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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 77 Number 35

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JANUARY 25, 2023

Follow Me: Building a culture of life

Have things gotten better since the U. S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade? Surely, it was a huge step in the right direction in confronting our culture of death. However, news stories and our own experience tell us that there has been a new wave of opposition, even violence, suffered by many faith-based pregnancy centers since last June's Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization opinion.

Clearly, this judgment was a necessary first step, but not sufficient.

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LET THE GAMES BEGIN



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Four students from St. Bernard's School in Saranac Lake carried the torch in the torch relay for the International University Sports Federation (FISU) World University Games. The students were aided by Principal Andrea Kilbourne-Hill, a former Olympian, and teacher Allison Miller, and they were cheered on by classmates and staff from the school. The FISU World University Winter Games were held in Lake Placid, with some sports being played in Potsdam, Canton, Paul Smith's and Saranac Lake.

Pope: World Youth Day will open hearts

World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal, will open horizons and hearts, Pope Francis said in a video message to the young adults who will attend the international gathering in August.

He said: "At this meeting, during this [World Youth Day], learn to always look towards the horizon, to always look beyond."

"Don't put up a wall in front of your life," the pope encouraged. "Walls close you in, the horizon makes you grow. Always look at the horizon with your eyes, but look, above all, with your heart."

Pope Francis sent the video message on Jan. 20, fewer than 200 days before World Youth Day

(WYD) 2023 in Portugal's capital city Aug. 1-6.

Organizers met with Pope Francis and Vatican officials in Rome last week to discuss final preparations for the six-day gathering, which expects to see hundreds of thousands of participants.

In his Jan. 20 video message, Pope Francis noted that 400,000 young adults had already registered to attend World Youth Day.

"It calls my attention and fills me with joy that so many young people will go to WYD, because they need to participate," he said.

"Thank you for having already registered so far in advance," the pope added. "Let's hope others

will follow your example."

Francis said though some participants may claim they are only going to the event as tourists, rather than pilgrims, "deep down, he or she has the thirst to participate, to share, to tell their experience and receive the experience of others."

He encouraged them to open their hearts to other cultures and to the other young men and women who will be there.

"Get ready for this: to open horizons, to open your hearts," he said.

World Youth Day was established by Pope John Paul II in 1985. The meeting is typically

held on a different continent every three years with the presence of the pope.

Lisbon, a city of 505,000 people, is approximately 75 miles from Fatima, one of the world's most popular Marian pilgrimage sites.

Pope Francis is expected to attend the global Catholic gathering with stops in both Lisbon and Fatima.

The last World Youth Day was held in Panama in January 2019.

In 2020, Pope Francis announced that World Youth Day, originally planned for 2022, would be postponed by one year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Publish 45 issues per year: Weekly except skipping every other week beginning July through Aug. and skipping one week in Dec. by the Diocese of Ogdensburg, 622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Editorial Office:
622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.**Telephone:**
(315) 608-7556**E-mail:**
news@northcountry
catholic.org**Entered at the
Post Office:**
Ogdensburg, NY
13669 and
additional mailing offices as
Periodical Postage.**Subscription:**
For one year:
In-Diocese Rate: \$27
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30Matters for publication
should be
addressed to
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
and should be received by
Thursday prior to
publication.
Paper is printed each
Monday;
dateline is Wednesday.
Member, Catholic Press
Association.**POSTMASTER:**
Send address changes to
North Country Catholic,
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY
13669-0326

Then God gave me a reminder...

It was the most carelessness I've done in months.

My family and I were in Las Vegas for a few days last week. On the last full day of our trip, temperatures were around 40 in the morning but warmed to over 60 by afternoon. I was wearing two shirts and a hoodie, so I stopped to take off one of the shirts.

I set my phone on a nearby ledge and made the wardrobe change.

Immediately after, my family and I crossed a pedestrian bridge. It was



**Darcy L.
Fargo**

when we reached the bottom step on the other side of the bridge that I realized I didn't have my phone. Only 3 to 5 minutes had passed since the clothing change.

My husband, son and I dashed back to the spot where I had removed the layer. No phone. I started trying to log into my husband's phone to track mine, while my husband and son searched the area.

"Lose something?" said a voice from behind me.

I turned around to see an

unhoused individual – a homeless man – charging his phone at an outlet nearby. He repeated the question.

"Yeah," I responded. "I lost an iPhone in a black Otterbox case."

"Here you go," the man said, smiling as he reached into a sweatshirt pocket and extended a familiar phone in my direction. "I found it over there. I figured I'd wait around here for 20 minutes, and if no one came back for it, I had a new phone."

After a week in major cities, we had seen our share of unhoused individuals. Between the sheer mag-

nitude of the issue and the number of people trying to get money from you in Vegas, it became easy to look past people as though they didn't exist.

Then God gave me a reminder that they exist, they're human and they're good. That man, Jason, saved me from losing a day of photos and memories.

Maybe I'm naïve, but I believe that every human is intrinsically good. They're good because they're made in the image and likeness of a good and loving God.

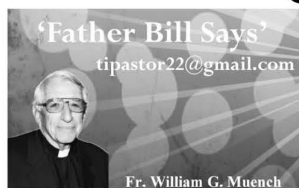
Sometimes I just have to be reminded to act according to those beliefs.

Considering the council

This afternoon, I was at the computer and decided to wander through YouTube. I came upon a documentary about the Second Vatican Council. I think that you know that the days of this council were the most important days in my lifetime as a priest of the Catholic Church. It was 60 years ago. The Second Vatican Council transformed our Catholic Church and transformed my life. Somebody must have believed that it is still time to look back on the council when they put this up on the YouTube.

So, today, I think that this is sort of a sign that this would be a good time for me to remember again with you the Second Vatican Council. I have never forgotten anything about it. It was a powerful moment for me personally, and I continue to write about it often. I love seeing again that picture of those two thousand bishops from every country in the world sitting there in St. Peter's Basilica with Pope John XXIII as they considered the future of our Catholic Church.

So, please join me as I remember some things about the council. I entered the



Fr. William G. Muench

seminary after high school. The pope then was Pope Pius XII. In those days, he was the only pope I had known. Also, this was the time when the Mass was celebrated in Latin, and the priest celebrated the Mass with his back to the congregation. Something had drawn me to want to become a priest.

In my third year in major seminary, Pope Pius XII died. Then the conclave elected Pope John XXIII as our new pope. One of the things I remembered was that Pope John XXIII was rather elderly. So, someone told me that because he was older, he would not attempt anything major for the Church. The Catholic world was very surprised when Pope John XXIII announced that he was calling an Ecumenical Council – a meeting of all the Catholic Bishops throughout the world.

