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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 5, 2023



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE

Priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg gathered with Bishop Terry R. LaValley on Thursday, March 30, for the annual celebration of the Chrism Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral. At that Mass, priests of the diocese renew their priestly vows, and oils used in sacraments throughout the year are consecrated. Read Bishop LaValley's homily from that Mass on Page 3. Additional photos from the Chrism Mass will be featured in next week's edition of the *North Country Catholic*.

Pope Francis scheduled to be at Palm Sunday Mass

Hannah Brockhaus
Catholic News Agency

The Vatican said Friday that Pope Francis may be discharged from the hospital on Saturday after responding well to treatments yesterday and sharing a pizza dinner with those assisting him.

In two brief statements in the early afternoon of March 31, Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni also said Pope Francis is scheduled to be present at the Vatican's Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square on April 2.

Pope Francis was admitted to Rome's Gemelli Hospital on Wednesday afternoon with difficulty breathing. He was later diagnosed with bronchitis.

"Yesterday passed well, with a normal clinical progression," Bruni said around 12:30 p.m. on Friday. "In the evening Pope Francis had dinner, eating pizza together with those assisting him during his hospital stay. With the Holy Father were the doctors, nurses, assistants and Gendarmerie personnel."

On the morning of March 31, the pope had breakfast, read the newspapers, and resumed work, he said, adding that "His Holiness is expected to return to his Santa Marta home tomorrow, upon the outcome of the results of the last tests this morning."

Around 1:15 p.m., Bruni added the information about the pope's presence for the Palm Sunday Mass.

BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION AT AUGUSTINIAN



Participants in Augustinian Academy's Art Club, led by Miss Greenwood, show projects they made in the after-school program. Art Club is one of many activities offered by Augustinian Academy in Carthage to help provide the students strong educational and developmental foundations.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

NORTH
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Getting past the barriers

Those roots are everywhere!

I've mentioned before that I enjoy aquariums. I'm currently running and maintaining five planted tanks - tanks that grow live plants.

When I first got into the hobby and was shopping for plants to include in my tanks, my main criteria was plants had to be "beginner friendly." They had to be hardy, grow easily and be relatively low maintenance. One of my first plants was

long, skinny leaves, an Amazon Sword.

While some aquatic plants draw nutrients from the water column, others, like my Amazon Sword, spread roots in the substrate in search of nutrients.

What I didn't know when I purchased and planted my Amazon Sword was that the species has a reputation for taking over a tank. Amazon Swords can grow rapidly. As quickly as the part above soil grows, the roots grow and spread even fast-



Darcy L. Fargo

! Those roots spread to every corner of the tank, wrapping around the roots of other plants and around any hardscape (rocks, driftwood, décor...) touching the soil. They change the composition of an affected tank's substrate - the foundation of the tank. I've tried to use barriers to keep the roots from certain sections of my tank, but they always seem to find a way into those walled-off areas anyway.

As we approach this holiest week of the year, I was thinking about where I am in my spiritual journey. While I'm trying to give my will and my life

to our Lord, there are still those areas of my life and personality where I put up barriers, areas I wall off and keep for myself just as I wall off those areas of my tank. It's like I say to God, "you can control this aspect of my life and this one, but I prefer to hold on to these areas over here and run those myself."

While I'm working on giving those walled off areas to God, too, I'm still not very good at it.

Even in those areas we try to wall off, though, our Lord has ways of getting in, and he has ways of changing us.

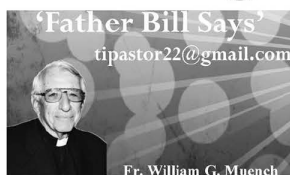
He's everywhere.

Entering Holy Week

Each time we, Catholics, begin to pray, we make the Sign of the Cross. We do this to remind ourselves of Jesus - the Jesus who suffered and died for us on the cross. Jesus came to our world to live among us and to teach us. Each time we go to prayer, we remember even more that Jesus suffered and died for us on the cross.

I brought this up today because we are coming to Holy Week, the holiest week of the year. During our Holy Week, we celebrate the events of our salvation. We celebrate the sufferings of Our Lord - his crucifixion - and complete the week with Easter, as we celebrate the Lord's resurrection. Our Holy Week services immerse us all in the Lord's Passion and death. In this way, we also celebrate the Lord's great love for us.

As we walk with Jesus through these events of Holy Week each year, Jesus calls us to be a people who bring peace to our world. The Lord suffered and died for us and demonstrated for us the great love that



Fr. William G. Muench

God has for us and the Lord's call to discover true happiness with our Savior. Every time we participate in the celebration of Mass, we have the opportunity to offer our gratitude to Our Lord Jesus. Jesus loved each of us. He suffered for us all in love. That is why Holy Week is all about gratitude. We remember all the Lord accepted for us.

Today I want to take this time with you to review the time of Holy Week. On Palm Sunday, our Sunday Mass begins with a procession. We walk with Jesus; we escort him into Jerusalem for all the challenges of the week. During this Mass, we will read again the story of the Lord's Passion and death, a preparation for our celebration of the events of Holy Week as we remember the Lord's great love for us.

On Holy Thursday, we

join Jesus and the apostles as we remember that very special Last Supper. In this special Mass, we will celebrate that time when Jesus instituted the precious Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. In addition, we believe that at this Last Supper Jesus ordained his first priests. At Holy Thursday Mass, we add the impressive ceremony, the washing of the feet. Each pastor washes the feet of some of his parishioners to demonstrate to all his care and concern for his people in imitation of Our Lord Jesus.

The Holy Thursday Mass closes with a Eucharistic procession. We walk again in praise of Our and Savior truly present in this Sacrament. Our procession is a sign of our readiness to live in the life of the Eucharist. We walk in praise of Our Lord and God.

On Good Friday, we celebrate in a special way the crucifixion of Jesus. We walk with Jesus along the "via dolorosa." We stand with Mary at the foot of the Lord's cross. In honor the cross of Christ as we vener-

ate a cross. This ceremony is a time for gratitude and calls upon us to be in every way a people of peace. Each time I approach Calvary, I am so deeply impressed in all that Jesus accepted for me. I pray each Good Friday that our crucified Savior will help us all to remove violence from our world.

Then we celebrate the Easter Vigil on the eve of Sunday, a powerful celebration of the Lord's resurrection to new life. Easter is a time for us to renew the gift of our Baptism, as we rededicate ourselves to the following of Our Lord Jesus. We want this new life. At this Easter Vigil, many are welcomed into our Church and receive baptism. These new Catholics bring new life and spirit to our Church. It is a time for rejoicing.

Holy Week is a time for joy and happiness. It is a time for walking with Jesus who loved us so much, a time for love and gratitude. We are made new so that we can demonstrate to our world our love for the Lord who lived and died and was resurrected for us.

FOLLOW ME

'Make God present in this world'

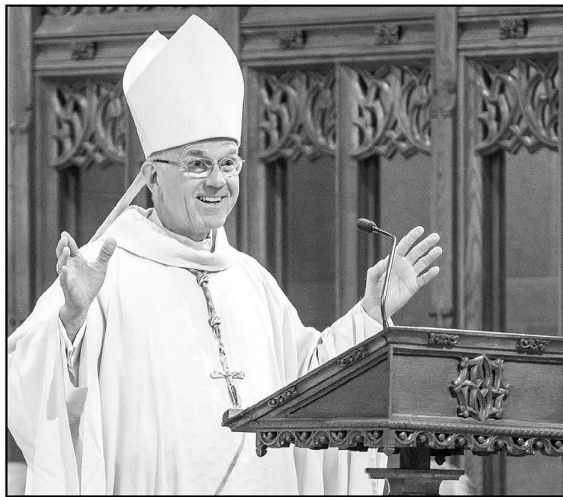
Editor's note: The following is Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily from the Chrism Mass, celebrated March 30 in St. Mary's Cathedral.

