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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 19, 2023

Bishop LaValley bestows Wadhams award

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FULL STORY, PAGE 4

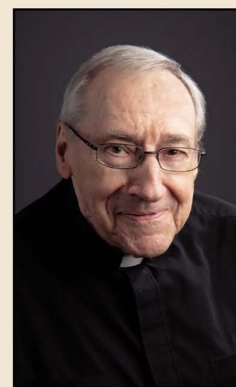
CELEBRATING THE SEASON



SUBMITTED BY MAURA KILBRIDE, RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

The Religious Education Program at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Watertown hosted an Easter Egg hunt after their 10:30 a.m. Easter Sunday Mass. The children were treated to over 250 eggs "hidden" on the church lawn. The sun was out and the kids had a wonderful time filling their Easter baskets after an uplifting Easter Sunday mass celebrated by Father Joseph Kanimea, M.S.C.

REMEMBERING MSGR. DENO



Msgr. Lawrence M. Deno died on April 9, 2023, in Plattsburgh, at age 90. Msgr. Deno is remembered for his commitment to education, his quiet, pensive personality, and his respect and love for others.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope tells 'keyboard warriors' to share Gospel

(CNA) - Pope Francis has told "keyboard warriors" to put aside online polemics and get out from behind their desks to proclaim the Gospel.

Speaking in St. Peter's Square on April 12, the pope urged Christians to go out and "get moving" to share the good news of the Gospel with the world.

"One does not proclaim the Gospel standing still, locked in an office, at one's desk or at one's computer, engaging in polemics like 'keyboard warriors' and replacing the creativity of proclamation with copy-and-paste ideas taken

from here and there," Pope Francis said.

"The Gospel is proclaimed by moving, by walking, by going."

In his Wednesday audience, the pope warned that it is possible to have "misdirected zeal" that is "doggedly persistent in the observance of purely human and obsolete norms for the Christian community."

"We cannot ignore the solicitude with which some devote themselves to the wrong pursuits even within the Christian community itself; one can boast of a false evangelical

zeal while actually pursuing vainglory or one's own convictions," he said.

As part of the pope's cycle of catechesis on "passion for evangelization," Francis offered a reflection on two lines from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians: "Therefore, put on the armor of God, that you may be able to resist on the evil day and, having done everything, to hold your ground. So stand fast with your loins girded in truth, clothed with righteousness as a breastplate, and your feet shod in readiness for the gospel of peace."

Pope Francis noted that St.

Paul connects zeal for the Gospel with footwear "because one who goes to proclaim must move, must walk."

"Evangelical zeal is the support on which proclamation is based, and heralds are somewhat like the feet of the body of Christ that is the Church," he said.

At the end of the audience, Pope Francis marked the 60th anniversary of the publication of St. John XXIII's encyclical *Pacem in Terris*, calling the document a "true blessing" for the world when it was published in 1963 amid the tensions of the Cold War.

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On my heart, in my head

You, the readers of the North Country Catholic, helped God put it on my heart and mind, but I don't know where to take it.

Over the five years I've been in this role, I've heard from dozens and dozens of you who identify with something I've written in this space. It took me a while, but I identified a trend. You tend to write to me when I talk about my struggles,

whether it be with praying, surrendering my will, talking to others about faith...

**Darcy L. Fargo**

It made me think about the fact that we don't have a lot of opportunities to acknowledge and share our struggles of faith. We don't often have room to acknowledge and share our imperfections.

I know I often look at other people around me in my parish, at the chancery

and all over the diocese, and I think "that person is so holy. I'll never be like that!"

Hearing from all of you (many of whom I would place in that "so holy" category), has helped me get to a point where I now follow that thought with, "I bet that person has struggles, too. (He/she) probably has some of the same struggles I have."

All those people who have written to me and told me they identify with something I've written make me feel a bit better

about where I am on my journey. It makes me feel like I'm not alone.

I'm blessed to have a circle of friends with whom I can talk about my struggles of faith. I firmly believe they're gifts from God. They help me to stay hopeful, and they help me travel this journey to Jesus.

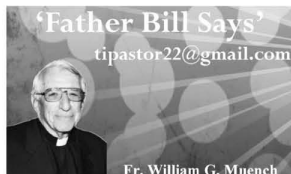
But I keep praying to determine what I'm supposed to do with this realization. While I don't have a path forward yet, I thank you for helping God put it on my mind and heart.

We're there in the Easter Scriptures

The Easter Season. We, Catholics, celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus for more than one day. Rather, it is an extended time of 40 days. This Easter Season leads us to the Pentecost, when we will remember the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles, the beginning of the building of our Holy Catholic Church.

The Easter Season is the time for the reading of the resurrection stories from the Gospels. There are many. These stories are familiar to you all. They are truly impressive and transforming Scriptures. Today, I want to encourage you to realize that these stories are about us; we must find ourselves in each story. In this way, we will realize our relationship with the Lord Jesus. Let me share with you a few examples.

Do you remember the story when Mary Magdalene discovered that the tomb was empty. She rushed to tell Peter and John. They ran to the tomb to see for themselves. Can you begin to imagine just how spectacular that moment was for



urrection. This was a moment of surprise and of joyful excitement. Jesus lives. We must experience the discovery of the empty tomb each new Easter. Jesus lives!

Then the story of Mary Magdalene standing at the empty tomb. Jesus comes to stand near her, but we are told, Mary could not recognize that it was Jesus. She thinks he is the gardener. She insists he tell her where they have moved the Lord's body. Jesus simply speaks her name, Mary, and she realizes that it is him. I believe that the Lord comes to stand with us often. However, we like Mary do not recognize that is Jesus. Yet, at the end of the day, I believe when we look back over our day, we will remember times when it was the presence of the Lord touching our lives. And if we are truly perceptive, we will remember the Lord speak-

ing our name.

There is also the story on the lake shore. The apostles decide to go fishing. When they come ashore, there is Jesus preparing to cook a breakfast of some of the fish. We can also remember when Jesus takes Peter aside. Jesus carefully offers a welcome to Peter - a time of reconciliation. Peter is truly remorseful of his cowardice that caused him to deny even knowing the Lord. Jesus speaks with loving forgiveness, leading Peter to reconciliation. Jesus surprises us when he simply says, "Peter, do you love me?" For Jesus this is what reconciliation is all about. I believe that Jesus makes it very clear for us: each time we approach the Sacrament of Penance, the Lord meets us at the door of the confessional and asks us, just as he asked Peter, "Do you love me?" How do you respond? This is the most important question that is asked of us by the Lord as we seek reconciliation.

