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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 78 Number 31

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

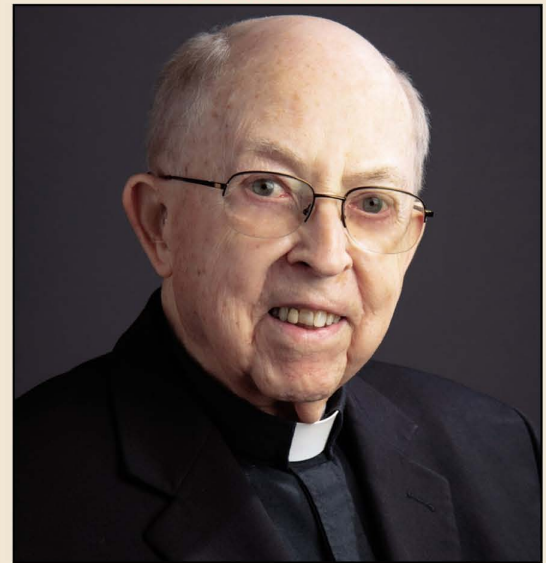
DECEMBER 13, 2023

## FAMILY RESTORES BLESSED MOTHER



The statue of the Blessed Mother at Camp Guggenheim was repaired and restored this summer thanks to the efforts of Jack Barrette, a parishioner of St. Alexander's in Morrisonville, and his grandsons, Gabriel and Christian Grotto. Full story on Page 5.

## REMEMBERING MSGR. WHITMORE



Msgr. Paul E. Whitmore died on Thursday, December 7, 2023, at age 94. Msgr. Whitmore is remembered for his love and kindness and dedication to the Mass.

FULL STORY AND OBITUARY, PAGE 3

## Pope: 'Spirit is the protagonist' of evangelization

By Matthew Santucci  
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis' multi-week catechetical series on the essential components of the proclamation of the Gospel culminated with a fourth and final component: the Holy Spirit as the protagonist of evangelization.

Amid applause at his entrance, Pope Francis greeted the faithful present in the Paul VI Audience Hall on Wednesday, Dec. 6. The Holy Father announced that Monsignor Filippo Ciampantelli would again read the prepared remarks on

his behalf — as he did during the Nov. 29 audience — with Francis noting that he was “still struggling” from the lingering effects of a flu infection. “But I’m better,” the Holy Father said.

Building off of the series' previous themes of joy, the universality of the Gospel message, and the relevance of the Gospel for the modern world, the pope observed that the work of proclaiming the Gospel “always belongs to God.”

The Holy Father underscored that proclaiming the Gospel is never an act of self-promotion. By emulating the example of

Jesus as the “first and greatest evangelizer,” we are to “cooperate with him and who leads us on by the power of his Spirit.”

But it is only possible to “imitate his style” by eschewing personal preferences and listening to an authentic call from the Spirit, the pope reflected.

“Without the Holy Spirit, all zeal is vain and falsely apostolic: It would only be our own and would not bear fruit,” the pope observed.

The pope noted that the Holy Spirit “always precedes the missionaries and makes the fruit grow.” Yet while it “comforts us a great deal” to recognize the

Holy Spirit as a gift from God, the pope cautioned against the pitfall of falling into “indolence.”

“Confidence does not justify disengagement. The vitality of the seed that grows by itself does not authorize farmers to neglect the field,” Francis reflected.

The pope warned against the temptation to cloister ourselves in “safety zones” that can take the form of “the habitual repetition of things one always does, or in the alluring calls of an intimist spirituality, or even in a misunderstood sense of the centrality of the liturgy.”

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# Seeing 'many hats'

"My continued amazement at the many hats you wear."

"Thank you for your editorials and the many hats you wear."

"May God continue to assist you in wearing your many hats."

My email inbox contains dozens and dozens of emails with similar lines. They were all sent by the same person, Msgr. Paul E. Whitmore, as he submitted his weekly column for this newspaper.

I never thought much

about the fact that Msgr. Whitmore commented so regularly on my "many hats" - my varied roles as mother, wife, editor, reporter, photographer, paginator, communications director, volunteer... - until this week, when I learned of his passing.

**Darcy L. Fargo**

Now I tear up when I think about it.

Msgr. Whitmore was acknowledging one of the more challenging aspects of my life. He saw me as more than just

the editor to whom he submitted his weekly columns even though my role as editor was my role in his life. He saw me as a whole person - a person with a lot of responsibilities and commitments.

That's not something most people acknowledge in others.

Msgr. Whitmore wasn't most people.

Nearly everyone I've spoken to about Msgr. Whitmore this week and everyone I heard speaking about him commented on his kind, loving, gentle spirit.

"He made everyone he talked to feel important

and loved," one person said.

I couldn't agree more. He made me feel important and loved. He made me feel acknowledged and seen.

I hope and pray he knew how important and loved he was.

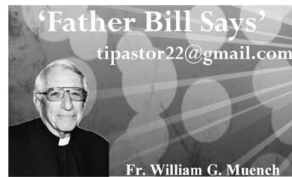
As a tribute to Msgr. Whitmore and his long-time role with this newspaper, we'll continue to run Scriptural Reflections he prepared through the end of the year.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

## Questions to consider this season

It is Advent. My challenge today is to encourage you to find some time amidst the decorating and shopping to renew your relationship with God as we prepare to commemorate the birth of our Savior on Christmas. Advent is a unique gift that our Catholic Church offers us. It is an invitation to pray and allow God to walk with us each day on the road to becoming a saint. This is another preparation for Christmas.

So, I want to share with you what I did on the First Sunday of Advent. I didn't want to have the people at Mass to think that Advent was spiritually a time to wrestle with sins and failings. I never want any one of them to define themselves by their failings and sins. Our spiritual preparation during Advent is about that lifelong challenge of recognizing who we are and how we can draw closer to God and become more like our Lord Jesus. So, I urge each person I meet to consider this first question as they be-

**Fr. William G. Muench**

gin Advent or even as they prepare for Confession: "Am I a good person?" I am hoping that your answer is like mine: "Lord, I am a good person - but." This is our challenge as we prepare during Advent: Get to know yourself. Are you a good person?

Ages ago, I discovered a series of questions that I thought was a perfect examination of conscience for Advent. This form gives us a proper way to develop our plan to draw closer to God and the way of the Lord Jesus. I must admit that I am uncomfortable with those old lists of sins, rather this newer examination presents us with a plan filled with the challenges for Advent and for confession.

Today I would like to share with you just a few of the questions posed in

this examination. Let me begin with the very last one of all. I think that this question will give you an idea of the kind of path this examination wants to lead you. That final question is, "Does my life reflect my love for God?"

Your answer to this may mean that some changes must be made. I must be better than I am.

This truly demands a time of prayer to consider the answer to that question properly. This is not a yes or no question. Be specific. How does your life reflect your love for God or how does your life reflect something else? The real challenge here for you and me is the Great Commandment given us by Jesus - Love God with your whole heart, your whole soul, your whole life.

