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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 77 Number 27

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

NOVEMBER 9, 2022



Mary Beth Bracy

## A call to joy & love

On Sunday, April 16, 2023, Divine Mercy Sunday, the Diocese of Ogdensburg will have a consecrated virgin.

Mary Beth Bracy, a parishioner of Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh and *North Country Catholic* reporter, reflects on discerning God's call to this lesser-known vocation.

SEE STORIES ON PAGE 3

## ADMITTED TO CANDIDACY



Diocese of Ogdensburg Seminarian Dennis Ombongi was admitted to Candidacy for Holy Orders on October 30 at Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. Ombongi is pictured with Bishop Earl K. Fernandes, bishop of Columbus and vice-chancellor of the Josephinum, and Father Steven P. Beseau, rector/president of the Josephinum. In an official sense, through the Rite, the Church numbers and enrolls each man among the candidates for the diaconate and priesthood.

## CARITAS DINNER



Bishop Terry R. LaValley presents the Catholic Charities President's Award to Diocese of Ogdensburg Chief Financial Officer Michael Tooley at the annual Caritas Dinner held Nov. 2 at Gran View in Ogdensburg. Also at the dinner, Caritas Awards and Legacy Awards were given for 2020 and 2022, and Catholic Charities staff were honored for years of service.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

## In Bahrain, pope calls for religious freedom

AWALI, Bahrain (CNS) – Commitments to protect tolerance and religious freedom need to be put into practice constantly so that these rights may be fully experienced, Pope Francis said.

This is important "so that religious freedom will be complete and not limited to freedom of worship; that equal dignity and equal opportunities will be concretely recognized for each group and every individual; that no forms of discrimination exist; and that fundamental human rights are not violated but promoted," he said Nov. 3, addressing King Hamad bin Isa

Al Khalifa, other government authorities and diplomats serving in Bahrain.

The meeting with political and cultural leaders in the vast marble-paved courtyard of the royal family's Sakhir Palace in Awali came shortly after the pope landed in Bahrain for his 39th international trip in his nearly 10-year papacy. He is the first pope to visit this archipelago nation in the Persian Gulf, where the highlights will be meeting the small, predominantly expatriate Christian community and promoting the importance of interreligious di-

alogue.

On his first day, he focused on addressing local authorities and diplomats, touching on both national and global concerns, and how everyone, especially governing leaders, must respond in ways that serve the common good.

"I am here," he said, "as a sower of peace."

He came to this Muslim-majority nation, whose residents are predominantly foreign workers from many parts of the world, to nurture a firmer commitment to human fraternity and peaceful coexistence.

People need to offer and embrace every opportunity for "encounter between civilizations, religions and cultures," he said. "Let us work together" to serve "togetherness and hope."

The pope praised the many conferences and initiatives the Kingdom of Bahrain promotes for bringing people together on the themes of respect, tolerance and religious freedom.

The nation's constitution forbids discrimination "on the basis of sex, origin, language, religion or creed," and it upholds the freedom of conscience and worship, he said.

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## Without any hesitation

"St. Paul says, 'do not let the sun go down on your anger,'" my friend

advised, after I was ranting about a situation that had left me feeling that rather unpleasant emotion.

Without any hesitation at all, I responded: "St. Paul obviously wasn't married."

It made me laugh that my friend and I

had that conversation just ahead of National Vocation

Week (Nov. 6-12).

As we were discussing consecrate virgins, a vocation with which I was not very familiar (see the stories on Page 3), Sister Mary Eamon Lyng gave the following quote: "A vocation is a call by virtue of our baptism that is given to each person to carry forward a special

Darcy L.  
Fargo

mission in life to serve the Kingdom of God. Vocation

is a way of life lived out by the grace of God to do the spiritual works and corporal works of mercy faithfully that leads us to holiness."

You know what Sister Eamon didn't say?

She didn't say "when God calls you to a vocation, and you listen to that call, God will make your life easy and happy all the time (or even most of the time)."

Whether we're single, married, a priest, consecrated religious or deacon,

every vocation has its challenges and difficult days.

But Sister Eamon did say how we get through those challenges and difficult days.

"Vocation is a way of life lived out by the grace of God," she said.

It's by the grace of God that we can overcome the challenges and difficult days. It's the grace of God that gives us amazing and beautiful days, as well.

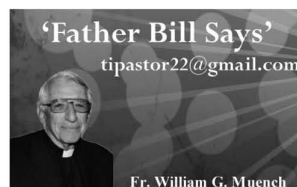
And I can say that without hesitation, too.

## 'Imitate our Lord's mercy'

November is that month each year that is set aside for special prayer and Masses for the faithful departed – our deceased loved ones who have gone to the Lord and left an emptiness in our families. This month of prayer during November begins with All Souls Day, November 2, when parishes remember those who have died during the past year.

We believe in faith in the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus, and we believe that we will one day rise to new life with the Lord. We have great faith that our departed loved ones will always recognize our love and concern for them through our prayers and Masses. In this way, we develop a relationship with those loved ones who have gone on before us.

Today, I would like to share with you something more about our relationship with our deceased loved ones – a responsibility that we should remember especially with those deceased whom we were not on good terms with at the time of their death. So, I would like to start here with this short message



Fr. William G. Muench

from the writings of my favorite saint, Catherine Doherty: "At the door, so to speak, of the communion of saints, someone asks, 'Have you forgotten all those who hurt you? Have you loved your enemies?' If the answer is in the affirmative, then the doors open wide... For a saint is simply a person who loves and forgives."

Today, I stand before you, to admit that I must confess my failings, my own grudges. I have allowed myself to ignore those who I was truly at odds with at the time of their deaths. I do confess that I did hold grudges with some who have gone to the Lord.

I am a disciple of the Lord Jesus. I know how often Jesus taught of the healing power of forgiveness. Jesus challenges me to be a loving and forgiving person. I should know this personally; I have preached the importance of forgiveness

often. Yet, I must confess I have not practiced forgiveness, especially with some departed persons. Jesus makes it clear that reaching out to those who have hurt me, forgiveness and reconciliation would bring peace, especially to myself.

You would think I have come to understand this. As a confessor in the Sacrament of Penance I will encourage, encourage strongly, some that they find forgiveness as a way of life. I urge them to discover how our Lord continues to lead us all to pray and bring forgiveness to others, even to those who have gone to the Lord. This reconciliation always leads to peace, even happiness.

The Gospel authors remembered to tell us of Jesus' loving and forgiving Spirit by telling us so many stories of his actions. I am certain that you remember that Our Lord prayed as he hung in agony on the cross, "Forgive them, Father; they know not what they are doing."

Also, you know the parables of Jesus as he taught forgiveness – like the Parable of the Prodigal Son and the Parable of the Lost

Sheep. Whenever we think of the message of Jesus, the first thing we think of is forgiveness.

