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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 77 Number 30

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

DECEMBER 7, 2022

John 17 unity movement brings priest to papal audience

For several years, Father Mark R. Reilly, pastor of St. Peter's Parish in Massena, has participated in the John 17 Movement, an effort to create unity among followers of Christ despite denominational differences.

In October, around 40 representatives of the John 17 movement, including Father Reilly, visited Pope Francis for a nearly two-hour audience and discussion focused on ongoing efforts to create fellowship and unity.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

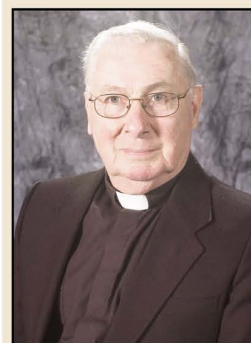
KNIGHTS GIVE GIFT OF WARMTH



PHOTO BY PAST GRAND KNIGHT JOHN TAILLON

The Canton Knights of Columbus annually donate winter coats for children. School districts within the St. Mary's of Canton Parish receive them on a rotating basis. This year the coats are going to Herman-DeKalb. Pictured are, from left, Grand Knight Bob Clemmer, School Nurse Jill Morrow and School Superintendent Mark White.

REMEMBERING MSGR. AUBIN



Msgr. Joseph G. Aubin died Nov. 19, 2022, at Champlain Valley Physician's Hospital in Plattsburgh. He was 94. Msgr. Aubin was remembered for his generosity, sense of humor, love of the Mass and Jesus in the Eucharist and his service to the Church, the diocese, Champlain Valley parishes and organizations, and families.

FULL STORY, PAGES 3 & 4

Pope Francis: Examine conscience daily

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – A daily examination of conscience is an important tool for recognizing where God is at work in one's life and where "the evil spirit" tries to lead one astray, Pope Francis said.

"Learn to read in the book of our hearts what has happened during the day. Do it. Just two minutes, but it will do you good, I promise," the pope told visitors at his weekly general audience Nov. 30.

After his talk, Pope Francis and the crowd were treated to a performance by the Black Blues Brothers, a group of five acrobats

from Kenya. Wearing dark suits and ties, they did handsprings, created human pyramids and did tumbling and dance tricks while jumping rope to songs from the 1980 film "The Blues Brothers."

Continuing his series of audience talks about discernment, the pope spoke again about "spiritual consolation" and about using a daily examination of conscience to distinguish between what just feels good and "genuine consolation," which, he said, "is a sort of confirmation that we are doing what God wants of us, that we are walking on his paths, that is, on

the paths of life, joy and peace."

Relying on the teaching of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, the pope explained that consolation comes from knowing that a thought or impulse is good at its beginning, middle and end, because it inclines one to do something good, is motivated by love for God and others and leads to a sense of peace.

On the other hand, the pope explained, "the evil spirit" can sneak in and distract one from doing good or sow anger toward others or pride.

"When we talk about the 'evil

spirit,' we are talking about the devil, you know," the pope said. "The devil exists."

Pope Francis used the example of the thought or urge to pray, accompanied by "affection for the Lord and my neighbor, it invites gestures of generosity, of charity: it is a good beginning."

But, he said, if "every time I have to wash the dishes or clean the house, I have a strong urge to pray – this happens in convents" – then the impulse is not all good.

"Go wash the dishes, then go pray," he said, because "prayer is not an escape from one's tasks."

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I needed that. I think we all did.

A handful of weeks ago, my husband and I talked about the fact that we almost always vacation in the same place, and we haven't seen most of this beautiful country. We talked about the fact that our son, Jake, is nearly 16, and he's reaching the age where he appreciates visits to historical sites, landmarks and other locations. We talked about the fact that he's at the age where we can now all have fun on a trip with no theme parks or pools/beaches involved. We talked about a few of the

places we'd love to visit.

Almost on a whim, we booked a trip that will include two new destinations.



**Darcy L.
Fargo**

As I chatted with a friend about how much more we're paying for groceries, gas, heat, electricity and other necessities than ever before, my friend noted that I booked a vacation despite that.

"I needed something to look forward to," I responded. "I think we all did."

I'm not sure if it's the weather, the loss of daylight or just the general effects of

coming out of the pandemic, but the Fargo family has been in a bit of a rut. I refer to it as a "general malaise." Nothing specifically is wrong, but things just seem off.

Planning a vacation is helping a bit. While it has its stressful moments, it's fun to talk about and plan for new experiences, new sights and new opportunities. Having something to anticipate and look forward to gives me and my family hope. It gives us a taste of the joy we hope we'll find in our future adventures.

It struck me that I gave that response to my friend in this Advent season, the time our Church invites us

to anticipate and await the celebration of our king and our Lord coming into this world to save it and coming into our lives to save us.

There's more than enough darkness in our world right now, both literally and figuratively. While I find that to be true now, I'm guessing it's always been true. I'm really thankful that our Church and our Lord gave us this time to anticipate a joyful coming and await the celebration. The time of preparation, while it may sometimes be challenging, is also a source of great hope and a taste of the joy.

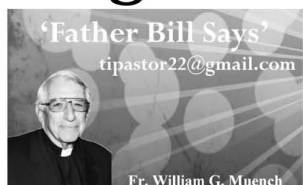
I needed something to look forward to. I think we all did.

Preparing to receive the Lord

It is Advent! Advent is good! Advent is good for us! Our Catholic Church wants us to realize that Advent is a perfect time to prepare us, Christians, for the celebration of the Feast of the Lord's birth, our Christmas. Each year, we all have a long list of things to do as we prepare for the celebration of Christmas – there are cards to write, a tree to decorate, decorations to put up around the house, presents to purchase. I must tell you that I enjoy all these things.

However, there is one more thing to add to our list. We need to prepare our hearts to receive the Lord, who came to be one of us. This means we need Advent. We need this wonderful time of spirituality to prepare ourselves – a time to strengthen our faith in the Lord, a time that will truly make our Christmas more meaningful and joyful.

I am truly grateful to God and the Church for the time of Advent. Advent is a gift that challenges us to do something – times of prayer



Fr. William G. Muench

and activities to truly open our hearts that we will receive the Lord who chose to be born and become one of us. I have experienced Advent all these years, so I want you to know that it always makes my Christmas celebration such a special and happy time.

Advent is meant to be a special wake up. Unless we are spiritually awake, we are only half living. Too often, our minds are narrow and closed. Too often, our hearts are hardened. Spirituality is about waking up. It is understanding things, seeing things, hearing things. To be spiritually awake means to be attentive to God and others – to be living in the love of our God.

Personally, I believe this means we begin with enthusiasm. Advent's hope is that we awake each day with en-

thusiasm – feeling good to be alive, thankful for the gift of a new day – so that we can use well each opportunity that is ours.

So, I want to urge you to join me in finding this new energy during this time of Advent. This begins with and demands listening. I believe that the Lord has a message and a challenge for each of us each day. So, during Advent, I ask you to give the Lord five minutes each day. That is enough.

Find a quiet place, a special quiet place, possibly five quiet minutes in your parish Church. Make this five minutes quiet – no prayers to say, no words to say, simply silence. Give God the opportunity to find you. I believe that it is in times like this that the Lord will help us to find a new strength, a new and stronger faith and will help us be ready to celebrate the Birth of the Savior.

It is all about peace, finding our own peace and bringing peace to our part of this world. At the Mass on the First Sunday of Advent,

the First reading is from the Old Testament Prophet Isaiah, who wrote many centuries before the birth of Jesus. Isaiah wrote that in the time of Messiah there will be peace. Isaiah calls upon us to bring peace into our hearts and to lead others to be people of peace, even in a divided world. Advent is a perfect time for prayer for peace, a time for praying that Christmas will be a time of peace, that the Lord of all who became one of us will bring this peace – his peace – to this world.

Do you read the Sunday comic strips in the newspaper? Well, I do! I noticed a perfect one this week called "Grand Avenue," by Mike Thompson. In the first panel there is a young girl – the one with large glasses – visiting a Santa Claus. She begins by asking, "I want a solid gold in ground swimming pool for Christmas." Santa says, "That's a pretty big ask." In the next panel, the girl says, "Okay. Then I want peace on earth." Then Santa answers, "What size swimming pool?"

Msgr. Aubin: Connecting with others, with Christ

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

PLATTSBURGH – “Selfless, gracious and generous.”

“A faithful witness to his two great loves – Jesus in the Holy Eucharist and our Blessed Mother.”

“He was a natural at creating and sustaining family, of making a home.”

“Quirky.”

Those are just a few of the terms used to describe Msgr. Joseph G. Aubin.

Msgr. Aubin died November 19 at Champlain Valley Physician’s Hospital in Plattsburgh. He was 94.

Msgr. Dennis J. Duprey, VF, said he first became acquainted with Msgr. Aubin, then Father Aubin, when the former as he prepared to enter the seminary.

“I first met him when I was a senior in high school,” said Msgr. Duprey. “It was summer. Because I was going into seminary, my pastor told me I needed a dress coat, a black coat. I grew up on a farm. I didn’t have one. My pastor brought me to see Father Aubin. He was running Catholic Charities at that time. He gave me a coat.”

Decades later, the two traveled together to the Holy Land as part of a pilgrimage for diocesan priests. In 2010, Msgr. Duprey became pastor of St. Peter’s in Plattsburgh. Then, he and Msgr. Aubin lived together in the parish rectory.