Another of those questions asks us, "Do I actively work on strengthening my relationship with God?"

Here is another of those questions - actually a bit testy for me personally. "Do I let my family and

friends know that they are loved no matter what they may do?" I wonder. Do I make it clear to those I truly love and care about by the way I treat them on the good days and the not-so-good days. Such a challenge! How can I make them truly realize that I love them and will stand by them "no matter?" I don't want to believe that I would ever fail them. This not the usual concern I have during Advent, but it may be the best Christmas present I could ever give them.

Some of these questions are what you would expect, like this one: "Do I ask for forgiveness when I've wronged others?" And "Do I forgive others who have hurt me?" When we walk with Jesus, forgiveness is necessarily a big part of the conversation. Does your life reflect Jesus' readiness to be forgiving.

That is enough for now. Well, one more: "Do I show respect for others?" There are more, but I'll save them for another time.



# Msgr. Whitmore: 'A minister of God's love'

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

Several weeks ago, nurses from the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse called Joe Demo, a dear friend of Msgr. Paul E. Whitmore who also served as his healthcare proxy, to inform the former that his friend had fallen.

"I told the nurse, 'let him rest. Don't let him do Mass today,'" Demo recalled. "(Msgr. Whitmore) called me up shortly after. He said, 'please don't do this to me.' I said, 'Paul, I'm just looking out for you.' He said, 'I have to say Mass or I'll die.'"

After discussing the matter with medical staff, Demo said Msgr. Whitmore celebrated that Mass.

"That's the dedication he had," Demo said. "It was that important to him."

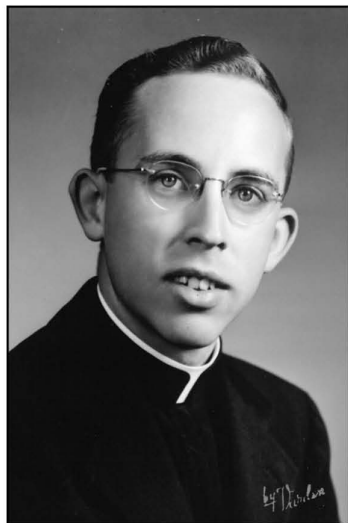
Msgr. Whitmore died on Thursday, December 7, 2023, at Samaritan Hospital in Watertown, where he had been a patient for a short time. He was 94.

A complete obituary is included with this story.

Demo, who lives in Harrison, New York, more than 300 miles away from Msgr. Whitmore's Watertown home, said he and the priest became friends because of their mutual connection to another priest, Father Jack Branch, a classmate of Msgr. Whitmore.

"(Father Branch) retired and moved to the Bronx, where I worked for the phone company," Demo said. "He always told me he had a friend up in Watertown. When Father Branch got sick, I used to take him to Sloan Kettering in Manhattan for treatment. Father Branch went back to Massachusetts with family in his last month. I met (Msgr. Whitmore) then."

The two became fast friends, a friendship that lasted more than 20 years. Msgr. Whitmore was the officiant at Demo's son's wedding and baptized his grandson.



Msgr. Paul E. Whitmore in an undated photo from his early priesthood.

"We talked almost every night," he said Thursday, just hours after his friend's passing. "I'd call, and we'd share our days. He called me his best friend. He was mine. He was my guy to go to. Even now, I just want to tell him, 'Paul, I need you.' He'd want me to be strong and pray for him. I've been praying the Rosary for him today."

Demo said he often aided Msgr. Whitmore with computers and technology, securing the priest an iPhone and teaching him to use it. Msgr. Whitmore and Father Leo Wiley, who also resides at the Motherhouse, would use the device and the iBreviary app to pray vespers together nearly every evening.

"It was great watching two 90-year-old men using an iPhone to pray Vespers using an app," he said, laughing.

Demo said he'll remember his friend as someone who embodied Christ-like love.

"He was a caring and loving friend," he said. "Anyone who knew him loved him. He's the most amazing, wonderful man and priest I've ever met. He was as close to me - probably closer, really - than my father was. Father Paul was the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Mass of Christian Burial to be celebrated Dec. 15

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated for Msgr. Paul E. Whitmore at 11 a.m. on Friday, December 15, at Church of the Holy Family in Watertown. Bishop Terry R. LaValley, bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, will be principal celebrant, and Father John M. "Mickey" Demo will be the homilist.

Father Arthur LaBaff, V.F., will preside over the reception of the body at 3 p.m. on December 14 at Church of the Holy Family. Calling hours will follow from 3 to 6 p.m. Vespers, evening prayer, will be prayed at 6 p.m. Calling hours will continue on December 15 from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

Burial will be in Glenwood Cemetery following the funeral Mass. Msgr. Whitmore died Thursday, December 7, 2023, at Samaritan Hospital in Watertown, where he had been a patient for a brief time. He was 94.

Born April 7, 1929, in Watertown, he was the son of Eugene and Mabel (Bundy) Whitmore.

After graduating from St. Patrick's School, Immaculate Heart Academy and Sisters Conservatory of Music, he entered Wadhams Hall Seminary-College in 1946, completing his theological studies at St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester. On May 22, 1954, he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Walter P. Kellenberg at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

Msgr. Whitmore began his priesthood serving as parochial vicar at St. Mary's Church in Massena, a role he also held at St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga. From 1957 to 1975, he was assigned to teach at Wadhams Hall Seminary-College. During that time, he also earned a master's degree from the University of Michigan and a doctorate from Fordham University. He served for a brief time as administrator and later pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Essex and Church of St. Philip and Jesus in Willsboro before returning to Wadhams Hall in 1977.

Msgr. Whitmore also served as Chairman of the Music Commission of the Worship Department from 1976 to 1979. In 1990, he became Pastor at Saint Vincent of Paul's Church in Cape Vincent, a role he later held at St. Patrick's Church in Chateaugay, St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid, St. Martin's Church in Port Leyden and St. John's Church in Lyons Falls.

He also served as dean of the Adirondack Deanery from 1990 to 1995.

Pope John Paul II bestowed the title of Prelate of Honor to His Holiness upon Msgr. Whitmore on June 17, 1995.

Msgr. Whitmore retired from active ministry in 2007. In retirement, he continued to serve as chaplain for the Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood in Watertown and as a columnist for the North Country Catholic.

In April of 2023, he moved to the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, where he continued to celebrate Mass. He enjoyed his time with the sisters there.

In addition to his parents, Msgr. Whitmore was predeceased by a brother, Bob.

Msgr. Whitmore is survived by a niece, Kathy, and her husband, Doug; nephews Jimmy, Mike and John; and many great-nieces and nephews and many great-great-nieces and nephews. Msgr. Whitmore was loved by all who had the pleasure of knowing him, including his family and friends, especially his dear friend, Joe Demo.

Arrangements are through Cummings Funeral Service, Watertown. Online condolences may be shared at [www.cummingsfuneral.com](http://www.cummingsfuneral.com).

