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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 77 Number 40

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 1, 2023

Gather at the Table with the NCC

Bishop Terry R. LaValley discusses the importance of our diocesan newspaper, the *North Country Catholic*, as the paper begins its annual subscription campaign:

"I ask that every Catholic family subscribe to our diocesan paper. If you are a current subscriber, thank you for renewing your subscription in this week's campaign. Why not consider obtaining a subscription as a gift for a family member? I invite those who do not currently subscribe to consider the importance today to be an informed Catholic Christian and allow our diocesan newspaper to be a vehicle to help you and your families grow in faith.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

FOUNDATION AIDS IN FORMATION



Deacons serving Alexandria Bay and Clayton and their wives gather at the annual Assembly of Deacons with Father Arthur LaBaff. Deacon formation and training for pastoral life coordinators have been aided by grant funding from the Sisters of St. Joseph Foundation. The foundation will be accepting applications for a new round of grants in March. See the full story on Page 7.

GATHER AT THE TABLE



Adam Fleury of Plattsburgh, a martial arts instructor, discusses how he came to love Jesus in the Eucharist and how he shares that love with others in this first installment of an occasional series, "Gather at the Table." The series will highlight diocesan residents who love the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

Pope: Free yourself from 'full schedules'

(CNA) – Pope Francis said Lent is a good time to examine ourselves in the light of truth, to let go of distractions like overbooked calendars, and to improve our relationships with God and others.

"Let us set out on the path of fasting and use these 40 days to take stock of ourselves, to free ourselves from the dictatorship of full schedules, crowded agendas, and superficial needs, and choose the things that truly matter," the pope said on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22.

"This," he said, "is the favorable time to be converted, to stop looking at ourselves and to start looking into ourselves."

Pope Francis marked the start of the season of Lent, the penitential period before Easter, with Mass at the Basilica of Santa Sabina on Rome's Aventine Hill.

Unlike years prior, Francis did not take part in a penitential procession from the nearby Church of St. Anselm before the Mass. The pope entered Santa Sabina in a wheelchair, which he has used regularly since developing a

problem with his knee a year ago.

Cardinals, bishops, priests, the Benedictine monks of St. Anselm, the Dominican friars of Santa Sabina, and laypeople took part in the procession, which began with a brief moment of prayer at St. Anselm church. Catholics inside and outside the churches sang the Litany of the Saints as the procession prayerfully walked the roughly 1,000 feet between the two churches.

Pope Francis said at Mass that we should ask ourselves: "How many distractions and trifles dis-

tract us from the things that really count? How often do we get caught up in our own wants and needs, lose sight of the heart of the matter, and fail to embrace the true meaning of our lives in this world?"

"Lent is a time of truth, a time to drop the masks we put on each day to appear perfect in the eyes of the world. Lent is a time, as Jesus said in the Gospel, to reject lies and hypocrisy: not those of others, but of ourselves. Look them in the face and grapple [with them]," he said.

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Close to the Lord, each other

I hadn't spent time with her in probably a year or more, so when I ran into an old friend while we were both out to dinner with other friends, we decided to schedule a time to get together.

Soon after our chance encounter, we were exchanging text messages trying to schedule a time that worked around our busy schedules.

I suggested a Tuesday gathering.

"I usually go to 5:30 Mass on Tuesday," my friend replied. "Want to join me for Mass before dinner?"

So that's what we did. We

gathered for Mass at St. Mary's in Massena and dinner at a favorite local restaurant on Fat Tuesday, the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.



Darcy L. Fargo

We gathered at the Lord's table and we shared in His Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. We shared a time of close encounter with our Lord.

Then, we went to that restaurant and spent over two hours eating the pile of appetizers we ordered and chatting, catching up on changes in our lives and where we think God is calling us to move next. We had

a close encounter with each other.

It seems like close encounters often happen when we "Gather at the table," the theme of this year's North Country Catholic subscription campaign. We gather around tables with our loved ones, family and friends, to share sustenance and conversation. We gather around tables to celebrate weddings, to celebrate lives, to celebrate countless events in our lives. We gather around tables to offer support to one another in times of struggle and grief. And we gather around the table of our Lord, the altar, as we share with each other our encounters with the Lord.

We share a lot when we gather around tables.

Here at the North Country Catholic, we "gather at the table" to share the stories of how people are following God's call in their lives here in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. We share information from Bishop LaValley about new developments and changes. We share what's happening in the nation and in the world.

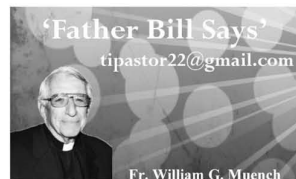
We thank you, our subscribers and supporters, for gathering at the table with us. We thank you for your prayers, your feedback, your story ideas and your notes of kind words. We look forward to continuing to "gather at the table."

Time in the desert with Jesus

Lent – the Scripture readings at the Lenten Masses, each Sunday and each weekday, are the very same each year. Each year during Lent as I prepare for the celebration of a Mass, I meet these old friends. I have prayed over these same Scriptures every Lent. I have prepared homilies based on these same Scriptures every Lent, year after year. So, this year, as each year before, my challenge is to put new life into these same Scriptures.

So, let us begin with the Gospel reading for the First Sunday of Lent. This begins to lead to put us into the Spirit of Lent. We read that Jesus is led into the desert by the Holy Spirit to prepare for his public ministry. Our present-day Lent gives us a new invitation to join Jesus in the desert to find our path to sanctity and to build a new relationship with the Lord.

Each year our first challenge in Lent is to remember the reason for all this Lenten stuff – all the praying and fasting. The penances of Lent are not an end in themselves. Lent is not just about



Fr. William G. Muench

getting things done. These mortifications of Lent have a purpose – they must accomplish something.

The first challenge of Lent is for us to acknowledge that we are sinners. We have to deal with this. Changes must be made. As we enter into our Lenten Program, we are beginning a time of reform for a sinful way of life.

During the time of Lent, we undertake this time of prayer and penance to demonstrate to ourselves that we are capable of better things. As we accept the challenge of reforming our lives, we realize quickly that we cannot do so without the grace of God. This means taking a step in the right direction. We are seeking a new way of life.

Jesus often uses as an example for our spiritual life the pruning of a fruit tree. My gardening friends have

helped me understand how this procedure of pruning is important in making a fruit tree more fruitful. Lent is a time for pruning – a spiritual pruning time. There is much that is useless and perhaps harmful in our lives, much that saps our energy, and diminishes our spiritual fruitfulness. What shall we prune from ourselves this Lent so that we may become more fruitful branches of Christ, the true Vine.

Lent provides us with a window of opportunity to consider ourselves to see how we can become better followers of Our Lord, Jesus. Each year we have this unique opportunity – in accepting the time of Lent again. This is the challenge – the lifelong challenge to be transformed by Our Savior, to be guided on our road to sanctity.

Jesus invites us to walk with him during his 40 days of testing in the desert. Our desert is our time of Lent. Jesus was left alone in that harsh and austere environment to wrestle with the temptation to seek an easy or comfortable course that

would avoid pain and hardship, humiliation and rejection, suffering and death on the cross. In that desert, Jesus learned and accepted the will of the Father, even though it would lead him to the cross.

Lent – our time in the desert – leads us to an important time of transformation, a time to change, a time to discover the Father's will for us. The world presents so many temptations to lead us to renounce our faith, temptations are that call that tries to get us to make choices that will lead us, little by little, away from what God expects of us. We have so much to learn from Our Lord, so much to prepare for.

