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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 76 Number 40

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEBRUARY 23, 2022

## Multi-location event focuses on forgiveness

God loves us and forgives us. During this Lenten season, the Diocese of Ogdensburg's Department of Education will offer a powerful presentation – titled "Forgiven" – which explores the healing power of the sacrament of reconciliation.

For many Catholics, confession is a freeing and life-giving experiences, but for others, it is often scary and misunderstood. This event is intended to help parishioners overcome those fears and misunderstandings. Maybe you are afraid to confront your sins, concerned what your priest might think of you or perhaps unsure how to make a good confession. All of this will be addressed.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## PARTICIPATING IN SYNOD



Father Bryan D. Stitt, pastor of St. Mary's in Canton, leads a discussion held as part of the Synod on Synodality. Synod conversations have been taking place around the Diocese of Ogdensburg since the fall. Read the full story on Page 3.

## TACKLING POVERTY, HOMELESSNESS



Boosted by grant funding from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, Watertown Urban Mission is working to address homelessness and poverty. Dawn Cole, the executive director of the Watertown Urban Mission, pictured above, outlines two programs that will help individuals and families secure housing and address some of the root issues that contribute to poverty.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

# Pope: Artistic beauty makes God's love known

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The beauty that emanates from art, poetry and music can overcome obstacles and bring people closer to God, Pope Francis said.

"A characteristic of the artist is that he or she is not limited by time, because art speaks to all ages. The artist is not limited by space either, because beauty can touch in each person what is universal –

especially the thirst for God – transcending the borders of languages and cultures," the pope told a group of musicians, actors, poets, painters, dancers, sculptors and architects Feb. 17.

The artists are part of a movement called "Diakonia of Beauty," created in 2012 to restore a relationship in which the Catholic Church relies on artists to share the

Gospel and in which the artists seek to learn from and serve the church.

"Beauty is capable of creating communion, because it unites God, humanity and creation in a single symphony; because it joins the past, the present and the future; because it draws different people and distant people into the same place and involves them in the same gaze," he

said.

Among those present were the Lefèvre family – Gabriel, Anne and their six children – who were the season 15 winners of "France's Got Talent."

In his address, the pope congratulated the movement on its 10th anniversary and said the work of artists completes "the beauty of creation and, when inspired by faith, it

more clearly reveals the divine love that is at its origin."

Authentic art, he added, can show God's goodness to others and is "capable of speaking about God better than anyone."

Recalling St. John Paul II's 1999 letter to artists, the pope said the church needs art "in order to transmit the message entrusted to her by Christ."



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# It's about time

The time disappeared. No, this isn't a commentary on the passage of time. I mean that literally. The time disappeared.

I recently had some work done on my vehicle. The work required that the battery be disconnected for an extended period. As a result, when I retrieved my repaired Jeep, some of my settings on my clock/radio had been reset. Prior to the repairs, if I powered off my radio, the clock would remain visible on the otherwise blank display screen. After the repairs, powering

off the radio resulted in a completely black screen. The time disappeared.

Darcy L.  
Fargo

I've tried to make spending time in silence part of my morning commute at least a few times a week, so I power off my radio fairly frequently. At first, not having the clock displayed bothered me.

"I won't know if I'm running late," I thought. "I won't know if I have time to stop and grab some Dunkin'!"

After two or three commutes with those thoughts running through my mind, I pulled into the work park-

ing lot one day and started flipping through the menu on my clock/radio looking for the screen that would allow me to restore the clock to the blank screen.

I stopped myself. "What am I doing?" I thought. "What's the big deal about knowing the time. If I'm running late, it's not like I can magically teleport myself ahead of the other traffic or make traffic go faster."

While not knowing the time bothered me, I recognized that it was yet another time when I was trying to convince myself I had some measure of control in this life. Newsflash... I don't.

I left the settings on my clock/radio as they were and left the screen blank.

When I instinctively look at that screen expecting to see the time, the emptiness reminds me that time, and control over it, isn't mine. God is in control.

As Lent rapidly approaches, I'm reminded that it's a time to focus on growing our relationships with the Lord. To truly do that, I need to surrender my life to His will. I need to surrender my control. I need to empty myself – much like vehicle repairs emptied my clock screen – to make room for the Lord to work.

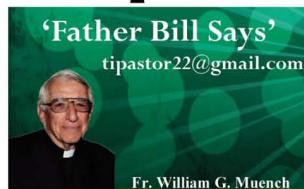
I also need to surrender my time.

## Preparing for Lent

Can you believe it? It's almost Lent again. I am always surprised when I suddenly notice it is time again for Ash Wednesday and it is Lent. So, I thought I would share a few things with you today about Lent.

Ages ago, I would have had no trouble remembering when Lent and Ash Wednesday were coming. You see in those days, the days when I was still skiing, we, priests, always scheduled a Mardi Gras ski trip – sort of a preparation of ourselves for Lent. So, we regularly planned two days of skiing at Mont Tremblant in Canada. We always had a great place to stay, and we had good friends, religious brothers, who operated a retreat center right on the north side of the Mont Tremblant ski area. Nothing like two great days of skiing to get into the mood for Lent.

So, on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday after the Sunday Masses, several of



Fr. William G. Muench

us priests headed north. We would return on Tuesday afternoon ready for the Ash Wednesday Masses.

Let's talk a bit about Ash Wednesday. It is such an interesting feast day, isn't it? However, Ash Wednesday is a perfect celebration to begin the Lenten journey. This is a time of prayer and retreat. Ashes are a perfect symbol – a wonderful way to dedicate ourselves to a time of retreat, and to prayer and repentance. It's perfect for a journey to prepare to celebrate again our salvation as we celebrate the events of the Lord's Holy Week, the Lord's Crucifixion and Resurrection.

I must tell you how I have often taught children why we use ashes on Ash

Wednesday to begin Lent. I would begin by telling them we use ashes because they are dirty. We put dirty ashes on our foreheads as a perfect reminder that we have made a decision. This will be a time for Lent, a time for retreat, prayer and reconciliation. The ashes are our constant reminder. Actually, we should leave the mark of the ashes on our foreheads for the whole seven weeks of Lent so that we would not forget that we have made this decision that this time of Lent will be our time for prayer and repentance.

You know what Lent is all about, I am certain of that. I want you to think of Lent as a time of retreat. Usually, when we think of a retreat, we think of going away to a retreat house with some sort of program. Lent is our retreat, something we add to our daily lives. This Lenten retreat is our yearly journey, a journey that leads us to walk with the Lord, to carry our cross and

to stand at the foot of the crucified Savior on Gethsemane. It's a time to discover the risen Lord's resurrection.

