

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Houseville celebrates Divine Mercy Sunday | Page 4

Celebrating World Day of Prayer for Vocations | Page 5

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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

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Follow Me: 'Dedicated to the service of the Church'

Bishop Terry R. LaValley shares the homily he delivered at the consecration of Mary Beth Bracy to the Life of Consecrated Virginity Lived in the World on April 16 at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh.

"The custom of consecrating women to a life of virginity flourished in the early Church. It led to the formation of a solemn liturgical rite constituting the candidate a sacred person, a surpassing sign of the Church's love for Christ, and an image of the world to come and the glory of the heavenly Bride of Christ."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

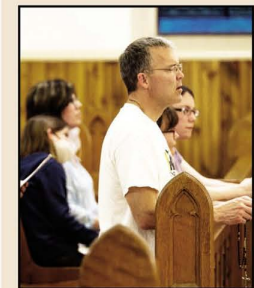
AT THE CONSECRATION



PHOTO BY DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Mary Beth Bracy of Plattsburgh prostrates before the altar during her consecration to the Life of Consecrated Virginity Lived in the World on April 16 at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh. The rite of consecration has elements similar to an ordination, including the prostration, but also included the presentation of 'insignia of consecration,' a ring, a veil and the Liturgy of the Hours, the official prayer of the Church. See additional photos on Page 12.

ROSARY RALLY PLANNED



St. James Minor Church in Carthage will host its 20th Annual Rosary Rally on May 12-13, with the last hour on the feast day of Our Lady of Fatima. The rally was originally started by artist Bob Renaud 21 years ago and has been held every year since except 2020, when the rally was canceled due to the COVID-19 shutdown. The rally begins with Mass followed by Adoration and the rosary prayed three times each hour.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

Pope: Illness can help us see what matters

By Courtney Mares
Catholic News Agency

(CNA) - While the world today can view sickness and suffering as meaningless, Pope Francis wants everyone to remember that Christ has the power to transform suffering into love.

Suffering places a person at a crossroads, the pope said Thursday during an audience with the Pontifical Biblical Institute. "He can allow suffering to lead him to withdrawal into self-doubt, to the point of despair and rebellion; or he can welcome it as

an opportunity for growth and discernment about what really matters in life, to the point of encounter with God."

The Pontifical Biblical Institute has been studying "illness and suffering in the Bible," a topic Pope Francis said is particularly close to his heart.

He commented on how the Old Testament is filled with examples of people trusting in God in moments of tears (Ps 38), calling out to him for the healing of infirmity, and returning to him in moments of trial with movements toward con-

version.

In the New Testament, Jesus "reveals the Father's love, mercy, forgiveness, and his constant search for sinful, lost, and wounded men," he added.

"It is no coincidence that Christ's public activity is largely marked by his contact with the sick," Pope Francis said.

"Miraculous healings are one of the main characteristics of his ministry: He heals lepers and paralytics; he heals Simon's mother-in-law and the centurion's servant; and he frees the possessed and cures all the

sick who entrust themselves to him."

Jesus' numerous healings reveal his divine identity, his mission, and his love for the weak to the point of identifying with them when he says: "I was sick and you visited me," the pope explained.

"The culmination of this identification occurs in the Passion, so that the cross of Christ becomes the sign par excellence of God's solidarity with us and, at the same time, the possibility for us to unite with him in the saving work," he added.

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It was the same, but different

"Bing the dog comes home."

That was the headline the editor put on the first story I worked on with the quiet, shy staff photographer at The Malone Telegram, the newspaper that gave me my first job in the industry in 2002, shortly after I graduated from college.

We worked together for only a few months. Several months after that story about the skittish puppy who escaped from the scene of a car accident, that photographer

put in his two-week notice and ended his employment with the newspaper. We started dating that same week. We'll celebrate our 19th anniversary this fall.

**Darcy L.
Fargo**

I thought about Bing on Sunday as my husband, Adam, and I worked together for the first time in decades photographing the Solemn Consecration to the life of Consecrated Virginity Lived in the

World of Mary Beth Bracy, held on April 16 at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh (check out our photos on

Page 1, 3 & 12).

God brought Adam and I together, brought us into our vocations with Adam behind a camera and the two of us working together. God later brought us front and center before his altar, where we vowed before our friends, family and Lord to love each other forever and help each other get to heaven.

Last Sunday, God brought Adam and I together with both of us behind cameras and the two of us working together. We were on opposite sides of an altar as someone else followed God's call to her vocation and made vows of love and

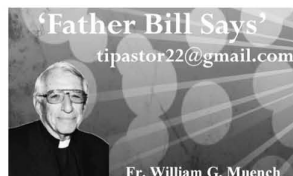
commitment. It brought me far more joy than I expected.

Reflecting on the day, it occurred to me that living our vocations creates that joy in each of us. That doesn't mean living our vocations - whether it be to marriage, priesthood or a form of consecrated life - will always be easy or always be fun and happy, but living our vocations, following God's call, brings a kind of peace and joy that makes those tough moments bearable. Living our vocations brings us closer to Christ.

It helps us get to our heavenly home.

'Embrace God through love'

Today, I would like to begin with my own tribute to my priest classmate, Monsignor Lawrence "Larry" Deno, who died on Easter Sunday. Father Deno and I entered Wadhams Hall on the same day, ages ago, beginning our studies leading to priesthood for the Catholic Church and for our diocese, the Diocese of Ogdensburg. We were ordained as priests on May 16, 1959, with five others of our class. Since then, we have served in various capacities for our diocese. Father Larry went on to further study. He received a doctorate at Notre Dame University. Father Larry served as a teacher, then as the superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Then he was a professor at Wadhams Hall, preparing seminarians for the priesthood. I know well that Father Larry was a dedicated priest, a deeply spiritual man and a very dedicated spiritual director. Father Larry was dedicated to the development of our Catholic Schools. Please keep Father



to continue our consideration of the Church's Easter Season. I continue to be absorbed with the various events and celebrations that come up after our celebration of the Lord Jesus' Resurrection. I want to tell you about a morning Mass that I offered with the sixth graders from our school. The Gospel reading that day was the one that told us that the apostles were together at a lake, and they decided to go fishing. So, I spent some time talking with the students about fishing. That was not easy for me since I have little experience fishing.

