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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 77 Number 25

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

OCTOBER 26, 2022

## RUNNING WITH GRACE



In honor of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month, the first annual "Run With Grace" 5k, hosted by Healing Grace: Center for Hope and Healing was held at US Oval in Plattsburgh on Oct. 9. Read the full story on Page 5.

## RESPECT LIFE MONTH



October is Respect Life Month. In this annual Respect Life edition of the North Country Catholic, learn about some of the efforts to protect life from conception to natural death in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

STORIES AND INFORMATION ON PAGES 2 THROUGH 5, 7 & 8

## Retired Pope Benedict: Vatican II was 'necessary'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The Second Vatican Council was "not only meaningful, but necessary," retired Pope Benedict XVI said in a letter to a conference about his theological work at the Franciscan University of Steubenville.

A theological understanding of the world's different religions, the relationship between faith and reason and, especially, the nature and mission of the church in the modern world were challenges the Catholic

Church needed to face, the retired pope wrote in the message read Oct. 20.

The Vatican-based Joseph Ratzinger-Benedict XVI Foundation sponsored the conference Oct. 20-21 on "Joseph Ratzinger's Vision of the Church and Its Relevance for Contemporary Challenges."

In his letter to conference participants, the retired pope said he hoped their discussions and an understanding of his theological work before, during and after Vatican II

would "be helpful in the struggle for a right understanding of the church and the world in our time."

As a priest and theologian, Father Ratzinger attended all four sessions of the council as a theological adviser – a "peritus" – to the archbishop of Cologne, Germany.

St. John XXIII's decision to call the council, he said in the letter, was a surprise to everyone and many people initially thought it would "unsettle

and shake the church more than to give her a new clarity for her mission."

But "the need to reformulate the question of the nature and mission of the church has gradually become apparent. In this way, the positive power of the council is also slowly emerging," he wrote.

Explaining his focus on ecclesiology, the theological study of the church, the retired pope said it had long focused on the church as an institution,

but after the First World War "the wider spiritual dimension of the concept of the church was now joyfully perceived" in the work of influential theologians.

On the other hand, "the complete spiritualization of the concept of the church, for its part, misses the realism of faith and its institutions in the world," he wrote. "Thus, in Vatican II the question of the church in the world finally became the real central problem."

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COUNTRY  
CATHOLIC

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Publish 45 issues per year. Weekly except skipping every other week beginning July through Aug. and skipping one week in Dec. by the Diocese of Ogdensburg. 622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Editorial Office:

622 Washington Street,  
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catholic.org

Entered at the

Post Office:

Ogdensburg, NY  
13669 andadditional mailing offices as  
Periodical Postage.

Subscription:

For one year:

In-Diocese Rate: \$27

Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication  
should be  
addressed to  
PO Box 326Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
and should be received byThursday prior to  
publication.Paper is printed each  
Monday;deadline is Wednesday.  
Member, Catholic Press  
Association.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to  
North Country Catholic,

PO Box 326

Ogdensburg, NY

13669-0326

## It boggles my mind

"That seems kind of harsh." Those were the words my son, Jake, uttered as I explained to him what I was doing chasing shrimp around their tank with a net.

What was I doing? I was "culling" shrimp.

The tiny freshwater shrimp I raise as part of my aquarium hobby are "red cherry" neocaridinas. As the name implies, they're a deep cherry red color. When a female

shrimp delivers a clutch of babies, there may be 20 "shrimplets" born. Of those, maybe five will be "high grade" with dark, vibrant

color. Another 10 will be "mid-grade" with the red slightly less vibrant or consistent. Another five will be "low-grade," and they'll show orange/brown coloration.

It's a common practice to "cull" the low-grade shrimp (sometimes even the mid-grade) and remove them from the tank to preserve the "best genes" for breeding. When I recently

culled my tank, I placed the low-grade shrimp in one of my other tanks, currently inhabited by a betta fish named Solo.

Darcy L.  
Fargo

"Won't Solo eat the shrimp?" Jake asked.

"He might," I said. "If they live, they live. If they don't, Solo gets live lunch."

That's when Jake gave his "that seems kind of harsh" response. He didn't love the idea of essentially setting the ugly shrimp up to be lunch. A few of my friends/family members gave similar responses.

I thought about the reactions to my shrimp culling a lot as I worked on this annual Respect Life edition of the North Country Catholic.

It boggles my mind that people I know and love think culling my \$2 shrimp is harsh, but large portions of

our society think it's their right to essentially cull babies, criminals, the sick and elderly...

My shrimp don't have personalities that I can discern. They aren't made in the image and likeness of God. They don't have souls that will live for eternity. Yet somehow pets seem to be afforded more compassion and dignity than some people.

Please join me this Respect Life Month to pray that our layers of government and the people they govern have a change of heart and learn to love all life from conception to natural death.

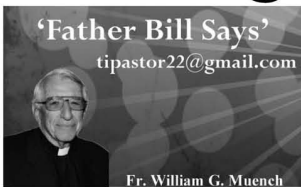
Anything else is way worse than harsh.

## Remembering Pope John XXIII

Recently, I celebrated a daily Mass, and I discovered that it was the Feast Day of Saint Pope John XXIII. As you may remember, I have always been dedicated to Pope John XXIII. He is truly my patron saint. I can truly tell you that Pope John transformed my life as a priest and a person. I am certain that you remember many things about "Good" Pope John.

So, today, I would like to spend some time with you remembering Pope John XXIII. Pope John was elected Pope in 1958. I remember that I was a student in the seminary preparing for priesthood. He was to be pope only a few years, yet he was truly a transformative pope. Most of all I remember him as the pope who convened the Second Vatican Council. That Council was a true gift to our Catholic Church. It had a profound influence on all Catholics. So, as we remember Pope John XXIII, I want to remind you of some of the things about his council.

This Council was in session from 1962-65. I remember that Pope John XXIII opened



Fr. William G. Muench

the council with an introductory talk. He believed that the council would throw open the windows of the Catholic Church and allow the Holy Spirit in. He declared the initial theme of this council as a call to a new, more alive holiness for us all – clergy and laity.

When most of us think back to the Second Vatican Council, the first thing we think of is the changes that were made to the liturgy of the Mass. The council began with allowing the prayers of the Mass to be celebrated in the vernacular – for us, in English. For me, this was a huge change. For the first several years I was a priest, I celebrated Mass in Latin. Also, the celebrant priest would now celebrate Mass facing the congregation. I must admit to you that these changes brought about by the council had a profound

effect on me as a priest. I discovered a new connection with the people at Mass; there was a new relationship.

The council's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium) urged a spirit of holiness for bishops and priests, as well as for all the laity, the men and women of the Church. The council urged the leaders of our Catholic Church to recognize the great gift to the Church of the laity. The council fathers felt that for much too long the laity were only spectators – spectators at liturgy, spectators to the various activities of the Church. Today, we know that the laity is invited to participate fully in the Mass and to take a part in the many activities of parish life.

The Second Vatican Council called upon all priests and lay Catholics to discover more deeply the Sacred Scriptures. We must admit this was not so true before the council. Today, we know the Bible is an integral part of the life of Catholics. Priests make the Scriptures a foundation for our homilies and talks. Lay people are now urged to read the Bible as

part of their spiritual life. I continue to find great joy in being part of a parish Bible study group.

This council also brought to our Catholic Church a new Spirit of Ecumenism. We, Catholics, were encouraged to dialogue and pray with our brothers and sisters of other faith groups. The council spoke of these groups as brothers and sisters. Personally, I do find a certain joy and peace in interfaith meetings and services.

Recently, I noticed an article concerning the Second Vatican Council. This is a quote: We are all encouraged, clergy and laity, to continue to remain open to the Spirit. That Spirit that touched the Second Vatican Council so that our Church may do the work of the Holy Spirit, continuing the work of the council even now. We are urged to continue to study the documents of the council that all, especially the young, may understand the message of the council. Our hope is that our Catholic Church will continue to find new energy and it will explode in God's own appropriate time.

## RESPECT LIFE: CALLED TO SERVE MOMS IN NEED

# Plattsburgh Birthright looks to expand services

By **Mary Beth Bracy**  
Contributing Writer

PLATTSBURGH — Birthright held an open house on Wednesday, October 19. They invited people from human service agencies and community leaders.

"We regularly receive referrals from the Department of Social Services, WIC, and Stop Domestic Violence. The open house was for people who were interested in taking a tour to see what Birthright is about and a luncheon was provided," shared Mary Skillan, who officially became Birthright's director at the end of the summer.

"I really feel we all need to step up the game (of helping the woman and baby after the birth too) — not that we don't provide services — parenting classes, diapers, wipes, formula," Skillan commented. "Women can come in every week and pick outfits out for their little ones."

"Birthright's foundress Louise Summerhill's philosophy was that we need to be a friend, love, and continue beyond birth," Skillan noted. "Our motto is 'It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth ... and the right of every child to be born.'"

Skillan mentioned that sometimes women need help with more than supplies. A young mother, she related, may contact them any say: "This baby has had me up all night crying. What do I do?" Unfortunately, not everyone is raised in a positive environment and with parents who have good parenting skills. We have parenting classes and a lot of it is providing mentoring, being a friend. Parenting classes go on to age two here, but many of our



MARY BETH BRACY/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC  
**Mary Skillan, Plattsburgh Birthright's new director, shows some of the infant clothing available to families in need.**

mentors and clients keep in touch as friends."