"Let the splendor of holiness shine on the world..." With these words from the Prayer of Consecration, I will soon entreat our Heavenly Father to shower the gifts of His Spirit upon those who will be anointed with the Sacred Chrism.

In the Book of Leviticus, the Lord told Moses: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy." (19:1) Our annual celebration of this Chrism Mass is a fitting occasion for each of the baptized - married or single, cleric, consecrated religious and student to reflect on Vatican II's universal call to holiness. In the *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, the Bishops teach that "...all in the Church, whether they belong to the hierarchy or are cared for by it, are called to holiness, according to the apostle's saying: 'For this is the will of God, your sanctification'" (1 Thess. 4:3; Eph. 1:4). (LG39).

By virtue of our baptism, each disciple of Christ has the obligation of spreading the faith to the best of our ability, to be disciples in mission. In our walks on this earth, we must accompany and aid one another to greater holiness of life, so that the world may be filled with the spirit of Christ and reach our eternal destiny.

As those words of the consecratory prayer imply, the Father sent the Holy Spirit to inspire the very core of our being to love God with all our heart, with our whole soul, with our whole understanding, and with our whole strength (Mk. 12:30), and to love one



Bishop Terry R. LaValley at the Chrism Mass held March 30 at St. Mary's Cathedral. Additional photos of the Chrism Mass will be in next week's edition.

another as Christ loves us (Jn. 13:34; 15:12).

For that to happen, each of us must spend time with the Word of God and carry out His will in tangible ways, with the help of His grace and those gifts of God's Holy Spirit. We must frequently celebrate the sacraments, especially the Eucharist; we must constantly apply ourselves to prayer, self-denial, acts of charity and the practice of all virtues. All of us must be prepared to courageously confess Christ before others and follow Him along the way of the cross amidst the persecutions which the Church never seems to lack. Through it all, the faithful are invited, no, are obliged to a life of holiness - not a showy display of piety, but a life saturated with love of God and neighbor, that is, live as saints in the making.

We must always work to make progress in holiness; to stay content in our relationship with Jesus, no matter our age, is to stifle growth in the Christian life. The fire of God's love needs to be nourished with Holy

Scripture. If we don't feed the fire, if we do not help its spread, it will die out.

St. Augustine warned us: "If you say, 'That is enough,' you are lost. Always aspire to more, never stop walking, keep making progress. Do not remain in the same place, do not move backward, do not go astray." The victory won for us by Jesus' Resurrection is not an invitation to rest in self-satisfaction. Faith always grows through daily prayer and in those daily challenges that might cause us to suffer and to die with Jesus.

Cardinal Sarah reminds us that prayer possesses such great power because it is not an activity of a man or woman, but prayer is an activity of God in the believer. When I pray, I join the all-powerful divine activity within me. As St. Paul wrote the Galatians: "Christ lives in me." (2:19) When I pray, I allow God to have His way within me, enabling me to join in the Trinitarian family of love.

In the midst of today's extraordinary challenges, we must stay alert to what Pope Francis called

the tiredness of hope, that inner bitterness, even dryness of heart that can surface. A certain listlessness in prayer and resignation can settle in on any of us as we reflect on the troubles that we encounter today. Too often we, including your bishop, do not reflect the splendor of holiness of the anointed that this prayer of consecration invites.

In our days, in vast areas of the world, including right here in our North Country, the faith is in danger of dying out like a flame which no longer has fuel. Our overriding priority is to make God present in this world and to show men and women the way to God. Fueled by the discipline of daily prayer, our students can be a beacon of hope for classmates, parents, faculty and staff.

Fourteen years ago, Pope Benedict wrote that God is disappearing from the human horizon, and, with the dimming of the light which comes from God, humanity is losing its bearings, with increasingly evident destructive effects. My sisters and brothers, you know the fallout. I needn't list the casualties for you. Too many have forgotten these words:

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "the one who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Our priests and bishops, indeed all the faithful of the Church must witness to the infinite love and mercy of God in today's world. On this occasion in which we recommit ourselves to our priestly promises, I want to thank you, my brother priests, for making God front and center in our parish communities. In a world that has lost its

bearings, you continue to embrace, indeed proclaim, that Christ is the beginning and the end of your priestly ministry. I am so grateful for each and every one of you, my brother priests. Sometimes when we reflect on the distance between our personal expectations and the visible fruits of the labors of our apostolate, our pastoral zeal might be threatened, and we can lose heart.

Let us reclaim our baptismal charge and priestly mission. May each of us shine with the splendor of holiness. Luke-warmness can sap our steadfastness, all our energy and enthusiasm. Contentment with the status quo prevents us from continuing our journey toward the heights where God awaits us. Our daily routine can settle us into mediocrity and the resultant spiritual carelessness, and indifference toward God.

With Cardinal Newman, I pray:

Dear Jesus, help me to spread Your fragrance wherever I go. Flood my soul with your Spirit and life. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly, that my entire life may only be a radiance of Yours. Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Your presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me, but only you, Jesus! Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as you shine, shine so as to be a light to others. The light, O Jesus, will be all from You; none of it will be mine. It will be you shining on others through me. May the splendor of holiness shine in our world, beginning with me. May God be praised... forever may God be praised! AMEN.

Augustinian Academy: A strong foundation

Augustinian Academy in Carthage offers a unique and valuable educational experience for students in Jefferson and Lewis counties. Enrollment is in full swing and registrations are now being accepted for the 2023-24 school year.

There are so many reasons to choose Augustinian Academy for your child. Strong academic programs, religious instruction, and a focus on values and character development are just a few that prompt many parents in the Carthage and Fort Drum areas to choose to send their children to Augustinian Academy.

Building a strong educational foundation for our students is a priority at Augustinian Academy. We boast smaller than average class sizes, which allows for more individual attention and



Ms. Schexnayde, a teacher at Augustinian Academy in Carthage, and several of her after school karate students. Karate is one of several after-school clubs offered as part of Augustinian's efforts to offer a variety of enrichment activities.

personalized instruction. The teachers at our school are highly qualified and dedicated. Our rigorous academic standards are thoroughly taught and our students are held to high expectations in terms of taking responsibility for their

education. We currently follow NYS Next Generation Standards and our school has met the criteria to be accredited by the Cognia Global Commission. Our participation in NYS assessments allows us to be recognized as substantially equivalent.

This year, our Science Olympiad Team placed second at the Adirondack Regional Science Olympiad. As a result, the team will have the exciting opportunity to participate in the New York State Science Olympiad Tournament in Syracuse on April 14-15.

Religious instruction is paramount at Augustinian Academy. Our students receive instruction in the Catholic faith and are encouraged to practice their faith through regular attendance at Mass, participation in sacramental preparation, and religious activities such as daily prayer, Lent and Advent prayer services, adoration and more. At Augustinian Academy, a child's faith formation is an integral aspect of their education and valued as highly as academic growth.

In addition to supporting individual religious growth, we place a strong emphasis on character development and values at our school. Augustinian Academy encourages students to be respectful, responsible, and caring individuals who are committed to making a positive difference in the world. Values and character development are particularly important in today's society, where issues such as bullying and violence are all too common.

This school year, our Military Family Life Coordinator and our Family Support Counselor visited each classroom (K-8) on a monthly basis to intentionally teach social skills. What makes a good friend, how to exercise impulse control, how to regulate emotions, and how to be empathetic are some of the important topics our students covered.

Our principal, Mrs. Margrey reinforces the social skill being discussed by carefully tailoring her daily announcements and prayers to emphasize their importance.

