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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 76 Number 35

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JANUARY 19, 2022

Follow Me: Action needed to protect life

In this week's *Follow Me*, Bishop Terry R. LaValley offers reflections ahead of Jan. 22, a Day of Prayer and Fasting for the legal Protection of Unborn Children:

"It is only through our own personal conversion, made new each day as we ask God to re-create our hearts, that we will have the courage and wisdom to continue to work on behalf of life. There is a necessary place for the faithful to be marching in the public square and calling the public's attention to the evil of abortion, although that might not be the place for all of us. However, every one of us has the serious obligation to act on behalf of the unborn, following Jesus' example and teaching."

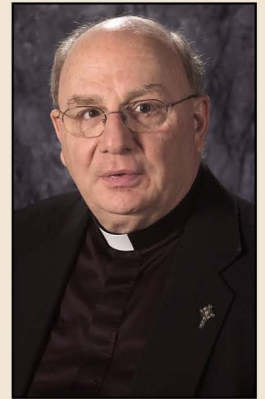
FULL STORY, PAGE 3

GAP GRANT WINNERS



Students at St. Agnes School in Lake Placid will continue to benefit from opportunities to receive additional assistance after the school received a grant of \$80,000 from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation for the school's Growth Achievement Program (GAP), which provides programs in the areas of health and wellness, kinesthetic and sensory learning, and other therapies. See the full story on Page 12.

REMEMBERING FATHER MCGUINNESS



Father J. Roger McGuinness died on Wednesday, January 12. In addition to being remembered as a beloved pastor, instructor and retreat leader, Father L. William Gordon remembers Father McGuinness, his seminary classmate, as a dear friend and "a wonderful priest."

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope Francis: Find guidance, hope in St. Joseph

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – With so many problems and challenges in the world, especially worsened by the pandemic, people can find strength and guidance in St. Joseph, Pope Francis said.

"Precisely in this time that is so difficult, we needed someone who could encourage us, help us, inspire us, in order to understand which is the right way to know how to face these dark moments," he said in a new interview.

"Joseph is a bright witness in dark times. This is why it was right to make room for him at this

time, in order to find our way again," he said in an interview with the Vatican's media outlets published Jan. 13.

He said he was praying for all families that are suffering, and he understands how difficult it is to face "not being able to feed one's children, feeling the responsibility for the life of others."

So many families are forced to flee war, but are rejected at borders where "no one takes seriously or willingly ignores" their great need, he added. "I would like to say to these fathers, to these

mothers, that for me they are heroes because I see in them the courage of those who risk their lives for love of their children, for love of their family."

"May these fathers turn with trust to St. Joseph, knowing that as a father, he too had the same experience, the same injustice. And I would like to say to all of them and to their families, do not feel alone! The pope remembers them always and as far as it is possible, will continue to give them a voice and will not forget them," he said.

The interview, conducted in Italian and translated into five other languages, focused on the theme of "paternity" and how St. Joseph – with his strength, determination and tenderness – is an important example for fathers, the church and families.

The pope led a special year dedicated to St. Joseph from Jan. 1, 2020, to Dec. 8, 2021, and he is currently giving a series of talks on the saint at his weekly general audiences. His papal ministry officially began on March 19, the feast of St. Joseph.

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CATHOLICBox 326
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
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R. LAVALLEY
PresidentREV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN
Vice PresidentJAMES D. CROWLEY
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Communications Director

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'You're missing a chance'

It was a graphic someone posted in an online Catholic women's group in which I participate. The graphic was a "checking in" post, asking group members to rate how they're doing. Options included "thriving," "surviving," "struggling" or "in crisis," and the graphic included descriptions and a color code (green to red) for each option.

After reading a few of the early responses, I decided not to participate in the conversation.

Why?

All the early comments were from women who were

somewhere between "surviving" and "in crisis." No one reported that they're "thriving."

"I don't want to be 'that person,'" I told another group member, a friend of mine, in a private conversation. "I feel like I'm bragging if I say I'm thriving right now."



Darcy L.
Fargo

"It's not like you haven't spent plenty of time surviving or struggling or in crisis," my friend responded. "But you've done a lot of work on growing spiritually, setting boundaries and making time to take care of yourself. You should be

proud that you're thriving. I feel like you're missing a chance to be a witness to the fact that growth and improvement is possible."

"You're missing a chance to be a witness."

That sentence could be applied to other parts of my life, too.

I can think of many, many occasions when I had an opportunity to witness to Christ's love, but I failed to do so out of a desire to not stand out or appear weird or different.

Similarly, I can think of a number of times when I had an opportunity to talk about the dignity of all life from conception to natural death as people around me rally

behind a culture of death and promote "the right to choose," but I chose to remain silent to avoid conflict or, again, so I don't appear to be weird or different.

After talking to my friend, I went back to that online group discussion and talked about how I'm currently "thriving." I didn't want to lose the chance to be a witness.

And while I'm sure I won't be perfect, and I'm sure I'll still struggle with that impulse to fit in and not be different, I am committed to trying my best to be a better witness to Christ's love and to the dignity of all lives.

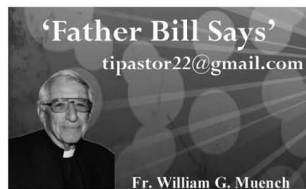
Let's not miss our chances to be witnesses.

'He went off by himself to pray'

Jesus prayed. Many might wonder why Jesus would need to pray. However, several times the Gospel writers tell us that Jesus prayed. Just a few days ago, the assigned weekday Gospel reading told us a story from the early days of Jesus' public ministry. And Jesus prays.

The Gospel from St. Mark tells us that Jesus went to Capernaum with his apostles. There, he goes to the synagogue to teach and preach. Afterwards, in the evening, many sick and needy are brought to Jesus, and he heals many of them. Then we are told that the next morning, Jesus got up early. He went off by himself to pray.

I believe that Jesus understood the importance and value for a time of silence and solitude to pray – his way to prepare for the ministry for the day. Such a time gives a person the strength, the courage and the opportunity to recognize all that he wished to teach – to teach



Fr. William G. Muench

his message. The Gospel tells us his initial message: "This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel."

The Gospel story goes on to tell us that during that morning the apostles came to find Jesus. They want him to speak to the people. Jesus tells them that he is ready to move on now. He is anxious to visit other villages to teach and preach in their synagogues. He found in prayer the power, readiness and wisdom to spread the word throughout all of Galilee.

