

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

State Catholic Conference 'troubled' by gun ruling | PAGE 6

Plattsburgh holds Corpus Christi procession | PAGE 8

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 77 Number 12

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JUNE 29, 2022

'We give thanks to God'

U.S. Supreme Court overturns Roe, Casey

In a 5-4 decision June 24, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned its nearly 50-year-old decision in Roe v. Wade that legalized abortion in this country.

The ruling emphasizes that there is no constitutional right to abortion in the United States.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley and bishops from around the state joined to issue a statement on the ruling, noting it "will save countless innocent children simply waiting to be born" and thanking those who work to promote life.

Local faithful gathered in front of Planned Parenthood in Plattsburgh to prayerfully celebrate the decision.

STORIES ON PAGES 3, 12

NOW DEACON GRUBER



DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Lukas Gruber, a seminarian for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, is vested by Father Joseph W. Giroux, pastor of St. Mary's in Potsdam, after being ordained a deacon by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on June 25 in Potsdam. Full coverage of the ordination will be in the July 6 edition of the NCC.

CLINTON COUNTY COMMEMORATES 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF DIOCESE



Mark Henry, chairman of the Clinton County Legislature, presents Bishop Terry R. LaValley a county resolution celebrating the Diocese of Ogdensburg's 150th anniversary.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

Celebrating the Body of Christ

As part of the 150th anniversary of the diocese, a Celebration of the Body of Christ will be held on July 10 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

During that celebration, Bishop Terry R. LaValley will honor "those many disciples of Christ, who have received charisms to lead and serve the Body of Christ in so many ways across so many years."

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Look to the future, Pope Francis tells families

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Christian families are called to embark on a journey of love and service that will lead them to joy and hope for the future, Pope Francis said.

In marriage and family life, those who follow Jesus' call will see that "he always precedes us in love

and service. And those who follow him will not be disappointed," the pope said June 25 in his homily at Mass with thousands of pilgrims participating in the World Meeting of Families.

"Dear families, you, too, have been asked not to have other priorities, not to

'look back,' to miss your former life, your former freedom, with its deceptive illusions. Life becomes 'fossilized' when it is not open to the newness of God's call and pines for the past," he said.

The pope participated in the outdoor Mass in St. Peter's Square but was un-

able to preside over the liturgy due to problems with his knee. Instead, U.S. Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, presided.

Before concluding the Mass, Cardinal Farrell announced that a "Jubilee of Families" will be celebrated

in Rome during the Holy Year 2025. The cardinal said the next World Meeting of Families will take place in 2028.

"From this moment on, let us pray that these will be great events of grace that touch the hearts of thousands of families," Cardinal Farrell said.

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Telephone:
(315) 608-7556

E-mail:
news@northcountry
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He's changed me

I cried when I received the essay back from my professor.

It was the first essay I had to write for an advanced French course. It was my first essay written entirely in French.

I worked hard on the assignment. Writing essays in English was always easy for me. This was not easy.

So, when I received the graded paper back from my professor and saw a large red "C" on the top, I cried. It was my first ever C.



**Darcy L.
Fargo**

My friends thought it was funny.

"Everyone gets a C at some point," they told me. "Cs get degrees."

They started pronouncing my name with extra emphasis on the last syllable. For a week or two, I was "Dar-Cee."

I thought of that as I cried over another middle-of-the-road grade this week. This time, I was crying because my son, Jacob,

scored a 75 on his biology Regents, his first ever Regents exam, an test he took

without any accommodations.

This time, my tears over the mediocre grade were tears of joy. As I've mentioned before in this space, Jacob – we call him Jake – is on the autism spectrum. He's worked hard to reach a level where he can move through his education relatively independently. Though he studied for hours, Jake thought he had failed the test. His joy at the passing grade contributed to my tears. It was beautiful.

Jake is a gift from God in more ways than I can count.

While I'm certain God put

this child in my life and in my care for a lot of reasons, I'm confident one of those reasons was to help at least relax my tendency toward perfectionism. Through Jake, God has taught me the importance of little gains, little victories and less-than-perfect progress. Through Jake, God has changed my perspective.

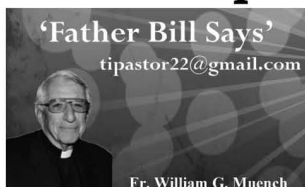
It's amazing how God does that. He gives us the people, circumstances and graces we need in our lives to grow into who He is calling us to be. He changes us.

He's changed me into a person who loves Cs.

Time in the presence of Jesus

Today, I want to take this opportunity to encourage you to take some time in prayer and adoration in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. So, once more let us take some time with the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. I am certain that you know our Catholic belief that all the consecrated hosts at Mass that are left over at Communion time are reserved in the special tabernacle at the altar.

So, we believe as Catholics that when we enter a Catholic Church that the Lord is present as the consecrated Blessed Eucharist placed in the tabernacle. And so, the Lord Jesus is present in a special and powerful way. And so, the Church is a perfect place for prayer. The Lord is truly and sacramentally present, waiting to receive each of us. Now please understand we believe that our God is present everywhere. However, through the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, the Lord Jesus, made sacramentally present through the consecration of the Mass, is present. The Lord is present



Body and Blood.

Every Catholic Church throughout the world makes it clear to any visitor that the Lord is present, the consecrated Holy Eucharist is present in the tabernacle, by placing a lit candle before the tabernacle. This candle is called the sanctuary light. In many parish churches, individuals may request the sanctuary light be lit for their special intention.

Together we have remembered that our Savior, Jesus Christ, instituted the blessed Eucharist at the Last Supper. During each celebration of the Mass, this consecrated Eucharist is distributed to the people of the congregation as Holy Communion. Through the reception of Holy Communion, we, Catholics, firmly believe that each of us are united to our Lord and Savior in a special and powerful way. The

bread and wine, placed on the altar during the Offertory, is consecrated by the priest celebrant, using the very same words as Jesus did at the Last Supper. Through transubstantiation, this bread and wine becomes the Body and Blood of Jesus. We take our Lord with us as we leave the Church after Mass and carefully live our ordinary lives in the Spirit of our Savior. The Lord is part of our life – our guide and protector.

At other times, we are invited to spend time in the presence of the Lord truly present in the tabernacle in prayer and adoration. Such a gift! This continues to be a unique opportunity transforming this time of prayer as a special moment as we unite our heart with the Lord in love.

