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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEBRUARY 16, 2022

Bishop LaValley announces new COVID-19 protocols

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YOUTH IN SERVICE



Altar servers (front row) Samuel Scout Ellis, Amelia Shaheen, Lance Schaffer, Yana Kucipak, (back row) Kaileigh Dukette, Heather Bujold, Eliza Bujold and Alyza Symonds faithfully show up to serve at the 11 a.m. Mass at St. Alphonsus Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Tupper Lake. Father Douglas A. Decker, pastor in Tupper Lake, refers to the servers as his "Little Angels."

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK



Elizabeth O'Rourke and Joseph Hayes could never have expected the first year of their marriage would coincide with the start of a worldwide pandemic. The Adams couple was married just six months ahead of the COVID-9 outbreak. Learn how the young couple and all married couples are "Called to the Joy of Love" as the North Country Catholic celebrates National Marriage Week.

PAGES 4, 5 & 6

Pope: Sick must be cared for in body and soul

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Caring for the sick means not only healing the wounds of the body but also those that afflict the soul, Pope Francis said.

"Care cannot be divided because the human being cannot be divided. We could – paradoxically – save the body and lose humanity," the pope said in a video message on the eve of the 30th World Day of the Sick, which is celebrated Feb. 11 each year.

"The saints who cared for the sick always followed the Master's teaching: heal the wounds of body and soul; pray and act for physical

and spiritual healing together," he said.

The pope's message, which was released by the Vatican Feb. 10, was sent to participants of a webinar hosted by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

In his message, the pope said that the current pandemic "is teaching us to view illness as a global and not a merely individual phenomenon" and should motivate reflection on other types of "pathologies" that threaten humanity, including individualism and indifference.

These and other forms of selfishness, he said, generate inequalities, especially in the field of health care "where some enjoy so-called 'excellence'" while many others "struggle to access basic health care."

"To cure this 'social' virus, the antidote is the culture of fraternity, based on the awareness that we are all equal as human persons, all equal as children of one God," he said. "On this basis, it will be possible to have effective treatments for everyone. But if we are not convinced that we are all equal, this will not work."

Cardinal Peter Turkson, former

prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, echoed Pope Francis' sentiments during his homily Feb. 11 at a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica with people who are sick and their caregivers.

Reflecting on the divine consolation that God gives to his children, Cardinal Turkson said Christians are also called to pass on that consolation to those who suffer.

"Consolation means to encourage, to exhort, to comfort or to give joy to a person or community that finds themselves in a situation of sadness, anguish and desolation," he said.

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God's plan is better than mine

God's plan is better than mine.

In October of 2002, I started dating a shy, charming photographer who had just ended his employment with *The Malone Telegram*, the newspaper for which I was working at the time.

While I thought the relationship had potential, I was at a point in my life where I really wasn't sure what I wanted, and I didn't think I was ready to "settle down."

I was honest with this shy photographer, and I told him

what my experience in the couple years prior had taught me:



Darcy L.
Fargo

"I have a three-month rule," I said. "I'll date someone for three months, and then I'll figure out some reason why I can't spend the rest of my life with him. It might be something big. It might be something small. For example, I once dated a guy who bites his fork when he eats. I couldn't live with that for the rest of my life. I ended that relationship."

That photographer was the first man I dated to whom I

explained my "three-month rule."

Again, God's plan is better than mine.

Three months after that first October date, that photographer and I were engaged to be married. While I'm not sure I would suggest others follow our path and get engaged after three months, we're pretty sure it's the path God called us to follow. Twenty years later, God continues to bring us closer together and strengthen our love for one another.

As we celebrate National Marriage Week (Feb. 7 to 14), we remember that we are "Called to the Joy of Love."

I've found great joy in love.

I'm fairly certain we all find great joy when we're following God's call.

I'm not going to say it's been all sunshine and roses. It hasn't. We've experienced challenges and tough times. While we always love one another, there are moments when we don't particularly like each other (I don't like anyone until I'm sufficiently caffeinated in the morning).

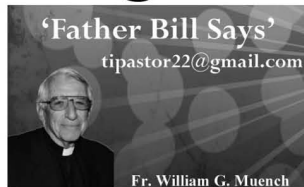
Even in those trying times, there's joy in knowing we're committed to one another and committed to living out the marriage to which we've been called by our God.

And there's joy in knowing that God's plan is better than mine.

Celebrating our diocese's history

Today, I would like to join in the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the formation of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Personally, I was not born in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. I grew up in Syracuse. As a child, I do remember family trips up north to the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Lets see if I can remember the places we used to visit – Chaumont, Hogsburg, Carthage, Old Forge, Inlet. Then, later as a Boy Scout, I remember trips to the Adirondacks. I remember the names of a few towns that I visited – Lake Pleasant, Speculator, Long Lake, Blue Mountain Lake, Raquette Lake – and a few others.

Then as a senior in high school, I became are of my vocation from the Lord to the priesthood. For various reasons, I was led to the Diocese of Ogdensburg. My own pastor was close to the bishop of Ogdensburg. In those days, it was Bishop Bryan J. McEntagert. My pastor was also close to the vicar general, Father John Hammill. So, after high



Fr. William G. Muench

school I entered the minor seminary for the Diocese of Ogdensburg at Wadhams Hall.

On of the first things I learned at Wadhams Hall was that this seminary was named for the first bishop of Ogdensburg, Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams, who became bishop when the Diocese of Ogdensburg was formed on February 16, 1872. He had been the vicar general of the Diocese of Albany. The Diocese of Ogdensburg was formed from several counties of Northern New York that were separated from the Diocese of Albany.

Another early thing I learned as a student at Wadhams Hall was the names of places in the diocese. These were names that were new to me, places where my fellow students were from, places like Chateaugay, Peru,

West Chazy, Lake Clear Junction, Gouverneur, Massena, Saranac Lake, and on and on. And, of course, I discovered Ogdensburg. All these places were to become important parts of my life as a priest.

One of my memories of that time at Wadhams Hall was the building of the new St. Mary's Cathedral. It was built after the former cathedral was destroyed by fire. My classmates and I were able to watch the building going up block by block. We watched as the magnificent stained-glass windows were put into place.

I remember well the day of the dedication of the new cathedral 70 years ago. There were many well-known cardinals and bishops who came to Ogdensburg for the ceremony. Let's see who I can remember being there: There was Cardinal Spellman of New York, Cardinal Cushing of Boston, Cardinal O'Hara of Philadelphia, Bishop Fulton Sheen and others. I remember how impressed we were. It was truly an exciting

occasion.

After my years at Wadhams Hall, I was assigned to the major seminary of St. Mary's in Baltimore, Maryland. So, for the four years of seminary, I was separated from my diocese, the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Then, I remember when I was called back to the diocese for ordination as a priest. Our Bishop at that time was Bishop James J. Navagh.

Then began my years of ministry as a priest of this Diocese of Ogdensburg. Each time I drive across the diocese these days, I remember the former parishes where I lived and served. Let me share some with you.

I began in Gouverneur. From there, I was on to Chateaugay and then Lowville. There was teaching at Immaculate Heart Central, time in Sackets Harbor then on to Ticonderoga.