So, during November, our Catholic Church calls upon us to remember our beloved dead in a special way. This is a powerful opportunity to remember so many who have transformed our own lives, making us the people that we are called to be. So, today, I want to call to your attention that we must be ready to imitate Our Lord's mercy and forgiveness, so that we can reach out in those situations where there may have been grudges or where we would have been hurt – a hurt that is not forgotten – and needs to be forgiven.

In our churches, we behold Jesus, nailed to the cross, an image that reminds us of his painful sacrifice that we will truly learn the Lord's forgiveness of all sins and guilt. If there were no sin Jesus would not have suffered for our redemption. Each time we see a crucifix, we can reflect on the infinite mercy of God – and remember that God calls us to be a people of forgiveness.



# Consecrated virgin: A less familiar vocation

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

While the vocation has ancient roots, the Diocese of Ogdensburg may have never had a consecrated virgin serving here before.

That will change, God willing, as Bishop Terry R. LaValley is scheduled to celebrate the Rite of Consecration to a Life of Virginity on April 16 of next year, Divine Mercy Sunday, consecrating Mary Beth Bracy, a parishioner of Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh and *North Country Catholic* contributing writer, formally into that vocation.

"The Order of Virgins is a special expression of consecrated life that blossomed anew in the Church after the Second Vatican Council, Pope Benedict XVI said in 2008. "Its roots, however, are ancient; they date back to the dawn of apostolic times when, with unheard of daring, certain women began to open their hearts to the desire for consecrated virginity, in other words, to the desire to give the whole of their being to God, which had had its first extraordinary fulfillment in the Virgin of Nazareth and her 'yes.'"

"A vocation is a call by virtue of our baptism that is given to each person to carry forward a special mission in life to serve the Kingdom of God," said Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, a Sister of St. Joseph and diocesan Vocations coordinator. "Vocation is a way of life lived out by the grace of God to do the spiritual works and corporal works of mercy faithfully that leads us to holiness.

## CENTRAL ELEMENTS OF CONSECRATED VIRGINITY

### From the Code of Canon Law:

- The virgin is consecrated to God by the diocesan Bishop according to a rite approved by the church. [Catechism of the Catholic Church, 922-924]
- She is betrothed mystically to Christ and dedicated to the service of the church.
- She enters a public state of consecrated life in the Church.
- She lives her life individually, under the direction of the diocesan Bishop.

### From the Rite of Consecration to a Life of Virginity:

- The consecrated virgin is constituted a sacred person in the Church. [Introduction, No. 1]
- No particular service or spirituality is imposed; the consecrated virgin's time is spent in works of penance and of mercy, in apostolic activity, and in prayer, in accord with her state of life and spiritual gifts. [No. 2]
- She is strongly advised to recite the Liturgy of the Hours daily and is committed to praying Morning and Evening Prayer. [No. 2]
- Her life is one of perpetual virginity. [No. 5]

There may be women who are not called to religious life but desire to consecrate their life to God as a perpetual virgin. This is a special calling. There is a long period of discernment, spiritual direction and formation that guide women to this special way of life. This way of life would be a blessing to the life of the Church in the Diocese of Ogdensburg."

The vocation is different from a vocation to consecrated religious life.

"Religious life is a way of life that can be priests, brothers or sisters living in community, embracing the spirituality, charism and teachings of the community's founder; members follow Jesus taking vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, growing in holiness through their gift of themselves to God and His people," Sister Eamon said. "The Diocese of Ogdensburg has both religious women and men who serve in parishes, schools and diocesan offices."

By contrast, a conse-

crated virgin is consecrated to God by a diocesan bishop and serves under the direction of the bishop. A consecrated virgin is "betrothed mystically to Christ and dedicated to the service of the Church," Sister Eamon said, summarizing Canon Law. "No particular service or spirituality is imposed; the consecrated virgin's time is spent in works of penance and of mercy, in apostolic activity, and in prayer, in accord with her state of life and spiritual gifts."

A consecrated virgin lives in "the midst of the world," according to the publication, *The Companion Discernment Guide to Consecrated Virgins in Today's Church*.

"She does not wear a habit or veil, nor does she use the title 'Sister,'" the publication states. "While she may associate with other consecrated virgins for friendship and mutual encouragement, she lives her vocation individually. She provides completely for

## A call to love and joy

By Mary Beth Bracy  
Contributing writer

When I was 16, preparing to attend World Youth Day in Denver, I secretly woke up early every morning before school and prayed. As a teenager who was largely preoccupied with crushes on boys, sports, and pop culture, I felt a yearning for something more in my heart. This led me to petition God in a way that I thought I never would: "If You want me to be a nun, please show me on this pilgrimage."

During World Youth Day, there was an altar call for vocations. Soon the stage was filled with young people who were inspired to dedicate their lives to Jesus. Something impelled me to go up; mesmerized, I don't even remember feeling my feet touching the ground.

A few days later, I heard a priest speak about the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist during a Holy Hour of Adoration. Although I was raised in a fervently Catholic family, the proclamation of this truth before our Lord exposed in the Blessed Sacrament really touched my heart. I remember thinking: "If Someone loves me so much that they would give their life for me to the point of hiding under the appearance of a piece of bread, then I want to give my life totally for Him."

When I returned home, I was filled with a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit's love. Though I felt like God was calling me to be a religious, like Saint Thérèse or Saint Faustina, I had to finish high school and then came college. Over the years, I was sometimes distracted by relationships and my career. I also did volunteer work to spread the faith and helped care for sick relatives. In addition, my mother and I had the Peaceful Dove (Catholic book/gift) shop for 16 years, and I also worked as a teacher. On several occasions, as time passed, I pondered the idea of the religious life or the life of a consecrated virgin.

Thankfully, I was able to find a good priest to be my spiritual director and help me on this journey; he challenged me to be open to God's plan and to pray for His will. When I encountered God's Love and felt cherished by Him more deeply, I wanted to return His Love too. After much prayer, careful discernment, and spiritual direction, the Lord confirmed to me His call to consecrated virginity in the world.

Consecrated virgins live in the world, among their family, friends, parishioners and co-workers, supporting themselves in their occupations. According to Canon Law 604, they "are mystically be-

# Called to love and joy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

trothed to Christ, the Son of God, and are dedicated to the service of the Church.”

After meeting with Bishop LaValley, I applied to become a consecrated virgin and began the formal discernment process. Presently I am a candidate to become a consecrated virgin in the world for our diocese and finishing my formation. I will soon publicly become a Bride of Christ! Bishop LaValley will confer the consecration on Divine Mercy Sunday at St. Peter's in Plattsburgh.

Central to the life of a consecrated virgin is a love for the Holy Eucharist and desire to imitate Our Blessed Mother, who was the first consecrated virgin.