“When you’re the only two in the house, you either become friends or you become enemies,” Msgr. Duprey said. “It was easier to be his friend.”



Msgr. Joseph G. Aubin, then Father Aubin, presents keys to a St. Vincent de Paul Center to the center manager and a volunteer in this North Country Catholic file photo from 1960. Msgr. Aubin served as director of the Plattsburgh office of Catholic Charities.

Msgr. Duprey delivered the homily at his friend’s funeral.

“It seems to me that there are two great connected themes that run through Msgr. Aubin’s life that speak volumes of him and his priesthood – family and home,” Msgr. Duprey said in that homily. “It was directed by Psalm 19, ‘Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.’”

Msgr. Duprey said Msgr. Aubin’s father was hit by a car and died when the future priest was only 5. His mother was killed in a similar accident a month before his ordination to the priesthood. Aunts who cared for him also died when Msgr. Aubin was “relatively young.”

“For most of his life it seems that Father Aubin had no family, and he had no home,” Msgr. Duprey said. “But this could not be further from the truth. Monsignor was ready made, trained by life with a dose of learning throughout what priesthood should be like, the making of family and leading others to our true home. He knew that

he had a home waiting for him made by God. But he didn’t wait to help build home and family here as well. Father Aubin recalled with affection the 179 times that he was privileged to place a baby into the arms of young childless couples. He remembered every couple that adopted babies during his 14 years in Catholic Charities. Msgr. Aubin could make more family connections than anyone I have ever known. Though he has no family, he visited families, connected with them and knew them. He listed and remembered every marriage he had ever performed, every family hardship he been involved in, and every baby he had baptized. And his brother priests were family as well. He knew where they lived, what their assignments were, their age and year of ordination. Monsignor enjoyed their visits and get togethers. He either knew personally every religious in the diocese or made it his natural business to know of them and their contribution to the spiritual wel-

fare of our people.”

It was this ability to connect to families and individuals that brought Msgr. Aubin into the life of Mary Beth Bracy, a parishioner of Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh who is following God’s call to become a consecrated virgin.

“Msgr. Joseph G. Aubin is the first priest I remember,” Bracy said. “When I was a little girl, my family attended Our Lady of Victory Church in Plattsburgh, where he was pastor. He baptized my youngest brother, James, and often rode his bike over to our house. About 20 years later, Msgr. Aubin came to reside at St. Peter’s. This was now my family’s parish, and I was so surprised that he actually recognized me and remembered my name! Monsignor’s talent for memorizing names, dates and details was remarkable. Yet, he didn’t only recall them, he kept prayer intentions and families in his heart.”

In recent years, Bracy said Msgr. Aubin’s dedication to and love of the Mass and Jesus in the Eucharist, as well as the Blessed Mother, taught her “the value of the Mass.”

“One morning, he fell hard on the tile floor while walking from the rectory to the chapel,” Bracy remembered. “I ran to get Msgr. Duprey, but Msgr. Aubin said he was fine and wanted to offer Mass. After Msgr. Duprey returned to the rectory, we realized Msgr. Aubin’s knee was bleeding profusely. There were other times when Msgr. Aubin would use a special stool behind the chapel altar to offer Mass due to his bal-

ance. Nothing could deter him from celebrating the Holy Sacrifice. At the nursing home, Monsignor said Mass at 3 p.m. daily using Msgr. (Morris) Dwyer’s Mass kit.”

Both Bracy and Msgr. Duprey noted that Msgr. Aubin was also known for his sense of humor.

“He once said it to Bishop Barbarito: ‘I’d love to be a ceremonial bishop,’” Msgr. Duprey recalled. “Bishop Barbarito asked him what he meant by that. Msgr. Aubin told him, ‘I want your hat and outfit, and I want to walk down aisles and bless people and smile, and you can have all the rest.’”

“Each time he saw one of my articles in the North Country Catholic, he would ask if I was paid by the word,” Bracy added. “One of my favorite memories of Msgr. Aubin is when he saw my brother James, now an adult, who he’d baptized as a baby. Monsignor firmly tapped him on the arm and jovially said, ‘I baptized you, so you better behave.’”

Bracy also offered this tribute to her beloved pastor:

“I was blessed to be present at each First Saturday Mass Benediction that Monsignor Aubin offered for about 20 years. He always concluded with this prayer that I think he would like to be remembered for, ‘May the heart of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament be praised, adored, and loved with grateful affection, at every moment, in all the tabernacles of the world, even to the end of time. Amen.’”

A complete obituary can be found on the next page.

Funeral Mass for Msgr. Aubin celebrated Nov. 28

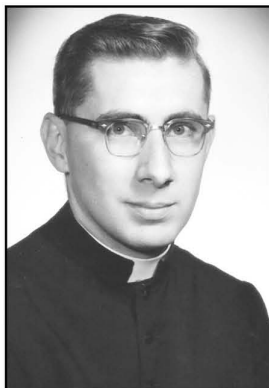
A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Msgr. Joseph G. Aubin at 1 p.m. on Monday, November 28, at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh with Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrating. Msgr. Dennis J. Duprey, VF, served as homilist.

Burial was in St. Peter's Cemetery.

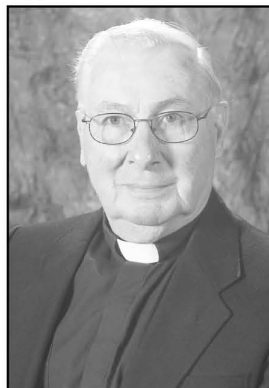
Msgr. Aubin died Saturday, November 19, 2022, at Champlain Valley Physician's Hospital. He was 94.

Born Aug. 5, 1928, in Lackawanna, New York, he was the son of George and Catherine (Schreiner) Aubin and raised in the tight-knit German section of Rochester, New York. His parents predeceased him.

Msgr. Aubin served briefly as parochial vicar at St. Alphonsus in Tupper Lake before spending the rest of his 67 years as a priest in the Champlain



Msgr. Joseph G. Aubin



Valley. There he was named parochial vicar at Our Lady of Victory in Plattsburgh. He also served as chaplain of the USO Club in Plattsburgh and Father Prior of Squires Circle of Plattsburgh Council #255 of the Knights of Columbus before being appointed assistant secretary of Charities in 1958. He served as director of the

Catholic Charities in the Plattsburgh office he helped to found until 1971. He was a member of the Clinton County Mental Health Committee. In 1968, he was appointed administrator and later pastor of St. Louis of France Church in Sciota, where he served until 1972. During this period, he was chairman of the Clinton County Narcotics Council and regional director of the Plattsburgh Religious Ed-

ucation Office.

In 1972, Msgr. Aubin became pastor of St. Alexander's Church in Morrisonville, where he served until 1978 when he was named pastor of Our Lady of Victory Church in Plattsburgh. During that time, he also served on the diocesan Board of Consultors and as confessor for the Brothers of Christian Instruction at Mount Assumption Institute in Plattsburgh and as an auxiliary chaplain at Plattsburgh Air Force Base. In 1984, he was named vicar forane of the Clinton Deanery, a role he held for 11 years. For many years he was the faithful chaplain to the Catholic Daughters, Court of Mary Immaculate #479 in Plattsburgh.

He was named a prelate of honor with the title monsignor in 1989.

Shortly after, he was named pastor of Church of the Immaculate Conception, St. John the Bap-

tist Church in Keeseville and St. Catherine's Church in Clintonville. In 2000, he retired as pastor emeritus.

In his retirement, he served on the Council of Priests from 2001 to 2005.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by three aunts, two of which were consecrated religious.

Throughout his entire priesthood, Msgr. Aubin was a gifted and beloved priest who made deep connections with the families in his parishes and a tireless advocate for the unborn, mothers and families. Many mothers and fathers remember Msgr. Aubin holding their babies while they met with Catholic Charities counselors. He shared his wit, humility and humor with those at his bedside until the very end.

Arrangements were through Brown Funeral Home.

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re The Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, New York
Case No. 20-30663

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, On June 19, 2020, The Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, New York, ("Diocese") filed for protection under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code").

The Court has established January 17, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. (prevailing Eastern time) (the "Supplemental Bar Date") as the deadline to assert claims against the Diocese arising from or relating to abuse that occurred when the survivor was 18 years of age or older, and which, prior to the enactment of the Adult Survivors Act (S.66A/A.648A) would have been subject to a statute of limitations defense ("Adult Claims").

If you have an Adult Claim against the Diocese you must file a claim on or before the Supplemental Bar Date, which will be treated confidentially in accordance with prior court orders in this Case.

Please visit <https://case.stretto.com/diocesofsyracuse> or call (855) 329-4244 for more information on how to file your proof of claim.

IF YOU DO NOT TIMELY FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM, YOU MAY FORFEIT YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ON ANY PLAN OF REORGANIZATION AND TO SHARE IN ANY DISTRIBUTIONS TO CREDITORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE DIOCESE'S CHAPTER 11 CASE.

VOCAL ABOUT VOCATIONS



These panelists talked to students about their vocation either as a single woman, a Sister of St Joseph, as a priest, as a married couple and as a married deacon during middle school retreats held recently in Plattsburgh with students from Seton Catholic and St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga. Panelists were, from left, Catherine Russell, Sister Suanne Johnson, Father Leagon Carlin, and Beth and Deacon James Carlin.