"I want to educate and be proactive," Skillan added. "Honestly I've been trying to read both sides of the coin to try to understand where people are coming from. Some don't understand that we are non-dominational, non-judgmental, loving, and non-political. That's what drew me to this organization. It's all about loving the mom and dad, being there for parents and children. When a woman finds herself in a crisis pregnancy, she thinks it is a problem to be taken care of and quickly. Her boyfriend and family might tell her that if she doesn't have an abortion, there will be a blot on their reputation. Her boyfriend may say 'If you love me, you'll do this.' We need to be there for them, help them to take a breath.

"Terminating a pregnancy is an invasive medical procedure that has

risks to the mother. Any procedure does. The long-term effects are physical as well as emotional."

Skillan has more ideas to grow the organization in the future. Skillan said Birthright is constantly asking, "What else can we do to help those in need, to offer them love and support?"

Presently, clients are able to earn points simply by attending a parenting class and doing the assignments. They use the points to choose new items for their baby from Birthright's Blessings Boutique.

One of their board members did the Birthright Ambassador Program at a local Church.

"We are happy to talk to Confirmation programs and speak to groups," Skillan said.

Years ago, Birthright talked to Plattsburgh State University (PSU) health classes at the Newman Center, focusing on the life

perspective.

At one of the classes, a former PSU couple was present, Skillan recalled. The wife shared about how she used to sun bathe on the roof next to the Newman Center. Then, she told the students how she got pregnant, went to Planned Parenthood, and terminated the pregnancy. Later, the couple married and had kids. They told their children about the abortion. One said, "You mean we could have had another sibling?"

Skillan emphasized the importance of youth getting involved in Birthright's work.

"People could see this young woman as a peer, so they listened to what she had to say," she said. "Peer to peer is so important in getting young people to respond."

One of Birthright's new board members is a young woman.

"It is good to get a fresh perspective, especially from somebody younger," Skillan said.

When she was working as Campus Minister at the Newman Center, Skillan brought Birthright and Project Rachel brochures to the college. She and some other students were trying to begin a pro-life group there.

"It is tough for college kids on campus," she said. "A student came over and said he supported us but couldn't get involved because it would hurt his career."

When he spoke up in class, his professor confronted him.

Prior to the pandemic, some nursing students volunteered at Birthright and hoped to work with them in organizing a blood drive.

Skillan recently attended a mini-conference on

human trafficking and immigration at St. Joseph's Outreach Center, Treadwells Mills.

"I87 is a major corridor for possible victims," she stated. "It's important that we be part of the team to support these people. If something doesn't seem quite right, they can contact me."

Birthright continues to work with other churches and agencies in the area to further help women and families.

"It is great to have connections and collaborate with other agencies," Ms. Skillan reflected. "The Catholic faith community has always been wonderful about supporting Birthright. Evangelical communities send monthly donations, volunteer, and are very on fire for life. We continue to give layettes to mom's expecting babies. We are just trying to make our presence known, to make people aware of who we are and the services that we offer. We want to expand our reach so that more people in Clinton County know we exist."

Birthright of Plattsburgh also has a Facebook page and is advertising with Sun Community News under their activities calendar. Birthright accepts monetary donations and material donations, especially items for new babies. Hours are Monday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Thursday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Birthright is hoping to have Saturday hours soon and expand their hours on other days.

For more information, to visit, or volunteer, call 518-324-2010. Birthright also operates a 24-hour help line at 1-800-550-4900.

## RESPECT LIFE: CALLED TO SERVE MOMS IN NEED

## Pregnancy center supports moms and babies

By Mary Beth Bracy  
Contributing Writer

PLATTSBURGH – “Help, Hope and Truth” is the motto of the Plattsburgh Pregnancy Center and clearly reflected in the dedication of its volunteers.

“We are trying to give truth to the people in our community,” said Rose Blaise, director of the Plattsburgh Pregnancy Center (PPC).

The PPC is a maternal support system.

“We support those who want a child and help them do that,” Blaise noted. “New York State is the abortion capitol of the world. There are 75,000 abortions here every year. Abortion is making our population whiter. Twenty-eight percent of black babies are aborted. Only 10% of white babies are aborted. The abortion industry is so bent on making money that they don’t care about their clients’ mental or emotional health. Thank God our supporters are helping us make a difference, so that people don’t make choices they will have to live with later on.”

She continued, “Those who have had abortions often suffer from drug abuse, depression or suicide. There are many people who want a child to adopt. This option is less available because of abortion. Over 64 million babies have been aborted since 1973.”

“We are here to show God’s love,” added Brenda Smith, PPC’s sonographer. She has worked in the medical field for over 40 years. Although it is not a medical facility, they have some retired medical professionals like her avail-



MARY BETH BRACY/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

**Plattsburgh Pregnancy Center volunteer, from left, Brenda Smith, sonographer, Rosa Salinas, translator, Mary Eisenhauer, volunteer, and Rose Blaise, director, show the center’s Sonogram machine, purchased through the support of donors and the Bishop’s Fund Appeal.**

able but do not give medical advice.

“There isn’t anything they need or want we can’t help them with,” Smith said. “It’s really about supporting the mom. It is a community effort, and not just about the women who volunteer at the PPC. We are mainly here to support women who have many different pressing concerns. Those who are abortion-minded or have been to Planned Parenthood but want to have other information. Planned Parenthood never allows patients to see the sonogram images and some women want to know how far they are along in their pregnancy. We don’t do an ultrasound for entertainment.”

The center also provides services to women who have a change of heart after taking an abortion pill.

“Some women panic and take the abortion pill RU486 and regret it,” Smith said. “We are able to contact medical professionals to provide a pill to

reverse that process.”

The ultrasound machine used at PPC cost \$30,000. It was purchased through the generosity of many community supporters, including the Knights of Columbus and Catholic Daughters. The Bishop’s Fund has been generous, providing a pro-life grant yearly to help with rent. PPC also has a few supporters who give monthly, including The New Testament Church, and individuals from Florida and New Mexico with ties to the North Country. Recently PPC has received monetary support from First Assembly of God Church.

The volunteers are ready to assist anyone who calls or comes to their door. Free Pregnancy tests are provided. They educate women about obtaining insurance and share information about other programs like Birthright, WIC and medical providers. If housing assistance is needed, referrals to Catholic Charities can be made. St.

Joseph’s Outreach Center can help with food and material needs. Adoption and maternity home referrals can be made.

PPC has a variety of literature available. Some has been given to local Confirmation students.

“Many young people go to college, become disillusioned, and end up leaving the Catholic Church,” said Blaise. “We are here for young people, so they know the truth and are informed. They need to have this information before college, the facts, so that conversations won’t only be one sided.”

Mary Eisenhauer, a PPC volunteer, expressed that their outreach extends into the community.

“In November, we are preparing and serving dinner to young people at the Newman Center in Plattsburgh,” she said. “It gives us an opportunity to speak to them about the PPC and the services we provide.”

Colleen Akey, Kitty St. Denis and Mrs. Eisenhauer will cook the meals and serve the dinner following Sunday Mass. “It gives us a chance to support the college kids and answer pertinent questions and myths.”

The PPC also has a Spanish interpreter available for clients.

Rosa Salinas, who has helped with the center from the beginning, recalled their roots. Kitty St. Denis, who helped found the PPC with Nancy Belzile, asked “How can we help more women?”

Ms. Salinas shared the stories of women aided by PPC.

“One woman who was pregnant came to the center but lived far away,” she said. “I drove her to

doctor’s appointments, the post office, etc. until the baby was born. A few days ago, another Spanish woman came. She was a few weeks along and needed to come back for a sonogram. Although she was baptized Catholic, she had left the Church. I invited her to come to Mass and brought her to Church. She was converted by praying the Rosary and it saved her life.”

The assistance of the local faithful is integral to the PPC’s mission.

“There are wonderful ladies at St. Alexander’s in Morrisonville and St. Peter’s in Plattsburgh who have a prayer shawl ministry,” Smith said. “They knit prayer shawls for our clients. It touches people’s hearts. One girl said she cuddles up with the shawl every night and thinks of her baby. I think people are starting to see that love drives this ministry. A young lady who came recently said. ‘Everybody here is so loving.’”

Father Tojo Chacko, HGN is the president of the board and spiritual director of the PPC. The center is currently open Monday through Thursday.

“It is important to stand for life,” said Blaise. “By your witness people know who you are and what can be done. In order to be a volunteer pregnancy counselor, people watch a set of 12 DVDs. Then they train with a senior volunteer. We need more volunteers available to answer phone calls and internet correspondence.”

For more information, to visit, or volunteer, contact the PPC at 518-324-2010.

## RESPECT LIFE: CALLED TO SERVE MOMS IN NEED

# Run With Grace: 'Love everyone, give grace to all'

By Mary Beth Bracy  
Contributing Writer

PLATTSBURGH – In honor of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month, the first annual "Run With Grace" 5k was held at US Oval in Plattsburgh on Oct. 9.

The event was organized by Sarah Munn Wojtaszek, founder and executive director of Healing Grace: Center for Hope and Healing.