I was excited! I imagined how much this council

would influence our Church. Pope John XXIII described his hopes for the Council: this would be a breath of fresh air for the whole Catholic Church. He told us that this council would throw open the windows of the Church and allow the Holy Spirit to enter. It sounded exciting to me.

I remember wondering how all these bishops from all over the world would feel joined with the pope at the Vatican. At the beginning, they were given ten fundamental documents for them to accept. However, in the first weeks of the meeting, the bishops reacted as a group and rejected all these prepared documents. They requested the opportunity to rewrite and redo these documents. This was a very major moment. How would the Pope react? Pope John XXIII accepted this change. I think he loved what had happened.

The result was that the work of the council was extended for three more years. This council was to publish several important documents. It was a time of intense, even hard work by the gathered bishops and a

new destiny for our Catholic Church. These documents continue to give an important foundation for our Catholic Church.

What we ordinary Catholics learned was the wonderful changes in the liturgy of the Holy Mass. After the Council, Mass is to be celebrated in the vernacular, the language of the people in each place. The priest celebrant would now face the congregation during the Eucharist. I was a very young priest in those days. For five years I had offered Mass in Latin and now all these changes. Now I would look up as I prayed at the altar – look up in the eyes of the congregation and realize that they would truly understand each word that I was praying.

The teachings of the Second Vatican Council are found in the several documents developed by the Council Fathers. So, there is so much more to talk about as we remember the Council. I will be getting busy studying again those documents and remind you of the teachings of this most important Council in our lifetime in the next few weeks.

FOLLOW ME

Building a culture of life

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Have things gotten better since the U. S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade? Surely, it was a huge step in the right direction in confronting our culture of death. However, news stories and our own experience tell us that there has been a new wave of opposition, even violence, suffered by many faith-based pregnancy centers since last June's Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization opinion.

Clearly, this judgment was a necessary first step, but not sufficient. St. Pope John Paul II wrote, "A radical solidarity with women requires that the underlying causes which make a child unwanted be addressed." Similarly, Pope Francis ob-

served that abortion is a brutal result of our failure to care for one another. So, what can we do to build a Culture of Life?

The Church in the North Country continues to care for and promote a Culture of Life in a culture determined to demean, even destroy human life. For years, your generous support of our annual Respect Life Collection has enabled the Diocese of Ogdensburg to assist many local efforts in promoting the dignity of the human person. These include, most recently, helping five Gabriel Projects in Potsdam, Brasher Falls, Massena, Plattsburgh and Ogdensburg. Needed help was offered to the Plattsburgh Pregnancy Center, Malone

Catholic Charities Childbirth and Parenting Education program, Watertown's Walking with Moms in Need, Birthright, Lif-eright, Light of Truth Radio, Lewis County Right to Life and the diocesan Natural Family Planning efforts.

As you see, many are engaged in parish and community initiatives to walk with pregnant women and new moms and their families. The Catholic Church is the largest charitable provider of social services to women, children, and families in the United States. We understand that our neighbor needs help not just during pregnancy, but throughout the whole of life's journey. Such assistance, such accompaniment provides rays of

hope that a Culture of Life is attainable, one person, one family, one community at a time.

Colleen and John Miner, Directors of our Respect Life Office, coordinate the steps we take in protecting and supporting the life and dignity of every human life. We are grateful for their important ministry here in the North Country. Thank you for your prayers and generous support of the 2023 Respect Life collection and for all your efforts in changing minds and touching hearts.



**Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley**

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend
Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

AT THE MARCH FOR LIFE



Diocese of Ogdensburg seminarians Dennis Ombongi and Tuan "Joseph" Vuong attend the March for Life in Washington, D.C., on Friday, Jan. 20.

NOW HIRING

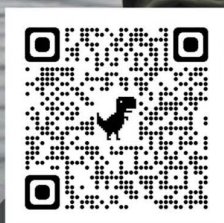
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Mass of Christian Burial celebrated for Sister Gail Anne Jarvis

A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Gail Anne Jarvis, a Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, was celebrated Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023, in the Sacred Heart Chapel.

Sister Gail Anne died at the age of 66 at McClure Miller Respite House, in Colchester, Vermont, on Jan. 10, 2023, following a lengthy illness. She had recently transitioned to the Respite House from Our Lady of Providence Residential Care Community, Winooski, Vt. She was a Sister of Mercy for 41 years.

Sister Gail Anne was born on Feb. 20, 1956, in Plattsburgh, the daughter of Lawrence and Rita Jarvis. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from Trinity College in Burlington.

Sister Gail Anne entered the Sisters of Mercy on Sept. 11, 1981, and made her profession of vows on June 16, 1985. She chose as her motto: "Jesus, Light of Truth."

Sister began her ministry before she entered the Sisters of Mercy, working summers at St. Anne's Shrine in Isle LaMotte, Vt., as chapel coordinator and shrine receptionist, in the mid-late 70s. She went on to become religious education coordinator, pastoral assistant in area Catholic parishes, Religion teacher at Mater Christi School, and worked in arts and crafts at Camp Marycrest. Later she served as a home care provider. Sister Gail Anne wrote articles for several parish newspapers. Her great joy over the last several years was serving as a DJ for Christian public radio, where she touched many lives and developed great friendships with her fellow DJs.

In Sister Gail Anne's ministry with immigrants and people in need, she gave assistance in finding employment; listened as they shared their struggles; and served as a bridge of compassion between generous friends and those in need in the weekly distribution of food.

Sister Gail Anne will be remembered for her sense of humor peppered with puns, compassion, fondness for cardinals, blowing of bubbles, devotion to Saint Anne, and courage and strength coping with her medical issues over many years.

She is survived by her mother, Rita Peischl Douglas, sister Lynn (Tom)



Sister Gail Anne Jarvis, RSM

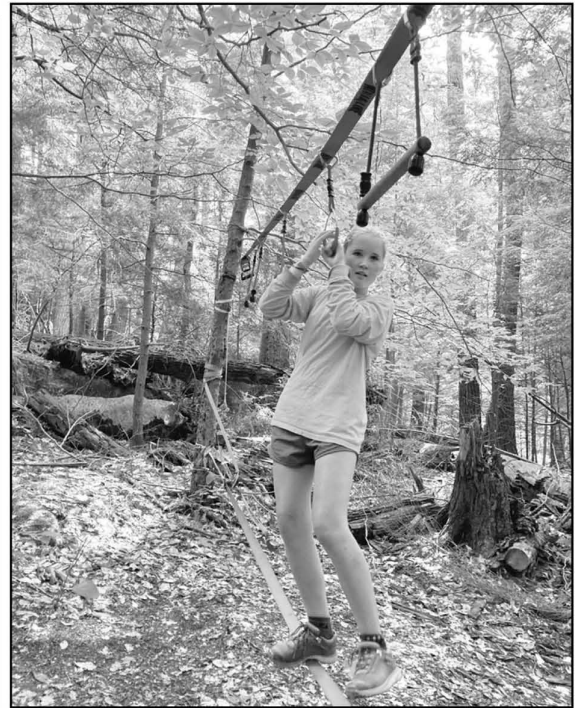
Howard, brother James (Barbara) Jarvis, nieces, Michelle, Danielle, and Jessica Howard, Christy Jarvis, and their spouses, and four grandnieces, three grandnephews, many beloved cousins and friends, and her sisters in religion, the Sisters of Mercy. She was predeceased by her father, Lawrence Jarvis, and many Sisters of Mercy, in particular her dear friend Sister Mary Jeanne Fournier.

