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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 77 Number 1

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 6, 2022

CLOSING THE EDUCATIONAL GAP



With funding help from a grant from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, St. Agnes School in Lake Placid is working to help students who may need extra assistance but don't qualify for additional services. See the full story on Page 5.

SPRING INTO CATHOLIC EDUCATION



Trinity Catholic School in Massena was honored to have a very special visitor last week, Julia Torres. Julia is a close friend of Pope Francis, and was selected by him to help found CHARIS (Catholic Charismatic Renewal). Julia worked with Pope Francis when he was a Bishop in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and when he was selected as pope, she went with him to Rome to continue working with him. Torres recently retired so she can be back with her family in Argentina. At Trinity, Torres talked to the students about her work, and taking questions like, "what's the Pope's favorite color?" In this edition of the North Country Catholic, we celebrate Catholic Education and highlight the programs and activities of our Catholic schools.

SEE STORIES AND PHOTOS ON PAGES 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 & 16

Pope: Mercy, love dispel hypocritical religiosity

FLORIANA, Malta (CNS) – Christians who truly imitate Jesus are more inclined to forgive and be merciful than those who, under the pretense of holiness, point fingers and condemn others, Pope Francis said.

"Those who believe they are upholding the faith by pointing their finger at others may have a certain 'religiosity,' but they have not embraced the spirit of

the Gospel, for they disregard mercy, which is the heart of God," the pope said April 3 during an outdoor Mass on his second and final day in Malta.

The pope began the day visiting the Basilica of St. Paul in Rabat, where the famed apostle lived for three months after he was shipwrecked on the island nearly 2,000 years ago.

Hundreds of people waited outside the basil-

ica, many on balconies and rooftops, waving flags and applauding the pope's arrival. A group of altar servers stood outside the basilica holding a local team's soccer jersey with the pope's name emblazoned on the back.

Inside the grotto, Pope Francis sat for several minutes before lighting a candle and praying that Christians may have "the grace of a kindly heart

that beats with love for our brothers and sisters."

"Help us to recognize from afar those in need, struggling amidst the waves of the sea, dashed against the reefs of unknown shores. Grant that our compassion be more than empty words, but instead light a bonfire of welcome," he said.

Pope Francis, who suffers from sciatica, made his way into the basilica at

a slow pace due to apparent pain and greeted those present. Donning a red stole, he recited a brief prayer before departing.

The Vatican said the pope then made an impromptu visit to the tomb of St. George Preca, a Maltese priest who founded the Society of Christian Doctrine, a society of laypeople dedicated to teaching the catechism and faith formation.

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The three musketeers/stooges

I'd like to think we were like the musketeers – companions for numerous adventures and journeys, but I think it would also be fair to say we were also a bit like the three stooges.

I don't remember exactly how we came to be our group of three, but I know it happened when Jared, Allison and I were in our early teens. While we spent a lot of time together in various capacities, many of my best memories with the two of them related to our shared faith.

We participated in youth ministry events together. We volunteered together for church functions. We'd take

on spiritual challenges together (I remember once doing a lengthy, strict fast with the two of them, and we ended the fast by feasting together on so much junk food that we nearly made ourselves sick.

**Darcy L.
Fargo**

That was the same night the parent in charge of us seemed ready to call for a search party when we were a few minutes late because we were praying together at the local church. She yelled at all three of us like we were all her children). We'd talk about our spiritual struggles with one another. We'd pray together.

As we graduated from high school, all attending colleges

in different areas, we grew apart a bit. We weren't as involved in or aware of each other's day-to-day lives. The chasm between us grew even wider as we all entered the parts of our lives that revolved around growing our families and careers.

Though we don't talk as often as any of us would like, every time we talk, Jared, Allison and I pick up where we left off. Just this week, I had a beautiful conversation with one of them about how God is working in our lives.

I thought about Jared and Allison as I thought about the value of Catholic education this week. As a child, it's transformative to have a community of peers and adult role models who share your faith and values and

help you grow in them. God can use those relationships to transform and support us throughout our lives.

Catholic schools foster such friendships. They create an environment where youth can develop relationships with our Lord and with other people who also love him. Those are relationships that last more than a lifetime.

As we move toward the end of another school year, I pray for our Catholic schools as they work to educate our youth in both academics and our faith.

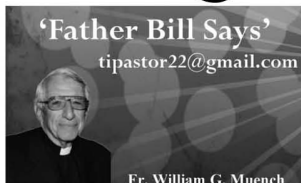
And I sincerely pray that all our youth find their group of musketeers/stooges who will grow in life and in faith with them.

Considering the Chrism Mass

Today, I would like to tell you about the Chrism Mass, as I do each year as we come to the end of Lent. All the priests of our Diocese of Ogdensburg gather with Bishop LaValley at St. Mary's Cathedral for this Chrism Mass. I notice each year at the Chrism Mass that Bishop LaValley uses this opportunity to give a personal message to all of us priests.

This Mass is called the Chrism Mass. It is the Mass once a year when Bishop LaValley blesses and consecrates the sacred oils that will be used in the celebration of the sacraments during the next year. There was a time when the Chrism Mass was celebrated as the morning Mass on Holy Thursday. In recent years, to make it possible for all the priests to gather, the Chrism Mass is celebrated at the cathedral the week before Holy Week.

During the Chrism Mass, Bishop LaValley consecrates the three sacred oils. A portion of these newly blessed oils is sent out to each parish

**Fr. William G. Muench**

in the diocese to be used in the celebration of the sacraments in that parish during the coming year.

First there is the Oil of the Sick. This oil is used for the anointing of the sick and the anointing of the dying. This anointing is a sign of support and a prayer to the Lord at these crucial times in the life of a person. Most of us priests carry the Oil of the Sick with us constantly, especially when visiting the hospital. This oil is also used to bless and pray for those who are dangerously suffering from addictions as well as those affected with mental problems.

The Oil of the Catechumens. This oil is used during the celebration of baptism, both for infants and adults. When an unbaptized adult

seeks entrance into our Catholic Church and to be baptized, they are called catechumens. The Church calls the special program preparing adults for baptism RCIA – the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.

Then, there is the Sacred Chrism. This is the special oil that is used during the celebration of the sacrament of baptism and the sacrament of confirmation. In addition, the Oil of Sacred Chrism is used during the ordination of a priest. During that ceremony, the hands of a newly ordained priest are anointed with the Sacred Chrism in a consecration of this new priest whose hands will hold the bread and wine at Eucharist that will be consecrated to the Body and Blood of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at each Mass that this new priest will celebrate.

The Chrism Mass also includes the renewal the priestly promises of all the priests. These are the promises that each priest makes at the time of his ordination. I

have always considered this renewal a very sacred moment and a special opportunity for me to remember well just whom I am. God called me to be a Catholic priest. This is my vocation, and I confidently renew myself to this dedication.

Our bishop asks several questions of us in this renewal. Let me share one of these question with you: "Are you resolved to be faithful steward of the mysteries of God in the Holy Eucharist and the other liturgical rites and to discharge faithfully the sacred office of teaching, following Christ, the Head and Shepherd, not seeking any gain, but moved only by zeal for souls?" Each priest responds, "I AM."

Then the bishop turns to the people of the congregation as I now turn to you: "As for you, dearest sons and daughters, pray for your priests, that the Lord may pour out his gifts abundantly upon them, and keep them faithful as ministers of Christ, the High Priest."