I began with a question for them. I wondered, "what is the most important thing when going fishing?" I must admit that what I was looking for as an answer was "silence." It seems to me that out on the lake fishermen want

to keep things quiet as they prepare to start fishing. From there I wanted to share with the students that one of our best prayers is a time of silence. I know I have mentioned this to you before that I value silence as an important part of prayer.

I know that I develop a better relationship with the Lord Jesus when I take some time in silence before Him. I know that the Lord's presence during my times of silence is a powerful time for me. I believe that the Lord comes to me, even speaks to me, when I stay silent and open hearted.

I know that there are times when I go to prayer and find little meaning, little understanding. The problem for me is too many words, too many ideas, yet my heart is empty. What was it that I really wanted? I suppose comfort, maybe reassurance, certainly love. Beautiful thoughts can nourish the mind. But they can't nourish the heart. Only an experience of love can nourish the heart.

So, I have found that

spending time in silence with the Lord, who loves me so much, will help me to experience well the love of the Lord who wants to be with me, to share with me the love that only our Savior can give.

Faith is very much concerned with the mind - having to do with dogmas and doctrines. But it is even more concerned with the heart. It consists in a relationship of love with the God who first loved me. Without this, faith is like a fireplace without a fire. It is to the heart that the call of our God comes to us.

I close today with a quote from the interesting book, "The Cloud of Unknowing" from a 14th Century mystical author: "When asked the question, 'Who is God,'" he says the only response are the humble words, "I don't know." But then he adds, "That is not the right question because it means you are still in your head. Get out of your head and into your heart. We cannot grasp God through knowledge, but we can embrace God through love."

FOLLOW ME

'Dedicated to the service of the Church'

Editor's Note: The following is Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily from the consecration of Mary Beth Bracy to a life of consecrated virginity lived in the world on April 16.

The custom of consecrating women to a life of virginity flourished in the early Church. It led to the formation of a solemn liturgical rite constituting the candidate a sacred person, a surpassing sign of the Church's love for Christ, and an image of the world to come and the glory of the heavenly Bride of Christ. In the rite of consecration, the Church reveals its love of virginity, begs God's grace on those who are consecrated, and prays with fervor for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Today the Church consecrates this woman, Mary Beth Bracy, to a life of virginity. She was raised right here in the Champlain Valley. God has called her to be more closely united to Himself and to be totally dedicated to the service of the Church and of humankind. Her consecration is a call to greater fervor in spreading the Kingdom of God and in giving to the world the Spirit of Christ. Mary Beth desires to live spousal union with Christ amid her everyday circumstances, in the family and society, just like St. Kateri Tekakwitha and many other holy women, with the Blessed Virgin Mary as her model of virginal, spousal and fruitful love.

Mary Beth, the life



PHOTO BY DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Bishop Terry R. LaValley concludes the Examination of the Candidate during the Mass of Solemn Consecration to the life of Consecrated Virginity Lived in the World held on April 16 at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh. During the Examination of the Candidate, the woman being consecrated, Mary Beth Bracy, resolves to persevere in a state of virginity, follow Christ in the spirit of the Gospel and accept consecration as a bride of Christ. See additional photos on Page 12.

you seek to follow has its home in heaven. God himself is its source. It is He, infinitely pure and holy, who gives the grace of virginity. Our Lord Himself showed us the calling of such a life, consecrated to God the Father and chosen for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, through Baptism has already made you a temple of God's glory and a child of the Father. Today, through our ministry He anoints you with a new grace and consecrates you to God by a new title. He gives you the dignity of being a bride of Christ and binds you to the Son of God in a covenant to last forever.

Mary Beth, make your whole life reflect your vocation and your dignity. Our holy mother the Church sees in you a chosen woman within the flock of Christ. Imitate the Mother of God;

desire to be called and to be a handmaid of the Lord. Nourish your love of God by feeding on the Body of Christ; strengthen it by self-denial; build it up by study of the Scriptures, by untiring prayer, by works of mercy.

Remember that you are given over entirely to the service of the Church and of all your sisters and brothers. You are a disciple in the Church and in the world, in the things of the Spirit and in the things of the world. Let your light then shine before women and men, that your Father in heaven may be glorified, and His plan of making all things one in Christ come to perfection.

You have renounced marriage for the sake of Christ. Your joy and your crown, even here on earth, will be Christ, the Son of the Blessed Virgin and the Bride-

groom of virgins. The ways of holiness are many, according to the vocation of each individual and the paths to holiness are personal. To be consecrated is to be set aside for a sacred purpose. My friends, here Mary Beth will be set aside as a sacred person in the Church, one who is given the title "bride of Christ."

Your witness is vitally important today, Mary Beth. You will draw the world to heaven and offer to the world a sign of the presence of its heavenly destiny, a reality tragically absent from our world today. Yours is a call to a life totally for Christ and, in Christ, totally for others.

Pope Benedict XVI wrote: "Faced with cultural and political trends that seek to eliminate, or at least cloud and confuse, the sexual differences inscribed in human nature, considering them a cultural construct, it is necessary to recall God's design that created the human being masculine and feminine, with a unity and at

the same time an original difference and complementary." The consecrated virgin, accepting her womanhood, offers a particular witness to the understanding of male and female complementarity. Such a witness is sorely needed today.