The Sisters of Mercy and Sister Gail Anne's family are very grateful to Home Instead, University of Vermont Home Health and Hospice Services, the doctors, nurses and staffs at Our Lady of Providence Residential Care Community and the McClure Miller Respite House for the exceptional care that Sister Gail Anne received.

Following the Funeral Mass, the burial will take place in Mount Saint Mary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Sisters of Mercy in support of their ministerial works. They may be sent to Sisters of Mercy - ATTN: Sister Laura Della Santa, 356 Mountain View Drive, Suite 101, Colchester, VT 05446.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Ready Funeral Home South Capel, 261 Shelburne Rd., Burlington, Vt.



Maggie Wright of Vermont navigates the outdoor adventures course at Camp Guggenheim during the 2022 season.

Registration now open for Camp Guggenheim

Registration for the Camp Guggenheim 2023 season is now open!

This year, the camp season will run from July 5 to August 11 and will open with new mini sessions for youth ages 11-13.

In the mini session, running from July 5 to 7, youth ages 11-13 can get a taste of the Guggenheim experience without committing to a longer session for what may be their first time away from home for an extended period. Campers ages 12 and 13 who participate in the mini sessions can also participate in full camp sessions.

From July 9 to July 28, camp will be open for five five-day sessions for youth ages 12-15. The final week of camp, Aug. 6 to 11, is for campers aged 16 to 18.

All camp sessions include swimming, hiking, games, worship, outdoor adventures and opportunities to meet youth from around the diocese and beyond.

Camp Guggenheim is also in the process of hiring staff, including a camp director, assistant director, counselors a medical director.

To learn more, apply for a job or register for camp, visit www.rcdony.org/youth/camp.

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

Dissolving the dead

In recent years, a number of US states have legalized a new way to process human corpses that some have called "dissolving the dead." Its technical name is "alkaline hydrolysis," but it is also known as biocremation, aquamation, green cremation and resomation.

The basic process involves placing a body in a heated, pressurized metal chamber and hastening its decomposition by adding lye (water mixed with a small quantity of potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide) to break down proteins, fats, DNA, etc. This rapidly digests the tissues of the body and reduces it to skeletal fragments.

The procedure, which some claim is merely an accelerated version of what happens if you're buried, requires 3 to 4 hours.

Afterwards, the dissolved tissue, a brown soup comprised of simple organic materials like salts, sugars and lipids is released from the machine into a drain, then into the sewer system before it makes its way to water treatment facilities.

The leftover bone fragments inside the machine are collected, ground up and, as in standard cremation, pulverized into a powder (colloquially and imprecisely termed "ashes"), which can be given to the family in an urn.

For alkaline hydrolysis, many instinctively object that dissolving bodies in

a vat of chemicals and pouring the resultant liquid down the drain is not a respectful way to dispose of our loved ones' remains, because it seems to treat their bodies as waste to be flushed away.

Others note that standard embalming involves similar steps, as the drained blood and viscera that are extracted through the aspiration of the body cavities are also sent down the drain.

The idea of flame cremation, they add, raises parallel concerns, as numerous parts of a person's body are degraded and flare up a pipe or chimney into the atmosphere.

As a society we have laws prohibiting desecration of the human body, illegal burial, and other abuses against the human body, and we can ask whether alkaline hydrolysis or liquification of the human body raises any of the same concerns and whether the process meets the standard of reverent treatment of our earthly remains.

Because of the novelty of alkaline hydrolysis, the Catholic Church does not yet have an official teaching that addresses the practice. Instead, the Church stresses the importance of showing careful regard for human remains and honoring the

memory of the deceased.

These considerations should influence our decisions as Catholics when we are offered options like cremation or alkaline hydrolysis. Neither is intrinsically evil, but each can lead to abuses and provoke misunderstandings about our human nature.

In an age in which many misidentify the human person as only corresponding to the soul, without recognizing the sacredness of the human body, the Church tries to emphasize the importance of full-body burial as the best way to assure loving homage towards those who have died as well as witnessing to our belief in bodily Resurrection.

Both cremation and alkaline hydrolysis, meanwhile, bring with them the potential for irreverence and a certain casualness when it comes to attending to human remains.

After cremation, rather than being reverently disposed, ashes are often kept in the attic or in the living room on the fireplace mantel, something that would never be done with a whole human body. Instead of being reverently reserved in the consecrated ground of a cemetery, our loved one's remains may be sub-

jected to unbecoming or even superstitious treatment.

At a deeper level, do we minimize or even negate someone's embodied human reality when we dissolve them in lye, or incinerate them in fire?

On the other hand, when the whole body is buried in the ground, there is a greater sense of connection to those mortal remains, which speak to us of the full embodiment of the person who once lived and breathed as we do, body and soul.

These notable differences in terms of according respect towards the deceased means that we should generally prefer whole body disposition of human remains, as the Church recommends, even though extenuating circumstances can allow for cremation and, until the Church formally teaches otherwise, alkaline hydrolysis.

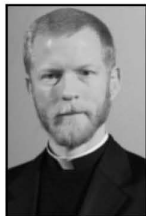
I believe it is unlikely the Church will ultimately counsel or encourage the use of this latter method for laying our loved ones to rest after death.

When alkaline hydrolysis is carried out, the same basic principles that are at work in cremation to protect human dignity should be applied. Bone fragments, powder and ashes left over from the process should be placed in a suitable container

like an urn, and not scattered or divided among family members. The urn should be interred in the family plot, a mausoleum, or a columbarium.

This establishes a specific point of reference in time, space and geography where we can commemorate our deceased family members. In this way, we are not only invited to respect their mortal remains, but also to pray for the repose of their souls as we mourn their passing in the hope of Resurrection and beatitude.

