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CELEBRATING JUBILEES



The Jubilee Celebration at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse was celebrated on July 15 with the theme "In Your Presence there is fullness of joy." The celebrant of the Jubilee was Most Rev. Bishop Terry R. LaValley along with Most Rev. Bishop Robert Cunningham, former Bishop of Ogdensburg and priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Celebrating their jubilees were: Sister Mary Louise Fiedler, 65 years; Sister Noel Chabanel Hentz, 60 years; Sister Bernadette Marie Collins, 60 years; Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, 60 years; Sister Jennifer Votraw, 55 years.

SUMMER FOR SEMINARIANS



Seminarians of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and Father Christopher C. Carrara, diocesan vicar for clergy and director of seminarians, take a break from their summer retreat at Camp Guggenheim to get ice cream at Donnelly's in Saranac Lake. Read about the seminarians' summer assignments and learnings, as well as the learnings of the diocese's new deacons.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope Francis to youth: 'God has a plan'

By Hannah Brockhaus
Catholic News Agency

Shun laziness and selfishness and do not be afraid to follow God's plan for your life, Pope Francis told the thousands of young participants of the 2023 Medjugorje Youth Festival in a message on Thursday.

"God has a plan of love for each of you. Do not be afraid of his will, but place all your trust in his grace. To him you are precious and important, because you are the work of his hands," Pope Francis said in a message published by the Vatican on July 27.

The youth festival, in its 34th edition, is being held July 26-30 at the site of alleged Marian apparitions in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Also known as "Mladifest," the five-day event is focused on prayer and includes daily Mass and eucharistic adoration, testimonials, and a candlelight procession.

"Only [God] knows your heart and your deepest desires. Only he who loves you with absolute love is able to fulfill your aspirations. No one but God can give you true happiness," the pope continued.

He encouraged the festival's

attendees to follow the example of Mary in giving their unconditional "yes" to the Lord.

"Let there be no place in your life for selfishness nor for laziness," he added. "Take advantage of your youth to lay, together with the Lord, the foundation of your existence, for your personal, professional, and social future will depend on the choices you make during these years."

In his message, Pope Francis reflected on the theme of the 2023 festival — "Behold my mother, behold my brothers" — which comes from the words of Jesus in Matthew 12:49.

With these words, Jesus "wanted to indicate to us that it is adherence to the Father's will that establishes us in union with him, a bond superior to the closest close ties of blood," Francis explained.

"God's will," he continued, "is a priceless treasure!"

The pope acknowledged, however, that people often struggle to understand and accept God's will.

"We would like a different life, without challenges, without suffering," he said. "We would like ourselves to be different, perhaps smarter, richer in talents or natural dispositions."

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Quiet blessings

The Fargo home has been quiet.

Our son, Jake, 16, has been participating in Teen Vision, a two-week leadership program at Camp Guggenheim. For two consecutive weeks, he's been dropped off at Camp Guggenheim on Sunday and picked up on Friday.

Jake is on the autism spectrum. Jake was completely non-verbal - he had no functional language at all - until he was around 3 years old. We weren't sure he'd ever talk.

Jake had to apply to and

be accepted into the Teen Vision program. He had to ask people to serve as references. He had to prepare to be away from home for three out of four weeks (he goes back to camp as a camper for week 6). He had to overcome nervousness.



Darcy L. Fargo

When Jake was diagnosed with autism at age 2, I didn't realize we could be where we are now. Jake is no longer considered an individual in need of special education services. He's an average student taking a typical high school course load. He has friends. People are

recognizing leadership abilities in him, and he's getting amazing opportunities to develop those abilities.

I cry happy tears just writing/thinking about it.

I remember when Jake was first diagnosed with autism. I wouldn't have described any part of the experience as "a blessing." While I still wish Jake didn't have some of the struggles he has or has had, I can now see lots of blessings in what we've experienced and continue to experience.

In addition to Jake being a blessing in countless ways, we get to celebrate accomplishments that would barely register in other families. I remember being named to leadership activ-

ities as a teen. My parents didn't cry. They were proud of me, but it was different.

I'm not sure why God blessed us in this way. I know other individuals could have the exact same diagnosis, exact same interventions and services, and still have different outcomes. We're blessed, and we're so very grateful.

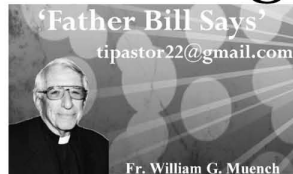
We're also grateful God gave us this diocese with its amazing youth programs that include even the kids who are a bit different and with its amazing people who support and pray for my son and my family.

While our house is now quiet, we'll be loudly grateful for the blessings moving forward.

Anointing of the sick

Today, I would like to consider with you the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. This sacrament has its roots in the New Testament book, the Letter of James. In the fifth chapter of this letter, James writes: "Is anyone among you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone in good spirits? He should sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the Church, and they should pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up. If he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven."

