining opportunities to attend. Jan. 29 at Emmaus Room, St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh; April 23 at St. Peter's Church, Lowville.

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Presenters: Deacon John Fehlner & Dr. Maura Fehlner, Mr. Steve Tartaglia and other members of the Family Life Department.

Features: Cost is free and all are welcome. Must watch an 80-minute video prior to the event. Link to video will be sent after registration. Bring your own lunch.

Contact: Register at: <https://www.rcdony.org/lovingauthentically>. If you have questions, contact Family Life Director, Steve Tartaglia at startaglia@rcdony.org or call 315-393-2920

PRESENTATION OF FORGIVEN

A Continuation of the Eucharist Initiative. Explore the transforming power and the healing grace of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Discover the merciful way that God calls us back to Himself when we have sinned.

Date: March 26

Time: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Place: Clayton, Watertown, Lowville, Norfolk, Ellenburg, Plattsburgh, and Saranac Lake

Features: All are welcome. More details including how to register soon to come.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO THE MYSTERY OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Ogdensburg – A day of reflection based on the fourth video of Presence, "Biblical Foundations."

Date: April 9

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: Wadhams Hall

Cost: \$25

Speakers: Sister Bernadette Marie Collins, SSJ & Sister Mary Gregory Munger, SSJ

Features: A Continuation of The Mystery of the Holy Eucharist. Lunch will be provided.

Contact: To register go to: www.rcdony.org/diggingdeeper

World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day for prayer for women and men who live the consecrated life.

The universal day of celebration is February 2 which is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This day is known as Candlemas Day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the Light of the world. Consecrated religious live their vowed life of poverty, chastity and obedience as prophetic witnesses of joy and hope of the Christian message. They offer a radical commitment to God.

Parishes will celebrate World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life on February 5-6. There are religious communities within our diocese that serve the people of the North Country by their daily prayer, involvement in parishes, schools, Religious Education programs, Diocesan offices, etc.

AT THE MOVIES

THE 355

NEW YORK (CNS) – Who needs one James Bond when you can have five Jane Bonds? That's the premise behind "The 355" (Universal), an entertaining thriller featuring a quintet of lady spies.

Like Ian Fleming, who based his 007 character on a real-life secret agent, "The 355" is similarly inspired, harkening back to an unnamed female operative in the Revolutionary War. Known only by her code number (355), this colonial spy relayed vital information on British troop movements to Gen. George Washington.

Fast-forward to 2022, and screenwriters Simon Kinberg (who also directed) and Theresa Rebeck honor this legacy with five variations of the heroine, albeit with far more fashion choices, love interests, weapons and exotic locations around the world.

The plot is a familiar one. Global disaster looms when mercenaries acquire a top-secret, pocket-sized cyber weapon that destabilizes technology with a single touch. Recognizing a common enemy, governments from the United States to China unleash

their best undercover spies to capture the device.

Leading the charge are CIA agent Mason "Mace" Browne (Jessica Chastain), British MI6 operative Khadijah Adiyeme (Lupita Nyong'o) and German agent Marie Schmidt (Diane Kruger).

"They can start World War III from the simple reach of their keyboard," Mace intones.

In their sights is a fellow spy from Colombia, Luis Rojas (Edgar Ramirez). Luis foiled an attempt by the baddies to sell the device and is on the run,

with the weapon in his pocket. His government dispatches comely psychologist Graciela Rivera (Penelope Cruz) to London to bring Luis home.

Fate intervenes, the weapon is lost and Graciela reluctantly joins forces with the female trio as they follow the criminals' trail across Europe, Africa and Asia.

In Shanghai, things get even more interesting when a mysterious woman, Lin Mi Sheng (Bingbing Fan), intervenes, motives unknown.

As "The 355" unrolls at a breakneck pace, viewers

may wince at the violence and high body count. But like the best of the Bond films, mindless escapism and grand entertainment are on the menu, a welcome tonic whether shaken or stirred.

The film contains excessive but bloodless violence and gunplay, implied premarital intercourse and one crude word. 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.

Bishop's reflections prod readers' spiritual lives

"Love Never Fails: Living the Catholic Faith in Our Daily Lives" by Bishop Donald Hying. Ignatius Press (San Francisco, 2021). 187 pp, \$16.95.