Our Lord Jesus wants to bring us Holy Spirit to help us in our weakness and to be our guide us through our time of temptation and testing. The Lord fills our lives with his grace – to the humble who acknowledge their dependence on him. With the help of Our Savior, may you find peace and happiness through your time of Lent, your time in the desert with Jesus.

FOLLOW ME:

Gather at the table with the NCC

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

There's nothing complicated or exceptional about a table. While there are a variety of makes and models, a table is typically just four legs with a flat surface on top. Yet, extraordinary things can happen when we gather at a table.

Important family conversations and celebrations almost always include a meal with those we love. We share both nourishment and the gift of ourselves with one another around a table. There's nothing that can beat sharing stories with loved ones around the kitchen table. Beautiful and useful items are created at workshop tables, sewing tables or crafting tables. Decisions that impact others, sometimes millions of others, are made by individuals gathered at tables to conduct business or governmental affairs.

While all those moments and all those tables can be significant, they pale in comparison to our gathering around the Lord's table at Mass. This is no ordinary table, but the very altar upon which ordinary bread and wine become the Eucharist, the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We gather around that extraordinary, sacred table as the Church, as a family of faith, offering our very lives with the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus to our Father in heaven.

I invite the faithful of

the Diocese of Ogdensburg to also "Gather at the Table" with the North Country Catholic this year. Our editor, Darcy Fargo, and editorial assistant, Christine Ward, work hard in preparing the menu that is offered

to our readers. The NCC shares stories of individuals, couples and families who love the Lord and do great things in His service here in the North Country. The newspaper shares information about events and happenings around the diocese and helps us learn about opportunities to further connect and grow in faith and love of the Lord. Through the North Country Catholic, I communicate with Catholics around the diocese as we move forward together in this journey of faith, guided by the One we encounter at the Sacred Table, Jesus Christ.

This weekend, the annual North Country Catholic subscription campaign begins. I ask that every Catholic family subscribe to our diocesan paper. If you are a current subscriber, thank you for renewing your subscription in this week's campaign. Why not consider obtaining a subscription as a gift for a family member? I invite those who do not currently subscribe to consider the importance today to be an informed Catholic Christian and allow our diocesan newspaper to be a vehicle to help you and your families grow in faith.

"Gather at the Table"

with us by subscribing to the North Country Catholic. Thank you for your prayerful support.

Faithfully yours in Christ,



Most Reverend
Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg



Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley



**Extraordinary things
can happen when we
*Gather at the Table.***

**NORTH COUNTRY
CATHOLIC**
WEEKLY NEWSPAPER FOR THE DIOCESE OF OGDENBURG

The *NCC* shares stories of individuals, couples and families who love the Lord and do great things in His service here in the North Country. The newspaper shares information about events and happenings around the diocese and helps us learn about opportunities to further connect and grow in faith and love of the Lord. Through the *North Country Catholic*, Bishop LaValley communicates with Catholics around the diocese as we move forward together in this journey of faith, guided by the One we encounter at the Sacred Table, Jesus Christ.

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- Call our office at 315-608-7556



Sister brings healing, reflection in two events

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

A visiting Dominican sister will bring opportunities for reflection, prayer and Christ's healing in two separate events planned by the diocesan Office of Faith Formation and Office of the New Evangelization.

Sister Mary Michael Fox, of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia in Nashville, will present a Women's Prayer and Healing Retreat from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, March 31, in the Hearthside Room at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown. The theme for the event is "If You Only Knew: Reflections on John 4: 1-26." The cost is \$20 for the session, and financial assistance is available. To register, go to www.rcdony.org/healingretreat.

The next day, Saturday, April 1, Sister Mary Michael will present "Blessed, Broken, Given:

Living Eucharistia!—A Day of Reflection" from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg. The cost is \$30 and includes lunch. Financial assistance is available. To register, visit www.rcdony.org/dayofreflection.

Catherine Russell, assistant director of Faith Formation, said she became familiar with Sister Mary Michael at an event held in the summer at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio. There, Russell, along with Anita Soltero, assistant director of Faith Formation, and Deb Mullin, Faith Formation coordinator for the Catholic Community of St. Peter, St. Mary, St. Hedwig in Lowville, Glenfield and Houseville, attended a workshop presented by the Dominican sister. Mullin had previous experience with Sister Mary Michael (see the sidebar story on this page), but it was Russell's first encounter with the sister.

"I'm hard to please," said Russell. "It takes a lot to impress me. That woman is gifted. She's funny and engaging, but she can also draw you into a very meditative and prayerful state very easily. Her presentations are really something special."

The Women's Prayer and Healing Retreat will be "meditative on healing and prayer," Russell said. The retreat will include time in the chapel.

The April 1 event is "open to anyone who wants to come," Russell noted.

"The focus is living a Eucharistic life," she said. "It'll start with Mass. There will be some presentations and prayer, and there will be some discussion. It should be amazing!"

Registration for both events is open until the day prior.

For more information, contact the Office of Faith Formation at 315-393-2920.

Encounter with sister brings peace

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

It was an encounter that gave her insights and peace.

Deb Mullin, Faith Formation coordinator for the Catholic Community of St. Peter, St. Mary, St. Hedwig in Lowville, Glenfield and Houseville, first encountered Sister Mary Michael Fox, the Dominican Sister of St. Cecilia in Nashville who will be giving two presentations in the Diocese of Ogdensburg in coming weeks, in 2021, shortly before the death of her son, Jeremy. Mullin was attending a conference at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio when she met the sister.

"I was crying," Mullin said. "She walked up to me and said, 'is there something I can do for you?' I told her my son is an alcoholic and is very sick. She prayed over me. She gave me a big hug."

Mullin said she had been struggling to understand her son's illness and some of his decisions and actions.

When she attended the sister's presentation shortly after, the presentation focused on addiction and alcoholism.

"It was divine intervention," Mullin said. "Her presentation just made it so much clearer to me. I always thought, 'he could stop if he wanted to.' I thought he wasn't trying hard enough. She helped me understand the disease. It's like two sides of the brain — one saying 'don't do it! Don't drink,' and the other saying, 'do it! Have the drink!'"

Mullin said growing in understanding helped her tremendously.

"It gave me some peace," she said. "She helped me get over that hump and helped me understand. That presentation was on a Tuesday night. Jeremy died the following Monday."

God gifted Mullin with peace in other ways, as well.

Mullin noted that she was initially saddened that her son didn't go to confession and receive absolution when he had an opportunity in the latter part of his life.

"(Jeremy's child) was making her first reconciliation," Mullin said. "I really wanted him to go. He didn't."

Jeremy was, however, able to celebrate the sacrament and receive the anointing of the sick prior to his death.

"We arranged to have a priest visit him in the hospital," Mullin said. "He was very, very sick at that point, but he was able to make his confession. It was very peaceful when he went."

Mullin said she still grieves her son, but she knows he is now free of his suffering and addiction.

Mullin said she was able to share the peace she was given with Sister Mary Michael when Mullin saw her again over the summer.

"I was able to tell her how peaceful it was when he died," she said. "She gave me a big hug."

What is a Foster Grandparent?

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

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



Am I Qualified to be a Foster Grandparent?

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

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



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

Ray Foote
age 89
Foster
Grandparent

Want more info about how to get started?

Contact Melissa Howard,
Volunteer Coordinator

PHONE:

(518)359-7688

EMAIL:

mhoward@cathcharities.org

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

'My journey was just showing up'

By Mary Beth Bracy
Contributing Writer

"At the end of a homily Father Medenel (Angrand) was giving, he invited people, saying 'Come taste and see' and that was my journey with Eucharistic Adoration. I just tasted and saw and tried it, wanting to take another step in my journey in relationship with Christ. The first time I was in there (the chapel at St. John's) it was revealing to me that process – so peaceful and meditative," shared Adam Nathan Fleury, a Plattsburgh native.