Augustinian Academy is a close-knit, family centered, supportive community. We strive to offer opportunities for our students to participate in extracurricular activities and community service projects. All families are part of our SJVO (Saint Joseph Volunteer Organization). Our SJVO allows parents and caregivers many opportunities to support our school through fundraising and school activities. Most recently, our SJVO hosted a fun event for the families of our school: A Parent/Child St. Patrick's Day Dance, entitled "SH-AM-ROCK." This event featured music, dancing, special treats, crafts, and games for families to enjoy with their friends in a warm, fun atmosphere.

Amora, a second grader, attended the dance with her father, Jermaine. Amora shared that she had a wonderful time and that her favorite part of the event was "getting to dance with my Dad." Amora noted that "sometimes we dance at home, but this was different since we got to dress up and dance together." Amora reported that she "loved getting to wear her new gold dress and even got to wear heels."

Amora has been a student at Augustinian since Kindergarten, and when asked why she loves her school, she responded, "I love getting to wear my uniform because blue is my favorite color and I love when my teacher lets us have fun in the classroom by playing learning games with us."

At Augustinian we have proudly cultivated our after school pro

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Call and visit the
Catholic School nearest you.



Carthage

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Website: www.caugustinian.org
mmargrey@augustinianacademy.org

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20 South Gordon St. • 315-287-0130
Website: www.stjamesk-6.org
principal@stjamesk-6.org

Lake Placid

ST. AGNES
2322 Saranac Ave. • 518-523-3771
Website: www.stagnesp.org
admin@stagnesp.org

Massena

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Website:
www.trinitycatholicsschool.net
principal@trinitycatholicsschool.net

Plattsburgh

SETON CATHOLIC
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mforbes@setonknights.org

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principal@stbernardsschool.org

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IMMACULATE HEART CENTRAL
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daniel.charlebois@ihcschool.org

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JR./SR. HIGH CAMPUS (6-12)
1316 Ives. St. • 315-788-4670

APRIL 5, 2023

Strong foundation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

gramming to offer new opportunities for our students. This year, we are offering various sports, art, music, and drama club, STEM activities and more. These groups, teams and clubs give our students even greater opportunities to develop skills and help them become well-rounded individuals. Our teachers are dedicated to our students inside and outside the classroom. Many of our staff volunteer their time and talents by running these clubs and afterschool programs.

Our Art teacher, Miss Greenwood has recently started an afterschool art club to teach young budding artists in a safe, creative environment. Currently, the students in her club are working on color blending, shading and painting techniques while completing canvas painting projects.

Abigail, a fifth-grade student shared that, "Miss Greenwood makes art learning fun by showing us new techniques that make us better artists. I am happy to do art club because I like doing extra art projects."

Ms. Schexnayder, our eighth-grade teacher, and her husband have been running our after school karate program for the past three years. Ms. S. shares that, "We teach Ryukyu Kempo, which is a traditional Okinawan karate style that incorporates karate, self-defense and traditional weapons. In addition, we focus on strong mental and physical fitness with discipline, focus, respect, and sincerity."

Nathan, a fourth-grade student is an orange belt in his second year with the program. Nathan says that he "loves learning about self-defense. Tuesdays and Thursdays are my favorite days because they are karate days." He enjoys karate so much that he reads books about karate at home. He studies the books to know the ranking system for belts and enjoys learning about the traditional weapons in karate.

Through various grant funding, Augustinian Academy is happy to offer our students and other students in our community various summer opportunities, as well.

This summer for the third year, we will be hosting a week long STEM camp and a week long Vacation Bible School to all area students. Additionally, this year we will offer a new summer enrichment program to our students to assist their academic growth as well as provide new experiences.

With our strong academic programs, religious instruction, focus on values and character development, and supportive community, Augustinian Academy provides students with the tools they need to succeed academically and personally. If there is a student in your life, preschool age through 8th grade, please consider Augustinian Academy for the many benefits and unique opportunities which we offer. Augustinian Academy will host an Open House on Sunday, June 4th, from 11am-1pm. Prospective families or anyone interested in learning more about our school are warmly invited to attend. Staff are available to give school tours and provide information about our school year-round. Please visit our website at www.c-augustinian.org or call us at 315-493-1301 for more information.

Funeral celebrated for Sister M. Maurice Black

WATERTOWN - A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sister Mary Maurice Black on March 28 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown.

Sister Maurice died March 22, 2023, at the Motherhouse at the age of 93.

She was born April 6, 1929, daughter of Aloys and Madeline Black, Piercefild.

Sister Maurice graduated the Sisters of St. Joseph Normal School and entered the Sisters of St. Joseph on September 8, 1946. She received the habit on July 1, 1947 and made Final Profession on August 28, 1952. She received her bachelor's degree from Villanova University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in elementary education. She received a master's in Education from the St. Rose, in Albany. Sister Maurice received certification in Religious Studies from the College of St. Rose, Albany.

Sister Maurice taught

in a number of schools in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, including Holy Family, Watertown, Holy Name School, AuSable Forks, St. Patrick's School, Watertown, Augustinian Academy, Carthage, Bishop Smith Memorial School, Malone, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School, Watertown. Sister Maurice founded and directed the Special Religious Education in Watertown for 34 years until she retired in 2006. In her retirement, she was Special Religious Education volunteer teacher for the shut-ins.

Sister Maurice was a member of the National Apostolate with Mentally Retarded (NAMR) and the National Apostolate with Mentally Retarded Persons (NAMRP). She was a member of the Diocesan Coordinators for Religious Education. She received the Diocese of Ogdensburg Award "Sharing the Light of Faith" in 1997.

Sister Maurice wrote three books, all for the

use of people with Special Needs that received national recognition: "Teach Them as Jesus Did: Lessons for the Mentally and Physically Handicapped;" "Jesus, Our Best Friend, Book I" and "Jesus, Our Best Friend, Book II".

Sister Maurice is survived by her brothers, Stanley (Pat) of Lacona, and Bruce of Plattsburgh; a sister, Joyce of Plattsburgh; sisters-in-law, Susan Black and Susana Black; and many nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents, she is predeceased by her brothers, Lawrence, Gerald, Glenn, Robert and Brian, and her sisters, Ruth, Helen, and Theresa.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters of St. Joseph, 1425 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.

Arrangements are entrusted with Cummings Funeral Service, Inc., Watertown and online condolences to her family may be posted at www.cummingsfuneral.com.

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The Diocese of Ogdensburg

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MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

Holding the line on brain deaths

How do we determine that someone has died? The Uniform Determination of Death Act (UDDA), which has been an important part of the medical and legal landscape in the U.S. for more than 40 years, states:

“An individual who has sustained either irreversible cessation of circulatory and respiratory functions or irreversible cessation of all functions of the entire brain, including the brainstem, is dead. A determination of death must be made in accordance with accepted medical standards.”

The UDDA, originally drafted in 1981 by a special Presidential Commission, was designed to serve as a legal standard and a uniform framework for determining that someone has died, as well as to provide a clear legal foundation for declaring someone dead by means of “neurological criteria,” also known as “brain death.”

Since that time, the UDDA has served as an important benchmark for the medical profession, and a point of reference for legislative standards adopted throughout the United States, with all 50 states relying on language borrowed from the UDDA in their legal definitions of death.

Clearly defining and ascertaining when someone has died is important for a number of reasons: grieving can begin; burial arrangements can be made; and organ procurement can take place if the person had indicated a desire to become a donor. Most importantly, establishing that some-

one has not yet passed on helps us provide appropriate care and medical treatments until the time of death.

Recently, a group of physicians, ethicists, and lawyers recommended revising the wording of the UDDA. Their proposal adjusts the definition of brain death from whole-brain death to less-than-whole-brain death.