One more for today. There is the story in Luke's Gospel concerning

two disciples (I am certain that they were a married couple) who are heading home to Emmaus from Jerusalem after witnessing the crucifixion of Jesus. We are told that Jesus came along and walked with them, but they did not recognize that it was him. They discuss the events of the Lord's passion and death. Jesus, who is still a stranger to them, describes for them the Scriptures that the Messiah must suffer to bring redemption to us all. They would finally recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

How often does the Lord meet us and walk with us. So many times, yet we do not recognize that it is the Lord, as he leads us, teaches us, guides, forgives and makes his love alive for us. Like those two disciples we will often recognize the presence of Our Lord in our participation in the Holy Eucharist. Each time we receive Holy Communion, I know Jesus comes to be with us in a loving relationship.

Easter: our crucified Jesus is raised from the dead. And we are there.

Remembering Msgr. Lawrence M. Deno

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

“He was a very gracious individual. He carried himself with a lot of dignity, and he imparted that in the people with whom he had relationships. He was very respectful of people’s dignity. He really tried to honor people.”

Father Thomas E. Kornmeyer described his friend, Msgr. Lawrence M. Deno, with those words.

Msgr. Deno died April 9 in Plattsburgh at the age of 90, after nearly 64 years of service as a priest.

Father Kornmeyer said he became friends with Msgr. Deno when the former was a student at Wadhams Hall Seminary College and the latter was an instructor at the seminary.

“I never had a class with him, but over time, we developed a friendship,” Father Kornmeyer said. “He was always available when I was a student there. He did a lot of spiritual direction.”

Both Father Kornmeyer and Father Bill Muench, a seminary classmate of Msgr. Deno, remember their friend as being quiet and humble.

“He had quite the academic pedigree,” said Father Kornmeyer, noting Father Deno had, in addition to his seminary studies, a masters in mathematics from St. Michael’s College in Vermont and doctorate in educational administration from Notre Dame University. “He never wore that on his sleeve. He wasn’t that kind of person.”

“He was a very quiet person,” Father Muench added. “Our first years at Wadhams Hall, we were young - very young. It was an interesting adventure getting to know each other. We grew up in different parts of the

world. Obviously, he was a good student. We got to know each other through academics and discussions. He wasn’t really into sports or anything like that.”

Father Muench said he and Msgr. Deno “saw a lot of each other” in their early studies.

“We had classes together, but we also spent a lot of time sharing with each other about exactly what we were getting into,” he said. “Later, when we were all finishing major seminary and getting ready for ordination, (Father) Joe Sestito and I were in Baltimore. We picked up (Msgr.) Larry Deno and (another classmate) at Mount St. Mary’s and drove to Ogdensburg for the ordination. I guess you could say we journeyed to ordination together in a couple ways.”

Father Muench said he and Father Deno later worked together a bit when Father Muench was a teacher and when he served in parishes with schools. At that time, Msgr. Deno was superintendent of schools in the diocese.

“He was certainly good for the (diocesan school) system,” Father Muench said. “He did a good job watching over the schools, and we had a lot of them in those days.”

Father Kornmeyer said his friend was also a good priest.

“(Msgr. Deno) was close to Christ and always demonstrated that in his ministry and in his work,” he said. “Whether he was counseling somebody or celebrating Mass or helping someone, he was always in persona Christi to people. He presented Christ. He really helped people grow spiritually. That’s what I saw in him; that’s what I observed. He had tre-

Mass of Christian Burial celebrated April 14

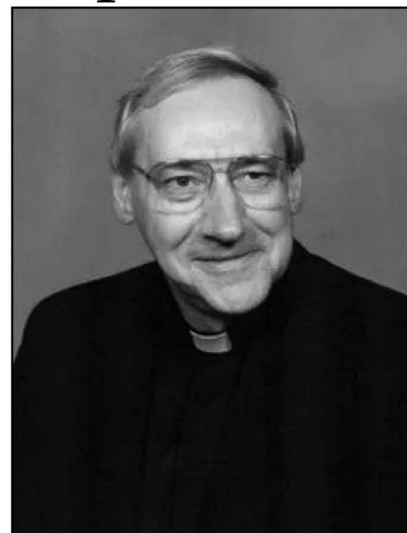
A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated for Msgr. Lawrence M. Deno at 11 a.m. on April 14, 2023, at St. Joseph’s Church in West Chazy. Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated the Mass, and Rev. Thomas E. Kornmeyer served as homilist. Burial was in Saint Joseph’s Cemetery in West Chazy.

Msgr. Deno died April 9, 2023, in Plattsburgh, at the age of 90.

Born in Plattsburgh on Sept. 21, 1932, he was the son of Maxime and Mary Elise (Martin) Deno.

He grew up in a French-speaking family on a farm in West Chazy. He graduated from Mount Assumption Institute in Plattsburgh and began studies for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall Seminary in Ogdensburg, where he obtained a bachelor’s degree in philosophy. After receiving a master’s degree in theology at Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., he was ordained a priest in St. Mary’s Cathedral on May 16, 1959, by Bishop James J. Navagh.

He later received a master’s degree in mathematics from St. Michael’s College in Winooski, Vt., and a doctorate in educational administration at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Ind. He was state certified to serve as both a math teacher and a school ad-



Msgr. Lawrence M. Deno

ministrator.

In his early years as a priest, Msgr. Deno served as parochial vicar in Clayton, Massena, Morrisonville, Tupper Lake and at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg. He later served as pastor in Hammond and Cadyville, retiring in 2017. In his retirement, Msgr. Deno

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

mendous respect for everyone. I never heard him judge anyone. He took people where they were and made them better.”

“He was a great guy, a good priest and a hard worker for Catholic schools,” Father Muench said. “He was good with

people, but he was a quiet man.”

A complete obituary can be found in the box on this page.



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Bishop LaValley bestows Wadhams Award

Dr. Celine Paquette honored at St. Mary's Church in Champlain

Bishop Terry R. LaValley presented the Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams Award for Distinguished Service to Dr. Celine Paquette during Mass at St. Mary's Church in Champlain on April 15.

