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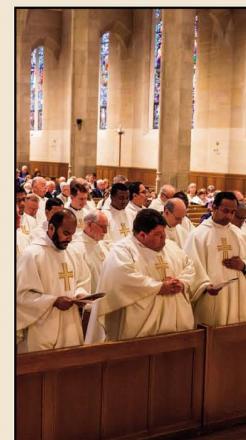
AT THE BLUE MASS



PHOTOS BY DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

(Left) Bagpiper Agent Ray Purser, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, leads the color guard at the Blue Mass held Sept. 25 at St. Mary's in Clayton. **(Right)** Tom Dier, New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, sings the Our Father as a Communion meditation during the Blue Mass. The annual Blue Mass, celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley, is an opportunity to honor and pray for those working in law enforcement, emergency services and corrections. Read Bishop LaValley's homily on Page 3. See additional photos on Page 12.

CELEBRATING OUR PRIESTS



Looking back at Priesthood Sunday, celebrated Sept. 25, Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, a Sister of St. Joseph and diocesan Vocations coordinator, reflects on the importance of the priesthood and the role of the priest serving in the person of Christ. Pictured above, priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg renew their vows at the annual Chrism Mass in April.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

Pope: Helping each student is a work of mercy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Education is a spiritual work of mercy not because it imparts information, but because it helps another find meaning and learn to shine, Pope Francis told members of a Catholic group from Argentina.

When done with respect, "education offers a meaning, a narrative to every element of human life," and it "helps to bring out the best in each person, to polish the diamond that the Lord has placed in

each one," Pope Francis said Sept. 30 in a written message to members of the Fraternity of St. Thomas Aquinas Groups.

Founded in the 1960s in Argentina, the groups are committed to strengthening Christian values in society and in different cultures, mainly through the educational work of their members and, more recently, through the schools and universities they sponsor or staff.

Meeting members at the Vatican, Pope Francis distributed, but did not read his prepared text.

Christian education, the pope wrote, "helps this diamond to let the light, which is Christ, pass through it, so that in this way it can become a source of light and shine in the world."

"The Lord makes us sharers in his light, in his very nature, and therefore each of his disciples illuminates the world, driving away

the darkness and transforming reality," he wrote.

Meeting the group less than two weeks before the Catholic Church will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Francis wrote that the council highlighted "the rights and duties of the laity for the evangelizing mission that they, too, possess, since they are sons and daughters of God through baptism."

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'Not at all what I was expecting'

"Go around to the back of the building. Pull in by the loading dock, and one of the guys will help you load," I was told, as I stopped at an area business to pick up a work-related package. "I radioed back and told them you were here to pick up for the North Country Catholic."

I got back in my car and followed the instructions. Once I located the loading dock, I backed in, put my vehicle in park, and hopped out with it still running to help load the delivery. My vehicle's radio was playing, and I usually have it

fairly loud.

A friendly, nice man helped me get the items in my vehicle, and we made small talk while we loaded. As I closed the back of my Jeep, he said, "can I ask you something?" "Go ahead," I said.

Darcy L.
Fargo

"Were you intentionally listening to that song, or did it just come on the radio?"

"Kind of both," I replied. "I have satellite radio. I don't pick the songs, but I currently have it tuned to the '90s alternative rock station, so I at least wanted that type of music. I listen to all sorts of stuff."

It turned out, he liked my radio station, and we talked about music for a few minutes. We talked a bit about the kind of work we do. As we concluded our conversation, he said, "I hope you don't mind me saying this, but you're not at all what I was expecting when they said the 'North Country Catholic lady' was here."

At first, I wasn't sure if that was a compliment or an insult. The more I thought about it, though, the more I realized it was neither. Instead, it was just a moment of God being God.

God created us each in his own image, but He also created us each uniquely and intentionally. God made me

the kind of person who likes loud music and chatting with strangers, and He put me on a path that led me to working in His service.

Maybe, just maybe, God used that moment to show that man that whatever he had in mind for "the North Country Catholic lady" doesn't cover the diversity and universality of Catholicism. Maybe it showed him you can love God and love to rock out in loud car concerts.

It was a good reminder that we are given our gifts, preferences, personalities for a reason, and God knows how those fit into His plan and use them for His glory.

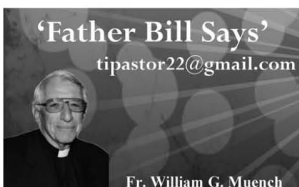
And it's sometimes not at all what we were expecting.

Spend time with Sacred Scriptures

Today, I would like to take some time with you to consider the importance of the Sacred Scriptures for us, Catholics. There was a time when we, Catholics, were criticized as not giving enough attention to the importance of the Sacred Scriptures.

For us, Catholics, the Second Vatican Council made a serious effort to encourage us to give more attention to the Sacred Scriptures. In the Constitution on Divine Revelation, the Council Fathers wrote, "Since, therefore, all that the inspired authors, or sacred writers, should be regarded as affirmed by the Holy Spirit, we must acknowledge that the books of Scripture, firmly, faithfully and without error, teach that truth which God, for the sake of our salvation, wished to see confided to the Sacred Scriptures."

The Sacred Scriptures are always an important part of every Mass that is celebrated. We believe that Jesus comes to us at every Mass through the Blessed Eucharist, the bread of life, and through the



Sacred Scriptures, the Word of God. We, Christians, must make the reading of Sacred Scriptures an important part of our prayer life. We read the Bible not just to learn something about Jesus, his activities and teachings, but the Scriptures also give us an unique opportunity to strengthen our relationship with the Lord in prayer.

