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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 77 Number 19

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

Helping adult children of divorce find healing

Recognizing the tremendous need to help adults who have experienced the separation and/or divorce of their parents, the Family Life Office has begun offering a new ministry, "Life-Giving Wounds."

Life-Giving Wounds is peer-led ministry to adults with divorced and separated parents, allowing them to give voice to their pain and find deep spiritual healing. The ministry provides a unique means for Christ to transform their life-draining wounds into life-giving resources of faith, hope, love and joy for themselves, their relationships, and the Church.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

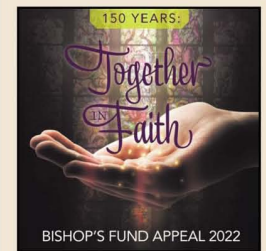
GROWING OPPORTUNITIES



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY AUTOPOT

Christopher Michalak, a teacher at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga, is leading efforts to teach students a variety of ways to grow healthy foods in The Grow Club, pictured with some of their harvest from last year. See the full story on Page 7.

BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL BEGINS



The 2022 Bishop's Fund Appeal is kicking off in parishes around the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The Bishop's Fund Appeal supports a number of ministries that impact individuals, families and the Church throughout the diocese, including education of Seminarians, Vocation Office, permanent deacons, deacon formation, continuing education and formation of priests, priests' graduate studies, Family Life Office, Camp Guggenheim and youth ministry, Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund and many, many more.

FULL STORY, PAGES 3 & 9-12

Pope Francis: War violates international law

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Europe and the entire world are being shaken by a war of great seriousness, Pope Francis told his papal nuncios who serve around the globe.

It is "a particularly serious war, due to the violation of international law, the risks of nuclear escalation and the drastic economic and social consequences," he said.

"It is a Third World War 'fought piecemeal' that you are witnessing in the places where you carry out your mission," he added.

The pope's remarks came during his brief greeting to his represen-

tatives before opening the floor to their "questions and suggestions" during a private meeting in the Apostolic Palace Sept. 8.

The group included 91 apostolic nuncios and six permanent observers; five papal representatives were unable to attend, according to Vatican News. The group was at the Vatican Sept. 7-10 as part of an organized gathering of all papal representatives, scheduled every three years.

Pope Francis expressed his gratitude that, after all the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pan-

dem, "now it seems the worst may be behind us, and thank God we were able to meet."

"But, unfortunately, Europe and the whole world are shaken by a particularly serious war," he added.

He thanked them for everything they have been doing in "these situations of suffering" everywhere they work. "You have brought the closeness of the pope to the people and the church. You have been points of reference during moments of extreme loss and turbulence."

The pope asked everyone to remember the retired papal representatives who have died over the past three years, and in particular, the two nuncios who died while still actively serving their mission: Syro-Malabar Archbishop Joseph Chennoth, 76, papal nuncio to Japan, who died of a heart attack Sept. 8, 2020; and Italian Archbishop Aldo Giordano, 67, papal nuncio to the European Union, who died Dec. 2, 2021, after contracting COVID-19 during the pope's visit to Slovakia two months prior.

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I'm awful at playing God

I should probably preface this by saying, "yes, I realize I have strange hobbies."

That being said, there's an ecosystem sitting on my desk at home.

Immediately to the right of my computer monitor, keyboard and workspace is a 10-gallon aquarium. I started the aquarium with the goal of supporting my growing freshwater aquarium hobby by breeding and selling its inhabitants. While those plants haven't changed, I've enjoyed maintaining this aquarium and its inhabitants far more than I anticipated.

So, what am I raising? Neocaridina shrimp. For those not familiar, they're a tiny (slightly less than an inch in length when fully grown), brightly colored (mine are red) freshwater shrimp.



Darcy L.
Fargo

While I find their shrimpy behaviors fascinating and entertaining, and I've enjoyed learning about their life cycles and care, I also love that they're only one part of their ecosystem.

The 10-gallon glass box also includes a multitude of "macro-organisms," tiny, bug-like creatures that survive on the waste, food

remnants, biofilm and algae in the tank (I intentionally grow algae to add to that tank; the shrimp enjoy eating it). The tank also contains some plants (the few that survived the shrimp eating them) and more than a few pest snails that came with them.

While I've read countless articles and watched eleven billion videos about caring for my shrimp, fish, plants and aquariums, the experience consistently reminds me of one fact: I'm awful at playing God.

If you can think of an aquarium problem, I've had it. Leaks? Check. Fish diseases and parasites? Yup, at

least four. Unexpected spikes in ammonia or nitrates (both of which can hurt or kill your aquarium inhabitants)? I've lost count of those. Deaths I can't explain? Oh, yes.

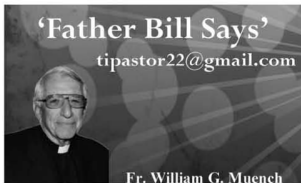
It's been yet another reminder that no matter how much I think I know, how much I try to exert control, some things aren't mine to manage. I can do my best to cooperate with God's creation, but ultimately, I can't control all (or any) of the variables.

I frequently forget these lessons. I'm pretty sure that's why God continuously reminds me, even through my strange hobbies.

Jesus chooses his apostles

This week at one of the daily Masses, the Gospel reading was from Luke's memory of the day Jesus chose the twelve apostles. The Gospel tells us that Jesus spent the whole night in prayer. This was to be an important decision for Jesus, so he prayed long. It is good for us to remember that Jesus often spent long hours in prayer. I can imagine the Lord praying for wisdom as he prepared to make many of his decisions.

We know who he chose. The names are familiar to us. Although we do not know about some of them, there are some with whom we are quite familiar. We know a great deal about Peter. There are many stories in the Gospels about Peter. We also know all about Peter's mistakes; there was the three times Peter denied even knowing Jesus, when he denied that he did not even know Jesus at the time of Jesus' arrest. However, we know that Peter was to trust Jesus and believed in his forgiveness. Jesus obviously recognized Peter's faith. He realized



Fr. William G. Muench

Peter would be a strong leader despite his failings. Jesus welcomed Peter back to the twelve in forgiveness and love. In fact, he made him the leader of the twelve.

We know of Peter's brother, Andrew. Andrew has always been one of my favorite apostles; my first parish as a pastor was dedicated to St. Andrew. In addition, we know the sons of Zebedee, the brothers James and John. They often accompanied Peter, and the three of them accompanied Jesus on certain important experiences, including the time of the Transfiguration of the Lord.

We do have the names of the others. We know something about a few of them. About others, we know nothing at all - Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James, the son of

Alphaeus, Simon, the Zealot, Judas, the son of James, and, finally, Judas Iscariot. I would like to spend a day with Matthew. We know he was a tax collector. I would be interested to learn how he got to know Jesus and why he was chosen as an apostle by Jesus.

And I would like to spend some time with Judas Iscariot. We know well the story of Judas as a traitor. Many think that Judas was considered to be one of the most dedicated of the apostles. Yet, he lost faith in Jesus. Possibly he just became disappointed and lost faith in Jesus' plan. Personally, I am saddened that Judas took his own life after betraying Jesus. He could not believe that Jesus would forgive him. I am certain Jesus would have forgiven him. I believe Jesus would have welcomed him back just as he forgave Peter.

I must admit that it must have been quite a day, that day Jesus chose the twelve as his apostles and friends. The followers of Jesus throughout the ages continued to wonder why Jesus

chose such very ordinary people as apostles. They were non-professionals. They had no wealth, no position.

Jesus chose common people who did ordinary things. They had no special education. It seemed that Jesus wanted ordinary people who could accept challenges and could do them in extraordinary ways. Jesus chose these men not for what they were but for what they would be capable of becoming with his direction.

Jesus teaches this message for us now. It is a lesson for people of all time, a lesson that has always been the same. Jesus continues to choose us just like those original apostles, the people who will continue to give ourselves unreservedly to God. When the Lord calls us to save, to do something, we must not step back because we think we have nothing to offer. The Lord will take what seems like ordinary people - like us - to show us the way and to lead us and guide us for the greatness of the kingdom.

BISHOP'S FUND: TOGETHER IN FAITH

Bishop's Fund Appeal set to begin

By Valerie Mathews

Director of Bishop's Fund Appeal & Stewardship

The 2022 Bishop's Fund Appeal, 150 Years: Together in Faith is set to begin in parishes across the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

The diocese has a long history of bringing Christ to the people of the North County through the ministries supported by the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal. Your support of the Bishop's Fund Appeal assists you and your Catholic sisters and brothers during every step of our faith journey through the following ministries: education of Seminarians, Vocation Office, permanent deacons, deacon formation, continuing education and formation of priests, priests'

graduate studies, Family Life Office, Natural Family Planning Office, Respect Life Ministry, Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund, Formation for Ministry Program, Office of the New Evangelization, Tuition Assistance Program, matching gifts to Catholic Schools, Campus Ministry Program, Department of Faith Formation, Diocesan Center of Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, Guggenheim Center and Department of Worship.

This past year saw the ordination of a new priest and 13 new deacons, and nine seminarians have resumed their studies on their journey to the priesthood. Young people and families have participated in events at Camp Guggenheim, and Catholic School

students recently returned to school. We truly have much for which we can be thankful!

This year's Bishop's Fund goal is set at \$1.3 million, with any funds raised over the goal to be used to further supplement the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund. The Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund assists families and individuals who are experiencing emergency situations such as job loss, medical issues, and natural disasters. Every year, pastors across the diocese reach out to the Bishop's Good Samaritan fund when they are aware of people in their communities who are in need.

"There have been numerous times in my 37 years as a priest that I have contacted the bishop seeking

financial assistance for people through the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund," said Father Raymond J. Moreau, pastor of St. Mary's in Brushton and the Catholic Community of St. Augustine in North Bangor. "I recall the first time I wrote to Bishop Brzana seeking assistance for a family in need of new tires for their car. More recently, we have received assistance for our food pantry and assistance for a parishioner who had a house fire. Oftentimes, small churches are unable to provide financial assistance to individuals because we are on a tight budget, but the Bishop's Fund and the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund comes through to as-

sist those people who are in need."

