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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 77 Number 23

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

OCTOBER 12, 2022

MASS ON A MOUNTAIN



Father John R. Yonkovig, pastor of St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid and St. Brendan's Church in Keene, celebrates Mass with around 100 parishioners of the two churches at Colby Outlook near Whiteface Mountain on Oct. 2.

STANDING UP FOR LIFE



Champlain Valley Right to Life coordinated a Lifechain event on Oct. 2 in Plattsburgh. Similar events were held in Saranac Lake and Potsdam in recognition of the start of Respect Life Month. The theme of this year's Respect Life Month is "Called to serve moms in need." Events are planned throughout the month both here in the North Country and around the United States, including a month-long series about "Post-Roe New York" that begins in this edition.

FULL STORY, PAGES 3 & 4

Pope: Saints have joyful hearts, not long faces

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The holiness of saints is reflected not only in how they overcame struggles but by their ability to transmit the joy that comes from being loved by God, Pope Francis said.

The gift of sharing the love and mercy Christians receive from God "enables us to experience an immense joy that is not a fleeting emotion or mere human optimism, but the certainty that we can face every challenge with the grace and the assurance that come from God," the pope told participants at a Vatican conference on holiness.

"Without this joy, faith shrinks

into an oppressive and dreary thing; the saints are not 'sour-pusses,' but men and women with joyful hearts, open to hope," he said, meeting conference participants Oct. 6.

The conference, "Holiness Today," was sponsored by the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.

During the conference, Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, prefect of the dicastery, announced the creation of a commission that will recognize Christians who, although not canonized and perhaps not Catholic, were exemplary and even heroic witnesses to the Christian faith.

In an interview with Vatican News, Cardinal Semeraro explained that a "Commission for the Witnesses of the Faith" was set up on a temporary basis by St. John Paul II for the Jubilee Year 2000 and recognized Christians martyred for the faith in the 20th century, mainly under the Nazi or communist regimes.

Now, the cardinal said, Pope Francis has asked the dicastery to reestablish the commission not just for the upcoming Holy Year 2025, but on a permanent basis.

"St. John Paul II wanted to highlight these examples of men and

women who, although not canonized, strongly manifested their faith," the cardinal explained, adding that the list of holy men and women was not limited to Catholics, but to all Christians.

An example of a Christian witness of faith, he said, is Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German Lutheran theologian who was killed in 1945 for his opposition to Nazism.

Although the Catholic Church does not proclaim him a martyr because he was not Catholic, Bonhoeffer remains "an emerging figure as a Christian witness," the cardinal said.

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'He's massive! He's so cool'

I sometimes forget how big he is.

I currently have three oversized cats. According to the veterinarian they see, none of them are overweight. They're just big.

Pippin is the biggest of them all. He weights nearly 18 pounds. His head is the size of a softball, and his nose is as wide as my thumb. Standing on the kitchen floor, he's able to pull his dish down from our standard-height counters with his paws or mouth as we're loading the plates for kitty mealtime. He's tall, he's long, and he's solid.

Because we've lived with

oversized kitties for years, my husband, son and I almost forget how extraordinary "the boys" are.

Recently, Pippin had an appointment with the vet. As

Darcy L.
Fargo

I'm lugging him and his oversized carrier into the veterinary practice, I ran into someone I know. We were exchanging greetings when she stopped mid-sentence.

"Look at the size of your cat! He's huge," she exclaimed. "Look at my cat compared to yours!"

She held up a small carrier with a very small juvenile cat. Her little kitty was less than half of Pippin's size.

Getting into the vet's office,

the technician soon greeted us and opened the carrier. Pippin very casually walked out and immediately approached the technician ready for attention.

"Look at this big guy! He's massive! He's so cool," was the response.

Every single person who saw my cat that day remarked on his size. Pippin was enjoying his celebrity status as person after person greeted him, and I found the whole situation rather entertaining. As I said, I forget that he's huge. I see him every day. He's not huge to me. He's just Pippin.

Thinking about our fun vet visit (not something you have every day), it occurred to me that I apply that same concept to God sometimes.

Sometimes worship, prayer, even celebrating the sacraments feels almost commonplace. I take it for granted. I take God for granted, and I forget how big God is.

Then, like a visit to the vet reminds me my cat is unusually large, something comes along and reminds me how incomprehensibly huge and loving our God is. For me this week, it's been experiencing the beauty of God's creation (those leaves are incredible right now), experiencing God's love in forgiveness and graces extended to me, and experiencing a series of incidents pointing out that God loves me when I'm at my best, when I'm at my worst and everywhere in between.

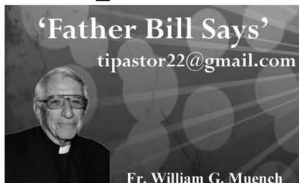
Yet I still sometimes forget how big He is.

'We express our gratitude'

Today, I would like to start with Eucharist – the word, Eucharist. When I have a Mass with children, I like to start with a little sharing about the word, Eucharist. I want them to realize what the word our Catholic Church wants us to realize when we speak of the Mass as the Blessed Eucharist.

"Eucharist" is from the Greek; it means "thank you." So, you see, each time we, Catholics, gather for the celebration of a Mass, we do so to praise our God in gratitude. We express our gratitude for all that our God has done for us. We see in Jesus God's great love for us. Jesus came to live among us, suffered and died for us, and rose again to lead us to a new life. He did all of this for us. Jesus is Our Savior. For this we are grateful.

Gratitude is important, and it's important I pray as a grateful person, a grateful Christian. This is true each time I celebrate Mass. I must offer to God my gratitude for all those who are here at this Mass with me. We must pray



Fr. William G. Muench

for each other; we are family each time we pray together. Each day, as I participate at Mass, I am grateful to God for all.

In private prayer, I realize it is a time for real gratitude also. This is a time for remembering all that God has done for me, as a priest, calling me to this vocation and for this ministry. This time of gratitude is time of strength in my relationship with my Lord. I have been blessed.

On a recent Sunday, the Gospel reading at Mass was a Gospel reading that is frequently used at Thanksgiving Day. This is the story of Jesus' healing of the ten lepers. These lepers see Jesus and call out, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us." Jesus then sends them to the priests. In those days, the priests have the

duty of examining and declaring such lepers as "Clean." In this story, these ten are healed on their way.

The story then goes on to tell us that one of them, realizing that he had been healed, returned to Jesus. "He fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him." The Gospel tells us that this fellow was a Samaritan. Jesus speaks, "Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?"

Jesus then goes on to speak to this Samaritan: "Your faith has saved you." Faith means more than assent to religious teachings. It seems that this Samaritan wants to continue a relationship with the Lord.

