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NEW YORK EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS



PHOTO BY DEACON JAMES CROWLEY

Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrates Mass at the New York State Eucharistic Congress in Auriesville on Oct. 21. Read reflections from individuals who attended the Congress starting on Page 4 and see additional photos on pages 8 & 9.

LAY MINISTERS GATHER



Bernice "Kahsenanoron" Lazore of Akwesasne speaks about how she blends her Mohawk culture and her Catholic faith as the only Christian in her family. Lazore gave the presentation at the annual gathering of Commissioned Lay Ministers held Oct. 25 in Massena. Bishop Terry R. LaValley also spoke at the event, which focused on the Eucharistic Life.

[READ BISHOP LAVALLEY'S COMMENTS ON PAGE 3](#)

Pope Francis: 'Clericalism defiles the Church'

By Courtney Mares
Catholic News Agency

(CNA) - Pope Francis denounced clericalism and called it a "scandal" to see young priests buying lace vestments at tailor shops in a strongly-worded speech to the Synod on Synodality on Wednesday.

Speaking to an assembly of hundreds of synod members on Oct. 25, the pope said that when clerics overstep their roles and "mistreat the people of God, they disfigure the face of the Church with macho and dictatorial attitudes."

Pope Francis described the faithful people of God as "patiently and humbly enduring the scorn, mistreatment, and marginalization of institutionalized clericalism."

"It is enough to go into the ecclesiastical tailor shops in Rome to see the scandal of young priests trying on cassocks and hats, or albs and lace robes," he added.

"Clericalism is a thorn. It is a scourge. It is a form of worldliness that defiles and damages the face of the Lord's bride," he said. "It enslaves the holy, faithful people of God."

The pope made his speech during the final week of the nearly monthlong synod assembly, where he listened to the interventions of cardinals, bishops, priests, religious sisters, and laypeople speaking about "synodality" and their experiences in the Church.

Pope Francis cited only one delegate's intervention in his speech - that of Sister Liliana Franco, a Colombian religious sister who was one of 42 women who participated in the Amazon Synod, where she spoke at a controversial tree planting ceremony in the Vatican Gar-

dens.

In his speech, Pope Francis praised the female intuition that led women to approach Jesus' empty tomb after the Resurrection. He noted that many members of the Church hierarchy received their faith from their mothers and grandmothers, adding that the faith is often transmitted "in a feminine dialect."

Much of the pope's speech focused on "the scourge" of clericalism and worldliness, a theme that the pope has been focused on since the start of the synod.

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Where's this going?

"I just wanted you to know that when I started reading your column this week, I thought, 'where is she going with this?'"

That phrase was uttered by a fellow parishioner as I walked into Mass at my parish, St. Mary's in Brush-ton. Before he finished the thought and told me he thought the column in question made sense when

I tied it all together, I was already delighted.

I consider it a blessing

and a gift that the Holy Spirit shows me connections between things most people wouldn't consid-

**Darcy L. Fargo**

er related (in this case, being a fan of a football team and loving the Catholic Church), and I didn't even know it was a gift I possessed until people started pointing it out in relation to what I've written previously in this space. I also enjoy humor and like to

keep people guessing, so I loved the idea of someone

not knowing where a story

was going.

His comment made my day!

Over a week after that conversation, I was driving home from work and thinking about a series of happenings that unfolded so perfectly, there's no way to explain it other than divine intervention. I thought about how when the first event in the series happened, I had no clue it was going to turn into something bigger and more beautiful.

Then, that line popped into my mind again: "Where is she going with this?"

Let me be honest: I have no idea where I'm going with anything. I could neither predict the recent string of beautiful events nor predict an earlier series of unfortunate events. I spend a lot of my time thinking, "where is God going with this?"

While I let myself fall into worry or anxiousness, I try to keep reminding myself that God has a plan, He has a purpose, and He has it all under control. Sometimes I can't see it, but that doesn't mean it's not true.

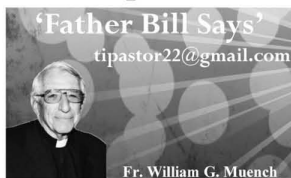
I don't need to know where He's going with it.

'All my favorite saints'

All Saints Day - Oh! How I love All Saints Day! My favorite feast day of the whole year. On this day, I can flaunt before all my favorite saints - all my favorite saints, even those not yet canonized.

Now, don't get me wrong, there are many canonized saints that I love. I pray to them often. They are a special part of my life. Some I have devotion to because I have spent time in their cities. I have visited Assisi often, and so St. Francis and St. Clare are favorites of mine. I have also spent some time in Peru, so I have devotion to Saint Rose of Lima. I had the opportunity of visiting her monastery.

Each year, on All Saints Day, I take the time to remember in a special way and renew my devotion to my personal saints, my not yet canonized saints. These are the several outstanding Catholics who I discovered through their stories and their writings. I think of Thomas Merton. As you know, I write and speak about him often. I am certain that he

**Fr. William G. Muench**

is a saint. I also remember well and am devoted to Catherine Doherty, the foundress of Madonna House, as a saint. I have met her. I have spent time at Madonna House. I have heard her speak and was pleased to say I have had many conversations with her. She was a wise person, a holy person. She is a saint. She helped me to know and understand God in a deeper and better way. I can tell you that she had a profound influence on me and my priesthood.

My list of saints - those not yet canonized - were all a powerful influence on me. Some were my relatives. All Saints Day gives me an opportunity to remember their powerful example for me. I know that my parents gave me a foundation to form my vocation, my desire to become a priest. They were

all truly saints, and my life is better because of them all.

When I think of my saints, I remember many of my own friends - my priest friends and the many members of the various parishes where I was pastor. As I remember them, I realize that they were all truly saints. They supported me and helped me to be a good pastor and priest. They stood by me and kept me on the right path, walking in the spirit of my Lord and Savior, Jesus. They showed me the way.

Today I remember in a special way a friend who was a saint - a priest who was a constant source of wisdom and holiness for me. I turned to him often, especially when I was preparing a talk or some sort of presentation. He could always show me the way. He was also a skiing buddy. I remember times when we skied together, I would challenge him with questions and seek his help to understand something. He always gave me the answers I was search-

ing for. He gave me a great deal of advice, often in conversations as we rode up the mountain in a chair lift. He was my teacher. He was a saint.

Let me add another group of saints that I experienced. I would call them one day saints. These would be the saints I experienced for only a short time. They touched my life in a very powerful way even though we were together only for a short time. After spending time with them, I knew I had experienced the presence of a saint. I must tell you that sometimes it was children, small children; they had a real holiness that was saintly. This was a group of every age group. The most memorable were older people who had wisdom, saintly wisdom.

So, you see this is an important and special feast day for me. I hope you have a list like mine, and it is long and memorable. My prayer is that someday, there will be someone somewhere who will mention me on their list of saints.

FOLLOW ME

'A recovery of a Eucharistic faith'

Editor's Note: The following is the text of a presentation Bishop Terry R. LaValley gave to Commissioned Lay Ministers during their annual dinner themed, "Eucharistic Life," at St. Mary's Social Hall in Massena on Oct. 25.

Jesus says the bread He gives comes "from heaven." The food He gives will not grow stale, but "endures for eternal life." Jesus wants us to understand that He is not the one who gives us bread, loaf by loaf, like the Gospel scene of the multiplication of loaves. Rather He *is* the Bread of Life. His purpose is to feed us, nourish us with His very own life, His very own love, His very own REAL PRESENCE.

And that's why we come together every Sunday. Our church is not a grocery store where we come and shop to fill our freezer. We come here to praise and thank God and to fill our heads and our hearts with the nourishment we need to give us spiritual strength, to grow in holiness.

The goal of the Christian life is holiness, but somewhere along the way we lost the desire. Some will sigh and roll their eyes when they hear talk of holiness. Either we think it is an unattainable ideal or we feel that holiness lacks relevance in the modern world. Maybe even some of us believe that the idea of holiness, a close relationship with Jesus, makes people feel out of touch with the real world.

It seems that holiness has come to mean being labeled and ridiculed as a wimp in a world where power, rudeness, rugged individualism, even terror rule the day. Whatever the reason, the dis-



PHOTO BY SYLVIE MARION

Bishop Terry R. LaValley addresses Commissioned Lay Ministers at their annual dinner in Massena on Oct. 25.

appearance of this goal to be holy hasn't made it easy for modern Catholics; it's made it much more difficult to follow Jesus.