Please consider supporting this year's Bishop's Fund Appeal which will help continue the vital ministries, services and programs that assist so many families and individuals across the diocese.

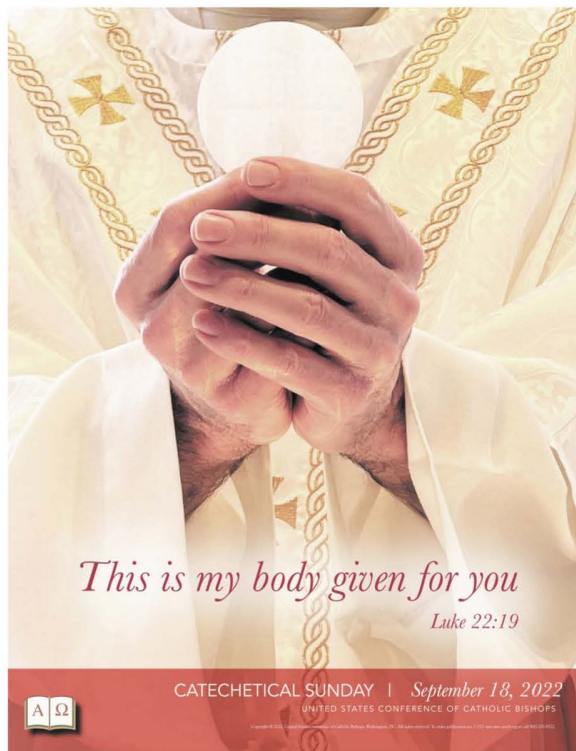
Every gift is important, every gift makes a difference. Gifts and pledges can be mailed to The Bishop's Fund Appeal, PO Box 150, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 or made online at: rcdony.org/giving/donate-now-bishop-s-fund.

For further information about the Bishop's Fund Appeal and to view this year's video, please visit our website at: rcdony.org/bfa.

HIGH-LEVEL MODIFICATIONS



Thanks to the generosity of Capital Campaign donors, repairs were completed on the steeple at St. John the Baptist Church in Morrystown.



This is my body given for you

Luke 22:19

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY | September 18, 2022
UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS



The Office of Faith Formation of the Diocese of Ogdensburg

Salutes the Pastors, Catechetical Leaders and Catechists of the diocese as we **Celebrate Catechetical Sunday Sept. 18**

Adult children of divorced parents find healing

By Steve Tartaglia
Director, Family Life Office

Dr. Jennifer Roback Morse of The Ruth Institute (ruthinstitute.org) says that kids are not as resilient as people claim they are. The idea that kids get over divorce is just not true. The problems go on and on, showing up at holidays, weddings, graduations, etc.

The list of negative effects of divorce on children is lengthy, but two noteworthy problems are a damaged vision of marriage and a loss of faith. Children from divorced families often have a very hard time with trust and are highly anxious about relationships, dating, marriage and parenthood. Marriages where one or both spouses are from divorced homes are more likely to end in divorce than marriages with two spouses from intact homes, perpetuating the problem for generations.

Children from divorced families often feel rejected and abandoned by God because the two people that are supposed to

Individuals who participated in the Life-Giving Wounds retreat shared these reactions:

- I am so thankful for the "self-giving dedication to this ministry"

- I'm filled with an "amazing sense of hope".

The retreat was so:

- "Powerful."

- "Pivotal, life-changing."

- "100% successful. Achieved what I thought it would."

- It "connected dots I didn't see before. I can go forward with all aspects of my life. It will be helpful to minister to other people."

- "It's amazing that at my age someone cares enough to do this. I have a new identity now, born again. I'm not a bad person. Bad things happened to me. But I'm a good person."

- Divorce is the "leprosy of our age," but the Holy Spirit has great renewal for His people."

- "We are bonded together. We are not alone. This is what Church is."

- "I am allowed to let God in. It's okay. It's a safe place

that allows you to open your heart."

Father Christopher C. Carrara, chaplain for the retreat, said:

"When Steve Tartaglia asked me to serve as the chaplain for the first Life Giving Wounds retreat in the diocese, I honestly did not give it much thought. As an adult child of divorced parents, I am certainly sympathetic to the topic, and since a chaplain was needed, I willingly agreed. I was not prepared for the amazing and powerful experience it was for the participants and staff, including the chaplain!

"The sharing on the part of the staff and participants was profound, the insights offered into this topic pertinent and helpful, and the healing I witnessed were truly life giving. At the conclusion of the retreat, I thought to myself, "as a priest this is exactly where I belonged" and was left with a sense of pride that the Church was offering this powerful ministry. I would recommend this retreat to any adult who is a child of divorced parents, of any age, who desires God's love to bring healing and new life from the wounds of divorce."

model God's love for them have failed. They may also see religious faith as hypocritical, questioning why God allowed their suffering to happen. If no one from the faith community reaches out to them to help them, as is frequently the case, they may leave institutional faith altogether, describing themselves as "spiritual but not religious."

Recognizing the tremendous need to help adults who have experienced the separation and/or divorce of their parents, the Family Life Office has begun offering a new ministry, "Life-Giving Wounds."

Life-Giving Wounds is peer-led ministry to adults with divorced and separated parents, allowing them to give voice to their pain and find deep spiri-

tual healing. The ministry provides a unique means for Christ to transform their life-draining wounds into life-giving resources of faith, hope, love and joy for themselves, their relationships, and the Church.

Life-Giving Wounds ministry begins with a retreat for adult children of separation or divorce, where retreatants listen to talks given by professionally trained speakers, participate in small group conversations, spend time in prayer and journal-based reflection, and have opportunities to encounter Christ in Eucharistic Adoration, the sacrament of reconciliation, and Mass.

After the initial retreat, they are invited to continue their healing via participation in locally offered support groups and events.

The Family Life Office offered the Life-Giving Wounds Retreat on June 10-12 at the Guggenheim Center in Saranac Lake.

Dr. Daniel and Bethany Meola founded Life-Giving Wounds ministry in 2018,

after receiving positive feedback from Family Life Directors at a talk Dr. Daniel gave in 2017 at the annual conference of the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers (NACFLM). There was no program in existence at that time to meet the specific needs of now-adult children of divorce or separation. Diocesan Family Life directors suggested forming a team dedicated to spreading the retreat and training leaders in this ministry. The ministry has grown and spread across the United States. In fact, the retreat held in the Diocese of Ogdensburg broke new ground as a few of the participants were from Toronto, Canada.

The first annual Diocese of Ogdensburg Life-Giving Wounds Retreat was very successful. The Retreat Team included Steve Tartaglia, director of the Family Life Office, Colleen Miner, director of the Respect Life Office, Dr. Daniel Meola, Ms. Jennifer Cox, Father Christopher C. Carrara, and Fritz Wenzler.

The nine participants were men and women ranging in age from 18 to 58 years old. Most of the participants were from the Diocese of Ogdensburg, however two were from Toronto and one was from Louisiana.

The Family Life Office has formed a local retreat team that will offer the Life-Giving Wounds retreat annually as well as follow up support for retreat participants.

For more information about the Life-Giving Wounds ministry, go to lifegivingwounds.org.

For information about the ministry and upcoming retreats within the diocese, contact Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org.

2022 Diocesan Directories now available!

2022

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Directory

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Family Camp: A first-time camper's perspective

By Amy Schirmer

For the North Country Catholic

Having lived, worshipped, and participated in the Diocese of Ogdensburg for 15 years, I am still experiencing "firsts" that both surprise and delight. Recently, I attended Family Guggenheim, sans family. I had anticipated a family member or two would join me, but with one thing and another, I wended my way through the small towns and high mountains of the Adirondacks alone. I had to work that Thursday, so arrived in a full parking area with the all too familiar anxiety of being the new kid at a new school who doesn't speak the language...and forgot to wear clothing. None of this was true, but the "bad spirit" to which the Jesuits refer, was having a field day with my

emotions, and the temptation to turn around was real.

But two can play at this game, and I was greeted almost immediately by the Blessed Mother, in the form of Christina Tartaglia and her warmest of smiles. Close on her heels were strapping young men who fetched and carried my things into my room and greeted me as though the whole camp had simply been waiting for me to arrive.

I am, by nature, an introvert, deliciously content with time alone: the attendant sounds of nature breaking through the hum of a few beloved family members or close friends in conversation. My youngest is 27 and almost 6'4", so having to watch my step for fear of treading on children is a thing of my distant past. Thank-

fully, like riding a bike, the instinct returns as needed.

Movement and noise, both joyful and loud, were my first impressions. Mercifully name tags were worn for as long as they could be easily found, and I managed to collect a few names before they (the tags) were lost in the muddle that is the camp bedroom.

What shall I recount? So much happened, and yet there was plenty of time for families to play together. This year's theme was Medieval, and Ladies and Sirs were remarkably relaxed as they learned about virtues, the Spiritual armor available to us all, the battle we enjoy by choosing Christ. I suppose, given the serious nature of the theme, the relaxed atmosphere could be attributed to the like-mindedness of those par-

ticipating. These families are the hope of our diocese. They are supremely "normal" with momentary panic, little "tiffs" and the exhaustion that comes from full days of playing in the sun, good food, and late bedtimes.

But they were also supremely Catholic, and it brings tears to my eyes as I type. A procession with the Blessed Sacrament over rose petals that marked the pathway for the rest of the weekend; Adoration in the late evening, with blessed silence; confession with lines that bespoke the time taken by the confessor...only slowly diminishing in number, everyone patiently waiting to "whisper in the ear of Jesus."

From one dad I heard, "You'll go to sleep hot and wake up cold." It was true!

From another: "I feel as though I'm being asked to teach my daughter how to be a martyr. I don't know how to do that." This is also true. Young fathers, keenly aware of both the temporal and the eternal, wanting to do all they can to bring their families to the gates of Heaven.

God is good. All the time. Family Guggenheim provides a window on this fact. If you have the slightest inkling to experience the beauty of the Catholic faith being lived joyfully, I believe there are still openings for the October session. If I am wrong... sign up for next year.