Here the Gospel indicates the proof of each person's faith is this thanksgiving he or she directs to God. The Samaritan is not content merely to offer a quiet prayer of gratitude. His faith constrains him to put the rest of his life on hold and express his gratitude by glorifying

God, falling on his knees at the feet of Jesus.

Recently, I received a magazine, "Human Development." The theme of this issue was "Coming Home to God." This led me to think personally what "Home" means to me. I began to realize that God constantly leads me to my home with the Lord Jesus.

One of the articles in this magazine is written by Carolyn Humphreys. She writes this: "A comforting old saying tells us, 'Home is where the heart is.' Our home can be defined as a place where our hearts are invigorated, loved is nourished, and concerns are well managed. Home is the place that provides an environment where the virtues of faith, hope, compassion and peace are born and strengthened."

I pray in gratitude to God that each parish in our diocese is truly a home for the people of our North Country. Each time we are all gathered for Mass in our Church, I pray in gratitude that we do so as a family.

Life chain kicks off Respect Life Month

By **Mary Beth Bracy**
Contributing writer

PLATTSBURGH – On October 2, Champlain Valley Right to Life (CVRTL) hosted the 35th annual Life Chain in Plattsburgh. Similar events were held in both Potsdam and Saranac Lake.

In Plattsburgh, several people gathered in quiet, peaceful, and prayerful witness for the sacredness and dignity of human life. The response of those driving by was overwhelmingly supportive. Participants held signs to testify to the gift of life and many commented on the lovely weather we were blessed with for the day.

Deacon Kenneth Lushia, CVRTL vice president, shared, "It is Respect Life Sunday, (and we gather to proclaim respect for life) from conception to natural death. It is a great way to witness to our belief. A good thing to reflect on is today's Gospel which says 'Jesus give us more faith.' As we go along (in our pro-life work) we can say 'Jesus give us more faith.' We can come to make abortion something from the past. What a beautiful day it is... We got to experience a little taste of Heaven with the fall colors, many children will never experience this."

Other participants echoed his sentiments.

"It's encouraging to be here with God's people to stand with those who are so vulnerable and there is no way we can quit," Jim Akey reflected.

Marsha Brean emphasized, "We'll be here as long as it takes. We know that we stand with the

most vulnerable and there is no way we can quit."

"All I could think was that the Make-A-Wish people were on every corner collecting, and there was so much beautiful generosity in giving to that cause, to bring joy to ill children," said Dorothy McDevitt. "And how great it would be to have that generosity to allow children to be born. What greater wish?"

"I want to thank Nancy Belzile (CVRTL President) for once again organizing this and making it possible for us to gather this year," continued Deacon Lushia, adding, "It's been 35 years. I think it was interesting that we were standing near the political signs. We still have faith in the system of our great nation, and our Supreme Court. If we lose faith in that we're really in trouble as a nation."

September 28 also began the fall campaign for 40 Days for Life (40DFL) in Plattsburgh, Watertown and throughout the world. CVRTL is encouraging people to sign up and join other Christians to pray in front of the registered 40DFL vigil sites from now through November 6, 2022. In Plattsburgh the vigil site is Planned Parenthood and participants are invited to sign up and

pray there between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily. In Watertown, prayers will gather from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. across the street from Planned Parenthood.

The prayerful presence of the faithful is powerful, CVRTL related. It has been shown to lower client appointments by over 70%.

People are also encouraged to fast and pray for a victory of life in our world. Deacon Lushia said, "We ask everyone to pray the Rosary each and every day, for our Blessed Virgin Mary has asked us to do so!"


Champlain Valley Right to Life is an educational not-for-profit organization in New York that helps mothers and babies. Their events include: Life Chain, Christmas Peace in the Womb Caroling, Pro-life Movies, 40 Days for Life, Good Friday Stations of the Cross, educational trips and letter writing to NY State Legislators, Clinton County Fair booth, and the local March for Life.

Visit their website at <https://www.cvrtny.com/> and click on "Get Involved" to stay up to date.

For more information, check out 40 Days for Life's website which has numerous resources <https://www.40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/plattsburgh/>

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

- Read local stories and commentaries
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October is Respect Life Month

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Life in a post-Roe world, after *Dobbs* decision

Editor's note: The following is the first installment of a month-long series looking at life after the Dobbs vs. Jackson court decision and the pro-life movement.

By Colleen Miner

Diocesan Respect Life Co-Director

The U.S. Supreme Court *Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision in June has awakened the abortion debate and created much confusion.

While we celebrate the court's ruling overturning *Roe vs. Wade*, it does not change much in our state. The Supreme Court decision declared that abortion is not a constitutional right and thus is not a federal law. With the ruling, the abortion legality is returned to the states. Some states, anticipating the June decision already had "trigger laws" so when *Roe* was overturned, the new laws, or in some cases the laws that were already on the books before the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, went into effect. Other states are leaving it to the voters in November. Still others, like New York State, where abortion was legal before the

Roe vs. Wade decision, remain entrenched in abortion and are seeking to expand abortion availability by creating the Abortion Access Fund which offers free transportation, hotel stays and abortions to those coming from outside of the state.

In May, New York State Governor Kathy Hochul announced a nation-leading \$35 million investment to support abortion providers in the state (\$25 million to abortion providers and \$10 million to bolster security for abortion providers).

State law now protects abortion doctors who perform abortions on residents from states where abortion becomes restricted.

The recently passed Pregnancy Center Study bill, "authorizes the Commissioner of Health to conduct a study and issue a report examining the unmet health and resource needs facing pregnant women in New York and the impact of limited service pregnancy centers."

Many believe this bill will force pregnancy centers to close because they do not refer for abortion.

Pregnancy centers across the nation have

been vandalized by graffiti and violence. Locally, the Plattsburgh Birthright office had a hanger and splattered red paint on their door (twice!), and Saranac Lake's Ascent Care had their sign stolen.

So, what do we do when we are met with hostility or are called extremists because we seek to help mothers and babies? We do what we've always done: speak charitably, educate, offer help and pray.

As Catholics, we are well acquainted with being labeled as "extremists" because our Catholic beliefs are often in direct contrast with societal beliefs. Being pro-life, wishing to protect both the mother and baby, has somehow become "extreme."

It's important to correct what social media and news sources report falsely. These mistruths are spread to create fear and make something good seem like it is harmful. When the gruesome truth of abortion is known, the majority of Americans prefer restrictions. That's why it is essential to teach the truth in love and correct misinformation.

It's difficult to understand abortion law unless you understand abortion facts. And that is proving extremely difficult in a media and political environment that is full of outright deception.

In the legal and political environment after *Dobbs*, with abortion law now a state-by-state affair, some confusion has been created. But some wrong information is particularly common across the board, so it's important to make the facts clear. Specific examples are provided in the box to the right.



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

New York State Catholic Conference

Has the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* made abortion illegal?