Unity movement brings priest to Pope Francis

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

Efforts to promote unity among denominations brought a diocesan priest to the Vatican and a meeting with Pope Francis.

Father Mark R. Reilly, pastor of St. Peter's Parish in Massena, has been involved in the John 17 Movement for several years.

"I'm friends with some people who are involved in John 17 – Don Curry, the former pastor of New Testament Church here in Massena and now pastor in Plattsburgh, and Joe Tosini and his wife, Mary, who founded John 17," Father Reilly said. "I had them here in Massena for some ecumenical work. They helped us inaugurate our ecumenical Lenten mission here in Massena prior to COVID. This past year, we had Julia Torres from Buenos Aires, a woman who used to work with and is friends with Pope Francis, here. Through her, in part, a friendship developed between Pope Francis and Joe Tosini."

The movement, the name of which stems from the line in the Gospel, "That they may be one," works to "inspire, develop and display love and unity among all of those who profess Jesus as their Lord and Savior," the movement's website states.

Tosini and representatives of the John 17 Movement have met with Pope Francis on a few occasions, and Father Reilly said he's been asked to accompany the group before.

"They've been after me to go," he said. "It's a hard time for me to get away. And I thought, 'what

would the pope want to see me about? He's more interested in meeting with you guys, the Evangelicals and Protestants involved in this unity movement."

This time, however, when the invitation to meet the Holy Father with John 17 representatives in October came in again, Father Reilly was able to make the schedule work.

"Bishop LaValley was very accommodating," he said. "We had to move a confirmation. Just before we left, the Canadian border re-opened completely, so that made travel a little easier. About a week before we left, it occurred to me to check my passport. I pulled it out of the safe, and it had expired a month or two earlier. I had to make arrangements with the State Department to meet with them. I went to Saint Albans for that meeting, and I was able to get my passport on time."

In addition to the planned meeting with the Holy Father, the trip had other significance for the local priest, as well.

"Last time I was in Rome, it was with my mom 10 years ago," he said. "She just passed away in May. Seeing some of those sites made me remember that trip with her. That part was special."

The meeting with Pope Francis and gathering of John 17 representatives included around 40 participants.

"They were Catholic, Evangelical, Protestant, Pentecostal," Father Reilly said. "It was an amazing array of charisms and gifts. There were authors, social workers, people coming up with incredibly imaginative and effective ways of dealing with human trafficking,



Father Mark R. Reilly

musicians, pastors, professors – phenomenal people. It was a lot to take in."

An initial meeting with the group set the tone for the event.

"Our audience with the Holy Father was on Thursday," Father Reilly said. "On Wednesday afternoon, everybody gathered in a conference room. There were 40 of us in this big circle for introductions. This guy, Tyler Johnson, really set the tone. He said, 'we want you to introduce yourselves. Introduce yourself not your work, not your mission, not your brand, not what you do. We want to know who you are. This is not transactional. It's relational. That's what Pope Francis wants, and that's what we want – relationships.'"

Instead, each person spoke about their journey in life, their relationship with Christ and how they became involved in the unity movement.

After the initial meeting, the group met with Julia Torres. They also had a conversation about "the dos and don'ts" of meeting the Holy Father, Father Reilly said.

The group's Thursday meeting with the Pope Francis took place in the latter part of the day.

"Early in the day, his

schedule is pretty regimented," Father Reilly explained. "Later in the day, he can be more flexible. He gave the 40 of us in that room about two hours. There was some questions and answers, some reflections and even some joking."

Father Reilly said it was a "beautiful gift" to have the opportunity to meet the Holy Father.

"It was a real blessing," he said. "To shake his hand and look him in the eyes – that's something I never knew was even in the realm of possibility for me as a priest. And it wasn't transactional. We viewed it as a blessing, a real opportunity to be with Pope Francis. For Pope Francis, it became clear, he saw it as a blessing and something to feed his own spirit, hearing what's happening among Catholics, Evangelicals, Protestants and others. It was about what the Holy Spirit was doing and the movement."

To emphasize the relational aspect of the meeting, the group agreed to "put away our phones and our cameras" for the meeting to focus on listening to one another and entering into relationships in Christ with one another.

"When he first arrived, the Holy Father arrived by way of a wheelchair," Father Reilly said. "He got out of the wheelchair and walked with a cane into the room. He made an effort to walk around the circle, look everyone in the eye and share a brief word and a welcome. He had a severely exaggerated limp. It was an effort

to share warmth, a smile and a determination to pay attention to every person even though it was clearly evident he was in pain."

Also during the audience, Tosini served as sort of an emcee, asking questions of the participants to share the ongoing efforts toward unity with the Holy Father.

"He threw the first question to Don Curry and I," Father Reilly said. "We shared on our friendship and things we've done over the last five to seven years in northern New York and some of the things we've done ecumenically as friends, brothers and Christians. We gave a brief report on what's happening in the Church in northern New York. When Don finished speaking, the pope leans over and looks at Joe (Tosini) and says, 'bella, bella,' – beautiful. I was sitting there thinking, 'did that just happen?'"

The Holy Father shared reflections on the process of discernment and how that relates to the synodal process.

The next day, the John 17 representatives traveled to Castel Gandolfo for a retreat day of sorts.

The group prayed vespers together and shared prayer and reflections. It was after that retreat that the participants were able to discuss their missions, work and brands.

"These were some amazing people," Father Reilly said. "We were able to do some networking and make some good and fruitful connections. And it was still relational and not transactional."



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What do you want for Christmas?

The question "What do you want for Christmas?" may be on our lips. When someone asks us, our first response may be to think, "What will make my life happier?" Our culture tells us happiness is dependent on owning the latest gadget, product, or experience. Yet, when we take time to look around at all the "stuff" we have, we may find that we are not happier. In fact, the more stuff we have, the more time it takes to care for or dispose of it, and the less time we have for what our heart truly desires — a deep sense of peace that overflows into all of our relationships.

"Christian spirituality proposes an alternative understanding of the quality of life, and encourages a prophetic and contemplative lifestyle, one capable of deep enjoyment free of the obsession with consumption." *Laudato Si* #222. Rooted in Scripture, we find the conviction that "less is more." Christian spirituality proposes a growth marked by the capacity to be happy with little.

*(See footnote.)

Our habits to consume are strong. They are reinforced by our culture. To break this habit, we need to become aware of this internal energy to consume, so we don't blindly follow it. This is a contemplative practice — to see how the market and cultural forces shape our interior world.

1. Notice your internal impulse to buy more, eat more, do things that are not essential. This can be owning the latest gadgets. It can also be over-consuming more social media than is necessary, eating too much food, or trying to do too many activities. It might feel like a subtle tug which we are conditioned to give into. This is normal, but it doesn't mean you have to follow the tug.

2. Pause and take a breath. Then find a phrase to ground you such as "Less is more," "Jesus is the reason" or even "Do I need to get/do this?" to remind you of your commitment to not over-consume and to focus on Jesus.

3. Make a choice based on your commitment to live simply, in order to create space and time to focus on God, relationships, service, and caring for our earth community.

* St. Paul tells us "Having nothing they have everything."

Longtime educator Sister Cecilia Marie Hermann dies at age 80

A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Cecilia Marie Hermann was held Nov. 30 at Sacred Heart Church in Watertown. Bishop Terry R. LaValley was the celebrant.

Burial was in Glenwood Cemetery.

Sister Cecilia Marie died at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse on November 26, 2022. She was 80.

She was the daughter of Adolf and Anna Hermann of LaFargeville, New York.

A graduate of Immaculate Heart Academy (Class of 1960), she entered the Sisters of St.

Joseph on September 7, 1960. She received the habit on June 24, 1961, and made Final Profession on August 28, 1966.

Sister Helen Marie received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the New York State University of Plattsburgh. She was New York State Certified in the areas of the Social Sciences and Administration and Supervision. She taught in a number of diocesan Catholic schools including St. John's in Morris-town, St. Andrew's in Norwood, St. Joseph's and Sacred Heart in Massena, St. Joseph's in Dannemora and Holy Family in Watertown, and she served as administrator at St. James in Gouverneur and Immaculate Heart Central in Water-

town.

In September 1980, Sister Cecilia Marie embarked upon a two-fold educational endeavor as the vice principal for Immaculate Heart High School and as a full-time teacher. She fulfilled these roles for 36 years. While at IHC, she held onto and promoted the traditions and values of Catholic education in the spirit of the Sisters of St. Joseph. She consistently imparted knowledge, guided hearts, and evangelized in her own special way.

In addition to her role as the vice principal and a full-time teacher, she also served as the dean of Women and was an adjunct professor of history at Jefferson Community College. Sister Cecilia Marie served as moderator for the Forensics team and facilitated the American Legion and VFW

Democratic essay contests. She annually planned and facilitated the National Honor Society Induction program and May Crowning, both prestigious days and hallmarks of our Catholic culture. She served as moderator for the Student Council and was in charge of the Whiz Quiz team.

After school, Sister was busy supporting the extra-curricular programs. During any sports season and in any weather, she could be seen keeping score for soccer, basketball and baseball. She was truly dedicated to Catholic school education and Immaculate Heart School.