Editor's Note: For Family Camp information and registration, visit rcdony.org/family-life/fg

Amy Schirmer is a parishioner of St. Mary's Cathedral Parish, Ogdensburg.

KNIGHTS HOLD INSTALLATION, CELEBRATION



The Knights of Columbus, Father John Cosmic Council 291, Carthage, held an Installation of Officers on Sept. 1 at St James Church. The installation was held in honor of departed Sir Knight Joseph Shambo. "The theme of our Council for this Fraternal year is the family. Families are the building blocks of our parishes and, indeed, our faith," shared Grand Knight Garry Stevens. A reception was held in the Community Room after the installation. (Left) Officers installed for the 2022-23 Columbian year. (Above) Grand Knight Garry Stevens with Joseph Shambo's family, including wife, Margaret, and daughters, Susan Jacobs and Mary Beth Ashlaw, and past Grand Knight Brian Thompson.

Environmental Stewardship

The Prodigal Son & the Season of Creation

In this past week's Sunday Gospel (Luke 15-1-32) on the Prodigal Son one son "squandered his property in dissolute living," and we read that he is faced with famine. During this season of creation, this text echoes the squandering of the earth's resources. We are now seeing the consequences of this squandering as our world faces multiple environmental, social and economic crises. Like the younger son in the parable, we can "come to our senses," turn around and make a new start. Each of us can do something, each of us has a role to play in order to bring healing to our common home. Today, during this Season of Creation, we are invited to take up this call, to listen to the voice of creation and discern where we are being called to act, in our own homes, in our communities, to care more deeply for the earth and all of its inhabitants.

Goal # 2 of the Laudato Si Action Plan is: Response to the Cry of the Poor

We are called to promote eco-justice, aware that we are called to defend human life from conception to natural death, and all forms of life on Earth. We are not faced with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded and at the same time protecting nature. (#139) Today, however, we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

God, we give thanks for the gift of the earth, our common home. At this time, many people, the oceans and the ecosystems are struggling to survive. Help us to change our ways and guide us to live a life which is not centered exclusively on ourselves but on the needs of others and the worship of you as our ultimate concern. (#49)
*Resources for Prayer & Action from Catholic Climate Covenant
<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/season>

Bishop's Public Schedule

Sept. 14 – 1 p.m. – Dedication and Blessing of Peyton Morse's Path at Siena College in Loudonville

Sept. 15 – 11 a.m. – Investment Advisory Committee Meeting at Bishop's Residence

Sept. 16 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Sept. 17 – 11 a.m. – 44th Annual St. Augustine's Applefest Parade in Peru

Sept. 18 – 8:30am – Installation Mass of Reverend James V. Teti as Pastor of St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Tupper Lake

11 a.m. – Installation Mass of Reverend James V. Teti as Pastor of St. Henry's Church in Long Lake and St. Therese Church in Newcomb

Sept. 19 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Sept. 21 – 8 a.m. – NYS Catholic Conference Board of Bishops Meeting in Douglaston

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; terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rcdony.org Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340. If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at 800-276-1562 or www.ReportBishopAbuse.org.



Rest in Peace

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

Sept. 14 – Rev. Russell Charles O'Neil, 1951

Sept. 15 – Rev. George Lessard, O.M.I., 1978; Rev. Joseph V. Rossitto, 2004

Sept. 16 – Rev. Henri Victor Lecompte, O.M.I., 1892; Rev. Alphonse Nolin, O.M.I., 1936

Sept. 17 – Rev. William E. Capron, 1949; Msgr. Louis D. Berube, 1999

Sept. 18 – Rev. Charles E. Campeau, 1952

Sept. 19 – Rev. Clement J. Dwyer, O.S.A., 1956; Rev. Francis C. McMahon, 1975

Sept. 20 – Msgr. Edmund J. Brown, 1954; Rev. Donald Gallagher, 1959; Rev. Edward J. Wright, 1993; Msgr. Floyd J. Brown, 1994

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.

Upcoming sessions:

Sept. 14 – 6 p.m. at Seton Catholic, Plattsburgh

Sept. 15 – 6:30 p.m. at Trinity Catholic School, Massena

Sept. 17 – 10 a.m. at Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh

Sept. 27 – 6 p.m. at St. James School in Gouverneur

Oct. 25 – 9 a.m. at St. Joseph's Community Outreach Center, Plattsburgh



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NCC PRIEST APPRECIATION ISSUE

Join the North Country Catholic in honoring the special priests in your life. The NCC will be honoring our priests in the Sept. 28 issue of the paper.

Priesthood Sunday will be Sept. 25

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PHOTOS PROVIDED BY AUTOPOT

(Left) Members of The Grow Club at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga learn a variety of ways to grow healthy foods. (Above) While also learning traditional growing methods, including composting, students in The Grow Club are using AutoPot growing systems, automated watering and nutrition systems.

St. Mary's School grows veggies, opportunities

Editor's note: The following was provided by AutoPot, a partner of The Grow Club at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga.

TICONDEROGA – Horticulture and Catholic education have combined at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga.

Led by teacher Christopher Michalak, The Grow Club at St. Mary's School aims to engage young people in skills for life-long food security and an ability to improve their community using a range of growing techniques.

Students are experimenting with deep water culture (DWC), native pollinator gardens, organic composting and organic beds, indoor gardening, grow lights, and AutoPot Watering Systems.

The Grow Club covered much of the above in just a few months last year.

"Our students have

been extremely receptive," Michalak said. "The work has primarily been done during school hours but interest is such that I'm planning to create a format for our club to meet after school and over holiday breaks."

Such sustained enthusiasm from the kids is really encouraging given Michalak's underlying motivation for teaching horticulture.

The area surrounding St. Mary's suffers from a degree of social deprivation with many community members living well below the poverty level. As Michalak explains, this is a driving force behind the Grow Club.

"Fresh, high quality produce is often out of reach for low income families," he said. "My goal is to teach students that, by growing your own, you don't need much money to eat healthily. Teaching

students to grow their own food and then how to properly store it by canning, drying, or freezing will provide some form of food security throughout their lives."

A grasp of the general principles of growing and self sufficiency promises to serve students for years to come.

To really benefit the students, The Grow Club also addresses issues of home economics and horticulture that are specific to the region.

"It is a very rural location, and we have a very short northern growing season," Michalak said.

From a consumers' point of view, this contributes further to the difficulties they face in getting access to affordable fresh food.

"As such, produce can be pricey outside of the growing season," he said.

This is one reason why

The Grow Club is introducing kids to indoor growing. The advantage of such an approach is year-round access to produce with vastly improved success rates and minimal training required. The rapid, observable progress of the plants and the excitement of a technological element also keep the students engaged in the process.

"The kids think it's amazing," Michalak said. "I introduced them to deep water culture this past winter. More recently the AutoPots have been a huge hit. I use AutoPot myself at home and knew the kids would love the simplicity of those systems. Students are able to monitor and maintain the AutoPots all on their own. That independence is what I'm trying to instill in them. I would love to expand our

system if and when we receive additional funding."

Initially, the 4Pot System, donated by AutoPot USA, grew two bush cucumbers and two yellow summer squashes growing in a coir/perlite blend.

From the fall onwards the system will run inside under Quantum LED boards in a further demonstration of how efficient and effective indoor growing can be.

Michalak says The Grow Club is also providing an appealing 'in' to a multitude of other curricular subjects.

"Thus far, I have focused on ecology – my background," he said. "Planting native pollinator gardens and composting our organic waste has been a great start there. Next year I hope to delve more into biology and economics."

Same-sex attractions and chaste friendship

Catholic men facing same-sex attractions often struggle with how they are supposed to handle their homoromantic feelings. Some clearly understand that the Church invites them to order their feelings and attractions through a life of chaste continence, but they also wrestle with a strong desire for same-sex friendship and bonding.

In the midst of an escalating gay culture that actively promotes and celebrates homosexual sex, even in its most promiscuous forms, how can young men hope to encounter friends with whom they might cultivate healthy and chaste relationships? What role does the Church play in supporting and encouraging this?

A group called Courage offers outstanding spiritual support for those

who are struggling with same-sex attraction and desiring to live chastely according to the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church. Founded by Father John Harvey, Courage held its first meeting in 1980 in New York City. Since then, it has expanded into an international ministry. This important apostolate deserves broad recognition and support for its vital work, yet regrettably, resistance still arises at times in some quarters of the Church when Courage seeks to promote clear Catholic teaching on chastity and homosexuality.

Cultivating a chaste heart demands a deep prayer life, strong spiritual support, and good

fellowship, not to mention frequent reception of the sacraments, especially Holy Communion and Confession. Courage vigorously promotes these practices.

I once visited a large Midwest Catholic parish where there was a group of men with same-sex attraction who attended Mass together. I later learned that each of them had his own room in a common living arrangement where they divided responsibilities, prayed together, discussed their burdens and struggles, and sought to strengthen each other in their shared journey of following the Lord generously and chastely. They were a source of inspiration and an example of hope within the parish, which supported and encouraged them.

Among same-sex-attracted individuals, cultivating chaste relationships with each other can sometimes be complex. Doing so requires a supportive environment, patience, an understanding of human weakness, a strong sense of hope, and a mutually-shared determination to avoid near occasions of sin.

A few years ago, I read a memorable, no-holds-barred commentary on the gay lifestyle by Ronald G. Lee, a librarian in Houston, Texas, in which, based on his own struggles with homosexuality, he offered several helpful observations. He disputed the claim that gay men are supposed to, or are even able to, live in monogamous homosex-

ual relationships. Instead, echoing the wisdom of the Church's teaching, he stressed the fundamental need for a chaste lifestyle.

At the same time, he acknowledged the urgent need for same-sex-attracted individuals to have healthy human friendships with others. He mentioned his best friend Mark, who, like himself, was a refugee from the gay lifestyle and a man of faith. Summing up their relationship, he said, "From Mark I have learned that two men can love each other profoundly while remaining clothed the entire time. We are told that the Church opposes same-sex love. Not true. The Church opposes homosexual sex, which in my experience is not about love, but about obsession, addiction, and compensation for a compromised masculinity."