Many of you will remember that years ago this sacrament was only given to those who were nearing death. In those days, the name we used for this sacrament was "extreme unction," last anointing. As a rule, the people were urged to call the priest for this sacrament when a person was close to death. I do remember that sometimes in those days, people would



Fr. William G. Muench

wait to call for the priest to come until the very last minute for what we called the last rites. I must admit that some families hesitated to call the priest. They were worried about disturbing the sick person. I remember that people would see a priest enter a hospital and be certain someone had died.

The Second Vatican Council changed so much. The sacrament has continued to be a blessing of support for the dying. Priests still bring the sacraments - Holy Communion and anointing - for those who are near death. However, now the sacrament of anointing can be given much earlier in a person's illness and can be offered several times, not just at the last minute. Priests, however, still want to be present with a family at the time of death.

The real change came

after the Council, so the name of the sacrament was changed. Now it is called the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. Now this prayer and blessing and anointing is for many more than just the dying. It's for those who are seriously ill, for those hospitalized, for those who will be having surgery, for those suffering difficulties due to long-term trials like cancer, but also those suffering from addiction, like drugs or alcohol. This sacrament can now be received many times. We do believe that this is a powerful sacrament of the Lord for many different situations.

Now, parishes offer anointing to groups of parishioners in Church. I remember recently after a parish Mass offering this anointing and having long lines of people coming forward. Of course, I wasn't exactly certain what was disturbing them. However, they needed God's support. I consider the challenge of growing old as a good reason to ask for this anointing.

In the message from the Letter of James, there is added the promise, "if he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven." Of course, we continue to believe this is true of the sacrament of anointing of the sick. This sacrament is a powerful example of our belief in the support of the Lord for the sick and dying through the anointing of the sick and the Lord's forgiveness.

Anointing of the sick is a healing sacrament. This sacrament of support for the sick and dying brings spiritual healing through the forgiveness of sin. At the same time, this anointing also seeks the help and healing from the Lord who brought healing to so many, as we read in the Gospels. The Church prays that there will be help and healing for the sick and suffering if it is the will of God. Personally, I know only too well that the Lord does bring healing and help as well as spiritual healing. I have prayed with many seeking the Lord's healing through this sacrament.

Seminarians grow in summer assignments

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSI
Diocesan Vocations Coordinator

“Whoever loses his life for My sake will find it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it” (Matthew 10:39). Our Diocesan seminarians have been learning and living Jesus’ deeper call to take up the cross each day to follow Him. Taking up the cross is a daily dying to self, freely giving up their own lives to follow His difficult path. St. John (10:10) tells us that finding the true path is finding true life. Dying to self is finding the best of this life and the life to come with Jesus Christ. The Seminarians in our Diocese continue to discern their call to live life fully for Jesus Christ and His people in the life of the Church. Each of them has been assigned to a parish ministry or to be with young people at the Diocesan summer camp at Guggenheim to walk this path of service in a variety of ways. They have been serving in parishes assigned to them across the Diocese. They were asked to reflect on these questions:

1. What has been your parish experience—where, pastor, people

2. How have you grown through the assignment? Was there anything that surprised you?

3. What do you hope to build on moving forward, especially when you will be ministering in an assigned parish when you go back to the seminary?

4. How has this experience made you feel about your vocation/discernment to priesthood, especially in the Diocese of Ogdensburg?

The seminarians share their experiences in their own words of parish life and ministry and express how the Holy Spirit has moved them in a particular manner.

Michael Lennox is a First Theology seminarian at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, Baltimore, Maryland, said: “I’m currently assigned to Holy Cross Par-

Deacon Douglas Schirmer learns ministry in ‘dream assignment’

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

Deacon Douglas Schirmer says serving for the summer in Watertown has been “kind of a dream assignment.”

“There are three churches, the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, the Sisters of the Precious Blood Convent, a school -IHC was still in session when I got here,” he said. “There are a lot of ministry opportunities. Father (John M.) “Mickey” (Demo) and Father Matt (Conger) have been great to live with and work with. I couldn’t ask for better.”

His first summer assignment since his ordination to the diaconate, Deacon Schirmer said he’s learning a lot about life in parishes, but he says most of the learning has tied into one theme:

“I’m learning a lot about flexibility,” he said. “I think you learn it in different ways in each assignment. The priests here are on the go non-stop. Then a curve ball comes in the middle of the day, and they have to figure out how to handle it. They’re both really good at that. It’s not a skill I’ve had to master in the past, but I’ve had to work on mastering that skill.”

Deacon Schirmer said he’s also learned that there’s one part of his new ministry he enjoys more than he expected.

“I like preaching most,” he said. “It’s about figuring out a way to distill what I’ve learned in seminary and what we’re hearing in the readings and Gospels and giving them a fresh take on what is often so familiar while still holding to Church teachings and the teachings of the Church fathers. It’s been a fun challenge.”