In bestowing the Award on Dr. Celine Paquette, Bishop LaValley noted both the quality and the length of her service to the Church.

"Celine has given service to our local church for decades, serving her parish as a member of the Education Council of St. Mary's Academy, member of the St. Mary's Bazaar Committee and volunteer in many parish ministries," said Bishop LaValley. "She wrote a history of St. Mary's Parish for the celebration of its 150th anniversary in 2010. She has served as a historian for the Town of Champlain. She has served on the Diocesan Investment Advisory Committee for over two decades, serving as committee chairperson for the majority of

those years. That is quite a record of service!"

Celine is also a member of the Diocesan Bishop's Heritage Circle.

The Bishop Wadhams Award presented to Dr. Celine Paquette is signed by Bishop LaValley and reads as follows:

"Dr. Celine Paquette has graciously served St. Mary's Parish in Champlain, her community and our diocese. Celine has been a great support to the pastors of St. Mary's Parish and to the Daughters of Charity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Celine was committed to St. Mary's Academy and served many years on the Education Council of the Academy. Celine served on the annual St. Mary's Parish bazaar and participated in many parish ministries and activities. Celine served her community as county legislator, SUNY trustee, and vice-chair of the board of the Samuel de Champlain History Center. She served on the Board of Trustees for St. Michael's

College in Colchester, VT, and Commissioner on the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Celine was a member of the Diocesan Investment Advisory Committee for over two decades, serving as chair for most of that time. Celine is also a member of the Diocesan Bishop's Heritage Circle. Celine's generosity with her time, talent and treasure has benefited her parish and our diocese in many ways. This student of history has used her time, talents and treasure to build a brighter future for us as the People of God.

"In recognition of her outstanding service to the Diocese of Ogdensburg and the local parish, this award is bestowed as a sign of our deep gratitude and respect. In witness whereof, I have signed this award and placed upon it the seal of the Diocese of Ogdensburg this 15th day of April, 2023."

The Bishop Wadhams Award was instituted by Bishop Paul Loverde, the eleventh Bishop of Ogdensburg, in 1996, to recognize exceptional service to the Diocese of Ogdensburg by people of the North Country.

Recipients of the Award in-

clude Reverend Monsignor Richard Siepka, Reverend Monsignor Lawrence M. Deno, Mrs. Mary Lou Kilian, Reverend Monsignor Robert Giroux, Dr. Gerald Irwin, Sister Kathryn Healy, Dr. A. B. DeGrandpre, Mr. Clyde A. Lewis, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sanders, Sister Donna Franklin, DC, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Domingos, Miss Sally Rusaw, Mrs. Elaine Cook, Mr. Irving Papineau, Mrs. Noreen Barcomb, Mr. Glenn Burdo, Ms. Starr Burke, Mr. and Mrs. David Cline, Sister Sharon Anne Dalton, SSJ, Mrs. Ruth Demarse, Mr. Joseph Denoncourt, Mrs. Patricia Fassett, Mr. Pat Fontana, Sr., Deacon and Mrs. Gary Frank, Mrs. Connie Hatch-Young, Mr. and Mrs. Jeremiah Hayes, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald LaValley, Dr. and Mrs. Victor Ludwig, Mrs. Leslie Marvel, Mr. and Mrs. Angelo Pietropaoli, Mrs. Elsie Scruggs, Mrs. Mary Catherine Spilman, Mrs. Donna Steenberg, Mr. Daniel Sweeney, Sister Mary Christine Taylor, SSJ, Mr. Michael Tooley, Ms. Michelle Watkins, Mrs. Linda Young, Mr. Michael Bresnahan, Jr., Mr. James Brady, Mrs. Jane Boyea, and Mr. Bruce Bombard.

Msgr. Lawrence M. Deno

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

lived in Sacred Heart rectory in Chazy, where he continued to minister and serve.

He was named a Prelate of Honor with the title monsignor in 1989.

In addition to serving as a parochial vicar and pastor, Msgr. Deno

taught mathematics at Holy Ghost Academy in Tupper Lake from 1961 to 1966. In 1966, he was named diocesan Assistant Superintendent of Schools, a role he held until 1971, when he was named diocesan superintendent of schools. He served in that capacity

until 1996.

In 1971, he began teaching at Wadhams Hall Seminary College. He remained in that role until 1996. He served as chair of the Social Science Teaching department at the seminary college for nearly two decades. He also served as a professor at Mater Dei College in Ogdensburg from 1975 to 1981.

In addition to his parents, Msgr. Deno is predeceased by his brother, George. Survivors include a sister-in-law, Carolyn Deno; nephews, Jerry Deno (Lisa) and Jeffery Deno (Tammy); along with eight great-nieces and nephews and twelve

great-great-nieces and nephews.

The family extends a special gratitude to those who helped Msgr. The parishioners of St. James Church in Cadyville, who welcomed him and made his last assignment as pastor a special time. Sacred Heart Church in Chazy gave him welcome in his retirement home. Cherish, Jenn, Brenda and Kathy from The Orchards at Meadowbrook for treating him like family. Finally gratitude to the amazing staff on R7 of Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital who cared for him in his last days.

A priest to the core,

Msgr. Deno was also truly a family man. Even early in his priesthood, it was a family highlight when he returned home to West Chazy. The family always loved the slide shows from previous visits or places he had been. He was proud of his heritage and upbringing. He looked forward to spending time with the younger generations. A favorite outing included visiting someone's home for a meal. He loved to learn and teach. Msgr. Deno was blessed to have a full life doing the things he cherished most.

Arrangements are through Brown Funeral Home.

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APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Five keys to monitoring kids online

Editor's Note: April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The following article about abuse prevention is copyrighted property of National Catholic Services, LLC. It is reprinted here with permission.

By Caitlin Bootsma

National Catholic Services/VIRTUS

Technology is here to stay. Not only is it here to stay, it's everywhere! Televisions, mobile phones, iPads, interactive video games, smart watches, you name it and it's hooked up online.

The following are five starting points for guiding kids to use the internet and technology safely and well. Each family may come up with their own limits around technology use, but every family should think through how they want to approach these areas of monitoring online activity.

Use Protective Software: One of the most foundational things you can do to manage what your kids access online is accountability and filter software on all of your online devices. Systems like Covenant Eyes, Bark Home Web Filter, Circle, and options on your router or with your internet provider can help you not only limit what sites and apps kids access and when, but also allow you to see their online activity.

