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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 77 Number 11

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JUNE 22, 2022

## Celebrating with song

OGDENSBURG – A familiar face will return to the cathedral organ to share his musical talents with the Diocese of Ogdensburg as it celebrates its 150th anniversary, the 50th anniversary of St. Mary's Cathedral and the contributions of the Body of Christ, the people of the Church here in the North Country.

Donald K. Fellows served as chair of the Fine Arts Teaching Area and director of Liturgical Music at Wadhams Hall Seminary-College, and as music director of St. Mary's Cathedral from 1993 to 1999. He will give an organ recital at 2 p.m. on July 10 at St. Mary's Cathedral, prior to the start of the Celebration of the Body of Christ.

The performance is one of several planned at St. Mary's Cathedral as part of its 50th anniversary celebration.

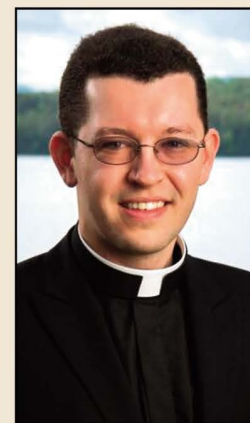
FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## FIRST COMMUNION



First Communion was celebrated at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Watertown on May 15. Pictured are (back row, from left) Mrs. Alice Busler, Sunday Religious Education instructor, Father Frank T. Natale, MSC, pastor, Sister Constance Sylver, SSJ, Religious Education coordinator, Mrs. Brietta Lowman, Immaculate Heart Central second-grade teacher, and (front row) First Communicants Madeline Smith, Malaina Dawkins, and Sophia Thorpe.

## PREPARING FOR ORDINATION



Through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, Bishop Terry R. LaValley will ordain seminarian Lukas Gruber to the diaconate at 11 a.m. on June 25 at St. Mary's Church in Potsdam. "This is something I've been working toward for five years now," Gruber said. "I have a tinge of nervousness, as well, but it's definitely not the primary feeling."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## Pope: New ways to express, share faith needed

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The Catholic Church needs theologians who know how to transmit the truths of faith in a way that will speak to people today, help them live the faith in their daily lives and inspire them to share the Gospel with others, Pope Francis wrote.

"The community needs the work of those who attempt to interpret the faith, to translate and retranslate

it, to make it understandable, to expound it in new words; it is a work that must be always done again, in every generation," the pope told staff from Milan's archdiocesan seminary in a text given to them June 17.

The seminary staff were in Rome as part of their celebration of the 150th anniversary of the seminary's theology journal, which Pope Francis described as

being "a bit like a store window, where a craftsman displays his work, and you can admire his creativity."

"What has matured in the workshops of academic classrooms, in the patient exercise of research and reflection, of debate and dialogue, deserves to be shared and made accessible to others," the pope said in his written text.

The Vatican press office

said the pope handed his prepared text to the staffs of the seminary and the journal, but it provided no information about what he discussed with them.

In the text, the pope had written that the church needs theologians who know how "to communicate the truths of faith today, taking into account linguistic, social, cultural changes and competently using the

media, without ever watering down, weakening or 'virtualizing' the content."

"The church encourages and supports the effort to redefine the content of faith in every age, in the dynamism of tradition," he said. "That is why theological language must always be alive, dynamic, cannot help but evolve and must work to make itself understood."

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## An interesting mix

None of it goes together. My husband, son and I live in a relatively small house. The original structure was built in the late 1800s, and a major addition was constructed in the 1940s. When I describe our house, I often note that "nothing is level, and nothing is square." It's a mix of old and new. We purchased it as a fixer-upper more than a decade ago, and we've continued to make improvements and changes.

While those factors listed above contribute to its charm, they're not the parts of our home that I love most and make it representative of our family. To see what makes it

"our home," to see its character, you'd have to walk inside and look around at the walls, shelves, furniture, textiles, décor...

Darcy L.  
Fargo

I don't think there's a word for our style other than maybe "eclectic." In the kitchen, there's a set of vintage chairs with lime green fabric, triangular backs and iron legs around a table with similar legs. That room has vintage trays in various colors on one wall and a (porcelain, ceramic or something breakable) crab and fish on another wall. Several areas of the house feature vintage light-up signs (different "EXIT" signs and an "X-ray in progress" sign). We have a

tiki wall-hanging my husband carved to hold my ukulele; masks, art, statues and other items from around; and a family photo wall backed with colorful fabric. Our downstairs bathroom – our only bathroom – is decorated in a Star Wars theme with a themed shower curtain, bathmat, and trashcan. There's even an R2-D2 shower head.

If we see things we love and can envision them in a spot, we bring them home! Various parts of our home reveal what we find interesting, beautiful or enjoyable.

None of it goes together, but somehow it does. Together, the colors blend and the styles transition and merge. If you take the time to look for uniqueness and differences, you'll see them, but it all

somehow works together.

I thought about that as I reflected upon my experience of Church over the last couple of weeks. Between my work, my parish and the organizations and groups God has put in my life to draw me closer to Him, God regularly brings people into my life with diverse ages, backgrounds, opinions and experiences. None of us "go together."

Yet we go together perfectly, and our differences complement each other and make us more complete. Like my family's house reflects the things we love, the differences God has given His people represent things He loves. We all have gifts to contribute, and we're better together.

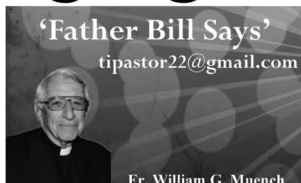
We belong together.

## Seeking a graduation speaker

It is graduation time again. Each year, I must admit that I do the same thing. I try to imagine what kind of a graduation talk I would give to a high school group or a college graduation ceremony. Yet, I know I am getting a bit old to be chosen for such a challenge. However, I do use this time of year to listen to the graduation talks that are being given, recorded and shared on the internet.

My friend, Msgr. Dennis Duprey, suggested a good one, so I listened to this graduation talk that is shown on YouTube. This talk was given by Dr. Peter Keerft at the graduation ceremony at the Franciscan University. He speaks of finding the real truth in many of the ideas often used in graduation talks.

So, I looked up my column from last year at graduation time. Last year, I began by remembering that I had forgotten most of the talks at my graduations. However, today I remember that truly impressed me. It actually was not a graduation occasion. It



was the homily that was given by Msgr. Joseph Bailey on the occasion of the first Mass I celebrated as a priest. In so many ways, this homily started my priesthood with a challenge that set me on the path of as a dedicated priest. I can honestly tell you that this homily continues to have a profound influence on my life as a minister and priest of the Lord.

Each year, I try to decide who would be a good graduation speaker for today's college graduates. I often chose from the Gospels. This year, as a good graduation speaker I have decided on the Good Samaritan – that actual person from the parable of Jesus. As you remember, the Good Samaritan helped the Jewish man who was set upon by robbers and left bloody and beaten.

I am certain you remember the Lord's Parable. A man, a Jewish man, was beaten and left by the side of the road. A priest passed on by. A Levite passed by. However, a Samaritan stopped to help him. This was the rather surprising part of the story to those who listened. In those days, the Jews and the Samaritans had nothing to do with each other. They literally had nothing to do with each other. And the prejudice between these two groups was great.