Deacon Schirmer said he’s spent the bulk of his previous summer assignments shadowing the priests in the parish. As a deacon, he’s had a more hands-on experience.

“I recently did my first burial, and I have a baptism coming up,” he said. “As a regular sem-

inarian, your main job is to follow the priests around and learn how they do things. As a deacon, they let you go a bit more. I’m learning to do things as an ordained minister. And tonight, I’m helping set up for bingo. It’s sort of a combination of deacon and regular seminarian.”

As he looks forward to returning to his final year of seminary at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Maryland, Deacon Schirmer said he’s looking forward to developing skills he’ll use as a priest, God willing.

“Practically, I’m looking forward to confession practice,” he said. “I’m fortunate to be at a seminary where they take you as you are and give you the tools you need specifically to be a good confessor.”

He also looks forward to seeing where God leads him as he serves as a deacon this year and thanks God for the blessings he’s received thus far.

“I think the part of the grace of (Holy Orders) I’m experiencing is a sense of joy in ministry and in the day-to-day interactions,” he said. “I’m not sure I was prepared for that. When we interviewed before ordination, I talked about the peace I had been given. That’s continuing, but it’s been heightened by the sense of joy and the sense that this is who I am, and this is what I get to do, and I get to do it in service of Christ and the Church.”

Deacon Schirmer said he’s also found joy and blessings in supporting and receiving support from Deacon Carter Pierce, who was ordained to the diaconate with him.

“(Deacon) Carter and I really wanted to be intentional about communicating,” Deacon Schirmer said. “We reach out to each other every couple of days and check in. That’s helped keep me in this place of joy and keep me on fire. We get to watch each other grow in ministry, and we share a level of honesty that’s rare and much appreciated.”

ish in Plattsburgh with Father Kevin McEwan. We have three churches (St. John, St. Peter, and Our Lady of Victory) as well as several cemeteries, Seton Catholic K-12 School, and a parish center that includes a thrift store and soup kitchen. The people of the parish are very generous and supportive of the priests and seminarian. They are very willing to volunteer their time for things large or small, including the parish festival, Communion visits to

the sick, and setting up for mass each day. The parish staff are equally generous and extremely supportive of one another and the parishioners.”

Michael continues to say, “I think I’ve grown a much stronger appreciation for the assistance the people of God provide to the parish. There are a great number of things they take care of in order that the priests need not worry about them, and these things certainly add up. And having

dozens of parishioners helping organize and work the parish festival takes much of the burden off the priests as well. In such an active parish, having such generous parishioners around who are willing to help allows the priests to focus on ministering to the people.”

Tyler Fitzgerald is a Second Theology seminarian at St. Vincent’s Seminary, Latrobe, Pennsylvania. He shares his

Seminarian summer assignments

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experiences: "I am assigned to the Catholic Community of Cape Vincent, Rosiere, and Chaumont, where Father Raymond Diezbourg, MSC is the pastor and Father Pierre Aubin, MSC is in residence. This is a unique assignment because, although it is a parish of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, the priests who serve the parish are not diocesan, they are Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC).

"Although, at first, it may seem strange to assign a diocesan seminarian to live and work with religious, my experience has been wonderfully positive. The mission of both a religious and diocesan priest is the same - to go wherever you are sent, bringing Christ to the people entrusted to your care. Learning about a missionary order has been fascinating and has helped to expand my knowledge of the Universal Church."

"The people of Cape Vincent, Rosiere, and Chaumont are caring, kind, and very generous. It is an entirely new experience for me to live in an area whose population explodes in the summer months and where tourism is the biggest industry. Being a lover of history, the people of this parish have been feeding my hunger to learn the rich history of this area... including leaving history books on the rectory kitchen table! Catholicism has deep roots in this area, roots which run to the year 1655 when Jesuit mission-

aries Father Pierre-Joseph-Marie Chaumont and Father Claude Dablon arrived to serve the native Iroquois people. There's simply too much history to learn in two months!"

Tyler shared how he has grown and mentioned what surprised him: "Well, first of all, this is my first experience with living in a rectory. You simply never know who is going to call or knock on the door!"

"Yes, there was something that surprised me. At our weekly scripture study group, someone began posing questions on the exact topics we discussed at seminary in our class on the Gospels of Matthew and Mark."

"I have enjoyed giving reflections, presentations, and meditations this summer. I have certainly grown in this regard - learning my style and trying out different methods of preparing to speak in front of a gathered audience. Being able to try different methods such as reading from a text, reading from a list of main ideas, and totally off the cuff, has been helpful. There's only one way to learn...practice! I will keep these experiences in mind when it comes time to take homiletic courses at seminary."

"There is one thing that has stuck out this summer - the importance of taking what we (seminarians) learn in the classroom and applying it to the lives of those we are called to serve. At seminary, we are surrounded by

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Deacon Carter Pierce: 'God knew what he was doing'

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

Deacon Carter Pierce says his first assignment since ordination has brought him growth he didn't expect.