SPRING INTO EDUCATION

Catholic education: Moving forward

By **Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ**
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Sometimes it is a challenge to live in the present moment! Although graduation and the end of the school year are weeks away, the attention of our principals is drawn not only to the end of this school year but also to the more distant future, the beginning of the next school year! This focus on school year 2022-23 is particularly apparent in March and April when principals have their own form of March Madness as they host kindergarten registration, school visits for potential new students and parent information opportunities. Living and dealing with the realities of the present moment, principals are also looking ahead to the next academic year!

It may seem early to start the process, but projected school budgets for the following school year must consider student enrollment. Thus, principals across the diocese are encouraging parents to register their children for next year.

Did you know that as of September 2019, approximately 1,500 Catholic schools in the United States had an overall school enrollment of 150 students or less? This is nearly 25 percent of all Catholic schools in the country. Given the enrollment in our Catholic schools, I was eager to read a recent National Catholic Education Association publication, *Greatness in Smallness: A Vision for Catholic Microschools*. The principals and the diocesan Catholic School Office staff will be taking a close look at the book and its suggested direction for small schools.

As our principals embark



Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ

on registration procedures for the 2022-23 school year, they know that their schools educate students with the excellence historically attributed to Catholic schools while operating with smaller student populations as compared with area public schools. They are, however, also aware of the benefits and distinguishing characteristics of Catholic schools.

Catholic schools are defined by what makes them unique. They are "places to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals His transforming love and truth" (Benedict XVI). What makes our schools unique is not its programs, or their environments or competent administrators and faculty although all of these are present in our schools. What makes them unique is a person, Jesus Christ.

The encounter with Christ transforms every as-

pect of the school. Academic programs are infused with the teachings of the Gospel and our Catholic faith. The schools' environments are aptly described as communities of faith, and administrators and faculty are expected to be living witnesses to the Christian message.

Catholic schools do far more than teach students how to read and write, become proficient in math, and use the newest tools of technology. They go beyond training them in the skills necessary for a particular profession. They pass on the basic values of life and correct behavior needed to be good citizens in this life and eventually to reach the joy and beauty of eternal life.

Young people today are constantly exposed to and often confused by the multiplicity of information and by the contrasting ideas and interpretations presented to them. They have a great inner need for truth and openness to the mystery of God. Our Catholic schools help them to discover that truth has a name, Jesus Christ, and to enter a personal relationship with him. This is the most compelling reason for choosing a Catholic school!

If your children are not in a Catholic school and you live in an area where a Catholic school education is available, I encourage you to contact the principal

to arrange for a visit to the school. Nothing can replace the personal experience provided by a school visit in which you can speak with the principal, tour the school, and experience the atmosphere of the school community. A school visit, as well as talking to parents who send their children to a Catholic school, can be particularly helpful to parents who are preparing to send their child to school.

If your children are enrolled in one of our schools, invite a neighbor or friend whose school-aged children are not in a Catholic school to make a visit to the school with you. Imagine how the enrollment in a school would grow if every family currently enrolled convinced one other family that send-

ing their children to the Catholic school would be a priceless investment in their future.

The past two years have been challenging. The commitment of our principals, teachers and staff cannot be overestimated. They opened our schools for five days of instruction each week in 2020-21 when many schools were unable to do so. Despite the spread of the variants in 2021-22 school year, they addressed multiple challenges and maintained in-school instruction and tended to the needs of those entrusted to their care. They did this as they cared for their families and, like so many, dealt with the stress and anxiety of the virus. May God bless them abundantly!

Call and visit the Catholic School nearest you.



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SPRING INTO EDUCATION

Trinity's Gala returns

Trinity Catholic School is excited to finally be holding its Roaring 20s Gala this year! The pandemic may have sidetracked the event for two years, but organizers chose a theme that works for a whole decade!

The Roaring '20s Gala, sponsored by Donaldson Funeral Home and Phillips Memorial Home, will be held May 7.

SLL BOCES will be provid-

ing appetizers and dessert. A cash bar will offer signature drinks from Orvis St. Discount Liquor and In-Law Brewery's beer. Coach's Corner will be catering for the sixth year with a buffet meal!

As always, there will be prizes on which to bid in our Live and Online Auctions, as well as a chance to win one of our Treasure Boxes!

Enjoy 1920s entertain-

ment that will be weaved through the entire evening!

This year we will honor Chad Green from Donaldson Funeral Home and the Frary Family from Phillips Memorial Home for all of the many ways they have supported Trinity Catholic School.

Cost is \$65 per ticket or \$500 for eight. Tickets can be purchased over the phone with a credit card by calling 315-769-5911.



Second-grade students at St. Bernard's School in Saranac Lake plan their 'Penny Wars' strategy. The event was one of several service projects the school completed during Catholic Schools Week.

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St. Bernard's School celebrates

SARANAC LAKE – Catholic Schools Week at St. Bernard's School was a time to celebrate our students, families, staff and parish. The week is always filled with fun for students and staff, but it began with gratitude to our parish. St. Bernard's School students created hundreds of beautiful bookmarks as thank-yous to our wonderful parishioners and distributed them after Sunday Mass to kick off the week.

Throughout the week, students were treated with pancake breakfasts, pajama days, and special activities like a visit from the local fire department and a St. Bernard's Olympics.

In addition to the fun and festive activities, students also completed multiple service projects. We collected change in our Penny Wars competition that had students digging under couch cushions and under car mats. All funds that were raised were donated to the Merrill Center for Oncology at Adirondack Health in honor of our fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Fitzgerald. Our classes also competed in the SOUPer bowl, in which each class brought in cans of soup for the Interfaith Food pantry in a friendly competition that helped us stock the shelves of the important community resource.

Finally, as part of the Great Kindness Challenge, our students endeavored to complete a kindness chain that would snake around the entire school. Throughout the last two weeks, they took note of the nice things that others do for them and strived to add to the chain by completing kind acts themselves. Each class was able to connect the chains to create a giant chain that roped throughout the entire school and even stretched outside.

SPRING INTO EDUCATION

St. Agnes uses grant funds to help close education GAP

LAKE PLACID – St. Agnes School has received a grant of \$80,000 from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation for the school's Growth Achievement Program (GAP), which provides programs in the areas of health and wellness, kinesthetic and sensory learning, and other therapies.

This is the second year the school has received this award, one that enables it to better serve students' specific learning and health needs, beyond what is offered to those who qualify for special education services.

"We are honored to be recognized by the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation for our work with children. The results from the first grant – in terms of student growth and achievement – are remarkable. Receiving funding

for a second year allows us to continue to offer expanded services, both to current and next year's students," said Catherine Bemis, the school's principal. "GAP is designed to offer targeted remediation and intervention strategies at a crucial time in children's development, the primary grades. When young children receive specialized instruction and specific support, like counseling or speech therapy, well before they lag behind their peers later in elementary or middle school, the results can be transformational."

Since 2017 the school has extended enrichment opportunities to students in need of accelerated learning, as well as to those who previously struggled but did not qualify for special education. The GAP program was for-

malized in early 2020 and benefits all students enrolled in the school.

The Mother Cabrini Health Foundation is a private, nonprofit organization with the mission to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable New Yorkers, bolster the health outcomes of targeted communities, eliminate barriers to care, and bridge gaps in health services.