I would like to encourage you to make your retreat, your Lenten journey, more meaningful by dedicating your time of prayer to a special intention. It might be praying for someone who is in need or praying for something that is important for you now. This transforms Lent. Lent becomes a special time with intentions that mean a great deal to us, a time that brings us into a deeper relationship with Our Lord and Savior.

One more thing to add today: Lent is meant to be a time of gratitude. We do Lent to discover who we are, all the blessings that have been given to us by the Lord and all that has transformed us. For this we must be grateful. Our Lord suffered and died for us, and he rose again to new life for us. For this we are most grateful.

# Synod conversations continue

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

It's all about conversations driven by the Holy Spirit, and those conversations are still happening.

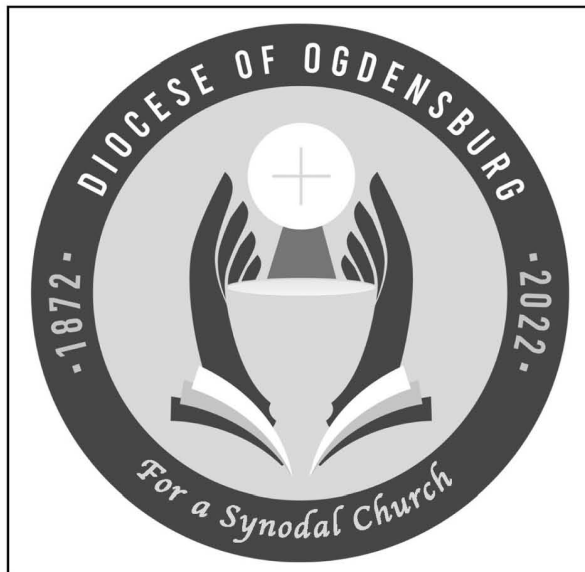
In October, Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated a Mass officially opening the diocesan portion of the Synod on Synodality, a synod opened earlier that month by Pope Francis. The Holy Father described the synod as "an exercise of mutual listening, conducted at all levels of the Church and involving the entire People of God."

Since that October opening, parish delegates have been appointed, and synodal conversations have been ongoing.

"Every parish has at least one delegate," explained Marika Donders, diocesan director of Evangelization and chairperson of the diocesan participation. "Conversations have been taking place around the diocese."

In November, delegates gathered in sessions held around the diocese to experience and learn about the synodal process. The process was divided into three phases, though the phases can overlap.

"In many cases, the conversations are starting with what we're referring to as the 'insider groups,'" Donders said. "That may be a parish council, the local Knights of Columbus, catechists or some other existing group. The next group is parishioners who may not be part of those insider groups – people who attend Mass on Sunday. The last group is people who may be beyond the church doors – people who used to attend Mass



but don't anymore, people who attend other denominations or people who don't practice any faith or have any faith background. If you're not seeing activity in your parish, it's possible that they're starting with another phase. Feel free to talk to your pastor and ask about the parish's participation in the synod."

Donders also noted that anyone can participate in the synod by reflecting on and discussing the central question: "A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, 'journeys together.' How is this 'journeying together' happening today in your local Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our 'journeying together?'"

"Anybody can have a conversation and give feedback," she said. "It doesn't have to be a formal event. It can be just friends talking in the local diner or in the parking lot after Mass. This may also be one way to reach people who have

drifted away from the practice of the faith. Is there anything they miss? Is there anything that would draw them back? Is there anything we can do to accompany them on their journey?"

Anyone can file a report about their conversation

and participate in the process. Feedback forms can be found at [rcdony.org/150/synod#feedback](http://rcdony.org/150/synod#feedback) or can simply be emailed to [synod@rcdony.org](mailto:synod@rcdony.org)

"The purpose of the synod is to learn how to be synodal. The theme is 'Mission, Communication and Participation.' The objectives are to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the church and how we are to walk forward together in mission. It's an invitation of the Holy Spirit for us to go on pilgrimage together, in a sense, as a church and to see who we will encounter and how we will encounter Christ on this journey and how he'll walk with us."

After conversations are held, reports outlining the discussions can be submitted at that same website.

Discussion notes can also be submitted by emailing [synod@rcdony.org](mailto:synod@rcdony.org).

[dony.org](http://dony.org).

The deadline for report submission is March 31.

After parish and local reports are submitted, the diocesan synod committee will work with Bishop LaValley to review the feedback and use it to create a diocesan report.

"Bishop LaValley will be able to consider that feedback and the guidance of the Holy Spirit as he works to address the current and future needs of the diocese," Donders said. "It builds nicely off the diocesan envisioning process we did back in 2014. We're also hoping individuals and our communities can identify ways these discussions can shape their participation in the mission of the Church."

A diocesan team remains available to assist parishes and individuals participating in the synodal process. To contact that team, email [synod@rcdony.org](mailto:synod@rcdony.org).

## 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 Foster  
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](mailto:mhoward@cathcharities.org)

80 Park Street, Suite 2  
PO Box 701  
Tupper Lake, NY 12986



# 'Forgiven' event focuses on God's love, mercy

By Jessica Hargrave  
Contributing Writer

God loves us and forgives us. During this Lenten season, the Diocese of Ogdensburg's Department of Education will offer a powerful presentation – titled "Forgiven" – which explores the healing power of the sacrament of reconciliation.

For many Catholics, confession is a freeing and life-

giving experiences, but for others, it is often scary and misunderstood. This event is intended to help parishioners overcome those fears and misunderstandings. Maybe you are afraid to confront your sins, concerned what your priest might think of you or perhaps unsure how to make a good confession. All of this will be addressed.

"Forgiven" is a continuation of Bishop Terry R.

LaValley's initiative focusing on the significance of the Eucharist given the vital connection between the two sacraments. Think about it. If I live in darkness, how can I welcome the light? In confession, we admit our sin that holds us back from being our true selves and loving fully which includes Christ who comes to us in the Eucharist and in others.

The presentation will be

held in seven locations around the diocese on Saturday, March 26 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Locations include St. Mary's Parish Center in Clayton, Dostie Hall in Wattertown, St. Peter's Church in Lowville, Father Amyot Parish Center in Norfolk, St. Edmund's Parish Center in Ellenburg, St. Peter's Church's Emmaus Room in Plattsburgh, and Holy Ghost Parish Center in Tup-

per Lake.

"Forgiven" is free and available for all who wish to attend.

There will be time for sharing and discussion. Light refreshments will be served, however attendees must bring their own lunch.

To register at a location most convenient for you, go to [rcdony.org/forgiven](http://rcdony.org/forgiven).

Registration deadline is March 4.