Share Passwords and "Friend" or follow Your Kids' Accounts: Many parents establish some ground rules when their kids are old enough to have their own email and social media accounts. These rules may include friending or following them so that you see what's happening on their pages and/or shar-

ing passwords--though it's important to know that many platforms allow them to block some people from seeing everything. Other rules can include only connecting with people they know in real life and not sharing any personal information such as address, phone number, email, or banking information. You can go through their accounts with them to ensure they are as safe as possible.

Discuss Photo/Video Sharing: Photo/video sharing should only be done with people they know in real life. Let them know any images they choose to share remain online permanently, and that once they share a photo or video, they can't get it back. If anyone ever asks them to send photos or videos of a sexual nature, they should immediately inform a safe adult.

Keep Online Activity Visible: Consider only having your kids use technology in public spaces in the house. This can help reinforce the message that they should not be accessing anything inappropriate and also make it easy for them to talk to you if they encounter anything questionable. Another option to consider is to remove access to electronic devices during bedtime hours. However, keep in mind that children may take electronic devices with them, or may use technology in places apart from your home, which means that regular conversations are important!

Regularly Talk about Online Activity: It can be easy for adults and kids to become isolated in their online activity; it can easily become their

own world, separate from the family. Make technology use part of your dinner table conversation - did they hear from any friends today? Read an interesting article? See something new

they want to watch? Like any other area of their lives, technology is a sphere where you can provide invaluable guidance and feedback.

As we know from our own lives as adults, the

internet has a lot to offer. It also has a number of risks, including safety, online addictions and more. We have the opportunity to help guide our kids how to use the internet safely and well!



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

NORTH COUNTRY
CATHOLIC
WEEKLY NEWSPAPER FOR THE DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

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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Environmental Stewardship

'Open my eyes, Lord'

By my back door, where I can see it each day on my way out to the garden or yard-work, is this quote. It serves as a much-needed reminder to me of the opportunity I have to draw closer to God by only walking through a door.

"We cannot protect something we do not love, we cannot love what we do not know, and we cannot know what we do not see. Or hear. Or sense."

— Richard Louv

The quote is a guide that directs me step-by-step to learn how to love what God created, but first I need to REALLY see what has always surrounded me. Each day, I need to become more observant — to see, to hear, sense the world that God created and not be caught up in my own thoughts and agenda or whatever seasonal task may be that greedily draws my focus, blinding me to the miracles and wonders surrounding me. Stop, pause, and look around. "Be still and know that I am." When we look at a painting, we may understand something of the artist. Likewise, when we look at Creation, our souls draw closer to God. Ask yourself, when was the last time I really paused to look at the small and large miracles surrounding me? Doing this cannot help but create a sense of wonder as we begin to observe all the miracles that surround us. And a sense of wonder is contagious. It is one of the most valuable gifts that we are given and that we can pass on to our children and grandchildren.

With the celebration of Earth Day on April 22 and Arbor Day on April 29 we are provided two invitations to pay attention to the silent miracles of new life unfolding before our very eyes. Then share it with someone — especially with a child.

When the scoutmaster raised his arm and held up three fingers, the entire scout troop fell into silence and gave their attention to the scoutmaster. It was what we

Rest in Peace

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

April 19 — Rev. William S. Kelly, 1908; Rev. Edward C. Laramée, 1932; Rev. William P. Fraser, 1961

April 20 — Rev. James Igo, 2007

April 21 — Msgr. Michael E. Fogarty, 1936

April 22 — Rev. Daniel M. Sullivan, 1933

April 23 — Rev. L. Victor Petit, O.M.I., 1898; Most Rev. Henry Gabriels, 1921

April 24 — V. Rev. Alfred L. Pelletier, O.M.I., 1978; Rev. Thomas Egan, S.J., 1994

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terriane Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianeyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-651-2267 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.

CALLED TO SERVE

It's a ritual, not a habit

did. It was a learned response.

In the uniformed services a leader will bark, "Aaaa-ten-tion" and get the same response.

All Sister had to do when I was in grammar school was look at us and we became little angels.

A programmed and expected response, like those above, is a little different from a habit. A habit can be good or bad.

Maybe you always put your right sock on before your left, or you smoke or drink too much even though you know you should not, or you double clutch before throwing a ball from second to first. We

are creatures of habit.

Creatures of habit is a cliché that means we do the same thing in the same way all the time for no apparent reason. Like sitting in the same pew every Sunday.

I had a guy tell me one recent Sunday that he would be early for Holy Thursday Mass because he was sure some "visitor" would take "my spot in my pew" if he didn't

camp in the location early. I never checked to see if he followed through.

Back in grammar school again, (we did not change classrooms, or teachers for that matter, all day long) we used to sit at the same assigned desk for the year. We did have one Sister who used to make us change seats every week or so. That was to cut down on the note passing etc. That particular nun was the exception, not the rule.

We all had places at the dinner table. We became used to our position on-line, Mary in front of us and Brian behind, all the time. It was a habit.

I would sit in the same place every class during the two years of Lay Ministry Formation and then in the same spot for all three years of Deacon Formation. It was a habit.

All of this, learned responses and habits, came to me as I was setting up for the Easter Vigil service. Some of what we would do that evening was a learned response. Certain prayers come to mind. We would hopefully sit where we usually did. A habit that is hard to break.

But tonight, at the Easter Vigil we would take part in a ritual. A ritual is "a religious ceremony consisting of a series of actions performed according to a prescribed order," the dictionary tells us.

This ritual, the Easter Vigil ritual, was extra special. According to the rite "after the service of light and the *Exsultet*, the Easter Proclamation (part one of the ritual), Holy Church meditates on the wonders the Lord God has done for his people from the beginning, trusting in his word and promise (the second part, that is, the Liturgy of the Word) until, as day approaches, with new members reborn in Baptism (the third part), the Church is called to the table the Lord has prepared for his people, the memorial of his Death and Resurrection until he comes again (the fourth part)."

This is one ritual that should become a habit for every Catholic.