In the days after Jesus' death and resurrection, His disciples huddled in a locked room, fearful of repercussions from the Jewish leaders. Jesus appears to the disciples and says, "Peace be with you." This phrase occurs three times in today's Gospel, establishing a theme built on one that Jesus often used in His preaching: "Do not be afraid."

Mary Beth, I pray this Divine Mercy Sunday that the Lord keep you in His peace and joy as you live out your vocation of selfless love. Thank you for your humble "Yes" to the Lord and for inspiring all of us with such courage, deep faith and a generous heart.

May God be praised... forever may God be praised!

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Celebrating Divine Mercy in Houseville

By Michelle B. Beagle
Contributing Writer

On Sunday, April 16, individuals gathered at St. Hedwig's in Houseville to celebrate the Divine Mercy message brought to the world by Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska.

Father Douglas A. Decker and Deacons James W. Chaufy and Ronald J. Pominville presided over the celebration. Father Lawrence E. Marullo offered the confession along with Father Decker.

The congregation rose as the entrance hymn, "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy," song. Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament was exposed as "O Salutaris Hostia" was sung. Blessing of Holy Cards and petitions were done, and Rev. Decker provided the homily.

In his homily, Father Decker discussed the meaning of Divine Mercy and provided two examples of miracles. In one story, a couple was awaiting the birth of their baby, and a physician told the parents the child was going to have spina bifida. The couple faithfully placed their petition in the hands of St. Faustina and Jesus' Message of Mercy. When the child was born, there was no evidence of spina bifida.

After the homily, the Divine Mercy Chaplet was recited with different members present leading the recitation of each decade. Silent adoration was held, followed by Benediction. Unique to this celebration, Father Decker had the congregation move forward to venerate the Divine Mercy Image and mentally lay down their burdens.



PHOTO BY MICHELLE B. BEAGLE

Deacon Ronald J. Pominville (left) and Deacon James W. Chaufy (right) aided Father Douglas A. Decker in the Divine Mercy Celebration held April 16 in Houseville.

A reception followed in the church hall provided by the St. Hedwig's Society members.

Before the 3 p.m. celebration, the movie "The Miracle Box, the Door to the Heart of God," was shown in the church hall. The film, narrated by Bill Kirtis, contained testimonies of people who met Christ through the sacrament of confession. It helped illustrate God's Mercy.

"The video was overwhelming with the message of confession and miracles that were told," said Stephen Kraeger, a parishioner of St. Martin's in Port Leyden. "It was powerful. The experiences I witnessed in the video brought me to tears. Then going to the beautiful service upstairs, it wanted to bring tears to my heart."

Joe and Valerie Elacqua journeyed north from their home parish of Holy Trinity in Utica. When Valerie was growing up, she had an image of Divine Mercy in her room. She would see it every day, yet it wasn't until Pope John Paul II

proclaimed Divine Mercy Sunday that she realized the connection to the Message, "reminds me while we live, God is merciful and there for us. A beautiful reminder of God's Ocean of Mercy."

Her husband, Joe, has fond memories of growing up in the 1960s and camping at Whetstone Gulf State Park. He and his family would attend mass at St. Hedwig's and considered St. Hedwig's their summer church.

"Coming here to help celebrate brings back memories of childhood," he said. "It's like coming home, and the church structure has not changed much throughout the years."

Kathy Hirschey, whose home parish is St. Mary's in Glenfield, said she found the Divine Mercy event rewarding.

"The prayer is helpful," she said. "I started attending Divine Mercy when St. Hedwig's started offering it. The message and service help bring peace and is relaxing."

Lois Fey, who attends

Christ the Hope Church in Boonville, shared how the message of Divine Mercy has been a key piece of her faith. Fey is a convert to the Catholic faith. A practicing Lutheran Evangelical, she believed in the actual presence of Jesus. However, when she started attending Mass with her husband Jim, there were three questions about Catholics to which Fey needed answers: First, why is there a pope? Second, she wanted to know, why does a person confess to a priest? Third, she asked Why worship Mary? "Once I received the answers to my questions, I could not wait to receive Communion. As a convert, I had never heard about St. Faustina, but then I heard about her Diary. Upon reading the Diary, I was amazed. I sat down and reread it; now, I am on my third reading. Each time something new stands out. Try to spread Mercy, for His Mercy endures forever. The Catholic Church is the truth, the direct line to Jesus. It is the way, truth, and light."

Sister Faustina belonged to Poland's Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. She was a sister of the 20th century, practicing and journaling her faith journey in the 1930s. In 1931, she started receiving visions and messages from Jesus. During her conversations with Jesus, He asked that she record the messages He provided. Obediently, she wrote the messages down. Today, this work is known as the "Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalski."

Sister Faustina saw Jesus clothed in a white garment with His right

hand raised in blessing while His left hand touched the area of His heart. Two rays came from the heart, one of red and the other white. Jesus directed her to record the image with the words, "Jesus, I Trust in You."

The two rays denote blood and water. The pale ray stands for the Water, which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood, which is the life of souls.

These two rays issued forth from the depths of My tender Mercy when My agonized Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross. Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him (299). By means of this image, I shall grant many graces to souls. It is to be a reminder of the demands of My Mercy because even the strongest faith is of no avail without works - Diary of St. Faustina (742).

The above refers to the rite of Baptism and receiving the Holy Eucharist.

According to St. Faustina's Diary, Jesus Christ made a special promise, which she was to communicate to the whole world (Diary, 699):

My daughter, tell the whole world about My Inconceivable Mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinner. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls approach the fount of My Mercy.

Pope John Paul II at St. Peter's in Rome in 2000 canonized St. Maria Faustina Kowalska on Divine Mercy Sunday, and the Feast was officially declared.



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE

Participants in the 2022 Rosary Rally pray the rosary before the Blessed Sacrament.