Fleury is the owner and operator of the Ludus Combat Club (Ludi was a Roman gladiator school), which integrates faith into martial arts.

"We pray at the end of our training sessions," Fleury said. "We're all traumatized in this world. My goal is to help members, give them a skill set, make them go around like a lion. I incorporate Jesus and martial arts to make it a whole family. We are open six days a week Monday – Saturday. We train in strength, wrestling, boxing and Thai boxing."

Fleury shares more than combat training with his students.

"I share the testimony of what I've experienced in my life," he said. "I try to bring people to Church when I can. I've been blessed that some people come with me. The love of the Lord is growing with us in our martial community. More men are trying and seeing. I can only show the way and the path that people showed me. We bring people into prayer in our facility."

Fleury said the Real Presence of Jesus in the



Gather at the table

INTRODUCING NEW SERIES

Editor's note: This article the first installment of what we intend to be an occasional series highlighting individuals in the Diocese of Ogdensburg who love to 'Gather at the Table' with our Lord in the Eucharist. To keep this series going, the *North Country Catholic* needs suggestions! If you or someone you know has come to love Jesus in the Eucharist, we'd love to tell the story! Please send nominations with the individual's name and contact information to dfargo@rc-dony.org or call 315-393-2920.

Eucharist transformed his life.

"When I'm in the Eucharistic Adoration chapel, I'm observant of my choices and each individual choice of my life," he said. "That may be one of the only things that we have to choose: to serve our Lord or those who oppose our Lord. I don't believe that choices are trivial anymore. Being there (at Adoration) is one of the most tangible connections to our Lord, much like in church when the Holy Spirit descends upon us. We're being touched by the presence of God."

When one of his friends invited him to go to Adoration, Fleury was hesitant at first. Now he's been a scheduled weekly adorer for two and a half years.

"I was raised Catholic and became a born-again Christian in my teen years," he said. "Then I was in the Army. I was sinful in nature, running around the world. Coming back to God, I had experience in meditation. (When I went to Adoration) I was transported immediately to the deepest states of meditation alone or with others – just staring at the Sacred

Host. That was my initiation to adoring the Holy Eucharist. It's one of my favorite parts of the week no matter what. It's just what I need a lot of times. You do feel Jesus' love for you intimately there."

Several years ago, Fleury worked for the Department of Defense and State. He spent seven years in Thailand and then lived in the Philippines.

"I was making great money but terribly unhappy and didn't want to do it anymore," he said. "Redefining myself, I found clarity again on the road to God. Now I'm married with a son. One thing Jesus will give you is fulfillment."

Fleury said his journey to Christ involved a number of detours and misdirections.

"I almost died in the Philippines in my early 30s," he said. "I believed God was real when I was three or four and I had to circumvent back to that. Of course, I had pitfalls, and the lessons learned I would continue on the journey. I would read about the saints. It was just continuing on the path no matter what."

Fleury explained what it is like to him to experi-

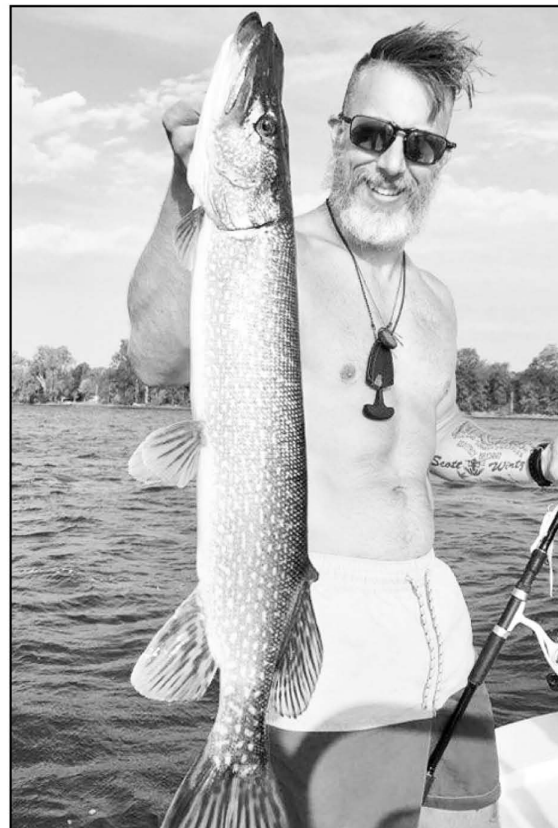


PHOTO PROVIDED

Martial arts instructor Adam Fleury loves spending time with our Lord in Adoration. He tries to share that love of Christ with his students and others.

ence the power of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist at Adoration.

"I feel the presence of the Lord, right then and there when you enter the room, when you're praying, when you're meditating on His sufferings," he said. "It's hard to explain to a non-Catholic Christian. It's a feeling in your heart. It's meditative combined with an all-encompassing feeling of belonging and it's wonderful."

When he was in his early 30s, coming from war and poverty, Fleury reconnected with God.

"I really was up against it when I was journeying back to Jesus," he said. "I had a deep connection

through our Blessed Lady. My mother is truly a saint in my life. The first emissary I connected with was Our Lady. I was reading about the saints and Eastern texts. I said, 'God please show me signs, I'm trying.' I never had a St. Paul in the road experience. Mary came to me and whenever I called her for three weeks. It was like the greatest mother's love of all time that you could feel was embracing and encompassing me in morning meditations and prayer. My experimentation was replaced with belief that I couldn't remove anymore."

Fleury doesn't keep his

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Environmental Stewardship

Feeding the hungry

It is repeatedly mentioned in the Bible that we have a responsibility to feed the hungry. Because of the massive scope of hunger in our world and in segments of our local society, there are many ways we can help those in need.

Throughout the North Country, there are organizations, some local and some regional, that have been formed to address hunger in our communities. Many grocery stores and churches have collection boxes to accept food donations for local food banks. Monetary donations are also always accepted, as there are costs associated with maintaining a charitable organization. Volunteering to help at a food pantry or meal kitchen is another way of assisting these worthwhile endeavors.

In the Gospel of Matthew (25:35), Jesus encourages us to give food to the hungry and drink to the thirsty as a means of improving our spiritual wellbeing. And it is during Lent that we are asked to abandon our complacent attitudes and routines and try to become more active followers of Jesus. In feeding the hungry, it can be as simple as bringing a few cans of soup or other nonperishable items to a food pantry collection box. If you do this during Lent, it may become a habit that can bring relief to individuals and families experiencing food insecurity.

Connecting positively with others you may never know is one sure way of improving life on this planet. Feeding the birds is a great practice for helping nature but so is providing food to a stranger in your town. Coming to the Eucharistic Meal on a Sunday morning with several boxes of rice or noodles for a local food pantry may not seem very important, but in the eyes of Our Lord this action shines bright and reflects on all living things.