My sisters and brothers, more and more, our culture is molding us, the Gospel's influence is waning. A serious confusion, even malaise, is torturing the Church and weakening our faith. Do I want to be holy? Have we become disoriented and lost our focus? Have we forgotten, or minimized, the awesome gift of the Eucharist as the necessary food on the holiness menu? We come to Mass to feed on Jesus who is our Bread of Life. We come to hear His words of life that refresh our faith, our hope, and our love. We come to eat His Body and drink His Blood in Holy Communion. We come for the greatest, most mind-boggling gift, the very presence of Jesus Christ.

We mustn't forget, too, that worship of God at Mass is not just about receiving, receiving the very Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, as awesome as this Gift is. Worship is also about *giving*: giving God our time, our thanks,

praise and love; giving God our hearts, our entire lives. Last weekend, thousands of Catholics from across the State gathered at a Eucharistic Congress at the Shrine of North American Martyrs in Auriesville. What an inspiring event celebrating our Eucharistic faith! Holiness was in the air!

This gift of Jesus Christ himself is what makes our celebration of the Eucharist our most precious privilege as Catholics. Yes, it is our privilege, our gift, our good fortune to come together Sunday after Sunday, even day by day. We come to Jesus so we will never hunger, to believe in Jesus so we will never thirst, to receive Jesus who is food that endures for eternal life. What a privilege! What Good News! Let's never stop praying for loved ones who aren't with us at Mass.

Hopefully, we've turned the corner on the coronavirus. But, this is not a time to return to the way things were. They were not good enough. They were not the "good ole days." I hope you share my vision of the post-pandemic Church of the North Country: Each

one of us must grow closer to Jesus, and to His Body, the Church. The Mass is the means for that to happen.

We continue to seek to revitalize our teaching on the Eucharist and to rekindle in the faithful the urgent desire to participate at Holy Mass every week. The Eucharist is too great a gift to tolerate indifference, irreverence or disregard. Every commitment to holiness, every activity aimed at carrying out the Church's mission, every work of pastoral planning in our diocese must draw the strength it needs from the Eucharistic Mystery. In the Eucharist we have Jesus, we have His redemptive sacrifice, we have His resurrection, we have the gift of the Holy Spirit. We must not neglect the Eucharist, lest we forget who we are.

St. Paul teaches the power of Eucharistic communion to unify the Church. The bread is a communion in Christ's Body and all who partake become one bread. If there's anything that the Church needs today, it's a re-appreciation of communion, unity. Not sameness, but civility. Not to each his or her own, but the common good. Not anything goes, but conversion and moral truth. The life of grace and the practice of faith, hope and love make communion possible and real.

A great task of our time is to gain a genuine conversion of mind and vision. In the humble signs of bread and wine, changed into His Body and Blood, Christ walks beside us as our strength and our food for the journey, and He enables us to become, for everyone, witnesses of hope. Today, in our fractured world

and Church we need to be heralds of hope and channels of grace. After all, we are Christ-led, Christ-fed, and Hope-filled.

Wherever apostolic zeal is expended, the results are impressive. Mountains can be moved. God's Spirit has that kind of power. Conversions in faith can be experienced. To the degree that we continue with business as usual, we can expect to watch an ever-increasing number of Catholics abandon the Eucharist. We need to renew the Church by becoming, consciously, intensely Eucharist-centered. We need to recall the necessity of worship, and reconnecting to the fact that the Eucharist is who we are and what we do as Catholics.

Yes, we need a recovery of a Eucharistic faith. As ministers of the Church commissioned to assist our parishioners' response to the universal Call to Holiness, I am so grateful for your sacrifice of time and effort.

Eucharist: A Mystery to be believed, Mystery to be celebrated, Mystery to be lived. And so, we pray:

Heavenly Father, your Son has given His flesh for the life of the world. As the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg have set out to be renewed as we build up our Eucharistic faith, we rely on your Spirit's guidance and support. As I thank you for our faithful commissioned lay ministers, I ask your continued blessings upon them, their families, and the ministry they so generously offer in our parishes through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. My sisters and brothers: May God be praised...forever may God be praised!

'In that moment, we were one'

New York Eucharistic Congress participants reflect on experience

Editor's Note: Individuals from around the Diocese of Ogdensburg offered reflections on their experiences at the New York State Eucharistic Congress, held Oct. 20-22 in Auriesville. Many of those comments had to be shortened – some significantly – due to space constraints. The North Country Catholic plans to offer additional reflections and Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily from the Saturday Mass at the Congress in a future edition. They are featured here in the order in which they were received.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley

One word that captures my experience at the recent NYS Eucharistic Congress in Auriesville is JOY. What a shot in the arm to be one of literally thousands of faith-filled Catholics, young and not-so-young, young adults and college students, who gathered to truly celebrate our faith. They came from all over the State and beyond to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, hear inspiring talks, confess their sins, adore the Blessed Sacrament and share faith stories with others.

I was particularly inspired to meet many of the faithful pilgrims who came from across the North Country. I was thrilled to visit with parishioners from Morrisonville, Plattsburgh, Lyon Mountain, Adams, Dannemora, Potsdam, Canton, Massena, Clayton, Waddington, Indian Lake and many more locations. On a busy weekend, pilgrims included priests, deacons, and consecrated religious from our Diocese, as well.

This was the first time that many of our pilgrims visited the Shrine of the North American Martyrs. It brought fond memories for me of my early priesthood when I would have my annual retreat at the shrine. It also was a good occasion to reflect on our bond with the Native Americans, particularly those who live in Akwesasne. Saturday's Mass was celebrated on

the eleventh anniversary of the canonization of the Lily of the Mohawks, Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.

I want to thank Anita Soltero who served as our Diocesan representative on the State Committee that coordinated the huge event. I'm also grateful to Father Bryan Stitt who served as the Master of Ceremonies for the Saturday Mass and provided other liturgical assistance, particularly for the impressive Eucharistic Procession.

The rain stayed away and there was nothing but Sun-shine at the Congress. We are blessed!

Anita Soltero, diocesan assistant director of Faith Formation, director of Youth ministry & representative on the Eucharistic Congress Committee

Seeing so many people with such strong Eucharistic devotion, joy for the Lord and deep faith was my own Eucharistic revival. As a committee member, I worked the entire weekend doing whatever was needed, and did not get to hear any of the speakers or participate in the procession. I had the great privilege of being a lector for the Saturday opening Mass, which is something I will cherish for the rest of my life. Once Mass was over, I was back in jeans and a sweatshirt on my golf cart, with walkie talkie in my ear waiting for whatever direction came my way. I lost count of the number of people I encountered who spoke of coming to the shrine as children or coming to visit all their lives. This event meant the world to them.

There was a wheelchair bound 90-year-old priest who just wanted to be present on site. As difficult as it was for him, I saw consolation on his face as he was brought to the coliseum. I will never forget that look. I saw Jesus so very present and in action in both of those situations. My heart was touched as I received Jesus in those moments in a very special way.

There were also many young people and young families as well. Many people say "where are all the young people, where are the families?" "The church is dying." "What will happen when all the devoted elderly are gone?" Well I can tell you, the Church is NOT dying, the young ARE there and so are families. I saw them this weekend, and they are full of Eucharistic Devotion!

Father Bryan Stitt, diocesan director of Worship & pastor of St. Mary's, Canton

My favorite moment was captured in a photo taken by Father Mark Reilly. Giving Benediction to the crowd of thousands overlooking the Mohawk River Valley – the same place where three of the American martyrs laid down their lives for the faith was particularly powerful to me. Processing from that spot also had moments of pure levity and joy. There was a group of about eight or ten children that were very focused on the procession and very energetic. I first noticed them as we sang: "O Sacrament Most Holy." Their voices were little, but they sang with gusto! After another priest was carrying the monstrance, I was able to see them. They snuck through the low limbs of the bushes and trees along the procession route to get around to the front of the canopy over the monstrance. Once they were a few paces in front, they all fell to their knees and then once the Blessed Sacrament passed by, they would jump up and do it all again. Is there any wonder that the Lord said that to enter the kingdom, we must become like little children?

Marika Donders, diocesan director of the New Evangelization

I think what always strikes me at large Catholic events, pilgrimages, gatherings like this is despite our differences how united we all can be and everyone coming together to worship. Very often it is the little kindness that speak

louder than words: someone holding a bag for a stranger so they can use the portajohn without having to juggle bags/umbrellas, someone offering a piece of candy to someone, someone scooting over in their pew to make room for one more person or people simply being patient while waiting in line.

JB Kavanaugh, Waddington

I was amazed and so inspired by all the different YOUNG nuns in attendance. The inspiration of seeing these young nuns walking around smiling, laughing, obviously enjoying life and their vocation was wonderful to see.