"Our organization is all about human connection," she reflected. "Our vision is to have an event that brings the community together, honor Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month, and celebrate that the dark days can and will nourish the light of joy. Even after such a tragic loss we can find life again. The trees' leaves die and fall to the ground every year only to nourish the life of the coming year. We felt a 5k is a great way to meet all of these goals and raise money for our mission."

Munn Wojtaszek explained the vital role of Healing Grace in our community.

"Our mission is to provide support, guidance, love, and community to families that have suffered (or will suffer) the death of an infant at any stage of pregnancy and within the first year of life," she said. "We exist to cultivate hope and provide the necessary support for the healing journey after loss."

Those who have experienced this deep pain are able to support each other in their grief.

"This is a community that has come together because of loss and is connected by our mutual vision of hope and desire



Participants in the Run With Grace 5k take off from the starting line at the US Oval in Plattsburgh.

to live after such a tragic loss," said Munn Wojtaszek. "At Healing Grace, you will find a safe, loving environment to support you in whatever part of the healing process you are in. This journey does not have a start or an end. It is a continuum that is ever changing. From laughter and remembering with a smile one moment, only to feel an overwhelming feeling of sorrow fall over you the next and a need to cry it out, Healing Grace is here for you."

Healing Grace continues to console those who are suffering in many ways.

"We are continuing to provide Champ Boxes which are boxes of comfort items for mothers of infant and pregnancy loss," Munn Wojtaszek said. "Items include, toothbrush, toothpaste, brush, shampoo, body wash, deodorant, lotion, lip balm, tea, hot chocolate, hair ties, a book supporting their grief journey after this loss, and a letter from our executive director and remembrance item custom made at their request."

They are further developing this program to provide comfort boxes to

children that have lost a sibling, grandparent, parent, and so on.

"We are expanding our reach to other areas of the North Country to provide peer-run groups and grief support services," added Munn Wojtaszek. "We are also hoping to become an all-inclusive grief center for all that grieve the death of a loved one. We are also partnering with the Miner Institute and Alice T. Miner Museum to spread our mission. William and Alice Miner lost their only child at two weeks old. There is not much written after the death of William Jr. but soon after their community engagement in the North Country expanded and they developed the Heart's Delight Farm and the mission to bring health and wellness to the people of this amazing area."

Healing Grace needs assistance in upcoming months.

"We are moving into the busy holiday season, and we don't have any events planned yet," said Munn Wojtaszek. "We ask that when the community is considering giving back during this time of family, friends and gratitude they

support our organization. This will allow us to keep moving forward and continue to support families of infant and pregnancy loss and all families that have lost a loved one. Signing up for monthly sponsorship ensures we will keep providing the safe, loving and peaceful organization that our community needs so dearly. Even \$5 a month keeps us moving and growing."

Munn Wojtaszek shared that Healing Grace also offers support groups for women and men.

"We host monthly peer groups for mothers and even grandmothers on the second Saturday of the month at 11am and the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.," she said. "We are also hosting an online father/partner group that is facilitated by Patrick Monette of Monette Counseling Services LLC. Our next online group is November 14 at 6 p.m. Give Grace Counseling Center LLC will start seeing clients within Healing Grace starting December 2nd (Grace's Birthday), and our children's grief group starts in January 2023. We also have a family that started a chil-

dren's book library at our center, Brenna's Book Trunk, named in honor of their daughter who would have been 2 years old on October 14th."

God's love, joy, and a generous spirit shine through Munn Wojtaszek.

"Faith and spirituality play a significant role in all that I do for Healing Grace," she affirmed. "It is something I have struggled with throughout my life and even more so since losing Grace AND I have found great comfort and my way to a very personal faith with tons of prayer and guidance from Father Christopher Looby, our interim board president. That said, I know that this is such a personal matter. We walk together in this journey and my personal goal is to just love and give grace to all for I know not what is in the deep depths of their personal journey. This definitely translates to the goal of Healing Grace. Love everyone, give grace to all, no matter what."

For more information visit [healinggraceph.org](http://healinggraceph.org) or call 518-254-5505. Donations are always appreciated to ensure Healing Grace can continue to purchase the necessary items for the Champ Boxes, compensate facilitators, purchase Angel Heart Beat Bears, etc.

"Run with Grace" 5k, t-shirts are still available for a donation of \$15 and may be ordered at [www.healinggraceph.org/donate](http://www.healinggraceph.org/donate) (Make your donation and indicate your size request in the donation note: small, medium, large or extra-large.)

Healing Grace is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Donations are tax deductible as outlined by IRS tax regulations.

## Environmental Stewardship

## God reveals His love

As Christians, our faith is rooted in the written word of God found in the Bible. This Book has often been referred to as God's love letters to us. It reveals to us who God is, who we are and many lessons on how to live life to the fullest. One of the methods for praying with the Sacred written Scripture is lectio divina. This method suggests that we sit with the words of scripture and listen for the words to speak to us. Pope Benedict XVI in a 2005 speech describes it like this: "the diligent reading of Sacred Scripture accompanied by prayer brings about that intimate dialogue in which the person reading hears God who is speaking, and in praying, responds to him with trusting openness of heart."

Another way that God has used since the beginning of time to reveal the mysteries of His love is embodied in creation itself. In their book, \*Earth, Our Original Monastery: Cultivating Wonder and Gratitude through Intimacy with Nature\*, Christine and John Valters Paintner suggest that this method of lectio divina might be used to help contemplate the mysteries God has planted in the natural world around us.

A suggestion during these Fall days: take time for a slow and contemplative walk in a quiet place of beauty outdoors. As you walk, pay attention to what you see and hear – maybe the sounds of the wind, the falling leaves, the geese in formation, the riotous colors, lichens on the rocks, etc. Allow these works of God to call you into prayer.

What might these elements or patterns of nature speak to you about the mysteries of God's creative love? Take time to savor it all, knowing that you are ultimately called simply to rest into being rather than doing. Perhaps you may find yourself in conversation with nature and discover you are not talking to something separate but you are woven into the very fabric of creation itself.\*

Next week will include some lessons learned from nature that other have learned from God's creation.

## Bishop's Public Schedule

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

**Oct. 20** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Oct. 21** – 10:15 a.m. – Mass with the Students at St. James School in Gouverneur followed by Classroom Visits

**Oct. 23** – 11 a.m. – Mass at St. Andre Bessette Roman Catholic Parish in Malone followed by Destination Confirmation in the Outreach Center

3 p.m. – Organ Recital at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Oct. 24** – 10:30 a.m. – Diocesan Finance Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

**Oct. 25-27** – Collegial Sharing Among Brother Bishops at Sacred Heart Seminary, Hales Corners, Wisconsin

## Rest in Peace

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

**Oct. 26** – Rev. J. G. Lavoie, O.M.I., 1908

**Oct. 27** – Rev. John M. Fagan, O.S.A., 1966; Msgr. George Norton Whittaker, 1971; Msgr. Gerald H. Service, 2002

**Oct. 28** – Deacon Richard Gaebel, 2008; Msgr. George M. Phillips, 2011

**Oct. 29** – Rev. James R. Scanlon, 1880; Rev. Peter F. Cody, 1888; Rev. John Canning, 1998; Deacon Robert V. Ruddy, 2013

**Oct. 30** – Rev. Michael F. Burns, 1921; Rev. Thomas E. Owen, 1945; Rev. Peter N. Butler, 1973

**Oct. 31** – Rev. James Rooney, 1863; Rev. Lucien Jean, M.S.C., 1964; Rev. Ivan G. Boyea, 1996

## 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](http://www.virtus.org).

Upcoming sessions:

**Oct. 26** – 1 p.m., Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, Watertown

## GATHERING OF LAY MINISTERS



The St. Lawrence Franklin Adirondack Commissioned Lay Ministers Deanery held its Annual Meeting on Oct. 12 at St. Mary's Parish Social Hall in Massena. Continuing the diocesan 150th Anniversary celebration, guest speakers Father Jack Downs, Father Mark Reilly and Father Leagon Carlin represented clergy from different generations. (Above) Deanery President Jimmy Law welcomes over 40 commissioned lay ministers to the gathering. (Left) Board members (front row, from left) Sylvie Marion, Dr. Rose-Alma McDonald, speakers Father Leagon Carlin, Father Jack Downs and Father Mark Reilly, (standing) Board President Jimmy Law, Members Cheryl Learned, Liz Tarbox, and Secretary Robin Law.

## REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?


— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

Eternal Father,  
we lift up to you these  
and all the priests of the world.  
Sanctify them.  
Heal and guide them.  
Mold them into the likeness and  
holiness of your Son, Jesus,  
the Eternal High Priest.  
May their lives be pleasing to  
you. In Jesus' name we pray.  
Amen

(With ecclesiastical approval)

Mass  
Rosary  
Fasting  
Day Offering  
Eucharistic Adoration  
Offering of Sufferings  
Divine Mercy Chaplet


Or whatever the Lord  
inspires you to offer Him



### NOVEMBER

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY 2022

| SUNDAY                             | MONDAY                             | TUESDAY                             | WEDNESDAY                              | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY                               | SATURDAY                               |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|
|                                    |                                    | 1<br>BISHOP<br>TERRY R.<br>LAVALLEY | 2<br>REV.<br>JEROME<br>PASTORES        | 3<br>REV.<br>TERRANCE<br>R.<br>PATTERSON  | 4<br>MSGR.<br>LEEWARD J.<br>POISSANT | 5<br>REV.<br>SONY G.<br>PULICKAL<br>VF |
| 6<br>REV.<br>PATRICK A.<br>RATIGAN | 7<br>REV.<br>WILLIAM G.<br>REAMER  | 8<br>OUR<br>PASTOR                  | 9<br>REV.<br>MARK R.<br>REILLY VF      | 10<br>REV.<br>CLEMENT<br>RIMONDS<br>HGN   | 11<br>REV.<br>DONALD A.<br>ROBINSON  | 12<br>REV.<br>STEPHEN<br>ROCKER        |
| 13<br>REV.<br>JOSEPH N.<br>SESTITO | 14<br>REV.<br>JAMES W.<br>SEYMOUR  | 15<br>POPE<br>FRANCIS               | 16<br>BENEDICT<br>XVI POPE<br>EMERITUS | 17<br>REV.<br>SCOTT R.<br>SEYMOUR   | 18<br>REV.<br>ALAN D.<br>SHNOB       | 19<br>REV.<br>F. JAMES<br>SHURTLEFF    |
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| 27<br>REV.<br>SEVERINUS<br>TORWOE  | 28<br>REV.<br>HOWARD J.<br>VENETTE | 29<br>DECEASED<br>PRIESTS           | 30<br>MSGR.<br>PAUL E.<br>WHITMORE     | For more copies contact:<br>Diocese of Ogdensburg<br>PO Box 369<br>Ogdensburg, NY 13669 |                                      |  |

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## To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri-  
anne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050  
Route 374, Merril, 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](mailto:ccarrara@rcdony.org) Phone: 315-  
393-2920 ext. 1340. If you have a  
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bishops, contact the **Catholic  
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ice** at 800-276-1562 or  
[www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org).

# Health care for women and families

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

**By Christina Tartaglia**  
For the Family Life Office

When I moved to the North Country in 2014, I needed to find a primary care physician fast. I was on medication and would need a refill of my prescription shortly. I was reading an article that mentioned FQHCs, which are Federally Qualified Health Centers. I was so happy to learn that I lived close to one, the Community Health Center of the North Country. I was able to be seen right away and I was pleasantly surprised by the professionalism and thoroughness of the care I received.

The focus of health care, medicine and medical procedures is to restore sick people to health and to help them maintain their health. A few years ago, I had a medical scare where I needed to seek care from my OB/GYN. Without going into detail, I asked her why I was having the problems that I was. Her response was, "I don't know." She wanted to treat my symptoms with a form of contraception. She did not give me all my options. In fact, she said that she would have given me a major surgery if we were not in the middle of dealing with COVID. It was only through research, talking with other people and eventually a NaPro doctor that I learned that I did have other options. (NaPro)Technology stands for Natural Procreative. These doctors work very closely with a woman's own menstrual and fertil-



## RESOURCES FOR WOMEN, FAMILIES

SCAN TO ACCESS RESOURCES ACROSS THE STATE



SCAN TO ACCESS RESOURCES IN THE WATERTOWN AREA



ity cycle, they find and treat the actual health issue. The NaPro Doctor at Gianna of Albany ordered tests, assessed my situation and treated the underlying cause of my problem. I follow an easy care plan, and I am doing very well. I feel very blessed that I found them.

Likewise, abortion is not health care. Abortion is an act of destruction and violence. It is the purposeful termination of a child's life within its mother's womb. It very often carries with it risks of psychological harm to those involved, as well as physical harm to the mother in several ways. The suicide rate after abortion was almost six times higher than after a birth. Abortion can also adversely affect a woman's ability to carry a later pregnancy to term.

Mothers and children need true health care and support. The problem is that many women and families don't know where

to turn for help. There are many places in the Diocese of Ogdensburg which provide the help and health care that they need. Included among these places are: FQHC's, Ascent Care of Saranac Lake, Plattsburgh Pregnancy Center, Birthright of Plattsburgh, and the Gianna Center of Albany which cares for patients in their office and via telemedicine.

FQHCs treat geographically isolated, economically or medically vulnerable populations. They accept Medicaid and Medicare and will provide care on a sliding fee scale based on ability to pay. Services are typically provided on site in an outpatient clinic and can include preventative health care, dental, mental health and substance abuse treatment. If services are not available on site, they will refer patients to other appropriate facilities. A list of FQHCs throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg is

available at: <https://www.rcdony.org/images/offices19/Respect%20Life/FQHCC.pdf>

Ascent Care Pregnancy Services, <https://ascentcare.org/>, is located at 20 Academy Street, Saranac Lake, New York 12983. The services they provide include ultrasounds, abortion pill reversal medication, and pregnancy testing.

The Plattsburgh Pregnancy Center, [www.plattsburghpregnancycenter.org/home](http://www.plattsburghpregnancycenter.org/home), is located at 62 Brinkerhoff St., Suite 103, Plattsburgh, NY 12901. The services they provide include pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, counseling and consultation on all pregnancy options.

Birthright of Plattsburgh, <https://birthright.org/plattsburgh>, is located at 50 Clinton St., Plattsburgh, New York, 12901. The services they provide include information about pregnancy, childbirth, adoption, prenatal care, community programs, parenting skills, child care, referrals for a variety of issues including medical support and professional counseling, and they also provide pregnancy tests and maternity items.

Gianna of Albany, <https://www.giannaofalbany.com/>, is located at 242 South Central Avenue, Mechanicville, NY, 12118. They provide general and specialized gynecologic care, using co-operative, restorative, reproductive healthcare and NaPro-TECHNOLOGY™ to treat the following conditions: Infertility, Recurrent miscarriage, Premenstrual syndrome (PMS), Menstrual cramps,

Ovarian cysts, Abnormal bleeding, Chronic discharges, Irregular cycles, Hormonal abnormalities, Polycystic ovarian syndrome, Postpartum depression, and more. Telemedicine is an option. For more information and a complete list of the services these organizations provide, please visit their websites at the links listed above.

*"Any woman – regardless of age, religious belief, or affiliation, marital status or immigration status – who is pregnant and in need, can come to the Catholic Church and we will give you the services and supports you need to carry your baby to term, regardless of your ability to pay."* – NYS bishops in *Toward a Pro-Life Future in the Empire State*

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October 2022

## respect life month

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[respectlife.org/celebrate](https://respectlife.org/celebrate)

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- ◆ Immaculate Conception Parish, Brownville & St. Andrew's Parish, Sackets Harbor
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**We invite you to visit the  
DIOCESAN RESPECT LIFE OFFICE  
website at: [www.rcdony.org/pro-life](http://www.rcdony.org/pro-life)**

**More information can be found at [respectlife.org](https://respectlife.org) and [usccb.org/prolife](https://usccb.org/prolife)**



## BISHOP'S FUND: TOGETHER IN FAITH

## NFP Office shares 'God's perfect design'

By Suzanne Pietropaoli  
Natural Family Planning Director

This year our diocese celebrates "150 Years: Together in Faith." We in the Natural Family Planning Office gives thanks for the strong leadership of Bishop LaValley, for the hard work of the Bishop's Fund Office, and for the many, many people whose faith and generosity continue to build up the Church of Ogdensburg.

Because of all their efforts, we are privileged to participate in the teaching ministry of the Church, focusing on the beautiful Catholic teachings on human sexuality. In their document *HUMAN SEXUALITY FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE: Humanae Vitae 25 Years Later*, the U.S. Bishops highlighted the importance of such work. They wrote: "In the face of a society that has lost sight of the profound meaning of marital intimacy, a society that has separated sexuality from married love, and intimacy from procreation, it is important to call everyone to listen...and to make the Church's teaching the foundation for a renewed understanding of marriage and family life."

Noting their commitment to "pastoral programs for engaged and married couples, and natural family planning services," the bishops continue: "We will work to dispel the sexual confusions of our age and strive to help our brothers and sisters respect the 'laws written by God' in our very nature, laws which we must observe with intelligence and love." (*Humanae Vitae*, #31).

Because no one can respect the plan of God

without understanding it, the NFP Office promotes this truth at every opportunity.

A primary opportunity for sharing God's perfect design for sex, love, and marriage is at Pre-Cana and other marriage preparation venues. Drawing on the richness of Pope St. John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*, Natural Family Planning is rooted in the truth of the human person made in God's image, and of the joy and demands of becoming one in Christ. NFP respects the bodies of man and woman, as well as the gift of fertility; it is open to life. Honoring God as the Author and Giver of life, NFP educates couples to live in harmony with their fertility, rather than suppressing it with drugs or destroying it with surgery.

This path of obedient love is a choice that tends to deepen the couple's faith and enrich their relationship.

A significant opportunity for our office to share the good news of God's plan is our annual participation in Natural Family Planning Awareness Week each July. An educational campaign sponsored by the U.S. Conference of

Catholic Bishops, NFP Week occasions the distribution of USCCB posters to all parishes, together with a variety of print and audio materials on NFP, marriage and family, and related issues. Bishop Terry R. LaValley kindly contributes a fine letter exploring Church teaching and the value of NFP in living it out. Bulletin announcements are provided to all parishes. Articles and an ad are provided to the North Country Catholic for NFP Week, as they are also to the annual marriage issue of the paper.

