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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 76 Number 33

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JANUARY 5, 2022

Considering the future of retired camp car

The vehicle came to be known as "Machine Gun Dolly."

A 1987 GMC Suburban 1500, the vehicle served at Camp Guggenheim for decades before ending up with the Bobak family, where it continued its life of service, including stints at camp.

Now, though, "Machine Gun Dolly" has been handed over to NCC Contributing Writer Andrew Lauria of Wells.

Lauria reflects on the vehicle's name, history and significance as he ponders the much-loved vehicle's future.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

SONGS OF THE SEASON



St. Agnes School students in grades kindergarten through three perform their final number in the school's Christmas Concert, held at St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid.

A LOOK BACK ON 2021



James and Leagon Carlin, father and son, were ordained as deacons together on Oct. 9 at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh. Deacon James Carlin serves as a permanent deacon, while Deacon Leagon Carlin is a transitional deacon as he continues his preparations for ordination to the priesthood. This week, the North Country Catholic looks back on some of the highlights of 2021.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope: Think of Holy Family, pray for migrants

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Meditating on the scene of the Holy Family fleeing to Egypt to escape Herod's murderous rage, Christians cannot close their eyes to the fact that too many people in the world today also feel forced to flee their homelands, Pope Francis said.

"Herod is a symbol of many tyrants of yesterday and today; for these tyrants, people don't matter, power matters, and if they need space or power,

they eliminate people, and this is happening today. We don't have to go to ancient history" to find such examples, the pope said Dec. 29 at his weekly general audience.

Continuing his series of audience talks about St. Joseph, Pope Francis focused on Joseph's courage in taking Mary and the baby Jesus to Egypt to escape Herod, and he compared St. Joseph's bravery to the courage of migrants and

refugees who leave their homelands to protect and help their families.

As he has been doing since he began the series, the pope ended his talk with a prayer to St. Joseph, who "experienced the suffering of those who must flee to save the lives of those dearest to them."

"Protect all those who flee because of war, hatred and hunger," the pope prayed. "Support them in their difficulties,

strengthen them in hope, and let them be met with welcome and solidarity."

The Holy Family experienced the same "precariousness, fear and pain of having to leave their homeland" as migrants and refugees do today, he said. "Still today, many of our brothers and sisters are forced to live through the same injustice and suffering. The cause is almost always the arrogance and violence of the powerful."

Anyone can become a "little Herod," he said. It happens "every time we try to dispel our fears with arrogance, even if only verbal," or do something meant to humiliate someone.

Joseph is the opposite, though, the pope said. He had the courage to follow the angel's prompting to set out in search of safety, even if that meant going to a foreign land where a different language was spoken.

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I'm working on... resting

"He rested."

As I've mentioned previously, I have a habit of overloading my schedule and trying to do too much. While I've made an intentional effort to reduce my outside commitments (I try to limit myself to two events/outings a week without my family), I still overload my time.

I may not be running the roads with friends or participating in meetings/discussions/small groups, but I find other ways to fill every minute of my day. When I'm not engaged in an activity or conversation with my husband or son, I work my way through the never-ending list of house-

hold jobs that need to be completed. I work on craft projects (I didn't say I finish them). I read. I watch YouTube videos. I fill every minute with something – some activity, some distraction, some noise.



**Darcy L.
Fargo**

"God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work he had done in creation."

God took time to rest. God doesn't need rest. God is the source of all energy, the first mover. Yet God rested. He made the day of rest holy.

I ignored that lesson. I wasn't resting. I wasn't taking significant time to just be still, be quiet, be open to what

God has to say and reflect. I've said silly things like, "sleep is for the weak" and "I'll have plenty of time to rest when my body stops working."

Over the last couple of months, I was blessed to be able to take a couple of trips with loved ones. After those trips, I thought I was feeling pretty rested and rejuvenated. Then, as we've celebrated the Christmas season, I've been blessed with time home with my husband and son. For some strange reason, I've been the first one awake in the Fargo household nearly every day for the last couple weeks (I'm usually not a morning person). Most of those days, I had at least an hour of time to just sit, drink coffee, enjoy the Christmas tree and enter the

solitude and quiet. That was an hour or more every day to listen to what God was saying to me and follow where he wanted my thoughts to go.

While I thought I felt rested and rejuvenated before, I feel even better now. I have more energy, more clarity and more peace than I've had in a long time, possibly ever.

While it's a bit maddening, it sometimes makes me laugh when I realize how long it takes me to see that God's ways are always better than my ways. While the lessons have been many over the years, this time, I learned that God's way involves rest.

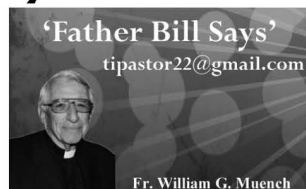
Thankfully, God isn't at rest. He's still working on me. He's working on all of us. Sometimes, that work involves reminding us that "he rested."

A new year to accept God's love

So, here we go again – another New Year. Actually, I rather enjoy all the New Year's stuff, even the resolutions. However, I must admit I have never checked up on each year's resolutions. On the last days of December, I really don't take out my list from last January of the past year's resolutions to check up on myself and see if I have kept any of them. I really can't properly determine if I am a better person than I was last year.

So, what is so new about the new year for me? Is January just another month, another month to follow December? If we are going to make this a new year, it all depends on me; it all depends on each one of us ourselves. I have to create the newness. I have to create a new myself for tomorrow.

That means for me some changes. I will discover some newness with some powerful changes. Change is always good, whether we are young



or whether we are old.

As I begin a new year again, I begin by thinking of Jesus and his part in my life. When I think of Jesus, I realize how much Jesus would have to change to come to be one of us and to bring to us the message of God – that God loves us all and loves us all passionately. God wants to be one with us in love. However, Jesus knew that if he came to our world in all the glory of his divinity, we people would have trembled before him. We would not have accepted him. We would have fallen down in worship before him.

This was not what Jesus wanted. Jesus knew that such submission would never bring understanding

from us; it would never bring true happiness and love to our world. So, Jesus came in humility and weakness. Jesus wanted to give us love so that people of all time would follow him with our own free will. Jesus wanted us to love him freely and truly.

This would involve a risk. Some people might not accept him. And this is exactly what happened. St. John wrote in his Gospel, "He came to his own and his own people did not accept him." However, some did accept him. He gave them a share in his divine love. Some of us, Jesus made children of God.

When we accept God's love that Jesus gave to us, we experience our own goodness, and we are able to love God in return. Truly, this means we must change often and find ourselves new in the Lord. We must learn to love and truly become new and alive like the children of God. In his love for us, God

made all of this possible through the gift of his son – born among us in Christmas glory. The presence of Jesus among us transforms us. We become new and alive in his love. In Jesus each of us has a brother who loves us, who became one of us and who shared our lives to the full. Jesus taught us what we can be and who we are. Not only did he share our lives, but he also shared our death.