St. Agnes School enrolls 115 students aged 3 to grade three. As Lake Placid's only early elementary learning center, it sets high academic expectations for young students and offers an intentional curriculum that meets the academic, social, and developmental needs of children from diverse cultural, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds.

St. James School donations doubled until April 10

GOUVERNEUR – St. James School will kick off of its annual matched collection March 26 through April 10 with a "double your donation" event.

Any donations made to St. James School during that time will be matched by a generous parishioner. To make a donation, log on to stjamesk-6.org and click the "DONATE NOW" button or mail your donation to 164 E Main St, Gouverneur, NY 13642.

All monies go directly to offsetting school expenses.

For more information contact St. James Parish Office at 315-287-0114



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A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING



Students at St. James School in Gouverneur participated in a food drive to celebrate Father James W. Seymour's birthday. The food collected was donated in Father Jay's name to the local food pantry.



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Environmental Stewardship

What is needed?

As the ice and snow begin to melt and the waters of the lakes and rivers begin to flow again, our Lenten journey is meant to melt our hearts so the love of God can flow in and through us to the world. There is no coincidence that the symbol for our immersion into God's life through Baptism is water. Every time we bless ourselves with holy water, we renew that connection with God's presence in our lives. At Easter Vigil water will be blessed and we will renew our baptismal commitment.

How many ways does water touch your life today? From the time you rise to wash up until you go to bed, consider the presence of water that we often take for granted. Next time you take a drink of water, pause and allow yourself to be aware of what it is. This clear substance that seems so ordinary is absolutely essential for life — both in me and in all living things. Without it, no living being can survive. What a blessing God gifts us with each day!

As a grateful steward, how can I protect this precious gift from harmful contamination? One place we might begin is with our preparations for our lawns and gardens. When we go to the store for supplies, take a careful look at the products offered for lawn and weed control. Often the natural products that do not pollute the ground water are located farther down the shelves or on higher shelves above. Take a moment to read the labels before purchasing.

What about fertilizers? Observe how the earth fertilizes itself without man-made substances. Those discarded fall leaves and food garbage become nutrients for spring plantings. Two ways to compost is through construction of compost bins outside. Another way to compost inside is with red worms. They can be kept under your sink in a container, and fed your non-meat garage.

Another natural fertilizer is comfrey plant. To learn more about how to use it, search for: Comfrey Plants Make Great Free Fertilizer.

You may want to contact your local Cooperative Extension site for their spring workshop schedule (usually free) and take a hand-on approach as you engage in an environmental steward this year.

Bishop's Public Schedule

April 6 — 9:45 a.m. — Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

April 7 — 11 a.m. — Chrism Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

2 p.m. — Pastors' Advisory Committee Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

April 8 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 9 — 4 p.m. — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 10 — 8 a.m. — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

1 p.m. — Lenten Penance Service at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 12 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Rest in Peace

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

April 6 — Rev. Joseph E. Berard, 1942; Msgr. Arthur M. Gilbert, 1965

April 7 — Rev. Fabien Barnabe, 1883; Rev. Francois Cing-mars, 1902; Rev. James E. Duffy, 1934

April 8 — Rev. Benjamin Grom, M.S.C., 1893; Rev. Patrick Carr, O.S.A., 1901

April 10 — Rev. Maurice Morin, M.S.C., 1976

April 11 — Rev. John P. Whalen, O.S.A., 1947

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-
annyanulavich@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.

Funeral Mass celebrated for Sister Jean Beyette, SA

Sister Jean Theresa Beyette, SA, a Franciscan Sister of the Atonement from Graymoor, entered into the Eternal Kingdom of God's glory on Saturday afternoon, March 26, 2022, in the Motherhouse care unit, Lurana Healthcare Residence.

Sister Jean was born in North Bangor, New York on May 20, 1928 (Diocese of Ogdensburg). She was the youngest of five children born to Estella (Stone) and Horace Beyette. Predeceased by her parents and siblings: Grace D. Beyette, Leroy Beyette, Rev. Francis J. Beyette and Rev. Paul V. Beyette, Sister Jean is survived by her sisters in community and extended family members.

Having entered the Community on April 20, 1950, Sister professed her first vows on October 15, 1951, and her final vows on October 15, 1957. As an Atonement missionary for 71 years, Sister Jean served in parish, catechetical, pastoral and spiritual ministries in the following assignments: New Jersey (So. Plainfield & Deal), Massachusetts (Boston), New York (St. Cecilia's NYC, Glens Falls, Port Henry, Rocky Point, Ellenburg Center, Graymoor), Utah (Copperton) and Vermont (Burlington).

Sister Jean was known



Sister Jean T. Beyette, SA

for her many years of ministry "among the people" as she tirelessly gave all for the Glory of God. She taught the Faith to many adults and children as she directed and taught in religious education programs throughout the North Country.

From 1984 to 2007, Sister Jean ministered at Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer in Ellenburg Center, where she also became the director. There, she helped many through offering quietude and time to reflect on the direction of their lives. When asked, "What does the director of a house of prayer do?" Sister replied, "A little of everything," as she also pitched in to help in the food pantry and the clothing outlet. Her attitude was one centered on God as a Father with open arms staving,

"The person God sends to our door comes first."

Sister Jean returned to the Motherhouse at Graymoor in 2007. There, she ministered in various on-site activities. She drove sisters to appointments, ministered in the adult daycare at Mother Lurana House, helped sisters in the infirmary, and was more recently known as the sister who would repair a wristwatch or hem a skirt for a sister. Quiet and seemingly in the background as she ministered, Sister Jean touched many lives both outside and inside the convent. You will be missed, Jean. Thank you for all you have done for everyone.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, services were private for the Atonement Community (Sisters & Friars) and family. The Reception of the Body prayer service was held on Wednesday, March 30, 2022, as well as the Evening Prayer/Wake Service. Sister Jean's funeral Mass was on the morning of Thursday, March 31, 2022. All services were held in the Motherhouse convent chapel at Graymoor. Burial was in the Sisters' cemetery. Funeral arrangements were by Dorsey-Carlone Funeral Home, Peekskill.

Memorial donations may be sent to: Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement, 41 Old Highland Turnpike, Garrison, New York 10524.

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required. Participants may preregister at www.virtus.org. For more information or to arrange training, contact Jeannie Grizzuto at 315-393-2920 or jgrizzuto@rcdony.org.



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Monitoring environments contributes to safety

Editors Note: April is "Absue Prevention Month." This month, we will present a series explaining how you can help prevent abuse from happening. This content is provided by Virtus. It is reprinted with permission.

In addition to understanding the warning signs of inappropriate adult behavior and screening and selecting employees and volunteers, it is up to each of us as caring adults to monitor all environments, including activities involving technology. All environments and activities with children and youth should be supervised to ensure that proper policies and procedures are being followed to keep children and youth safe.

It is important to monitor all environments because child abusers look for ways to spend time alone with children. While grooming often happens in the open, abuse is more likely to occur in private. Effectively monitoring all ministries eliminates any opportunity for an adult to be alone with a child in an isolated area while in-person or online. Monitoring all ministries also provides the opportunity to be vigilant in identifying any behaviors or situations that must be addressed before they can escalate to abuse, or problematic situations that could condition children to more easily be abused.

How can we, as caring adults, monitor all in-person environments?

- Maintain a healthy caution about any environment in which children are entrusted.