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



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg is able to schedule sessions of the training, Protecting God's Children for Adults. To arrange for training, call 315-393-2920 or email jgrizzuto@rcdony.org

Bishop's Public Schedule

April 19 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 20 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 21 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 22 — 11 a.m. — Diocesan Youth Rally at the High Peaks Resort in Lake Placid followed by Mass at St. Agnes Church

April 23 — 1:30 p.m. — Confirmation at St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga with Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Schroon Lake

April 24-25 — Seminary Visit at the Immaculate Conception in Douglaston

April 26 — 10:30 a.m. — Priests Personnel Board Meeting at Bishop's Residence

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Biden administration to appeal to Supreme Court over abortion pills

By Peter Pinedo
Catholic News Agency

The Biden administration plans to issue an emergency appeal to the Supreme Court after a federal appeals court allowed a Texas judge's ruling to severely restrict abortion pill access.

The appeals court Wednesday night temporarily suspended the judge's ruling to invalidate the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval of the abortion pill mifepristone. The decision will, however, leave in place restrictions that will severely limit the abortion drug's distribution.

The three-judge panel from the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in Louisiana granted a partial stay of Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk's Friday ruling. It also reinstated mifepristone restrictions lifted by the FDA after 2016.

This means that the abortion pill mifepristone remains legal for the time being, and pharmacies such as CVS and Walgreens can continue to dispense prescriptions.

The drug will no longer be permitted to be distributed via mail, however. Instead, an in-person doctor visit to prescribe and dispense the drug is required.

Additionally, mifepristone's use will be limited to the first seven weeks of pregnancy, instead of 10, and a follow-up doctor's visit to check for complications is required after a chemical

abortion.

On Thursday morning, the Biden administration announced it intends to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court.

"The Justice Department strongly disagrees with the 5th Circuit's decision in Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine v. FDA to deny in part our request for a stay pending appeal," Attorney General Merrick Garland said. "We will be seeking emergency relief from the Supreme Court to defend the FDA's scientific judgment and protect Americans' access to safe and effective reproductive care."

Unless the Supreme Court rules otherwise, these restrictions will take effect Saturday.

Mifepristone is the first drug used in what is commonly a two-step regimen for a chemical abortion. The pill works to kill an unborn baby by cutting off the nutrients necessary for it to continue developing.

Given that chemical abortions now account for over half of all U.S. abortions, this ruling carries significant implications for the entire country, including states where abortion remains legally protected.

Erin Hawley, senior counsel at Alliance Defending Freedom, the

firm representing the pro-life groups in this case, responded to the 5th Circuit's ruling, saying: "The 5th Circuit's decision is a significant victory for the doctors we represent, women's health, and every American who deserves an accountable federal government acting within the bounds of the law."

"The FDA put politics ahead of the health of women and girls when it impermissibly failed to study how dangerous the chemical abortion drug regimen is and when it unlawfully removed every meaningful safeguard that it previously implemented," Hawley said. "The FDA should have to answer for the damage it has done to the rule of law and the harm it has caused to countless women and girls."

Speaking to reporters from Dublin while on a presidential visit to Ireland, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre responded: "We are going to continue to fight in the courts, we believe the law is on our side, and we will prevail."

The full 5th Circuit will review the case and will issue a final ruling unless one of the groups involved appeals directly to the Supreme Court.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Report shows 6 percent decrease in abortions post Dobbs

(CNA) – Legal abortions in the United States decreased by more than 6% in the first six months that followed the U.S. Supreme Court's decision overturning the nearly 50 years of abortion precedent set in *Roe v. Wade*, according to a report from the pro-abortion nonprofit Society of Family Planning. The average number of monthly abortions decreased from 82,270 in the two months before *Roe v. Wade* was overturned to 77,073 in the six months that followed the decision. This is a monthly decrease of about 5,377 abortions, which is about 32,260 fewer abortions over six months. Although the number of abortions fluctuated month to month, every month that followed the Supreme Court decision had fewer abortions than April 2022. The national abortion rate fell from 13.2 per 1,000 women who are of reproductive age in April to 12.3 per 1,000 over the six-month period after the decision. States that banned most abortions or imposed heavy restrictions saw a sharp downturn in abortion rates. States that kept abortion legal saw an uptick in abortion procedures within the state.

Vatican announces theme of Day for Grandparents, Elderly

(CNA) – The Vatican announced Thursday the date and theme for the third annual World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. The event will take place this year on July 23, the Sunday before the feast of Sts. Anne and Joachim, the grandparents of Jesus, and the theme for the day, selected by the pope, will be "His mercy is from age to age" (Lk 1:50). Pope Francis will preside over a special Mass in St. Peter's Basilica to mark the grandparents' day and has invited parishes, dioceses, associations, and communities around the world to celebrate the day "in their own pastoral context."

DOJ recommends no jail time for attack on Washington church

(CNA) – President Biden's Department of Justice is facing criticism after it was reported that the DOJ recommended three years of probation and zero jail time in a plea deal with a suspect charged with destruction of property at a Catholic church in Washington in June 2022. The damage at the St. Louise Catholic Church in Bellevue, Washington, amounted to more than \$30,000, which included the destruction of a Blessed Virgin Mary statue, anti-Catholic graffiti and smashed windows. The defendant, Maeve Nota – who was 31 years old when arrested back in 2022 – is also being charged on the state level with a hate crime and assault. During the attack, Nota also spray-painted a church employee's face and clothes. Nota – who reportedly identifies as a transgender female – entered into a plea agreement in March with the DOJ. In the agreement, Nota pled guilty to a misdemeanor charge of destruction to religious property. The crime holds a maximum prison sentence of one year, up to a \$100,000 fine and up to five years probation. If the court accepts the DOJ's recommended sentence, Nota will serve no jail time but be sentenced to three years probation.

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www.northcountrycatholic.org

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- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more



Find us on Facebook!



ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

COFFEE AND CATHOLICISM

Wells - Please join us at our Coffee and Catholicism program, where we will enjoy brunch as we view and discuss Word on Fire's Catholicism series.

Date: Every Saturday (except for Holy Saturday), beginning March 4 and ending May 13

Time: 9 a.m. to 10

Place: St. Ann's rectory

Features: We will enjoy brunch as we view and discuss Word on Fire's Catholicism series. We will have toys and books set up for little ones.

Contact: For more information, please call 757-817-4700.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

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.

DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR

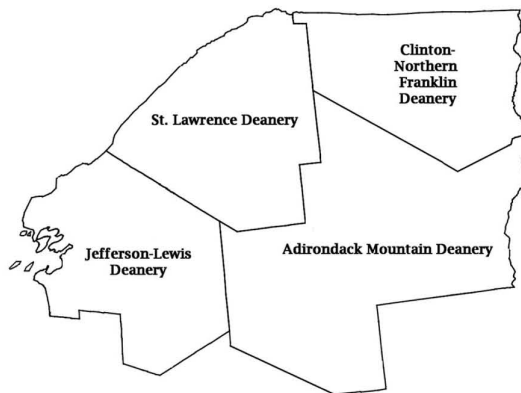
St. Regis Falls - All are invited to the monthly first Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour for Vocations.

Date: First Saturday of the Month

Time: Following the 4:30 anticipated Mass

Place: St. Ann's Church

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



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.

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

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

PRE-SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Watertown - St. John Bosco Preschool program to have open enrollment.

Features: Must be 4 by Dec. 1

Contact: For more information visit www.ihschool.org or call 315-788-4670 ext. 1

SPRING FLING

Watertown - Immaculate Heart Central will be having a Kentucky Derby theme Spring Fling.

Date: April 29

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: Faichney Business Complex

Cost: \$60

Features: Food will be by Savory. There will be a cash bar by Timewarp and music by Oceans Below.

Contact: To purchase tickets call 315-788-4670 x1 or online at <https://immaculate-heart-central.betterworld.org/events/spring-fling-kentucky-derby-styl-3>

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: May 7

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: May 13

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

ST. LAWRENCE

MEAL DELIVERY DRIVERS NEEDED

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

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

and receive a lunchtime meal Monday through Friday. A critical component of this program is the daily wellness check that is provided by this service. Drivers receive a mileage reimbursement. Typical deliveries take place between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Routes can be between one hour and two hours. You can volunteer for one day a week or several. Any help is greatly appreciated.

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

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 Saturday

Time: 4:25 p.m. preceding the 5 p.m. Vigil 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.

BINGO

Canton - Bingo to be held.

Date: April 17 and 24

Time: Card sales start at 5:30

p.m., Games start at 7 p.m.

Place: Knights of Columbus Hall.

Features: Bonus games are rising higher.

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

Date: May 3

Time: 8 a.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

Features: Rosary with devotions

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY DEVOTION

Massena - Sacred Heart Church to have first Saturday Rosary Devotion.

Date: May 3

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: May 3

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

MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Date: May 14 (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 Gonthier 315-212-5166.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

SURVIVING DIVORCE

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

Dates: Facilitators at each site will contact registrants to establish exact dates and times for the meetings.

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. It will help them find answers to their questions, restore their hope, and begin authentic healing.

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

THE LETTER

Join us for a viewing and discussion of The Letter: A Message for our Earth. The Letter is a documentary about how spiritual values call us to take action on the ecological crisis.

Schedule: May 20: Brushton St. Mary's Parish Center

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Features: The Letter follows six invited leaders from around the world who were invited to the Vatican by Pope Francis to speak about the effects of climate on their communities. We

will screen the 80-minute movie in three segments interspersed with discussion. Simple lunch and refreshments included.

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 super presentation from Monet Souza and a bouncing 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: Two 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 startaglia@rcdony.org

ORDINATION TO THE ORDER OF THE PRIESTHOOD AND DEACON

Through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, the Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg will Ordain to the Order of Priesthood Deacon Lukas Hermann Gruber and to the Order of Deacon Mr. Carter Gabriel Pierce and Mr. Douglas Alexander Schirmer.

Date: May 27

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: A Reception will immediately follow the Liturgy downstairs in the Brzana Hall. The Ordination Mass may be viewed at www.rcdony.org/ordination. The Ordination Mass program will be available at the same link shortly before the Liturgy.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Saranac Lake – Rachel's Vineyard After Abortion Healing Retreat to be held.

Date: May 26 to 28, Memorial Day Weekend

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

Features: If you or friend are hurting after abortion loss, please consider attending a Rachel's Vineyard healing retreat. You aren't alone, help is available.

Contact: Registration is online at www.rcdony.org/pro-life or by contacting the Respect life office at cmminer@rcdony.org. A list of retreat locations outside of our diocese is available at: www.rachelsvineyard.org.

GUGGENHEIM SUMMER CAMP

2023 registration is open. New this year is a mini session for youth 11-13 years old along with the annual sleepaway camp weeks for ages 11 to 18.

Dates: The season starts July 5th and ends Aug. 11th.

Cost: Mini session is \$200 and the weekend sessions is \$425 per camper. Meals and accommodations are included in the registration fee.

Features: There are so many

fun things to do at camp! Like arts and crafts, Project Adventure, Liturgy, rappelling, hiking, basketball, or soccer. Guggenheim has its very own beach where you can swim, tool around on our watercrafts and play watersports. Evenings at camp are packed with fun activities like bonfire time, a dance, outdoor movies, and camp-wide games. Summer Camp Guggenheim is a fun place where you can make great friends, escape the craziness of the world, and just chill with cool people like you.

Contact: To sign up for camp please visit: www.rcdony.org/youth/camp or call, Jeannie Grizzuto at 315-393-2290 ext. 1413

LIFE GIVING WOUNDS RETREAT

Ogdensburg – Retreat for adults whose parents separated or divorced and also for those who grew up in single-parent families.

Date: Aug. 11-13

Place: Wadhams Hall

Cost: \$200 for a shared room or \$250 for a single room.

Features: Financial assistance is available...do not let cost prevent you from experiencing the healing you deserve.

Contact: For more information or to register for the retreat, please contact Steve Tartaglia at startaglia@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920.

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake – Family Guggenheim registration is open.

Schedule: Aug. 17-20; Aug.

24-27; Oct. 6-8

Features: Family Guggenheim welcomes families of all dimensions to come enjoy a special weekend in the beauty of the Adirondacks. Expect fun family workshops and activities that will have you working, laughing and praying together. Celebrate Christ's presence in your lives!

Contact: For more information and to register, go to www.rcdony.org/family-life/fq.html or contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920, startaglia@rcdony.org.

PILGRIMAGES

RHINE RIVER CRUISE

Join Father John Yonkovic of Lake Placid on the Rhine River with Viking Cruises from Amsterdam, Holland to Basel, Switzerland in the spring of 2024.

Date: May 30 – June 6, 2024

Contact: For information call Deb Rothermel at 800-223-3884 or BTAGROUPS@gmail.com

PILGRIMAGE TO

THE SHRINES OF FRANCE

An eleven-day pilgrimage of shrines of France hosted by Father Andrew J. Amyot.