“The Order of Virgins is a special expression of consecrated life that blossomed anew in the Church after the Second Vatican Council,” Pope Benedict XVI said in his address

to the Order of Virgins in 2008. “Its roots, however, are ancient; they date back to the dawn of apostolic times when, with unheard of daring, certain women began to open their hearts to the desire for consecrated virginity, in other words, to the desire to give the whole of their being to God, which had its first extraordinary fulfillment in the Virgin of Nazareth and her ‘yes.’”

I look to the example of saints who were consecrated virgins in the world. Several, such as Agnes, Agatha, Anastasia, Lucy, and Cecilia, we remember in the Canon of the Mass. Saint Kateri Tekakwitha also lived a very similar lifestyle and traveled on our own shores. Her spirituality was intensely Eucharistic, as consecrated virgins are called to be devoted to the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. From this Christ-centered spiritual life, as Saint John Paul II explained, they are

called to generously serve their local Church, as “an expression of its mercy.”

Although the journey sometimes seemed tortuous, the Sacred Heart of the Good Shepherd never abandoned my heart. So many priests, consecrated, and lay people have helped me in my faith journey—family, friends, and believers across the North Country and beyond, for which I am eternally grateful. Jesus brought me peace and healing, delivered me from so many fears, and inspired me to become a public witness to the Kingdom of God. Encouraged by His grace, I want to remain chaste in a culture that has forgotten the beauty of virginity—to give myself totally to Him out of love for His Eucharistic Heart, who has given Himself totally for me—and to spend myself for others in joyful service.

My favorite Gospel parable,

as Jesus relates in Matthew 18:12, is when the shepherd leaves the 99 in search of the one who goes astray. So often I've felt like the lost sheep who the Lord rescues. The words of the song “Reckless Love,” by Corey Asbury apply to us all: “There's no shadow You won't light up/Mountain You won't climb up/Coming after me/There's no wall You won't kick down/Lie You won't tear down/Coming after me.”

By God's grace, I've learned the lesson of Luke 5:4, that it's never too late to “go out into the deep.” As J.R.R. Tolkien wrote in his poem “All that Glitters is not Gold”: “Not all those who wander are lost.” Sometimes our vocational paths may seem long, but God plans everything for the good of those who love Him in His perfect time. Please pray for me as I embark on this new journey and know of my prayers for you each day before the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus.

## A less familiar vocation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

her own material needs, including medical care and retirement resources, through employment, pension, or other means. At no time is her diocese financially responsible for her.”

A consecrated virgin is not restricted to a particular ministry.

“She is free to choose her own way of serving the church according to her natural and spiritual

gifts, The Companion Guide states. “Consecrated virgins usually offer their free time, as they are able, to their parish, diocese, or Church-sponsored association. Some volunteer their time also in civic responsibilities.”

“The day is ordered for the love of our Bridegroom Jesus, and we bring His Love to our occupations,” said Bracy. “A consecrated virgin's day should include Mass and the recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours. Many consecrated virgins spend time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration daily, as well as pray the Rosary or other Marian devotions, especially since the Blessed Mother was the first consecrated virgin and is our model. If you think about

how much time the average person spends using technology, watching television, etc., it's all about choosing what is most important to you. From the foundation of a consecrated virgin's life of prayer naturally flows her life of service to the community and diocesan Church; likewise, the outpouring of grace from our time with the Lord overflows into our occupations. Some consecrated virgins are healthcare providers or teachers, others work in various Church positions; still, some are firefighters or city planners and so on. In the early centuries of the Church, St. Macrina the Younger (the elder sister of Saints Basil the Great, Gregory of Nyssa and Peter of Sebastea) was a conse-

crated virgin. She ran her family's estate and encouraged her brothers in their faith formation and ultimately their vocations. Many consecrated virgins assist in catechesis, whether through writing, speaking, or teaching.”

Bracy plans to continue in her current occupation as a copy writer for a Catholic publishing company, as well. She also notes that she will still have time with friends and family and participating in hobbies and recreation.

“One of the wonderful things about living in the North Country is that there are so many beautiful places to hike,” she said.

As she continues on her path to consecration, Bracy will continue to

work with the diocesan Vocations Office and Bishop LaValley.

Sister Eamon noted that preparation for consecration is dependent upon the life experience, charism and gifts of the woman. It can include specific materials for study; developing a rule of life that includes a consistent pattern of prayer, Liturgy of the Hours, meditation on sacred Scripture, devotion to Mary and fasting and penance as appropriate; creating a plan for daily, monthly and yearly prayer, retreat participation, spiritual direction, and meetings with the vocations office and the bishop; and continuing faith formation.

To learn more about the vocation, visit consecratedvirgins.org.



*Support And Pray  
For Vocations*



# Catholic Charities' Caritas Dinner returns

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

OGDENSBURG – Because of the pandemic, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg had been unable to hold its annual Caritas Dinner since 2019. That streak came to an end Nov. 2, when the celebration returned to the Gran View restaurant.

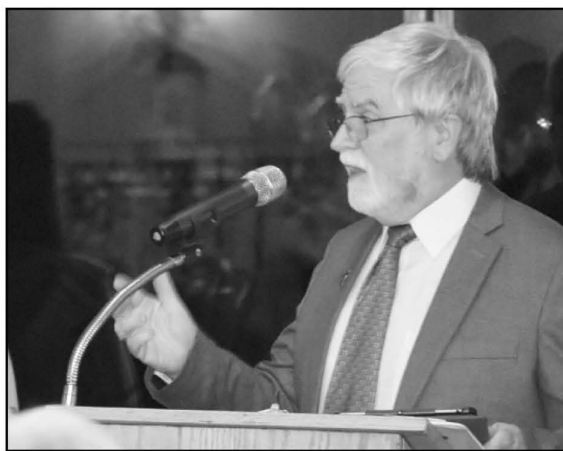
The event is a celebration honoring the individuals and groups who support Catholic Charities and embody its mission of social justice and supporting the dignity of human life, the value and integrity of the person and the central role of the family in society.

The first group honored at the event was Catholic Charities staff.

"We celebrate tonight the fact that Despite the innumerable obstacles the pandemic threw in their way they found ways – and creative ways – to continue to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give counseling, shelter the homeless and give hope to the hopeless," said Father Christopher J. Looby, who served as emcee at the dinner.

Five-year longevity awards were given to Shirley Cox and Deb Dority of Seaway House, Christine Snyder of the Foster Grandparent Program in Tupper Lake, and Diane and Stefan Dufresne of the Justice and Law Center. A ten-year award was given to Kate Gardner, director of the RSVP Program, and a 20-year award was given to Danielle Caulfield of Seaway House.