I want to tell you that God was very good to lead me to the Diocese of Ogdensburg. I have been so very happy to have served the Lord for all these years as a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Bishop releases updated COVID protocols

On Friday, February 11, Bishop Terry R. LaValley announced the following updated COVID-19 information and protocols:

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Unvaccinated individuals continue to be encouraged to wear masks under CDC directives AND socially distance while attending Mass, but use of a mask and social distancing are their choice.

Additionally, health guidelines for large-scale indoor events, pre-K to grade 12 schools, public transportation, homeless shelters, correctional facilities, nursing homes and health care setting remain in effect per CDC guidelines. Additionally, our Parish Faith Formation programs are required to follow the protocols for schools, i.e., all persons regardless of vaccination status must wear a face mask, all persons must social distance (3 feet), hand sanitizer must be available, and all areas must be disinfected daily.

All parish employees, visitors and students in faith formation programs and Catholic schools are required to wear a face

mask and practice social distancing. Visitors to our parish offices have the option to wear a facial mask, but it is not required. Hand sanitizer should be available and parish offices and areas that house faith formation programs should be disinfected daily. These directives are distinct from the directives for those attending public worship. Each parish must still have an Airborne Infectious

Disease Exposure Prevention Plan in place and displayed in its office. Employees are not required to complete a COVID-19 self-monitoring checklist any longer.

Health and Obligation to Attend Mass:

I lifted the general dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass on the Feast of Corpus Christi, June 6, 2021. We must continue to encourage attendance at Mass. The obligation to attend Sunday Mass does not apply to individuals who are sick, in a vulnerable category and those who continue to have anxiety or concerns about returning.

Celebration of the Eucharist

The Instructions of the Universal Church and our Diocese for the worthy and reverent celebration of the Eucharist and the Sacraments are to be fol-

lowed, with the following exceptions:

- All persons, regardless of vaccination status, may wear a face mask and physically distance themselves from others but not required to.

- The distribution of Holy Communion will continue to be under one form, namely the Sacred Host.

- According to your comfort level, the principal celebrant's chalice may be shared. Concelebrating priests may receive both Sacred Species by intinction or through use of individual chalices for the reception of the Precious Blood.

- Based on your comfort level, the sign of peace may be offered.

- Our churches, as houses of God, should continue to be kept clean, with continued periodic

sanitizing of frequently touched surfaces and objects. Cleaning in between Masses is not required.

- Holy water may be placed in fonts, provided that the Holy Water is replaced on a regular basis and fonts cleaned.

- Churches should continue to assure good ventilation by introducing fresh air, whenever possible, although this is difficult in winter weather.

Baptisms and Anointings

- Baptisms continue to use only fresh water for each baptism and the fonts are to be cleaned afterwards.

- Anointing of the sick is to be celebrated in the normal fashion, i.e., without use of cotton swabs.

In-person gatherings may resume. Participants have the option, but not are not required, to wear face coverings and physically distance.

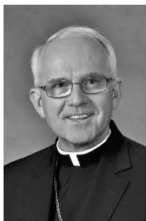
In implementing these protocols, prudential

judgment should be used in serving those entrusted to your pastoral care. I encourage you to discuss these matters with your parishioners and in consultation with your parish pastoral councils, if possible.

At their discretion, pastors are free to implement more stringent measures to prevent the spread of COVID if an increase in infections or variants warrants and measures, such as wearing face masks, bring comfort to your parishioners. We ask all pastors implementing stricter measures to notify their neighboring pastors and the diocese.

All churches should display signs advising all persons that face coverings and physical distancing are optional and not required.

I encourage pastors to exercise discretion in implementing stricter protocols that may be deemed necessary.



Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley

What is a Foster Grandparent?

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

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



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

Ray Foote
age 83
Foster
Grandparent



Am I Qualified to be a Foster Grandparent?

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

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



Want more info about how to get started?

Contact Melissa Howard,
Volunteer Coordinator

PHONE:
(518)359-7688

EMAIL:
mhoward@cathcharities.org

80 Park Street, Suite 2
PO Box 701
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- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more

Find us on Facebook!



CALLED TO THE JOY OF LOVE

Wonderful and challenging

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Staff Writer

ADAMS – The first year of marriage can be both wonderful and challenging as a couple adjusts to their new life. What Elizabeth O'Rourke and Joseph Hayes could never have expected that first year was the start of a worldwide pandemic. They were married in June 2019 at St. Cecilia's Church in Adams, just six months ahead of the Covid19 outbreak.

As the couple recalls, "The Covid 2020 lockdown was one of the biggest challenges we have faced. But our faith is one of the big things that got us through that. We made sure to watch Mass online every Sunday, we would video chat with family members and pray together. Our faith helped to ease our anxiety during this stressful time. Whenever we feel anxious or worried about something, we turn to prayer."

The faith with which Elizabeth and Joseph met the challenges of Covid is the faith they have practiced all their lives. "While growing up – Elizabeth in Adams and Joseph in Webster, NY – we both attended Mass every Sunday with our families and attended religious education classes. Both these experiences helped to form our faith. Family Guggenheim, which she first attended at age three, was a huge part of forming Elizabeth's faith, and she was sure to share the Guggy experience with Joe right from the beginning of their relationship!"

That relationship began when the two were sophomores at St. Bonaventure University, where both would earn their bachelor's and master's degrees. "We



Joseph & Elizabeth (O'Rourke) Hayes didn't anticipate a worldwide pandemic when they were married in June 2019, but the couple says the pandemic and the arrival of their daughter, Ella Jane, pictured at right, strengthened their marriage.

met through a mutual friend," they explain. "We were both looking for someone loving, honest, and full of faith. In fact, at St. Bonaventure, we were both strongly involved in the SEARCH confirmation retreat team. We would regularly discuss our faith as a part of this group, and we also got to share our faith with young people."

Such shared experiences continued to draw the couple together through their remaining years at St. Bonaventure.

"We both felt a calling to marriage, and we both knew rather quickly that our relationship was leading toward that," they said.

Today, the couple share a busy life: Joseph teaches high school chemistry in the Carthage School District and Elizabeth teaches first grade in Watertown Central School District. And on January 16, 2022, they welcomed their first baby, Ella Jane. Amid these responsibilities, the couple's enthusiasm has not

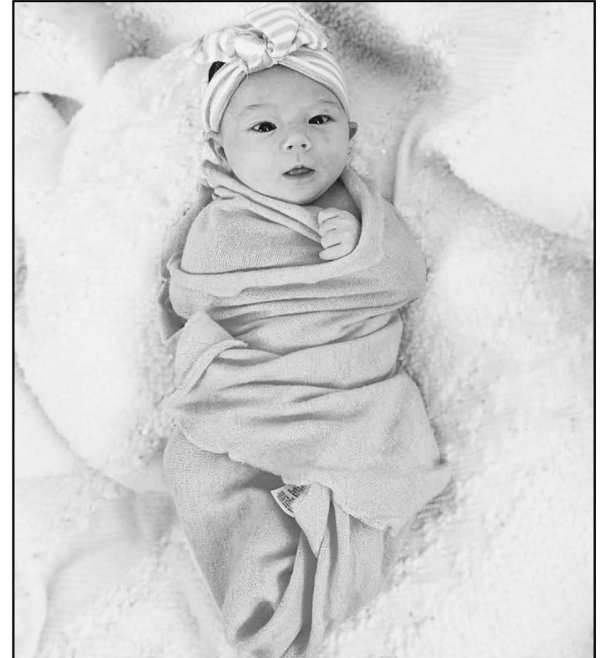
lessened.