Rest in Peace

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

March 1 – Rev. Louis B. Demers, 1888; Msgr. Alexander P. Landry, 1955; Most Rev. Stanislaus J. Brazana, 1997

March 2 – Rev. Edward A. Dailey, O.S.A., 1901; Msgr. John J. Bent, 1949; Rev. Joseph E. Tessier, O.M.I., 1952; Rev. Raymond J. Wertman, 2021

March 3 – Rev. Francis McCranor, O.S.A., 1914; Rev. John G. Fitzgerald, 1925; Rev. Cyril Stevens, 1963; Deacon David N. Hennigan, 2009

March 4 – Rev. Jeremiah S. O'Brien, 1899; Rev. Thomas D. Hurley, 1934

March 5 – Rev. Edward J. Murtaugh, O.S.A., 1951; Rev. Paschal Rys, OFM Conv., 2013

March 6 – Rev. Louis F. Lussier, 1915; Rev. John G. Craven, 1921

March 7 – Rev. Alexander K. Klauder, 1934; Rev. Cornelius O'Mahoney, M.S.C., 1940

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrianne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rcdony.org Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340. If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at 800-276-1562 or www.ReportBishopAbuse.org.

'Just showing up'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

belief to himself. "I try to share this with people that might not believe and have some hardship," he said. "I think there's an answer for them. It's left a yearning in my soul, and it brings it full circle to the Eucharistic Adoration. I want to know Jesus more and more, and I had a feeling that Jesus loved me but I was too much a sinner. I was not able to get out of my own way to be in His presence. My journey was through Mary to bring me to a place where I've removed sins from my life. I am

thankful for that."

Fleury said he continues to find strength and courage in the Mass and in the Eucharist.

"Whenever I'm at Mass and I receive the Eucharist, it's like the ability to walk out and have the Holy Spirit with you and not placate the world – having the courage to speak up in these subtle areas, these gray areas," he said. "The Holy Spirit fills me with courage. That's some of what Jesus' love has done for me, and He has cleansed me. I believe that there is a purification process for certain – like a detox you would do or in a sauna. I

receive the Eucharist to go back into the world and to carry out God's will."

Fleury noted, though, that he has to put in work and dedication, as well.

"I told Jesus I would be there (for a specific time at Adoration weekly), and there were times when there was something needed at home, but things would work out," he said. "If you want to further your relationship with Jesus it does take discipline. I don't know many plans (God's) but I would keep showing up. I would meet other adorers and we would have awesome talks, and it would cheer me up. It's like walking, as it says in Luke: 'Knock and the door shall be opened.' We have to do what we said that we were going to do. You can't expect to show up the first day and have a miracle happen. You need to continue to have growth and pour energy into that."

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

can schedule sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. For more information, contact Jeannie Grizzuto in the diocesan Safe Environment Office at 315-393-2920 or jgrizzuto@rcdony.org.

Bishop's Public Schedule

March 1 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 2 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 4-8 – Parish Lenten Mission at St. James Church in Gouverneur

NEW KNIGHTS WELCOMED



PHOTO BY SCOTT E. NILES

On Feb. 16, the ranks of the Knights of Columbus Sarto Council 1059 in Canton grew as four men, (from left) Jeff Jones, Karl Doty, Paul Sheehan and Alex DeLaverge, became Knights of Columbus.

Sisters of St. Joseph offer foundation grants

In 1880, the first Sisters of St. Joseph arrived in Watertown, eight years after the founding of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The community has been ministering in the diocese for almost 150 years.

The Sisters established Catholic schools and engaged in social outreach ministry. They gave music lessons and established an orphanage.

Gradually other ministries evolved. The charism, or particular way in which the community lives the Gospel, is one of unity and living the corporal and spiritual works of mercy for the "dear neighbor."

A few years ago, the Sisters of St. Joseph in the diocese established a foundation to support the works and vision of the community.

The foundation awards grants to sponsoring organizations seeking to support leadership training in the diocese or to assist with initiating and sustaining existing programs, particularly to the marginalized. Grants can be up to \$4,000.

The fourth application cycle opens in March.

Recent awardees include The Adirondack House of Prayer for



(Left) Deacon Neil Fuller, pastoral life coordinator in the Catholic Community of Alexandria and St. Mary's in Clayton, celebrates a baptism. (Above) Healing Grace Center for Hope and Healing, based in Plattsburgh, helps parents in the loss of a newborn child. Both Healing Grace and training for pastoral life coordinators have been aided with grant funding from the Sisters of St. Joseph Foundation.

support of their programs and leadership development, St. Mary's Church in Clayton to help with costs associated with deacon aspirant formation and candidates for Formation For Ministry and Healing Grace Center For Hope and Healing to develop programs that assist

parents in the loss of a newborn child.

In past years, grants have supported leadership training for Catholic school principals and deacons who have been named parish life coordinators.

If you or someone you know is currently active in a leadership

role in a diocesan, parish or established program or is in training for such leadership, requests for applications for grant requests up to \$4,000 can be made to: Sisters of St. Joseph Foundation, 1425 Washington Street, Watertown, NY 13601. Attn. Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ.

Learning about faith, talents

Students in Watertown's Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Sunday Religious Education Class interviewed Tom Semeraro, youth director for the Diocese of Ogdensburg on Sunday, January 29.

The confirmation class and 6th through 8th grade classes combined for the event.

The students have learned how Apostles, Prophets and Martyrs have shared their faith and talents in the world, and so the students chose Mr. Semeraro as a present sample of Christian living their faith and sharing their talents with others today.

Jack Kilbride, 8th



grade, served as host moderator for the event. Students asked both prepared questions as well as some they came up with during the interview.

Mr. Semeraro did a wonderful job answering

question, offering samples of faith and sharing his journey of life with Christ.

Alicia Henry and Jessi Hanlin teach the confirmation class, while Jay St. Croix teacher grades 6 thru 8.



(Left) Confirmation students and students in grades 6 through 8 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Watertown recently interviewed diocesan Youth Ministry Director Tom Semeraro about living his faith and sharing talents. (Above) Eighth-grader Jack Kilbride served as event moderator.

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PLEASE NOTE: Parishes are listed with their legal parish name, not each individual worship site is listed as some worship sites are combined under one parish name.

Latin Mass attendees wait to see impact of restrictions

By Tyler Arnold
Catholic News Agency

Some Catholics who attend the Traditional Latin Mass are awaiting the next steps from their bishops after the Vatican ordered the dioceses to get approval from the Holy See before they can authorize Latin Mass celebrations within parish churches.

After Pope Francis issued an apostolic letter on July 16, 2021, to restrict the Latin Mass, bishops from across the country enforced the mandate in a variety of ways. The letter, titled *Traditionis custodes*, directed bishops to designate one or more locations in which priests can celebrate the Traditional Latin Mass. However, the letter states those locations cannot be within an existing parish church and the bishop cannot erect a new “personal” parish for those celebrations.

In some dioceses that already had thriving Latin Mass communities within parish churches, bishops granted broad dispensations that allowed parishes to continue offering the Latin Mass as before. Many of these bishops invoked Canon 87 of the Code of Canon Law, which allows a bishop to dispense the faithful from certain disciplinary laws within his jurisdiction “whenever he judges that it contributes to their spiritual good.” In some cases, the dispensations were temporary; in other cases, they were meant to be permanent.

The dioceses that took this approach include the Diocese of Springfield, Illinois; the Diocese of Lake Charles, Louisiana; the Diocese of Knoxville; and the Archdiocese of Denver, among others.

Even though many bishops believed they had this authority, Canon 87 adds that a bishop cannot invoke this authority when dispensations are reserved to the Holy See. On Tuesday, Feb. 21, the Vatican issued a clarification to *Traditionis custodes* to halt this approach. Cardinal Arthur Roche issued a rescript, a form of official clarification in response to a question or request, on behalf of the Vatican, which states that any dispensation to use or erect a parish church for the celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass is “reserved in a special way to the Apostolic See,” which means bishops alone cannot dispense these parishes.