After dinner, Bishop Terry R. LaValley presented the Caritas Awards for 2020 and 2022. The 2020 award went to Annette Dame of Malone, and the 2022 award was given to the Loaves and Fishes Program run by St. Peter, St. Mary and St. Hedwig



Deacon Patrick Donahue, director of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, addresses those gathered at the Caritas Dinner on Nov. 2 at the Gran View in Ogdensburg.

churches in Lowville.

"The Caritas Award was established by the Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg in 1979," Father Looby said. "The award acknowledges individuals and organizations in the North Country who promote the mission of Catholic Charities and social justice ministry of the Catholic Church. The individual or group should exemplify the gospel mandates of charity and justice."

Thomas Semeraro, diocesan director of Youth Ministry, then presented the Legacy Awards.

"The Legacy Award was created by the Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities in 2009 and is given to an individual youth, young adult or group whose commitment and actions reflect the Gospel values of love and compassion. The purpose of the award is to encourage the next generation in their development as contributors to the social mission of the Church," Father Looby explained.

The 2020 Legacy Award was given to Christian Gratto of St. Alexander's and St. Joseph's in Morrisonville and Maria Tartaglia of St. Mary's in

Canton. The 2022 Legacy Award was presented to Sharon Nebbia of St. Vincent of Paul Church in Cape Vincent.

Semeraro said both Gratto and Tartaglia serve on the Diocesan Youth Council (DYC), and both started their terms just before the start of the pandemic.

"They had to deal with the pandemic in both their homes and their schools," Semeraro said. "And they continue their servant leadership with the DYC."

Semeraro said Gratto used his video and graphics skills and Tartaglia used her gifts of singing and playing piano, and the pair created digital content for youth. Both teens will graduate from high school and complete their terms on DYC this year.

Nebbia was honored for her work as a youth minister.

"She involves young people and helps them journey with Christ in a relatable way," Semeraro said. "She also leads groups to the (National Catholic Youth Conference) in doing fundraisers and in weekly events."

The Catholic Charities President's Award was bestowed on Michael Tooley, chief financial officer for

the Diocese of Ogdensburg, who will be retiring later this year.

"The President's Award was established by the Catholic Charities Board of Trustees and recognizes an individual or organization who makes significant contribution not only to the organization but to the impact on the field of social services and the social justice mission of the Church," Father Looby explained. "Recipients have regularly demonstrated a strong dedication and commitment to not only reducing poverty but implementing sustained change in systems that cause it."

Deacon Patrick Donahue, diocesan director of Catholic Charities, discussed the agency's impact.

"One in six live in daily poverty," he said. "The share of Americans living below the poverty line has increased by one percentage point. It's 11.4 percent."

Deacon Donahue noted that one percentage point doesn't sound like a sizable increase.

"One percent is 8 million people," he said. "And 24 percent of all children in the United States live in poverty."

Because of the increasing need, Deacon Donahue noted that Catholic Charities works diligently to avoid "dividing the poor into those who are worthy poor and those who aren't worthy" of assistance.

The director said the agency helps as many individuals and families in need as possible.

"We're often giving away what we do not have," Deacon Donahue said. "Our faith informs us that

God will provide if we're willing to do the work."

Deacon Donahue thanked those in attendance and everyone who supports Catholic Charities as staff, or through donations, volunteering and prayer.

"Thank you for your caritas, your loving support," he said.

Bishop LaValley also thanked the staff and supporter of Catholic Charities. He noted that while many enjoy luxuries and possessions, and continue to seek them without ever being satisfied, others face dire need.

"There are so many who are in need," he said. "There's so much poverty, helplessness, verbal and physical violence, people yearning to be fed, the silent scream of the unborn in his or her mother's womb, such huge numbers looking for a safe place to call home, and so many addictions."

While the need is great, Bishop LaValley noted that Catholic Charities' efforts are also great.

"Our Catholic Charities beats with a compassionate heart and welcomes opportunities to extend a sensitive ear and a ready hand to those in need," he said, noting the organization does so "with the respect and dignity due absolutely every child of God."

To learn more about or donate to Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, visit [cathcharities.org](http://cathcharities.org).



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## Environmental Stewardship

## Lesson from the forests

Recent discoveries in the science of forestry reveal that a forest is not just a collection of independent trees and other plants. As researchers delve into the working of our woodlands, they are slowly realizing that a profound harmony exists among the members of this natural community.

A common belief held by foresters and naturalists not long ago was that each tree functioned independently. It was thought that in order to survive, an individual tree must be successful in out-competing its neighbors for sunlight, nutrients and water. Additionally, each tree was left to its own defenses when disease or infestation entered its area.

This line of thinking has changed in recent years with the research done by Dr. Suzanne Simard from the University of British Columbia. Dr. Simard and her team of forest investigators have demonstrated that trees are highly interactive and share information and resources with one another. By forming close relationships with various types of fungi that abound in the soil, trees transfer nutrients, water, and a variety of chemical messengers to other trees around them. This is done through the intricate network of white, thread-like fibers that comprise the bulk of the body of the fungi. It was determined that larger, older trees which have the capacity to produce more food through photosynthesis often transfer a fair portion of their nutrients to smaller or less healthy trees as well as helping the fungal networks maintain their wellbeing.

Also, when one tree begins to experience an attack from a bug or some type of disease, it will relay this information through chemical coding to others so that they can begin to alter their natural defenses to more specifically protect against the immediate danger.

The interconnectedness of the members of a forest community demonstrates the Creator has fashioned these organisms into a communal way of life. The trees of the forest would be quick to tell us survival is always more likely when those present act together to help others around them, so that when any one of its members does better, they all do better.

It was always an exciting time when the phone rang. Exciting because you never knew who was on the other end of the call. Some folks developed a habit of not telling you who they are. They reasoned, I guess, that I should know it was them by their voice or some clairvoyance.

Times have changed. More and more folks have abandoned landlines. We have one because the cable company made me include one in order to qualify for a price promotion.

We have the land line hooked up to one phone in the house and only our daughter knew the num-

ber. When it rings, we pretty much ignore the call. I don't know the number and our daughter, Ticia, has forgotten it too.

Everybody, well it seems like everybody, has a cell phone.

"Is that the new Apple iPhone 14 plus," someone will ask?

"No," I respond like I know what I'm talking about. "I still have a 3rd generation Apple iPhone SE."

Go ahead, feel sorry for me.

One nice thing about cell phones is that it takes some of the mystery about callers out of the equation. The name of the caller is displayed on the phone IF that person is in your contacts. Otherwise, you just get a phone num-

ber. With robo calls about car warranties or whether you ever lived at Camp Lajeune prevalent these days, it is now easier to just blow off a call.

Computer safety folks have latched onto the cell phone as a verification device for all sorts of email and web site access. Now you have to have your phone handy if you are going to log-in to a service. That's a pain but I guess necessary.