So let us talk a little about the Bible. As you remember, the Bible has two sections, the Old Testament – that is the Hebrew Torah, some Hebrew history, the Wisdom Books, that are several books by the prophets of old – and the New Testament – the Gospels, Jesus' life, teachings, his Passion, crucifixion and Resurrection.

Many have asked me if we, Catholics, should bother with reading the Old Testament, the Hebrew Scriptures.

In the Old Testament, we discover the deep spirituality of the Hebrew people, who lived before Jesus and who lead us to Jesus. Personally, I would suggest and encourage you to read in the Old Testament, especially books like Genesis, the very beginning of the Bible, the Wisdom books, and the Book of Ruth, a short but most meaningful book.

The New Testament keeps us in touch with Jesus. There are the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, that tell us much of the Lord's activities and teachings. In each of these four Gospels, we read descriptions of the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection. These Gospels lead us into a time of prayer. Truly we walk side by side with Our Lord and Savior in our life journey.

In the Gospels, we also discover the parables of Jesus. As you know, these parables are clever stories crafted by the Lord. Jesus used the parables as a teaching method. These parables are truly great lessons and also

truly great literature. For most of us, these are our favorite Scriptures – the Parable of the Prodigal Son and the Parable of the Good Samaritan and the Lost Sheep and the Rich Man and Lazarus. All of Jesus' Parables lead us into a time of prayer, a time of being with Jesus.

The New Testament helps us, Catholics, to understand the beginnings and foundations of our Church, especially in the Acts of the Apostles, the Letters of St. Paul and the letters of many of the other Apostles. We learn about who we are as a Catholic and a member of the Church of Jesus Christ. Again, these readings are times of prayer.

So, we, Catholics, must believe in the importance of the Sacred Scriptures. They are an important part of our Christian Spirituality. They lead us to our worldly goal of holiness with the Lord, making our life a true journey toward sainthood. Do not neglect the Sacred Scriptures. Read your Bible every day.

FOLLOW ME

‘Reaching out to those in need’

Editor's note: The following is Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily from the diocesan Blue Mass, held Sept. 25 at St. Mary's Church in Clayton.

Imagine this scene. A man dies and arrives before the Judgment Seat of God. St. Peter goes through the Book of Life and can't find the man's name. So, he announces to the man that his place is in hell. The man protests, "But what did I do? I didn't do anything!" "Precisely," replies God, "that is why you are going to hell." That man could well be the rich man in today's Gospel parable.

The parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus has left Bible readers wondering why the rich man had to go to hell. We are not told he acquired his wealth by foul means. We are not told he was responsible for the poverty and misery of Lazarus. In fact, we are not even told that Lazarus begged from him and he refused to help. We are not told that he committed any crime or evil deed. All we are told is that he was eating and clothing himself as well as any other successful human being has a right to do. Why then did he go to hell?

The problem we have pinpointing the reason why the rich man went to hell has a lot to do with what we think sin is. We often think that we sin only by thought, word and deed. We forget a very important way through which we sin, namely, by omission. You remember that, in our penitential rite, we pray: "I have sinned through my own fault, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I (have failed to do)." Yet, how easily we forget the sin of omission. Today's parable



DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC
(Above) Priests and deacons from around the diocese gathered at St. Mary's Church in Clayton on Sept. 25 for the Blue Mass, celebrated to honor local law enforcement, emergency responders and correctional officers. (Right) Bishop Terry R. LaValley addresses local law enforcement, correctional officers and emergency responders at the conclusion of the Blue Mass.

reminds us that the sin of omission can land someone in hell. This is what happens to the rich man.

The poor man Lazarus was lying at this gate. And the rich man simply couldn't care less. "Whatever happens to him there outside the gate is none of my business," he probably said to himself. "I mind my own business. People should mind theirs." Next, the rich man probably phoned the police to report that a stranger was loitering outside his gate. In the meantime, the dogs went and licked Lazarus' wounds. And the poor man died. And the city came and picked up his body and buried it in an unmarked grave. And the rich man probably went in and had another cup of café latte.



Now, of course, he did nothing against Lazarus. But he had failed to do a good deed. He failed to reach out and share a little of his blessings with someone in need. His sin is that of omission, and for that he was going to suffer eternal damnation.

We gather this afternoon at this special Blue Mass to honor you, women and men whose very life vocation is about reaching out to those in need. We know that often you step in where we fail to be present and lend a hand.

We express our deep gratitude to all of you who, without hesitation often

place yourselves in harm's way to assist individuals and whole communities to stay safe and healthy. Too often your assistance is needed because we commit sins of omission against our neighbor.

This Blue Mass offers us the opportunity to thank you, who with your family sacrifice much for the safety and wellbeing of us all. May we never take you for granted. But, because the world we live in finds evil lurking in too many places; because sometimes we find it easier to demand things be my way, no matter the fallout, we place you, the women and men

in blue, in stress-filled, often dangerous situations.

In our polarized and fractured society, we expect you to keep us from falling apart. Because we cannot sit down and reach agreements on sound law enforcement policies, judicial common sense or an equitable immigration policy, too many times, we need you to protect us from ourselves. We need you, too, because things happen: hurricanes, auto accidents, floods, earthquakes, fires and we feel helpless without you. You notice the Lazarus in our streets and you respond to his or her need. Your service calls for courage, patience, humility, and self-sacrifice. You have the eyes to see and the heart to embrace the dignity of every human person whom you encounter: friend and stranger, addict and sufferer of mental illness.

Our law enforcement officers, corrections officers, homeland security, health care workers, first responders and firefighters offer selfless service for our protection, care for those injured, instilling hope to those among us who feel abandoned, unwanted, lost.