Roche ordered bishops who issued dispensations without Vatican approval “to inform the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, which will evaluate the individual cases.”

CNA reached out to several dioceses whose bishops did not consult the Vatican before offering dispensations to parishes that celebrate the Latin Mass. Only the Archdiocese of Denver responded by the time of publication, stating, “the Archdiocese of Denver will comply with what is asked.”

Monsignor Charles Pope, who serves as coordinator for the celebration of the Latin Mass in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., told CNA that there were “two points of view” within the Church: Some believed that bishops could invoke Canon 87, while others believed Vatican approval was needed.

Pope said the rescript clarified that those who believed “the bishop could simply invoke Canon 87... were wrong [and] shouldn’t have done that.” He

said they are “expected now to directly ask the Holy See for this dispensation to be granted.”

Bishops who have not received Vatican approval “might have to now revisit this with the Holy See,” Pope said. He added that he hopes the Vatican will “be gracious in granting the dispensations even if [the bishops requested them] later than the Holy See wanted.” He said he is not aware of the Vatican denying any requests for dispensation, but noted the dispensations were “only for a period of time,” rather than permanent.

Some bishops, such as Bishop Michael Burbidge of the Diocese of Arlington, already received Vatican approval to dispense certain parishes from *Traditionis custodes*. However, these dispensations are not permanent but instead are only guaranteed for a temporary period, at the end of which they will be reevaluated. In Arlington’s case, the dispensations applied to three parishes but only last two years. For the time being, the parishes that can celebrate the Latin Mass are St. Anthony Mission in King George County, St. Rita in Alexandria, and St. John the Beloved in McLean. Latin Mass goers were also given five other options that are not within a parish church.

Pope encouraged “mutual patience” between Latin Mass goers and bishops who are trying to comply with the orders from the Vatican. He urged “creative solutions” for situations in which new locations are “too crowded or extremely inconvenient” and said they should be addressed “with a sense of urgency that these needs be reasonably met.”

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Housekeeper’s husband charged with bishop’s murder

(CNA) – Carlos Medina, the husband of Los Angeles Auxiliary Bishop David O’Connell’s housekeeper, has admitted to murdering the bishop, Los Angeles District Attorney George Gascón said in a press conference. “He admitted that he had done the killing and we believe we recovered the weapon that they were using, and we have other evidence from the bed, certain things that indicate that they were in the place where the killing occurred,” Gascón said in Spanish, translated here by CNA. Additionally, Gascón revealed that O’Connell had sustained multiple gunshot wounds. Earlier this week, it was reported that when O’Connell was found he had sustained “at least” one gunshot wound to his upper body while in his bedroom. O’Connell was murdered Feb. 18. If convicted, Medina faces 35 years to life in prison.

Catholic leaders criticize Biden’s immigration crackdown

(CNA) – The Biden administration’s new immigration crackdown that was announced Tuesday received widespread criticism from Catholic leaders along the U.S.-Mexico border. Referred to by some as a “transit ban,” the new policy automatically denies asylum to migrants who cross the border illegally or cross other countries illegally to get to the U.S. The policy will take effect May 11, when the pandemic-era measure known as Title 42 is set to expire. A public health order instituted by the Trump administration, Title 42 barred entry to large numbers of migrants on the grounds of the COVID-19 health crisis. Bishop Edward Weisenburger of Tucson, whose diocese covers large swaths of the southern border, told CNA: “I am deeply concerned about the announcement of Feb. 21 informing us that the Biden administration will further restrict immigrants from reasonable access to protections when fleeing violence.” Bishop Mark Seitz of El Paso also voiced opposition to the plan. “I dream of the day we can set political calculations aside & put in place a safe, humane, welcoming system to receive immigrants at the border – a system that respects the God-given rights and dignity of asylum seekers & all those forced to migrate,” Seitz said.

Vatican says Pope Francis has a ‘strong cold’

(CNA) – The Vatican said Thursday that Pope Francis is suffering from a heavy cold. The Feb. 23 message said that due to a “strong cold,” the pope distributed copies of his speeches at two morning appointments rather than read them aloud as usual. Francis still took part in the two audiences: the first with young priests and monks from Eastern Orthodox Churches and the second with a delegation from the German NGO and nonprofit Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science. The Vatican later said at noon Rome time that Pope Francis’ last appointment of the day, a meeting with the YMCA Italy, had been canceled. It also confirmed that other meetings went forward as planned.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

PREPARATION FOR PARISH NURSING

Plattsburgh - Mercy Care for the Adirondacks will offer preparation for the role of Parish Nurse.

Date: Beginning March 10

Place: St. Joseph's Outreach Center

Features: This course is open to registered nurses and others interested in health ministry in their parishes or with Mercy Care. Parish Nurses (Faith Community Nurses) promote wellness by health screening, health education, advocating for clients, connecting them to services in their community, listening and providing support. There is no charge, but registration is required. It is 36 contact hour course offered on Fridays and Saturdays in March.

Contact: For further information, please contact Alexandria (Lexi) Bevilacqua, Program Director at abevilacqua@adkmercy.org or 518-523-5446.

LENTEN FISH FRY

Plattsburgh - Holy Cross Parish to have a Lenten Fish Fry hosted by the K of C Council #255.

Date: Fridays Feb 24 to March 31

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30

Place: Parish Center behind OLV

Cost: \$12 per person. Dine in only

Menu: Alternating weeks of Cod and Haddock. Fries, Cole Slaw, Drink and dessert.

Contact: For more information call 518-563-0730

ADORATION

Ellenburg - Our Lady of the Adirondacks invites you to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during Lent.

Schedule: Fridays starting Feb. 24 to March 24

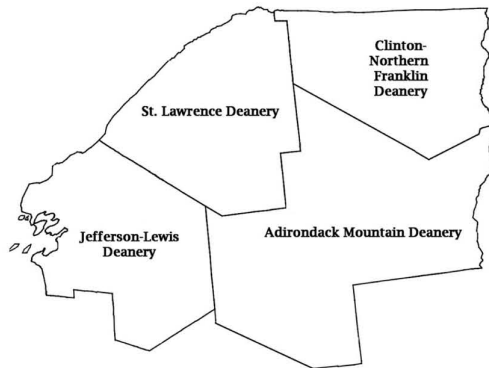
Time: 3 p.m. to 5

Features: Enjoy these quiet times of enriching prayer, worship, and communion with our Lord.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

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

Schedule: March 4



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,

Ogdensburg, NY 13669

e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

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

SUNDAY MOVIE EVENT

Plattsburgh - The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a movie night.

Date: March 12

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: In the Large Gym at Holy Cross Parish Center, behind OLV Church

Features: Showing "Mother Teresa, No Greater Love" Showtime is 1 hour and 50 minutes. Will be shown on a 10' screen with a Hi-Def Projector. There will be free popcorn and other refreshments and snacks for sale. There will no charge but donations are welcome. Donations will go to the Interfaith Food Shelf.

Contact: For more information call the parish office at 518-563-0730

CORNED BEEF DINNER

Fort Covington - St. Mary's of the Fort will have its 4th Annual Corned Beef Dinner.

Date: March 12

Time: 11 a.m. until gone

Place: Fort Covington Adult Center, take-out only

Cost: \$15

Menu: corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots and dessert.

LENTEN TAIZÉ PRAYER

Plattsburgh - Gather around the

cross for prayer this Lent!

Date: March 28

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: St. John's Church

Features: Taizé Prayer includes song, silence and Sacred Scripture in an atmosphere of quiet reflection. The music is simple, with brief refrains repeated in the manner of the mantra of the Eastern Church or the rosary of the Western Church.