All this stream of consciousness writing is prompted by a call I received from Tennessee the other day.

Actually, the caller was in Florida, but he used to live in Tennessee and never changed his cell phone number.

The caller wanted to buy a deacon pin for his son.

The St. Lawrence Society of Deacons in our diocese sells deacon lapel pins that deacons can wear to let you know the wearer is

a deacon. Many dioceses, ours included, only allow deacons to wear a Roman collar if they are a prison or hospital chaplain.

The son of this guy in Florida had just been ordained a permanent deacon.

That was an interesting fact, the father-son connection, but I came to find out the father is a deacon too. That was really interesting.

Jose, the caller, is 90 years old and has been a deacon for 42 years. He has no thought of slowing down. Deacon Jose bought a 45th anniversary pin for himself to wear when the day comes. He ordered a plain pin for his son.

Witnessing a child follow in your footsteps is a blessing. That was one call I'm glad I didn't disconnect.

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



Deacon  
Kevin Mastellon

## CALLED TO SERVE

## Living in a cell-phone world

## Protecting God's Children

## The Diocese of Ogdensburg

has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required.

Participants may preregister at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org).

Upcoming sessions:

**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**, Terrianne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955;

[terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com](mailto:terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com) Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; [ccarrara@rc-dony.org](mailto:ccarrara@rc-dony.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](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org).

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**Nov. 9** – Seminarian visit at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio

**Nov. 11** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Nov. 14-17** – United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Plenary Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland

## Rest in Peace

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

**Nov. 10** – Msgr. Francis M. Kenny, 1952; Msgr. Raphael A. Hoffman, 1968

**Nov. 11** – Rev. Edward O. Hervieux, 1947; Msgr. Bernard E. Christman, 2012

**Nov. 13** – Rev. S. Alphonse Vollmer, 1931; Rev. Victor Van den Hendt, 1939; Most Rev. Francis J. Monaghan, 1942

**Nov. 14** – Msgr. Edward Joseph Pierce, 1980

**Nov. 15** – Rev. Medard Zywicki, M.S.C., 1980

## Program and Retreat Coordinator Pyramid Life Center

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

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

*Inquiries and Resumes to:*

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



# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Pro-life essay contest opens for middle, high school students

FREDERICKSBURG, Va. (CNS) – Middle and high school students across the United States are invited to submit an essay sharing their thoughts on protecting the sanctity of human life for the 2022 Pro-Life Essay Contest sponsored by American Life League's Culture of Life Studies Program.

Co-sponsored by the Institute for Excellence in Writing, the essay contest has categories for fifth grade through eighth grade and ninth grade through 12th grade. A writing prompt is given for each category along with other guidelines for the contest at [www.prolifessay.com](http://www.prolifessay.com). Essays are due by midnight Nov. 7. The essay contest was launched soon after a group of homeschool moms and educators, including American Life League president Judie Brown, founded the Culture of Life Studies Program in 2014. Last held in 2019, the contest was reinstated this year following the U.S. Supreme Court's June 24 ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* that overturned *Roe v. Wade*, returning the issue of abortion to the states.

## NCEA reports quicker pandemic recovery for Catholic schools

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The National Catholic Educational Association says Catholic schools have recovered more quickly from the pandemic than its public school counterparts. The successes, according to the NCEA, go across the board when looking separately at Black students, Hispanic students, students from low-income households, and students who qualify for free and reduced-price meals. The scores were first reported in October by the National Assessment of Educational Progress, colloquially known as "The Nation's Report Card." The numbers tracked the progress, or lack thereof, in math and reading by both fourth graders and eighth graders. While Catholic schools' scores are generally better than those of their public school counterparts – Annie Smith, NCEA vice president of data and research, said eighth graders pre-COVID-19 were about 5% better in math and 6% better in reading – the new numbers, based on testing conducted in 2021, showed a wider separation between the two. Catholic schools' scores have pretty much bounced back to the levels they had achieved prior to the coronavirus pandemic's onset in March 2020. The only area that is still not up to snuff is eighth-grade math, which is still five points behind pre-pandemic levels. Even so, said NCEA president Lincoln Snyder, those numbers are 15 points ahead of the comparable figures reported by public schools.

## Father Doyle, former columnist & Albany pastor, dies at 82

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) – Father Kenneth Doyle, who wrote the popular Catholic News Service "Question Corner" column for the last 11 years and had served as the CNS Rome bureau chief in the early 1980s, died Oct. 28 at Teresian House in Albany. He was 82. Ordained in 1966 for the Diocese of Albany, Father Doyle also had been assistant editor and then editor of *The Evangelist*, the diocesan newspaper, before taking the CNS Rome position. He later was director of media relations for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, chancellor of public information for the Albany Diocese and for many years pastor of Mater Christi Parish in Albany. His funeral Mass will be celebrated Nov. 5 at Mater Christi, followed by burial at St. Peter's Cemetery in Troy, New York. "Father Ken served the people of our diocese and the Albany community in many ways throughout his productive life, a man of great skill and talent," Albany Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger said in a statement.

# Vatican project sends theologians to 'the margins'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – A Vatican office sent dozens of theologians and pastoral workers to refugee camps, prisons, shelters, street corners and markets in 40 cities and towns on every continent to listen to the faith experiences and, especially, the faith questions of people often tossed aside or ignored by society and even the Catholic Church.

"This type of listening has been a long-neglected, yet fundamental basis for rigorous critical thinking on theology, especially in the face of contemporary challenges," according to the project website of the Migrants and Refugees Section of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

The project, "Doing Theology from the Existential Peripheries," was coordinated by Father Sergio Massironi, a staff member of the dicastery. He told Catholic News Service Nov. 1 that while it was done quietly through most of 2022, he was in constant contact with both the office of the Synod of Bishops and the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith.

It was not a listening exercise done for the synod, although the 508 people interviewed echoed many of the points bishops' conferences around the world reported from their local synod listening sessions.

In both the theological project and the synod sessions, he said, "if there was one thing that the 'sensus fidei' (the sense of faith of believers) understands in a unanimous way, it is that the church needs to be more hospitable."

"It is incredible how the official synodal process with the syntheses of the bishops' conferences and our project, which bypassed all the institutional structures and went out to listen to those on the 'outside,' arrived at the same conclusions," the priest said.

The prisoners and prostitutes and just about everyone else the project interviewed recognize that they are sinners, he said. They know church teaching. But they also believe they have a place in the church with all the other baptized who are seeking God, hoping for divine mercy, wanting to serve others and longing for support in living their faith more deeply each day.

Meghan J. Clark, an associate professor of moral theology at St. John's University in New York and assistant coordinator of the project's North American working group, said that while many synod reports expressed sadness

about people missing from the process, the theology project went out to find them.