Personally, I like to simply remain silent with the Lord during this time. I have learned that the Lord comes to be with me, filling my heart and soul with his powerful love. I have experienced a personal transformation in the Lord's presence. I have discovered

the support I often need, especially during the times of need, times of confession, times of loneliness.

Of course, we can spend our time before the Lord saying prayers, saying the rosary. However, we must never forget that the Lord is with us, the Lord Jesus who loves us, who forgives us, who wants to be part of our very being.

In many parishes, there are scheduled special devotions during which the Blessed Sacrament is placed in the sacred vessel called the monstrance. These usually take the form of a Holy Hour of special prayer. These are very special opportunities to discover and enjoy the presence of the Lord.

Finally, there is a wonderful tradition in many Catholic parishes of the people of the parish visiting the church during the day, stopping in for a brief moment of prayer and visiting of the ever-present Lord, spending some time in the presence of the Lord and finding the Lord's love and support.

Supreme Court overturns Roe

WASHINGTON (CNS)— In a 5-4 decision June 24, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned its nearly 50-year-old decision in Roe v. Wade that legalized abortion in this country.

The court's 213-page ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization was not totally unexpected due to the leak of an opinion draft a month earlier. The ruling emphasizes that there is no constitutional right to abortion in the United States.

The Dobbs case focused on an abortion clinic in Mississippi opposed to the state's law banning abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

The court's reversal of its long-standing abortion ruling brings abortion policy decisions to the state level. At least half of states plan to ban or restrict abortions with this decision in place.

"We hold that Roe and Casey must be overruled," Justice Samuel Alito wrote in the court's opinion. Casey v. Planned Parenthood is the 1992 decision that affirmed Roe.

Alito was joined by Justices Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett.

Chief Justice John Roberts, in a separate opinion, said he agreed with the majority that the Mississippi abortion restriction should be upheld, but he said the court should not have overturned its Roe decision.

Alito, writing for the majority, said: "The Constitution makes no reference to abortion, and no such right is implicitly protected by any constitutional provision, including the one on which the defenders of Roe and Casey now chiefly rely — the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment."

U.S. Catholic bishops who have supported a reversal of Roe immediately reacted positively to the

court's decision that comes at the end of this year's term.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops called the decision a "historic day in the life of our country, one that stirs our thoughts, emotions and prayers."

"We pray that our elected officials will now enact laws and policies that promote and protect the most vulnerable among us," said the June 24 statement by Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez, USCCB president, and Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

"We give thanks to God for today's decision ... This just decision will save countless innocent children simply waiting to be born," said the New York Catholic bishops in a statement shortly after the court's opinion was released.

Protesters were outside the court when the ruling came down, as they have been for days, anticipating it. Those on both sides of issue were also at the court when the document first leaked.

The Dobbs opinion is similar to the leaked draft that called Roe "egregiously wrong from the start."

Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan wrote a joint dissent that said: "Whatever the exact scope of the coming laws, one result of today's decision is certain: the curtailment of women's rights, and of their status as free and equal citizens."

They also noted that their dissent "with sorrow — for this Court, but more, for the many millions of American women who have today lost a fundamental constitutional protection."

When the court announced last year that it would take this case, after

Bishop LaValley, N.Y. bishops: 'We are blessed'

Bishop Terry R. LaValley joined with bishops from around New York to release the following statement regarding Friday's United States Supreme Court decision:

We give thanks to God for today's decision of the United States Supreme Court in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization. This just decision will save countless innocent children simply waiting to be born.

On this historic day, our gratitude extends to the millions of heroic Americans who have worked tirelessly toward this outcome for nearly a half-century. Women and men, children and adults, believers and non-believers, people of every culture and background have advocated for life. They have been a charitable and compelling voice for the voiceless, and today, their voice has been heard.

As Catholics, we have prayed and fasted, held vigils, offered Masses, and peacefully witnessed in these last five decades. We have joined others in educating schoolchildren, opening pregnancy care centers, walking with mothers, offering post-abortion counseling, and marching, year after year, to the United States Supreme Court to witness for life. Today, our voice has been heard.

With the entire pro-life community, we are overjoyed with this outcome of the Court. However, we acknowledge the wide range of emotions associated with this decision. We call on all Catholics and everyone who supports the right to life for unborn children to be charitable, even as we celebrate an important historical moment and an answer to a prayer.

We must remember that this is a judicial victory, not a cultural one. The culture remains deeply divided on the issue, which will be evidenced by the patchwork of state statutes pertaining to abortion across the country. To change the culture and build a culture of life, we need to enact family-friendly policies that welcome children, support mothers, cherish families and empower

them to thrive. We outlined our vision for a pro-life New York in our recent statement, available here, and we rededicate ourselves to helping every expectant mother to carry her baby to term.

Building a culture of life is not solely the responsibility of the government or those heroic individuals working on the front lines, in crisis pregnancy centers and other ministries. All of us need to respect the dignity and sanctity of human life in everything we do: in how we treat our children, spouses and parents; in the way we behave in our place of work; in sum, how we live Jesus' two great commandments to love God and love our neighbor.

Love, charity and reverence for human life from the moment of conception through natural death — these will build and sustain a culture of life.

Millions of Americans have worked tirelessly for almost 50 years towards this outcome. We thank them with every fiber of our being. Their vital work continues, and we commit ourselves to it.

Timothy Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York

Most Rev. Edward B. Scharfenberger
Bishop of Albany

Most Rev. Robert J. Brennan
Bishop of Brooklyn

Most Rev. Michael W. Fisher
Bishop of Buffalo

Most Rev. Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

Most Rev. Salvatore R. Matano
Bishop of Rochester

Most Rev. John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

Most Rev. Douglas J. Lucia
Bishop of Syracuse

And the Auxiliary and Emeritus Bishops of New York

considering it more than a dozen times since 2020, the justices said they would only review one of the three questions presented to them: "Whether all pre-viability prohibitions on elective abortions are unconstitutional."

FOLLOW ME:

Celebrating the Body of Christ

The celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ogdensburg provides a special time for us to Remember, Renew, Re-joice. The Synod document is in its review stages and nearly ready to share. Last weekend's celebration of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ and Eucharistic Procession was a special time of communion. Our Anniversary Mass on the Feast of Saint Lawrence, August 10, 2022, will be a special day to Remember our rich past, Renew our commitment to serve the Lord and Rejoice in the goodness of God.