Says Joseph, "I dreamed of one day finding somebody to have a family with. The reality of marriage was exactly what I was looking for. Marriage has been great, and effortless, for me. I hope we continue to grow as a couple."

Echoes Elizabeth, "I dreamed of marrying my best friend, and I did! The reality has been even better than what I expected. Joseph makes me laugh every day! My hope for the future is to watch our family grow!"

And, they agree, "Ella Jane has brought even more love to our relationship. She has challenged us to be even more of a team and to remember to give each other even more support and grace."

One thing the Hayes will definitely be sharing with Ella Jane is their faith. As Elizabeth explains, "Marriage has led to our family growing. And we believe that faith starts in the home, with the family. We



plan on bringing Ella to Mass every Sunday, and eventually to Family Guggenheim."

Their daughter gives the couple one more reason to appreciate the strong faith community at their parish of St. Cecilia's. Elizabeth taught Religious Ed there for four years and Joe is in the Knights of Columbus; they note how they have developed a relationship with other parishioners.

But their list of "likes" does not stop there. Elizabeth points to a few others: "Our Church recently held a synod that we attended, where we shared our thoughts and ideas. In the past, before Covid, we had church picnics, which we absolutely loved! Easter is my favorite time of the year, so we always attend the services on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, and then the Easter Vigil. Before the pandemic, St. Cecilia's always had a Seder supper right before the Holy Thursday Mass, which was one of our favorite church

events!"

Strong in their faith, and blessed with an active parish community, Joseph and Elizabeth continue to focus on growing in their love for one another and their new daughter.

What advice might they offer to newly married couples?

"Never go to bed angry" is actually good advice," Joseph says. "We have never done that. We leave no argument unresolved, and we believe it has led to greater communication and understanding."

Adds Elizabeth, "We have also learned that it's important to allow one another to have space with our own interests/hobbies. For instance, I love to read, and Joseph collects vinyl records and loves to spend time listening to them. By allowing each other to pursue these independently, we cherish our time spent together even more! It is so important to understand and support each other's beliefs and values."

CALLED TO THE JOY OF LOVE

Natural Family Planning 2.0

By Suzanne Pietropaoli

Natural Family Planning Director

Recently someone asked about the origins of Natural Family Planning, how it has changed through the years, and what it looks like in 2022. Great questions!

Modern natural methods of family planning are built on a series of scientific discoveries about the fertile/infertile phases of the female fertility cycle, beginning in the 1930s. The first revealed a consistent time-lapse between ovulation and menses. Discovered by two doctors working independently, this knowledge was the basis for the Calendar-Rhythm method.

In the 1950s, a number of doctors contributed research on the observable, physical changes that accompany ovulation – a development that significantly improved the use and effectiveness of natural methods.

Understanding these physical fertility signs marked the beginning of modern methods of natural family planning. Explains Dr. Marguerite R. Duane, MD, who teaches an elective on fertility awareness-based methods to medical students at Georgetown University: “Based on these scientific advances, more effective forms of fertility awareness-based methods of family planning have been developed that allow women to identify the potential days of fertility in real time” – a major shift away from the calendar rhythm method.

From the 1960s on, as research data continued to accumulate, various systems were developed to help women observe these

PRAYER FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Almighty and eternal God,

You blessed the union of married couples so that they might reflect the union of Christ with his Church: look with kindness on them.

Renew their marriage covenant, increase your love in them, and strengthen their bond of peace so that, with their children, they may always rejoice in the gift of your blessing.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

FOR YOUR
MARRIAGE
foryourmarriage.org

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signs of fertility. By identifying the fertile time of the cycle, this information could reliably be used to avoid pregnancy. It can also be used to help achieve pregnancy.

Whether utilizing one, two, or three of these signs, or biomarkers, these systems all use a woman's observations, charted according to their respective protocols, to educate women in knowledge of their own reproductive cycles. These systems have proven highly effective (98% to 99.5%, depending on the system) at preventing unplanned pregnancy.

Fast forward: NFP advanced again as technology added new options to

a solid, time-tested approach. First came apps designed to help women track their cycles. Next there were algorithms to process that information. Then came fertility monitors that could be combined with NFP knowledge to avoid pregnancy; some NFP systems went on to create what are known as Sympto-Hormonal Methods.

Canton resident Amanda Conklin chose one of these, the Marquette Model, after using both the Sympto-Thermal and Creighton-Model methods. Married 10 years, she and her husband Seth have three children, ages 8, 7, and 6 months.

“I was always very interested in Church teaching on marriage and family planning,” she relates, “and hearing the complaints of my peers, I knew I never wanted to put anything artificial into my body. We began with the Sympto-Thermal method. After finding that to be somewhat confusing in the post-partum period, we turned to the Creighton Model, which we found difficult.”

Despite issues with gestational diabetes and a traumatic second delivery, the couple looked forward to having more children and remained committed to natural methods.

“We became more conservative in our approach and added the Temp-Drop and Clearblue fertility monitor,” Conklin said. “Eventually we realized that the Marquette Model was what we were looking for. It combines the Clearblue monitor to measure hormone levels, with algorithms; it also encourages use of temperature and cervical mucus signs. It is great even post-partum. I feel confident with this system. Women's signs are readable! It's time that medical professionals respect natural methods and learn more about them.”

Fortunately, there are some medical professionals who do respect natural methods.

Ellen McBride, who lives in Saranac Lake with her husband Johnny, relates what a vital role the Gianna Center in Albany has had in her life.

“I basically thank them for my baby,” says McBride. “Our daughter Amelia was born on December 27th, but without Dr. Jan Patterson and NaProTechnology, we would never have had her. Ahead of our marriage

2 ½ years ago, I met with Dr. Jan about some issues, including endometriosis. She was attentive to my charts, very encouraging, and helpful.”

This relationship with the Gianna Center proved invaluable when Ellen and Johnny wanted to start a family.

“Months passed without pregnancy,” she said. “I returned to Dr. Jan. She discovered that my progesterone levels were low, which is important since progesterone is the hormone that sustains pregnancy. Through testing, she monitored my progesterone levels. Eventually she figured out, via ultrasounds, that my ovarian follicles were releasing immature eggs. Once she knew that, she gave me medication to allow the follicles to grow and release mature eggs suitable for fertilization. And I got pregnant! I received obstetrical care locally; Dr. Jan continued to monitor my progesterone levels. My local docs told me I could stop progesterone after the first trimester; months later, Dr. Jan told me I could stop if I wanted to, but I chose to take it every other day. When Amelia was born a month early, the post-birth placental test showed that the placenta had stopped working. If I had stopped taking progesterone, we would have lost our baby.”

McBride's happy ending coincides with Conklin's hope for the future: a needed cooperation between medical professionals and the knowledge women gain through the use of natural methods.

Meanwhile, there are safe, healthy, effective natural family planning options for every woman.

Environmental Stewardship

A 'Green Parish'

Last week, we considered the question, "why is care for the Earth a Christian responsibility?" as posed by the Church of the Presentation in Upper Saddleback River, New Jersey. The next question they asked in the publication is "Why is it important to create a 'green parish?'"