With grateful hearts, we salute and honor you and your loved ones who make great sacrifices in order to provide you with the opportunity to serve us so devotedly and courageously. Yes, service is the heart of what you do. Service is not just a nice word for you, but truly a charge, a guiding motivation every time you suit up in blue. I offer you our encouragement, our gratitude and on behalf of all the Lazaruses in our neighborhoods, I ask God's special blessing on your efforts on our behalf. God bless you all!

Remembering, praying for our priests

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ
Diocesan Vocations Coordinator

We celebrated Priesthood Sunday on September 25. It is Jesus Christ, the priest, the "Anointed" One, who we celebrate. Every priest is anointed to be the "persona Christi."

Some time ago, Pope Francis spoke to his priests at a Chrism Mass, a time when the priests renew their commitment to their call to priesthood. He said: "A good priest can be recognized by the way his people are anointed... Dear priests, may God the Father renew in us the Spirit of holiness with whom we have been anointed. May he renew his Spirit in our hearts, that this anointing may spread to everyone, even to those 'outskirts' where our faithful people most look for it and most appreciate it. May our people sense that we are the Lord's disciples, may they feel that their names are written upon our priestly vestments and that we see no other identity, and may they receive through our words and deeds the oil of gladness which Jesus, the Anointed One, came to bring us Amen."

Bishop Terry R. LaValley shared similar sentiments with his own priests at the Chrism Mass. Chrism is the oil that's used in every baptism, and in every confirmation, and every ordination because that's the sign of Jesus Christ. Bishop LaValley expressed gratitude for the for his priests' service and their sacramental anointing of the people in their parishes. They travel into the "outskirts" of their parishes to bring Christ to them. At this Mass, the priests again renewed their priestly promises to serve the People of God. The Church is then invited to



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg join Bishop Terry R. LaValley in celebrating the Chrism Mass in April.

come together and to pray with and for them.

A priest has the face of the Good Shepherd. He is close to and knows his flock, and cares for their needs because of his own closeness to the Good Shepherd. The priest's own prayer with Jesus Christ is able to bear fruit, because without Jesus he can do nothing.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg is blessed with active and retired priests, including many who continue to minister in the parishes. Their presence, as the "persona Christi," brings the sacramental presence of Christ to their faithful people so they may encounter Christ in their lives. As Bishop LaValley said in his message to the people and to his priests, service in the Church, especially as a priest, is an adventure. This adventure to serve the People of God as a Bishop and

priest has taken our priests to parishes and beyond.

Each priest is called to be the teacher and preacher of the word, to be the celebrator of divine worship, to pray and to feed his people, to be the mediator to those receiving the sacrament of reconciliation, to be witness to the sacrament of matrimony, and to heal and to anoint to those who are sick and dying in the sacrament of anointing. They are our faithful stewards of the mysteries of God.

Another mark and quality among our priests is their loyalty and support to their bishop. It is through prayer, discernment, and closeness to the bishop that our priests have a fraternal closeness that sustains their ministry and assurance of doing God's will.

This fraternal closeness of our priests allows them to support each other in carrying forward the mis-

sion of Jesus Christ, to bring the Gospel message to all people. Their zeal to proclaim God's word goes forth among the People of God with joy and enthusiasm in world that needs hope and love.

Pope Francis said that "it is important to live in close relationship with the real life of the people." He added, "Jesus wants us to touch human misery, to touch the suffering flesh of others."

Our priests of the diocese do this. They are shepherds who walk with their people showing compassion and understanding, courage and strength, and a lending hand to accompany them on the journey. The priests' closeness to Christ, the Good Shepherd and to his people, enables them to proclaim the power of the Resurrection that is always at work.

As we remember Priest-

hood Sunday in a special way, take time to thank Bishop LaValley, the priests in the Diocese and especially your parish priest(s) for their call to priesthood and for all the service they give to the People of God.

Pray for the Priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg:

Lord, we pray that your Mother wrap her mantle around your priests and through her intercession strengthen them for their ministry.

Inspire them to embrace all who suffer at the foot of the cross.

May your priests have the heart of St. Joseph to walk on the journey of life with trust and faith. May your priests be holy, filled with the fire of your love;

seeking nothing but your greater glory and the salvation of souls. Amen.

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

Psychedelic drugs in mental health treatments

Researchers are investigating a new generation of drugs for treating mental illness derived from psychedelic substances. A molecule known as psilocybin, for example, found in "magic mushrooms," appears to be helpful in treating patients with depression. Although these powerful psychoactive substances can be abused for their hallucinogenic/psychedelic properties, several strategies can help assure their therapeutic use in an ethically-sound way for the treatment of mental illness.

One strategy involves an approach known as "microdosing." A microdose relies on a fraction of the dose that typically causes a hallucinogenic, psychedelic experience. Anti-depressant benefits have been reported with doses a tenth to a twentieth of the psychotropic "tripping dose," thereby avoiding a full-blown psychedelic experience.

A 2022 study published in the journal *Nature* by researchers from the University of British Columbia confirmed that at one month post treatment, psilocybin microdosers demonstrated greater observed improvements in mood and mental health when compared to non-microdosed controls.

In addition to psilocybin, a faster-acting psychedelic drug known as dimethyltryptamine, or DMT, is also being studied for its ability to provide durable antidepressant activity for some patients, with benefits reportedly lasting 3-5 months following treatment.

Psychedelic-assisted approaches show particular promise when combined with psychotherapy ses-

sions to treat severe depression or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or both. Following a microdosing session, an individual may report feeling more emotionally tender, more sensitive to his or her own feelings, and more open to breaking out of neurotic thought loops.