Of course, we Remember those many disciples of Christ, who have received charisms to lead and serve the Body of Christ in so many ways across so many years. Part of our anniversary celebration is to gather and praise God for these servants and to honor some of them in a distinct way at our Celebration of the Body of Christ.

It is my pleasure to invite you to join in

celebrating the labors of all who have served the people of God while honoring a special few.



**Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley**

- Mr. Bruce Paul Bombard
- Mrs. Jane Ann Boyea
- Mr. James Timothy Brady
- Mr. Michael Burtch Bresnahan, Jr.
- Mr. Glenn Robert Burdo
- Ms. Starr Lynn Burke
- Mr. David Michael Cline
- Mrs. Valerie Rose Cline
- Sister Sharon Anne Dalton, SSJ
- Mrs. Ruth Carol Demarse
- Mr. Joseph Edward Denoncourt
- Mrs. Patricia Jane Fassett
- Mr. Pasquale Anthony Fontana, Sr.
- Deacon Gary Allan Frank
- Mrs. Gayle Grace Frank
- Mrs. Connie Marie Hatch-Young
- Mr. Jeremiah Michael Hayes
- Mrs. Eileen Kathryn Hayes
- Mr. Gerald Joseph LaValley
- Mrs. Darlene Mary Carolyn LaValley
- Mrs. Barbara Claire Ludwig

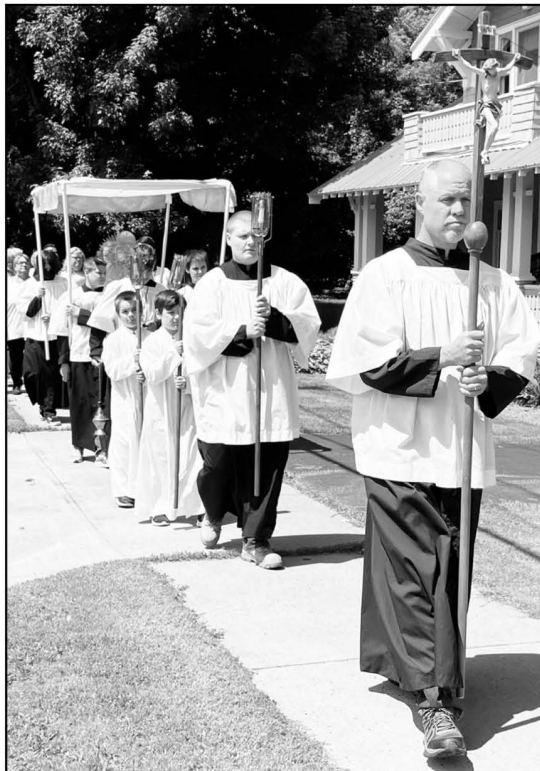
- Dr. Victor Werner Ludwig
- Mrs. Leslie Ann Marvel
- Mr. Angelo Eugene Pietropaoli
- Mrs. Suzanne Rosemary Pietropaoli
- Mrs. Elsie Lillian Scruggs
- Mrs. Mary Catherine Spilman
- Mrs. Donna Jean Steenberg
- Mr. Daniel Joseph Sweeney
- Sister Mary Christine Taylor, SSJ
- Mr. Michael James Tooley
- Miss Michelle Elizabeth Watkins
- Mrs. Linda Young

The Celebration of the Body of Christ on July 10, 2022 begins at 2:00pm with a recital by Mr. Donald K. Fellows on the new Cathedral organ. After a short interlude, I will confer awards to the recipients during the Holy Hour beginning at 3:00pm, followed by a reception with refreshments.

Asking God to bless you, I am

+ Terry R. LaValley

CELEBRATING CORPUS CHRISTI



St. Mary's of the Fort in Fort Covington held its annual Eucharistic Procession on Corpus Christi Sunday, July 19 after Mass celebrated by Father Thomas Kornmeyer. See a story about a similar procession held in Plattsburgh on Page 8.

REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

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

(With ecclesiastical approval)

Mass
Rosary
Fasting
Day Offering
Eucharistic Adoration
Offering of Sufferings
Divine Mercy Chaplet

Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him

JULY 2022

DIocese OF OGDENSBURG, NY

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

For more copies contact: Diocese of Ogdensburg, PO Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669

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A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated. The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by:

Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society www.myvocation.net

County marks diocese's 150th anniversary

CHAMPLAIN—On June 10, the Clinton County Legislature presented a resolution honoring the Diocese of Ogdensburg on the celebration of its 150th anniversary to Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

The presentation was made at a confirmation Mass held at St. Mary's Church in Champlain.

The resolution, which was approved by the county Legislature on April 27.

The resolution states:

"WHEREAS, religious institutions and the many spiritual, social and educational benefits they confer, play a vital role in the development of the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those institutions who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, the Clinton County Legislature is justly proud to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Ogdensburg; and

WHEREAS, Pope Pius IX established the Diocese of Ogdensburg on February 16, 1872 and placed her under the leadership of the Right Reverend Edgar P. Wadhams, the first Bishop of Ogdensburg; and

WHEREAS, since that time, the Diocese of Ogdensburg has served Clinton County, along with the counties of Essex, Franklin, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis and Saint Lawrence, and the towns of Ohio and Webb in Hamilton County; and

WHEREAS, the Roman Pontiff has appointed thirteen successors of the Apostles to follow the Right Reverend Edgar P.



Mark Henry, chairman of the Clinton County Legislature, and Calvin Castine, county legislator, present a resolution celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ogdensburg at a confirmation Mass celebrated June 10 in Champlain.

Wadhams as shepherd of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and the current bishop is the Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, a native of the town Mooers in Clinton County; and

WHEREAS, the Diocese of Ogdensburg has established itself as the lifeblood of our Catholic community through leadership and service to seventy-eight parishes, three missions, eight elementary and two high schools, a nursing home for the aged and looks forward to continuing the mission of the Church in the North Country; and

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2022, at the Cathedral of Saint Mary, the Diocese of Ogdensburg will celebrate its 150th Anniversary; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Clinton County Legislature pause in its deliberations and commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, fully confi-

dent that this commemoration reflects the belief in those values which enhance the dignity and purpose of life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this



Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley of the Diocese of Ogdensburg."

Castine introduced the presentation, highlighting the history of both the diocese and several of the parishes local to the Champlain area.

"Whether you realize it or not, you represent the future of the Church," Castine told the confirmandi. "It's important you know the history."