We are blessed. God has showed us the way. God has made us special and new. We will be guided to make ourselves constantly new. We should be willing to share with others the love we have received so generously. For this we are most grateful.

St. Paul wrote this to the Galatians: "Brothers and Sisters: When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons and daughters."

Year in review: Looking back at 2021

North Country Catholic

As we usher in a new year, we at the *North Country Catholic* take this opportunity to look back at 2021.

- Jan. 7 – Father Vicente F. Jazmines, pastor of St. Paul's in Black River and St. Mary's in Evans Mills, enters the next life after a battle with COVID-19.

- Jan. 24 – Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated a Diocesan Mass for Life at St. Mary's Cathedral. Due to the pandemic, the diocese did not send buses full of youth to this year's National March for Life in Washington, DC.

- Late January/early February – Catholic schools around the diocese were able to modify their Catholic Schools Week celebrations to celebrate Catholic education during the pandemic.

- Feb. 6-7 – The Diocese of Ogdensburg prayed for consecrated religious in celebration of World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life.

- Feb. 16 – Deacon Francis C. "French" Siskavich of Lyon Mountain enters the next life.

- Feb. 17 – Ash Wednesday was celebrated around the diocese with many parishes opting to sprinkle ashes on heads due to the pandemic.

- Feb. 24 – Mother Cabrini Health Foundation announced it was awarding a round of grants totaling \$115 million. Recipients included the diocesan Department of Education, St. André Bessette Parish in Malone, Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph in Morrisonville, St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg, Mercy Care for the Adirondacks in Lake Placid, Immaculate Heart



JESSE SOVIE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Bishop Terry R. LaValley ordained three men, Father Matthew Conger, Father John Ojuok and Father Fernando Solomon, to the priesthood on May 29.

Central in Watertown, St. James School in Gouverneur, Trinity Catholic School in Massena, Augustinian Academy in Carthage, St. Agnes School in Lake Placid, Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh, as well as a number of regional medical facilities and social service agencies.

- Feb. 24 – Father Clemons Rimonds, a priest with the Heralds of the Good News, arrives in the North Country from his home in India. He is currently serving in St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Tupper Lake.

- March 2 – Father Raymond J. Wertman, founder of Credo Foundation in Watertown, entered the next life in St. Petersburg, Florida, where he had been residing since he retired in 1998.

- March 3 – Three priests, Father Shane M. Lynch, Father James W. Seymour and Father Scott A. Belina began new assignments. Father Lynch, previously pastor in Gou-

verneur, Edwards and Star Lake, became pastor in Black River and Evans Mills. Father Seymour, previously pastor in Lowville, Glenfield and Houseville, became pastor in Gouverneur, Edwards and Star Lake. Father Belina, previously pastoral associate in Massena, became pastor in Lowville, Glenfield and Houseville.

- March 4 – Bishop Terry R. LaValley issued a statement encouraging Catholics in the North Country to receive the coronavirus vaccine.

- March 30 – Priests of the diocese gather for the annual Chrism Mass, held observing social distancing in St. Mary's Cathedral.

- May 1 – Four new Faith Community Nurses were commissioned by Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

- May 12 – Bishop Terry R. LaValley announces new assignments for 19 priests in the diocese. Father Deepak Baru, HGN, is appointed parochial vicar in Lowville, Glenfield and Houseville; Father Scott A.

Belina is named administrator in Lowville, Glenfield and Houseville; Father Matthew Conger was named parochial vicar in Watertown; Msgr. Dennis Duprey retired and remained as dean of Clinton Deanery; Father Michael J. Gaffney retired; Father Joseph W. Giroux was appointed pastor in Potsdam and Colton and to serve the Tribunal and Office of Canonical Affairs; Father Michael J. Jablonski was named pastor in Dannemora and Redford; Father Dominic Duc Nguyen returned to the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph; Father Jude Nnadibuagha was appointed parochial vicar in Ogdensburg; Father John Ojuok was named parochial vicar in Plattsburgh; Father Herman Pongantung, MSC, joined the Missionary of the Sacred Heart Community in Center Valley, Pennsylvania; Father Donald A. Robinson was named pastor in Brownville, Dexter and Sackets Harbor; Father Stephen T. Rocker was appointed adminis-

trator in Ellenburg Center; Father Scott R. Seymour was also appointed pastor of St. Augustine in Peru; Father Fernando Solomon was named parochial vicar in Malone; Father Todd E. Thibault was appointed pastor in Carthage and Copenhagen; Father Justin Thomas, HGN, was appointed pastor in Elizabethtown, Westport and Willsboro; Father Howard J. Vennette was appointed chaplain at Clinton Correctional Facility; Father Eduardo Pesigan returned to the Archdiocese of Caceres in the Philippines. Some of the assignments were later modified due to Father John Ojuok's need to return to Africa for immigration purposes.

- May 19 – Father Richard S. Sturtz passes into new life after a brief illness.

- May 23 – Msgr. Harry K. Snow passes into new life.

- May 29 – Three new priests, Father John K. Ojuok, Father Fernando V. Solomon and Father Matthew S. Conger, were ordained by Bishop Terry R. LaValley at St. Mary's Cathedral.

- May 30 – A memorial of children's shoes, signs and a large banner was placed at St. Regis Mission Church in honor of children whose bodies were discovered on the site of a former residential school in British Columbia.

- June 19 – Parishioners and friends from St. Regis Church and Akwesasne gathered to honor Sister Mary Christine Taylor, a Sister of St. Joseph, for her 47 years of dedicated service to the St. Regis Community and people of Akwesasne.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Year in review

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

- June 27 – Bishop Terry R. LaValley commissioned 20 new lay ministers at St. Mary's Cathedral.

- July 1 – Father Arthur J. LaBaff and Father Douglas G. Comstock retire. Father LaBaff was appointed sacramental minister for the newly linked parishes of Clayton and the Community of Alexandria Bay. Deacon Neil Fuller was named parish life coordinator.

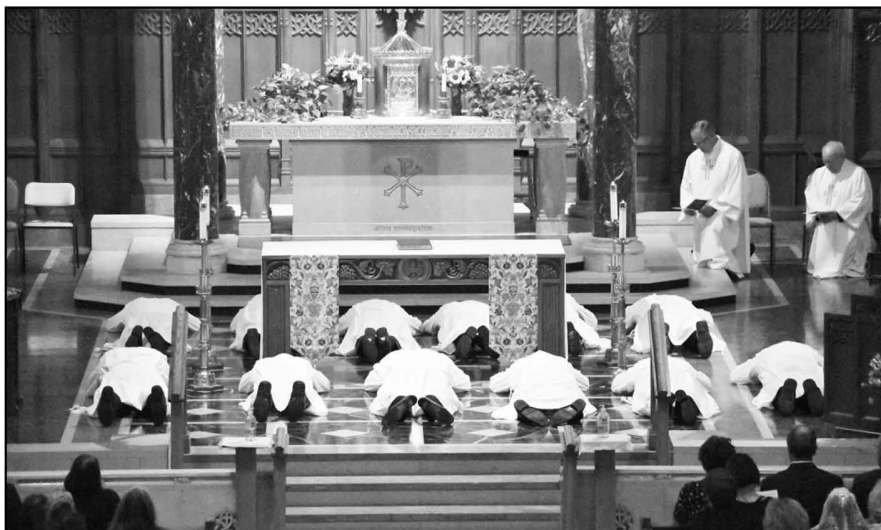
- July 14 – Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin is named director of Deacon Formation for the diocese. He replaced Deacon John J. Drollette, who retired from the position.

