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PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS ON PILGRIMAGE



Members and guests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society (DOVS) made a pilgrimage to Mother Cabrini's Shrine in Peru on Oct. 26. The Vocation Rosary was prayed at the shrine, and participants had time for prayer at St. Patrick's Church. The pilgrims went to St. Augustine's Church, Peru for a Holy Hour and Benediction followed by Mass with Father Christopher C. Carrara, diocesan director of Vocations as the celebrant Father Scott Seymour, pastor of The Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph with parishes at Cadyville and Peru, pastoral vicar Father Leagon Carlin and Deacon Thomas Proulx of St. Peter's Parish, Massena.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL CELEBRATES 70 YEARS



Dominic Fiacco, 17, of Poland, New York, practices on the organ at St. Mary's Cathedral ahead of his recital there on Oct. 23. The recital was part of the cathedral's 70th anniversary celebration.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope: Sadness can serve as 'alarm bell' for life

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Feelings of desolation and sadness are not signs of trials that may discourage Christians, they can be indispensable signs that point to dangers along the path toward happiness, Pope Francis said.

Although many consider sadness "an ill to avoid at all costs," Christians should see it as "an indispensable alarm bell for life, inviting us to explore richer and more fertile landscapes that transcend and escapism do not permit," the pope said Oct. 26 during his weekly general audience.

Sadness "is indispensable for our health," he said. "It protects us from harming ourselves and others. It would be far more serious and dangerous if we did not feel this."

The pope continued his series of audience talks on spiritual discernment, reflecting on desolation and the role it plays in Christian life.

Recalling the words of St. Ignatius of Loyola, Pope Francis defined desolation as the "darkness of the soul" and the "unquiet of different agitations and tempta-

tions" that lead one to becoming "lazy, tepid, sad, as if separated from his or her creator and Lord."

"No one wants to be desolate, sad," he said. "We would all like a life that is always joyful, cheerful and fulfilled. Yet this, besides not being possible, would not be good for us either. Indeed, the change from a life oriented toward vice can start from a situation of sadness, of remorse for what one has done."

"Sometimes sadness is a traffic light: 'Stop. Stop. It's red. Stop,'" the pope said.

However, for men and women who seek to do good, desolation also can be an obstacle "with which the tempter (the devil) tries to discourage us" and can lead to abandoning "work, study, prayer" or other commitments.

"Unfortunately, some people decide to abandon the life of prayer, or the choice they have made – marriage or religious life – driven by desolation, without first pausing to consider this state of mind, and especially without the help of a guide," he said.

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Through a different lens

Growing up, my maternal grandparents lived in Brushton, a tiny village in northern Franklin County. Since they were only about 10 miles from our home in Bombay, my sisters and I spent quite a bit of time at their home.

Though we were young when my grandparents sold their home, I very clearly remember sliding down the stairway railing (grandma referred to it as a "banister" when she was scolding us) in the entryway. I clearly remember sitting on my grandfather's lap as he'd pretend to sleep and make

dramatic snoring noises. I clearly remember playing in the back yard.

In fact, a lot of my memories of that home and property centered in that yard. I remember playing games with my sisters and cousins there. I remember my grandfather growing a garden and berries. I also remember once eating all the berries along with my twin sister.

I remember the yard being large – not as large as the farm property at my other grandparents' house, but large.

Now, my husband, son and I live just a couple of

miles from my grandparents' old home. Occasionally, I'll detour down the side road to go by the property. The first time I drove by the home as an adult, something struck me: that yard is tiny.

It's amazing what time and experience do to perspective. I don't view things through the lens of a child now.

My experience of that yard jumped into my head as I was praying recently about the fact that my spiritual life feels a bit dry lately.

I remember being a teen and attending Camp Guggenheim, retreats and youth events. I remember having profound experi-

ences of God, experiences that would make me cry or fill me with feelings of love or awe. I sometimes long for those big feelings now.

But I forget that I shouldn't view my faith through the lens of a teenager.

Raising one now, I'm regularly reminded that every emotion is a big emotion for that age group – nearly every setback feels like the end of the world, nearly every moment of joy feels like the biggest and best moment ever.

I may not feel those big emotions regularly now, but I'm no less loved by my God. I'm just experiencing faith in a different way, in a different time, and not through the lens of a child.



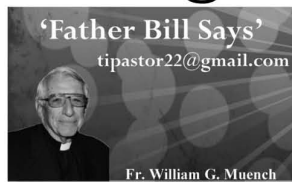
Darcy L. Fargo

Remembering my favorite saints

All Saints Day is one of my favorite feast days in our Catholic Church liturgical year, a day to celebrate all the saints, the canonized ones and those that are not canonized. On this feast day, I celebrate all my favorite saints.

Let me first remind you that our Catholic Church has a system to declare that a person is truly a saint. After some study, it is determined that this person has lived a life of holiness and that they are certainly in Heaven with God. Also in our Church, there is a solemn ceremony in which Our Holy Father declares to the world that a person is truly a saint.

I am certain that you know many of the canonized saints. Each day of our liturgical year is dedicated as a feast day to one or more canonized saints. I have many favorites, like St. Francis of Assisi, St. Pope John XXIII, St. Bakhita, St. Andrew the Apostle (I was pastor of a parish dedicated to St. Andrew), and so many other



Fr. William G. Muench

I want you to know that I have a list of my own favorite saints who have not been canonized by the Church. They are very special people who have touched my life in a special way through their writings and teachings, and through the way in which they lived their lives. Some have been my friends. I just know that they were saints. Let me mention just a few: Catherine Doherty, the foundress of Madonna House, Thomas Merton, the Trappist monk and author, and many others. They have touched my life in a profound way and still do.

Now, I want you to know that on my list of special saints, those uncanonized saints, I have included some from my own family: my mother, my father, a few of my aunts and uncles. I truly

believe they are saints and have touched me and helped me find God in my life.

And while I am at it, I must add that I have many, many personal friends who I know are saints. I think of priest friends, my skiing buddies, and many priests and religious Sisters with whom I have worked with in various parishes. They were truly saints. And many of the laity, especially those who were parishioners in the various parishes where I served as pastor, I am certain I was blessed to have known who were saints.