# Grant helps Mission tackle homelessness, poverty

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon  
Contributing Writer

**WATERTOWN** – Over 90,000 people were homeless in New York State in 2020. The homeless number in the North Country, roughly the same as the Diocese of Ogdensburg, is slightly over 100. Any person sleeping outside or sleeping in some structure unfit for human habitation is classified as homeless.

According to the Nationwide Alliance to End Homelessness, "the nationwide Point-in-Time Count occurred in January of 2020, just a few weeks before COVID-19 was declared a national emer-

gency. Thus, the data does not reflect any of the changes brought about by the crisis. Instead, the current report reflects the State of Homelessness in America just before a once-in-a-lifetime event interrupted the status quo."

Another survey was conducted in January 2022, but those results have not been published yet. Dawn Cole, the executive director of the Watertown Urban Mission, has a feel for the results.

"I have to say that in terms of housing, we're approaching a crisis situation," she said. "As a matter of fact, we may not be approaching but we're

probably in full-blown crisis because we know that we have individuals who are homeless. We see them every day. At the Point-in-Time 2022 survey, we met 14 individuals (in Watertown) who the previous night either slept outside in their car or in an abandoned building unfit for human habitation. That's January in the North Country. That's a pretty tough way to survive."

The Urban Mission was awarded two grants this year by the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation that will continue programs that target people looking for affordable housing.

One program is called BEST, building Economic Stability for Tomorrow. The second-year grant amounted to \$200,000, down a bit from the first-year grant.

"We've put together a very robust program," Cole said. "It provides a rental subsidy over a period of time, usually three to four months, (when) we work with individuals to help them meet some of their financial goals. We work on establishing a household budget (and look) at where we can cut expenses so that we can get our budgets into a sit-

uation where we're self-sustaining."

Working with local financial institutions, the Mission offers workshops on credit repair, avoiding predatory business practices and saving strategies. Programs available at the Mission dealing with food assistance, substance abuse and others are also made available to the BEST clients.

"What we're focusing on with this program is a unique audience in that it's people who are working or who are actively seeking employment and can't qualify for traditional social assistance programming," Cole said. "If you're comparing it to homelessness, this is more of a preventative strategy. We want to make sure these folks can maintain their solid footing so they don't find themselves in a disastrous situation."

The other program funded for \$75,000 is called Getting Ahead & Staying Ahead in the North County.

That program is aimed at individuals, largely from generational poverty environments, who over 16 weeks identify their behaviors that contribute to their poverty and look for ways to change. They also

look at the community and assess the services being provided perhaps with an eye to improve or change the programs.

"I think (Getting Ahead) is particularly effective because in Human Services, a lot of times, our inclination is to sit down with someone and try to prescribe what, in our professional opinion, is the right course of action," Cole said. "Getting Ahead allows people the space to make their own argument for change. It's all about self-awareness and understanding what poverty really is."

The Mother Cabrini Health Foundation announced in late January that it has awarded more than 450 year-end 2021 grants totaling \$140 million to support organizations and programs addressing the health-related needs of low-income residents and underserved communities across New York State in 2022.

The Mother Cabrini Health Foundation was formed after the 2018 sale of Fidelis Care, a nonprofit health insurer created by the Catholic bishops of New York State. This is the Foundation's third annual round of grants.

2022 Diocesan Directories are now available!

2022

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# Lenten series focuses on Laudato Si

**By Tom Kalinowski**  
Faith & Ecology Member

Since the publication of Laudato Si in 2015, numerous environmental groups and social justice organizations around the world have urged the Vatican to develop a way to promote the ideas and address the challenges cited in the Holy Father's encyclical. Last year, the Vatican unveiled a plan – or platform – which could be used to help ecologically conscious people and faith-based groups more closely align their lifestyles with basic Christian beliefs. This strategy, known as the Laudato Si Action Platform (LSAP), would, when implemented, benefit the health of the planet and the lives of the poor who have been so adversely impacted by our wasteful ways of life.

Laudato Si is a fairly lengthy papal letter that focuses on the serious consequences our modern life style, with its throw-away mentality and consumerism driven economy, is having on the health of the global environment, especially the climate. The Pope stresses that not only are record numbers of living organisms perishing daily around the world, but the poorest people of all nations are being adversely impacted by the routine actions occurring in civilized societies.

The Pope repeatedly emphasized that all forms of life throughout the cosmos are unique, were fashioned by the Creator for a specific purpose, and possess the same divine spark of life as do we. Even inanimate objects, regardless of size or shape, bear the fingerprints of God. Because everything arose from the

same Heavenly Father, we are all brothers and sisters in creation. Additionally, we are all deeply interconnected in a complex web of existence that only the Creator fully comprehends. This is why harming any one of God's works results in some form of harm to numerous other entities and eventually comes back to harm us and those we love. The Pope occasionally reflects on the increasing social upheaval and cultural turbulence occurring around the world and notes that as the health of our environment deteriorates, so does the well-being of our societies.

Laudato Si is not a scientific document but rather a moral evaluation of our modern way of life. Yet, while the Pope freely exposes and critiques many of the serious problems in the world, he is quick to do so against the backdrop of a truly magnificent and infinitely compassionate and forgiving God that loves each and every one of us more than anyone could ever possibly imagine. The Creator knows that none of us is perfect and neither are the communities and nations in which we live. However, we must try to recognize our personal and communal faults and attempt to address and correct them. We also bear the responsibility for repairing some of the damage that our actions have inflicted, either directly or indirectly to our common home and especially on the lives of the poor.

The Holy Father noted that there are no simple answers to our current environmental and social dilemmas, and what may work in one geographic area may not be suitable for another. This is why

the Vatican developed broad sets of guidelines in their LSAP to help people and groups in very different regions and cultures create plans that are best suited for their own locations.

The parishes of St. Agnes in Lake Placid and St. Bernard in Saranac Lake have been working together to begin this process of developing a more sustainable lifestyle. During Lent, a series of presentations will be given after Sunday Mass. These are designed to educate those in attendance how the concerns raised in Laudato Si are moral issues and how they are impacting our lives, communities, societies, and planet.

The following is a list of presentations during this time of reflection of the Liturgical year:

- March 6 – An Overview of Laudato Si by Gina Fiorelli
- March 13 – Ecological Education by Dr. Curt Stager and Elodie Link
- March 20 – Adopting a Simple Lifestyle/Reduce Consumerism by Katie Alexanian
- March 27 – Reconnecting Communities through Shared Participatory Actions by the Lake Placid High School Environmental Club students
- April 3 – Supporting Sustainable Development in our Communities by Caroline Dodd & Sam Baker
- April 10 – Reconnecting with Nature with Sister Bethany Fitzgerald

The presentations will last approximately 15 to 20 minutes, followed by a question and answer session, and then an informal discussion among those wanting to remain. The speakers have been gracious enough to give their talks immediately after

the 8 a.m. Mass at St. Agnes and then again following the 10 a.m. Mass at St. Bernard's. As authorities in their fields, these individuals well understand the problems confronting our planet and the dire implications to the poor and to future generations. These are moral issues from which we cannot turn away.