Jesus laid the foundation for us to realize the importance of prayer for all of us as followers of the Lord. So, let us talk a little about

prayer today.

We pray so we can get to know the Lord Jesus and to know ourselves better as his followers. Prayer is our opportunity to prepare ourselves, as Jesus did, to live each day as well as we can. Prayer is our way to allow the Lord to guide us, to show us the way. I believe that the Lord fills each day with opportunities and challenges so we can do something, something great, something that will truly make our world a better place. I believe that there are even opportunities that guide us to work miracles.

I truly believe this. As a rule, most think of miracles as spectacular. I believe that often, maybe each day, there are innumerable incidents in our lives – in the lives of each one of us – that are miracles. There is no other word for it. It might be a simple as saying the right thing at the right time – a miracle every time. It might be that we do something to make another

happy, happier than ever before. As simple as this sounds, this is truly a miracle. I want you to know that I have seen some spectacular miracles as well.

This takes prayer – prayer that makes us aware of the opportunities that the Lord places in our lives today. However, such awareness demands prayer, quiet prayer and times of silence. This is the kind of prayer that is transformative. We are made into new and alive disciples of the Lord. We will truly discover how to become a saint. In prayer, we begin to realize just who God is, just how much God loves us and just how God leads us each day.

There is a word for this: vocation. We have been called and chosen by the Lord. When Jesus was ready for his public ministry, he called Peter and Andrew, James and John to follow him. Now he calls you and me to follow him. Truly this is a miracle.

FOLLOW ME

Conversion, prayer, action needed to protect life

I'm no computer expert, but those who use a computer know something about default options. When we get a new computer, it is set up in a certain standardized way—the screens all look alike, the document templates are all the same, the same print style. Part of the challenge (fun?) of getting a new computer is that you can personalize it – change the way the icons appear on the screen, have a picture of your loved one as your screensaver, choose your own background wallpaper. The problem is that when there is a fault with a computer – when it crashes – all these changes are lost. The computer returns to the default options, the factory settings. You lose all the work you put into the computer to customize it to your preferences.

In a sense, we have a default option as human beings. And because we live in a fallen state, because of the effects of original sin, unfortunately our default option can be pretty ugly. As Christians, we struggle to move away from this default option. That is the meaning of repentance.

By following Jesus' example and teaching, by becoming His disciples, we move away from those default options that reveal our pride, greed and selfishness. Unfortunately, as we all know too well, occasionally, like computers, we crash. We stumble and fall. We sin and return to our default settings. We can be like a computer which refuses to reboot and keeps on crashing. Clearly, such has been the story of our Culture

of Death.

As a nation, we suffered such a tragic crash when our highest court took away legal protection for the unborn child in its death-dealing decision in **Roe v Wade** (1973). Since that time, humanity's cruel inhumanity has increased and so very many precious innocent lives continue to be taken.

Since then, we have seen scandalous division within the Body of Christ itself and the killing continues. Legislators have been voted in and out of office. Judges have been nominated and taken their seats, and the killing continues. Prominent Catholic politicians refuse to witness to their faith. They claim to be "good, enlightened Catholics," and the killing continues.

It is only through our own personal conversion, made new each day as we ask God to re-create our hearts, that we will have the courage and wisdom to continue to work on behalf of life. There is a necessary place for the faithful to be marching in the public square and calling the public's attention to the evil of abortion, although that might not be the place for all of us.

However, every one of us has the serious obligation to act on behalf of the unborn, following Jesus' example and teaching.

We need a broader effort, reflecting a truly unified Church, in our ministry for life. How can we be more effective in

the Pro-Life movement? Education is good place to begin. The teaching of the Church on life matters must be part of the faith formation of our children. We must learn about candidates and legislation and vote for individuals and laws that protect the unborn. **Equal rights begin in the womb!**

Each of us can and must, persevere in prayer. Do I consciously say a prayer each day for the plight of the unborn? Perhaps, I could commit myself to special time before the Blessed Sacrament. We can all target days in which to fast in reparation for the sin we all commit – failing to give respect to every human person with whom we come in contact. We can affirm one another, be life-givers, rather than ridicule or tear down someone, contributing to this Culture of Death. Small acts of charity can change people from being strangers into sisters and brothers. Such

deeds can help change a Culture of Death into that of new life and can create a civilization of love – even here in the United States.

We can volunteer to work with service groups that provide direct aid to women so they would not feel that they have no option but to abort their preborn child. We should be proud of what our Church is doing in this area, including such efforts as Elizabeth Ministry, Gabriel Project and Rachel's Vineyard, as well as adoption ministries, crisis pregnancy centers and support programs for single mothers and their children. Such tireless sacrifice, and enthusiasm for life inspires us all and we are so grateful.

We need a true revolution to take place in society's attitudes about human life and the means we employ to protect it. You and I must storm the heavens with our prayers and smother the earth with our love. Even if such efforts seem ineffective against a culture steeped in moral relativism, we must never give in to discouragement.

ment.

Pope John Paul II once wrote that conversion and penance are the beginning and the path of a person's healing, and the necessary condition for one to recover what he or she could never attain by one's own strength. We ask for forgiveness and for the courage to renew our own personal efforts to be life-givers. We thank all of you who continue to persevere in your witness for life in such a toxic environment.

January 22, a Day of Prayer and Fasting for the legal Protection of Unborn Children, is a good occasion to recapture our energy to look with faith-filled eyes on the world and see the possibilities through the lens of Christian hope. We will not lose heart because, as we heard Cardinal O'Connor tell us a few years ago in his visit to Malone, "We will not go away. We simply will not go away." Let us respond today and remember that when we crash and fall God will never give up on us. We pray we will never give up on Him or on the preborn.



Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley



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Father J. Roger McGuinness died Jan. 12

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

WEST CHAZY – While many remember him for his work at Wadhams Hall or the many retreats he led, Father J. Roger McGuinness will be remembered most for how he connected with and helped individuals.

“He was just a wonderful priest,” said Father L. William Gordon. “I can’t say anything better than that.”

Father McGuinness died on January 12 at the age of 82.