- July 18 – Knights of Columbus from around the diocese travel to St. Anne's Shrine for their annual pilgrimage.

- July 18 – Father Pier Giorgio of Christ the King, born Alexander Pacelli, was ordained as a priest of the Discalced Carmelite Friars of the Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He is a former resident of Lake Placid with a long-time affiliation with Camp Guggenheim.

- July 30-31 – Youth attend Summer Fun Days at Camp Guggenheim to get a taste of what camp has to offer while summer and family sessions were on hiatus due to the pandemic.

- Aug. 25 – Bishop Terry R. LaValley gives an up-



DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

On Oct. 2, Bishop Terry R. LaValley ordained Randy Besio, Gerald Bouchard, Brent Davison, Daniel LeRoy, Michael Lieber Jr., Kenneth Lushia, Roderic Roca, Lee Trudeau, Robert Uttendorfsky, Noel Voos, Mark Webster and Peter Wooschlager to the Order of Deacon at St. Mary's Cathedral.

date on the Child Victims Act as the window for lawsuit filings closed. During the two-year period, 122 lawsuits were filed against the diocese. Only one case alleged abuse within the last 25 years.

- Sept. 2 – An audit assessing the diocese's compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Young People concludes. The diocese was found to be in compliance with the Charter.

- Sept. 5 – St. Joseph's Church in Olmsteadville celebrates 150 years.

- Sept. 7 – Catholic Schools open for a new year. Though they continue to be impacted by the pandemic, the

schools were able to open for in-person instruction.

- Sept. 10 – Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, a Sister of St. Joseph, is appointed to serve as diocesan Vocations coordinator.

- Sept. 15 – Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrates Mass with the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod in the community's new convent in Lisbon.

- Sept. 13 – Deacon Edward A. Wight of Wells enters new life.

- Sept. 17, 18 – The Diocesan Education Department hosts "The Mystery of the Holy Eucharist: Believe. Celebrate. Live" for diocesan schools and parish leaders" as part of an ongoing focus on the Eucharist.

- Sept. 18, 19 – The Bishop's Fund Appeal, "Family of Faith in Action," begins.

- Sept. 26 – Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrates the Blue Mass honoring law enforcement, fire and EMS personnel, dispatching agencies and corrections employees at Notre Dame in Malone.

- Sept. 30 – The Diocese of Ogdensburg and St. Regis Mission Church joined Canada in marking a National Day of Healing and Reconciliation to honor those impacted by the legacy of residential schools.

- Oct. 2 – Through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, Bishop Terry R. LaValley ordained to the Order of Deacon Randy Besio, Gerald Bouchard, Brent Davison, Daniel LeRoy, Michael Lieber Jr., Kenneth Lushia, Roderic Roca, Lee Trudeau, Robert Uttendorfsky, Noel Voos, Mark Webster and Peter Wooschlager at St. Mary's Cathedral.

- Oct. 3 – Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrates the Marriage & Consecrated Life Jubilee Mass honoring consecrated religious and married couples celebrating anniversaries of their vows.

- Oct. 9 – Father and son, James and Leagon Carlin, are ordained as deacons by Bishop Terry R. LaValley at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh.

Deacon James Carlin will serve as a permanent deacon, while Deacon Leagon Carlin is a transitional deacon and is scheduled to be ordained to the priesthood in 2022.

- Oct. 17 – Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrates a Mass opening the diocesan participation in the Synod on Synodality.

- Oct. 21 – Plattsburgh Birthright celebrates its 50th anniversary. Champlain Valley Right to Life also marked 50 years in October.

- Dec. 7 – Father Robert O. Lamitie passed into new life in Florida, where he had been residing for several years.

- Dec. 8 – Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrates Mass to conclude the Year of St. Joseph.

Year-long:

- The Diocese of Ogdensburg continues its Year of St. Joseph. Bishop Terry R. LaValley initially consecrated the diocese to St. Joseph on May 1, 2020, and Pope Francis announced a year of St. Joseph to take place from Dec. 8, 2020 to Dec. 8, 2021. The year is closed with a Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral.

- Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart celebrate the order's 100th anniversary.

- Consecrated religious who entered the next life in 2021: Sister Joanne Clark, Sister of St. Joseph, Feb. 17; Sister Teresa Magdalen Nichols, Sister of St. Joseph, March 22; Sister Theresa Martel, Sister of Charity, March 31; Sister Rita Morrisette, Sister of the Servants of Mary (Servite), April 14; Sister Monica Flaherty, Sister of St. Joseph, May 31; Sister Edward Marie Tesiero, Franciscan Sister of the Atonement, July 25; Sister Alice Moran, an Ursuline, Oct. 23.

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Considering future of Guggenheim camp car

By Andrew Lauria
Contributing Writer

WELLS—Sometimes in life, things just find me. If I could explain the phenomenon in any more detail, then I would be known for that explanation instead of “Oh, Andrew, he’ll know what to do with it.” “It” could be anything, but most likely a bike, a piano, or a car. Enter “Machine Gun Dolly.”

Some may recognize her immediately from their time at Camp Guggenheim, where she was originally purchased by the diocese to be the service vehicle for the camp property. Machine Gun Dolly is a 1987 GMC Suburban 1500, white over blue vinyl interior, two-wheel drive, with a 5.0 liter V8 with throttle body injection, and automatic transmission. This particular truck is the basic trim level and so it has two bench seats and an AM radio. She is a simple, straight-forward and supremely durable truck.

I met Machine Gun Dolly in the late 1990s when I was first a camper at Guggenheim. I remember the truck was used to carry campers to hikes as well as cart all the materials to over-night sites, which were at that time, hosted in lean-tos out at Paul Smiths. She was also mercilessly “decorated” for these overnight trips, being painted an unknown number of times with washable paint and other types of products. She is in the background of countless camp photos, quietly doing her job of moving things, regardless of guise.

It was the summer of 2006 that Machine Gun Dolly caught the hearts of staff and campers alike.



Pictured are former Guggenheim campers and counselors Sean Bobak, Andrew Lauria, Kelly Bobak Smith, Christian Bobak, Theodore Smith, Brian Bobak with daughter Veronica, Michael Bobak, Grace Leader Bobak with their daughter Josephine and ‘Machine Gun Dolly,’ the former Camp Guggenheim car. Lauria recently took possession of the vehicle from the Bobaks.