Along with becoming better informed, we also recognize that prayer must be a critical component to any plan. It will take a substantial spiritual effort to begin the process of impacting the hearts of those who cannot see the beauty and grandeur of Our Lord in other people and in His many works of nature. For those who cannot attend these programs and wish to contribute to this effort, please consider directing

more of your time in prayer toward this cause.

To paraphrase the Holy Father, we are going to have to replace consumption with sacrifice, greed with generosity, wastefulness with sharing. We must learn to give and not simply give up. As Dorothy Day once stated, "No one has the right to sit down and feel hopeless about the world; there is just too much to do. No one has to do everything, but everyone has to do something."

As the Holy Father repeatedly stressed in his encyclical, everything on the planet is so very much interconnected to everything else. This is why, as the environment gets more toxic and sicker, so follows the health and well being of our society. We all need to do something before it's too late.

## REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

**THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS**

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

Eternal Father, we lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen


(With ecclesiastical approval)

**MARCH**

DIocese OF OGDENSBURG, NY 2022 St. Joseph

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 BISHOP TERRY R. L'AVALLEY	2 REV. JEROME PASTORES	3 REV. TERRENCE R. PATTERSON	4 MSGR. LEEWARD J. POISSANT	5 REV. SONY G. PELICKAL IVF
6 REV. PATRICK A. RAITGAN	7 REV. WILLIAM G. REAMER	8 OUR PASTOR	9 REV. MARK R. REILLY, VF	10 REV. CLEMENT RIMONDS HGN	11 REV. DONALD A. ROBINSON	12 REV. STEPHEN ROCKER
13 REV. JOSEPH N. SESTITO	14 REV. JAMES W. SEYMOUR	15 POPE FRANCIS	16 BENEDICT XVI POPE EMERITUS	17 REV. SCOTT R. SEYMOUR	18 REV. ALAN D. SHNOB	19 REV. F. JAMES SHURTLEFF
20 REV. FERNANDO V. SOLOMON	21 REV. BRYAN D. SITT	22 RETIRED PRIESTS	23 REV. PHILIP P. TAH	24 REV. TODD E. THIBAUT	25 REV. JUSTIN THOMAS HGN	26 REV. SEVERINUS A. K. TORWOE
27 REV. HOWARD J. VENETTE	28 MSGR. PAUL E. WHITMORE	29 DECEASED PRIESTS	30 REV. LEO A. WILEY	31 REV. JOHN R. YONKOVIG, VF	For more copies contact: Diocese of Ogdensburg PO Box 369 Ogdensburg, NY 13669	

For more information visit us online at [www.mppapostolate.com](http://www.mppapostolate.com)

A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated. The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by:  Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society [www.myvocation.net](http://www.myvocation.net)

## Environmental Stewardship

## What's on your list?

Our thoughts these days begin to turn toward the coming Season of Lent next week. We are given a wonderful opportunity to pause and ask questions like, "Where am I in my spiritual life?"; "What are my deepest desires for this Lent?" and "Where do I sense the Lord may be calling me to change my heart that I may be a more faithful disciple?"

Interestingly enough our Lenten Journey begins with the reminder that we are "dust" and unto to dust we will return, or as some astronomers would say we are "stardust." "What a profound reminder that we are not just standing on top of the world – apart from it, but we are an integral part of it from the very beginning of life in the womb!"

With this amazing awareness, it only makes sense that our celebration of Lent would include not only care for our love of neighbor and ourselves but also for the very earth from which we came. When we love someone, we want to care for them, beginning with self-care. This care then needs to extend to others and to the earth itself.

In the past few articles, we have considered what a "green parish" might look like. This parish recognizes the sacredness of the earth as God's creation, and strives to find ways to respect its sacredness through our actions. This anniversary year of Laudato Si: On Caring for our Common Home, we have been given a valuable resource by the Vatican to help guide our action plans that can help to heal the wounds we have inflicted on it. It highlights for us seven markers that help us to identify the goals presented in the Encyclical; namely, 1. Response to the cries of the earth, 2. Response to the cries of the poor, 3. Ecological Economics, 4. Adoption of a Simple Lifestyle, 5. Ecological Education, 6. Ecological Spirituality and 7. Community Involvement and Participatory Action.

These markers can be valuable guides in planning our Lenten practices, since they include care for ourselves, our neighbors AND the earth. Lent can be an opportunity to become more familiar with them and guide our Lenten Journey.

For more info., see the story on the previous page.

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**March 1** – Noon – Diocesan Staff  
Mardi Gras Luncheon in the  
Brzana Conference Room

**March 2** – Noon – Mass at St.  
Mary's Cathedral Ash Wednesday

## Rest in Peace

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

**Feb. 23** – Rev. Leo Heinrichs,  
O.F.M., 1908; Rev. Edward Blanchard,  
1922; Rev. André Payette,  
O.M.I., 1976

**Feb. 24** – Rev. George Belanger,  
1932; Rev. William J. Murphy,  
C.S.C.O., 1959

**Feb. 25** – Rev. William Howard,  
1888; Rev. P.J. O'Connell, O.S.A.,  
1895; Rev. James J. Duffy, 1912;  
Msgr. L. Kevin Connors, 1971

**Feb. 26** – Rev. Francis X.  
LaChance, 1916; Rev. John F. Wiley,  
1984

**Feb. 27** – Rev. Ferdinand Grenier,  
O.M.I., 1872

**Feb. 28** – Rev. J. H. Tabaret, O.M.I.,  
1886

**March 1** – Rev. Louis B. Demers,  
1888; Msgr. Alexander P. Landry,  
1955; Most Rev. Stanislaus J.  
Brazana, 1997

## To Report Abuse

**If you have a complaint** of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri-  
anne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050  
Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terri-  
anneyanulavich@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.

## Lent 3.0: Third Lent in pandemic offers chance for spiritual reset

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Lent, the spiritual season of prayer and sacrifice, has an extra pull to it this year because once again – and now for the third time – it will be under the cloud of the coronavirus pandemic.

And even though the third Lent in a pandemic can feel like a lot like a Jesus' third fall on the road to Calvary, people who spoke with Catholic News Service focused more on the season's path to Easter and how this year's Lent also coincides with an optimism around COVID-19 cases dropping in the U.S.

"It's a perfect storm: lower (coronavirus) numbers just as Lent approaches," said Mary DeTurris Poust, former communications director for the Diocese of Albany, New York.