Mark Henry, chairman of the Clinton County Legislature, presented the resolution to Bishop LaValley.

Henry attributed the strength and longevity of the diocese to "the grace of God, faithfulness of parishioners, dedication and passion of priests of the diocese, and certainly leadership, represented tonight by Bishop LaValley and from all the bishops who have led the diocese."



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Environmental Stewardship

Green travel tips

Summertime for many people means packing up the car and vacationing. It is projected that 80% of American adults will travel this summer. While we may do what we can to honor God's great gift of Creation while at home, how can we do likewise when we are travelling?

There are many environmentally friendly actions that we can take while vacationing. Perhaps some of the suggestions listed below may remind you of others that you might do. Perhaps a good place to start is by reducing our use of single-use plastics. According to the World Wildlife Federation, more than 40% of the plastics consumed are single-use plastics. That is more than 8 million metric tons that end up in the ocean. We can all do something to lower that figure, either at home or on a road trip. Three of the ten "worst" disposable plastics are plastic straws, plastic cutlery, and plastic cups. As you are packing for your trip consider using reusable water bottles, straws (if you use them), and reusable flatware rather than disposable flatware used in fast food restaurants. In fact, when you return home, this "picnic set" is good to stow in your car.

You will probably have hand sanitizer on your list of "to brings." Instead of purchasing those small bottles, which contribute to plastic pollution in our waterways, why not buy a large bottle and refill from it? This would also be a wise and economic practice when you return home as well. In addition, why not pack reusable travel-size shampoo when you are spending a night in a motel, instead of using the single-use toiletries that they provide? The number of bottles that are used once and find their way to waterways must be astounding, if you consider all the people staying in hotels across the country! To their credit, many hotels are now utilizing refillable dispensers for soaps and shampoos in showers. Also, while you are enjoying your stay, you can opt for not having linens laundered each day which saves vast amounts of water, a precious resource.

While we are taking time this year to enjoy God's Creation, let us show our gratitude for God's great gift by being good stewards.

New York State Catholic Conference 'troubled' by court's gun law ruling

WASHINGTON (CNS)— An official of the New York State Catholic Conference expressed disappointment with a June 23 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that overturns a century-old law and asserts that there is a constitutional right to carry a handgun in public for self-defense.

"We are troubled that the

court has overturned a law dating back more than a century that has been largely accepted by the state's population for all of that time," said Dennis Poust, executive director of the conference, which represents the New York bishops on public policy matters.

"The duly-elected members of the state Legislature could have at any time over the past 110 years revisit its policies on how it licenses individuals for the purpose of carrying concealed handguns outside the home if it was the will of the citizens of the state. It's regrettable that the U.S. Supreme Court has now chosen to step in to do so," Poust said in a statement.

Bishop's Public Schedule

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

June 30 – 11 a.m. – Council of Priests Meeting at the Church of the Visitation Parish Center in Norfolk

July 2 – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

July 3 – 9:30 a.m. – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

July 5 – 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

June 29 – Rev. Pierre Huet de la Valiniere, 1806; Rev. Adonat L. Dufresne, 1940; Rev. Gilbert J. Faucher, 1981; Deacon Francis E. LeRoux, 1996

June 30 – Rev. George F. Maroun, 2016

July 1 – Rev. Norbert Callahan, M.S.C., 1909; Rev. William A. O'Connor, 1922; Rev. P. Leon Legault, 1991

July 2 – Rev. Richard A. Gleason, O.S.A., 1939; Rev. Denis F. Finnegan, 1951; Msgr. John A. Stone, 1964; Msgr. Francis J. Connors, 1977; Rev. George A. Lemieux, 1993; Rev. John M. Crable, 2012; Deacon Francis F. Bateman, 2019

July 3 – Rev. E. Leonard Murphy, 1954

July 4 – Rev. Joseph L. St. Jacques, 1952

July 5 – Rev. Paul F. Ledermann, 2016

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.

To Report Abuse

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

The court voted 6-3 to strike down the New York law requiring anyone who wants to carry a concealed weapon for self-defense to demonstrate a specific need for doing so.

Legal experts said the decision puts at risk similar laws in five other states: California, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts and New Jersey.

The court's ruling follows recent mass shootings in Uvalde, Texas; Buffalo, New York; and elsewhere in which dozens of children and adults have been killed or injured. The incidents have led to an outcry of support for wide-ranging gun control measures.

Writing for the court's conservative majority, Justice Clarence Thomas referred to an earlier court ruling while explaining that "the constitutional right to bear arms in public for self defense is not a second-class right, subject to an entirely different body of rules than the other Bill of Rights guarantees."

"We know of no other constitutional right that an individual may exercise only after demonstrating to government officers some special need. That is not how the First Amendment works when it comes to unpopular speech or the free exercise of religion. It is not how the Sixth Amendment works when it comes to a defendant's right to confront the witnesses against him. And it is not how the Second Amendment works when it comes to public carry for self defense," Thomas wrote in the 66-page opinion.

Hours after the Supreme Court's issued its ruling, the Senate passed the first significant new gun restrictions since the mid-1990s. The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act was approved

65-33, with 15 Republican senators joining all 50 Democratic senators to pass the legislation.

A vote was set for June 24 in the House of Representatives, where it was expected to pass as well. President Joe Biden pledged to sign the bill as soon as it reached his desk.

"This bipartisan legislation will help protect Americans. Kids in schools and communities will be safer because of it," Biden said in a statement released by the White House after the Senate vote.

The chairmen of four U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops committees sent another letter to members of Congress June 23 calling for passage of the bill. It was the second such letter in June from the chairmen urging the adoption of "reasonable gun control measures."

The letter was signed by Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco, chairman of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth; Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities; and Bishop Thomas A. Daly of Spokane, Washington, chairman of the Committee on Catholic Education.

The bill calls for expanded criminal background checks for some gun buyers, blocks more domestic violence offenders from purchasing firearms, funds programs for local authorities to confiscate guns from troubled individuals, and provides \$15 billion for mental health services and school security measures.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope to visit Canada, limits duration of event participation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Perhaps signaling some improvement in Pope Francis' painful knee, the Vatican announced June 23 that he will visit Canada in late July. However, the Canadian bishops said that, due to the 85-year-old pope's age and limitations, it is expected that his participation at public events will be limited to approximately one hour. The Vatican confirmed the pope's plan to be in Canada July 24-29, returning to Rome July 30. The focus of the trip is his meetings with members of Canada's Indigenous communities in the cities of Edmonton, Alberta; Quebec; and Iqaluit, Nunavut, the country's most northern region. The visit, drawing on the theme of "Walking Together," will include a combination of public and private events. The Vatican said Pope Francis will arrive in Edmonton July 24 and, following a brief airport ceremony, will take the remainder of the day to rest. On July 25, Pope Francis will visit Maskwacis, home to the former Ermineskin Residential School, one of the largest residential school sites in Canada. He will join former residential school students from across the country as part of a formal program. Later in the day, the pontiff will visit Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples, a National Indigenous church in downtown Edmonton.