After sitting for years outdoors, she had acquired a healthy layer of moss and other fungal growth upon her acres of sheet metal. So being a conscientious staff member, I suggested we make “Cleaning the Suburban” an afternoon activity, as a means to get her back into service. It seemed everyone wanted to join in the party and it was one of the most popular afternoon activities to date.

The recommissioning process required campers to climb all over her with sponges and soapy water, while quite literally scraping the moss off. All the windows were cleaned inside and out, she was swept out and wiped down inside and, when complete, looked almost new. Well, except for the dull white paint that was permanently ruined by all that “decorating” and subsequent “cleaning” with dish soap, which strips that of any protective wax. Kids are hard on cars.

It was during this time



Kelly Bobak Smith hands the title to ‘Machine Gun Dolly,’ the former Camp Guggenheim vehicle, to Andrew Lauria of Wells.

that Machine Gun Dolly began daily use around camp for any and all functions where a vehicle was necessary. She was heavily featured in the Olympic ceremonial parade and even continued to bring over-nighters to the newly constructed on-site camp lean-to. And it was during the Fourth of July this same year that she received her name.

While driving into town one day with Kelly Bobak,

then camp director, we decided to listen to the single speaker AM radio. Instead of music coming out of the speaker, there was a loud repetitive noise that sounded like a recording of a machine gun (The sound is created by electrical interference between the ignition system and the radio, a problem of which persists to this day). We laughed and laughed and for a brief period of time, joked that it was “Machine Gun’s”

soundtrack. The second half of her name came when Dollywood arrived at Guggenheim.

During this era of camp history, it is important to note that holidays and festive celebrations were taken very seriously, and the staff often escalated traditional camp ceremonies to sometimes literal new heights (some celebrations included Santa Claus in a seaplane, but that’s another story for another time). In this spirit, Machine Gun was dressed with a seemingly impossible amount of patriotic paraphernalia in honor of the celebration of our nation’s birthday. Upon seeing this rolling parade float of national pride, an on-looker remarked “It looks like something from Dollywood,” the family amusement park created and operated by Dolly Parton. And so, with her single speaker soundtrack and all-encompassing embrace of the Fourth of July, the name “Machine Gun Dolly” came to her. And she has been lovingly acknowledged as such ever since.

Machine Gun was purchased by the Bobak family in 2007, and, under private ownership, she continued to be a staple at camp for many more summers to come. She was the daily driver for many members of the Bobak family for the next 13 years, where she was in residence at Franciscan University for most of those years. In time, salt-heavy winters, countless collisions, and mechanical breakdowns eventually rendered Machine Gun too lame for use and, in very poor condition, she was removed from service in 2020. And after

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Environmental Stewardship

What must it have been like?

This Sunday we celebrate the visit of the Wise Men from the East to worship the Christ Child. Almost immediately after the Wise Men left, the Holy Family had to flee for their lives to a foreign land.

Egypt, while offering them a safe harbor from certain death, was far from home. In this new place they knew not the language, the food, the customs, nor the religion. Would Joseph be able to find a means of living to support the family? As we contemplate this reality, we might ask ourselves: if we were an Egyptian family, how would we react to this family that we knew nothing about and who came from a foreign land and espoused a different religion? Would we be willing to give them a place to live and a job?

Today, we witness millions of people, the majority of them children, fleeing their countries for many different reasons. Like the Holy Family, they are refugees seeking safety and a better future. War, climate change, political turmoil, oppression and natural disaster are a few of the reasons that lead individuals and families to become refugees and leave their homelands.

One of the reasons for migration is caused by environmental changes. These are called environmental refugees. As we are seeing on a daily basis through the media as the climate is changing. It is causing unprecedented numbers of floods, droughts, tornados, hurricanes, forest fires and the rise of sea levels. Any of these events can cause people to lose their homes, their jobs, their neighborhoods and sometimes even their lives.

This coming week offers us an opportunity to reflect on how we can better welcome, protect, promote, and integrate migrants living in our midst. How can we counter the globalization of indifference that affects us all, to some degree or another? What policies can we promote that will affirm the dignity of migrants and better secure the common good? How do we work more fully to promote a Church for all? Let us pray to the Holy Family for guidance.

Rest in Peace

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

Jan. 5 – Rev. Louis Lebrecht, O.M.I., 1903; Msgr. Dennis E. Lynch, 1979; Rev. Raoul J. Poirier, M.Afr., 1997

Jan. 6 – Rev. James Dennis Phalon, 1974; Deacon George W. Carroll, 1994; Rev. Benoit Dostie, M.S.C., 2007; Msgr. Robert J. McCarthy, 2018

Jan. 7 – Rev. Leonidas Geoffrion, 1954; Rev. Vincente F. Jazmines, 2021

Jan. 8 – Rev. Michael Moris, 1893; Rev. Frederick C. Hatch, 1961; Msgr. Robert John Arquette, 1969; Rev. Leo McCarthy, O.S.A., 1975; Rev. Roland Gaulin, O.M.I., 1984; Rev. Anthony F. Pease, 1997; Msgr. Morris L. Dwyer, 2004

Jan. 9 – Rev. James P. Santoni, O.M.I., 1890; Rev. Joseph Ferdinand Durin, M.S.C., 1897; Rev. Fred Commins, O.S.A., 1924; Rev. Joseph Edward Doyle, 1958; Rev. Jeremiah Albert O'Brien, 1974

Jan. 10 – Rev. Christopher C. Poulin, 1904; Msgr. James O'Driscoll, 1913; Msgr. Frederick P. Diviney, 1961

Jan. 11 – Msgr. John Andrew Cotter, 1964; Msgr. Anthime D. Charbonneau, 1976; Most Rev. Walter P. Kellenberg, 1986

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.

Planning begins for 2022 Camp Guggenheim season

Plans are underway for the 2022 Camp Guggenheim season!

While camp has been on hiatus for two years due to the pandemic, the diocese is hopeful the youth summer camp can open in 2022.

The 2022 camp season is scheduled to run from June 23 to August 12.

The Office of Youth Ministry is currently recruiting a camp director, assistant camp director and camp counselors.

The 2022 camp season is scheduled to run from June 23 to August 12.

For more information about the currently open positions, visit rcdony.org/youth/camp.

Camp car

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

some convincing from the Bobak family, she is now in my driveway. Like I said, sometimes things just find you.

Currently, work is being done to determine what exactly is necessary to rebuild this now classic truck. In the world of automotive restorations (which are just inherently difficult) Machine Gun would

be as “easy” as it gets because she is not mechanically complex, parts are very readily available and because of the number of vehicles produced, prices for parts are fairly low. But the truck is 20 feet long and every single body panel needs to be addressed, if not cut out and replaced. Most of her mechanical systems, including her transmission and brakes, are operable but they all need to be refreshed, restored, or entirely replaced in order to be safe again for the road.

