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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 78 Number 17

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

AUGUST 16, 2023

## ADMITTED TO CANDIDACY



Six men were admitted as candidates for the Permanent Diaconate during the 4 p.m. Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral on July 30. Pictured are Frank E. Sczerzenie, Bishop Terry R. LaValley, James B. Kavanaugh, (back) Rev. Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin, Gordon J. Burdo, Garry H. Stevens, James P. Law and Nicholas A. Tsibulsky.

## ON MISSION FROM CAMP GUGGENHEIM TO HONDURAS



Pat and Shannon Looby, who met at Camp Guggenheim in the early 1990s, will be traveling with four of their six children to Farm of the Child,

a U.S.-based mission serving youth and families in Honduras. The family has been preparing for the trip in the North Country. **FULL STORY, PAGE 4**

# Pope: 'Wordliness' one of greatest dangers

Jonathan Liedl  
Catholic News Agency

Spiritual worldliness is one of the most dangerous temptations facing priests and the Church because it "reduces spirituality to appearance" while disconnecting it from the Gospel, Pope Francis warned in a recently released letter to the priests of Rome.

"[Spiritual worldliness] leads us to be 'workers of the spirit,' men clad of sacred forms that actually continue to think and act according to the fashions of the world," the pope wrote.

The pope's message was communicated in a lengthy

letter released by the Vatican on Monday but which was dated Aug. 5, the memorial of the Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome. The pope is the bishop of Rome and wrote the letter to provide what he described as the comfort of a "fraternal encounter."

In his comments on spiritual worldliness, the pope drew heavily from the reflections of 20th-century theologian and cardinal Henri de Lubac, who wrote that the invasion of spiritual worldliness into the life of the Church would be "infinitely more disastrous than any simple moral worldliness" because spiritual worldliness

"corrupts [the Church] by undermining her very principle."

Pope Francis wrote that spiritual worldliness begins to take hold in the lives of priests not only through temptations to mediocrity, power and influence, and vainglory but also "from doctrinal intransigence and liturgical aestheticism," which have the appearance of religiosity and even loving the Church but instead seek human glory and personal well-being.

"How can we fail to recognize in all of this the updated version of that hypocritical formalism which Jesus saw in certain religious authorities

of the time and which in the course of public life made him suffer perhaps more than anything else?" the pope wrote.

The pope also took the occasion to address more deeply one of his perennial concerns, clericalism, which he described as a "specific form" of spiritual worldliness. Pope Francis wrote that clericalism falsely gives the impression that priests are "superior, privileged, placed 'high' and therefore separated from the rest of God's holy people," which the pope said denotes "an illness that makes us lose the memory of baptism we have received."

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# We had a moment

It was a "Darcy moment." I was at Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer for Foundation Day. I was the guest speaker.

To say I was nervous might be the understatement of the century. I was terrified. I don't usually get very nervous about regular public speaking - delivering a prepared talk about a topic I've researched, but public sharing - talking about my personal experiences - is one of my biggest fears.

**Darcy L.  
Fargo**

The House of Prayer was offering First Saturday devotions prior to the Foundation Day activities. I arrived early enough to pray those devotions.

Sitting in the back pew with a friend, I had my travel mug of coffee next to me. As my friend and I moved forward to kneel, we quickly discovered the pew was not bolted to the floor.

The pew rocked, knocking over my cup of coffee and spilling its contents all over

the pew, my laptop bag and the hoodie I had been wearing when I arrived.

Normally, a very visible mistake when I'm already stressed/anxious would probably make me cry or get more nervous. My spilled coffee, though, seemed very funny to me.

I think God was telling me to get out of my own way. He was saying, "you've done the Darcy thing. Now, let me do my thing."

And God did His thing.

He got me through my fear. About a minute after I stepped up to the podium, my nerves settled. I can't say I was comfortable, but I

wasn't very uncomfortable, either.

And I don't think I did badly. I'm not sure I said anything helpful or insightful, but I think I did a decent job sharing my relationship with God and with prayer.

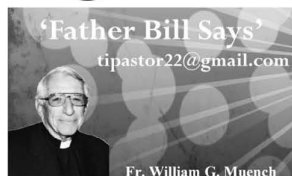
While I went into the morning feeling as though I had nothing useful to say and convinced it would be an awful experience for all involved, the Lord squashed those feelings and the evil one who was feeding them in me. He helped me share how he's helping me get closer to him.

It was such a God moment.

## Transfiguration, sacraments

In the last few columns, I have been concentrating on our Catholic sacraments. Today, let me begin by reminding you of what the Catechism tells us what a sacrament is: a sacrament is an efficacious sign of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us by the work of the Holy Spirit. Today I will consider with you the sacraments of vocation - the sacrament of holy orders and the sacrament of marriage.

I want to add something here - the recent Feast Day of the Transfiguration. I believe that you remember the story. I have no doubt that the apostles who were with Jesus on the mountain, Peter, John and James, were powerfully surprised and amazed by the importance of the transfiguration of Jesus. Jesus did something to show them his support for them and demonstrate his divine love for them. I know that this event would always be a source of support and love for those apostles, especially when they experienced difficulties.



When disturbed by difficult times, Peter, John and James placed themselves again on the Mountain of the Transfiguration.

I believe that these sacraments of holy orders and marriage are transfiguration moments for all of us who receive them. These sacraments will always become a source of God's love and support throughout our lifetime.

Holy Orders: A man, praying over his vocation in life, decides that he is best suited to become a priest or a deacon. He studies and prepares for several years and is led to seek ordination, receiving the sacrament of holy orders. I believe that the sacrament is a transfiguration event. This ordination will become a lifelong profound memory and influences all that he does. It should be a constant source of God's love for him and support for him throughout his life.

Each time new challenges - whether good or bad or difficult - touch his life, he must return to that time when he was called forward by the bishop to receive holy orders. I believe that this sacrament continues to bring the power of the Holy Spirit - the power of the sacrament - to support and strengthen him in a special way. I think of this as a transfiguration moment.

Marriage: I believe again that the sacrament of marriage is a transfiguration moment. It influences each couple's whole life. A couple establishes a relationship, and they make decisions and plans to become married. In our Catholic Church, this marriage ceremony is a sacrament. I believe that this sacrament must be a part of a couple's entire life. Always, especially during difficult times, the sacrament of marriage should be their source of support and love from the Lord, a source of the Lord's love to transform the situation. It is a transfiguration moment.

I am told by many that married life can be chal-

lenging - even difficult. At these difficult times, a couple should find the support and love of the Lord in their sacrament of marriage. The power of this sacrament is a lifetime source of God's support and presence with them each and every day.

We, Catholics, believe in vocation. Holy orders and marriage are sacraments of vocation. God calls us. God leads us. God shows us the way. We believe that God guides us - in big and small ways - to realize we are best suited to follow the Lord's call. It is truly a call - God's hand gently leading us. For some, they come to realize that they have developed the ability to be a good priest or deacon. Others will come to realize that they have the loving spirit and concern to be a married person.