"In the U.S. situation," she told CNS Nov. 2, "the most profound of those conversations were with LGBT Catholics, who are there in the parishes and yet still invisible to much of the church. And so sometimes going to the peripheries is going one pew over."

Catholic theology often describes itself as "faith seeking understanding," she said, and it involves grappling with, researching and discussing the questions that arise about who God is, who human beings are and what the church is, but the way those questions are framed can change dramatically depending on who is asking.

As an example, she pointed to questions about suffering and God. The medieval theologians, and generations of theologians who followed them, asked if God could suffer. In an exercise of pure reason and philosophy, they considered how suffering involves change and since God is perfect, God cannot not change, so the conclusion was that God cannot suffer.

But in the wake of the Shoah, German theologians began asking new questions about God and suffering and so did the theologians from communities where many people endured injustice and exclusion, she said.

"When they talk about does God suffer, what they are looking at and what is at stake is God's love and accompaniment for those who are experiencing oppression, injustice and horrific suffering," she said. It's not the same question as does God suffer and can a perfect God change.

"You miss something if you think it is just about the conclusion. It's actually about the different questions," she said.

As many theologians become more specialized or more focused on teaching, "we often forget why we are doing theology. It's not for us, but to serve the whole church," Father Massironi said.

Pope Francis' vision for the project was that it would give new life to "theological research on the questions normal Christians raise," he said. "Every Christian has questions and wants to understand revelation better, starting from the problems of everyday life. Theologians should gather these questions, this desire for meaning and for faith-based responses and find ways to respond."

## VIRTUAL EVENTS

## ONLINE ADVENT RETREAT

An advent Retreat with the Daughters of St. Paul.

**Features:** Through this five-week series of video reflections, music, and prayer, we invite you to “come to Bethlehem” with us—not the romantic vision of Bethlehem we so often carry around, but the oppressed Bethlehem of history where God met and saved his people, and where he saves us still. This online Advent retreat celebrates the Good News that “God is with us” and offers invitations and insights to help you come, search, journey, enter, and welcome Jesus this Christmas. Especially where you least expect to find him.

**Contact:** Free sign up at <https://connect.pauline.org/advent-series/>

## ADIRONDACK-FRANKLIN

## 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.

## CLINTON

## 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.

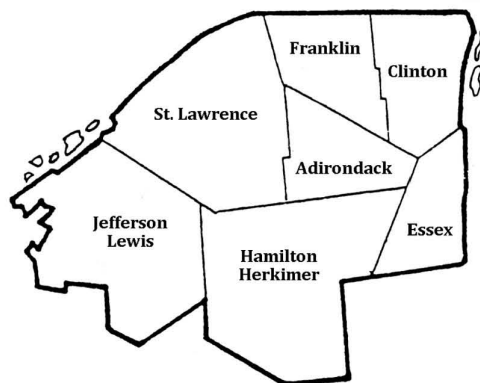
**Date:** Nov. 19

**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.



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@northcountycatholic.org](mailto:news@northcountycatholic.org).

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

## JEFFERSON-LEWIS

## 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 from this dinner will go to the Red Kettle Salvation Army organization with the funds staying in our local area.

**Contact:** We appreciate pre-orders by calling 315-348-8945 or 315-348-8577 by Nov. 1st.

## ELECTION NIGHT DINNER

Alexandria Bay – St. Cyril’s Church to have dinner on election night.

**Date:** Nov. 8

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

**Cost:** \$10

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

## SPAGHETTI &amp; 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 years or older to purchase tickets.

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

## HEALING PRAYER SERVICE

Watertown – Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart would like to invite everyone to a Healing Prayer Service, an evening of healing of: mind, body, and spirit.

**Date:** Dec. 1

**Time:** 5 p.m.

**Place:** Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

**Features:** The evening will begin with adoration and reflection. The night then will provide an opportunity for individual confession and anointing with the oil of the sick. The evening will conclude with Benediction. Healing prayer services are a powerful means of bringing God’s healing power into the lives of those who are suffering from illness, physical disabilities, grief, fear, and mental or spiritual health issues. Starting a healing prayer service can meet these needs through the power of prayer that brings the gift of healing into the lives of others by connecting to God’s loving presence.

## ST. LAWRENCE

## HOLY HOUR

Canton – Holy Hour for Vocations to be held.

**Date:** Every Tuesday

**Time:** 4:10 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary’s Church

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

## ROSARY FOR LIFE

Canton – Rosary for life to be held.

**Date:** Every Saturday

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

**Place:** St. Mary’s Church

## ADORATION

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

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

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

## ANNUAL BAZAAR

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

**Date:** Nov. 12

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

**Place:** St. Mary’s Social Hall

**Features:** Win \$2500 Big money raffle. Come enjoy delicious fried bread dough as well as other great food from the concession all day. Turkey Raffles, Pull Tabs, 50/50 Skilo, Quilt Raffle, Country Store, Cake Walk, Children’s Games and Activities

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

## MONTHLY BRUNCH

Norfolk – Parish of the Visitation and

St. Raymond’s will have their 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:** There is 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. 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.

## MEN’S DISCERNMENT GROUPS

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

**Schedule:** Plattsburgh Discernment Group – Nov. 8 & 28 at 6 p.m. at St. John XXIII Newman Center Facili-



# Even free television programming has a cost

WASHINGTON (CNS) – A long time ago, in a galaxy not so far away – it was our own galaxy – people watched television at no cost, with the exception of the cost of the set and the electricity to power it.

It would cost money to program this "radio with pictures." That had to be paid for. Advertising worked with radio, after all, so why not TV?

Like radio, TV was envisioned as the mass medium for the masses. Well, those who could afford it, anyway. In TV's early days, programs were sponsored by one company. "Sergeant Bilko," aka "The Phil Silvers Show," was sponsored by Philco. Perry Como appeared on "The Kraft Music Hall."

But with the passage of time, sole sponsorship faded, and TV networks and local channels alike had to get their sales force ready to sell advertising time. With just three over-the-air networks accepting advertising, there was a limited inventory of time. The same was true for local channels, which actually went off the air around 1 a.m. and slept until 6 a.m. or so.

Yet as more time passed, merely having the biggest audience was not enough. Advertisers wanted to know just who was watching these shows. And that's where demographics came in. Networks started targeting the 18- to 49-year-old

demographic in their programming choices, believing that this age group would have enough open-mindedness to consider buying whatever was advertised and the disposable income to make that purchase. Advertisers were already hard at work doing the same.

Naturally, there were exceptions. News programming tended to attract an older audience, so advertisers wanted to pitch to the 25- to 54-year-old set. Saturday morning cartoons targeted TV's youngest viewers; how many ads included the exhortation "Hey, kids!" in their come-ons?