Whenever brain death assessments are done today, physicians carry out a series of bedside clinical tests. They check whether the patient can gasp or initiate a breath when taken off the ventilator (known as an “apnea test”). Any attempt at taking a breath would indicate that the person’s brainstem is still functioning, and that he or she is still alive. Physicians also check for other reflexes and responses mediated by the brain: Do pupils of the eye respond to light? Is there any reaction to, or withdrawal from painful stimuli? Is there any gag reflex when an object is placed in the back of the throat? If such reflexes are present, the individual is still alive.

For somebody to be deceased, then, there needs to be evidence of a catastrophic neurological event that has caused their brain to become irreversibly non-functional. One type of brain function that is not routinely assessed by doctors when carrying out brain death testing involves the hypothalamus. This important region of the brain coordinates with the pituitary gland to enable the secretion

of hormones and small molecules that regulate the function of the kidneys and other organs, and helps control salt and water balance in the body. Sometimes a person can pass all the tests for being brain dead, but still have hypothalamic function.

If a patient has continuing hypothalamic function in this way, it seems clear that he or she does not manifest “irreversible cessation of all functions of the entire brain” as delineated in the UDDA.

Regrettably, some are now proposing that a person in this situation should still be considered brain dead, and they are seeking to revise the wording of the UDDA to reflect this, substantially lowering the standard for a declaration of brain death. They declare, without compelling support, that the persistence of neurosecretory function by the hypothalamus is consistent with brain death.

In cases of genuine brain death, when all functions of the entire brain have ceased, the bodies of these individuals can typically continue to function on a ventilator only for a matter of hours or perhaps a few days before their various subsystems, like blood pressure, electrolytes, and fluid balance become erratic and dysregulated, leading to cardiac arrest.

Meanwhile, some brain-injured individuals who have retained hypothalamic functioning have survived for months or years on a ventilator after losing both their brain-mediated reflexes and their ability to breathe. Even though these patients suffer an extremely severe central nervous system injury, they are clearly still alive.

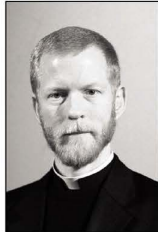
Even to be “slightly alive” is still to be alive. If the language of the UDDA ends up being changed to allow for a declaration of brain death even with continued hypothalamic functioning, individuals

who are not-quite-dead will be treated as if they were already dead.

Rather than revising the language of the UDDA and seeking to lower the standards for declaring brain death, the battery of routine reflex and apnea tests used for ascertaining brain death needs to be expanded to include tests that can verify the loss of hypothalamic function.

Such improvements in testing will help ensure that people are not declared deceased prematurely. It will also help strengthen public confidence in the life-saving work of organ transplantation.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org



Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D.

SERVICE WITH A SMILE



St. Mary's church in Clayton celebrated St. Joseph's Day with a brunch. About 10 of the parish's confirmation students helped serve and clean up. Pictured are, from left, Sam Duffany, Margie Barton, Avery Green and Luca Beattie.

APRIL 5, 2023

Environmental Stewardship

Trusting in God

There is a powerful message in the scriptural accounts of the passion of Our Lord for all to consider when confronted by events out of our control. The war in the Ukraine, seemingly dysfunctional governing bodies, and a steadily deteriorating climate are issues that seem too big for any one of us to do anything about. This week, we are reminded that our Blessed Mother Mary and Jesus' most beloved confidantes, Mary Magdalene and St. John, stood by and watched the crucifixion. They realized that there was nothing they could do to change the events unfolding around them, but rather than retreat, they elected to be in the mob and be with Our Lord.

Witnessing a loved one being tortured is unbearably painful. We must trust in God's plan. He knows infinitely more about what is unfolding and the eventual outcomes than any of us. Similarly, it can be unbearably depressing for anyone that deeply cares about nature to watch a lake becoming clogged with blue-green algae or flocks of birds become completely decimated after years of changing weather patterns. While death is almost always viewed as a tragedy, we must never forget that there is a resurrection. Every living thing on this planet will die. This not only includes fish, squirrels, trees, flowers and all of us, but it also included God's only Son.

We must trust that God knows exactly what is occurring and will to promote an outcome that will benefit society and the natural world in the coming centuries. We must not run away from the chaos; rather, we must remain present with the afflicted and suffering and offer our support in whatever way we can. And we must never fear death, as it is but a single point on a great circle of life that is being sustained by God.

APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

The reward of abuse prevention

NOTE FROM VIRTUS: The VIRTUS Programs recognizes the great importance of listening to survivors of sexual abuse. Because people who have been abused have courageously come forward to share their stories, we now have a better understanding of how to help prevent sexual abuse from occurring as well as how to address it appropriately. We offer our sincere appreciation for all survivors who have come forward to share their stories and recognize their role in helping to foster healing and prevention in our church. This article was written by a survivor about his own experience and how caring adults can work together to prevent abuse.

This article is reprinted here with permission.

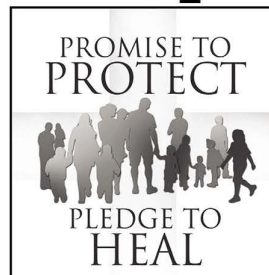
As caring adults, we all have the ability to be protectors of children and youth, and to help prevent child abuse from occurring—especially within the Catholic Church. I am a survivor of childhood sexual abuse by clergy. I remain an active Catholic, and my wife and I raised our children Catholic, sending them to Catholic schools. I am also an advocate for the healing of survivors, and for the prevention of child abuse.

In 2013, I was invited to join the Board of Directors of Prevent Child Abuse—Illinois, which is the chartered state chapter of “Prevent Child Abuse America”—an organization dedicated to child abuse prevention through education, public aware-

ness, public policy advocacy and community outreach (every state has its own “Prevent Child Abuse” chapter).¹ To be completely forthcoming—beyond my willingness to foster the goals of preventing child abuse or neglect wherever children are—I had no idea how much the role would exceed my expectations of helping children and survivors. Much of the content was new to me, as I am not in the social service industry. I am the owner of a small orthopedic product distribution company, and I am a childhood sexual abuse survivor.

One aspect of Board service is helping to facilitate the annual Prevent Child Abuse Illinois Statewide Conference. At my first conference, I was tasked with greeting attendees at the door and directing people to various seminar rooms. I was impressed by the sheer quantity of people attending. Once my job was completed, I was able to sit in on certain seminars, and found myself awestruck at the variety and quality of speakers. Topics included keeping our kids safe while using technology devices, child welfare and human trafficking, authentic parent engagement, home visiting programs, caring for the caregiver and much more.

There I was, a childhood sexual abuse survivor, sitting amongst good people who work for child welfare agencies across the state, hearing presentations from experts on child safety. It hit me like a



ton of bricks. I actually left the building at lunchtime, and I sat in my car and cried. I realized that, during my childhood, I had never experienced these types of people—whose sole responsibility is to care for and protect children. My parents, and my school at the time, didn't have access to these programs and resources, which are considered to be the best practices of child safety—to protect me, and other children, from my abuser. I didn't have anyone in my life who could actually hear the pain and sadness of a little boy who felt alone and didn't know what to do or say about what my abuser was doing to me.

I was crying at the realization of my lost innocence of my youth. Those were tears of sadness. I consoled myself with the full knowledge and understanding that even though I was not protected as a child, we have good people in our communities whose sole job is to protect children now.

We have best practices of child safety programs and resources readily available to all. Also, we now have trusted adults, like you and I, who can listen to the cries of a little boy or little girl, hear their

pain, and act to protect them from harm. I dried my tears. I left the car happy in my decision to join Prevent Child Abuse - Illinois. I was also so happy to go back into the conference and surround myself with people who have the tremendous responsibility to be protectors of children and youth.