No. The decision in the *Dobbs* case returned the question of abortion to the states. It is now up to each state to decide what, if any, restrictions to implement in their state.

Are women in danger because of the abortion bans?

No. Every single state abortion law contains exceptions that permit abortions either to save the life of the mother or to preserve her physical or general health. There is no reason for a doctor to fear any legal consequences for doing what is necessary to treat a mother who has a medical emergency.

Do abortion bans restrict care for ectopic pregnancy?

No. An ectopic pregnancy can be fatal for the mother and is always fatal for the baby. The treatment for ectopic pregnancy is not the same as an elective abortion and does not conflict with Church teaching. It is considered a "medical emergency" and thus included in the exceptions in state abortion laws.

Where abortion is illegal, are doctors allowed to care for women who suffer a miscarriage?

Yes. Miscarriage is distinct from abortion. In a miscarriage, a baby has already died in utero. An abortion is the intentional killing of a baby in the womb. While some techniques for miscarriage care are similar to abortion procedures, the similarity ends there.

What happens if prenatal testing reveals serious birth defects or genetic anomalies?

Every human person is a unique gift from God with an inalienable right to life. People with disabilities live fulfilling lives full of love and meaning. Disability must never be a rationale for abortion. There are misdiagnoses with such findings too, where babies are born with no disability.

Is there ever a time when late-term abortion is necessary to protect a woman's health?

No. In such cases, the doctor may deliver the child early. This may result in the undesired death of the baby. In such cases, the doctor is treating both the mother and child, doing their best to save both lives. It is never medically safer to perform a late-term abortion rather than deliver a child.

What about abortion in cases of rape or incest?

Rape and incest are unspeakable crimes, which are compounded even more when they result in pregnancy. A woman who is raped has an obvious right to self defense, which includes defense against conception resulting from rape. In such cases, medical providers will provide medications including emergency contraception to prevent ovulation, sperm capacitation and fertilization. In addition to offering physical, psychological and spiritual support, Catholic healthcare facilities will dispense emergency contraception medication as part of its compassionate treatment for a rape victim if, after appropriate testing, there is no evidence conception has occurred already, it is always advisable for a woman who has been raped to seek treatment immediately - to prevent pregnancy, to receive trauma services and for evidence collection. Despite the heinous and unjust nature of the attack, if pregnancy does result from rape or incest, the Church teaches that the unborn child is a distinct human person with an inalienable right to life. The Church is committed to providing support for women, including helping them place the child for adoption.

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Responding to domestic violence

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, an ideal time to accompany families who experience domestic violence and abuse. Domestic violence is an ever-present challenge that too often doesn't get discussed as much as it should be.

Surveys have shown that the pandemic has resulted in a noticeable increase in domestic violence and that the longer that the pandemic continues, the more domestic violence claims more victims. It's not surprising, considering the variety of challenges families have been facing, including economic stress, isolation, and lack of services to name but a few.

Unfortunately, Catholic families are not immune to domestic violence. Dr. Christauria Welland provides research data in her book, *How Can We Help to End Violence in Catholic Families?: A Guide for Clergy, Religious, and Laity*, downloadable in six languages for free at www.paxinfamilia.org. It is most unfortunate that 1 in 15 children are exposed to intimate partner violence each year, and 90% of these children are eyewitnesses to this violence.

Researchers consistently report that cohabiting couples experience higher rate of domestic violence than married couples. They have also found that couples who cohabit before marriage

experience much higher rates of divorce. Those who cohabit tend to have lower levels of commitment, which is associated with higher levels of violence.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) addresses the issue of domestic violence and abuse in the pastoral statement, *When I Call for Help: A Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence Against Women*. The statement is posted in English and Spanish on the USCCB website and is available in print, along with a resource card that lists eleven indicators of abuse and contact information for help in the USCCB online store. A companion video, *When You Preach...Remember Me*, is available on YouTube: [youtube.com/watch?v=3R3PCOkEf8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3R3PCOkEf8).

Catholics For Family Peace is dedicated to providing resources at www.catholicsforfamily-peace.org. More resources are available at: <https://www.usccb.org/topics/marriage-and-family-life-ministries/domestic-violence>.

If you or someone you know are victims of domestic violence, free, confidential help is available 24 hours a day by calling 1-800-799-7233.

Stephen M. Tartaglia is the director of Family Life for the Diocese of Ogdensburg



Stephen M. Tartaglia

Diocesan superintendent to get 'Lighting the Fire' honor

Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, a Sister of St. Joseph and former executive director of CSAANYS; and Sister Remigia Kushner, a Sister of St. Joseph and department chairperson, graduate director and professor of education at Manhattan College.

Carol Hayes, executive director of CSAANYS, said this year's honorees reflect the significance of the organization's 50th anniversary. "The award honors those that have dedicated their careers to the support of Catholic education in (New York State)," Hayes said. "Each year Catholic leaders are chosen based on recommendations from their colleagues for the award. This year the CSAANYS (executive board) made the choices in light of the 50th anniversary to honor those that have had significant and long-standing support for Catholic schools."

St. Joseph and former executive director of CSAANYS; and Sister Remigia Kushner, a Sister of St. Joseph and department chairperson, graduate director and professor of education at Manhattan College.

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"The award honors those that have dedicated their careers to the support of Catholic education in (New York State)," Hayes said. "Each year Catholic leaders are chosen based on recommendations from their colleagues for the award. This year the CSAANYS (executive board) made the choices in light of the 50th anniversary to honor those that have had significant and long-standing support for Catholic schools."

The diocesan superintendent will receive her award from Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin, episcopal vicar for Education and the New Evangelization.

Serving 424 Catholic schools and some 180,000 students in the state, CSAANYS is marking its 50th anniversary in 2022. It was organized under the leadership of Brother Thomas Draney, C.F.C., and Brother Peter Pontolillo, S.M.

"It was decided that the only way to get our schools what they needed was to organize statewide," said Hayes. "At the time Catholic schools had almost a half million students whose parents' paid taxes and were denied a basic return on those taxes or things such as transportation, textbooks, and student services."

For more information, visit csaanys.org/annual-gathering.

CLASS IS IN SESSION



CCD students in Tupper Lake were excited to return to their classrooms for the first day of CCD. Pictured is Mrs. Lacey Dukette's kindergarten class, on the first day of classes at St. Alphonsus Holy Name of Jesus.

Environmental Stewardship

A critical need

Each October the Church in the U.S. celebrates "Respect Life Month." We are called to consider more deeply why every human life is valuable and reflect on how to build a culture that protects life from conception to natural death.

One of the critical needs of our culture at the moment is to provide an environment that can protect all life so that it can survive and flourish. This is a major concern of youth today. Parents are concerned about what kind of environment will nourish their children.

In his encyclical letter on the environment, called *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis writes: "the notion of the common good also extends to future generations. The global economic crises have made painfully obvious the detrimental effects of disregarding our common destiny, which cannot exclude those who come after us. We can no longer speak of sustainable development apart from intergenerational solidarity" (LS #159).

*Across the world, young people are raising their voices to make it clear that caring for our common home is a major concern for them. Given scientific reports and planetary trends, they're being frank about their anxieties for the future: what will the world look like in the coming decades? Will it be hospitable enough for them to build thriving lives? Is it responsible for them to bring children into this world? Would this anxiety about the future not affect the mothers nurturing new life in their wombs and the young children being born?

*Older generations have a responsibility to steward the earth so that it can be passed down to those that come after them. They also have a responsibility to listen to the perspective and the experience of young people, keeping in mind St. Benedict's maxim that "it is often to a young person that the Lord reveals what is best" (Rule of St. Benedict III).

*See: St. Columban Mission for Justice, Peace and Ecology Jubilee for the Earth

Last chance for "Christ is Here: Come Encounter Him"

There's one more day to participate in "Christ is Here: Come Encounter Him," a presentation and discussion to help us understand how Christ draws us to Himself through all things in this world.

The presentation will be held at St. Mary's Parish

Center, Brushton, in Dostie Hall in Watertown, and in the Emmaus Room, St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh.

All three presentations will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Attendees must bring their own lunch. It is free to attend.

To register go to: www.rcdony.org/christ

Rest in Peace

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

Oct. 12 – Rev. Francis Xavier Pelletier, 1881; Rev. P. Joseph Mullins, O.S.A., 1960

Oct. 13 – Rev. Francis X. Campbell, O.S.A., 1984

Oct. 14 – Rev. James Alexander Hagarty, 1903; Deacon Frederic A. Brousseau, 2019

Oct. 15 – Rev. James Haffey, 1918; Rev. Mark Collins Liebler, 1975; Rev. Robert Fleig, S.J., 1986; Most Rev. Thomas Andrew Donnellan, 1987

Oct. 17 – Rev. Antoine Anselm Thomas, 1900; Rev. Athanasie Marion, O.M.I., 1935

Oct. 18 – Rev. Edwin A. Kennedy, 1990; Deacon Chester Lloyd Price, 1991

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri-ann Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terri-annyanulavich@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.

Bishop's Public Schedule

Oct. 12 – 11 a.m. – Roman Catholic Center Board Meeting at Kateri Hall in Hogsburg

Oct. 13 – 1 p.m. – Meeting with the International Priests and Newly Ordained Priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg

Oct. 14 – 8 a.m. Superintendent's Day at the High Peaks Resort in Saranac Lake

Oct. 15 – 9 a.m. – 12th Annual Syracuse Catholic Women's Conference at the Oncenter

Oct. 16 – 11 a.m. – Confirmation at St. Peter's Parish (at St. Mary's Church) in Massena

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

Oct. 18 – 10 a.m. – Mass with the Students at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga followed by Classroom Visits

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

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults.

Pre-registration online is required. Participants may preregister at www.virtus.org.

Upcoming sessions:
Oct. 17 – 6 p.m., Catholic Community of St. Augustine, North Bangor
Oct. 20 – 6 p.m., St. Peter's Church, Lowville

Oct. 24 – 12:15 p.m., St. James School, Gouverneur
Oct. 25 – 9 a.m. – St. Joseph's Outreach Center, Plattsburgh
Oct. 26 – 1 p.m., Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, Watertown

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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope appoints new cardinals as members of dicasteries

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis appointed several recently created cardinals to be members of the dicasteries of the Roman Curia, the Vatican announced. Among the new appointments announced by the Vatican Oct. 7 was Cardinal Robert W. McElroy of San Diego, who will serve as a member of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life as well as the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. Cardinal McElroy was among the 20 prelates welcomed into the College of Cardinals by Pope Francis Aug. 27. English Cardinal Arthur Roche, prefect of the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, was named a member of the dicasteries for Evangelization, for Bishops and for Culture and Education. The pope named Korean Cardinal Lazarus You Heung-sik, prefect of the Dicastery for Clergy, as a member of the dicasteries for Evangelization, for Bishops and for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

Catholic-Methodist dialogue looks at rituals, mission

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Exploring their sacraments, rituals and outreach that promote reconciliation with God and among people, Catholic and Methodist experts acknowledged in a new document that divided Christians "fall short of what it means to be the church." Catholics and Methodists believe the sacrament of baptism is the most important means of reconciling an individual with God through Christ, but they both also have services where individuals confess their sins and where the community expresses its repentance, said the document, "God in Christ Reconciling: On the Way to Full Communion in Faith, Sacraments and Mission." In the document, the Joint International Commission for Dialogue between the World Methodist Council and the Catholic Church explored everything from differences over the role of the minister in reconciliation rituals to promoting conversion in the way their members treat the environment. Members of the commission presented the document to Pope Francis Oct. 5 and were scheduled to hold a public discussion about it at an evening event in Rome Oct. 7. During the meeting, Pope Francis spoke about the document's references to the biblical parable of the prodigal son, according to the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity. The pope, it said, underlined "the report's scriptural reflection that both Catholics and Methodists are 'sons' who, by sin, have wandered from the father's house, and who both need to return to the father to find unity in faith and sacramental life."

Parish, Catholic Charities help Florida migrants after lan

FORT MYERS, Fla. (CNS) – Father Patrick O'Connor, pastor of Jesús Obrero (Jesus the Worker) Parish, northwest of downtown Fort Myers, orchestrated a familiar operation Oct. 4 as he shuffled about his parish hall stacked high with clothing. An efficient food and water distribution line was in full swing to serve an estimated several thousand members of the mostly farmworker and Hispanic community who arrived on what was the busiest day of emergency supply distribution since lan landed, according to Father O'Connor. Volunteers from a Spanish-language radio station in West Palm Beach had just finished unloading a delivery of donated supplies when Father O'Connor came over to offer hugs and a blessing, along with the obligatory group photo with the radio station staff. "They put out the word for us and brought in five trucks for us full of water, food and clothes and baby items, diapers and feminine products and all sorts of things that people need right now – especially in East Fort Meyers that got hit so hard," Father O'Connor said of the radio station delivery.

Immigration advocates: DACA ruling should push Congress

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Catholic immigration advocates are emphasizing that the Oct. 5 ruling by a federal appeals court – finding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program is unlawful – sends another signal that permanent legislation is needed to protect young immigrants from deportation and put them on a path to U.S. citizenship.

A three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans affirmed a lower court's ruling last year that said the Obama administration did not have the legal authority in 2012 to create DACA in the first place.