Never forget your sacraments. They are your strength, your power to live well and to stay strong. They are your transfiguration moments, your moments of learning how great is the Lord's love for you. They will always continue to show you how much our God loves you.



Danielle Fitzgerald, of St. Bernard's School in Saranac Lake, and Karlene Gonyeau, of St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga, were honored as Distinguished Teachers for the 2022-23 school year. Mrs. Fitzgerald and Mrs. Gonyeau were honored at a July 6 luncheon with Bishop Terry R. LaValley. The teachers were joined at the luncheon by their husbands Brian Fitzgerald and Luke Gonyeau, the principals of their respective schools Mrs. Andrea Kilbourne-Hill and Sister Sharon Anne Dalton, Father Martin Cline, pastor of St. Bernard's and Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ, Superintendent of Schools.

# Fitzgerald, Gonyeau named Distinguished Teachers

By Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ  
Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. Danielle Fitzgerald, St. Bernard's School Saranac Lake and Mrs. Karlene Gonyeau, St. Mary's School, Ticonderoga, were recognized for their distinguished service to Catholic School Education at a luncheon hosted by Bishop LaValley on July 6.

Mrs. Fitzgerald has taught at St. Bernard's School since 2010. In addition to her classroom duties, she has served as the Math Coach since 2019. She holds a bachelor's degree in Literature and Writing from SUNY Potsdam and a master's degree in Secondary Education also from SUNY Potsdam.

"Danielle's dedication to Catholic education and her students is unparalleled," said Mrs. Andrea Kilbourne-Hill, principal of St. Bernard's. "She contributes significantly to the school's Catholic identity and to the promotion of Catholic values within the school, integrating faith into her teaching and daily interactions with her students. Her faith-filled and professional approach has left a positive impact on many of her students. They have gone on to excel in Middle and High School.

"Danielle is a team player who collaborates with her colleagues and demonstrates qualities of service. She is an exceptional teacher who has made a significant impact on her students, colleagues, and the wider school community."

Mrs. Gonyeau began her teaching career at St. Mary's School, Ticonderoga in 1987. In her application for a teaching position at St. Mary's, Karlene noted, "There are many reasons why I would like to teach in a Catholic school. The most important stems from the benefits which I received and acquired through attending Catholic schools all my life."

Mrs. Gonyeau was a graduate of St. Mary's school and received a bachelor's degree in Education with a concentration in History from Trinity College in Vermont.

For 37 years, Mrs. Gonyeau's dedication to St. Mary's school has been unwavering.

"She is known for her dedication and teamwork skills, as well as leadership within the school and parish," said Sister Sharon Anne Dalton, school principal. "Within our school Karlene has taken leadership roles as vice-principal and mentor of new teachers, leading various diocesan initiatives for professional development, and contributed to the school's accreditation process."

Mrs. Fitzgerald and Mrs. Gonyeau were joined at the luncheon by their husbands Brian Fitzgerald and Luke Gonyeau, the principals of their respective schools Mrs. Andrea Kilbourne-Hill and Sister Sharon Anne Dalton, Father Martin Cline, pastor of St. Bernard's and Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ, Superintendent of Schools.

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# From Guggenheim to Honduras

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

Decades after they met while sharing Christ with youth at Camp Guggenheim, Pat and Shannon Looby and four of their six children are preparing to travel to Honduras to share Christ with youth and families there.

With their two oldest children in college, the Loobys and their four youngest children will leave the United States on Sept. 1 to attend a language immersion program in Guatemala. In mid-October, the family will travel to Honduras and to Finca del Niño, Farm of the Child, a U.S.-based organization that serves youth and families, with a special focus on serving abandoned children.

"Farm of the Child is a 22-acre property on the coast of Honduras," said Shannon Looby. "There's a residential home for abandoned children. There are 20 to 30 orphans staying in small houses on the property. Each house has a 'tia,' an aunt in Spanish. They're paid social workers. There's also a kindergarten to (grade) 9 school at the Finca. It serves the orphans and about 100 students from the surrounding communities. There's a medical facility on site that's staffed by American volunteers and missionaries."

The Loobys said they would be joining three to five single missionaries serving the Farm of the Child, and they will live in a home within the community.

"We'll be a family in residence to model stable family life and help in the school," said Shannon Looby. "Our daughter, Tess, just graduated from high school. She applied to defer her enrollment to college. She's going to teach in the school, too. The younger girls will go to school and have some home schooling, and they'll teach English and provide companionship."

The Loobys said their kids,

## LEARN MORE & HELP THE CAUSE

To learn more about Farm of the Child, visit [www.farmofthechild.org](http://www.farmofthechild.org).

To help the Looby family in their fundraising efforts, donations can be made:

- At the Looby family's page on the Farm of the Child website, [www.farmofthechild.org/looby](http://www.farmofthechild.org/looby)
- On the Looby family's website, [www.cumbrefamilymissions.org](http://www.cumbrefamilymissions.org)
- By sending a check with "Looby" in the memo line to Farm of the Child, 100 S. Ashley Drive, Suite 600, Tampa, FL 33602

The Looby family will be posting updates about their mission efforts at their website, [www.cumbrefamilymissions.org](http://www.cumbrefamilymissions.org) and are hoping to use the site to aid other individuals and families raising funds and support for mission experiences.

Tess, 17, Helen, 15, Vivian, 13, and Bernadette, 10, are excited about the upcoming opportunity.

"They've been excited, and they're getting even more excited," said Pat Looby. "In the beginning, I think we were all a bit frightened. We felt called, but we felt lost in the process. Now that we're getting through that, they're super psyched about doing it."

"When we started talking about this - I think it was back in the spring - we floated the idea to the kids and started putting feelers out," Shannon Looby said. "We talked about the pros and cons. We started looking at specific mission opportunities. We traveled to the Dominican Republic to the Diocese of Arlington's mission there to see if it would be the place for our family. Through the whole process, we kept checking in with the kids. Helen, our 15 year old, was the one we were most nervous about. She just finished Frehman year of high school. It's a big year to be gone. I think it was in April, she approached me and said she had been thinking about it and praying about it in adoration, and she said, 'I figure we have eternity in heaven. I can give up one year to do this to help me get there. If I can do that, everyone should.'"

To prepare for the experience, the Loobys have "detached from (their) possessions" and have spent the summer living in the rectory in Harrisville, where Pat Looby

grew up, and serving the parish there.

"The rectory here was empty, so we talked to Father (Don) Manfred," said Pat Looby. "We thought it would be great to be here for the summer, and we thought it would be a great training ground on what it means to be volunteers and to do mission work. We worked with the parish to identify needs, and we've been holding Communion services every day in the morning and leading the rosary every evening. I've been leading a Bible study, and we've been visiting the sick and homebound. We've been involving the kids. It's great for them to realize what this is all about."

"We're really thankful to Bishop (Terry R.) LaValley, Father Manfred and the parish here for giving us this opportunity."

In addition to preparing for their lives as missionaries, the family has been raising the funds needed to support them and their efforts for the year.