Sister Cecilia Marie is survived by her brothers, Robert (Patricia) Herman, Carl (Lois) Herman; sisters, Helen Amo, Betty Reff and Sister Mary Helen Hermann, SSJ; sisters-in-law, Clara Hermann and Mary Hermann; and many nieces and nephews, as well as grand nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents, she is predeceased by her brothers John Hermann, William Hermann and Albert Hermann; and brothers-in-law Clarence Amo and Martin Reff.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Cummings Funeral Service, Inc.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters of St. Joseph, 1425 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601 or Immaculate Heart Central, 1316 Ives St., Watertown, NY 13601.

Online condolences may be posted at cummingsfuneral.com.

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:

Dec. 15 – 1 p.m., Diocesan Offices, Ogdensburg

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, 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.

Rest in Peace

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

Dec. 7 – Rev. Robert O. Lamitie, 2021

Dec. 8 – Rev. Patrick J. McGuinness, 1931; Msgr. Cornelius J. Crowley, 1946; Rev. John Leo Hammill, 1949; Rev. John Harvey, 1961

Dec. 9 – Rev. George Marion, O.M.I., 1927; Rev. Edwin Hanlon McCarthy, 1950; Rev. Arthur LaVigne, 1956

Dec. 10 – Rev. James Hogan, 1882

Dec. 11 – Rev. George Montreuil, 1914; Rev. Edward Tetrault, 1952; Msgr. George Henry Brisson, P.A., 1969

Dec. 12 – Rev. Victor Dugas, 1843; Msgr. Albert J. Farrell, 1967; Rev. Julian P. O'Brien, 1988; Deacon Floyd J. Barton, 1999

Dec. 13 – Rev. Joseph Louis Levesque, 1939

Bishop's Public Schedule

Dec. 9 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

4:30 p.m. – St. Lawrence Deanery Clergy Penance Service followed by dinner at St. Mary's Cathedral (Brzana Hall)

Dec. 10 – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Dec. 11 – 9 a.m. – Installation Mass of Reverend Douglas A. Decker as Pastor of the Catholic Community of St. Peter and St. Mary and St. Hedwig (at St. Peter's Church) in Lowville

11 a.m. – Mass at St. Hedwig's Church in Houseville

Dec. 12 – 9:30 a.m. – Diocesan Department Head Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

Noon – Lunch followed by Advent Day of Reflection for all Diocesan Staff at Wadhams Hall

Dec. 13 – 3:30 p.m. – Mass at Altona Correctional Facility

Funeral Mass celebrated for Dcn. Elliot Shaw

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Deacon Elliot A. Shaw Sr. on Monday, Dec. 5, at St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga. Father Christopher J. Looby, pastor of St. Mary's, celebrated the Mass, and Father Kevin. D. McEwan served as homilist.

Deacon Shaw, 82 of Ticonderoga, entered eternal life on November 30, 2022, surrounded by family and a few close family friends.

In death, he rejoins his loving wife of 57 years, Margaret "Peg" Shaw, and his dear son Jeffrey who died in 1987. While his health declined significantly the past two years, he was at great peace at the time of his death.

Deacon Shaw led an exemplary life, rooted in a deep and abiding faith in God. He was a family man to his core and always showed great concern for his fellow man.

Deacon Shaw was the second of seven children born to Elliott H. and Jean (Charbonneau).

He is survived by his six brothers and sisters. Their shared history of adventures and misadventures were fun to listen to at family gatherings. His kids heard a few stories he had not offered to tell himself.

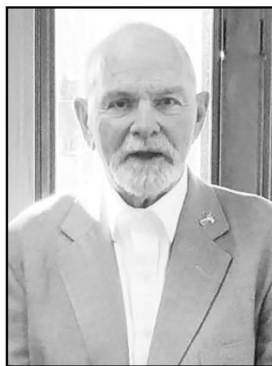
Deacon Shaw graduated with the Ticonderoga High School Class of 1957 and never missed a chance to reconnect at class reunions or when a classmate visited home.

Upon graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served at Fort Niagara. While there, he started his own large family after falling hard for Ticonderoga girl, Peg DeVaney. They stayed true to each other throughout their marriage including family sicknesses and the invariability of life's good times and bad.

When discharged from military service, he returned to Ticonderoga to begin a 38-year career at International Paper Company working many jobs until becoming a millwright. He worked long hours, especially during plant shutdowns, to financially support his family. He was proud to follow his father and father-in-law, John DeVaney, in the papermaking business.

While he often came home tired from long hours at work, he always made time to hit the backyard on the Lake Road to join in whatever game the kids and neighbors were playing. When supper was called, Peg made sure he shed his dirty clothes in the garage before entering the house. He enjoyed the simplest of pleasures – a game of pick-up baseball, a board game, snowmobiling with his siblings and their families or splashing in the pool with the kids. He and Peg went bowling and played cards with friends.

Summer vacations were a must, as was dressing up in your absolute Sunday best for Easter. The summer vacations began modestly with camping at nearby Rogers Rock but eventually ventured farther afield with a full week in Wells, Maine. One year he took the family to see the movie Jaws, steps from where the kids would be swimming on the Wells Beach the next day. The most memorable family trip was the one planned for Amish Country in Pennsylvania. The pop-up camper behind the car caught fire on Route 149, outside Fort Ann and after a Good Samaritan helped put out the fire, and Dad make a few quick repairs, the family regrouped and spent the week at Rogers Rock. In later years, Dea-



Deacon Elliot A. Shaw Sr.

con Shaw and Peg joined their adult children and grandchildren for vacations in Virginia Beach. They also enjoyed going to Wells and Amish Country in Pennsylvania (without the camper) for long weekends.

Deacon Shaw cherished every moment he spent with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He rarely missed an event, whether school play, First Communion, Christmas pageant, t-ball game, track meet – you name it. He enjoyed large family gatherings by his daughter Michelle's pool or Wendy's lakeside cottage.

He was at his best, however, when he was one-on-one with his grandchildren, whether a walk home from St. Mary's school, a trip out for an ice cream cone, an overnight camping trip to Cooperstown or trying to trap the groundhog eating out of his vegetable garden (the groundhog found a new home in Chilson). His presence was comforting, his words always encouraging and his shoulders broad in times of need. The kids loved being with him – he was a one-man show wherever he went. "Dad" stories could fill a book. He had no problem laughing at himself.

His life took a major turn when he listened to

the unmistakable calling of the Holy Spirit and began five year study to become a Roman Catholic Deacon. It took great sacrifice on the part of both Elliott and Peg with weekends away from home and scripture homework to be completed. It was not an easy path but, through God's grace, he always walked forward.

He was ordained in Ogdensburg on October 1, 1988. The way he served God is a legacy that will live long after his passing. He touched countless lives through his ministry.

Deacon Shaw answered a second calling when he began serving as the Catholic chaplain at Moriah Shock. When interviewed for a newspaper article celebrating his 25th Anniversary of being a Deacon, he said "it's one of my favorite things to do. It's turned out to be one of my favorite ministries. I feel like I make a difference there." For many years, he rode his motorcycle through the backroads to work in Moriah with a saddlebag filled with Holy Bibles.

Long before becoming a Deacon, he and Peggy strongly embraced the children receiving a faith-based education at St. Mary's and all six children are graduates. The family is appreciative of the tireless work Sister Sharon and her teachers have made to keep this option available for the community. Elliott held a special place in his heart, also, for the Virgin Mother Mary.

Elliott's community involvement was lengthy. He served as a Little League coach and president, town tax assessor and a major Sentinel booster. He was honored as Irishman of the Year by the Knights of Columbus Council #333 in 2005 and Citizen of the Year by the Elks Lodge #1494 in 2017.

Deacon Shaw was a diehard Boston Red Sox fan. He enjoyed listening to the music of George Jones. He had a wicked sweet tooth.

He is survived by his five children, Elliott Jr. (Penny) of Delmar, Wendy of Ticonderoga, Michael (Robin) of Moriah, Mary Coleman (Jim) of Latham and Michelle Eggleston (Darin) of Dresden; his 12 grandchildren, Ryan, Gregson, Chris, Ted, Jordan, Amber, Meegan, Zoe, Liam, Archer, Ariya and Aurora; his four great-grandchildren, Eoin, Emmi, Riley and Gavin; his six brothers and sisters and their spouses, Donna VanWirt, Fred (Leslie), Patricia Hansen (Paul), Kathleen "Kit" Corliss (Ed), Norma Jane Thatcher and Ron (Donna); his in-laws, Kathy Coleman (John), Jack DeVaney (Brenda), Patrick DeVaney (Judy) and many nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to thank Fr. Chris Looby and all the members of the Clergy, including fellow Deacons, Sister Sharon, the caring and compassionate medical professionals across the region, including EMT's, and special gratitude to each and every hospice worker; his co-workers from the mill and prison, and everyone who knew him and called him a friend.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home of Ticonderoga. To offer online condolences, please visit www.wilcoxandreganfuneralhome.com

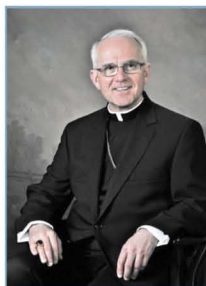
Donations in Elliott's memory may be made to St. Mary's School Adopt-a-Student Program, 64 Amherst Ave. Ticonderoga, NY, 12883 or to Friends Comforing Friends, 25 Steamboat Landing, Ticonderoga.