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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Environmental Stewardship

A tribute to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

While it is true that Pope Francis wrote the first encyclical that dealt extensively with various ecological concerns, Pope Benedict was the one who laid the groundwork and was extremely vocal on the importance of being a faithful steward of creation. Since 2009, Pope Benedict XVI has been called the "green pope" because of his concern for the environment. The appellation came primarily after Pope Benedict chose the theme for the World Day of Peace in 2010. If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation. He detailed why the misuse of creation has been a principal cause in world conflicts.

Respect for creation is of immense consequence, not least because "creation is the beginning and the foundation of all God's works," and its preservation has now become essential for the pacific coexistence of mankind. Man's inhumanity to man has given rise to numerous threats to peace and to authentic and integral human development — wars, international and regional conflicts, acts of terrorism, and violations of human rights. Yet no less troubling are the threats arising from the neglect — if not downright misuse — of the earth and the natural goods that God has given us. For this reason, it is imperative that mankind renew and strengthen "that covenant between human beings and the environment, which should mirror the creative love of God, from whom we come and towards whom we are journeying."

Not only did Pope Benedict speak about the protection of creation, but his actions backed up his words. He installed solar panels to generate electricity on roofs in the Vatican, enough to power the lighting, heating, and cooling of a portion of the country. He authorized the Vatican's bank to purchase carbon credits by funding a Hungarian forest that would make the Catholic city-state the only country fully carbon neutral. Several years later he unveiled a new hybrid Popemobile that would be partially electric."

In many ways, Pope Francis is simply building upon the legacy of Pope Benedict, continuing the work he began. Think of it...our intentional acts of faithful stewardship fall right in line with these two great Popes.

Remembering Father Halligan

The Pontifical Mission Societies is sad to announce the passing of Father John James Halligan, one of the priests working the Lenity Project in Ecuador. The following obituary information was provided by The Lenity Project.

Father John James Halligan, SJ, was born on Sept. 23, 1930, in the Bronx.

In 1947, he entered the Society of Jesus at St Andrew in Hudson, Poughkeepsie, New York, and was ordained into the Jesuit Priesthood in 1961.

In 1962, he was as-



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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signed to work in South America. In 1964, his superior asked him to travel north to the city of Quito, Ecuador, to study and report back about the street children of the capital city. He found that many of the children, some of whom were as young as five years old, were shining shoes so that they could bring money home to help their families. Some of the boys provided as much as 85% of their family income.

To support them, Father Halligan founded el Centro del Muchacho Trabajador, the Working Boy's Center, which provided meals, education and a place to stay for a small number of the "shoeshine boys."

The center was originally housed in the attic of el Colegio Gonzaga, Gonzaga Jesuit High School.

Father Halligan began by offering the boys a warm lunch. Eleven showed up to eat the first day, and by the sixth month mark, 250 boys were eating lunch at the center daily.

Over the years, the center would help thousands upon thousands of families and individuals rise out of poverty.

The center began to call itself a family of families, providing three meals daily on six days of the week, facilities for education, and medical and dental care to working boys and members of their families at three sites in Quito.

All children were required to attend preschool, grammar school and technical school.

As part of the training program, Halligan built a strip mall near the main campus where members could get training and experience in customer service and business administration.

In 2010, Father Halligan was awarded the \$1.2 million Opus Prize, a faith-based humanitarian award, for his work at the Working Boys' Center.

On Dec. 16, 2022, after helping countless boys and their families, Father Halligan passed away at the age of 92.

We offer our sympathy and prayers to Sister Cindy Sullivan, BVM who assisted Father Halligan for years at the center. Sister Cindy was helpful to Father Halligan in the Missionary CO-OP Appeal to touch the hearts of parishioners who generously supported the center's ministry. A Mass for Father Halligan and the consolation of his friends will be offered by Father Ruben Carvajal at the center from Bishop Terry R. LaValley and the people of Ogdensburg. Father Carvajal was one of the boys who benefited from the Working Boy's Center and later entered the priesthood.

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

is able to schedule sessions for the Protecting God's Children for Adults program as needed. To schedule a session, contact Jeannie Grizzuto, secretary, Diocese of Ogdensburg Office of Safe Environment, at (315) 393-2920 or jgrizzuto@rcdony.org.

To Report Abuse

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

Jan. 25 — Rev. Eugene Gauvin, O.M.I., 1890

Jan. 26 — Rev. Antoine Paillier, O.M.I., 1916; Rev. Henry Thameling, O.F.M. Conv., 1929; Rev. Leon Lamothe, O.M.I., 1937; Rev. Daniel E. Cahill, 1945; Rev. John Emmett Weir, 1990; Rev. Earl W. Nichols, 2002

Jan. 27 — Rev. Emile H. Mission, O.S.A., 1973; Rev. Mr. Adam S. Crowe, 2009

Jan. 28 — Rev. James A. McKenna, 1895; Deacon Richard E. Winter, 2004

Jan. 29 — Msgr. James T. Lyng, 1965; Deacon John L. White, 2019

Jan. 30 — Rev. John T. Sullivan, 1884; Rev. Eusebius Schlingmann, O.F.M., 1937

Jan. 31 — Rev. James McGowan, 1910; Rev. B. J. O'Connell, O.S.A., 1925; Rev. Timothy M. Ladden, 2003

Bishop's Public Schedule

January 25 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

January 26 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

January 27 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

January 28 — 4 p.m. — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

January 29 — 10 a.m. — Mass at St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake with the students from St. Bernard's School in celebration of Catholic Schools Week

January 30 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

January 31 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

February 1 — 9:45 a.m. — Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

In new book, late Benedict XVI defends Christianity

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI has posthumously defended Christianity against claims of intolerance "in the name of tolerance." In a new book published in Italy, the late pontiff warns of a "radical manipulation of human beings" and "the distortion of the sexes by gender ideology" in the name of tolerance. Rejecting the argument of a German theologian about monotheism being linked to intolerance, Benedict counters that "the authentic counterweight to every form of intolerance" is, in fact, Christ crucified. The late pontiff's contribution, dated December 2018, is published in a new collection of texts by the theologian pope, touted by the Italian publisher as a spiritual "quasi-testament." The 190-page volume is called "What is Christianity?" It contains 16 contributions, four of which were previously unpublished. According to CNA Deutsch, CNA's German-language news partner, all of the texts were written after Benedict's resignation in 2013.

Poll: Most Americans support abortion restrictions

A new poll has found that a majority of Americans support some limits on abortion and that Americans' attitudes toward abortion have not significantly changed since the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* last June. Conducted by Marist and sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, the 2023 poll found that when asked whether they identify as "pro-life" or "pro-choice," 61% of Americans identify with the latter, compared with 39% who describe themselves as pro-life. However, the poll also found that 69% of Americans support limiting abortion to, at most, the first three months of pregnancy. That figure is comparable to the 2022 poll, conducted before the overturning of *Roe*, in which 71% of respondents agreed that abortion should not be allowed after the first trimester. Only 21% of Americans overall said they support abortion on demand. The U.S. Supreme Court's June 2022 decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* overturned a previously-found constitutional right to abortion instead returning the question of abortion policy to each individual state. The poll, released Jan. 18, found that 60% of respondents oppose using U.S. tax dollars for abortion services domestically, and 78% oppose the use of public funds for abortion services abroad.