The Catholic Church stresses that homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered but homosexual persons are not. This distinction is crucial. Moreover, a person's natural inner desire for human bonding should not be considered disordered or problematic in itself. In other words, the desire for friendship, relationship and communion, even among same-sex-attracted individuals, is not intrinsically disordered, although desiring and pursuing same-sex sexual relations, which always contravene the root purposes of human sexuality, will be unchaste and immoral. The desire for closeness among same-sex-attracted individuals can and should be directed toward non-lustful friendships.

A second distinction is also worth mentioning. If

homoerotic desires are allowed to take root, linger and be acted upon, they will be inherently problematic and sinful. If such desires, however, arise spontaneously in a person's mind, and are not actively cultivated, entertained, or acted upon, this would not be sinful, insofar as sin always involves a wrongful choice.

The late Father Benedict Groeschel alluded to these nuances surrounding our inclinations and choices when he noted, "Homosexuality is a condition; gay and lesbian is a decision."

The Catholic Church extends a beautiful call to each of us, one of authentic freedom and love. Human sexuality involves powerful drives that must be ordered within God's sacred and providential plan. The Catechism reminds us that same-sex-attracted individuals are called ultimately to holiness, which is the fulfillment of a life of love:

"Homosexual persons are called to chastity. By the virtues of self-mastery that teach them inner freedom, at times by the support of disinterested friendship, by prayer and sacramental grace, they can and should gradually and resolutely approach Christian perfection" (n.2359).

That summons is a source of great hope.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org and www.fathertad.com.



Father Tadeusz
Pacholczyk
Ph.D.

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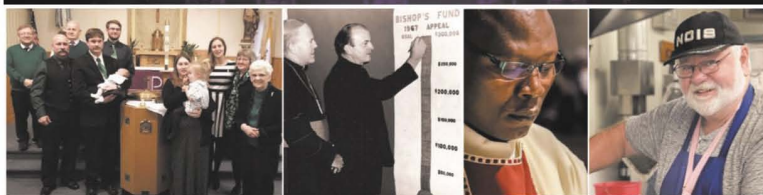
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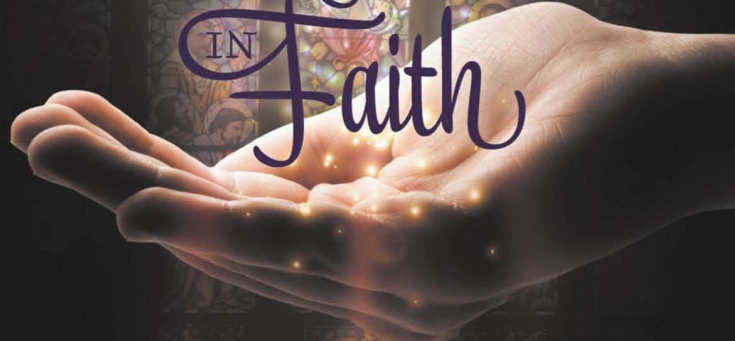
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IN
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BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL 2022



For more information and to view the
2022 BISHOP'S FUND video,
please visit www.rcdony.org/bfa.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

The Diocese of Ogdensburg was founded one hundred and fifty years ago. As we celebrate this spiritual milestone, we remember those who came before us who sowed the seeds of faith and built the foundation upon which this local Church stands today. We renew our commitment to Christ and the mission He gave the Church to proclaim the Gospel and to live the Beatitudes. We rejoice in the many gifts and blessings which come from the Lord. Yes, we remember, we renew, and we rejoice as Church here in the North Country.

Although the world has changed so much, our mission has remained constant. We strive to reach out to the lost, rejected and forgotten, to educate and bring Christ to the people of the North Country with the help of the annual Bishop's Fund--**150 Years: Together in Faith**.

Each year, your support of the Bishop's Fund Appeal allows us to carry out our mission by:

- Educating our future priests, deacons, and lay ministers so that they may answer God's call to serve in parishes across our diocese.
- Providing our youth and our families with in-person and online events and summer camp at Camp Guggenheim.
- Assisting families with Tuition Assistance for their children attending Catholic Schools; and
- Giving grants to families and individuals who suffer hardships due to job loss, high medical costs, and other expenses incurred during a personal crisis.

Again, this year, we hope to reach a goal of \$1.3M to support our programs and ministries. We will tap funds raised over our goal to further assist families and individuals to meet critical needs through the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund.

I am very grateful for the generosity of parishioners and friends from across the diocese and beyond who support the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal. Your contribution has a profound impact on those we serve. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of the 2022 Bishop's Fund Appeal – **150 Years: Together in Faith** – Praise God!

With much appreciation for your faithfulness, I am
Gratefully yours in Christ,

Terry R. LaValley

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg



I just finished four years of undergraduate study at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. The priesthood has always been on my heart and in the back of my mind ever since I was very small. I started going to discernment groups and then visited the seminary. I realized that this is the place that the Lord is calling me. The Christian life is not to be lived alone but together, rooted in the Eucharist—the source and summit of our Faith. In my future ministry in the priesthood, I hope to be a bridge between the people and God to bring the sacraments as we journey toward Heaven together. The Bishop's Fund Appeal has been a great blessing to me because as we all know everything education related is very expensive, and the Bishop's Fund helps offset the costs of education, transportation, and books and supplies. Thank you to the many wonderful supporters throughout this diocese. It means a great deal to me that there are so many faithful Catholics supporting us on our journey. God Love You!

– TYLER, SEMINARIAN



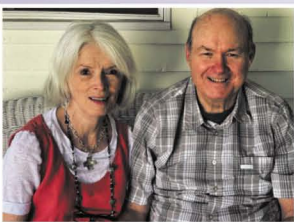
St. James Catholic School is special. The kids are able to form bonds, not only with their friends but also with their teachers, principal, and school secretary. Everybody truly gets to know the children so that their needs are always met. The smaller classroom size and one-on-one time with teachers prepares the students for academic success as they graduate and go to public schools. We are aware of many families that would not be able to send their kids to St. James School if it were not for the Bishop's Fund Appeal and the scholarships that they provide. In giving to the Bishop's Fund, it is helping those families to give their children a good start in the Catholic faith and preparing them for the future. Thank you for helping families bring their kids to a Catholic School!

– THE TERPSTRA FAMILY, GOUVERNEUR



The mission of the Youth Ministry Office is to create opportunities for teens to strengthen their Catholic faith, grow in community leadership, and connect with each other in fellowship and fun. We offer the annual Youth Rally, Lenten retreats, leadership retreats, the Diocesan Youth Council, and Guggenheim summer camp. Our teens are becoming more active by helping in their homes and communities. They are helping to care for younger siblings, visiting the elderly, assisting at soup kitchens, and distributing essentials to the needy. Our young people are putting their faith in action. If our Catholic faith is to grow stronger, we must continue to invest in our young people. Through donations to the Bishop's Fund Appeal, you and I make a difference in each other's lives and in the lives of our young people. It is through your support to the Bishop's Fund Appeal that we are able to create opportunities for faith-filled young people to become faith-filled adults.

– TOM SEMERARO, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY



We have heard about the Bishop's Fund since we were kids; our parents contributed. The list of ministries that the Bishop's Fund supports reads like the Beatitudes. Support for people in need, Guggenheim, and other youth ministry support, Catholic schools, and support for our seminarians are some obvious examples of the good that the Bishop's Fund does.

Our children were able to attend Camp Guggenheim, and we also enjoyed Guggenheim Family Camp, where we met so many great families from all over the diocese. Our children were also able to attend a Catholic School. When you give to the Bishop's Fund Appeal, you can trust that your gift supports what the bishop would like to see

done and trust that it won't be deflected to "administration" fees like so many other charities do. Whatever God is asking you to give is what you should give. Thank you for your contributions of time as well as money to the Bishop's Fund. In the diocese, we are all united; we all need to work together.

– GREG AND JO-ANNE, CROWN POINT



Bishop's Fund Prayer

**Heavenly Father,
author of all life,
at the dawn of creation your
Spirit breathed over the waters.**

**When you created man your
Spirit breathed life into him.**

**When your Son rose
triumphant from the tomb,
He breathed the Spirit upon
His apostles.**

**For 150 years your same
Holy Spirit has enlivened the
Diocese of Ogdensburg.**

**From its rugged mountains and
fertile fields to its majestic
lakes and mighty waterways,
Since 1872, you have sustained
this Diocese with the Body and
Blood of our Lord as our food
for the journey, our bread of
angels, our cause for joy.**

**Bless us, your daughters and
sons, Together in Faith.**

**Bless this year's Bishop's Fund
Appeal that this first century
and a half may be just the
beginning.**

**Confident that with you the
best is yet to come.**

**Through Christ our
Lord. AMEN.**





There have been numerous times in my 37 years as a priest that I have contacted the bishop seeking financial assistance for people through the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund. I recall the first time I wrote to Bishop Brzana when I was first ordained seeking assistance for a family in need of new tires for their car. More recently, we have received assistance for our food pantry and assistance for a parishioner who had a house fire. Oftentimes, small churches are unable to provide financial assistance to individuals because we are on a tight budget, but the Bishop's Fund and the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund comes through to assist those people who are in need. Thanks to the generosity of many people throughout the North Country, we can meet the needs of families and individuals who are struggling in various ways. Thank you to all who have contributed to the Bishop's Fund in the past. It is through your assistance, through your love and generosity, that we can help individuals and families.

- FATHER RAY MOREAU, PASTOR OF ST. MARY'S, BRUSHTON AND THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, NORTH BANGOR



I was ordained to the Diaconate in 2003. As a deacon, I assist at liturgical services, and I also take Communion to the sick and visit people in the hospital and nursing home. Becoming a deacon is an expensive proposition. Deacon Formation costs money, and the parish and the diocese, through the Bishop's Fund Appeal, partner in that process. Given the status of the church currently, we don't have as many men who are choosing to become priests, who are hearing the vocational call to become priests, so deacons have become very important. If you are interested in becoming a deacon, I suggest you talk with your pastor, and if you are married, to your wife and family. I pray that men who aspire to the diaconate or are already deacons know that their talents are needed by the Church. I ask everyone to not be shy about mentioning to a man that you think he'd make a good deacon. Please also support the diaconate through your donation to the Bishop's Fund Appeal. We currently have 90 men serving as deacons in the Diocese, and if it wasn't for the Bishop's Fund Appeal, we wouldn't have any.