Quebec audit finds 87 abusers since 1940; some doubt numbers

MONTREAL (CNS) — After a rigorous examination of the files of more than 6,800 priests, deacons and staff members of nine Quebec dioceses, retired Judge André Denis confirmed that between 1940 and 2021, 87 sexual abusers were found in those dioceses. But a lawyer working on class action suits against four of the dioceses believes the numbers are much higher, and at least two bishops told *Présence* info the most important objective is to find the truth about abusers. Besides identifying if there were "currently people who have committed sexual abuse" who were still in office — "the ones I identified had already been sanctioned," the judge told *Présence* info — Denis and his team of four had to examine each of the files of priests who had worked in each of the dioceses over the past 85 years. It did not matter if they were still active, retired or deceased. It did not matter if they were incardinated — legally attached — to a diocese or simply on loan from a congregation. "Make us a list of all the abusers you can identify," the Quebec bishops and archbishops had requested.

Pope offers prayers for victims of earthquake in Afghanistan

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis offered prayers for victims of a magnitude 6 earthquake that hit a remote, mountainous area of Afghanistan near the border with Pakistan. By June 24, two days after the quake, at least 1,150 people were dead — the death toll was expected to increase — and more than 1,500 people were injured in the quake, which hit just over 100 miles southeast of Kabul, in Gajan district. At the end of his general audience June 22, Pope Francis said: "In the past few hours, an earthquake has claimed victims and caused extensive damage in Afghanistan. I express my sympathy to the injured and those affected by the earthquake, and I pray in particular for those who have lost their lives and for their families. I hope that with everyone's help, the suffering of the dear Afghan people can be alleviated." The Associated Press reported the disaster posed a major test for Afghanistan's Taliban government, which seized power last August. Many international aid agencies left after the Taliban takeover.

Charter seen as a document that must adapt over time

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When Mike Hoffman decided to contact Archdiocese of Chicago officials in 2006 about how he was sexually abused by a priest for four years while a teenage altar server, he wasn't sure how his story would be received.

"I wrote one letter and got an immediate letter back and we set a date (to talk)," Hoffman, now 57, told Catholic News Service. "In telling my story, I was not met with confrontation or difficulty. Although I felt anxious, my anxiety was that they would question me and question my character."

"I was met with compassion, decency and professionalism," he said.

For that response, Hoffman credits the procedures set up by the archdiocese under the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."

The landmark document, adopted 20 years ago during a widely watched U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops assembly in Dallas, established minimum standards for dioceses and eparchies to follow in response to the clergy sexual abuse scandal that exploded in 2002.

"My experience was modeled after and by and through and within the charter," Hoffman said.

Hoffman's encounter with the archdiocese continues nearly 16 years after he revealed his story. He said that while he no longer undergoes therapy paid for by the archdiocese, he continues to receive support from its victim assistance ministry. He chairs the archdiocese's Hope and Healing Committee, participates in

special Masses for survivors, and works with parish-based "peace circles," discussion groups open to anyone wanting to respond to abuse.

"I still need connection with our local church," he said, "and they're doing that, I can faithfully say."

The archdiocese's efforts to respond and educate about clerical sexual abuse have touched Hoffman's family as well. As active members of their Chicago-area parish, he and his wife have undergone safe environment training. His now adult children received age-appropriate training throughout their time in Catholic schools.

The charter — and the accompanying norms approved by the Vatican that govern its provisions under canon law — has been mandated for use by dioceses and eparchies throughout the U.S. It encompasses 17 articles that prescribe specific actions in response to abuse allegations.

The document promotes healing and reconciliation with survivors abused as a minor; identifies procedures for responding to an abuse allegation; sets standards for ministerial behavior and appropriate boundaries; mandates transparency in communicating with the public; requires the permanent removal from ministry of any priest or deacon when an abuse allegation has been substantiated; and establishes of safe environment programs. The charter also launched the bishops' Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People to coordinate the response to clerical sexual abuse.

In addition, the bishops established the Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection and arranged for an annual audit to be conducted to measure diocesan and eparchial compliance with the charter.

Margaret O'Brien Steinfelds, who was editor of *Commonweal* magazine in 2002, was one of two laypeople invited to address the bishops about their response to the crisis. She recalled telling the bishops how laypeople felt powerless to influence changes in the church and urged the prelates to take substantive action to confront abuse to help rebuild their credibility.

It was a presentation, she told CNS, that she hoped the bishops "would take to heart."

"In a lot of ways I think the Dallas charter did help the bishops come to grips with some of the issues that kind of had not been properly attended to," she said.

Journalist Jason Berry, whose investigative work into clerical abuse in Louisiana began in 1985 and continued for more than two decades, described the charter as an important step for the church.

He credited those bishops who have "been sensitized to the plight of survivors" and took extraordinary action to meet "with people they would have not met with before" after the scandal widened.

Despite such positive outcomes, Berry noted that the charter failed to cover bishops, who under canon law come under the purview of the pope when it comes to disciplinary measures for wrongdoing.

Corpus Christi: Honoring Jesus in the Eucharist

By Mary Beth Bracy
Contributing Writer

PLATTSBURGH – “I think it was a wonderful event, I was very happy to see the turnout. I had no idea how many were going to participate, to make the procession around, even that was impressive – how many actually joined us on the walk,” shared Father Kevin D. McEwan, pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh.

Holy Cross held a Corpus Christi procession and devotions on Sunday, June 19, with about 150 faithful in attendance.

“People said ‘It was wonderful,’ ‘It was great to do this,’ ‘It’s been so long since we’ve had anything in the Church,’” Father McEwan said. “Celebrating Corpus Christi [the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ] is the thing that unifies us; it is a great way to help people see how our Lord Jesus Christ brings us together and how we share that as a community, as the Body of Christ itself.”