They describe a green parish as "a community of believers which fosters a deeper understanding of the sacredness of the earth as God's creation. It strives to accomplish religious conviction through sound environmental leadership by building relationships of common understanding among the parishioners. It facilitates actions that positively impact the earth and all its community of life."

The initial step they suggest is to create a Creation Care Team. It can be a small group of parishioners who assist in creating more sustainable parish and school facilities by integrating creation-care practices into all aspects of the parish or school life. They help transform their communities to be, in Pope Francis's words, "protectors of God's gifts" and caretakers of "our common home." Your parish may have already taken actions that have a positive impact on the earth and all of us. Some actions might include changing lights to energy-efficient models; conducting an energy audit; switching from oil or gas to renewable energy, such as solar, hydro or wind; or purchasing bio-gradable cups, tableware... This team could assess these practices and consider other ways the parish could care for the environment.

This is an opportune time to initiate a Creation Care Team in light of the recent *Laudato Si* Action Platform, issued by the Vatican on May 24, 2021, the fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si*. It is meant to help individuals and communities embark on a seven-year journey to put Catholic social teachings embedded in *Laudato Si* into action. It is addressed to individuals, families, dioceses, schools, universities, health care centers, businesses and farms, as well as religious communities. It provides resources for actions for everyone to use their God-given gifts to create a better future. Check USCCB *Laudato Si* Action Platform.

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Staff Writer

Love is patient; love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, it is not snobbish. Love is never rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not prone to anger; neither does it rejoice in what is wrong but rejoices with the truth. There is no limit to love's forbearance, its trust, its hope, its power to endure. Love never fails. (1 Corinthians 13: 4-8)

After 2000 years, St. Paul's words still appeal to the deep desire of the human heart for a love that never fails. No wonder so many couples choose to have this enduringly beautiful hymn of love read at their weddings, on those days so rich in joy and hope!

What does it take to make these words a reality in marriage, rather than a dream beyond reach?

Psychotherapist Dr. Greg Popcak and his wife Lisa explore this question in *JUST MARRIED: The Catholic*

Rest in Peace

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

Feb. 16 – Rev. André Marie Garin, O.M.I., 1895; Rev. Joseph Alexander Fournier, O.M.I., 1904; Deacon Francis C. Siskavich, 2021

Feb. 17 – Rev. Joseph Alfred Hervieux, 1940; Rev. Francis B. Ruddy, 1976

Feb. 18 – Rev. Charles Guillot, M.S.C., 1985

Feb. 19 – Rev. Benjamin Desroches, O.M.I., 1908; Rev. William R. Bourbeau, 1954

Feb. 20 – Rev. Lucian Leger, O.M.I., 1874; Rev. Daniel O'Riordan, O.M.I., 1897

Feb. 21 – Rev. Charles A. Paquette O.M.I., 1925; Rev. John J. Kelly, 1944

Feb. 22 – Rev. Edward Tortel, O.M.I., 1901; Rev. Peter H.J. Ryan, 1930

CALLED TO THE JOY OF LOVE

Love is patient, love is kind

Guide to Surviving and Thriving in the First Five Years of Marriage. Drawing on long experience and solid research, they offer four clear steps to lasting love.

The first is rooted in the empirical fact that families that pray together stay together.

"You need," the Popcaks write, "to be absolutely committed to your prayer life and be willing to let God teach you how to love each other with his love. Your human love will simply dry up on some days. It can't be helped. Marriage is hard work, and people inevitably burn out." The authors affirm that this while this is natural, it is vital to be able to "jump-start your heart and start loving each other again." For that, you need to be able to draw on "an active and constant prayer life" – which you cultivate from the beginning of marriage "through individual and couple prayer time, faithful Mass attendance, and regular confession that give you the grace you need to be patient and loving with each other as you confront each other's weaknesses head-on."

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrianne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com 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.

This relationship with God makes all the difference. The Popcaks cite the wisdom of Ecclesiastes 4:12: "Where a lone man maybe overcome, two together can resist. A three-ply cord is not easily broken." In the same way, they explain, with God as "the third braid in the three-ply cord of Christian marriage, you will be unbreakable no matter what weight life asks you to carry."

Secondly, couples intent on building strong marriages understand that love does not just happen – it needs to be nurtured. And like a wood fire, it does not kindle itself. The authors warn against panicking when the fires of love burn low, and against waiting for your mate to take corrective action. Instead, "Inspire your partner by taking the first steps and do something loving. Your mutual commitment to tending the flames of your friendship and passion by doing little loving things every day—no matter how busy, sick, tired, or frustrated you feel – is one of the things that will help make your marriage a welcome, safe, and happy place...[such simple things]...can make even the hardest day feel as a gift when you are standing next to the person God gave you to be his best blessing in your life."

The third step to lasting love explained in *JUST MARRIED* is the importance of making and keeping "a commitment to your vows—even more than to each other." While this may sound strange to modern ears, it is essential to safeguarding your marriage

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg uses the training, Protecting God's Children for Adults. To complete training, contact Jean Grizzuto, jgrizzuto@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920.

from the inevitable emotional lows.

As the Popcaks explain, "Even when staying committed to your marriage doesn't make emotional sense, your long-term success, not to mention your personal integrity, depends on your ability to keep the promises you made to God and yourself even when you feel as if your spouse doesn't deserve your commitment."

Consider the response of a couple, married 65 years, when asked how they stayed together. "We come from a time where if something is broken you fix it, not throw it away."

The last step to a strong marriage involves understanding your limits and being willing to learn the skills you need to succeed.

"No newly married couple knows what they are doing when it comes to marriage," the Popcaks stress. "When you hit hard times and begin feeling the urge to turn against each other, you must remember that it is not because the marriage is flawed. It is simply because you do not know what you are doing, and you need new skills."

The authors also caution against blaming the marriage: "It just didn't work out." In fact, "There is no it," say the authors. "There is just you, your spouse, and God."

The Popcaks cite research on couples who have high levels of marital satisfaction and longevity: rather than blaming "the marriage," they commit to acquiring the skills they need to move forward.

"Read good self-help books," these authors suggest. "Go on a marriage retreat; join a support group; get therapy – being careful to work with a trained, marriage-friendly therapist." (See *JUST MARRIED* for resources). "God really is rooting for you!"

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Republicans divided over GOP-introduced immigration bill

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Republicans are divided on an immigration bill introduced by members of their own party that would grant citizenship to millions who are in the country without legal permission. Congresswoman María Elvira Salazar, of Florida, in a Feb. 9 news conference, talked about the Dignity Act. The bill that would help those who were brought into the country as minors without legal permission and others who contribute to the U.S. economy, while it also would focus on reinforcing the border. "The United States has historically been a beacon of refuge for those fleeing violence and oppression or seeking a new life and opportunities," Salazar said. "In recent decades, our broken immigration system has been exploited, leading to a situation that is unbecoming of our great nation. While the United States is a nation of laws, we are also a nation of second chances," she said. "Through dignity and a chance at redemption, this legacy can continue." Some of the provisions in the proposal include having immigrants pay \$1,000 annually for 10 years into a fund as restitution and that money would help train other workers.