- DEACON KEVIN MASTELLON, BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, WATERTOWN



My Catholic education began in first grade. It was a wonderful experience academically, spiritually, and socially. As a teacher, I enjoyed working with the students and their families. As a principal, it was a very special experience to work with the families, people in the parish, and diocesan organizations who support Catholic education. Finances are a challenge for Catholic schools, and it was wonderful to watch our Catholic people and so many of the organizations in the diocese help us. Catholic education gives a very solid foundation in three areas – academics, spiritual and religious values, and with social values. The Bishop's Fund Appeal is a tremendous benefit for the students and their families. So many times, parents will want to place their children in a Catholic school but simply cannot afford it, and the Bishop's Fund Appeal makes it possible for those students to enroll. Some of those families become very active in the support of the school and their children's academics, faith, and social life. Thank you to the Bishop's Fund Appeal and other organizations throughout the diocese, and to the generous individuals who support Catholic education.

- SISTER ANNUNCIATA COLLINS, SSJ, RETIRED TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL

THE DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

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The Bishop's Fund Appeal

*provides financial assistance to the vital ministries
of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.*

The following ministries are supported:

- Education of Seminarians
- Family Life Office
- Natural Family Planning Office
- Respect Life Ministry
- Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund
- Formation for Ministry Program
- Office of the New Evangelization
- Continuing Education and Formation of Priests
- Priests' Graduate Studies
- Vocation Office
- Permanent Deacons
- Deacon Formation
- Tuition Assistance Program
- Campus Ministry Program
- Matching Gifts to Catholic Schools
- Department of Faith Formation
- Diocesan Center of Youth Ministry
- Young Adult Ministry
- Guggenheim Center
- Department of Worship

Ways to Give



GIFTS OF CASH: Checks should be made payable to the "Bishop's Fund Appeal."

PLEDGE: A gift to the Bishop's Fund Appeal may be paid in four payments - at the time of the pledge, December, February and April.

ONLINE GIVING: The Bishop's Fund Appeal offers the opportunity to make your gift and pledge payments online using a credit card. To donate online, please visit www.rcdony.org/giving/donate-now-bishop-s-fund. If making a pledge, enter your first payment in the "amount" box and in the comments section indicate the total amount you wish to pledge.

AUTOMATIC PLEDGE PAYMENTS: To set up automatic credit or debit card pledge payments, please contact the Bishop's Fund Office at 315-393-2920.

MATCHING GIFTS: Many companies endeavor to match the charitable contributions of employees. Please contact your company's Human Resource Department to determine if your company participates in the Matching Gift Program for Catholic Schools.

GIFTS OF SECURITIES: Federal tax laws offer special incentives for gifts of non-cash property especially that which has increased in value since it was acquired. Please contact the Bishop's Fund Office at 315-393-2920 for transfer instructions.

QUALIFIED IRA CONTRIBUTIONS:

For those who are 70 ½ or older, you may wish to consider a tax-free gift directly from your IRA to the Bishop's Fund Appeal. Please contact the Bishop's Fund Office at 315-393-2920 for instructions.

BEQUESTS: When considering gifts to a charity in your Will, please remember the Bishop's Fund Appeal. Gifts can be made in the following manner through your Will: Specific dollar amount; a percentage of your estate or a particular asset such as real estate or other valuables.

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OR PLACE IN YOUR PARISH COLLECTION

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Bishops, community pray for victims of mass stabbing

PRINCE ALBERT, Saskatchewan (CNS) — The Catholic bishops of Saskatchewan offered prayers for everyone affected by the deadly stabbing rampage that left 12 dead — including the two suspected killers — and at least 18 injured. And Catholics in the Prince Albert Diocese joined the local Anglican bishop at a special service for the victims and survivors of the Sept. 4 stabbing spree on the James Smith First Nation and in nearby Weldon, Saskatchewan. The five bishops of Saskatchewan said they mourn "those whose lives have been lost, those who have been injured and those whose peace and security has been shattered by these horrific events," and invited "all to join in prayer, turning to God for comfort and healing." The bishops also prayed for everyone across Saskatchewan who has been providing assistance, include "first responders, health care workers and everyone offering help and support to those affected by this tragedy." Late Sept. 7, media reported Myles Sanderson, 32, died after police forced the stolen car he was driving off a highway. One official told journalists he died of self-inflicted injuries. Associated Press reported members of Saskatchewan's Serious Incident Response Team went to the site and would review Sanderson's death and police conduct. Sanderson and his brother, Damien, were alleged to have carried out the early morning spree Sept. 4. Damien Sanderson was found dead Sept. 5 near the one of the scenes of the attacks.

Papal almoner to make fourth visit to Ukraine

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Polish Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, papal almoner, will embark on his fourth visit to Ukraine on Pope Francis' behalf. In a statement released Sept. 9, the Dicastery for the Service of Charity said Cardinal Krajewski would visit the cities of Odesa, Zhytomyr, Kharkiv and other locations in eastern Ukraine "in these days." Most likely for security reasons, the dicastery did not specify how or when the cardinal would be traveling. In its statement, the dicastery said the purpose of Cardinal Krajewski's visit was to provide support to "various communities of faithful, priests and religious, and their bishops, who for more than 200 days continue to remain in the places of their ministry despite the dangers of war. It is a silent and evangelical trip to be with the people who are suffering, praying and comforting each of them, showing with his presence that they are not alone in this situation that is only bringing destruction and death," the dicastery said. The cardinal also will deliver aid.

Eritrean government rounds up teens from church service

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) — Places of worship have become the latest target for the forced roundup of Eritrean teens to serve as soldiers, in what clerics describe as a deteriorating situation. For two years, 15- and 16-year-olds have been taken from towns and villages. Some are ending up on the front lines in the war in Ethiopia's northern state of Tigray, according to the sources. "A few weeks ago (Eritrea) resumed the confiscation of schools run and owned by the Catholic Church. (As if) this was not enough, now there are roundups of young boys and girls aged 16 ... for compulsory military service without end," Father Mussie Zerai, a Catholic priest of Eritrean origin who works with migrants, told Catholic News Service. "They do it in places of worship as happened last Sunday in the Eparchy of Segheneity, in the village in Akur at the Catholic parish of Medhanie Alem," he said. The priest said the soldiers arrived during Mass and surrounded the church to prevent anyone from escaping. They proceeded to take the teens by force, including all the boys of the choir in their uniforms.

Catholics, Pope Francis pay tribute to Queen Elizabeth II

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — Catholics in the U.K. paid tribute to Queen Elizabeth II following her death Sept. 8 and the end of a reign that lasted more than 70 years.

Pope Francis sent a telegram addressed "To His Majesty the King, Charles III," her son who immediately ascended to the throne.

"I willingly join all who mourn her loss in praying for the late queen's eternal rest and in paying tribute to her life of unstinting service to the good of the nation and the Commonwealth, her example of devotion to duty, her steadfast witness of faith in Jesus Christ and her firm hope in his promises," Pope Francis said.

The British sovereign died "peacefully" at Balmoral, the royal residence in Scotland, surrounded by members of her family. She was 96.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster, president of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, paid tribute using many of the queen's own words.

"On 21 April 1947, on her 21st birthday, Princess Elizabeth said, 'I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service,'" Cardinal Nichols said. "Now, 75 years later, we are heartbroken in our loss at her death and so full of admiration for the unfailing way in which she fulfilled that declaration."

"Even in my sorrow, shared with so many around the world, I am filled with an immense sense of gratitude for the gift to the world that has been the life of Queen Elizabeth II," he said. "At this time, we pray for the repose of the soul of Her Majesty. We do so with confidence, because the Christian faith marked every day of her life and activity."

The cardinal quoted Queen Elizabeth's Christmas message from 2000, in which she said the teachings of Christ and her own "personal accountability before God" gave her a framework of how to live, and that Christ's words and example offered her "great comfort in difficult times."

Cardinal Nichols said: "This faith, so often and so eloquently proclaimed in her public messages, has been an inspiration to me, and I am sure to many. The wisdom, stability and service which she consistently embodied, often in circumstances of extreme difficulty, are a shining legacy and testament to her faith."

He also offered prayers "for His Majesty the King, as he assumes his new office, even as he mourns his mother. God save the king."

Bishop Hugh Gilbert, president of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland, praised Queen Elizabeth for her life of "outstanding and dedicated public service."

"Her determination to remain active to the end of her long life has been an example of Christian leadership, which demonstrated her great stoicism and commitment to duty and was undoubtedly a source of stability and continuity in times of great change," he said. "Scotland's Catholic bishops will remember her in our prayers and pray for all those who mourn her loss."

Anglican Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury said: "As we grieve together, we know that, in losing our beloved queen, we have lost the person whose steadfast loyalty, service and humility has helped us make sense of who we are through decades of extraordinary change in our world, nation and society."

Queen Elizabeth died 17 months after the death of her husband, Philip, who died in April 2021 at age 99. Her 73-year marriage to Philip was the longest of any British sovereign.

The U.K. has entered a 10-day period of mourning.

Elizabeth was born on April 26, 1926, to Prince Albert, Duke of York, and Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon.

She acceded to the throne Feb. 6, 1952, and during her coronation in Westminster Abbey June 2, 1953, Queen Elizabeth was open about her Christian faith.

"When I spoke to you last, at Christmas, I asked you all, whatever your religion, to pray for me on the day of my coronation — to pray that God would give me wisdom and strength to carry out the promises that I should then be making," the queen said in her address. "Throughout this memorable day, I have been uplifted and sustained by the knowledge that your thoughts and prayers were with me."