In this parable, the Samaritan stopped and patched up the man's wounds even though he was a Jew. This Samaritan took the wounded man to an inn where he would receive care, and he took care of the expense himself. Jesus carefully crafted this story to teach the people that such deep-seated hate and prejudice was unacceptable. That is why I think this Good Samaritan would be such an interesting graduation speaker.

He would help us understand why he did what he did. I suspect he would simply

begin by saying, "Of course, I was going to help him. Why not? It was the right thing to do." I believe he would tell those graduates in a very powerful way that you will make your life and your world a better place by acting as he did. "I knew this was exactly the right thing to do." I can see that he had a message, a spirit for our young graduates to live by.

Have you ever been helped by a Good Samaritan? I can tell you that I have – many times and by people I was truly surprised would take the time to help me. God has sent many Good Samaritans into my life and into my parishes. I continue to offer my gratitude to God for giving me the opportunity to be a Good Samaritan. May there be many Good Samaritans graduating this year.

I pray for these young people as they graduate. I pray that they use well their opportunities to make our world what it should be and find an example in the Good Samaritan.

# Preparing for ordination to the diaconate

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

Potsdam – “There are a lot of emotions, and certainly excitedness is one of them,” said Lukas Gruber, a seminarian for the Diocese of Ogdensburg who is preparing to be ordained as a deacon on his path to the priesthood. “This is something I’ve been working toward for five years now. I have a tinge of nervousness, as well, but it’s definitely not the primary feeling.”

Through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, Bishop Terry R. LaValley will ordain Gruber as part of a Mass to be celebrated at 11 a.m. on June 25 at St. Mary’s Church in Potsdam. The Ordination Mass will also be livestreamed at [rcdony.org/ordination](http://rcdony.org/ordination).

Gruber has been studying at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. He is currently on summer assignment at St. Mary’s in Ticonderoga and Our Lady of Lourdes in Schroon Lake.

“There are a lot of things I’m looking forward to,” he said. “I’m looking forward to being able to perform some of the sacraments. My first baptism is scheduled here in Ticonderoga on July 24. That’s very exciting! I’m looking forward to preaching homilies. It’s something new, but it’s probably what my nervousness is most attached to. I’ve only ever done practice homilies.

“I’m looking forward to assisting at Mass in a new way, and I’m looking forward to sharing that ministry with so many people of the North Country that I’ve gotten to know over



Seminarian Lukas Gruber is scheduled to be ordained a deacon on June 25 at St. Mary’s Church in Potsdam.

the years.”

In addition to his summer assignment and the ministry he’ll be involved with there, Gruber said he hopes to visit other North Country communities where he’s served in the past to share his ministry, including Potsdam, Colton, Canton, Gouverneur and Watertown.

Gruber also looks forward to continuing to grow in his ministry when he returns to the Josephinum later this summer.

“At the Josephinum, when you’re in third year Theology, you’re assigned to a parish in the Diocese of Columbus,” he said. “You get to learn that parish. When you’re ordained a deacon, you serve in that same parish. I’ll be continuing to serve at St. Paul’s in Westerville, Ohio. By some statistics, it’s the largest parish in the State of Ohio. I joke with the pastor, Father (Jonathan) Wilson, that it’s sort of like having all the activities of the whole Diocese of Ogdensburg in one parish. I had a great experience there my first year, and I look forward to the ministry opportu-

nities there. Father Wilson and I talked about how I’ll serve. It’s a large parish, and they have baptisms every Sunday. I’ll be helping with those, Stations of the Cross in Lent, and assisting at Sunday Masses and things around the parish.”

A native of the New York City metro area, Gruber was introduced to the North Country when he became a student at the Crane School of Music, part of SUNY Potsdam.

“I originally grew up in Queens, New York, until I was around 5,” he said. “My father’s side of my family is Catholic, and my mother’s side of the family is Lutheran. I was baptized Lutheran. We attended both Lutheran services and Catholic Masses.”

When he was 5 or 6, his family moved to Smithtown on Long Island, Suffolk County. While he said he participated in music ministry at his parish there, St. Patrick’s, but was otherwise not very involved in the parish. His love of music and the influence of music teach-

ers in his formative years led him to pursue a degree in music at Crane.

“I didn’t really have a tangible concept of what a vocation was at that point, let alone that I had one,” Gruber said. “I started experiencing a call in prayer. I was able to meet so many great priests here in the North Country through Campus Ministry and the Newman Club. That was a very formative part of my process. The Newman Club had great retreats. They had adoration every week. I had never even heard of adoration before. We had a Bible study every week.”

Gruber said he started to consider his calling even more when a classmate left college to study as a seminarian for the Diocese of Buffalo.

“Around that time, a vocational discernment group started in Potsdam,” he said. “It was run by Father (Bryan) Stitt and Father (Howard) Venette. Not only did I start to discern a call to the priesthood, I started to discern a call to the priesthood here in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. I didn’t have much connection to my parish at home other than regular Mass attendance. I had a lot of connections up here. I felt called to stay.”

Gruber continued to increase his involvement in the community in Potsdam, joining Knights of Columbus and learning the organ to assist in music ministry. He also continued to have conversations with Father Stitt, who was serving as diocesan Vocations director at the time.

“We agreed it made sense to continue on with my final year at Crane

and finish my degree there,” Gruber said. “By waiting, I earned a degree and could start the pre-theology program, which is a six-year program. If I had left Crane to go to seminary, I essentially would’ve been starting from scratch and starting an eight-year program.”

While completing his degree at Crane, Gruber served as interim campus minister for a time and as pastoral associate in Potsdam.

“That was a great formative experience,” he said. “I was living in a parish, experiencing parish life, navigating all that stuff and having the experience of being a campus minister and pastoral associate. Eventually, I also became music director in Colton. I spent summers at Guggenheim, and that was a great formative experience.”

As he approaches ordination to the diaconate and, God willing, eventually to the priesthood, Gruber said he is grateful to God, Bishop LaValley and the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

“The people I’ve met throughout the North Country have been one of the tools God has used to help me discern my vocation specifically to this diocese,” he said. “I have a great sense of gratitude to the people of the North Country for all their support, primarily prayerful support but also financial support and friendship. My gratitude extends to Bishop LaValley for accepting me as a seminarian for this diocese and to all the priests and laity I’ve come to know through these years and who I look forward to serving and serving with.”

# Celebration to include cathedral organ recital

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

OGDENSBURG – A familiar face will return to the cathedral organ to share his musical talents with the Diocese of Ogdensburg as it celebrates its 150th anniversary, the 50th anniversary of St. Mary's Cathedral and the contributions of the Body of Christ, the people of the Church here in the North Country.

Donald K. Fellows served as chair of the Fine Arts Teaching Area and director of Liturgical Music at Wadhams Hall Seminary-College, and as music director of St. Mary's Cathedral from 1993 to 1999. He will give an organ recital at 2 p.m. on July 10 at St. Mary's Cathedral, prior to the start of the Celebration of the Body of Christ.

The performance is one of several organ recitals planned at St. Mary's Cathedral this year as part of its 50th anniversary celebration.