Oldest person in the world, Sister Andre, dies at 118

Sister Andre Randon, a French nun and the oldest person in the world, has passed away at the age of 118. Randon became the world's oldest person on April 19, 2022, when Kane Tanaka of Japan died at the age of 119, according to the Gerontology Research Group. "There is great sadness but ... it was her desire to join her beloved brother. For her, it's a liberation," David Tavella of the Sainte-Catherine-Laboure nursing home said. Born Lucile Randon on Feb. 11, 1904, in Alés, France, she converted from Protestantism to Catholicism when she was 19. She served young children and the elderly at a French hospital until she became a nun at the age of 40. She joined the Daughters of Charity — founded by St. Vincent de Paul — in 1944. She took the name Sister Andre in honor of her deceased brother. Seventy-six years later, Sister Andre moved to Toulon, in southern France, where she resided in the Sainte Catherine Labouré retirement home. It was here that she passed away.

Report: Christian persecution at highest point in 30 years

By Hannah Brockhaus
Catholic News Agency

The persecution of Christians is at its highest point in three decades, according to the latest report from advocacy group Open Doors.

The World Watch List, released by Open Doors on Jan. 18, reported that, overall, the number of Christians facing persecution worldwide remained steady in 2022 at approximately 360 million.

In a list of the 50 countries with the most persecution, North Korea returned to the first spot in 2022. The year prior, Afghanistan had landed in the top ranking following the Taliban's takeover of the country's government.

Afghanistan ranks ninth in the latest list because the country's Christians have either been killed, fled, or are in strict hiding, according to Open Doors' Italian director Cristian Nani.

The few Christians who remain in Afghanistan are living like the early Church, Nani said at a Jan. 18 presentation of the World Watch List at Italy's Chamber of Deputies. "They live the faith in secret because it's the only way to live it in safety."

Nani explained that today there is an increasing phenomenon of a "refugee" church, due to the number of Christians fleeing persecution.

The other countries classified as having "ex-

treme" levels of Christian persecution this year are Somalia, Yemen, Eritrea, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Iran, Sudan, and India.

In sub-Saharan Africa, anti-Christian violence has reached "unprecedented intensity," the report said.

Nigeria continues to be the epicenter of massacres with 5,014 Christians killed in 2022, nearly 90% of the total number of Christians killed worldwide — 5,621.

Almost 90% of kidnappings carried out against Christians in 2022 also took place in Nigeria, where Nani said there is a kidnapping "business" taking place.

He said an all-too-common scenario is the kidnapping of a Christian man's wife and daughters, who will frequently endure sexual violence and sex trafficking before they are released for a ransom.

In addition to its Watch List, Nani said Open Doors is working to find "radical solutions" to persecution and to help persecuted Christians find healing and forgiveness, and to "break the circle of violence."

Andrea Benzo, special envoy for the protection of religious freedom in Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, called Christian persecution not just a lack of freedom of worship but a failure of society.

He noted the popularity of the subject of "rights" in Italy and other Western countries while the human right to religious liberty is ig-

nored.

The World Watch List also underlined continuing Christian persecution in China, which is No. 16 on the list.

China, it said, "is forging an international alliance to redefine human rights," while more countries adopt "the Chinese model of centralized control of the freedom of religion."

A member of Italy's Chamber of Deputies, Andrea Delmastro Della Vedove, said Italy needs to have the courage to propose the principles of religious liberty in countries where it is not properly respected.

He said the Italian government should put pressure on the international community to promote religious pluralism.

Delmastro is the president of an inter-parliamentary group for the protection of the religious freedom of Christians formed in 2019 by the right-wing party Fratelli d'Italia (Brothers of Italy), part of the coalition now in power in Italy.

He asked people to consider what lands on the front pages of newspapers and asked: "What could our abandoned brothers and sisters in the Middle East and China think about that?"

Pope Francis asked for prayers for persecuted Christians after his weekly public audience on Jan. 18. He said he is praying for Father Isaac Achi, a Catholic priest who died after bandits set fire to his parish rectory in northern Nigeria on Sunday.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Christ is the light

JANUARY 22

Our readings this weekend provide us with a timely warning. They speak loudly of the importance of "unity" and "light". How important for us who live in a world and in nation overshadowed by darkness and division! We must all be concerned about the attempts on the part of Al Quada against Christians in the Middle East. They continue to drive out natives in those lands who have worshiped in their churches for thousands of years burnings of churches, murder of parishioners have caused an exodus of



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

thousands of those who were among the first to follow the light of Christ. We also have the war in Ukraine and horrible murders in Iran. There is so much division in America, including government interference in religious freedom. Responsibly conducted polls show that there is growing consensus among the majority of citizens that our nation is headed in the wrong direction on issues such as abortion, marriage, family life, and moral values. It seems that the voice of the Church is rarely heeded. Just this week, Pope Francis condemned abortion as part of the

January 22 & 29

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Isaiah 8:23-9:3

I Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

Matthew 4:12-23

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

Corinthians 1:26-31

Matthew 5:1-12a

culture of waste, whether of goods or of human life.

Into our darkness comes the clear warning from this week's readings: Christ is the light that has the power to dispel the darkness. His message of love for all peoples is the true source of unity.

The marvelous prophecy of Isaiah concerns the land of Zebulun and Naphtali in northern Galilee where Jesus lived and worked. Here will be a restoration of light with the coming of Jesus.

In this week's Gospel, Matthew clearly refers to Isaiah's prophecy that "a people who lived in darkness have seen a great light".

Just as this land of the Gentiles sat in darkness until Jesus came, so too do those in our time and in our culture, await a new evangelization. The Joy of the Gospel," Pope Francis calls for a new boldness and fiery hearts from all followers of Christ. From the papacy itself down through all ranks of clergy and laity, we must take his call very seriously. Only the message of God's love, mercy, and salvation for all people and nations can save our world.

Each year in January, both Catholics and Protestants seek to pray together and work together for peace. Much good is done through these celebrations. But we must also strive harder for unity within our own Catholic communities. Both clergy and people committed to their care need to be united in repairing our crumbling values. It means struggling to let go of suspicions and false assumptions. When we are unified, we stand a much better chance of influencing the society in which we live.

