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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 78 Number 4

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MAY 3, 2023

## Mercy Care to host Educational Forum in June

PAUL SMITHS - Mercy Care for the Adirondacks will hold its annual Educational Forum co-hosted by Paul Smith's College on June 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Forum will focus on Ageism and the Master Plan for Aging in New York.

There is a \$25 registration fee, which includes the networking lunch. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. To register, please visit [adkmercy.org](http://adkmercy.org) or contact Karen Rodriguez at [krodriguez@adkmercy.org](mailto:krodriguez@adkmercy.org) or call 518-523-5685.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## AT THE YOUTH RALLY

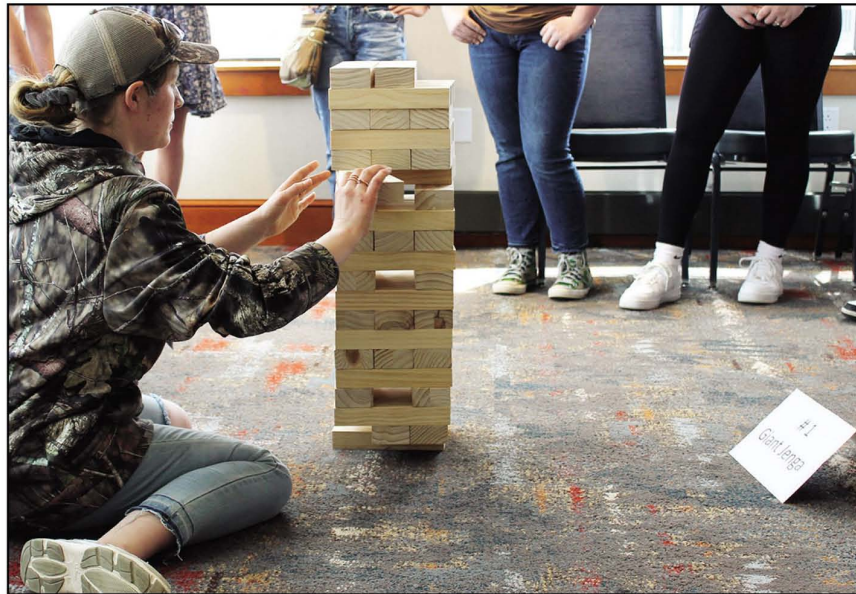


PHOTO BY ADAM FARGO

Youth from around the diocese gathered at the High Peaks Resort on April 22 for the annual Youth Rally. Learn more about the Youth Rally on Page 12.

## GATHER AT THE TABLE



Katie Poupore of North Bangor said she fell in love with Jesus in the Eucharist after first falling in love with the teachings of His Church. Studying theology and apologetics taught her the importance of the Sacrament and helped her grow her relationship with the Lord.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

# Pope: 'There is no vocation without mission'

By Hannah Brockhaus  
Catholic News Agency

In his message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations 2023, Pope Francis said God's call to a particular vocation also includes the mission to offer one's life for others.

"God's call," the pope said, "includes a 'sending.' There is no vocation without mission. There is no happiness and full self-realization unless we offer others the new life that we have found."

The 60th World Day of Prayer for Vocations took place on April 30, the Fourth Sunday of Easter,

also known as Good Shepherd Sunday. St. Paul VI started the annual event in 1964.

"This day," Pope Francis said, "is a precious opportunity for recalling with wonder that the Lord's call is grace, complete gift, and at the same time a commitment to bring the Gospel to others."

In his message, he emphasized that the Church's vocations — lay, priesthood, religious, or consecrated life — work together in a harmonious symphony.

The vocations are "joined together in 'going forth' to radiate throughout the world the new life of the kingdom of God," he

said.

Speaking about the inspiration of a vocational call, Pope Francis said sometimes the Holy Spirit acts in a completely unexpected way.

He recalled an indispensable moment in his own vocational journey when, on Sept. 21, 1953, on his way to a school celebration he "was led to stop by a church and go to confession."

"That day changed my life and left a mark that has endured to the present day," he said.

However, he added, God's call to a specific vocation is often revealed in a more gradual way: "in our encounter with situations of

poverty, in moments of prayer, when we see a clear witness to the Gospel, or read something that opens our minds."

"When we hear God's word and sense that it is spoken directly to us, in the advice given by a fellow brother or sister, in moments of sickness or sorrow... In all the ways he calls us, God shows infinite creativity."

Pope Francis compared the gift of a vocation to a "divine seed that springs up in the soil of our existence, opens our hearts to God and to others, so that we can share with them the treasure we ourselves have found."

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# He fills the gaps

Part of me regretted agreeing to it as the final plans came together. The problem? There were gaps in this plan. First, I had no clue where I was leaving my Jeep while I was driving this RV. Second, and more significant, I had no experience driving an RV or anything remotely that large. I wasn't sure I could do it. I was terrified.

**Darcy L. Fargo**

The plan: I would drive to Cato, a suburb of Syracuse, where I would pick up a 32-foot RV. Then, I would drive that RV by myself to the Atlanta, Georgia, metro area, where I would pick up a friend in need and her husband. Two of the three of us would then drive the RV back to northern New York.

in the plan, I remembered something a mentor/friend has told me several times: God fills the gaps. As I was thinking about these holes in the plan, I remembered something a mentor/friend has told me several times: God fills the gaps.

My mentor/friend usually tells me this when I'm dwelling on some part of me that I don't think is "enough." God fills the gaps. He's enough for everything and everyone.

And God filled the gaps. God brought forward my friend, Jonathan "Monkey" Monfiletto, also a friend of the individual in need, to help. Monkey let me leave my Jeep at his house, and he drove me to the RV pickup. He used benefit time, taking a half day off work to help.

And God filled in the gaps to cover my lack of

experience. I'm not kidding when I say I didn't have to change lanes once in the first three hours of the trip. It was like God gave me a little opportunity to get more comfortable or at least less scared. God gave me kind people who encouraged me at gas stations and rest stops along the way. While there were a few scary moments, there were no major incidents during the three-day journey, and we all reached our destinations safely.

God filled the gaps.

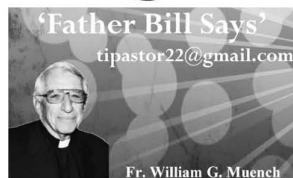
I have no regrets about that.