"The recital will run about 45 minutes," Fellows said. "It will feature big, large-scale pieces of



music, not stuff people would hear in a typical Sunday Mass. These are concert-style pieces that reflect a great variety of styles and eras."

The recital will include performances of "Marche Pontificale (From Sonata I)" by Jacques Lemmens (1823-1881); "Prelude with Four Variations on 'Adoro tu Devote'" by Gerald Near (b. 1942); "Sonata I in F Minor, Op.

65 for Organ" by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartoldy (1809-1847); Choral Prelude on "There is a Happy Land" by George Shearing (1919-2011); and "Finale from Symphony I," by Louis Vierne (1870-1937). "I'll likely talk a bit about some of the pieces in addition to providing notes for the program," Fellows said. "By pointing out certain aspects of the pieces, maybe people can enjoy them in a different way."

The selections are intended to show a variety of the organ's capabilities, as well as a variety of available styles and eras of music from around the world.

"I chose a variety of eras, European pieces as well as pieces from the Americas," Fellows said. "It's pieces I've amassed as part of my repertoire over the years. A couple of these pieces, I may have known when I was in Ogdensburg previously. They're not all in the same style, but they're pieces that fit well together. The organ is a

## JOIN THE CELEBRATION

The Celebration of the Body of Christ, to be held on July 10 following the organ recital featuring Donald K. Fellows, is an opportunity to recognize the many graces the Lord has bestowed on His people. The Diocese of Ogdensburg and Bishop Terry R. LaValley will acknowledge and honor those who have given distinguished service to their communities, parishes, diocese and the Church.

A Holy Hour and presentation of honors will begin at 3 p.m.  
A reception will follow on the cathedral lawn.

mysterious instrument. I don't think many people understand the ins and outs of how organs work. There's a great variety of sounds and colors. These pieces fit together, but also display different sounds available to the cathedral organ."

Because each organ has its own unique sound, and because the cathedral organ underwent an extensive restoration and upgrade in 2020, Fellows said he hopes to spend some time acclimating to the instrument.

"A concert pianist generally knows exactly how a piano will work and sound," he said. "That's not the case with organs. Each instrument is unique to its building. I presume it'll now be different than what it was when I was there previously. I hope to have a couple of days ahead of time to get to know how it plays and the sounds it makes."

In addition to hoping for time to get to know the restored organ, Fellows said he hopes to have time to visit friends and familiar locations around the North Country.

"When I lived up there, I had a house that overlooked the St. Lawrence River," he said. "It's always a pleasure to go back there. The beauty of the North Country was absolutely alluring. I'm looking forward to seeing

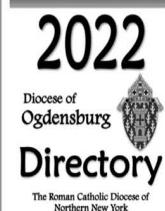
the beauty of the river, maybe the Thousand Islands, and hopefully I'll get over to the Adirondacks and get a little height. I also still have friends up there that I'd like to see."

A native of Glen Cove, New York, Fellows recently retired from a position as organist and director of music for Saint Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh. While in Pittsburgh, he also served on the faculty of the Department of Music of the University of Pittsburgh as an adjunct organ instructor.

In addition to his time at Wadhams Hall and St. Mary's Cathedral, Fellows served as organist and choirmaster of Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago; as director of Music of St. Joseph Cathedral in Buffalo; and as music director of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Dunkirk, New York.

Fellows received both a bachelor's and master's degree in music from State University of New York at Fredonia, and he completed additional studies in the Cambridge Choral Institute in Cambridge, England. He has performed recitals throughout the United States, as well as in Rome, Dublin and Madrid. He has compositions published by G.I.A. Publications, MorningStar Publications and Augsburg Press.

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# Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ  
Diocesan Vocations Coordinator

The Church will celebrate the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on Friday, June 24. The Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus reminds us that He is the source of love for all the people of God. We are all called to bring the love of Jesus to "all the ends of the earth."

On this Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Gospel reading from John 19:30-37 tells us the mission of Jesus is fulfilled. The death of Jesus was the day before the Sabbath, and no one was to be left on the cross. The legs of Jesus are not broken because He had already died, fulfilling the prophecy that not a bone of his body was broken (Exodus 12:46 and John 19:36). The soldier pierces the side of Jesus, and blood and water flow from his heart. It is from this water and blood that the sacraments of baptism and the Holy Eucharist are borne into the life of the Church. God opened the heart of Jesus to

generate the Church. The Church uses water (baptism) and blood (Holy Eucharist) of Jesus to start the spiritual birth and the Christian life. Through the baptismal water, Jesus cleans the stains of original sins. Through his body and blood, he nourishes the souls for eternal life. It is the Beloved Disciple and Mary, the Mother of the Church, who witnesses the death of Jesus on the cross.

The devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus began in the eleventh century of the Church with St. Bernard. St. Gertrude the Great and St. Mechtilde were twelfth century visionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. However, great devotion to the Sacred Heart came with St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in 1673. Jesus showed his heart to her, and she began to promote the devotion to his Sacred Heart. St. Margaret Mary was asked by Jesus to establish the feast of the Sacred Heart on the Friday after the octave of Corpus Christi. This feast also interconnects with the Di-

vine Mercy Sunday, the First Sunday after Easter Sunday, and the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In 1856, Pope Leo XIII extended the feast to the universal Church. On June 11, 1899, Pope Leo XIII consecrated the whole world to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. In 2001, Pope St. John Paul II established the feast of the Divine Mercy Sunday. The First Friday Devotion, developed by St. Margaret Mary, continues today in reparation for the sins of mankind.

In celebrating this Feast of the Sacred Heart, the Church also honors all priests as they are the "persona Christi" – the person of Jesus Christ. We honor and remember all the priests of our diocese, especially Bishop Terry R. LaValley. As shepherd, Bishop LaValley leads and witnesses this love of the heart and mercy of Jesus with his motto: "Follow Me."

We are asked to pray for our bishop and priests in a very special way with the intention that they remain faithful to their vocation as priests. Every day as

they pray their daily prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours, celebrate daily Mass, tend to their flocks in their parishes with administrative work, visiting the hospitals, hearing confessions, baptizing children and burying loved ones, they are bringing Christ's heartfelt love for his people to the ends of the world. It is the sacraments, in the "person of Jesus Christ" that gives us grace, the very life of Jesus Christ, to help us live the Christian life preparing for us for eternal life with Jesus. In the midst of their days, they minister with the joy, love and mercy of Jesus Christ. We often do not know what the priest in our parish is going through, sacrificing of love for his people. Their sanctification, their holiness helps the People of God to be holy as Jesus is holy.

On this Feast of the Most Sacred Heart, offer a special thank you to your priests in your parish for the ministry they do. Pray that they may be strengthened and renewed each day as they serve as a priest of Jesus Christ.

## I am your brother: A mission vocation

Brother Wayne J. Fitzpatrick, M.M  
Director of Pastoral and Spiritual Life  
Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers

Recently I attended my 50th High School Reunion in Malone. I graduated from St. Joseph's Ursuline Academy. At the reunion, we renewed friendships, shared memories and stories of our years at St. Joseph's Academy and for many of us Notre Dame School as well.