Retirement Fund for Religious



Every consecrated person is a gift for the People of God... In the church, the religious are called to be prophets by demonstrating how Jesus lived on this earth, and to proclaim how the kingdom of God will be in its perfection.

-- Pope Francis



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

We are blessed to have several religious orders of women and men in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. For generations, these consecrated religious have served the People of God in the North Country with such joy and generosity.

Soon, our parishes will be conducting the Retirement Fund for Religious collection, an annual appeal that benefits nearly 25,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Our senior religious are a treasure—both for their service to our Church and for the ways their prayer and witness continue to enrich our faith. *“Planted in the house of the Lord, they shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall bear fruit even in old age” (Ps. 92:14-15).*

As I reflect on the ministry of women and men religious—past and present—I am grateful for the ways they have shaped my own faith. I also value the tremendous service they have offered our diocese. I’m sure many of you remember, as well, religious who have impacted your faith and made a positive difference in your life.

Most senior religious worked many years for little pay, leaving their religious communities with a shortage of retirement savings. Rising health-care costs and decreased income compound the challenge to meet day-to-day needs for medications, nursing assistance, and other necessities. Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious provide financial support that helps religious communities care for aging members while ensuring younger ones can continue the good works of their elders.

You so generously support many worthy causes. I invite you to contribute what you can to this annual appeal for Retired Religious. We pray for God’s continued blessing on all our women and men religious as we rely on their prayers.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

Special Collection in your parish the weekend of Dec. 10th & 11th

- ◆ Religious communities are financially responsible for the support and care of all members. Income, earnings, and expenses are managed separately from the parish and diocesan structures of the Catholic Church.
- ◆ By 2027, retired religious are projected to outnumber wage-earners by more than three to one.
- ◆ The funding shortage is compounded by rising healthcare costs and decreased income. And, as more religious reach retirement age and leave compensated ministry, income will further decline while care needs increase.
- ◆ There are 25,000 religious past age 70 living in the United States. In 2022, the average annual cost for their care was almost \$50,000 per person.
- ◆ During the early and mid-twentieth centuries, the Catholic Church in the United States experienced a surge in vocations to religious life, with numbers peaking in the mid-1960s. Care for elderly members was provided largely by younger ones. Over time, however, the number of vocations decreased while lifespans increased. The result is far fewer younger members available to support the retirement and eldercare needs of senior members. Currently, 81 percent of the religious communities providing data to the NRRO have a median age of 70 or older.

COMFORTING • NURTURING • TEACHING • NURSING • SHARING • LOVING • CARING

“I am greatly edified when I see older consecrated men and women whose eyes are bright, who continue to smile...For their eyes are full of hope and openness to the future. This is what the eyes of consecrated men and women behold: the grace of God poured into their hands”. (Pope Francis)

Orders Serving in the Diocese

- Daughters of Charity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Dominican Sisters of Hope
- Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
- Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood
- Sisters of Charity of St. Louis
- Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod
- Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
- Sisters of St. Joseph



Please give to those who have given and are giving a lifetime.

*We are grateful
for all the
support you have
given us
throughout
the years.*

*Religious of
the Diocese of Ogdensburg*

You can express your gratitude for all the religious have done and will continue to do by giving to your parishes annual collection.

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make your tax-deductible check payable to your parish. Write *Retirement Fund for Religious* on the memo line and give it to your parish collection or send your donation directly to:

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

**P.O. Box 106
Canajoharie, NY 13317**

USCCB committee decries rising antisemitism in U.S.

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Saying they are outraged by growing "antisemitic rhetoric" across the country, members of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs urged Christians to decry hate-filled statements and violence aimed at Jewish individuals, homes and institutions.

Committee members also denounced "any rhetoric which seeks to demonize or dehumanize the Jewish people or Judaism as a religious tradition," in a statement released Nov. 28 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"In unequivocal terms, we condemn any and all violence directed at the Jewish people, whether motivated by religious, racial, or political grievances," said the committee, chaired by Bishop David P. Talley of Memphis, Tennessee, and has eight other members.

"The rising trend of antisemitic incidents has become even more painful in light of the church's relationship to the Jewish tradition and our connections to the Jewish people in dialogue and friendship," the committee said.

The Anti-Defamation League, which tracks incidents of antisemitism, reported 2,717 cases of harassment, vandalism and assault in 2021, an increase of 34% from a year earlier. The number of incidents is the highest on record since the group began tracking them in 1979.

Two rabbis involved in ecumenical dialogue with the committee praised the statement for the resilient solidarity it signifies to the Jewish community.

"The main emotion with the statement is gratitude," said Rabbi Allyson Zacharoff, representative of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association in the National Council of Synagogues.

"Knowing that the bishops, that the church, is so willing to speak in such a strong way against antisemitism is incredibly fulfilling, incredibly gratifying," Rabbi Zacharoff told Catholic News Service.

Rabbi Noam Marans, director of interreligious and intergroup relations at the American Jewish Committee, wrote in an email that the statement "reminds the Jewish community that we are not alone, that U.S. Catholic leadership understands resurgent antisemitism as a threat to Jews."

He also said that antisemitism must be addressed by "all peoples, includ-

ing, perhaps especially, the faith community."

The bishops' statement draws its inspiration from "Nostra Aetate" ("In Our Time"), the Second Vatican Council's 1965 declaration on the relationship between the Catholic Church and non-Catholic faiths. It explains that over six decades the committee has built partnerships with the National Council of Synagogues, the Orthodox Union and the newly established Modern Orthodox group.

"In each of these exchanges, leaders in the Catholic and Jewish faiths have learned to encounter each other in a spirit of good will and a sincere desire to encourage our respective faithful to live together in a society increasingly diverse in its racial, ethnic, religious and political makeup," the committee said.

However, the statement continued, such lessons "are being challenged by the re-emergence of antisemitism in new forms" in online and in-person settings.

Quoting Pope Francis's 2013 address to the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations, where he said, "a true Christian cannot be an antisemite," the nine bishops cautioned that Christians "must be ever vigilant of the various ways" in which hatred and violence arise.

The committee members said that Jewish and Christian religious traditions have a "shared spiritual patrimony" that provides the foundation for the strong relations existing among the two communities.

Again Citing "Nostra Aetate", the committee explained that the Catholic Church always must work to protect the root from which the two religions grew and from which the church "continues to draw sustenance as all await in varied ways the coming of the Messiah."

Further, the committee said: "We affirm that the Jewish people cannot be held responsible for the death of Christ or be depicted as rejected or accursed in theological discourse. It must always be remembered that Jesus, Mary, and the apostles were all Jewish," the committee said.

In addition, the panel reiterated its long-held stance of supporting a "just political solution" that recognizes "Israel living in peace alongside a viable and independent Palestine."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope lauds predecessor, honors Ratzinger Prize winners

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Presenting the Ratzinger Prize to a French Jesuit theologian and a Jewish law professor, Pope Francis paid tribute to his predecessor and his theological work. "I have many opportunities for a personal, fraternal and affectionate encounter with the pope emeritus," retired Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis told those gathered at the Vatican Dec. 1 to honor Jesuit Father Michel Fédou, professor of dogmatic theology and patristics at the Centre Sèvres of Paris, and Joseph H. H. Weiler, a professor of law at New York University School of Law. "All of us sense his spiritual presence, his accompaniment in prayer for the whole church and his constant contemplative gaze," Pope Francis said of the retired pope, who did not attend the ceremony. The Ratzinger Prize honors two scholars each year. Pope Francis chooses them from among candidates recommended by a committee of the Joseph Ratzinger-Benedict XVI Foundation, which supports theological research and promotes studies on the theology and teaching of the retired pope.

Prefect of Vatican economy office steps down, citing illness

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Three years after Pope Francis appointed him to speed up financial reforms, transparency and budget controls at the Vatican, Jesuit Father Juan Antonio Guerrero Alves has resigned for health reasons. The Vatican announced Nov. 30 that Father Guerrero was stepping down as prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy and Pope Francis had named Maximino Caballero Ledo, the secretariat's general secretary, to succeed him. In a letter to staff of the secretariat, Father Guerrero said he had undergone surgery and was continuing medical treatment, which is "producing certain side effects that make it particularly difficult for me to fulfill such a demanding task." While he said he was sad to be leaving, the Jesuit told staff that over the past three years they had "made a contribution to the economic reform called for by the Holy Father himself." Father Guerrero's successor, Caballero, joined the office in 2020 after having worked in finance at an Illinois-based health care company, Baxter International, for more than 13 years.

Some U.S. dioceses are lifting restrictions on Communion cup

WASHINGTON (CNS) – As many restrictions put in place at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic have been lifted, some Catholic dioceses around the country are returning, or already have returned, to offering consecrated wine in the chalice for Communion while others are waiting to do so. Some dioceses lifted this restriction in June particularly for the feasts of Corpus Christi or Pentecost. Most recently, the archbishop of New Orleans announced that parishes could once again offer the Communion cup. Father Nile Gross, director of the New Orleans Archdiocese's Office of Worship, announced the decision in a Nov. 25 column in the *Clarion Herald*, the archdiocesan newspaper, by saying: "The long hiatus is finally over!" He said Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond "formally removed any restrictions on the offering of Communion under both kinds in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Effective immediately, parishes may reintroduce Communion from the Precious Blood from the chalice." The priest said the decision was made "with due diligence and with the support of local and state health officials. The health of the local community is among his (the archbishop's) highest priorities." The week before the New Orleans announcement, the bishop of the neighboring Diocese of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, made a similar statement.