Father Mark R. Reilly, pastor St. Peter's Parish, Massena, & dean of the St. Lawrence Deanery

We don't often get to do Eucharistic Processions of that elaborate a nature, and on such a scale in which thousands of people are participating. It was quite a sight to see, and a powerful experience.

When the Eucharistic Procession was starting, I crossed paths with and made eye contact with a Sister of Life whom I've known for about 30 years or so – since before I was a priest, and before she was in the religious life. Hadn't seen her or spoken with her in quite some time, and then – there she was. We weren't able to chat right there on the spot of course (though we caught up with each other a little later). But "how awesome is that," I thought to myself, "to have that kind of friendly reunion, while adoring and worshipping Christ in such a way." What a lovely surprise that was.

Haleigh Wilson, SUNY Plattsburgh freshman & part of Newman Association/RCIA

I attended the Eucharistic Congress as part of the Newman Association. The experience was extremely uplifting and joyful. Spending time in adoration allowed me to hear Jesus. In adoration, all of my worries disappeared and a weight lifted off of

my shoulders. Adoration put a lot of things in focus for me. It is easy to get caught up in everyday life and not dedicate alone time with God. This event reminded me to take time out of my day when I am alone and to spend it with God.

One of my favorite parts of the Eucharistic Congress was the Mass. Hearing thousands of people praying at the same time is extremely powerful. You could feel the Holy Spirit in the room with everyone.

Brandon Bertrand, SUNY Plattsburgh freshman & part of the Newman Association and RCIA

The Eucharistic Congress was probably the best spiritual/religious opportunity I've ever been a part of. I attended the Eucharistic Congress not because my club friends went or that I had to go because it was a club event, but to find myself within Christ and see what he has done for others. Upon arrival, there were already so many people attending this event. It seemed to be people from all over the country. Never had I seen so many white collars gathered around since the St. Andrews dinner I was a part of. I believe I was told that around 7,500 people went. 7,500! Not just the five I see every morning prayer, not just the 20 in the pews I see in daily Mass, but 7,500. It brings a smile to my face and a joy to my soul to hear and see that many people who partake in the same walk with you. We were all there for the presence of our Lord, and to just be with Him and the family he had gathered in time of adoration. I always seem to find certain troubles with my faith and God but it's retreats like these that bring me closer each time. I know he is truly looking out for me.

Erica VanValkenburg, SUNY Plattsburgh junior & secretary for Newman Association

I went to the Eucharistic Congress mostly out of curiosity, since I hadn't heard of it before. It gave

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

me a sense of peace, as the location was beautiful and definitely sacred ground. My friend and I bought rosaries at the gift shop, both dedicated to St. Kateri, and when we touched the one my friend bought, we both got a really strong feeling that she was there. I'm not sure what I was expecting, but I was surprised that I ended up enjoying it a lot despite having no clue what I was getting into. The coliseum is beautiful just like the whole place, and I'd love to go back.

Riley McQuade, SUNY Plattsburgh graduate student & president of the Newman Association

I took away hope from this experience. Hope for my faith. Hope for the faith of others. Hope for the future of the Catholic Church. Hope that there are always going to be others out there who share my faith and believe it even stronger than I do. One of my favorite memories I will take away is watching how much this event impacted my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ that I went with. I could see how much this event meant to them and the profound impact it had on them. Honestly, what surprised me was the number of people there. There were so many people, and it was so beautiful to see them all there for one purpose: worshipping Jesus. I am so incredibly grateful to have had this experience!

Desiree Kirk, advisor for the SUNY Plattsburgh Newman Association & campus minister

The Eucharistic Congress was a once in a lifetime opportunity to witness God in action in so many ways. It was an experience that inspired me and left me speechless all at the same time. The beauty in the people gathered together in such large numbers all just to be in the true presence of Jesus was so breathtaking. To see babies, young adults, people speaking in all languages all in Jesus' name. One of my most amazing moments was

sitting in Mass and hearing the thousands of voices say the Our Father with all their hearts. From young to old, from new to the Church to those who have always had the blessings of the Church, in that one moment we were one.

Msgr. Dennis J. Duprey, dean of the Clinton-Northern Franklin Deanery

I primarily went with the perspective of helping to hear Confessions. I heard about 7 hours of Confessions. I was very impressed with the numbers and young people from colleges and – those studying law, marine biology, etc. – from secular and Catholic universities, who came from Plattsburgh to Ithaca to Cornell to RIT. It was just amazing. I was also amazed about their faith. Sometimes we think that the faith is centralized to middle age to older adults. Honestly, the fervor of faith among the young is strong. Maybe not the numbers but the fervor is there. Bishop LaValley gave an excellent homily, there was great participation and reverence at Mass.

In 53 years I had not seen a Eucharistic procession that well-ordered, with singing and prayers, and thousands of participants. The reverence was stunning.

I was there (at the Auriesville Eucharistic procession), and people just fell to their knees – older people, younger people, priests, bishops, and sisters – as we stopped along the way. The volunteers were so helpful and smiling and they got you set on the right direction. It deepened my faith. I have Mass and the Eucharist all the time. Sometimes you wear it like an old shoe and you forget to hold it in your hands and in your heart. I have more intensity and more fervor. Sometimes we get discouraged with the future of the Church but we ought not to be at all. God is working.

Kathy Hart, Massena

I attended the Congress to profess my love and respect for the real presence in the Eucharist and to receive all the Graces that God

would give me.

I was impressed with the thousands of men, women, children and young adults who took part in walking in the procession of the Eucharist. The rains stopped and the clouds parted. It was BEAUTIFUL!

Deacon James Carlin, Plattsburgh

The driving factor was to be in a community with 8,000 people who believe in the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist. I have always found that large Catholic gatherings have provided a positive and renewing energy that reinvigorates my faith life and my relationship with the Church and Christ.

I took away a deeper appreciation for the presence of Christ in the Eucharist and the gifts and graces that come from the sacrifice He made for us. I also took away a deeper appreciation for the diversity and unity of the Church. There were no rich, poor, young, old, black, white, or brown; there were only disciples. It was a beautiful reminder to me of the one body of Christ.

Wanda Kavanaugh, Waddington

We sat down for lunch and a group of Sisters were sitting at the table. They were trying to pronounce Ogdensburg and talking about the Bishop who gave the Mass. We pronounced Ogdensburg and told them where it was and that Bishop LaValley was our bishop. They said how wonderful his homily was, how humble, sincere and down to earth he was. We agreed and said that's how he is always. We had a similar conversation at dinner with college students.

It was so wonderful to see so many young Sisters.

Margaret "Maggie" Ernewein, Tupper Lake

I have a belief in the real presence and am saddened by the statistics (70% of Catholics do not believe) it was inspiring to see so many true believers.

After adoration there was a large group from a charismatic church that sang for about 30 min many Spanish traditional adoration songs. Their joy was contagious.

Josh Fontana, Campus Ministry Program in Canton & Potsdam

Coming together to pray with other Catholics and celebrate the Eucharist is worth doing, even if it takes getting up early and enduring an exhausting, long day. It was about giving praise and worship to God, Who is worth it, regardless of how I felt. It was not about getting some emotional consolation or hearing some intellectually interesting, philosophical talk.

I had never been to the Auriesville Shrine, and I was struck by the uniqueness of the Coliseum Church. Father Mark (Reilly) primed us with a little background about the place and the martyrs, and I thought the church's aesthetic was so fitting for the history that took place there. The altar of the church was on a raised platform that looked like a Native American palisade. There were statues of saints on some sides of it, including a statue of St. Kateri. She was standing confidently with a tall cross in her hand – not like someone who suffered as an innocent and helpless victim, but like someone who won a great victory for Jesus with humble Faith and quiet conviction. (I have since learned she was not a martyr, but she still suffered persecution for the Faith.) On the pillars in the aisles leading to the center of the church there were rough wooden crosses – one on each pillar, with the word "Jesus" written under it in red, squiggly letters, as if in blood – a reminder of the total, sacrificial love that the martyrs had for our Savior. And then the kneelers were bare wooden planks – another small reminder of the comforts these saints gave up for Jesus.