This appeals court decision, similar to the ruling last summer from a federal judge in Texas, prevents the Biden administration from enrolling new participants in the program.

The new court decision continues to leave DACA in limbo. It did not say the program had to completely shut down or stop processing renewal applications, but it leaves in place last year's order from U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen that said DACA could continue only for current recipients with no new participants.

The 5th Circuit also returned the case to the lower court asking the judge to review new DACA regulations the Biden administration announced in August and set to go into effect Oct. 31.

"DACA, like asylum, the border – immigration policy writ large – doesn't belong in the courts," Dylan Corbett, executive director of Hope Border Institute, tweeted after the ruling was announced. "Congress and the White House need to pass legislation that honors our values, the rights and dignity of those who migrate, and the contributions of those who make America home."

Similarly, Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc., or CLINIC, tweeted Oct. 5 that the court's decision "only exacerbates the uncertainty felt by current and future #DACA recipients. We must enact permanent legislative solutions so #DACA recipients can live and work in the U.S. – free from fear or threat of deportation!"

In a statement the next day, CLINIC executive director Anna Gallagher said the court's decision was wrong and "only exacerbates the uncertainty felt by current and potential DACA recipients."

"DACA recipients are our neighbors, friends, family members and co-workers.

They are vital members of our communities," she said.

"Most importantly, as Catholics, we know they are our brothers and sisters. It is imperative that Congress enacts permanent legislative solutions" to enable them to continue to live and work in the United States, she added.

Patricia McGuire, president of Trinity Washington University – where DACA students make up 10% of the enrollment – called the ruling "just terrible."

In an Oct. 5 tweet, she said: "What is wrong with this country that it cannot allow such a simple act to exist without a devastating legal challenge? DACA recipients are hard-working, tax-paying, up-standing members of our communities, as college students they are brilliant and ambitious."

And Cabrini Immigrant Services of New York City retweeted messages from a local immigration group urging current DACA recipients to renew their status as soon as possible and urging President Joe Biden and Congress to take action on this issue now.

Catholic immigration advocates expressed similar frustration with last year's decision by the lower court where the judge ruled in favor of Texas and eight other states that filed suit in 2018 against DACA.

The states argued that President Barack Obama – who created the program by executive order – did not have the authority to do so because he bypassed Congress.

The states that joined Texas in the lawsuit – Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, South Carolina and West Virginia – also said the program has been a financial strain.

DACA has enabled about 700,000 qualifying young people, described as Dreamers to work, go to college, get health insurance, a driver's license and not face deportation. These young adults were brought to the U.S. as children by their parents without legal documentation.

Last summer, Washington Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville, chairman of the Committee on Migration of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the bishops were disappointed with judge's ruling, but they also have known "DACA" was never meant to be a permanent solution for Dreamers." He also said at the time that this issue calls for Congress to do something.

ADIRONDACK-FRANKLIN

MERCY CARE FRIENDSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Saranac Lake - Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is recruiting new volunteers and has scheduled a Friendship Volunteer Training Program.

Date: Oct. 19

Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Features: New Volunteers will join Mercy Care's more than 100 Friendship Volunteers from Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, and Tupper Lake and surrounding areas who are helping their elder neighbors stay connected to their communities and helping to make their lives a little easier and happier. Volunteers of all faiths are encouraged and invited to participate. There is no cost for the training but registration is required. Complementary lunch will be provided.

Contact: To register for the training, please contact Lexi Bevilacqua, Mercy Care's Education & Volunteer Training Manager, at abevilacqua@adkmercy.org or visit Mercy Care's website at www.adkmercy.org or call Lexi for more information at 518-523-5446.

DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR

St. Regis Falls - All are invited to the monthly first Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour for Vocations.

Date: First Saturday of the Month

Time: Following the 4:30 anticipated Mass

Place: St. Ann's Church

Features: Prayer after Mass, Night Prayer, Prayer for All Souls and the Holy Souls, Novena in Honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, The Reparation Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary with private meditation on the 15 Mysteries of the Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament reposed in the Tabernacle, and Prayers for the Holy Father and his intentions.

CLINTON

HARVEST DINNER

Altona - Holy Angels to have their harvest dinner.

Date: Oct. 16

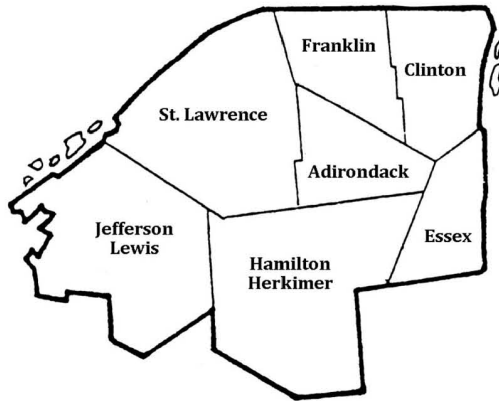
Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: Holy Angels Hall

Cost: Adults, \$14; Children 6-12, \$7; under 5, Free

Menu: Roast Beef, mashed potatoes, squash, carrots, corn, coleslaw, apple crisp, pumpkin crunch and drink.

Features: Take-out available. There



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

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

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

will also be a Chinese suction and baskets of different themes.

HOUSE SITTERS

Ellenburg Center - Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer is looking for many Volunteer "House Sitters".

Time: The responsibility is to arrive by 10 a.m. on your chosen day(s) and remain on premises until 4 p.m. to welcome visitors.

Features: Lunch and snack items on hand along with tea, coffee, soda, and bottled water. Training will be provided on the history of the House of Prayer, its mission, and the various ways to carry out this gentle ministry of hospitality for those seeking time in a home of Mary to listen to our Lord, browse in the library, or visit the "Gift Shop". Flexible schedule (and hours) are fine.

Contact: If interested in volunteering for one day a month, or week, or more, please call Sarah Anderson at 518-534-9976.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Watertown - Liferight will participate in the "40 Days for Life" Campaign

Date: Starting Sept. 24 and 40 days after

Time: 12:30 p.m. to 1:30

Place: Across from Planned Parenthood

Features: Pro-Life people will stand to draw attention to the fact that they are the number one abortion provider. This is a peaceful prayerful gathering. Participants will hold signs supporting moms and their unborn children.

BASKET RAFFLE

Houseville - St. Hedwig's Church is sponsoring their Annual Theme Basket Raffle.

Date: Oct. 30 (Baskets will be on display Sundays in October)

Cost: \$1 per ticket or \$5 for 6 tickets

Features: The proceeds will support church repairs and outreach projects.

Contact: For questions or donations of baked goods or theme baskets contact: Elaine 315-486-5532, Mary Ann 315-348-6260 or Lydia 315-348-7006.

CLM EVENT

Watertown - The Jefferson-Lewis Deanery CLM Association to present "A Journey of Conversion".