“I sat with him Tuesday afternoon and last Sunday,” said Father Gordon of his friend. “Father Clyde Lewis was with me one of those days. The family (Father McGuinness) was staying with asked me how long we’d known each other. I’m fairly good at math, but I couldn’t immediately do the math. It’s been 65 years. Father Lewis, (Father McGuinness) and I were classmates at Wadhams Hall. The people that were at Wadhams then all got to know each other pretty well. Our class, we all became good friends and have remained that way.”

Since his friend’s passing, Father Gordon said he’s received a number of messages from people whose lives had been touched by Father McGuinness over the years.

“He was very well known,” Father Gordon said. “He was involved in a lot of things. He was on the Wadhams Hall faculty for a long, long, long time. He had many spiritual directees. He was the Vocations director, director of Seminarians, and he had close friends associated with all those roles. He had been the pastor of three parishes in Plattsburgh, and he was well known there, too. I’ve heard a number of people say what a wonderful influence he was on their lives as a spiritual director. He really helped a lot of people. I don’t think we’ll ever really know how many he helped and in how many ways.”

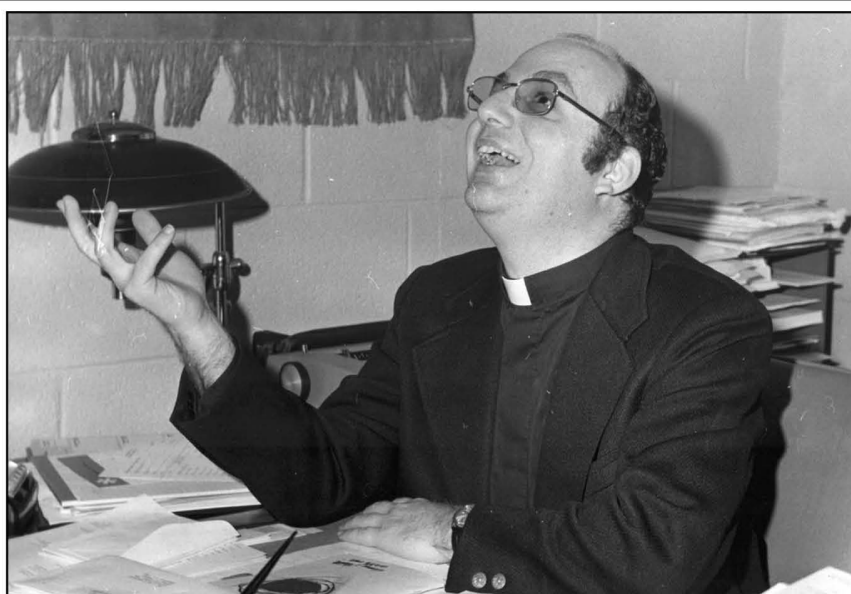
Father Gordon said he has many fond memories of times spent with Father McGuinness over the years.

“I don’t know why I can’t get this story out of my head, but the year we were ordained – we were ordained together in 1965 – Pope Paul VI came to New York City. It was the first time a pope had visited the United States. Father McGuinness was a native of New York City. We went down there to see the Mass. I remember sleeping on the floor of his mother’s living room so we could go see the pope. He was a good friend.”

Father Gordon said his friend will be missed.

“I loved the man dearly,” he said. “We were always there for one another. We had a great friendship that went on a long, long time.”

He noted, though, that there is also joy in his passing. “Death is the beginning of eternal life,” Father Gordon said. “(Father McGuinness) had a birthday the other day.”



Father J. Roger McGuinness poses for a photo during his days on the faculty at Wadhams Hall Seminary College. Father McGuinness died Jan. 12 at age 82.

Funeral Mass was Jan. 18

Reverend J. Roger McGuinness, age 82, peacefully commended his spirit to almighty God accompanied by the prayers of family and friends on Wednesday, January 12, 2022.

Reverend L. William Gordon presided over the reception of the body on Monday, January 17 at 3 p.m. at St. Joseph’s Church in West Chazy.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at noon on January 18 at St. Joseph’s Church. Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, was the principal celebrant. Homilist was Father Kris C. Lauzon. The priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg concelebrated.

Father McGuinness’ body will be laid to rest in St. Joseph’s Cemetery in the spring.

Father McGuinness was born July 11, 1939. He is the son of James and Mary

McGuinness. A native of New York City, he attended St. Elizabeth’s Grade School in Washington Heights and Bishop Dubois High School in Manhattan.

Father McGuinness came to the North Country in 1957 to study for the Roman Catholic priesthood at Wadhams Hall Seminary in Ogdensburg. He completed his studies and the program of priestly formation at Christ the King Seminary in Olean, New York. Father McGuinness was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Thomas Donnellan at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg on May 22, 1965. Father McGuinness’ early years of priestly service were spent as a parochial vicar in parishes in Potsdam, Lake Placid, Plattsburgh and Watertown. He served the people of Raymondville and Keeseville as their pastor. In 1973, he returned to

Wadhams Hall Seminary College. Over the next 16 years, he served as academic dean, director of Spiritual Formation and instructor in psychology and religious studies. He assisted seminarians from various dioceses to discern their vocation to priestly service. In 1989, he resumed parish ministry as pastor of Our Lady of Victory Church, St. John the XXIII College Community Church and The Roman Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist in Plattsburgh. At the time of his retirement in 2016, Father McGuinness was serving the people of St. Joseph’s Church, West Chazy and Sacred Heart Church, Chazy.


Father McGuinness served the Diocese of Ogdensburg for many years as Vocation director, director of Seminarians, and chairman of the Continuing Education and Forma-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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Environmental Stewardship

The right to life

It is usually near the fourth week-end in January when there is increased attention on the right of all humans, regardless of whether they have been born or are in an unborn state, to flourish until experiencing a natural death. Turning a blind eye toward the termination of an unwanted fetus diminishes our respect for human life.

In many undeveloped regions of the world, the poorest residents of our planet are facing increased hardships from drought, famine, wildfires, excessive heat, floods and unprecedented windstorms. Climate related disasters are taking a greater toll of human life, and the numbers of deaths among the poor are disproportionately higher compared to people living in more developed nations.

Pope Francis, in his encyclical *Laudato Si*, states that there is a preponderance of scientific evidence that indicates our modern way of life is primarily responsible for fueling the changes in climate. Over the past several decades, there is a trend of devastating weather events killing and seriously disrupting the lives of many people across the globe, but especially in regions least able to deal with such catastrophes. All life deserves to flourish, and it is just as wrong to continue with our wasteful style of life as it is to silently ignore the termination of a fetus.