Another facet of our work, of course, is offering classes in the Sympto-Thermal Method of Natural Family Planning. Education in NFP empowers couples to accurately understand their combined fertility. Knowing how to "read" the alternation of fertile and infertile times allows them to plan their families with a high degree of reliability, as modern NFP has a method-effectiveness of 99%. NFP is the only family planning method that respects both the love-giving and life-giving meanings of the marital act; it is also the only one that can

be used either to achieve or avoid pregnancy.

Our office is always glad to field questions from any source, and to connect couples with online classes in a variety of NFP methodologies. Another type of inquiry, increasingly common, comes from women with various types of cycle dysfunction or struggles with infertility. We are happy to be able to refer these inquirers to the Gianna Center in Albany. There, Dr. Jan Patterson, MD, who is trained in NaProTechnology, focuses on finding and addressing the root causes of these women's health issues, thus providing a rare and important service.

Another blessed part of our work has been our participation, with Family Life Director Steve Tartaglia and Deacon John and Dr. Maura Fehlner, in *LOVING AUTHENTICALLY*. This day-long program focuses on understanding Catholic sexual teaching from the perspective of Natural Law and the na-

ture of happiness. It also explores the damage done, especially to women, by fallout from the sexual revolution, and proposes a way forward via Theology of the Body, rooted in our identity and our destiny as beloved daughters and sons of God in whose image we are made.

In the past year, *LOVING AUTHENTICALLY* was offered to appreciative audiences in Waddington, Plattsburgh, Lowville, Watertown, and Ogdensburg. Upcoming presentations are scheduled for Massena, Plattsburgh (Newman Center), Saranac Lake, and Ticonderoga.

In season and out, through the generosity of the many people who support the Bishop's Fund, we are privileged to share the beauty of God's plan for human love, a work which seeks always to strengthen faith and families. To Bishop LaValley, and to all whose support makes this possible: Thank you, and God bless you!



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## Program and Retreat Coordinator Pyramid Life Center

PLC is seeking candidates for the Program and Retreat Coordinator who will coordinate summer and year-round programming in accordance with the mission and vision of Pyramid Life Center. Main responsibilities include oversight and development of youth and adult programming.

Full description available at [www.pyramidlife.org](http://www.pyramidlife.org)

**Inquiries and Resumes to:**

**Pyramid Life Center  
Brian Evers, Executive Director  
1 Pyramid Road  
Paradox, NY 12858**

## Seminar looks at why people avoid confession

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Every year, for more than three decades, the Vatican tribunal dealing with matters of conscience has offered a course to help priests in their "ministry of mercy" as confessors.

The huge number of participants, from 500 to 800 ordained and soon-to-be ordained men, who attend the course sponsored by the Apostolic Penitentiary each year attests to the importance and need for adequate formation concerning the sacrament of reconciliation, particularly when confession, as well as "the sense of sin," is in crisis, Pope Francis told participants in 2019.

It is a crisis on both sides of the confessional screen.

Priests need better formation so that those seeking God's forgiveness truly experience "a real encounter with salvation in which the Lord's embrace can be perceived in all its strength, capable of changing, converting, healing and forgiving," the pope had said.

And the laity need to understand better the importance and joy of confession, according to the Apostolic Penitentiary, which decided to respond by offering a special seminar specifically for laypeople. The seminar was held in Rome and online Oct. 13-14.

Of the more than half-dozen talks covering the usual biblical, theological and spiritual aspects of the sacrament, the most practical presentation was given by Msgr. Krzysztof Nykiel, regent of the Apostolic Penitentiary.

He gave a rundown of the most common "good" reasons people give for not going to confession, followed by a faith-based response to each objection.

Highlights from the monsignor's list of "I don't go to confession because ..." are summarized here:

1. "... I speak directly to God." Speaking with God is "excellent," he said, and it should be done throughout the day with prayer to know God's will. While "it is not impossible to obtain forgiveness" from God this way, "we would never be sure."

Only God can forgive sins, he said. So, before the birth of Christ and a life lived without him, humanity could only "hope" to have their sins forgiven. "With Christ, this mercy has descended onto earth and is accessible" to everyone, and only through confession with a priest can one be certain of receiving that forgiveness.

2. "... I don't like talking about my personal life" with another person. A priest is not just any other person but is one upon whom God has conferred his power to forgive on earth, Msgr. Nykiel said.

Verbalizing and owning up to one's sins can be difficult or frightening, he said, but "we feel truly loved when everything about us is loved, not just the good or nice things we display" or when the lies and partial truths are believed. When people present their true selves completely to God, they let themselves be loved fully and completely by God.

3. "... The priest may be a worse sinner than me." It is true that priests are not God, and it is "certainly easier and more uplifting to confess to a holy priest, like St. John Vianney and St. Padre Pio," he said.

But "the moral condition of the priest at the moment of absolution is wholly irrelevant to the validity of absolution," because the one absolving the sin is God through the priest, he said. A parallel argument, he added, would be to refuse medical care from a doctor whose own health status is unknown.

4. "... I don't know what to say." This excuse is "the most prevalent," but also the easiest to overcome, Msgr. Nykiel said. Just tell the priest, "I want to confess, but I don't know what to say. Can you help me?"

Learning how to do "a good examination of conscience is helpful," he said, but what really counts is a sincere desire "to think about the truth of one's life before God."

5. "... I'll be embarrassed." Feeling ashamed for one's sins "is already the first healthy sign" of a conscience that has not grown numb or blind to evil, he said. It also should be seen as part of contrition and a form of penance that can strengthen the desire for conversion.

6. "... I always say the same things." While it may be good there are no new sins to add to the list, confession is exactly what is needed, he said, to humbly plead with God for his mercy to fight and win the daily battle against one's vices.

7. "... I'm not committing serious sins." One may not be guilty of committing theft or murder, but there are still eight other commandments to keep, Msgr. Nykiel said. Believing only serious crimes count as sin can also be a kind of "self-justification" and DIY redemption.

The unworthiness one feels before God "is always directly proportional to one's closeness to him," which is why the greatest saints always felt like the greatest sinners. "If we don't feel like we are sinners, then we still are not saints."

8. "... I didn't like it the last time I went." Confessors might be distracted, unprepared, too "rigorous because he wanted to send me straight to hell" or too lax because "he wanted to almost canonize me despite my serious sins," the monsignor said.

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Cardinal Gregory stresses need for believers to fight racism

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Catholics, and all people of faith, must engage in the "critically important work" of fighting injustice, racism and other societal ills that prevent people from living in peace, Washington Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory said in an Oct. 13 address at Fairfield University in Connecticut. In his lecture – as the inaugural speaker in the Jesuit-run university's "Faith Leaders for Racial Justice" series – the cardinal pointed out that while the Catholic Church "has been at the forefront of racial reconciliation and racial justice for many years ... we have not overcome all obstacles of injustice even within the church herself." He also said it is "fitting that we, as a church, discuss the important topic of racism within the context of our faith" and stressed that to overcome the sin of racism, parishes and ministries must be places of genuine hospitality and welcome. The cardinal said the faithful "are called to model Christ in our society in every way we can," and can be guided to do so by following Catholic social teaching, which he called "an incredibly valuable part of our faith." He lamented what he called "a unique and tense time in our history," adding: "We are bombarded with the negative heaviness of it all as it becomes painfully clear that we are not caring for our neighbor ... We see these things happening all around us and know that we cannot sit by and just let them continue."

## Academy for Life president defends appointment of economist

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Convinced that poverty, inequality and economic systems are killing millions of people each year and threatening the dignity of many more people, Pope Francis appointed an economist to the Pontifical Academy for Life. But the nomination of Mariana Mazzucato, a professor of the economics of innovation and public value at University College London, raised concern in some quarters because of her retweets or positive comments on tweets in June criticizing the U.S. Supreme Court decision to overrule *Roe v. Wade* and affirm that there is no constitutional right to abortion in the United States. Mazzucato's nomination, as well as the nomination of six other new members, was announced by the Vatican Oct. 15. In the wake of the criticism, Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the academy, told Catholic News Service Oct. 20 that all the members, including Mazzucato, "have at heart the value of human life in their area of expertise. They are not all Catholics and do not profess all the tenets of the Catholic faith. And we know there are differences on the level of ethics, but they defend life in its entirety."

## Archbishop: Stories of Ukrainian women make blood run cold

LVIV, Ukraine (CNS) – After Ukrainian women were released in a prisoner swap with Russia, the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church said their stories "simply break the heart, make the blood run cold in your veins. This war will go down in history as one in which Russia uses sexual violence as a weapon against Ukraine," said Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv-Halych. On Oct. 17, more than 100 Ukrainian women were released from Russian captivity. Andriy Yermak, head of the Ukrainian Presidential Office, said it was the first female-only exchange, and he called it "especially emotional and truly special. Mothers and daughters, whose relatives were waiting for them, were held captive," Yermak said. On Oct. 18, Archbishop Shevchuk thanked God that the women were able to return to their families. "Let us wrap these women together today with our attention, love and prayer, and warm them up with our national warmth," he said.