The accession of 1952 made 2022 the year when the world's oldest monarch and the longest-serving monarch in British history celebrated the platinum jubilee of her reign — the point when Elizabeth had sat on the British throne for 70 years.

The queen was able to witness the celebrations in her honor but handed over

Vatican Library introduces new journal

Scholars invited to read, contribute to publication

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The Vatican Library, one of the world's oldest libraries, has launched a new scholarly journal to help promote high-quality research, dialogue across cultures and sharing knowledge related to the library's holdings, said Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonca, Vatican librarian and archivist.

The Vatican Library Review "aspires to be an attractive place to publish high-quality, peer-reviewed research by actively hosting and allocating contributions," the cardinal wrote as an editorial in the journal's first issue. The editorial was republished by the Vatican newspaper Sept. 7.

The cardinal invited scholars to submit their contributions,

adding he hoped readers would explore each article regardless of their personal field of interest and "join us in this two-fold endeavor of scientific rigor and cross-cultural dialogue." Some of the articles in the first issue included, "An Unpublished Illuminated Codex from Catalonia in the Vatican Library" and "Visual Kabbalah in the Italian Renaissance. The Booklet of Kabbalistic Forms."

Created by Pope Nicholas V in the 15th century, the Vatican Library belongs to the pope. However, Pope Leo XIII decided it should be more widely accessible to the academic world.

The Vatican Library houses some 80,000 manuscripts, nearly

1.6 million books, approximately 8,400 incunabula (books and pamphlets printed before 1501) and coin and medal collections.

Its mission, Cardinal Mendonca wrote in his editorial, is to "conserve its continually growing number of treasures and to share this heritage with the academic world." The library "has always been a place of research and an active host for collaboration."

Over the years, the library has seen a massive renovation of its facilities to make it more secure and up to modern-day standards; tagged items with Radio Frequency Identification chips to better track and identify them; continued to digitize its holdings, offering reproductions online.

Cardinal Mendonca wrote that The Vatican Library Review jour-

nal – published twice a year in print and online by Brill Publishers, marks a further step in the Vatican's decades-long work in publishing studies examining the library's holdings and issuing a newsletter about general news and events.

The journal seeks peer-reviewed "innovative scholarly contributions" to showcase each scholar's knowledge, insights and discoveries, the cardinal wrote, including the world of "early career scholars" and those whose work "may not fit neatly" in more established journals.

The journal will accept work written in English, German, French and Italian and can include shorter notes, reports on conferences, book reviews and summaries of finished dissertations, the publisher wrote.

Scholars: History sheds light on racial unrest

WASHINGTON (CNS) – When Georgetown University and the Jesuits began efforts to make amends for selling 272 enslaved people to a Louisiana plantation in the 1830s, leaders of the Catholic institution for higher education went beyond their apologies and offers of restitution.

Georgetown officials launched the Georgetown Slavery Archive in 2016 and put it online so that people will have access to it, because they thought it was important to help people understand the past as a way of securing the future.

"Whatever you think society should do today to deal with the legacies of slavery and other forms of racism, it has to be grounded in a sincere understanding of the history," said Adam Rothman, a Georgetown history professor and the

principal curator of the slavery archive.

"People have to know what happened," Rothman told Catholic News Service. "If you don't know what happened, and if you don't know it in some detail, I don't think you're going to even be able to imagine possibilities for either reconciliation or reparations today."

The harmful effects racism has had on American society and how embedded racism is within both U.S. government systems and churches has been a concern of Pope Francis and many U.S. bishops.

It's a difficult topic for many Americans to approach or even acknowledge and in the current U.S. political climate there has been push back on educational programs that teach about the horrors of slavery, continued forced servitude among

men and women of color following the Civil War and into the 20th century and continued societal racism.

Some Republican politicians have expressed concern that this approach to history in schools will convince white people they are fundamentally racist and should feel guilty about the advantages their race affords them.

Several states in the U.S. have pushed laws or other measures to restrict how race and racism can be taught in schools, a move that concerns teachers' unions and educators that such limits will downplay the role past injustices still has on society today.

Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory of Washington – the only black Cardinal in the U.S. – told CNS he doesn't believe American society will ever be able to resolve its racial struggles if

schools limit how they present history.

Rothman pointed out that textbooks from the mid-20th century didn't adequately deal with the horrific details of slavery, acknowledge that states that seceded from the union during the Civil War listed the institution of slavery as a reason for doing so, or educate about continued oppression and racial violence throughout the 20th century.

Joseph Geeter, a Black parishioner of St. Barbara Catholic Church in Philadelphia, doesn't believe it's a coincidence that there is controversy on how U.S. racial history is taught in the classroom following the 2020 killing of George Floyd by a white Minnesota police officer, an event that sparked racial justice protests across the country.

Geeter said he still experiences the effects of bigotry in the workplace, the church and society and agrees that history can help skeptics of existing systemic racism see beyond a narrative that has romanticized darker chapters of the past.

Dealing with the unabridged version of the past is key in moving toward racial healing and equality, said Joe Ferrara, vice president of Georgetown University and chief of staff to the university's president.

When Georgetown joined a coalition of colleges called "Universities Studying Slavery" in 2015, it was a small group of mostly Virginia schools, but it had grown to 80 institutions of higher education by 2022, Ferrara said.

"More people are trying to engage in this history," he said, "and that's a good thing."

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.

100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Saranac Lake – This fall, St. Bernard's School will celebrate our 100th Anniversary!

Date: Sept. 23 to 25

Schedule: On Friday evening we will have dinner at The Hotel Saranac, Saturday will be our annual Golf Tournament, and on Sunday we will have a reception after 10am Mass and school tours.

Features: The school began as a one room schoolhouse in the fall of 1922 and has been providing families of Saranac Lake a quality Catholic education since. Look back at the school throughout the years, connect with other alums, and meet current staff, parents, and students.

Contact: Please email: principal@st-bernardsschool.org, call: 518-891-2830, or use the QR code to RSVP to any of these events or for more information.

CLINTON

GARAGE SALE

Ellenburg Center – St. Bernard's and St. Edmund's will have a parish garage sale.

Date: Set. 17 and 18

Place: St. Edmund's Church Hall

Contact: For more information contact the parish office at 518-594-3907

APPLEFEST

Peru – The 44 Annual St. Augustine's Applefest to be held.

Date: Sept. 17

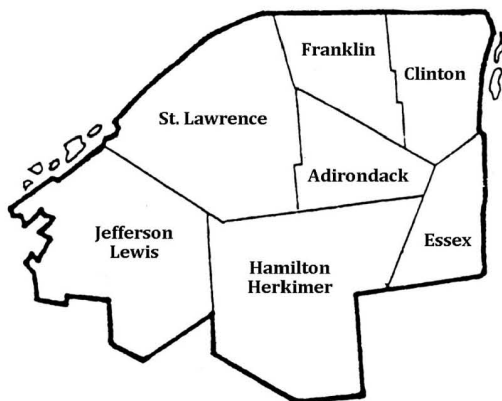
Schedule: Craft fair at 10 a.m., community parade at 11 a.m. with Bishop Terry R. LaValley as Parade Marshall, Chicken BBQ at 1:30 p.m., Grand Raffle drawing at 4 p.m.

Place: St. Augustine's Church

Features: Live music, games for children of all ages, grand raffle, silent auction, bake sale, chicken bbq, apple fritters, fried dough, sweet sausages, michigans, burgers, and more

HARVEST DINNER

Ellenburg Center - Catholic Daughters



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.

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

Court Little Rose #1300 will hold their Harvest Dinner and Big Ticket Raffle.

Date: Sept. 25

Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Raffle drawing at 4:30 p.m.)

Place: St. Edmund's Church Hall

Cost: Adults, \$12; Children 6-12, \$6; under 5, Free

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

HARVEST DINNER

Chateaugay – The Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay to have their 41st Annual Harvest Dinner.

Date: Oct. 2

Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: St. Patrick's Church, Take-out only

Cost: \$14 per meal

Menu: Roast Beef, potatoes, carrots, coleslaw and roll. Apple and pumpkin pie for dessert donated by the Brainardsville Bakery.

Contact: Call to reserve the Rectory Office at 518-497-6673 or Monique Dwyer at 518-651-0144

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

INDOOR YARD SALE

Evans Mills – Items from St. Rita's Church will be at an indoor yard sale.

Date: Sept. 16 and 17

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

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: Utensils, chairs, stands, decorations and many more items.

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: Oct. 2

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.

ROSARY FOR LIFE

Canton – Rosary for life to be held.

Date: Every Saturday

Time: 4:25 p.m. preceding the 5 p.m.

Vigil Mass

Place: St. Mary's Church

ALPHA

Massena – You're invited to ALPHA.

Date: Tuesday starting Sept. 13

Time: 6 p.m. to 8

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Features: Free of charge and including a delicious meal. Childcare will be provided as well.

Contact: Parish Office at 315-769-2469 or web site at massenacatholics.com

THE CHOSEN MINI SERIES

Massena - Join us in watching The Chosen Season 1 & 2!

Schedule: Season 1 meets Wednesdays starting Sept. 14 at 2 p.m. and Season 2 meets Mondays starting Sept. 12th at 6 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Features: YOU are invited to get together weekly and view and discuss 8 episodes of this acclaimed min-series.

Contact: Visit our website at www.massenacatholics.com or call the Parish office @315-769-2469 to register and for more info.

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

Date: Oct. 1

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: Oct. 1

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: Oct. 9 (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.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

SSJ LAY ASSOCIATE PROGRAM

The Sisters of St. Joseph will be having a meeting for those who are interested in learning about their Lay Associate Program.

Schedule: Sept. 17 at St. Patrick's Church, Colton; Sept. 18 at the Newman Center, Plattsburgh

Features: Associates meet once a month to learn about the spirituality and history of the Sisters, pray together, and discuss ways to deepen one's spiritual life. This group is open to men and women.