By the way, I am also rather bold enough here to add to my list of favorite saints some who are still alive and active. Again, I have been blessed to know many saints during my time as a pastor. I have been led and guided by them.

You probably wonder how I decide if someone is a saint or going to be a saint. Well, I must admit that I depend a great deal upon the Lord's guidance. Truly with the Lord's help it is rather obvi-

ous. As with so many things in life it is the little things. Someone, somewhere gave me this definition of a saint: "A saint is someone who does ordinary things in a most extraordinary way."

I have known many in my time as a priest who are anxious to tell me they will never be a saint because of present day failings and sins. As I study many of our canonized saints, they had times in their lives when they confess to us that they were sinners. However, they were sinners who found Jesus and transformed their lives. They learned how to bring the Holy Spirit into their lives. They began to follow the Lord Jesus. They lived the lives of saints.

All Saints Day: What a terrific feast day to remember so many! May they continue to show me the way to sanctity. I want to tell you about a friend who comes to confession to me and begins "Father, I'm no saint." My immediate response is usually, "well, you better get busy. It is the only reason that we are down here."

Cathedral celebrates 70 years with recital

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

OGDENSBURG – At age 17, Dominic Fiacco isn't spending his free time playing hours and hours of video games. Instead, he's playing hours and hours of organ music.

Fiacco, a resident of Poland, New York, gave an organ recital on the new organ at St. Mary's Cathedral on Oct. 23, part of the cathedral's 70th anniversary celebration.

While he's been playing music – piano especially – since age 4, Fiacco first found his love of the organ during a concert he attended at age 8.

"The piano really has only one sound," Fiacco said. "The organ has dozens and dozens of sounds. It can be soft flute, bells, a huge, loud trumpet, strings and combinations of sounds. And the organ also has pedals, and you have to learn to play with your feet just like you play with your hands, and it has multiple keyboards."

Fiacco, who is home schooled, practices his craft at least a couple of hours each day.

"Because I'm home schooled, my classes are pretty flexible, and my parents are very supportive," he said. "I do my class work, I practice for a couple of hours each day, and other than that I get to do pretty normal stuff."

While he does "the hard work" at home, learning arrangements of musical pieces, Fiacco said the "fun part" begins when he sits down at an organ for the first time.

"Every organ has different sounds, a different experience," he said, as he acclimated to the organ at St. Mary's Cathedral. "Experimenting with the sounds of a new organ is really fun. I do the hard work at home, so I can



Dominic Fiacco

have fun with this part. You need to spend a long time working on the organ and testing sounds until you find what you like."

Fiacco practiced on the cathedral organ Thursday, Friday and Saturday, joining the cathedral music ministry team for Saturday Mass and playing his recital on Sunday.

"I try to pick pieces I think the audience would like – a mix of fun pieces with more intellectual pieces," he said. "I also aim for contrast. I almost always open and end with an open, loud exciting piece. I tend to go with softer pieces in the middle. I like really dramatic French pieces of the 20th century, a lot of French Catholic pieces."

In fact, it's Fiacco's work in music ministry that has given him the greatest joy.

"I think playing in churches is more important than recitals," he said. "Mostly because Mass is more important than recitals. I like the sense that I can contribute to worship. I like feeling of uplifting them. I like studying the text of hymns to come up with sounds that match. If the verse is triumphant, I'll play it with loud, big sounds. If a verse is more somber, I can play more dramatic or somber music with it."

St. Mary's Cathedral remains a 'beacon of hope'

By Tyler Fitzgerald
Diocese of Ogdensburg seminarian

The crisp and brisk air of an autumn North Country day gave way to sunshine and a warm gentle breeze on the morning of October 22, 1952. Nature seemed to have set the perfect scene for two glorious occasions – the Solemn Consecration of the new Cathedral of Saint Mary and a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving.

The vast granite edifice at the corner of Hamilton and Greene Streets stood as a beacon of faith and hope for the Diocese of Ogdensburg after the devastating loss of the original cathedral five years prior. The quiet streets soon began to fill with the murmur of spectators, who came from all parts of the diocese to celebrate the occasion.

The ceremonies commenced early in the morning at 6:30 with the Rite of Consecration. Bishop Bryan D. McEntegart, fifth bishop of the diocese, assisted by Bishops Joseph Berry and Stephen Donahue, solemnly consecrated the building to the Glory of God. Through the blessing of the walls, inside and out, with Holy Water, tracing the Greek and Latin alphabet on the floor, anointing the altars with Sacred Chrism and sealing in them relics of various saints, the new spiritual home of the diocese was fully set apart as holy ground.

Crowds over-flowed out of the newly consecrated mother church of the diocese into the streets and park opposite the cathedral. Speaker systems and chairs were set up and an estimated 1,500 people made pilgrimage to attend the 11 a.m. Solemn Pontifical Mass celebrated by the archbishop of New York, Cardinal Francis Spellman. A procession of countless clergy and prelates started at St. Mary's Academy, led by cross and candles, accompanied by hymns and the peal of the new cathedral's bells. The entourage reached the white chrysanthemum and yellow rose adorned High Altar, where Cardinal Spellman began the Mass.

The liturgy was miraculous; the smell of chrism and incense wafted as the Cathedral Choir provided a repertoire under the direction of Father J. Everett Denesha. Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston preached on cathedrals as Temples of the Living God.

In this ongoing celebration of 150 years of faith in the North Country, and on the seventieth anniversary of the Consecration of St. Mary's Cathedral, perhaps these words preached by Archbishop Cushing will find a place in our hearts:

"This is a dramatic proof that God's grace has been at work here in the diocese, but it is a proof no less dramatic that God's grace has not been wasted. Thanks to that grace and to the cooperation of priests and people with it, Ogdensburg rejoices in the newest and fairest of cathedrals, a proud temple to the glory of God and the honor of the Blessed Mother." He continued, "St. Mary's in Ogdensburg is worthy to take its place among the great cathedrals of this country... St. Mary's will long command the admiration of generations to come for its objective beauty as well as for the goodness of those who have built it."