"We had to raise \$30,000," said Shannon Looby. "That was very challenging, but it also very encouraging. It helped us really focus on why we were doing this, since we had to explain it to others as we asked for support. And it was really a great consolation to have people praying for us and supporting our mission and fundraising efforts."

Pat Looby said the family, who has lived out of the area - most recently in Virginia - for decades, has been especially

touched by the support received because of their North Country roots.

"We're reconnecting with old friends, clergy, people from Guggenheim, people from youth ministry - people who were instrumental in our faith formation and people who inspired us when we were growing up here in the North Country," he said. "It's really been a great lesson for our kids seeing how these relationships last a lifetime."

"The Knights of Columbus in Ticonderoga supported our mission," said Shannon Looby. "Pat's aunt is a Grey Nun. The Grey Nuns as an organization gave us a donation. It's been really beautiful."

The Loobys said growing up in the North Country, him in Harrisville and her in Wadlington, gave them a strong foundation of faith.

"There's a temptation to make the work we're doing now and what we're going to do the main story," Shannon Looby said. "It was the prologue to our story that got us to where we are."

Pat and Shannon Looby met while they were each serving as counselors at Camp Guggenheim in the early 1990s. Their kids have attended the camp, as well, with three of them attending this summer.

"Actually, we started as campers together when we were 12," Shannon Looby said. "We're going back to Guggenheim (for week 6) to talk about mission work. We're almost 50. Now we're the people coming back to talk about our vocations."

When the couple first met, Pat was a seminarian for the diocese.

"We're not necessarily where we first thought we were called," Shannon Looby said.

"But what we are and who we are is really because we've followed God and stood on the shoulders of the people who formed us," Pat Looby added. "We're fulfilling the call God started in us."

# Fr. Kumar, MSC, arrives in Watertown

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

Though very different from the parish community he was serving in Pennsylvania, Father Jaya “Jai” Kumar, a Missionary of the Sacred Heart (MSC) now residing in Watertown, said he is finding warmth in this place known for its cold.

“There’s something about this place,” he said, shortly after his July 2 arrival in the North Country. “It’s been a very warm welcome. Living in this community, this Missionaries of the Sacred Heart community, is very different from what I experienced in Pennsylvania. There, it was two churches. Here, I’ll be helping at six churches – three in Blessed Sacrament Parish and three that are served by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.”

Before arriving in Watertown, Father Kumar, 51, served as parochial vicar at St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish, in Easton, Pennsylvania.

“I came just in time to inaugurate COVID,” he said, laughing. “It was a very different start from what I’m having here. I wasn’t able to get involved and meet people at that time.”

Since arriving here, Father Kumar has been traveling to the various parishes he’ll be serving, celebrating Masses, participating in events and getting to know the people and places.

“It’s been really beautiful – very welcoming,” he said. “I look forward to a meaningful faith walk with the people

of this diocese. And I look forward to meeting with Bishop (Terry R.) LaValley, who welcomes me here.”

Father Kumar arrives in Watertown in his 25th year of priesthood. He said he joined the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in the order’s early years in India, making his first profession in 1993.

“When I come here, I’m one of the youngest,” he said. “When I go (to India), I’m one of the oldest. It’s my jubilee year as God has brought me to Watertown. I gave my first sermon on water as the source of life, baptism and immersing ourselves with Christ and celebrating new life with Christ. That’s how I feel coming to serve here – celebrating new life in Christ.”

Having completed his formation in India and the Philippines, Father Kumar said he had some worries, but he was excited to go where he was called.

“We’re missionaries – ready and willing to wholeheartedly face everything for the Lord and for the mission,” he said.

Father Kumar says both his vocation and his joy in going where he’s called are “the sheer grace of God.”

“It’s been a very beautiful journey of 25 years,” he said. “It’s all the grace of God. With our own limitations, we feel unworthiness. He sustains us with his grace.”

Growing up in a household of four children, two boys and two girls, Father Kumar said his father prayed God would call his son to



Father Jaya “Jai” Kumar, MSC

the priesthood, but he wasn’t the son his dad had in mind.

“My vocation was from home,” he said. “Dad used to pray specifically, ‘Lord, I pray and I ask you to call or bestow a divine vocation to priesthood

on the first fruits, and he’d name my brother. That’s the way grace works. The seed had been put there, and parish and priests watered it.”

Father Kumar said he enjoys living with the local Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and living in a home with a chapel housing Jesus in the Eucharist.

“The Eucharist is the center of our life,” he said. “And I’m in Blessed Sacrament parish, the house has a chapel, and the parishes have exposition and benedictions. I’m very happy to be here with all that

comes with it.”

Prior to his arrival in the United States in 2019, Father Kumar served in both parish roles and formation roles within the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. He said he looks forward to continuing to grow in his ministry while here in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

“It’s a privilege, honor and great blessing to be a priest and to be in persona Christi – in the person of Christ,” he said. “He’s taking me to all these places, commissioning me, sending me – sending me with purpose.”

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## Environmental Stewardship

## Everyday plastics

Doing good is not easy. To make changes in our thinking and our behavior requires discipline and commitment. My maternal grandmother often spoke of the need for humans to have what she called “creature comforts.” I took her words to heart and live each day with my very own little and simple creature comforts. However, because this is essential to our global response to the pressing climate crisis, we can no longer remain attached to plastic objects as part of our “creature comforts!”

Our global conscience must become our personal conscience. Our planet is in dire need of our help. In order to make a positive difference, we must change our behavior, even if it means a sense of “creature discomfort.”

What to do? The doable is what we can do. Do not wait until tomorrow. Start today. Start small. Use up all the liquid soap you have in your home, then commit to bar soap. (Today you can even find shampoo in bar-soap form.) Buy a bamboo toothbrush as plastic toothbrushes are not recyclable.

Most of the objects we now place in our recycling bins are not recyclable and end up in landfills. Contact the closest recycling center to your home or visit the website to find out what you can actually place in your bin. Then rethink how to eliminate your reliance on the non-recyclables. Start small. Make one change and commit to it for three months.

Change is not easy, but persistence, allowance for failure and a deep belief in the need for this change should keep you going.

Our planet will shed one less tear when you commit, with love in your heart, to nurture and love, not hinder and harm, our miraculous planet, our Earth, God’s gift of creation, home to each and every life form.

# Grants aid people with disabilities

Bishop Terry R. LaValley has announced that two grants of \$5,000 each have been disbursed to Saint James the Minor Church in Carthage and Saint James Church in Gouverneur to assist them with projects to improve accessibility to their facilities for the disabled.

The funds are available from the annual contributions of the New York State Knights of Columbus. The funds are distributed by the diocese on the recommendation of Catholic Charities and the Department of Education.

In announcing the grants to this year’s recipients, Bishop LaValley noted the generosity of the Knights which “assist our diocesan institutions in their efforts to make Churches, schools and par-

ish centers accessible to all people. I am most grateful to the Knights of Columbus for their generosity in this area and in the many ways in which they support the work of the Church in our Diocese. In addition to the grants that improve accessibility to our facilities, the Knights are generous in their support of our seminarians, respect life initiatives and numerous diocesan ministries. I am most grateful for their generosity and dedication to the Church in our North Country.”