- Identify secluded areas; lock empty rooms.

- Develop policies (with the organization's leadership) and follow policies regarding the use of any area (open, secluded, off-site, etc.).

- Don't permit children to enter staff-only areas.



- Only meet with children where other adults can have open access (such as, in the sight or hearing of other adults, with the invitation that they check-in at any time for safety).

- Perform consistent and random status checks (if status checks are performed at the same time every day, then people who do not have the best intentions could learn to anticipate that timeframe).

- Make sure enough adults are involved in programs so that you have an appropriate ratio of adults to children.

- Don't start new programs without the appropriate approval of the organization or leadership.

- Encourage parental involvement, allowing parents to have proper access to all programs to evaluate safety.

How can we, as caring adults, monitor technology?

- Always use sanctioned devices and accounts to communicate with youth these should be sponsored by the organization.

- Never "friend," "follow" or communicate with youth using your own personal accounts.

- Always communicate

with youth during appropriate timeframes; i.e., if you wouldn't call the home at specific times, then you shouldn't text, call, message or email the youth, either.

- Never take or post photos of youth without the proper approvals of both the organization and the youth's family—typically this is resolved through photo releases that are kept on file at the organization (even with permission,

photos should only be posted on an organization-approved forum).

- Install and use appropriate blocking/filtering software.

- Include additional adult oversight for any communication or online meetings with children or youth—this helps to ensure that the interaction online doesn't become isolated.

We must maintain a healthy caution about any environment that involves children and youth—whether it is on the organization's property, at another location, or online. Meetings with children and youth should occur only in designated areas, open to the sight or hearing of others, where the observation of others is welcomed and encouraged. Proper oversight for all meetings and events must have adequate supervision and transparency. Even for an online meeting in which minors will be participating, other adults should have the permission and ability to drop in safely and check in, just as they would in person.

Furthermore, one of the best security measures we can take is to frequently and openly maintain com-

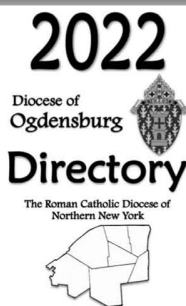
munication with children and youth about the latest evolving technology. It's important to discuss the risks, benefits, and how they can help keep themselves safe when using technology. Prior to learning how to drive, youth are taught the rules of the road and how to safely operate a vehicle. The same should be true when it comes to the use of technology. Youth should be taught how to use it in a safe manner, to protect themselves and others, and what to do if they need help, or feel scared or uncomfortable.

Recall the five steps from the Protecting God's Children Program:

1. Know the warning signs
2. Screen and select employees and volunteers
3. Monitor all environments, including activities involving technology
4. Be attentive to children and youth
5. Communicate your concerns

Each of us can help prevent inappropriate situations and technology threats if the entire environment is being monitored at all times, and the remainder of the five steps are also being followed.

2022 Diocesan Directories now available!



The Official 2022 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.

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SPRING INTO EDUCATION

SCENES FROM OUR SCHOOLS



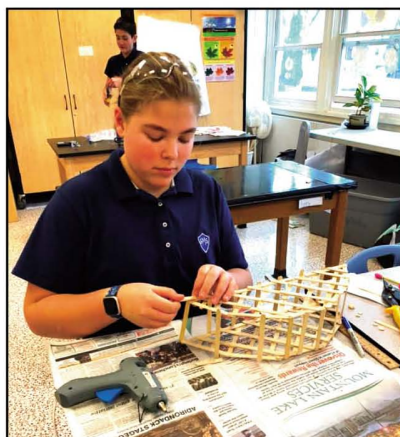
Basketball returned to Augustinian Academy in Carthage. The school's after-school program has been enhanced using funding from a grant awarded by the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation.



Students at St. James School in Gouverneur dress for the annual Saints Parade through the village.



(Left) Immaculate Heart Central's Whiz Quiz team attended an awards banquet put on by WPBS at the Elks Club recently. The team was recognized for coming in second place in the tournament and received a trophy and certificate and each member received a personalized plaque. (Right) Students at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga recently completed bridge building projects as part of the school's STEM program.



Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown recently concluded its second March Madness reading competition. Mrs. Mitchell's fifth grade class (above) and Ms. Murray's first grade class (below) won their division in the competition, and the school surpassed its goal of 40,000 reading minutes by logging 53,713 minutes.



(Left) Students at St. Agnes School in Lake Placid use technology in the classroom. (Right) Aiden Pearl, a student at Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh, won Outstanding Delegate in North Country Model United Nations Political Committee.



SPRING INTO EDUCATION

Life at Augustinian Academy in Carthage

By Mary Ann Margrey
Principal

CARTHAGE – We began our year with much sadness with the loss of our PreK/Art teacher just before school began. She was such a gifted, gentle, loving teacher that she was missed even by those who had not met her. The seventh and eighth graders helped us to celebrate her life with “Ms. T Day.” We participated in many of the things she enjoyed in life...art, fishing, color and SU!

As we opened school, there were many new faces – 165 students and 8 new teachers/staff. While we began the year with so many restrictions and guidelines still in place, we have been able to do more than last year. Thanks to the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation “Establishing Wholistic and Healthy Afterschool Programs” Grant, we filled our after-school time with Run Club, Lacrosse Camp, Cooking Club, intramural soccer, introduction to dance, painting classes, embroidery & needlework, arts & crafts, Science Olympiad, Irish dancing, fitness, and basketball returned! It was so good to know that we had activities to be involved in that helped us discover our gifts and talents.

We hosted a wonderful Veterans’ Day luncheon to invite our parents to have lunch with the children. It was the first time since the pandemic began that the parents could come for lunch. We filled the gym to remain compliant with the guidelines in place. For Music in our Schools Month in March, the 10th Mountain Band



(Left) Augustinian Academy students participated in the Science Olympiad this year, thanks in part to a grant from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation that has allowed the school to enhance its after-school offerings. (Right) Augustinian Academy was able to celebrate Veteran’s Day with a luncheon that included parents. It was the school’s first event with parents since the start of the pandemic.



Woodwind Quartet and Brass Quintet performed. This was our first whole school in-person event, and it was such an uplifting time for everyone.

In keeping with the Eucharistic Initiative, we had Exposition, Adoration and Benediction on the Solemnity of the Annunciation. Several parishioners joined us as the students spent time with the Blessed Sacrament. It was such a heartwarming and spiritual experience for everyone. In fact, one of our first graders asked about going back because it was so quiet and peaceful!

Providing opportunities for service is an important part of our mission statement. During the summer our Confirmation students were already involved with service projects by helping with STEM Camp and Vacation Bible School. I think they had as much fun as the campers did. The students, staff and families are always so generous and willing to

help. This was even more apparent as we sought opportunities to help the people of Ukraine. During Catholic Schools Week, the third and fourth graders hosted a fun hour for the other students. They raised \$162 which they donated to the relief efforts for the people of Ukraine. But that was not enough, the school and parish families have been

donating supplies to send to the people, as well as using their Jeans Day money to help cover some of the shipping costs. It is so wonderful to see faith in action!

Two years after the beginning of the pandemic, we were finally able to remove masks. It was so wonderful to see the full smiles on everyone’s face rather than just smiling

eyes! It was like meeting old and new friends all over again! As we look forward to the end of the school year, as well as the beginning of a new one, we are hopeful that we will continue to add many more opportunities to be “normal” again! It will remind everyone that they are each a gift from God working together to love and share as Jesus did!