Reflecting on the experience of the weekend in Malone, I was reminded over and over again that this is the faith community where my vocation to be a missionary and Religious Brother with Maryknoll was fostered and supported by family, the many priests in the parish, the Ursuline Sis-



Brother Wayne Fitzpatrick, director of Pastoral and Spiritual Life for the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers and Malone native, ministers to the people of Guatemala.

ters and the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Why mission? I grew up with the missionary spirit all around me. My Uncle Donat Poirier's brother

was a missionary in Africa, Father Raul Poirier. The Ursuline Sisters who taught me in grade school and high school had missions in Asia and the Dio-

cese of Ogdensburg had a mission in Mollendo, Peru. Mission and Maryknoll was the obvious next step to respond to God's call.

Why Brotherhood? In the fifth Grade at Notre Dame School, my teacher, Sister Antonia Fleury, OSU, shared with me a small book she treasured on the "Holy Man from Montreal." This was the story of St. Brother Andre Bessette. I was inspired by the life and ministry of Brother Andre and went to St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal many times over those years with my family.

The vocation of brother stands side by side with the other vocations in the Church. There are many gifts and responses to

God's call but one Spirit. We are partners and collaborators with the local bishop, priests, religious women and men, deacons and the laity. It remains the same yesterday, today and into the future: a call rooted in service to his sisters and brothers through community, prayer and hospitality – a posture of welcoming. Jesus, who is brother par excellence, humbled himself in service, and in the Gospel account of his washing the feet of the Apostles Jesus showed how literally he took the role of service. "As I have done, so you must do." (John 13:15).

As a brother, I feel that my life and the lives of my brothers in Maryknoll is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## Environmental Stewardship

## Hard to imagine

When we ponder the mystery of the Eucharist, it seems too good to be true that the Creator's desire to be near us would cause Him to take on the very flesh and blood of us humans! Yet that is exactly the mystery we celebrated this past Sunday on the Feast of Corpus Christi. This act not only made God close to us, but it also made Him intimately connected with the elements of the earth from which His body was sustained through His life.

In Eucharist, when we are nourished spiritually by the Body of Christ, our bodies are also nurtured by the physical bread we eat. The act of eating connects us with the world in so many ways. Thomas Merton says, "From the moment you put a piece of bread in your mouth you are part of the world. Who grew the wheat? Where was it grown? Who made the bread? You are in relationship with all who brought it to the table. We are least separate and most in common when we eat and drink."

Annually the Church calls us into deeper relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist on this Feast Day. Our celebration of Eucharist Pope Francis sees as "... also a light and motivation for our concerns for the environment, directing us to be stewards of all creation." (L.S. 236) So our celebration of Mass and reception of the Holy Eucharist that unites us intimately with Christ doesn't end there. What about the rest of our day? How will we bring this presence to bear on interactions with our neighbors and the earth?

What are some ways that our actions might reflect this interconnectedness with all life? One action that could have a positive impact on both our health and the health of the earth is to check our cleaning cupboard or our gardening shed. Check the labels for ingredients to see how these products affect the quality of the water, the purity of the air. The "greener products" may cost a little more, but it can be an investment in creating a better future for all children who will inherit the land and a life changing legacy for those we love.

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**June 22** – 10 a.m. – College of Consultors and Diocesan Finance Council Conference Call

Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**June 23** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**June 24** – 11 a.m. – Bishop's Day of Reflection with his Priests at St. Peter's Parish (St. Mary's Church) in Massena

**June 25** – 11 a.m. – Ordination to the Diaconate of Lukas Hermann Gruber at The Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary in Potsdam

4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Friday, June 26

2 p.m. – Confirmation at Holy Cross Parish (at St. Peter's Church) in Plattsburgh with St. Joseph's Church in West Chazy

**June 27** – Noon – Stakeholders Luncheon Meeting for St. Joseph's Outreach Center at the Butcher Block in Plattsburgh

4 p.m. – Dedication and Blessing of the Mercy Care Compassionate Companion Program at St. Joseph's Outreach Center in Treadwells Mills followed by an Open House

**June 28** – 10:30 a.m. – Diocesan Finance Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

June 29 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

## 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.

## Brother's mission vocation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

one of inviting people into relationship, to say,

"Welcome," or just to spend time with someone, in their gratitude and joy or in their struggles or disappointments. It is an invitation from the heart to "be generous in offering hospitality and to

have that same attitude toward all." (Romans 12:13)

Relationship assumes the brother lives out the invitation in community. Community goes beyond the brothers' core living community of brothers and priests but to those he serves and ministers to in mission – his sisters and brothers.

Prayer is an essential

## Rest in Peace

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

**June 23** – Rev. Edward Chevalier, O.M.I., 1894; Rev. Donat Morrisette, O.M.I., 1976

**June 24** – Rev. John Simard, 1943; Msgr. Timothy P. Holland, 1948; Rev. Joseph P. Ryan, 1968; Rev. W. Cyril Rapin, 2006

**June 25** – Rev. J. Rodrigue Lauzon, 1944

**June 26** – Rev. Charles F. Turgeon, 1888; Rev. Jean Baptiste Frigon, O.M.I., 1930; Rev. Arthur St. Cyr, O.M.I., 1957

**June 27** – Rev. Auguste A. Brunet, O.M.I., 1866; Rev. Francis X. Charbonneau, 1928

**June 28** – Rev. John J. Regnery, O.S.A., 1954

## Protecting God's Children

**The Diocese of Ogdensburg** has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults.

Pre-registration online is required. Participants may preregister at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org). For more information or to arrange training, contact Jeannie Grizzuto at 315-393-2920 or [jgrizzuto@rcdony.org](mailto:jgrizzuto@rcdony.org).

value in the brother's life of service and

hospitality. If the brother does not step back, like Jesus instructed, to go to a quiet place to pray, then the ministry merely becomes busy activity.

At Maryknoll, we live out that vision of prayer and service on the journey of mission. A journey is visualized as hope, curiosity, movement, change and adventure. The vocation of brotherhood is alive and active as we carry the fire of mission forward into a future defined by how we carry out Jesus' commission to service.

My years in Maryknoll gave me the privilege to serve and live among the Indigenous Mayan community in the highlands of Guatemala. The Gospel values I experienced in action among the rural people of the highlands of Guatemala were much the same as the Gospel values I experienced growing up in northern

New York.

It seems important to mention the connection the Diocese of Ogdensburg and Maryknoll have had over the years. In the mid-1970s, I attended Language School in Cochabamba, Bolivia, and Father Dan Chapin of the diocese was also in Language School with me. We spent Christmas that year at the parish in Mollendo, Peru. A wonderful northern New York connection.

I am filled with gratitude for this vocation as brother to serve the people of God. I am also filled with gratitude for the spirit and ministry of the many priests, religious and laity of the Ogdensburg Diocese. I am a very proud Maryknoll Brother and Missioner to call the Diocese of Ogdensburg my home. Let us continue to pray for more vocations as a brother and priests as we celebrate World Day of the Sanctification of Priests.