Date: November 6-16, 2023

Features: Visits to Lourdes, Nevers, Tours, the Loire Valley, Chartres, Mont. St. Michel, Bayeux, Normandy, Caen, Lisieux and Paris.

Cost: \$3,979 from Montreal (includes tour price, taxes and airline surcharges)

Contact: Father Andrew Amyot at 315-384-4242 or framyot2@gmail.com

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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Time with the resurrected Christ

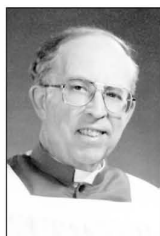
The bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is one of the best-attested events in history. If we can believe anything at all in history, we can confidently believe that Jesus Christ was seen alive in the flesh by a large number of eye-witnesses. This happened at different times and in different places over a 40-day period. These are established facts and have withstood attacks by many critics throughout the centuries.

Our first reading today is the word-for-word speech of Peter in the streets of Jerusalem to an astonished crowd of onlookers. At first, they think that the apostles must be drunk

- then, after hearing the words of Peter, they are distressed and fearful, crying out for mercy at their culpable crime - crucifying the Lord of Life. Most amazingly of all, 5,000 persons were baptized that same day, the day of Pentecost. What a stupendous beginning for the Church!

Going back in time to the very day that Jesus rose from the tomb, the Gospel delights us with the amazing story of the Road to Emmaus. When you think of what actually happened - Jesus celebrates the Mass with the Liturgy of the Word. He then joins it with the Liturgy of the Eucharist at the Inn.

Let's take a look: These



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

April 23

Third Sunday of Easter

READINGS

Acts 2:14, 22-33

1 Peter 1:17-21

Luke 24:13-35

two disciples were getting out of Jerusalem, totally dejected, walking along with their heads down, gloomily talking about their broken hopes in Jesus. A stranger joins them, asking them what their conversation was about. When they tell him the news, he professes ignorance, then points out how all of this was predicted in the Hebrew Scriptures. Fascinated, they invite the stranger to join them for supper at an Inn, since it is now nearly sundown. He agrees, and surprises them by taking the bread and

wine into his hands, and quietly says the same words He had uttered just a few days before: "This is my Body... This is my Blood..." They look at one another, and recognize Him in the breaking of the Bread! Then He disappears! No wonder they hasten back to Jerusalem, bursting into the Upper Room to tell their story. No wonder they cry out, "Were not our hearts burning within us as He explained the Scriptures to us on the way!"

What was the reaction of the Eleven? They greet their message with skepticism. It was only when Jesus Himself appeared to them that they finally believed. And it took even longer for Thomas. It wasn't until the Holy Spirit entered their whole being that they embraced not

only the event itself, but also the suffering and the ridicule that living their convictions would bring. Through the grace of that Spirit, they grew in humility, prayer, reflection and holiness.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could feel that same enthusiasm each time we hear the Word of God at Mass, and experience again and again the great miracle of Eucharist? The best part is that Jesus doesn't disappear afterwards. He remains on our altars and in our hearts as we become part of Him, and, hopefully, hasten back home to tell our friends how great God is to die for us, to live for us. And then to share the Eucharist through our love and service with some pain, but also with lots of joy.

ENTERTAINMENT

Wrong flag for Vatican flew on Wikipedia

By Jonah McKeown
Catholic News Agency

The flag of Vatican City, with its distinctive yellow and white, is instantly recognizable to many Catholics. Likely far fewer people, though, have scrutinized the papal coat of arms on the right-hand side, instead taking the intricate design — including the famous crossed keys — for granted.

As it turns out, there's

a good chance the coats of arms on many of the Vatican flags you've seen are rendered incorrectly. It took until 2023 for the internet to start taking notice.

Imagine you wanted to print your own version of the Vatican flag. Where would you go to find a high-quality picture of one? If you're like many internet users, your first stop would probably not be the Vatican's (admittedly outdated) vatican.va website. You're probably going to pull up Wikipedia, one of the world's most visited websites and an endless storehouse of free image content. Flagmakers the world over appear to have done so over the years.

Imagine many people's surprise, then, to discover that the image of the "Flag of Vatican City" displayed on Wikipedia has been wrong several times over the years, most recently from 2017 to 2022. (It was also wrong from 2006-2007.)

What is "wrong" about these flags, you might ask? It's a small detail in the grand scheme of things but easy to spot once you know about it. The erroneous Wikipedia file includes a red disk at the bottom of the papal tiara as well as a different shade of yellow on portions of the coat of arms.

The anonymous Wikipedia editor who changed the look of the flag in 2017 wrote he or

she did so for "color correction," noting that the Vatican's coat of arms includes the red at the bottom of the tiara. The only problem? The Vatican's official flag design renders the coat of arms differently, with the circular bottom of the tiara in white.

The image was reverted to the correct one in 2022, but the damage was done. An internet search turns up dozens of Vatican flags for sale that clearly used the incorrect image from Wikipedia. The incorrect flag has even made its way into emojis. This situation gained attention last month after a Reddit user posted about it.

Father William Becker, pastor at St. Columba-

Parish in Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, read the Reddit post with interest. Becker, a self-described "flag guy," has studied the Vatican flag for years and even wrote a book about it. He has fond memories of raising the yellow and white colors over his alma mater, North American College in Rome.

One might imagine that the precise design specifications of the Vatican flag would be laid out for anyone to access, like they are for the flag of the United States, for example. But they aren't. The best the Vatican provides is a web page with a verbal description and history of the flag, along with a low-resolution image of a square version.





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

Violence, hope in Myanmar

"Christ is risen, and we are working to remove the sepulchral stones that threaten to bury our hopes. We strive for justice, peace and the healing of our war-wounded land. We trust in God that, with his help, a new era of peace and prosperity may return to Myanmar," Father Dominic Jyo Du, parish priest of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in the Archdiocese of Mandalay, told Fides News Services.

The priest tells Fides about Easter and talks about the situation in the diocesan territory: "In Mandalay, we celebrated Easter with the churches always full of faithful. There was an atmosphere of great fear and tension, but the situation was calm. In other areas of the diocesan territory, however, there is suffering and continued death. We prayed intensely for people in distress, tribulation displacement. We are close to the destitute and displaced and, as a local community, we continue to organize works of charity, thanks to the coordination of the diocese. We lived Easter between fear and hope."