In the hands of a skilled therapist, it may be possible to use that period of reflection to help a patient find his or her way through a past trauma. Integration becomes quite important, as the therapist seeks to "imprint" new insights and create new pathways.

Some clinicians have emphasized that without supportive interventions and appropriate psychotherapy, if a painful experience is unlocked, there is a risk of re-traumatization and severe stress. Individuals being treated with psychedelics might be triggered to confront unanticipated and painful memories; alternatively, visceral, uncomfortable or frightening experiences may be provoked, potentially making matters worse for an individual who is seeking improved mental health. Accompaniment and therapy in psychedelic treatment is, therefore, particularly important. An already-established, trusted and tested rela-

tionship with a psychotherapist is invaluable prior to turning towards approaches that rely on drug-induced alterations of one's mental state.

Although the physiological safety of psychedelics is relatively well established, psychological and psychiatric effects are less predictable, with effects that depend on setting, health, mood, belief systems and cultural environment. A good measure of

caution and circumspection are required and these agents should only be used under skilled supervision. People have entered into states of psychosis after experimenting with psychedelic drugs. Experiencing a "bad trip" can leave individuals with flashbacks for years. If someone is already on the brink of psychosis or despair, the wrong experience could be very damaging.

When it comes to psychotherapy, moreover, not all practitioners will necessarily be equally competent. The adage, "Be careful who you allow to walk in the landscape of your mind," implies that care and practical wisdom are called for when pursuing professional guidance and support. A competent Catholic psychotherapist can assist with treatment from a holistic angle that

integrates spiritual, religious and psychological dimensions, all of which may be needed for healing therapies to be most effective.

Young people require special attention and protection from drug-induced effects. Early exposure to mind-altering drugs can turn into disastrous multi-year stretches with various addictions. Mind-altering drugs raise the prospect of pushing youth with fragile, still-developing neural circuits "over the edge" and leading them into a future marked by struggles with substance dependencies.

For more extreme cases of depression, patients receiving larger psychedelic doses than microdoses have also sometimes reported enduring improvements. Advocates for the use of psychedelic substances note that while some may recoil at the prospect of "tripping" or encountering distortions in perception, those facing severe depression already have a highly distorted perception and that such drugs may help derail patterns of neural activity that underlie these distortions.

As clinical work with psychedelic substances advances, we may begin to see the development of other variants of these molecules that will offer desirable therapeutic out-

comes without the "hallucinations" that are often seen as a barrier for these types of drugs.

Recognizing a certain eagerness on the part of the public to become early adopters of psychotropic therapies, e.g. marijuana treatments promoted on limited evidence, it remains important to emphasize how prudence and caution are in order. In the words of one researcher, "public uptake of microdosing has outpaced evidence, mandating further prospective research."

As these drugs begin to appear on the scene for valid therapeutic purposes, it will be important to acknowledge the risks and dangers of non-monitored or self-administered psychedelics, even as we seek to identify and carefully minister to mental health subpopulations that may benefit significantly from these novel and promising approaches.

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



Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk Ph.D.

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Protecting God's Children

The **Diocese of Ogdensburg** has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required. Participants may preregister at www.virtus.org. Upcoming sessions:

Oct. 6 – 1 p.m., St. James Minor Church, Carthage

Oct. 17 – 6 p.m., Catholic Community of St. Augustine, North Bangor

Oct. 24 – 12:15 p.m., St. James School, Gouverneur

Oct. 25 – 9 a.m., St. Joseph's Community Outreach Center, Plattsburgh

Environmental Stewardship

Do you have the time?

In her poem "Invitation" Mary Oliver asks us a question:

*Oh do you have time
to linger
for just a little while
out of your busy
and very important day
for the goldfinches
that have gathered
in a field of thistles
for a musical battle,
to see who can sing
the highest note,
or the lowest,
or the most expressive of mirth,
or the most tender?
Their strong, blunt beaks
drink the air
as they strive
melodiously
not for your sake
and not for mine
and not for the sake of winning
but for sheer delight and gratitude –
believe us, they say,
it is a serious thing
just to be alive
on this fresh morning
in the broken world.
I beg of you,
do not walk by
without pausing
to attend to this
rather ridiculous performance.
It could mean something.
It could mean everything.
It could be what Rilke meant, when he wrote:
You must change your life.*

In *Laudato Si* we find another invitation. "The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God" (LS 84). - "To sense each creature singing the hymn of its existence is to live joyfully in God's love and hope" (LS 85) - "If we approach Nature and the environment without this openness to Awe and Wonder, if we no longer speak the language of Fraternity and Beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters" (LS 11) - "Everything is related and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth." (LS 92)

Taking time to 'look again' during this glorious autumn season can indeed change my life.

PRAYERS & APPRECIATION



Parishioners at Saint James Major Parish in Lake Pleasant observed Priesthood Sunday by honoring their pastor, Father Sony Pulickal. A special rosary was prayed before weekend Masses and messages of appreciation, encouragement, and prayers from parishioners along with a banner were presented to Father Pulickal. Kathy Gramlich presented Father Pulickal messages written to him by parishioners.