JANUARY 29

In today's first reading, Zephania speaks of the necessity for humility. He speaks to the faithful remnant of Israel.

In Corinthians, Paul tells us that God chooses the lowly of the world to be his messengers. Only those whom the world deems foolish are chosen so that the proud will know that God doesn't depend on them. It's the weak that are fit to carry his world.

The Gospel for today is all about the Beatitudes. The poor in spirit, the meek, the merciful are those blessed. And they will be persecuted, just as Jesus himself was persecuted. They are the ones who will rejoice in everlasting life in heaven.

God always seems to turn the values of the world upside down. His will is often so often different from ours. In today's dark, fearful, atheistic and hedonistic world, spinning out of control, we are comforted and challenged by all today's readings. "He who has ears to hear, ought to hear." We need to listen.

QUEST FOR PRIESTS

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name a priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul; take over his entire personality and life.

Replace him with yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always. O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of priests, pray and intercede for (...) Amen.

February

The Passion of our Lord

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY		2023		SATURDAY	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
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7 REV. CHRISTOPHER J. LOOBY	8 OUR PASTOR	9 REV. JOHN J. LOOBY	10 REV. SHANE M. LYNCH	11 REV. DONALD J. MANFRED	12 REV. LAWRENCE E. MARULLO
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A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated. The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by: Diocese of Ogdensburg, Vocations Society, www.myvocations.net

Seeking songs centered on the Eucharist

Catholic poets, composers, and songwriters are invited to participate in a competition in which the winning piece could be performed before 80,000 people at the 2024 National Eucharistic Congress.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis is sponsoring a Eucharistic Revival musical competition in an effort to renew zeal for the Eucharist.

The musical competition is one facet of the multiyear National Eucharistic Revival launched on June 19, 2022 — the solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, or Corpus Christi. The revival's mission is to "renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the holy Eucharist," as stated on the initiative's website.

After a 2019 Pew survey revealed that only 31% of Catholics believe in a basic tenet of their faith — that the body and blood of Christ are truly, really, and substantially present in the Eucharist — the U.S. bishops decided to take action. In 2021, at their annual fall meeting, they voted to embark on a national eucharistic revival to restore and promote an understanding of and devotion to the Eucharist.

Catholic artists can submit entries for either one of two categories: hymn-writing or theme song. One submission will be chosen in each category and will be featured at the National Eucharistic Congress, which will take place in Indianapolis from July 17–21, 2024. Dioceses across the country will be encouraged to use the winning pieces in any events

that focus on the eucharistic revival.

Those submitting entries are encouraged to proclaim the teaching of the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and express our unity in the body of Christ. Pieces can also be multilingual.

New and original work will be evaluated on poetry, musicality, creativity, theological and doctrinal soundness, beauty, appropriateness for liturgical use, and expression of the mission of the eucharistic revival.

"The mystery of the Eucharist is expressed particularly poignantly through the beauty of poetry and music. Congregational song unites us as a community and reminds us that we are one body of Christ," Marilyn Santos, associate director of the USCCB's Secretariat of Evangelization and Catechesis, said in

a press release.

Tim Glemkowski, executive director of the National Eucharistic Congress, added: "The musical competition is just the beginning of a number of initiatives on the horizon for the revival in 2023 that celebrate the beauty and mystery of the Eucharist."

"Beauty is the mark of a loving God, and we are excited to see creative expressions from talented Catholic artists that embrace the beauty of Christ and give new light, color, and voice to the truths of our faith," he said.

The winners will also receive \$2,500 in cash. Entries will be accepted from Jan. 13 to April 21, 2023. Winners will be announced June 9, 2023. For complete rules and to enter the competition, visit the National Eucharistic Revival website.

CALLED TO SERVE

Catching up on a few things

The North Country Catholic took a week off last week. It is one of the few "vacations" from producing this publication that Darcy Fargo and Christine Ward, who pull it all together each week, allow themselves. With Bishop LaValley's OK, by the way.

The vacation also means the local columnists get a holiday, too.

We hope you missed us. In reality most of you did not even know we took a week off until you read this.

Bishop LaValley (Follow Me), Msgr. Whitmore (Scripture Reflections), Father Meunch ('Father Bill Says'), Darcy Fargo (the Editor's thoughts) and this humble servant's weekly effort (Called To Serve) were

grateful to not have to file. I thought, more than once as deadline approached, that I had to ask the Holy Spirit for inspiration one more time, only to realize that there was no deadline.

That was a bittersweet remembrance because I had so much to tell you about.

There was the reaction to previous columns about 'The Blizzard of '22' and the ladder story in the January 11 edition.

Most of the reaction was of the "I can top that one" variety.

My favorite was from the spouse of a deacon who recalled how much fun she and a cousin used to have teasing a bull on the cousin's farm and then running for

dear life to avoid getting stomped on by the bull who was angry and chasing them at full gallop, or whatever bulls do.

I was going to do a reflection of sorts on Ordinary Time.

The Bishop's Conference defines Ordinary Time as "a time for growth and maturation, a time in which the mystery of Christ is called to penetrate ever more deeply into history until all things are finally caught up in Christ. The goal, toward which all of history is directed, is represented by the final Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ,

King of the Universe."

That sums it up nicely. It is also the time we take all the Christmas decorations down in church and switch to green.

Some folks might think we have "dulled" our worship sites by removing all festive trees, wreaths, manger scenes and lights. I guess we have.

The green appointments and vestments symbolize life, hope and anticipation. Think Spring!

And I also wanted to mention that our New York State Chief Executive, Governor Kathy Hochul, has approved the human composting law, making New York

the sixth state in the nation to allow that method of burial.

Catholics do not approve. Dennis Poust, Executive Director of the New York State Catholic Conference, called the method "inappropriate." Poust said in a statement "Human bodies are not household waste, and we," meaning the Catholic Conference, ergo Catholics, "do not believe that the process meets the standard of reverent treatment of our earthly remains."

Thanks for the week off and this opportunity to clear my desk.

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



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

ADIRONDACK-FRANKLIN

FRIENDSHIP VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Lake Placid – Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is recruiting new volunteers and has scheduled a Friendship Volunteer Training Program in Tupper Lake.

Date: Jan. 25

Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Features: There is no cost for the training but registration is required. Complementary lunch will be provided. New Volunteers will join Mercy Care's more than 100 Friendship Volunteers from Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, and Tupper Lake and surrounding areas who are helping their elder neighbors stay connected to their communities and helping to make their lives a little easier and happier.

Contact: To register for the training, please visit Mercy Care's website at www.adkmercy.org or contact Lexi Bevilacqua, Mercy Care's Education & Volunteer Training Manager, at abevilacqua@adkmercy.org or call Lexi for more information at 518-523-5446.

CLINTON

ADORATION

Plattsburgh – Adoration to be held weekly.

Date: Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

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

Place: St. John's in the Holy Family Basement

Features: Come to an out of the way place and rest awhile in Jesus' Presence. Experience His healing power, grace, love and mercy for yourselves and loved ones. Pray for the sick, suffering, vocations, our priests, country and peace in the world.

Contact: For more information, to become a substitute or to sign up for an hour, please contact 518-563-3773.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

RESEPECT LIFE PRAYER GATHERING

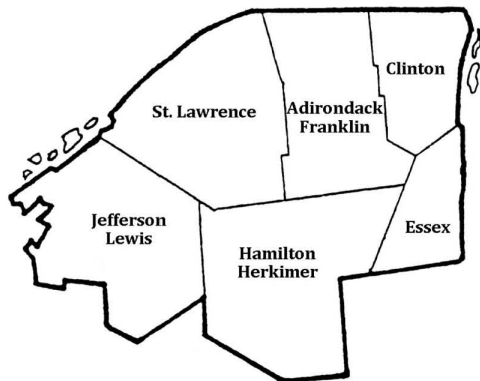
Watertown – Liferight will host and participate in a Respect Life Prayer gathering.

Date: Jan. 23

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: In front of the Municipal Building on Washington Street

Features: Join us as we pray for a



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;
e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

renewed respect for all human life. Particularly those most vulnerable. Refreshments to follow at St. Patrick's Church.

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: Feb. 5

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Carthage – A pancake breakfast to be held to benefit Augustinian Academy sponsored by the Father John Cosmic Council 291 of the Knights of Columbus

Date: Feb. 12

Time: 8AM to Noon

Place: St. James Community Room
Cost: Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$7; Children under 10, \$4; Family of 4 or more, \$27

Contact: For more information call 315-493-3224

ST. LAWRENCE

MEAL DRIVERS NEEDED

The St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging is seeking drivers for home delivered meals in Brasher Falls, DeKalb, Canton, Gouverneur, Morris-town, Ogdensburg, Potsdam and Star Lake.

Features: These drivers deliver hot, nutritious meals to older adults. Many are homebound and receive a

lunchtime meal Monday through Friday. Drivers receive a mileage reimbursement. Typical deliveries take place between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Routes can be between one hour and two hours. You can volunteer for one day a week or several. Any help is greatly appreciated.

Contact: If you are interested please contact Danielle Durant at 315-386-4730.

BINGO

Canton – Knights of Columbus to have BINGO.

Dates: Jan. 23, & 30

Time: Doors open at 4:30 p.m. (winter hours). First call is at 7 p.m.

Place: Knights of Columbus Hall

Cost: Admission at the door is \$5 plus the cost of boards

BISHOP BARRON STUDY PROGRAM

Massena – St. Peter's Parish will have an 8-week study program using Bishop Barron's "Conversion".

Date: Tuesdays starting Jan. 31

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

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Contact: St. Peter's Office at 315-769-2469 or visit website at massenacatholic.com for info and registration

THE CHOSEN 1 & 2

Massena – St. Peter's Parish will be showing "The Chosen" 1 and 2.

Date: Season 1 starts Wednesdays Feb. 1 and Season 2 starts Mondays Jan. 30

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Contact: Call St. Peter's Office at 315-769-2469 or visit website at massenacatholic.com for info and registration.

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

Date: Feb. 4

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: Feb. 4

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.

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Massena – First Saturday of the month, men's prayer group to meet for Mass and Adoration.

Date: Feb. 4

Time: 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: Coffee and donuts after service in the parish center

Contact: Bob Brothers at 315-842-2886

ST. JAMES GALA

Gouverneur – St. James School will have their 2023 Gala, "Return to Vegas".

Date: Feb. 11

Time: 5:45 p.m. to Midnight

Place: St. James School

Cost: \$75, includes dinner, drinks, dancing, admission to auctions, door prizes, games, raffles and new surprises at our premiere event! Must be 21 years of age.

Features: The lights, the excitement, the suspense, the fun.... its back IN PERSON! Return to our Vegas themed night to try your luck and help us raise a buck! Join us for all our party favorites including the in person treasure chest keys, silent and live auctions, Pay and Pick game, raffles, prizes, full course meal, famous dessert bar, cash bar and dancing!

Contact: For more information please contact 315-287-0114 or St. James School 315-287-0130

MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

Date: Feb. 12 (Second Sunday of each month)

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

Place: Fr. Amyot Parish Center

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

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

PRIEST, PROPHET, KING

Ogdensburg – St. Mary's Cathedral to host a Lenten study featuring Bishop Robert Barron's DVD-based Study Program: Priest, Prophet, King.

Date: Thursdays starting Feb. 2nd to March 16th.

Time: 2 sessions to choose from, 9:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.

Place: Bishop Brzana Hall.

Features: Join us as we deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ. Explore the biblical archetypes of priest, prophet, and king and see how Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of each one. Throughout this experience, you will better understand who Jesus really is and also realize your own priestly, prophetic, and kingly mission. No charge for the workbooks, but donations will be accepted.

Contact: You can email Deacon Bill O'Brien at billob315@gmail.com (Preferred) or if you don't have email, simply call him in the evening between 5 and 9 p.m. at 315-528-0461 to register. We hope to see you there! Please Register by Jan. 25th so we have enough workbooks ordered.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

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: Three different times and locations to attend. 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. except the Plattsburgh session, which will run 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Features: Program will be a showing of "Unprotected: A Pope, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

OBITUARIES

Alexandria Bay — Vincent C. Hartman, 72; Funeral Services Jan. 9, 2023 at the Costello Funeral Home; burial in Barnes Settlement Cemetery.

AuSable Forks — Rose M. (Betters) Sheffield, 98; Graveside services to be held in the spring.

Brasher Falls — Mary Patricia Nursey King, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 5, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church.

Canton — Shirley A. (Patnode) Hunter, 72; Funeral Services Jan. 20, 2023 at the O'Leary Funeral Home; burial in North Russell Cemetery.

Carthage — Patricia J. Kelly, 71; Funeral Services Jan. 12, 2023 at Bruce Funeral Home; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Churubusco — JoEllen (Ryan) LeClair, 84; Services to be held at a later date.

Evans Mills — Madeline Elizabeth (Robinson) Drake, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 16, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Sandy Hollow Cemetery, Philadelphia.

Fort Covington — Jean Timmons McCaffrey, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 21, 2023 at St. Mary's of the Fort Church; burial in New St. Joseph's Cemetery, Malone.

Hogansburg — Michael J. Lazore, 65;

Mass of Christian Jan. 14, 2023 at St. Regis Church.

Hogansburg — Eleanor A. Ransom, 78; Mass of Christian burial in spring; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

La Fargeville — Joyce E. (Hinkley) Hughes, 93; Graveside Services at St. John's Catholic Cemetery to be held at a later date.

Lake Placid — Rosemary Agnes Reiss, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 4, 2023 at St. Agnes Church.

Lowville — Nicholas F. Bush, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 9, 2023 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Martinsburg Cemetery.

Madrid — Robert J. Buffham, 65; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 12, 2023 at St. John the Baptist Church.

Malone — George E. Matthews, 93; Funeral Services Jan. 10, 2023 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Lake Titus.

Malone — Betty (Livernois) Robis-
taw, 86; Funeral Services will be private.

Malone — Anthony "Bobby" K. Walker, 37; Funeral Services Jan. 18, 2023 at Frary Funeral Home.

Massena — Thelma (Rusaw) Dufresne, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 18, 2023 at St. Mary's Church;

burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Elmer F. Rakoce, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 17, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville — Louise G. "Major P" (Savoie) Pilkington, 82; Mass of Christian Burial March 13, 2023 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in Sarasota National Cemetery, Sarasota, FL.

Norwood — Janice M. (LaRose) LaShomb, 78; Mass of Christian Burial in spring at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Jenna L. Bromley, 23; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 19, 2023 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — John James Mereau, 73; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 13, 2023 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Jay Bernard Murray, 70; Mass of Christian Burial March 3, 2023 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Old Forge — Christopher Allen Parry, 66; Funeral Services Jan. 21, 2023 at Trainor Funeral Home, Inc., Boonville.

Peru — Robert J. Rennie, 88; Funeral Services Jan. 18, 2023 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Union Cemetery, Mooers Forks.

Peru — Mark Edward Smith, 56; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 19, 2023 at St. Augustine's Church.

Peru — John F. St. Clair, 71; Funeral Services Jan. 21, 2023 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Harkness Cemetery.

Peru — Sandra Akey Thornton, 79; Funeral Services Jan. 14, 2023 at Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery, Morrisonville.

Plattsburgh — Francesca Theresa Campbell Hartnett, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 21, 2023 at Newman Center.

Plattsburgh — Clayton H. Hoover Sr., 73; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 16, 2023 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Mary's of the Lake Cemetery, Cumberland Head.

Plattsburgh — Elizabeth A. "Betty" (Frennier) Muller, 64; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 20, 2023 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Brenda (Farmer) O'Neil, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 17, 2023 at St. John's Church; burial in Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Port Leyden — John L. Smith, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 20, 2023 at St. Martin's Church; burial Calvary Cemetery.

Redford — Ronald D. Miner, 68; Mass

of Christian Burial Jan. 18, 2023 at Church of the Assumption.

Rosiere — Audrey Fleming Lawrence, 84; Memorial Mass Feb. 18, 2023 at St. Vincent de Paul Church.

Saranac Lake — Victor C. Burman, 85; Funeral Services Jan. 14, 2023 at Fortune-Keough Funeral Home; burial in Union Cemetery, Vermontville.

Ticonderoga — Donna J. (Goodroe) Blower, 74; Funeral Services Jan. 11, 2023 at the Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home; burial in Valley View Cemetery.

Ticonderoga — Genevieve Alfonsine (Pozzouli) Smith Merriam, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 16, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Valley View Cemetery.

Tupper Lake — Leon Thomas Fortune, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 13, 2023 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Tupper Lake — Rita M. LaFrance, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 21, 2023 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Watertown — Mary K. Kirk, 81; Funeral Services Jan. 16, 2023 at Cummings Funeral Service, Inc.; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Helen L. (McCoy) McWayne, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 21, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church.

Around the diocese

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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 sttartaglia@rcdony.org

RITE OF ELECTION

Ogdensburg - The Rite of Election (ROE) this year will be held the first Sunday of Lent. All parishioners are

invited to come to the Cathedral to experience this liturgy and offer prayer and support to the Catechumens and Candidates preparing for full initiation into the Catholic Church this Easter.

Date: Feb. 26

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Contact: Anita Soltero at asoltero@rcdony.org or 518-310-3669 with questions.

YOUTH LENTEN RETREAT

Lenten Retreats for youth in grades 7 to 12 to be held.

Schedule: March 4 at Sacred

Heart Church (Dostie Hall), Watertown 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. with Mass at 4:30 p.m.; March 18 at St. Peter's Church (Emmaus Room) 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. with Mass at 4 p.m.

Features: Lent is a perfect time for all of us to think about how we can be more like Jesus in our homes, at school, and in our communities. During this retreat, you and your friends will be able to have fun while putting together your "Best Lent Yet!" This compact retreat will contain moments of fun, reflection, conversation, and workshops. Drinks and snacks will be provided. There is no fee to attend and, retreatants are en-

couraged to attend the Mass offering.

Contact: Registration is required. The deadline to register is: March 1. To register visit: www.rcdony.org/lentenretreat. For more information, contact Tom Semeraro @ 315-393-2920 ext. 1415.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

Massena - The Vocation Office and the Office of Youth Ministry is sponsoring a Middle School Retreat (Grades 6-8) in the St. Lawrence/Franklin region of the Diocese.

Date: March 22

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

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

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

FACES OF FAITH



Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod attended Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral followed by lunch at Bishop's house on January 3. Pictured are (back row, from left) Sister Shaly Sebastian, councilor, Sister Elizabeth Philomena Miranda, superior general, Bishop, LaValley, Sister Bernadette Collins, a Sister of St. Joseph and diocesan episcopal delegate for Religious, Sister Maria Angelica Rebello, superior, Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, a Sister of St. Joseph and diocesan Vocation Coordinator, and (front row) Sister Jessintha Xavier. Sisters Shaly and Elizabeth were visiting from Switzerland.



Seminarians of the Diocese of Ogdensburg gathered Dec. 28 with Bishop Terry R. LaValley and the diocesan Vocations Office for their annual Christmas gathering. Pictured are, from left, Tuan "Joseph" Vuong, Dennis Om-bongi, Father Matthew Conger, Deacon Lukas Gruber, Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, Kevin McCullough, Bishop LaValley, Tyler Fitzgerald, Michael Lennox, Douglas Schirmer, Venes Laine and Father Christopher Carrara. The gathering was held at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg.



(Above) Awards were presented in late December to the participants and winners of the annual Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest, sponsored by the Father John Cosmic Council 291, Knights of Columbus in Carthage. Grand Knight Garry Stevens is shown with winners, from left, Maura James, Abigail Workman and Cheyanne Walseman, as well as Augustinian Academy principal Maryann Margrey. (Below) Grand Knight Stevens is shown with contest participants from Augustinian Academy in Carthage.