## Massena Knights hold annual award dinner



Knights of Columbus St. Lawrence Council 1141 in Massena recently honored long-time and honorary members and the 2022-23 Knight of the Year, Father Mark Reilly.

On October 14, Knights of Columbus St. Lawrence Council 1141 (Massena) held its annual dinner, Knight of the Year award ceremony and Memorial Mass at St. Mary's Church, part of St. Peter's Parish in Massena.

Present at the gathering were brother knights, past women's auxiliary members and guests.

Also present were guests Father John "Jack" Downs, Father Andrew Amyot and Sister Cindy Sullivan.

The evening began with the Pledge of Allegiance and introduction

of the head table, which included Deacon Randy Besio, Jim Vaughn, Father Mark Reilly, Father Leagon Carlin, Gerry Soulia, DD, and his wife, Pat Soulia.

After a delicious meal, Deacon Besio served as guest speaker and discussed the diaconate program.

Awards were presented to 25-year members, honorary members, honorary life members, 50-year members and 75-year members, and the Knight of the Year award was presented to

Father Reilly by Council Grand Knight Phillip Ashley.

## 'Minister of God's love'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

kindest, most understanding man I've ever known."

Father John M. "Mickey" Demo, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Watertown, shared similar sentiments.

Msgr. Whitmore resided in the parish rectory with Father Demo for several years.

"He touched so many lives by just the way he went about his business as a priest," Father Demo said. "That was what touched the priests, laity, deacons - the people of the diocese. They saw how

much he loved his priesthood. That drew people to him for spiritual guidance and confession."

Father Demo noted Msgr. Whitmore kept that loving spirit even in his final days.

"When he was lying there in a hospital bed during a moment when he was responsive and lucid, the doctor and nurse came in," Father Demo recalled. "(Msgr. Whitmore) had a big smile on his face. He said, 'God bless you.' The man was a minister of God's love right down to his dying days in terms of thinking of other people. It was priceless."

Father Demo also recalled Msgr. Whitmore's love of and dedication to the Mass.

"We had a situation in 2021 where one of the priests from Sacred Heart wasn't able to celebrate Mass on Christmas Eve," Father Demo said. "The other

priests here in the city all had Masses scheduled. When Msgr. Whitmore found out people weren't going to have Mass on Christmas Eve, he said, 'I can go over there.' He was 92, and by God, he did. With the help of a deacon, he celebrated Mass on Christmas Eve 2021, and people were able to celebrate Christmas.

"He loved to celebrate the Mass. At different times, he would tell Father Matt (Conger) and I, and others, that if he had a choice, the Lord would take him while celebrating Mass. It would probably have been pretty traumatic for people attending, but for him, there would've been no better way to go - doing what he loved to do."

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated for Msgr. Whitmore at 11 a.m. on Friday, December 15 at Church of the Holy Family, Watertown.



St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Grand Knight Michael Langlois surveyed the winter coats and boots before the Knights deliver them to the Peru Elementary School.

## Coats for Kids

St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 7273 presented 15 new children's winter coats to Peru's primary and intermediate schools, plus several pairs of boys' and girls' boots.

Intermediate School Nurse Kathy Bedard thanked the Knights, stating, "We already know kids who need coats. Thank you so much for doing this each year."

Since 2013, the Peru Knights have donated 253 new children's winter jackets to the Peru Elementary School. The Knights of Columbus Councils in the United States and Canada have distributed over 1 million new winter coats for children since the Coats For Kids program's inception in 2009.



*Support And Pray  
For Vocations*



# Working as a family for the Blessed Mother

By Mary Beth Bracy, consecrated virgin

Contributing Writer

"Hey Grandpa, if we come drop off Mary with a month 'til camp is there anything you can do for her?"

So begins the story of the restoration of Our Lady's statue at Guggenheim, recounted Gabriel Gratto, camp counselor and music teacher at Indian Lake Central School. Seeing how the statue of the Blessed Virgin had become dilapidated, he and his brother Christian – a student at Ithaca College and long-time Guggenheim camper – endeavored to refurbish her. They asked their grandpa, Jack Barrette, a parishioner of St. Alexander's in Morrisonville who worked as an art teacher at Beekmantown Central School for 30 years, to take on the project.

It could be said that it took a family of jugglers – the Gratto family performs as jugglers – to maneuver Our Lady into their car. Christian explained that the statue is, "Extremely, shockingly heavy – at least over 200 pounds. It took three people to carry."

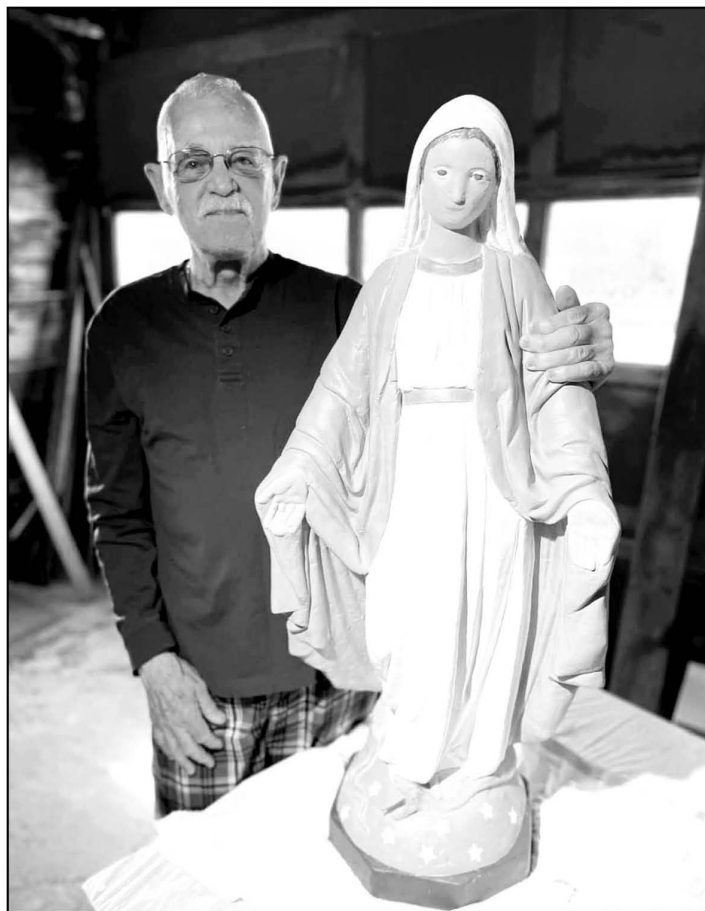
"We waddled it up to my car," added Gabe.

The idea began, Christian noted, when the young men saw the state of the statue.

"(It) was in the Mary grotto at Guggenheim," he said. "It looked rough – pieces were coming off, shards of cement needed to be repainted pretty badly. We were thinking of people that could possibly repaint it. We thought of our grandpa. We brought it to him and didn't want to hurt her more, so we wrapped it in a cloth."