Nostalgia runs deep with this truck, but the scope of work ahead could indicate

that the nostalgia is deeper than the pockets, space, and time required to bring her back to life. Some good math and a recommitment to our Catholic belief in resurrections is in order to make the right decisions about what is next for Machine Gun Dolly. And if you're reading this and would like to help keep a piece of camp history alive and/or you are into automotive restoration work, then maybe the resources you can offer will help make the decision a bit more clear. Machine Gun Dolly has helped keep our camp community going for over 30 years and it is time to help her continue her mission beyond the camp gate.

• *To learn more about “Machine Gun Dolly” or the work needed to restore the vehicle, contact Andrew Lauria at porscheforall@yahoo.com*

Bishop's Public Schedule

Jan. 5 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 6 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 7 – 9 a.m. – NYSCC Executive Committee Conference Call
Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 8 – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 9 to 13 – Bishop's Retreat at Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center in North Palm Beach

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.



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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Contention over university icon grows after it's stolen again

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A second icon of Mary holding Jesus has been stolen from outside a chapel at The Catholic University of America following complaints that the image of Christ resembled George Floyd, a Black man killed by a white police officer in Minneapolis in May 2020. No one has been arrested for the theft, but the university said authorities are investigating the crime, which some also view as a sacrilege — a violation of a sacred object. In a Dec. 20 letter to the university community, the institution's president John Garvey said the wall where the icon was located will remain empty while a replacement, a different artwork, is considered. The second icon replaced a larger one stolen in November. It sparked a number of emails and phone calls telling the university that the image was "blasphemous because they saw it as deifying or canonizing George Floyd," Garvey wrote in a Nov. 24 letter to the school's community.

India rejects Missionaries of Charity request for foreign funds

NEW DELHI (CNS) — The Missionaries of Charity denied reports that the order's bank accounts have been frozen but said the order's renewal application under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act was not approved. This means the nuns in India may not use any foreign currency account "until the matter is resolved." Critics described the action as further evidence of harassment of Christians under the Hindu nationalist government. "We have been informed that our FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) renewal application has not been approved. Therefore, as a measure to ensure there is no lapse we have asked our centers not to operate any of the FC accounts until the matter is resolved," said Sister Prema Pierick, the congregation's superior general, in a statement Dec. 27. Ucanews.com reported the statement, citing additional reporting from Agence France-Presse. In India, a license under FCRA is a must for receiving foreign donations. One newspaper said the order received around \$750 million from abroad in the 2020-21 financial year. The Missionaries of Charity clarification came after Indian media reported that the federal government had frozen the foreign fund accounts of the congregation, ucanews.com reported. Jesuit Father Cedric Prakash, an Indian rights activist, said: "The MC nuns care for thousands of the rejected of India without counting the cost. Stopping the flow of funds to them, in simple terms, means depriving the poorest of the poor in India — humans whom no one cares for."

Pope asks pontifical council to begin planning Holy Year 2025

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Preparations for the Holy Year 2025 have already begun, and Pope Francis has asked the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization to take charge of the efforts. In a brief note Dec. 26, the Vatican press office said Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the pontifical council, already has had meetings with officials of the Vatican Secretariat of State and with the offices that will be involved in funding Holy Year activities: the Administration of the Patrimony of the Holy See and the Secretariat for the Economy. A holy year or jubilee is a time of pilgrimage, prayer, repentance and acts of mercy, based on the Old Testament tradition of a jubilee year of rest, forgiveness and renewal. Holy years also are a time when Catholics visit designated churches and shrines, recite special prayers, go to confession and receive Communion to receive a plenary indulgence, which is a remission of the temporal punishment due for one's sins.

Catholic agencies respond to 2021 disasters

Catholic News Service

Right up through December, extreme weather events and natural disasters of 2021 continued to upend local communities and set agendas for domestic and overseas emergency response efforts at major Catholic aid organizations.

"We had about 85 disasters," in the United States this past year, said Kim Burgo, vice president for disaster operations for Catholic Charities USA.

"Charities agencies don't just respond to a disaster because it was declared so by the Federal Emergency Management Agency," she said, noting that its agencies also respond to local events, like floods, which impact local communities.

Burgo is part of a staff of four monitoring disasters and helping collaborate with local affiliates wherever possible. She said the West Coast wildfires and major storms such as Hurricane Ida were some of the top disaster priorities of the past year, along with floods, tornados and winter storms in the Midwest and the South.

"We do not have unlimited resources, so we have to be careful with the funds we have, but we don't turn away any disaster that a (local) agency has, and even the smallest ones are important to the local community," Burgo told Catholic News Service.

Catholic Charities USA supports the local disaster response through financial assistance, technical support and, in the case of a late August landfall of Hurricane Ida in Louisiana, virtual deployment of case managers as a coronavirus surge was complicating logistics.

For Hurricane Ida,

Catholic Charities estimates that local agencies assisted 10,000 families through gift cards and meals and over a million pounds of goods.

"We have a ton of relationships with the other disaster organizations which provide different services as well," Burgo said, noting that the hurricane drew an immediate and sustained response.

Often the response at the local level can last five to seven years, and there are many places in the country that have preexisting economic challenges, "so you end up with a bad hurricane or tornado in a place where they never really recover before the next one comes, and you end up with a constant state of recovery," she said.

One unusual addition for the 2021 history books was the deadly Surfside condominium collapse near Miami in late June. The 12-story Champlain Towers residential collapse resulted in 98 deaths. It also left many survivors displaced in the subsequent months.

"That was an absolute tragedy, and Catholic Charities was there responding with mental health needs, helping people rebuild their lives and joining a consortium of assistance to help people get their medications and funeral expenses for loved ones met through case management," Burgo said.

In states of Washington, Oregon, and California, Catholic Charities is still managing wildfire recovery efforts stemming from

2018 incidents, while new wildfires threatened those same states.

The COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 also prompted disaster response planners to think outside the box, realizing that they couldn't rely on the model of placing survivors in massive shelters. Instead, they moved to putting fewer people in more shelters or even hotel rooms.

Also, people seeking assistance were not able to walk into Charities outreach offices due to social distancing, so there was a continued move toward distribution sites, drive by distributions and virtual case management.

And the second year of the pandemic continued to take an economic toll on communities, as people lost jobs and housing became more scarce and expensive.

"The cost of housing, housing availability, eviction issues. The poor and vulnerable are most at risk, and all of this goes way beyond handing out water: These are the complicated issues you are trying to resolve every day," Burgo said.

Beyond the American borders, there was an August earthquake in Haiti complicated by a deteriorating political and security situation in that Caribbean nation. A December typhoon hit the Philippines, and summer flooding wreaked havoc in Germany and Belgium, while China, India, Nepal and Indonesia experienced various floods, volcanoes and cyclones.