Completely turning away from our modern style of life is nearly impossible, but we can make small inroads to decrease our impact on global warming. Try focusing on one issue at a time, like reducing the amount of food you waste daily. Try preparing less to eat for each meal. Save leftovers for use as a snack or as a separate serving for an addition meal. It is estimated that, in our country, we waste almost a third of the food grown for our consumption which increases our carbon footprint.

We have to come to accept our responsibility for climate change and acknowledge that our actions are inadvertently killing people in many regions of the planet. We have to respect and protect all life, as it is a gift from the Creator.

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



KNIGHTS DONATE

Officers of Ticonderoga's St. Isaac Jogues Council #333 of the Knights of Columbus present Sister Sharon Dalton with a donation to St. Mary's School and Father Chris Looby with a donation to St. Mary's Church. These donations represent the Knights' efforts to raise funds in support of our local community. Council #333 is growing and looks forward to continuing to share members' time, talent and treasures with the Ticonderoga community in 2022. The Knights invite Catholic gentlemen interested in joining Council #333 to contact any member or call 518-585-6520.

Father McGuinness

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Diocese of Burlington. Father McGuinness valued ongoing education, earning master's degrees in Counseling-Psychology, Pastoral Ministry and Christian Spirituality. He helped prepare lay people for ministry in the Church as chaplain at Camp Guggenheim, instructor in the Formation for Ministry Program and the Permanent Diaconate Program. While living in the Plattsburgh area, Father McGuinness recorded several TV programs for the

Diocese of Burlington. Father McGuinness frequently gave retreats, conferences and workshops in several dioceses in the United States and Canada, and he served on the Board of Regina Maria Retreat House in Plattsburgh.

Father McGuinness served the community as president of the Interfaith Council of Clinton County and Plattsburgh, adjunct professor in the Honors Program and the Upward Bound Program, and guest

lecturer for the EOP program of SUNY Plattsburgh.

Following his retirement from parish administration, Father McGuinness continued serving the Church as a spiritual director to many people and facilitator to a Spirituality Book Club and Bible study. During the COVID pandemic, he recorded a series of podcasts on prayer and St. Joseph.

Father McGuinness is survived by his brother, James, of Marietta, Ohio; three nieces, Stephanie

McGuinness Brooker and her husband, Kevin, Jennifer McGuinness, and Allie McGuinness Herren and her husband, Damon; and several great nieces and nephews, Gavin, Wade, Calum, Lana and Kyla. He was predeceased by his parents and sisters-in-law, Janet and Patricia McGuinness.

Memorial donations may be made to the St. Joseph Memorial Fund, West Chazy, or you may request Mass be offered for the repose of his immortal soul.

GUGGENHEIM

SUMMER CAMP

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The Diocese of Ogdensburg is seeking energetic and dedicated individuals for the positions of Summer Youth Camp Director, Assistant Director and Counselors for the 2022 Summer Camp program.

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Questions or inquiries contact:
Tom Semeraro, Director of Youth Ministry
315-393-2920 ext. 1415
www.rcdony.org/youth



Summer Camp Guggenheim is a R.C. Diocese of Ogdensburg Ministry

Bishop's Public Schedule

Jan. 19 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
Jan. 20 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
Jan. 21 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
Jan. 23 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
Jan. 24 – 11 a.m. – New York State Catholic Conference Board of Bishops Meeting in Albany
Jan. 25 – 7 a.m. – Mass at the Cathedral House of Formation in Douglaston
Jan. 26 – Visit and Mass at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland

Rest in Peace

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

Jan. 19 – Rev. Arthur P. Condon, 1966; Rev. Aloysius R. Isele, 1974
Jan. 20 – Rev. William D. O'Byrne, 1928; Rev. Joseph Erhard, O.M.I., 1936; Rev. Victor Viaud, O.M.I., 1937; Rev. Joseph Pontur, 1940
Jan. 21 – Rev. Albert W. Giroux, 1991; Rev. Adam Zajdel, O.F.M. Conv., 1997; Rev. Patrick C. Callaghan, O.F.M., 2001
Jan. 22 – Rev. James Edward Joy, 1950
Jan. 23 – Rev. Jeremiah C. Manning, 1909
Jan. 24 – Rev. Joseph N. Beaudry, 1897; Rev. M. A. Ryan, O.S.A., 1924
Jan. 25 – Rev. Eugene Gauvin, O.M.I., 1890

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg uses the training, Protecting God's Children for Adults. 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**, Terrianne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianneyanulavich@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.

Protecting the mentally-challenged

Although most Americans today are unaware of it, the United States has a sad and extensive history of forced sterilizations, especially within the past century. In 1907, Indiana legalized forced sterilizations of white men who were "mentally deficient," diseased, or otherwise disabled. More than 30 other states subsequently followed suit, and the practice quickly expanded to both men and women.

In 1927, the Virginia law allowing the sterilization of patients in mental institutions was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Buck v. Bell*. In the decision, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes made his now infamous proclamation that "three generations of imbeciles are enough," referring to Carrie Buck, her mother and daughter. Carrie was committed to a state mental institution as a "feeble minded woman," and the Virginia law allowed for her forced sterilization, allegedly for the "health of the patient and the welfare of society."

The Supreme Court's decision featuring Justice Holmes' histrionic flair served to catalyze the then-trendy push for eugenics, the idea that preventing unfit individuals from reproducing served the public welfare. The flawed notion behind eugenics was that many social ills, including crime, poverty, and mental deficiency, were not due to environmental factors, but largely to genetic or hered-

itary defects. Vulnerable, institutionalized populations like the mentally ill, the disabled, and the incarcerated were thus among the first targets of state-sponsored sterilization programs. The Virginia law remained on the books for a half century until it was finally repealed in 1974. All told, close to 60,000 Americans were rendered permanently infertile by these state-sponsored programs.

Historians have noted that Nazi Germany likely modeled its forced sterilization programs on the American eugenics programs of the 1930s. The law under which Hitler sterilized countless German citizens contains much of the same language found in the 1924 Virginia sterilization Act, which provided for the sexual sterilization of any state hospital inmate who was "insane, idiotic, imbecile, feeble-minded or epileptic, and by the laws of heredity ... the probable potential parent of socially inadequate offspring likewise afflicted."