"I've certainly been participating in Mass in a new way, especially preaching," he said. "Father Scott Seymour, the pastor in Morrisonville, Cadyville and Peru, told me I can preach any time he's on the schedule. I've had lots of practice. But that's brought me into a deeper encounter with scripture in a way even my practice homilies didn't do. Preaching was one of my biggest anxieties before ordination, and it's really the grace of ordination that has made it a joy and not as arduous as I thought it would be."

Deacon Pierce said he's also enjoyed gaining experience in hospital ministry, a ministry to which he had minimal exposure in seminary due to COVID.

"I had been following Father Scott (Seymour) in hospital ministry, and last Monday, I was able to follow Father Bill Reamer to a nursing home for an anointing," he said. "It was a beautiful experience. The day after being anointed, the man passed away. Death is sad, but I knew because he had the sacrament, it paved the way toward heaven and the merciful judgment of God. His funeral happened to be in Morrisonville. It was beautiful to be there just before and just after his death. It was a really heartening experience."

Deacon Pierce said he's learned a great deal working with Father Seymour and the other priests who serve and live in and around the parish.

"When I got there, Father Leagon (Carlin) was there," he said. "He's a close friend, and it was a delight to be with him. After three weeks, he transferred to Massena. Then Father Lukas (Gruber) was assigned here. We started seminary at the same time and in the same place. It's been great having community with these priests, praying and eating and working with them. I also see Father Bill Gordon, Msgr. (Dennis) Duprey and Father (Francis) Flynn a good bit, too. They're a lot of fun and a wealth of wisdom."

Deacon Pierce was preparing to celebrate his first baptism shortly after the interview with the North Country Catholic.

"It's significant to be the one that welcomes someone into God's family and to be God's instrument as he adopts them as a son or daughter," he said. "What an incredible moment and an incredible privilege."

The new deacon said he appreciates the opportunity to learn under Father Seymour in parishes with a wide variety of ministries.

"I'm really impressed with how smooth the system is under Father Scott and the staff in the parish," Deacon Pierce said. "There's tons of ministry going on in our community."

In addition to being surprised by the variety of ministry, Deacon Pierce said another aspect of his early diaconate has surprised him, as well.

"Three weeks after ordination and before I started in Morrisonville, Cadyville and Peru, I went to the wedding of a good friend from college," he said. "It was beautiful. They understood what they were entering into, and they're grounded in their faith in God. There was so much joy. It was beautiful. It gave me a lot of time to reflect on the beauty of marriage and how it was God's plan for man and woman to be created in complementary ways. I was able to pray with them and for them. As I was reflecting, it occurred to me that I always wanted to be married and still have an appreciation of that. But as beautiful as it is, I don't want to give up what I've received. Celibacy has been a gift to me. It was hard for me to get to a place of peace with that promise, but I'm grateful I've persevered and was carried on by prayers and grace. I would've never chosen this for myself, but I'm grateful for the intimacy with God that I've experienced in ordained life. That's such a beautiful gift, and I'd never want to give it up. People think of it as giving something up, but it's been something I've received as a gift. Celibacy has opened my heart to greater love of others and opened my heart to experience God's love in a deeper way."

Deacon Pierce says he's been asked several times if he "feels different" after ordination.

"My only thought when I'm asked that is honestly 'no,'" he said. "If anything, I feel more free to be myself. This way of life matches who I am. God knew what he was doing when he called me to this."

Seminarian summer assignments

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classmates, professors, and other academic leaders who know the complex details of theology, liturgy, scripture, and languages. However, the priest's duty is to take the Truth learned in the classroom and make it approachable, understandable, and exciting for everyone they encounter. At seminary, it is often easy to forget this reality especially when preparing for exams and writing academic papers. However, I plan to earnestly work in learning through this lens - learn the material not only for my sake, but for those I will one day have the privilege to teach and preach in my ministry as a priest."

"I will not be regularly ministering in a parish setting while at seminary but will be assigned to hospital ministry. Each week, my classmates and I will visit the local hospital to visit patients. While some may request that we pray with them, it is also a beautiful ministry of presence to those in need and their family and friends. When we're sick, sometimes we just need a good laugh and compa to pass the time with. That's how I will be spending my Wednesday afternoons this school year."

Tyler's vocation to priesthood has been strengthened by this parish experience as he relates, "This has been a summer of countless new experiences - seminarians are constantly adding to their things they don't teach you in seminary' book. Those pastoral tidbits learned through experience which are passed on from priest to semi-



Diocese of Ogdensburg seminarians, from left, Deacon Carter Pierce, Tyler Fitzgerald, Deacon Douglas Schirmer, Kevin McCullouch, Dennis Ombongi, Michael Lennox and Venes Laine with Father Christopher C. Carrara, diocesan vicar for clergy.

narian are always worth writing down".