Announcement of the availability of these grants was made last April by Catholic Charities and the Department of Education. The criteria for acceptability of a request cover several factors. Improve-

ment in already existing programs or facilities is considered as well as program development and the purchase of special equipment.

The grants awarded this year will assist Father Todd Thibault, pastor of St. James the Minor Church in Carthage, to repair the present ramp which provides access to the church. The deterioration of the ramp requires the replacement of the underlying supports for the ramp.

The grant will assist Father Jay Seymour, pastor of St. James Church in Gouverneur, to install a chair lift for the parish center. The lift will permit the elderly and those with disabilities to access the parish center for parish programs and after-Mass refreshments.

## 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: 518-358-3145, Ext. 7179 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](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org)

## Rest in Peace

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

- Aug. 16** – Rev. Peter Paladini, S.A.C., 1990
- Aug. 17** – Rev. Joseph Winfrid Vinet, 1907; Msgr. Victor Primeau, 1957
- Aug. 18** – Rev. Leoneo Proulx, O.M.I., 1979
- Aug. 19** – Rev. J. N. Emery, O.M.I., 1933; Rev. Richard A. Maher, O.S.A., 1959
- Aug. 20** – Rev. J. McCarthy, O.S.A., 1931; Msgr. Griffith J. Billmeyer, 1988
- Aug. 21** – Rev. Albert G. Salmon, 1997
- Aug. 22** – Rev. James W.M. Rensing, 1936
- Aug. 24** – Rev. Louis Lewis, O.M.I., 1938; Msgr. Paul George Brunet, 1991
- Aug. 25** – Rev. Damas Guilbault, 1919; Msgr. Hugh P.R. O’Reilly, 1948; George W. Tobin, 2010
- Aug. 27** – Rev. John F. Byrne, 1919; Rev. Ubalde LaRose, 1919; Rev. Edward Henry Bernier, 1962
- Aug. 28** – Rev. Florent Vandenberghe, O.M.I., 1882
- Aug. 29** – Rev. John J. Waters, 1921; Rev. Leo Desmet, 1926; Rev. Thomas F. Driscoll, 2003; Rev. Msgr. Robert L. Lawler, 2013

## Protecting God’s Children

**The Diocese of Ogdensburg** has scheduled sessions for Protecting God’s Children for Adults.

Upcoming sessions:

**Aug. 28** – 6 p.m. – Catholic Community of Brownville & Dexter, Brownville

**Aug. 31** – 2 p.m. – St. Agnes School, Lake Placid

Pre-registration is required. Preregister at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org).

## Bishop’s Public Schedule

**Aug. 16** – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop’s Residence followed by Lunch

5 p.m. – Bishop’s Fund Appeal Reception at St. Andre’s Outreach Center in Malone

**Aug. 17** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral

5 p.m. – Bishop’s Fund Appeal Reception at Mount Pisgah Recreation Center in Saranac Lake

**Aug. 18** – Noon – Diocesan Staff Picnic at Bishop’s Residence

4:30 p.m. – Blessing of the Champlain Mooers EMS Monument in Champlain followed by a Picnic

**Aug. 19** – 11 a.m. – Mass for Family Guggenheim at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake

4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral

**Aug. 27** – 9:30 a.m. – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

**Aug. 28** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral

5 p.m. – Bishop’s Fund Appeal Reception at Savory Downtown (Best Western) in Watertown

6:30 p.m. – Blessing of the Gazebo at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown

**Aug. 29** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral

5 p.m. – Bishop’s Fund Appeal Reception at St. Peter’s Parish Center in Lowville

**Aug. 30** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral

5 p.m. – Bishop’s Fund Appeal Reception at Martin Field Club (Formerly the Knights of Columbus Hall) in Ogdensburg

# U.S. pilgrims reflect on World Youth Day

By Jonah McKeown & Joe Bukuras

Catholic News Agency

Tens of thousands of American pilgrims traveled to Lisbon, Portugal, for World Youth Day Aug. 1-6, a trip some attendees called “a dream,” “a blessing,” and “incredible.”

World Youth Day, a global event for young people that takes place about every three years, offers a deeper encounter with Jesus Christ through liturgical celebrations, faith sharing, catechetical sessions, networking, and prayer with the Holy Father.

One week before the international celebration, more than 28,600 young adults from 1,300 groups were registered to head to Lisbon from the United States, more than twice the amount of U.S. attendees who went to the 2019 World Youth Day in Panama, according to numbers from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

## ‘Like a dream’

Stacy Escobar, 26, said her experience at World Youth Day was “like a dream.”

Traveling with a group from the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, Escobar said that one of her favorite moments from the trip was during an outdoor eucharistic adoration event set up specifically for travelers from the United States.

“That was probably one of the most beautiful moments of eucharistic adoration I have ever seen,” she said.

“The host was glowing in the monstrance. It was beautiful. The sunset was amazing. And just seeing everybody and all the international flags, even though everybody came from the United States, the diversity was just beautiful,” Escobar said.

She said that the park where adoration took place was “packed.”

“It was amazing. There must have been like 10,000 people or something like that,” she said.

## ‘He calls us right now’

Thirty-two year-old Father John Garabedian led a group of young people from the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, to Lisbon only two months following his ordination to the priesthood.

Garabedian said it was “pretty cool” to be asked to help lead the group of young adults to such a large event, given he was only ordained two months ago.

“Pope Francis’ words during his opening address confirmed this when he

said that God calls us each by name and he calls us right now, exactly where we are at, implying that he can still use us even in our imperfections and inexperience,” he said.

“It was encouraging to see other young adults living the faith and making the long journey to Lisbon. It showed me that the faith is still alive in the hearts of young people and many are longing for Jesus and true happiness,” he said.

## Seeing the pope up close

Floridian Savannah Dudzik, 22, told CNA that one of the most memorable moments from her trip to World Youth Day was seeing Pope Francis up close.

“I never really thought that I would be able to see the pope up close in my lifetime,” Dudzik, who lives in Tampa, said. “We were within a few feet of him.” She traveled with a small group of her friends who are from different states.

Dudzik said seeing Pope Francis was “incredible” because “in what other situation do a million people get so excited to see a man who’s in his 80s?”

“It’s because it has to be something more ... He’s witnessing to the word of God. That’s why we’re so excited,” she said, adding: “World Youth Day showed the Catholic youth that the Catholic Church is truly universal.”

## ‘God moments’

An Eastern-rite Catholic, Julie Lattouf, 30, traveled to World Youth Day along with almost 40 young adults from the U.S.’s only two Maronite eparchies in a trip that she says was a “blessing.”

“When you see all these people coming together from all parts of the world for God, and they’re so happy, it’s like, wow, amazing,” she said.

Lattouf said that she focused on her spiritual growth during World Youth Day while taking time off from her busy schedule at home.

“The most important thing in this life is not your work or anything else; it’s your relationship with God,” she said. “There were so many ‘God moments’ on this trip.”