Sandra Geiss, Clayton

I attended the congress for inspiration and education and I re-

ceived both. The highlight for me was the Saturday Mass with 7,000 plus participants; a procession that included hundreds of priests and deacons, and 25 bishops, the sounds of 7,000 people singing and saying the Mass responses and our Bishop LaValley was a super star celebrant. At lunch afterward, our group of five from Clayton sat next to a group of nuns from downstate who were saying Ogdén...what! They were singing (Bishop LaValley's) praises, and we told them about us! In spite of relatively cool and rainy weather I think the Congress was a huge success. I only wished that there were more people there from our diocese! I'm grateful to have been there

Jennifer Lucia, Clayton

I attended the Congress with my husband, Jack. I read about it in the *NCC* and immediately booked a place to stay way back early May. My devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist was really why I wanted to go. I wanted to be on the holy Ground of the North American martyrs and being able to attend adoration, anytime I desired, and to hear the speakers for inspiration. It was beyond anything I imagined it would be. The Eucharistic Procession was phenomenal. And, of course, having our Bishop Terry LaValley there was a highlight of the time. Everything about it was wonderful and exceeded my expectations.

Father Leagon Carlin, parochial vicar, St. Peter's Parish, Massena

I attended the event because there is nothing quite like the energy of a large Catholic gathering. In this fraught and divided world of ours, there could be nothing more powerful than thousands of Catholics gathering in unity to worship Christ in the Eucharist, and being a part of that was immensely important to me. It was also my first opportunity to attend such an event as a priest, and that itself was a great grace.

We are barraged on a near con-

Plattsburgh marks month of the Rosary

By Mary Beth Bracy,
consecrated virgin
Contributing Writer

October is the month of the Rosary, and faithful in Plattsburgh celebrated it in several ways.

Although the Rosary has been prayed before the anticipated Mass at St. Peter's for a few years, at the beginning of October, parishioners at Holy Cross began leading the Rosary before all other weekend Masses as well. A Rosary Rally also took place on the corner of Smithfield Boulevard on the anniversary of the miracle of the sun at Fatima on October 13, and another Rosary Rally for America was held on October 14 in front of St. John's Church in Plattsburgh.

Altar Rosary Society

Rosemary Giroux, president of the Holy Cross Altar Rosary Society, leads the Rosary before the 4 p.m. Mass at St. Peter's every week, and dozens of people come early to participate.

"The first person that asked me to say it was Sister Barbara Langlois, (a Dominican sister), because she loves the Rosary," shared Giroux. "I like the response I get from the people. You can tell there is a good response from it. Altar Rosary Society members have been saying the Rosary probably all of their life. I think the fact that they pray it all together gives them a sense of community too."

"What a beautiful way to pray the Rosary before the start of Mass, I feel closer to Jesus and the Blessed Mother," added Sharon Hart, who attends anticipated Mass at St. Peter's on



PHOTO BY MARY BETH BRACY/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SUNY Plattsburgh students Brandon Bertrand and Haleigh Wilson pray the Rosary together in Plattsburgh. Both students lead the Rosary at the school's Newman Center.

Saturdays. "I'm so very grateful and thankful and very comforted by reciting the Rosary."

Although everyone is welcome to join in the Rosary each week, the Altar Rosary Society is also welcoming new members.

"We have our Rosary meeting the First Wednesday of the month following 12:05 p.m. Mass," explained Giroux. "The Rosary is said before the Mass, then we go to Pizza Palace after Mass."

For more information, please contact Rosemary Giroux at 518-563-1918.

Weekend Rosary

College students are helping to lead the Rosary before the evening Mass at Newman Center on Sundays. Brandon Bertrand, a member of the Newman Association at SUNY Plattsburgh, is one of the volunteers.

"The Rosary brings so much presence of the Holy Spirit, it is something I cannot explain," he said. "When I was

first learning about it, I was scared I wouldn't get the beads/prayers down. I started listening and following along with my fellow club members and then eventually the club advisor, Desiree Kirk, asked me to lead it one day before Mass. What I felt from that prayer was a dream come true. Hearing everyone saying the Rosary prayer was just so powerful and it's something I wish the world could see."

Another Newman Association member, Haleigh Wilson, is leading the Rosary as well.

"The Rosary gives us all time to reflect on our actions and on the day," she noted. "Praying the Rosary has really brought the Newman group together and strengthened our friendship. Having a group in college that encourages you to keep your faith and pray the Rosary daily helps build a strong foundation in Jesus. Many students struggle to keep faith

in college but praying the Rosary keeps us all strong in the faith."

Knight of Columbus Steve Forgette leads the Rosary before morning Mass at St. Peter's on Sundays.

"As far as 'The Importance of 'The Holy Rosary,' in my life . . . I can't remember a time when it wasn't," he said. "My grandmother taught me to pray it when I was a young boy. The Holy Bible and Catechism of the Catholic Faith, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the Holy Rosary have always been 'The Cornerstones' of my Catholic Faith. They have always provided me with what I call my 'Sure Foundation.'"

America Needs Fatima Rosary Rally

David Garrant, captain of the Rosary Rally for Our Lady of Fatima on October 13, said that similar events took place simultaneously across the United States.

"It was very nice and very fruitful," he said. "Out there in public praying the Rosary - it gets the message across. The America Needs Fatima public Rosary is to get the word out on the Mother of Jesus. The Rosary is the strongest thing there is to fight what's going on in our world. The Rosary being heard. It's our weapon, the only weapon we have I believe. Myself, personally, I say four to five Rosaries a day. It's very uplifting. It carries you through a lot of obstacles and gets you through it by giving our life to God and the Blessed Mother. My son and I, tonight, did the Rosary together. We've got to depend upon the Rosary and the prayers and the mercy of God to

get us through. It really is powerful. If you could see the power! I'm very thankful that we have the Rosary and the determination to pray the Rosary."

Throughout his life, Garrant said has seen the power of prayer. Once, when his wife Nancy was in the hospital, she shared a room with a woman who was especially anxious and near death. Nancy prayed with the woman and offered her the gift of faith. The woman died in peace and reconciled to God the next day.

Rosary Rally for America

On October 14 at noon in front of St. John's Church, Karen Farrell, a Secular Franciscan, organized "a Rosary rally for our Heavenly Mother."

"A total of ten people were in attendance," she said. "It was cloudy and a little windy, but as soon as we started praying the Rosary, the sky opened up with the most beautiful blue. You could actually feel our Blessed Mother's presence. To me, the Rosary is holding my mother's hand. It is an intimate relationship with Our Lady and the life of our Lord and Savior. It is the Bible on beads!"

Everyone is invited to join in the chorus of faith and pray the Rosary together a half hour before the weekend Masses at Newman Center, Our Lady of Victory, St. John's, and St. Peter's in Plattsburgh. In the words of Servant of God Fr. Patrick Peyton, CSC, "The family that prays together stays together," and "A world at prayer is a world at peace."

Dcn. Dwyer goes to prison ministry; Fr. Angrand to be parish administrator

Through the endorsement of Bishop Terry R. LaValley, Deacon Brian Dwyer, interim Parish Life Coordinator (PLC) for St. Mary's of the Fort Church in Fort Covington, the Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay in Chateaugay, and the Catholic Community of Constable, Westville, and Trout River in Constable, has been appointed Chaplain by the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision.

Deacon Dwyer will be assigned to Upstate Correctional Facility in Malone.

Deacon Dwyer remains deacon assistant to the parishes he currently serves as PLC.

Father Medenel Angrand, Sacramental Minister and Supervising



Father Medenel Angrand

Priest for the above parish configuration, is appointed Parish Administrator to the same.

Both assignments are effective November 2, 2023.



Deacon Brian Dwyer

Chaplain Seth Conklin, currently assigned to Upstate Correctional Facility will become Chaplain at Gouverneur Correctional Facility with the above moves.

Bishop's Public Schedule

Nov. 2 – 10 a.m. – Mass at Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora

Nov. 3 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

7 p.m. – Deacon Candidates Class on Canon Law at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

Nov. 4 – 4 p.m. – Installation Mass of Reverend Daniel L. Chapin as Pastor of St. Mary's Church in Constableville, St. John's Church in Lyons Falls, St. Mary's Church in Port Leyden and St. Mary's Nativity Church in West Leyden (at St. Mary's Nativity Church in West Leyden)

Nov. 5 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Nov. 6 – 11 a.m. – Catholic Charities Corporation Meeting followed by Lunch at Bishop's Residence

Nov. 7 – 11 a.m. – Development Board of Advisors Meeting followed by lunch at Bishop's Residence

Nov. 8 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

1 p.m. – Annual Catholic Charities Board of Trustees Meeting at Bishop Conroy School in Ogdensburg

Environmental Stewardship

Those dead leaves

Soon after leaves fall to the ground in mid-autumn, the time arrives to decide what to do with this layer of organic waste. For many, especially those who have been nurturing lawns throughout the growing season, the primary option is to remove these brownish-tan objects before they get covered by the coming snow.