While the world of October 22, 1952 may seem at times foreign and unrecognizable, the Diocese of Ogdensburg possesses a beacon of hope for the faithful of the North Country, a beacon whose message has remained the same.

The Gothic Revival landmark on Hamilton Street stands as a symbol of faith, rooted in the love of God which the people of this diocese possess, fostered by love of Mary, the Mother of God, under whose protection we all rest. Six popes, nine bishops, thirteen presidents, and seventy years later, St. Mary's Cathedral continues to be a splendid, holy place of prayer, where we all find a home. The Diocese of Ogdensburg solemnly rejoiced on that historic day, let us continue this rejoicing and offer praise and thanks to God on this joyous occasion.

Made in his image: Finding the face of God

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

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Natural Family Planning Coordinator

Roe v. Wade is no more. But its legacy of abortion-on-demand is alive and well in many minds and hearts and in the laws of many states. The need for abortion necessarily remains strong in a society that has separated sex from marriage and rejects the innate connection between sex and procreation. This inevitably gives rise to a perfect storm, where a child – the natural biological result of sexual intercourse – is not a gift, but an enemy to be eliminated.

“Our children are the most precious and vital part of ourselves. Every parent knows there is nothing we will not do to shield our children from harm. Our first task is caring for our children. If we don’t get that right, we don’t get anything right. That’s how as a society we will be judged.” These words were spoken by then-President Barack Obama to the grieving people of Newtown, Connecticut, in December 2012. These remarks by a strongly pro-abortion president mirror our nation’s strangely schizophrenic attitude towards children. On the one hand, the loss of a “wanted” child is utterly tragic; on the other hand, the loss of 63 million children (and counting) to abortion hardly merits a mention apart from raw statistics.



RESOURCES

The Gospel of God's love for man, the Gospel of the dignity of the human person, and the Gospel of life are a single and indivisible Gospel. – The Gospel of Life, #

Help for Moms | New York State Catholic Conference
nyscatholic.org/helpformoms

To access The Gospel of Life (Evangelium Vitae):
vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals.index.html

To access the Catechism of the Catholic Church
vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM

Yet those numbers, and the tragic destruction of human life they represent, have had an effect. Centuries before Christ, the Greek philosopher Aristotle observed that we become what we habitually do. The legal destruction of unwanted persons through abortion has created a profound indifference to the value of human life, yielding an increasingly bitter harvest of violence in our homes, on our streets, and in our schools. Scripture warns that we reap what we sow (Gal 6:7).

Since the first century, the Church has held fast to the teaching of Jesus, clearly distancing itself from prevailing social norms that devalue human life. The Church likewise calls people to fidelity to God, even as “Choices once unanimously rejected by the common moral sense are becoming socially acceptable” (GoL, 4). Why? St. John Paul II explains in THE GOSPEL OF LIFE: “God has granted to man a dignity that is nearly di-

vine. In every child, in every person who lives or dies, we see the image of God’s glory. We celebrate this glory in every human being, a sign of the living God, an icon of Jesus Christ” (GoL, 84).

Created by God in love and for love, in his very image, it is the task of human beings to grow in likeness to God. This truth informs every dimension of Catholic belief in the dignity of the human person, and of the inviolability of every person’s right to life.

Thus, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church (2258) makes clear: “Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the sacred action of God, and it remains forever in a special relationship with the creator who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life, from its beginning to its end: no one can, in any circumstances, claim for himself the right to destroy directly an innocent human being. Because such actions are radically incompatible with the love of God and

the dignity of the person created in his image, the Church teaches that: “Such choices cannot be redeemed by the goodness of any intention or consequences...The deliberate decision to deprive an innocent human being of life is always morally evil. It is in fact a grave act of disobedience to the moral law, and indeed to God himself. God proclaims that he is the absolute Lord of human life...He is the defender of the innocent, who does not delight in the death of the living” (GoL 53).

Abortion, on the other hand, bespeaks a dark hopelessness, a last resort, a final solution. Its destructive power leaves brokenness, emptiness, and pain in its wake – for mothers and fathers, for families, for society. But it can never overcome the light of Christ or the power of his mercy. The salvation Jesus won for us on the Cross has triumphed over sin, and his mercy reaches deeply into the hearts of those who seek him. Women and men whose lives have been marred by abortion have, in the sacrament of reconciliation, an unparalleled opportunity to encounter the healing grace of God, who waits for them with perfect love.

The bishops of our country, on their USCCB website, remind us: “While the Catholic Church is pro-life, and abortion is a serious sin, forgiveness, hope, and healing are available. If you are Catholic and had an abortion, you can be reconciled to the Church by going to confession. For many women who have had abortions, there is a grieving process.

Project Rachel is a ministry for those who have been involved in abortion and is open to people of all faiths.”

As well as post-abortion healing, the Church offers many avenues of assistance to help women choose life for their unborn babies. As long ago as 1995, St. Pope John Paul II called all believers to join in this ongoing work, “to show care for all life, and for the life of everyone...To this end, appropriate and effective programs of support for new life must be implemented, with special closeness to mothers who, even without the help of the father, are not afraid to bring their child into the world and to raise it. (GoL, 87).” This promise was recently renewed by the New York State Bishops, and such help is widely available. (See box at left.)

In the closing pages of The Gospel of Life (#97), the late Holy Father clarified that the “trivialization of sexuality is among the principal factors which have led to contempt for new life. Only a true love is able to protect life. We [must] help the young to accept and experience sexuality and love and the whole of life according to their true meaning and in their close interconnection... that manifests its inmost meaning in leading the person to the gift of self in love.”

First and last, “Jesus has a unique relationship with every person, which enables us to see in every human face the face of Christ... It is the call for a sincere gift of self as the fullest way to realize our personal freedom” GoL, 81).

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

Seeking the spiritual side of dementia

The possibility of suffering from dementia later in life is a worrisome and unpleasant prospect for many of us. Most people I know would like to remain in possession of their mental faculties until the end. Stephen Post, Director of the Center for Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care and Bioethics at Stony Brook University describes it this way:

"The leading symptoms of dementia are, frankly, terrifying: loss of memory, of language, and of reasoning ability. We all feel at least a slight anxiety about dementia because these dreaded symptoms seem to assault our very identities, to dissolve the autobiographical narratives that constitute the very story of our lives."