Carthage to host 20th Annual Rosary Rally

St. James Minor Church in, Carthage is pleased to announce its 20th Annual Rosary Crusade, scheduled for May 12-13.

Twenty-one years ago, Bob Renaud, a local teacher and artist, initiated the Rosary Rally.

It has been held every year except in 2020, at the height of the COVID shut-down. This has always been a parish event.

When Renaud moved, parishioners continued to support the event with their time, talent and treasures.

Renaud generously created a painting each year for the Crusade. Participants who prayed for three or more hours were gifted a copy of the painting. When Renaud moved, Nicole Mangan graciously volunteered to continue to provide the same opportunity for those who gather to pray.

This year's Rosary Rally

begins at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, May 12. The event opens with Mass celebrated by Father Todd Thibault.

The rosary will be prayed continuously in front of the Blessed Sacrament until 1 a.m. on Saturday, May 13.

The event has always been scheduled as close to the feast day of Fatima as possible. This year, the concluding hour will take place on the anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima.

"We are blessed to be accompanied by parishioners from all over the diocese," said Kathi Buskey, one of the event organizers. "Local and neighboring families

and groups take turns leading the rosary. Three rosaries are prayed each hour."

Dave Heywood leads hymns throughout the evening with vocals and violin. Refreshments are provided. The parish community and event organizers welcome all those who are able to join in prayer both physically and in spirit.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to support peace in our families and peace in our world," Buskey said. "We encourage you to join us for 15 minutes or the entire night."

Any questions can be directed to Buskey at 315-783-2230.

Reclaiming baptismal call

Editor's Note: April 30, also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday," is World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ
Diocesan Vocations Coordinator

"The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I want" (Psalm 23). There is nothing more that the Good Shepherd desires than our heart - a heart that will love Him and His people as He does each one of us.

The Church celebrates World Day of Prayer for Vocations. This day marks the 60th Anniversary of its beginning.

The Church reminds us of our baptismal call that all of us are called to be holy. This is not only for priests, deacons, consecrated religious and consecrated virgins. This is a call for all of us to gaze upon the face of Christ, to know how much He loves us, and desires that we come to know His will.

It is the loving gaze of the Good Shepherd, who is the Gate, who always meets us, touches us, sets us free, transforms us and leads each of us into the pasture of His grace to continue His mission for the sanctification of the world. As Pope Francis reminds us, "This is what happens in every vocation: we are met by the gaze of God, who calls us. Vocation, like holiness, is not an extraordinary experience reserved for a few. Just as there is a 'holiness of the saints next door' (Gaudete et Exultate, 6-9), so too, there is a vocation for everyone, for God's gaze and call is directed to every person."

On this day of prayer, we give thanks to Bishop Terry R. LaValley, our priests, deacons, consecrated religious men and women, lay faithful, who have said "yes" to their baptismal call.

We have just celebrated the witness of love and dedication of Mary Beth Bracy's consecration as a virgin in the world.

Let us all reclaim our baptismal call, especially within our families, whose homes are "the domestic Church" where children learn to gaze upon the face of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. "The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I want" (Psalm 23:1).

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When I was a child, I swatted at bees. They were "bad" because they stung. Studying the insects that live in my garden, I discovered solitary bees. Until then, I thought bees lived in hives, made honey... end of story. Not so. I began hearing about the plight of solitary bees – bees that live and work alone, don't make honey, rarely sting, and don't have a queen.

So, who are solitary bees? Over 90% of bees are solitary bees. There are many species of solitary bees, and they come in all sizes and shapes. Some of the most common are the Mason bees and leafcutter bees. There are about 140 species of Mason bees and 242 species of leafcutter bees that inhabit North America. Before honeybees were brought over from Europe, these native bees pollinated North America and helped the ecosystem grow. They are considered "super pollinators" because they drop more pollen as they fly than honeybees. They are good for gardens, and a pesticide free, biodiverse garden is good for them. It's a win-win.

But they need our help.

Climate change and loss of habitat is threatening them. Eliminating pesticide use, planting native pollinator-friendly plants, and creating "bee hotels" will help their survival. There are many directions online for building solitary bee houses, but research well, for some "hotels" allow predators to get to the larvae.

I have learned many things from these small insects. I have been reminded that no matter how seemingly insignificant a creature may seem to be, that erroneous view comes from a limited perspective. It is ironic that such tiny insects as bees can give us a glimpse of the God of a vast universe. In gratitude, let us through our efforts assure solitary bees, they are not alone in their struggle for survival.

Bishop's Public Schedule

April 26 – 10 a.m. – Diocesan Finance Council and College of Consultants Meeting at Brzana Hall in Ogdensburg

10:30 a.m. – Priests Personnel Board Meeting at Bishop's Residence

April 27 – 9 a.m. – Mass at Gouverneur Correctional Facility

April 28 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

4:30 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Cecilia's Church in Adams with Queen of Heaven Church in Henderson

April 29 – 11:30 a.m. – Formation For Ministry Workshop at St. Mary's Social Hall in Massena

April 30 – 11 a.m. – Confirmation at The Roman Catholic Community of Cape Vincent, Rosiere and Chaumont (at St. Vincent of Paul Church) in Cape Vincent

5 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Mary's Church in Canton with St. Patrick's Church in Colton and St. Mary's Church in Potsdam

May 1 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary Cathedral

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

May 3 – 12:30 p.m. – Mass at the Riverview Correctional Facility in Ogdensburg

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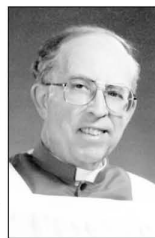
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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

'The Lord is my shepherd'

This fourth Sunday of Easter supplies us with very rich images for our meditation.