There are several ways individuals go about this; however the most environmental *unfriendly* method is to use a gas-powered leaf blower and then stuff collections of yard waste into plastic bags for transfer to a local county landfill. Small gasoline engines are known to spew out more pollutants than vehicle engines. Placing biodegradable material into the landfill is unnecessary, as yard waste can easily be composted for use in gardens and flower beds.

Rather than rake the leaves, some people shred them by running a lawn mower over them. By breaking the leaves down, the fragments can more readily reach the soil and decay. This allows nutrients contained in the dead leaves to reenter the dirt and eliminates the need for commercial fertilizers in spring.

It is advised by some ecologists that simply leaving fallen leaves and needles on the ground can be beneficial to the overall setting. This blanket of matter helps insulate the soil and can reduce the impact of freezing temperatures on many forms of life. Although the thought of providing a safe-haven for ants, spiders, yellow jackets and beetles may seem unreasonable, they are essential to a healthy environment.

Good luck deciding what to do with your yard this fall, but sometimes the best way to be a good steward is to let nature have its way. Deal with yard cleaning in the spring.

By Tom Kalinowski
St. Bernard's Church, Faith & Ecology member

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:

Nov. 2 – 6 p.m. – Immaculate Heart Central cafeteria, Watertown

Nov. 3 – 1:30 p.m. – St. James School, Gouverneur

Rest in Peace

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

Nov. 2 – Rev. Thomas Walsh, 1888; Rev. John Henry Lyons, 1931; Msgr. James J. Ruddy, 1987

Nov. 3 – Rev. Thomas Plunkett, 1904

Nov. 4 – Msgr. Benjamin Harrison Staie, 1970

Nov. 5 – Most Rev. David E. Bacon, 1874; Rev. Bernard Wyzkowski, 1969; Rev. John Michael Wyzkowski, 1969

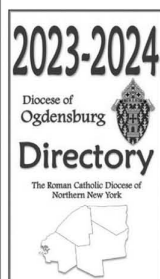
Nov. 7 – Rev. Dennis Nolan, 1911; Rev. William Ouellette, O.M.I., 1936; Msgr. William, H. Brennan, 1986; Deacon Peter J. Lawless, 2020

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

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The Official 2023-2024 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.

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EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Photos by Deacon James Crowley, Anita Soltero,
Marika Donders & Wanda Kavanaugh





All photos are numbered in the bottom right corner.

1: Bishops from around New York State gathered for Mass during the second day of the New York State Eucharistic Congress, held October 20-22 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs in Auriesville. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley. 2: St. Peter's Parish in Massena coordinated a bus trip to the Saturday portion of the Eucharistic Congress. 3: Father Howard J. Venette and Father Leagon J. Carlin, as well as Msgr. Dennis J. Duprey (photo 4) were among the priests who traveled to the Congress from the Diocese of Ogdensburg. 5: Father Bryan D. Stitt, diocesan director of Worship and pastor of St. Mary's in Canton, processes with the Blessed Sacrament during a Eucharistic procession held as part of the Eucharistic Congress. 6: Anita Soltero, assistant director of Faith Formation, Eastern Region and Youth Ministry director for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, serves as lector as Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrates the Saturday Mass at the Congress. 7: Father James W. "Jay" Seymour and Father Scott R. Seymour process into the Saturday Mass at the Congress. 8: Young adult participants in diocesan Campus Ministry programming joined together at the Congress.

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

Law enforcement and genetic privacy

Many parents and concerned citizens would probably be surprised to learn that their children's blood samples are being accessed by law enforcement agencies without their knowledge or consent.

In 2021, the State Police of New Jersey sought access to a blood sample from the Newborn Screening Laboratory, a sample belonging to a child who had been screened nine years earlier as a newborn. They wanted to perform DNA analysis so they could try to connect the child's father to a crime committed nearly 25 years earlier.

Filed away for a long time, these original paper medical forms, with spots of dried blood on them, contain the DNA of newborns. By obtaining the child's bloodspot sample without a warrant, the State Police were able to maneuver around the requirement to establish probable cause before seeking a warrant for a mouth swab from the suspect. The DNA results obtained from the child's blood were used to submit an affidavit of probable cause, and a warrant was then issued for a mouth swab from the father. Following the analysis of his swabbed DNA, he was criminally charged.

Every baby born in New Jersey — and most other states as well — is required by law to be tested for a number of diseases and disorders, often within 48 hours of birth, as part of a newborn screening program. By pricking the heel of the baby, hospitals and

medical facilities collect blood samples from virtually all newborns in the U.S. Many states retain the dried blood samples after the initial testing has been completed. Upwards of four million newborns are tested annually.

The goal is to identify a range of conditions and diseases in newborn babies, in the hope of reducing their severity through early treatment. One of the most notable success stories involves a condition called phenylketonuria (PKU). When babies with PKU eat foods containing phenylalanine — an essential amino acid found in many common foods — they can suffer permanent brain damage. Before standardized newborn blood screening, families discovered that their child had the condition only after the child developed brain damage. With the advent of newborn screening for PKU in the 1960s, families could be told whether their child had the condition right after birth. They could then use a special diet to prevent permanent brain damage from occurring.

Notwithstanding the praiseworthy and commendable project of trying to improve health outcomes for newborns, these blood spot samples are often collected without getting informed consent from a newborn baby's parents, and in some states, the samples may be retained and stored afterwards, even for decades. Many

parents are unaware not only of the existence of the screening program but also that blood was drawn from their newborn. It can come as a shock to discover that their family's genetic privacy may have been violated when law enforcement receives access to their child's stored blood sample without their knowledge or consent and without a warrant.

When it comes to the ethics of blood testing programs, parents are entitled to full transparency, including

complete and accurate information about why their baby's blood is being drawn. Those states that retain and store samples after the completion of immediate testing also have an ethical duty to inform parents of this practice and be sure that parents have an opportunity to provide informed consent not only for the immediate testing of their newborn, but for any subsequent uses of the

blood sample, including possible future scrutiny of the sample by law enforcement, or by biomedical researchers.

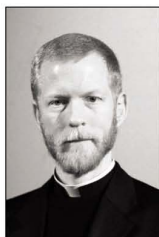
The fact that our DNA and our genetic code contains important personal information about us means that our individual "bio-informatics" should not be used or brokered by others without our awareness and consent. Medical confidentiality should be reasonably safeguarded as part of initiatives like the Newborn Bloodspot Screening Program. Legislative mandates requiring such newborn screening should thus allow parents to opt out, not only of the testing itself in the face of serious reasons, but also of long-term storage and subsequent uses of their newborn's biological samples, including by law enforcement.

Informed consent is also becoming important in the face of an ever-growing number of direct-to-consumer genetic testing options, like 23andMe and Ancestry.com. Companies should assure that customers can retain real

control over their data. Genetic privacy is a subset of medical privacy, and even those who upload their DNA data to genetic genealogy databases should have the opportunity to provide consent for retention of their data and for disclosure of these data to any third parties.

Informed consent serves as an essential bioethical principle in biomedicine today by providing a concrete safeguard for the dignity of those receiving medical treatments, or otherwise involved in human medical experimentation or research. It should not be contravened without due process and substantial reason.

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 Senior Ethicist at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.nbccenter.org and www.fathertad.com.



Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D.



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Synod addresses Church in letter to people of God

By Hannah Brockhaus
Catholic News Agency

The Synod on Synodality has addressed the members of the Catholic Church in a letter published during the final days of the October gathering in Rome, inviting them to take an active role in “the discernment and decision-making” of the Church.

“This is not about ideology but about an experience rooted in the apostolic tradition,” the letter says. Quoting from Pope Francis’ 2021 speech to open the synodal process, it says that “communion and mission can risk remaining somewhat abstract, unless we cultivate an ecclesial praxis that expresses the concreteness of synodality ... encouraging real involvement on the part of each and all.”

“We lived this blessed time in profound communion with all of you. We were supported by your prayers, bearing with you your expectations, your questions, as well as your fears,” the letter says, calling the meeting “an unprecedented experience” for including laypeople in voting.

“Using the conversation in the Spirit method, we have humbly shared the wealth and poverty of our communities from every continent, seeking to discern what the Holy Spirit wants to say to the Church today.”