The dreaded symptoms of dementia may lead to spiritual temptations. The prospect of losing autonomy and control can lead some to despair and even attempt suicide.

What can we say about the meaning of a life-changing reality like dementia for ourselves and our loved ones? Could it be that God is seeking to carry out a particular spiritual work?

For some who face dementia, it can have the effect of getting them off the treadmill and detaching them from those aspects of their lives that may be binding them, whether it's work and career, hobbies or pastimes, or something else that may be drawing them away from a needed spiritual focus.

In one of his articles, Stephen Post mentions Peter, who through his struggle with a diagnosis

of Alzheimer's, experienced a spiritual reawakening and encountered the Lord's grace:

"I'd say, 'Why did you let this happen to me? I had such a good career. Everything was going fine for me.' He would say to me probably, 'Well, why did you fight it? I was trying to lead you in this direction.' Oh, I didn't realize that. Well, I've come to the conclusion that everything has a purpose, so the Good Lord, He knows the best for you. So maybe this was to slow me down to enjoy life and to enjoy my family and to enjoy what's out there. And right now, I can say that I'm a better person for it, in appreciation of other people's needs and illnesses, than I ever was when I was working that rat race back and forth day to day."

It can be very hard for a family, especially a spouse, to watch the slow destruction of a loved one's faculties. At times the person suffering from dementia can become so frustrated they are aggressive towards those around them. There is need for a great deal of patience and spiritual and social support in these situations.

The lives of caregivers tend to be upended and changed profoundly by caring for a family member, relative or friend with dementia, and the generous love they share is itself often sustained by faith in God. As caregivers watch their loved ones with "deep forgetfulness" disengage from

the people around them, and from other previously important reference points in their lives, they also witness the emergence of an unmistakable simplicity in those they care for.

In a 2010 essay, Mary Anne Moresco beautifully sums up her dad's and her family's transformative spiritual journey this way:

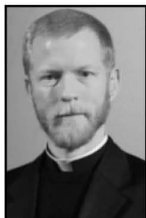
"My 83-year-old father has dementia. He can remember things that happened a lifetime ago like it was yesterday, but he often can't remember yesterday at all... My father needs this time in life. And we, his children, need it too. We need to glimpse into his past days, as he journeys backward. We need to show him love, as best as we can. We need to offer

up our prayers for him. This time is useful. It is valuable. For everything there is a season, and this winter season of my father's life is part of what will help guide his soul into eternity. Dad, through his dementia is working out his salvation. He isn't doing that the way his children wanted him to do it. He isn't doing that the way he wanted to do it. He is doing it the way God has deemed that he must do it. '...unless you become like little children, you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven.' (Matt: 18:3)... With each passing month, my father grows more humble and more childlike, more dependent and more trusting and I do not doubt, closer to our Lord and to Heaven."

As the symptoms and complications of dementia unfold, the challenges we face from the disease

can unexpectedly become an invitation from God. Although dementia can contribute to spiritual growth, it almost always involves a great deal of suffering for all concerned, and the challenges should not be underestimated. Such moments, nevertheless, offer important opportunities to grow in grace, to slow down, to reevaluate our priorities and to enter into a more profound relationship with Him who is our final destination and abiding hope.

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



Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk Ph.D.

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.



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.



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

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
Tupper Lake, NY 12986

Environmental Stewardship

Life lessons learned from creation

Praying with God's creation is a practice that dates back as far as the Bible itself, i.e. the Book of Psalms and the parables of Jesus.

It can reveal to us the mysteries hidden beneath the surface of life if we but take the time to be still and listen.

This practice continues through history to our present day.

Some examples are: St. Columba, who lived in the sixth century in Ireland, advised: "If you want to know the Creator, look at creation."

St. Hildegard of Bingen stated, "Glance at the sun. See the moon and the stars. Gaze at the beauty of the Earth's greenings. Now, think. . . There is the music of Heaven in all things."

In the words of Thomas Merton: "By reading the scriptures I am so renewed that all nature seems renewed around me and with me.

The sky seems to be a pure, a cooler blue, the trees a deeper green. The whole world is charged with the glory of God and I feel fire and music under my feet."

In her prayer for Autumn season, author Sister Joyce Rupp prays with all of creation as she shares the messages they have inspired in her:

"God of Autumn, as trees are saying goodbye to their green, letting go of what has been. We, too, have our moments of surrender with all their insecurity and risk. Help us to let go when we need to."

"God of geese going south for another season, may Your wisdom enable us to know what needs to be left behind and what needs to be carried into the future. May we yearn for insight and wisdom."

"God of flowers touched with frost and windows wearing white designs, may your love keep our hearts from the cold in empty seasons."

When Jesus wanted to teach us about the paschal mystery of life that we are called to enter into freely, He turned to the cycles in nature found in the grain of wheat.

(John 12:24-26) What have you observed in nature that has taught you a valuable lesson about life?

Rest in Peace

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

Nov. 2 – Rev. Thomas Walsh, 1888; Rev. John Henry Lyons, 1931; Msgr. James J. Ruddy, 1987

Nov. 3 – Rev. Thomas Plunkett, 1904

Nov. 4 – Msgr. Benjamin Harrison Staie, 1970

Nov. 5 – Most Rev. David E. Bacon, 1874; Rev. Bernard Wyzkowski, 1969; Rev. John Michael Wyzkowski, 1969

Nov. 7 – Rev. Dennis Nolan, 1911; Rev. William Ouellette, O.M.I., 1936; Msgr. William, H. Brennan, 1986; Deacon Peter J. Lawless, 2020

Nov. 8 – Rev. Patrick McGilligan, 1828

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:

Nov. 17 – 6 p.m., St. Peter's Church, Lowville

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact

Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terriane Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianeyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rcdony.org

Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340. If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at 800-276-1562 or www.ReportBishopAbuse.org.