Pope: Holy Year should 'fan flame of hope' after pandemic

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Holy Year 2025 should focus on "restoring a climate of hope and trust" after the coronavirus pandemic and helping people repair their relationships with God, with each other and with the Earth, Pope Francis said. "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision," the pope wrote in a letter formally entrusting preparations for the Holy Year to Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization. Held every 25 years since 1470, a holy year or jubilee is a time of pilgrimage, prayer, repentance and acts of mercy, based on the Old Testament tradition of a jubilee year of rest, forgiveness and renewal. A formal "bull of indiction" proclaiming the Holy Year will be released closer to 2025. Writing to Archbishop Fisichella, in a letter released Feb. 11, Pope Francis noted that "in the last two years, not a single country has been unaffected by the sudden outbreak of an epidemic that made us experience firsthand not only the tragedy of dying alone, but also the uncertainty and fleetingness of existence, and in doing so, has changed our very way of life."

Catholic collegians gather for faith-filled SEEK22 weekend

DOYLESTOWN, Pa. (CNS) — A regional event of the annual SEEK22 conference of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students brought together 200 college students from Philadelphia-area campuses Feb. 5 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown. Students attended from West Chester University, Drexel University, the University of Pennsylvania and Temple University to explore the Gospel call to missionary discipleship. While each school held the first and last days of the Feb. 4-6 SEEK22 conference in their own Newman Centers, all the participants gathered for the second day to examine such questions as "What did Jesus teach?" "Why did Jesus die?" and "How is God calling you?" The questions were prompted by keynote speakers whose addresses were livestreamed, including Sister Miriam James Heidland, a member of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity; Edward Sri, a theologian and author; and Sister Bethany Madonna of the Sisters of Life. FOCUS has adapted SEEK the past two years due to the coronavirus pandemic. While usually the in-person conference is hosted in one central location, recent years have seen local, smaller gatherings that feature livestreamed talks.

Groups file suit to get information on Catholic agencies helping migrants

WASHINGTON (CNS) — CatholicVote, a political advocacy group, has filed a lawsuit against the Biden administration seeking information about how the government and church-affiliated groups, mainly in the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas, have gone about "facilitating a record surge in illegal immigration."

The lawsuit was filed under the Freedom of Information Act Feb. 4 with Judicial Watch.

The suit said the organizations want records of communication between administration officials and the Diocese of Brownsville; Bishop Daniel E. Flores, who heads the diocese; Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley; Sister Norma Pimentel, "in her capacity as the executive director of the local Catholic Charities; and the Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen, Texas, which Sister Pimentel is known for administering.

A Feb. 9 email said CatholicVote was "demanding transparency from the federal government and to know whether and how it has funded and coordinated with Catholic-affiliated charities in facilitating a record surge in illegal immigration."

A news release issued the same day by the Wisconsin-based group said the administration has refused to provide information on its communication with the Catholic-affiliated border charities mentioned in the suit.

Judicial Watch is a Washington-based activist group that files FOIA lawsuits to investigate government officials' conduct.

"American Catholics deserve to know the full extent of the U.S. government's role in funding and coordinating with Catholic Church-affiliated agencies at the border, and what role these agencies played in the record surge of illegal immigrants over the past year," Brian Burch, president of CatholicVote, said in a statement.

"We will do whatever is necessary to uncover the truth," he said.

The Catholic faith tradition, because of its long and noted history of being forced to be on the move, provides programs throughout the world to welcome and accompany those who are forced to leave their homelands. It's a position historically backed by the work of U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops as well as Catholic groups in the U.S. and around the world.

CatholicVote also said it was seeking "all communications" between the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol and the USCCB as they pertain to Sister Pimentel, the respite center and the Catholic Charities agency with which she is affiliated.

Sister Pimentel, a member of the Missionaries of Jesus, has received praise, including from Pope Fran-

cis, for her work with migrants under the auspices of the Brownsville Diocese, which helps those who cross into the U.S. near the McAllen and Brownsville area at the respite center, close to the U.S.-Mexico border.

On Feb. 10, Fox News reported that Republican Congressman Lance Gooden, of Texas, had sent the network a letter in which he questioned Catholic organizations about their role at the border and accused them of helping fuel problems at the southern border.

Fox said Gooden had written to several faith-based nonprofits, also called nongovernmental organizations or NGOs, including Catholic Charities USA, about retaining "any relevant documents and communications related to encouraging, transporting and harboring aliens to come to, enter or reside in the United States, needed for future oversight or legislative requests from the United States Congress."

"I am troubled by the growing role NGOs have in fueling the drastic increase in illegal immigration across our southern border and throughout the country," Fox said, quoting an email the congressman sent to the network.

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VIRTUAL EVENTS

HOW TO: SMALL GROUP YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP

Join fellow ministers, volunteers, and anyone interested in working with young people for a video series and discussion on Small Group Discipleship for youth.

Date: March 1 and 2

Time: 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Features: The five-video series provided by YDisciple will be spread out over the two sessions, and we will meet via Zoom to view and discuss how to best apply these techniques in our parishes, homes, and schools. Each video is 10 to 15 minutes long.

Contact: To register for this free webinar please visit: <https://www.rcdony.org/ministrydevelopment>. For more information, contact Tom Semeraro: tsemeraro@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920.

ADIRONDACK

PARISH NURSE TRAINING

Lake Placid – Mercy Care for the Adirondacks, a mission sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, will offer the Foundations Course for Faith Community Nursing.

Dates: March 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 and 26 (All 6 sessions are required).

Place: to be determined or can be attended virtually.

Features: The course is offered to registered nurses of all faiths. Mercy Care provides the training at no cost to participants, but pre-registration is required. Parish Nurses assist the members of their faith community to maintain or regain wholeness in body, mind and spirit.

Contact: To register, visit our website at www.adkmercy.org. If you have any questions please contact Lexi Bevilacqua, Education and Volunteer Training Manager at abevilacqua@adkmercy.org or by phone at 518-523-5446.

CLINTON

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

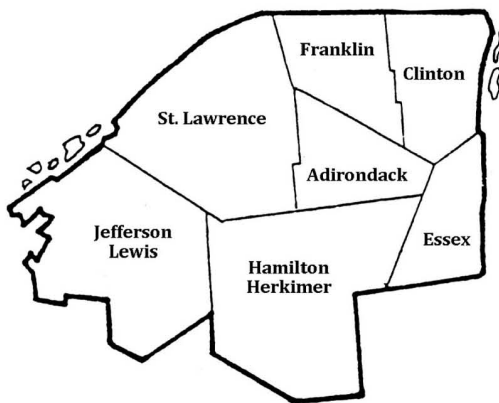
Ellenburg Center – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on the Fridays during Lent.

Date: March 4th to April 8th

Time: Noon to 3 p.m.

Place: Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer.

Contact: Deacon Ken Lushia 518-493-6671 or Sarah Anderson, OFS 518-534-9976



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese."

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;
e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST: JESUS PRESENT AND HOW TO SHARE IT

Plattsburgh – As a continuation of the Eucharist Initiative a presentation to be held on the Liturgy of the Eucharist: Jesus Present and how to share it.

Date: March 12

Time: 9:30 a.m. to Noon

Place: Holy Cross Parish Center

Speaker: Father Tojo Chacko, HGN

Features: Cost is free. Please bring a bagged lunch for food and conversation afterwards.