Contact: If you are interested and wish to attend the initial meeting, please call the Motherhouse - (315) 782-3460 - and leave your name with the receptionist who will forward it to the Sisters who direct the Associate program. Or contact contact Sr. Kathleen DeBoalt skmdeb@yahoo.com (Watertown area) or Sr. Bethany Fitzgerald srbethssj@gmail.com (Colton and Plattsburgh areas)

THE ANNULMENT PROCESS

The Diocesan Tribunal will offer five regional workshops on the annulment process to provide both information and an opportunity to ask questions.

Schedule: Sept. 12 at Holy Name Parish, AuSable Forks & St. James Parish, Carthage; Sept. 14 at St. Patrick's Parish, Chateaugay; Sept. 19 at St. Henry's Parish, Long Lake & St. Mary's Parish, Canton

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Features: Not all marriages make it "...until death do us part." Often, following a civil decree of divorce many Catholics desire to marry again. If their first wedding was celebrated according to the norms of the Church, then unless an annulment of that first union is granted, Catholics are not free to celebrate a subsequent marriage in the Church. The annulment process is a careful examination of the situations of both former spouses leading up to and following the celebration of the wedding. The purpose of this careful examination is to determine if there was anything present, both before and at the time of the wedding which could have invalidated the bond of marriage. If this is found to be the case, then an annulment is granted. No Registration is required and there is no charge.

BLUE MASS

Clayton – Bishop Terry R. LaValley cordially invites all Police, Corrections, Fire and EMS Personnel to the Diocese of Ogdensburg Blue Mass.

Date: Sept. 25

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: The entire Northern New York Community is invited to join in prayer for the safety and well being of all first responders and public safety personnel.

Contact: For more information contact Father Chris Carrara, 315-605-1039, ccarrara@rcdony.org

YOUTH LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Saranac Lake – Youth Leadership retreat to be held for teens in grades 9 to

12.

Date: Sept. 30 check in at 6 p.m. to Oct. 2 at 10 a.m.

Place: Guggenheim Center

Cost: \$95, includes dorm and meals.

Features: During this overnight youth retreat we invite high school age teens an opportunity to learn skills for Christian leadership and ministry in a series of workshops and practical applications. The following skill points will be covered: Christian Leadership, Communication Skills, Group Dynamics, Decision Making and, Planning skills.

Contact: To register go to rcdony.org/leadership or contact Jeanne Grizzuto – jgrizzuto@rcdony.org – 315-393-2920 ext. 1413 with any questions.

FALL RETREAT FOR ADULTS

Saranac Lake – Fall retreat for adults to be held. Come away and rest awhile with the Lord amid the beauties of Fall in the Adirondack Mountains.

Date: Sept. 30 to Oct. 2

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

Theme: Theme: "Meeting God in the Mountains and Valleys of Life."

Speaker: Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ, Faith Formation Educator; Father Paul Kelly will be celebrant for Mass on Saturday afternoon.

Cost: Suggested offering is \$150

Contact: For more information contact 315-212-6592 or srbethssj@gmail.com

CHRIST IS HERE: COME ENCOUNTER HIM

Presentation to be held for an opportunity to understand how Christ draws us to Himself through all things in this world! Event to be held on 2 different

days at 6 different locations total.

Schedule: Oct. 1 at St. Mary's Social Hall, Massena; St. Peter's Church, Lowville; St. Elizabeth's Church, Elizabethtown. Oct 15 at St. Mary's Parish Center, Brushton; Dostie Hall in Watertown; Emmaus Room, St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh

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

Features: All are welcome to attend this event presented by the Diocese of Ogdensburg Department of Education. This is an in-person event only. Attendees must bring their own lunch. It is free to attend and you're encouraged to bring a friend.

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

LIFECHAIN

The 35th year of the National Lifechain to be held.

Date: Oct. 2

Schedule: Potsdam across from Roxy Theatre, 2 p.m. to 3; Plattsburgh at Smithfield Blvd, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30; Saranac Lake at Bandshell Park along River Street, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30

Features: Life Chains form nationwide to make a public, prayerful, peaceful stand for life. We stand for life rain or shine. Signs provided. Bring a friend.

Contact: More information and a listing of all locations at www.lifechain.org

WOMEN'S HEALING RETREAT

The St. Andre Bessette Sisters of Malone is sponsoring a Healing Retreat for 30 women of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Date: Oct. 6 to Oct. 9

Place: Wadhams Hall, Ogdensburg
Cost: \$250 per person and includes accommodations and all meals.

Features: Women must be age 18 or older to attend. The purpose of the Healing Retreat is to 'make more room within, for God; allowing His love and mercy to heal as He desires. Bishop LaValley, Father Bryan Stitt, Sister Kelly and Sister Grace Capuchin Sister of Nazareth, and Dave McClow will be presiding and presenting. All are welcome to join the SABS in praying the 54 Day Rosary Novena beginning August 15 ending on October 7 – Feast Day of Our Lady of the Rosary, for the healing of all those who attend as well as for each and every person who offered prayers, time, treasure and talent for this very blessed event.

Contact: For more information and registration visit the Diocese of Ogdensburg website at www.rcdony.org

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

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

Date: Session 3 Oct. 7-9

Place: Guggenheim

Cost: Visit 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 (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

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

The Vocation Office and the Office of

Youth Ministry is sponsoring a Middle School Retreat (Grades 6-8) in three regions of the Diocese.

Schedule: Oct. 7 at Our Lady of Victory Center, Plattsburgh for the Clinton, Essex, Adirondack Deaneries; Nov. 4 at Immaculate Heart Central School, Watertown for Jefferson, Lewis, Hamilton-Herkimer Deaneries; Nov. 16 at St. Mary's Social Hall, Massena for the St. Lawrence and Franklin Deaneries

Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Features: The purpose of a Middle School Retreat is to guide young women and men to prayerfully consider what God's plan is for their lives. This invitation is open to students in Grades 6-8 both in the Catholic schools and public schools. This is a Retreat Day for the students and is considered a legal excused absence.

Contact: Your pastor, Catholic school principal, or Religious Education Coordinator for a registration form.

LOVING AUTHENTICALLY

All are invited to attend this free seminar designed to deepen our understanding of how Church doctrine on sexual morality connects with our happiness.

Schedule: 4 different times and locations to attend. Nov. 19, 2022 at St. Mary's Massena; Feb. 12, 2023 at Newman Center, Plattsburgh; April 22, 2023 at St. Bernard's Saranac Lake; May 20, 2023 at St. Mary's Ticonderoga.

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

Features: Program will be a showing of "Unprotected: A Pope, the Pill, and the Perils of Sexual Chaos." With Q & A led by Natural Family Planning Directors, Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli and Catholic Theologian, Maura Hearden Fehlner, Ph.D

Contact: to register go www.rcdony.org/lovingauthentically. For more information contact Stephen Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org



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Documentary on sister highlights faith, justice work

WASHINGTON (CNS) – A new documentary on Sister Thea Bowman shines a light on her life and work as an advocate for racial justice and intercultural understanding.

The idea for the documentary came to Franciscan Sister Judith Ann Zielinski, who wrote and produced the film, after the 2020 death of George Floyd while in police custody in Minneapolis.

"I thought, I have to do something, what can I do?" and "Thea Bowman popped into my head. She was a Franciscan sister, a woman who had been fighting systemic racism in her own time and in her own way."

The documentary is a comprehensive look at Sister Thea, the first African American member of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and one of six Black Catholics known as a "Servant of God."

It also makes a case for her sainthood and for contemporary spirituality, Sister Zielinski said.

"Going Home Like a Shooting Star: Thea Bowman's Journey to Sainthood," comes from NewGroup Media and the Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi. Along with archival media of Sister Thea, the documentary features interviews with her colleagues, friends, fellow Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, former students and African American scholars, priests and bishops.

The one-hour film, a

part of the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission's fall documentary season, will begin airing on ABC stations nationwide Oct. 2.

Redemptorist Father Maurice Nutt, associate producer and biographer of Sister Thea, called her an "apostle for racial reconciliation in our church today."

Noting that she died in 1990, Father Nutt said the film would make her known to a new generation. He also said her life resonates with much of what younger Catholics are looking for in the church – someone who speaks truth to power.

"Her call for justice, justice for the roles of women, justice for those who experience no matter what ethnicity, oppression or hatred" speaks to "us as a church being the body of Christ," he said.

He also said her call for

people to come together and share their gifts is a pivotal message to put a stop to "some of the racial hatred that we see in our society even today," Father Nutt told Catholic News Service.

Bishop Joseph R. Kopacz of Jackson, Mississippi, petitioner for Sister's Thea's cause and executive producer of the documentary, said the film "speaks the need for the church to never give up that desire to be more united and more universal."

He said Sister Thea had a "timeless message" that included a desire for greater harmony, unity, racial understanding and reconciliation and "being the body of Christ in a more faithful way."

The bishop also remarked at the depth of her call, describing her as gifted, charismatic, prophetic and a "dynamo

of energy."

Sister Thea was born Bertha Bowman in 1937 in Yazoo City, Mississippi, to Dr. Theon Bowman, a physician and Mary E. Bowman, a teacher. Her family moved to Canton where she encountered the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration at Holy Child Jesus School.

At age 9, Bertha became Catholic and at age 15, she left home for La Crosse, Wisconsin, to attend the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration's high school, later joining the community and taking the name Sister Mary Thea.

Sister Thea went on to receive her doctorate from The Catholic University of America and returned to La Crosse to teach English and linguistics at Viterbo University.

Her parents' deteriorating health called her back

to Canton, where she led the Diocese of Jackson's first Office for Intercultural Affairs. Her gifts for preaching, singing and teaching led her to countless speaking engagements across the United States.

In 1984, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She died March 30, 1990, at age 52.

She was declared a "Servant of God" in May 2018 and the U.S. bishops voiced their consent to her canonization cause at their Nov. 2018 fall general meeting in Baltimore.

"Going Home Like a Shooting Star" was funded in part by the Catholic Communication Campaign. Streaming opportunities will be announced by the Diocese of Jackson.