## SHOWING APPRECIATION



**The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Monica at St. Augustine's Church in Peru held their annual Priest Appreciation Sunday. This event is held annually on the first Sunday in June for the parish. Court St. Monica and St. Augustine's parishioners greatly appreciate Father Scott Seymour and Father Jay de la Rosa who make our parish community an encouraging and faith-building place. Pictured are Father Jay de la Rosa and Pam Ballantine, newly elected Court St. Monica regent.**

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Belgian bishop asks pope not to make him a cardinal

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Saying he did not want to add to the suffering of survivors of clerical sexual abuse who criticized his appointment as a cardinal, retired Bishop Lucas Van Looy of Ghent, Belgium, asked Pope Francis to withdraw his nomination, and the pope agreed. The Belgian bishops' conference issued a statement June 16 announcing the decision and thanking Bishop Van Looy for making the request. Pope Francis' announcement May 29 that Bishop Van Looy would be among the 21 cardinals he intended to create Aug. 27, the statement said, "provoked many positive reactions, but also criticism that (Bishop Van Looy) had not always reacted vigorously enough as bishop of Ghent" when presented with allegations of clerical sexual abuse and other forms of abuse in the church. "To prevent victims of such abuses from being hurt again as a result of his cardinalate, Bishop Van Looy asked the pope to dispense with the acceptance of this appointment. Pope Francis accepted his request," the bishops said. Cardinal (Jozef) De Kesel, (president of the conference), and the Belgian bishops appreciate the decision of Bishop Van Looy.

## Biden names Schneck to religious freedom commission

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Stephen Schneck, a Catholic activist and retired professor, was appointed June 15 by President Joe Biden to serve on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, an independent federal watchdog group that monitors religious freedom violations. In a tweet that day announcing his new role, Schneck said he was "honored by the appointment to engage in this critical work." He also told Catholic News Service in June 15 email that he was grateful to be appointed to this work and said that as a Catholic, his understanding of church teaching on "social justice, solidarity, the common good and peace building can only help in better understanding" ongoing challenges to religious freedom in today's world. "Let me stress that the work of the commission is nonpartisan," he said, adding that its "'clients' are the persecuted religious believers of the world." Schneck said the commission's job is to "plead the case of these persecuted to the president and Congress."

## Cardinal-designate calls liturgical tensions a 'tragedy'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Cardinal-designate Arthur Roche, prefect of the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, described as a "tragedy" the tensions within the Latin rite of the Catholic Church over the way the Mass is celebrated. In a wide-ranging interview broadcast June 16 by Vatican News, the cardinal-designate said the tensions are "partly" due to having had two versions of the Roman Missal – those from before and after the Second Vatican Council – in use in the church at the same time. "There's never been a controversy about the liturgy in the way that we're experiencing it today, partly because there has never before been two versions of the Roman Missal – the Roman Missal from 1962 and then the Roman Missal from 1970, which was produced with the full force of the Second Vatican Council behind it and promulgated by Pope St. Paul VI," Cardinal-designate Roche said. "It's a tragedy that there is this controversy today, the so-called 'battles' over liturgy," he said, "because the Eucharist is, by its nature, the sacrament that unites the entire church." The cardinal-designate said the church must find a way to counter "one of the problems, challenges, of our age," which is "the growth in individualism and in relativism, that I prefer this. Well, the celebration of the Mass is not something to be a matter of personal choice."

# Cardinal: Trust slow to return 20 years after Charter

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The nation's Catholic bishops have made progress in regaining the trust of the laity since approving a groundbreaking document in response to the clergy sexual abuse crisis two decades ago, but for Washington Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory "the task is not complete."

"We've gone through some rocky patches," Cardinal Gregory told Catholic News Service in an interview ahead of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."

"With every sordid revelation (of sexual abuse or improper response by a bishop), the task becomes more difficult, the climb becomes steeper," said the cardinal, who was the bishop of Belleville, Illinois, and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops at the time.

He shepherded the bishops through the process of drafting and approving the charter during a historic general assembly in Dallas June 13-15, 2002, months after news of a devastating clergy abuse scandal emerged in the Archdiocese of Boston and led to investigations of clergy behavior nationwide.

The bishops overwhelmingly approved the charter in response to the escalating crisis after hours of debate and small-group and one-on-one discussions, which Cardinal Gregory compared with the process that led to church reforms that emerged from the Second Vatican Council.

"It was the product of a consensus that the bishops agreed to," he said.

The final document established minimum standards for each diocese to follow as they reviewed

abuse allegations.

It also established a one-and-done policy which saw clergymen against whom abuse allegations were substantiated being removed permanently from public ministry.

The meeting found bishops hearing from abuse survivors – whom Cardinal Gregory described to CNS as witnesses courageously speaking about their disturbing experiences – and discussing the steps that were needed to address revelations that abusive priests often were moved to new parish assignments with minimal or no precautions to prevent abuse from reoccurring.

Cardinal Gregory said the difficulty in rebuilding full trust among the laity and regaining credibility has been mired in periodic disclosures that a bishop provided "an inadequate response" to an abuse allegation.

"Certainly 20 years ago when the charter was first enacted and ratified, I think the people of God breathed a sigh of relief that finally the bishops were taking action together that would address the issue. But ... with each revelation that involved a bishop not taking appropriate action, with each revelation that a bishop himself was engaged in this terrible criminal behavior, the progress that was made over months and years was weakened," the cardinal said.

"Individual bishops who have been forthright, honest and open with their people, they have made some real progress," he said. "But when you look at the corporate identity of the episcopate, we still have a long way to go because, once again, the actions of one influence the

credibility of another."

Calling adoption of the charter a "pivotal moment" for the U.S. church, Cardinal Gregory credited bishops, especially those who have been appointed since 2002, for ensuring the charter continues to be followed.

"I hope it provides the proper context for people to believe that the church is honestly and forthrightly addressing this issue. But the charter is only one step and the implementation of the charter is the real important witness that we need," Cardinal Gregory said.

The most recent annual report reviewing diocesan compliance with the charter was released in November by the USCCB's Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection.

Covering the year from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020, it indicated that 195 of 197 U.S. dioceses and eparchies participated in the audit. Auditors chose 61 entities for more detailed audits with 10 conducted in person before the pandemic erupted in early 2020. The other 51 were conducted online. Data also were collected from 134 other dioceses and eparchies.

Of the 61 entities undergoing audits, two dioceses and two eparchies were determined to be in noncompliance with the charter.

As the bishops gathered in Dallas in 2002, then-Bishop Gregory called for "genuine reconciliation" and invited the bishops to engage in "heartfelt contrition" in response to the sin of abuse. He also urged the bishops to take steps to "make our church as safe an environment as is humanly possible for our children and young people."

## VIRTUAL EVENTS

**BROWNBAG CHATS BEGIN**

The Office of New Evangelization will be running a new Brownbag Chat during lunchtime via zoom.

**Date:** Wednesdays starting June 15

**Time:** Noon to 1 p.m.

**Features:** We will use videos from The Search Continues on Formed.org. In each session, we will watch one or two short videos together via zoom and then have an informal discussion.