Jesus calls himself the "good Shepherd" as well as the "gate" to eternal life. He is the only way through which we have access to the Father. His listeners were very familiar with the crucial role that shepherds play



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

with sheep. They would spend hours alone with each lamb, making sure that every one had a name different from any other in the flock, and would respond only to the voice of the shepherd calling out that name.

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter is speaking at Pentecost, assuring his listeners that his fellow apostles are not drunk, but rather filled with the Holy Spirit. He tells them that, if only they repent of crucifying their Lord and

Rest in Peace

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

April 26 – Rev. Charles M. Mestre, O.M.I., 1870; Msgr. David Stinebrickner, 1998

April 27 – Rev. John J. Fedigan, O.S.A., 1908; Rev. Michael F. Ambrose, 1934

April 28 – Rev. J. A. Larose, 1967

April 29 – Rev. Arthur C. Kenny, 1945; Rev. Peter Mullen, M.M., 1999

April 30 – Rev. Michael W. Holland, 1906; Rev. Louis Grenier, M.S.C., 1958

May 1 – Rev. Joseph J. Halde, 1891; Rev. Edward P. Burns, 1985

May 2 – Rev. Jean Marie Royer, O.M.I., 1905; Rev. Joseph M. Blais, 1948; Rev. Leon LaPorte, 1954; Rev. Burchard Murray, O.S.A., 1966

April 30

Fourth Sunday of Easter

READINGS

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

1 Peter 2:20b-25

John 10:1-10

Messiah through their sinfulness, they will be forgiven, Jews and Gentiles alike. If they allow themselves to be baptized, they too will receive the Holy Spirit. Amazingly, about 3,000 persons heeded Peter's preaching, and were baptized that day.

The second reading today is taken from another sermon of Peter in which urges his listeners to model their lives on the patience of Jesus who "when he suffered, did not threaten... He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness". (We must be careful to distinguish "righteousness" from self-righteousness).

In the Gospel, Jesus tells us that He and no other is the shepherd of the sheep, the only voice we should recognize and follow. He is also the gate of the sheepfold, welcoming all to freedom from fear, security, and assurance of salvation. Lord, help us to silence those voices that would lead us into false paths, and lovingly follow only your voice.

To complete our meditation, read carefully the 23rd psalm today, "The Lord is my Shepherd."

Court seems open to considering religious accommodations at work

By Tyler Arnold
Catholic News Agency

The U.S. Supreme Court's conservative majority seemed open to expanding religious rights protections in the workplace during oral arguments late Tuesday morning, but some were hesitant about making any far-reaching changes to legal precedent.

All nine justices heard oral arguments in *Groff v. DeJoy*, a lawsuit brought by Gerald Groff, a mail carrier who sought a religious accommodation from the U.S. Postal Service that would have exempted him from working on Sundays. Groff, who was originally granted the accommodation and later had it rescinded, is represented by lawyers from the First Liberty Institute, a Christian legal organization in Texas.

Although Title VII of the Civil Rights Act requires employers to grant certain religious accommodations to employees, current Supreme Court precedent states they do not need to grant an accommodation that would impose "undue hardship" on the employer. Groff's lawyer, Aaron Streett, asked the court to adopt a new nationwide standard to clarify the meaning of undue hardship to ensure religious rights receive stronger protections.

Streett told the justices that lower courts across the country have interpreted "undue hardship" differently and said this case is about the question of "what's our yardstick or what's our

metric here" and "what do we apply the undue hardship standard to?"

He said some courts have applied a "de minimis" test, which asserts that anything more than a minor inconvenience could be considered an "undue hardship." He urged the court to adopt a more rigorous standard.

"We believe the best plain text meaning of 'undue hardship' is 'significant difficulty or expense,'" Streett told the justices.

To demonstrate that an accommodation is an undue hardship, Streett said the employer should need to provide "actual evidence in the record that goes beyond [a loss of] morale" that shows a "concrete effect on the operations of the business," such as evidence that workers have become so overburdened that they cannot do their jobs or serve customers.

"It certainly can't be what we have here," Streett added, "where the post office had an accommodation that was working and just abandoned it."

Solicitor General Elizabeth B. Prelogar, who represented the postal service, argued that the current "case law [already] provides meaningful protections for religious rights." She argued that "it's just incorrect to say that there is not a substantial amount of accommodation happening and that courts are just reflexively denying these claims."

"[Groff's] absences created [a] direct concrete burden on other carriers who had to stay on their

shifts longer to get the mail delivered," Prelogar said. "That caused problems with the timely delivery of mail and it actually produced employee retention problems with one carrier quitting and another carrier transferring and another carrier filing a union grievance. That is an undue hardship under any reasonable standard."

Prelogar said she would be open to certain clarifications to the standard but opposed any new standards that would uproot court precedent.

The conservative justices expressed opposition to the use of a "de minimis" test but seemed cautious about adopting an entirely different standard as suggested by Streett. Justice Amy Coney Barrett opined that "no one's defending the [de minimis] test" and Justice Brett Kavanaugh appeared skeptical of a new standard when he repeatedly pressed Streett on how it would work in practice.

Similarly, Justice Neil Gorsuch said "there is so much common ground here between the parties" and criticized the use of a "de minimis" standard while suggesting that a clarification might work better than entirely new standards.

"Some courts have taken this 'de minimis' language and [run] with it and say anything more than a trifling will get the employer out of any concerns here," Gorsuch said. "And that's wrong and we all agree that's wrong."