Gabe recalled why restoring the statue of the Blessed Mother was meaningful to them.

"My brother (Christian) and I were both longtime camp goers," he said. "I started in 2013 and he's gone since 2016. It's our second home like it is for many in the diocese. Mary's grotto is a lovely place but was in rough shape. Camp clean-up inspired us to bring her to



**Jack Barrette, a parishioner of St. Alexander's in Morrisonville who worked as an art teacher at Beekmantown Central School for 30 years, worked with his grandsons, Gabriel and Christian Gratto, to restore the Camp Guggenheim Mary statue.**

my grandpa, who is a talented sculptor."

Visitors of Guggenheim have Barrette to thank for the refurbishing of the statue.

"Other than getting it to him and standing her up and down," Christian said, "he did it all by himself. He re-cemented all of the cracks and put the structure back to good shape and repainted it. He sprayed a cover on it so it's weather proofed."

Barrette, who just celebrated his 86th birthday, reflected on the process of restoring the statue.

"My two grandsons love going to Camp Guggenheim," he said. "They came to my house one day and they said; 'Grampie, do you think you can fix

this?'"

Gabe remembered that his Grandpa replied: "Oh sure.' He would send pictures here and there: 'Did the head, painted the snake, plastered the face today.'"

"I got some cement mortar and some acrylic bonding agent, and I started by taking off little pieces that were falling off," Barrette said. "Then I put the bonding agent on. I tried to file and shape the cement to make it look like the original. The face had one eye and a nose. I had to build up the eye. It took me a couple of weeks by slowly adding the cement to build up the statue before I painted it. I sealed the cement and then painted it with two coats and then sprayed on

some acrylic sealer."

The project was different than others the artist had worked on previously.

"I'd never worked with plaster before," Barrette shared. "I checked out information online to get the statue into the shape that I wanted. It took three weeks. I wanted to make sure that I got it done in time for work week at camp. Gabriel wanted to get it in there before the campers came. The paint was outdoor acrylic paint. I used two different shades of blue and I added some three-dimensional stars – I used a stencil of stars and a blue base. Christian brought a cement square to give Our Lady a foundation. (Before Our Lady was in the ground buried up to the feet.) I did some gold on the trim and then I did a pink sash or belt instead of one that was blue. I thought I would add a little more color to it."

Barrette had previously created several pieces of art.

"I carved up two animals for the Adirondack Carousel (a loon and a toad), and I carved a loon for the Empire State Carousel in Cooperstown," he said. "I used to work at boy scout camp in the summer at Bedford. We always had a pair of loons up there. Toward the end I joined the Champlain Valley Woodcarvers and I started carving birds. I had the carving tools so that's why I volunteered to do the animals for the carousel in Saranac Lake."

Looking back on the experience, Barrette said, "Leave it to my grandsons to always add projects for me to do. How can you say no? I go to Mass every day and I do get your newspaper."

The reaction to the newly restored statue has been tremendous. "People are very impressed and happy," enthused Christian. "All of the long time Guggenheim people are very happy to see her touched up and restored. All of the new campers are happy to spend time with her in the grotto there. All the old time campers

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## Environmental Stewardship

## What is Christmas really about?

Perhaps you have had the experience with children in your family in which there are so many toys given at Christmas, they hardly have time to play with all of them.

Recently, one grandmother shared some interesting ways that one of their grandchildren chose to share their Christmas with other children who are less fortunate than they are. She recounted: "When I asked our grandchildren in Texas what they wanted for Christmas, our 11-year-old grandson answered right away with a list and a website for what was on his list. Our 13-year-old granddaughter answered a couple days later saying she didn't need anything. I asked her to call or FaceTime me to talk. She FaceTimed us and I asked her if there was something she would like. She said she really didn't need anything. I asked if she would like me to donate to a charity in her name, like Toys for Tots. I asked her if she wanted me to donate here or where she lives in Texas. She said here and thought that it would be great to help children. We will donate in her name to Toys for Tots and Victim Assistance here locally."

On another occasion, the grandmother said, "I asked our five grandchildren about donating one of their gifts to our Angel tree at Church. They asked where the gifts went. We told them to needy children through our local Catholic Charities. They all agreed that was a good idea. They live in other states, so we took pictures of the gifts they donated. We gave them a picture of what they gave away in a card for them to open on Christmas as one of their gifts. They were all thankful to have helped other children."

"...and a little child will lead them."

## Rest in Peace

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

**Dec. 13** – Rev. Joseph Louis Levesque, 1939

**Dec. 14** – Rev. P.M. O'Shea, O.S.A., 1942, Rev. Paul Beyette, 2016

**Dec. 15** – Rev. Leon Pierre Cochard, 1915; Deacon Joseph H. Gilbert II, 2010

**Dec. 16** – Rev. J. F. McGowen, O.S.A., 1935; Rev. Frederick Cummings Horton, 1975

**Dec. 17** – Rev. John Orrin Senecal, 1980

**Dec. 18** – Msgr. Narcisse Lorrain, 1915; Rev. Laurent Legoff, O.M.I., 1932; Rev. Louis Kopp, M.S.C., 1946; Msgr. Harold J. Skelly, 1980; Rev. George A. Fortaine, 1990

## 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](http://www.virtus.org). Upcoming sessions: **December 14** – 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.Report-BishopAbuse.org](http://www.Report-BishopAbuse.org)

## Working as a family

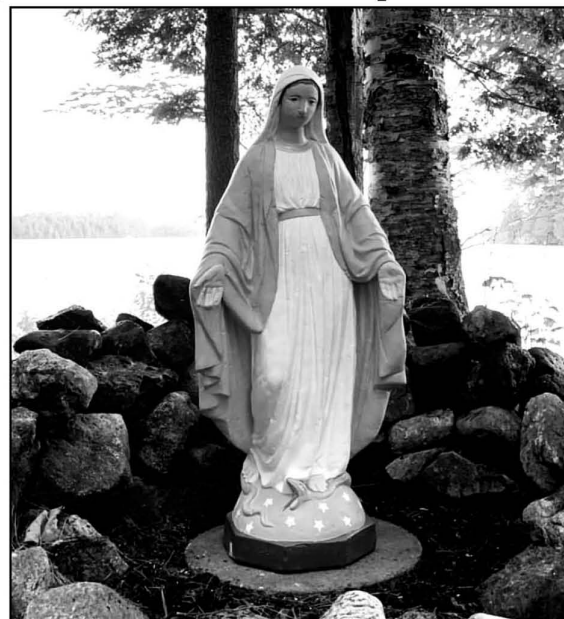
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are quite impressed, I think."

Our Lady's tour from Saranac Lake to Plattsburgh to Morrisonville and back again was worth it, shared Gabe.

"I brought her back the beginning of staff week while all the counselors were there," he said. "I put her there half way through. All the staff were very happy, life-long campers like myself. We pulled some rocks out of the lake to build the area behind her. Lots of campers prayed the Rosary around her this summer."