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 #Pontifex

To Report Abuse

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

Bishop's Public Schedule

Oct. 5 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

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

Oct. 7 – 4 p.m. – Mass for the Women's Healing Retreat at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

Oct. 9 – 10 a.m. – Installation Mass of Reverend Pedro Edgardo N. de la Rosa as Pastor of Holy Angels Church in Altona and St. Ann's Church in Mooers Forks (at Holy Angels Church)

Oct. 11 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

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

Rest in Peace

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

Oct. 5 – Rev. Victor Balcerak, O.F.M.Conv., 1960; Rev. Euren Beaucage, O.M.I., 1984

Oct. 7 – Rev. Jean N. Laverlocher, O.M.I., 1884

Oct. 8 – Rev. Edward Letourneau, 1898

Oct. 9 – Rev. William Joseph Normandeau, 1892; Rev. Francis Xavier Chagnon, 1911; Most Rev. Leo R. Smith, 1963

Oct. 10 – Rev. Robert Duford, 1949; Rev. J. A. Sirois, O.M.I., 1950

Oct. 11 – Rev. William Burns, 1837

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope names members to commission for protection of minors

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis reconfirmed the leadership of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors and expanded its membership from 17 to 20 people, naming 10 new members and reappointing 10 returning members. U.S. Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley of Boston, president of the commission, said, "Coming from all over the world with varied backgrounds and a common passion for the well-being of children and vulnerable people, the members announced today include advocates and practitioners of prevention and protection to the many areas in which the church ministers to children." The members include "representatives from canon law, social work, the medical and psychological professions, law enforcement and the judiciary as well as pastoral experts who currently work in dioceses and religious congregations," he said in a statement Sept. 30, the day the appointments were announced. The commission's 20 members include 10 women and 10 men. Twelve of the members are laypeople, three are women religious, three are bishops and two are priests. Four represent Africa or the Middle East, five come from the Americas, five from Asia and Oceania, and six from Europe.

Challenges help determine agencies' response in Africa

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) -- A humanitarian official who works in Southern Africa said churches must offer a unified regional response to the problems crippling development in the region. Mwila Mulumbi, the Zambian country representative of CAFOD, spoke to the assembly of the Interregional Meeting of Bishops of Southern Africa, IMBISA, in the Namibian capital, Windhoek, in late September. Mulumbi said the effects of globalization, violent extremism, migration, disease, politically driven conflict and tension, corruption, climate change and exploitation of natural resources continued to cripple development in Southern Africa. "All these challenges have underscored for CAFOD that state-centric or country-specific approaches alone do not suffice and that there is a need for cohesive regional responses by the church," said Mulumbi. CAFOD is the official development organization of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and is part of the Caritas Internationalis network. She said CAFOD has been supporting the popularization of Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si'."

FBI arrests Pennsylvania pro-life leader

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) -- The head of the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia said the FBI's arrest of a prominent Catholic pro-life activist known for his sidewalk counseling outside a Philadelphia abortion facility is "a horrendous stunt to intimidate pro-lifers." Mark Houck, 48, was arrested at his home in rural Bucks County, Pennsylvania, the morning of Sept. 23 for allegedly assaulting an abortion clinic volunteer a year ago in violation of the federal FACE Act. The 1994 Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act prohibits intentional property damage and the use of "force or threat of force or ... physical obstruction" to "injure, intimidate or interfere with" someone entering an abortion clinic. "There never was any blocking of access to an abortion center, and instead it was a moment of defense for the sake of his 12-year-old son," Tom Stevens, president and CEO of the Pro-Life Union, said in a statement Sept. 26. "This has been a consistent experience down at Planned Parenthood, where Mark and his family have been hassled." Houck made an initial appearance in federal court in Philadelphia the same day he was arrested. On Sept. 27, he was arraigned in the same court on two counts of allegedly violating on the FACE Act.

Hurricane Ian devastates dioceses across its path

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- It's too early to tell the extent of Hurricane Ian's damage in the Catholic dioceses of Venice and St. Petersburg or the rest of the Sunshine State for that matter, but President Joe Biden in a Sept. 29 news conference said it is likely to rank as "one of the deadliest hurricanes in Florida history."

"The numbers ... are still unclear, but we're hearing early reports of what may be substantial loss of life," the president said.

No fatalities were reported early Sept. 29, but authorities were just beginning a search and rescue efforts, which were hampered by debris strewn on roads and bridges damaged by Ian's 155 mph winds when it lashed Florida Sept. 28 and 29.

"We know many families, many, many, are hurting today and our entire country hurts with them," Biden said during the news conference at the headquarters of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in Washington.

He promised to visit at a future date so as not to disturb initial rescue efforts but pledged financial help from the federal government to help Florida recover.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis in a Sept. 29 news conference in Tallahassee said the impact of Hurricane Ian in his state is historic. He reported that upward of 2 million people were without electricity in the state.

"The damage that was done has been historic and this is just off initial assessments. ... We've never seen a flood event like this. We've never seen

a storm surge of this magnitude," he said.

Organizations such as Catholic Charities USA said they have their response teams in place to deal with the aftermath of the massive Category 4 storm that lashed western and central Florida.

Even in a state used to powerful storms, Ian's destruction managed to shock, leaving mementos of its might in the form of cars battered by winds and water, left floating in flooded city streets next to uprooted trees and parts of roofs torn from buildings in the cities of Fort Myers, Tampa and Punta Gorda.

Part of a bridge that connected Sanibel Island to the mainland of Florida collapsed.

In a series of updates for the Tampa Bay Times, reporter Zachary T. Sampson wrote Sept. 29: "In Fort Myers Beach, emergency officials expect to find bodies in the rubble. They know people did not all heed the evacuation orders."

Dioceses in the affected areas closed their churches, schools and other gathering centers. The Diocese of Venice posted a video of the Servant Sisters of the Virgin of Matará Sept. 28 as volunteers helped board up windows at St. Michael Church in Wauchula in the northern part of the diocese.

There were no updates on social media or on the websites of those dioceses early Sept. 29.

Bishop Gregory L. Parkes of St. Petersburg, which includes Tampa, and Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice had asked for prayers, knowing their diocesan

territories were in the crosshairs of the storm.

Some other U.S. bishops kept an eye on the hurricane and offered solidarity with the people of Florida.