One of those moments came for Lattouf when she found herself in Lisbon’s Church of St. Anthony without initially knowing the name of the church, a destination she yearned to visit for her great devotion to the saint.

“I was like, ‘no way, you’re kidding me,’ when I was told it was St. Anthony’s church,” she said. “This trip was so amazing.”

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Committee: Multiple FBI offices collaborated over memo

(CNA) – The U.S. House Judiciary Committee on Wednesday claimed to have uncovered evidence of “multiple” field offices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation coordinating an investigation into traditionalist Catholics earlier this year. A leaked memo from the FBI’s Richmond, Virginia, field office, published on the internet in February of this year, discussed investigating “radical traditionalist” Catholics who the bureau alleged may have been part of a “far-right white nationalist movement.” The memo generated blowback from U.S. bishops, attorneys general, and elected officials on Capitol Hill. Senators and U.S. representatives over the past several months have grilled both Attorney General Merrick Garland and FBI Director Chris Wray over the controversy. The GOP-controlled House Judiciary Committee has been leading an investigation into the FBI’s actions in Richmond. Last month Ohio Rep. Jim Jordan, the chairman of the committee, threatened to hold Wray in contempt if he did not produce unredacted copies of subpoenaed materials related to the inquiry. In a press release on Wednesday, the Judiciary Committee revealed that “information recently produced to the committee” showed that the FBI “relied on information from around the country ... to develop its assessment” that some traditionalist Catholics could potentially be domestic terrorists. The information in question, according to the press release, came from FBI officials in the bureau’s Portland field office as well as intelligence from the agency’s Los Angeles office.

## Church prays for release of kidnapped priest, seminarian

(CNA) – Bishop Martin Igwemezie Uzoukwu of Minna, Nigeria, called for prayers for the release of a priest and a seminarian who were kidnapped by armed men on Aug. 3 in the north-central part of the country. “I ask for your prayers for Father Paul Sanogo and the seminarian Melchior who were kidnapped by bandits in the early morning of Aug. 3 at the priest’s residence in Gyedna, Niger state,” the prelate said in a statement released on the day of the kidnapping. “We pray the Lord hears our prayers and brings them back in peace,” he added. Sanogo, originally from Burkina Faso, is a missionary with the congregation of the Missionaries of Africa, known as the White Fathers, and Melkior Dominick Mahinini is a seminarian from the town of Kigoma in Tanzania who does missionary work with the congregation. Joseph Mlola, the bishop of Kigoma, said Mahinini was in Nigeria for “a missionary experience” before starting his theological studies. “We pray to God that the two abductees may soon have their freedom back,” he said. Both Sanogo and the seminarian serve at St. Luke’s Church in Gyedna, in the Paikoro local government area, in the north-central state of Niger. The Fides news agency reported that a representative of the Niger state police confirmed the kidnapping and has recommended that the other members of the clergy in the area exercise extreme caution while a search is conducted for the missing men.

## VIRTUAL EVENTS

## FRIENDSHIP GROUPS

You are invited to take part in a Friendship Group that will provide you with dynamic reading and personalized formation to grow in holiness with others online.

**Date:** Aug. 17

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** Zoom

**Features:** Father Sean Morris, OMCV will talk with us about the book *It's Good To Be Here* by Christina Chase and answer questions.

**Contact:** To sign up, visit: <https://mailchi.mp/sophiainstitute/friendship-groups>. The book is on sale at [www.sophiainstitute.com](http://www.sophiainstitute.com). For more information, please contact Mary Beth Bracy at [mbracy@sophiainstitute.com](mailto:mbracy@sophiainstitute.com)

## CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

## ANNUAL REDFORD PICNIC

Redford – The 168th Annual Redford Picnic to be held.

**Date:** Aug. 20

**Schedule:** Events start at 11:30 a.m. Music until 6 p.m.

**Place:** Church of the Assumption

**Features:** Ham and Roast Beef dinners will be served in the Parish Center Gym. There will be a variety of games, such as Skillo, Pie Wheel, Fancy Booth, Craft Fair and the main attraction, the oldest merry-go-round in North America.

## BREAKFAST

Brushton – St. Mary's Church will sponsor a breakfast.

**Date:** Aug. 20

**Time:** 7:30 a.m. to 11

**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center

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

**Menu:** Scrambled/fried eggs, home fries, homemade corned beef hash, sausage, bacon, pancakes, French toast, drinks

**Contact:** Take out available, call 518 529 6580

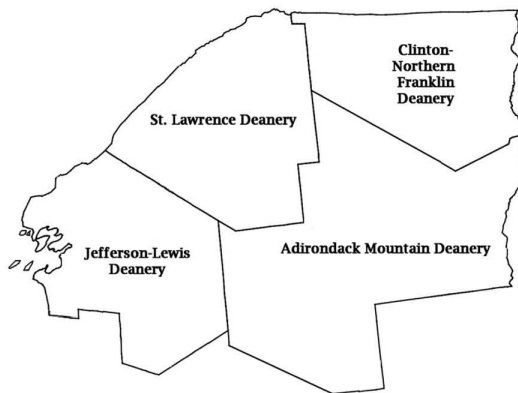
## CHINESE AUCTION

Lyon Mountain – Chinese Auction to be held.

**Date:** Aug. 27

**Time:** Noon to 3 p.m.

**Place:** Lyon Mountain Ameri-



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.

can Legion

**Features:** Drawings will begin at 3 p.m. We will have a 50/50, Michigan platter and drawings. To donate gifts or gift cards, please contact Jean LeClair (518-735-4782) or leave them at the Legion with your name on it so we will know who donated it.

## FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE FOUNDATION COURSE

Plattsburgh - Using the Westberg Institute for Faith Community Nursing curriculum, this course is open to RNs 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 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. Mercy Care's Faith Community Nurse Program is a volunteer program. Nurses may choose the number of hours they are able to give.

**Contact:** For more information, contact Lexi Bevilacqua at [abevillacqua@adkmercy.org](mailto: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:** Sept. 3

**Time:** Following 11 a.m. Mass

**Place:** St. Hedwig's Church

**Contact:** 315-348-6260

## SSJ LAY ASSOCIATE PROGRAM

Watertown – The Sisters of St. Joseph invite those who are interested in learning about our their Lay Associate Program.

**Date:** Sept. 10

**Time:** 2 p.m. to 4

**Place:** SSJ Motherhouse

**Features:** Associates meet once a month to learn about the spirituality, the charisma and history of the Sisters of St. Joseph, pray together, and discuss ways to deepen one's spiritual life. This group is open to men and women.

**Contact:** If you are interested, please contact Sister Mary Eamon, [smelyngssj@yahoo.com](mailto:smelyngssj@yahoo.com), or Sister Bethany, [srbethssj@gmail.com](mailto:srbethssj@gmail.com), or call 315-782-3460.

## ST. LAWRENCE

## PARISH FEAST DAY

Canton – St. Mary's Church to celebrate their parish feast day.