Poust, who teaches yoga, leads retreats and writes a blog called "Not Strictly Spiritual," said that during recent virtual retreats she

has led, it's obvious how much people want to reconnect in person.

And maybe this Lent, which starts on Ash Wednesday, March 2, is the time to do just that, she said about being with the parish community: gathering for Mass, prayer services and also for the returning soup suppers and fish fries.

After the tremendous losses of the past two years, she said, this Lent could be a good time for a reset. "Lent is the perfect opportunity to recalculate the internal GPS" of where we're going, Poust said, speaking about individuals but also more broadly about what parishes can do as they look to welcome people back.

So many Catholics like the ritual of Lent and all of its "bells and smells," she said, which makes this season a great opportunity "to pull them back in the best way."

Jen Sawyer, editor-in-chief of Busted Halo, a Paulist website and satellite radio program, said in times of uncertainty, people "rely on muscle memory" of traditional faith practices they are used to. But this year, she thinks Lent's usual traditions might have a different feel.

"It seems like this is the Lent we're most prepared for; we've all sacrificed so much" she said. The desert experience of Lent has already been lived out and with so many people exhausted from the past two years, she said this Lent offers new opportunities to find peace, community and faith.

Paulist Father Larry Rice, campus chaplain for Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, agreed, saying the church is more than ready for Lent 2022 and he hopes it will help

people "respond to all the trauma we have been through."

"We are living with long-term, low-grade trauma," he said, adding that for many, the pain is just under the surface and he sees Lent as the antidote. "As Christian people, we believe our destination is not Good Friday. We go through that to get to Easter," he said.

He also said this year has the added hope that "by the time we get to Easter, the pandemic we're experiencing will look different." And with wisdom acquired in the past two years, he also added: "There are no guarantees; there could be new (coronavirus) variants."

The past two Lents did not have that same thread of hope.

Lent 2020 started off without a hitch with just a small number of COVID-19 cases in the country but by the second week of Lent, in early March, some dioceses urged parishes to curtail handshaking at the sign of peace and Communion from the chalice. By the third week of Lent, many dioceses lifted Sunday Mass obligations and stopped public Masses and Lenten services such as Stations of the Cross, prayer services and fish fries.


Last year during Lent, more churches were open – although many were limiting congregation sizes and requiring parishioners to sign up for Masses. Fish fries were back, as carry-out events, and in many dioceses, ashes were sprinkled over heads on Ash Wednesday.

This year, parishes are open – with differing mask regulations and social distancing in place – and the beloved fish fries are back with both in-person or carry-out options.

## Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg uses the training, Protecting God's Children for Adults. If you need to complete VIRTUS training, contact Jean Grizzuto, jgrizzuto@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920 x 1413.

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# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Advocates seek help for Black migrants from Biden administration

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Faith-based organizations called on the Biden administration Feb. 17 to combat "anti-Black racism in the U.S. immigration system." In a news release, the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, a network of more than 55 national faith-based organizations that advocate for migrants and refugees, said it wanted officials to hear its concerns and "stop the detention and deportation of Haitians and other Black migrants." They said Black migrants have faced racism, not just through immigration policies that fail to protect them, but also at the hands of U.S. immigration authorities and officials who mistreat them. Some mentioned the treatment of Haitians at the U.S.-Mexico border visible when an agent on horseback in September 2021 berated a man as he tried to round up a group attempting to cross the border. Not only have they been mistreated by U.S. authorities, but some were sent back to the mayhem in politically troubled Haiti without a chance to apply for asylum, advocates said.

## Florida House OKs measure to ban most abortions after 15 weeks

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a 78-39 vote, Florida's House of Representatives Feb. 17 approved a ban on most abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy. A companion measure faces a Senate vote the week of Feb. 21 and could be passed by both chambers by the end of the month. Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis has said he supports the legislation and would sign it into law. But the law could face a state court challenge and ultimately end up before the Florida Supreme Court. The Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops, the public policy arm of the state's bishops, has backed the abortion ban bill and urged Catholics in the state to contact their state representatives, and now state senators, to approve it. Christie Arnold, associate for social concerns and respect life with Florida bishops' conference, testified before a House subcommittee Jan. 19 in support of the bill. She said the state's bishops support its increased "protections for women and children, specifically unborn children. It is encouraging that the bill narrows the window of time in which a woman can obtain an abortion to 15 weeks gestation. This is a good step in the right direction to limit the harm of abortion and further protect unborn children," she said. The Florida measure includes exceptions for the life of the mother and for "fatal fetal anomalies."

## Pope advances causes of four religious, cardinal

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis advanced the sainthood cause of Argentine Cardinal Eduardo Pironio, the prelate who organized and oversaw the first six international celebrations of World Youth Day. The pope also approved a decree recognizing a miracle attributed to the intercession of Capuchin Poor Clare Sister Maria Costanza Panas of the Italian monastery of Fabriano. She was born Jan. 5, 1896, and died May 28, 1963. In addition to recognizing the miracle that clears the way for her beatification, the pope approved decrees recognizing that four candidates for sainthood heroically lived the Christian virtues; the decrees were signed during an audience Feb. 18 with Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes. The four candidates, who are now "venerable," included Cardinal Pironio, who had served in numerous offices in the Roman Curia from 1975 until his retirement in 1996. St. Paul VI called him to Rome as pro-prefect of the Vatican congregation for religious. When St. John Paul II named him to head the Pontifical Council for the Laity in 1984, the late pope instituted the annual celebration of World Youth Day.

## Pope decries warmongering, prays for Eastern Catholics

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Humanity seems to be a "champion in making war," which should "make us all ashamed," Pope Francis said.

Meeting leaders of the Eastern Catholic churches — many from countries at war, facing the threat of war or dealing with the destruction left by war — the pope said human beings seem to be "attached to wars, and this is tragic."

Pope Francis made his comments and offered his encouragement and condolences Feb. 18 during a meeting with members of the Congregation for Eastern Churches, most of which are based in the Middle East, North Africa and Eastern Europe, including Ukraine.

"Humanity still seems to be groping in the dark," the pope said. "We have witnessed the massacres of the conflicts in the Middle East, in Syria and Iraq; those in the Ethiopian region of Tigray; and threatening winds are still blowing in the steppes of Eastern Europe, lighting the fuses and blasts of weapons and leaving the hearts of the poor and the innocent freezing."

At the same time, he said, "the drama of Lebanon continues, leaving many people without bread; young people and adults have lost hope and are leaving those lands."