"Preaching and speaking in front of an audience was one of my biggest fears when I first entered seminary five years ago, knowing it was a huge part of a priest's life. This summer has not only helped to calm these fears a great deal but has taught me that I enjoy this aspect of the priestly life and I have no need to be afraid."

"Although it is easy to get gloomy over issues such as a decreasing Catholic population, shortage of priests, and the closing of churches and schools, we must focus on what we do have - a beautiful diocese with faithful, loving children of God who are striving to be saints. However, it is also time to look back on the missionary roots of our diocese and continue to bring the Gospel to

everyone we meet. I am sure Bishop Wadhams once said something along these lines which apply to us today - "there's plenty of work to do!"

"These two months have flown by and I truly cannot wait to be a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg!"

In Tyler's closing remarks, he wishes to share his words of gratitude, "Thank you to everyone who prays for us seminarians as we prepare to serve you in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. I am touched by your generosity and commitment to keeping us close in prayer. Your prayers are a beacon of grace while at seminary, especially when exams and papers begin to pile up. Would it be too much to ask each person who reads this article to offer a short prayer, perhaps one Hail Mary, for the inten-

tion of an increase in vocations to the priesthood for our diocese? Please be assured of my daily gratitude and prayer for the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg as well. Let us pray for each other!"

Dennis Ombongi is a Second Theology seminarian at the Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, Ohio. Dennis' home parish is St. Peter's Parish, Massena. This summer he served in the parishes in Lake Pleasant at St. James Major Church and St. Anne's Church, Wells, with the guidance of Father Sonny G. Pulickal. Dennis describes his experience in a few words, "the goodness of living together in unity and the power of prayer. The pastor together with the parishioners of these two parishes is amazing. The hospitality and the well welcome they gave me

made me feel at home from the very first day."

"Among the many things I have learned from my summer assignment is the unity and togetherness of the people in the Parish. The relationship the people have with their pastor is so touching! How much they appreciate each other. Psalm 133:1 describes the experience: "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live in unity."

"Living together in Unity is both good and pleasant. This is exactly what I experienced in these two parishes, praying together, working together, and building God's Kingdom together. The Lord God blesses our people and indeed it is appropriate for us as Christians to live in the unity because we are brothers and sisters in Christ. The whole experience has strengthened my calling and gives me so much hope that indeed our people love us and always pray for us wherever we are. Taking time to be with the people in the parish and having a cup of coffee together sometimes helps to come to know each other well. This has given me a very good opportunity to get to know so many people in the parish. As I look to the future, it is my desire to bring people together, to know each other, to pray together, and to search for those who are lost from the faith."

Kevin McCullouch is a First Theology seminarian at St. Vincent's Seminary, Latrobe, Pennsylvania. He shares his parish experience, "This summer I was as-

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Environmental Stewardship

Invasive species

As boating season progresses, it is not uncommon in the to encounter boat inspection stations near waterways. This is an effort to limit the spread of invasive species, such as Eurasian milfoil.

While trying to halt the spread of unwanted species of plants and animals, it raises the question of what forms of life do we want to favor and what are we attempting to eradicate. This same sentiment arose when I was pulling healthy native species of plants, i.e. weeds, from my garden so that the non-native beans and tomatoes could flourish. And then it occurred to me that some Native Americans would probably view me as a type of invasive species overtaking an area once used by their ancestors.

We have been given the responsibility by the Creator to "tend to His Garden," and we must make decisions regularly on how best to go about doing this. Dealing with the environment always involves making choices, and we can only hope that we will act in a responsible manner. Doing whatever you can to "live lightly on the earth" and leave as small a footprint as possible is a challenging mission.

Simple habits can be developed to better our "common home," and it is through prayer that we obtain the wisdom needed to benefit our part of the garden. During quiet times when you are out boating, hiking, working around the yard, try calling on God for help on ways to deal with His many creations. Your hands do not have to be folded to chat with God, as you can just as easily communicate with the Almighty when you are clutching a fishing rod or pushing around dirt. However, your mind must be still and your heart must be open, as it is through the heart that we garner heavenly advice.

By Tom Kalinowski
St. Bernard's Church,
Member of Faith and Ecology

Seminararian summer assignments

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signed to my first parish assignment while in seminary formation. I have been looking forward to being assigned to a parish since I entered seminary, so that I could continue to grow in my ministry of outreach to the people of our diocese and be-

cause there are still many parishes that are unfamiliar to me in our own diocese. I was assigned to a unconventional parish this summer in the sense that there is not a pastor assigned to a parish. I have been at the Catholic Community of Constable, Chateaugay, and Fort

Covington with Father Medenel Angrand, supervisory priest/sacramental minister, and Father John Looby, retired in residence, under the direction of Deacon Brian Dwyer, parish life coordinator".