**Date:** Aug. 15

**Time:** Assumption of Mary Fes-

tivities begins with 5:15 p.m. at Holy Mass

**Features:** Marian Procession follows and lastly, picnic on the lawn with food and live music.

## BINGO

Canton – The Knights of Columbus will be holding BINGO.

**Date:** Aug. 21 and 28

**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.

## 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 [massenacatholics.com](http://massenacatholics.com) for info or to register.

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake – Family Guggenheim registration is open.

**Schedule:** Aug. 17-20; Aug. 24-27; Oct. 6-8

**Features:** Family Guggenheim welcomes families to a special weekend in the Adirondacks. Expect workshops and activities that will have your family working, laughing and praying together.

**Contact:** For more information and to register, go to [www.rcdony.org/family-life/fg.html](http://www.rcdony.org/family-life/fg.html) or contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920, [info@rcdony.org](mailto:info@rcdony.org).

## SURVIVING DIVORCE

The Family Life Office is offering the Surviving Divorce Program in Plattsburgh.

**Date:** 12 weeks starting Aug. 30

**Place:** St. John the XXIII Newman Center

**Time:** 6 p.m. to 8

**Features:** Surviving Divorce features video presentations that cover topics such as grief, anger and forgiveness, money issues, children, and annulment/re-marriage. This program is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling many years later.

**Contact:** To register, go to <https://www.rcdony.org/survivingdivorce>. For more information, contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920.

## MARRIAGE JUBILEE

We invite all families to join us at the annual Marriage Jubilee.

**Date:** Sept. 10

**Time:** 2:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Cathedral

**Features:** Bishop LaValley will be presiding. Whether you have been married for less than 1 year or over 50 years, we want to acknowledge your commitment and celebrate with you. Married couples that wish to receive a certificate signed by Bishop LaValley and have their names appear in the program should register by Sept. 1 at <https://www.rcdony.org/family-life/jubileereg.html>. There will be a gathering with refreshments after the Mass.

**Contact:** For more information please contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or [info@rcdony.org](mailto:info@rcdony.org).

## 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 [rcdony.org/pro-life](http://rcdony.org/pro-life). If you'd like to attend a retreat in another location visit [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org) for a list of locations.

## CHRIST IS HERE WORKSHOP

The Department of Education for the Diocese of Ogdensburg will be presenting Christ is Here: Come Encounter Him, a workshop

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



AUGUST 16, 2023

# Two musicians pen Eucharistic Congress songs

By Jonah McKeown  
Catholic News Agency

Diane Mahoney's jaw dropped when the email arrived in her inbox in June. Her original composition, "We Do Believe, O Lord," had been selected as the 2024 National Eucharistic Congress' official theme song, over and above 177 other entries.

"I was so astounded that it was kind of like you're in a dream or something, like, 'Wake me up,'" the Iowan told CNA. "I still have that same feeling of disbelief."

Mahoney, a longtime church organist and occasional composer, entered the contest to write the congress' official song with "very little hope" that she'd actually win.

"It's whatever you want, Lord - that kind of attitude," she said.

"I kind of was saying to God, 'Well, it's okay, I don't have to do this composing thing if you don't want me to. I'm okay with my life. I do my church music, I play and sing at church, and that's enough, I feel fulfilled.' But evidently God had different plans ... It was really him saying, 'OK, I've got this work for you, and you're not done.'"

The National Eucharistic Revival is the U.S. bishops' three-year initiative to inspire belief in and reverence for the Eucharist. The decision to embark on the initiative followed a 2019 Pew Research study that suggested only about one-third of U.S.

Catholics believe the Eucharist is truly the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

As part of the revival, a National Eucharistic Congress will be held July 17-21, 2024, and is expected to draw at least 80,000 Catholics to Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

In addition to Mahoney's winning theme song, the Congress judges also chose an official hymn for the gathering. Both composers earned a cash prize of \$2,500 and the opportunity to have their compositions professionally performed and recorded in both English and Spanish. Neither composition has yet been released to the public, but organizers plan to post the sheet music and audio recordings of both songs online.

The winning entry in the hymn category was "Let the Earth Acclaim Christ Jesus."

Kathleen Pluth, who has been writing hymns for 20 years, told CNA that she typically writes new lyrics to already existing compositions. Her prizewinning lyrics are set to the 19th-century tune known as *Hyfrydol*, which many churchgoers will recognize as "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus."

The Arizona-based Pluth told CNA she wrote the words of the hymn after meditating on the sixth chapter of John's Gospel, arguably the clearest Scripture passage in support of the Church's teaching on the Eucharist. She was inspired by

Scripture's use of the word often translated as "remain" or "abide," which appears in the famous passage: "Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him."

"There's an 'abiding with' that happens through the Eucharist - Jesus has made this miraculous way to stay with us throughout our pilgrim journey here on earth until we see him in heaven. And at the same time, it's a means that gives us the way to stay in him," she explained.

"The strength and all the gifts that the Eucharist gives allow us to develop that relationship with him, become closer to him, to dwell more and more, even in this world, in the truth of the Word Made Flesh."

Pluth, who has a licentiate in sacred theology, said she hopes that her hymn's deep theological meaning will help it to stand the test of time.

"I was honored by this distinction, very much so, and also very encouraged because this is a heavily doctrinal hymn ... I have a theology background, so maybe this is biased, but I feel that the more doctrine, the more Scripture, the more of these kind of basic but deep truths of our religion can be worked into hymns, the better," Pluth said.

Mahoney said her song is based on the passage from Mark's Gospel in which a man tells Jesus: "I do believe. Please help my unbelief." Mahoney said she has

wanted for years to use that passage in a Communion setting because, she says, receiving the Body of Christ can help people recover their belief in him.

"I wanted it to be strong, something you would sing as you're processing to Communion. All those kinds of ideas, very reverent and yet meaningful for the text. So it was kind of a combination of many years of trying different tunes and melodies and harmonies that would be a strong setting for that text," she said.

Father Dustin Dought, associate director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Divine Worship, was the nonvoting chairman of the committee of judges. Entries were evaluated, the organizers say, on such criteria as poetry, musicality, creativity, theological soundness, beauty, appropriateness for liturgical use, and expression of the mission of the National Eucharistic Revival.

"The quantity and quality of entries for the Eucharistic Revival Musical Competition showed what great devotion there is to the sacrament of the Eucharist among the faithful of the dioceses of the United States," Dought said. "These two songs will be used in liturgical and devotional prayer, and my hope is that they enkindle that living relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist, which will renew the Church in the United States."

## Around the diocese

on how to see Christ in the world. This is an opportunity to understand how Christ draws us to Him through things in this world!

**Date:** Sept. 16

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

Locations: St. Andre's Outreach Center, Malone; Parish Center, Adams; Parish Center, Croghan; Parish Center, Redford; Brzana Hall, St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg

**Cost:** \$20

**Features:** All are welcome to attend this workshop. Join us as we view short video talks based on the book *Mysterion* by Father Harrison Ayre. Please bring your

own lunch.