Date: Oct. 20

Time: Mass at 5:30 p.m., dinner and presentation immediately to follow.

Place: St. Anthony's Church

Cost: \$15 per person

Features: The presentation titled A Journey of Conversion will begin with a RCIA ministry introduction by Tony Marra of the Blessed Sacrament Parish and will then feature Kathy Falge and Allyssa Francis who have recently entered the Catholic Church via the RCIA process.

Contact: Registers at www.rcdony.org/clm-event (be sure to select the correct event as there are 2 events for the month of October).

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: Nov. 6

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

ELECTION NIGHT DINNER

Alexandria Bay - St. Cyril's Church to have dinner on election night.

Date: Nov. 8

Time: 4 p.m. to 6, take-out only

Cost: \$10

Contact: For take out call, Carol Shepard, 315-482-5227 or Sally Toutsant, 315-482-2724; For Deliveries call Joanne Fitch, 315-955-5504

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills - The Indian River Knights of Columbus 7471 will be having a spaghetti and meatball dinner.

Date: Nov. 11

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$8; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free; Sauce, \$6 per quart

ST. MARY'S FALL FUNDRAISER

Copenhagen - St. Mary's Church to have a raffle fundraiser.

Date: Drawing Nov. 20

Cost: Tickets are \$10 each or 6 for \$50

Features: Prizes include Cash two at \$500 each), Pack Basket (\$350 Value), Card/Cash Tree (\$400 Value), Folding Picnic Table (\$100 Value), Shop Local Gift Cards (\$255 Value), Simmons Farm Gift Certificate (\$350 Value), Wally's Auto Group Gift Basket (\$100 Value), Red Barn Meats Gift Certificate (\$100 Value), Quilt (\$300 Value), Afghan \$100 Value), Bird House (\$250 Value), Lotto Tree (\$100 Value), Fire Pit (\$200 Value). Must be 18 years or older to purchase tickets.

Contact: For tickets spend payment to St. Mary's Church, PO Box 12, Copenhagen, NY 13626

ST. LAWRENCE

HOLY HOUR

Canton - Holy Hour for Vocations to be held.

Date: Every Tuesday

Time: 4:10 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: Holy hour followed by Mass at 5:15 p.m. and confessions at 5:45 p.m.

ROSARY FOR LIFE

Canton - Rosary for life to be held.

Date: Every Saturday

Time: 4:25 p.m. preceding the 5 p.m. Vigil Mass

Place: St. Mary's Church

CLM EVENT

Massena - The St. Lawrence, Franklin and Adirondack Deaneries CLM Association to present a "Clergy Perspective on the 150th Diocesan Anniversary".

Date: Oct. 12

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Cost: \$20

Features: Clergy perspective on the 150th diocesan anniversary from different generations of priests, Father John Downs, Father Mark Reilly, and one more newly ordained priest.

Contact: Register at:

www.rcdony.org/clm-event Be sure to choose the correct CLM event when registering. There are two events from different deaneries going on during the month of October.

ROSARY

Ogdensburg - Joint the Legion of Mary in praying the rosary outside the Cathedral.

Date: Oct. 13

Time: after Noon Mass

Features: These prayers will mark the Anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun. Prayer warriors are invited to bring lawn chairs and meet outside, in front of the statue of the Queen of Peace, (weather permitting). The intention of this rosary is to beg the Blessed Virgin and Her Son to free America from the scourges of chaos, immorality and social upheaval so prevalent throughout the world.

ROSARY RALLY

Potsdam - Rosary Rally to be held.

Date: Oct. 15

Time: Noon

Place: In the park at the corner of Route 11 and Maple Street (across from Kinney Drugs)

Features: Please join us, united with many thousands of groups all over the country, to pray and do penance as our Lady of Fatima requested, in order to obtain pardon and peace for our country and the world.

ORGAN RECITAL

Ogdensburg - Dominic Fiacco will be giving a pipe organ recital.

Date: Oct. 23

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: As part of the Cathedral

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Vatican premiered film on Feast of St. Francis

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The Vatican hosted the global premiere of a new documentary on the urgent need to address climate change on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the same day the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 2015 Paris Agreement entered into force for the Holy See.

The two events Oct. 4 helped mark the feast of the patron saint of animals and ecology, and the namesake of Pope Francis.

The Vatican became a formal party to the U.N. convention in July and declared at the same time that it intended also to formally join the 2015 Paris Agreement.

"Both documents will enter into force for the Holy See, in the name and

on behalf of the Vatican City State, on 4 October 2022, the Solemnity of St. Francis," said a joint statement by the pontifical academies of Sciences and Social Sciences and the Vatican Secretariat of State's section for relations with states.

It was the same day a new film was launched at the Vatican for the world premiere of "The Letter: A Message For Our Earth," based on Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical letter, "Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home."

Presented by YouTube Originals, the film was written and directed by Emmy-winner Nicolas Brown and produced by the Oscar-winning production company "Off the Fence." It was made in

partnership with the Laudato Si' Movement, the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and the Dicastery for Communication.

In the seven years since the pope's landmark encyclical was published, "the environmental crisis of our common home has worsened drastically," Cardinal Michael Czerny, prefect of the integral development dicastery, said at a Vatican news conference Oct. 4.

"Clearly, the great treasure of Laudato Si's wisdom needs to become far more deeply known and effectively put into practice," he said.

At the news conference, Hoesung Lee, chair of the Intergovernmental Panel

on Climate Change, praised the pope's letter as being in dialogue with science and emphasized action was urgently needed.

"The scientific community welcomes the opportunity to engage with artists and the people of faith. Both faith and art hold a great convening power and can inspire genuine collective climate action," he said.

The film features activists representing wildlife, Indigenous peoples, young people and the poor – the voices of those who are least listened to, but are the most impacted by the consequences of climate change, Brown said at the news conference. The film includes their meeting

with Pope Francis last year to talk about their national and personal challenges and what needs to be done.

The activists included: Chief Cacique Odair "Dadá" Borari from the Amazon rainforest in Brazil; Ridhima Pandey, a 13-year-old climate activist from India; Arouna Kandé, a climate refugee from Senegal; U.S. scientists Greg Asner and Robin Martin; and Lorna Gold, president of Laudato Si' Movement.

The film is streaming for free at theletterfilm.org and YouTube Originals. People were encouraged to host viewings on a large screen at their parish, school or local community in order to encourage dialogue and action.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

parish's 70th anniversary celebrations. A light reception will follow.

Contact: For more information please contact Christine Bookman or Amy Schirmer at the Cathedral Office: 315-393-3930

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

Ogdensburg – The Legion of Mary will pray the rosary with devotions for First Saturday.

Date: Nov. 5

Time: 8 a.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

Features: Rosary with devotions

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY DEVOTION

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

Date: Nov. 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.