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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

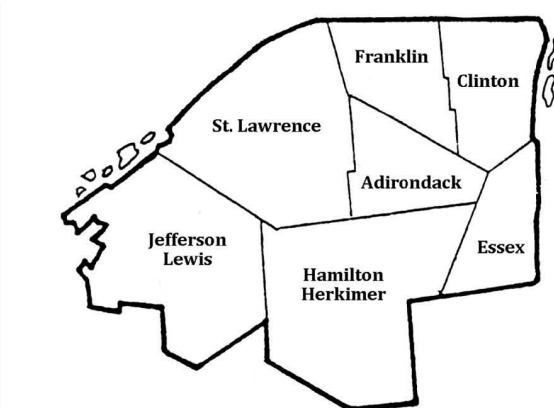
The Office of New Evangelization will be running a new Brownbag Chat on Wednesdays.

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



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 325,
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.

<https://www.rcdony.org/brownbag>.
For more information, contact Marika

ADIRONDACK

Donders at mdonders@rcdony.org

FIRST FRIDAY
PRAISE & 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

CLINTON

on St. Agnes Facebook page.

BRUNCH

Lyon Mountain – Lyon Mountain American Legion to have brunch.

Dates: Jan. 9 and 23

Time: 9 to Noon

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

\$7

Menu: Scrambled eggs, sausage,

ESSEX

bacon, pancakes, garlic parmesan wings, breaded mushrooms, homefries.

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

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

celebrated according to the 1962 Missal of St. John the XXIII.

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.

ST. LAWRENCE

Refreshments to follow at the First Presbyterian Church. Social distancing guidelines will be followed.

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.

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. 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.

Funeral Mass celebrated for Thomas Hannan

Thomas 'Scratchy' Edgar Hannan passed away on December 23, 2021, fully aware of the love and affection of his family and friends. Tom was born in Ogdensburg, NY on October 25, 1927, to Richard E. Hannan and Helen F. Hannan.

He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 69 years, Katherine 'Kay' Marie

(Ashley) Hannan, his four children: Katherine Hannan Wears, JD; William Paul Hannan, MD (Julie Sansoucy); Thomas Ashley Hannan (Debora Chase); and John Patrick Hannan (Barbara West). In addition, he is survived by his 15 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren, who called him "Mimp" and who admired him. They enjoyed

his quick wit, golf matches, Dagwood sandwich and perfectly prepared popcorn. His beloved grandchildren and their spouses are: Katherine M. Wears, Thomas H. Wears (Shelby), Daniel H. Wears (Brooke), Julia D. Stevenson (John), Margaret E. Rider (Brent), John W. Hannan, Thomas J. Hannan, Conor P. Hannan, Maureen E. Hannan

(Travis), Mary Kate Hannan Goldstein (Evan), Michael P. Hannan (Erin), Meghan R. Hannan, Christopher P. Hannan, Tyler M. Hannan, and Sean A. Hannan. He is also survived by his sister, Sr. Kathleen Hannan, Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, who is retired and resides in Philadelphia, PA.

He was predeceased by his parents, Richard E. Han-

nan and Helen F. Hannan, and his siblings: Msgr. Herbert J. Hannan, Richard J. Hannan, William J. Hannan, Mary Hannan Dupont, Margaret Hannan Dollinger, Elizabeth A. Hannan, and Paul Hannan. He was also predeceased by a brother in law, John J. Ashley, and sister in law Sheila Wells Ashley. He is survived by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

AT THE MOVIES

AMERICAN UNDERDOG

NEW YORK (CNS) – Cheerful as a dance floor boot scoot and livelier than a touchdown drive, the sports-themed, faith-tinted biopic "American Underdog" (Lionsgate) goes light on matters of religion, focusing instead on the steep challenge of building a career in the NFL.

The film recounts the improbable success story of Kurt Warner (Zachary Levi), the Super Bowl-winning quarterback who rose from a hardscrabble Midwest upbringing and a stint in arena football to land a starting spot on an NFL team because, as he keeps insisting, "It's my time."

He spends most of the

film trying to find a team that will agree with that assessment.

Warner was a star player at the University of Northern Iowa. As a Division I-AA school, however, his alma mater was too far down on the pecking order for any pro team to consider drafting Warner or giving him a tryout.

But he perseveres – years ago, Warner's saga would have been considered a testament to the antique virtues of pluck and moxie – and gets a tryout with the Green Bay Packers, which he promptly blows. In the wake of this failure, he's reduced to taking a minimum-wage job stocking

supermarket shelves while dreaming of seeing his own image on a box of Wheaties.

Working from Warner's memoir "All Things Possible," screenwriter David Aaron Cohen and directing brothers Andrew and Jon Erwin don't make their protagonist's issues very clear, merely hinting at problems with self-discipline and impulse control. Warner's well-publicized evangelical beliefs take a back seat to the mechanics of the game and his personal struggles.

Surely there must have been spiritual crises, but they're reduced to a single line: "I wonder why God gave me a dream that will

never come true, because that's just cruel. You know?"

Warner finds emotional support with Brenda Meoni (Anna Paquin), a divorced former Marine corporal with her own tough backstory. Her young son Zack (Hayden Zaller) is blind because his abusive father had dropped him on his head.

Warner's three seasons in arena football – which focuses on fast game play and raw power more than strategy – at least kept his throwing arm in shape and gave him an appreciation for making quick on-field decisions.

He finally gets the

vaunted big chance when the St. Louis Rams offer him a contract. Then the starting QB is injured, and the rest of the story falls into fairy-tale-come-true mode. Cohen avoids a preachy tone while keeping things generally wholesome – and thus acceptable for a wide audience.

The film contains a divorce theme, allusions to cohabitation and fleeting crass language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II – adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG – parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 3

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

his sisters in law Catherine Hannan, Joanne Latrell (Stanley) and Paula Broderick (Edward).

Tom was a lifelong resident of Ogdensburg. He graduated from St. Mary's Academy in 1945. After graduation he enlisted in the Navy and was honorably discharged on August 22, 1946. After discharge from the Navy, he enrolled at Clarkson University. He transferred to Siena College in Latham and graduated with a Bachelor of Business Arts in Accounting in 1951. Following graduation, he began his employment at St. Lawrence County Savings Bank. He retired from the successor bank, North Country Savings Bank, in 1997 after 47 years of service to his customers and his community. His work was never a job and Tom was appreciated for his ability to help many get their first mortgage. During the early years of his career, while working at the

bank, Tom also worked for the Chancery of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and Ogdensburg Building Supply.

He married Katherine Marie Ashley on July 7, 1952. They proudly raised their four children on Washington Street and The St. Lawrence River in Ogdensburg.

Tom was known for his many contributions to family, church, and community. He was appointed as a Director of the Ogdensburg Boys and Girls Club (OBGC) in 1971. In November 2021, the OBGC honored Tom for his 50 years of service. He was a presence at the annual OBGC Expo slinging hotdogs. He served as the treasurer of the club for many years. Tom also contributed his talent, time, and effort to St. Mary's Academy, St. Mary's Athletic Association, Bishop Conroy School, the Ogdensburg Lions Club, and numerous local organizations. It is a little known fact Tom was the last sur-

viving member of the St. Mary's Athletic Association. He joined Ogdensburg Lions Club in 1972. Tom served on the Finance Committee for many years and was the recipient of the R.J. Uplinger Award in 2008. Tom was active as a parishioner of his lifelong Parish, St. Mary's Cathedral, where he served as a trustee and long time usher. He was also a member of the Moose Lodge, one of his favorite establishments, the Knights of Columbus, and the American Legion. In November 2015, Tom was honored as 'Citizen of the Year' by the Greater Ogdensburg Chamber of Commerce for his numerous contributions and service to the local community.

Scratchy was an avid golfer, bowler, and tennis player who enjoyed sports and friendly competition. He was the surviving member of multiple golf foursomes, including some of his closest friends: Jeff Dwyer, Bill Austin, Walter

Pirie, Dick Dupont, Tom Luckie Sr., George Looney, John Sansoucy and Dave LaRose. He played into his nineties and enjoyed his annual golf outing to Queensbury/Glens Falls, where he holds the record for the most years participating in the 'Red' Male Memorial Golf Tournament. In the waning years of his golf career, Tom celebrated a hole-in-one on the 9th hole at St. Lawrence State Park golf course.

Tom never turned down an opportunity to play shuffleboard, attend an event of a grandchild or great grandchild or share a drink or two. He was an ardent supporter of University of Notre Dame athletics and enjoyed recent visits to South Bend with his family for homecoming celebrations, basketball, and football games. It is only fitting that Tom passed away wearing his favorite green sweater and his Notre Dame jacket.

His most memorable moments were spent with

family and friends on The St. Lawrence River, where he was fortunate to retire with Kay. There he spent his time watching sunsets, sipping on vodka and tonic and, well into his 80s, taking his daily summer baths in the river.

He enjoyed his work and unselfishly gave to family, church, and community. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made in Tom's memory to the Ogdensburg Boys and Girls Club at 610 Paterson Street in Ogdensburg, NY.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated on Monday, January 3, 2022, at St. Mary's Cathedral with Rev. Joseph Morgan officiating. Burial will follow at St. Mary's Cemetery.



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

The Baptism of the Lord

Today's feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks the end of the Christmas season. For those who have carefully prepared through Advent for a joyful celebration of Christmas and Epiphany, it's with a sense of sadness that we let go of the childhood of Jesus. Mary and Joseph must have seen all of this coming as they hear Jesus' excuse after their three-day search for him in the Temple. "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's House?" And now, some years later, Joseph is dead, and Mary's soul a sword has pierced as she



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

bids goodbye to her Son. The first reading today from Isaiah foretells the Baptism of John. "Every valley shall be filled in; the rugged land shall be made a plain", "Here is your God; He comes with power...", "like shepherd he feeds his flock; In his arms he gathers the lambs..." How comforting those words are!

As Jesus leaves home, he must have been aware of this prophecy of Isaiah. He must, too, have been excited and a little fearful at beginning his great mission. His steps have taken him to the banks of the Jordan where

January 9

Feast of the
Baptism of the Lord

READINGS

Isaiah 40:1-5;9-11
Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7
Luke 3:15-16;21-22

a crowd surrounds a man in strange attire. Jesus beholds his own cousin with whom he had played as a child. They meet in solemn moment as all see John stare, then greet Jesus warmly. And Jesus asks John for baptism! What? "That's for sinners!" John protests, and Jesus, seeking full solidarity with sinful humanity, urges John, "Give in for now." And John does! As

the water is poured over him, the Spirit descends from the sky. From the sky comes the same words as Isaiah had proclaimed hundreds of years before: "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him!"

And Jesus, rising up from the waters, assumes the role of Prophet of justice, truth, and love. He begins to gather other men and women who can share His mission. And, in turn, he urges on them His own baptism, in water and the Holy Spirit.

Reluctantly this Sunday, we let go the gentle child Jesus, and we ourselves with Jesus must take up the burdens of the Man with a Mission – to free all captives from sin, to bring

joy and hope to the downhearted, to bring salvation to ourselves by helping others toward theirs.

This is the message of Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*. The time is now, the world is heading towards a deeper darkness unless we all become aware of our own Baptismal promises and heed the voice of Jesus commanding us to do as He Himself did – be the light for our world's terrible darkness. Jesus' mission is not accomplished until all people hear the Good News and accept it.

As Christmastide ends, so we must believe strongly in the Savior born into our hearts in hope for a better year!

CALLED TO SERVE

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Catholic Church has given us many beautiful prayers. The Prefaces and Eucharistic Prayers at Mass are certainly among them, if not at the head of the list.

I don't think we pay attention to the words of these prayers as we should. We are conditioned to hear the celebrant say a bunch of words and to stand, sit or kneel on cue. If we spent a

moment considering what we hear and *why we do what we do when we do it*, we might participate more fully in the celebration and get a heck of a lot more from our attendance.

In the preface prayer, the celebrant has been reminding us why we praise God and thank him for the gift of salvation. We conclude that prayer in song.

Some folks don't sing.

Somebody told them when they were a kid that they had an awful voice or can't carry a tune, so they don't sing. That argument might hold water in the auditions for the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, but you are praying with a bunch of your friends who can't sing either. Stop feeling sorry for yourself and let it out!

That song is called the Sanctus.

The Sanctus ("Holy, Holy, Holy") is a joyful shout of thanks and praise to God. Some liturgists consider it the most important of all the people's acclamations at Mass. It is meant to be sung with a smile on your face and in your voice! We

sing *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.* The same acclamation the celestial bodies chanted before

God in the book of Isaiah.

Then we sing *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.* These are the same words, Matthew tells us in his Gospel, that the crowds sang as Jesus entered Jerusalem, what we

observe as Palm Sunday. That crowd, which would turn surly later, was giddy and excited at the prospect of the miracle worker coming to town.

Everyone in the church, the folks in the pews, the

priest, deacon and other ministers in the sanctuary, the handful of folks hiding in the loft, should be happy too. Jesus, our savior, is with us.

The Mass is a prayer. We have been treated to God's word in scripture, a suggestion or two about how we can put God's word to work in our lives and then we have the privilege of joining Jesus at a meal where we will witness him give himself to us so we can share eternity with him.

The Eucharistic prayer follows. Thank you, Jesus for letting me be here.

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



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

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mbrett@rcdony.org

Prayer for the New Year

*A new year is about to unfold
With new opportunities to explore
Doors will open for new experiences,
New adventures with the Lord*

*Remember not the former things,
The things of this past year,
The Lord will do new things in us,
Much more than we are aware.*

– M.S. Lowndes

OBITUARIES

Altona – Lillian Dragon Shelters Alger, 98; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 28, 2021 at Holy Angels Church.

Altona – Ralph C. Graves, Sr., 85; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 27, 2021 at Holy Angels Church.

Bloomington – Chad Oliver, 39; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 22, 2021 at St. Paul's Church; burial in St. Paul's Cemetery.

Cadyville – Genevieve (Barber) LaDuke, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 23, 2021 at St. James Church.

Carthage – Donald F. Schwendy, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 21, 2021 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Carthage – Gabrielle C. (LaTray) Thomas, 36; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 28, 2021 at St. Stephen's Church.

Chazy – Irene (Miller) LaValley, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 23, 2021 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Chazy – Alberdina J. (teRiele) Ville-

maire, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 31, 2021 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Danmora – Rita E. LaRose, 103; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 30, 2021 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Assumption Cemetery, Redford.

Hogansburg – Norma Theresa (Burrnett) Kimball, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 17, 2021 at St. Ann's Church;

Keeseville – Viola (Patnode) Bezio, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 30, 2021 at St. John's Church; burial in Evergreen Cemetery.

Lake Placid – Hung Mi (Mija) Hayes, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 23, 2021 at St. Agnes Church; burial in North Elba Cemetery.

Lowville – Earl E. Der Sr., 82; Funeral Services Dec. 30, 2021 at Iseneker Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in Hillside Cemetery, Denmark.

Massena – Philip H. Tarbell, Jr., 79; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 21, 2021 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

HONORING THE REASON FOR THE SEASON



Members of the Canton Knights of Columbus installed the group's "Keep Christ in Christmas" nativity display in front of the Rectory at St. Mary's Church. Pictured, left to right, are Father Bryan Stitt, pastor, Lucas Gruber, seminarian, Past Grand Knight John Taillon, Mike Christy, Deputy Grand Knight Corey Swinwood, Tom Finnerty and Russ Bizco.

North Bangor – Eugene J. Martin, 91; Private Services to be held; burial in parish cemetery.

Norwood – Mark A. Cutler, 54; Mass of Christian burial and burial in Calvary Cemetery in spring of 2022.

Ogdensburg – Sonya A. (Sovie) Barr, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 21, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Bruce F. Lajoy, Sr., 72; Funeral Services Dec. 22, 2021 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Timothy Doyle O'Reilly, 60; Private Services held.

Peru – Barbara M. Coryea, 86; Funeral Services Dec. 29, 2021 at Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery, Morrisonville.

Peru – Edward Joseph Gardner, 72; Funeral Services Dec. 17, 2021 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

Peru – Marlene (Jacklitsch) Thomas, 84; Funeral Services Dec. 22, 2021 at

the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Rose Marie (Wilfore) Baughn, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 30, 2021 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Madeleine L. Michaud, 98; Private Services to be held.

Plattsburgh – Genevieve Rock, 94; Mass of Christian Burial in spring at St. Peter's Church.

Port Henry – Bradley Moses Bordeaux, 45; Mass of Christian Burial May 21, 2022 at St. Patrick's Church.

Port Henry – Carl O'Kusky, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 30, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church.

Port Henry – Anita J. (Lavin) Lahendro, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 28, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church.

Port Leyden – Paul H. Rogers, 89; Funeral Services Dec. 28, 2021 at the Callaghan Funeral Home; burial in Callvary Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Robert F. Daunais, 86; Services to be held in the Spring 2022.

Watertown – Paul M. Bigwarfe, Sr., 76; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 28, 2021 at Holy Family Church.

Watertown – Yvonne M. (Green) Eliott, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 27, 2021 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

Watertown – Clarence A. Jobson, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 22, 2021 at Holy Family Church; burial Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – John G. Leuze, 84; Mass of Christian Burial at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Nicholas D. Morgia, 82; Mass of Christina Burial Dec. 31, 2021 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Cynthia A. (Haley) Scee, 70; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 28, 2021 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Bethlehem Christians speak of Christmas joy

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) – The normal crowds of pilgrims and tourists may not have been able to come to Bethlehem for Christmas due to COVID-19 travel restrictions for a second year in a row, but local Palestinian Christians wanted to assure everyone that the Christmas spirit is still alive and well in the city of Jesus' birth.

"Tell the world that the one word for Christmas would be 'joy,' and we have that here. Tell them that Christmas is about family," Francis Gedeon, 75, said after Christmas Mass as his family posed for family photos in the courtyard of St. Catherine Church, adjacent to the Church of the Nativity. "We pray the pandemic will end soon."

"We are still happy to be able to celebrate Christmas despite everything, especially in Bethlehem," agreed his son, Fadi.

"Christmas is when family gets together, that is the most important thing," chimed in Rawan, Gedeon's daughter. "It has been a challenging year due to COVID, but we still have the spirit of Christmas and send prayers to the whole world. I love the Christmas feeling of peace, despite all the difficulties and restrictions."

She said that as the world continued to struggle with the pandemic, she felt especially blessed to be able to celebrate Christmas in Bethlehem.

Gedeon's daughter Reem, who last year did not meet with her family for Christmas because her newborn daughter, Veronica, and husband Rafat, were sick with COVID-19, said celebrating with family was especially meaningful.

"This Christmas is so special and different from

others; last year we did not meet and this is also my first Christmas with my daughter at church," she said.

Several other young couples of the parish also said this Christmas was special because of the addition of a new baby to their family.

Having their first baby with them at the Mass brought a whole new meaning to Christmas, said Haytham Dieck, 32, and his wife Raghda, 28. Last year they did not come to Mass and, still in the midst of the pandemic, did not even celebrate the holiday, said Raghda.

Haytham Dieck, coordinator of the Tour Guide Program at Bethlehem Bible College, said celebrating Christmas Mass with their 18-month-old daughter, Reina, gave him a whole new understanding about the birth of Jesus and the care Mary showed

for her son.

"Reina has changed everything for us," he said. Even as little as she is, they bring her to the Church of the Nativity and show her the manger where Jesus was born. "We tell her: 'Look, here is your friend Jesus.'"

The tourism industry is central to the Bethlehem economy, and the city has been hit hard by the COVID-19 travel restrictions. There had been anticipation that pilgrims would be allowed in for Christmas, but then the outbreak of the omicron variant put a halt to that.

Irene Botto, 32, who has a guesthouse in Bethlehem and runs culinary experience tours, said the Christmas celebration brings hope. She came to Mass with her husband, Charbel, 32, and three young daughters.

"It has been so depress-

ing, but ... we are still filled with hope. Family is Christmas, and when we gather with our family, it is the holiday," she said.

Manger Square was filled with Filipino caretakers, migrant workers, asylum-seekers, diplomats, foreign students who are living in Israel and Christian Israelis who were able to come to Bethlehem on Christmas. For a few hours, the stores and nearby streets were filled with people buying souvenirs, local tour guides leading groups and street vendors offering bargain prices on trinkets.

Inside the Church of the Nativity, the waiting line to descend into the crèche was long, and down below a Franciscan friar hurried the faithful through as they bent quickly to touch or pray at the silver star marking the traditional spot of Jesus' birth.

THANK YOU FOR SHARING IN THE CARING

The Religious of the Diocese Wish to Thank All of the Generous People Who Contributed to the 2021 Retirement Fund Collection. You Will Be Remembered in Our Prayers.

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Rev. Corneille Boyeye
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Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod

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