NATIONAL VOCATION WEEK

Bringing hope to the world

"May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might, which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one

to come." – Ephesians 1: 18-21

St. Paul reminds us in this week of National Vocations Awareness that each of us has received a call to share in the riches of the heavenly glory and presence of the Risen Lord and to be with all the holy ones who have lived and witnessed the Gospel of Jesus Christ. By our Baptism, we are the chosen ones who have been called either as mothers and fathers, or called to priesthood or consecrated life, or to be single, and to carry forward Jesus' mission of living the Good News of Salvation through acts of loving, forgiving, healing, teaching, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, listening to the broken-hearted, working for peace, climate change, etc.

Our baptismal vocation calls us to evangelize and to make disciples in a world that is fast changing and struggles to find God and to find the face of Jesus Christ to those on the margins and even to those who are our next door neighbors.

This National Vocation Week is a call to all of us to "wake-up" to the call of Jesus to know, to love, and to serve Him in a special way to help change the world, to build up the Kingdom of God with greater justice, peace and love. The world needs YOU – to bring Jesus' love to a broken world, to bring healing to the broken-hearted, those on the margins of life, to those who have no hope or faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you hear His call?

St. John Paul II said, "The way Jesus shows you is not easy, Rather, it is like a path winding up a mountain. Do not lose heart! The steeper the road, the faster it rises towards ever wider horizons."

How true this is! God's call takes us to places and situations far from our imagining and graces us to bring hope to a people hungry for Him. People do not know they are hungry for God. We are called to help fill that hunger.

Let us pray for more vocations to the married life, for family life to be strengthened. It is from families that the call to priesthood and consecrated life are heard. We especially need more vocations in this diocese, especially priests to celebrate the sacramental life of the Church, to "pastor" the People of God; deacons to be of service to the people in parishes; consecrated men and women to teach the Catholic faith, to visit the sick and those in prison.

All of us all called to "open the eyes of hearts" longing to really know that God loves them personally and holds them in His heart.

The Church prays this week in a special way for someone like YOU to hear and answer the call: "Follow Me!" As St. Teresa of Avila proclaimed:

"God has no body but yours...No hands, no feet but yours...You are the feet with which he works to do good. Yours are the hands, through which he blesses the world."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Abortion-related questions take center stage in survey

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Abortion-related questions – and Americans' responses to them – were front and center in the new American Values Survey issued Oct. 27 by the Washington-based Public Religion Research Institute. A majority of Catholics surveyed opposed the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion in the United States, including 56% of white Catholics and 52% of Hispanic Catholics. Fully half of white Catholics said they are very motivated to vote when thinking about the *Roe v. Wade* decision, but Hispanic Catholics had the lowest numbers of any religious subgroup reported by PRRI at 32%. Among all survey respondents, abortion finished fifth in importance among a list of 16 issues suggested in the poll. Finishing ahead of abortion were the increasing cost of houses and everyday expenses, the health of democracy, crime, and access to guns and gun safety. Finishing below abortion, in descending order, were education, immigration, health care, Supreme Court appointments, climate change, income disparity, jobs and unemployment, terrorism, racial inequality, infrastructure and the pandemic.

Bishops urge Congress to prioritize mothers, children

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Calling upon Congress for "radical solidarity" with mothers and babies – both born and unborn – four bishops advanced an ambitious legislative and policy agenda that prioritizes the well-being of families in a letter to lawmakers. The measures proposed by the chairmen of four U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' committees detail a "vision for an authentically life-affirming society." Dated Oct. 26, the letter explained that following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in June that reversed the court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion, there is an opportunity to "redouble efforts toward a culture of life that respects and supports the dignity of every person at every stage." Describing the court's decision as "extraordinary," the bishops said that the work to support families must be widened. "We are praying and working for changes in hearts and minds, circumstances and policy, that will help everyone to treasure each and every fellow human being in a society oriented to supporting children and their parents," the letter said.

Catholic groups urge Biden to seek diplomacy with Putin

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Catholic organizations and religious orders are calling President Joe Biden to undertake diplomatic means to prevent nuclear war with Russia. In an Oct. 26 letter to Biden sent by the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, the organizations condemned Russian President Vladimir Putin's threat to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine and urged Biden not to respond in kind if such weapons are used. "We urge you to show great restraint, and to do everything in your power to de-escalate the conflict, to seek dialogue with Russia, and take immediate, concrete steps toward nuclear disarmament," the letter said. Susan Gunn, director of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, said in a statement that "to work for peace in times of conflict requires imagination and faith. We hope President Biden is inspired by his Catholic faith, to see beyond the boundaries of race, religion and nation to keep pursuing diplomacy and dialogue, and not get caught in an escalation of arms but rather keep turning attention to the care for our common humanity," she said.

Synod report shows enthusiasm and obstacles

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Catholics around the globe long to share the Gospel with a world in need, but they see situations and tensions within the church that challenge their ability to do so, said one of the drafters of the document for the continental phase of the Synod of Bishops.

The reports sent to the Vatican from local and national listening sessions show "a deep, deep hunger for a new confidence in the church, a confidence in its ability to proclaim the Gospel to a world so deeply in need," said Anna Rowlands, a professor of Catholic social thought and practice at Durham University in England.

Rowlands, who read many of the contributions to the synod before helping draft the new document, told reporters at the Vatican Oct. 27 that the reports showed that confidence is challenged by internal church problems, especially the clerical abuse scandal.

With "just as much" focus on mission, she said, the reports ask, "What condition does the church have to be in in its own internal life and relationships to be able to carry that message to the world? To meet Christ in the world and bring Christ to the world in a Spirit-led way?"

In talking about exclusion and clericalism and a lack of listening to each other, "the reports are saying there are aspects of our own relationships, our capacity for genuine unity in diversity," that stand in the way, Rowlands said. The reports acknowledge that it is difficult to speak authoritatively to the world of reconciliation in Christ "if we cannot ourselves be brothers and sisters, if we can't heal our own divisions, our mutual suspicions, our lack of fundamental trust."

The synod document is titled "Enlarge the Space of Your Tent," a quotation of the Lord's command to the people of Israel in the Book of Isaiah.