**Contact:** If you would like to join us this series of lunch-time chat discussions, please sign up online at <https://www.rcdony.org/brownbag>. For more information, contact Marika Donders at [mdonders@rcdony.org](mailto:mdonders@rcdony.org).

**WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES**

The 10th World Meeting of Families was postponed for one year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is being celebrated in Rome this year.

**Date:** June 22 to 26

**Features:** Although in-person participation is restricted to delegates and representatives from organizations involved in pastoral care of families. Each diocese is encouraged to participate virtually.

**Contact:** For more information about the World Meeting of Families and how to participate this year, please go to [www.rcdony.org/wmof2022.html](http://www.rcdony.org/wmof2022.html).

## 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/559995661778301?ref=newsfeed>

## CLINTON

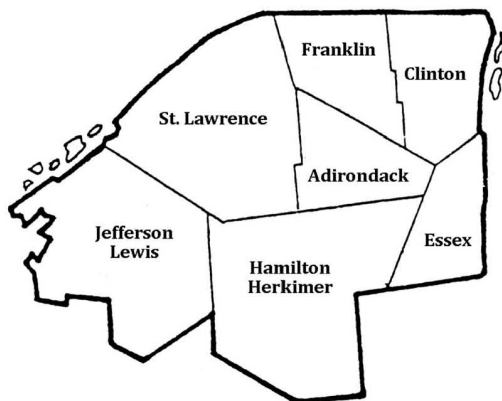
**COMPASSIONATE COMPANIONS VOLUNTEER STAKEHOLDERS MEETING**

Plattsburgh – Father Scott Seymour invites you to join him for a presentation on a new age friendly community initiatives beginning at St. Joseph's Community Outreach Center.

**Date:** June 27

**Time:** Noon

**Place:** Westside Ballroom



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.

**Features:** Starr Burke, Outreach Program Coordinator and Donna Beal, Executive Director of Mercy Care for the Adirondacks will present the initiative for the Tri-Lakes Region. The aim of the program is to work with the community partners to address the social determinants of Health to help older adults age in place more successfully. Lunch will be provided

**Contact:** RSVP by June 20 to Starr Burke at 518-825-0697 or [starr@stalexanders.org](mailto:starr@stalexanders.org)

**ST. JOSEPH'S OUTREACH BLESSING AND DEDICATION**

Plattsburgh – Father Scott Seymour invites you the celebration, blessing and dedication of St. Joseph's Community Outreach Center.

**Date:** June 27

**Time:** 4 p.m.

**Place:** 1349 Military Turnpike, Plattsburgh

**Features:** Bishop Terry R. LaValley will be present for the blessing and dedication. Reception with light refreshments will follow.

**Contact:** RSVP to Starr Burke at 518-825-0697 or [starr@stalexanders.org](mailto:starr@stalexanders.org)

**HOUSE SITTERS**

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

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

**Features:** Lunch and snack items on hand along with tea, coffee, soda, and

bottled water. Training will be provided on the history of the House of Prayer, its mission, and the various ways to carry out this gentle ministry of hospitality for those seeking time in a home of Mary to listen to our Lord, browse in the library, or visit the "Gift Shop". Flexible schedule (and hours) are fine.

**Contact:** If interested in volunteering for one day a month, or week, or more, please call Sarah Anderson at 518-534-9976.

## FRANKLIN

**ST. ANDRE BESSETTE PARISH PILGRIMAGE**

Malone – St. Andre Bessette Parish Pilgrimage walk to be held.

**Date:** July 9

**Time:** 8 a.m. to noon

**Place:** 9 mile walk from St. Helen's, Chasm Falls Whippleville Road and River Road and will end t Notre Dame Church.

**Features:** Light refreshments will then be served. If you are concerned about your ability to walk the route, please consider joining us in Eucharistic Adoration prayer at Notre Dame. It will take place at the same time as the walk, from 8 a.m. to Noon. Proceeds from this fundraiser will help defray the cost of the Our Lady of the Rosary Healing Retreat, to be held at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg Oct. 6-9 for women of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

**Contact:** For more information contact Nancy and Mark Beddoe at [beddoe@sympatico.ca](mailto:beddoe@sympatico.ca)

**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 intentions.

## JEFFERSON-LEWIS

**STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**

LOWVILLE – St. Peter's to host Strawberry Festival

**Date:** June 22

**Time:** 5 p.m. to 7

**Place:** St. Peter's Basement

**Features:** Serving: Strawberry Shortcake, Strawberry Sundae, French Strawberry Pie, Strawberry Rhubarb Pie, hamburgers, hot dogs, and sausage sandwiches. There will also be tricky trays (themed baskets)

**MOUNT CARMEL FESTIVAL**

Watertown – The Mount Carmel Festival will return this year.

**Date:** June 24, 25 & 26

Schedule: Grounds open Friday 5 p.m. to 10; Saturday 1 p.m. to 10; Sunday 1 p.m. to 10, 5 p.m. religious procession, 9:30 p.m. Giant Fireworks.

**Features:** Homemade Italian food-Sausage, Pizza, Fried Dough, Cookies! Rides and games for the kids.

**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:** July 3

**Time:** Following 11 a.m. Mass

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

**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.

**DAY OF MERCY**

Canton – Looking to start summer on the right foot? Have a hard time fitting the spiritual life into your busy schedule? Trying to develop the habit of a regular confession? Take advantage of the grace of the Sacrament of Penance.

**Date:** June 22

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

**Place:** St. Mary's Church, Divine Mercy Chapel

**FEAST OF STS. PETER & PAUL**

South Colton – Feast of Sts. Peter & Paul to be held.

**Date:** June 29

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Place:** St. Paul's Oratory

**Features:** Mass, followed by a procession to the Sacred Heart Shrine, followed by an ice cream social.

**FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY**

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

**Date:** July 2

**Time:** 3:15 p.m.

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

**ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS**

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

**Date:** July 2

**Time:** 8 a.m.

**Place:** Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

**Features:** Rosary with devotions

**MONTHLY BRUNCH**

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

**Date:** July 10 (Second Sunday of each month)

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

**Place:** Father Amyot Parish Center

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

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

**ORDINATION TO DIACONATE**

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

Potsdam – Through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy



# Around the diocese:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Spirit, the Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg will Ordain to the Order of Deacon Mr. Lukas Hermann Gruber. You are cordially invited to join in the Ordination Liturgy.

**Date:** June 25

**Time:** 11 a.m.

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

**Features:** A Reception will immediately follow the Ordination on the rectory lawn across the street from The Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary. The Ordination Mass will also be livestreamed at [www.rcdony.org/ordination](http://www.rcdony.org/ordination). The Ordination Mass program will be available at the same link shortly before the Ordination.

## GUGGENHEIM ART AND ADVENTURE DAYS

Saranac Lake – Does your child (11-15 years old) want to try the Camp Guggenheim experience without committing to a whole week or does your child just want more time at our home on the water? This summer, Camp Guggenheim is once again offering its Guggenheim Summer Fun Days!

**Date:** July 5, Art Track with opportunities for mask making, photography, and more! July 6, Adventure track with opportunities to try out Camp's rappelling wall, kayaking around Saranac Lake, and more! Both days will conclude with Mass!