The jarring tagline offered by Justice Holmes highlighted a biased, even disdainful attitude toward mentally ill persons and their ability to procreate. Few today would not be revolted by such strident branding of whole classes of individuals and families. Few would similarly countenance forcible state-sanctioned sterilizations, as still happens today, to near universal condemnation, in certain dictatorial regimes bent on population control.

Direct sterilizations violate human dignity. A physician's decision to recommend or participate in

the surgical mutilation of a healthy and properly functioning system of the body for the purposes of impeding fertility runs counter to the authentic healing mission of the medical profession. At its core, medicine should be about fixing damaged systems of the body rather than damaging healthy systems.

Whenever we face situations where family members with severe mental illness or other disabilities may not be suited to the responsibilities and demands of having children and parenting, and hence ought not to get married, the solution should never be direct sterilization but tailored care that addresses their specific mental

health situation and respects their human sexual nature by ordering it along a path of chastity.

This implies that caretakers for the seriously mentally ill in institutional settings should assure that residents are not given opportunities to engage in sexual encounters with others, that they be safeguarded from access to sexually-explicit media and internet pornography, that they be instructed on the importance of chastity to the extent possible with their mental disability, and that residential settings be appropriately segregated as single-sex facilities.

In other words, caretakers for the seriously mentally-challenged have a duty to protect them as they would protect, for example, young people or children. Although the bodies of mentally-challenged residents may have matured sexually, some still function intellectually at or near the level of a child. Living in an institutional care facility is meant

to offer protection from the chaos of the outside world where they would clearly be vulnerable and largely defenseless.

Sometimes it is argued that due to their well-documented risk to be victims of sexual assault, individuals who are mentally-challenged, especially in institutional settings, should be forcefully sterilized "for their own good," whether temporarily through chemical sterilization (like contraception), or permanently through surgical sterilization.

It doesn't require much reflection, however, to see that if it were to become generally known that residents were taking contraceptives or had been sterilized, this would only "lower the threshold" for those who might wish to engage in predatory sexual activities to the detriment of their mentally-challenged victims.

The real aim should be to prevent sexual assaults, not to prevent the obvious consequences that might follow from such assaults, like pregnancy. Addressing inadequate oversight by caretakers and eliminating the "institutional chaos" that allows sexual activity to occur with or among residents needs to be the focus. Individual responsibility and accountability are paramount.

Loving and caring for our family members with serious disabilities demands no less.

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



Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk Ph.D.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Vatican announces 'Pilgrims of Hope' motto for Holy Year 2025

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis approved "Pilgrims of Hope" as the motto for the Holy Year 2025. The motto aims to give a concise sense of the full meaning of the jubilee journey, Archbishop Rino Fisichella told Vatican News Jan. 13. The words "pilgrims" and "hope" also represent key themes of Pope Francis' pontificate, said the archbishop, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, which is in charge of the Holy Year planning efforts. The archbishop said the pope approved the motto Jan. 3 and that he is awaiting further instructions from the pope. In the meantime, the council already is working with Vatican and Italian authorities on the best way to welcome a large number of visitors during the year. Traditionally for holy years, the celebrations begin with the pope opening the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve and ends with the sealing of the door one year later. The holy doors of St. John Lateran, St. Paul Outside the Walls and St. Mary Major are opened for the year, too.

USCCB invites Catholics to take part in '9 Days for Life'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The 10th annual "9 Days for Life" novena, sponsored by the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, takes place this year from Jan. 19 to Jan. 27. Catholics nationwide are invited to take part in this novena for the protection of human life. "This pro-life novena is an opportunity for recollection and reparation in observation of the anniversary of Roe v. Wade — the Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal throughout the United States," said a news release. "The overarching intention of the novena is the end to abortion." Novenas in the Catholic Church consist of prayers or actions over nine successive days. Each day of "9 Days for Life" has a prayer intention accompanied by a reflection, educational information and suggested daily actions "to help build a culture of life," according to the 9daysforlife.com website. All are invited to sign up at the website to receive the novena in English or Spanish via email or text message or access it online. Participants can share their pro-life witness and invite their social networks to pray on social media with the hashtag #9DaysforLife. A resource kit is available and features the daily prayer intentions and reflections, among other materials.

Pope's music library contains nearly 2,000 CDs, includes Elvis

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis' music library contains nearly 2,000 CDs and 19 vinyl records, according to the Vatican cardinal who is curating the collection. While it is mostly made up of classical music, it also includes: an old album of Édith Piaf's greatest hits; Argentine tango tunes, especially by Astor Piazzolla; and a 25-disc collection of Elvis Presley's Gospel songs, said Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture. In an interview with the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera Jan. 13, Cardinal Ravasi said he was not at all surprised when he saw images of Pope Francis walking out of a Rome music store with an album tucked under his arm Jan. 11. "In fact, I can't wait to find out what it is. I hope he sends it to me soon," the cardinal said. Cardinal Ravasi said he started receiving and curating the pope's collection of music more than three years ago. It began when the pope sent him a few CDs, saying he knew how much the cardinal liked music, too. "I replied that I would love to know what music he likes and that's how it started," with the pope regularly sending him music, the cardinal said.

Pope: Synodality about listening to the Spirit

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The synodal process is a path of engagement that makes room for the Holy Spirit, and not a "majority consensus like a parliament" to guide the universal church, Pope Francis said.

Speaking with leaders of the French Catholic Action movement Jan. 13, the pope said that synodality is "not a plan or a program to be implemented" but "a style to be adopted" that listens to the spirit through the word of God, prayer and adoration.

The French bishops' conference had said the purpose of the meeting was for the Catholic Action leaders to present a to the pope and other Vatican leaders a document titled "Being Apostles today."

The goal of the document, which is the culmination of two years of work by Catholic groups in France, is "to discern what unites them in their approach and their actions," the bishops' conference said in a press release.

The French bishops' conference also noted that the document aligns with the goals of the upcoming Synod of Bishops on synodality.

During their meeting with the pope and various dicasteries, the Catholic Action leaders were to "highlight the relevance of their place as 'apostles' today in the French ecclesial landscape because of their immersion in a society that is increasingly distant from Christian references and the church," it said.