Contact: To register for a location go to: www.rcdony.org/liturgyeucharist

ESSEX

LATIN MASS RESUMES

Port Henry – Extraordinary Form Latin Mass to be held.

Schedule: 1 p.m. on Feb. 20

Place: St. Patrick's Church

Features: The traditional Latin Mass celebrated according to the 1962 Missal of St. John the XXIII.

FRANKLIN

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 anti-cipated 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, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and Prayers for the Holy Father and his intentions.

CHICKEN AND BISCUIT DINNER

North Bangor – The communities of St. Augustine and St. Mary's will sponsor a takeout chicken and biscuit dinner.

Date: Feb. 26

Time: 3 p.m. till all are served

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center, 2472 State Route 11, North Bangor

Menu: Chicken and biscuits, mashed potatoes, vegetable, cranberry sauce and dessert.

Cost: \$11 per dinner.

Contact: Pre-order on Feb. 25 from 9 a.m. to noon or 8 a.m. on Feb. 26 until all are served by calling 518-483-6674.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

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: March 6

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

ST. LAWRENCE

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY DEVOTION

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

Date: March 5

Time: 3:15 p.m.

Features: First Saturday Rosary Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. Confessions will be available. Saturday Vigil

Mass at 4 p.m.

MISSION RETREAT

Gouverneur – Father Pompei OFM will be leading a mission retreat.

Date: March 6-8

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: St. James Church

Features: Father Pompei is a Franciscan priest from Holy Name Province and lives in Syracuse. He has spent his ministry working with the poor and has done extensive retreat work with both adults and teenagers. This is not just for Catholics, but for everyone suffering for answers to fear, evil, life, suffering, doubt, death and your resurrection.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST: JESUS PRESENT AND HOW TO SHARE IT

Waddington – As a continuation of the Eucharist Initiative a presentation to be held on the Liturgy of the Eucharist: Jesus Present and how to share it.

Date: March 12

Time: 9:30 a.m. to Noon

Place: Waddington Parish Center

Speaker: Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ

Features: Cost is free. Please bring a bagged lunch for food and conversation afterwards.

Contact: To register for a location go to: www.rcdony.org/liturgyeucharist

DIOCESAN EVENTS

SURVIVING DIVORCE

The Family Life Office is offering the Surviving Divorce Program, beginning mid-February in Watertown, Gouverneur, Canton and Potsdam.

Dates: To be determined (will be held once a week)

Time: 2-3 hours

Cost: \$25

Features: This program helps participants find personal healing and hope by working through the emotional upheaval of separation and divorce.

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

LOVING AUTHENTICALLY

Commissioned Lay Ministers and candidates are invited to this program designed to strengthen the participant's conviction about the truth, beauty and importance of church teaching on nat-

ural law and sexual morality.

Date: April 23 at St. Peter's Church, Lowville.

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Presenters: Deacon John Fehlner & Dr. Maura Fehlner, Steve Tartaglia and other members of the Family Life Department.

Features: Cost is free and all are welcome. Must watch an 80-minute video prior to the event. Link to video will be sent after registration. Bring your own lunch.

Contact: Register at rcdony.org/lovingauthentically. If you have questions, contact Family Life Director, Steve Tartaglia at startaglia@rcdony.org or call 315-393-2920

REFLECT AND RECONCILE

A Diocese of Ogdensburg youth Lenten retreat to be held for all young people in grades 7 to 12.

Schedule: March 12 at St. Mary's Cathedral Brzana Room, Ogdensburg; March 26 at St. Mary's Parish Center, Champlain.

Time: 1 p.m. to 5

Features: As we dive deeper into the sacrament of Reconciliation and the season of Lent, join fellow youth in grades 7 to 12 as you get a chance to dive deeper, to understand more in a space that is judgment-free and supportive.

Contact: Register at rcdony.org/lentenretreat. For more information please contact Tom Semeraro at 315-393-2920 ext. 1415 or tsemeraro@rcdony.org.

PRESENTATION OF FORGIVEN

A Continuation of the Eucharist Initiative. Explore the transforming power and grace of the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

Date: March 26

Time: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center, Clayton; Dostie Hall, Watertown; St. Peter's Church, Lowville; Father Amyot Parish Center, Norfolk; St. Edmund's Parish Center, Ellenburg; The Emmaus Room inside St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh; St. Bernard's School, Saranac Lake

Features: There will be much time for discussion during the event which is free to attend. Please bring a bagged lunch.

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

AT THE MOVIES

MOONFALL

NEWYORK (CNS)— One way to grab moviegoers' attention is to threaten those on screen with doomsday.

It's a tactic director Roland Emmerich has resorted to repeatedly and to which he returns with "Moonfall" (Lionsgate), a sullen science-fiction fantasy he also co-wrote with Harald Kloser and Spenser Cohen.

This time, it's not invading aliens ("Independence Day") or the effects of global warming ("The Day After Tomorrow") that are menacing humanity with extinction but that luminous – and hitherto peaceable –

satellite, the moon. Showing scant consideration for the laws of nature, the darn thing's gone out of its orbit and threatens to collide with Earth, breaking up into gigantic pieces as it enters the atmosphere.

Well, that will never do. So Jo Fowler (Halle Berry), the acting head of NASA, teams with Brian Harper (Patrick Wilson), the disgraced astronaut who was once her professional partner, and with eccentric conspiracy theorist K.C. Houseman (John Bradley) to avert this latest apocalypse.

As they scramble to take countermeasures,

dull human interaction – both among them and an ensemble of secondary characters – alternates with impressive special-effects spectacle. Cities are flooded, the Rockies are peppered with huge fragments of space debris and an iconic skyscraper gets tossed around as though it were a toothpick.

But do we really care about Brian's neglected teen son, Sonny (Charlie Plummer) who's teetering on the brink of juvenile delinquency? Or about his apparently callous Lexus salesman of a stepdad, Tom (Michael Peña)? Or about Sonny's mom,

Brenda (Carolina Bartczak), and her au pair, Michelle (Kelly Yu)? Truth be told, not a whit. Emmerich and his script collaborators extol family bonds and self-sacrificing heroism. Yet the murky mythos whose exposition bogs down the film's climax – the crisis may prove some of K.C.'s weird notions to be true – is too confusing for kids while the by-the-numbers drama will fail to engage grown-ups.

If sifted thoroughly enough, the belated explanation of "what's really going on" may be found to be, in some ways, at odds with bibli-

cal teaching. The ideas this explication rests on, however, are so evidently silly that it's hardly likely to endanger anyone's faith.

The film contains brief stylized violence, a couple of instances each of profanity and written rough language, about a dozen milder oaths and some crude and crass talk.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG-13 – parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Theory comes to life in "Cathonomics" book

By Daniel S. Mulhall
Catholic News Service

"Cathonomics: How Catholic Tradition Can Create a More Just Economy" by Anthony M. Annett. Georgetown University Press (Washington, 2022). 336 pp., \$29.95.

Catholic social teaching, as it is known today, began with the papal encyclical "Rerum Novarum," promulgated by Pope Leo XIII in 1891. Most of the popes since Leo have further defined this church teaching into a comprehensive way of looking at the entire world.

Anthony Annett, in his masterful work "Cathonomics," argues persuasively that Catholic social teaching provides the framework for developing economic principles that will serve the world better than the current neoliberal ones do.