To watch a preview of the film, visit: <https://youtu.be/tkzhnKG7mx>



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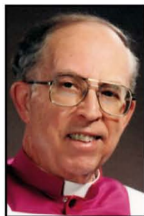
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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Recovering the lost

Our readings this week are about God's patient mercy and forgiveness and about His great joy in recovering the lost. The first reading tells us about the sin of the Israelites when they panicked at Moses' long absence on the mountain. They made a golden calf as a substitute for the one true God. At the very time God was presenting Moses with the Ten Commandments, they were breaking the first one! It was Moses, of course, who cooled God's anger, so that God re-



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

lented of His blazing anger and gave them a second chance.

In the second reading, we read about God's patience with Paul (then called Saul), who had been murdering the new Christians with great zeal. Paul tells us that Christ came to redeem sinners, and mercifully treated him "so that in me, as the foremost (sinner), Christ Jesus might show His mercy and patience as an example for those who would come to believe in him for everlasting life."

In the Gospel, we have

September 11

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-32

the story of a lamb, a coin, and two brothers that were lost. Actually, it's more about the joy of a Shepherd, a housekeeper and a loving father. Really, they all stand for God the Father and His mercy toward wayward and the lost. The second story about the woman sweeping the house for a single coin, then throwing a party in her joy, seems a bit exaggerated for us

today. But we must remember how difficult it was for a shepherd to go over rocks and ravines, carrying a 75 lb. sheep, and for a housewife to sweep a dark and rough dirt floor of her house. We certainly get the idea that God is filled with happiness when someone like ourselves, not much more important than a small coin, comes back to our senses.

The third story is the most famous, the one about the Prodigal Son. The spendthrift, younger son, can't even get his carefully rehearsed speech out of his mouth, before the Father smotherers him with kisses, and

treats him like a returning hero. He could well sing for the rest of his days, "I once was lost but now am found." We're not so sure of his angry, resentful older brother. The tearful father could not persuade him to come into the party, but the merciful father forgives him anyway.

What about us? We're often impatient and unforgiving with people who do not measure up to our standards. Our attitude can offend and discourage family members. Just remembering God's forgiveness of our sins and failings should help us to be much more patient and merciful than we are!

CALLED TO SERVE

Time for school

Buckle your seat belts. The 2022-23 academic year is airborne.

Somebody posted on social media the other day that they felt both joy and sorrow for the parents of children who are off to school.

Sorrow, I surmise, because the kids aren't a 24-hour fixture around the house like they have been for the past couple of months.

Back in the day, my friends and I would leave the house on our bicycles at first light during summer break and reappear when it was way too dark

to see a fly-ball on the baseball diamond or we heard the ice cream truck calliope; whichever came first. Parents subscribed to the "no news is good news" philosophy about our whereabouts.

Sorrow, possibly, because a parent will now have the unpleasant task of trying to wake the little darlings up every day, try to force feed them breakfast and make sure they have everything, including lunch, they need for the day. These are the kids who attend community-based schools.

Joy, perhaps, because

Jill or Johnny is growing-up too fast and is really excited about a new school year. (Really?) Truth is the kid who is excited about learning new stuff is rare even if he or she excels academically. Going back to school, especially the first day, has way too many distractions to worry about scholastics.

Opening day of school offers renewed friendships and friendships yet to blossom. Opening day lets students find out if the reputation a teacher has is warranted. Opening day allows students who have "moved up" a grade to show-off for those kids below them in grade.

Opening day has some amusement for teachers

too. Looking at this group of new students, teachers have to wonder what the year will be like. Which



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

students will excel? Which ones will struggle? Which ones will live up to expectations and which will not? What personal crisis will interfere with a child's development?

No doubt the teacher also poses some self-analysis. "How will I hold-up this year?"

It is a little different for the adult learner but some of those same rituals will apply.

This past weekend marked the beginning of a new academic year for the half-dozen men who have heard God's call to serve him and the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg as permanent dea-

cons.

This cohort will attend classes at Wadhams Hall one weekend each month for ten months in each of the next three years. That's a personal and family commitment that required a lot of talk and prayers. The aspirants, soon to be candidates, take five courses each weekend and will likely have homework in each.

Author Denise Whitmer said it well: "A new school year means new beginnings, new adventures, new friendships, and new challenges. The slate is clean, and anything can happen."


Pray for all our students, young and older.

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

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

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

Grateful hearts



The Mission Office would like to thank everyone for their support of this year's Missionary Cooperative Appeal (COOP) or Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Appeal. Your prayers and donations have gone a long way to helping those in need at home and abroad.

The Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg appeal supports our former mission parish in Mollendo, Peru, the Church in Latin America, our twinning efforts in Latakia, Syria, the sponsorship of a student in Nicaragua, and immigration costs for foreign religious and clergy. This year, we were also able to donate to support the relief efforts in Ukraine.

This year, the Missionary Cooperative Appeal supported the Heralds of Good News, Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod, North Country Mission of Hope, Lenity Project, Djibouti, Africa, and Latakia, Syria. Many of these organizations are active in part within in our diocese, and you may be familiar with some of them.

Both they and we in the Mission Office are grateful for all your support of the missions that help those less fortunate in our world. Thank you for your continued donations and prayers.

To be added to our mailing list or to learn more, please feel free to contact us at amichael@rcdony.org. More information can also be found at our website, rcdony.org/mission. And as always, please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.

OBITUARIES

Brownville – Robert V. Pound Sr., 84; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 9, 2022 at Immaculate Conception Church.

Brushton – Keith R. "Charlie" O'Connor, 66; Mass of Christian Aug. 23, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Brushton – Marie M. Reil, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 12, 2022 at St. Mary's Church.

Carthage – Joyce (Pierce) Brady, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 10, 2022 at St. James Church; burial in Hillside Cemetery, West Carthage.

Chazy – Eudgere "Jerry" Barcomb, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 9, 2022 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Crown Point – William A. Midon, 63; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 8, 2022 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Ellenburg – Walter J. Trombley, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 6, 2022 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in Town of Ellenburg Mausoleum.

Gouverneur – Duane "Ernie" Edward Slate, 67; Graveside Services Sept. 10, 2022 at Oxbow Cemetery.

Lake Placid – David L. Ploof, 71; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 1, 2022 at St. Agnes Church.

Lowville – Glenn L. Altmire, 88; Funeral Services Sept. 9, 2022 at Iseneker Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in West Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Malone – Gary G. Debyah, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 9, 2022 at Notre Dame Church.

Malone – William H. Ives, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 10, 2022 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Massena – Lorraine R. (Faubert) Fenton, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 9, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Lawrence F. Trippany, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 9, 2022 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Moors – Michael James Willette, 63;

Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 22, 2022 at St. Ann's Church.

Morrisonville – Sandra Jean (Sherman) Tavernia, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 8, 2022 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Norfolk – Richard Charles O'Brien, 69; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 7, 2022 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Ruth Ann (Beldock) George, 83; Funeral Services Sept. 9, 2022 at Frary Funeral Home.

Peru – Phillip E. "Bud" Duprey, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 10, 2022 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Peru – Shirley Virginia LaMar, 77; Funeral Services Sept. 6, 2022 at Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – John David Pelkey, 79; Memorial Mass Sept. 8, 2022 at Our Lady of Victory.

Saranac Lake – Lena (Francati) Wigger, 100; Graveside services Aug. 26, 2022 at St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Star Lake – Alaide Cassidy (dos Santos) 98; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 6, 2022 at St. Hubert's Church; burial in St. Hubert's Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Marjorie Ruth (Willey) Lyon, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 9, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Valley View Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Doris Marie (Webster) Olcott, 81; Graveside Services Sept. 10, 2022 at St. Mary's Parish Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Lynn Louise (Lawrence) Bly, 71; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 9, 2022 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

Watertown – Josephine (DeFranco) Leone, 106; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 8, 2022 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Philip M. Pauling, 70; Funeral Services Sept. 8, 2022 at the Reed & Benoit Funeral Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Watertown – Colleen M. (Gardner) Schraenkler, 69; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 10, 2022 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.



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Supporting the 2022 Bishop's Fund Insert

Food pantry gets foundation boost

St. Mary's Food Pantry in Evans Mills is the grateful recipient of a \$500 contribution from the Northern New York Community Foundation.

The contribution will assist the Food Pantry in purchasing supplies for this fall.

St. Mary's Food Pantry located adjacent to the church in Evans Mills is open every Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon.

The Food Pantry serves clients in the Evans Mills

community and is grateful for the many donations from the community and St. Mary's Parish.

The Director and volunteers have worked hard to gain the trust of their clients and have also been able to achieve many improvements in their facility.

Even though the facility is small compared to other sites, the food pantry is vital to the families who use its services.

Michigan court: Voters should decide abortion law

LANSING, Mich. (CNS) – In a Sept. 8 order, the Supreme Court in Michigan said voters will decide in the upcoming November elections if a woman's right to an abortion can be part of the Michigan Constitution.

If voters approve the abortion amendment, they would strike down a state's 1931 law that makes it a crime to perform most abortions. That law was suspended in May and a judge in September said the law was unconstitutional.

The Michigan Catholic

Conference, public policy arm of the state's Catholic bishops, urged voters to vote against the proposal in November.

"We are committed to defeating this extreme proposal that allows abortions up to the moment of birth and invalidates every common sense limit on abortion, such as parental consent, health and safety regulations on abortion clinics, and more," the Catholic conference tweeted Sept. 9.

A Michigan elections board in late August reached a stalemate along party lines about placing the abortion initiative on the ballot. Two Republican members on the board said they wouldn't certify the proposed amendment because they objected to the spacing in the proposal and also its readability.

Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Bridget M. Mc-

Cormack, said in a statement that went along with the 5-2 order, that the actions of the opposing members on the elections board was "a sad marker of the times."

She pointed out the wording was legible and in the correct order.

The proposed amendment had more than 700,000 signatures supporting it.

Michigan Right to Life, like the state's Catholic conference, is urging voters to vote no on the amendment called Reproductive Freedom for All.

On its website it said the amendment "is not about reproductive freedom, which already exists" and that the amendment "would radically distort Michigan's Constitution to create a new unlimited right to abortion, which would spill over and affect many other issues."

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