"This trip will also allow

them to listen to what the authorities of the universal church will have to say to them to broaden their vision, their reflections and their actions in the necessary evolutions of the church," the statement said.

Welcoming the Catholic group leaders to the Vatican, the pope reflected on the call to be "effective apostles," citing the example of the two disciples who met Jesus on the road to Emmaus.

The disciples, he said, recalled their experience of being with Jesus, recognized his presence and then went to Jerusalem to announce his resurrection. Their experience, which Christians today should imitate, can be summarized in three words: see, judge and act.

Reflecting on seeing, Pope Francis emphasized the importance of memory and that the first step of Christian witness is to look back at one's life "to understand the meaning of what has been lived and to perceive how God was present at every moment."

Nevertheless, "the subtlety and delicacy of the Lord's action in our lives sometimes prevents us from understanding it in the moment, and it takes this distance to grasp its coherence," he said.

To judge or discern the presence of God in their lives, he continued, Christians must also subject their lives "to the scrutiny of the word of God."

"In the encounter between the events of the world and of our lives, on the one hand, and the

word of God, on the other, we can discern the appeals that the Lord makes to us," the pope said.

He also called on Christians "to give equal space to prayer, to interiority and to adoration," because that is how they place their lives under Jesus' gaze and accept "this encounter between my poor humanity and his transforming divinity."

Lastly, to act means to support and foster God's action while "adapting to the reality which is constantly evolving."

"Today, especially in Europe, those who frequent Christian movements are more skeptical of institutions, they seek less demanding and more ephemeral relationships," he said. "They are more sensitive to emotions, and therefore more vulnerable, more fragile than previous generations, less rooted in the faith, but nevertheless in search of meaning and truth, and no less generous."

Pope Francis encouraged the Catholic Action groups to continue their mission of helping others "find or rediscover the joy of knowing the friendship of Christ and proclaiming the Gospel."

"Your mission, as Catholic Action, is to reach them as they are, to make them grow in the love of Christ and their neighbor, and to lead them to a greater concrete commitment, so that they may be protagonists of their own lives and of the life of the church, so that the world may change," the pope said.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

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.

CLINTON

BRUNCH

Lyon Mountain – Lyon Mountain American Legion to have brunch.

Dates: Jan. 23

Time: 9 to Noon

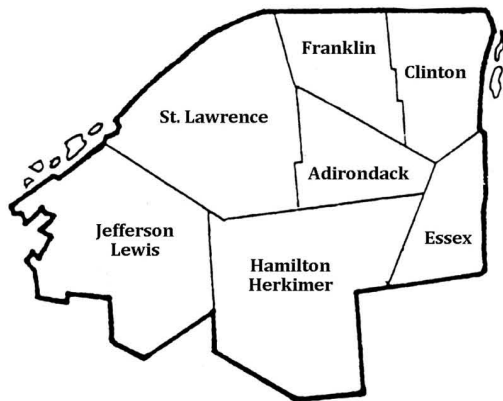
Cost: Adults, \$10; Children under 12, \$7

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

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST: JESUS PRESENT AND HOW TO SHARE IT

Plattsburgh – As a continuation of the Eucharist Initiative a presentation to be held on the Liturgy of the Eucharist: Jesus Present and how to share it.

Date: March 12



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.

Time: 9:30 a.m. to Noon

Place: Holy Cross Parish Center

Speaker: Father Tojo Chacko, HGN

Features: Cost is free. Please bring a bagged lunch for food and conversation afterwards.

Contact: To register for a location go to: www.rcdony.org/liturgyeucharist

ESSEX

NO LATIN MASS

Port Henry – There will not be an Extraordinary Form Latin Mass held until Feb. 20.

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, December. . . . 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.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST: JESUS PRESENT AND HOW TO SHARE IT

Waddington – As a continuation of the Eucharist Initiative a presentation to be held on the Liturgy of the Eucharist: Jesus Present and how to share it.

Date: March 12

Time: 9:30 a.m. to Noon

Place: Waddington Parish Center

Speaker: Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ

Features: Cost is free. Please bring a bagged lunch for food and conversation afterwards.

Contact: To register for a location go to: www.rcdony.org/liturgyeucharist

DIOCESAN EVENTS

SURVIVING DIVORCE

The Family Life Office is offering the Surviving Divorce Program, beginning mid-February in Watertown, Gouverneur, Canton and Potsdam.

Dates: To be determined (will be held once a week)

Time: 2-3 hours

Cost: \$25

Features: This program helps participants find personal healing and hope by working through the emotional upheaval of separation and divorce.

Contact: Register online at www.rcdony.org/survivingdivorce.

For more information contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org.

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: Sr. Bernadette Marie Collins, SSJ & Sr. 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

Send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic
PO Box 326,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
e-mail news@northcountycatholic.org.

NOW STREAMING
STAY CLOSE

NEW YORK (CNS) – "Based on the novel by Harlan Coben." That's a phrase with which Netflix subscribers should expect to become familiar.

In 2018, the prolific, award-winning American mystery writer inked a lucrative contract with the streaming service to executive produce 14 series adapted from his books.

The second English-language product of that deal – 2020's "The Stranger" was the first – "Stay Close" is currently among the platform's most popular shows. It's difficult to understand why, however. Airing in eight one-hour episodes, the limited series turns out to be, at times, overwrought and absurd. It also tests the boundaries of good taste.

Daniel O'Hara and Lindy Heymann split the directorial work between them. Among the program's writers are frequent Coben associate Daniel Brocklehurst as well as the novelist's daughter, Charlotte.

The fictitious seaside village of Ridgewood, England, serves as a stand-in for the book's setting, Atlantic City, New Jersey. Ridgewood's Vipers nightclub – with its gaudy lights, blaring music and exotic dancers – recalls the latter locale. So, too, does its boardwalk and amusement park.



CNS PHOTO/VISHAL SHARMA, NETFLIX

This is a scene from the British mystery drama miniseries "Stay Close," streaming on Netflix.

Following the disappearance of 20-year-old Carlton Flynn (Connor Calland) from the woods behind Vipers, veteran Detective Sgt. Michael Broome (James Nesbitt) finds himself a link between two mysteries. Seventeen years earlier to the day, Stewart Green (Rod Hunt) had gone missing in the same area. Michael had headed the resulting investigation.

