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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 78 Number 15

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JULY 26, 2023

Chapter 11 reorganization

On Monday, July 17, the Diocese of Ogdensburg filed for Chapter 11 reorganization.

"This difficult and painful yet necessary decision was made in response to the lawsuits filed against the diocese under the Child Victims Act," Bishop Terry R. La-Valley said in a pastoral letter. "I again apologize for the suffering caused by child sexual abuse by priests and other church personnel. I am sorry for the suffering endured by survivors and their families. I remain committed to helping

LEARN MORE

For more information about the reorganization filing, including court documents, visit www.rcdony.org/reorganization.

victims find hope, healing and some peace of mind. I remain equally committed to maintaining a safe environment in our Church for all, especially our children and young people."

FULL STORY, PAGES 3 & 4

FUN IN THE SUN AT GATHERING



PHOTO BY DIANE LEMAY

Consecrated virgins Joani McCann, Diocese of Boston; Mary Beth Bracy, Diocese of Ogdensburg; Diane Lemay, Diocese of Columbus; Jenna Chang, Diocese of Lubbock; and Valerie Kisselback, Diocese of Bridgeport, aspirant visit Sedona during the annual gathering of consecrated virgins in the United States. See the full story on Page 6

Pope asks parents to sow faith in children

By **Almudena Martinez-Bordiu**
Catholic News Agency

At the Angelus on Sunday, July 16, Pope Francis reflected on the parable of the sower and encouraged parents not to give in to "fashions" of the world and to continue to sow goodness and faith in their children.

From the window of the Vatican Apostolic Palace, the Holy Father explained that "if the word is the seed, we are the soil: We can receive it or not. But Jesus, the 'good sower,' does not tire of sowing it generously," he said.

"He knows our terrain, he knows that the stones of our inconstancy and the thorns

of our vices can suffocate the word, yet he hopes, he always hopes that we can bear abundant fruit," the pontiff noted.

In this sense, he remarked, the faithful are also called to "sow tirelessly," and he gave three examples of how to do this, addressing parents, young people, and "the sowers" of the Gospel, such as priests and religious.

First, he stressed that parents "sow goodness and faith in their children, and they are called to do so without being discouraged even if at times they seem not to understand or to appreciate their teachings, or if the mentality of the world is against them."

"The good seed remains," he continued. "This is what counts, and it will take root in due time. But if, giving in to mistrust, they give up sowing and leave their children at the mercy of fashions and mobile phones, without dedicating time to them, without educating them, then the fertile soil will be filled with weeds. Parents, never tire to sow in your children!"

He then addressed young people and explained that they "can sow the Gospel in the furrows of everyday life," as in prayer, "a small seed that you cannot see, but with which you entrust everything you live to Jesus, and so he can make it

ripen."

"But I am also thinking of the time to dedicate to others, to those most in need: It may seem wasted; instead, it is holy time, while the apparent satisfactions of consumerism and hedonism leave one empty-handed," he said.

He also said that study "is tiring and not immediately satisfying, like sowing, but is essential to build a better future for all."

Finally, he spoke of the "sowers of the Gospel" - priests, religious, and laypeople who are "engaged in proclamation" - "who live and preach the word of God often without immediate success."

NORTH
COUNTRY
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Communications Director

Publish
45 issues
per year:Weekly except
skipping every
other week be-ginning July through August
and skipping one week in

December by the

Diocese of Ogdensburg.

622 Washington Street,

Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Editorial Office:622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.**Telephone:**

(315) 608-7556

E-mail:news@northcountry
catholic.org**Entered at the****Post Office:**Ogdensburg, NY
13669 and additional mailing
offices as
Periodical Postage.**Subscription:****For one year:**In-Diocese Rate: \$27
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30Matters for publication
should be addressed to
PO Box 326Ogdensburg, NY 13669
and should be received by
Wednesday prior to
publication. Paper is
printed each Friday;
deadline is Wednesday.Member, Catholic
Press Association.**POSTMASTER:**Send address changes to
North Country Catholic,
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY
13669-0326

It's always changing

"I'll eventually run out of things to write about," I said to a colleague and friend several years ago.

I was describing exactly what I'm doing at this moment - writing this column.

My friend's response: "You know your life will continue to change, right?"

"My life's not that exciting. It doesn't change much," I came back.

I hate when this friend is right.

I thought about my friend's wisdom as I prepare to go get my son,

**Darcy L.
Fargo**

Jake, from his first week of doing a junior counselor program for older campers at Camp Guggenheim. He left Sunday and comes home today (Friday). He'll be home from Friday afternoon until Sunday afternoon, and he'll return to camp for week 2 of Teen Vision. After that week, he's home for one week before returning to camp for Week 6, the week for older teens.

Our house is teen free for three of four weeks.

Feel free to judge my par-

enting, but it was really, really nice for the first two days. It was nice being able to talk about adult topics or planned surprises without fear of younger ears hearing. It was nice knowing that box of cereal I bought will still have some product left in it when I go to get some.

After those first days, it felt weird. Our house was eerily quiet. I almost didn't know what to do with myself when my time wasn't filled with football chats or car rides for ice cream.

Jake is 16. In the not-so-distant future, he'll leave home for his next chapter. I'm terrified thinking about it. It'll be one of those

changes my friend was likely referencing several years ago.

As my head spins with anxiety about what Jake's future and our future will hold, I'm trying to shift my focus to the fact that God keeps getting me through changes and challenges. God has given me every reason to trust him and his care for my family.

Has it always looked like I wanted or planned? No. Not even close. But my little family has found immense happiness in even unexpected places, and we know God's plan is better than ours.

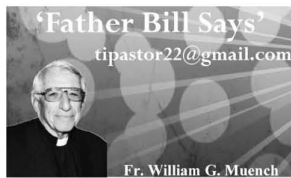
Even through all the changes.

Considering confession

The sacrament of penance is also called reconciliation. In faith, we seek reconciliation with God the Father, so we go to confession. This sacrament is an important part of Catholic spirituality. The Gospels tell us that Jesus spoke often of God the Father's great love for us all - a love that leads to forgiveness of sins. Today, I would like to share with you some of my thoughts about confession.

I believe that the experience of confession should be a joyful experience. I encourage you to recognize that confession must be a very positive experience. This sacrament of penance is about conversion - a change in life, a plan for the future. The ritual of confession demands a good preparation for a penitent. Let us talk about this.

Do you remember how Jesus welcomed Peter back into friendship when they met after the Lord's resurrection? Remember, Peter had denied even knowing Jesus during the Lord's arrest and crucifixion. Now Jesus wants to welcome



Peter back into a close relationship. He takes Peter aside and asks him three times, "Peter, do you love me?" Jesus wanted Peter to realize how important it was that despite his denials, Jesus realized that Peter truly loved the Lord and wanted to have a good relationship with him. He could accept Peter's failings.

I believe that each person preparing for confession is asked this same question by Jesus. "Do you love me?" "Are you still a good person despite your failings?" Jesus still loves us. We must renew our relationship with the Lord. So, do you still love God? Do you want to be in a good relationship with God? Each time we come to confession seeking forgiveness, we must begin by declaring our love for the Lord. We want to make our friend-

ship with the Lord alive and strong. If our Lord for the Lord is not all it should be, then our confession may be meaningless.