The other justices also seemed skeptical of creating new standards.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Court extends ruling lifting restrictions on abortion pill

(CNA) – Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito issued a ruling Wednesday extending the court's temporary pause on all restrictions on the abortion pill mifepriston until 11:59 p.m. on April 21. The court's action is the latest development in *Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine v. U.S. Food and Drug Administration*, a high-stakes case impacting abortion pill access across the country. A Friday ruling also issued by Alito granted the Biden Department of Justice's emergency request to block restrictions on mifepristone made by lower court rulings while the nation's highest court considers the case. That pause was set to expire at 11:59 p.m. Wednesday. Alito's extension means that for the time being mifepristone continues to remain legal and approved for use up to 10 weeks of pregnancy. It can be mailed and administered via telemedicine without an in-person doctor's visit. Mifepristone is the first drug used in what is commonly a two-step regimen for a chemical abortion.

Pope gave relic of true cross to King Charles for his coronation

(CNA) – Thanks to a gift from Pope Francis to King Charles III, two pieces of the true cross on which Jesus was crucified will lead the reigning monarch of the United Kingdom's coronation procession May 6. The precious relics have been inlaid into the "Cross of Wales," which will head Charles' procession into Westminster Abbey, where he will be officially crowned. Many will be watching the ceremony to witness the pomp and circumstance found in the official functions of the British royalty. Yet, at the forefront of all that spectacle, the simple metallic cross, inlaid with relics of the wood of the true cross, testify to a lesser-known, deeply Christian aspect of the British royal tradition. Among his many titles and symbolic responsibilities as king of England, Charles is also the supreme governor of the Church of England, which broke away from the Catholic Church in 1534 under King Henry VIII.

Lawmakers pan end of military hospital's contract with priests

Lawmakers are demanding answers from the Biden administration after a military hospital ended a contract with the Franciscan friars who have provided Catholic pastoral services there for nearly two decades. The Holy Name College Friary in Silver Spring, Maryland, received a cease-and-desist order April 4, during Holy Week, that ordered them to halt all services it provides at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in nearby Bethesda, Maryland. Rather than renewing the contract, which expired March 31, the medical center announced it would contract with the secular Mack Global, LLC, instead of with the friars. The Mack Global website says the company serves the U.S. military, government agencies, and private companies in telework consulting services, administrative and religious staffing, transportation, and roadway services, and professional development and training. Its product supplies portfolio includes janitorial supplies, tactical and training equipment, raw materials, and industrial machinery.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

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

Schedule: May 6, June 3, Aug. 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2

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

DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR

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

Date: First Saturday of the Month

Time: Following the 4:30 anticipated Mass

Place: St. Ann's Church

Features: Prayer after Mass, Night Prayer, Prayer for All Souls and the Holy Souls, Novena in Honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, The Reparation Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary with private meditation on the 15 Mysteries of the Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament reposed in the Tabernacle, and Prayers for the Holy Father and his intentions.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

PRE-SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Watertown – St. John Bosco Pre-school program to have open enrollment.

Date: April 3 for the public

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

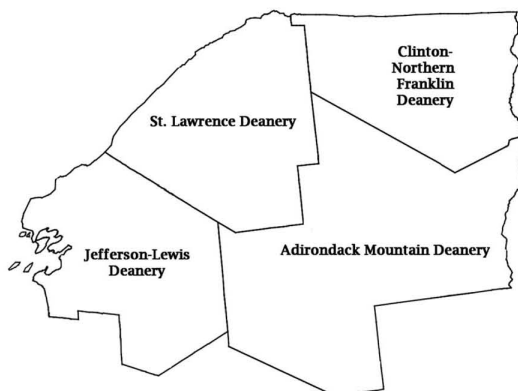
Time: 6 p.m.

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/>



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.

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

HEALING MASS

Clayton – St. Mary's to have their annual Healing Mass and Antoine Tetrault Memorial Service.

Date: June 10

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: The Celebrants will be Father Arthur LaBaff and Father Corneille Boyeye. During Mass the Sacrament of the Anointing

of the Sick is offered. Immediately following Mass will be prayer teams to pray for individual needs. A social time with refreshments will take place in the parish center following the Mass.

Contact: For more information, contact St. Mary's parish office at 315-686-3398 or claytonsec@rcdony.org or visit the www.stmarysclayton.org.

ST. LAWRENCE

BINGO

Canton – Bingo to be held.

Date: Mondays

Time: Card sales start at 5:30 p.m., Games start at 7 p.m.

Place: Sarto Club

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 Rosa-

ry 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.

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 Gonther 315-212-5166.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

FORMATION FOR MINISTRY ENROLLMENT 2023-25

Is God calling you to a more active role in your parish? The Formation for Ministry program will have an informational session about enrollment for the 2023-2025 program.

Date: May 13

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: Virtual

Features: The Formation for Ministry Program prepares men and women to serve in their local parish. This program is a two-year program. Classes are online through Boston College. Candidates also meet a few times a year as a group for workshops.

Contact: More information is also available on our diocesan website at: <https://www.rcdony.org/formation/candidate.html>. Or contact Cathy Russell at: crussell@rcdony.org - (315) 393-2920.

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.

LOVING AUTHENTICALLY

Loving Authentically: Sex, Happiness and Catholic Teaching is designed to deepen understanding of how Church doctrine on sexual morality connects with happiness.

Date: 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 Harden Fehner, 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 & 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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

NOW AVAILABLE FOR STREAMING

Podcast *Explores* the Eucharist

Catholics believe the Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith, but what does this really mean and what difference does it make in our lives?

Ave Explores is a multimedia series created to help people examine the Catholic faith by taking an in-depth look at topics that are relevant to their daily spiritual life in a fresh, engaging, and practical way.

Hosted by Katie Prejean

McGrady, *Ave Explores* aims to nourish the faith of everyday Catholics in ways that make a difference to everyday life.

The new season of *Ave Explores* will consider the mystery of the Eucharist, how it heals and changes us, and what it means to welcome the Eucharistic Lord into our hearts, homes, and neighborhoods.