A draft of the letter was read to applause from synod delegates during a presentation Oct. 23, according to Paolo Ruffini, president of the synod’s information commission. Some changes were then incorporated into the letter before it was voted on and released to the public on Wednesday, four days before the conclusion of the Oct. 4-29 assembly. Of the 348 delegates present for the vote, 336 voted in favor of the letter and 12 voted against.

Past assemblies of the Synod of Bishops have published messages or letters to the people of God from the bishops, also called synod fathers. This letter is the first to have been approved by a synod membership with the highest participation yet of non-bishops with the right to vote - approximately 21%.

“Firmly united in the hope brought by his Resurrection, we entrusted to him our common home where the cries of the earth and the poor are becoming increasingly urgent: ‘Laudate Deum!’ (‘Praise God’), as Pope Francis reminded us at the beginning of our work,” the

note says.

The letter acknowledges that the Vatican assembly took place amid “a world in crisis, whose wounds and scandalous inequalities resonated painfully in our hearts.”

The work of the synod had “a particular gravity,” it says, given that some participants are from countries experiencing war.

The general assembly of the Synod on Synodality is taking place in two sessions, in October 2023 and October 2024.

“And now? We hope that the months leading to the second session in October 2024 will allow everyone to concretely participate in the dynamism of missionary communion indicated by the word ‘synod,’” the letter states.

The letter says many challenges and “numerous” questions remain at the end of the synodal gathering, and a synthesis report to be published Oct. 28 “will specify the points of agreement we have reached, highlight the open questions, and indicate how our work will proceed.”

“To progress in its discernment, the Church absolutely needs to listen to everyone, starting with the poorest,” the letter argues. It specifically lists those “denied the right to speak in society,” those who feel excluded by the Church, and victims of racism, including “Indigenous peoples whose cultures have been scorned.”

“Above all,” it adds, “the Church of our time has the duty to listen, in a spirit of conversion, to those who have been victims of abuse committed by members of the ecclesial body and to commit herself concretely and structurally to ensuring that this does not happen again.”

The Church “needs to welcome the voice of those who want to be involved in lay ministries and to participate in discernment and decision-making structures” and “needs to be attentive to all those who do not share her faith but are seeking the truth.”

The letter points out that during the synod, people living in poverty were asked by Pope Francis what they wanted from the Church, to which they answered: “Love.”

The note also draws attention to Pope Francis’ publication of an apostolic exhortation on St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus amid the synod’s meetings on Oct. 15.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope Francis: ‘Holy orders is reserved for men’

Pope Francis reaffirmed the impossibility of women becoming priests, or even modern deacons, in an interview for a book released last week in Italy. The question of whether some women in the early Church were “deaconesses” or another kind of collaborator with the bishops is “not irrelevant, because holy orders is reserved for men,” the pope said. The pope’s answers to questions about women’s roles in the Church were included in a book published in June in Spanish as “El Pastor: Desafíos, razones y reflexiones sobre su pontificado.” The book, whose title means in English “The Shepherd: Struggles, Reasons, and Thoughts on His Papacy,” was released in Italian on Oct. 24. About the possibility of women deacons, Francis pointed out that the diaconate “is the first degree of holy orders in the Catholic Church, followed by the priesthood and finally the episcopate.” He said he formed commissions in 2016 and 2020 to study the question further, after a study in the 1980s by the International Theological Commission established that the role of deaconesses in the early Church “was comparable to the benedictions of abbesses.”

U.S. Bishops mark 25th anniversary of Religious Freedom Act

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) this week acknowledged the 25th anniversary of the passage of the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA), what the bishops called a “landmark” piece of legislation meant to protect the “essential and inviolable” principle of religious freedom. The act, passed in 1998 and signed by then-President Bill Clinton on Oct. 27 of that year, was drafted to prioritize religious freedom in U.S. foreign policy. The IRFA sought to “elevate religious freedom as a foreign policy goal of the United States, promote religious freedom in countries that violate this basic human right, and strengthen advocacy on behalf of individuals persecuted in other countries on the basis of religion,” the USCCB said in a press release on Wednesday.

Cardinal Zuppi: Hamas ‘worst enemy of the Palestinian people’

Pope Francis’ peace envoy, Cardinal Matteo Zuppi, has called Hamas “the worst enemy of the Palestinian people.” “We need a solution that guarantees the rights of the two sides; we really need an authoritative Palestinian leadership,” the bishop of Bologna and president of the Italian Bishops’ Conference said at the sidelines of a conference in northern Italy on Oct. 26. According to a local Italian television station, Telenord, the cardinal said the root causes of the conflict in Israel and Palestine need to be solved: “There’s to be clarity, firmness, and no kind of indulgence toward violence, and then you have to understand the causes to resolve it.” He said he appreciates Pope Francis’ references to a third world war being fought “in pieces,” in which stability is increasingly threatened. “Conflicts affect you even if they tend to seem to have nothing to do with you.”

VIRTUAL EVENTS

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

Are you a single Catholic man who is hearing the Lord's call to the Priesthood? Consider joining others who are listening and seeking to respond.

Date: Nov. 12, Dec. 3

Time: 4 to 5 p.m.

Place: Virtual

Features: High school age men and older are invited to gather with Father Howard Venette to discuss this vocation.

Contact: Register to attend at www.rcdony.org/priesthooddiscernment

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.

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

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

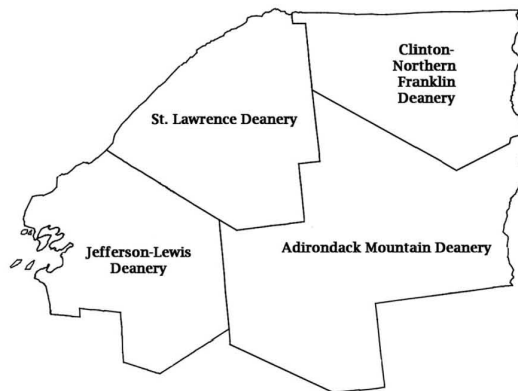
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

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 Christ-



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North County Catholic, PO Box 326,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

e-mail news@northcountycatholic.org.

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

mas 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

DEALING WITH GRIEF

Plattsburgh — Special sessions to be held about "Surviving the Holidays" when dealing with the loss of a loved one.

Schedule: Nov. 1 at St. Joseph's Community Room from 6 p.m. to 8 or Nov. 6 at St. Peter's Emmaus Room from 10 a.m. to noon.

Features: Are you dreading the holidays, knowing that everything has changed and that happy memories from past years can't be recreated? Join us for a "Surviving the Holidays" seminar especially for people who are grieving. More than just practical tips, Grief-Share Surviving the Holidays is a community of people who know what it's like to walk through the holidays in grief. You will find connection and comfort in knowing you're not alone this season.

Contact: Registration is required, you can register online at GriefShare.org, by email to Starr@stalexanders.org or by calling

Starr at 518-825-0697

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

COMPASSIONATE COMPANIONS

Ellenburg Center — An information session will be held for this faith-based Clinton County program that will be training new volunteers this fall.

Date: Nov. 4

Time: 10 a.m. to 11:30

Place: Our Lady of the Adirondacks

Features: If you would like to offer the gift of companionship, mercy, and friendship to older adults who are isolated and lonely, become a Compassionate Companion! Light refreshments will be available.

Contact: Please RSVP to mcondon@cathcharities.org or call Maureen Munn Condon with questions at (518) 563-6301, extension 101." Or Starr at St. Joseph's Community Outreach Center, 518-825-0697, Starr@stalexanders.org

HARVEST DINNER**ROAST BEEF DINNER**

Lyon Mountain — Roast Beef dinner to be held.

Date: Nov. 4

Time: 3 p.m. to 6

Place: Lyon Mountain American Legion Post 1623

Cost: Adults, \$15; Children under 12, \$10

Contact: Dine in or take out. 518-735-9998

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

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

Ellenburg — Our Lady of the Adirondacks invite you to First Saturday Communal Devotions.

Schedule: Nov. 4 and Dec. 2

Time: 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Features: You are warmly invited to join us as we pray for peace by meeting the conditions of this powerful devotion made in reparation to our Lady's Immaculate Heart.

Contact: For more information, contact Sarah at 518-534-9976.

CABBAGE ROLL SALE

Brushton — St. Mary's will be selling their famous cabbage rolls.

Date: Nov. 7

Time: 6 a.m. until gone

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center, Take-outs only

Cost: \$5.50 each

Contact: May be preordered on Nov. 5, 6, and 7th. Call 518 529

6580.

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 craft vendors. Hot lunches, baked items, silent auction Handicapped Accessible and 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.

HEALING MASS

Dannemora — Healing Mass to be held in celebration of the mighty presence of our God.