"Enlarging the tent requires welcoming others into it, making room for their diversity," the document said. But echoing the submissions to the synod's Vatican office, the document listed people and groups who often feel excluded or are seen to be excluded: women, young people, people with disabilities, the poor, those who are divorced and civilly remarried, single parents, those in polygamous marriages and members of the LGBTQ communities.

Asked if there were limits to who

could be let into the church's tent and about Catholics who do not want the tent enlarged, Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich of Luxembourg, relator general of the synod, responded, "There will be groups sitting in the tent who are not very happy that some people are in one corner."

"But who is invited to the tent? All the people created and loved by God. All the people," he said. "Our behavior perhaps is sometimes a bit more fragmented, and our love is not as big as the love of God, so therefore we create segregations, even inside the tent."

Everyone naturally likes some people more than others, but in the church all are called to look at each person as "someone loved by God, called into being by God. Christ died for this person on the cross, so if I am not capable of giving space to this person in the tent, I have a problem with God."

Asked about the document drafters pushing or prioritizing certain themes, such as the call for women to have a greater role in church leadership, to continue studying the possibility of women deacons and the mention of some reports that even called for the ordination of women priests, Cardinal Mario Grech, synod secretary-general, insisted the document only reflects what the reports sent in said.

"No decisions have been made" on any issue, he said. "We are not pushing any agenda. This has been said from the beginning. Our responsibility was to present and to give back to the people of God that which was entrusted to us. There is no agenda."

Rowlands added that in drafting the document, if an issue came up "over and over" in the national syntheses, "we had to honor" and include it in the document.

The question of women's role in the church and society and their experiences in both "were brought up across the reports; it is an astonishing, common theme," she said. But it is also important to note how they spoke about the issue; "this is rooted in people's sense of the common dignity that comes from their baptism."

The discussion was not about women's rights, but about "the living out of a common baptismal vocation in the church in such a way that the charisms of the Spirit, the gifts and capacities and skills of all the baptized, are able to be honored and nurtured and flourish," Rowlands said.

ADIRONDACK-FRANKLIN

**FIRST FRIDAY
PRAISE AND WORSHIP**

Lake Placid – Monthly praise and worship to be held.

Date: First Friday of the month
Time: 7 p.m.

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

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 Vendors! 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.

CABBAGE ROLL SALE

Brushton – St. Mary's will be selling their famous homemade Cabbage Rolls.

Date: Nov. 8
Time: 6 a.m. until gone
Place: St. Mary's Parish Center
Cost: \$5.50 each

Contact: May be preordered on Nov. 6, 7, and 8th. Call 518 529 6580.

DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR

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

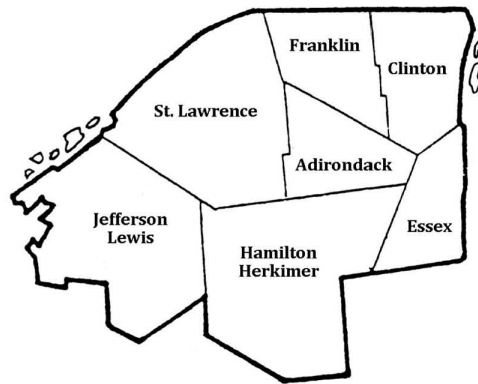
Date: First Saturday of the Month
Time: Following the 4:30 anticipated Mass

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, Chapel 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 look-



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.

ing 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.

**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 more successfully.

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

FABULOUS FALL CRAFT FAIR

Chazy – Sacred Heart Church to have a fall craft fair.

Date: Nov. 19
Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Place: Sacred Heart Parish Center

Features: Great craft festival with many craft vendors from New York and Vermont. Hot lunches, baked items, silent auction. Handicapped Accessible and Free Admission.

Contact: For more info contact Sharon Nephew 518-493-2914.

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.

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
SPAGHETTI SUPPER**

Lyons Falls – There will be an election night drive thru and delivery spaghetti dinner to be held.

Date: Nov. 8
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6
Place: St. John's Church
Cost: \$11

Menu: Include spaghetti with meatballs and/or sausage, Italian bread, tossed salad, and dessert.

Features: Proceeds go to the Red Kettle Salvation Army organization. Funds stay in our local area.

Contact: Pe-order by calling 315-348-8945 or 315-348-8577 by Nov. 1.

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 Toussant, 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; under 5, Free; Sauce, \$6 per quart

Menu: Includes spaghetti & meatballs, salad, bread, beverage and dessert.

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 or older to purchase tickets.

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

**SPAGHETTI &
MEATBALL DINNER**

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

Date: Dec. 10
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

Menu: Includes spaghetti & meatballs, salad, bread, beverage and dessert.

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Priest: Praying rosary deepens our love for God

HOUSTON (CNS) -- Although the idea of praying the rosary might be daunting for some, Dominican Father Lawrence Lew, the general promoter of the rosary for the Dominicans, said it doesn't have to be.

In Houston's Holy Rosary Catholic Church for feast of the Holy Rosary Oct. 7, Father Lew shared a handful of tips about this prayer.

"Begin praying the rosary slowly," Father Lew said. "If you've found it (lacking), slowly begin

with one decade a day."

For those moments during the rosary, or at any time in prayer when the mind wanders or get distracted, Father Lew suggested having something to focus on, such as sacred art.

The priest, who is rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary in London and also a prolific photographer, recently published a book with Ignatius Press called "Mysteries Made Visible: Praying the Rosary with Sacred Art."

He traveled to the U.S. for the

rosary celebration at Holy Rosary and preached during a weekend Mass there.

He advised those starting to pray the rosary to continue to gradually increase the number of decades prayed each day, praying one decade at a time, spreading each throughout the day.

For example, he said to consider praying one decade in the morning when getting ready for the day. Then, as the day progresses, he suggested keeping the rosary close at hand or using fin-

gers to keep count of prayers. Father Lew said the moments in between that fill our day can be a special time for grace and prayer, such as waiting at a stoplight, being on bus or the elevator.

In his role as general promoter of the rosary, he actively advocates and preaches about the rosary within the Dominican Order and encourages his fellow Dominicans to preach about the rosary, which he said is part of the sacred heritage of the Dominican order.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

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.