"When we returned her to Guggenheim we reinforced the rock wall around the back side and made it bigger - taller and wider so it doesn't fall down easily," Christian added. "Before it was pretty small. We put some Hosta's (from



The restored statue of the Blessed Mother was returned to her spot by the lake at Camp Guggenheim this summer.

my Grandpa's) around her in the front with a solar powered light in the evening."

Barrette and his grandsons want to ensure that the statue is preserved.

"I suggested to Gabriel - he's going up to Family Guggenheim with his mother and father - that they move Our Lady inside for the winter. Once water gets in it freezes and it falls apart."

"It is amazing to see the before and after," commented Father L. William Gordon. "Quite an undertaking! Jack and the boys are so proud of it. There are

pictures galore of the entire process."

Gabe described how they returned the statue.

"It was a struggle but definitely worth the effort," he said. "It was a joint effort to getting her where she needed to go. She made her way around the diocese."

"It doesn't matter how old you are or how young you are in our Church," concluded Gabe. "There is always a gift or talent you have to build up the Catholic Faith, whether you're young and operating a summer camp or an elderly man making beautiful art."

## North Country Catholic has Green option

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# FBI director grilled after release of new report on targeting of Catholics

By Tyler Arnold & Joe Bukuras  
Catholic News Agency

Sen. Josh Hawley engaged in a tense exchange with FBI Director Christopher Wray on Tuesday after the release of the report that found the agency's investigation into traditional Catholics may be more expansive than FBI officials have claimed.

"Now we know that, in fact, FBI agents did approach a priest and a choir director to ask them to inform on parishioners," Hawley told Wray during a U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing on Dec. 5.

The hearing followed the unveiling on Monday of the House Judiciary Committee's report detailing the results of a monthslong investigation into a leaked internal FBI memo that discussed investigating Catholics as potential domestic terrorists.

"Good heavens, director, this is one of the most outrageous targetings - you have mobilized your division, the most powerful law enforcement division in the world, against traditionalist Catholics ... and you just told us you have not fired a single person," Hawley said during the exchange.

Wray argued with Hawley, saying that he was conflating two distinct things: the memo that the Richmond FBI office has since rescinded and a separate investigation into a man who was amassing molotov cocktails and making threats. In regard to the memo that targeted Catholics, Wray said employees have been admonished and their salaries may be affected.

"We do not and will not conduct investigations based on anybody's exercise of their constitutionally protected religious [expression]," Wray claimed.

"You have done so and your memo explicitly asks for it," Hawley retorted.

The new report delved deeper into the FBI's efforts to investigate traditionalist Catholics and the now-retracted Richmond FBI memo that alleged a link between so-called "radical traditionalist Catholics" and "the far-right white nationalist movement." The memo suggested "trip wire or source development" within parishes that offer the Traditional Latin Mass and within online communities.

The report found the internal memo was made available to other FBI field

offices, that the FBI may still be looking into the supposed link mentioned in the memo, and that agents interviewed a priest and a choir director affiliated with the Society of St. Pius X in late 2022. The FBI claims these interviews were part of a separate investigation and had no relation to the memo.

Although FBI officials have argued that this problem was isolated to one field office, the report found "the FBI had plans for an external, FBI-wide product based on the Richmond memorandum." In spite of Wray's retraction and disavowal of the memo, the report also found "the FBI may still be attempting to fashion information from the Richmond memorandum into an external-facing document."

The investigation also references information disclosed by a whistleblower about FBI agents interviewing a priest and a choir director at a church associated with the Society of St. Pius X in Richmond. The SSPX holds a canonically irregular status with the Catholic Church due to its founder, Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, consecrating bishops without papal approval.

"The interviews appear to have occurred in November and December 2022 - the same time the analysts started drafting the memorandum," the report states. "This information, which the FBI has refused to disclose, confirms that the FBI directly communicated with Catholic clergy and staff about parishioners practicing their faith."

In a statement to CNA on Tuesday, the FBI disputed the report's claim, saying the priest and choir director were interviewed "by FBI Richmond during an investigation of an individual threatening violence who has since been arrested [and] ... the interviews were not conducted for the domain perspective as characterized by the report."

"Any characterization that the FBI is targeting Catholics is false," the statement read. "We have stated repeatedly that the intelligence product prepared by one FBI field office did not meet the exacting standards of the FBI and was quickly removed from FBI systems. An internal review conducted by the FBI found no malicious intent to target Catholics or members of any other religious faith and did not identify any investigative steps taken as a result of the product."

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Senator ends pro-life blockade of military appointments

Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Alabama, will allow hundreds of military appointments to get through the Senate as he ends his 10-month-long pro-life blockade that sought to force the Pentagon to change its abortion policies. The senator began blocking military appointments that need Senate confirmation in February by refusing to allow them to pass via unanimous consent. The blockade was a protest against a Department of Defense policy that provides paid leave and reimbursement for travel expenses for service members who seek to obtain an abortion. Although the policy is still in place, Tuberville announced on Tuesday that he would end his blockade for most appointments - the backlog has grown to more than 400. He said he would only maintain his blockade against a handful of very senior positions. "I'm not going to hold the promotions of these people any longer," Tuberville said. Military appointments are normally approved in large blocs by unanimous consent of the Senate. Without unanimous consent, the Senate would need to vote on each appointment individually. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-New York, chose to hold votes on only a handful of individual appointments, declining to bypass the blockade of most appointments.

## Nigerian priest abducted while answering sick call

A priest from the Diocese of Okigwe in Nigeria was kidnapped Nov. 30 while traveling to administer the sacrament of the anointing of the sick to a parishioner. The diocese announced Dec. 1 that Father Kingsley Eze, parish priest of St. Michael's Umuekebi Catholic Church in Nigeria's Imo state, was kidnapped at approximately 8 p.m. that evening and his whereabouts are unknown. In a statement, the chancellor of the diocese, Father Princewill Iwuanyanwu, confirmed the kidnapping and asked for prayers for the safe release of Father Eze. "We solicit your fervent prayers that he may come back to us safe and sound," Father Iwuanyanwu said. Witness accounts of the kidnapping indicate gunmen attacked the priest along with another person, Uchenna Newman, as they got out of their car at an intersection to do some shopping during a stop while responding to a sick call. The bandits are said to have first robbed the street vendors, shooting indiscriminately and wounding a passerby, and then forced the priest and his companion to follow them.

## Holy Door sealed at nation's largest Catholic Church

In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year, two of the massive entry doors at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., have been sealed. Archbishop Timothy Broglio, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, blessed and sealed the two doors, which are scheduled to be reopened on Christmas Eve next year as a Holy Door for pilgrims. The ceremony took place on the first Sunday of Advent - a little more than one year before the start of the 2025 Jubilee Year, which will center on the theological virtue of hope.

## VIRTUAL EVENTS

## PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

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

**Date:** Jan. 28, Feb. 11, Feb. 25

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
**Place:** Zoom

**Features:** High school age men and older are invited to join fellow discerners and Father Howard Venette to discuss this vocation.