**Knights of Columbus Bishop Brzana
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E-Mail Address: _____

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Donald Recore K of C Raffle

438 State Rt 3 Ste 500

Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Your ticket stubs will be recorded and e-mailed back to you.

Indigenous leaders see 'fresh track' in hunt for healing

ROME (CNS) – Leaders of Canada's main Indigenous organizations welcomed Pope Francis' apology for the Catholic Church's role in running residential schools, but, as one said, it was just "a fresh track" on a longer hunt for healing and reconciliation.

Chief Gerald Antoine, leading the delegation of the Assembly of First Nations at the Indigenous communities' meetings with Pope Francis March 28-April 1, used the analogy of hunting to explain to reporters that much remains to be done.

For Antoine, a key concern is a formal recognition by the Canadian government that the residential schools were part of a systemic attempt at "cultural genocide," or, as he explained it, an attempt "to kill the Indian in the child" and force them to assimilate.

Natan Obed, president of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, told reporters, "Today we have a piece of the puzzle," which is the papal apology.

"I was touched by the way in which he expressed his sorrow and also the way in which he condemned the actions of the church in particular," Obed said. The next piece will be Pope Francis' promised trip to Canada, apparently this summer, to visit Indigenous communities and apologize to them.

But even more, he said, the Indigenous need a commitment to discovering the full truth of what went on at the schools and bringing to justice any priests, religious and lay staff who abused students and are still alive.

Obed said that during their week in Rome, representatives were able to meet with officials of the Vatican Secretariat of State and the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, the religious order that ran many of the residential schools, seeking a commitment from them to give the Indigenous full access to records and archives regarding the schools.

The leaders stressed the importance of obtaining the records to help write the history of the schools, but especially to help identify the "missing children" – anywhere from 6,000 to 10,000 children who were taken to the schools and never went home to their families. Elders believe some of them are in the unmarked graves found at the site of the former schools.

Cassidy Caron, president of the Métis National Council, told reporters that Pope Francis' statement of sorrow for the church's involvement in the schools, his horror at the abuse some Catholics inflicted on students and his recognition of the "chilling" attempt to rob the Indigenous people of their cultures "showed that we were heard."

"The apology that we received today is absolutely historic and so meaningful to so many people," Caron said. "This opens the door for us to continue to move forward on our healing journeys."

At the Vatican meetings, she said, Pope Francis obviously was moved by the stories of the 30 or so official delegations. "Just imagine what he's going to feel when he comes to our homelands and meets

with our people and sees our communities and perhaps visits some of the residential schools that still stand."

Bishop William McGrattan of Calgary, Alberta, vice president of the Canadian bishops' conference, thanked the Indigenous communities for engaging in a process of dialogue with the Catholic Church in the years leading up to the papal meeting.

"As we've heard, receiving a pardon, offering an apology needs to be followed up with action," the bishop said, and the Canadian church is fully committed to helping the Indigenous get the records they seek and to continue walking with them.

As for details of the papal visit, Bishop McGrattan said the dates of the trip and the places the pope will visit will be determined through a Vatican discussion with the Indigenous communities, the Canadian government and the bishops' conference.

Speaking at the end of the leaders' news conference, Angie Crerar, an 85-year-old Métis, said, "My heart is so full that I can hardly speak."

She was one of the residential school survivors who shared her story with the pope March 28 and, she said, he remembered her when she saw him again April 1 at the group meeting.

"I told him, 'Don't forget our children,' and he said, 'I won't.'"

"When he comes home, to our home," Crerar said, "I know our family will welcome him like he welcomed us."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Government to lift health measure that blocks asylum-seekers

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The Biden administration has confirmed it will lift a public health measure in May that was put in place at the start of the coronavirus pandemic that has kept asylum-seekers out. Catholic groups that support immigrants have long been calling for an end to Title 42 of the Public Health Safety Act, which the Trump administration began using in March 2020 as infections of the coronavirus began to surge in the U.S. On April 1, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on its website that "after considering current public health conditions and an increased availability of tools to fight COVID-19 – such as highly effective vaccines and therapeutics – the CDC director has determined that an order suspending the right to introduce migrants into the United States is no longer necessary." Under the provision, Border Patrol agents were instructed to expel anyone caught trying to illegally enter the U.S. instead of processing them under existing immigration law for those seeking asylum.

Kharkiv bishop accuses Russia of terror tactics in Ukraine

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) – A bishop in Ukraine accused Russian forces of deliberately targeting aid centers and of destroying the port of Mariupol to scare other cities into surrendering. "The Russians look for aid and medical distribution points where people gather – this is why charitable work here is now so dangerous," said Bishop Pavlo Goncharuk of Kharkiv. "As for Mariupol, this is now completely in ruins – although we don't know how many civilians have died there, it certainly runs into thousands. I'm certain it was selected as an example, ostentatiously used as a firing range and shelled to rubble to show what will happen if other cities continue resisting." In a March 31 interview with Catholic News Service, he said his own city of Kharkiv, with almost 2 million mostly Russian-speaking inhabitants before the war, also remained under constant bombardment despite being largely reduced to "ruins and ashes." Four-fifths of local Catholics have fled the city's five parishes, Bishop Goncharuk said, and Masses were no longer being celebrated for fear Russian artillery would deliberately strike them.

Peacocks' togetherness, respect seen as factors in record season

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (CNS) – Was it a miracle? "Astounding," is how Jesuit Father Andrew Downing described it. He watched with delight as the men's basketball team at his small Jesuit university leaped into the national spotlight in a historic tournament run to the Elite Eight. It was the first time a college basketball team ranked so low went so far. Call it a Cinderella story. Or a David versus Goliath moment. Whatever it was, Father Downing and the entire nation couldn't get enough of their Saint Peter's University Peacocks. "It was miraculous in that no one, even most of us at the university, really thought we could go that far given our limitations and budget for our athletic programs," said Jesuit Father Rocco Danzi, parish administrator of St. Aedan's: The Saint Peter's University Church. "It's pennies compared to the other bigger schools." In 2020, Saint Peter's spent \$7.2 million on all its sports programs compared to the University of Kentucky's \$138.3 million. The No. 15-seeded Peacocks upset Kentucky – a No. 2 seed – 85-79 to ignite their tournament run March 17. Two days after beating Kentucky, the Peacocks took care of Murray State, which had entered the game on a 21-game winning streak. By the time Saint Peter's held off No. 3-seeded Purdue and strutted into the quarterfinals, the excitement reached a feverish pitch. Saint Peter's run ended March 27 with a loss to North Carolina.

ADIRONDACK

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.

Facebook event page:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/55995661778301?ref=newsfeed>

UKRAINE NIGHT

Lake Placid – St. Agnes parish welcomes you to a free-offering dinner in support of Ukrainian Refugees.

Date: April 7

Time: 5 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Agnes School

Features: Soup, salad & bread will be served.

Contact: If you are interested in helping, contact the rectory at 518-523-2200 or stagneschurch@stagnespl.org

CLINTON

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Plattsburgh – 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 Country.

Contact: Nancy Belzile at 518-593-6024 or email: nancys_56@hotmail.com for more information.