HARVEST DINNER

Gouverneur — St. James School to have a harvest dinner.

Date: Nov. 3

Time: 4:30 until gone

Cost: \$15

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

Ogdensburg — The Legion of Mary will pray the rosary with devotions.

Date: Nov. 5

Time: 8 a.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

Features: Rosary with devotions

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY DEVOTION

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

Date: Nov. 5

Time: 3:15 p.m.

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

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Massena — 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 activities and more.

Contact: For more information call 315-769-2469

MONTHLY BRUNCH

Norfolk — Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond's will have its monthly 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 315-212-5166.

ORGAN RECITAL

Ogdensburg — Organ Recital with Christine Bookman to be held.

Date: Nov. 27

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: No cost to attend. Come hear Mrs. Christine Bookman on both the new organ as well as the antique Steinway.

Contact: For more information, contact the Parish office at 315-393-3930.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

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: Young people will have an opportunity to prayerfully consider what God's plan is for their lives. Open to students in Grades 6-8 both in the Catholic and public schools. This is a Retreat Day and is considered a legal excused absence.

Contact: Your pastor, Catholic school principal, or Religious Education Coordinator to register.

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.rc-dony.org/lead

MEN'S DISCERNMENT GROUPS

Are you discerning how God is calling you to serve Him? 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: Plattsburgh Discernment Group — Nov. 8 & 28 at 6 p.m. at St. John XXIII Newman Center Facilitator: Deacon Brent Davison 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 campusministriesm@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 mcongerrcdony.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: 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 & Suzanne Pietropaoli and Catholic Theologian, Maura Hearden Fehner, Ph.D

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

YOUTH BUSES FOR LIFE

Washington DC — Travel to DC with other 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 rcdony.org/pro-life to view complete itinerary and to register. Contact the Respect Life office with questions.



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

God loves all he has created

Ever since Galileo's telescope, we have tantly admitted Planet Earth is not the center of the universe. Every day, scientists find more galaxies, more planets, more stars. The Book of Wisdom says in today's first reading: "Before the Lord, the whole universe is as a grain from a balance" Nevertheless, God loves all he has created, even this sinful Earth. He despises nothing of what He has created and shows boundless mercy and



**Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore**

love. He is patient and gentle as He draws us towards repentance.

In today's Gospel, Jesus is gradually working his way toward Jerusalem. The crowds have been witnessing Jesus' miracles with growing enthusiasm.

As he wends his way through Jericho, he glances up and spots a very wealthy tax collector called Zacchaeus. Here is a hated employee of the Romans, Yet, Jesus' glance looks into the heart of Zacchaeus, and recognizes

October 30

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Wisdom 11:22-12:2

2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2

Luke 19:1-10

the beginnings of contrition. "Zacchaeus, come down quickly," Jesus says, "I want to have dinner with you today."

The crowd gasps in disbelief and revulsion that the Healer would have anything to do with this despised sinner. As the delighted little man explains to Jesus how he means to make up for his many sins, Jesus turns

and explains to the crowd, "Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek out and to save what was lost." Beautiful words that so harmonize with what we heard in today's first reading from the Book of Wisdom.

Then, the writer of this Gospel, extols both God's power and God's mercy. After declaring that the whole universe is like a small grain in the scales, or like a drop of morning dew compared to God's greatness, he praises God for his mercy in searching

out sinners in order that they may repent of their sins and be justified.

No matter what we've done in the past, the mercy of the Lord can search us out, inspire us to repentance, and then embrace us as his own. God never gives up on those whom the world has condemned as hopeless, for, as the first reading proclaims, He is "a lover of souls" and He alone will decide who gets into heaven and who doesn't! God sees into hearts; we see only the surface. We should be so grateful that our merciful God is in charge of the Last Judgment!

CALLED TO SERVE

How does your garden grow

Fall is my favorite season. The air is usually crisp but not brutally cold. The colors in the trees and other vegetation take your breath away. I can still smell burning leaves in the raked piles in front of our home in Queens. Burning leaves is no longer allowed in Queens and most other places but the memories linger.

It is also time to pull the spent plants from the garden. The tomatoes, eggplant and cukes have fought their way through spring and summer, yielding what they could and

leaving us happy.

As I pulled the plants, I was not concerned about spilling some dirt or other materials from the planters. There are no bodies buried in the garden boxes, no relatives or former friends mixed in with the compost. Just food scraps, some lawn clippings and some cardboard.

The yard work reminded me of the bill in the houses of the New York State Legislature dealing with the composting of human bodies or, as the bill sponsors prefer to call it, "the creation, oper-

ation, and duties of natural organic reduction facilities as cemetery corporations."

Coincidentally, our local newspaper reprinted a Kaiser Health News feature article last week entitled Dust to dust? that extolls the benefits of composting human remains over burial or cremation.

"I don't know about you," the article's author says, "but I like the sound of that (at least compared with those other two options.)"

In New York State a bill has been considered by the last two legislatures to make "natural organic reduction" legal. The bill finally passed the Assembly and Senate in the first week of June. The Executive Branch, i.e., the Governor, has not reported the bill as signed or vetoed.

Here's what I remember from my high school civics class:

While the Legislature is in session, the Governor has 10 days (not counting Sundays) to sign or veto bills passed by both houses. Signed bills become law; vetoed bills do not. However, the Governor's failure to sign or veto a bill within the 10-day period means that it becomes law automatically.



**Deacon
Kevin Mastellon**

The funeral directors I spoke with do not consider the bill "law."

The bills passed in the Senate and Assembly on the last day before summer recess. Since the legislature is not officially "in session," my guess is that gives the Governor extraordinary time to "consider the legislation." After the election might work.

We have mentioned this

bill a couple of times in this column. The New York State bishops are opposed. Through the New York State Catholic Conference, they have raised objection based on the church's "reverence for the sacredness of the human body and its dignity." The Conference, in its published memorandum on the subject, goes on to say, "a process whereby human remains are composted and scattered "in a designated scattering garden or area in a cemetery" (bill language) fails to sufficiently respect the dignity due the deceased."

The method reminds me of the time I was invited to preside at the "funeral" for a guy who wanted his ashes strewn about his hunting camp. I declined.