Annett, a Gabelli fellow

at Fordham University and a senior adviser to the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, outlines the biblical roots of Catholic social teaching, showing how concern for the poor, for those most at risk and for the world in which we live are at the heart of the teachings of the prophets and especially of Jesus.

Annett's examination of the teachings of Jesus related to the destructive power of debt are most convincing: Praying the Lord's Prayer takes on new meaning once this perspective is understood.

Annett then shows how Catholic social teaching is also rooted in the theological thinking of St. Thomas Aquinas, who took the political thought of Aristotle and applied it to Christianity.

By connecting Catholic social teaching to the Bible and to foundational church teaching, Annett

shows that rather than being a modern invention, Catholic social teaching is actually an ancient part of the very root of the Christian faith.

Annett explains clearly that the modern spelling out of this important teaching by recent popes is in response to the massive upheaval to societies around the world caused by the industrial and electronic ages.

Annett's primary target in this book is the neoliberal economic policies that have shaped the world since the 1970s.

This approach, whose cornerstone teaching is "maximization of shareholder value," undermines the idea of the common good and has created vast disparities in wealth between the poor and rich.

Annett carefully shows how and why neoliberal economic policies are detrimental to the well-

being of the peoples of the world and to the earth itself.

Annett, who for 20 years served as speechwriter to the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, shows a mastery of his craft in this well-written and carefully argued work.

His presentation and explanation of economic terms and principles makes them easy to read and to understand. He clearly defines terms and offers easy-to-understand examples to make what has been referred to as "the dismal science" actually interesting.

The only thing missing from this excellent work are ideas for how we can move from a neoliberal economy to one founded on Catholic social teaching.

Annett provides the organizing principles for a Catholic social teaching-guided economy, just not

how we might make that switch happen from the dominant neoliberal position. Perhaps that might be the grounds for his next book.

"Cathonomics" deserves to be included in the reading list for any course of study related to Catholic social teaching at every level from college, high school and parish discussion groups. It could easily be the source material for a foundations course at Catholic business schools.

Please read this book and discuss it at your parish and in your communities. You will find it a rewarding experience.



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

'Love your enemies'

In today's Gospel, Jesus says "Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you." I wonder how many of his Gentile listeners who heard this for the first time gave a disgusted snort and walked away? Of course, if they knew their Scriptures, they would have realized that their great hero, the young shepherd-warrior, David, showed incredible love and forgiveness for his enemy, King Saul.

Saul was filled with jealous hatred for David because he feared that this popular hero would steal his crown and rule in his place. So, Saul and his men

combed the desert for David, seeking to kill him. But God intervened, placing the King and his soldiers in a deep sleep. David crept into the camp during the night, and seeing the King asleep, carefully removed the sword and water jar from near Saul's head and ran with them to a bluff above the camp. When the king was awakened with David's shouting, he realized that his life had been spared. He began to weep repentant tears and sought David's forgiveness.

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells his hearers that they must forgive and love



**Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore**

February 20

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Luke 6:27-28

everyone, even their enemies. Now Jesus knew what he was asking. Nothing is more difficult than to love those who hate us. It goes against the grain. Only God's grace can give us the strength to do this. Jesus expands on this teaching with the "Golden Rule" – "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." (How different from the Jewish Law that said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." A great peacemaker of the last cen-

tury, Mahatma Gandhi scorned that law, saying "If you follow that principle, then both you and your enemy will end up blind!") Jesus concluded his remarks with the shocking news that, on the last day, His Heavenly Father will dole out the same amount of mercy to us that we have shown to others in this life! He thereby made love a command. Who would want to take the chance of being damned because of a bad track record? After all, loving everyone, even when it's difficult, brings us salvation. No wonder that it is said that God doesn't put anyone in hell. We put ourselves there!

Where on earth can we find the strength to love those who despise and

hate us? Good psychologists tell us that we're both demon and dove. St. Paul tells us the same thing – we're part "natural man" and part "spiritual man." If we remain attached to the demons of selfishness and follow the "old" Adam, we'll never make it. If, rather, we allow the dove in us to flourish, then the spiritual power of Jesus, the "new" Adam, will help us shun hateful actions and grow in new ways of forgiveness and love.

New decisions to abandon our selfish ways and embrace a new gentleness in our ways of handling "enemies," is a great way to prepare ourselves for the exciting journey of Lent It all begins a week from Wednesday.

CALLED TO SERVE

The bishop's chair

There is a piece of furniture in the chapel at St. Patrick's Church in Watertown that has a history apropos to the 150th anniversary of the founding of our diocese. I am told it is called "The Bishop's Chair."

Pope Pius IX designated the area of northern New York State the Diocese of Ogdensburg on February 16, 1872.

The chair, according to local legend, was commissioned by the Watertown parish to be used by the first Bishop of Ogdensburg, Edgar P. Wadhams, when he arrived in the newly formed Diocese of Ogdensburg.

In the centennial history of the diocese, Sister Christine Taylor, a Sister of St. Joseph, wrote:

"with Bishop Bernard McQuaid of Rochester, he

(Bishop Wadhams) reached Watertown at 4:23 PM on May 15, 1872. After a warm welcome by the various societies of the city, he enjoyed the overnight hospitality of Father James Hogan of Saint Patrick's rectory. (Editor's note: Father Hogan was the Pastor of St. Patrick's at the time.) The next morning, the Rome-Watertown-Ogdensburg railroad carried the prelate to Ogdensburg where practically the whole city thronged the depot for the 11:40 AM arrival."

The new diocese, excised from the top of the Diocese of Albany, has not changed geographically. Bishop Terry R. LaValley gets from one location to another a bit quicker in his car than his predecessor Bishop Wadhams did by carriage or train, but they cover the same 12,036 square miles.

The chair of a bishop in his church is called the cathedra. In our diocese, the cathedra is located in St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. So, the Watertown chair is technically not a cathedra, but it is mind boggling to consider our first shepherd probably used the ornate chair when he presided at his first Mass in the new diocese on the morning of May 16, 1872.

The high back chair is mahogany with a red velvet cushion and head rest. I'm told the chair back used to be covered in red velvet too, but that has since worn and been discarded. The chair is in very good shape.

There are two side-

chairs, simply designed with seat covers of red velvet, which seem to wander around the former rectory

of St. Pat's, now the Pastoral Center for Blessed Sacrament Parish, the merged St. Patrick's, St. Anthony's and Holy Family. They pop up in various locations for no particular reason. Those much humbler looking chairs were probably to be used during Mass by the attendants to the bishop.

The three chairs were stored in an upper room of the Pastoral Center but were pressed into service when Bishop LaValley presided at a liturgy several years ago. It has even been loaned on occasion to a local theatrical company, Stage Notes, and has "cred-

its" for appearances in The Mystery of Edwin Drood, Les Misérables, Into The Woods, Elf and Pippin.

Now "The Bishop's Chair" sits next to the altar saved from the Mercy Hospital Nurse's Chapel before that hospital was bulldozed.

The chair is often just a temporary catch-all for stacks of books or vestments. From time-to-time, someone will actually sit in it.

Seems like a piece of our history deserves a better fate but the story of "The Bishop's Chair" is, after all, just legend. Hopefully it will survive many more years and the legend not forgotten.