Father McEwan was inspired by the 150th anniversary of our diocese and promotion of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist to host the event, and it was organized by Father Tojo Chacko, HGN, parochial vicar. Father Medenal Angrand, parochial vicar, was also in attendance, along with several deacons, the Knights of Columbus honor guard, Catholic Daughters, and altar servers. The procession left from St. Peter’s Church and traveled around the block to a soccer field, where a special Adoration tent with an altar was set up, and decorated with candles and flowers. Those unable to walk the route were invited to remain in the tent. Holy Cross music ministry sang



PHOTO COURTESY OF FATHER TOJO CHACKO, HGN

Parishioner, priests, deacons and organizations from Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh participated in a Corpus Christi procession on June 19. See photos from other processions in the diocese on Page 12.

the Litany of the Blessed Sacrament and hymns, and Father McEwan led the Corpus Christi novena prayer.

“It was a wonderful opportunity to witness to the neighbors along the procession route and good witness to the church members – a great many were in attendance, including lots of children – who may not have previously participated in Eucharistic adoration,” reflected parishioner Marie Nacht.

Dave and Cathy Witkowski, parishioners, added, “We pray that the public display of the Blessed Sacrament and the personal witness of so many parishioners who took part in the procession will bring some enlightenment to the need for our Lord, by the community members who observed the activities.”

“I thought they [the attendants] all were very reverent and were there because they wanted to be there,” said Anita Soltero, assistant director of Education for Faith Formation and Catholic Schools for

the diocese. “I know many in attendance were some of our regular adorers. They already have a great love for the Eucharist and take advantage of any opportunity to participate in community prayer and witness. We don’t have many opportunities for regular Benediction, so I think this was great, especially to have it outside, on such a beautiful sunny day. Even the windy condition made it special, like the Holy Spirit was saying ‘hello’ to us! I think the Eucharistic devotions may seem ‘old fashioned’ to a lot of people, but what they don’t see is the richness of the prayers. Holy Mother Church knows what her children need. When you open your heart and mind and truly join in the prayers, they are very powerful. They help connect you to Eucharist in different way, outside of Mass.”

Father McEwan said he hopes similar events will be offered by Holy Cross Parish in the future.

“Our hope is to try to make this a more common occurrence,” he said. “We

hope to start doing more things to build up the community, people’s involvement. The Summer Festival [August 7] is going to invite families to come with their kids to play and have food after the celebration of the Mass. We’re trying to make plans for something around the feast of the Holy Cross. We’re trying to encourage people to come back to Church to be part of the Body of Christ, to live that, celebrate it, and receive graces that come through the Eucharist which is so important in their lives.”

The Holy Eucharist is the sacrament of unity.

“The celebration of Corpus Christi helped three parishes that were independent two years ago become this new entity,” Father McEwan said. “Ultimately to help them see what unites them, it has to be Christ Himself. So, the celebration of Corpus Christi becomes the wonderful catalyst for growing that unity. Also, that’s really tied so well with the Trinity, the perfect union with God in the three persons. To get our parishes

to mirror that, to all work together – yes, we have three worship sites, but we are one Church, one Body of Christ. It’s not just Plattsburgh, it’s also united to the reality of the Diocese of Ogdensburg which relates to the bigger picture of our country and the universal Church.”

Referring to the National Eucharistic Revival, which began on Corpus Christi, Father McEwan added, “Part of the reason for the bishops promoting the Real Presence is because people have forgotten or lost sight of how important coming to Church is and how it helps sustain them, how it helps support them. It does all of these things for them. Our society has lost sight of that, so we need to help remind them, especially in turbulent times; there is so much going on not only in our own country but throughout the world. People aren’t really sure what they’re supposed to do. But there is a wonderful means or vehicle to help pull them back and realize there is something far greater. Sometimes maybe even we can take certain things for granted – we always have the Eucharist – and we don’t always recognize the graces that are there, the opportunities that are there in that wonderful gift of Our Lord.”

Flowing from worship of the Holy Eucharist is service, Father McEwan concluded.

“Our soup kitchen is trying to go back to in-person, to come sit down and eat, the social aspect,” he said. “For us to make those connections is an important thing. By having this Corpus Christi celebration, it was the starting point, the jump off point for people to hopefully see it and build on it.”

VIRTUAL EVENTS

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.

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.

CLINTON

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

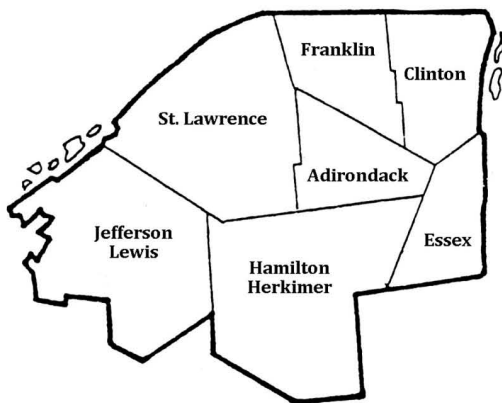
ST. ANDRE BESSETTE PARISH PILGRIMAGE

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



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.

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

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 antipated 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

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.

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. Bring a lawn chair.

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

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. Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 p.m.

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: Fr. 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.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

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 an opportunity to attend 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. 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 be playing on 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

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 Rouses Point Bridge. T

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/fg 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 (often outside) and special prayer services. Take time for great outdoor activities like paddle boat rides, beach volleyball, and hiking. You are never too young or too old to enjoy being family at Camp Guggenheim!

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

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

God's recipe for peace

This weekend's celebrations of our beginnings as a nation stir our hearts to renewed loyalty to our beloved country. Yet this nation is now in the throes of serious threats to our democracy itself. Divisions in our congress, divisions in every aspect of society threaten our beloved land. Our borders once offered hope and hospitality to the stranger. No more! The torch of Lady Liberty in



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

New York harbor is as much a warning fire as it is a beacon of hope. At the same time, many nations are threatened by tyrants and dictators. Our world is in serious upheaval for children and adults. The Scripture readings for this Sunday offer food for reflection, and God's recipe for peace. Beginning with Isaiah, we hear that the Lord offers a future of peace and prosperity to Israel following

July 3

14th Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

Isaiah 66:10-14c

Galatians 6:14-18

Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

the Babylonian captivity. "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; in Jerusalem you shall find your comfort."