Next, we must take time for a prayer of gratitude, gratitude for God's blessings throughout our lives and gratitude for God's forgiveness. This time for gratitude opens our hearts so we realize how loved we are by our God. So, we must begin to examine our conscience to realize our failings, our sins and all that keeps us from the love our God and Savior has for each of us. We must realize all that must be changed.

So, now is the time for a plan. Confession is all about a plan and about the changes that must be made in the future. As a confessor, I hear confessions of sin. Each time, I want to say to the person, "So, what are you going to do about all this." Forgiveness must be the beginning of some changes, of a new life. Here is the Lord challenging a penitent to become a new person. All the prayers, as well as the absolution of forgiveness,

seek God's love and support that a person finds God's help for the future.

After the ritual of confession comes a most important time for the forgiven penitent to open his or her heart to seek the presence of God, seeking the support and loving presence of the Holy Spirit into our hearts. I encourage a time of silence before the Lord to allow our Lord and Savior to lead and guide us.

This sacrament of penance is important for all Catholics. It is a transformative moment. Many tell me they do not know just what to say to the priest confessor in confession. I suggest honesty.

I do want you to remember that the seal of the confessional is the most important of the many promises that a priest makes. As a confessor, I know offering the gift of forgiveness is a huge privilege. I am always ready to talk about any situation that is brought up in confession. Finally, I pray that you all find peace and joy in this important sacrament of penance.

FOLLOW ME

Diocese files for Chapter 11 reorganization

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Peace and grace be with you! Today, I write to share some important news and to seek your prayers and support. After extensive consultation with diocesan staff, the Council of Priests, College of Consultors, Diocesan Finance Council, Diocesan Pastoral Council, the priests, deacons, pastoral leaders of the diocese, and outside legal and financial advisors, I have authorized the filing of a Chapter 11 reorganization for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg. This difficult and painful yet necessary decision was made in response to the lawsuits filed against the diocese under the Child Victims Act.

I again apologize for the suffering caused by child sexual abuse by priests and other church personnel. I am sorry for the suffering endured by survivors and their families. I remain committed to helping victims find hope, healing and some peace of mind. I remain equally committed to maintaining a safe environment in our Church for all, especially our children and young people.

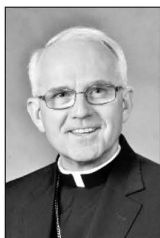
Between August 2019 and August 2021, when the Child Victims Act window was open, 138 lawsuits, previously barred by the statute of limitations, were filed against the diocese, parishes and other related Catholic entities. These lawsuits relate to incidents that allegedly happened decades ago, prior to the institution of our current safe environment policies and procedures. We are surprised at the number of claims that have been filed, but even one incident of abuse is too many. While we have been in litigation for almost three years, the merit of the claims and amount needed to resolve them has not yet been deter-

mined. In the past three years we have been able to resolve 14 claims by settlement or dismissal, and we have come to realize that reorganization is the best context for resolving the remaining claims while continuing our mission as a diocese.

Without filing for reorganization, the Diocese would face these civil actions in a slow, unpredictable, and costly process that would require years of court involvement. Such lengthy lawsuits would delay justice for survivors and prolong their suffering. Reorganization ensures that each survivor receives just compensation. It eliminates a race to the courthouse in which the earliest cases settled or brought to judgement could exhaust the resources available to pay claims, leaving nothing for victims whose cases are resolved later. Filing for reorganization does not hinder claims filed by victims of sexual abuse. Rather, it establishes a process for all claims to be treated fairly. Reorganization enables the diocese to resolve the claims in one court in an efficient and timely manner.

Filing for reorganization allows the diocese to continue its programs, services, and ministries. It allows us to continue to pay our employees and retirees. We must continue to focus on our relationships with Christ while resolving the claims that have been filed. With the help of our advisors, we will evaluate diocesan assets to determine how we can maintain our mission while seeking to compensate victims fairly. We will continue our mission.

As a diocese, we have worked in a serious and determined manner to reach out to survivors of child sexual abuse, and we have developed safe environment policies and pro-



**Bishop Terry
R. LaValley**

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

Gentle Jesus, Shepherd of Peace,
Join to your own suffering
The pain of all who have been hurt
In body, mind, and spirit
By those who betrayed the trust
placed in them.

Hear the cries of our sisters and
brothers who have been gravely
harmed, and the cries of those who
love them.

Soothe their restless hearts
with hope and steady their shaken
spirits with faith.

Grant them justice enlightened
by your truth.

Holy Spirit, heal your
people's wounds.

Grant us the courage and
wisdom to act with justice.

Breathe wisdom into our
prayers and labors.

Grant that all harmed by abuse
may find peace.

Look kindly on the
Church of Ogdensburg.

Touch our hearts with humble
trust in Your constant
care and loving Providence.

We ask this through
Christ our Risen Lord.

AMEN.

parishes will be asked to contribute funds to settle these claims so they can be free of litigation in state courts and released from all liability for existing claims.

As I stated above, a goal of the reorganization is to help us continue our mission. We will continue to serve God's people and spread the Gospel in the North Country. In order to do so we need your prayers and continued support. Funds from our recent capital campaign were designated for specific parish and diocesan projects, and it is our intention to use those gifts for their intended purpose. The Bishop's Fund Appeal supports essential ministries in our diocese, including the education of seminarians, Camp Guggenheim, the Good Samaritan Fund, and the training of lay ministers, priests, and deacons. It is our intent to use the donations to the Bishops' Fund Appeal to continue these essential ministries.

For additional information on reorganization, please visit our diocesan website: www.rcdony.org/reorganization.

As we embark on this journey towards reorganization, I ask you to join me to pray for all victims of child sexual abuse. May this process give them a sense of peace and bring them healing that comes from God alone. I also ask you to pray for our diocese. Please pray for me, my brother priests, deacons, consecrated religious, and all who work to spread the Good News in the North Country. May we be united in our resolve to reach out to victims of sexual abuse with compassion, and to renew our commitment to serve God and neighbor.

Faithfully yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley

Bishop of Ogdensburg

cedures that keep our young people safe. We have instituted policies and procedures to prevent abuse from happening. We have addressed allegations responsibly and promptly when they have been raised. I continue to be available to meet with victims, and we continue to offer support and assistance to those who have been so terribly hurt by this tragedy.

In New York, parishes and other entities are separate corporations. Only the diocese will file for reorganization. However, it is our hope that this reorganization will resolve all claims against the parishes and other related Catholic entities along with those against the diocese. It is likely that

Reorganization: Frequently asked questions

What is a Chapter 11 reorganization?

Chapter 11 reorganization is an action undertaken voluntarily by an entity to allow it to reorganize financially. The goal of reorganization is to respond to the claims of creditors and to emerge with its operations intact so the diocese can continue its mission. Reorganization immediately stops all efforts to collect debts and all legal actions against the entity. Chapter 11 does not mean the Diocese is going out of business or is insolvent.

Why is the diocese seeking reorganization under Chapter 11 now?

As a result of the New York State Child Victim Act, the Diocese is currently facing 124 claims of sexual abuse of a minor, all dating back decades. Litigation costs and settlements would likely exceed many millions of dollars. The Diocese simply does not have the resources to settle or litigate these claims.

What if the Diocese didn't file for reorganization?

The Diocese would face 124 civil actions, which would require years of court involvement. Claimants who resolve their claims first would receive all funds available to pay survivors. As a result, later claimants would receive little or nothing. Most importantly, these lengthy proceedings would delay justice for victims, prolonging their pain and suffering.

How will a reorganization affect victims' rights to their day in court?

Without reorganization, the Diocese would continue to face multiple civil actions; a slow, unpredictable, time consuming and costly process that would require years of court involvement. Most significantly, such lengthy lawsuits would delay justice for the survivors and only prolong their pain and suffering. In reorganization, all claims are resolved in one court

where all survivors' claims can be heard and be given due consideration while allowing the Diocese to continue to fulfill its day-to-day ministries to the people of Northern New York.

How is filing for reorganization fair to abuse victims?

As part of our ministry, the Diocese desires to respond to the claims of survivors in a way that acknowledges their suffering and helps them find some sense of peace. Reorganization ensures survivors are treated fairly. Without such a filing, large awards or settlements for cases that move through the legal system early could exhaust available resources and leave little or nothing for survivors whose cases move through the legal system later. Reorganization is fairer to all.

What does the Chapter 11 filing mean for parishes?

It is our sincere hope and prayer that the process to resolve claims will have minimal effect on the celebration of sacraments and regular parish life. Some parishes have been directly sued under the CVA, and that does create the potential for some parish liability. While we hope to keep parish involvement to a minimum, it is likely all parishes will be asked to contribute to funds which will be available to address survivors' claims.

What does this mean for Catholic schools?

Some schools also have been sued under the CVA. Therefore, there is a potential for liability for such schools. However, we hope to resolve claims against the schools and parishes through the framework of the diocese's reorganization plan. It is our sincere hope that this process will have minimal impact on the operation of Catholic schools in the diocese.

Does reorganization mean the Diocese of Ogdensburg is going out of business?

Chapter 11 does not mean that the Diocese of Ogdensburg has run out of money or will cease operations. We remain committed to ensuring we can continue to provide the sacraments and essential ministries. We expect that we can continue our ministries and operations while the reorganization case is pending and successfully emerge from reorganization as a stronger, even more vibrant organization.

Does reorganization mean the diocese can avoid having to release the files of clergy abusers?

Hiding information about abuse cases is not the purpose of reorganization. In a reorganization case, victims, their attorneys, and the court will be able to review documents and information relating to their claims, just like they could outside of reorganization. Documents and information related to claims will be available to victims and their legal teams.

How many claims does the diocese face?

138 CVA lawsuits were filed against the diocese following the August 2019 implementation of the Child Victims Act (CVA) in New York State. Over the last three years, 14 of the claims have been resolved by settlement or dismissal. The CVA allowed individuals who claim they are survivors of sexual abuse to file lawsuits against their abusers and their abusers' employers regardless of when the alleged abuse took place.

How much will it cost to settle the lawsuits?

Specific dollar figures are not cited in the claims. In the reorganization case, each case is evaluated independently, and a determination is made of how much will be awarded to each survivor. We remain committed to ensuring all survivors are

treated justly.

Are my weekly donations to my parish going to pay for settlements?

Your weekly parish donations go first and foremost to support your parish, as well as to provide funding for important ministries of the Diocese that support your parish and serve the faithful of the North Country. While the Diocese reorganizes, these needs continue and can only be met with your financial support.

What about my Bishop's Fund, Planned Giving and capital campaign contributions? Will they be used for settlements?

The Bishop's Fund Appeal supports essential ministries in our diocese, including education of seminarians, Camp Guggenheim, the Good Samaritan Fund, the training of lay ministers and deacons and other ministries. These vital ministries rely on the support of the Church in the North Country. It is our intent to use Bishop's Fund, Planned Giving and capital campaign donations for the essential ministries of the diocese for which they were donated. Funds donated to the capital campaign were designated for specific parish and diocesan projects meant to renovate our Church facilities and programs, and it is our intention to use those funds for their intended purpose.

Will you be laying off employees?

The diocese is determined to fulfill its mission to teach, serve and sanctify. We do not know if it will be necessary to lay off employees as we reorganize. It is not our desire to reduce our workforce. We will try to maintain a satisfactory level of service to our parishes and entities while evaluating the financial realities we face. At the present time, the diocese does not plan to lay off employees as a result of reorganization.

JULY 26, 2023

Questions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

How will this impact Catholic Charities?

Catholic Charities is a legally incorporated entity separate from the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Catholic Charities provides vital services to individuals and families in need, following Christ's call to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and heal the sick. As a separate incorporated entity, the ministries and operations of Catholic Charities should not be directly affected by the diocese's reorganization.

Will you be cutting programs?

We will be working with the courts to evaluate all operations and ensure the diocese continues to conduct its mission of proclaiming Christ and the Gospels to the North Country and serving those in need in the most efficient way possible, while ensuring all debts can be settled and justice can be given to survivors.

Are diocesan retirees in jeopardy of losing their pensions? Will employee salaries or benefits be affected?

In reorganization, it is generally the case that retirement plan assets cannot be used to satisfy debts to creditors or claimants. The diocese plans to take the position in the chapter 11 case that retirement plan assets are not available to satisfy the claims of general creditors. During the chapter 11 case, the Diocese will continue to provide employees and retirees with salaries and benefits.

How does reorganization work?

Chapter 11 is a volun-

tary action taken by an organization to reorganize financially. It has two principal goals: (a) to respond to the financial claims of those to whom it owes money, and (b) to emerge with its operations intact. A Chapter 11 filing immediately stops all efforts at collection of debts and legal actions against the organization. Chapter 11 does not mean that the organization is going out of business. Under Chapter 11, the organization generally maintains its normal operations and continues to provide employees with salaries and benefits, and retiree benefits. An organization in Chapter 11 continues to carry on its mission.

To Report Abuse

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

Bishop's Public Schedule

July 27 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
July 29 – 4 p.m. – Rite of Candidacy for the Deacon Aspirants at St. Mary's Cathedral
July 30 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
 4 p.m. – Dinner Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood for Reverend Sony G. Pulickal in Speculator
July 31 – 4:30 p.m. – Mass for Youth Camp at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake
August 2 – 4:30 p.m. – Picnic with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart at Dablon Point in Cape Vincent

Environmental Stewardship

Up to the challenge?

During the month of July, millions around the world are responding the challenge of Plastic Free July. This is a global social movement that originated in Australia and has inspired over a 100 million people in 190 countries to refuse single-use plastics. It provides resources and ideas to help you and me reduce single-use plastic at school, in your home and even at your local café.

As plastic production and waste increases, it is clear we can't recycle our way out of the problem. We need to "turn off" the plastics tap. Waste avoidance needs to be a critical part of the solution. Some of the benefits include avoiding landfill waste and protecting the ocean; reducing consumption and production; reducing human health impacts by limiting potentially hazardous chemical exposure; connecting communities; and driving systemic change. Using reusable containers instead of single-use is likely to encourage others to do so, as well. Research has demonstrated a strong impact of social norms.

There are a lot of popular changes people are making to reduce plastic waste. Some people are choosing reusable coffee cups, while others are refusing plastic packaging used only once or twice before being thrown in the trash, like zip-lock bags and bubble wrap.

While this challenge began in July, it is an invitation for us to find more ways as Christians to simplify our lifestyle and have lasting effects on our communities. Making a small change in our single-use-plastic habit will collectively make a massive difference to our communities. You can choose to refuse the single-use plastics in July (and beyond!). Plastic Free July can help you find great alternatives that can create new habits forever as you become a better steward of God's magnificent creation!

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration is required. Preregister at www.virtus.org. Upcoming sessions:
August 31 – 2 p.m. – St. Agnes School, Lake Placid

Rest in Peace

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

July 26 – Rev. Zenon B. Decary, 1940; Rev. J. Owen Barry, O.S.A., 1978

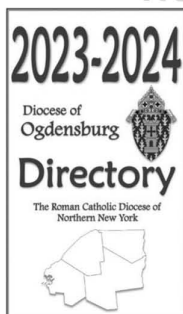
July 27 – Rev. John B. Chappel, M.S.C, 1884; Rev. Matthew J. Sweeney, 1935; Rev. Daniel A. Harron, O.S.A., 1942; Rev. Harold J. P. McCabe, 1976; Rev. Daniel F. Lyddy, 2002

July 30 – Rev. Francis Smyth, 1902; Rev. Patrick Majock, O.S.A., 1922; Rev. Jeremiah P. Murphy, 1925; Rev. Moses Minnie, 1935

July 31 – Rev. Napoleon Brisson, 1950; Rev. Michael O'Reilly, 1980

Aug. 1 – Rev. J. Everett Dene-sha, 2013

Diocesan Directories now available!



The Official 2023-2024 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.

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How does

reorganization work?

Chapter 11 is a volun-

A convocation of consecrated virgins

By Mary Beth Bracy, consecrated virgin

Contributing writer

From June 23 to 27, I was blessed to attend the annual gathering of consecrated virgins living in the world. This year the convocation took place in Flagstaff, Arizona at Northeastern Arizona University. It was like a honeymoon experience for me, as it provided me with some time to go to a “deserted place and rest awhile” (Mark 6:31) following my consecration on April 16. The theme of the convocation was “The Voice of the Bridegroom” (Jeremiah 33:11), reminiscent of the dialogue between the bridegroom and bride in the Song of Songs.

It was wonderful to chant Lauds (Morning Prayer) and Vespers (Evening Prayer) with other consecrated virgins, and attend daily Mass and Eucharistic Adoration together. There was a deep sense of joy and communion as we shared our vocations stories, ministries and much laughter over meals. We delighted in venturing to the Chapel of the Holy Cross built into the red rocks of Sedona, and the historic Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Chapel in Flagstaff. Many of us also gazed in awe as we hiked around the Grand Canyon, and a smaller group of us visited the Lowell Observatory one night, breaking into “Salve Regina” before we left. One evening we also had a talent show highlighting gifts from music and art to poetry, a humorous skit, and dancing.

Our episcopal moderator, Bishop Earl A. Boyea, offered the opening Mass and later presented talks on “The Eucharist: Mystical Body, Mystical Voice,” which he developed on the meaning of the parts of the Mass for his diocese in Lansing, Michigan, to help celebrate the National Eucharistic Revival.

I was inspired by his reminders that we need to train our hearts and minds to truly listen and mean what we say. Wheth-



PHOTO PROVIDED

Consecrated virgins primarily from the United States gathered with Father David Whiteside, chaplain, and Bishop Thomas Olmsted at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Chapel in Flagstaff, Arizona, during an annual gathering of consecrated virgins.

er it is in the Creed or Amen, we are called to remember what the gift of our Lord's Presence in the Holy Eucharist cost. At Holy Communion, Bishop Boyea shared, we recall the marriage aspect - we become one with Jesus and receive “with joy this gift of Christ's entire self.”

Such love requires reciprocity. This is why we worship Jesus at Mass and spend time before His Eucharistic Presence outside of Mass. I was also fortunate to sit at Bishop Boyea's table at lunch, and he shared beautifully about how the call to consecrated virginity is unique in that it is primarily about being the spouse of Christ.

Bishop Emeritus of Phoenix, Thomas J. Olmsted's talk “Listen First to the Voice of the Bridegroom” also fortified my faith. He reflected on the examples of Our Lady and the saints and our call to be witnesses: “signs of God's tender love.”

Mary showed us the image of the bride from the beginning to the end of Scripture: “The wedding feast of the lamb has come and the bride is prepared to welcome him.” (Revelation 19:7) Speaking of the examples of Saints Damien of Molokai and Thomas More, he stressed the importance of beginning each day in the presence of our

Eucharistic Lord. When Saint Damien arrived at the leper colony, he first restored the chapel and placed the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle.

“The lepers heard the voice of the bridegroom through the fatherly love of St. Damien,” shared Bishop Olmsted. Our faith must be “something for which I am willing to die.”

Like Saint Thomas More, our lives will be a “paradox for the sake of our divine spouse... We point to the Kingdom as consecrated virgins when we live with hope and joy.”

Although most attendants were from the U.S., a consecrated virgin from Germany also presented on “The Spousal Dimension of the Voice of the Bridegroom in Sacred Scripture and in the Rite of the Consecration of Virgins.”

María Luisa Öfele, who was celebrating 20 years as a consecrated virgin, worked with Pope Benedict XVI when he was in the Diocese of Regensburg. She highlighted God's personal relationship with His people from the Old Testament covenants to the Voice of the Beloved in St. John's Gospel, stressing our need to spend time in silence to hear God's voice.

Her talk also included a meditation on the spousal dimension

of the Voice of the Bridegroom in the Rite of the Consecration of Virgins, from the Calling of the Candidates and the Homily to the Resolutions, Prayer of Consecration and Presentation of the Ring. Additionally, she explained that when the candidate prostrates herself, it shows her total dependence on God, and when she places her hands in the hands of the Bishop, it testifies that the virgin is to be a sign of the covenant and mystical union with Christ now and in heaven.

Judith Stegman, JCD, President of the United States Association of Consecrated Virgins, who was celebrating 30 years as a consecrated virgin, spoke of the importance of true obedience in the Church in light of canon law, Scripture and tradition.

Clair Halbur, consecrated virgin, choir director, and organizer of the convocation, also gave an interactive talk about chanting.

Several other consecrated virgins spoke on various themes. Magalis Aguilera related consecrated virgins' call to show our exclusive love for Jesus; Jenna Chang spoke about the call to be a spiritual mother; Karen Bussey on how our prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours is “truly the voice of the Bride herself addressing the Bridegroom”; Marianne Cano on our call to intercessory prayer with the saints; Madeleine Troppe on how we are loved and worthy by God's grace and choosing; and Francesca Riddick on how the consecrated virgin is mystically espoused to Christ.

At the Grand Canyon, I noticed a group of big horned sheep down below, climbing the rocks, then more about 20 feet away from me. I thought of the passage from the Song of Songs 2:8, “The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills.”

The Voice of the Bridegroom blessed me with many graces and renewed energy to proclaim His merciful love.

Bill to end federal death penalty introduced

By Daniel Payne
Catholic News Agency

Congressional Democrats introduced a bill to abolish the federal death penalty, calling the policy “state-sanctioned murder” and “deeply flawed.”

Massachusetts Rep. Ayanna Pressley and Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin said in a press release that the Federal Death Penalty Prohibition Act of 2023 “would end the use of the death penalty by the federal government.”

“Specifically, the bill would prohibit the imposition of the death penalty as punishment for any violation of federal law and would require the re-sentencing of those previously sentenced to death row,” the release said.

The measure was first introduced by the pair in 2019 after the Trump administration announced the resumption of the federal death penalty. Trump’s administration carried out a total of 13 executions.

The legislation is co-sponsored by several dozen representatives and senators and has attracted the support of over 400 organizations, including the Catholic Mobilizing Network.

Krisanne Murphy, the executive director of the group, said in the press release that “as Catholics who believe in the inviolability of human dignity, we understand that we can’t build a culture of life under a federal government that can put people to death.”

“We support the Federal Death Penalty Prohibition Act, which would eradicate this flawed and morally bankrupt system, and open up the possibility for more healing forms of justice,” Murphy wrote.

Durbin himself is Catholic, though he is also a proponent of abortion rights.

The Catholic Church has long been opposed to the imposition of the death penalty. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has argued that the state “has the recourse to impose the death penalty upon criminals convicted of heinous crimes if this ultimate sanction is the only available means to protect society from a grave threat to human life.”

Capital punishment “should not be exercised when other ways are available to punish criminals and to protect society that are more respectful of human life,” the bishops wrote.

Virginia transgender policies emphasize parental rights

By Daniel Payne
Catholic News Agency

New education policies issued by the administration of Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin this week affirm that parents in the state will enjoy broad oversight of their children while they are enrolled in public schools, with the state settling several key questions related to school policies regarding transgender-identifying students.

The model policies released by the government say education rules “shall be drafted to safeguard parents’

rights with respect to their child and to facilitate the exercise of those rights.”

Schools “shall respect parents’ values and beliefs,” the policy says, with parents permitted to “make the best decisions with respect to their children,” while schools will be required to “keep parents informed about their children’s well-being.”

The guidance, an update from a version released in September 2022, comes after several years of contentious debate in Virginia and other states over the extent to which education

officials can implement transgender ideology within schools.

Transgenderism contends that males and females, including children, should be treated as a member of the opposite sex if they declare themselves to “identify” as such. Many districts and individual schools around the country in recent years have pushed aggressively to make this ideology a normalized part of both curricula and school policies, up to and including hiding a student’s self-declared transgender identity from his or her parents.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Argentine priest is Pope Francis’ new personal secretary

(CNA) — Archbishop Jorge García Cuerva of Buenos Aires, Argentina, on July 17 announced that Pope Francis has appointed a priest from the Buenos Aires Archdiocese, Father Daniel Pellizzon, 40, to act as his personal secretary. Pellizzon will replace Father Gonzalo Aemilius in the position. García said Pellizzon will travel to Rome at the beginning of August to begin his new role. The archbishop offered his prayer for the priest as he begins “this new mission entrusted to the service of the Church.” Pellizzon was born Jan. 24, 1983, in Buenos Aires. In 2011 and 2012 he collaborated with Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio — the archbishop at that time — in organizing his personal archives.

Cardinal meets with Biden to discuss work in Ukraine

(CNA) — Italian Cardinal Matteo Zuppi met with President Joe Biden Tuesday evening to discuss the Vatican’s humanitarian efforts in war-torn Ukraine. A statement from the White House following the two-and-a-half-hour meeting read: “They ... discussed the Holy See’s efforts providing humanitarian aid to address the widespread suffering caused by Russia’s continuing aggression in Ukraine, as well as the Vatican’s advocacy for the return of forcibly deported Ukrainian children.” The Ukrainian government says Russia forcibly deported thousands of Ukrainian children to Russia after the invasion last year. In April, Pope Francis said the Holy See intends to help facilitate the return of Ukrainian children. “It is a question of humanity before it is a question of the spoils of war or a displacement caused by war,” the pope said.

Bishops warn against change to definition of brain death

(CNA) — The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and a key Catholic bioethics group are both warning of a potential rewriting of U.S. law to broaden the definition of brain death, a revision they claim relies on “deficient medical criteria.” The USCCB and the National Catholic Bioethics Center said in a joint letter this month that the Uniform Law Commission was moving to revise the definition of whole-brain death without relying on “compelling scientific evidence” to do so. The Uniform Law Commission (ULC) is a nonprofit group based in Chicago that drafts model legislation for U.S. lawmakers. The group says on its website that it “provides states with nonpartisan, well-conceived, and well-drafted legislation that brings clarity and stability to critical areas of state statutory law.” The ULC met last week for its annual meeting. Among the items of debate at the gathering was a slate of revisions to the Uniform Determination of Death Act, a law proposed by the ULC in 1981 and adopted by most states. Among potential revisions is a proposal to replace the brain-death standard of “irreversible cessation” of key brain or respiratory functions with one in which permanent “coma” and “loss of brainstem reflexes” could be counted as death. In their letter, the Catholic bishops and the bioethics center argue that the rewrite “would replace the standard of whole brain death with one of partial brain death.”

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

ROAST BEEF DINNER

Lyon Mountain – Roast Beef dinner to be held.

Date: July 29

Time: 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Place: American Legion Post 1623

Cost: Adults, \$15; Children under 12, \$10

Features: Roast beef, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll and dessert.

Contact: Dine in or take out 518-735-9998.

BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL

Altona – St. Ann's and Holy Angels Church will have Blueberry festival breakfast buffet.

Date: July 30

Time: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Place: Holy Angels Hall

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 6-12, \$5; 5 and under, Free

Features: Blueberry Pancakes, Regular Pancakes, French Toast, Sausage, Eggs and Homefries Coffee, Orange Juice, Milk and Water. Take-Outs Available. Bake Sale, Basket Raffle, 50/50 Raffle, Pop Corn and Cotton Candy

Contact: For more info., Please call the Parish Office at 518 236 5632

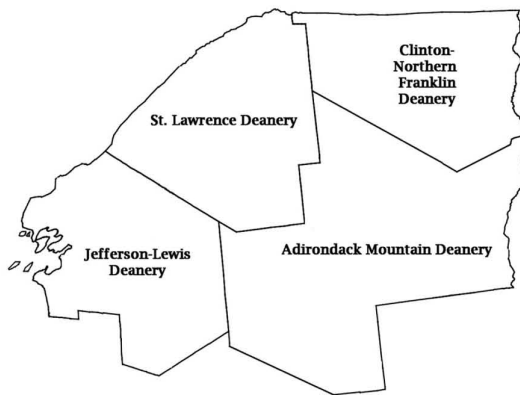
FOUNDATION DAY

Ellenburg – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer warmly invites you to their Annual Foundation Day with the theme "In Him, You are Also Being Built Together".

Date: Aug. 5

Schedule: The day begins early at 8 a.m. with First Saturday Devotions, followed by Welcome and Music at 9 a.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. Guest speaker, Darcy Fargo, Editor of the North Country Catholic, will present at 9:30 a.m. and the Celebration of Saturday Morning Mass begins at 10:30 a.m. with The Rev. Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg. All are invited to a delicious luncheon following the Mass.

Contact: Please call Sarah An-



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

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

e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

derson for more information at 518-534-9976.

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE FOUNDATION COURSE

Plattsburgh - Using the Westberg Institute for Faith Community Nursing curriculum, this course is open to RN's or other persons interested in health ministry in their church or community.

Schedule: Oct. 12 and Nov. 9 at St. Joseph's Community Outreach Center; Oct. 19, 26 and Nov. 2 will be virtual via Zoom (All 5 sessions are required)

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Features: Faith Community Nurses (Parish Nurses) provide health education and counseling, serve as patient advocates and connect patients to resources in the community. They care for the whole person - body, mind and spirit - with a particular focus on the spiritual. Mercy Care's Faith Community Nurse Program is a volunteer program. Nurses may choose the number of hours they are able to give. Mercy Care will provide the training, support and networking with other nurses or health ministers who are called to take on this role.

Contact: For more information, contact Lexi Bevilacqua at abevillacqua@adkmercy.org or 518-523-5446

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY

Houseville - A Holy Hour of Adoration with the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be observed the first Sunday of the month.

Date: Aug. 6

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

EVENING OF SACRED MUSIC

Clayton - Please join us as we perform music honoring our church's namesake, St. Mary.

Date: Aug. 6

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: Vincent Kinnard, organ; Kathryn Ingerson, soprano; Catherine Delaney Hungerford, clarinet; Turning Point Men's Barbershop Chorus; St. Mary's Church Choir. A light reception will follow in St. Mary's parish center. This is a free event. A free-will offering supporting the music ministry is appreciated.

Contact: For more info, contact St. Mary's parish office at 315-686-3398.

ST. MARY'S GALA AND RAFFLE

Clayton – St. Mary's Church to have their annual Gala and raffle.

Date: Aug. 8

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 10

Place: Cerow Arena at the Town

of Clayton Recreational Park

Features: Your \$100 ticket is good for dinner for 2 and 2 drinks and enters you in all drawings.

Contact: For more information and tickets, contact St. Mary's parish office at 521 James Street, Clayton or 315-686-3398.

BLESSING OF FLOWERS, HERBS AND GRAINS

Houseville – St. Hedwig's Church will observe the Polish custom of blessing flowers, herbs and grains at the celebration of the Mass, to honor our Blessed Mother, Matka Boska Zielna, Our Lady of the Greens.

Date: Aug. 13

Time: 11 a.m.

Features: There are over 2,000 plants named after our Blessed mother. All are welcome to bring bouquets, pots, vases and stalks of flowers, herbs and grains and place them in front of the altar. These blessed items can be taken to the home or cemetery or given as gifts. An ice cream social for all will be held in the church hall after the Mass.

Contact: 315-348-6260 for more information.

ST. LAWRENCE

ALPHA

Massena – You are invited to ALPHA.

Date: Tuesdays starting Sept. 12

Time: 6 p.m. to 8:30

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Features: Free to all and includes a delicious meal.

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

BINGO

Canton – The Knights of Columbus will be holding BINGO.

Date: July 24 and 31

Time: Doors open at 4:30 p.m., First call at 7 p.m.

Place: 30 Miner Street

Cost: Admission is \$5 at the door

Features: Come sit with family, bring your friends, enjoy good company, have a snack and maybe

win a game. Maybe even a bonus ball game.

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

Date: Aug. 5

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: Aug. 5

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: Aug. 5

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

Place: St. Mary's Church

MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

Date: Aug. 13 (Second Sunday of each month)

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

Place: Fr. Amyot Parish Center

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

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

DIOCESAN EVENTS

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.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

'The Chosen' gets waiver to film during strike

By Joe Bukuras
Catholic News Agency

Filming of the fourth season of "The Chosen," the popular Christian television series about Jesus and his disciples, will continue after a union granted the production an exemption from its strike against major Hollywood studios.

The strike was announced July 13 by the SAG-AFTRA, the union of the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists that represents more than 160,000 members such as actors, journalists, and singers.

"The Chosen" initially said on Twitter that it was affected by the strike because it employs actors who are mem-

bers of the SAG, which, according to Deadline, includes Jonathan Roumie, the actor who plays the role of Christ.

Responding to questions online, the show said that it requested an exemption because it is privately funded.

The show said on Twitter Sunday that it had been granted a "waiver" and filming would continue on Monday. Deadline confirmed that filming continued on Monday and "is due to wrap in two weeks."

"To be clear: 1. We've agreed to all of SAG's requests and their interim agreement. 2. Season 4 is entirely independent and 100% funded by donations," the show said in a tweet on Sunday.

"The Chosen" is the first reported series to be granted an exemption from the strike, ac-

ording to Deadline.

In its original announcement about the pause in filming due to the strike, director Dallas Jenkins said on the show's Twitter account: "Unfortunately, despite the requested work we did on our end, an exemption for us will not be granted in time to avoid a shutdown. We will do a little filming tomorrow of everything that doesn't require our cast, and then we'll wait and hope that either the strike ends (unlikely soon), or that we're granted an exemption and can resume filming."

"Yes, it's upsetting and will cost time and money ... but we bring our 5 loaves & 2 fish. God handles the rest," Jenkins added.

SAG-AFTRA's strike is in response to failed negotiations

with the Alliance of Motion Picture & Television Producers (AMPTP), which represents major studios such as NBCUniversal, Disney, Netflix, and others.

According to the SAG-AFTRA, inflation and a major shift to streaming media have struck the industry, negatively affecting workers' compensation.

The AMPTP has "refused to offer a fair agreement that addresses these existential threats," the SAG-AFTRA said.

On July 16, "The Chosen" began airing on the CW Network, a major broadcasting television station.

Its first three seasons will air there, with the Season Three finale available on Christmas Eve.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

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

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

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

Saranac Lake - If you are a young adult between the ages of 18 and 30 something, come away with us on retreat at the Camp Guggenheim Lodge.

Date: Aug. 11-13

Cost: \$30 per person, but don't let the lack of funds stop you from attending.

Features: Come for the entire weekend or Saturday only. Come and enjoy the peace of Saranac Lake, time for prayer, reflection, conversations and silence. Bishop LaValley will celebrate the vigil Mass on Saturday evening and will join us for dinner. Meals will be potluck (we will coordinate with the participants).

Contact: Register online at www.rcdony.org/yamretreat For more information contact Marika Donders at mdonders@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920 ext. 1380

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.

SURVIVING DIVORCE

The Family Life Office is offering the Surviving Divorce Program in

Plattsburgh.

Date: 12 weeks starting Aug. 30th

Place: St. John the XXIII Newman Center

Time: 6 p.m. to 8

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: To register, go to <https://www.rcdony.org/survivingdivorce>. For more informa-

tion, contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Saranac Lake - If you (or a friend) are suffering after an abortion, you're not alone. Consider participating in Rachel's Vineyard After Abortion Healing Retreat.

Date: Sept. 15-17

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

Contact: For more information, contact the Respect life office. Registration is online at www.rcdony.org/pro-life. If you'd like to attend a retreat in another location visit www.rachelsvineyard.org for a list of locations. Don't suffer alone. Help is available.

WOMENS HEALING RETREAT

Ogdensburg - Our Lady of the Rosary Healing Retreat for Women to be held.

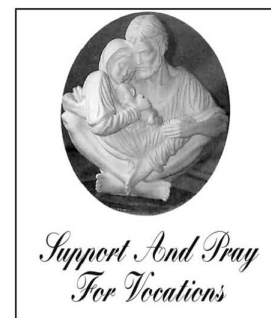
Date: Oct. 5-8

Place: Wadhams Hall

Cost: \$275 per person, \$100 Deposit

Features: Retreat for women 18 years or older. Registrations begin July 1, 2023

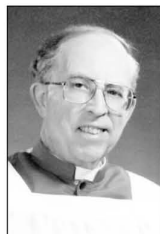
Contact: For more information call Kathleen Nichols 518-651-6895 or go to <https://www.rcdony.org/ourlady>. Donations accepted to be payable to OLRHR and sent to Wadhams hall.



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

An understanding heart

I heard a good story the other day about three men marooned on a desert island who were fishing. Suddenly their hook caught some seaweed with a sealed jar at the other end. When they opened the jar, a genie popped out. In gratitude for being freed, the genie offered each man a wish. The



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

man wished he were home with his wife, while the second man wished he could be with his children again. The third man said to he genie, "I'm so lonely now, I wish my companions were back here with me."

Don't you get sick of all the commercials that offer you complete happiness if you buy this

July 30

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12
Romans 8:28-30
Matthew 13:44-52

luxury automobile, or go on a month's cruise through the Caribbean... or buy a house on the ocean in Florida?

Our first reading today is about a dream the King David's son, Solomon, had one night. God said, "Ask anything

of me and I will give it to you." Instead of gold or fame, Solomon asked God for "an understanding heart." God was so pleased, along with that understanding heart, he made Solomon the wisest king that ever lived.

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers for free eternal life, eternal happiness in the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus uses wonderful examples that people can understand: a pearl of great price, buried treasure,

and a rich catch of fish. How his listeners' eyes must have sparked at His words!

If we choose, God will give us, too, an understanding heart, a wise heart, that will help us to throw away anything sinful that could distract us from the Treasure of Grace that will help us to obtain that Kingdom. When God offers us a gift, He will always provide whatever is necessary for us to obtain it.

CALLED TO SERVE

A day on the links

The Malone Golf and Country Club is a magnificent facility. The club house alone deserves platitudes. The golf courses, there are

two, are challenging and beautiful.

I butchered the East Course at the annual clergy golf tournament a week ago. My reward

was a towel for most double bogies. That's double talk for "not good."

There were priests and deacons from throughout the diocese and a few friends of clergy. We participated in the event orchestrated each year by the ebullient Monsignor Dennis Duprey and the equally charming Father Kevin McEwan.

This year, the tournament got off to a rocky start because of the weather. Our group of four left the western part of the North Country at around 6:30 a.m. for an anticipated tee time, the time golfers start golfing, of 10:30 a.m.

Wet grounds and the occasional downpour moved the start time for the first clergy golfers to noon. Our group started our 18-hole adventure around 1 p.m. It usually takes about four hours to finish 18 holes. We were longer than that,

but we had a good time.

The afternoon/evening ends with a very tasty dinner and awards, like my towel.

There is no winner's purse. There is nothing on the line except a good time, visiting with some old friends we do not see very often and breathing in the usually healthy air. I did not even notice the Canadian forest fire smoke.

I had on a shirt with an embroidered deacon emblem (a cross and stole). Come to think of it, I was the only person wearing anything that hinted at church connection.

Everyone else was in "civvies." That should tell you something about this gathering. It was for fun. No shop talk.

There was no hand wringing about how we get more folks to step up and assume a greater role in the life of the church. There was no

discussion about ways to attract more vocations to the priestly or diaconal lives.

This was a day to relax. It accomplished the goal.

Refreshed and renewed these men of the cloth can get back to the tasks of explaining how reorganization of debt is good in the long run, how the adult faith formation program will be organized for the next year, how the leak in the roof will get fixed and what to do about the problem of requested Mass intentions outpacing the number of Masses.

Thank you for a terrific day. I will learn before next year to keep my head down and slow my swing. All that other stuff will get fixed. Somehow.

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



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

QUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name a priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul; take over his entire personality and life.

Replace him with yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always. O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of priests, pray and intercede for (...). Amen.

AUGUST

DIocese of OGDENSBURG, NY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
For more copies contact: Diocese of Ogdensburg PO Box 369 Ogdensburg, NY 13669						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY	REV. PIERRE AUBIN, MSC	MSGR. ROBERT H. AUCCOIN	REV. SCOTT A. BELINA	REV. CORNELLE EKILA BOYEYE, MSC	REV. LEAGON JAMES CARLIN	OUR PASTOR
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
REV. CHRISTOPHER C. CARRARA	REV. GERALD A. CERANK	REV. TOJO CHACKO, HGN	REV. DANIEL CHAPIN	REV. MARTIN E. CLINE	REV. DOUGLAS COMSTOCK	POPE FRANCIS
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
REV. MATTHEW S. CONGER	REV. NORMAN C. COTE	REV. THEODORE A. CROSBY	REV. PEDRO EDGARDO DE LA ROSA	REV. DOUGLAS A. DECKER	REV. ROBERT L. DECKER	RETIRED PRIESTS
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
MSGR. DAVID DELUCA, MSC	REV. GARVIN J. DEMARAIS	REV. RICHARD D. DEMERS	REV. JOHN M. DEMO	REV. RAYMOND DIESBOURG, MSC	REV. JOHN L. DOWNS	DECEASED PRIESTS
29	30	31				
MSGR. DENNIS J. DUPREY	REV. GUY F. EDWARDS					

A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated. The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by: Diocese of Ogdensburg, Vocations Society, www.mycvocation.net



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

Serving those most in need

The streets are deserted and inaccessible, there is no public transportation or electricity, and water is becoming scarce. War that began on April 15 in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and has spread to many other cities in Sudan. However, little is known about the conflict because of the limited movement of people. The little information available comes from the missionaries who have remained close to the population. Among these are the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (FMA) who, together with the Salesians, despite the difficulties, continue to serve the poorest and most needy population, giving food and shelter to several hundred people and also caring for the injured.

According to reports, the sisters have "transformed" their primary school in Shajara, 7 km from Khartoum, into a space where children can play during the day and give them shelter at night together with their respective mothers. The sisters opened their classrooms and their residence for the poor. Every day about 80 poor children of different ages, together with their mothers, live in the sisters' complex.

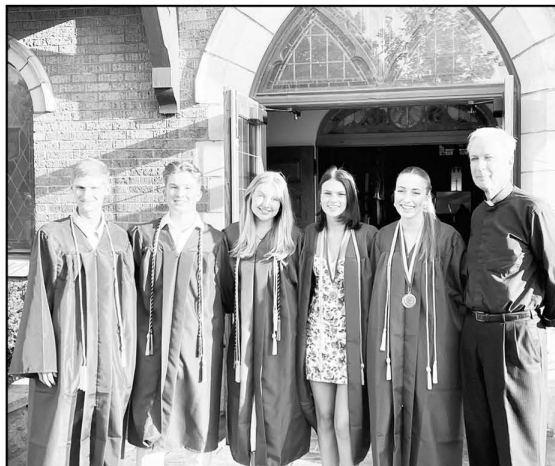
The sisters provide food during the day to all those who are hosted by them and offer breakfast daily to about 300 poor children and people who live around their residence. In addition to the activities with the children, the FMA have also begun an apostolate with the sick and injured. "Every day, between 15 and 20 injured patients come to the sisters' residence for medical help," they say from the home.

FMA's living in Shajara opened their presence in 1989. There are five sisters and are currently the only representatives of the Catholic Church in the vicinity of the Sudanese capital.

The Salesians in Sudan have two presences in the city of Khartoum - the vocational school and the parish of St Joseph - and another in the city of El Obeid, 500 kilometres from Khartoum. "All three have been closed due to insecurity and the dangers that lie ahead," explained a missionary. The Salesians from these communities have left the country, with the exception of the director of the vocational school, who has moved to the FMA residence in Shajara, where he collaborates in the initiatives that are carried out to help the needy.

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

PRAYING FOR GRADUATES



The 39 graduates of Lake Placid Central High gathered for a Baccalaureate Service on June 21. Out of a class of 39 students, the five who began their schooling from kindergarten to third grade at St. Agnes all graduated as members of the National Honor Society! The school motto, "St. Agnes School is the Smartest Start for Your Child" seems evident! The five honor graduates, Andrew Scanio (salutatorian) Christopher Byrne, Grace Erickson, Bailey Smith and Grace Carlson, are pictured with Father John R. Yonkovig, parish pastor.

OBITUARIES

Altona – Jane M. (Harris) Graves, 60; Mass of Christian Burial July 24, 2024 at Holy Angels Church.

Au Sable Forks – Gary Burdo, 70; Mass of Christian Burial July 20, 2023 at Holy Name Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

Chateaugay – Mary Jean Dellernia, 58; Mass of Christian Burial July 19, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Chazy – Roger F. Miller, 85; Mass of Christian Burial July 20, 2023 at Sacred Heart Church.

Constable – Yvonne E. (Gokey) Spinner, 83; Private Services to be held; burial in St. George's Cemetery, Burke.

Dexter – Lucille (Pound) Marvin, 80; Services to be held at a later date.

Hogansburg – Larry "Lamont" Arquette, 59; Mass of Christian Burial July 20, 2023 at St. Regis Church.

Houseville – Donald G. Crofoot, 96; Mass of Christian Burial July 22, 2023 at St. Hedwig's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery, Port Leyden.

Massena – Rowena (Fregoe) Tyo, 98; Mass of Christian Burial July 17, 2023 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Gail M. (Jennette) Snyder, 75; Graveside Services July 29, 2023 at St. Alexander's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Joyce E. (Hogle) Mallette, 94; Mass of Christian Burial July 18, 2023 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Oswegatchie Mausoleum.

Ogdensburg – Ruth E. (Wells) Pearson, 80; Funeral Services July 24, 2023 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Oswegatchie Mausoleum.

Ogdensburg – Theresa Mary (Fisher) Vine, 58; Funeral Services July 18, 2023 at the Frary Funeral Home.

Peru – Robert J. Meier, 71; Funeral Services July 19, 2023 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

Plattsburgh – Arthur LaJoy, Jr., 89; Mass of Christian Burial July 28, 2023 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Otis Sawyers, 53; Mass of Christian Burial July 21,

2023 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Rosiere – Henry "Tyke" Wood, 46; Mass of Christian Burial July 19, 2023 at St. Vincet de Paul Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Sackets Harbor – Richard R. Bucci, 88; Memorial Mass July 26, 2023 at St. Andrews Church.

Ticonderoga – Dale J. Peters, 61; Funeral Services July 18, 2023 at the Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home; burial St. Mary's Parish Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Rachel M. Thompson, 31; Mass of Christian Burial July 20, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Valley View Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Mary Catherine "Cal" Fletcher, 93; Mass of Christian Burial July 19, 2023 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Patricia Eileen Flint Francisco, 90; Mass of Christian Burial July 17, 2023 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Tupper Lake – Tai McLearn, 24; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 17, 2023 at St. Alphonsus Church.

FACES OF FAITH



"Stellar VBS 2023," the vacation Bible school hosted by the Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay, was out of this world! The parish. Adult helpers were Father Medenel Angrand, seminarian Kevin McCullough, Deacon Brian Dwyer, Monique Dwyer, Dale and Anne Selkirk, Jamie O'Dell, Kristin Carter, Kristin Parmeter, Nichole Gokey, Barbara LaBare, and Hannah Monette. Youth helpers included Angela Dwyer, Ainsley Crawford, Anna Dalton, Luke Dalton, Zoey Carter, Reagan Morin, Paul Dwyer, and Payton Parmeter. The program was also supported by parish prayers and donations.

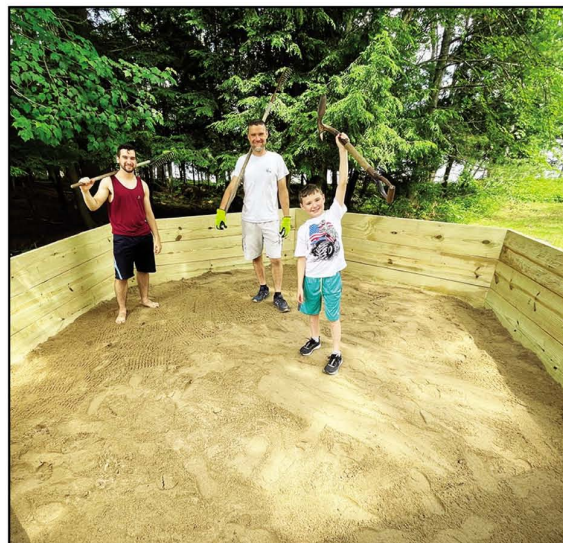


Graduates of Trinity Catholic School in Massena.



The Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society (DOVS) recently held a raffle to raise funds to support its mission of promoting vocations to the ordained ministry and consecrated life. Pictured are Phil and Mary Shatraw, both DOVS members, drawing the lucky winners. The winners of the raffle are:

- Eyland Restaurant \$100 Certificate - Elizabeth Tarbox from Colton
- Donovan's Steak and Ale \$100 Certificate - M. Coons from Syracuse
- 6 gallon shop-vac - James Regan from Colton
- Basket of wine - Carl and Mary Garrand from Brushton



The Guggenheim staff built a brand new GaGa ball pit this past weekend with the help of alumni staff members Andrew Lauria and Drew Benware. It is an exciting game that have become popular at schools and camps around the country. Week 2 and 3 campers have enjoyed using the pit.

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

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