ADORATION

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

Date: Through April 8

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

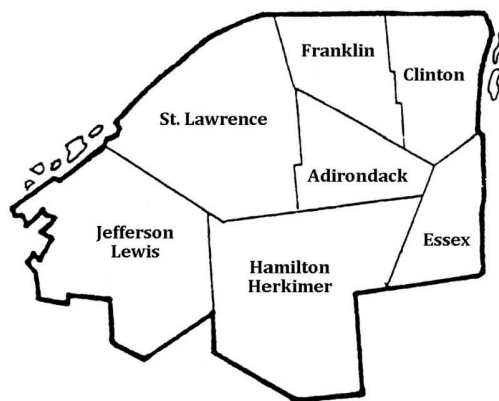
STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Plattsburgh – Stations of the Cross to be held for the victims of abortion.

Date: April 15

Time: 10 a.m.

Place: In front of Planned Parent-



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.

hood

Features: Please dress accordingly.

Volunteers needed to hold stations, somber and prayerful meditation.

Contact: Nancy at 518-593-6024

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 with private meditation on the 15 Mysteries of the Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament reposed in the Tabernacle, and Prayers for the Holy Father and his intentions.

LENTE DEANERY MISSION

Father John Yonkovic will be doing a Lenten Mission at parishes in our deanery with the theme "Dying to Live."

Schedule: April 4, at St. Mary's Church Brushton ("The Best Seat in the House"); April 5, at Notre Dame Church, Malone ("Business as Usual"); April 6, at St. Francis of Assisi, Constable ("Keep Your Hands and Feet Inside the Boat")

Time: 7 p.m.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Malone – Divine Mercy Sunday

events to be held at St. André's Parish.

Date: April 24

Place: Notre Dame Church

Schedule: Following the Mass from noon until 3 p.m. the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for individual adoration. Confessions will be heard beginning at 1 p.m. and continue up until 2:50 p.m. At 3 p.m. Devotions for Divine Mercy Sunday will begin. The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy will be prayed and there will be Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome to join in any or all of the above times of prayer and praise as your schedule permits.

Contact: For additional information please call the St. André's Parish Office, 518-483-1300.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – The Knights of Columbus to have a Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner.

Date: April 9

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$9 Seniors, \$8; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free; Sauce, \$5 per quart

Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

Watertown – Divine Mercy Novena to begin for 9 days.

Date: April 15 (Good Friday)

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Patrick's Church, PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION THIS YEAR

Features: The Divine Mercy Novena will begin with a brief background of the Divine Mercy, and by praying the Chaplet in the Church to begin the first day of the 9-day Novena. Therefore, the Novena must be prayed every day for the following 8 days until Divine Mercy Sunday.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Watertown – St. Patrick's Church will hold a Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration.

Date: April 24

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Patrick's Church

Features: For all Catholics, active and fallen-away. The Divine Mercy Devotion consists of making a Novena by praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy beginning on Good Friday, making a good confession & celebrating the Feast of Mercy in church.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Houseville – All are welcome to the Divine Mercy Sunday celebration to be held.

Date: April 24

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Schedule: Reconciliation will be available from 2 p.m. to 3 in the church and a Divine Mercy movie will also be shown in the church hall at the same time. At 3 p.m. the program will feature: Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the blessing of the image, holy cards and petitions, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. Msgr. Dennis J. Duprey will be the celebrant.

Contact: For more information contact 315-348-6260.

ST. LAWRENCE

HOLY HOUR

Canton – Holy Hour for Vocations to be held.

Date: Every Tuesday

Time: 4:10 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

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

LENTE 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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Canton – All are welcome to join in praying the Stations of the Cross.

Date: Fridays from March 4 – April 15

Time: 5:15 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

FOOD DRIVE

Canton – Join the Sarto Council #1059 Knights of Columbus in Canton in a Lenten Food Drive. All are challenged to donate one can of food (or other non-perishable item) for each day of Lent. Donations can be deposited at the doors St. Mary's Church.

ALPHA

Massena – You're invited to ALPHA.

Date: Starting Tuesdays April 5

Time: 6 p.m. to 8:30

Place: St. Mary's Parish Hall

Features: Join for a meal and fellowship. No cost to attend

Contact: Sylvie Marion at 315-769-2469

DAY OF MERCY

Canton – St. Mary's Church will be offering a Day of Mercy.

Date: April 6

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

Features: The Sacrament of Confession to be heard all day with a pause at 8:15 a.m. for morning Mass.

RECONCILIATION

Massena – All day reconciliation to be held.

Date: April 8

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

Place: Sacred Heart Church

11TH AND 12TH GRADE RELIGION CLASSES

Ogdensburg – St. Mary's Cathedral Parish is kicking off its 11th & 12th grade religion class. Youth in the applicable grades from outside the Cathedral Parish are welcome to attend.

Date: Monthly, April 10, May 15

Time: 5 p.m. to 7:30

Place: Brzana Hall below St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: We have no curriculum; YOU will help decide what we discuss! Lots of discussion, less lecture. Games with prizes. Dinner included. Classes are self-contained units. No makeup assignments! Guests welcome! Bring a friend!

AT THE MOVIES

MORBIUS

NEW YORK (CNS) – Fans of the "Twilight" franchise know that, according to its particular lore, vampires are lustrous and shiny. "Morbius" (Columbia), a Marvel Comics-based adventure with a bloodsucker at the heart of its story is, by contrast, downright drab.

Jared Leto plays the gifted physician from whose last name director Daniel Espinosa's adaptation takes its title.

In attempting to cure the blood disease from which he has suffered since childhood, Morbius mixes

human DNA with that of vampire bats. The resulting concoction gives him temporary relief but comes with a rather alarming side effect: to wit, he frequently transforms into a rampaging vein-drainer.

This double-edged breakthrough has significant implications for Morbius' lifelong best friend Lucien (Matt Smith), aka Milo, who is afflicted with the same illness. It also affects Morbius' relationship with his closest collaborator and potential love interest, Martine Bancroft

(Adria Arjona).

Matt Sazama and Burk Sharpless' script features debates about whether the superpowers Morbius gains along with his thirst for plasma are a gift or a curse. But these are secondary to the depiction of his ability to zoom around and wreak destruction, especially after a similar creature to himself appears on the scene to serve as an equally mighty opponent.

Having invented artificial blood, Morbius resolves to get along by

drinking it instead of the real thing. But the ersatz liquid is of diminishing potency. While the doctor's determination not to cross this "red line" (the fake stuff is blue) can be applauded, his preparation to commit suicide rather than do so is far less straightforward.

The picture's portrayal of mayhem is predominantly restrained, and the dialogue only goes off-color occasionally. So some parents may feel comfortable allowing older teens to patronize the

movie. If so, however, like other viewers, they'll be in for a grinding experience.

The film contains mostly stylized violence with some gore, a scene of torture, brief irreverence, at least one rough term, about a half-dozen crude expressions and fleeting crass language. 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 11

Contact: If you have questions or concerns that can't wait, contact Deacon Jim Crowley via email jcrowley@rcdony.org or Jessica Hargrave via email jhargrave@rcdony.org.

PRAYER AND ADORATION

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

Date: Every third Wednesday of the month (April 20)

Time: 6:30 to 7 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

THE CHOSEN: SEASON 2

Ogdensburg – Come join the fellowship and fun while watching and discussing "The Chosen – Season 2."