**Contact:** To register go to [www.rcdony.org/christ](http://www.rcdony.org/christ)

### HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

Saranac Lake - Highschool students in grades 9-12 are invited to a leadership weekend.

**Date:** Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. to Sept. 24 at 1:30 p.m.

**Place:** Camp Guggenheim

**Cost:** \$95

**Features:** Grow your leadership skills, meet great people, make a difference in the world.

**Contact:** Register by Sept. 18 at: <https://www.rcdony.org/>

[youth.html](http://youth.html) Questions contact, Anita Soltero, Youth Director at [info@rcdony.org](mailto:info@rcdony.org) or 315-393-2920

### 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/>

[rcdony.org/ourlady](http://rcdony.org/ourlady). Donations accepted to by payable to OLRHR and sent to Wadhams hall.

### ANDREWS DINNERS

Join Bishop LaValley to learn more about being a priest. Men high school age and above are welcome. Parents are welcome to attend.

**Dates:** Clinton-Northern Franklin Deanery, Oct. 1 at St. Alexander's Parish Center, Morrisonville; Adirondack Mountain Deanery, Oct. 8 at Holy Ghost Parish Center, Tupper Lake; St. Lawrence Deanery, Oct. 15 at Church of the Visitation Hall, Norfolk; Jeffer-

son-Lewis Deanery, Oct. 29 at St. James Parish Hall, Carthage

**Time:** The program begins at 5 p.m. followed by Holy Hour and dinner with Bishop Terry R. LaValley, and area priests.

**Contact:** If you are interested in attending, speak to your pastor and register at <https://www.rcdony.org/andrewdinner>.



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

## Including the 'outsider'

One of the coldest words in the English language is "outsider" - someone who is excluded from a community or group. If you are an "outsider," someone has excluded you and said, in effect, that you don't belong. That means there are those who consider themselves "insiders."

At the time of Jesus, the Jews considered themselves as chosen by God for His special favors. This conviction kept them apart from all others groups. In today's Gospel, Jesus Himself told the Canaanite woman

that she was an outsider, and that He had been sent only to the house of Israel. But, because of her persistence, He gave in and healed her daughter. We wonder what the Jewish crowd must have thought! We wonder if they pondered the words of Isaiah which we hear read to us today as the first reading. This prophet

(called "Third Isaiah") tells them that God no longer wants them to be "insiders." They had just returned from exile in Babylon and were probably open to God's decision to allow

August 20

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Isaiah 56:1,6-7

Romans 11:13-15,29-32

Matthew 15:21-28

foreigners also to worship and offer sacrifice on His holy mountain, "for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

In today's second reading from St. Paul to the Romans, we learn the early Christians had to struggle with this problem also. Remember, they were once pious Jews as well. How astounded they were at the enthusiasm, the faith, and the holiness of the Gentile converts!

St. Paul explains that both Jew and Gentile had disobeyed God, and both Jew and Gentile had received mercy, and had been offered redemption.

What a challenge to us Catholics today who are sometimes too smug or self-righteous to share our faith with other Christians and those of other religions! We must learn to open our hearts to all the "outsiders" - those of no religion, those who have left another religion, those we find difficult to love. We must not let timidity or pride or even fear hold us back. To drag our feet is to risk going against Jesus' own prayer before He died on the Cross:

"that they all may be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that the world may believe that you sent me" (Jn 18: 21).

As a priest I have often asked converts what took them so long to decide to become Catholic. Many times, I had gotten the reply, "No one ever invited me!" Wouldn't it be a good thing if once in a while, we could say to a friend or relative, or a neighbor, "Have you ever thought of becoming a Catholic?" If they show interest, then say to them, "Well, I would like to invite you now." And then send them to a parish priest. Then they must make up their own mind.



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

## CALLED TO SERVE

## Next time bring the letter

The bishop of a diocese grants priests and deacons "faculties" when a man is ordained. Those faculties, rights or privileges, permit the new clergyman to preach and to preside over the administration of sacraments. Things like that.

The faculties are good in the diocese, but occasionally a priest or deacon is invited to preside or assist at a liturgical function in another diocese, either in New York or in another state or even in another country.

When that happens, the bishop of our diocese notifies the bishop of the other diocese that a clergyman from the former's diocese has been invited to participate in a liturgy in the latter's diocese.

The notification is not

simply a courtesy. It is a statement that the clergyman is in good standing in his home diocese.

This "good standing" status has become particularly important since the abuse scandals. The bishop of the ordained priest or deacon is confirming that the man belongs to a particular diocese (it is called incardinated) and that the priest or deacon is currently above suspicion for one thing or another.

It is called a "Letter of Suitability." In the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Bishop LaValley assigns the job of writing the letter, verifying and reporting a priest's status, to the vicar for clergy, Father Christopher C. Carrara and for deacons to the vicar or the director of permanent dea-

cons, me.

I was reminded of all this by the picture of Pope Francis at The Little Chapel of the Apparitions at the Fatima Shrine in Portugal where Pope Francis prayed before the statue of the Blessed Mother and recited the Rosary.

Watch me go out on a limb here and state that Pope Francis probably did not have to present a letter of suitability to anyone. I do not know that for fact; just guessing.

Unlike this humble deacon who did have to present a letter, or some proof that I was an ordained deacon, to the priest who was running the show at the same

Fatima Shrine when I was there a few years ago. Unfortunately, I did not have one.

Kathy and I joined our then pastor, Father Chris Looby, on a pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes and some other holy sites. It never occurred to me to have a letter of suitability with me.

No one had asked for such a letter when I assisted Bishop LaValley at several Masses in Italy on a previous pilgrimage. No one had asked for such a letter when I assisted Father Tim Cannan at several Masses in Ireland on another pilgrimage.

In fact, no one asked for such a letter at the

basilicas, cathedrals, and churches on that pilgrimage to Spain and Portugal until Fatima.

Thankfully Father Chris vouched for me and the sheriff, I mean sacristan, took Father's word for my suitability.

It turns out the Mass Father Chris celebrated, and I assisted, was broadcast live to millions of folks around the world. Lots of face time on the air for both of us. That Mass and that place was a highlight of the pilgrimage for me.

Thank you, Father, for confirming I was suitable. Lesson learned.



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

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



## 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

## Works of charity

*We would like to thank everyone who donated to the Missionary Cooperative or Mission Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg appeals. We thank you for your missionary hearts and ask for your continued support and prayers to keep His mission alive supporting those in need across the world.*

In the Chinese province of Hebei, several Catholic associations dedicated to Saint Anne celebrated their patronal feast on Wednesday, July 26, witnessing to their faith and devotion to the patron saint through works of charity. On July 26, the Catholic Church celebrates the liturgical memory of Saints Joachim and Anne, parents of Blessed Virgin Mary. After the Eucharistic celebration and rosary, led by Father Lee Chiyee, some members of the Saint Anne Association, based in the Cathedral of Shijiazhuang Diocese, visited the sick in hospitals and nursing homes, bringing material and spiritual comfort to the sick and elderly.