The drama's other key character, former stripper Megan Pierce (Cush Jumbo), knows firsthand just what a violently er-

ratic character Stewart was. Having become the unwilling object of the obsessive – and married – man's attentions, she had been forced to struggle desperately to escape him the night he vanished.

Megan has since overcome her past and established a happy life with her common-law husband, Dave Shaw (Daniel Francis), with whom she has three teenage children. In fact, the two have decided, however belatedly, to make things official by tying the knot.

So when Megan returns

home from her bachelorette party to find a note from Vipers owner Lorraine Griggs (Sarah Parish) in which Griggs claims to have seen Stewart alive, it makes for the most unwelcome of news. It also draws Megan even more deeply into the riddle she and Michael are both trying to solve.

Given its gritty milieu – and the fact that it's obviously aimed at an adult audience – "Stay Close" is, in some respects at least, admirably restrained. Thus, sexual encounters are only implied after the

fact. Similarly, striptease acts are depicted without graphic nudity. And coarse language is less frequently a feature of the dialogue than might have been expected.

No such reserve, however, is evident in the show's approach to violence. Viewers are confronted by decayed skeletons, scenes of torture and bodies awash in blood. A narcotics theme and an incidental transvestite character also mark the program as mature fare.

On the artistic side, things go off the rails with the appearance of a duo nicknamed "Ken" (Hyoie O'Grady) and "Barbie" (Poppy Gilbert). Hired by Carlton's father, Del (Ross Boatman), to exact revenge on anyone responsible for his son's fate, the deceptively saccharine couple inexplicably break into song and dance amid the grim mayhem they perpetrate on Del's behalf.

TV fans will likely be left bewildered by the uneven narrative tone that results from such excessively dark black comedy.

The clever ending that awaits those who persevere through it only partially compensates for the creators' willingness – perhaps eagerness – to go over the top.



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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Hope in Sunday readings

Although we are well into a new year, we find that most of the problems and crises of 2021 are still with us in 2022, whether they are economic or political or social within our own country, or international problems of terrorism, or the dreaded covid pandemic – all of which can shatter our dreams for a world at peace and normal living.

Fortunately, there's a treasure of hope in this Sunday's readings, beginning with Nehemiah, appointed by King Artaxerxes to rebuild the city of Jerusalem, which lay in ruins following the



**Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore**

exile. The spirits of the people also needed rebuilding, so Ezra, the priest, dusts off the neglected scrolls of the law, and calls all the people together, even children who are old enough to understand. From morning to night, Ezra reads to them the Law. Most had neglected its precepts for years. As they hear it read and explained by Ezra, they begin to weep tears of joy and of sorrow. After recommitting their lives to the Lord, they express their joy with days of feasting.

Today's Gospel describes an even greater

January 23

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10

1 Corinthians 12:12-30

Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

“reading.” As Jesus formally begins his mission on earth, he starts with his hometown of Nazareth. There, in the synagogue on a Sabbath, he reads to the people from the passage in Isaiah which proclaims the coming messianic age. In a voice filled with the fire of the Spirit, he announces to them Isaiah's prophecy of a time of good news to the poor, liberty for captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and freedom for the

oppressed. Then, handing the scroll to an attendant, he proclaims to all present, “Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.” These words are the core of Jesus' message to both the people of His day and of our times! Talk about a reason to hope!

In today's second reading from St. Paul to the Corinthians, we find a blueprint for acting on the two readings we have heard. Some reflection points out the inspiration of the Holy Spirit on Nehemiah and Ezra, and on Jesus. St. Luke tells us in the Gospel that Jesus came from the desert to Nazareth “in the power of the Spirit.” It is the Spirit, too, that came upon us in our baptism and confir-

mation to make of us part of the Body of Christ. The Church is one body, but made up of many members. How very different we are!

St. Paul tells us that there are “important” members and “not-so-important” members. However, we are all needed, and must respect and support one another in charity. Why? So that this new messianic age may one day be realized.

To connect all this with our Christmas season so recently ended, the readings are all about the light of Christ come into the world. “In His light, we see light is still the reason for our hope and our action in the new year still so full of darkness.”

CALLED TO SERVE

The most sacred part of the Mass

This deacon does not pretend to be a theologian.

What's a theologian? A theologian is a person who engages or is an expert in theology. That's not very helpful.

I found an on-line definition (theologians, please don't get your shorts in a knot if this definition is an oversimplification.) “Theology is the systematic study of the nature of the divine and, more broadly, of religious belief.”

If you say so.

Theology was not a course I studied in college. We did not take a course in Christian Theology in formation for the permanent diaconate, at least not in name.

However, I do confess some understanding of God. It is an understanding formed by my studies, my teachers, my reading of the Word of God, my faith and my life experience. My grasp is pretty simple, but it works for

me. Perhaps it will resonate with you too.

Part of my understanding of God is a belief that the Father gave himself to us as Jesus Christ and Jesus, in turn, gave us himself, body, blood, soul and divinity in the form of bread and wine, to be consumed by us.

Every time a priest says the beautiful words of institution, of consecration, “This is my body” and then, “This is my blood,” Jesus is present in the bread and wine.

Jesus told us in John's Gospel to eat his body, drink his blood. We consume the wafer of bread and sip from the cup of wine when it is available to us, but do we pause to understand we are con-

suming God? We are chewing God's flesh and gulping his blood. Do we recognize, as he told the crowd in Capernaum, “the one who feeds on me will have life because of me?”



**Deacon
Kevin Mastellon**

One of the great understatements in the bible is “this saying is hard; who can accept it?”

Yes, it is hard. We are lowly humans. Some smarter than others; some holier than others; some wiser than others. But Jesus made no distinction about our level of intelligence or status in society when he said, “whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

We have been spending a lot of time this year focusing on the real presence of Jesus Christ in the

Eucharist. In the Mass we are not memorializing Jesus' gift of the Eucharist at the last supper, we are re-presenting it. Jesus is with us. The priest who consecrates the bread and wine, does that as Jesus taught at the Last Supper and then Jesus becomes the Eucharist in the form of bread and wine.

“The saying is hard” indeed but important in defining our relationship with God. Our theology.

That is why we all kneel, deacons too, for the Consecration. We make a sign of humility before the King. We acknowledge his presence, we worship him, “we give him thanks for his great glory.”