MONTHLY BRUNCH

Norfolk – Parish of the Visitation

and St. Raymond's will have their monthly Knights of Columbus Brunch.

Date: Nov. 12 (Second Sunday of each month)

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 11:30

Place: Father Amyot Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$10; under 12, \$5; under 5, Free; Omelets, add \$3; Take-outs available

Contact: For more information contact Grand Knight Gil Gonthier 315-212-5166.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

CHRIST IS HERE:

COME ENCOUNTER HIM

Presentation to be held for an opportunity to understand how Christ draws us to Himself through all things in this world! Event to be held on 2 different days at 6 different locations total.

Schedule: Oct 15 at St. Mary's Parish Center, Brushton; Dostie Hall in Watertown; Emmaus Room, St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh

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

Features: All are welcome to attend this event presented by the Diocese of Ogdensburg Department of Education. This is an in-person event only. Attendees must bring their own lunch. It is

free to attend.

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

DOVS PILGRIMAGE

Peru – DOVS invite you on a pilgrimage to Mother Cabrini Shrine and St. Patrick's Oratory.

Date: Oct. 26

Time: Stats with lunch at noon at Augustine's parish center

Features: There is no cost to attend, but donations are welcome. If you choose to go to dinner afterwards at Livingood's it will be at your own expense.

Contact: To register contact Connie Randall at 315-783-0574 or 315-265-2762 Registrations are due Oct. 20.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

The Vocation Office and the Office of Youth Ministry is sponsoring a Middle School Retreat (Grades 6-8) in three regions of the Diocese.

Schedule: Nov. 4 at Immaculate Heart Central School, Watertown for Jefferson, Lewis, Hamilton-Herkimer Deaneries; Nov. 16 at St. Mary's Social Hall, Massena for the St. Lawrence and Franklin Deaneries

Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Features: The purpose of a Middle School Retreat is to guide young women and men to prayerfully consider what God's plan is for their lives. This invitation is open to students in Grades 6-8 both in the Catholic schools and public schools. This is a Retreat Day for the students and is considered a legal excused absence.

Contact: Your pastor, Catholic school principal, or Religious Education Coordinator for a registration form.

LOVING AUTHENTICALLY

All are invited to attend this free seminar designed to deepen our understanding of how Church doctrine on sexual morality connects with our happiness.

Schedule: 4 different times and locations to attend. Nov. 19, 2022 at St. Mary's Massena; Feb. 12, 2023 at Newman Center, Plattsburgh; April 22, 2023 at St. Bernard's Saranac Lake; May 20, 2023 at St. Mary's Ticonderoga.

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

Features: Program will be a showing of "Unprotected: A Pope, the Pill, and the Perils of Sexual Chaos." With Q & A led by Natural Family Planning Di-

rectors, Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli and Catholic Theologian, Maura Hearnden Fehlner, Ph.D

Contact: to register go www.rcdony.org/lovingauthentically. For more information contact Stephen Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org

YOUTH BUSES FOR LIFE

Washington DC – Travel to DC with other High school students for the Youth Bus for Life Pilgrimage to join in the 50th March for Life.

Date: Jan. 19 – 21, 2023

Cost: \$150 includes transportation, two hotel nights and 5 meals.

Features: Pick up locations: Potsdam, Gouverneur and Watertown.

Contact: Visit cdony.org/pro-life to view complete itinerary and to register.



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

'Outsiders' show trust in God

Despite the fact that God had chosen the Jewish people as his very own, He was disappointed at their lack of faith and trust in Him and their lack of gratitude for His favors. There are two great stories this Sunday in which God clearly points out that "outsiders" were more trusting in God's healing power and more grateful for His favors than were His chosen people. The two healing stories today highlight Jesus' intention of bringing salvation to Jews and gentiles alike.

The first reading is really a shortened version of the very exciting story of God's healing an "outsider" named Naaman, a Syrian

military commander who has contracted leprosy. His wife's Jewish slave had suggested that he seek help from the prophet Elisha. He goes to the king of Israel loaded with gifts and letters of introduction from his own king. Fearful of a plot, the king sends him to the prophet Elisha who tells him to wash seven times in the Jordan. At first, he storms away in

anger. "Aren't our rivers better than yours?" he complains. But on the advice of his own servants, he swallows his pride and obeys the prophet. As soon as he enters the waters of the Jordan, his leprosy is cured! Immensely grateful, he is converted, and wor-



**Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore**

October 9

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

2 Kings 5:14-17

2 Timothy 2:8-13

Luke 17:11-19

ships the God of Israel. In the story, this Syrian has more faith in God's power than the Jews have!

A similar theme is found in today's famous Gospel about the 10 lepers. Because their disease, incurable at the time, was contagious, lepers were shunned by all, and looked down upon as great sinners. The disciples must have been appalled when Jesus shows these outcasts such compassion. When He sends them to the priests for official reinstatement into society, He also heals

them during their journey. One of them, a Samaritan, returns immediately, and falls down in thankful adoration at Jesus' feet. Luke emphasizes how disappointed the master is that only one of them comes back. "Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?"

Both of today's readings deal with God's disappointment with His special children, the ones to whom He calls His chosen people. As disciples of Jesus, we have ample proof that we are His special ones, His chosen ones. Yet, over and over again we have been disobedient complainers. Often, we have even turned to false gods of money or possessions and neglected to love Him and to serve Him. God must be so disap-

pointed when we don't show our gratitude for His favors. On the contrary, we are often resentful that God hasn't done more for us. Like spoiled children, we just take God for granted! This ingratitude in the face of His gifts and our indifference in response to His love is what hurts God the most.

We need to ask ourselves today, "Am I really grateful for God's constant love and for his forgiveness? Or do I just take Him for granted?" We pass by the confessionals in our churches countless times. Instead of going in from time to time to ask God's forgiveness, we just take it for granted. "Oh, sure I believe that God is forgiving. He forgives me all the time!" And God says, "Not so fast! Show me you mean it."

CALLED TO SERVE

Some final thoughts on posture

For the past couple of weeks, I have been rambling in this spot about our posture at Mass.

Doing the right thing at particular moments in life was drilled into me from youth. I guess I never outgrew the lessons.

I recall my parents instructing me about deportment, etiquette, table manners and things. The priests and religious sisters took over when the time was appropriate to help us apply what we learned at home in school and in church.

Do not for a moment think we were all little saints.

In grammar school, the kids went to the school Mass on Sunday. In church, Sister always sat behind the darlings she had under her wing so she could scan the

group from behind and instantly know when one of us was acting improperly. It was truly uncanny how she knew.

Sister materialized at the end of your pew and stared. That's all it took – *The Stare*.

Heads dropped, smiles disappeared, Hail Mary's were recited almost in unison.