Daytime TV was meant to entice anyone still at home during those hours: housewives, the unemployed. Otherwise, we never would have had Madge telling a manicure client "You're soaking in it," or the hairiest wrist I've ever seen on TV gripping a telephone receiver and asking: "Does your heart sink when the phone rings because it's usually a debt collector threatening you with garnishments or repossession?"

As independent stations and over-the-air networks started dotting the landscape, demographics changed, usually for the younger, more ad-impressionable audiences.

Then came cable TV, where viewers got to pay for the privilege of ordering up a set of

channels – almost all of which carried advertising.

Satellite TV sprang up, the rooftop dish replacing the set-top box, but offering the consumer even more choices – with more commercials – and higher bills to boot. Welcome to the 500-channel universe!

Our latest advance is streaming TV. For those unclear on the concept, you pay a monthly fee in exchange for everything in that streamer's library of titles and episodes.

Netflix made money hand over fist with its catalogue, and the streamer has been relentless in creating its own exclusive content. But its stock price took a hit when the number of subscribers went down for the first time in, well, maybe ever. That led to Netflix strategy on two fronts. One was trying to put an end to password sharing that lets others outside the household watch it free. The other was devising a service that cost less – but with commercials.

NBC's Peacock debuted offering two parallel services: its regular service, with ads, and a premium service with no ads – but with an asterisk saying that some programming would include commercials.

If there is something insidious about all this, you're right. While the Nielsen TV ratings service depends on the proper cross-section of America filling

out its weekly diaries to indicate who's watching what, the streaming service already knows who you are by the information you voluntarily submitted to it online in order to subscribe.

TV advertisers have longed for a way to target advertising to the specific demographics of the viewer. Online ads function in much the same way, albeit with a lot more hit-and-miss. If you've made an online purchase, it's no surprise you'll start seeing ads for that seller, or maybe its rivals. Or, if you mistakenly click on an ad, you risk seeing its ads for weeks on end. Like when I clicked on a survivalist meals-ready-to-eat website by mistake, and now its ads are still a regular feature of my Facebook feed.

Buyer beware: If you're getting something free, there are likely strings attached in the form of advertising. And if you get suckered into subscribing to any service that still sells ads to raise revenue, you've got only yourself to blame.

*When you keep your eye on TV, what do you see? What are your likes or dislikes? What are your concerns and criticisms? Be as general or as specific as you wish. Send your comments to: Mark Pattison, Media Editor, Catholic News Service, 3211 Fourth St. NE, Washington, DC 20017.*

## Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

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  
campusministysm@gmail.com or  
315-783-5477

Watertown Discernment Group –  
Nov. 12 & 26 at 11 a.m. at St. Patrick's  
Parish Center Facilitator: Father Matt  
Conger mconger@rcdony.org 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 and Suzanne Pietropaoli and Catholic Theologian, Maura Hearden Fehlner, Ph.D.

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

[startaglia@rcdony.org](mailto:startaglia@rcdony.org)

### YOUTH BUSES FOR LIFE

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

**Date:** Jan. 19 – 21, 2023

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

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

**Contact:** Visit [www.rcdony.org/pro-life](http://www.rcdony.org/pro-life) to view

complete itinerary and to register. Contact the Respect Life office with questions.



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

## Readings focus on resurrection

This Sunday's readings are all about Resurrection: the faith needed to believe in our personal resurrection and the courage needed in living our lives so as to attain it.

The first reading from the Old Testament is a shortened story about a mother and her seven sons who courageously face martyrdom rather than violate Jewish law (in the longer ver-

sion, the mother urges them not to deny their faith. One after another, the sons boldly speak to the pagan king, telling him that he will never experience resurrection from the dead for his crimes). One martyred brother declares, "The King of this world will raise us up to live with Him forever."

In the Gospel, the Sadducees, who deny the

November 6

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

## READINGS

2 Maccabees 7:1-2,9-14

2 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5

Luke 20:27-38

resurrection, try to discredit Jesus' teaching by posing a ridiculous case about seven brothers. One brother dies without leaving any children. By Jewish law, his brother must marry the widow. One after the other, the brothers die, leaving the widow to die last. "At the

resurrection, whose wife will that widow be?" they ask Jesus. Jesus replies to them that at the resurrection, there will be no marrying or remarrying. The reason? Love will be experienced at a completely different level. There will no need for marriage as we know it on earth.

Coming now to the present day, how can we be sure of our own resurrection? By living according to the ten commandments and by the two great commandments of love of God and

neighbor, as well as doing good to all, and forgiving those who offend us. Certainly, martyrdom is not the only way to be certain of going immediately into heaven, but more Christians have faced martyrdom in the last 100 years than in all the ages before ours.

Living in full faith and joy of God's promises and courageously standing up for Jesus' teaching is martyrdom enough for most of us, and will certainly assure us of Resurrection.



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

## Being a man: Respect and responsibility

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

By John Miner

Diocesan Respect Life Co-Director

After the leak of the Supreme Court's pending Dobbs decision which determined that abortion is not a constitutional right, abortion advocates objected that women would suffer as a result. As the first article in this series showed, many misrepresentations were put forward in this attempt. One topic that continues is the notion that abortion is somehow a "woman's" issue. Some claim that men don't have the right to an opinion about abortion because it's not their body.

While serving on the Rachels Vineyard after-abortion retreat team, I witnessed the pain and regret that men experience and how the shared loss affects relationships.



They grieve, not only the children, but their own failure to intervene or protect their child, some have even had an active role in their children's deaths. It is a men's issue and men can help make abortion unthinkable by following their masculine calling.

The bishops of New York State acknowledge this in their May 12 statement, "Toward a Pro-Life Future in the Empire State," where they put forth suggestions of common-ground goals that would work toward reducing the rate of abortion. A number of these goals directly address men, their role in women's lives, and their ability to be instrumental in their children's lives. Four of these points are these:

- We envision a New York where parents, husbands or partners, as well

as society at large, do not put undue pressure on a woman to abort her child.

- We envision a New York where marriage between one man and one woman is promoted as a societal good geared toward the stable raising of children.

- We envision a New York where boys and men are taught to respect women and to accept and embrace the financial, physical, and emotional responsibilities of fatherhood.

- We envision a New York where post-abortive women who are suffering emotionally are given the services they need to heal, and the acknowledgment that their pain is real.

What are the bishops proposing? There is a strong message that is a thread running through all of these: being a man

means taking responsibility for our actions. That is a tough message in this culture of gender gymnastics where we are not allowed to voice what is in front of our eyes. We can see it in the very recent inability of certain politicians even to define what a woman is. There have been a number of competing trends in our sociological stew of a culture in this country. The ones surrounding the roles of men and women are some of the most inflaming in the culture wars. To recognize God's genius in creation and to follow where it leads is the simplest way to wade through the chaff. But it is not often easy.