FISH FRY

Chazy - Sacred Heart Church to have a Fish Fry.

Date: March 31

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7:30

Place: Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$15; Children 5-12, \$9; All take-outs, \$15

Menu: Fried Perch, Homemade Macaroni and Cheese, French Fries, Cole Slaw, rolls, beverage and dessert.

Contact: For more info, contact Noreen at the rectory 518-846-7650 or email sacredheart@westel-com.com

ADORATION

Plattsburgh - Adoration to be held weekly.

Date: Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

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

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

Features: Come to an out of the

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

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

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

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: March 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: March 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; Quart of sauce, \$6

Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Carthage - The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a monthly Pancake Breakfast to benefit Augustinian Academy.

Date: March 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

Menu: Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes, French Toast, Ham, Sausage, Baked Goods, Juice, and Coffee

Contact: For more information call 315-493-3224.

SOCIAL MEDIA - THE PATHWAY TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Watertown - Panel Discussion to be held addressing the recent

trends regarding Human Trafficking.

Date: March 26

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3

Place: The Children's Home of Jefferson County Dining Hall.

Features: The Sisters of St. Joseph Social Justice Committee in collaboration with The Alliance for a Better Community, The Victim's Assistance Center/Safe Harbor and local law enforcement and schools invite all to attend a panel discussion addressing recent trends regarding Human Trafficking, statistics from community surveys and advice for parents and caregivers to help safeguard our children. Light Refreshments will be served. Event is FREE and open to the public.

Contact: For more information please call Sr Bethany Fitzgerald, (315) 782-3460

WOMEN'S PRAYER AND HEALING RETREAT

Watertown - The Department of Faith Formation will be having a Women's Prayer and Healing retreat.

Date: March 31

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30

Place: Sisters of St. Joseph Hearthside Room

Cost: \$20

Features: The retreat will be run by Sister Mary Michael Fox, OP, a member of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia in Nashville.

Contact: To register go to, www.rcdony.org/healingretreat

ST. LAWRENCE

BINGO

Canton - The Knights of Columbus will have BINGO.

Dates: Feb. 27

Time: Doors open at 4:30 p.m., first game is at 7 p.m.

Place: K of C Hall

Features: Bring a friend or your family. Snack bar available.

LENTEN FISH FRY

Gouverneur - Lenten Fish Fry to be held every Friday during Lent.

Date: Starting Feb. 24

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Place: St. James School

CONTINUED FROM PAGE AA

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

Features: Dine in or take-out
Contact: Local deliveries available by calling 315-287-0130

40 CANS FOR LENT

Canton — The Knights of Columbus in Canton invite you to participate in the "40 Cans for Lent" program as part of your Lenten journey.

Features: Simply donate one can of food or a non-perishable item for each of the 40 days of Lent. Donations can be made at any of the doors at St. Mary's Church 68 Court St. in Canton. Lent provides an opportunity for each of us to live generously- to show gratitude for God's gifts to us and to share those gifts with others.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Norwood — Stations of the Cross to be held with reflection.

Date: Every Wednesday during Lent.

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: St. Andrew's Church

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

Date: March 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: March 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: March 4

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

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: Coffee and donuts after service in the parish center

Contact: Bob Brothers at 315-842-2886

FORGIVEN

Waddington — A free Lenten Day of Reflection to be held.

Date: March 11

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Features: Come and explore the transforming power and healing grace of God's Mercy available through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. *Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession*, explores the grace and healing offered in Confession and shows how this sacrament of mercy reveals the depth and bounty of God's love. Bring your own lunch.

Contact: Register Online rcdony.org/forgivenlent For more information contact Marika Donders at mdonders@rcdony.org

MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

Date: March 12 (Second Sunday of each month)

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

Place: Fr. Amyot Parish Center

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

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

IHC MYSTERY PLAYERS

Heuvelton - The Immaculate Heart Central High School Mystery Players from Watertown will present a creative play, *The Way of the Cross*.

Date: March 19

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: St. Raphael's Church

Features: Mystery plays on the Stations of the Cross have a history that extends back to the Middle Ages. The IHC Mystery Players bring the Way of the Cross to a modern level through the use of special lighting, music, pantomime and paraliturgical readings. Please note that small children may be frightened due to the nature of the play.

Contact: For more information

contact Father O'Brien 315-344-2383 or kobrien@rcdony.org

ALPHA

Massena — You are invited to ALPHA.

Date: Tuesdays starting April 4

Time: 6 p.m. to 8:30

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Contact: Parish office at 315-769-2469 or go to massenaatholics.com for info or to register.

SURVIVING DIVORCE

DIOCESAN EVENTS

The Family Life Office is offering the Surviving Divorce Program, starting late February in Gouverneur, Canton and Potsdam/Colton.

Cost: \$25

Features: Surviving Divorce features twelve video presentations that cover topics such as shock and grief, anger and forgiveness, money issues, dealing with children and a former spouse, and annulment and remarriage. This program is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later.

Contact: Register online at www.rcdony.org/survivingdivorce. For more information contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org.

YOUTH LENTEN RETREAT

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

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

Features: During this retreat, youth will be able to have fun while putting together your "Best Lent Yet" plan! This compact retreat will contain moments of fun, reflection, conversation, and workshops. Drinks and snacks will be provided. There is no fee to attend and, retreatants are encouraged to attend

the Mass offering.

Contact: Registration is required to attend. The deadline to register is: March 1. To register visit: www.rcdony.org/lentenretreat When registering, please choose the date and location that works best for you. For more information **Contact:** Tom Semeraro @ 315-393-2920 ext. 1415

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

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

Date: March 22

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

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

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

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

CHRISM MASS

Ogdensburg — All the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are invited to join Bishop LaValley in the annual Renewal of Priestly Commitment, the Blessing of the Holy Oils, and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism for use in all the churches of our Diocese.

Date: March 30

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: This ritual symbolizes that we are one family in Christ. The Chrism Mass will also be livestreamed at <https://www.rcdony.org/livemass>.

DAY OF REFLECTION

Ogdensburg — The Department of Faith Formation will be hosting a Day of Reflection.

Date: April 1

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

Place: Wadhams Hall

Cost: \$30, lunch is included

Features: Sister Mary Michael Fox, OP, a member of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia in Nashville will present "Blessed, Broken, Given: Living Eucharistia!"

Contact: To Register go to www.rcdony.org/dayofreflection

YOUTH RALLY

Lake Placid — "We are Jesus in the World" Youth Rally to be held for Middle and High school age students.

Date: April 22

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

with Mass to follow at St. Agnes Church

Place: High Peaks Resort

Cost: \$35, includes full day pass, lunch, snacks, games and giveaways.

Features: A presentation from Monet Souza and a concert from Catholic recording artist, Joe Melendrez. Closing Mass will be offered by Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

Contact: To register please go to www.rcdony.org/youth/rally If you have any questions please contact Jeannie Grizzuto at the Youth Office, 315-393-2920.

LOVING AUTHENTICALLY

All are invited to attend this free seminar, Loving Authentically: Sex, Happiness and Catholic Teaching designed to deepen our understanding of how Church doctrine on sexual morality connects with our happiness.

Schedule: 2 different times and locations to attend. April 22, 2023 at St. Bernard's Saranac Lake 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; May 20, 2023 at St. Mary's Ticonderoga 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

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

Santiago: The Camino Within to play in Watertown

Tickets are now available for a documentary, "Santiago: The Camino Within," that will show in Watertown as part of Fathom Events at Regal Theater in Salmon Run Mall.