Kevin expressed, "I think the one thing that surprised me about this assignment was how well this plan works. Although it is most certainly not ideal and with some knots to be worked out, I believe it is important to continue to minister among the parishes without a pastor. I have been struck by how the people of the parishes continue to work hard to remain active, especially in the decline in vocations that we are facing".

"I have grown in my relationship skills as I try to connect with as many parishioners before coming to the end of my assignment. I have an increased respect for our current pastors who

are being assigned to two or three parishes, because it can be hard to minister to people on an individual level when the priest is expected to carry out the day-to-day business of multiple parishes".

"Although, I won't be involved in parish ministry while I am back at Saint Vincent's (at school), I am hopeful to build on community, to utilize everyone's talents and to encourage people to work together."

Venes Laine is a First Theology seminararian at the Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, Ohio. He is presently at the diocesan summer Guggenheim Camp ministering to the young people of various age groups.

Let us continue to pray for our diocesan seminararians as they return to their respective seminaries for continued formation and education. Let us also pray for more young men to hear and to respond to the call to be the "bridge" between Christ the Priest and to His people. The Vocation Office is sponsoring Andrew dinners around the Diocese in October inviting young high school men and beyond to listen to Bishop Terry LaValley's and the area priests' vocation stories.

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 Church, 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

Aug. 2 – Rev. Zephyrin Jutras, 1919

Aug. 4 – Rev. Alexandre Soulerin, O.M.I., 1892; Rev. Adolphe Saurel, 1925; Rev. Willie Caron, M.S.C., 1972

Aug. 5 – Rev. M. Calixte Mourié, O.M.I., 1912; Rev. David N. Burke, 1913; Gerald A. Sharland, 1973

Aug. 7 – Msgr. Edmund H. Dumas, 2000; Rev. Lawrence E. Cotter, 2016

Aug. 8 – Rev. Donald E. Seguin, 1976

Aug. 9 – Rev. Edward B. May, O.S.A., 1953; Rev. James N. Flattery, 1997

Aug. 10 – Rev. Walter J. LaRocque, 1936; Rev. Joseph Bolduc, O.M.I., 1956; Rev. Cornelius Vullings, M.S.C., 1971; Msgr. Anthony A. Millia, 2010; Deacon Bruce C. Wadsworth, 2013

Aug. 11 – Rev. Gilbert Monroe, O.F.M., 1958; John M. Kennedy, 1979

Aug. 12 – Rev. Pierre Gagnon, O.M.I., 1901; Rev. John M. Varrilly, 1913

Aug. 13 – Msgr. Bernard F. Kellogg, 1993

Aug. 14 – Rev. Patrick Foley, 1839; Rev. George Dermody, O.S.A., 1956

Aug. 15 – Rev. Alfred Onesime Boyer, 1959; Msgr. Cornelius A. Collins, 1967

Bishop's Public Schedule

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

4:30 p.m. – Picnic with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart at Dablon Point in Cape Vincent

August 3 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by lunch

August 5 – 10:30 a.m. – Mass at Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer in Ellenburg Center followed by lunch

August 6 – 11 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

August 7 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at St. Patrick's Parish Center in Port Henry

August 8 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at St. Augustine's Parish Center in Peru

August 9 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at St. Mary's Parish Center in Indian Lake

August 11 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

August 12 – 4 p.m. – Mass for the Young Adult Retreat at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake

August 13 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

August 14 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

August 15 – 10 a.m. – Mass at Samaritan Summit Village in Watertown

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.

New Catholic Charities head has philanthropy background

By Kevin J. Jones
Catholic News Agency

Catholic leadership expert and philanthropist Kerry Alys Robinson will be the next president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA, the domestic humanitarian arm of the Catholic Church in the U.S. whose affiliates serve more than 15 million people per year.

"The Gospels call Catholics and all people of goodwill to serve those most in need of our aid," Robinson said July 25. "The staff and volunteers of Catholic Charities agencies around the country answer that call every day: feeding the hungry, comforting the afflicted, and welcoming the stranger. I am deeply honored and profoundly humbled to be a part of this life-giving mission."

Catholic Charities has 167 member agencies and 3,900 locations across the U.S., including five U.S. territories. The agencies are engaged in various projects including hunger relief, housing assistance, disaster aid, health care, job training, and assistance for migrants and refugees.

"Kerry's entire professional life has been devoted to serving and bettering our Church," said Neal Black, chair of the board of Catholic Charities USA. He said the board voted "unanimously and enthusiastically" to appoint Robinson following "an exhaustive national search."

"We are confident that the Catholic Charities network and the millions of vulnerable people it serves each year will greatly benefit from Kerry's extraordinary passion, expertise, and insight," Black said.

The outgoing president and CEO, Sister Donna Markham, OP, is retiring this summer after eight years heading Catholic Charities USA. Markham praised Robinson's appointment.

"I am confident that her visionary leadership, devotion to the Church, and sincere commitment to serving those in need will bring out the best in our staff, volunteers, and supporters," she said.