As a caring adult, you have a wonderful opportunity to be a safe adult to the children, youth and vulnerable in your life. If a child or youth trusts you enough to disclose sexual abuse to you, your response can have a tremendous impact on their healing. First, just listen to them with compassion and allow them to tell their story.

When they are done sharing, let them know that the abuse is not their fault, and that they are brave for telling you. Let them know you believe them and that you will take appropriate action. Then, immediately report what was disclosed to your local Child Protective Services agency, or to law enforcement.

Because of abuse prevention programs—and safe adults who are willing to take action to protect children and youth—I remain filled with hope that no other child has to endure what was imposed upon me. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve as a protector of children and youth, and I hope telling my story can help break the silence that has historically surrounded childhood sexual abuse in our society.



*Support And Pray
For Vocations*

Follow Pope Francis on
Twitter!
www.twitter.com/Pontifex

 #Pontifex

Rest in Peace

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

April 5 – Rev. Florence McCarthy, 1901; Rev. Amedee Lacasse, M.S.C., 1941; Msgr. Francis P. Devan, 1992

April 6 – Rev. Joseph E. Berard, 1942; Msgr. Arthur M. Gilbert, 1965

April 7 – Rev. Fabien Barnabe, 1883; Rev. Francois Cing-mars, 1902; Rev. James E. Duffy, 1934

April 8 – Rev. Benjamin Grom, M.S.C., 1893; Rev. Patrick Carr, O.S.A., 1901

April 10 – Rev. Maurice Morin, M.S.C., 1976

April 11 – Rev. John P. Whalen, O.S.A., 1947



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Bishop's Public Schedule

April 6 – 9 a.m. – Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral
7 p.m. – Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 7 – 9 a.m. – Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral
3 p.m. – Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord at St. Mary's Cathedral followed by Confessions

April 8 – 9 a.m. – Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral
8 p.m. – Easter Vigil at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 9 – 8 a.m. – Easter Sunday Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 11 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

April 12 – Seminarian visit at Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania

To Report Abuse

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



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SPECIAL COLLECTION
GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 7, 2023

HOW THE PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION IS USED



What is the Pontifical Good Friday Collection?

**It supports the people of the Holy Land
and the pilgrims that visit.**

At the request of the Holy Father, the Franciscans of the Holy Land promote the Pontifical Good Friday Collection in the United States and other parts of the world. Funds are distributed at the direction of the Vatican's Congregation for the Oriental Churches. A portion of the funds are directly allocated to the educational and ecclesial projects in the Middle East. The rest of the funds collected in the United States and a number of other countries support the ministries and programs entrusted by the Holy See to the Holy Land Franciscans. The Franciscans have served in the Holy Land for 800 years.

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection provides, Humanitarian, Liturgical, Pastoral, Archaeological, Charitable, Educational services, as well as care for the Holy Places.

Serving those in need in the Holy Land

- **250** friars **11** countries
- **65** sanctuaries and **23** parishes
- **6** guest houses for pilgrims
- **30** youth served by Bethlehem Boys' Home
- **63** apartments restored for families in need
- **1,020** employees in Israel and Palestine
- **17** schools with more than **10,000** students
- **509** university scholarships
- **56** Friars preparing for the priesthood
- **700** refugees aided on the island of Rhodes
- **8,000+** Syrian families aided
- **650+** families in Lebanon assisted
- Construction of a Catholic school in Cana

Help us continue to serve!

Commissariat of the Holy Land

1400 Quincy St. NE, Washington, DC 20017
www.MyFranciscan.org/good-Friday

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

House passes bill to combat forced organ harvesting

(CNA) — On Monday night the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that would impose sanctions and penalties on individuals involved in the forced harvesting of human organs. The bill, authored by Catholic Rep. Chris Smith, R-New Jersey, and called the Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act of 2023, had nearly unanimous support, passing in a 412-2 vote. It will now advance to the Senate. Under this law, any person determined by the president to be funding, sponsoring, or in any way facilitating the forced harvesting of organs could face sanctions as well as civil and criminal penalties. Individuals determined to be involved with the forced organ harvesting industry could face civil penalties of up to \$250,000 and criminal penalties of \$1 million and up to 20 years in prison.

Pope's asks for prayers for culture of non-violence, peace

(CNA) — In the month of April, Pope Francis has asked the world to pray in a special way for a culture of nonviolence and peace. "Living, speaking, and acting without violence is not surrendering, losing, or giving up anything but aspiring to everything," the pope said in a video message released March 30. He urged both countries and citizens to "resort less and less to the use of arms." In the video, images of Pope Francis delivering his message are interspersed with scenes of war zones, bombed-out cities, people fleeing war, police at crime scenes, and peace protesters. In some of the video clips, the faces of iconic people associated with peace — Pope John XXIII, Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King Jr., and Mahatma Gandhi — are superimposed on the scenes. "As St. John XXIII said 60 years ago in his encyclical *Pacem in Terris*, war is madness," the pope said. "It's beyond reason."

Poll: Religion, patriotism diminish in importance in U.S.

(CNA) — A new poll of U.S. residents suggests that certain values such as religiosity and having children have receded in importance over the past 25 years, while people's opinion of the importance of money increased during the same period. When asked about certain values and whether they consider them to be "very important," 39% said "religion" was very important to them. By contrast, in 1998, 62% of respondents to the same question said religion was very important to them. The poll, released March 27, was conducted earlier this month by the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago and funded by the Wall Street Journal. The 2023 survey found that these values are less important than in 2019, the last time the survey was done. Also among the findings 38% in 2023 said "patriotism" is very important, compared with 70% in 1998 and 61% in 2019. Only 43% said marriage is very important (this question was not on the 2019 and 1998 surveys). The only value that increased in importance in respondents' minds from 1998 to 2023 was money, which increased from 31% to 43%.

Study: Mass attendance dips after pandemic

By Jonah McKeown
Catholic News Agency

The results of a new study from the Pew Research Center show that in-person Mass attendance among Catholics has yet to return to pre-pandemic levels, and only about 4 in 10 U.S. Catholics say they attend Mass in person as often as they did before the pandemic. A quarter of all Catholics say they now attend less often.

The self-reported Mass attendance numbers in the Pew study combine those Catholics who say they attend in person, virtually, or both. The drop in in-person attendance is accompanied by a 14% rise in the number of Catholics who say they attend Mass more frequently online now than they did before the pandemic. The Pew researchers suggest that participation in Mass among U.S. Catholics remained relatively stable throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, but only if virtual attendance is taken into account.

The Catholic Church teaches that Catholics are obliged to go to Mass every Sunday, "unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor" (or bishop).

When virtually every U.S. diocese shuttered churches during the COVID-19 pandemic, many bishops issued dispensations from Catholics' Sunday Mass obligation, leading to a rise in virtual worship for many. Bishops began lifting those dispensations later in 2020, with a few bishops holding out until 2022 before lifting the dispensation and inviting Catholics back to Mass in person.

The Pew researchers concluded that "the vast majority of respondents showed no change in their self-reported general level of religious service attendance over this period" — while treating in-person and virtual attendance as being equal.

"While most Americans did not report significant changes in their religious service attendance over the course of the pandemic, the share who now indicate they are attending less often than they did before the initial COVID-19 outbreak shuttered many in-person services is slightly larger than the share who say they are going more often," Pew reported.

"Most Americans either say they

attend in person at about the same rate as before the COVID-19 outbreak (31%) or that they did not attend religious services before the pandemic and still do not (42%)."

Other findings from the Pew study included:

84% of Catholics said in 2022 that they attend Mass at the same rate they did in 2019, whether in-person or online. Pew arrived at this figure by surveying the same individuals in 2019 and 2022. (For the adult population overall, that rate was 87%.) Six percent said they attend more often than in 2019, and 9% said they attend less often.