In the Gospel, Jesus and His apostles and disciples are on the way to Jerusalem to fulfill this ancient prophecy. In every village and hamlet, they preach the Good

News, heal the sick and drive out demons. Jesus has instructed them to travel very light, relying on the common people to feed and protect them. They are not to take staff or traveling bag. Unfortunately, Jerusalem rejects the message, puts the Son of God to death, and seals its own fate, not the peace of Jerusalem, but its eventual destruction in the year 70! No wonder that, when Jesus arrives, He weeps over the city's rejection, again using the image of God as tenderhearted mother.

Our late Holy Father,

John Paul II, reminded us that peace begins in the human heart. Peace will only come from those whose hearts are filled with God's love, and obedience to His plan for the world. At the same time, Paul reminds us in the second reading that the disciple must be prepared for rejection, bearing the marks of the Cross in his or her own body.

On this Fourth of July, may we remind ourselves that, when we practice justice for all, God will send us the peace for which we so long.

CALLED TO SERVE

Perspective

How many times during the announcements at the end of Mass have you heard a priest or deacon stumble over the reference to the "front of the Church?"

"The sign-up sheet is located on the table at... uh...the... near the baptismal font... uh...by the main door... uh... at the front of the church."

It can be confusing. Is it the front of the Church or not?

Standing at the celebrant's chair or at the ambo it appears to be correct, at least intuitively,

for the cleric to refer to the front of the church as the entrance area, the gathering area, the main doors of the church where the bride comes from at a wedding.

But wait! If you enter the church through the main doors on the façade of the building, the altar area, called the sanctuary, is in front of you.

That means you entered through the back of the Church. But you entered through the main doors in the front of the Church. Right? What?

It is a matter of perspective,

or is it?

Technically the sanctuary is the front of the Church. The sanctuary is where the altar, ambo (also called the lectern) and various chairs or benches and prie-dieux (you might have called them kneelers) are located.

Some churches have the tabernacle in the sanctuary too. If consecrated hosts are reserved in the tabernacle, there is a lighted candle nearby.

The sanctuary is considered holy space because of the presence of God in the Eucharist both during the Mass and reserved in the tabernacle.

An altar rail used to separate the sanctuary from the nave of the church. The nave is the central and principal part of a Christian church. It ex-

tends from the entrance (the narthex) to the transepts (that aisle crossing the nave in front of the sanctuary.)



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

From above, make believe you are a drone, the nave and sanctuary with the aisle at the front, appear as a cross. That's on purpose.

Back in the day when we had altar rails, only a select group was allowed in the sanctuary.

Priests, altar servers, sacristans and the occasional folks responsible for flowers and decorations were permitted in the sanctuary.

Those folks who did spend any time in the sanctuary, that holy place, treated it as sacred.

Some people do not treat the area with the same deference today. I have seen folks use the sanctuary as a pass

through to the nave. Some folks think they can enter the sanctuary just to tell the priest or deacon something before Mass.

Frankly, I tense up a little when that happens. I want to say, "you don't belong up here," but I don't.

A part of me wants to let people consider their church a gathering area, a place for folks to worship and have fellowship, a place for kids to run around after Mass like it is a playground.

Another part of me wants the church to be a sacred place where we adore and honor God, where we celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Christ and nothing else.

It is a matter of perspective.

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

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The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

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

A call to consecrated life

It is necessary to listen to God's call and encourage young people not to be afraid, following the steps of Jesus in life as priests or consecrated persons.

This is what Father Rodon Robert Hadima said at the head of the Episcopal Commission for Evangelization and National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Bangladesh, who asked parents and guardians "not to be afraid and to let their children experience religious life."

In a speech published recently in the national weekly "Pratibeshi," in Bengali, the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Society wrote a message to the parents: "Let us pray to increase the workers of the harvest of the Kingdom of God. The world is suffering from a pandemic and many wars are underway. We observe death, illness, poverty, unemployment, a precarious social, political and economic situation in many nations. It is our responsibility to cultivate vocations to the consecrated life, to cultivate the hope of a better world. We need prayer. Parents and teachers, in teaching children and young people, it is your responsibility to educate them to follow the Gospel of Jesus Christ, so that, according to the grace of God, the ardent desire to join religious life may blossom in their hearts".

The National Director invites young people who feel a call from God in their hearts to enter seminaries and houses of formation to begin the journey to become priests or sisters.

And he writes: "I appeal to parents to teach their children Christian values at home that help increase the desire to follow Christ in religious life."

Furthermore, on behalf of Pope Francis and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh, Father Hadima expresses to all the faithful "sincere gratitude and appreciation to all of you for the donations, prayers, sacrifices and financial support for the well-being and formation of future priests, nuns, consecrated religious," concludes the message.

In Bangladesh, a Muslim country with around 400,000 Catholics, a total of 12 young Catholics have been ordained as deacons so far in 2022 and more than 15 girls took their vows in the first few months of the year.

Article from *FIDES missionary news service of the Pontifical Mission Societies*

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.
rcdony.org/mission

OBITUARIES

Brownville – Sally J. Parker, 62; Mass of Christian Burial June 24, 2022 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Brushton – Elizabeth J. (Mayville) Drumm, 86; Mass of Christian Burial June 21, 2022 at St. Mary's Church.

Carthage – Joseph S. Shambo, 89; Mass of Christian Burial June 27, 2022 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Champlain – Fred G. Stone, 77; Mass of Christian Burial June 21, 2022 at St. Mary's Church.

Colton – Nancy J. (Webert) Demo, 87; Mass of Christian Burial June 21, 2022 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Constable – Barbara T. (Rest) Dreez, 90; Graveside services June 20, 2022 at St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery.

Croghan – Linda (Martin) Hall, 83; Mass of Christian Burial June 23, 2022 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, New Bremen.

Ellenburg – Anne Marie (Garrow) Sylvester, 52; Mass of Christian Burial June 25, 2022 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Gouverneur – Wilma Ruth (Weldon) Girard, 91; Mass of Christian Burial June 28, 2022 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Harrisville – Clyde "Ike" A. LaDuc, 88; Mass of Christian Burial July 9, 2022 at St. Francis Solanus Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Heuvelton – Bernard G. Hynes, 85; Funeral Services June 23, 2022 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Hillcrest Cemetery.

Hogansburg – Travis R. Terrance, 23;



Mass of Christian Burial June 21, 2022 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Keeseville – Rita C. Sullivan, 95; Mass of Christian Burial June 27, 2022 at St. John's Church; burial in Immaculate Conception Cemetery.