Pope to patriarch: Overcoming divisions would give world hope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – While formal dialogue about the theological and historical causes of the splits in Christianity are essential, so, too, is a recognition that "sinful actions and attitudes" have contributed and continue to contribute to divisions in the body of Christ, Pope Francis said.

"We are called, then, to work toward the restoration of unity between Christians, not merely through signed agreements but through fidelity to the Father's will and discernment of the promptings of the Spirit," Pope Francis wrote in a letter to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople Nov. 30, the feast of St. Andrew.

"We can be thankful to God that our churches are not resigned to past and current experiences of division, but, on the contrary, through prayer and fraternal charity are seeking instead to achieve full communion that will enable us one day, in God's time, to gather together at the same eucharistic table," said the pope's letter, which was read publicly at the end of a Divine Liturgy in the patriarchal church of St. George in the Phanar, the patriarchate's headquarters in Istanbul.

The letter was delivered personally by Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, outgoing prefect of the Dicastery for Eastern Churches, who led a Vatican delegation to Istanbul for the feast of St. Andrew, the brother of St. Peter, and patron saint of the Orthodox patriarchate.

The pope and the patriarch send delegations to each other's churches each year for the celebrations of their patron saints' feast days: the Vatican's June 29 celebration of the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul and the patriarchate's celebration of the feast of St. Andrew.

Pope Francis included in his letter condolences over the Nov. 13 Istanbul bombing that killed six people and wounded more than 80 on a busy street lined with shops and restaurants.

"I entrust to the mercy of Almighty God those who have lost their lives or have been wounded by the recent attack in your own city and pray that he will convert the hearts of those who promote or support such evil actions," the pope wrote.

The bombing is another sign that "dialogue and encounter are the only viable path for overcoming conflicts and all forms of violence," the pope said, mentioning how that position and the importance of interreligious dialogue, in particular, was affirmed by the pope and patriarch when they met and prayed together in early November in Bahrain.

"The full restoration of communion among all the believers in Jesus Christ is an irrevocable commitment for every Christian," the pope wrote, because "the 'unity of all' is not only God's will but an urgent priority in today's world," so often marked by violent divisions.

Supreme Court considers immigration enforcement

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Supreme Court justices Nov. 29 examined a Biden administration policy that placed the arrest and deportation of some unauthorized immigrants over others.

In oral arguments that lasted more than two hours, the court seemed divided over the challenge to the administration's policy that put a priority on deporting immigrants who pose a threat to national security, public safety or border security.

The policy has been challenged by Texas and Louisiana officials who claim federal law does not provide the options for enforcing which immigrants can be singled out for deportation.

The case focused on a 2021 memo from Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas outlining priorities for the arrest, detention and deportation of immigrants.

In June, a Texas-based federal judge blocked this policy. The following month the Supreme Court in a 5-4 vote rejected the Biden administration's request to restore the policy, but agreed to hear oral arguments about it.

Several justices Nov. 29 seemed ready to side with the two states arguing their legal right to challenge the administration's policy.

A few of the justices repeatedly emphasized that federal immigration law says that some immigrants "shall" be taken into custody or deported, indicating that the administration didn't have option to pick and choose who they would

focus on.

"Shall means shall," Chief Justice John Roberts said. "Shouldn't we just say what the law is?" he asked, but he also acknowledged the administration's argument that Congress had not allocated necessary funds for the government to try to remove every noncitizen.

The 2021 memo from Mayorkas said there are approximately 11 million immigrants in the country without documentation, and the government does not have the ability to apprehend and remove all of them, which is why the Biden administration issued priorities as to who should be targeted for deportation.

Texas and Louisiana lawyers argued that the Department of Homeland Security's guidelines went against federal immigration law.

Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar, arguing for the administration, said DHS could not possibly apprehend and seek the removal of all the immigrants living in the country illegally.

She also said the two states should not have been able to challenge the policy since they have not suffered direct harm because of it.

Kate Melloy Goettel, director of litigation for the American Immigration Council, said in a statement that this case gave the Supreme Court the "best opportunity in years to affirm the federal government's well-established authority to set its own enforcement priorities and choose who it targets for deportation – and who it doesn't."

She also noted that the country's immigration system "works better when federal officials decide when to prioritize immigration enforcement."

"States like Texas have repeatedly sought to make our immigration system harsher and more inhumane by overturning federal immigration authority in a manner inconsistent with our immigration laws and years of court precedent," she added.

She urged the court to "reject Texas' ill-conceived argument that immigration laws impose affirmative obligations on ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) to carry out arrests against their considered judgment."

A decision in *United States v. Texas* is expected next June.

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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.

DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR

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

Date: First Saturday of the Month

Time: Following the 4:30 anticipated Mass

Place: St. Ann's Church

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

CLINTON

**CHRIST'S COMING ADVENT
RECITAL**

Malone – All are welcome to an advent recital as we prepare for Christ's coming.

Date: Dec. 17

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church

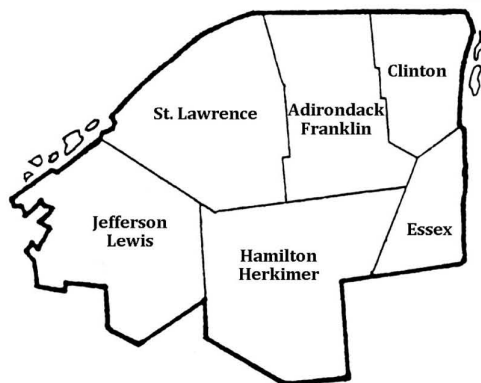
Features: Join Madonna Champagne, Braden Jarosz and guest musicians for classical Advent and Christmas songs. Donations will benefit St. André's Good Samaritan Food Pantry and complementary refreshments will follow. The event will also be livestreamed on Facebook.

HOUSE SITTERS

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

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

Features: Training will be provided on the history of the House of Prayer, its mission, and ways to carry out this ministry of hospitality. Flexible schedule and hours are fine.



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.

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

Contact: Call Sarah Anderson at 518-534-9976.

CRAFT SHOW

Morrisonville – A North Country Christmas 10th Annual Craft Show to be held.

Date: Dec. 10

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

Place: St. Alexander's Church

Features: Local vendors will be selling: Jewelry, Quilts, Holiday Crafts, Wood Crafts, Candles, Adirondack Items, and much more. Lunch available at Padre's Café, Bake Sale and home made chocolates.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Altona – Christmas in our Hearts, Christmas Festival to be held.

Date: Dec. 18

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

Place: Holy Angels Hall

Features: Craft fair, Christmas concert, Christmas basket BINGO, live nativity, raffle, baked goods, food & refreshments.

Contact: For more information, contact the parish office at 518-236-5632

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

West Chazy – Come and enjoy beautiful performances of Christmas Songs.

Date: Dec. 18

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: St. Joseph's Church

Features: This is a family event for all to enjoy. We hope to see you there! Admission is free.

Contact: For more information

contact the Parish Office at 518-493-4521.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

**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.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Carthage – A Pancake Breakfast to be held to benefit Augustinian Academy sponsored by the Father John Cosmic Council 291 of the Knights of Columbus.

Date: Dec. 11

Time: 8 a.m. to Noon

Place: St. James Community Room

Cost: Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$7; Children under 10, \$4; Family of 4 or more, \$27

Contact: For more information call 315-493-3224

**FESTIVAL OF SACRED
CHRISTMAS SONGS**

Clayton – A Festival of Sacred Christmas Song to be held.

Date: Dec. 11

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: Performances by the music ministries of St. Mary's Church, Clayton and St. Cyril's Church, Alexandria Bay, St. Mary's Youth Choir, and Turning Point Men's Barbershop Chorus. A free-will offering will be accepted.

Contact: For more information, contact St. Mary's parish office at 315-686-3398

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: Jan. 1

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

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.

ST. LAWRENCE

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.

MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

Date: Dec. 11 (Second Sunday of each month)

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

Place: Father Amyot Parish Center

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

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

GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA

Massena – Glenn Miller Orchestra to

present a Christmas Show.

Date: Dec. 21

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

Cost: \$30 Prime Seating or \$20 General Admission

Contact: Trinity Catholic School for tickets and more info 315-769-5911

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

Date: Jan. 7

Time: 8 a.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

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

Date: Jan. 7

Time: 3:15 p.m.

Features: First Saturday Rosary. Confessions will be available.

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

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

Date: Jan. 7

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

DIOCESAN EVENTS

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: Three available dates and locations: 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 rcdony.org/lovingauthentically. For more information contact Stephen Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org

Title of cardinal's biopic has dual meaning

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Polish filmmaker Michal Kondrat said the title of his latest film, "PROPHET," has two meanings.

The movie, a biopic about 20th-century Polish Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, delves into the Polish Communist Party's yearslong operation to delegitimize him. Prophet was the name of "the mission of getting rid of the cardinal and abolishing the Catholic Church," said Michal Kondrat, the film's director.

But it also bears that name because Cardinal Wyszyński, who was beatified in 2021, "discovered Karol Wojtyła," he said. "And he supported Karol Wojtyła, who was (later) Pope John Paul II. He paved the path of Pope John Paul II."