Date: Nov. 14

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: St. Joseph's Church

Features: Sacrament of Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Eucharist at Mass. Prayer teams will be available for those who would like additional prayer after Mass.

DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR

St. Regis Falls — All are invited to the monthly first Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour for Vocations.

Date: First Saturday of the Month

Time: Following the 4:30 anticipated Mass

Place: St. Ann's Church

Features: Prayer after Mass, Night Prayer, Prayer for All Souls and the Holy Souls, Novena in Honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, The Reparation Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary with private

meditation on the 15 Mysteries of the Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament reposed in the Tabernacle, and Prayers for the Holy Father and his intentions.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

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 include \$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 years 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

FISH FRY DINNER

Ogdensburg – Fish Fry Dinners are back at the Knights of Columbus.

Date: Nov. 3, 10 and 17

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

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

HARVEST DINNER

Gouverneur – St. James School will be having a Harvest Dinner.

Date: Nov. 1

Time: 4:30 p.m. until gone

Cost: \$15

Features: Turkey dinner with all the fixings. Eat in or take out.

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, raffle, wine tasting booth, and gingerbread house contest.

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

Date: Nov. 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: Nov. 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: Nov. 4

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

Place: St. Mary's Church

PARISH BAZAAR

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

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 and other food! 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 (Second Sunday of each month)

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



State Eucharistic Congress

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

stant basis by the mainstream narrative that both religious belief and practice are on a steady decline into nothingness, and there is no doubt that we are struggling in some ways. Our pews are not as packed as they once were, and in the North Country we are living in the wake of a wider social decline which extends far beyond merely the doors of our Churches.

Nonetheless, events like this Eucharistic Congress serve to demonstrate that this narrative of decline is not an inevitable or foregone conclusion, that, in fact, it is not nearly as progressed as some would have us believe, and that the Human spirit still longs for the meaningful lives of self-gift and fulfillment which Christ offers us in His Body and Blood.

All is not lost, Jesus is still with us, perhaps now more than ever, in our greater need. There is much to be hopeful about, and the Eucharistic lens helps us to see that clearly.

Deacon Carter Pierce, seminarian for the Diocese of Ogdensburg

I always knew that the Eucharist was an important and unique aspect of the Catholic faith, but only as I entered college did I come to experience and encounter for myself the intimacy and power of God in the Blessed Sacrament. Since then, it has been at the core of my relationship with God. It brings me great joy that, together, the church in America is taking this time to intentionally promote devotion to the Eucharist. Desiring to contribute to this movement, I came to statewide Congress in Auriesville to share my love for the Eucharist and share in the joy of the other pilgrims. It was an almost six-hour drive from the seminary to the Congress, but it was worth it.

This Congress was a reminder to me that there continues to be so much to be grateful for and that there are still so many people of deep faith. At Mass on Saturday, the Coliseum was full, every available ticket having been reserved. I met pilgrims from all over the state and in all stages of life. Elderly people for whom the travel was no doubt difficult, college students for whom the attraction to the Lord was stronger than academic pressures or the lure of parties, teenagers who were not too cool to show their love for Jesus, and young couples who came despite infant children. There were dozens of priests and even more consecrated religious. Neither cold temperatures nor windy and rainy weather kept people from coming.

Some pilgrims stayed up the whole night keeping vigil in adoration. I was very impressed by their devotion to our Eucharistic Lord.

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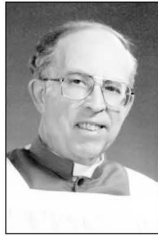
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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Model for priests

Priesthood is a necessary but dangerous vocation. On this Sunday designated as Priesthood Sunday, we find the readings filled with admonitions and warnings to the priests of the Old Covenant. God made a covenant with Levi, and so the term 'Levitical' priesthood. Unlike the other tribes, they received their sustenance from the Temple offerings. In the first reading from Malachi, written for the Israelites who had returned from Babylon, God complains

that the temple priests had neglected to teach well the traditions and laws of former days, and had been lax in correcting foreign customs brought back to Jerusalem from their pagan masters. Because of this God threatens to let his anger fall on them again.



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

We have a similar message in the Gospel when Jesus scolds the Pharisees and the priests for their hypocrisy and pride. Their lives lacked humility, honesty and service. Jesus did not question their author-

November 5

31st Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

Malachi 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10
1 Thessalonians 2:7b-9, 13
Matthew 23:1-12

ity to teach and urges his followers to follow their teaching, but not to follow their example.

In today's second reading, St. Paul presents the model for the priests of the New Testament. He reminds the Thessalonians that "we were as gentle among you as a nursing mother cares for her children." It was because of his love for them that he labored night and

day among them, both preaching the word of God, and earning his own living so as not to burden them. Throughout the writings of the other Apostles and early Church Fathers we find the ideal of priesthood put forward.

To whom much is given, much will be required. God has chosen weak human beings as His priests. Through those weak hands, God dispenses heavenly power and strength in the sacraments. As Jesus from the cross gave his own Body and Blood, for our salvation, so He gives it over and over through the Mass. And He does this through

his priests. What greater privilege can be given to a man? In return, He demands that this instrument of His strive to be himself a living mirror of Jesus' love, forbearance and mercy. At the same time, He will hold them accountable for any neglect of their sacred duties.

On this Priesthood Sunday, may all of us in the Church thank our priests for accepting this divine office. Through our prayers for them, may God forgive their sins and weaknesses.

May they always strive to be shepherds after the heart of Christ, the High Priest.

CALLED TO SERVE

Remember those we loved

The number of souls that have crossed my path over the years far exceeds the number of saints. November 1 being All Saints Day, a Holy Day of Obligation by the way, led me to think about saints and us ordinary souls.

We are obliged to observe a day of worship free from unnecessary work every Sunday. Sunday is the premier Holy Day of Obligation for every Catholic Christian.

Each year certain feast days are observed as if they were also Sunday. In 2023, those special days were or are Thursday, May 18, 2023 - The Ascension of Jesus; Tuesday, August 15, 2023 - The Assumption of Mary; Wednesday, November 1, 2023 - All Saints' Day; Friday, December 8, 2023 - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; and Monday, December 25, 2023 - The Birth of Our Lord,

Christmas.

Most parishes have unique Mass schedules for Holy Days, and you should consult your parish bulletin or web site for those schedules.

If any of the holy days falls on a Saturday or Monday, it is not considered a Holy Day of Obligation, because it is back-to-back with Sunday. Christmas is always observed as a Holy Day of Obligation.

No matter what day of the week the feast of a saint falls, we should still pray for and through those honored with a special day.

November 1, we will remember all the saints in heaven, those we know and those consid-

ered saints by God that we do not know about.

The Church has a pretty serious process it follows before granting "sainthood" to an individual. St. Kevin is one, but we do not break out the bubbly for his feast day, June 3, except in Glendalough in Ireland. He founded a monastery there back in the fourth century

and is still patron saint of that place and Dublin, Ireland.

Might I suggest you look up your namesake saint too. Our parents picked our name for a reason. Perhaps the reason can be found in the story of our patron saint.

The next day, November 2, is All Souls

Day. Officially it is called The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed. All Souls is a special day. It is a day for us to remember all the relatives, friends and loved ones who have died and are now in the peace of Christ.

Pause for a few minutes to thank God for allowing them to grace your life. I particularly like a portion of the prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours that day.

Merciful Father, strengthen our hope that all our departed brothers and sisters will share in the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown.

He is the Director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

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Mission Sunday and Double 9

The Mission Office would like to thank everyone for their generous support of this year's World Mission Sunday collection. By extending your prayerful and active support to the Pontifical Mission Societies, you've ignited change, supported missionaries worldwide, nourished the hungry and aided the building of the Church in the Pope's mission territories. Your gifts, combined with countless others, are the sparks that set "hearts on fire!" Continue below to see how parishes in China celebrated World Mission Sunday and the Chinese Festival of the Elderly, Chongyang.

Following in the footsteps of the missionaries of the past and with a view to the proclamation of the Gospel, many Catholic communities in mainland China intensely experienced World Mission Sunday. This year, World Mission Sunday coincided with the feast of St. John Paul II and was also celebrated close to the traditional Chinese festival in honor of the elderly, the date of which varies from year to year based on the lunar calendar. This year, it was on Oct. 23.

For pastoral reasons, Catholic communities always choose the nearest Sunday to celebrate the festival and to honor the contribution of older people to family, community and social life. But the Masses, prayer times and works of charity on World Mission Sunday should also express special attention to older people and their physical and mental health. The parish of Jiujiang in Jiangxi Province celebrated World Mission Sunday with donations for the missions.