**Contact:** You must register in order to attend, please go to [www.rcdony.org/priesthooddiscernment](http://www.rcdony.org/priesthooddiscernment)

## ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

## FRIENDSHIP VOLUNTEER TRAINING

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

**Date:** Jan. 18

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

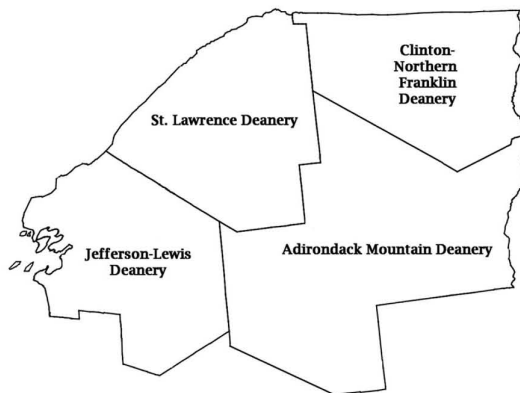
**Features:** New Volunteers will join Mercy Care's more than 100 Friendship Volunteers from Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, and Tupper Lake and surrounding areas who are helping their elder neighbors stay connected to their communities and helping to make their lives easier and happier. Complimentary lunch will be provided.

**Contact:** There is no cost but registration is required. To register, please visit Mercy Care's website at [www.adkmercy.org](http://www.adkmercy.org) or contact Lexi Bevilacqua, Mercy Care's Program Director, at [abevilacqua@adkmercy.org](mailto:abevilacqua@adkmercy.org) or call Lexi for more information at 518-523-5446.

## CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

## FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Plattsburgh - Holy Cross Parish is



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](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org).

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

thrilled to announce its Festival of Lessons and Carols. It combines the timeless beauty of Christmas carols with Scripture readings that summarize Salvation History.

**Date:** Dec. 17

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Place:** St. John's Church

**Features:** This event will feature a choir comprised of talented individuals from area churches, coming together to prepare for Christmas through the beauty of music. There is no cost to attend, and all are welcome. Donations are accepted. Join us for this joyful and prayerful time.

**Contact:** For more information, contact the Holy Cross Parish Office at 518-563-0730

## ADORATION

Plattsburgh - Adoration to be held weekly.

**Date:** Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

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

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

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

**Contact:** For more informa-

tion, to become a substitute or to sign up for an hour, please contact 518-563-3773.

## JEFFERSON-LEWIS

## POLISH CHRISTMAS WAFER

Houseville - The Polish Christmas Wafer or OPLATEK is available.

**Cost:** \$3 per package plus shipping and handling

**Features:** The Christmas wafer or POLATEK, is part of a Polish, Lithuanian and Slovak custom that is observed during the Vigil of Christmas (Wigilia.) After the first star is visible, family and friends gather around the dinner table to share the OPLATEK which symbolizes the presence of Christ, the Newborn Child. The OPLATEK is sent and shared with family and friends all over the world as a symbol of love, unity and forgiveness.

**Contact:** To order please call 315-348-6260

## ADVENT PARISH MISSION CANCELED

The Advent Parish Mission that was to be held at Immaculate Conception in Brownville and St. Andrew's Church has been canceled.

## 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:** Jan. 7

**Time:** Following 11 a.m. Mass  
**Place:** St. Hedwig's Church

**Contact:** 315-348-6260

## SPAGHETTI &amp; MEATBALL DINNER

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

**Date:** Jan. 13

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**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

## ST. LAWRENCE

## MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

**Date:** Jan. 14 (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.

## 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 [formationstp@gmail.com](mailto:formationstp@gmail.com)

## HOLY HOUR

Canton - Holy Hour for Vocations to be held.

**Date:** Every Tuesday

**Time:** 4:10 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Church

**Features:** Holy hour followed by Mass at 5:15 p.m. and confessions at 5:45 p.m.

## ROSARY FOR LIFE

Canton - Rosary for life to be held.

**Date:** Every Sunday

**Time:** 4:25 p.m. preceding the 5 p.m. evening Mass

**Place:** St. Mary's Church

## ADORATION

Norwood - St. Andrew's Church to offer Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday.

**Time:** After 8:30 a.m. Mass until Noon

**Features:** Sign up is not needed.

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## ADVENT MYSTERY PLAYERS

The Advent Mystery Players to perform.

**Schedule:** Dec. 10, 6 p.m. at St. James in Gouverneur; Dec. 17, 7:15 p.m. at Holy Family Church, Watertown.

## HEALING MASS FOR ABUSE SURVIVORS

Potsdam - Bishop LaValley has scheduled a Healing Mass for those who have Suffered Abuse by Church Leadership or Others, on Divine Mercy Sunday.

**Date:** April 7

**Time:** 2:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Church

## STATE EVENTS

## NEW YORK STATE DISCERNMENT RETREAT

Syracuse - Have you felt the invitation to follow Jesus Christ as a Catholic priest? The Vocation Directors of NY State are sponsoring the New York State Discernment Retreat.

**Date:** Jan. 2-4

**Place:** Christ the King Retreat Center.

**Features:** This is an opportunity to meet other seminarians and hear their stories.

**Contact:** If you are interested, register by Dec. 28 by e-mailing [vocations@syrдио.org](mailto:vocations@syrдио.org).



DECEMBER 13, 2023

# Handmade gifts from religious communities

By **Zelda Caldwell**  
Catholic News Agency

For unique Christmas gifts that celebrate your Catholic faith there are many monasteries and religious communities that offer handmade gifts for sale online.

Buying presents from religious brothers and sisters has the added advantage of lending support to these communities, many of whom depend on a successful Christmas shopping season to continue their lives of prayer and service.

Here's a guide to some of CNA staff members' favorite gifts to give and receive.

## Hand-painted china

The contemplative Sisters of the Monastery of Bethlehem in Livingston Manor, New York, support themselves by hand-painting chinaware. The exquisite, intricately-designed pieces make lovely Christmas gifts, and the china is dishwasher- and microwave-safe.

The sisters belong to the monastic Family of Bethlehem, of the Assumption of the Virgin and of Saint Bruno, which was founded in 1950 when Pope Pius XII proclaimed the dogma of the Assumption of the Virgin, which states that Mary was elevated, body and soul, from earth into heaven. They create their beautiful chinaware in prayerful solitude. Plates, serving bowls, and platters from \$31 and up make lovely gifts. Visit the shop at <https://www.monasteryofbethlehemnewyork.com/shop>

## Wine from the first papal vineyard

The Benedictine monks and nuns of the

Abbeys of Le Barroux, a vineyard established by Pope Clement V in 1309 in the Rhône Valley of France, now have a U.S. distributor for their Via Caritas wine. The wine is made in cooperation with local vineyards, and the proceeds help support these winemaking families. The monks' award-winning wines are available to purchase for \$21.99 and up at <https://www.earth-labora.com/shop/>.