Robinson will begin her new role on Aug. 23. She is presently an executive partner of Leadership Roundtable, an influential effort of Catholic laity, clergy, and religious that seeks to pro-

mote best practices in management and leadership in Catholic organizations. She was the founding executive director of the organization, which launched in 2005.

She is also the executive director of the Opus Prize Foundation, which partners with Catholic universities to give a \$1 million prize each year to honor individuals and organizations of any faith background whose ministry helps alleviate human suffering.

Robinson has also advised Church figures about how to empower and engage women leaders. She is the second woman and second layperson to head the national agency.

Robinson is also an author and speaker. Her book "Imagining Abundance: Fundraising, Philanthropy and a Spiritual Call to Service," published in 2014 by Liturgical Press, describes itself as "an inspirational and practical guide to effective fundraising" for anyone in a faith community. She has published work in the Jesuits' America Magazine, the Archdiocese of Chicago's Chicago Catholic, and other publications.

Her philanthropic background is a family legacy. Her great-grandfather was the late John J. Raskob, an executive and businessman who built the Empire State Building. With his wife Helena, he established the Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities in 1945.

Robinson is a member of the Raskob Foundation as well as the consortium Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities (FADICA). She has served as an adviser and trustee of more than 25 grantmaking foundations, nonprofits, and family foundations.

For 15 years, Robinson was a member of the national committee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

Robinson, a graduate of Georgetown University and Yale Divinity School, is a former director of development for Saint Thomas More Catholic Chapel and Center at Yale University. She has two children with her husband, Dr. Michael Cappello, an epidemiology and pediatrics professor at the Yale School of Public Health and at the Yale School of Medicine.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Families sue for religious school funds for kids with disabilities

Three Orthodox Jewish families in California are suing the state for a law that they say is directly discriminatory toward religious families and students with disabilities. The families' case, *Loffman v. California Department of Education*, concerns a state law that allows disabled children in secular California families to receive special funding for their educational needs at the public or private school of their choice. Under this law, religious families with special-needs children are not allowed to access that same funding if they would like their children to attend religious schools. While families with disabled children in secular schools are reimbursed for their specialized education needs, families going to religious schools are not. The three families, along with two Jewish schools, are being represented in this case by Becket, a law firm specializing in religious freedom cases. Their case was heard in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. Each family has a deeply held religious belief that they must have their children enrolled in Jewish education so that they can learn Scripture and Orthodox Jewish values.

Taizé community to get new leader in December

After 18 years as head of the ecumenical monastic community Taizé, Brother Alois Loeser has chosen a successor. According to the community, after consulting other brothers, the French Catholic has chosen Brother Matthew (Andrew) Thorpe, 58, to be the Christian fraternity's third-ever prior. Thorpe, an Anglican from the United Kingdom, will take up the post on Dec. 3. He joined the Taizé community in 1986. Taizé is an ecumenical monastic community founded in a small town in the Burgundy territory of France in 1940. Its focus is promoting faith and Christian unity among young people, many of whom participate in the community through retreats and other events. The group is also known for its distinctive chants, many of which have come to be used and recognized well beyond the community.

Dictatorship in Nicaragua freezes fund for retired priests

In a new attack against the Catholic Church in Nicaragua, the dictatorship of President Daniel Ortega and his wife, Vice President Rosario Murillo, has frozen the Church's retirement fund for priests, according to lawyer and researcher Martha Patricia Molina. The lawyer is the author of the report "Nicaragua: A Persecuted Church?," which catalogs the more than 500 attacks against the Church in the country since 2018. "Elderly priests are not receiving their pensions from the national insurance fund for priests, the product of years of contributing, due to the bank accounts of the Catholic Church being blocked," Molina wrote on the social media site X (formerly Twitter). "The national insurance fund for priests is an institution that was created more than 20 years ago by the CEN [Nicaraguan Bishops' Conference] intending a retirement fund for priests."

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

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 Anderson for more information at 518-534-9976.

DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR

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

Date: First Saturday of the Month

Time: Following the 4:30 anticipated Mass

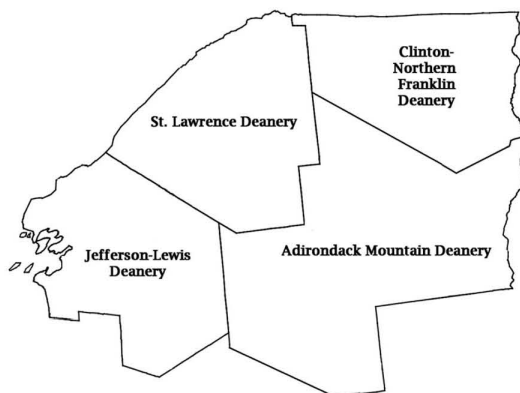
Place: St. Ann's Church

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

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



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.

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 per-

form 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.