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown.

He is the director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.



**Deacon
Kevin Mastellon**



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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Consider a gift to the missions this Lenten season

These past two years may have felt like an endless Good Friday, living with the effects of a global pandemic. Our brothers and sisters in the Pope's missions too have struggled, made ever more vulnerable amidst these challenges. This Lent, you can send them life-giving hope and sustaining love through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, an effort that began 200 years ago this year in France.

Pauline Marie Jaricot heard about the Missions of her day – The United States of America included – from her brother Phileas who was studying to be a missionary priest. To help, she organized friends into “circles of 10,” with each person offering daily prayer and weekly sacrifice for the Missions. Her circles grew into what would formally become the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in 1822. Our young and growing U.S. Church received help to build churches, educate future priests and religious, and support the proclamation of the Gospel, and service to the poor.

Today Pauline's legacy of love and hope provides for the Missions of Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and remote regions of Latin America and Europe. Last year, generosity to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith reached Nekemte, Ethiopia, support for religious Sisters and Brothers who serve children and families in need; Sylhet, Bangladesh, aid for a center for disabled children; Umuahia, Nigeria, help for Sisters to repair a machine that makes altar bread for nearby parishes, and Madras, India, assistance to teach the faith to more than 1,200 people.

This Lent, with a gift to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, you will join Pauline's continuing “circles,” sending love and hope to the Missions today. Whatever you can send carries the message to our mission family that the Lord is always near in our suffering – as are we who continue Pauline's vision today.

Please know that you and your own difficulties, great and small, are remembered in my prayers. May you face your Good Friday challenges, mindful and strengthened by the hope of our Lord's Resurrection!

Gratefully in the Lord,

Sr. Mary Ellen

OBITUARIES

Chazy – Douglas E. Pilon, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 5, 2022 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Croghan – Maryann Catherine Kamp-nich Mooney, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 12, 2022 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Croghan – Patrick D. VerSchneider, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 12, 2022 at St. Stephen's Church' burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Hogansburg – Alexina (McDonald) Auger, 91; Mass of Christian Burial St. Regis Mission; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Keeseville – Richard J. LaValley, 72; Funeral Services Feb. 12, 2022 at Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Evergreen Cemetery.

Lake Placid – Vivian (McCormick) Ecdleston, 96; Funeral Services in June; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery,

Saranac Lake.

Lowville – Robert D. Logan, 65; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 7, 2022 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lyons Falls – Ralph S. Bango Sr., 89; Mass of Christian Burial in Spring at St. John's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – James F. Aubin; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 9, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Parkview Cemetery, Schenectady.

Massena – Yvette May Perry, 89; Mass of Christian Burial to be held in the spring at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Marcia Ann Musante Wilsner, 85; Private Services to be held; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Norwood – Gloria A. (Daley) Haley, 88; Memorial Services April 30, 2022 at Garner Funeral Home Service.

Ogdensburg – Robert A. Fennessy, 61; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 14, 2022 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Peru – Dawn (Mousseau) Metcalfe, 66; Funeral Services Feb. 7, 2022 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Port Henry – Joseph A. Hagey, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 12, 2022 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Peter & Paul Cemetery.

Port Henry – Thomas D. McKown, 67; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 11, 2022 at St. Patrick's Church.

St. Regis Falls – Francis Joseph Brockway, 88; Graveside services in spring at St. Ann's Cemetery.

Watertown – Joseph A. Biondillo, Jr., 85; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 8, 2022 at Holy Family Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

Trinity School holds Open House, registration

Trinity Catholic School will be holding registration and hosting an Open House the week of February 28.

The Open House will be held from Monday, February 28 to Friday, March 4, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 12:30 to 2 p.m., and on Thursday, March 3, the Open House will also offer extended hours from 3:30 to 6 p.m. During the Open House, families are invited to tour the school, and meet faculty and staff.

Children who will be 3 years old (Pre-K3), 4 years old (Pre-K 4) and 5 years old (junior kindergarten/kindergarten) on or before December 1, 2022, are eligible to attend school in the fall.

Registration and Re-en-

rollment for current students will be online through FACTS Management again this year, starting February 28.

Please have your child's birth certificate, immunization record, and baptismal record (if applicable) available to complete your registration packet.

Screenings for kindergarten will be scheduled in June. Parents with children

currently attending Pre-K4 at Trinity will have a kindergarten screening scheduled later in the spring.

For more information, please contact Trinity Catholic School Principal Joyce Giroux at principal@trinitycatholic-school.net or 315-769-5911 or visit the school's website at trinitycatholic-school.net.

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NET Ministries returns for confirmation retreats

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, NET Ministries will return to the Diocese of Ogdensburg in March to share "With Great Power," a confirmation retreat, with diocesan youth.

"We're joyful and hopeful about returning to an in-person retreat with NET Ministries," said Anita Soltero, assistant director of education for Faith Formation and Catholic Schools (eastern region of the diocese). "We plan to use caution, and we'll follow any protocol that are in place at that time, but we felt more comfortable having it this year. People are going to school and going to Mass. We're gathering more than we were."

"NET Ministries gives a very engaging presentation," added Catherine Russell, assistant director of education for Faith Formation and Catholic Schools (western region of the diocese). "They perform skits, they run small-group discussions and get very involved. It's not something we could've done remotely."

According to the organization's website, NET Ministries trains young adults from across the United States "in how to proclaim the Gospel through retreat and discipleship ministry."

"This year, 148 young adults coming from all across the United States, split into 14 teams, have answered the call to mission," NET Ministries says. "While serving on a NET team for nine months, missionaries, ages 18-28, lead transformative retreats and personal discipleship groups at various parishes and



A NET Ministries team consisting of Jackie McCutcheon, Eli Thomas, Elizabeth Peppel, Emmanuel Arias, Annika Kolarsky, Margaret Maslow, Corianne Cross, Matthew Taylor, Lydia Olvera, Luke Cullom and Bella Murphy, young adults from around the United States serving as missionaries, will conduct confirmation retreats in the Diocese of Ogdensburg on March 4, 5 and 6.

schools in over 110 dioceses."

The ministry will conduct "With Great Power" to second-year confirmation students from

around the diocese on March 4 in Watertown, March 5 in Massena and March 6 in Plattsburgh.

NET describes the retreats as "featuring small

group discussions, large group presentations, prayer ministry, lively games, dynamic music, dramatic and funny skits, and inspiring talks to motivate the youth to be unafraid to accept God in their lives."

"Bringing NET here allows our kids to experience the vibrancy and dedication of the faith-filled young adults who run the retreat," said Soltero. "It's good for them to experience that witness of the faith by young adults."

Diocesan youth preparing for the sacrament of confirmation are required to attend a confirmation retreat. NET conducted the retreats in this di-

ocese for nearly a decade prior to the pandemic.

"Last year, we offered an online retreat for parishes to use," Russell said. "That online retreat is still available for use, but we really wanted to give the option of an in-person retreat, as well."

Participating parishes in the NET retreat typically cover the cost of participation for their youth.

Donations are also accepted to help defray the cost of providing accommodations for the NET team during their visit.

To learn more, contact your parish, Soltero at 518-310-3669 or asoltero@rcdony.org or Russell at 315-393-2920 or crussell@rcdony.org.

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