The film will play March 28 at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at <https://www.fathomevents.com/events/Santiago-The-Camino-Within>.

"Santiago: The Camino Within" portrays the spiritual journey of pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago, the ancient route to the burial place of the apostle St. James at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain.

The physically demanding and spir-

itually challenging trek has fascinated people all over the world since the Middle Ages.

The film follows a few travelers, sharing their stories, the transformation of their souls, and the radiance that will be revealed at the conclusion of their journeys.

Led by Bishop Donald Hying, bishop of the Diocese of Madison, Wisconsin, the pilgrimage through such holy land will inspire the viewer on his or her own interior journey into a contemplative relationship with God.

A trailer for the film is available on YouTube.



A scene from the documentary, 'Santiago: The Camino Within.' The movie will show in Watertown on March 28.

Pope Francis to filmmakers: 'Reawaken wonder'

(CNA) – A good movie has the power to inspire wonder and to evangelize by reflecting the beauty of God's creation, Pope Francis told filmmakers at the Vatican on Monday.

"Dear friends, the world troubled by war and so many evils needs signs, works that inspire wonder and that reveal the wondrousness of God who never ceases to love his creatures and to be amazed by their beauty," Pope Francis said in a message to an Italian film foundation on Feb. 20.

"In an increasingly artificial world, where man has surrounded himself with the works

of his own hands, the great risk is to lose a sense of wonder. I share this reflection with you, entrusting you with the task to reawaken wonder."

In an audience at the Vatican's Apostolic Palace, the pope met with members of Fondazione Ente dello Spettacolo, a film foundation established by the Italian bishops'

conference in 1947 to promote Christian values in entertainment.

For more than 75 years, the foundation has supported filmmakers through education, workshops, reviews, and film festivals.

Pope Francis gave a short off-the-cuff speech to the group about how creating a film that is a "work of beauty" can be "a great

expression of God."

"Beauty is that work of the Holy Spirit which creates harmony out of everything," he said.

The pope also distributed a written message to the foundation members in which he described how God, after creating the sky, the earth, the stars, and all living things, became "a spectator of his work" after his creative ac-

tions.

"He contemplates what he has created and expresses his judgment: He 'saw that it was good,'" Pope Francis said, quoting the Book of Genesis.

"In this sacred page, dear friends, directors, actors, women and men who work in cinema, we can also find the meaning of your cultural work," he said.



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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

A lesson in patience and hope

We're definitely launched into the "discipline" of Lent. As we get out of bed each morning, we're getting more accustomed to looking ahead to some special practice we've decided on for the day, whether it's meeting with our Lenten prayer group for a study of the Eucharist, or joining with a friend to visit a nursing home, or just spending a little more time listening to what family and friends are saying. Lent provides endless opportunities if we look for them. Hopefully, we're within reach of a Mass celebrated at a



**Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore**

time that fits our schedule. Daily Mass is really the crown of Lenten practice – the sacred liturgy focuses our minds on the Word, nourishes our whole person in Eucharist, and gives joy and purpose to the whole day.

The first readings last week and this week are about our spiritual ancestors. Why is it so important for us to keep them in front of our eyes? Like all stories of ancestors, they teach us to live by avoiding their mistakes and imitating their virtues. Adam made a big mistake – disobedience,

March 5

Second Sunday of Lent

READINGS

Genesis 12:1-4a

2 Timothy 1:8b-10

Matthew 17:1-9

while Abram (or Abraham) shows us a huge virtue – faithful obedience.

The Gospel is about the "high places" in our journey, pointing to light and resurrection. Arriving at new levels in life can be frightening. Notice how afraid Peter, James, and John are when they see Jesus transfigured in light. He has already arrived! Jesus is comfortable with Tabor, talking with Moses and Elijah, both of whom had expe-

rienced light in their encounters with God on earth. The great Lawgiver and the great Prophet talk to Jesus who is the Law, to Jesus who fulfills all prophecy. We wonder what they talked about. Perhaps Jesus is telling them that soon, he will bring them to everlasting encounter with light, as soon as he has risen from death.

That's the purpose of this experience, to let Peter, James, and John know that the days of darkness ahead will only lead to light. The Father, thundering from heaven, corroborates the truth of Jesus. He will come back and bring us with Him one day! We just have to be patient. If we wish to live in everlasting light,

we must be light for the world on earth. That will be painful, like Jesus' own Passion and Death, but it won't last long.

If we're really serious about Lent, we'll take the Transfiguration experience as Jesus intended. As he taught a lesson in patience and hope to Peter, James, and John, so he teaches us to listen and wait, to listen intently to Jesus and His message, to live it as best we can. Lent is really short – just like our lives. Then comes Resurrection. Faith wins us a wonderful holy ground called the Promised Land, heaven. Lent, I think, is about fleeing sin, and journeying to holy places – places of prayer, challenge, and growth.

CALLED TO SERVE

Sacrament or sacramental

Our official head-counter estimated that the congregation at Noon on Ash Wednesday was around 300. Those of us in the sanctuary agreed. It was like old times.

If you send a survey to clergy, they will tell you Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular liturgical celebrations of the year, but no one knows why for sure.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. As with many other traditions of Christianity, the origins of Ash Wednesday can be traced back to ancient Rome. Sinners and penitents dressed in sackcloth. They were sprinkled with ashes to start their period of public penance on the first day of Lent. Do you re-

member back to the early days of the pandemic a few years ago? Sprinkling of ashes on our heads was an option used by some churches. What goes around, comes around.

Today, we use a much more precise application of drawing a cross on foreheads. The ashes identify us as Christians, but to those of us who remember tradition, it also means all of us are sinners and penitents.

It could be that Christians flock to the Ash Wednesday services to "be seen" wearing a black smudge on their forehead. That's a laudable form of witness.

Some people think it is because ashes are distributed free and no one

walks away from a bargain.

A few people consider this a holy day of obligation, it is not, so they will brave any adverse weather to be "at Mass" to get "ashes."

There is the inevitable straggler who will approach a priest or deacon after Mass and admit he or she was late and could they get their ashes now. They never ask for Eucharist. Curious.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church calls things like ashes, stations of the cross, rosaries, pilgrimages and processions "popular piety." It refers to such devotions

as an expression of the religious sense of Christian people.

There's nothing wrong with any of it. I applaud the folks who came out to our various Masses in all the parishes to receive Christ in Communion and to witness their faith by accepting the application of ashes.



**Deacon
Kevin Mastellon**

They heard the admonition, "You are dust, and to dust you will return," or "repent, and believe in the gospel." With those words and with that ash, we have begun our Lenten journey. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are the suggested courses for us to

follow this and every Lent.

I suggest we add return to church and invite others to come too. After all, Sunday is a Day of Obligation. Pope Francis said, "the Sunday encounter with the Lord gives us the strength to experience the present with confidence and courage, and to go forth with hope."

Seems to me if a sacramental day of popular piety was good enough to bring us to church, a Sunday of renewal will work even better, particularly during Lent.

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

Fasting from hatred

"Let us fast from hatred towards others, even our enemies, to discover Christ who lives in them. Let us fast from pessimism and the dark thoughts that gather in our hearts today, to fill us with Christian hope. Let's fast from worries about the future because we want to be filled with trust and faith in God. Let's fast today from everything that separates us from Christ Jesus, to be close to Him in all respects in this situation of labor and suffering." With these words and in a penitential spirit, the faithful of Myanmar, many of whom are internally displaced today, experience the beginning of Lent and celebrate Ash Wednesday, as Father Joseph Phe Lin Lay re-



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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counts, speaking in particular of the faithful in Chin state, in Western Myanmar.