Impropriety took many forms. It ranged from not paying attention or not praying when we should, to listening to a World Series game on the transistor radio through an ear plug.

Trust me, you could really get in trouble for that.

Through it all, we somehow managed to learn the proper times to sit, to kneel, to genuflect and to stand at Mass. Mom and dad, father and sister had a

lot to do with that. Looking back, I recognize their contributions, but I also realize my friends and schoolmates contributed too. We learned and practiced our faith together.

There's a lot of "the way it was" missing today. That's too bad.

Young people know how to act and move at Mass. They learned those positions early on and have never forgotten them. Unfortunately, they just don't come to church. We see fewer families, fewer young people in the pews.

"Mom and Dad don't go to church, why should I?" That is a common defense. Parents and kids no longer recognize attending

Mass on the weekend is an obligation. Going to Mass used to come first. All other activities waited until we fulfilled our Sunday obligation.



**Deacon
Kevin Mastellon**

Now we often hear "Coach says if I do not show up on time for the Sunday morning practice, she will bench me."

Hello! There are other Masses you can attend on a weekend. The sports commitment cop-out is a lame excuse for missing the opportunity to join with others in worshipping the God who made us.

Dear reader, what are we to do?

Last week I mentioned that we sit to meditate after receiving Communion.

When the celebrant invites us to pray, we stand for a final time.

We listen to the closing prayer, receive a blessing and a final admonition to leave in peace, leave glorifying the Lord by the way we live and act in the coming week.

That dismissal comes with the assumption that you will be back, next week, to be recharged by the Word of God and Eucharist. I pray you will. We need you to pray for those who are missing.

I suggest you leave your radio or iPhone in your pocket turned off.

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



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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Honoring the elderly

The presence of grandparents and the elderly is still precious for families in society in Bangladesh. Particularly in rural areas, families are still close together, and the elderly live with children and grandchildren. But, due to progressive urbanization, many families who have moved to the city or abroad live without the presence of their grandparents. On the other hand, many elderly people are unable to adapt to city life and prefer to stay in rural villages. In this state, many of them are left alone in the last years of their life. In this social framework, the Catholic community in Bangladesh recently celebrated the "Day for grandparents and the elderly" with the aim of teaching affection and love for grandparents.

On the day celebrated on July 24, many parishes entrusted the elderly with a testimony or a sermon to address to the faithful. As Fides learned, in the community of Pagar in Gazipur, near Dhaka, Isidore Gomes, who is a grandfather, gave a speech during Sunday mass.

"The importance of the elderly person is immense," he said. "In this era marked by new technologies and smartphones, children and grandchildren are busy with their devices that can widen the generation gap. It is important to take care of the elderly in the family."

Gomes, who lives with his children and grandchildren, said he knows of many cases where families move to the city, and grandparents are left alone in the villages.

"We, grandparents and elders, want to be with our family," he remarked. "We want to talk every day with our children and grandchildren. Due to our old age, many of us cannot go to church, priests come to our home and give us the Eucharist, but sometimes young people are not very inclined to visiting the elderly and grandparents."

And he recalled: "As a young man I spent time with my parents. I met many elderly, and I learned a lot from them."

Death too must be a moment of joy, not mourning, he observed.

"We must welcome the death of the elderly as a journey of joy, giving thanks for the time we had them by our side," he said. "The journey to eternal life will be light and joyful for them if their relatives stay with them in the last days of their life."

The president of the Episcopal Commission for family life, Msgr. Ponen Paul Kubi CSC, in a message sent to the parishes wrote: "The elderly are members of our family, society and the Church. They are important and the Church loves them. We hope that dialogue and harmony will develop between the new generations and the elderly. As the Pope says, the knowledge and experience of grandparents is precious for young people."

Article from FIDES missionary news service
of the Pontifical Mission Societies

OBITUARIES

Adams – Ronald J. Gillenkirk, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 19, 2022 at St. Cecilia's Church.

Brushton – Mary Ann (Jock) Durant, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 6, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Carthage – Irene Lucille (Waite) Astafan, 89; Graveside Services Oct. 8, 2022 at Champion Hillside Cemetery.

Clayton – John J. "Jack" Maguire; Funeral Services Oct. 8, 2022 at T.R. Jetty Funeral Home; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

Evans Mills – Sally Anne McGill, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 7, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Michael's Cemetery, Antwerp.

Gabriels – Elizabeth Jane (Shea) Caldwell, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 8, 2022 at Church of the Assumption; burial in St. Johns in the Wilderness Cemetery, Paul Smiths.

Gabriels – Richard A. Trudeau, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 7, 2022 at Church of the Assumption; burial in Harrietstown Cemetery.

Hogansburg – Elizabeth (Jock) Kelly, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 4, 2022 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Lyon Mountain – Robert "Bob" Donah, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 6, 2022 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Malone – Janet D. (McKenzie) Matthews, 85; Funeral Services Oct. 4, 2022 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Massena – Kathy L. (Smith) LaMora,

63; Graveside services Oct. 5, 2022 at Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Scott Rogers, 58; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 6, 2022 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Mineville – Isabel M. (Garcia) Rotella, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 7, 2022 at All Saints Church.

Mooers Forks – Heather J. (Finlayson) Brassard, 62; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 4, 2022 at St. Ann's Church.

Mooers Forks – Armand Joseph Lafountain, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 8, 2022 at St. Ann's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Norwood – Martha H. (McEwen) Herne, 92; Funeral Services Oct. 6, 2022 at the Buck Funeral Home; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Colton.

Ogdensburg – Floyd "Jr." H. Mack, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 11, 2022 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Peru – Philip L. Dyke, 69; Graveside Services Oct. 8, 2022 at St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Peru – Susan M. (Rhino) Nolan, 63; Funeral Services Oct. 7, 2022 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in parish cemetery.

Peru – Ronald Doris Provost, 81; Funeral Services Oct. 3, 2022 at Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.



Peru – John David Soulia, 73; Funeral Services Oct. 11, 2022 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

Rouses Point – Albertine "Tina" K. (Jubert) Garratt, 96; Graveside Services Oct. 3, 2022 at St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Sackets Harbor – Martin William Rasinski, 83; Memorial Mass Oct. 15, 2022 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

St. Regis Falls – Leona F. (Lucey) Wheeler, 81; Funeral Services Oct. 7, 2022 at St. Ann's Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery, Dickinson.

Star Lake – Mary E. (Walrath) MacAleese, 91; Graveside services Oct. 7, 2022 at Cranberry Lake Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Florence A. (Whitford) Fitzgerald, 101; Graveside Services at Valley View Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Stephen "Gus" Tice, 58; Private Services to be held.

Watertown – John A. Lettiere, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 12, 2022 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Westport – Waldemar Kasriels, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 13, 2022 at St. Philip Neri Church.



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