Pope Francis noted that the Congregation for Eastern Churches was established by Pope Benedict XV, who died 100 years ago. "He denounced the incivility of war as a 'useless slaughter,'" but "his warning went unheeded by the leaders of the nations involved in the First World War. Just as St. John Paul II's appeal to avert the conflict in Iraq went unheeded."

"At this moment, when there are so many wars everywhere, this appeal both of the popes and of men and women of goodwill is unheard," he said, adding that "it seems that the greatest prize for peace should be given to wars: a contradiction!"

People love to talk about how humanity has made so much progress in science, technology, knowledge and "so many beautiful things," but it "is going backwards in weaving peace," he said. "We must pray and ask forgiveness for this attitude."

## Statistics show imbalance in ratio of Catholics per priest

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The number of Catholics and of Catholic men and women who devote their lives to serving them continues to grow in Africa and Asia, Vatican statistics show, but pastoral ministry is still much more readily available to Catholics in Europe.

At the end of 2020, the number of Catholics in the world reached 1.36 billion, an increase of 16 million over the previous year, according to the Vatican's Central Office of Church Statistics.

While Catholics remained about 17.7% of the global population, their numbers grew in Africa by about 2.1% and in Asia by 1.8% while in Europe the increase was just 0.3%, said the summary, which was based on numbers reported Dec. 31, 2020.

And while just over 20%

of the world's Catholics live in Europe, 40% of the world's priests minister there. The Americas have 48% of the world's Catholics, but only 29.3% of the world's priests. The Vatican reported that 18.9% of the world's Catholics live in Africa and are served by 12.3% of the world's priests; 11% of Catholics live in Asia served by 17.3% of the world's priests; and just under 1% of the global Catholic population lives in Oceania where 1.1% of the world's priests live.

The Catholic Church also had 5,363 bishops at the end of 2020 with 13.4% of them ministering in Africa.

The total number of diocesan and religious-order priests decreased globally to 410,219, the Vatican office said. But the decrease was due to falling numbers in Europe, North

America and Oceania. The number of priests increased in Africa and Asia.

The statistical office noted an "obvious imbalance" in the ratio of Catholics per priest in different regions. Globally there is one priest for every 3,314 Catholics in the world. But the ratio is one priest for 1,746 Catholics in Europe, 2,086 Catholics per priest in the Americas and 5,089 Catholics per priest in Africa.

The number of religious brothers rose in 2020 to 50,569, the office said, with the numbers going up in Africa, Asia and Europe. And while the number of women religious in Africa and Asia increased, the total was not enough to offset the declines in Europe, and the Americas. The total number of professed women was 619,546.

## 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 and easy to absorb.

**Contact:** To Register for this free webinar please visit: [rcdony.org/ministrydevelopment](http://rcdony.org/ministrydevelopment) For more information please contact Tom Semeraro: [tsemeraro@rcdony.org](mailto:tsemeraro@rcdony.org) 315-393-2920

## ADIRONDACK

**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.

**PARISH NURSE TRAINING**

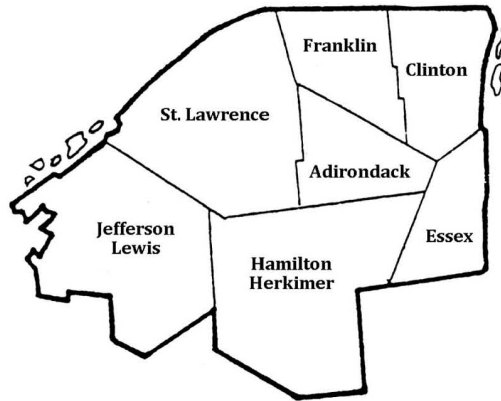
Lake Placid - Mercy Care for the Adirondacks, a mission sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, will offer the Foundations Course for Faith Community Nursing.

**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 (Faith Community Nurses) assist the members of their faith community to maintain or regain wholeness in body, mind and spirit. They promote wellness by health screening, health education, advocating for clients, connecting them to services in their community, listening and providing support.

**Contact:** To register, visit our website at [www.adkmercy.org](http://www.adkmercy.org). If you have any questions please contact Lexi Bevilacqua, Education and Volunteer



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;  
e-mail [news@northcountycatholic.org](mailto:news@northcountycatholic.org).

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

Training Manager at [abevilacqua@adkmercy.org](mailto:abevilacqua@adkmercy.org) or by phone at 518-523-5446.

## CLINTON

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE**

Plattsburgh - You're invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion.

**Date:** March 2 to April 10

**Time:** 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Place:** Outside Planned Parenthood

**Features:** Stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood of the North County.

**Contact:** Nancy Belzile at 518-593-6024 or email: [nancys\\_56@hotmail.com](mailto:nancys_56@hotmail.com) for more information.

**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 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 Eu-

charist: 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](http://www.rcdony.org/liturgyeucharist)

## ESSEX

**LATIN MASS**

Port Henry – Extraordinary Form Latin Mass to be held each Sunday.

**Schedule:** 1 p.m. on Sundays

**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 anticipated Mass

**Place:** St. Ann's Church

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

tentions.

**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 includes 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

**LENTEN FISH FRY**

Gouverneur – St. James School Friday Fish Fries are back during Lent.

**Date:** Beginning March 4th though Lent.

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 6:15

**Place:** Back of St. James School

**Cost:** Adults, \$12; Children under 5, Free

**Features:** Dine in or take out.

**Contact:** Local deliveries available by calling 315-287-0130

**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, SSI

**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](http://www.rcdony.org/liturgyeucharist)

**PRAYER AND ADORATION**

Massena – Commissioned Lay Ministers are invited to gather for Adoration and Rosary.

**Date:** Every third Wednesday of the month (March 16)

**Time:** 6:30 to 7 p.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Church

## 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 [www.rcdony.org/survivingdivorce](http://www.rcdony.org/survivingdivorce).

For more information contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or [startaglia@rcdony.org](mailto:startaglia@rcdony.org).

**LOVING AUTHENTICALLY**

Commissioned Lay Ministers and candidates are invited to this program that is designed to strengthen the participant's conviction about the truth, beauty and importance of church teaching on natural law and sexual morality and to give participants a basic understanding of the ethical



## AT THE MOVIES

## DOG

**NEW YORK (CNS)** – In 2017, Channing Tatum and Reid Carolin were among the executive producers of the HBO documentary "War Dog: A Soldier's Best Friend."

The film explored the U.S. military's post-9/11 deployment of canines trained for use in special operations as well as the deep affection that often developed between these animals and their human partners.

Now, the duo has co-directed a fictional riff on the subject, and the result is the quirky, good-natured – but not family-friendly – road movie "Dog" (MGM). Along with collaborating at the helm, Carolin wrote the script while Tatum stars as ex-Army Ranger Jackson Briggs.