Lowville – Jeffrey F. Sauter, 66; Mass of Christian Burial June 25, 2022 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Croghan Menonite Cemetery.

Malone – Edward "Ned" J. Lemieux, 84; Funeral Services June 22, 2022 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Ladd Cemetery, Duane.

Malone – Marie "Anita" (Soucy) Normandeau, 91; Mass of Christian Burial June 24, 2022 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena – Dale Dishaw, 57; Mass of Christian Burial June 21, 2022 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Susan J. Finkenbinder Trombino, 74; Mass of Christian Burial June 29, 2022 at St. Mary's Church.

Massena – Vincent Tyo, 91; Mass of Christian Burial June 25, 2022 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Charles V. Trudo, 76; Mass of Christian Burial July 1, 2022 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in Mother

Cabrini's Shrine, Peru.

North Bangor – Stella (Benware) O'Connor, 88; Mass of Christian Burial June 23, 2022 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Bernadette B. (LaFave) McLear, 90; Funeral Services June 28, 2022 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Kent J. Pliner, 64; Funeral Services June 22, 2022 at LaRue & Pitcher Funeral Home; burial in Ogdensburg Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Hazel Marie Barber, 86; Mass of Christian Burial June 24, 2022 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Jane O. Chagnon, 91; Funeral Services June 23, 2022 at Brown Funeral Home; burial in St. Amadeus Cemetery, Alburgh, VT.

Redford – Madelyn Parker, 88; Mass of Christian Burial June 23, 2022 at Church of the Assumption; burial in Saranac Independence Cemetery.

Star Lake – Robert Pommerville, 85; Mass of Christian Burial June 22, 2022 at St. Hubert's Church.

Watertown – John C. Webb, 58; Funeral Services July 2022 at Cummings Funeral Service, Inc.; burial in Glenwood Mausoleum.

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Locals celebrate pro-life court decision

By Mary Beth Bracy
Contributing Writer

PLATTSBURGH—On June 24, 2022, a “Roe v. Wade is HISTORY!” rally took place in Plattsburgh to celebrate the United States Supreme Court’s historic decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, the ruling that overturned the 1973 ruling which legalized abortion throughout our country.

“This is a day that the pro-life movement has been working toward for decades,” said Nancy Belzile, president of Champlain Valley Right to Life (CVRTL). “It is a day we will mark and celebrate for decades to come.”

The faithful gathered to sing, pray, and commemorate this moment. Father Justin Thomas, pastor of the Catholic Communities of Elizabethtown, Westport, Willsboro and Essex, led the introductory prayer. Belzile read opening and closing comments, along with Deacon Kenneth Lushia, CVRTL Vice President, who also offered the final blessing.

Pro-lifers gave thanks to God for the victory in the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson*.

“America is ready to move past the ugly history of Roe and a build new hopeful future for mothers and their unborn children,” said Belzile.

Father Thomas expressed the magnitude of this decision and what it means for the pro-life community.

“Today marks a historic day for our nation as the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* indicating and affirming the value and supreme gift of



Local faithful gathered in front of Planned Parenthood in Plattsburgh on June 24, 2022 to prayerfully celebrate the United States Supreme Court decision which overturned *Roe v. Wade*.

life,” he said. “As pro-life activists, we rejoiced over this judicial victory, as we did our thanksgiving and prayers in front of the Planned Parenthood today in Plattsburgh. As we continue to build up a culture of life, this day certainly will remain a true inspiration to stand for life. Though we have won in the court, in real life we need to keep that awareness of the sacredness of life going strong. I am thankful to all the activities of pro-life members, and pregnancy centers like here in Plattsburgh who create the awareness that life is divine and offer help to all in need. I pray that all mothers who are planning to step into Planned Parenthood will reverse their idea and give a chance to their babies to live and breathe as they do. Again, may they know that they aren’t alone but there is help.”

One of the participants, Dorothy McDevitt, said she was happy she was able to see *Roe v. Wade* reversed.

“I am very, very grateful for this decision,” she said. “I was 14 when *Roe v. Wade* was decided. I remember standing in the hall and hearing the nuns discussing it and I felt such dread! I didn’t really think I’d live to see it reversed! I am so humbly grateful to the millions of pro-life prayer warriors who have supported this fight, and who went out to the sidewalks in all weather. There is still a ways to go to protect all human life. I will be praying for the safety of the courageous justices and their families as well as for recognition of the sanctity of life. But today is a day of profound gratitude.”

Deacon Lushia agreed. “It has been a day 50 years in the making,” he said. “It is proper and just that it should be on this day, The Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, that the United States of America can stand corrected and right its wrongs. I read the entire ruling along with the concurring and dissent-

ing opinions. It has been a great day to be sure, I think the most memorable part of the day will be the time we spent at the rally remembering all who have gone before us trying to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ, that is ‘The Culture of LIFE!’ The days ahead will be difficult however we need not be afraid!”

Those in attendance say the court case and the nation has been on their minds and in their prayers in both the months leading up to the decision and now that it has been released.

“We have been storming heaven with prayers for the U.S. Supreme Court as they prepared to release today’s decision in the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson*,” said Belzile. “We increase our prayers for our fellow Americans to embrace the opportunity this ruling will offer to create a new culture of life in our country!”

Toward the end of the rally, Belzile said she feels we need “to begin the healing of our na-

tion,” which only God can provide.

“Too many innocent unborn children’s lives have been sacrificed under this unjust law,” she said. “Too many people have suffered the consequences of this law that was made under the sacrilegious name of ‘choice.’”

Belzile suggested ways each of us can help:

- Pray daily for the states to extend greater legal protection to unborn children
- Talk to friends, neighbors and family about why the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* is good for America

- Get involved in pro-life efforts in your community, like prayer and sidewalk counseling at your local abortion facility, or volunteering at a local pregnancy center

“Deus Vult! (God will it!),” concluded Belzile. “We are so thankful to God that the stain of abortion can be redeemed from the history of our country! As the president of Champlain Valley Right to Life I wish to thank all of those brave souls that have gone before us. Their work was not in vain, God has answered their sweat, tears and prayers. Our work at rebuilding a culture of life begins now as we pray for a deep healing in our country that only God can provide through His mercy and grace! Our work is just beginning to extend legal protection to every unborn child and provide real support to every unborn child’s mother.”

For more information about CVRTL and ways to help mothers and babies, visit cvrtlny.com or contact Belzile at 518-593-6024.