Guests and topics will include:

- Week 1: Sister Alicia

Torres, FE, how the Eucharist changes us;

- Week 2: Timothy P. O'Malley, becoming Eucharistic people;

- Week 3: Heather and Jake Khym, the healing power of the Eucharist;

- Week 4: Perpetua Charles, Eucharistic Adoration;

- Week 5: Kathryn and Scott Whitaker, the Eucharist in our homes;

- Week 6: Joel Stepanek, how the Eucharist revives us; and

- Week : Father Ryan Rojo, how the Eucharist sends us forth.

Each week, one of the priests serving as Eucharistic preachers for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as part of the Eucharistic Revival will answer questions about the Real Presence of Christ at the end of the regular *Ave Explores* podcast. They include Father Robert Spitzer; Father Patrick Mary Briscoe, OP; Father

Rafael Capó; Father Joe Laramie, SJ; Father Jonathan Meyer; Father Malachy Napier, CFR; and Father Timothy Anastos.

Ave Explores: The Eucharist begins April 26. A special preview podcast with Father Craig Vasek, one of the Eucharistic preachers for the Revival, is now available.

The *Ave Explores* podcast is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Play Music, and Spoke Street Media.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

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 cminer@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 weeklong 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 Grizuto 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/fg.html or contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920, startaglia@rcdony.org.

SIDEWALK ADVOCATES FOR LIFE

Experience Sidewalk Advocated for Life's new virtual basic training 2.0.



Features: Sidewalk Advocates for Life employs peaceful, prayerful, loving, and law-abiding outreach outside of abortion centers to aid mothers in crisis and connect them with life-affirming resources in the effort to save their preborn children and end abortion. By God's grace, this effort has

witnessed over 9,000 women turn around at abortion centers and CHOOSE LIFE!

Contact: To get started, fill out the brief application at sidewalkadvocates.org/trainingapp. Upon receipt, we'll be in touch with next steps for accessing the online training.

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

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

(With ecclesiastical approval)

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

Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him



MAY

DIocese OF
OGDENSBURG, NY

2023

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

	1 BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY	2 REV. JOHN M. DEMO	3 RIP MSGR. LAWRENCE M. DENO	4 REV. RAYMOND DIESBOURG, MSC	5 REV. JOHN L. DOWNS	6 MSGR. DENNIS J. DUPREY VF
7 REV. GUY F. EDWARDS	8 OUR PASTOR	9 REV. JOSEPH W. ELLIOTT	10 REV. ALFRED H. FISH	11 REV. FRANCIS J. FLYNN	12 REV. J. MICHAEL GAFFNEY	13 REV. GARRY B. GROUX
14 REV. JOSEPH W. GROUX	15 POPE FRANCIS	16 REV. L. WILLIAM GORDON	17 REV. ALBERT J. HAUSER	18 REV. PETER G. HELFRICH	19 REV. MICHAEL J. JABLONSKI	20 REV. JOSEPH KANIMEA, MSC
21 REV. DANIEL T. KEEFE	22 RETIRED PRIESTS	23 REV. PAUL J. KELLY	24 REV. JOHN P. KENNEHAN	25 REV. THOMAS E. KORNMEYER	26 REV. STEVE KOVACEVICH	27 REV. THOMAS E. KORNMEYER ORDINATION DAY
28 REV. DONALD F. GRAMBERG	29 DECEASED PRIESTS	30 REV. ARTHUR J. LABAFF, VF	31 REV. ALAN J. LAUMICA	For more copies contact: Diocese of Ogdensburg PO Box 369 Ogdensburg, NY 13669 For more information visit us online at www.mprposstate.com		

A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated.

The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by: Diocese of Ogdensburg, Vocations Society www.vocationsnet.com

CALLED TO SERVE

Artificial Intelligence coming to your parish?

Some sort of device or humanoid will never be able to say in the confessional, "I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Those words of absolution were given to the Apostles and their successors by Christ. The priest, *in persona Christi*, in the person of Christ, absolves us of our sins when we confess them. No machine can take the priest's place.

Likewise, I think it is also unlikely that "This is my body, this is my blood" will ever be said by a thing other than a human priest.

There are folks in the artificial intelligence world (AI for short) who believe AI will replace or at least reorient how

we do almost everything. And, they argue, the change is coming sooner than later.

In my humble opinion, AI will never replace some church personnel and functions but parishes need to be planning.

An online publication called Freethink* from the World Economic Forum recently suggested that in 2022 "several stunning developments in artificial intelligence occurred. Some believe that these advances push the limits of what we have now towards the holy grail of artificial general intelligence; a machine that can mimic the thinking and problem-solving capacities of humans but faster and more accurately."

They point to devel-

opments in writing, robotic controls and multi-task algorithms as evidence of AI's maturity.

The good news is AI might make some tasks easier and more efficient for our clergy, religious and parish staff.

We have already seen some efficiency with things like word processing and spread sheets which led to accounting software.

Enter AI software like ChatGPT which can write this column for me every week (won't happen) or a homily (will never happen).

There are developing algorithms that make accounting posting de-

terminations for bookkeepers instantly and there are other applications.

I can see things like that as useful tools, but not complete replacements.



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

At the heart of the issue is how do we use the new tools in our parishes? The Freethink* article concluded, "above all, the fundamental question for 2023 remains not whether AI systems can be accurate and efficient, but rather how should they be used and to what degree."

Some pastors and their councils in our diocese have already adopted some of the new tools.

I am thinking of

things like remote control of church HVAC systems and remote control of entrances/exits. The pandemic introduced many of us to video conferencing and now it is a less expensive alternative to travel.

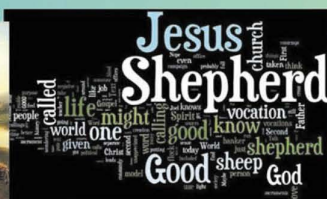
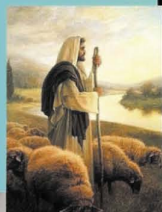
On-line course work in lay ministry and deacon formation is another recent development.