In exchange for the promise of a much-needed professional recommendation from his

former commander, Briggs reluctantly agrees to transport Lulu, a formidable Belgian Malinois psychologically scarred by exposure to combat, to the funeral of her handler. Once a popular favorite with Briggs and his comrades, Lulu is now dangerously unstable and must be kept muzzled much of the time.

The duo's long journey from Tacoma, Washington, to Nogales, Arizona, turns out to be rich in comic incidents. But it also showcases for the audience brain-injured Briggs' physical suffering and social marginalization.

Naturally, the two wounded veterans bond over time. But, if that process follows a predictable course, it is nonetheless an endearing development to watch, one that gains a little gritty traction from the

macho gruffness Briggs displays in his initial determination to show unruly Lulu who's in charge.

Some of the humorous situations in which Briggs finds himself, however, preclude endorsement of his story for any but grown viewers. These include his hapless efforts to pick up women in a bar, the sudden prospect of bedding down with two practitioners of tantric yoga he comes across, and a run-in with a marijuana farmer who takes him for a spy dispatched by rival growers.

A note of farce pervades these interactions, and the upshot is basically that the American West abounds in eccentrics. But Briggs shows a ready willingness to go astray in various ways, if given the opportunity. He's also not above playing on the public's sympathy for injured servicemen, though he

does so in an essentially harmless, if slyly fraudulent, way.

Oddly, at one point, Briggs makes a pit stop to relieve himself and does so against the base of a roadside sign proclaiming "Thou shalt not kill" – one of a series of such placards presumably containing all Ten Commandments. Is this meant to suggest that his experience on the battlefield has made him indifferent to the taking of human life or that he is alienated from God in general?

If the latter, his thinking is contradicted by the highly generalized piety espoused by Gus (Kevin Nash), a peer he meets in a later scene. Gus is of the few characters in "Dog" we're clearly meant to take seriously. Still, the earlier moment is an uncomfortable one for believers.

Overall, though, mature moviegoers will likely appreciate this project's sympathetic depiction of those whose sacrificial patriotic contribution all too often goes unrewarded by society at large. They'll also probably be inclined to wink at its protagonist's foibles and moral shortcomings.

The film contains the sensual preliminaries of a potentially aberrant encounter, drug use, brief irreverent behavior, sexual references, a few uses of profanity, about a dozen milder oaths, at least one rough term, much crude and crass language and obscene gestures. 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.

## Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

basis of the teaching.

**Schedule:** 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:** 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: <https://www.rcdony.org/lovingauthentically>. If you have questions, contact Family Life Director, Steve Tartaglia at [startaglia@rcdony.org](mailto: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, we should center ourselves and work to understand who we are. 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. Drinks and Snack included.

**Contact:** Registration: [rcdony.org/lenenretreat](https://www.rcdony.org/lenenretreat). For more information please contact Tom Semeraro - Office of Youth Ministry - 315-393-2920 ext. 1415 [tsemeraro@rcdony.org](mailto:tsemeraro@rcdony.org)

### PRESENTATION OF FORGIVEN

A Continuation of the Eucharist Initiative. Explore the transforming power and the healing grace of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Discover the merciful way that God calls us back to Himself when we have sinned.

**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 time for discussion during the event which is free to attend. Please bring a bagged lunch.

**Contact:** Register at [rcdony.org/forgiven](https://www.rcdony.org/forgiven)

### YOUTH RALLY

Saranac Lake – Diocese of Ogdensburg Youth Rally to be held.

**Date:** Apr. 2

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. sign in to 6 p.m. (youth rally ends at 4:30 with Mass at St. Agnes at 5 p.m.)

**Place:** High Peaks Resort

**Cost:** \$35 per youth

**Features:** A Special Day event for you people in grades 7 to 12. Theme will be "In His House." It will be a day filled with Faith, Friendship, Fun, and a closing Mass led by most Reverend Bishop Terry LaValley.

**Contact:** Please visit [rcdony.org/youth/rally](https://www.rcdony.org/youth/rally) or contact Tom Semeraro 315-393-2920 ext. 1415

### CHRISM MASS

Ogdensburg - The Diocese of Ogdensburg is invited to join Bishop Terry R.

LaValley in the annual Renewal of Priestly Commitment, the Blessing of the Holy Oils and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism for use in all the churches of the Diocese symbolizing that we are one family in Christ.

**Date:** April 7

**Time:** 11 a.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Cathedral

**Features:** The Chrism Mass will also be livestreamed at [rcdony.org/live-mass](https://www.rcdony.org/live-mass).



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

## Readings prepare us for start of Lent

This last Sunday in Ordinary Time before Ash Wednesday is a good preparation for the beginning of Lent this Wednesday. There are so many critical issues hanging over our heads, we really need to be a light in the darkness more than ever.

In the first reading of Sirach, we are warned



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

about our speech. "The care it has had; so too does one's speech disclose the bent of one's mind. Our faults are revealed. There is the saying that when a person is silent, he may be thought to be a stupid fool, better than to speak and thus to remove all doubt!"

In the second reading from Corinthians,

February 27

Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

Sir 27:4-7

1Cor 15:54-58

Luke 6:39-45

Paul tells us that when our mortality is clothed with immortality, we will achieve real victory over death. This is such a consoling truth for us.

I love today's Gospel from Luke. "Why do you

notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?" No one should judge another unless he has made sure that he can see clearly. This is a good lesson for us to avoid hypocrisy. A good tree will produce good, honest fruit."

Our Scripture this Sunday warns us against blowing a trumpet this Lent so that everyone will admire us for fasting and almsgiving. Humility is a great

start for the season.

No trumpet blasts this year boasting to everyone of our fasting and almsgiving. Humility and honesty are a great start to the Lenten season. And let's help our family and friends to understand the urgency of how we spend this year's Lent. There are so many opportunities provided by our parishes for real growth in the Spirit. Let's resolve now to take advantage of ones that we overlooked last year.

## CALLED TO SERVE

## Practice what you preach, etc.

Social media and inspirational quotes seem to have been made for each other. People with nothing else to do spend hours producing graphics that are colorful and idioms that are thought provoking.

Classics like "live as if you will die tomorrow" or "be yourself, everyone else is taken." I like the one I use in homiletics training, "are you the

same guy in the coffee shop that you are when you preach?" It is a little long, but you get the gist, I hope.

The readings for next Sunday are jammed with great lines. In Sirach we will hear some classics. A little editorial license is required but consider, "one's faults appear when one speaks." This one is heavy, "tribulation is the test of the just." We will

pause to let that one rumble around your head for a minute.

Here's a keeper from Sirach. "Praise no one before he speaks."