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

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Praying the rosary for peace

In this month dedicated to the rosary, the Korean Archdiocese celebrated a Holy Mass in honor of Our Lady of Fatima on October 13 in the Seosomun Shrine on the 105th anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady in Fatima. About 800 people were present. Before the celebration of the Eucharist, the faithful prayed the rosary together. The faithful were able to light candles for peace in Ukraine in front of the statue of Mary.

In the shrine of the Korean martyrs in Jeoldusan in the greater Seoul area, the faithful accepted an invitation from the local section of the Pontifical Foundation "Aid to the Church in Need," to pray together for an end to the war in Ukraine, recalling the invitation of Our Lady



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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of Fatima to pray the Rosary daily, invoking the gift of peace.

At the Eucharistic celebration in the Seosomun Shrine, the Archbishop of Seoul and Apostolic Administrator of Pyongyang Peter Chung Soon-taick expressly emphasized in his address to the faithful: "In memory of the Blessed Mother's request 105 years ago in Fatima to pray the Rosary for world peace and an end to war, today we are all called to

pray for the search for true peace in the Korean Peninsula and in Ukraine".

"The Rosary is a simple prayer that gives great strength and comfort when we say it together," said Cardinal Andrew Yeom Soo-jung, Archbishop Emeritus of Seoul, who, along with priests, religious and lay faithful of the archdiocese at the initiative to enable those who pray to be "agents of peace" and "reshape the world".

Already on May 31 of this year, at the end of the Marian month, Pope Francis prayed the rosary in front of the statue of Maria Regina Pacis in the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome, to "offer a sign of hope to the world, suffering from conflict in Ukraine, deeply wounded by the violence of the many wars still going on."

Korean Catholics also pray for peace and reconciliation on the Korean peninsula, which is repeatedly affected by political and military tensions. In recent years, the Korean bishops have dedicated the daily prayer of the Rosary in May and October, with a special prayer for peace in Korea.

At the Sanbon Parish Church in Suwon Diocese, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Rosary, Veronica Yoon Seon-hee, who leads a prayer group, said: "We entrust to the Virgin Mary the painful situation of war and the suffering of so many people. We wholeheartedly ask Our Lady for her intercession that a ceasefire be reached in Ukraine as the beginning of a path of dialogue and acceptance of the other may return between North and South Korea sure that Our Lady cares for us, her children."

Article from FIDES missionary news service of the Pontifical Mission Societies

OBITUARIES

Cape Vincent – Sheila M. (Sullivan) Fitzgerald, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 27, 2022 at St. Vincent of Paul Church.

Chateaugay – Shirley Premo Swanston, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 27, 2022 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in North Burke Cemetery, Burke.

Croghan – Jean M. (Strife) Golden, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 28, 2022 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Lake Placid – Joan Tuomey Reiss, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 24, 2022 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Lowville – June (Hall) Watkins, 91; Funeral Services Nov. 6, 2022 at Sundquist Funeral Home; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Massena – Bruce P. Bombard, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 31, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Pine Grove Cemetery.

Massena – Kenneth H. Fregoe, 94;

Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 3, 2022 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Philip E. Therrien, 84; Memorial Services to be held at a later date.

Ogdensburg – Jordan Beaulieu, 32; Funeral Services Oct. 28, 2022 at Frary Funeral Home.

Ogdensburg – Michael C. Santora Jr., 89; Funeral Services Oct. 21, 2022 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

St. Regis Falls – Gaynell (Smith) Stewart, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 28, 2022 at St. Ann's Church; bur-

ial in Notre Dame Cemetery, Malone.

Saranac Lake – William R. Decker, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 27, 2022 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Watertown – Mary C. (Shoulette) Hart, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 2, 2022 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

Watertown – Robert J. Korzuch, Sr., 85; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 2, 2022 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Elaine A. Wiley, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 28, 2022 at Holy Family Church.

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NEWS BRIEF

Leave of absence granted

Father Scott Belina has requested and been granted a leave of absence from priestly ministry by Bishop Terry R. LaValley. Father Belina remains a priest in good standing with the Diocese of Ogdensburg.



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Service Available

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

Inquiries and Resumes to:

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



Triennial National Collection for the ARCHDIOCESE FOR MILITARY SERVICES, USA to be held in parishes November 5 & 6, 2022

Did You Know?

- Without the AMS there would be no Catholic chaplains. The AMS is the only Catholic diocese in the United States responsible for endorsing priests to serve as military chaplains and for the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers.
- AMS faithful are the men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces, enrolled in U.S. Military Academies, undergoing treatment at a Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, working in civilian jobs for the federal government beyond U.S. borders - and their families.
- Programs and services readily available in other U.S. diocese, and vital to the men, women, and children served by this Archdiocese, include *Evangelization and Catechesis, Sacramental Records, Tribunal, Vocations, and the pastoral care of Veterans.*
- The AMS is the Archdiocese for the Military Services, not of the Military Services. This is an important distinction, as it receives no funding from the U.S. Government or U.S. Military and has no parishes from which to receive a weekly assessment. Instead, it must rely on the generosity of individuals, foundations, and organizations whose values and priorities align with its mission, programs and services.
- The AMS Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program is the only U.S. Vocations Program that provides priests to serve as military chaplains, and also to serve in parishes and dioceses across the country that struggle with their own critical shortage of ministers.
- In 2021, the number of sacraments celebrated for AMS faithful included 1,428 baptisms, 975 confirmations, 1,070 first Holy Communions, and 192 marriages.

AMS Coat of Arms

The coat of arms of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA is divided into three sections, one in red, one in silver or white, and one in blue – the traditional colors of the United States. In the uppermost portion, there is an American Bald Eagle holding in each claw the universal symbol of peace, a green olive branch. In the middle portion, there is a silver cross on the outline meridians of the earth.



In the lowest, the red portion of these arms, are the gold and silver crossed keys of Saint Peter. The composition of the arms conveys the message and mission of the Archdiocese for the Military Services – to be Americans bearing peace; to proclaim Christ all over the world; and to carry out the mission of the Church to offer healing through the forgiveness of sins.

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