# Study: Priests distrust bishops, fear accusations

WASHINGTON (CNS) – A study of U.S. priests released Oct. 19 details clerics' "crisis of trust" toward their bishops as well as fear that if they were falsely accused of abuse, prelates would immediately throw them "under the bus" and not help them clear their name.

The study "Well-being, Trust and Policy in a Time of Crisis" by The Catholic Project, written by Brandon Vaidyanathan, Christopher Jacobi and Chelsea Rae Kelly, of The Catholic University of America, paints a portrait of a majority of priests who feel abandoned by the men they are supposed to trust at the helm of their dioceses.

And while the study says priests overwhelmingly support measures to combat sex abuse and enhance child safety, the majority, 82%, also said they regularly fear being falsely accused. Were that to happen, they feel they would face a "de facto policy" of guilty until proven innocent.

The study, unveiled at The Catholic University of America in Washington, documents the environment between priests and their bishops in light of the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" instituted in 2002 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Commonly referred to as the Dallas Charter, it sets in place policy about how to proceed when allegations of sexual abuse of children by clergy or church personnel come to light.

"Indeed, many priests feel that the policies in-

roduced since the Dallas Charter have depersonalized their relationship with their bishops; they see bishops more as CEOs, bureaucrats, and legalistic guardians of diocesan finances than as fathers and brothers," the study points out and quotes a diocesan priest saying: "Our archbishop is a remote figure. Not at all personable. Not approachable. He appears to be a busy CEO and religious functionary."

The document reveals that 40% of the priests who responded said they see the zero-tolerance policy as "too harsh" or "harsher than necessary," adding that it's too easy to lodge false claims of abuse against them. They feel bishops would not support a priest in the period necessary to prove his innocence.

"There's this sense ... that the bishops are against a priest who's been accused, rather than doing what the bishop must do but still supporting the priest," said one of the 100 priests that researchers interviewed in-depth.

"Most priests agree with the church's response to the abuse crisis, but also fear that their bishops wouldn't have their backs if they were falsely accused," said Vaidyanathan, one of the study's authors.

Of the 10,000 diocesan and religious priests surveyed, just 24% said they had confidence in U.S. bishops in general. Instead, priests in the study said they predominantly see the prelates as social climbers, careerists and administrators who barely know priests in their diocese

by name.

"I don't really trust most of the bishops, to be honest with you. I'll show them all a great amount of respect. And if I was in their diocese, I would really serve them and try," a priest told researchers. "But just looking across the United States and looking across a lot of bishops ... I would say I have an overall negative opinion of bishops in the United States."

"They're really not leaders or they're just kind of chameleons ... looking to climb up the ladder."

The study says 131 bishops also participated in the study, which analyzed attitudes about priests' well-being, trust and the policy related to the sex abuse crisis.

In response to the study, the USCCB's Public Affairs Office released a statement by Bishop James F. Checchio of Metuchen, New Jersey, chairman of the organization's Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations.

"I am grateful for the insight provided by this study which will assist the bishops in our ministry to our priests. While not surprised, I am heartened that the results report priests have such a high level of vocational fulfillment and that they remain positive about their priestly ministry," Bishop Checchio said in the Oct. 19 statement.

The bishop referred to a figure in the document that showed that 77% of the priests in the study could be categorized as "flourishing" – saying they felt fulfilled and had a sense of meaning and purpose – and 4% reporting that they were think-

ing of leaving the priesthood.

"Our priests are generous and committed," Bishop Checchio continued. "While acknowledging that circumstances will vary from diocese to diocese, the findings of this study are overall valuable in that they remind us of the importance of being always attentive to the care of our priests with the ever-growing stressors they experience in ministry, while we strive to address any issues that have damaged the unique relationship we enjoy."

The study says that the "erosion of trust between a priest and his bishop" affects the level of well-being of a priest, and those with more trust fare better than others.

It also points out a great disparity of perception between the two groups, with bishops overwhelmingly seeing their role as more supportive of clerics. The majority of bishops surveyed said that they felt their role was akin to a brother, a father, a shepherd, a co-worker, when it came to dealing with priests.

Priests said strengthening relationships with bishops, having more social interaction with them, have the prelates know their names, communication, transparency about processes, as well as accountability on prelates' part would help alleviate the existing erosion of trust.

"The hope is that if we were to do the same survey five years from now, things would look different," Stephen White, of The Catholic Project, said

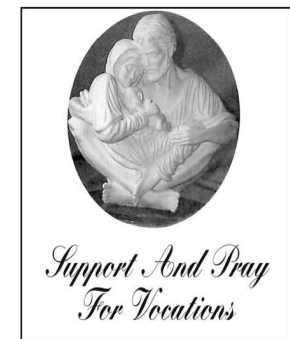
in a statement released before the presentation.

"Priests are happy in their vocations, but we also want them to feel less anxious and more supported. I know the bishops want that too. Hopefully this data can help in that regard," he said.

Priests in the study also said they felt like cogs in the wheel, seen by bishops as liabilities. Some of the attitudes varied between diocesan priests and those who belong to a religious community, with those who were part of a religious order reporting more support.

The study also said that "at least some" of the mistrust comes from the way priests see "the application of policies created in the wake of the abuse crisis," even as some bishops helped cover up abuses or were accused of being abusers themselves.

"Perhaps some bishops see themselves through rose-colored glasses," a summary of the study said. "Or perhaps priests, in a beleaguered and prolonged state of stress and uncertainty, unfairly characterize their bishops through a lens of cynicism and fear. Or perhaps there is some truth to both perspectives."



*Support And Pray  
For Vocations*

## ADIRONDACK-FRANKLIN

**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 on St. Agnes Facebook page.

**SOMETHING FOR ALL FAIR**

Brushton – St. Augustine's and St. Mary's Altar Rosary Society is sponsoring a something for all fair.

**Date:** Nov. 5

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

**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center

**Features:** There will be over 25 Venndors! Homemade Donuts will be for sale and the Adirondack BBQ will be here serving Breakfast and Lunch. Don't miss this one!

**Contact:** For more information, call 518-529-7474.

**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.

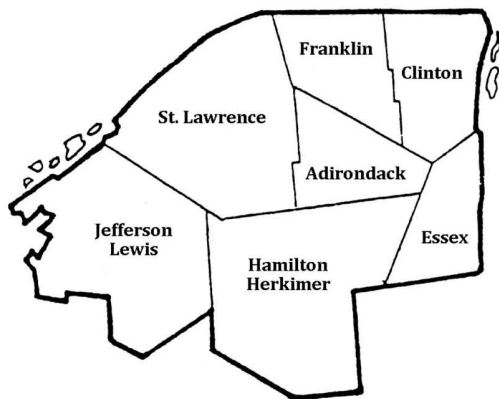
## CLINTON

**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



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.

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.

**COMPASSIONATE  
COMPANIONS TRAINING**

Plattsburgh – Compassionate Companions of Clinton County to have a volunteer training.

**Date:** Nov. 2

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

**Place:** St. Joseph's Outreach Center

**Features:** Compassionate Companion Trained Volunteers provide their gifts of companionship and friendship to elders living in their community. Joining us, places you among other generous and kind people carrying out errands of mercy to help their elder neighbors to age in place.

**Contact:** You can register by contacting Starr at 518-625-0697 or starr@stalexanders.org.

**HARVEST DINNER**

Plattsburgh – Holy Cross Parish 2nd Annual Harvest Dinner.

**Date:** Nov. 6

**Time:** Noon to 4 p.m.

**Place:** Parish Center, 4917 South Catherine Street

**Cost:** \$14

**Features:** Turkey with all the trimmings. Dine-In & Take-Out Available

**HARVEST DINNER**

Morrisonville – St. Alexander's Church

to be having a take-out only Harvest Dinner.

**Date:** Nov. 13

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

**Cost:** \$14

**Features:** Turkey and all the fixings.

Pick up at the Church. There will be raffle tickets, lottery raffle and a bake shop available.

**Contact:** Delivery within 10 miles by calling 518-561-5039

## 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 (Nov. 3)

**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.

**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. 12

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 7

**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center

**Cost:** Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$8; Children under 12, \$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 (2 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

**ADORATION**

Norwood – St. Andrew's Church to offer Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday.

**Time:** After 8:30 a.m. Mass until Noon

**Features:** Sign up is not needed.

**FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY**

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.

**MEN'S PRAYER GROUP**

Massena – First Saturday of the month, men's prayer group to meet for Mass and Adoration.

**Date:** Nov. 5

**Time:** 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Church

**Features:** Coffee and donuts after service in the parish center

**Contact:** Bob Brothers at 315-842-2886

**HOLIDAY BAZAAR**

Star Lake – St. Hubert's Church to have a Holiday Bazaar.

**Date:** Nov. 5

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

**Features:** Lunch will be served by K of C 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**ANNUAL BAZAAR**

Massena – St. Peter's Parish to have an Annual Bazaar.

**Date:** Nov. 12

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Social Hall

**Features:** Win \$2500 Big money raffle. Come enjoy delicious fried bread dough as well as other great food from the concession all day. Turkey raffles, pull tabs, 50/50 Skilo, quilt raffle, country store, cake walk, children's games and activities, and religious items.

**Contact:** For more information call 315-769-2469

**MONTHLY BRUNCH**

Norfolk – Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond's will have their monthly

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

# Book focuses on misuse of religious traditions

"*Stealing My Religion: Not Just Any Cultural Appropriation*" by Liz Bucar. Harvard University Press (Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2022). 272 pp., \$27.95.