## Soap and candles

The nuns from the Dominican Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary in Summit, New Jersey, live a life of prayer through Eucharistic adoration and dedication to the rosary. To support this way of life they create handmade candles and skin-care products, which they sell at their Cloister Shoppe, which can be found at <https://summitdominicans.3dcartstores.com>. Create your own Christmas gift bag of two bars of soap, a hand cream, a jar candle, a face moisturizer, and a handmade rosary made from olive wood beads from the Holy Land for \$50.

Throw in a pair of Bayberry Christmas Eve Tapers for \$18 to give your holiday table a festive glow.

## Fruitcake

These fruitcakes are not the sort that get regifted. The monks of New Camaldoli Hermitage in Big Sur, California, offer a fruitcake

soaked in brandy and aged for three months. It "has converted many a fruitcake 'atheist,'" according to its creators. Order a one-pound fruitcake for \$26.98 at <https://www.contemplation.com/shop>.

The Monks of the Abbey of Gethsemani in New Haven, Kentucky, offer a 20-ounce Kentucky Bourbon Fruitcake along with a jar of Trappist Apricot-Pineapple preserves and a jar of Trappist Quince Jelly, which make a lovely Christmas gift for \$32.75. These can be found along with other products at <https://gethsemanifarms.org>.

## Fudge

The monks of the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, Georgia, make their famous fudge with premium chocolate and real butter and sell it at <https://holyspiritmonastery-gifts.com/monk-bakery-goods/>. Try a 12-ounce gift box for \$15. And for a taste of Georgia, try their Southern Touch fudge, "made with real peach morsels, pecans, and a touch of peach brandy."

## Cookies

The Capuchin Poor Clare nuns make their

famous butter cookies from their monastery in Denver. The "Clarisas" come in a beautiful gift box featuring an image of St. Clare and sell for \$18 for a 1.5-pound box. The cookies can be purchased at <https://capuchinpoorclaresisters-usa.com/index.php/clarisas-cookies/>.

## Caramels

The contemplative nuns of Our Lady of the Mississippi Abbey in Dubuque, Iowa, are known for their delicious caramels, which they make by hand in order to support their way of life.

A 9-ounce box of sea salt chocolate-covered caramels sells for \$15.55 at <https://monasterycandy.com/>.

## Coffee

The Wyoming Carmelites of Mystic Monk Coffee hand-roast their beans in small batches to support their community. The website [CoffeeReview.com](http://CoffeeReview.com) ranks their coffee among the highest of the coffees it reviews. A 12-ounce bag of their most popular flavor, Jingle Bell Java, sells for \$13.95.

Since they began their coffee business in 2007, the monks have

been able to live out the Carmelites' vocation of "hidden prayer and union with God for the sake of everyone throughout the Church and the world."

The coffee is available for purchase at [www.mysticmonkcoffee.com](http://www.mysticmonkcoffee.com).

## Hot sauce

The monks at Subiaco Abbey in Arkansas make a tangy hot sauce from the habanero peppers grown in the monastery's gardens. Benedictine Father Richard Walz began making his "Monk Sauce" while he was stationed in Belize, Central America. In 2003, he brought back some seeds from the peppers he grew there and created a tangy sauce made from the chilies along with onions, garlic, carrots, vinegar, salt, and "a few prayers thrown in for good measure."

How spicy is it? According to the abbey's website, their Monk Sauce has a 250,000 Scoville Unit rating, while Tabasco's habanero sauce earned a mere 7,000 Scoville Unit rating. Available in green, red, and smoked, the 5-ounce bottles sell for \$11 each and can be purchased at <https://www.countrymonks.biz/>.

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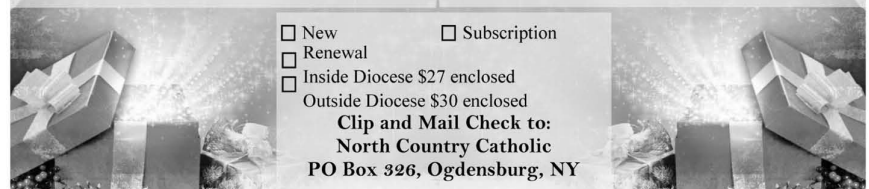
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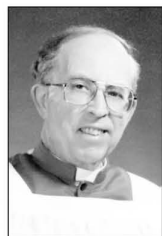


## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

## Rejoicing on Gaudete Sunday

The words of this Sunday's readings are the closest we have to the joy of Christmas itself. In the second reading, we hear "Rejoice! Again, I say to you 're-joice!'"

"Why?" we ask. The reason for joy is the same as that of the early Christians. They held to their firm belief that Jesus Christ has paid the price for their sins, and that he would bring them to glory in the life of the heaven.



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

Yet we can be left emotionally unmoved at this teaching. A false "holiday" spirit has robbed Jesus of His own birthday. So, we need to spiritually enter into the hearts of Mary and Joseph as they excitedly await the child's arrival. St. Paul knew that the early Christians would be tested, so he exhorts them (and us) to "pray without ceasing" and "give thanks always." Above all, he

December 17

Third Sunday of Advent

READINGS

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

warns them in today's second reading, "Don't quench the Spirit." In this way they will be "preserved blameless in spirit, soul, and body... for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ." For many, Christ came quickly as their faith led them to martyrdom. But they never lost their

joyful spirit.

Today's Gospel continues the preaching of John the Baptist. How carefully he makes clear to the Pharisees that he is not the Christ, nor the light, but a voice testifying to the light that has come into the world. Fear and doubt thrive in darkness. Just as turning on a light in dark room can take fear away from a child, so the light that increases in us each day of Advent can shrink our fears and bolster our hopes. When the light intensifies to the radiance of

faith's assurance, then we know joy.

This Christmas, many of us are suffering from grief at losing a loved over the course of the year and facing the first holiday without that loved one. Many are suffering in other ways. Fear and doubt thrive in darkness. Just as turning on a light in dark room can take fear away from a child, so the light that increases in us each day of Advent can shrink our fears and bolster our hopes. When the light intensifies to the radiance of

## CALLED TO SERVE

## The Advent wreath

Kathy and I were shopping the other day and a parishioner approached with a question that went something like this: "Is it OK to have short candles on the Advent wreath or do I have to use tall, slender tapers?"

I did an instant mental review of all my Canon Law and Catechism citations on the subject and could not produce anything relevant.

Only a second or two had passed since the question. The brain is a wonderful thing,

I was able to say with all confidence, "I don't think you will go to hell because you used short

candles."

We all laughed, and I reassured my friend it was OK to use short candles in her Advent wreath. I hope I was correct.

The Advent wreath, as we all know, has three purple candles and a rose colored one for use during the third week of Advent. Many wreaths have a spot in the middle for a fifth candle. That candle is white. Advent wreaths are usually sold with only four candles. The manufacturers presume you will put the Advent wreath away for Christmas. Indeed, that is the custom in the Catholic

Churches I attend. The Advent wreath stand is put in storage when the first Mass of Christmas Eve is going to be celebrated.