"PROPHET" will get a limited run on select U.S. screens Nov. 15 and Nov. 17, as part of the Fathom Events series of special screenings.

It hadn't even made its premiere in Poland at the time of Kondrat's Nov. 8 video interview with Catholic News Service from his home in Poland. Even so, when it bows on the big screen, it will be in just a few screens in

some of the country's biggest cities.

But "we have very good feedback from the first viewers," Kondrat said. It will later be shown in France, Spain, England and Latin America.

"I chose him (as a film subject) because I was impressed because of his power and his courage, and it's just a very important person," Kondrat said. "By the grace of him, Cardinal Wojtyła became John Paul II. We can say that he helped to destroy communism in Poland and Eastern Europe. He's very strong in Poland, but not only Poland."

"PROPHET," he added, "is very good for current times because of Ukraine and the Ukraine war. Because this is what (Russian President Vladimir) Putin wants: to come back (to) the communist times. So that's why I think that a subject of the movie is very, very current."

There is some nudity and foul language in the film. In the opening scene, a prisoner – which viewers later learn to be a Polish bishop – is dragged naked from his cell to be the victim of a torture session.

There also are a handful of isolated incidences where a character says a bad word that starts with the letter "F."

"It was the language that they used," Kondrat said, referring to Communist Party officials.

Some of the characters are composites to drive the narrative, "to show that Cardinal Wyszyński was very close to the people," Kondrat told CNS, noting that "for example, when he comes back from the Vatican," the first thing he did was to go "to the sickness – Kazia's mother."

Kazia is a girl who grows up on the streets of Warsaw because her mother is perpetually ill. She later becomes an object of the cardinal's mercy, and provides him with opportunities to preach love and forgiveness in the face of hate and oppression.

Kondrat said the biggest challenge in filming was the scene of the December 1970 standoff between striking shipyard workers in Gdansk – later home of the Solidarnosc labor movement – and Polish riot police. The scene required 400 extras, 200 people in reenactment groups, and about 40 stunt men, according to Kon-

drat.

This film, called "Prorok" in Polish, is Kondrat's fourth movie. The previous three all had religious themes, including "Faustina: Love and Mercy," which had its own Fathom screenings shortly after its 2019 release; the other two are "Purgatory" and "Two Crowns."

All four were financed in part by the Maximilian Kolbe Film Foundation, a Polish nonprofit that aids in faith-based filmmaking.

Religious films have become Kondrat's stock in trade because "everything that you watch helps make you the person that you become," he said. "That's why I think that is important that to make movies with good values. Because I believe that the people also will also get back to seeing (this) kind of movie."

It's possible his next movie will get some financial assistance as well. Kondrat didn't disclose the title, but the script is in English, and it will be made in English, he said. "The movie is about a few people that will die, and the action will be in purgatory. This will be something like science fiction."

Former evangelical 'reboots' message on movies

"The Message Behind the Movie – Reboot: Engaging Film Without Disengaging Faith" by Douglas M. Beaumont. Ignatius Press (San Francisco, 2022). 243 pp., \$17.95.

Douglas M. Beaumont is a former evangelical who joined the Catholic Church several years ago. A former professor in an evangelical Christian seminary, he has published a Catholic update and "reboot" of his 2009 book, "The Message Behind the Movie."

In an age when Christians can access online websites that reveal the number of times profanity is used in a film, how many sexual scenes and sexual references there are and how many drug references, Beaumont

provides a biblical framework in which a religious believer can evaluate a film, absorb the positive elements and use various aspects of the film in communicating the Gospel.

His ability to provide a balanced, well-thought-out view on the Scriptures and a positive point of view on a Christianity's ability to be "in the world" but not "of the world" is quite refreshing and encouraging.

The author loves movies and sees the value of the art form, the significance movies have in forming the values of our culture and the practical opportunities they bring to find common ground with others in order to bring the truth of the Gospel and conversations

on faith.

The author makes it clear that increasing our pleasure in movie watching is not the primary goal, but rather to learn how to evaluate a movie in light of Christian beliefs. Analogous to great music or art that communicated an aspect of God's sovereignty or Christ's compassion for past generations, movies can do likewise.

This involves discerning the message of the movie revealed by its story, the structure and the assumed worldview of that story. Beaumont would argue that "only then can Christians evaluate whether the movie presents a strong Christian, non-Christian or anti-Christian worldview, which they can then re-

spond to and use as a starting point for apologetics and evangelism."

By discussing the cinematic techniques and the genre considerations filmmakers use to communicate their ideas, this book helps Catholics and other Christians to become informed viewers. The book shows how to evaluate the stories that movies tell and how to discern what they say about reality, God and what it means to be human.

At the same time, he illustrates how movie watchers can engage in thoughtful, lively discussions not only about film but also about the big questions in life.

The book has excellent insights into the production of a movie and ends

with a commentary on the film, "The Truman Show." Parents should certainly have discretion over what is allowed in their households and the rating designation of a movie can be informative for age-appropriate viewing.

The reader will gain appreciation for the messages that are found within movies, which can be a starting point for dialogue with people of divergent faith backgrounds or no faith at all.



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

First and Second Sunday of Advent

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Another Advent has begun—a time of prayer and preparation—a time-out from hectic distractions, and a time-in for quiet nourishment from the beautiful Advent scriptures. It's a time for inner activity of prayer and outer works of generosity to our neighbor.

In the first reading from Isaiah, God invited the divided kingdom of Israel to climb the holy mountain to His house. There He will melt down their swords and turn their hearts to thoughts of peace. What seemed to them an impossible dream actually came true 700 years later when Jesus was born. The kingdom was united, and peace ruled the whole world, Scripture tells us. The message for us is clear. We must continually strive to work for a peaceful and just world, so that Christ may have room in all hearts. How? We must listen carefully to the daily preaching of Pope Francis! Peace starts in the hearts of believers.

The second reading from Paul to the Romans insists that we wake up and throw off the works of darkness. If we follow Paul's advice to walk in

the light, then Advent is a time for sincere ridance of sinful ways and sluggish response to the teaching of Jesus and His Church.



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

In the Gospel, Jesus warns us that we must be prepared, for "at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." We wonder for how many people this Christmas will be the last time they will celebrate on this earth. We need to take this Advent seriously, for the coming of the Lord will be not just a beautiful Christmas, but the actual day of judgment.

As the inscription on an old sundial in an English garden says, "It's later than you think!" With joy, let us climb the mountain of the Lord!

The readings this Sunday alert us to something about to begin. The language is emphatic. Night is ending. Dawn is at hand. "Stay awake." Put on "the armor of light." And "let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord." There is a sense of anticipation. Advent is that anticipation, that moment of joyful hope, lived out across four weeks.

We symbolize that, and ritualize it, with the Advent wreath. But we don't light all four candles at

Nov. 27 & Dec. 4

First Sunday of Advent

READINGS

Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:37-44

Second Sunday of Advent

READINGS

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
2 Peter 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8

once. We go one at a time, so the light gathers and grows. If you have an Advent calendar, you don't fold open every window at once, but you go one small window at a time. We shouldn't rush it. Advent is the time of great expectations.

Dorothy Day, in fact, compared it to a woman expecting a child.

"She lives in such a garment of silence," Day wrote, "as though she were listening to hear the stir of life within her."

That brings us to a question all of us should ask during these coming weeks: Are we listening? Are we paying attention? Are we looking to what will be—or are we already there? If we jump right into the holiday season, we forget to wait, and watch, and wonder and pray. We neglect the "joyful hope" that is so much a part of this beautiful season. When Christmas arrives, it will seem almost anticlimactic: one more day in a

long litany of jingling bells and canned carols.

This year, resist the urge. Wait a while to get the tree and hang the wreath. Turn down the Christmas music. It's okay: it will be there in the middle of December, just as it was in the middle of November. Instead, use these weeks to pull back. Find time to look within—to pray more deeply and converse more intimately with the One who is coming. Ask him: How can I prepare for you? What can I do to welcome you into my life?

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent is a time of a time of "stirring up," of rousing all of us to our roots, partly in the spirit of repentance, and even more in a rousing in joy to a world-shaking event. God is coming to earth in human form. He will transform and renew us.

Of course, it happened a few thousand years ago, but it happens again through the power of the Holy Spirit this year, too! We must be really alert and listening so as not to miss our chance for the gifts it brings.

In the first reading, God is pictured on His throne, surrounded by the angels. He sends his prophet, Isaiah, with the news: "Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem

and proclaim to her that...her guilt is expiated."

In effect, God says that they have suffered enough. "Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low..." Then he tells his messengers to up a high mountain and shout: "Here is your God...Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms, he gathers the lambs..."

St. Peter, in the second reading, is more urgent: "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar." He echoes John the Baptist in his plea for all people to repent and be cleansed of their sins. Why, so that all will benefit from the redemption promised by the Son who is to be born in Bethlehem is the God-man.

Christ is Himself the Gospel of Mark, which tells us how important it is for us to hear the voice of John crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths... One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals..."

There is definitely a note of urgency and excitement in Advent. How we all need to really listen to God's Word in these fast-moving two weeks until Christmas Day! More than ever, we need to prepare the way of the Lord in this atheistic, dark, divided world. Spend some special prayer-time every single day as the Holy Spirit works powerfully to bring "Joy to the World."



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going south for the winter!