Jesus uses parables to speak to the crowds, even to his disciples sometimes. Luke shares some favorites this week: "Can a blind person lead a blind person?" and "Remove the wooden beam from your own eye, then you can help remove the splinter from your brother's eye."

How about "people do not pick figs from thornbushes"?

My current fixation with word phrases, idioms, was prompted by one I heard on the radio the other day. Mr. Announcer told me there would be a discussion shortly about the "sphere of reality."

That was a new one for me. I was always a big fan of "the window of opportunity" but "sphere of reality" was catchy enough to prompt some meditation. First, I thought, I

should look up "sphere of reality." Since there was going to be a discussion about it, I presume somebody has already put some "flesh on those bones."

"The sphere (of reality) is a complex and multi-dimensional experiential and learning domain that replicates a real-world space; it is essentially a self-contained repository of realistic experience and information, much like a visual library."

Uh-huh. Got it. I could not make up that definition. Meditation cancelled.

I'll go back to some of the other phrases found in the Bible. In Numbers, Moses gets the attention of the people of Israel in the desert when he yells "listen you rebels!" Someone asked recently, "ever heard a homily start that way?" It would certainly get some in the pews to listen for a minute or

two.

Paul warns us all in Corinthians when he quotes a Greek proverb: "bad company corrupts good character." I guess that's what Mom meant when she said I shouldn't hang around with "that crowd."

Words are wonderful, phrases are even better. Like the Shema prayer of Jewish tradition: "The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart."

Now, those are words worth some meditation time.



Deacon  
Kevin Mastellon

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



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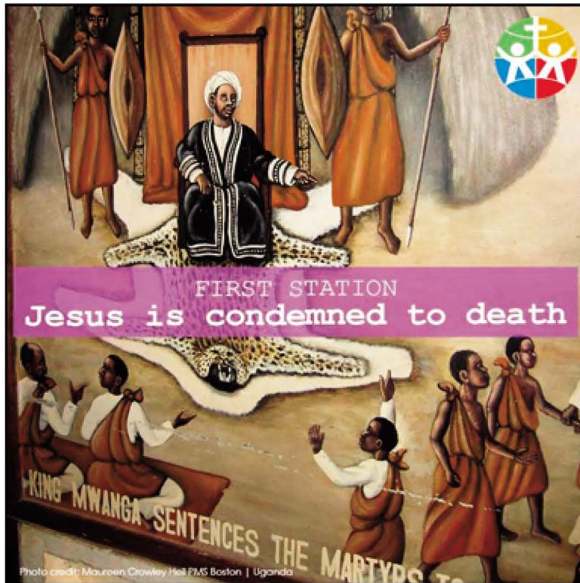
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 Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director  
 622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
 (315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296  
 mbrett@rcdony.org

# First Station of the Cross



Instead of our regular reflections, throughout this holy season of Lent, the Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg will be featuring Stations of the Cross.

These Stations of the Cross were assembled by Maureen Crowley Heil, director of Programs and Development for the Pontifical Mission Societies and the Archdiocese of Boston.

**First Station:**

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless you.  
 All: Because by your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

Reader: As the Ugandan Martyrs, pictured here, were sentenced to their own deaths because they would not give up their faith in You, they prayed and sang to your glory. Help us, Jesus, to remember that in making small sacrifices this Lent for others, we share in a part of your Kingdom with all your holy people.

## OBITUARIES

**Canton** – Donald A. “Joe” Burnham, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 14, 2022 at St. Mary’s Church.

**Carthage** – Jaqueline M Bintz, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 15, 2022 at St. James Church; burial in St. Stephen’s Cemetery, Croghan.

**Chaumont** – Karl Michael Teitsch, 66; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 12, 2022 at All Saints Church.

**Ellenburg** – Marjorie Rose (Trombley) Matthews, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 15, 2022 at St. Edmund’s Church; burial in Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Churubusco.

**Harrisville** – Joy Elaine (Mulvaney) Ritz, 81; Mass of Christian Burial in the spring at St. Francis Solanus Church; burial in St. Francis Solanus Cemetery.

**Hogansburg** – Johanna Ornsted Hughes, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 23, 2022 at St. Ann’s Church.

**Lake Placid** – Richard Charles Fadden, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 22, 2022 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

**Lake Placid** – Louise Marie (Mid-daugh) Tiblis, 94; Services to be held at a later date.

**Lyons Falls** – Robert J. Cataldo, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 19, 2022 at St. John’s Church; burial in Wildwood Cemetery.

**Massena** – Shaun E. Balaban, 39; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 25, 2022 at Sa-

cred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** – Janet M. (Gagner) Bouchey, 97; Mass of Christian Burial in spring at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** – Alvina Jane (Howley) Bradish, 81; Funeral Services Feb. 14, 2022 at the Phillips Memorial Home.

**Massena** – Raymond A. Gravel, 77; Services to be held at a later date.

**Massena** – Leona McGrath, 87; Private services held.

**Massena** – Richard Peters, 81; Funeral Services Feb. 15, 2022 at the Donaldson Funeral Home.

**Mooers Forks** – Douglas J. Duprey, 92; Mass of Christian Burial at St. Ann’s Church.

**Norfolk** – Donald J. “Smiley” Labarge, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 18, 2022 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Pamala Jane (Jenkins) Miller, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 18, 2022 at Notre Dame Church.

**Ogdensburg** – Dalton “Shep” M. Sheppard, 89; Funeral Services Feb. 20, 2022 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

**Peru** – John “Jack” Joseph Downs III, 71; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 18, 2022 at St. Augustine’s Church; burial in

parish Cemetery.

**Peru** – Jack Johnston, 92; Graveside Services in St. Augustine’s Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Barbara J. (Prokop) Carpenter, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 17, 2022 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter’s Cemetery.

**Potsdam** – Keith E. Hoyt, 87; Funeral Services Feb. 15, 2022 at Garner Funeral Service; burial in Bayside Cemetery.

**Potsdam** – Jane Hurley, 88; Funeral Services in the spring.

**Rouses Point** – Norman G. Lefebvre, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 12, 2022 at St. Patrick’s Church.

**Rouses Point** – Venita McChesney; Mass of Christian Burial March 5, 2022 at St. Patrick’s Church.

**Saranac Lake** – Kenneth “KJ” J. McLaughlin, 73; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 15, 2022 at St. Bernard’s Church.

**Watertown** – F. Joseph Fusco, 90; Mass of Christian Burial at St. Patrick’s in the spring; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Thomas S. Strejlau, 57; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 19, 2022 at Holy Family Church.

**Waddington** – Stella M. (Hamelin) Burns, 87; Funeral Services Feb. 16, 2022 at the Phillips Memorial Home; burial in White Church Cemetery, Lisbon.



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