The faithful of the region, with a Christian majority, gathered in prayer and in a spirit of penance, while a civil conflict rages in the nation which, as stated by international institutions, can no longer be defined as "low intensity." The priest encouraged the faithful to always hold on, in a time of pain, mourning and precariousness, to the Word of God,

"which illuminates every moment of life, the moments of joy and those of suffering." The faithful of the Chin ethnic group, one of Myanmar's ethnic minorities, pray intensely for the nation, asking God for peace, justice, healing, reconciliation, expressing closeness and solidarity with all those who suffer, especially the most vulnerable, and bearing witness to faith and charity with simple gestures such as gathering and praying

together, sharing the fast, donating time and attention to comfort those who are sick or injured.

The nation is the terrain of firefights between the military and the Popular Defense Forces – born spontaneously in the aftermath of the coup. With the great suffering of civilians, the fighting involves the territory of five dioceses (out of the 16 total of Myanmar): they are the dioceses of Loikaw, Pekhon, Hakha, Kalay and Mandalay. In this situation, Lent is lived in a climate of fear, uncertainty, insecurity and precariousness, given that "the exodus of people continues who, out of desperation, flees from villages where the army launches cruel offensives, without caring for the lives

of innocents." The displaced, Kung reports, seek refuge in the forests or go to refugee camps. Sometimes they seek shelter in places such as churches and schools, institutes which, as we have seen in the past months, "are no longer entirely safe places because the army never spares firing artillery shells at churches," he notes. In this situation, however, animated by faith, "let us fast from discouragement in order to live gratitude to God, who is love and hope; let us fast from bitterness to welcome and forgive those who hurt us," concludes Kung.

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

OBITUARIES

Au Sable Forks – Frank L. Lovely, Sr., 84; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 25, 2023 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Canton – Margaret Ann McDonald, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 25, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Champlain – Beverly Ann (LaPier) Gooley, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 23, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Chateaugay – Ronald Richard Henderson, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 27, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church.

Colton – Merton M. Scovil, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 25, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Colton – Dennis F. Shea, 63; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 28, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Stark Cemetery, South Colton.

Dannemora – Gloria Ann Vincent Miner, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 20, 2023 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Gouverneur – Anne Paige, 98; Mass of Christian Burial in spring at St. James Church; burial in New St. James Cemetery.

Lowville – Tammi (Jantzi) Birchenough, 58; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 20, 2023 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Malone – Daniel McCarthy, 67; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 18, 2023 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Massena – Doreen M. (Dumas) Fish, 78; Memorial Mass to be held in spring; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Massena – Ann D. Richards, 86; Mass of Christian Burial March 13, 2023 at Church of the Sacred Heart.

Ogdensburg – Jean V. (McCartin)

Chase Seeley, 96; Funeral Services March 11, 2023 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Clifford Alfred Matott, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 23, 2023 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Marlene Joyce (Fisk) Pelkey, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 22, 2023 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Potsdam – Mary (Pircsuk) Maroney, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 24, 2023 at St. Mary's Church.

Redford – Charlotte A. (Avery) Butler, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 23, 2023 at Church of the Assumption; burial in parish cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Barbara June (Peets) Charland, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 27, 2023 at St.

Alphonsus Church.

Tupper Lake – Fredolyn A. (LaVallee) Mitchell; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 24, 2023 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Tupper Lake – Clifford Seney, 95;

Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 23, 2023 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Watertown – Carmeline (Guardino) DeFranco; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 27, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

JOB OPENING

Saint Anne's Shrine in Isle La Motte, VT is seeking an Administrator Position to oversee operations of this historic attraction situated on the shores of Lake Champlain.

The Administrator is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Shrine, with a year-round staff of seven. The Administrator coordinates all mission-based programming in support of the Shrine's Spiritual Director.

The Administrator plays a key role in fundraising and donor development with the Shrine Spiritual Director, as well as financial and strategic business planning.

A bachelor's degree is preferred and experience in fundraising, organizational planning or hospitality would be beneficial.

This position is full-time year-round. Occasional weekend work is required. A competitive salary and generous benefits package supplement the beautiful surroundings and meaningful work.

Please send your resume and letter of interest to:
Steve Karcher, Society of Saint Edmund, One Winooski Park,
Colchester, VT 05439
or to skarcher@sse.org

Applications will be accepted until a new administrator is selected.

Going to confession? Watch for these changes

By Kevin J. Jones
Catholic News Agency

Lent is supposed to be a time of penance in the Catholic Church. This year, it's a time when priests in the confessional will use a revised translation of the sacrament of penance and reconciliation to forgive the sins of Catholic penitents.

The changes are noticeable in the formula of absolution, when the priest speaks in the person of Jesus Christ to absolve a Catholic from his or her sins. The "essential words" of the priest's absolution formula have not been changed, but there are "two minor modifications to the preliminary part of the prayer," according to the April 2022 newsletter of the Committee on Divine Worship of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Here's the new approved text, with changes in bold:

*God, the Father of mercies,
through the Death and Resurrection of his Son
has reconciled the world to himself*

and poured out the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God grant you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, [sign of the cross] and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The line "poured out the Holy Spirit" previously read "sent the Holy Spirit among us." The phrase "may God grant you pardon and peace" is only a one-word change: It previously read "may God give you pardon and peace."

The changes add "a little bit more richness to the language," according to Monsignor Richard Hilgartner, a former executive director of the USCCB's Secretariat of Divine Worship who is now pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Cockeysville, Maryland.

"God's granting something that we don't deserve, and that's what forgiveness is. It's something that we don't earn or deserve," Hilgartner



PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

A penitent receives absolution on Divine Mercy Sunday at St. Peter's Square. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops approved "two minor modifications" to the absolution formula.

told the Archdiocese of Baltimore newspaper The Catholic Review.

The sacrament of penance, also called reconciliation or confession, is the means through which God grants pardon for sins through the priest's ministry. In the sacrament, the contrite penitent discloses his or her sins to a Catholic priest who grants sacramental absolution. The penitent makes an act of contrition in which he or she resolves to not sin again. The priest generally instructs the penitent to perform an act of satisfaction, usually called a penance. This can take the form of prayer, such as praying three Hail Marys, for example.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' 2021 fall general assembly voted in favor of the new translation of the prayer, with 182 votes in favor, 6 against, and 2 abstentions. The Vatican's Dicastery for Divine

Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments approved the translation in April 2022.

The new language for the priest's absolution is allowed as of Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent. Priests must use the new language starting on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 16, the first Sunday after Easter 2023.

Hilgartner noted that the liturgical season of Lent is a penitential time when many Catholics especially seek out the sacrament of reconciliation. He told the Catholic Review that many Catholics feel peace and relief after going to confession, especially if they have been away from the sacrament for a long time.

"Inevitably, people say, 'I feel so much better. I feel like a burden has been lifted,' because that's what's happening. God is casting behind his back all our sins, taking them away from us

in a way that we don't know how to do for ourselves," he said. "I hear often about how people feel literally unburdened by this happening. And it's the great gift – that the Lord's taking this upon himself. For us, this is what the cross is all about, that he takes all of our sins to the cross so that we don't have to."

Under Church law, every Catholic has the right to an anonymous sacramental confession. In practice, priests often do not even know the identity of a penitent. In the Catholic understanding of the "seal of confession," the contents are "inviolable." Any priest who discloses the contents of a confession faces among the harshest penalties of the Church, an automatic excommunication.

Pope Francis has frequently encouraged Catholics to receive God's forgiveness in the sacrament of penance.



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