Sometimes when reading reflections, one can almost hear what the author is saying. When they are published, it's as though the printed word is transformed into an audiobook. That is what the reader will experience with Bishop Donald Hying's "Love Never Fails."

Bishop Hying, who heads the Diocese of Madison, Wisconsin, and previously served as an auxiliary bishop in Milwaukee and as bishop of Gary, Indiana, asks thought-provoking questions.

In a chapter titled "Spiritual Spendthrifts," he asks, "How can I ever really know the joy of salvation unless I lift up my experiences of anxiety, dread, sin and isolation to God on the cross? Can I really appreciate the gift of my life in Christ until I have somehow been painfully uprooted from my complacent self-suffi-

ciency?"

He draws upon a variety of sources, quoting Scripture, Robert Frost, G.K. Chesterton, Henry David Thoreau, Pope Francis and a number of saints, including Augustine, Teresa of Avila and John Paul II, not as an academic exercise but to make a point.

"Love Never Fails" is inspirational but never preachy.

When Bishop Hying writes about concerns throughout the church, e.g., providing excellent faith formation for children, youth and adults; parishes that are "lively, flourishing, welcoming and loving," and where celebration of sacraments is done well; and living the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, he invites but doesn't lecture.

When he calls gratitude and thankfulness "hallmarks of the mystical journey," the reader can almost hear Bishop Hying's words aloud:

"Let your life be more about praising than complaining, more about what

has been given than what is lacking. Gratitude and humility contain the great secret of joy and peace. ... What we are searching for has already been given. We just need to reach out and receive it and then pass it on."

Numerous times he mentions his family, growing up as the youngest of six boys in a home where the rosary was recited every evening. He speaks of love and admiration for his parents and notes how their example and the environment in which they raised their sons had an impact upon his vocation to the priesthood.

In an All Souls' Day reflection, he writes about his 10-year-old brother Patrick, who died of liver cancer.

"Going through my own sorrow and watching my parents grieve up close as a 6-year-old forever marked my heart and life. ... Our sorrow and loss as a family gradually healed through faith, prayer and the kindness of family and friends, but the experience both wounded and transformed

us," he writes.

He continues, "As painful as it was, my brother's death blessed me. This tragic experience opened me to ask the big questions and brought me to a richer faith, gave me a deeper compassion for the suffering of others, and granted for me a powerful intercessor in heaven. ... I feel that my vocation to the priesthood was nurtured by the tragic death of Patrick."

Bishop Hying's stories can make a reader cry, but they can also make one laugh.

In a reflection on Pentecost, he writes, "I'm afraid that if Pentecost happened today, instead of immediately going out to evangelize, the early church would have formed a long-range study committee, wrote up long plans on how to evangelize and organized countless meetings. Thankfully, they did none of that!"

The chapters devoted to Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter provide more of the "speak-to-the-heart" material that is a consistent thread throughout the

book. Priests and deacons in need of homily material might cull ideas from what the bishop writes.

In a chapter titled "Everyone is Called to Evangelize," Bishop Hying relates how he heard Matthew Kelly speak about his book "Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic" and that he was so "fired up" by what the author said that he ordered 5,000 copies of the book and gave them away.

"Love Never Fails" prods readers' spiritual lives in a pastoral, practical way. They may say, "I've read all that," but one can be certain they haven't read it the way Bishop Hying presents it. They might not be moved to buy another 5,000 copies, but they will certainly share what they've read with others.



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Ordinary Time isn't dull or boring

It seems that Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany were hurried through our lives this year. We needed Christmas so badly this past year (and thank God we can call it "last year"). And now this Sunday, Jesus' infancy and teen years are past. In the Gospel, we see him as an attractive young man in his twenties attending a wedding with his mother in the little village of Cana. Whoever this wedding couple is, their honor and reputa-



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

tion are at risk, for the wine has run short. Now wine was both a symbol and a cause for much joy and merriment at a wedding, and everyone will soon know of the blunder. Jesus' mother, having quickly sized up the situation, wants to prevent any embarrassment to this young couple and begs her Son to intervene with a miracle. It's interesting that Mary, even before Jesus' public life, is so certain of His special powers.

January 16

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

Isaiah 62:1-5
1 Corinthians 12:4-11
John 2:1-11

Even though Jesus is reluctant, He is not about to refuse His mother! He blesses the couple with far more wine than they needed. From this hour on, His time will never be His own. Soon after this event, he enters the synagogue at Capharnaum and announces the coming of the Kingdom. From then

on, He will be swept up in a whirlwind life of teaching those open to the truth of his passion...and on and on...even to Calvary.

The Church refers to these next six weeks before Lent as "Ordinary Time." It's a time for us to become involved in the ordinary Christian life – daily prayer and meditation, constant attention to our neighbor's needs, responsible carrying out of those duties that flow from our relationships as parents, children, teachers, and caregivers. We needn't get frightened, of course, for we don't work

alone. In today's second reading from Corinthians, St. Paul assures us that we have the powerful help of various gifts of the Spirit. Each should use the particular gift God has given without worrying which is the greater gift.

How can "ordinary time" be dull or boring when God says in the today's first reading from Isaiah that He loves us as a bridegroom loves His bride, and that He rejoices in us as His delight? If God is happy with us and our weak efforts, then we should enter into this season with confidence and joy.

CALLED TO SERVE

We offer a sacrifice of praise

When we have all finished joyfully singing the Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) at Mass, we kneel. That is everyone except the priest celebrant, any priests concelebrating Mass and the deacons assisting the celebrant.

The U.S. practice is to kneel from the Sanctus to the Amen response to the Memorial Acclamation unless there are extenuating circumstances or you are the priest celebrant, any priests concelebrating Mass and the deacons assisting the celebrant.

The deacons who are assisting the celebrant do not kneel until the celebrant joins his hands and extends them over the bread and wine. The action is called the epiclesis.

In some churches, a server rings bells when this action occurs. I tell servers the bell ringing harkens back to the days when the Mass was in Latin. Since the celebrant had his back to the congregation and almost no one knew what he was saying, the bell ringing was a signal that something important was about to happen, that is the consecration.

I can remember the people standing on the side or back of church and the ushers all kneeling when they heard the bell ring. The signal worked! Some churches still ring a bell at the invocation of the Holy Spirit over the gifts. The

general instructions for the Mass say this should be done, "if appropriate," whatever that means.

The deacon assisting the celebrant stays standing when everyone else kneels after the Sanctus. The deacon kneels at the epiclesis. He remains kneeling until the celebrant shows the chalice to the congregation. Everyone else remains kneeling.

I have my own theory about the deacon kneeling and standing at times that are different from everyone else.

From the Sanctus to the epiclesis, he remains standing as a sign the deacon is clergy, ordained to assist at the sacrifice of the Mass. He kneels at the consecration as a sign of humility but also a symbol of his

relationship to the congregation. The deacon stands before everyone else to again acknowledge his unique position during the Mass.

The deacon's most important moment during the Mass, in my opinion, comes at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer. Standing next to the priest who is elevating the Body of Christ for all to adore, the deacon simultaneously elevates the chalice with the Blood of Christ.

The priest intones the doxology, "Through him, and with him and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever." We all respond "Amen!"

Ask a priest what it was like the first time he presided at Mass and said

the words of institution, "for this is my body which will be given up for you" and then over the wine "this is the chalice of my blood." Christ, through the actions of the priest, changed the bread and wine into his body and blood as "a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity" according to the Vatican Council. I suspect that moment for the new priest was awesome.

Standing alongside the celebrant, listening to him praise God for the gift of the Eucharist, holding the chalice aloft for all to see is an awesome moment for me. Amen is not enough. Thank you seems appropriate.

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



*Support And Pray
For Vocations*



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

Muslim community prays for nun

In her long life "she sowed good wherever she went." For this reason, even the Shiite Muslims in the Lebanese city of Hermel, in the Beqa'a valley, wanted to say a prayer for Sister Barbara of Jesus, the 90-year-old Catholic nun of the Little Sisters of Jesus who died on Christmas Eve. They invited the entire population of the country to a funeral ceremony, hosted on the evening of Sunday, January 2 in the condolence hall of the mosque dedicated to Imam Zayn al-Abidin, in the neighborhood of al Harah. In the message calling for the suffrage offer, gratitude was expressed for the love with which Sister Barbara "sowed good things wherever she went." "All the people of Hermel miss you as an example of piety, charity and purity," read a banner hoisted at the entrance to the mosque district to express gratitude for Sister Barbara and to entrust her soul to "the great mercy of God."

At the funeral, eyewitnesses reported, "Sister Barbara's fellow sisters received expressions of condolences from high-ranking members of the local community. The mayor expressed gratitude for the presence of the sisters in the region, recalling that their discreet work has accompanied him throughout his life, since he was a child. For the soul of Sister Barbara, the many Muslims who attended the ceremony recited Al-Fātiha, the "merciful and gracious" God that constitutes the first Sura of the Koran. All those present were offered the traditional unsweetened coffee, as is customary when expressing condolences in the Lebanese Christian and Muslim communities.

[...] Sister Barbara Kassab, originally from Egypt, spent her whole life doing good for her Christian and Muslim brothers and sisters in a country that has been wounded and at times torn by numerous internal conflicts. "Great sadness on earth and great joy in heaven at the passing of Sister Barbara," read the funeral announcement with which the Christians in the region announced their death. It was recalled that Sister Barbara "devoted her life to work in the Church, to social works at the service of the community and above all the poor in the region." Gratitude was expressed for the presence of Barbara and her sisters who offered everyone comfort and consolation "in our difficult days," and represent "a shining sign in our world shrouded in darkness. Her soul - the message added - will be a Christmas present for the Child of Bethlehem. Go in peace, virtuous mother and sister, and may your soul be of help to us, our families, our society and our entire region."

Article from *FIDES* missionary news service of the Pontifical Mission Societies

OBITUARIES

Bloomington – Howard A. McGill, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 4, 2022 at St. Paul's Church; burial in St. John's in the Wilderness Cemetery, Lake Clear.

Brushton – Elizabeth G. (Sawatis) Russell, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 8, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Colton – Scott E. Regan, 58; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 31, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Deferiet – Richard A. Smith Sr., 94; Graveside services in spring at Black River Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Robert Broadwell, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 6, 2022 at St. Alexander's Church.

Morrisonville – Margaret A. (Palisin) Gerhardt, 80; Mass of Christian Burial May 2, 2022 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Barbara Ann (LaVenture) Corrice, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 10, 2022 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Susan Landrie Martin, 71; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 4, 2022 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Stanley D. Wood, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 10, 2022 at St. John XXIII Newman Center; burial in Divine Mercy Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – James V. Brophy, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 7, 2022 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in Long Island National Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Michael John Taylor, 69; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 7, 2022 at St. Bernard's Church.

Watertown – Carrol J. Tufo, 87; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at Holy Family Church.

Canadian bishops plans for healing, reconciliation effort

TORONTO (CNS) – A national framework for a five-year, \$30 million (US\$23.5 million) fundraising campaign to help with healing and reconciliation of residential school survivors and their communities is coming in the new year, Bishop William McGrattan, vice president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, told *The Catholic Register* weekly.

Church officials hoped that plans for the campaign, first announced Sept. 27, would be complete by November, but getting the framework in place for a national diocese-by-diocese effort has turned out to be more complicated than first thought.

Bishop McGrattan said he hoped that in January or February, "announcements of details would be able to be shared with the public and with Catholics."

"We realize that it has taken longer than expected, but it's important that we do this right and that we make sure that it is both transparent and that it demonstrates accountability," Bishop McGrattan said.

"We've drawn upon the expertise of people in terms of governance – yes, fundraising and also legal – because we do have to make sure that these funds are received by a nonprofit and are directed to a nonprofit organization or initiative. There are a lot of details."

Extra care is being taken to ensure that mistakes made with the 2008-2014 "best efforts" campaign will not be repeated, an insider on the campaign organizing committee told *The Catholic Register*.

The organizing committee, made up of bishops, finance officers and fundraising experts from dioceses across the country,

is focused on ensuring the campaign is consistent with the 94 Calls to Action that came out of the 2015 final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the source said.

That report said the removal of Indigenous children from their families over a century, when they were sent to residential schools, amounted to "cultural genocide." About 60% of the government schools were run by Catholic dioceses and religious orders.

In a September apology, the Canadian bishops acknowledged the residential school system "led to the suppression of Indigenous languages, culture and spirituality, failing to respect the rich history, traditions and wisdom of Indigenous peoples."

"We acknowledge the grave abuses that were committed by some members of our Catholic community: physical, psychological, emotional, spiritual, cultural and sexual. We also sorrowfully acknowledge the historical and ongoing trauma and the legacy of suffering and challenges faced by Indigenous peoples that continue to this day," the bishops said.

Unlike the previous \$25 million "best efforts" campaign that raised just \$3.7 million, the CCCB commitment to raise \$30 million over five years is absolute. If parishioners and donors fail to give the full amount, dioceses will make up the difference. Much of the organizing effort has gone into ensuring that, while bishops can be held accountable for the money raised, they are not seen as directing or dictating how the funds are spent.

Old enough

By Kathleen M. Gallagher

Director of Pro-Life Activities
New York State Catholic Conference

Very soon, I plan to retire from my position with the New York State Catholic Conference. I have worked for this organization for 38 years; I literally grew up here.

Lots of people have told me I'm not old enough to retire, that I should stick with it. You know what? I'm old enough.

I'm old enough to remember having meaningful conversations with elected officials to help shape the most effective family friendly policies in our state. Now I'm old enough to have witnessed some of those very same policies disappear.

Case in point: I walked the halls of the Capitol together with the National Organization of Women in mutual efforts to ban surrogate motherhood for profit, and in 1992 I stood behind Governor Mario Cuomo when he signed that ban into law. In 2020 I cried as Governor Andrew Cuomo unraveled those protections for women and children.

I'm old enough to remember how hard we advocated for the Prenatal Care Assistance Program to help low-income moms pay for their obstetrical visits



Kathleen Gallagher

and vitamins, only to see it get tied up in the courts. The NYCLU claimed the program was discriminatory because it didn't pay for abortions. "Prenatal care," we said in court papers, "look it up in the dictionary." I'm so gratified we won that case (unanimously!) and delighted that the program continues to reduce infant and maternal

mortality.

I'm old enough to remember working with a committee of moral theologians (shouldn't there be some indulgences for that?) to craft a statement providing guidance for Catholics on end-of-life decision making. Of all the projects I ever did for the Bishops' conference, I think I am most proud of this

one. It's clear, practical, usable. Once it was done, I was awarded a grant to develop a website and a short video to explain the statement. Equally proud of these.

I'm old enough to remember the very day that Governor Eliot Spitzer first introduced the radical late-term abortion expansion proposal. "There must be some mistake," I recall thinking, "because no one would want to go this far." No mistake. I aged considerably during the twelve years we beat back that bill, and I remember feeling physically sick in 2019 as government officials celebrated its enactment into law.

I'm old enough to remember meetings with Cardinal O'Connor and Cardinal Egan, with Governor Paterson and Governor Pataki, with Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives, with rabbis and ministers and imams.

I'm old enough to remember countless discussions with state officials advocating for the rights of people with developmental disabilities to have their religious needs met in the communities in which they live. Old enough to remember organizing lots of conferences and retreats for the state's Catholic prison chaplains, a group of dedicated women and men I am so fortunate to know.

I'm old enough to remember coordinating Public Policy Forums, our powerful lobby day in Albany; beginning the Catholic Action Network, our electronic database of Catholics; and hosting "Capitol Compass," our issues-based television talk show. Old enough to remember conducting media training seminars for Catholic spokespeople, serving on the Board of New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty, leading the efforts of the Cardinal

Cooke Pro-Life Commission, building an alliance of formidable and diverse organizations against assisted suicide.

I've offered educational presentations in church basements, at national conferences, in seminaries and elementary school classrooms, even once on a cruise ship full of physicians! I've authored hundreds of columns on topics like human trafficking, stem cell research, capital punishment, domestic violence, euthanasia, the consistent life ethic, faithful citizenship, and so many more.

I've been vilified by those on the right because I've called racism a life issue and I've never protested outside an abortion clinic. I've been disparaged by those on the left because of a pre-conceived notion that I am a right-wing zealot and a "single issue" Catholic.

I've always tried to be a bridge-builder, to make "life" my single issue, to inspire everyone to know the truth that we are all connected, and disrespect for one human life over here only endangers other human lives over there. We must exclude no one from our compassion and mercy. I hope and pray that somewhere along the journey I succeeded, that a seed or two were planted that will take root long after I am gone.

I am grateful to Cardinal Dolan and the Bishops for allowing me to represent them for so long, and blessed beyond measure to have received a salary to advocate for moral principles in which I deeply believe.

Lots of people have told me I'm not old enough to retire, that I should stick with it. You know what? I've got my first grandbaby on the way and an artwork career to grow. I'm old enough. And I'm ready.



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