"We pray for all people in Florida, especially for people's lives affected," wrote Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of San Antonio on Twitter just before the hurricane made landfall. "May you, Lord, be their strength! We do not control everything."

More than 2 million were still without electricity as the hurricane, downgraded to a tropical storm early Sept. 29, headed north toward Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Family members desperately posted on Twitter asking for updates on conditions in places such as Venice, close to where the storm made landfall and where many remain without communication.

Authorities began to survey the damage early Sept. 29, looking for those who had not managed to leave before the hurricane hit. They asked those who stayed in their homes to remain indoors as officials were conducting water rescues but still struggling to make their way amid debris and remaining flooding and wind.

Catholic Charities USA said in a statement that its disaster response teams "have a long history of mobilizing quickly to meet the needs of those affected by catastrophic events in the U.S. and its territories."

The organization encouraged donations at <https://ccusa.online/Ian> for efforts to help those dealing with the storm's destruction.

ADIRONDACK-FRANKLIN

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Lake Placid – Monthly praise and worship to be held.

Date: First Friday of the month

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: St. Agnes Church

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

Facebook event page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/55995661778301?ref=newsfeed>

MERCY CARE FRIENDSHIP VOLUNTEERS

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

Date: Oct. 19

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

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

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

DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR

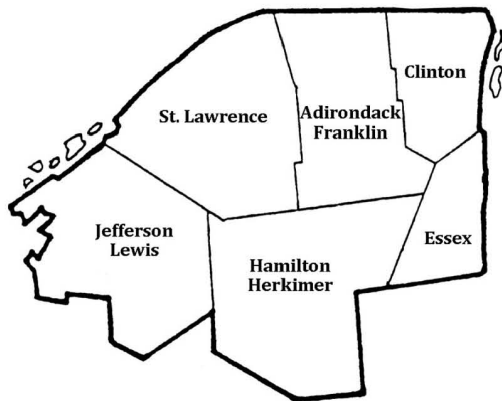
St. Regis Falls – All are invited to the monthly first Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour for Vocations.

Date: First Saturday of the Month

Time: Following the 4:30 anticipated Mass

Place: St. Ann's Church

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



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.

CLINTON

HARVEST DINNER

Altona – Holy Angels to have their harvest dinner.

Date: Oct. 16

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

Place: Holy Angels Hall

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

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

Features: Take-out available. There will also be a Chinese suction and baskets of different themes.

HOUSE SITTERS

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

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

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

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

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

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

Date: Starting Sept. 24 and 40 days after

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

Place: Across from Planned Parenthood

Features: This is a peaceful prayerful gathering. Participants will hold signs supporting moms and their unborn children.

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

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

Date: Oct. 8

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

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

BASKET RAFFLE

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

Date: Raffle begins Oct. 9 and continues to Oct. 30. Tickets on sale after 11 a.m. Mass.

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

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

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

CLM EVENT

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

Date: Oct. 20

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

Place: St. Anthony's Church

Cost: \$15 per person

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

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

HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY

Houseville – A Holy Hour of Adoration with the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be observed the first Sunday of the month.

Date: Nov. 6

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

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

INDOOR SALE

Gouverneur – St. James School is having a huge indoor sale.

Date: Oct. 8

Time: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Features: Halloween costumes, fall and Christmas decorations, DVD's, VHS tapes, CDs, household, linens, dishes, glassware, books, knick knacks, gift items, frames, puzzles, jewelry, and much more.

MONTHLY BRUNCH

Norfolk – Parish of the Visitation and

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

Date: Oct. 9 (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 315-212-5166.

CLM EVENT

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

Date: Oct. 12

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Cost: \$20

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

Contact: Register at:

www.rcdony.org/clm-event Be sure to choose the correct CLM event when registering. There are two events planned for October.

ORGAN RECITAL

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

Date: Oct. 23

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: As part of the Cathedral parish's 70th anniversary celebrations. There is no admission fee. A light reception will follow.

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

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

Date: Nov. 5

Time: 8 a.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

Features: Rosary with devotions

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

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

Date: Nov. 5

Time: 3:15 p.m.

Vatican basilica provides background for film

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- For two weeks in October, the facade of St. Peter's Basilica will be the screen for the nighttime showing of a short film about the life, the call and the ministry of St. Peter.

The eight-minute 3D film, using art from the basilica and from the Vatican Museums, will be projected onto the facade every 15 minutes from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. Oct. 2-16. The narration is in Italian with subtitles in English.

"What are the features of the church? What is its true face? That of the pope? The scandals? Its missionaries? Its doctrine and catechism? Its social commitment?" asked Cardinal Mauro Gambetti, archpriest of the basilica.

While all those are part of the church, the cardinal told re-

porters Sept. 20, "sometimes you need to dust off the mirror" and provide a clearer, more basic image of the church to both believers and visitors, which is why the basilica wants to present to the public the life and faith of St. Peter.

Conventual Franciscan Father Agnello Stoia, pastor of the basilica, said the millions of people who cross the basilica's threshold each year include pilgrims wanting to renew their faith, but also many visitors simply attracted by the majesty and beauty of the art, architecture and history of the basilica.

Both types of visitors must be welcomed, he said, and helped to understand why the church, built over the tomb of St. Peter, is so important to Catholics and to

Christians in general.

In the months following the projection of the film, Father Stoia said, the basilica and the Diocese of Rome will offer a series of events to help people follow the footsteps of St. Peter around Rome and, it is hoped, help them come to the same profession of faith in Jesus as "the Messiah, the son of the living God."

The projects are supported by the Fratelli Tutti Foundation, which is based at the basilica and dedicated to highlighting the intersection of art and faith, promoting greater knowledge of the basilica and its treasures and supporting dialogue with other cultures and religions.