## Spending time with John 6

Easter Season – the Third Week of Easter is very special. During that third week, the Gospel readings at each of the daily Masses are from the very same chapter, the sixth chapter of St. John's Gospel. This is the chapter of John's Gospel in which we find Jesus' Discourse on the Bread of Life. This is Jesus' teaching on the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

In John's Gospel, there is an extensive description of the Lord's Last Supper. John includes in that section Jesus' Discourse at the Last Supper, an important message of the Lord. However, in his story about the Last Supper, John does not mention anything about Jesus' institution of the Holy Eucharist as is mentioned in the other Synoptic Gospels. John does give us in another place Jesus' extensive teaching on the Blessed Eucharist. That is in his sixth chapter, that important John 6.

John 6 begins with the story of Jesus' Multiplication of the Loaves. Jesus feeds 5,000 people. That chapter continues to tell us that then Jesus goes off



by himself to pray. He has sent the apostles off in a boat to cross the sea back to Capernaum. We are told that later that night, the apostles in the boat suddenly see Jesus come toward them, walking on the water of the sea, to join them.

The next day, many of the Hebrew people realize that Jesus and the apostles have left and crossed to Capernaum. They travel to catch up with Jesus. Then John 6 describes to us a long discussion of Jesus and the people. The people have many questions for Jesus. This discussion develops into Jesus' teaching on the Blessed Eucharist. This becomes Jesus' Discourse on the Bread of Life. I want to mention to you some of this important message of Jesus recorded in John 6.

The people speak of their faith in Moses, remembering the manna

given to the people in the desert as they traveled from Egypt to the Promised Land. Jesus answers them, "It was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven. My Father gives the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and give life to the world."

Jesus then promises that he comes now to bring the bread of life. Jesus tells them that he comes to be bread – the bread of God, the Eucharist. He says, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."

Jesus continues to teach them and us all the power of this sacrament, a teaching for people of all time. He says, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread with live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

Jesus continues to teach us all that truly he comes to us in a powerful, loving way in this wonderful sacrament. He says – "Whoever eats my flesh and

drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink."

Jesus surprises many of those people with his teaching on the Bread of Life. There is always something challenging in this teaching on the Bread of Life. In John 6, we are now told that some of his disciples there would not accept this teaching of Jesus. We are told that they would no longer walk with him. Jesus turns to his apostles and asks, "Do you want to leave, also?" We are told that it is Peter who speaks up, "Master to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We are convinced, you are the Holy One of God."

As I write this, I believe in all that Jesus teaches about the Blessed Eucharist. I pray you join me in this dedication and acceptance of the words of the Lord. I now urge you, read again John 6. Read it slowly and prayerfully. Stop often for times of silence and prayer and listen for the Lord's message. I believe you will find new faith in the Lord.



## GATHER AT THE TABLE

## ‘I’ve been freed to see the love He has for me’

*Editor’s note: The following is part of an occasional series, Gather at the Table, highlighting Catholics in our diocese who are in love with Jesus in the Eucharist. If you know someone who should be featured in this series, please email [dfargo@rcdony.org](mailto:dfargo@rcdony.org) or call Darcy Fargo, NCC editor, at 518-319-6284.*

**By Darcy Fargo**  
Editor

She first fell in love with the teachings of the Church. That led her to fall in love with Jesus in the Eucharist.

Katie Poupore of North Bangor, a parishioner of St. Augustine’s and St. Mary’s in North Bangor and Brushton, said she grew up Catholic but didn’t understand and appreciate her faith early on.

“I’ve always been Catholic, but I struggled with my faith - I didn’t understand it - until I was 19,” she said.

It was then when Poupore had the opportunity to study in Spain.

“There was a group of students, Americans, who wanted to get a Bible study started, so I started going to that,” she said. “Around that time, God was moving in my heart to turn me away from the lifestyle I was living. Morally speaking, we’re called to live in the world but not be of the world. I was living of the world. God was kind of pursuing me. Around that time, I started saying the Rosary daily, and I started seeking out daily Mass more. I was struck by the Lord to



**Katie Poupore**

change my life and start living for God and others instead of just for myself.”

Early in her process of growing in faith, Poupore said began learning everything she could about Church teachings.

“I try to be a rational thinker,” she said. “I try not to base how I live my life on my feelings. I did a deep dive into the academics of the Church. I was listening to Matt Fradd’s Pints with Aquinas, reading a lot of Christopher West on theology of the body, I just really started leaning into learning about what the Church teaches and why. Through all of that, I came to learn that the Eucharist is the source and summit of our

faith. I came to rationally understand what the Eucharist is and what it meant for me and my life as a Catholic. Once I understood that, I knew I could never leave the Church, and I knew I needed the Eucharist.”

After accepting the truth of the Eucharist at an academic level, Poupore said the sacrament changed her life.

“It’s the most intimate way I can receive Jesus,” she said. “I began to realize that the Eucharist would be what kept me going in my faith. It’s spiritual nourishment. My relationship with Jesus grew because of that. I started spending time with Jesus in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and experiencing him in that way. I have a spiritual



## Gather at the table

director, and he would tell me being in front of Jesus in Adoration is like being warmed by the sun. I felt that way. At the beginning of my reversion, I saw God as a rule maker. I can say now that through frequenting the Sacrament and through time in Adoration, seeing Jesus in the Eucharist and experiencing that intimacy, I’ve been freed to see the love He has for me.”

Poupore said she feels developing her knowledge of the faith has helped her develop her relationship with Jesus.

“When people think of worship, I think most people think of something very emotional and an energetic or enthusiastic experience,” she said. “When they look at us as Catholics, they don’t see that at the surface. But when we go to worship and receive Jesus in the Eucharist, there’s a strong intimacy there. We’re intimately connected to Him. It’s displayed differently than what people might expect or think of, but it’s very beautiful.”

She said she recently read a book on the feminine genius that helped her feel more intimately connected to Christ.

“The book said that as women, we are made to receive,” she said. “A woman receives her husband both physically and emotionally. Jesus intends to give

himself to the Church. Jesus is clear that we, the Church, are his bride, and He is the bridegroom. I love that idea of connecting to Him, Him being the giver and giving His full self to me.”

A high school teacher, Poupore shares her love of Christ with youth as a parish catechist. She’s also been developing fellowship with a new women’s group at her parish.

“The fellowship piece is so important,” she said. “We’re united with one another. We are all participating in the Mass and receiving our Lord in the Eucharist. I love how united that makes us as a Church. We all have that unity of Christ as our bridegroom.”

Poupore said she also tries to share the love of God with the world around her.

“God created us,” she said. “He desires a relationship with us. Often people think of Catholicism, and they think of the rules. There’s freedom in living a virtuous life and trying to grow closer to Jesus. I lived the life with me at the center. I would never go back to that. There’s so much freedom in His name and in His Church. I’m truly blessed to understand a little bit of how to live the sacramental life and how to be a part of His Church and Body.”

# 'Maddy' Rabideau died April 24 at age 80

A Mass of Christian Burial for Madeleine L. "Maddy" Rabideau was celebrated on April 29 at St. Ann's Church in Mooers Forks. Burial was in the parish cemetery.

Maddy passed away on April 24, 2023, at her home in Plattsburgh with her family by her side under the care of Hospice of the North Country. She was 80 years old.

She was born in Rouses Point on June 26, 1942, the daughter of John and Lucienne (Pharand) Hogue.

Maddy was the youngest of four girls in her family: Claire, Helene, Annette, and Madeleine. She was very close with her sisters. In the year 1960, Maddy was out dancing with her sisters, when her husband Ty saw her for the first time and said to his friends, "That's the woman I'm going to marry." A year later, they were hitched.

Maddy attended Clinton Community College achieving her associates degree, while also being involved in the preschool on campus. She was employed as a preschool teacher for several years, and she brightened the lives of many children through her loving personality and joyful music.

Maddy loved to sing. Her singing and guitar playing was not only enjoyed by the children in

daycare, but at St. Ann's parish in Mooers Forks, where Maddy and Ty called home for 49 years.

Although Maddy held several different jobs over the years, she was most proud of being a wife, mother, and grandmother. At the red house on the corner, Maddy and Ty raised their children, Deborah (Debbie) Campbell, Nina Osborne, and Tyrone II (Timmy-Ty) Rabideau. Years later that loving home became grandma and grandpa's house to their many grandchildren. It was a home filled with love, laughter, and grandma's gingersnap cookies always in the cookie jar. Everyone was welcome. Maddy and Ty hosted youth ministry for 20 years in their home, they always showed love and acceptance to anyone who met them.

Maddy loved making people laugh, gave the warmest hugs, and would do anything and everything for her friends, family, and community. She was an avid volunteer, charitable giver, and devout Catholic. Always praying for the health and happiness of others. Maddy and Ty enjoyed the occasional winter vacation in Florida as well as multiple other trips such as a family trip to Nova Scotia when their kids were young, three visits to Italy, one to see

their granddaughter, one for the canonization of brother Andre at the Vatican, and the other to see Pope John Paul II, and countless other memories traveling with family and friends.

In addition to spreading her love and light wherever she went, playing guitar and singing, Maddy also had many other interests and hobbies such as knitting, crocheting, riding her bike, gardening, cooking, baking cookies with her grandkids, reading, writing, sewing (she made both her daughters wedding gowns), and dancing. Maddy and Ty loved to dance. Their free spirit and love for each other was inspiring to all who encountered them together. They are the definition of true love, married 62 years this coming August.

If you've ever had the pleasure of meeting Madeleine Rabideau, you would have felt her unconditional love, warmth, and kindness the moment she hugged you when she met you for the first time. To those who have known her, you are the lucky ones. Maddy was pure of heart and gave so much love and goodness to this world. It's not surprising that she was loved by so many.

Her legacy lives on in her husband, Tyrone Rabideau; chil-

dren, Deborah Campbell, Nina Osborne (Brian), and Tyrone II Rabideau; grandchildren, Allen McDonald (Jenn), Michael McDonald (Tanya), Julian McDonald (Kim), Brittany Knapp (Arthur), Jacob Patenaude (Ali), Kiernan Patenaude (Andrew), Noah Osborne, Tobiah Osborne, Kyle Osborne (Shae), and Heather Taylor (Tony); great-grandchildren, Emerson Patenaude, Kaylee Hemingway (Zach), Bailey MacDougal, Brody Darrah, Liam Osborne, Lily Carver and Lucian Osborne; great-great-grandchild, Ashyer Miller; sister, Annette Whiteman (Bob); brother in law Tom Reid; and several nieces and nephews.

Madeleine was predeceased by mother, Lucienne Hogue, and father, John Hogue; daughter, Theresa Rabideau; sisters Helene Hogue Bushey Van Amerongen, Claire Hogue Reid; brother-in-law, John Bushey; daughter-in-law, Angela Rovelli; grandson, Jason Rovelli; and granddaughter, Cheryl Rovelli.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Hospice of the North Country and/or Unbound Charity.

Arrangements are entrusted to Brown Funeral Home, 29 Broad Street, Plattsburgh, NY 12901

## Mercy Care to host Educational Forum

PAUL SMITHS - Mercy Care for the Adirondacks will hold its annual Educational Forum co-hosted by Paul Smith's College on June 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The 2023 Forum will focus on the urgent topics of Ageism and development of the Master Plan for Aging in New York.

There is a \$25 registration fee, which includes the networking lunch. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. To register for the Forum, please visit Mercy Care's

website at [www.adkmercy.org](http://www.adkmercy.org) or contact Karen Rodriguez, Mercy Care project manager at [krodriguez@adkmercy.org](mailto:krodriguez@adkmercy.org) or call 518-523-5685.

Three expert keynote speakers will present:

Ann Monroe will address the topic of Ageism, Greg Olsen and Adam Herbst will present on the Master Plan for Aging in New York.

Ann Monroe is President Emeritus of the Health Foundation for Western and Central NY. Ann has over 40 years

of experience leading public and private sector programs in mental health, community health, managed care, and philanthropy. She is currently a Board and Executive Committee member of the Center for Elder Law and Justice, and a member of the Executive Council of New York's AARP.

Greg Olsen is Director of New York State Office for the Aging. Working with public and private partners at the state and local level, Greg is leading the effort to com-

bat ageism, generalizations, and stereotypes about what aging is and demonstrating value in addressing social determinants of health and their role in helping older adults maintain their independence with dignity. Greg speaks regularly, across the nation, about how New York frames aging, and the way New York serves older New Yorkers.

Adam Herbst is Deputy Commissioner of New York State Department of Health. Adam oversees New York's long-term

care industry and serves as counsel to the Governor on a range of health policy. He manages the Department of Health's long-term health systems and serves as the State's spokesperson for aging and outpatient care. Adam helped launch, and now leads, the State's Office for the Aging and Long-Term Care.

Mercy Care is deeply grateful to Mother Cabrini Health Foundation for supporting, in part, these educational forums.



# Funeral Mass for Barbara Robinson was May 1

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Barbara W. Robinson on May 1 at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Church in Clayton with her son, Father Donald A. Robinson, pastor of Immaculate Conception in Brownville and St. Andrew's in Sackets Harbor, officiating. Priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg will concelebrate.

A private burial will take place at St. John's Cemetery, LaFargeville.

Mrs. Robinson, a resident of LaFargeville, died Wednesday, April 26, 2023, a few days short of her 95th birthday, at her home, surrounded by her family. She had been in declining health for the last few months.

Barbara embodied grace, fortitude, and humility, strengths she brought to raising a family, managing varied employment, and giving compassion to those in need. Her leadership and love suffused every endeavor.

Barbara was born May 9th, 1928 in Cape Vincent to Marcelyn Constance and Anthony Wood. The oldest of six children, she learned at an early age how to care for people and thought of her brothers and sisters as her "own" children, especially Joann, the third oldest, who lived with her during her senior year of high school, and, like Barbara's own children, graduated from LaFargeville Central.

Barbara attended a one-room schoolhouse in Sand Bay, Cape Vincent through the eighth grade and then graduated from Clayton Central High School in 1945. Afterward, she

worked as a long-distance operator for the New York Telephone Company.

She met Harry E. Robinson, son of Wilfred and Beulah Mohan Robinson, while on a blind date with friends. A year later, on Feb. 10, 1947, they were married in St. Mary's Church, Clayton. They moved to LaFargeville where they raised nine children, putting every one through college, all the while operating a family dairy called West Side Stock Farm.

During those forty years of raising children, Barbara would rise early each morning to complete barn chores before packing school lunches.

An astute business person, she kept track of all the farm books, paying the taxes and writing paychecks for the hired hands each Sunday night, right up until she was 85 years old.

From 1966 to 1978, Barbara worked summers at the Thousand Islands Club, Wellesley Island, in the front desk/switchboard department.

From 1986 to 1991, she worked as Deputy Town Clerk for the Town of Orleans Office, along with Town Clerk Patricia Caswell. She had a special devotion



*Support And Pray  
For Vocations*

to the mission and work of Hospice. As a volunteer for over twenty years, she coordinated and led the monthly Hospice support luncheons in Watertown.

A devout Catholic, Barbara was deeply involved in her home parish of St. John the Evangelist, LaFargeville. For many years she chaired its major fundraiser, the annual Harvest Turkey dinner held in early November. In addition, she served several terms as a member of the Parish Pastoral Council and as a Parish Trustee.

Barbara's gardens were a testament to her love of flowers and her artistic spirit. She enjoyed quilting, puzzling, writing and sending cards, and reading in the evenings. When her eyes failed her, she enjoyed listening to books on tape.

More than anything, she loved to dance. Whether at Omar, Guns Corners, or the Getman House, she and Harry and their friends enjoyed dancing many a Saturday night. This love continued as she danced her way through

her 90th birthday party five years ago, as well as at her granddaughter's wedding last summer.

Even in her later years, music remained a solace, and Willie's Roadhouse on Sirius Radio provided her much comfort, with her cherished cat, Miss Kitty, curled at her feet.

Harry and Barbara raised nine children: David (Lynette), LaFargeville, Michael (Stephanie), LaFargeville, Father Donald, Brownville, Anne Walldroff (Wm. Edward), LaFargeville, Rita Walldroff (Marcus), LaFargeville, Gina King (Gregory), Concord, Massachusetts, Connie Clements (Robert), Castorland, Craig (Donna), Fairport, and Carla Erice (Anthony), Brooklyn.

She is also survived by twenty-two grandchildren, fourteen great grandchildren, one sister and two brothers: Joyce Ivey (Gary Lalonde), Clayton, Charles (Susan), Clayton, and Roger (Sally), Hughesville, Maryland.

Barbara was predeceased by her beloved Harry who died in January 1993, her

step-granddaughter, Tina Tubolino, who died also in January 1993, her mother and father, who died in 1986 and 1987, respectively; and two sisters: Benita Wright, Carlsbad, CA died in March 2022 and Joann Anderson, San Diego, CA died in September 2022.

Arrangements are entrusted with the Cummings Funeral Service, Inc.,

In planning her own funeral, Barbara requested that no flowers be sent for the wake or mass; instead, donations can be made to Hospice of Jefferson County's Residence Expansion Project, 1398 Gotham Street, Watertown - in memory of Barbara W. Robinson.

Barbara's diminutive stature belied an indomitable spirit full of affection and generosity, gifts she showered on all she knew and which she bequeathed to her loving children who follow her example, ensuring that it endures.

Online condolences to her family may be posted at [www.cummingsfuneral.com](http://www.cummingsfuneral.com).

## Welcome Spring!

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## Environmental Stewardship

## Forest bathing

Over the centuries, society has transitioned from being closely connected to nature to being far removed from the natural world. Much less time is being spent outdoors, even by people that in suburban communities.

It was noticed by medical professionals in Japan several decades ago that individuals who confine all their time to indoor places were experiencing more health issues than those who frequently came into close contact with wooded environments. A program known as forest bathing was initiated to get more people to spend time in densely forested areas.

Researchers examining the positive effects of the program discovered that many plants in the wild, especially trees, exude a group of oils known as phytoncides. These are used to fend off bugs, harmful fungi and other plant-eating organisms. However, when humans inhaled forest air containing phytoncides, it triggered a positive physiological response.

There are hundreds of different types of phytoncides. Some of the most common forms have been shown to reduce stress, lower cortisol levels, promote sounder sleep, and boost the immune system, along with other positive health effects.

As spring becomes well established, it is strongly suggested by many natural health experts that everyone try to find time to get outdoors and spend some time in a wooded area, especially one with evergreen wooded area. Periodically take deep breaths to fill your lungs with the fragrant air that can linger in such wooded glades. Try to relax, say a few prayers while you're there, and enjoy your forest bathing experience. It just might surprise you to discover how good you feel when you return home.

How do you greet your spouse each morning? "Good morning!" A little kiss?

That was the theme of

## Bishop's Public Schedule

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

**May 4** – 9:30 a.m. – Mass at Ray Brook Correctional Facility in Ray Brook

**May 5** – 7 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Mary's Church in Brushton with The Catholic Community of St. Augustine in North Bangor and St. Andre Bessette Roman Catholic Parish in Malone

**May 6** – 4 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Mary's Church in Clayton with The Catholic Community of Alexandria in Alexandria Bay

**May 7** – 3:30 p.m. – Confirmation at Sacred Heart Church in Chazy with St. Joseph's Church in West Chazy  
**May 8-10** – Deacon Assembly at the Edgewood Resort in Alexandria Bay

## 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.

## CALLED TO SERVE

## How did I do today, God?

an online article I read recently. The question, "How do you greet your spouse each morning?" intrigued me so I read the article.

Anna Ashkova, writing for Aleteia, an Our Sunday Visitor on-line service, wrote about a book, *The Love Prescription*, by therapist Dr. John Gottman and his wife Dr. Julie Schwartz.

In the study, Gottman and Schwartz suggest, according to Ashkova, that each day, at least once a day, we say "Is there anything you need from me today?" to our spouse. The therapists say the questions say a lot about love and commitment.

That's nice, I thought. I'm not quite sure how practical the suggestion is.

## Protecting God's Children

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

## Rest in Peace

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

**May 3** – Rev. Cormac Walsh, O.F.M., 1977

**May 4** – Rev. J. Napoleon Pelletier, O.M.I., 1935

**May 6** – Rev. P.A. Lynch, O.S.A., 1927

**May 7** – Deacon Thomas R. Finnegan, 1996; Rev. John Cosmic, 2017

**May 8** – Msgr. Harold J. Martin, 1958

**May 9** – Rev. William J. McCormick, O.S.A., 1935; Msgr. Clarence M. Devan, 2001

Maybe I should read the book to get a firm grip on the usefulness of the question. Maybe I am prejudiced because after a certain number of years of marriage, 52 if you must know, the question is no longer relevant because this happy couple knows how to anticipate each other's needs, desires, whims or fantasies.

I daresay after this many years the focus is more on needs and less on desires, whims or fantasies, but so it goes.

We have found caring about each other works, so "doing" for each other just comes naturally and lovingly.

What intrigued me about the question, "Is there anything you need from me today?" is its application to our lives

## CORRECTION

**Photo attributed incorrectly**  
In the April 26 edition, a photo taken at St. Hedwig's in Houseville was attributed incorrectly. The photo was taken by Christine Chaufy.

## Lines of text omitted

In the April 26 edition, a transition paragraph within Father Bill Says, the column authored by Father Bill Muench, was inadvertently hidden behind the column logo. The paragraph should've read:

*"Please keep Father Larry Deno in your prayers. For me, he was my good friend and a very dedicated priest. May God welcome you, my friend, into eternal life."*

*Now, at this time, I want to continue our consideration of the Church's Easter Season."*

as children of God.

I may not have been conscious of it all those years ago when I was baptized, but my parents committed me then to a life of service to the people of God and the Church. Your parents and Godparents chose the same for you.



Deacon  
Kevin Mastellon

The strength and wisdom of the Holy Spirit, received then, has been put to good use by you, if you asked in the years that have followed.

Now you can confidently ask Jesus, "Is there anything you need from me today?"

It can be a rhetorical question if you like. The needs will become apparent in the events and people you encounter during the day and how you react.

Then, before you retire, ask yourself, "Was I Christ-like in my actions today towards people and events?"

Consider this a mini Examen.

In Jesuit spirituality, "Examen is a technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day in order to detect God's presence and discern his direction for us."

Jesus might appear as our spouse, a child, a friend, an acquaintance or a stranger. He might be in the events that occupy the day.

At night we can simply ask, "Did I see God today? How did I act in his presence?"

Sleep well!

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



# Vatican: Laypeople, including women, to vote in Synod assembly

By Hannah Brockhaus  
Catholic News Agency

The Vatican announced Wednesday that there will be laypeople participating as voting members in the Synod on Synodality's October assembly, a break with past custom, which allowed laypeople to participate without the right to vote.

Pope Francis will also approve every member in advance.

The general assembly of the Synod on Synodality will take place in two sessions, in October 2023 and October 2024.

After the vote on a final document for the assembly, the pope alone decides whether to take any actions based on the recommendations in the final text or whether to adopt it as an official Church document.

The leadership of the synod released information in a FAQ sheet April 26 about who will attend the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October and how they will be chosen.

The biggest change announced Wednesday was the removal of the "auditor" role. In past synods, auditors included priests, religious, and laypeople, who did not have the right to vote in synod deliberations.

Now, these 70 members, who may be priests, consecrated women, deacons, and laypeople, will be able to vote. They will be chosen by the pope from among a list of 140 people selected by the leadership of this year's continental synod meetings.

According to the synod leadership, it is requested that "50% of [the selected people] be women and that the presence of young people also be emphasized."

"In selecting them, account is taken not only of their general culture and prudence but also of their knowledge, both theoretical and practical, as well as their participation in various capacities in the synod process," the FAQ sheet says.

A second change states that five women religious and five men religious will be elected to represent their institutes of consecrated life rather than 10 religious priests as in the past.

The last modification is that Pope

Francis will personally choose the representatives of the Vatican dicasteries who participate in the assembly.

"It's a change, but it's not a revolution," Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, relator general of the Synod on Synodality, told journalists during a meeting to explain the changes April 26. "Change is normal in life, in history," he added.

Approximately 21% of the total participation, expected to be 370 people, will be non-bishops, Hollerich explained.

Cardinal Mario Grech, the secretary general of the Synod of Bishops, said the non-bishop participants - among them priests, religious, deacons, and laypeople - "are witnesses of the memory of the process, of the itinerary, of the discernment that began two years ago."

Grech told CNA after the meeting that the synod of bishops has asked the presidents of the continental assemblies, which took place this spring, and the leadership of the Eastern Catholic Churches, to each submit a list of 20 people, 10 men and 10 women. From these lists, Pope Francis will choose 10 members.

He said the decision to include laypeople as full members does not "undermine" the nature of the synod as a meeting of bishops.

"It will remain a synod of bishops," he said, "but it enriches all of the Church" to have the participation of others.

The process for electing the bishops to represent the various countries will remain the same, with one small addition, Hollerich said.

Previously, countries too small to have a bishops' conference did not have a representative at the synod, he said. Now they will each send one bishop.

The other bishops will be elected by their bishops' conferences. The number of bishop representatives for each country is determined based on the size of the bishops' conference. Pope Francis must also ratify the elections of bishops as members of the synod assembly.

There will also be participants with a nonvoting capacity, who are experts, facilitators, and fraternal delegates from non-Catholic faiths.

## CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

### Ukraine's PM asks pope for help bringing back taken children

(CNA) - Ukraine's prime minister told journalists Thursday that he has asked Pope Francis for help getting back children forcibly deported to Russia. Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal met Pope Francis in a private, 30-minute encounter at the Vatican on the morning of April 27. According to the Associated Press, Shmyhal later briefed reporters on the papal meeting, sharing that he had asked the pope for his help retrieving the abducted children. He said he also invited Francis to visit Ukraine. "I asked His Holiness to help us return home Ukrainians, Ukrainian children who are detained, arrested, and criminally deported to Russia," Shmyhal said, according to AP. Reuters reported that the Ukrainian government estimates that almost 19,500 children have been taken to Russia or Russian-occupied Crimea since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in February last year. Russia denies abducting children, claiming they were taken away for their own safety.

### Vatican readying text for divorced, remarried couples

(CNA) - The Vatican's Dicastery for the Laity, Family, and Life is preparing a document that will address divorced and remarried couples at the request of Pope Francis, according to the dicastery's prefect, Cardinal Kevin Farrell. Farrell mentioned the in-progress document in a speech delivered in Italian on April 22 that opened a meeting of the dicastery, which promotes the pastoral care of the family and the mission of the lay faithful. Farrell spoke about the importance of providing help and guidance to "those experiencing marital crises of all kinds." "On this front, the dicastery is also working on the preparation of a text that will specifically concern - as you wished, Your Holiness - men and women who, having a failed marriage behind them, live in new unions," Farrell said in his opening address. Farrell did not say when the document will be released.

### Bishops condemn Florida's death penalty policy change

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a bill April 20 allowing prisoners in the state to be sentenced to death without a unanimous jury verdict. Under the new law, a prisoner can be sentenced to death after eight of the 12 jurors recommend a death sentence, as long as the jury is unanimous that at least one aggravating factor - such as the crime being especially cruel or heinous - exists beyond a reasonable doubt. In that case, a judge has the option of sentencing the defendant to death or life in prison. If fewer than eight jurors agree on the death sentence, the jury's recommendation must be for life in prison without the possibility of parole, and the judge must impose that sentence. The state's Catholic bishops, represented by Michael Sheedy, executive director for the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops (FCCB), decried the change as a "setback." Florida's bishops have long advocated for an end to Florida's death penalty and have called for sentences of life in prison rather than capital punishment.

## ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

## FRIENDSHIP VOLUNTEER TRAINING

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

**Date:** May 24

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

**Features:** New Volunteers will join Mercy Care's more than 100 Friendship Volunteers from Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, and Tupper Lake and surrounding areas who are helping their elder neighbors stay connected to their communities and helping to make their lives a little easier and happier. Volunteers of all faiths are encouraged and invited to participate. There is no cost for the training but registration is required. Complementary lunch will be provided.

**Contact:** To register for the training, please visit Mercy Care's website at [www.adkmercy.org](http://www.adkmercy.org) or contact Lexi Bevilacqua, Mercy Care's Program Director at [abevilacqua@adkmercy.org](mailto:abevilacqua@adkmercy.org) or call Lexi for more information at 518-523-5446.

## MERCY CARE EDUCATIONAL FORUM

Paul Smiths - Mercy Care for the Adirondacks will hold its annual Educational Forum co-hosted by Paul Smith's College.

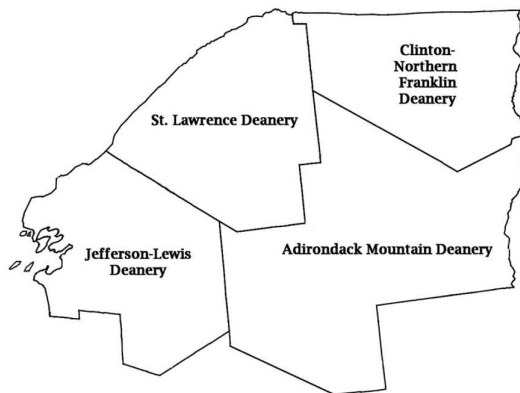
**Date:** June 7

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

**Cost:** \$25, includes networking lunch

**Features:** The 2023 Forum will focus on the urgent topics of Ageism and development of the Master Plan for Aging in New York. Speakers will be Ann Monroe, Greg Olsen and Adam Herbst.

**Contact:** Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. To register for the Forum, please visit Mercy Care's website at [www.adkmercy.org](http://www.adkmercy.org) or contact Karen Rodriguez, Mercy Care Project Manager at [krdriguez@adkmercy.org](mailto:krdriguez@adkmercy.org) or call her at 518-523-5685.



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

e-mail [news@northcountrycatholic.org](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org).

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

## CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

## FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

Elenburg - Our Lady of the Adirondacks invite you to First Saturday Communal Devotions. Schedule: May 6, June 3, Aug. 5

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

**Features:** You are warmly invited to join us as we pray for peace by meeting the conditions of this powerful devotion made in reparation to our Lady's Immaculate Heart.

**Contact:** For more information, contact Sarah at 518-534-9976.

## 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 Preschool program to have open enrollment.

**Features:** Must be 4 by Dec. 1

**Contact:** For more information visit [www.iwcschool.org](http://www.iwcschool.org) or call 315-788-4670 ext. 1

## 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 &amp; 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

## ROSARY RALLY

Carthage - St. James Minor Church to have the 20th Annual

Rosary Rally.

**Date:** May 12-13  
Schedule: Rosary Rally begins at 5:30 p.m. on May 12 opening with Mass. The Rosary will be prayed continuously in front of the Blessed Sacrament until 1 a.m.

**Features:** Dave Heywood leads hymns throughout the evening with vocals and violin. Refreshments are provided.

**Contact:** Any questions can be directed at 315-783-2230.

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Carthage - Knights of Columbus to sponsor a pancake breakfast to be held in support of Augustinian Academy.

**Date:** May 14 (Mother's Day)

**Time:** 8 a.m. to Noon

**Place:** St. James Community

Room

**Cost:** Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$8; Children 10 and under, \$4; Family of 4 or more, \$27

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

**Contact:** For more information call, 315-493-3224

## ST. LAWRENCE

## 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

## 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.

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## FORMATION FOR MINISTRY ENROLLMENT 2023-2025

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](mailto: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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



# Twitter changes speech rules on gender issue

By Tyler Arnold  
Catholic News Agency

Without making a public announcement, Twitter quietly updated its policy on “hateful conduct” to remove its bans on “deadnaming” and “misgendering” transgender people, which had previously been used to restrict critics of the transgender movement.

Although the social media company kept most of its hateful-conduct policy in place, the update removed one line in the “Slurs and Tropes” subsection. The now-removed line had stated that slurs and tropes included “targeted misgendering or deadnaming of transgender individuals.”

Under the previous rules, to misgender someone meant to refer to a transgender person by the gender that matches his or her biological sex but does not match the person’s self-pro-

claimed gender identity. This also included the use of pronouns that matched the person’s biological sex but did not match the person’s purported gender identity. To deadname someone meant to refer to that person by his or her birth name as opposed to the name chosen after the person’s gender transition.

Before this shift, the hateful-conduct restrictions had been used to ban or restrict users who were critical of the transgender movement. This included well-known figures, such as Turning Point USA Founder Charlie Kirk, who was suspended for tweets about Rachel Levine, the transgender United States assistant secretary for health. Feminist writer Meghan Murphy was also banned for repeatedly using male pronouns to refer to transgender people who transitioned from male to female.

In one case, the Christian satirical website Babylon Bee was suspended from Twitter for jokingly naming Levine “man of the year” after USA Today named Levine one of its “women of the year” two days prior. Babylon Bee owner and CEO Seth Dillon refused to delete the tweet, the condition which Twitter said was the only way the account could be reinstated.

When billionaire Elon Musk acquired Twitter in October 2022, he promised to expand free speech on the platform. The businessman had earlier signaled his opposition to certain shifts toward political correctness, tweeting in July 2020 that “pronouns suck” in a reference to the transgender movement’s emphasis on pronouns.

Since Musk took over the company, he has reinstated thousands of previously banned accounts. The three previously mentioned accounts are cur-

rently allowed to operate.

Much of Twitter’s hateful-conduct policies remained in place. The guidelines still state that “severe, repetitive usage of slurs, or racist/sexist tropes where the context is to harass or intimidate others” could result in removal and that “moderate, isolated usage where the context is to harass or intimidate others” could result in other restrictions on a person’s account.

Under the “dehumanization” subsection, the policies still prohibit “the dehumanization of a group of people based on their religion, caste, age, disability, serious disease, national origin, race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation.” The policy also bans “hateful images,” which include the Nazi swastika, and other images that “include hateful symbols or references to a mass murder that targeted a protected category.”

## Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

**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

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: 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/family-life/la.html](http://www.rcdony.org/family-life/la.html). For more information contact Stephen Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or [startaglia@rcdony.org](mailto:startaglia@rcdony.org)

### ORDINATION TO THE ORDER OF THE PRIESTHOOD AND DEACON:

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

**Date:** May 27

**Time:** 11 a.m.

**Place:** St. Mary’s Cathedral

**Features:** A Reception will immediately follow the Liturgy downstairs in the Brzana Hall. The Ordination Mass may be viewed at

[www.rcdony.org/ordination](http://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](http://www.rcdony.org/pro-life) or by contacting the Respect life office at [cmminer@rcdony.org](mailto:cmminer@rcdony.org). A list of retreat locations outside of our diocese is available at: [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://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](http://www.rcdony.org/youth/camp) or call, Jeannie Griz-

zuto 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](mailto:startaglia@rcdony.org) or 315-393-2920.



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# The origin of the Order of Deacons

Some of the most memorable lines in the New Testament are found in today's readings - phrases like "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, living stones." And the wonderful statement in the Gospel, as Jesus proclaims himself as "the way, the truth, and the life." And, of course, our whole liturgy is punctuated with joyful Alleluias!

The first reading from Acts narrates the origin of the Order of Deacons - pious and caring men chosen from among their own numbers to serve widows, especially those Greek-speaking widows who were the most neglected.

There was never an intention to deny the priesthood, but merely

to expand the effectiveness of the Church's ministry.

We need to honor all deacons this Sunday. What would we do without the many hard-working and carefully educated deacons who serve the parishes of this diocese?

If you are of a certain age and of solid faith & reputation, have you ever thought

of applying?

Talk to a deacon that you know and ask him what he thinks.

Now we come to that wonderful sermon of the second reading. Our hearts swell as St. Peter applies to all devout followers of Christ these noble phrases we mentioned earlier. The Jews of the time must have reacted either in amazement or in anger as they

May 7

Fifth Sunday of Easter

READINGS

Acts 6:1-7

1 Peter 2:4-9

John 14:1-12

heard Peter boldly attach these honored phrases to the new Christians! After all, didn't they belong only to the people of the Covenant? Yes, of course, but Jesus had tried in so many ways to convince His followers that there is now a new Covenant! And all are invited to enter the new dispensation.

The phrase "living stones" at first blush seems contradictory. Then, we find contemporary science telling us that stones that move, like those that caused the recent tsunami, are probably essential to the life of our planet! "Living stones" is a wonderfully

rich phrase that suggests not only stability and depth of faith, but also connotes for the Christian an ability to grow, to learn, to courageously follow in the dangerous footsteps of the Savior.