38% of Catholics said they attend in-person religious services "about as often" as before the pandemic, 24% less often, and 9% more often. This is compared with 31% of adults overall who said they attend in-person religious services "about as often" as before the pandemic, 20% less often, and 7% more.

Protestants, especially Black Protestants, reported a larger increase in participation in virtual worship than Catholics. Twenty-six percent of Protestants overall said in 2022 that they attend virtually more often than before the pandemic, as did 35% of Black Protestants.

Throughout most of the pandemic, about 6 in 10 Americans have not taken part in religious services in any way, including roughly 7 in 10 adults under 30 and about 9 in 10 religiously unaffiliated adults.

The present research comes following another recent survey released in January by the American Enterprise Institute, which concluded that the percentage of Americans who attend religious services is now "significantly lower" than before the COVID-19 pandemic. As of spring 2022, according to that survey, 33% of Americans said they never attend religious services, up from 25% before the World Health Organization declared a pandemic in March 2020. Religious affiliation, though, is largely unchanged, according to that survey.

The Pew study, which was done in November 2022, used a sample of 11,377 people in total, 2,207 of whom were Catholic. The margin of error was ± 1.5 percentage points overall and ± 3.4 percentage points for the Catholics.

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

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

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

Schedule: April 1, May 6, June 3, Aug. 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Plattsburgh – Stations of the Cross to be led by Deacon Michael Howley in front of Planned Parenthood.

Date: April 7

Time: 10 a.m.

Features: For the Respect For Life, especially the Unborn Child.

Contact: Direct questions to Toni Krupka 518-563-7521

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Plattsburgh – Divine Mercy services to be held.

Date: April 16

Place: St. Peter's Church

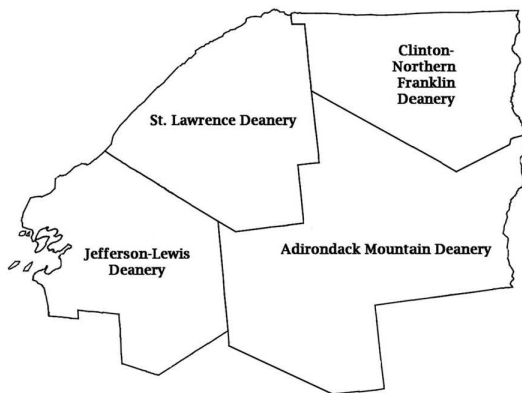
Schedule: 2 p.m. Adoration begins; 2p.m. to 2:30 Confession in chapel; 3 p.m. Singing of the chapel, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Contact: For more information

Contact: Holy Cross Parish 518-563-0730

DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR

St. Regis Falls – All are invited to the monthly first Saturday Devo-



The North County 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@northcountycatholic.org.
Items must be received in the NCC office by the Wednesday before publication.

tion 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 Preschool 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

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

Watertown - The Divine Mercy Novena will begin with a brief background of the Divine Mercy, and by praying the Chaplet in the Church to begin the first day of the 9-day Novena.

Date: April 7

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Patrick's Church

Contact: call Judy Boulton at 315-783-7349 or Kim Tyler at 315-486-4542, or by visiting www.thedivinemercy.org

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

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

Date: April 9

Time: 8 a.m. to Noon

Place: St. James Community Room

Cost: Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$7; Children under 10, \$4; Family of 4 or more, \$27

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

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

CELEBRATION DINNER DANCE

Watertown – You are invited to join us for a celebration of 50 years of ministering with People with Disabilities.

Date: April 14

Time: 5 p.m. to 8

Place: Elks Club on Bradley Street

Cost: \$30

Menu: Sliced Roast Beef au jus, Grilled Rosemary Chicken, Oven-Roasted Potatoes, Hon-

ey-Glazed Carrots, Broccoli au Gratin, Tossed Salad

Features: There will be a dinner, dance, raffle and silent auction.

Contact: Tickets can be purchased at the office of St. Patrick's or the SSJ Motherhouse between 9:00-3:00PM. Tickets will be available until April 3rd.

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

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

Date: April 15

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

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Watertown – All are Catholics, active and fallen-away, are invited to St. Patrick's Church who will hold a Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration.

Date: April 16

Time: 3 p.m.

Features: There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, confession, & a procession. You may bring your own Divine Mercy picture to be blessed. The Celebration will be 1 hour with refreshments to follow.

Contact: For more information call Judy Boulton at 315-783-7349 or Kim Tyler at 315-486-4542, or by visiting www.thedivinemercy.org

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Houseville – Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration to be held.

Date: April 16

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Schedule: 2 p.m. to 3, Sacrament of Reconciliation and showing "The Miracle Box" video; 3 p.m., Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Adoration, Blessing of Holy Cards & Petitions, Homily, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Benediction

and Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image.

Features: Celebrant will be Fr. Douglas Decker. Reception to follow in the church hall. All are welcome.

Contact: 315-348-6260

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

ST. LAWRENCE

MEAL 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 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 and two hours. Volunteer for one day a week or several. Any help is greatly appreciated.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

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.

LENTEN FISH FRY

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

Date: Starting Feb. 24

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Place: St. James School

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

Features: Dine in or take-out

Contact: Local deliveries available by calling 315-287-0130

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

Date: Every Wednesday during Lent.

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: St. Andrew's Church

ALPHA

Massena – You are invited to ALPHA.

Date: Tuesdays starting April 4

Time: 6 p.m. to 8:30

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

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

MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

Date: April 9 (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.

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

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

DIOCESAN EVENTS**SURVIVING DIVORCE**

The Family Life Office is offering the Surviving Divorce Program, starting late February 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/survivingdi

vorce. For more information contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org.

IHC MYSTERY PLAYERS

One of the most beautiful Lenten traditions is the Stations of the Cross. The Immaculate Heat Central High School Mystery Players from Watertown will present a creative play entitled "The Way of the Cross".

Schedule: April 6, 8 p.m. - IHC School, Watertown; April 7, 7:30 p.m. - St. Patrick's, Watertown

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: April 15: Plattsburgh Holy Cross Parish Center, behind OLV; April 22: Watertown, St. Anthony Parish; April 29: Waddington St. Mary's Parish Center; 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.

RITE OF CONSECRATION

Plattsburgh - The Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley cordially invites you to a special Mass where Mary Beth Bracy will be admitted in the Rite of Consecration, to a Life of Virginity Living in the World.

Date: April 16

Time: 11:15 a.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: A Reception will immediately follow the Mass in the Emmaus Room. The Mass may be viewed at www.rcdony.org/live-mass.

YOUTH RALLY

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

students.

Date: April 22

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with Mass to follow at St. Agnes Church

Place: High Peaks Resort

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

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

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

LOVING AUTHENTICALLY

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

Schedule: 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

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.rachels-vineyard.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, use 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

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.

Shia LaBeouf stars in 'Padre Pio' film

By Joe Bukuras
Catholic News Agency

A new movie about St. Padre Pio, starring Catholic convert Shia LaBeouf will be available for public viewing beginning June 2.

The movie will be released and distributed in North America by Gravitas Ventures, according to deadline.com. The company did not respond in time for publication to inquiries about whether the film would be released in theaters and through streaming services.

One of the most popular Catholic saints of the 20th century, St. Pio of Pietrelcina, com-

monly known as Padre Pio, was a Capuchin Franciscan friar, priest, and mystic.

Padre Pio is mostly known for his deep wisdom about prayer and peace; his stigmata; miraculous reports of his bilocation; being physically attacked by the devil, and mastering the spiritual life.

The film premiered at the Venice Film Festival in September 2022 and played again at the Mammoth Film Festival in early March 2023.