"We must never forget the spirit of the missionaries," said Father Pang Rui, "especially the older missionaries of the previous generation. We must learn from them and bear witness to the faith in word and deed." The parishioners also prayed for peace in the world. After Mass, the priests administered the sacrament of anointing of the sick to the elderly people present. From Beijing to Shijiazhuang, congregations celebrated World Mission Sunday in memory of the missionaries who dedicated their lives to preaching the gospel in China.

Many priests also visited older people in nursing homes and gave them Holy Communion and anointing of the sick. The Festival of the Elderly, also known as Chongyang festival (the "double nine" festival), is celebrated on the ninth day of the ninth month of the lunar calendar. The Catholic community not only has always preserved this tradition, but also celebrates it in the light of Holy Scripture: "The Father of the righteous rejoices loudly; whoever has a wise son can rejoice in him. May your parents rejoice, may the mother who bore you rejoice" (Proverbs 23:24-25).

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

OBITUARIES

Cape Vincent – Mary Catherine (Hoyt) Docteur, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 21, 2023 at St. Vincet de Paul Church.

Cape Vincent – Nora J. Reff Hyde, 98; Mass of Christian Burial July 20, 2024 at St. Vincet de Paul Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Chazy – Owen M. Poirier, 15; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 24, 2023 at Scared Heart Church.

Croghan – Michael Henry Kampney, 63; Graveside services at St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Croghan – Patricia Ann (Bush) Wormwood, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 27, 2023 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Hogansburg – Thomas John "TJ" Lazore, 35; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 25, 2023 at St. Regis Church; burial in Martin Road Family Cemetery, Cornwall Island.

Lake Placid – Cornell MacDonalld Grout, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 28, 2023 at St. Agnes Church.

Lowville – Jeannette C. (Voyer) Murphy, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2023 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lyon Mountain – Bernard R. Grogan, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 28, 2023 at St. Bernard's Church.

Malone – Lyle E. Gardner, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 30, 2023 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. John Bosco Cemetery.

Malone – Yvette L. (Metras) Nason, 104; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 28, 2023 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre

Dame Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Preston Zachary Burl, 60; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 24, 2023 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Norwood – Freda (Mariae) Michaud, 76; Oct. 23, 2023 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Marlene T. (Gauthier) Wells, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 31, 2023 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Port Henry – Suzanne M. (Burhart) Baker, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 23, 2023 at

St. Patrick's Church.

Plattsburgh – Elaine Theresa Buttery, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 26, 2023 at St. John's Church.

Potsdam – Frances S. Mackey Babcock, 64; Graveside Services Nov. 3, 2023 at Bayside Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Louis S. Fortino, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 25, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Watertown – Marsha Ann Coppola, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2023 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.



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Fr. Philip Allen,
*Wishing you a very Happy Birthday
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Massena area seeks 'friendship volunteers'

Fourth Coast Companions, a multi-faith Age-friendly Communities Initiative, is recruiting new volunteers and has scheduled a Friendship Volunteer Training Program in Massena on Wednesday, November 8 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

There is no cost for the training, but registration is required. A complementary lunch will be provided. To register for the training, please contact Karen Wilkins, Fourth Coast Companions Volunteer Coordinator, at 315-514-9394, or visit the Fourth Coast Companions Website at www.fourthcoastcompanions.com. For more information, you may e-mail us at info@fourthcoastcompanions.com, or call 315-514-9394.

We are inviting new volunteers from the Greater Massena Area and Louisville in St. Lawrence County to pioneer this new Age-friendly Communities Initiative based on the success-

ful model of Mercy Care for the Adirondacks in the Tri-Lakes region of the Adirondacks. New Volunteers will help their elder neighbors stay connected to their communities and help to make their lives a little easier and happier. Volunteers of all faiths or no faith are encouraged and invited to participate.

Active Project Participants in the Greater Massena Ministerial Association (GMMMA) to establish Fourth Coast Companions include:

- St. Peter's Parish - Father Mark Reilly
- St. John's Episcopal Church - Mother Sonya Boyce
- Salvation Army - Lieutenant Nicholas White
- Emmanuel Congregational United Church of Christ - Pastor Judy VanKennen
- First United Methodist Church - Pastor Cori Loudon
- New Testament Church - Pastor Justin Cardinal

"The pandemic has only amplified the need some elders in our community have for the joy and companionship of a kind and compassionate Friendship Volunteer to help ease their isolation and loneliness," said Pastor Cardinal.

"We are pursuing mission through partnership to join together members of the Greater Massena Ministerial Association with Volunteers of all faiths, recognizing that all members of our community are our neighbors, especially those in most need of our love, friendship, companionship, and mercy," added Father Reilly.

Fourth Coast Companions will serve any older adult in need within our capacity. Services will be free of charge to Elders and will be freely given by our kind and generous Volunteers. There will be no income requirements.

Training

Volunteers will learn about offering friendship and assistance to elders in sessions on healthy aging, spirituality and aging, and community resources for elders. New Volunteers will hear from experienced Mercy Care Friendship Volunteers who find purposeful service to their elder friends to be meaningful in their own lives. Fourth Coast Companions will provide informal supports to Elders such as assistance with grocery shopping, transportation to medical appointments or social outings, or visiting with an elder in their home.

The mission of Fourth Coast Companions (a program of the Northern New York Compassion Coalition nonprofit) is to extend mercy to elders living in the community in order to enhance the fullness of their lives and help them age in place more successfully.

WE SHARE THE BURDEN

Helping you experience beautiful Masses

By **Father Bryan D. Stitt**
Diocesan director of Worship

By the time you read this article, you will have surely heard about the amazing NYS Eucharistic Congress at the Shrine of the North American Martyrs in Auriesville: the Solemn Mass celebrated by Bishop LaValley at the Coliseum filled with 8,000 pilgrims; the amazing speakers; the moments of quiet prayer; the food-tents; the vendors; and a Eucharistic Procession, all as the rains miraculously held off (at least mostly).

Events like this do not just happen. There were scores of people planning and rolling it out. But can I give you a couple behind the scenes moments from the perspective of one Worship Director?

The Universal Prayer (also known as the peti-

tions) for the Mass was to be read in five languages that are very common to the downstate planners: English, Spanish, Polish, Creole and Tagalog. But this event was upstate. It was in Auriesville, in the heart of the Mohawk River Valley. We were right where the North American Martyrs evangelized the native people who spoke, not Polish or Tagalog, but Mohawk. Wouldn't a petition in the local language make sense to add?

Scene two: the day before the Procession, the coordinators walked the route of the procession. Now, the coordinators from NYC had just pulled off a Eucharistic procession through Times Square. If they can make it there, they can make it anywhere, right? Fun fact, when processing past Rockefeller Center

and Radio City Music Hall, there is something one doesn't have to worry about: tree limbs. On the other hand, Auriesville's procession route was filled with trees. Wouldn't those limbs make a procession all but impossible if we don't trim them?

Scene three: the Solemn Mass itself. The Coliseum was built almost a hundred years ago. The sound system wasn't set up for modern equipment and a crowd of the size we had on October 21. So as the Mass began, there was a popping sound coming through the speakers. It sounded like a series of small explosions. Bishop LaValley asked his MC, "Is that me?" It was. The sound technician grabbed the MC in the sacristy, "You need to get his microphone out from under

his vestments!" What to do? How to fix a microphone failure in the middle of a Mass?

We had bad news and good news. Bad news: We were not able to fix the sound completely, though we tried our best. Good news: the limbs were trimmed to allow for the procession of the Monstrance and canopy, and the petition was read in Mohawk (Thank you Father Jerome Pastors for connecting us to our lector Ms. Patricia Francis!). Most importantly, the day was by all accounts a great success for the greater glory of God!

I am sure that you know that the Worship Office makes things happen for big diocesan Liturgies. We handle the bread and wine, incense, and programs. We work with servers and musicians.

But there are countless other behind the scenes issues too: language, limbs, and lavalier mics to name a few.

Beautiful liturgies are complicated, and the many pieces come at a cost. That's where your support of the Bishop's Fund is invaluable. Donations to the Bishops Fund support the budget of the Worship Office, and the Worship Office helps you experience beautiful Masses. There would not be a Worship Office without our Bishop, the chief-liturgist of the Diocese, and we would not have funding to do the numerous events and programs that we offer each year without the Bishops Fund Appeal.

Thanks as always for supporting Beauty in the Liturgy by supporting this year's Bishop's Fund Appeal.