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CALLED TO SERVE

The deacon as servant

My class of permanent deacons was to be ordained by Bishop Gerald Barbarito in 2003. But Bishop Barbarito was called by then Pope John Paul II to shepherd the people of West Palm Beach, Florida. So, this diocese was without a bishop until Robert Cunningham was named the Thirteenth Bishop of Ogdensburg in 2004.

Since Bishop Barbarito left in the summer of 2003, my classmates and I speculated about who would be available to preside over our ordination scheduled for the feast of St. Francis, October 4, 2003.

The happy task, in our humble opinion, fell to Bishop Thomas Costello, an auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse.

Bishop Costello was a wonderful guy. We were honored to welcome him to St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

It turned out he used a canned text for his homily. In fairness, he did embellish the text and reworked some of the phrases. I only discovered that he used a prewritten text a year later, but at the time, and even now, it doesn't matter. The words were significant.

"As deacons you are united to Jesus, configured, conformed to Jesus the servant and shepherd. You're ordained for the service of others. That's your call... a minis-

ter of charity, pastoral charity, the essence of which is giving of one's self.



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

Pastoral charity... serving God's people... giving yourself to the flock. This is the dynamic principle that unifies everything else that you do as a deacon. This is the dynamic principle which brings balance to your diaconal life. Charity... pastoral charity... in service of neighbor."

Throughout the diocese, men ordained to the permanent diaconate are performing various works of charity in addition to their participation at Sunday Mass and occasionally preaching. It is in

those settings, delivering the Word of God through their actions in the community, that the deacon is best remembered.

There are deacons involved in soup kitchens, bereavement, nursing home and hospital visitations, Communion services in those settings, prison ministry, homeless shelters, faith formation programs, home visitations to shut-ins, sacramental preparation, thrift and resale shops, meals for seniors and shut-ins and the list goes on. The deacon's wife often participates with her husband.

Many deacons, like their brother priests, spend a good deal of time listening as those who seek them share their most intimate thoughts

and concerns. A major difference between priests and deacons is that a priest is empowered by God to forgive sins, a deacon does not receive the same grace.

The deacon says "Here am I, Lord" when he responds to the vocation implanted in his heart. Bishop Costello encouraged us at our ordination and encourages each deacon to, "re-present Jesus as deacon. Let me take Jesus' place; speak in his name as his ambassador, act as his very person. Let me become a living instrument for doing the work of the church."

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

Sharing the Gospel, presence by canoe

In the diocese of Wewak, in the north of Papua New Guinea, the Word of God travels mainly by canoe. Priests, missionaries, nuns and catechists need boats and navigation on the Sepik River or the sea to reach the indigenous, mostly poor and dispersed population in remote areas or islands. They bring the sacraments, the gift of the Gospel, material help and works of charity. Msgr. Jozef Roszynski, of the Society of the Divine Word, a Polish missionary and bishop of Wewak, thanks the contribution of the Pontifical Mission Societies, used for the purchase of boats and engines for the canoes. The priests and catechists of the diocese can more easily meet people living on the banks of rivers and streams in the vast river system that crosses the territory.



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

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

"The joy of these faithful to frequently receive the Eucharist, or to celebrate the Marian procession on the river, is priceless," notes the Bishop, recounting that "even the Virgin travels by boat."

This is one of the characteristics of the mission in Papua – on the vast island of New Guinea – says to Fides Father Victor Roche, a 70-year-old Indian missionary of the Society of the Divine Word who has been living and serving in Papua New Guinea since 1981. After various pastoral assignments in the diocese of

Wewak, he is now national director of the Pontifical Mission Societies.

Father Roche remembers: "As a parish priest, I knew the names of my 3,000 parishioners. It also took me three days to travel to some isolated villages. We celebrated baptisms at Christmas and Easter. It is a very enriching missionary experience that other parish priests and confreres are now continuing," he says referring to the approximately 70 Verbité missionaries present today in Papua New Guinea.

After a pastoral commit-

ment focused on missionary animation, Father Roche then turned to the apostolate in the mass media and was for 8 years director of the Catholic radio station *Trinity FM*. "In our region, the use of the radio is very important as a means of evangelization; we use it both to broadcast liturgies and catechesis, and for programs where young people can speak and discuss current issues and values regarding faith and life," he says.

The mission, subsequently received from the bishops of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, to take care of the General Secretariat of the Episcopal Conference allowed him "to have a broader vision of the mission in this country," he notes, and he continues today to take care of the National Direction of the PMS.

"Our mission here today is above all a 'being with'. Certainly, we carry out pastoral programs of formation and for lay people and catechists who are important; we organize a course of formation, we take care of children, we are active in charitable works and in the field of education. But we see that the crucial aspect of mission is the joy of sharing the Gospel. It is the joy of being with people in remote villages, simple people who are moved in prayer and in receiving the Eucharist. At the beginning of November, the first Mass was celebrated in a chapel built in the village of Kotai. It was a moment of deep community joy in which the Lord made himself present among us," he remarked.

Article from FIDES missionary news service of the Pontifical Mission Societies

OBITUARIES

Altona — Deborah A. (Forkey) Stoner, 60; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 1, 2022.

Brownville — Linda L. (Pifer) Hautamaki, 73; Memorial Services to be held at a later date at Immaculate Conception Church.

Cadyville — Florence A. (Delise) Collins, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 30, 2022 at St. James Church.

Cadyville — Kenneth R. Delise, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 21, 2022 at St. James Church.

Cape Vincent — Vernon A. "Bud" Constance, 95; Memorial Mass at St. Vincent of Paul Church.

Chateaugay — Joyce L. Boyea, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 1, 2022 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Chateaugay — Blanche G. (Merrill) Healey, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 2, 2022 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Chazy — John C. McAuliffe, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 2, 2022 at Sacred heart Church.

Ellenburg — Mona M. (Cassavav) LaBombard, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 29, 2022 at St. Edmund's Church.

Glenfield — Jerry F. "Franny" Root, 84; Private Services held; burial in Old Glendale Cemetery.

Gouverneur — Helen E. (Countryman) Robinson, 95; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at a later date at St. James Church; burial in Old Hermon Cemetery.

Heuvelton — Donna (Casey) Raymon, 70; Funeral Services Nov. 30, 2022 at Frary Funeral Home.

Houseville — William Terrence Paczkowski, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 4, 2022 at St. Hedwig's Church.

Lowville — Cynthia R. (Levesque) Bush, 67; Funeral Services Nov. 22, 2022 at the Isenecker Funeral Home, Inc.

Malone — Gary R. Grant, 62; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 23, 2022 at Notre Dame Church.

Malone — Marcella A. (Jarvis) Jones, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 3,

2022 at Notre Dame Church

Malone — Nancy (Laffin) Reville, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 2, 2022 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena — Ricky J. Allen, 62; Funeral Services Nov. 28, 2022 at Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Margaret F. Houlihan, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 21, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Halbert F. Oney, 82; Funeral Services Dec. 2, 2022 at Frary Funeral Home.

Mooers — Leeward Edward Upton, 90; Funeral Services Nov. 22, 2022 at Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Mooers Riverside Cemetery.

Morrisonville — Susan Mary (McDonough) Giroux, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 28, 2022 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Morrisonville — Robert F. LePage, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 26, 2022 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Morrisonville — Alice Roushia, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 29, 2022 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Norfolk — Steven M. LaPage, 61; Funeral Services Nov. 21, 2022 at the Buck Funeral Home; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

North Bangor — Elizabeth "Betty" Ann (Martin) Pickering, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 26, 2022 at St. Augustine's Church.

North Lawrence — Rita L. Keenan, 79; Mass of Christian Burial in July 2023.

Norwood — Jane Fern (Farrington) LaHair, 86; Private Services to be held.

Ogdensburg — Susan M. (Roe) Lalonde, 77; Nov. 25, 2022 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Ogdensburg — Barbara A. Sholette, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 10, 2022 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Helen Brault; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 30, 2022 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Helen (King) Brault, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 30, 2022 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Bonnie Lee (Ebersole) D'Aust, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 23, 2022 at Our Lady of Victory Church.

Plattsburgh — Mary Pauline (Rowlett) Durocher, 82; Private Services held.

Peru — Robert Albert Pomainville,

81; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 10, 2022 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery, Massena.

Potsdam — Mary A. (Nardone) Collins Marino, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 2, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Sackets Harbor — Jeffrey P. Dillabough, 56; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 26, 2022 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Sulphur Springs Cemetery.

Schroon Lake — Myrtle Grace "Pat" Cain, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 26, 2022 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

Star Lake — Lorraine Ida Coombs Laurin, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 2, 2022 at St. Hubert's Church.

Tupper Lake — Kathaleen E. (Dunham) LaVallee, 72; Services to be held at a later date.

Watertown — Ronald J. Asafaylo, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 28, 2022 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Pompey.

Watertown — Barbara Lee (Skeet) Clement, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 28, 2022 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Mary Katherine Ulmen Pike, 92; Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

Westport — Russell L. Paquette, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 30, 2022 at St. Philip Neri Church.

Winthrop — Ferne M. (Felix) Lord, 79; Funeral Services Dec. 1, 2022 at the Hammill Funeral Home; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

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 local 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 Foster
age 83
Foster
Grandparent

Want more info about how to get started?

Contact Melissa Howard,
Volunteer Coordinator

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(518)359-7688

EMAIL:

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