"If you are ending this book uncomfortable," writes Liz Bucar, "I have achieved my goal."

Wow! So much for the typical comfort and consolation of religious tradition. Bucar sets out to challenge readers to think deeply about the meaning of religious appropriation.

She readily admits that many of us are quick to adopt religious and cultural traditions without giving the decision much thought.

In fact, she begins her book with a story about her own youth. Baptized a Catholic but raised a Protestant, Bucar had rejected organized religion by the time she was a young teenager.

Then the pop star Madonna came along with her song, "Like a Prayer." The music video featured the singer wearing a large Christian cross as a piece of jewelry. She was flaunting the cross as an act of

blasphemy and rebellion.

Young Liz Bucar followed suit. "My decision as an 11-year-old child to wear a cross did nothing to keep me in the Protestant church or reclaim my Catholic roots," she remembered.

"It was all about being cool. This was the first time I stole my religion. It would not be the last. And I am not alone."

Bucar has a very precise point of view. "My first goal," she writes to her readers, "is to convince you to stop seeing all religious borrowings as morally benign. Some forms, including some very popular forms, are harmful."

But it's not enough to stop this insensitivity to religious tradition.

"My second goal," she adds, "is to think through how we can borrow in more responsible ways, by describing how religious practices are grounded in traditions and communities, identifying the range of exploitations borrowings cause and understanding the systems of inequity and violence they reinforce."

It's a tall order. To make her case,

Bucar draws on her personal experiences as a scholar of religious ethics at Boston's Northeastern University and the author of four books on related topics.

She begins with a discussion of the popular misuse of the Muslim hijab by non-Muslims. Second is the mixed purposes and intentions of "pilgrims" who walk the Camino de Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Finally, Bucar writes about the growing popularity of yoga for exercise rather than religious devotion.

The fight against Islamophobia is noble but can be misguided, in Bucar's view. For example, appropriation of the hijab, the traditional Muslim head scarf, for socio-political purposes could be seen as offensive by orthodox Muslims.

Bucar cites World Hijab Day and Head Scarfs for Harmony as two well-intentioned but troublesome misuses of the hijab.

Bucar also highlights her personal experience in leading a study group of college students on a pilgrimage to the Cathedral de Santi-

ago de Compostela, a traditional Catholic devotional site in northwestern Spain.

Although many pilgrims join the pilgrimage with good intentions, Bucar discovered that some of her students lacked respect for Catholic liturgy and its sacraments.

Bucar's third case is both personal and controversial. Many of the millions of individuals who enjoy yoga realize that it began as a religious practice.

To be sure, as Bucar notes, there are two distinct types of yoga, "devotional" and "respite." It's important that those who enjoy respite yoga also respect the traditions of devotional yoga, she says.

This is an interesting and important book, one that makes you think about religious practice in everyday life. "Careful engagement with the religion of others," adds Bucar, "has the potential to help us understand communities different from our own."

We all need to be better students in our appreciation of religious tradition.

## Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Knights of Columbus Brunch.

**Date:** Nov. 13 (Second Sunday of each month)

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

**Place:** Fr. 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-

### DIOCESAN EVENTS

212-5166.

#### 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.

#### BECOMING A EUCHARISTIC FAMILY

The Department of Faith Formation will be hosting an event, "Becoming a Eucharistic Family, tips to make Christ alive in your home."

**Schedule:** Eastern Region: Nov. 5, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's Outreach Center, Plattsburgh; Western Region: Nov. 6, 2 p.m. to 5 at Dostie Hall, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Watertown

**Cost:** \$15 per family

**Presenters:** Charlie and Kelly D'Souza

**Features:** For Catechists, Parents,

and Guardians. Refreshments will be offered.

**Contact:** Register at [www.rcdony.org/lead](http://www.rcdony.org/lead)

#### MEN'S DISCERNMENT GROUPS

Are you discerning how God is calling you to serve Him with your life? Are you between the ages of 18 and 40 and open to God's plan for you? Have you ever considered priesthood or religious life? Men's Discernment Group is for you!

**Schedule & Contacts:** Plattsburgh Discernment Group – Nov. 8 & 28 at 6 p.m. at St. John XXIII Newman Center Facilitator: Deacon Brent Davison, [bdavison71@westelcom.com](mailto:bdavison71@westelcom.com) or 518-563-0730; Potsdam Discernment Group – Nov. 12 & 26 at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Parish Rectory Facilitator: Connor Cummings, [campusministriysm@gmail.com](mailto:campusministriysm@gmail.com) or 315-783-5477; Watertown Discernment Group – Nov. 12 & 26 at 11 a.m. at St. Patrick's Parish Center Facilitator: Father Matt Conger

[mconger@rcdony.org](mailto:mconger@rcdony.org) or 315-323-8151

#### 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:** Four 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 Directors, Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli and Catholic Theologian, Maura Hearden Fehlner, Ph.D

**Contact:** to register go [www.rcdony.org/lovingauthentically](http://www.rcdony.org/lovingauthentically). For more information contact Stephen Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or [startaglia@rcdony.org](mailto:startaglia@rcdony.org)

#### YOUTH BUSES FOR LIFE

Washington DC – Travel to DC with other Highschool 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 [www.rcdony.org/pro-life](http://www.rcdony.org/pro-life) to view complete itinerary and to register. Contact the Respect Life office with questions.



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

## Humility and truth in prayer

In today's Gospel from St. Luke, Jesus gives us more direction on prayer. Last week, Jesus advised us to be more persistent in asking God for favors, like the widow who bothered that judge. Just to get of her, the judge finally gave in. This week, Jesus urges us to be humble and truthful when we speak to God in prayer.



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

When as children, we had broken something, like a cherished pitcher, we would report, "Mom,

the pitcher "got broke," rather than, "Mom, I broke the pitcher." To humbly and truthfully admit our guilt would usually win forgiveness!

The Pharisee in today's parable wasn't really praying to God, but merely talking to himself about all his virtues. At the same time, he was guilty of rashly judging that poor tax-collector at the rear of the Temple who didn't even dare raise his eyes to heaven as he begged forgiveness for all

October 23

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Luke 18:9-14

his sins. The Pharisee's prayer didn't impress the Lord very much. In fact, he didn't even return home justified. On the other hand, the tax collector's prayer earned him forgiveness from God. Why? Not because of his offenses, but because he honestly acknowledged them and humbly repented.

God loves us when we pray with humility. We could even say that humility is the key to God's heart, a sure guarantee to a favorable reply. The first reading from the Book of Sirach teaches the same thing. Humility is the beginning of wisdom. A humble heart puts us on the level of the poor and needy to whom God always bends an ear. Of course, when we pray, we must not play games with God. We must really mean what we say when we acknowledge our sins and imperfections. Now that shouldn't be difficult!

St. Paul's words to Tim-

othy in the second reading are so very beautiful. "I have competed well, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." Some would ask, "Why is Paul's prayer any different from that of the proud Pharisee?"

The difference is the humility in Paul and the complete lack of it in the other. While neither you nor I have a record of heroic virtue like St. Paul's, wouldn't it be great if, in the sunset of our lives, could justly our deeds on Judgment Day as he could? Daily exercise in humility and truth is the key.

## CALLED TO SERVE

## There's a time for this and a time for that

Have you ever tried to keep track of what you do each day?

I have tried to do that a few times. Since I wear quite a few hats, it is helpful to catalog every time I take one cap off and put another on.

The idea seems so reasonable to me, I've tried to keep a log of my activities several times over the years. Sometimes it is to impress a boss that I really do a lot in the course of a day. Other times I keep a log to identify what has to go from my daily work

schedule.

Whatever the motive, off I go to the local stationery store and buy a book, usually a stenographer's pad, to keep my log in, and then I set out conscientiously to write little notes to myself, mark down every activity, phone call, contact and happening in the course of a day.

I should have added the word "try" somewhere in the previous sentence. Keeping a log of our coming and going is tough. For me, it is almost impossible. Not because I am so

busy, although my wife does inquire regularly what I am up to, but because I work in a disorganized world.

It is not that I don't keep notes but sometimes even that little task is troublesome. The first problem I inevitably encounter is finding that steno pad I purchased to bring some order to the chaos. Failing that, finding the notebook in the stacks strewn around me, I just grab whatever is available to write on.

Yesterday I took a couple of phone calls from

around the country from folks who wanted to order deacon pins and got an order from a deacon downstate in New York via e-mail. The St. Lawrence Society, the organization of deacons in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, sells pins that indicate the wearer is a deacon or the wife of a deacon. It is a task I happily fill on behalf of the Society. We call the volunteer job Pin Chairman.

I found my notebook for one order but not the other. So, the order for Texas is in my notebook but the order for Phoenix is on a yellow pad that just happened to be visible and handy. The email order was printed. Somehow it will all come together and the orders will be filled.

I've heard many a lecturer recommend journaling to the participants. People who write in journals or keep diaries have a gift in my opinion.

A journal and a diary are similar in kind but differ in degree. Both are used to keep personal records, but diaries tend to deal with the day to day, more data collection really, and journals with bigger picture reflections or aspirations.