Date: 8 weeks on Wednesdays starting April 27

Time: 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Place: Bishop Bizana Hall at St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: Deacon Bill O'Brien will be streaming the second season of "The Chosen." "The Chosen" is an independent film series on the Life of Christ sweeping the world and told through the eyes of his disciples. It is a unique and a refreshing way of telling the story of Jesus and is unlike anything we have ever seen before. There will be discussion after each episode with light refreshments provided.

Contact: There will be signup sheets at the entrances of both Notre Dame Church and St. Mary's Cathedral entrances. Or you can call or email Deacon Bill at 315-528-0461 or bill@rcdony.org.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

lob315@gmail.com.

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 healing and hope by working through the emotional upheaval of separation and divorce.

Contact: Register online at www.rcdony.org/survivingdivorce.

For more information contact Steve

Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org.

CHRISM MASS

Ogdensburg – All the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are invited to join the Most Reverend 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 www.rcdony.org/livemass.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO THE MYSTERY OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Ogdensburg – A day of reflection based on the fourth video of Presence, "Biblical Foundations."

Date: April 9

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: Wadhams Hall

Cost: \$25

Speaker: Sister Mary Gregory Munger, SSJ

Features: A Continuation of The Mystery of the Holy Eucharist. Lunch will be provided.

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

www.rcdony.org/diggingdeeper

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 basis of the teaching.

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, Mr. 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:

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

LIFE GIVING WOUNDS RETREAT

Saranac Lake – Retreat to be held for anyone 18 or over whose parents are no longer together either through sep-

aration, divorce, or were never married.

Date: June 10 – 12

Place: Guggenheim Center

Cost: \$100 includes lodging, food and retreat materials.

Features: Topics will include anxiety, anger, sin, temptation and forgiveness. All presentations are given by trained, expert speakers who are children of divorce.

Contact: To register, go to www.rcdony.org/lifegw. For more information about the retreat www.lifegivingwounds.org. If you are in need of financial assistance to attend the retreat, please contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org

RETREAT FOR FEMALE ABUSE

NEIGHBORING DIOCESES

SURVIVORS

Paradox – A healing retreat for female survivors of any type of abuse to be held.

Date: May 20-22

Place: Pyramid Life Center

Features: "The Way for Women" is a 3-day retreat for adult female survivors of abuse.

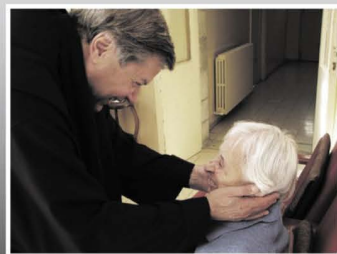
Contact: Registration deadline is May 1. Please contact Brian Evers at pyramidlifereservations@gmail.com or 518-585-7545 for more information. www.pyramidlife.org.



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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Entering into Passion Sunday

If ever there was ever a time for Christians everywhere to make reparation for the presence of evil in our world, it is this Holy Week. The sufferings of many thousands of Christians at this time to threats to religious freedom as well as destruction of family life as God intended it reminds us of the taunts and jeers of those who brought about Christ's death for the salvation of the world.

Holy Week begins this Passion (Palm) Sunday with the waving of palm branches and cries of "Hosanna to the King." We can imagine a stranger in Jerusalem asking, "What's happening?" A shopkeeper would reply excitedly, "They're going to make



**Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore**

this Jesus a King!" King for a day! What a shallow mockery that is repeated with blows and spittle by the soldiers just a few days later! A thorn-crowned King! How fickle their allegiance really is. Now, his heart is really broken as He sees how He has failed to win their loyalty and love. This year, the Gospel of Luke is used for the Passion narrative. The horrors of the Passion are proclaimed, and we must with reluctance raise our voices with the crowd clamoring "Crucify Him!"

How could have events have accelerated at such a dizzying pace between Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday? The forces of darkness were never more

April 10

Passiom (Palm) Sunday

READINGS

Luke 19:28-40 (Procession)

Isaiah 50:4-7

Philippians 2:6-11

Luke 22:14-23

vicious in their attempt to terminate the Mission of Jesus on this earth. That the religious leaders of that time were made instruments of evil is a tragic lesson to all religions, even to the present day. That these leaders scandalized their own people, making them agents of falsehood, is another warning to those of unwary and careless piety. How easily the righteous can be lulled into blind activity that can do harm! We wonder if any of the many that Jesus healed in his journeys were among those crying

out against Him. The Passion narrative is the most powerful story ever written about the sacrifice of the innocent to evil, and the blind consent of crowds to those in power.

Holy Week offers us the opportunity to personally suffer and die with Jesus for the sinfulness of our world – the sin of the past which seems so remote, and the sin of our present which is all too real, and, in our fear, threatens to overwhelm us. We often cannot understand our own behavior. We fail to carry out the things we want to do, and we find ourselves doing the things we hate.

It is often a cause for sadness among priests and religious that so few people take part in the Holy Thursday re-enactment of the Last Supper. The washing of the feet

forces us to feel the humiliation of Peter when Jesus waited on him. When will we allow Jesus to do what he wants with us? The special attention given on this day to Jesus' truly leaving His body and blood with us until the end of time stirs us to come more frequently to adore Him really present on our altars every day. Holy Week is a time for us to examine the flaws in the practice of our faith. The only remedy for our weakness is love for the Crucified One.

Along the street called the Via Dolorosa, Jesus, carrying His cross, must have walked over the withered palms! Are we ready to pick up one and take it with us all the way to Calvary?

This indeed a week like no other, leading to the triumph of love – the Resurrection.

CALLED TO SERVE

We never pass up a bargain

Sunday is Palm Sunday. No doubt there will be very large congregations because pandemic restrictions are almost all gone, because it is the beginning of the holiest week of the church year, because we smell spring and because we will give palm away for free.

Nothing assures a crowd like a giveaway. Ash Wednesday proves the assertion.

Folks who haven't set foot in church in a year came out of their cocoons for ashes.

The God-fearing Catholic that I am prays people finally came to their senses and wanted to come to Church, wanted to begin a mean-

ingful Lent, wanted to be in community again to worship.

The cynic in me says it was the free ashes.

Regardless of why, we all made it to Mass on Ash Wednesday. It was a good feeling, yes?

Perhaps you never realized how much you missed Mass when you followed the guidelines. Having followed the guidelines for a while, you developed habits that kept you away from Church. By habits I am not suggesting bad things. They just became competition for the far more beneficial habit of attending Mass each weekend.

Did I mention it's a sin to not go to Mass? If I for-

got, it is. Put confession on your to-do list.

"Our Sunday Mass obligation is based on the Third Commandment: 'Remember the sabbath day — keep it holy' (Ex 20:8). All of the commandments of God are serious matter, so to deliberately miss Mass on Sunday — without a just reason — would objectively be considered a mortal sin."

There are "just reasons." Health, infirmity, work to name a few. Ask your priest in confession "did I sin or were my reasons valid?"

There is not much wiggle room here, so don't plan to negotiate.

A dispensation, like the one Bishop LaValley issued at the height of the pandemic, is a just reason. But the dispensation has been lifted. It was lifted a while ago. That excuse is off the table.

Palm Sunday will be a perfect time for you to put down the remote, or the paper or whatever routine you have substituted for Mass. Put on a nice outfit and head for church.