The bishops also point out the reality of marriage and that its conjugal definition is treated as a societal good. It's not just the redefinition of marriage that is worthy of our contempt but the fact that marriage is no longer seen as the necessary climate in which children are best raised. Children have a right to be raised by a

married mother and father (Pope Francis).

It does not take a hard look to know that our culture now encourages all the things that contribute to abortion. The most common reasons given for having an abortion include low income, poor opportunities, interference with education or work, inability to provide care, and lack of desire to be a single mother. But according to the bishops, the actions of men as the fathers of their children would be instrumental in resolving these.

What has legal abortion done to men in our society? The trends are alarming and all too obvious. Contrary to pro-abortion claims that it is somehow "pro-women," it does nothing good for women and in terms of responsibility, it gives men much more freedom to shirk their responsibilities. For men, sex has historically been a thing for which the possible outcome was a serious consideration. To paraphrase writer An-

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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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# The Pauline Jaricot prize

"I want to thank God, who has given me the opportunity to be born again and to return to my mission." These are the words of Sister Gloria Cecilia Narváez, a Colombian missionary who was awarded the "Blessed Paulina Jaricot" Prize, established this year by the Spanish Direction of the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) on World Mission Sunday. The award was "shared" by Sister Gloria Cecilia with Italian missionary Pier Luigi Maccalli, who wanted to dedicate this recognition to the people of Bomoanga and Niger, inviting them to pray for peace in the world. Both missionaries shared the experience of being kidnapped by jihadist groups in Mali and subsequently released. Sister Narváez and Father Maccalli received this award for the testimony of faith offered even during the hard moments of captivity, and also expressed by their desire to return to the mission, in the midst of their people.

Sister Narváez, whose vocation was born in a Missionary Childhood group in her village, explained how the presence of God became clearer at the time that she also lived the experience of the cross during the almost five years of seizure. After that experience, Sister Gloria Cecilia perceived even more intensely how beautiful and important it is to bring the joy and consolation of Jesus to tired and suffering people.

For his part, father Maccalli underlined how "our stories as hostages of jihadism have put the focus on an area of Africa where many forgotten wars are being lived" and recalled that the days before his release, he had heard on the radio that the Pope had signed the encyclical "Fratelli Tutti." Without knowing more, those two words inspired him to pronounce this sentence to the jihadist leader who was leading him to liberation: "May God make us understand one day that we are all brothers."

Sister Gloria Cecilia and Father Luigi also turned their thoughts to World Mission Sunday. Sister Narváez thanked PMS for their work "for the great good they do in the world", and invited all Spanish to continue to collaborate for World Mission Day: "Thanks to the PMS we have been able to bottle-feed one hundred babies from our orphanage and we have been able to have a dining room." Father Maccalli insisted on how the Day dedicated to the missions is an opportunity to experience "an embrace of solidarity with the world - our common home - and specifically with the poor" *Article from FIDES missionary news service of the Pontifical Mission Societies*

## OBITUARIES

**Brownville** – Ronald J. Chapman, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 31, 2022 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Brownville Cemetery.

**Canton** – Michael Eugene Peters, 61; Private services to be held.

**Canton** – John L. White, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2022 at St. Mary's Church.

**Cape Vincent** – Robert A. Wiley, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2022 at St. Vince de Paul Church; burial in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery.

**Chaumont** – Carolyn E. (Bezy) Montondo, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 2, 2022 at All Saints Church.

**Hogansburg** – Ann "A:nen" Kawén-nase (Buckshot) Lazore, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 2, 2022 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

**Lake Placid** – Evelyn A. (Decker) Whitney, 92; Funeral Services Oct. 31, 2022 at M.B. Clark, Inc. Funeral Home; burial in North Elba Cemetery.

**Louisville** – Patrick J. Murphy, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 11, 2022

at St. Lawrence Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Morrisonville** – Robert William "Bob" Conners, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 31, 2022 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Allen James Riche, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 31, 2022 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Patricia Ann Sullivan, 76; Mass of Christian Burial in May 2023 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Wayne K. Beebie, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2022 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Marion (Calkins) Bourdeau, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 3, 2022 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery Columbarium.

**Plattsburgh** – Victor E. LaFountain, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 5, 2022 at Our Lady of Victory Church.

**Plattsburgh** – Janet (Cowden) Mur-

nane, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 5, 2022 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in Mount Carmel Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Veronica (LaJoie) Rothermel, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2022 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Potsdam** – H. Marie (Gaines) LaVean, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 5, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** – Alma Jean (Pepard) Stevens, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2022 at St. Bernard's Church.

**Watertown** – John Hill, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2022 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

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

**Willisboro** – Phyllis A. Piikkila, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 2, 2022 at St. Philip of Jesus Church; burial in Memorial Cemetery.

# Respect and responsibility

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thony Esolen: when you do the baby-making thing, don't be surprised when you make a baby. Widespread birth control did great damage to this sense of responsibility. Legal abortion became a backup plan - half (51%) of the women in the U.S. who abort their babies do so after the failure of contraception (Guttmacher Institute, Contraception, Vol. 97 Issue 4, April, 2018).

What have we done to our boys? We have stunted their maturity and given them permission to believe that sex can be guilt-free and unhindered by consequences. It is no coincidence that the very organizations that profit from abortion also push

that fiction. It helps their bottom line both in monetary and ideological terms. We are sending the wrong message - a message contrary to that which would drastically reduce abortion in this country.

As the third bullet point listed above emphasizes, boys and men need to be taught respect for women and shown that accepting all the responsibilities of fatherhood is indeed a very masculine virtue. It has been said in many ways, but the best thing a man can do for his children is to be married to and love their mother. This is the most important way to show respect, and men who abandon this responsibility cause many of the ills of our

day. This is the vice of effeminacy, according to St. Thomas Aquinas, where a man is "ready to forsake a good on account of difficulties which he cannot endure." He also writes: "an effeminate man is one who withdraws from good on account of sorrow caused by lack of pleasure, yielding as it were to a weak motion." St. Thomas' entire article on this (Summa Theologiae, II-II, Q.138, A.1) is very instructive for our times.

The difference between boys and girls, men and women, is a God-given difference designed for our flourishing. When men step up to take on their responsibilities, that flourishing becomes manifest in the children they have pro-created.

# CARITAS DINNER



God has done  
great things  
for us!

*As recipients of God's bountiful  
gifts, we are called to:*

*Receive*

*those gifts gratefully,*

*Cultivate*

*those gifts responsibly,*

*Share*

*those gifts in justice and love,*

*And return them with increase  
to the Lord*

*Stewardship Weekend  
November 12 & 13*

**Please contact your local parish  
to learn how you can share your  
gifts of Time, Talent & Treasure.**