So, what is with the white candle?

It is called Christ's Candle by some. I have also heard it referred to as the Peace Candle. It represents the arrival of Christ and can be left lighted through Christmas time until Epiphany.

The violet/rose colors of the Advent wreath candles mirror the Liturgical Colors of the Sundays of Advent. Violet for weeks one, two and four. Rose for the Third Sunday.

Did you know that violet, also known as purple, is the first choice for the celebrant on the Third Sunday and rose is an acceptable alterna-

tive? Those clerics who cringe at the notion of wearing pink vestments, excuse me, rose vestments, can take umbrage in the fact that rose is not required. No more jokes about "pinkaphobia."



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

Violet represents penance, preparation, and sacrifice. It is the liturgical color of Advent and Lent. Rose is worn to indicate a lessening or pause in our penance as we rejoice at the coming of the Savior.

Philip Kosloski has a wonderful piece on the origins of the rose color in liturgy on Aleteia. You can surf the internet for the article entitled Why Priests Wear "Rose" and Not Pink.

The deacon assisting the celebrant wears vestments that compliment the celebrant's vestment. If the priest

wears rose, the deacon should too. If the priest wears a rose chasuble, the deacon should wear a rose dalmatic. That assumes your Church, or deacon, has a rose dalmatic. If not, purple.

The Advent Wreath is a wonderful reminder of the coming of the Savior of the World. I hope you have one at home and gather the family to pray during the lighting each day or week. We tend to forget to light the candle before dinner. Shame on us. Our intentions are good; the execution leaves something to be desired.

I had better get my rose dalmatic out for the weekend!

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

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

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

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

# Christmas appeal

As a child, were you enchanted by Christmas lights? They filled me with joy long before I fully grasped the true meaning of the season. But as I sit down to write to you today, the twinkling lights from my childhood memories seem dim compared to the light of hope you are bringing to the missionary sisters in Ethiopia and the children in their care.

May I share with you the story of the Maids of the Poor Home for orphaned or abandoned children in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia? Here, young souls scarred by life's hardships find solace. Sister Miriam, a pillar of love and dedication, recently shared, "we pray daily for their sustenance. But many evenings, as I gaze into their innocent eyes, my heart shatters. Often, we lack even the funds to buy them milk."

But - because of you - there's hope. Despite the daily struggles to care for these abandoned and orphaned children, there is profound joy and love evident in this home. Through your support, the sisters are transformed into the living embodiment of the Star of Bethlehem providing hope to these children.

As a member of our mission family, you know of the plight of children in this poorest of nations, where two-thirds go to bed hungry. This year, you have seen the faces of children traumatized by war in Ukraine and the Holy Land. You know of the daily risk of violence, abuse, and exploitation children face in South Sudan.

As we embrace the spirit of Christmas, reflecting God's boundless love in our actions, we remember the words of Jesus, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

This Christmas, will you include the children of the missions - and those who care for their physical and spiritual needs - on your gift list?

What could be a more meaningful Christmas gift?

Sister Miriam and the children of the Maids of the Poor Home are most grateful to you and send their love and prayers! With your support, we can bring hope and shine the Gospel's light even brighter.

I send my own gratitude for your prayers and generous response. I wish you and your loved ones a blessed Advent season, and pray that we may remain united in His mission,

*Sr. Mary Ellen*

Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ

## OBITUARIES

**Altona** – Betty Ann (Seguin) Morrow, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 5, 2023 at the Holy Angels Church.

**Brasher Falls** – Mary Kathleen (Keenan) Demo, 83; Private services Dec. 5, 2023.

**Brownville** – James C. Murtha, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 4, 2023 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Carthage** – Patrick T. Brady, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 7, 2023 at St. James Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

**Carthage** – Laura Elizabeth (Guernsey) Davis, 70; Funeral Services Dec. 5, 2023 at Lundy Funeral home.

**Constable** – James L. Fleury, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 7, 2023 at St. Francis of Assis Church; burial in St. Francis of Assis Cemetery.

**Heuvelton** – Helen E. (Richards) Liberati, 96; Mass of Christian Burial at St. Raphael's Church; burial in Hillcrest Cemetery.

**Lake Placid** – Joyce Ann (Parker) Evans, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 9, 2023 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

**Long Lake** – Lorrie E. Hosley, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 4, 2023 at St. Henry's Church.

**Louisville** – Donald F. Smith, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 9, 2023 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Lowville** – Gloria A. (Hazlett) Spadora, 66; Mass of Christian Burial at St. Peter's Church.

**Malone** – William C. Lamica, 66; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 9, 2023 at Notre Dame Church.

**Mooers** – Crystal A. (Patnode) Edgerton, 72; Funeral Services Dec. 7, 2023 at the Hamilton

Funeral Home.

**Morrisonville** – Mercedes (Sweet) Light, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 7, 2023 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Norma Jean (O'Marah) Cameron, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 5, 2023 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – James Frisina, 78; Private Services.

**Ogdensburg** – Colonel Mary Lou Havens, USAF (Ret.), 84; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 7, 2023; burial in Pine Hill Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Carol Kennedy Johnson, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 12, 2023 at Notre Dame Church.; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Joyce (Corron) Broderick, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 7, 2023 at St. John's Church; burial in Mount Carmel Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – James D. Demo, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 8, 2023 at Blessed John XXIII Newman Center; burial in Divine Mercy Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – John Hart, 70; Mass of Christian Burial 2024 at St. John's Church.

**Plattsburgh** – Doris Webb Neverett, 97; Memorial Services at St. John's Church.

**Ticonderoga** – Arthur Carpenter Hatfield, 89; Funeral Services Dec. 16, 2023 at the Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home; burial in the Sauquoit Valley Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Mary Jane "MJ" Fadden, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 12, 2023 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Winthrop** – Vernon Ivan Gray, 63; Funeral Services Dec. 4, 2023 at Hammill Funeral Home; burial on the farm.

**Winthrop** – Eugene L. Taylor, 86; Funeral Services Dec. 6, 2023 at the Hammill Funeral Home.

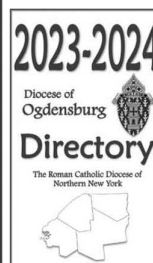


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There is a wide range of practical videos to support patients receiving palliative care and their families.

### Resources for Patients and Families

There is a wide range of practical and spiritual videos to support patients receiving palliative care and their families.

### Pastoral Care Training

For Pastoral Care Ministers, Eucharistic ministers and others who visit the sick, the website also provides a 5-video pastoral care training program.

### End-of-Life Moral Medical Issues

To assist those making end-of-life moral decisions, the website offers a video that is an overview of Catholic End-of-Life moral teaching.

### Resources for Professionals

To support those who care for the seriously ill patient, the website includes video resources, such as,  
*A Physician's Perspective on Providing Primary Palliative Care*

For more information, visit us online

[www.compassionandcope.org](http://www.compassionandcope.org)



Resources for  
Patients and Families

*Project Compassion was funded by a grant from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation*