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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 78 Number 25

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

OCTOBER 25, 2023

Follow Me: Update on diocesan reorganization

Bishop Terry R. LaValley provides an update on the Diocese of Ogdensburg's reorganization.

"With a lot of hard work by our fiscal office and our attorneys, we have secured the court permissions we need to operate the diocese in the ordinary course of business. Of great importance is our ability to continue our normal banking and investment procedures, which the bankruptcy court has authorized, subject to certain limitations and disclosure requirements."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

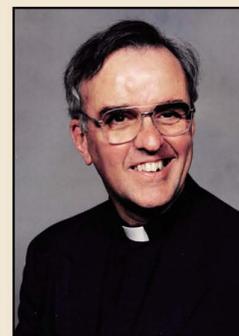
RESPECT LIFE MONTH



PHOTO BY MARY BETH BRACY/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

On October 1, dozens of North Country residents gathered in Plattsburgh for LifeChain, a prayerful gathering to witness to the sanctity of life. Similar gatherings happened in Saranac Lake, Massena and Potsdam. Read about it on Page 5.

REMEMBERING FATHER ELLIOTT



Father Joseph W. Elliott died late in the evening on October 16 at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley at noon on Monday, October 23, at Sacred Heart Church in Massena.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope: Put Jesus at the center of your life

By Matthew Santucci
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis drew upon the example of St. Charles de Foucauld in his ongoing catechesis on apostolic zeal to stress the importance of centering our lives on Jesus.

At the end of his remarks at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square Oct. 18, the pope called for peace in the Middle East and announced that Oct. 27 has been designated as a day of prayer and fasting.

Before the assembled faithful, the pope said the "first step" for evangelization and conversion is putting "Jesus at the center of

one's heart."

The pope, however, said "we risk talking about ourselves, our group, a morality, or, even worse, a set of rules, but not about Jesus, his love, his mercy."

He added, in unscripted remarks: "I see this in some new movements that are arising: They talk about their vision of humanity, they talk about their spirituality and they feel they are on a new path... But why don't you talk about Jesus? They talk about many things, about organization, about spiritual paths, but they don't know how to talk about Jesus."

Epitomizing this love for the

Eucharist was St. Charles de Foucauld, who was canonized by Pope Francis in 2022. Born in 1858, he dedicated his life to missionary work in the Sahara, living and working among the Tuareg people (a subgroup of Berber people).

After serving in the French cavalry, he went on to become a Trappist, going to serve the poor in Syria, an experience that had a profound impact on him and helped define his understanding of poverty. He later discerned out of the Trappists and went to Palestine, where he went to live close to the Poor Clares.

"It is in Nazareth that he realizes he must be formed in the

school of Christ. He experiences an intense relationship with him, spends long hours reading the Gospels, and feels like his little brother. And as he gets to know Jesus, the desire to make Jesus known arises in him," the pope said.

It was this time in Palestine that provided him with the inspiration to write his prolific works, including "Letters from the Desert," "Hope in the Gospels," and "Meditations of a Hermit." These writings became the essence of his spiritual legacy, inspiring the formation of numerous future religious congregations. He was assassinated in 1916.

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Yes, it means everyone

"I don't know why we're wasting time and resources on them. They won't even help themselves."

"Everyone who believes this is a waste of skin."

"They're all trash."

I read versions of all three of those lines this morning on social media.

The first was in a comment section below a report of local emergency responders being dispatched to

where an individual was reportedly suffering a drug overdose.



**Darcy L.
Fargo**

The second was about a political news story. The third was about fans of a particular sports team.

October is Respect Life Month. It's an opportunity to pray and work for the dignity of all human life from conception to natural death.

When we think about Respect Life Month, most of

us think first of abortion or maybe the death penalty. Those are both horrific destructions of life, and they should be at the front of our minds and actions. Respecting life certainly includes fighting for those who can't fight for themselves.

But respecting life is bigger than just that. Respecting life means honoring the dignity of all people and remembering that all people are made in the image and likeness of God. It means honoring the dignity of the drug

addict, the liberal/conservative who supports that which you abhor, and even the Cleveland Browns fan. It means loving your neighbor and your enemy.

Respecting all life is a tall order. It's hard. Jesus never said following him would be easy.

But how nice would it be to log onto social media or turn on the news and see people honoring the dignity of others instead of actively dehumanizing them?

That would be worth quoting.

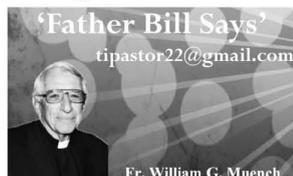
Considering conversion with Merton

Recently, I was prompted to read a book - a book I have read again and again - because this book has had a profound effect on me. I read this book for the first time when I was in high school. I am talking about Thomas Merton's "Seven Story Mountain." I learn something new each time I read it.

You will remember this book; I have mentioned it often here. It is an autobiography of a Trappist monk who is looking back on his conversion to the Catholic Church. He discovers a desire to be a Catholic priest, and he is called to enter a Trappist Monastery, where he is ordained a priest.

Today, I was reading again the section in which Merton writes about his conversion. I am sure this will be interesting to the people in our RCIA program. At this time in Merton's life, he was 23 years old. It was 1939, and he was a student at Columbia University.

I was reading about Merton's thoughts on the day that he was seriously considering his joining the Catholic Church. He de-



Fr. William G. Muench

scribes his vacillation that day. He felt ready to visit a priest but would then become hesitant. Finally, he makes up his mind and heads down to Corpus Christi Church, a nearby parish. He stops at the rectory but learns that Father Ford is out. Then as he begins to head home, Father Ford comes along heading home. Merton meets him and immediately tells him, "I would like to become a Catholic."

This reminds me of something that happened to me when I was a pastor. On a Saturday morning several years ago, a man rang the doorbell early that morning. I answered the door. This man said to me, "I want to join up." His name was Jim, and he became a very dedicated convert to the Catholic Church and a very active member of our parish. He made it clear to me that he was so happy as a Catho-

lic.

Back to Merton. He became well prepared by the priests of Corpus Christi for baptism. His entrance into the Church will result into his finding the Monastery and becoming a priest. He remembers well that on the day of his baptism, he was accompanied by four of his college friends. These are friends that will continue to be a part of his life as a monk and priest. One of them, Ed Rice, was to be his godfather, as he was the only Catholic in the group.

Remember that this is Thomas Merton, now a Trappist Monk and a popular spiritual writer and a priest, writing so insightfully about his baptism. The moment was a huge change in his life. In the early chapters, we have learned that he had lived a rather raucous life. At the beginning of the ritual, Merton is asked to make his Baptismal promise. He rejects Satan and all his works, and then he publicly proclaims his belief in God, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. He writes about this: "what mountains were falling

from my shoulders! What scales of dark night were peeling off my intellect, to let in the inward vision of God and His truth!"

Merton then describes the rite of exorcism, which was part of the ritual at that time. He writes, "I did not see them leaving, but there must have been more than seven of them. I had never been able to count them."

After the baptism with water, Merton remembers his first Confession. And then he participates in a Mass and receives his First Communion. Merton writes: "This was a reminder of the singleness with which this Christ, hidden in a small host, was giving himself for me, and to me and with Himself, the entire Godhead Trinity, a great increase of the power and grasp of their indwelling that had begun only a few minutes before at the font."

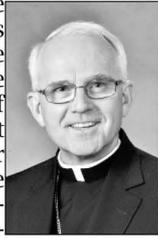
This event in the life of Thomas Merton continues to be a perfect opportunity for me to unite myself with his spirit and wisdom. It also becomes a good message for me to share with others.

FOLLOW ME

Update on diocesan reorganization case

Dear Friends:

I am writing to update you on the status of the Diocesan reorganization case and its impact on all of us. With a lot of hard work by our fiscal office and our attorneys, we have secured the court permissions we need to operate the diocese in the ordinary course of business. Of great importance is our ability to continue our normal banking and investment procedures, which the bankruptcy court has authorized, subject to certain limitations and disclosure requirements. Among other things, we will need to establish a budget for withdrawals and new loans from the Diocesan Deposit and Loan Fund and distributions from the Diocesan Trust Fund.



Bishop Terry R. LaValley

We will also be required to file monthly operating reports disclosing all such transactions. Parishes should continue to operate in the ordinary course. Parishes should continue their programs, worship, and social outreach to others. In order to assist the Diocese in complying with the bankruptcy court's requirements regarding the Deposit and Loan Fund and Diocesan Trust Fund, however, we have asked pastors to plan ahead as much as possible, and to please request any new loans, withdrawals or trust distributions at least 45 days in advance of the date they anticipate needing to receive the funds. Of course, if an emergency arises, we will do our best to expedite the process. Additionally, we have

asked pastors and other administrators to make only such requests that are necessary to support normal operations and necessary repairs. At the present time, state court lawsuits against our parishes, schools and other entities are stayed. The Diocese's expectation is that these lawsuits will be settled on a global basis as part of the mediation process in the reorganization case. Our attorneys have worked hard to get all parties to the table in mediation to resolve all contested issues, including the settlement of the Child Victims Act (CVA) lawsuits. We hope to have the preliminary work for mediation done by the end of January: selecting a mediator, bringing the mediator up to speed, exchanging documents and information between all parties (Diocese, Parishes,

Creditors, Insurers), and begin settlement talks in February. Our insurers are participating in the process for mediation. While we anticipate difficult negotiations with the insurance carriers and creditors, it is good to have them participating in the process this early in the case. All parties agree that mediation is the way to go. The parishes will be represented by Jeffrey Dove, Esq., and the five-member Parish Steering Committee (Father Demo - Chair, Fathers Morgan, Diesbourg, Robinson and Hauser). Lastly, we expect that the bar date for filing claims will be January 18, 2024. Please pray that our work continues to move along and that a just outcome for all is attained. We are committed to fairly compensating survivors of sexual abuse. We must keep them uppermost in our thoughts and prayers as we continue our mission to serve the faithful of the North Country. We ask for your continuing support and prayers as we work together as a Catholic Family to resolve the challenges we face. If you have any questions about any of these matters, please contact Father O'Brien or Mark Mashaw. Thank you for your prayerful support. Asking God to bless you abundantly, I am,

Faithfully yours in Christ,

 Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
 Bishop of Ogdensburg

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
 Bishop of Ogdensburg

REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

What is a Foster Grandparent?

Foster Grandparents are role models, mentors, and friends to children with exceptional needs. The program provides a way for volunteers age 55 and over to stay active by serving children and youth in their communities. They are placed in a classroom setting with a child or children who are in need of emotional support, development of basic learning skills, friendship, companionship, encouragement, individual attention, and unhurried help. The program currently has 40 volunteers and serves more than 100 kids per year.

The Foster Grandparent Program is hosted by the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and supported by AmeriCorps Seniors, a federally funded agency responsible for building volunteer based programs for over 50 years and counting.



Sometimes when you get to be my age, you wake up and say what good am I and along came the Foster Grandparent Program that keeps me going!



Am I Qualified to be a Foster Grandparent?

All you need to join is the ability to give the kind of comfort and love that sets a child on the path toward a successful future. If you're 55 or older and want to share your experience and compassion, you have what it takes to be a Foster Grandparent.

You'll also receive a small bi-weekly, non-taxable stipend that cannot be held against any current benefits you may already have as well as paid mileage for your travel. Additionally, you receive paid holidays, vacations, sick and personal leave.



Want more info about how to get started?

Contact Melissa Howard, Volunteer Coordinator

PHONE: (518)359-7688

EMAIL: mhoward@cathcharities.org

80 Park Street, Suite 2
 PO Box 701
 Tupper Lake, NY 12986

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

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

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

Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him



NOVEMBER

DIocese OF OGDENSBURG, NY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
For more copies contact: Diocese of Ogdensburg PO Box 369 Ogdensburg, NY 13669			BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY	1 REV. STEPHEN ROCKER	2 REV. JOSEPH N. SESTITO	3 REV. JAMES W. SEYMOUR
REV. SCOTT R. SEYMOUR	5 REV. ALAN D. SHNOB	6 REV. F. JAMES SHURTLEEF	7 OUR PASTOR	8 REV. FERNANDO V. SOLOMON	9 REV. BRYAN D. STITT	10 REV. JAMES V. TETI
REV. TODD E. THIBAUT	12 REV. JUSTIN THOMAS HGN	13 REV. SEVERINUS A. K. TORWOE	14 POPE FRANCIS	15 REV. HOWARD J. VENETTE	16 MSGR. PAUL E. WHITMORE	17 REV. LEO A. WILEY
REV. JOHN R. YONKOVIG	19 REV. PHILIP T. ALLEN	20 REV. ANDREW J. AMYOT	21 DECEASED PRIESTS	22 REV. MEDENEL ANGRAND	23 REV. PIERRE AUBIN MSC	24 MSGR. ROBERT H. AUCCOIN
REV. SCOTT A. BELINA	26 REV. CORNELLE EKILA ROYVE MSC	27 REV. TIMOTHY G. CANAAN	28 REV. LEAGON J. CARLIN	29 REV. CHRISTOPHER C. CARRARA	30	

A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated. For more information visit us online at www.mprrequest.com. The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by: Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society www.myvocations.net

Father Elliott 'loved being a priest'

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

"He loved being a priest. He loved his ministry as a priest. He loved being with priests."

That's how Father Donald J. Manfred, pastor of St. Stephen's Church in Croghan and St. Francis Solanus Church in Harrisville, described his friend, Father Joseph W. Elliott.

Father Elliott died on October 16, 2023, at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg, where he had been a resident. He was 78 years old.

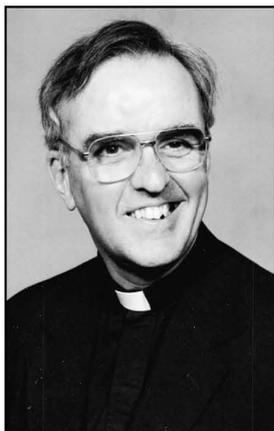
Father Manfred said he became friends with Father Elliott when they were assigned to nearby parishes.

"We were together in a couple different places over the years," Father Manfred said. "It's not a big diocese. We all get to know each other. I think we first got to know each other when I was in North Lawrence, and he was in Hopkinton. All the priests in the area used to get together regularly."

Later, the two worked together on the Permanent Diaconate program.

"He became very interested in the Permanent Diaconate program," Father Manfred said. "I was the first director. When I was transferred to Tupper Lake, (Father Elliott) took over as director of Permanent Deacons. I kept working with the ordained deacons, and he did the formation part."

Father Manfred said his friend, Father Elliott, initially appeared to have a "rough exterior at times."



Father Joseph W. Elliott

"He had polio when he was younger," Father Manfred explained. "That affected some of his facial expressions and movement. And he had a voice that changed. Sometimes, he almost sounded like he was yelling. Once you got to know him, you'd know it was just that his voice was sometimes loud."

Once people got to know Father Elliott, though, they found him to be warm and welcoming, Father Manfred said.

"He was very outgoing, and he loved to be with people," he said. "He loved to play cards."

Father Elliott was also known for his love of news and information.

"He also had a reputation for always wanting to know what was going on," Father Manfred said. "He always had to find out. When it was time for transfers among priests, he always wanted to know who was going where, and he wanted to know before it was supposed to be announced. He kept the telephone line singing for years. He was constantly gathering information before

Mass of Christian Burial to be celebrated Oct. 23

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated for Father Joseph William Elliott at noon on October 23 at Sacred Heart Church in Massena. Bishop Terry R. LaValley, bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, will serve as principal celebrant, and Father Donald J. Manfred will be the homilist.

Calling hours will be at Phillips Memorial Home, 64 Andrews Street, Massena, from 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, October 21, and from 4 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, October 22. Vespers, evening prayer, will be prayed at the funeral home at the conclusion of calling hours on Sunday.

Father Mark R. Reilly, V.F., pastor of St. Peter's Parish in Massena, will preside over the reception of the body at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, October 23, at Sacred Heart Church, Massena. Father Elliott's body will lie in state until 11:30 a.m.

A private burial will be at Calvary Cemetery in Massena.

Father Elliott, 78, died late in the evening on October 16, 2023, at Saint Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg, where he had been a resident.

Born January 15, 1945, in Massena, he was the son of Joseph J. and Marion (Charette) Elliott. His parents predeceased him.

He studied for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg and St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, New York. He was ordained at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg on May 22, 1971, by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana.

Father Elliott began his priesthood serving as parochial vicar at St. Joseph's Church in West Chazy. He also served in that role at St. Augustine's & St. Patrick's churches in Peru, Church of the Immaculate

Conception in Brownville, St. Elizabeth Seton Church in Dexter and All Saints Church in Chaumont, St. Mary's Church in Canton, and St. Patrick's Church in Watertown.

Father Elliott became pastor of St. Cecelia's Church in Adams in May of 1978. He also served as pastor in St. Michael's Church in Parishville and Church of the Holy Cross in Hopkinton, St. Mary's in Canton, the Roman Catholic Community of Brownville and Dexter, St. Alexander's Church in Morrisonville and St. Joseph's Church in Plattsburgh, and the Catholic Community of St. Philip of Jesus and St. Joseph in Willsboro. He then served for a brief time as parochial vicar at Church of the Sacred Heart and St. Lawrence in Massena.

In addition to his parish ministry, Father Elliott served as co-director and then director of the Permanent Diaconate Program for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. He also served as dean of the Clinton Deanery and on the Continuing Education of Clergy Committee.

Father Elliott retired from active ministry on July 1, 2012.

Father Elliott is survived by four siblings, Sister Suzanne Marie Elliott, Dennis Elliott, Mary Elliott Perry and Nancy (Elliott) Sampson.

In addition to his parents, Father Elliott was predeceased by a brother, Dr. Leland Elliott.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Father Elliott's memory to Trinity Catholic School in Massena or St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg.

Family and friends may share online condolences and memories at www.phillipsmemorial.com.

the days of email and all of that. People would call him 'Hoover,' because he sucked up so much information."

Father Manfred noted that Father Elliott ended his active ministry living with him at Sacred Heart in Massena, where Father Manfred

was pastor at the time.

"He was a very devout person with the struggles and challenges he had over the years," Father Manfred said. "He was deeply spiritual. It wasn't put on or for show. I was fortunate at Sacred Heart in Massena. (Father Elliott) and

I got along well. Father Mike Gaffney was at St. Mary's (in Massena), and he'd come over three or four times a week for dinner. It was a happy house."

Father Elliott's complete obituary can be found in the box included with this story.

OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH

Prayerfully protesting for life

By Mary Beth Bracy, consecrated virgin
Contributing writer

On October 1, dozens gathered in prayer – peacefully holding signs and silently bearing witness by their presence – at the annual Life Chain on Smithfield Boulevard in Plattsburgh.

“Prayer is really powerful to help,” shared Father Michael Marzan, parochial vicar at Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh.

“Every little bit helps,” Father Normand C. Cote, a retired priest of the diocese, echoed.

Those present reflected on the gift of God’s creation.

“God has grace us with a beautiful day. I’m glad to be here for it,” commented Toni Krupka of St. Alexander’s in Morrisonville.

“This is such a nice warm day,” added Pat Carey of Rouses Point. “More people should be here. We’ve got a nice group. It’s been work – the fight here in Plattsburgh. It’s been 50 years. They signed the bill when my son was born. He was ten weeks early and I almost didn’t have him. He’s a physician’s assistant now.”

Christians from other denominations attended the event as well.

Nancy Buckpitt, a Morrisonville resident, attends First Assembly of God Church in Plattsburgh.

“I think this is a wonderful thing,” she said. “People have to realize this that once they’ve had a sexual relationship, it’s not a choice. I also know personally the suffering of women who have had abortions, and that suffering doesn’t go away unless you have Jesus in your life.”

Rhonda Van Etten held a beautiful homemade sign that read “Every Life Deserves a Lifetime.”

“I prayed on it on my drive from Altona,” she commented.

Mary LeClair of Plattsburgh noted why she attended the Life Chain as well.

“I’m praying that abortion will be stopped and we can reach out to others and make them



PHOTO BY MARY BETH BRACY/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Dozens gathered on Smithfield Boulevard in Plattsburgh on October 1 as part of Life Chain, a prayerful witness to the sanctity of life.

realize what they are doing is wrong – that God will forgive them of their sin,” she said.

“The ‘Lord, Forgive Us and Our Nation’ sign is appropriate,” added Sarah Miner of Plattsburgh. “It is sins such as this that our country needs to repent for. He’s a merciful God and a patient God but He has limits as to how far things go.”

“I do believe in the Right to Life. It’s the only way to go. That’s why the world is in such a bad state,” explained Barbara LaBombard, who attends St. Joseph’s in West Chazy and St. Patrick’s in Rouses Point. Fellow parishioner Joseph Favro added, “We just keep praying for those (who have left) to come back to the Church. We can’t do any more than pray. We’ve had a nice turnout.”

Nancy Belzile, Champlain Valley Right to Life president, shared, “I’m doing a Bible study for post-abortive women through AscentCare in Saranac Lake, a crisis pregnancy medical center. They have doctors and nurses on staff. They do abortion pill reversal and saved a baby through that last year.”

Belzile has previously taken part in Rachel’s Vineyard, the first offering for post-abortive women in our diocese, that was held in 2007; Lumina, a day of prayerful remembrance, and a

healing retreat.

“There is no end to healing,” she explained. “It’s a continuous journey. We have to keep going – move forward. It affects so many facets of our lives. God is good.”

At the heart of the pro-life message is respect, as Sister Jackie Sellappan, a Sister of the Cross of Chavanod and pastoral associate at Holy Cross Parish, testified. “Respect God, respect myself. Why am I on this earth? The body is the chalice. As a woman, it is my beauty. When I start admiring beauty, I am a chalice but used only for the holiness of God. We don’t use the chalice for any other purpose than Mass. My body is holy, sacred. Within that is what I see in others. I use them only for a holy and sacred purpose.”

When a woman is pregnant, Sister Jackie elaborated, “She can say ‘God is loving me and giving me another chalice.’ If I respect the big body than I respect a little one. Miracles take place. Christ is in us – we receive the Eucharist and become a ciborium.”

Religious sisters and priests are spiritual mothers and fathers, she added.

When she lived in Watertown, Sister Jackie said they would say the Rosary from morning until early afternoon in front of the

abortion clinic during the whole month of October. In Norwich, they used to march around the whole city with signs.

Emily Rendinaro, a parishioner of Holy Cross Parish who attends St. Peter’s in Plattsburgh, provided a young adult’s perspective.

“Adoption is the loving option for women who are raped or too young,” she said. “Hopefully in other third world countries there are adoption centers people can go to. It’s a sad reality.”

Still, Rendinaro believes that there is hope.

“Despite what was going on, I just felt God’s presence and Our Blessed Mother’s presence and how powerful our prayers are,” she said. “If someone has had an abortion and goes to God for forgiveness, He will forgive them.”

Referring to those in their 20s, Rendinaro added about those in her generation, “People who don’t have God and the Blessed Mother in their lives – I feel sorry for them. A lot of people don’t know God is real. I feel sad for all the lost souls. They are just lost. The world just needs more Jesus and Mary.”

Motherhood has been a transformative experience for Rendinaro.

“I didn’t know myself until I knew my child,” she said. “I didn’t know what love was until I met him. When I was pregnant, I re-gave myself to Jesus and Mary. When I was pregnant, I loved my baby so much that I loved myself; I wanted to lead my son in the right way.”

As Linda Griffin reflected, “It’s clear that life begins in the womb and is the vision for the next generation.”

Champlain Valley Right to Life will also be hosting Peace in the Womb, Christmas Caroling outside at 66 Brinkerhoff Street, Plattsburgh on Monday, December 18. All are invited to come anytime between 10am-2pm. For more information or updates, please visit: www.CVRTLNY.com

Environmental Stewardship**Thoughts on *Laudate Deum***

With the release of his new papal letter, *Laudate Deum*, "Praise God," the Holy Father is attempting to refocus our attention on climate change. In this document, Pope Francis cites several issues preventing civilization from effectively addressing this rapidly developing environmental crisis. Among the leading factors emphasized by the pope is the lack of motivation to change our way of life and governments' inaction to effectively tackle this problem.

Many people are rallying government officials to take this crisis seriously. However, legislating actions to curtail climate change is like passing laws outlawing war or drug use. It doesn't work well unless we resolve to change. In order to confront global warming, the residents of our planet, especially in this country, need a serious change of heart which only comes from within. We must finally realize we are the main contributors to this problem. As a society, we have become addicted to a way of life that is unsustainable and lethal to many forms of life on the planet.

Trying to break an addiction is never easy, and it will become a real challenge to step away from the habits our society has come to enjoy. We need a simpler lifestyle that consumes fewer resources. For example, when taking the car to run errands, plan ahead so you can accomplish more chores in a single trip. Ride sharing also helps you connect better with other.

We have been "seemingly blessed" with a way of life that is responsible for destroying nature. If we don't wean ourselves off of it, the Good Lord is eventually going to take it away, and the period of "cold-turkey" afterwards will not be pleasant.

Good luck with attempting to reduce your carbon footprint. Never lose hope for the future, and always remember that the Divine loves us more than we can ever imagine.

Bishop's Public Schedule

Oct. 25 – 5 p.m. – Mass at St. Peter's Parish (at St. Mary's Church) with the Essex, Franklin and St. Lawrence County Commissioned Lay Ministers followed by dinner at St. Mary's Social Hall in Massena

Oct. 28 – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Oct. 29 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

5 p.m. – Andrew Dinner at St. James Parish Hall in Carthage

Oct. 30 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Oct. 31 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration is required. Preregister at www.virtus.org. Upcoming sessions:

Oct. 25 – Noon – St. Peter's Parish, Massena

Oct. 26 – 6 p.m. – St. James Minor Church, Carthage

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terriane Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianeyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-358-3145, Ext. 7179 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

St. James in Gouverneur gets grant for repairs

Work was recently done at St. James Catholic Church in Gouverneur as a part of a 10-year Exterior Masonry Restoration Program. The work pictured here by the Lupini Construction Company out of Utica, New York is on the stained-glass tracery window on the south side of the church.

The restoration of the window was facilitated by a grant by the Rock Charitable Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation. The Rock Charitable Fund was established through a bequest from St. Lawrence County resident and retired Lieutenant Colonel of the United States Army Marjorie J. Rock, who passed away in February 2017 at the age of 96.



Lupini Construction Group, a Utica-based firm, completes masonry work around a stained glass window at St. James Church in Gouverneur. The repairs were funded by a grant from the Rock Community Foundation.

Rest in Peace

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

Oct. 25 – Rev. J. Michael Duvic, O.M.I., 1917

Oct. 26 – Rev. J. G. Lavoie, O.M.I., 1908

Oct. 27 – Rev. John M. Fagan, O.S.A., 1966; Msgr. George Norton Whittaker, 1971; Msgr. Gerald H. Service, 2002

Oct. 28 – Deacon Richard Gaebel, 2008; Msgr. George M. Phillips, 2011

Oct. 29 – Rev. James R. Scanlon, 1880; Rev. Peter F. Cody, 1888; Rev. John Canning, 1998; Deacon Robert V. Ruddy, 2013

Oct. 30 – Rev. Michael F. Burns, 1921; Rev. Thomas E. Owen, 1945; Rev. Peter N. Butler, 1973

Oct. 31 – Rev. James Rooney, 1863; Rev. Lucien Jean, M.S.C., 1964; Rev. Ivan G. Boyea, 1996

The fund's charitable purpose has three focus areas: for the maintenance and preservation of churches and cemeteries in St. Lawrence County; for the preservation and maintenance of places of legitimate historical significance in the county; and to benefit and/or assist veterans of the United States military who reside in St. Lawrence County.

Since 1929 the Northern New York Community Foundation has invested in improving and enriching the quality of life for all in communities across Jefferson,

Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties.

Through partnerships with businesses and organizations, charitable foundations, and generous families and individual donors, the Community Foundation awards grants and scholarships from an endowment and collection of funds that benefit the region. Its commitment to donors helps individuals achieve their charitable objectives now and for generations to come by preserving and honoring legacies of community philanthropy while inspiring others.

North Country Catholic has Green option

Our E-paper is now easier to read online. You can receive your *North Country Catholic* in your e-mail rather than in the mail. Fill in your information and send this form to:

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Address _____	NY 13669
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	OR Call
E-mail _____	Christine at
	315-608-7556
	to make the
	change

U.S. bishops prepare for November plenary session

By Joe Bukuras
Catholic News Agency

All of the U.S. bishops will descend upon Baltimore next month for their 2023 Fall Plenary Assembly in which they will be voting on several new committee chairmen and offering updates on conference initiatives such as their National Eucharistic Revival.

At the gathering, which takes place Nov. 13-16, they will also be voting on items such as updates and materials related to the bishops' guidance on political responsibility ahead of the presidential election in November 2024.

The meeting comes shortly following the close of the first October session of the universal Church's Synod on Synodality in Rome, which is part of the culmination of a four-phase process aimed at refocusing "our gaze on God" and being "a Church that looks mercifully at humanity," as Pope Francis put it earlier this month.

The U.S. bishops' assembly takes place amid the second year of the Eucharistic revival, which they launched in 2022 in part to respond to a Pew Research poll that indicated that only one-third of adult Catholics in the U.S. believe in the Church's teaching on the Blessed Sacrament.

Just last month, a new study challenged some of the findings in the Pew report demonstrating that almost two-thirds of U.S. adult Catholics believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

Regardless, both studies suggest that a significant number of U.S. Catholics don't believe in the Real Presence, which the Church teaches is the "source and summit" of the Catholic faith.

The agenda

Papal Nuncio to the United States Cardinal Christophe Pierre will address the assembly to begin the conference, followed by comments from the USCCB's president, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA.

Following the return of 14 of the bishops from Rome after partaking in the Synod on Synodality's first October session, an update on the process will take place at the assembly.

An update will also be given on the bishops' National Eucharistic Revival, which is in its "Year of Parish Revival"

aimed at building devotion to the Eucharist within American parishes.

That update will also include information about the revival's National Eucharistic Congress, which will be held July 17-21, 2024, and is expected to draw 80,000 Catholics to Lucas Oil Stadium, home to the Indianapolis Colts.

The revival announced 17 speakers in July to be featured at the congress, which includes the popular face of Ascension Presents and host of the hit "Bible in a Year" podcast Father Mike Schmitz; founder of the media apostolate Word on Fire, Winona-Rochester Bishop Robert Barron; and Sister Bethany Madonna of the Sisters of Life, an order dedicated to pro-life ministry and Eucharistic prayer.

The assembly will also offer an update on the bishops' recently created Institute on the Catechism, which will have just launched days prior to the start of the meeting.

The institute, which falls under the USCCB's Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis, will focus on finding new ways to promote and teach catechesis on local levels in consultation with the bishops, dioceses, Catholic publishers, and catechetical consultants.

Also on the agenda is the bishops' new mental health campaign aimed at destigmatizing mental health struggles and advocate for those suffering with mental illness.

The National Catholic Mental Health Campaign, launched by Bishop Barron and Archbishop Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, began on World Mental Health Day, Oct. 10, with a nine-day novena of prayers.

Also at the assembly, the bishops will hold a consultation session on the cause of beatification and canonization of Servant of God Isaac Thomas Hecker. Hecker, the son of German immigrants who was born in New York City, founded the Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle, known as the Paulist Fathers, in 1858 to evangelize in the United States. He was named a Servant of God in 2008.

A consultation will also be held supporting the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, which is petitioning the Vatican to name the 19th-century cardinal St. John Henry Newman a doctor of the Church.

Catholics in Gaza take refuge in parish church

By Suhail Lawand
Catholic News Agency

As the fighting between Hamas and the Israeli army continues in the Holy Land, the Catholic Church in Gaza is doing everything in its power to alleviate the burden of war on its affected members.

The bloodshed and displacement have not spared the civilians in Gaza, who have borne the brunt of the raging war in a region that has not known safety and stability for about 75 years.

In an exclusive conversation with ACI MENA, CNA's Arabic-language news partner, Nisreen Antoun, Holy Family parish's project manager, revealed that there are 20 homes of Christian civilians that were completely destroyed as a result of Israeli bombing as well as homes that were partially damaged.

Holy Family Church is the only Roman Catholic parish in the Gaza Strip and is located in the northern part of Gaza City. Israel's military had ordered the Palestinian civilians to evacuate south last week, but the church today still has several hundred people taking refuge in its buildings.

Antoun said the number of Christian refugees coming to the church to date is estimated to be approximately 500 people in addition to others residing in the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Porphyrius.

"We opened the halls and rooms in the church and school," he said. "We supplied the displaced with mattresses, pillows, and covers. We also provide them water, food, and personal hygiene items."

Antoun also pointed out several difficulties the church is facing.

"We suffer from power outages, with difficulty securing diesel for the power generator," he said. "In addition to difficulty in bathing, as water is almost cut off and the number of people we have is large. Also, the mattresses are not enough for everyone to sleep. Additionally, we have a problem related to food supplies, as it is not easy to find them, especially bread. Currently, only four bakeries are operating in Gaza, and some medicines have become missing from pharmacies."

Antoun continued: "The city of Gaza has been completely destroyed; however, no Christian has been martyred to this hour. The church is also unharmed and has not been subjected to any damage, but no one knows what will happen in the coming days."

Despite the siege and the harshness of war, the church continues to open its doors to worshippers daily, fulfilling its spiritual duties toward them. Amid the images of sorrow and death, the church witnessed joy and a new spiritual birth last Sunday during the baptism of baby Daniel Alaa Shaheen.