Jesuit Father Francesco Occhetta, general secretary of the foundation, said that in January

the Fabbrica di San Pietro, the office charged with the physical upkeep of the basilica, will welcome its first apprentices. The 20 young people will come from a variety of countries and will work for six months with the masters of the Fabbrica's mosaic studio, carpenters and other technical staff.

Something similar existed at the basilica in the 1700s, he said.

Cardinal Gambetti also announced that the basilica will start offering an "international Mass" at noon Wednesdays after Pope Francis' general audience. Groups of pilgrims present at the audience will be invited to do the readings in their language or provide the music or otherwise share their language, culture and faith with other pilgrims.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Time: 3:15 p.m.

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

DIOCESAN EVENTS

WOMEN'S HEALING RETREAT

The St. Andre Besette Sisters of Malone is sponsoring a Healing Retreat for 30 women of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Date: Oct. 6 to Oct. 9

Place: Wadhams Hall, Ogdensburg

Cost: \$250 per person and includes accommodations and all meals.

Features: Women must be age 18 or older to attend. The purpose of the Healing Retreat is to 'make more room within, for God,' allowing His love and mercy to heal as He desires. Bishop LaValley, Father Bryan Stitt, Sister Kelly and Sister Grace Capuchin Sister of Nazareth, and Dave McClow will be presiding and presenting.

Contact: For more information and registration visit the Diocese of Ogdensburg website at www.rcdony.org

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake – Online registration is now open for Family Guggenheim.

Date: Session 3 Oct. 7-9

Place: Guggenheim

Cost: Visit www.rcdony.org/family-

life/fg for more information

Features: Family Guggenheim welcomes families of all dimensions to come enjoy a special weekend in the beauty of the Adirondacks. Expect fun family workshops and activities that will have you working and laughing together. Celebrate Christ's presence in your lives through liturgy (often outside) and special prayer services. Take time for great outdoor activities like paddle boat rides, beach volleyball, and hiking.

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

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: Oct. 7 at Our Lady of Victory Center, Plattsburgh for the Clinton, Essex, Adirondack Deaneries; 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.

CHRIST IS HERE: COME ENCOUNTER HIM

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

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

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

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

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

DOVS PILGRIMAGE

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

Date: Oct. 26

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

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

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

LOVING AUTHENTICALLY

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

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

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

Features: Program will be a showing of "Unprotected: A Pope, the Pill, and the Perils of Sexual Chaos." With Q & A led by Natural Family Planning Directors, Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli and Catholic Theologian, Maura Hearden Fehlner, Ph.D

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

NEIGHBORING DIOCESES

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Syracuse – Women's conference to be held with the theme of "Maintaining a Eucharist Heart in a Broken World"

Date: Oct. 15

Time: Doors open at 7:30 a.m., Mass begins at 9 a.m. with Bishop Lucia

Place: Oncenter Convention Center

Cost: \$55 Online or if mailed by Oct. 8 if postmarked by Oct. 1; or \$70 at the door if space allows) No Refunds will be allowed, if you can not attend your ticket will be donated to a religious sister or other in need of sponsorship.

Features: Adoration, Confession, Vendors and Inspiring Speakers to include Sonja Corbitt, Sister Jane Dominic Laurel and Bishop Terry R. LaValley. Lunch is provided. Event is for women 18 years and older. Nursing infants welcome.

Contact: For more information and to register: www.SyracuseCatholicWomen.org



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Placing our trust in God

Our readings this Sunday all have to do with trust in God's plan, even though it often doesn't make sense to us. It's a matter of faith.

In the first reading, the prophet Habakkuk questions why God seems so indifferent to the terrible times, filled with the misery, destruction and violence in his world. God hastens to assure Habakkuk to be patient. It will all be rectified in time.

In the second letter to Timothy, St. Paul to remember his ordination as God's representative. He urges him to stir coura-



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

geously trust the power, love, and self-control with which God has gifted him. He is reminded that the Spirit of God dwells in him. Again, trust is the message.

In today's Gospel, God questions the quality of faith in his apostles. "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree 'be uprooted and planted in the sea' and it would obey you." It's all about being a good servant when commanded to prepare something to eat for the master, and to then wait on table. They shouldn't expect praise, but to know that they were only doing what

October 3

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14

Luked17:5-10

they were obliged to do.

In our own troubled times, we often question why God allows all this to happen. Why doesn't He do something about it? In our whole lives, we've never seen such disastrous events, with no hope of things getting better. It is indeed a dark fearful world. We must pray and work. God is still in charge. It's our job to pray and witness to the truth of our faith, knowing that God is still in charge.

CALLED TO SERVE

Get up! Time for the Gospel

I was master of ceremony at a Knights of Columbus social event once, and all my brothers jumped up when a priest entered the hall. I was not quite as quick getting to my feet and was quickly corrected.

Members of the Knights of Columbus, at least in this Council, stand when a priest, any priest, enters the room. It is a sign of respect for that vocation.

They don't do that, stand, when a deacon enters the room, but that's a whole different issue.

The point is we stand, a sign of respect, at full posture, humbly before God, the ultimate authority, when we stand at Mass to hear the proclamation of the Gospel.

"The Catholic Church uses the gospels as the foundation of its teachings. The two great commandments, love God and love your neighbor as yourself, are what the Catholic Church uses to build its

teachings. We stand during the Gospel as a sign of respect for the words of Christ."

All the readings at Mass are important, but the Gospels hold a higher place among the rest of the word of God because they are directly related to Christ's bodily time on this earth.

We sit for the homily.