LaBeouf, who plays the role of Padre Pio, spent four months living with Capuchin friars while preparing for the film.

The film features a subplot about the rise of fascism in Italy, AP reported, focusing on the 1920 massacre of 14 people in the village of San Giovanni Rotondo near the monastery where Padre Pio lived.

Abel Ferrara, who had made a documentary about Padre Pio before working on the movie the film's director, told AP he felt that the intersection between the saint's spiritual battles and the political bloodshed at San Giovanni Rotondo made sense as a scope for the film.

"I thought the confluence between the massacre and his stigmata both happening in the

same place at the same time ... I mean how could you not make a movie about that?" he told the AP.

Ferrara told AP that Church officials and Capuchin friars were supportive of the film project despite his having produced pornography and extremely violent films early in his career.

"Given the list of films I'd made you'd be wondering," Ferrara said.

"It's just that these cats have got that optimistic take," Ferrara said of the Church. "Don't judge someone on their worst moment."

LaBeouf made headlines in August after he revealed in an 80-minute-long interview with Bishop Robert Barron of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota, and Word on Fire, that his on-screen portrayal of Padre Pio led him to a love of the Catholic faith.

"I start feeling a physical effect from it," he said of going to Communion. "I start feeling a reprieve, and it starts feeling, like, regenerative, and [I] start enjoying it to such a degree I don't want to miss it, ever."

LaBeouf, 36, says he was agnostic before finding God.

Taking pope's words to space

Pope Francis on Wednesday will bless a satellite that will launch his words into space on June 10.

The "Spes Satelles," Latin for "Satellites of Hope," will be launched on a rocket taking off from the Vandenberg Space Force Base in California.

According to the Vatican, the miniaturized satellite will hold a copy of a book documenting the pope's urbi et orbi blessing of March 27, 2020, when, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, he blessed the world from St. Peter's Square with the words "Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies, and comfort our hearts."

"You ask us not to be afraid," the pope prayed. "Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm."

The book, "Why Are You Afraid? Have You No Faith? The World Facing the Pandemic," has been

converted into a nanobook, a 2-millimeter by 2-millimeter by 0.2-millimeter silicon plate, for transport to space.

The Vatican said March 27 the CubeSat, the name for miniature satellites, will travel aboard a Falcon 9 rocket, SpaceX's partially reusable two-stage launch platform. It will be hosted on the ION SCV-011ION platform, a satellite carrier developed and built by the Italian company D-Orbit.

The Italian Space Agency will operate the satellite, which was built by the Polytechnic University of Turin.

"The satellite is equipped with a radio transmitter as well as onboard instruments to be maneuvered from the ground," a press release stated.

While in orbit, the satellite will broadcast decipherable statements from Pope Francis on the theme of hope and peace in English, Italian, and Spanish.

The president of the Italian Space Agency, Giorgio Saccoccia, said the Holy See asked the agency to identify a way for Pope Francis' words of

hope "to cross the earth's borders and reach from space the greatest possible number of women and men on our troubled planet."



What is a Foster Grandparent?

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

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



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

Roy Foster
age 83
Foster
Grandparent

Volunteers Needed



Am I Qualified to be a Foster Grandparent?

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

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



Catholic
Charities
Diocese of Ogdensburg

Want more info about how to get started?

Contact Melissa Howard,
Volunteer Coordinator

PHONE:
(518)359-7688

EMAIL:
mhoward@catholiccharities.org

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

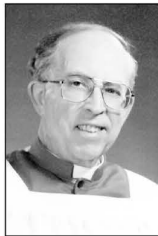
SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

'The hope of every living person'

Easter has come suddenly, with a burst of light. Now we know that Jesus stands by his promises. In a flash, Christ has changed darkness and death into light and life. Our journey through the struggles of Lent and the pain of Holy Week is over. With malicious sacrilege, evil has done its worst to the sacred body of God's Son. With Mary and John, we saw Him die. We wept at the tomb. Then, before dawn on Sunday, Christ broke through the rock, shattered the power of sin, and, according to tradition, appeared first to His Mother, then

to the women and the apostles.

As we listen to the first reading, we hear one of Peter's very first sermons. The curious bystanders were astounded at the change in this man. He comes fresh from the fiery tongues of Pentecost, still in shock at the dream he had on the way to Cornelius' house. Nothing any more was to be considered unclean. So, he is free to preach to Gentiles the good news of God's forgiveness and freedom for all. Peter and the others are commanded to baptize any who believe in the Christ. So, the word



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

April 9

Easter Sunday

READINGS

Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; John 20:1-9 or Matthew 28:1-10

spreads through the whole countryside and beyond. Resurrection is the hope of every living person. No wonder the apostles preached with such courage and enthusiasm!

They preached about a God who cared first for people who were poor and powerless, a God whose love governed all His relationships. And He taught us to not only believe in justice, but to act justly.

The Scripture read-

ings during these fifty days between Easter and Pentecost are among the most exciting in the Church year. We give burst into "Alleluias" over and over, and joyfully shout "Christ has Risen" this Sunday. But more than just singing, we settle into a new time of reflection on our own program for resurrection in these very troubled times. After all, it is our mission to bring new life to a troubled world. If we don't do it, who will? So, let's repack for travel!

As followers of the Risen Christ, the time has come for greater efforts on our part to influence politicians and others on all the vital life issues that are integral

to the teaching of Jesus Christ - from abortion and embryonic stem-cell research to corruption in government and all institutions - to proper medical care for the sick and elderly. Jesus teaches respect for every human person, whether alien or citizen. Faith and action begin with understanding and loving the teachings and plans for action of our Church. We have so much to do as hopeful Easter Catholics. These are critical times, and we must not fall back into laziness or complacency now that Lent has ended.

Let's hope our spiritual blood-pressure is just a bit higher as we proclaim the good news. *Christ is Risen, Alleluia!*

CALLED TO SERVE

Let God be in all of you

The end of this week marks the Triduum. The Bishops of the US explain it this way on their website: "The summit of the Liturgical Year is the Easter Triduum - from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. Though chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery."

"The single celebration of the Triduum marks the end of the Lenten season and leads

to the Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord at the Easter Vigil."

The faithful do not attend the Triduum services of The Mass of the Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday), Good Friday of the Lord's Passion and the Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord (Easter Vigil) like they once did.

I recall when the Triduum was appointment liturgy. "We have to go to church!" Some of you remember when our churches were packed for each service.

That's not the case today.

"Oh, I never go to those services," we hear often. The excuses vary, "The services are too long." "The services are

at weird times." "I don't drive at night."

We will miss those who do not attend, but let's face it, large crowds do not necessarily mean everyone was prayerful and attentive.

When Pope Paul VI promulgated The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, (Sacrosanctum Concilium) in 1963, the world latched onto the phrase, "full, active and conscious participation" in the liturgy by all the faithful. It changed the way we participated at Mass. We no longer just witnessed Mass, or watched the priest celebrate Mass. We were en-

couraged to understand what was going on and take part in the liturgy.

It would be great if the churches were full again this weekend. It would be even more wonderful if the churches were filled with folks who want to be with their relatives, friends and neighbors in the common observance of Christ's passion, death and resurrection and eventually his Ascension. The Paschal Mystery.

He went through all that for me, for us.

This Triduum become "full, active and con-

scious."

During this Triduum and at every liturgy "be instructed by God's word and be nourished at the table of the Lord's Body; give thanks to God; by offering the Immaculate Victim, not only through the hands of the priest, but also with him, learn to offer yourself; through Christ the Mediator, be drawn day by day into ever more perfect union with God and with each other, so that finally God may be all in all" (SC 48).

Happy Easter!