I just can't find the time, every day, to journal or write in a diary. I guess I'm just destined to keep doing what I'm doing the way I do it and hope I get it all done.

Thanks for listening. Time to get back to some productive tasks. Where's my steno pad?

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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director  
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296  
mbrett@rcdony.org

# You shall be my witness

Thank you for your participation on World Mission Sunday last weekend! Through your generous contributions to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, you are Christ's witnesses, building the Church in the Pope's missions around the world, feeding the poor, and aiding the missionaries who are sharing the Gospel worldwide. May God bless you for your compassionate missionary spirit!

Many of us are what are commonly known as "cradle Catholics." We were babies when our parents had us baptized in their parish church. They were carrying on a family tradition; perhaps one that went back generations. But a number of us made that choice for ourselves. At some point, we came to believe that being a follower of Jesus Christ as a Catholic was truly essential to us.

For all faithful Catholics, our whole being, our entire way of life is infused with the gift of the Holy Spirit that we received at Baptism. And every year at the Easter Vigil we have the joy of renewing our Baptismal vows. Whether we made the decision to become Catholic or some grandparents or other ancestors did that a hundred or a thousand years ago, we believe that the Son of God came to rescue us from sin and eternal death.

On World Mission Sunday, we celebrated the gift of faith, the gift of salvation by supporting the Church's efforts to continue spreading the Good News.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "It is from God's love for all men that the Church in every age receives both the obligation and the vigor of her missionary dynamism.... The Church, to whom this truth has been entrusted, must go out to meet their desire, so as to bring them the truth. Because she believes in God's universal plan of salvation, the Church must be missionary."

If we believe in Christ as our Savior and the Savior of all humankind, we must accept our precious responsibility to introduce Him to others.

We can touch people through our prayer and influence. We can also make a great difference by helping the Church's missionaries and those they care about and care for.

By letting people know the love of God through our love for them, soul, and body, we draw them ever closer to Him. We can choose each day to pray, to act, to give – in other words, to love our brothers and sisters, whoever they are, wherever they are, and to let them know how much Christ loves them, too.

## PASTOR INSTALLED



On Oct. 2, Bishop Terry R. LaValley installed Father Tojo Chacko, HGN, as pastor of St. Bernard's and St. Edmund's (Elienburg and Lyon Mountain). Pictured with Bishop LaValley and Father Chacko are Parish Trustee Mathew Lacadri, Deacon Ken Lushia, Msgr. Dennis Duprey, and Trustee Mona Siskavich.

## OBITUARIES

**AuSable Forks** – Bernard Furnia, Sr., 79; Mass of Christian Burial in Oct. 18, 2022 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

**Brasher Falls** – Gerald Piché, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 20, 2022 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Brushton** – Evelyn E. (LaBelle) White, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 21, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Bombay.

**Champlain** – Eleanor E. (Robarge) Filion, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 19, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Dannemora** – Eleanor A. (Wardell) Dowdle, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 18, 2022 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Evans Mills** – Gary A. Watson, 65; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 29, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Evans Mills Cemetery.

**Gouverneur** – Marlene Marie (Gollagher) Denecia, 84; Funeral Services to be held in the spring.

**Hopkinton** – Frederic A. "Archie"

Dashnaw, 86; Graveside Services at Oct. 26, 2022 at Holy Cross Cemetery.

**Keeseville** – Michael James Lacy, 64; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 22, 2022 at Immaculate Conception Church.

**Lowville** – Susan F. (Call) Farney, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 19, 2022 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Apostolic Christian Cemetery.

**Malone** – Rolland O. Barré, 98; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 18, 2022 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Malone** – David J. Dame, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 19, 2022 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Malone** – Kathleen C. (McCool) Marceau, 69; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 20, 2022 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Malone** – Troy A. Reynolds, 53; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 21, 2022 at Notre Dame Church.

**Massena** – Josephine Catanzarite, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 22, 2022 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary

Cemetery.

**Massena** – Judy Oglesby Leary, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 18, 2022 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Alexander A. Arduine, 90; Graveside Services Oct. 21, 2022 at St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Potsdam** – Rebecca A. (Green) James, 77; Funeral Services Oct. 25, 2022 at Garner Funeral Service.

**Ticonderoga** – Philip John Langey, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 15, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Parish Cemetery.

**Tupper Lake** – Lynda M. (Gillis) Levesque, 62; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 25, 2022 at St. Alphonsus Church.

**Watertown** – Patricia A. Fanning, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 19, 2022 at the Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**West Chazy** – Henry J. Bedard, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 21, 2022 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

# Learning about age-friendly recreation

Lake Placid – As part of its newly-created Age-friendly Education Network, Mercy Care for the Adirondacks hosted Scott van Laer, director of the Paul Smiths College Visitor Interpretive Center (VIC), at Mercy Care's Friendship Picnic on Lower Saranac Lake, where he shared opportunities available for people of all ages and abilities at the VIC and at John Dillon Park.

As director of the VIC, van Laer has been focusing on expanding programming, events, and conservation-related activities since 2021.

Lexi Bevilacqua, Mercy Care's Education and Volunteer Training Manager remarked, "As a Paul Smith's College Alum myself, we were so excited to have Scott raise awareness in our community about the educational and recreational opportunities at the VIC and John Dillon Park for older adults, their caregivers, and Mercy Care's Volunteers who help their elder neighbors experience fuller lives."

The Paul Smiths College VIC property currently has



On Sept. 9, Scott van Laer, director of the Paul Smiths College Visitor Interpretive Center (VIC), made a presentation to Mercy Care Volunteers and their Elder Friends on age-friendly recreational opportunities at the VIC and at John Dillon Park.

over 25 miles of trails, including six miles of interpretive trails, which are surfaced for easy access and feature signs explaining the local ecology, making them accessible and enjoyable for people of all ages and abilities.

John Dillon Park, a unique park with a mission to offer free camping for individu-

als, friends, and families with functional differences, is located half an hour south of Tupper Lake.

The park offers a wide range of activities accessible to all, such as surfaced pathways and trails, accessible camping, and fishing.

Creating more Age-friendly Communities for people to age in place more

successfully requires broader objectives to carry on the long-term, ongoing process of assessment, engagement, and collaboration. Communities need to better plan and develop the services to meet the needs of older people, families, and caregivers.

Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is a mission

sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy to extend mercy to elders in order to enhance the fullness of their lives.

Its work is carried out through a Friendship Volunteer Program, a Volunteer Parish Nurse Program, a Caregiver Friend Program, an Education and Advocacy Program, and its Age-friendly Communities Initiative.

Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is governed by a local board of directors and relies solely on grants and charitable gifts from individuals and foundations for its support.

Board members include Melissa Eisinger, president, Art Devlin, vice-president, David Aldrich, Ann Cantwell, Jerry Hayes, Cathy Johnston, Jack McGill, Judy Meagher, Paul O'Leary, Kathryn Reiss, Mary Welch, Sister Denise Wilke, RSM, and Father John Yonkovig.

Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is located at 185 Old Military Road, Lake Placid, NY 12946. For more information, please visit Mercy Care's website at [www.adkmercy.org](http://www.adkmercy.org)

## Pope reminds Catholics of their duty to vote

WASHINGTON (CNS) – "A good Catholic meddles in politics, offering the best of himself, so that those who govern can govern."

With the U.S. midterm elections just around the corner, it seems timely to recall these words from a homily Pope Francis delivered at a daily Mass in 2013.

The pope also reminded Catholics of the church's social teaching that politics serves the common good and is "one of the highest forms of charity."

Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, quoted the pope in a recent column on the elections and the faith-

ful's civic duty to vote.

"Civic engagement is part of the task of discipleship. It is part of the vocation of all God's faithful who are called by Jesus to be the 'salt of the earth' and the 'light of the world,'" the bishop wrote in his column in Our Northland Diocese, Crookston's diocesan newspaper.

"Though contemporary politics may indeed be distasteful at times, and darkened by a flawed understanding of the human person, this is all the more reason for Christians to bring the good news into public life in whatever way we can," he said. "This is not a duty

that any of us can delegate."

"The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that it is every person's responsibility, as far as possible, to promote the common good through participation in public life," he added.

On Nov. 8, voters will go to the polls to choose lawmakers at the local, state and federal levels. All 435 seats in the U.S. House, 35 seats in the U.S. Senate and 36 governorships are on the ballot.

Voters also will face a host of ballot initiatives, from tax questions to education reform to how to address homelessness.

Abortion is on the ballot in five states: California, Michigan and Vermont have proposed constitutional amendments to affirm "a right to abortion and reproductive freedom." A "yes" vote on Kentucky's measure would guarantee there is no constitutional right to abortion in that state. The Montana measure would require doctors to try to save the life of infants "born alive at any state of development."

Polls show that the economy is a top issue for voters. They're worried about the rising cost of food and other goods, gas and housing.

A recent survey of

Catholics by RealClear Opinion Research in partnership with EWTN showed that 89% of them feel their finances "had been significantly impacted or affected to some degree by the rising cost of gas and other goods," said a July 14 analysis by RealClear Politics.

Another top issue among voters is the nation's crime rate. In its mid-year crime report released July 28, the Council on Criminal Justice said homicides and some other violent crimes dropped slightly for the first half of 2022, but the homicide rate was still 39% higher than it was during the first half of 2019.