As I wrote last week, sitting tells our brains that it is a time to relax, to meditate, to listen. The readings might have been a little dense. It may have been difficult for us to absorb all that God is telling us in the scripture, psalm and Gospel. It is the homilist's job to pull that all together and make the passages relevant to us today.

We used to call this moment in the Mass a sermon.

That's not always the case. A sermon is about a moral teaching or some religious practice or fact. A homily is the "public explanation of a sacred doctrine" as heard in the readings.

I think part of the public perception that homilies are boring is pointed right back at the hearer.

Sitting comfortably in the pew, many in the congregation do not listen. They let their mind wander to other pressing issues like what to make for dinner, or how your favorite team is doing, or some personal issue that has become a preoccupation.

Actually, if we listen, the answer to many of our problems might be found in the scripture, in the homily and in prayer. Try it some time. Listen.



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

October is Respect Life Month

We are inviting you to consider sponsorship of an advertisement with the USCCB theme

"Called to
serve
moms in
need"



to appear in our October 26th
issue of the

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

For \$25 your name will appear as a supporter of human life from conception through natural death. Your donation helps to support the material printed in the NCC.

Must be returned to the NCC by
Oct. 18, 2022

Call our office at 315-608-7556 to donate with your Credit Card or fill out the form below:

YES! I/We would like to support a Respect Life Page in the *North Country Catholic*.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Name as it will appear in the ad (please print): _____

Mail Checks payable to: *North Country Catholic*
PO Box 106, Canajoharie, NY 13317

World Mission Sunday 2022
The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, a Pontifical Mission Society

844,000 CATECHISTS TEACHING THE FAITH

258,540 RELIGIOUS PEOPLE SERVING THE POOR, THE ELDERLY AND THE SICK

38,140 SEMINARIANS PREPARING FOR THE PRIESTHOOD

26M CHILDREN IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

11,480 CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES IN THE SCOUTS AND GUIDES

8,750 HOMES FOR ORPHAN CHILDREN AND THE ELDERLY

“YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES”
(ACTS 1:8)

Ribault Pontine (artist, also 200 years ago founded the first of the four Pontifical Mission Societies, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith)

World Mission Sunday

This year's World Mission Sunday theme is "You shall be My witnesses" (Acts 1:8). World Mission Sunday gives us this important opportunity to reach out to the Mission Church, to speak about our faith and about missionaries who proclaim the Gospel as they serve the poor.

We each can participate in this worldwide moment for prayerful and financial support for the Pope's missions.

Pope Francis reminds us, "More and more, we are seeing how the presence of faithful of various nationalities enriches the face of parishes and makes them more universal, more Catholic."

Your parish's support of evangelizing efforts and building the Church in more than 1,100 mission dioceses on that special day answers that shared call. Your parishioners' prayers and sacrifices will



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

support priests, religious, and lay pastoral leaders who are proclaiming the Gospel, building the Church, and serving the poorest communities in territories covering more than half the globe. Parishioners must know how their practical help and devoted prayer enables missionaries to work and witness to Christ, especially as the Mission Church continues

to cope with the challenges of the global pandemic.

We ask that you keep the missions at home and abroad in your prayers this month and donate to the World Mission Sunday collection on October 23.

Gratefully in the Lord,

Sr. Mary Ellen

Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ



D.L. CALARCO Funeral Home, Inc.

135 Keyes Avenue
Watertown • 782-4910

Service Available

OBITUARIES

Canton – Janet M. (McDonald) Coloton, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 30, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Hermond Cemetery.

Cape Vincent – Robert "Boobbie" C. Mason, 70; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 5, 2022 at St. Vincent of Paul Church.

Malone – Donald F. Shatraw, 83; Graveside Services Oct. 7, 2022 at Notre Dame Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Leona F. (Rivers) Renadette, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 3, 2022 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Gene Richard Sargent, 94; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at a later date.

Port Henry – Leo Kudlacik, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 27, 2022 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Theresa (Bashant) Woulf, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 28, 2022 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Watertown – Katherine (Scordo) Benedetto, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 27, 2022 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Donald P. Quencer, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 1, 2022 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Sanford Corner Cemetery, Calcium.

Watertown – Gerald "Pete" F. Petrie, 90; Graveside Services Sept. 30, 2022 at Brookside Cemetery.

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THE BLUE MASS



What is a Foster Grandparent?

Foster Grandparents are role models, mentors, and friends to children with exceptional needs. The program provides a way for volunteers age 55 and over to stay active by serving children and youth in their communities. They are placed in a classroom setting with a child or children who are in need of emotional support, development of basic learning skills, friendship, companionship, encouragement, individual attention, and unhurried help. The program currently has 40 volunteers and serves more than 100 kids per year.

The Foster Grandparent Program is hosted by the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and supported by AmeriCorps Seniors, a federally funded agency responsible for building volunteer based programs for over 50 years and counting.



Sometimes when you get to be my age, you wake up and say what good am I and along came the Foster Grandparent Program that keeps me going!"

Roy Foote
age 83
Foster
Grandparent



Am I Qualified to be a Foster Grandparent?

All you need to join is the ability to give the kind of comfort and love that sets a child on the path toward a successful future. If you're 55 or older and want to share your experience and compassion, you have what it takes to be a Foster Grandparent.

You'll also receive a small bi-weekly, non-taxable stipend that cannot be held against any current benefits you may already have as well as paid mileage for your travel. Additionally, you receive paid holidays, vacations, sick and personal leave.



Want more info about how to get started?

Contact Melissa Howard,
Volunteer Coordinator

PHONE:
(518)359-7688

EMAIL:
mhoward@cathcharities.org

80 Park Street, Suite 2
PO Box 701
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