At church you will find friends you forgot you



**Deacon
Kevin Mastellon**

have, folks who have missed you. Together we will worship the Father, beg his forgiveness for our transgressions, listen to God's Word in scripture, draw inspiration from the preacher, be fed by Jesus Christ's Body and then, purified, educated, inspired, and nourished, we will all be ready to show the world how happy we are to be Catholic.

And that happiness is free, too. See you Sunday.

Happy Palm Sunday! Happy Holy Week!

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

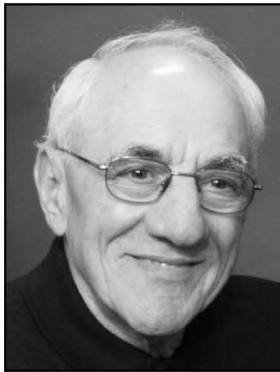
Funeral Mass celebrated for Thomas Fiacco

NORWOOD—Thomas Fiacco, 94, of Norwood, passed away peacefully with his family at his side on Sunday, March 27, 2022.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10 a.m. on April 4 at St. Andrew's Church in Norwood. Burial will be in the Calvary Cemetery in the Spring.

Thomas Fiacco was born in Norwood on June 27, 1927, to Arduino and Loretta Fiacco, parents who emigrated to the United States from Italy in 1903 and 1915, respectively. He attended Norwood School and was a member of the graduating class of 1945.

Upon graduation in 1945, Thomas entered the Merchant Marines, serving on ships during World War II. When he returned home, he married S. Ann Fefee on August 18, 1947, at St. Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls. Together



Thomas Fiacco

they purchased a family farm which they worked until 1968. During these years, he also worked on the NY Central Railroad, which was a form of transportation he continued to support as he built a partnership with his brother Angelo, and later formed a construction business with Angelo Fiacco, John Riley, and son-in-law Gene Frego, known as Fiacco &

Riley Construction.

Thomas is survived by his eight daughters, Suzanne Fiacco of Norwood, Stephanie Williams and her husband Aaron of Clarence, Melanie Nichols and her husband Larry of Cazenovia, Michelle Crapser and her husband Andrew of Millington, New Jersey, Cathy Garlock and her husband Craig of Alexandria Bay, Cindy Lozo and her husband Robert of Canandaigua, Connie Capone and her husband Steven of Norwood, and Carol Frego and her husband Gene of Norwood; two sons, Thomas Fiacco and his wife Natalie of Norwood, and Malcolm Fiacco and his wife Stephanie of Norwood; 21 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Thomas was predeceased by his wife, S. Ann

Fefee Fiacco, in 2002; a son, Michael Thomas Fiacco, in 1973; a granddaughter, Meredith Ann Fiacco, in 2006; and by his six siblings, Mrs. Anna Doran, Mrs. Theresa Synowski, Mr. Sebastian (Pop-eye) Fiacco, Mr. Ignazio (Hunya) Fiacco, Mr. Peter Fiacco, and Mr. Angelo (Jalop) Fiacco.

Thomas Fiacco has been a communicant of St. Andrew's Church since he was born. He has also been a member of the Knights of Columbus, Parish Council, St. Mary's School Board, and the American Legion Post 68. He was a strong supporter of Catholic education.

Thomas was dedicated to his faith, family, and community throughout his life and was often praised not only for his work ethic but also for his athletic ability.

He enjoyed playing

baseball, bowling, and basketball, making the sports channel an all-time favorite in the house.

The family would like to thank the Potsdam Rescue Squad and his generous caregivers who supported not only Thomas but the family as well. A special thanks to the nurses and doctors of Canton-Potsdam Hospital who supported him though care and compassion.

Memorial contributions may be made in his memory to the Potsdam Rescue Squad, Trinity Catholic School in Massena, the Norwood Volunteer Fire Department, or a charity of one's choice.

Memories and condolences may be shared online at www.buckfuneralhome.com. The Buck Funeral Home in Norwood is serving the family of Thomas Fiacco.

PROOF OF ATTENDANCE



Members of the confirmation class at St. Mary's in Ticonderoga are required to attend Mass. When they attend Mass out of town, they are asked to obtain a bulletin and get it signed by the priest who celebrated Mass where they attended. Class member Grace Wells, also a student at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga, recently attended Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral while visiting New York City, where Cardinal Dolan signed her bulletin.

OBITUARIES

Brushton — Jay T. Clooney, 84; Mass of Christian Burial April 1, 2022 at St. Mary's Church.

Canton — Donella Peters, 90; Mass of Christian Burial in July at St. Mary's Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

Canton — Barbara Ann Cotter Weiss, 78; Mass of Christian Burial March 30, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

Clayton — Douglas Joseph Holbrook, 68; Mass of Christian Burial in spring at St. Mary's Church.

Clayton — Virginia R. (Bouchard) Lake, 98; Mass of Christian Burial in July at St. Mary's Church.

Croghan — Shirley Ann (Terrillion) Houppert, 92; Mass of Christian Burial March 31, 2022 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Parish Cemetery.

Ellenburg — Esther M. (LaBarre)

LaBombard, 102; Mass of Christian Burial March 26, 2022 at St. Edmund's Church.

Malone — Sandra Jean Mainville, 81; Mass of Christian Burial March 31, 2022 at Notre Dame Church.

Massena — Gerald F. Hampton, 85; Funeral Services March 31, 2022 at Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in Massena Center Cemetery.

North Bangor — Wayne J. LaRocque, 97; Mass of Christian Burial April 6, 2022 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in Cole Hill Cemetery, Westville.

Ogdensburg — Loren Beard, 89; Mass of Christian Burial March 29, 2022 at Notre Dame Church.

Ogdensburg — Thomas P. Mitchell, 64; Mass of Christian Burial March 30, 2022 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Plattsburgh — Leaneul A. Parrotte,

89; Mass of Christian Burial April 4, 2022 at St. Peter's Church.

Plattsburgh — Sean Rabideau, 42; Mass of Christian Burial March 31, 2022 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Marvin P. Stacy, 89; Mass of Christian Burial April 2, 2022 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Rouses Point — Jeannie Florence (Dion) Lefebvre, 89; Mass of Christian Burial March 30, 2022 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Watertown — Rose Marra DeFranco, 91; Mass of Christian Burial April 6, 2022 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Margaret A. (Finley) Rowland, 97; Mass of Christian Burial March 29, 2022 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

IHC gala returns

WATERTOWN—On April 30, the Immaculate Heart Central Legacy Gala will return after its pandemic hiatus.

This year's Gala will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. at Faichney Drive Conference Center (formerly Bruce Wright Center).

The event includes a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres station, cash bar, raffles and music by the Hot Kogan Band.

Cost is \$60 per person.

For more information, call 315-788-7011.

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Jesus is nailed on 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.

Please join us in praying.

ELEVENTH STATION

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

Reader: We can't imagine Your pain, Jesus, as You are nailed to the Cross. This young man, studying to follow Your call to the priesthood, lives in Timor Leste, an island country off the coast of Australia. Help us to be like him, Jesus, listening to you as we pray and answer your call to follow.

**ALL KNEEL AND
PAUSE FOR A MOMENT
ALL RISE**

Twelfth Station

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

Reader: Lord Jesus, you sacrificed your life so that we may all one day join You in heaven. Help us to be your missionaries, spreading Your message of peace, hope, and love to all we meet, so that they too, may see You in heaven!



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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