Other associations also lived the day with the same gratuitousness, a sign of inner gratitude which manifests itself in gestures of closeness and support towards people in difficulty, following the words of Jesus who calls his people to "love their neighbor as oneself." The first Saint Anne's Association of Hebei province was founded by Bishop Paul Jiang Taoran, Bishop of the diocese of Zhengding (today Shijiazhuang) on December 8, 1990, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

The seat of the Association has since then been placed in the cathedral. Bishop Jang recognized and wanted to highlight the role of women in the life and work of the Church. Today, after 33 years, the decisive importance of women in the life of the Church is attested and recognized in all the articulations of the ecclesial community - dioceses, parishes, base communities, rural communities.

Chinese Catholic women participate in liturgical life and take initiatives in the field of ordinary pastoral and charitable activities, paying particular attention to visiting the sick and the elderly. A work of charity practiced constantly throughout the year, without breaks, and nourished by devotional practices that mark community life: solemnity rituals of the Immaculate Conception every first Friday of the month, recitation of the rosary, Eucharistic adoration, Stations of the Cross, confession, pilgrimages to Marian shrines. Women who belong to the Saint Anne Association and other similar groups recite Ave Maria, Lauds and Vespers daily, entrusting the Church to the protection of Saint Joseph.[...]

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

## OBITUARIES

**Adams** – Elizabeth (Hodkinson) Turner, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 8, 2023 at St. Cecilia's Church; burial in Union Cemetery.

**AuSable Forks** – Joyce (Paquin) Pennock, 92; Mass of Christian Burial July 28, 2023 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

**Brasher Falls** – Richard LaMay, 73; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 17, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Canton** – Robert E. Grandaw, Sr., 93; Graveside services Aug. 15, 2023 at St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Carthage** – Ruth E. (Thesier) Gaebel, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 12, 2023 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

**Chateaugay** – Larry Allen Goodchild, 66; Private services to be held.

**Clayton** – Joann Helen (Wood) Anderson, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 19, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Clayton** – Dorothy J. Burrows, 94; Private services to be held.

**Glenfield** – Nelson J. Peters, 91; Graveside services Aug. 14, 2023 at Beaches Bridge Cemetery.

**Lowville** – Linda A. (Brennan) Aubertine, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 14, 2023 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

**Lowville** – Renee E. (Lyng) Hulbert, 65; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 4, 2023 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Martinsburg Cemetery.

**Lowville** – Jacqueline M. (Conway) Kenealy, 62; Funeral services Aug. 9, 2023 at the Trainor Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in Martinsburg Cemetery.

**Lyon Mountain** – Isabella "Theresa" (Ducharme) Wilson, 97; Graveside Services at St. Bernard's Cemetery at a later date.

**Malone** – Kathy (Allen) Guerin, 64; Mass of Christian Burial July 31, 2023 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. John Bosco Cemetery.

**Malone** – Eleanor (McMahon) Paye, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 14, 2023 at Notre Dame Church.

**Norfolk** – Ronald J. Bombard, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 10, 2023 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

**North Bangor** – Dianne Marie White, 80; Mass of Christian Burial July 29, 2023 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

**Norwood** – Patricia A. (Molnar) Bailey, 68; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 2, 2023 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Melissa Ann (Bell) Bressett, 35; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 7, 2023 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

**Ogdensburg** – Joseph E. Denoncourt, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 11, 2023 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Charles Howard Putnam, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 4, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Rosella M. Turnbull, 58; Mass of Christian

Burial Aug. 10, 2023 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

**Ogdensburg** – Peter J. Ward, 81; Graveside services Aug. 9, 2023 at St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Peru** – Kevin Tobin Keefe, 63; Funeral Services Aug. 13, 2023 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

**Plattsburgh** – Raymond George Caouette, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 5, 2023 at St. Peter's Church.

**Plattsburgh** – Thomas Trombley, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 5, 2023 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Port Henry** – Skip Belden, 86; Memorial Services Aug. 25, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Port Henry** – Beverly Nels McCabe, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 12, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Moriah.

**Port Leyden** – Joseph Vincent Chauffy, Jr., 74; Private services to be held.

**Watertown** – Donald L. Alteri, 83; Funeral Services Aug. 14, 2023 at Cummings Funeral Service, Inc.; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Yung Ja "Jeannie" (Shin) Schorr, 88; Funeral Services Aug. 5, 2023 at the Hart & Bruce Funeral home; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Willsboro** – John William Carver, Sr., 97; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 3, 2023 at St. Philip of Jesus Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

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# FACES OF FAITH

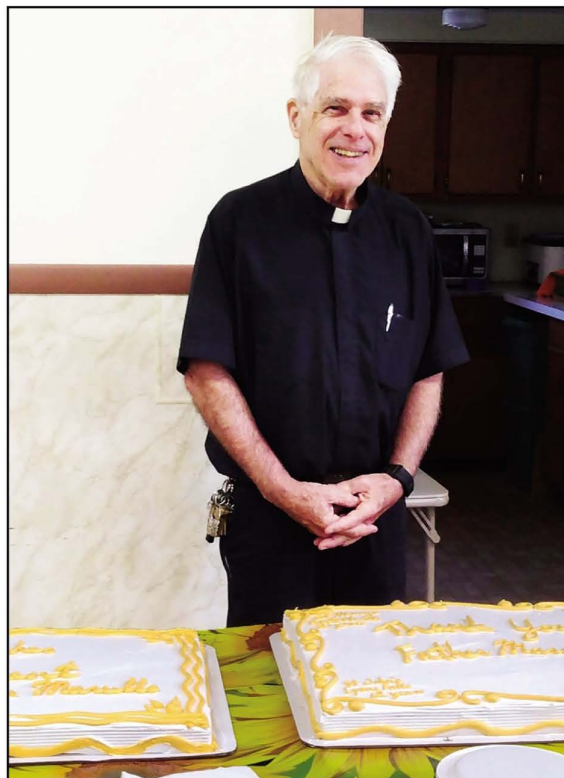


PHOTO BY DR. ROSE ALMA MCDONALD

The annual gathering of the leadership teams of the three Commissioned Lay Minister Associations was held recently at the Lodge at Camp Guggenheim. The day consisted of reflecting on the unique and necessary role of the laity in parishes, discussion and coping with discouragement in ministry. Each group presented a report on their activities this past year and plans for event this coming year. The day is a great opportunity to network and share ideas. Pictured are Robin Hogan-Law, Cathy Russell, Lorraine Carney, Dan Alexander, Dr. Rose Alma McDonald, Sylvie Marion, Mary Skillan, Liz Tarbox, Jessica Hargrave, Jennifer Lucia; Way back: Gary West, Deacon Jim Crowley.



Knights of Columbus Bishop Brzana Chapter in Carthage donated funds to Augustinian Academy. John Delles, chapter secretary, presented the donation to Maryann Margrey.



PHOTOS BY PATIENCE KAPFER & MICHELLE BEAGLE

(Above) Father Lawrence Marullo celebrated his last Mass serving Port Leyden, Constableville and Lyons Falls on July 23. (Left) He was honored with a cake and reception after Mass.