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



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

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APRIL 5, 2023

OBITUARIES

Au Sable Forks – John “Jack” Doner, 91; Mass of Christian Burial March 31, 2023 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Cadyville – Alice T. Simon, 89; Mass of Christian Burial April 15, 2023 at St. James Church.

Champlain – Gilles J. Boudreau, 87; Mass of Christian Burial April 1, 2023 at St. Mary's Church.

Clayton – Arnold Joseph Isidore O'Reilly, 82; Mass of Christian Burial June 3, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cem-

etry.

Croghan – Elmer M. Golden, 91; Mass of Christian Burial March 31, 2023 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Croghan – Carl Joseph Schack, 84; Memorial Mass March 29, 2023 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Crown Point – Kathleen A. Savage, 57; Mass of Christian Burial March 31, 2023 at Sacred Heart Church.

Gabriels – Anne (Phelan) Pillmeier, 88;

Mass of Christian Burial to be held at a later date at Church of the Assumption.

Lowville – Mary Corbett Martin, 93; Mass of Christian Burial June 14, 2023 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Old Glendale Cemetery.

Massena – Lena (Laverghetta) Spadafore, 98; Mass of Christian burial to be held at a later date at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Bridget A. (Miller) Beebie, 52; Memorial Mass March 31, 2023 at Notre Dame Church.

Ogdensburg – Michael E. Hackett, 64; Memorial Mass March 31, 2023 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Ogdensburg – John M. LaMay, 84; Funeral Services March 28, 2023 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home.

Peru – Arletta Helen (Benson) Duprey, 65; Mass of Christian Burial March 31, 2023 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in Parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Lillian D. (Roushia) Shelters, 85; Mass of Christian Burial April 1, 2023 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Statement addresses rights of indigenous peoples

By Hannah Brockhaus
Catholic News Agency

Two Vatican departments issued a joint statement Thursday on the “doctrine of discovery” and the dignity and rights due indigenous peoples.

The statement said the legal concept of the “doctrine of discovery” is “not part of the teaching of the Catholic Church” and historical research shows certain papal documents “written in a specific historical period and linked to political questions, have never been considered expressions of the Catholic faith.”

“In no uncertain terms, the Church’s magisterium upholds the respect due to every human being,” the document said. “The Catholic Church therefore repudiates those concepts that fail to recognize the inherent human rights of indigenous peoples, including what has become known as the legal and political ‘doctrine of discovery.’”

The joint Vatican statement was published March 30 by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and the Dicastery for Culture and Education.

It said the Church is committed to listening to indigenous peoples and fostering efforts for reconciliation and healing. In this context the Church heard the need to address the so-called “doctrine of discovery,” it added.

People from indigenous communities in Canada had urged Pope Francis last year to rescind the “doctrine of discovery.”

“The legal concept of ‘discovery’ was debated by colonial powers from the sixteenth century onward and found particular expression in the nineteenth century jurisprudence of courts in several countries, according to which the discovery of lands by settlers granted an exclusive right to extinguish, either by purchase or conquest, the title to or possession of those lands by indigenous peoples,” the Vatican explained.

“Certain scholars have argued that the basis of the aforementioned ‘doctrine’ is to be found in several papal documents, such as the Bulls Dum Diversas (1452), Romanus Pontifex (1455) and Inter Caetera (1493),” it continued.

While the statement

said these papal documents are not considered expressions of the Catholic faith, it added that “the Church acknowledges that these papal bulls did not adequately reflect the equal dignity and rights of indigenous peoples.”

“The Church is also aware that the contents of these documents were manipulated for political purposes by competing colonial powers in order to justify immoral acts against indigenous peoples that were carried out, at times, without opposition from ecclesiastical authorities,” the document said. “It is only just to recognize these errors, acknowledge the terrible effects of the assimilation policies and the pain experienced by indigenous peoples, and ask for pardon.”

The note also pointed out that there are numerous statements by the Church and popes upholding the rights of indigenous people, such as the 1537 bull *Sublimis Deus* by Pope Paul III, who wrote, “We define and declare [...] that [..] the said Indians and all other people who may later be discovered by Christians, are by no

means to be deprived of their liberty or the possession of their property, even though they be outside the Christian faith; and that they may and should, freely and legitimately, enjoy their liberty and possession of their property; nor should they be in any way enslaved; should the contrary happen, it shall be null and have no effect.”

The prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education, Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça, said in a separate note that the Vatican statement was part of an “architecture of reconciliation.”

He described the art of reconciliation as “the process whereby people commit to listening to each other, to speaking to each other and to growth in mutual understanding.”

The insights informing the statement, he added, are the fruit of a renewed dialogue between the Church and indigenous peoples.

“It is in listening to indigenous peoples that the Church is learning to understand their sufferings, past and present and our own failings. It is

in cultural dialogue that we are committed to accompanying them in the search for reconciliation and healing. We have to live out the art of encounter,” the cardinal said.

The joint statement said “the Catholic Church strives to promote universal human fraternity and respect for the dignity of every human being” in fidelity to Christ’s mandate, and that is why Catholic popes throughout history “have condemned violence, oppression, social injustice, and slavery, including those committed against indigenous peoples.”

“There have also been numerous examples of bishops, priests, women and men religious and lay faithful who gave their lives in defense of the dignity of those peoples,” it said.

“At the same time,” it added, “respect for the facts of history demands an acknowledgement of the human weakness and failings of Christ’s disciples in every generation. Many Christians have committed evil acts against indigenous peoples for which recent popes have asked forgiveness on numerous occasions.”

PRAYING AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD



PHOTO BY ANICE LAMORA

On Saturday March 25, World Day of Prayer for the Unborn Child and Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord, Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Sts Kateri and Andre and friends prayed the Rosary and braved the cold at Planned Parenthood in Plattsburgh. The group was led in prayer by Deacon Michael Howley, and the event was also attended by Deacon Ken Lucia and Sister Barbara Langlois O.P. Several others prayed but were unable to stay for the picture.

Pope: Invite Jesus into your heart

(CNA) - Pope Francis on Wednesday, March 29, spoke against a comfortable Christianity that keeps Jesus at arm's length rather than inviting him into the heart to change it.

"If one of us says, 'Ah, thank you Lord, because I am a good person, I do good things, I do not commit major sins...' this is not a good path, this is the path of self-sufficiency, it is a path that does not justify you, it makes you turn up your nose," the pope said during his weekly public audience March 29.

He called this attitude being "an elegant Catholic, but an elegant Catholic is not a holy Catholic, he is elegant."

"The true Catholic, the true Christian is one who receives Jesus within, which changes your

heart," Pope Francis said in St. Peter's Square.

"This," he continued, "is the question I ask you all today: What does Jesus mean for me? Did I let him enter my heart, or do I keep him within reach, but so that he does not really enter within? Have I let myself be changed by him? Or is Jesus just an idea, a theology that goes ahead..."

At his Wednesday general audience, the pope continued his reflections on evangelization and apostolic zeal with a catechesis centered on St. Paul's transformation from a persecutor of Christians to a great evangelist.

St. Paul "was a man who was zealous about the law of Moses for Judaism, and after his conversion, this zeal continued, but to proclaim, to preach Jesus Christ," Pope Francis explained. "Paul loved Jesus. Saul — Paul's first name — was already zealous, but Christ converts his zeal."

To better explain zeal, the pope referenced St. Thomas Aquinas, who taught that passion, from a moral perspective, is neither good nor bad: it depends on if it is used virtuously or sinfully.

"In Paul's case, what changed him is not a simple idea or a conviction: It was the encounter, this word, it was the encounter with the risen Lord — do not forget this, it is the encounter with the Lord that changes a life — it was the encounter with the risen Lord that transformed his entire being," the pope said.

"Paul's humanity," he added, "his passion for God and his glory was not annihilated, but transformed, 'converted' by the Holy Spirit."

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