**Cost:** \$15 per day. Includes drinks and snacks

**Features:** Your child is welcome to attend one or both events (lodging not provided and lunch not provided).

**Contact:** Register at [www.rcdony.org/summerfundays](http://www.rcdony.org/summerfundays). If you have any registration questions, please contact, Jeannie Grizzuto, Youth Office Administrator at: or 315-393-2920 ext. 1413

## ORGAN RECITAL WITH DON FELLOWS

Ogdensburg – As part of the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese there will be an organ recital featuring Don K. Fellows, former Music Director of St. Mary's Cathedral and Wadhams Hall Seminary.

**Date:** July 10

**Time:** 2 p.m.

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

**Features:** Don recently retired from University of Pittsburgh as well as his position as Organist and Director of

Music at Saint Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh. Don has performed organ recitals throughout the United States, as well as Rome, Dublin, and Madrid. Don will play the Cathedral's new Viscount Organ which was installed in 2020. It will be followed with a Holy Hour and Papal Honors at 3 p.m. There is no charge and all are welcome!

**Contact:** For more information please contact Amy at the Cathedral office, 315-393-3930 or [secretary@smcogd.org](mailto:secretary@smcogd.org)

## PILGRIMAGE TO ST. ANNE'S SHRINE

Isle LaMott, VT – Knights of Columbus from throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg will participate in the 74th annual pilgrimage to St. Anne's Shrine.

**Date:** July 17

**Schedule:** Bishop LaValley will celebrate Mass at 12:15 p.m. Following the Mass the Peru K of C Council will serve a luncheon on the shrine's grounds.

**Features:** Beautiful St. Anne's Shrine is located on the shores of Lake Champlain, only a few miles from the Routes Point Bridge.

**Contact:** For more information, please call Pilgrimage Coordinator Gordon Burdo at 518-563-2796

## FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

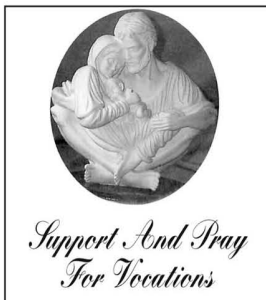
Saranac Lake – Online registration is now open for Family Guggenheim.

**Date:** Session 1 Aug. 18-21; Session 2 Aug. 25-28; Session 3 Oct. 7-9

**Place:** Guggenheim

**Cost:** Visit [www.rcdony.org/family-life/fq](http://www.rcdony.org/family-life/fq) for more information

**Features:** Family Guggenheim welcomes families of all dimensions to come enjoy a special weekend in the beauty of the Adirondacks. Expect fun family workshops and activities that will have you working and laughing together. Celebrate Christ's presence in your lives through liturgy and prayer services. Take time for great outdoor



activities like paddle boat rides, beach volleyball, and hiking.

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

## RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT

Saranac Lake – After Abortion Healing

weekend to be held.

**Date:** Sept. 2-4

**Place:** Guggenheim Center

**Features:** If you (or a friend) are suffering after an abortion, you're not alone. Consider participating in the next Rachel's Vineyard retreat. The weekend will be held at the main

camp to provide more social distancing. Each retreatant will have their own room. Open to women and men. Don't suffer alone. Help is available.

**Contact:** Registration is online at [rcdony.org/pro-life](http://rcdony.org/pro-life) or contact the Respect Life office 518-524-0774 or [cminer@rcdony.org](mailto:cminer@rcdony.org)

# Now is the perfect time to volunteer.

With everything that has happened in our community this year, it is more important than ever for volunteers to stand up and support their friends and neighbors. When joining **RSVP**, not only are you helping your community, but you're joining a family who cares as much as you.



The RSVP 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.

## Upcoming opportunities

There are so many ways you can help your community out that you might not even know about! Here are some examples of what you can do!



**Be a Friend**

Check on friends, share a meal, help around the house, go for a walk or just stop by to catch up.



**Give a Ride**

Drive your neighbors to their appointments, to pick up prescriptions or to the store.



**Help at School**

Volunteer at local elementary schools, tutor students, or be a mentor to those in need.



**Give a Meal**

Support the local food pantry by shopping, organizing, cooking, or anything else.



**Meals On Wheels**

Donate your time to your local Meals on Wheels program and prepare or deliver meals.

Not only do you get the benefit of feeling amazing after helping someone, RSVP will help pay some of your mileage (.56 cents/mile) and honor your efforts at a yearly recognition event.

## Opportunities available in Franklin and Hamilton County Want more info about how to get started?

**Hamilton and Franklin County:**

**Melissa Howard**

518-359-7688

[mhoward@cathcharities.org](mailto:mhoward@cathcharities.org)

80 Park Street, Suite 2

PO Box 701

Tupper Lake, NY 12986

**Clinton and Essex County:**

**Kate Gardner**

518-566-0944

[kgardner@cathcharities.org](mailto:kgardner@cathcharities.org)



Catholic  
Charities  
Diocese of Ogdensburg



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

## Beginning new journeys

This thirteenth Sunday of the year is all about the excitement and challenge of beginning a new and very important journey. Many young people facing the new and frightening freedom of leaving home to face the unknown future. Most of them are excited at the possibilities life holds for them, while others are really frightened and unsure. It will take much courage and effort.



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

In today's first reading, the theme of journey into the future begins with the first Book of Kings. Here we read that the prophet Elijah is tired out, so God allows him to retire. First, though, he must pass on his prophetic powers to young Elisha, son of a rich landowner. Dramatically, he throws his cloak around Elisha's shoulders, and tells him to leave everything and follow him. Reluctantly, he al-

June 29

13th Sunday of Ordinary Time

## READINGS

1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21

Galatians 5:1, 13-18

Luke 9:51-62

lows Elisha to bid goodbye to his family first. "No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks back to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God", Elijah tells him. This young man had to sacrifice much wealth to take on the role of prophet.

In the Gospel, Jesus in-

vites his followers to accompany Him on his last and most important journey from Galilee to Jerusalem. It is a journey filled with the excitement of healings, miracles, and the rich wisdom of Jesus' preaching to the people, but at the end, He faced death on a cross. Jesus tries His best to warn his disciples of the cost of this discipleship for them as well as Himself. It will take much courage and determination.

And how about our journey with Jesus? We know from experience how much

effort and sacrifice it takes to be a follower of Jesus. But, as St. Paul tells the Galatians in today's second reading, "For freedom, Christ set us free, so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery." He then warns his listeners not to give in to the "flesh" but to follow the grace of the Holy Spirit in giving oneself over completely to the gifts of the Spirit.

It's all about daily focus. In order to plow a straight furrow, we must keep our eyes constantly on the goal of it all, the joy of heaven.

## CALLED TO SERVE

## Human composting

Here is an unfortunate news item from the New York State Catholic Conference in its summary of the work of the New York State Legislature this year:

*Sadly, both houses took up and passed this bill late in session to authorize the process of composting of human remains, which converts the human body to soil in an accelerated fashion, where it may then be scattered, buried or used as fertilizer. The Conference has opposed this bill since its introduction a*

*couple of years ago, and our opposition was mentioned during the floor debate in the Assembly.*

Regular readers of this column will recall I ranted about this bill in late May of 2021. At that time, the Catholic Conference reported the bill died in committee. Not so this time.