In the evenings, believers recite prayers by candlelight due to the power outages.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

FRIENDSHIP GROUPS

You are invited to take part in a Friendship Group that will provide you with dynamic reading and personalized formation to grow in holiness with others online.

Date: Nov. 16

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Zoom

Features Father Mike Warren, OMV will talk with us about the book "Praying with St. Augustine" by Sara Park McLaughlin and answer your questions. For years, there have been no books of St. Augustine's prayers available.

Finally, in this treasure trove, you will find select prayers from his works — some of the most potent prayers ever composed. As you read the innermost thoughts of the greatest Church Father, you will be transported in time and learn how to pray with the heart of a saint. As you pray with St. Augustine, be prepared to be blessed!

Contact: To sign up, visit: <https://mailchi.mp/sophiainstitute/friendship-groups>. The book is on sale at www.sophiainstitute.com. For more information, please contact Mary Beth Bracy at mbracy@sophiainstitute.com

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Lake Placid — St. Agnes School to have their Annual Christmas Bazaar and Craft Fair.

Date: Dec. 2

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

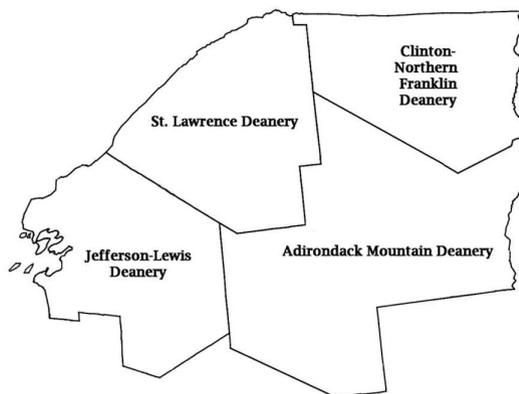
Features: Our annual Christmas Bazaar is a great way to kick off the Christmas season. You can get trees, wreaths, poinsettias, toys, gifts, crafts, baked goods, raffle items, silent auction items and so much more. Vendor space is available.

Contact: For more information please call 518-523-371 or email info@stagneslp.org.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

HEALING MISSION

West Chazy — St. Joseph's Church will be hold a Healing Mission conducted by Paul Rymniak.



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

e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

Date: Oct. 30, 31 and Nov. 1

Time: 7 p.m. each evening

Features: Confession will be available. All are welcome. Healing is not just for the physically impaired. Mental and Emotional stress can take a heavy toll. Come and experience the Lord.

Contact: For more information, call 518-493-4521 or email westchazy@rcony.org

HOLIDAY FAIR

Brushton — St. Augustine and St. Mary's to have their 2nd Annual Holiday Fair.

Date: Nov. 4

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

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Features: A large selection of vendors will be present selling gifts, decor, baked goods, homemade donuts. A chance auction and much more. Adirondack BBQ will be there for breakfast and lunch. A great chance to do some Christmas shopping.

Contact: For more information contact Dianne Russell 518-529-7474 or Gayla Lapage 518-483-5014

HARVEST DINNER

Plattsburgh — Holy Cross Parish to have a Harvest Dinner.

Date: Nov. 5

Time: 12 p.m. to 4

Place: Holy Cross Parish Center (4917 S. Catherine St.)

Cost: \$15

Features: Turkey dinner with all the trimming. Dine in or take-out available.

Contact: For more information call 518-563-0730

CRAFT FAIR

Chazy — Sacred Heart Church to have their Fabulous Fall Craft Fair.

Date: Nov. 11

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

Place: Sacred Heart Parish Center

Features: Great craft festival with a variety of vendors. Hot lunches, baked items, silent auction. Free Admission.

Contact: For more info contact Sharon Nephew 518-578-2666.

HARVEST DINNER

Morrisonville — St. Alexander's to have a Take-out only Turkey Harvest Dinner.

Date: Nov. 12

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cost: \$14

Features: Curb side pick up at the church or delivery within 10 minutes. Raffles and Bake shop will be available at the door.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Watertown — St. Anthony's Altar and Rosary will have a spaghetti dinner.

Date: Oct. 26

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall

Cost: Adults, \$10; Child, \$10

Features: Take-outs available, please bring your own container.

Contact: For more information call Sarah at the parish center, 315-782-1190

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: Nov. 5

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills — The Indian River Council 7471 Knights of Columbus will be having a spaghetti & meatball dinner.

Date: Nov. 11

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

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

Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Carthage — Pancake Breakfast to be held to benefit Augustinian Academy.

Date: Nov. 12

Time: 8 a.m. to Noon

Place: St. James Community Room

Cost: Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$7; Children under 10, \$4; Family of 4 or more, \$27

Features: Event is sponsored by the Carthage K of C and Ave Maria Circle.

FALL FUNDRAISER

Copenhagen — St. Mary's Church to have their Fall Fundraiser Raffle.

Date: Drawing to be held Nov. 19

Cost: Tickets are \$10 each or 6 for \$50

Features: Prizes to be won are one \$500 Cash, Quilt (\$300 Value), Afghan (\$100 Value), Gift

Card Tree (\$400 Value), Bird House (\$250 Value), Folding Picnic Table (\$100 Value), Lottery Tree (\$100 Value), Bear Carving Table (\$250 Value), Fire Pit (\$200 Value), \$250 Gift Certificate Lucky Leaf Beef, Hand Carved Welcome Sign, (\$100 Value), Fall Basket (\$100 Value), Christmas Basket (\$100 Value). Must be 18 or older to purchase.

Contact: For tickets make checks payable to St. Mary's Church and mail to: Mary Jane Fleming, PO Box 103, Copenhagen, NY 13626 or Marcia Mundy, PO Box 303, Copenhagen, NY 13626

ST. LAWRENCE

CATHOLIC PARENTING

Potsdam — A series of workshops from the Franciscan University Catechetical Institute to be held on Catholic Parenting.

Date: First Sunday of the month from Oct. to April

Place: St. Mary's Rectory, second floor

Features: Attend all or only those that interest you. Child care can be provided. Event is free.

Contact: For more information contact Mike Neaton at 315-335-6302 or Liz Tarbox at formation-stp@gmail.com

FISH FRY

Ogdensburg — Fish Fry is back at the Knights of Columbus.

Date: Oct. 20 and 27, Nov. 3, 10 and 17

Cost: Single Serve, \$13; All you can eat, \$16

Features: Dinner choices include fried haddock, mac and cheese, french fries, chicken nuggets, coleslaw, potato and roll.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Star Lake — St. Hubert's Church to have a Holiday Bazaar.

Date: Nov. 4

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

Features: Handcrafted items, gift baskets, silent auctions, wine tasting and gingerbread house contest.