In these troubling times, both in the Church and in the world community at large, all of us must have a rock-like faith that scandal, opposition, and misunderstanding cannot shake, but also be flexible to listen and courageously obey the voice of the Holy Spirit who urges us to live fully and fearlessly the "way" of Christ's Church. And we must seek always the "truth," believing that truth can be found by those who believe the Word and love the God of truth. Finally, we must daily reset our

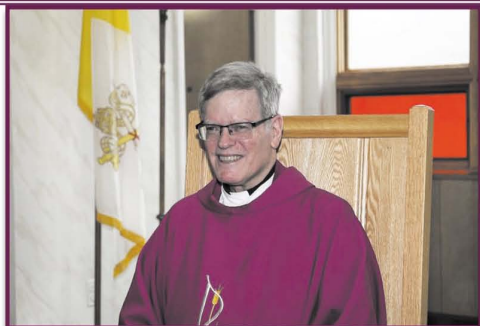
priorities, being ready to put aside what often seem to be non-negotiable - a ball game, an evening of bridge, a movie or play we just have to see - in favor of a moral or pastoral demand that begs us, in the name of Christ, to junk a previous schedule.

If we're honest, we'll admit that that schedule is not in stone, and may be based on self-interest, the adulation of our peers, or a desire to satisfy our own desires for entertainment.

Whoever said Christianity was easy! May the example of late Holy Father and of so many saints convince us that the path of holy living bears with it its own rewards, rewards far greater than any present inconvenience. And the only response to that is ALLELUIA!



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore



**Father Decker,**  
*Congratulations on the 40th anniversary  
of your ordination to the priesthood.  
Thank you for saying yes to the call!*

*With love and appreciation,  
your St. Cecilia's and Queen of Heaven parishioners*

*Feel free to send notes of congratulations to:  
St. Cecilia's Church, 17 Grove Street, Adams, NY 13605*

## READERS & WRITERS



On April 24, St. Bernard's School 2nd Graders celebrated the release of their latest book, "Dr. Bondray Strikes Back," with a reading at the Saranac Lake Free Library. In addition to reading their new book, the students presented a copy to Diane Roberts and members of the Saranac Lake Rotary Club in gratitude for all the books the club has gifted to the children of St. Bernard's School over the years. Copies of both class books, "The Adventures of Dr. Bondray" and "Dr. Bondray Strikes Back" will now be available to borrow in the Children's Room at the Saranac Lake Free Library.





## 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

# Immigrants welcomed in Seoul

The Vietnamese Catholic faithful present in the Archdiocese of Seoul are migrants who have settled in Korea and are fully integrated into the local Church.

In recent days, they participated in a Eucharist presided over by Archbishop Peter Chung Soon-Taick OCD, Archbishop of Seoul, in the archdiocese's Pastoral Work Center and celebrated 20 years of presence and pastoral and missionary commitment in the local Church.

"I am very happy to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Vietnamese Catholic Community here in Seoul," said the archbishop, expressing gratitude for the apostolic service of many Catholic priests, religious and lay faithful over the past two decades.

Archbishop Chung is also president of the Commission for the Pastoral Care of migrants and foreigners residing in Korea, within the Korean Bishops' Conference, and wanted to recount some episodes of his visit to Vietnam as a missionary of the Carmelite Order.

"At 5 in the morning, I heard and saw the faithful of the neighborhood arrive at the Carmelite Convent to take part in the Mass, to sing and pray with all their heart. I was deeply moved," he told the more than 500 Vietnamese who were present at the celebration. "Living in a foreign country is difficult and requires sacrifices. All of you here endure difficulties for work or study reasons. The resurrection of Jesus is an event that gives strength, grace and blessings to all of us when we go through difficult times."

"As Jesus' disciples were sent to various parts of the world after the resurrection of Jesus Christ, you also give and sacrifice yourselves for your families and for the future of your children but living with the love of Christ in your hearts, as apostles who practice the Gospel," he concluded, thanking the faithful for their precious contribution to the pastoral care and evangelization of the Church in Seoul.

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

## OBITUARIES

**AuSable Forks** — Sheila Rhino Sheffield, 77; Mass of Christian Burial April 27, 2023 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

**Brushton** — James David Marshall, 78; Mass of Christian Burial May 1, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery, Saint Regis Falls.

**Champlain** — Nomia (Gonyea) Thornton, 80; Mass of Christian Burial April 29, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Keeseville** — Lorraine (Bashaw) Donahue, 92; Mass of Christian Burial April 28, 2023 at Immaculate Conception Church.

**Lake Placid** — Kenneth Walter Seymour Jr., 88; Mass of Christian Burial May 26, 2023 at St.

Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

**Long Lake** — Gerald F. Lindsey, 88; Graveside services April 28, 2023 at Long Lake Cemetery.

**Malone** — Carol (Spinner) Andrews, 80; Graveside services April 29, 2023 at St. John Bosco Cemetery.

**Malone** — Charles "Chuck" Harvey Mason, 79; Mass of Christian Burial April 22, 2023 at Notre Dame Church.

**Ogdensburg** — Paula (Lefever) Bresett, 73; Graveside services April 28, 2023 at Ogdensburg Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** — Geraldine (Hilborne) Montroy, 87; Mass of Christian Burial May 2, 2023 at

Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Peru** — Susan D. Allen, 82; Mass of Christian Burial May 1, 2023 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

**Peru** — Veronica Theresa (Boisseau) DiDomenico, 90; Funeral Services April 22, 2023 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. John's Cemetery, Keeseville.

**Watertown** — Joseph E. "Teddy" Lamendola, 82; Mass of Christian Burial May 19, 2023 at Holy Family Church; burial in St. James Cemetery, Carthage.

**Watertown** — Philip J. Lyman, 73; Mass of Christian Burial May 5, 2023 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in North Watertown Cemetery.

## CELEBRATING RETIREMENT



PHOTOS BY JAY ST. CROIX

On April 23, the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish in Watertown held a retirement reception for outgoing Director of Religious Education, Sister Contance Syler, a Sister of St. Joseph. Sister Contance served as DRE for the past 7 years and ministered to over 40 families. She also led a faithful group of catechists, who are thankful for her guidance and friendship. Father Frank Natale, Missionary of the Sacred Heart and pastor of the parish, offered a blessing over Sister Contance at the 10:30 a.m. Mass, which was followed by a coffee and donut reception in Dostie Hall, where memories and gratitude were shared.

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# AT THE YOUTH RALLY

The Diocese of Ogdensburg held its annual Youth Rally, themed "We are Jesus in the World," on April 22 at High Peaks Resort in Lake Placid.

Around 100 middle- and high-school aged youth from around the diocese gathered for music, games,

workshops and a keynote speaker before walking to St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid for Mass with Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

Keynote speaker was Monet Souza, and a concert was given by recording artist Joe Melendrez.

Photos by Adam Fargo