The bill's sponsors offer this citation in explaining the bill: Provides for the creation, operation and duties of natural organic reduction facilities as cemetery corporations for

the contained, accelerated conversion of human remains to soil.

That says to me a cemetery can operate a facility to cremate remains or it can alternately accelerate the decomposition of remains, treat them and spread them over the land.

That is oversimplifying the bill. It does guarantee remains are not comingled, and it requires the certified operator to sufficiently log the remains and what happened to them.

The Natural Funeral, an organization in Colorado where body composting is legal, says on its website: *When Body Composting is complete, we are left with about one cubic yard of rich, fertile compost that is ready to apply on the Earth. We offer families the opportunity to take as much of this compost as a remembrance as they*

*wish. The rest will be used for agriculture. It is not recommended that it be used to grow human food.*

A quick read of the bill suggests cemetery corporations run by religious corporations, there are seven in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, or cemeteries operated by religious corporations, there are dozens of cemeteries in the diocese run by parishes, are exempt from the bill. However, the New York State Catholic



Deacon  
Kevin Mastellon

Conference raised its voice in opposition to the bill because "this process does not provide for proper reverence and respect due to bodily remains."

The Catholic rites following the death of a loved one give us, the mourners, an opportunity to grieve, to remember the deceased's time with us and to pray for his or her soul as it continues this

journey to Christ. We bury our dead in the hope they will rise again, as Jesus did.

*The Catechism of the Catholic Church* expresses our view beautifully. "The Christian meaning of death is revealed in the light of the Paschal mystery of the death and resurrection of Christ in whom resides our only hope."

The Church teaches entombment of our bodies or cremated remains must occur in cemeteries or other sacred places. The Human Compost bill permits something very different if the family removes the remains from the cemetery's custody.

As of this writing, the bill has not been signed into law by the governor. We will report when she does sign or veto the bill.

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

## JOB OPENING

## Third Grade Teacher

St. Bernard's School, a Catholic elementary school in Saranac Lake, NY, is hiring a classroom teacher for the 2022-2023 school year. The classroom teacher will be responsible for planning and delivering instruction to a grade level group of students. While adhering to our school's core curriculum, you will be able to plan creative, engaging ways to teach students real-life applications and foster a love of learning. What makes St. Bernard's School special? Small class sizes, families invested in learning and a tight knit faculty. Interested individuals please send an introductory email to: [principal@stbernardsschool.org](mailto:principal@stbernardsschool.org)

AT THE MOVIES  
**LIGHTYEAR**

NEW YORK (CNS) – "Lightyear" (Disney) blasts off in cinemas with controversy in its wake.

In what is becoming a bad habit for the Mouse House (witness the "pro-choice" theme in "Turning Red," or the heroine with two moms in "Dr. Strange in the Multiverse of Madness"), Disney injects the objectionable into what would otherwise be wholesome fare for the entire family.

In the case of "Lightyear," a "Toy Story" origin story, same-sex marriage is the issue. A prominent female character, Alisha Hawthorne (voice of Uzo Aduba), gets engaged to a woman, shares a kiss, marries and raises a family.

The endorsement, unnecessary and regrettable, is, sadly, the only takeaway from "Lightyear," a gloomy and decidedly unfunny tale of the fan-favorite space ranger, Buzz Lightyear (voice of Chris Evans).

Alas, there's no buzz in this Buzz. The delightful self-absorbed goofball of four "Toy Story" films is melancholy, uncertain and in need of a good therapist. He finds one in a robotic cat called Sox (voice of Peter Sohn).

The story, by Jason Headley and director Angus MacLane, also lacks pizzazz. With a crew led by his ranger sidekick Alisha (together they coin the catchphrase, "To infinity and beyond"), Buzz pilots a spaceship to an uncharted planet named Tikana Prime.

Encountering hostile life forms, the crew evacuates in haste, but the



CNS PHOTO/DISNEY, PIXAR

This is a scene from the animated movie "Lightyear." The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG – parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

ship crashes. Lost in space, the castaways establish a colony while awaiting a rescue.

One year passes, and Buzz volunteers to test a new fuel source which could hold the key to escape. The test has an unexpected side effect: For every minute he spends in the air, four years pass down on the planet.

Headstrong and determined, Buzz perseveres, and 62 years pass by. Alisha is now a grandmother, and her granddaughter, Izzy (voice of Keke Palmer), seeks to follow in her ranger footsteps.

Meanwhile, things are not going well down on Tikana Prime: robots commanded by Emperor Zurg (voice of James Brolin) have invaded the

planet.

Buzz rises to the occasion, assembling a motley crew to attack Zurg's ship, including Izzy, Mo Morrison (voice of Taika Waititi) and Darby Steel (voice of Dale Soules). Throw in Sox and you have the usual merchandizer's dream.

Missing from "Lightyear" is the joy, wonder and humor of the Disney-Pixar space classic "Wall-E." Instead there are echoes of classic sci-fi TV and films, from "Star Trek" and "Star

Wars" to "Alien."

Buzz, it turns out we hardly knew you – and after "Lightyear," maybe wish we didn't.

The film contains cartoonish action sequences, a same-sex kiss and a benign view of same-sex marriage.

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OBITUARIES

**Brasher Falls** – Betty A. (Peets) Gilbert, 91; Graveside services June 18, 2022 at St. Ann's Cemetery, St. Regis Falls.

**Moers Forks** – Patricia Ann (Sample) Bracey, 73; Mass of Christian Burial June 21, 2022 at St. Ann's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Morrisonville** – Howard H. Carron, 84; Mass of Christian Burial June 14, 2022 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in Town of Plattsburgh Community Mausoleum.

**Peru** – Thomas Ignatius Hogan, 84; Funeral Services June 18, 2022 at Hamilton Funeral Home.

**Potsdam** – William H. Cullen, Sr., 103; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 5, 2022 at St. Mary's Church' burial in

**Potsdam** – James R. Mitchell Sr., 80; Funeral Services June 17, 2022 at Garner Funeral Service; burial in Calvary Cemetery, Norwood.

**Rouses Point** – Suzanne (Thivierge) Cayea, 75; Mass of Christian Burial June 13, 2022 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Watertown** – Margaret "Peg" (Pickett) Dephtereos, 95; Mass of Christian Burial June 25, 2022 at Holy Family Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

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# FACES OF FAITH



Joan Terrillion joins her Grandson, Braeden (confirmation candidate) and his siblings, Jameson and Raegan for a photo with Bishop Terry R. LaValley after confirmation at St. Stephen's Church in Croghan in May.



Father Thomas Kormmeyer celebrated the Mass as First Communion was celebrated at St. Francis Church in Constable.



Father Matthew Conger, parochial vicar of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Watertown and assistant vocations director for the diocese, celebrated the first anniversary of his ordination on May 29 with a Mass and reception at Holy Family Church. Members of Father Conger's family attended the celebration.



First Communion was held at St. Patrick's Church in Colton in May, with Father Joseph Giroux celebrating.