PARISH BAZAAR

Massena — St. Peter's Parish to have a bazaar.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

'The Chosen' season 4 to play in theaters

By Francesca Pollio Fenton
Catholic News Agency

For the first time, the full season of the hit Christian series "The Chosen" will be shown exclusively in theaters before its release on streaming services.

The announcement was made in front of more than 3,500 fans gathered at the first-ever "The Chosen Insiders Conference," which was held in Dallas on Oct. 14-15.

The rollout of Season Four in theaters will begin with a two-week run of episodes 1-3 on Feb. 1, 2024.

Episodes 4-6 will follow beginning Feb. 15, and episodes 7-8 beginning Feb. 29.

The season will be distributed by Fathom Events in the U.S. and Canada.

After the full-season run in theaters concludes, the fourth season will debut across streaming platforms including the Chosen app as well as broadcast and cable TV.

Last year, viewers were given the opportunity to watch the premiere and finale of Season Three in theaters.

The premiere episodes will also be released in theaters in Latin America, the United Kingdom, Poland,

Australia, and New Zealand through various distributors.

"Every time we've dipped our toes in the theatrical waters, viewers have overwhelmingly told us they want more," Dallas Jenkins, the creator and director of "The Chosen," said in a press release.

"After seeing the Season Four episodes, we knew we'd be doing our fans a disservice if we denied them the chance to see them all on a big screen with others they can laugh and cry with."

Ray Nutt, CEO of Fathom Events, added: "We are thrilled to collaborate again with 'The Chosen' team to bring fans the entire fourth season to cinemas before it is available elsewhere. It is a testament to the big screen's power to unite people and have them share in this communal experience."

A newly debuted trailer for Season Four depicts various biblical scenes including John the Baptist being walked to his execution

as well as a depiction of Mary Magdalene peering into an empty tomb.

Originally begun as a crowdfunded project, "The Chosen" is one of the most-watched shows in the world. It

has reached more than 600 million combined episode views and has more than 10 million followers on social media.

It is also on its way to becoming the

most-translated series in history, according to its creators. The first three seasons will soon be available in 50 languages with plans to subtitle in more than 600.

Now is the perfect time to volunteer.

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



The RSVP Program is hosted by the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and supported by AmeriCorps Seniors, a federally funded agency responsible for building volunteer based programs for over 50 years and counting.

Upcoming opportunities

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



Be a Friend

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



Give a Ride

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



Help at School

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



Give a Meal

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



Meals On Wheels

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

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

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

Hamilton and Franklin County:

Melissa Howard
518-359-7688

mhoward@cathcharities.org

80 Park Street, Suite 2
PO Box 701
Tupper Lake, NY 12986

Clinton and Essex County:

Kate Gardner
518-566-0944

kgardner@cathcharities.org



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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Answering tough questions

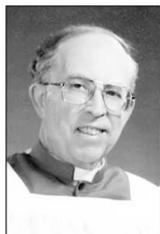
If someone were to suddenly ask you, "Do you love God?", you would probably reply immediately, "Of course I love God." If that person persisted with a greater challenge, "Do you love God... enough?", then you might hesitate, then reply, "Well...no. Who does?"

The lawyer in today's Gospel was quite satisfied when, in answer to the test question he gave Jesus, "Teacher, which commandment in the Law is the greatest?" Jesus quoted the great *Shema* from Deuteronomy, "Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the Lord,

your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength." Even today, a pious Jew, as he enters his house, will touch a little box called a *mezuzah* which contains the words of the *Shema* that is attached to the door post. The gesture reminds him of the great commandment. We as Christians are bound to that

same law. So, no wonder any honest person would reply to the person who asked if we love God enough, "No...who does?"

But Jesus went further by naming a second commandment which is, like the first, the law from Leviticus, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." When Jesus tells the lawyer, "On



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

October 29

Thirtieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Exodus 22:20-26

1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10

Matthew 22:34-40

these two commandments depend the whole law and the prophets," the lawyer approves. So, we have, in a nutshell, what God's will is for us. It is love! And we cannot really love God without loving our neighbor.

How do we grow in love for God? We grow in His love by loving Him and our neighbor. In that same first reading, God tells the Israelites who their neighbor must especially include - the alien, the widow and the poor. And God tells them that He always hears the cry of the poor, for he is compassionate. Our recent

Holy Father, Pope Benedict, tells us in his book, *Jesus of Nazareth*, that God's compassion is like a mother's love for the child of her womb.

Not loving God as we should is a sincere concern for most people. What a relief to know that if we look at just about everyone as our neighbor, we actually grow immensely in our love for God. If we're honest, we all have some difficulty recognizing other people as neighbors and to trying to respond to them as God does - with true compassion. Perhaps if we could actually look into the faces of everyone to whom we give money or clothing or help, it would make a difference. If we could see where they live, what their fears and dreams are, it would help us to see them as neighbors.

If we could recognize the face of God in the immigrant, the poor, the hungry family, the sick man, or the woman without insurance, then we would find it easier to feel compassion. Numbers and labels don't really help.

As a postscript, we know how much tension and stress there is in our country at the present time. As a result of the coronavirus and the financial downturn, many of our neighbors are in serious need. If we can be sensitive to their needs, even in small ways, it will help us cope with our own anxieties and stress. Add frequent prayer, and reading and reflecting on Scripture, including the psalms. Then we would come much closer to loving God with our whole heart, our whole soul, and our whole strength.

CALLED TO SERVE

A not-so-typical council meeting

Remember the catch phrase "A mind is a terrible thing to waste"?

When I was a kid that slogan resonated with me. It told me not to waste my time on frivolous things. Apparently, geometry fell into the frivolous category. At least I rationalized it that way.

Check the internet for "a mind is a terrible thing to waste" these days, and the phrase is called iconic. It was, and is, the motto of the United Negro College Fund, UNCF.

Take the search a bit deeper and we find the Fund is still going strong, has raised more than \$5 billion since its

founding in 1944 and has helped half a million black kids continue their education and become leaders in their fields. "A mind is a terrible thing to waste" is such a dominant motto, it is trademarked by the UNCF.

Advertising folks spend hours upon hours trying to come up with slogans that will grab the attention of the consumer. Like "where's the beef?" or the UNCF motto.

All this flashed through my mind at a Parish Council meeting recently. Seriously.

The pastor led us in an opening prayer for the meeting that included

the phrase "let the same mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus."

I was stunned by the thought of my mind being one with Jesus.

The meeting went on without me while I meditated on the petition "let the same mind be in (me) that was in Christ Jesus." That's when the UNCF phrase interrupted my thinking.

But, I rationalized, Jesus is God. God knows everything. This will sound simplistic, but there is not enough head space in me to know ev-

erything.

I was getting a headache just considering the thought.



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

Father asked me a question about adult faith formation, and I think I gave him and the Council what they were looking for, but I must admit, I was still in some other place thinking about me having the mind of Jesus.