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

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The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSI, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669

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

mbrett@rcdony.org

Lifting each other up



As we complete another difficult year and begin what we hope will be a better one, the Mission Office asks everyone to remember the more vulnerable people in our society. The elderly, the young, the unborn, the sick, and the marginalized continue to need our help as the pandemic begins into its third year and continues to isolate us all.

While we might not be able to see all our friends and loved ones in person, it is still important to let our presence be known to them. Simple acts of love and service, such as a phone call, heartfelt letter, or delivering baked good let those around us know that we are thinking of them and are here for them if they need us.

Donating non-perishables and gently used clothing to food pantries and local shelters helps those who are having a difficult time and lets them know that there are people willing to help them through this difficult time.

Donating money or items to trustworthy international organizations, sponsoring a child, or volunteering state-side will help those in other countries who need our assistance, even more now that they have the pandemic feeding poverty and corruption in their countries.

The past few years have been a difficult time for everyone. It is only by working together to lift each other up and care for the vulnerable, that we can make this year better than the last, even as we continue to face adversity and difficulties.

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.
<https://www.rcdony.org/mission.html>

OBITUARIES

Adams – Jesse Irving Porte, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 11, 2022 at St. Cecilia's Church.

AuSable Forks – George Charles Leiper, 63; Funeral Services Jan. 15, 2022 at Zaumetzer Funeral home; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Canton – Robert J. Hall, 79; Funeral Mass and burial to be held at a later date.

Constableville – Cindy Lou (Cavanaugh) Planck, 63; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 14, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Dannemora – Ann Marie (Wilson) Petrashune, 61; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 14, 2022 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Lake Placid – Deborah Ann Garcia, 57; Funeral Services Jan. 13, 2022 at M.B. Clark, Inc. Funeral home.

Malone – Wilson K. Pritchard, 86; Graveside Services Jan. 8, 2022 at St. John Bosco Cemetery.

Massena – Linda A. (Deruchia) Austin, 72; Funeral Services Jan. 11, 2022 at the Phillips Memorial Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – William C. Denny, 84; Private services to be held.

Morrisonville – Gerald E. Duquette, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 11, 2022 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Catherine M. (Vaughn) Little, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 8, 2022 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Norwood – Helen L. (O'Hara) Gaffney, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 12, 2022 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Potsdam.

Norwood – Louise "Dolly" (Orologio) Speer, 89; Mass of Christian Burial in spring at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Bruce F. LaJoy, Jr., 53; Funeral Services Jan. 13, 2022 at the

Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Peru – Marion Elizabeth (Lyons) Dixon, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 14, 2022 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in Mount Carmel Cemetery, Plattsburgh.

Peru – Nicholas Allen LaFountain, 72; Funeral Services Jan. 15, 2022 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

Peru – Cornelius "Neil" Van Splinter, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 11, 2022 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Carolyn M. (Tourville) Tarricone, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 12, 2022 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Watertown – Mary A. DiStefano, 70; Graveside services in spring at Brookside Cemetery.

Watertown – Stephen Lee Rich; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 13, 2022 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

CELEBRATING THE SEASON



Seminarians from the Diocese of Ogdensburg gathered for their annual Christmas celebration with Bishop Terry R. LaValley prior to the holiday. Pictured are, from left, seminarian Dennis Ombongi, Bishop LaValley, seminarians Tuan Joseph Vuong, Carter Pierce, Deacon Leagon Carlin, Kevin McCullouch, Tyler Fitzgerald, Douglas Schirmer, Lukas Gruber, Michael Lennox and Venes Laine, and diocesan Vicar for Clergy and director of Seminarians Father Christopher C. Carrara.

St. Agnes School wins grant for achievement program

LAKE PLACID – St. Agnes School has received a grant of \$80,000 from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation for the school's Growth Achievement Program (GAP), which provides programs in the areas of health and wellness, kinesthetic and sensory learning, and other therapies. This is the second year the school has received this award, one that enables it to better serve students' specific learning and health needs, beyond what is offered to those who qualify for special education services.

"We are honored to be recognized by the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation for our work with children. The results from the first grant – in terms of student growth and achievement – are remarkable. Receiving funding for a second year

allows us to continue to offer expanded services, both to current and next year's students," said Catherine Bemis, the school's principal. "GAP is designed to offer targeted remediation and intervention strategies at a crucial time in children's development, the primary grades. When young children receive specialized instruction and specific support, like counseling or speech therapy, well before they lag behind their peers later in elementary or middle school, the results can be transformational."

Since 2017 the school has extended enrichment opportunities to students in need of accelerated learning, as well as to those who previously struggled but did not qualify for special education. The GAP program was formalized in

early 2020 and benefits all students enrolled in the school.

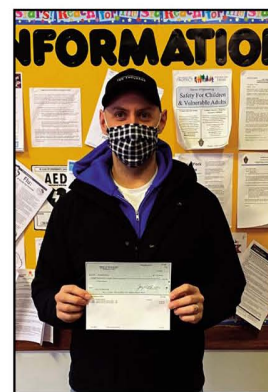
The Mother Cabrini Health Foundation is a private, nonprofit organization with the mission to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable New Yorkers, bolster the health outcomes of targeted communities, eliminate barriers to care, and bridge gaps in health services.

St. Agnes School enrolls 115 students age 3 to grade 3. As Lake Placid's only early elementary learning center, it sets high academic expectations for young students and offers an intentional curriculum that meets the academic, social, and developmental needs of children from diverse cultural, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds.

AND THE WINNER IS...



(Above) Father Mark Reilly, pastor of St. Peter's Parish in Massena, Christy Laguador, Trinity Catholic School fundraising chair and Joyce Giroux, Trinity principal, draw the winning ticket for Trinity's Winter Raffle. (Right) Tom Shofkom was the raffle's big winner, taking home the \$20,000 prize. Other winners included Shelly Chilton (\$1,000) and Alan McGrath (\$500).



Support the **Respect Life Collection** of the **Diocese of Ogdensburg** in our parishes the weekend of **January 22-23**



Proceeds will be distributed through grants

to various North Country parishes, organizations, and programs for the support of a variety of respect life initiatives.



Thank you for your generosity toward this most special need.

Please continue to pray that all will recognize, honor and protect the precious gift of life.

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