On April 11, 80 civilians, including children, were killed following a morning air raid conducted by the Myanmar Army in Kantbalu municipality. According to local sources, the army wanted to target people who had gathered with some representatives of the "National Unity Government" (NUG, the democratic government in exile) that the ruling military junta has designated a "terrorist organization." A fighter plane and military helicopter targeted approximately 150 people, killing women, children and elderly people who had also gathered to celebrate the beginning of Thingyan, the traditional Burmese New Year. A second attack, with the killing of other civilians, occurred in the evening of the same day. The NUG condemned "the heinous act by the army, another example of the indiscriminate use of violence against innocent civilians, which constitutes a war crime."

Father Dominic Jyo Du concluded: "The Lord is the Prince of Peace. He hears the cry of his people and their suffering. Easter reminds us of God's mercy for the suffering humanity. At Easter we celebrate the victory of life over death, of hope over despair, of light over darkness. All the stones that oppress our hearts - stones of hatred, revenge, resentment and despair, the boulders of our anxieties, tribulations and fears - we hand over to the power of love of the Risen Lord. He is the only one who can relieve them and overcome them. Today our hope is only the Risen Christ who is always with us, comforts us and gives us new life."

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

OBITUARIES

Brasher Falls – Donald LaFave, 84; Mass of Christian Burial April 13, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Canton – Joseph R. Murdock, 76; Funeral Services April 19, 2023 at Lawrence Funeral Home & Cremation Services; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Clayton – Geraldine A. (Tubolino) Burrows, 88; Mass of Christian Burial April 13, 2023 at St. Mary's Church

Clayton – Ann Marie (Nellis) Duffany, 58; Mass of Christian Burial April 14, 2023 at St. Mary's Church.

Constableville – Rita Walsh Bronson, 89; Mass of Christian Burial April 14, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Croghan – Patricia J. (Davoy) Golden, 88; Mass of Christian Burial April 17, 2023 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Dannemora – Robert J. LaHart, 74; Mass of Christian Burial April 11, 2023 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Independence Cemetery, Saranac.

Gouverneur – Kathleen Mary (Fitzgerald) June, 84; Private Services held.

Louisville – Richard Cameron, 79; Mass of Christian Burial April 15, 2023 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

Lowville – William A. Fayle, 60; Mass of Christian Burial April 14, 2023 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Sands Cemetery, Greig.

Lyon Mountain – Freeman J. Supley, Jr., 92; Mass of Christian Burial April 13, 2023 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Massena – Pauline Jeanne (Gladu) Beaudoin, 87; Mass of Christian Burial April 21, 2023 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Cindy L. (Kellogg) Shirley, 68; Private Services to be held; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Marie Irene (Walker) Montana, 95; Mass of Christian Burial April 13, 2023 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Peru – Sherry E. Dobbs, 85; Mass

of Christian Burial April 18, 2023 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Janice (Morrison) Clermont, 92; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at a later date.

Plattsburgh – Elizabeth Carol Fitzgerald Dirolf, 97; Mass of Christian Burial April 12, 2023 at Our Lady of Victory Church.

Port Henry – Steven "Red" Allen, 72; Mass of Christian Burial April 11, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church.

Potsdam – Mark L. "Willy" Williams, 73; Mass of Christian Burial April 14, 2023 at St. Mary's Church.

Saranac Lake – Anne Elizabeth Nels, 48; Mass of Christian Burial April 21, 2023 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Watertown – Patricia (Johnson) Atchie, 86; Mass of Christian Burial April 11, 2023 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Louis Richard Doldo, 88; Mass of Christian Burial April 17, 2023 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

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SEDER CELEBRATION



During Holy Week, parishioners from Saint James Major Church, Lake Pleasant, and Saint Ann's Church, Wells, gathered to celebrate a Christian Seder. New Testament passages were combined with traditional prayers and foods to commemorate Jewish Passover along with Jesus's Last Supper with His disciples.



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KNIGHTS SUPPORT BUILDING EFFORT



Watertown Knights of Columbus Council #259 donated \$25,000 to the St. Anthony's Mount Carmel Building Project to help rebuild the Pavilion after it was destroyed by a fire last year. Pictured are, from left, Deputy Grand Knight Anthony Sligar, Trustee Michael Clark, Grand Knight John Morgia and Father John "Mickey" Demo, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish.

Undercover agents used to investigate Catholics

(CNA) - A new document revealed that the Richmond Federal Bureau of Investigation used at least one undercover agent to obtain information about traditionalist Catholics, said Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, who chairs the House Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government.

In response to its inquiry, the committee announced it received from the FBI a heavily redacted 18-page document that uncovered limited information about the agency's efforts to investigate a supposed link between traditionalist Catholics and "the far-right white nationalist movement."

The committee had requested information following the leak of an internal memo dated Jan. 23 that originated from the FBI's Richmond division. The memo, which the FBI later retracted, called for such investigations within traditionalist Catholic communities.

Titled "Interest of Racially or Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremists in Radical-Traditionalist Catholic Ideology Almost Certainly Presents New Mitigation Opportunities," the memo singles out Catholics who are interested in the Traditional Latin Mass as potentially linked to violent extremist groups.

Because much of the information in the memo was redacted, Jordan subpoenaed the FBI for the full documentation along with documentation about

activities that would subject religious organizations to FBI investigations.

While the excerpts from the document that were released to the public do not specifically mention an undercover agent, Jordan said they offered proof that such an operation took place.

"We now know the FBI relied on at least one undercover agent to produce its analysis [of the purported link]," Jordan said in the letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray that accompanied his subpoena for documents.

Jordan said the document also shows the agency intended to use local religious organizations as "new avenues for tripwire and source development." In his letter to Wray, he said that the document reveals instances in which the FBI planned to engage in outreach to "mainline Catholic parishes" and "diocesan leadership" as well as contact the leadership of the Society of St. Pius X, which holds an irregular canonical status within the Catholic Church.

Jordan included this excerpt from the redacted FBI document:

"In addition to [redaction], engage in outreach to the leadership of other [Society of St. Pius X] chapels in the FBI Richmond [area of responsibility] to sensitize these congregations to the warning signs of radicalization and to enlist their assistance to serve as suspicious activity tripwires."