Then it dawned on me. Maybe the prayer was not literally seeking a brain transplant for me. Perhaps it was asking the Holy Spirit to give me the wisdom

to act prudently, generously, lovingly as we, yes, we considered the important matters that come before us and all parish councils.

"Let your Spirit make our hearts docile to the challenge of your Word, and let the same mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus."

That's a petition we can all take with us in everything we do.

Back to the agenda. The Christmas Mass schedule is next. Oh boy!

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



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

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

Update from Ecuador

Below you will find an update on the Lenity Project's work in Quito, Ecuador. Lenity Project is one of the organizations supported by the yearly Missionary Cooperative Appeal

From the desk of Madre Miguel.

Dear Folks, Events here in Ecuador and across the world sometimes leave us searching for something to be happy about. Fortunately, the families at The Working Families Foundation cheer us up. They keep coming and bringing others into the embrace of our loving community. The little kids look longingly at the can with the lollipops in it when they perform well at Mass or prayers. The teenagers welcome and befriend new volunteers who come along to help us. The moms and dads know that they can bring all their concerns to the social directors and doctors, where they will find a listening ear and heart.

We, who have been blessed in being able to be here for them, trust in the Providence of God to help us guide them toward a future in which they can become agents of their own lives and salvation. We thank God for all of you and your part in making that possible. And we ask you to join us in prayer for our world, and for all of those in need.

Gratefully, Madre Miguel, BVM and the WFF families.

STANDING UP FOR JUSTICE

Rocio Fraga has been part of our movement since she was a young girl. She studied many of the technical skills we offered in her younger years. But her biggest takeaway from her Center experience is her sense of "justice for the poor." So, when Rocio recently found herself volunteering for an organization that serves "older adults" and observed that the staff was dishonest in their use of the money given to them for the project, and that their treatment of the participants lacked warmth and human interest, Rocio called them out.

When they refused to listen to her observations, Rocio was forced to withdraw from service and seek to establish her own program. True to her Center formation, Rocio decided to trust God to help her re-create what she had been doing for them. Within less than a month, thirty "older folks" had joined her program. Rocio does activities with them, listens to them, advocates for them and, in general, helps them to realize that they still matter. We're proud to know that all our teaching about justice and caring for others has the effect it has in the Quito community. Congratulations, Rocio.

OBITUARIES

Carthage – David Lyle Simser, 65; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 21, 2023 at St. James Church; burial in Hillside Cemetery, Natural Bridge.

Clayton – Edward J. "Ted" Gosier, Jr., 70; Mass of Christian Burial June 1, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Clayton – Vivan (Christophel) Wills, 79; Mass of Christian Burial at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery, LaFargeville.

Colton – R. Charles McCarthy, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 27, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Gabriels – Robert P. O'Neil, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 17, 2023 at Church of the Assumption; burial in St. Paul's Cemetery, Bloomingdale.

Lowville – Evelyn (Filko) Bauer,

90; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 18, 2023 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Brantingham Cemetery.

Massena – Edward J. Ouimet, 92; Funeral Services Oct. 21, 2023 at the Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Moir – Claude J. Lecompte; Funeral Services Oct. 14, 2023 at the Flint Funeral Home; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Joseph Albert McCarthy, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 19, 2023 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Keith B. Premo, 46; Graveside services Oct. 19, 2023.

Peru – Donald B. Craig, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 21, 2023 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery, Keeseville.

Plattsburgh – Carol Patricia (Girard) Brown, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 30, 2023 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Robert M. Duquette, 87; Funeral Services Oct. 20, 2023 at the Brown Funeral Home; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Rossie – Leo Rastley, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 17, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Watertown – Carol L. Desormeau MacGregor, 73; Graveside services Oct. 20, 2023 at North Watertown Cemetery.

Watertown – Margaret Elizabeth "Mardie" Young, 54; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 19, 2023 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Around the diocese

Date: Nov. 11

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

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Features: Win \$2500 in Big Money Raffle. Fried dough as well as other great food from the concession all day! Ticket Central, Turkey Raffles, Pull Tabs, 50/50, Skilo, Quilt Raffle, Country Store, Cake Walk, Children's Activities and religious Items. Free admission.

Contact: For more information call St. Peter's Parish Office 315-769-2469

MONTHLY BRUNCH

Norfolk – Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond's will have their

monthly Knights of Columbus Brunch.

Date: Nov. 12

Time: 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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

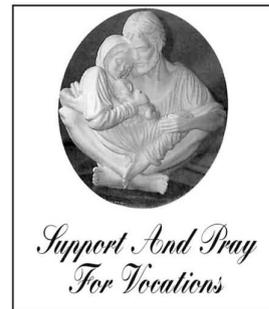
ANDREWS DINNERS

Come and join Bishop LaValley to learn more about being a priest. Any man of high school age and

above is welcome to attend the Andrew Dinner sponsored by the Vocation Office. Parents are welcome to attend.
Dates: Jefferson-Lewis Deanery, Oct. 29 at St. James Parish Hall, Carthage

Time: The program begins at 5 pm followed by Holy Hour and dinner with Bishop Terry R. LaValley, and area pastors and priests.

Contact: If you are interested in attending, speak to your pastor and register at <https://www.rcdony.org/andrewdinner>.



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RESPECT LIFE MONTH

radical solidarity



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to be courageously pro-woman, promoting a choice that truly protects, accompanies and supports women and their children

This page has been graciously supported by the following parishes, organizations & individuals:

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- ◆ Deacon James and Beth Carlin
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- ◆ Fr. Francis Flynn
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- ◆ Fr. Kevin O'Brien
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 - ◆ St. Hubert's Church, Star Lake
 - ◆ St. James Church, Gouverneur
 - ◆ St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg
 - ◆ St. Peter's Parish, Massena
 - ◆ Ss. Philip and James Church, Lisbon
 - ◆ St. Raphael's Church, Heuvelton
 - ◆ Vocations Office
 - ◆ Wayne and Barbara Williams
- In honor of daughter Stephanie

PRAYER FOR RADICAL SOLIDARITY

O Blessed Mother, at the angel's word you went in haste to the aid of your cousin Elizabeth. Although pregnant yourself, you placed her needs before your own.

By your example of radical solidarity, teach us to reverence and protect those in need, without conditions or expectations. Ask your Son to give us unfailing determination to witness to the profound dignity of every person, at every stage and in every circumstance.

In that first Eucharistic procession, you carried Jesus to Elizabeth in her time of need. Obtain for us the grace to bring Christ to any expectant mother who is alone and afraid.

May our support help them to find hope and strength in the Lord. Amen.



Carl Heinrich Bloch, 'Besaget Has Elisabeth' / Mary's Visit to Elizabeth, 1866. Photographed by Hans Petersen. Used and cropped with permission from The Museum of National History at Frederiksborg Castle. All rights reserved. © 2023, USCCB, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved. To order, visit store.respectlife.org.

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