Parishes may not jump on the AI bandwagon immediately but the opportunities AI will offer, and some pitfalls, will be here in no time.

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

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

APRIL 30, 2023



Religious
Life

Come, Follow Me



Deacon



Priesthood

Consecrated
Virgin

PLEASE PRAY THAT YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN HEAR AND RESPOND TO THE LORD'S CALL TO THE PRIESTHOOD, DIACONATE, AND RELIGIOUS LIFE WITHIN OUR DIOCESE!

VOCATION OFFICE
DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG



April
is Child Abuse
Prevention
Month

*What will your
church do?*

Blue Sunday
Day of Prayer for
Abused Children is
always on the last
Sunday of April.
April 30, 2023

How to pray for abused children on
Blue Sunday

1. Pray they will be rescued.
2. Pray they are placed with caring people.
3. Pray their minds and bodies can heal.
4. Pray they find hope.
5. Pray for those who rescue them.



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

Interreligious dialogue

During Ramadan, the holy month of the Islamic religion which is underway and will end on April 21, the practice of iftar (the dinner that breaks the daily fast of the Muslim faithful) is an opportunity for Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and believers of other religions to meet, share and be friends.

As Fides learns, during Ramadan many Catholic institutions in Pakistan organize and invite Muslim believers to iftar, which thus becomes a fruitful occasion for knowledge, dialogue, human relations, and coexistence, having a meal together.

At the Lahore Peace Centre, Father James Channan, a Dominican priest and director of the Centre, organized an iftar attended by over a hundred Muslim believers, including religious leaders, doctors and nurses, women and children, with the idea and the spirit of promoting and living the interreligious dialogue to which the Peace Center is dedicated. During the dinner, many mutual messages of appreciation, respect, esteem, and willingness to build brotherhood were expressed by Muslim and Christian believers.

Patrick's Higher Institute where, in a friendly atmosphere, Archbishop Benny Mario Travas and Cardinal Joseph Coutts, together with students and people of Christian and Muslim faiths, gathered alongside the Rector, Father Mario Rodrigues. Archbishop Travas emphasized.

"Sharing a meal, praying together and above all loving God, loving one another, is a very important testimony for Pakistani society. We are called to take care of the poor and needy, and to spread the great news of brotherly love and care for one another". [...]

The Sikh faithful also participate in this spirit: in Lahore, Sardar Darshan Singh, a merchant of the Sikh community, organizes iftar every evening at the city's Liberty Market, stating that "eating together symbolizes service, love and unity", in a gesture which, he observes, "is intended to express goodwill and the desire to promote interreligious harmony".

It should be noted that in Pakistan, the month of Ramadan in 2023, falls in a situation of economic crisis: due to the current high rate of inflation (increased by 35% in the last month alone) and the consequent increase of food prices, hundreds of people find themselves in difficulty or in a state of poverty and turn to charities for iftar. [...] In this context, the presence of Catholic communities and other religions, which organize, finance, and offer iftar to Muslim believers, especially the poorest, is a gesture much appreciated by religious leaders, civil authorities, and citizens. - Article from FIDES missionary news service of the Pontifical Mission Societies.

OBITUARIES

Altona – Joseph V. McChesney, 60; Mass of Christian Burial April 23, 2023 at Holy Angels Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Chaumont – James A. West, 86; Mass of Christian Burial April 21, 2023 at All Saints Church; burial in New Cedar Grove Cemetery.

Croghan – Martha J. (Hall) Company, 84; Mass of Christian Burial April 21, 2023 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Crown Point – Thomas Richard LaFave, 68; Mass of Christian Burial April 21, 2023 at Sacred Heart Church.

Fort Covington – Gisele Boulais, 85; Mass of Christian Burial April 26, 2023 at St. Mary's of the Fort; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Bombay.

Fort Covington – Reginald Giles Quenville, 92; Mass of Christian Burial April 24, 2023 at St. Mary's of the Fort; burial in old St. Mary's Cemetery.

Fort Covington – Hilda Theresa Jock St. Hilaire, 94; Mass of Christian Burial April 25, 2023 at St. Mary's of the Fort; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Bombay.

Keene – Beverly Purdy Gregory Greenwood, 89; Memorial Services in spring at St. Brendan's Church.

Malone – Charles H. Mason, 79; Mass of Christian Burial April 22, 2023 at Notre Dame Church.

Massena – Reginald A. Nadeau, 97; Mass of Christian Burial April 22, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Pero – Jacqueline Anne (Knoll) Tortorelli, 89; Mass of Christian Burial April 22, 2023 at St. Augustine's Church.

Plattsburgh – Nikki L. (Darrah) Martin, 47; Mass of Christian Burial April 24, 2023 at St. John's Church; burial in Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Alice C. Tetreault, 90; Mass of Christian Burial April 21, 2023 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Coopersville.

Redford – Rita A. (Myers) Ross, 95; Mass of Christian Burial May 4, 2023 at Church of the Assumption; burial in parish cemetery.

Watertown – John A. Kennedy Jr., 77; Mass of Christian Burial May 6, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church.



CELEBRATING A SACRAMENT

St. Cyril's of Alexandria Bay had six young parishioners celebrate the sacrament of first reconciliation on March 26. (Pictured) Jonathan Pawlikowski poses with Father Douglas Comstock after making his First Reconciliation. Please continue pray for these students as they are now preparing for their First Eucharist. The six children are Alice and David Gentner, Nora DeRosia, Brantley Derrigo, Landyn Martin and Jonathan Pawlikowski.

A LIFE OF CONSECRATED VIRGINITY LIVED IN THE WORLD

APRIL 16 CONSECRATION

Photos by Adam & Darcy Fargo