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 charism and mission 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) or Sister Bethany 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 Festivities begins with 5:15 p.m. at Holy Mass

Features: Marian Procession follows and lastly, picnic on the lawn. Includes Hamburgers/Hot-dogs/Desert/Live Music.

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: Aug. 7, 14, 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. 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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Hallow app brings back 'Saints in 7 Days'

(CNA) - Hallow, a Catholic meditation and prayer app, has brought back its "Saints in 7 Days" series.

The series first launched in 2022 and became a fan favorite. It returned July 24 with a look at the life of St. Mary Magdalene with actress Elizabeth Tabish, who plays Mary Magdalene on the hit television series "The Chosen."

Alex Jones, the CEO of Hallow, and Kevin Cotter, Hallow's head of content, spoke with CNA

about the series and what they hope people will take away from the lives of the saints.

"The saints are such a powerful example of how to grow deeper in your spirituality, and they're such an inspiring example," Jones said. "Some people might find them a bit intimidating, but what we found is actually diving straight into the hearts of the radical way in which they lived their lives is actually inspirational for folks to see."

Some of the saints that have

been featured in the series are Mother Teresa, Louis and Zelie Martin, and Martin de Porres. Mary Magdalene and Ignatius of Loyola are two of four saints who will be highlighted this year.

Cotter said the format differs from other resources in that instead of simply reading a biography filled with facts, "Saints in 7 Days" tells the story of the saint.

"Over the course of seven days you can really hear their story, you can journey with them and get an understanding of them

through these amazing moments in their life that helped make them the saint that they were and then get to pray alongside them as well," Cotter said.

"So, you're getting that story piece and that meditation piece to really enter into who they were and in a way that at the end of the week, you can say, 'Wow, I really know that saint and I've walked with them, and they're going to remain with me for a long time through this experience,'" he added.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

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.

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 ADULTS 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 information, 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 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.

CHRIST IS HERE WORKSHOP

The Department of Education for the Diocese of Ogdensburg will be presenting Christ is Here: Come Encounter Him, a workshop on how to see Christ in the world.

Christ Is Here is an opportunity to understand how Christ draws us to Him.

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. He will unveil how to see Christ in the world and be Christ to the world through the Sacramental Worldview. Please bring your own lunch.

Contact: To register go to www.rcdony.org/christ

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.

ANDREWS DINNERS

Come and join Bishop LaValley to learn more about being a priest. Any man of high school age and above is welcome to attend the Andrew Dinner sponsored by the Vocation Office. 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; Jefferson-Lewis Deanery, Oct. 29 at St. James Parish Hall, Carthage

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

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



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Feast of the Transfiguration

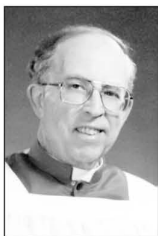
Today, the Feast of the Transfiguration replaces the 18th Sunday of the Year.

The readings give the testimony of the prophets Daniel (First reading), the apostles, St. Peter (Second reading), and the prophets Moses and Elijah (Gospel) to the great truth that Jesus is the Messiah. The Father Himself testifies that Jesus is His beloved Son. Daniel has a magnificent vision of the dazzling throne of God the Father in heaven, giving His triumphant Son the glory, dominion and

kingship over all the nations of the earth. He will rule with the Father forever and ever.

In the second reading, Peter gives his eyewitness account of the remarkable event that we celebrate today. He urges his listeners to pay close attention to the message of salvation preached now everywhere by all the apostles "until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts."

On the mountain, Peter, James and John are traveling with Jesus to Jerusalem. As they ap-



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

August 6

Feast of The Transfiguration

READINGS

Daniel 7:9-10

2 Peter 1:16-19

Matthew 17:1-9

proach the summit of Mt. Tabor, the three suddenly notice in change in the garments Jesus is wearing. They become dazzlingly white. The disciples then see two famous figures appear. They recognize Moses the Lawgiver, and Elijah the Prophet. They are both discussing something with Jesus. Peter is ecstatic and offers to build a permanent dwelling for all of them. Then

their joy is turned to fear when suddenly a cloud comes between them and the sun, and a voice thunders out, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased. Listen to Him!"

As the disciples fall to the ground, Jesus calms them, and tells them not to be afraid. The glory has faded, and they proceed down the mountain. Jesus had tried to prepare them for what was to come on their journey.

What does all this mean for us on our spiritual journey? Are we willing to share the Passion and suffering of Jesus in our own lives? Will we allow ourselves to be trans-

formed by the incredible experience as Jesus intended. Will we be willing to let Jesus judge everything by Jesus' standards? As he taught a lesson in patience and hope to Peter, James, and John, so he teaches us to listen and wait, to listen intently to His message. We have the advantage of knowing and believing in the Resurrection. In our journey this week, we should remember Jesus transfigured on the mountain and listen! Whether it's daily Mass, a Holy Hour, private prayer or work, may we keep in mind that other members of the Church may look to our encouragement and example.

CALLED TO SERVE

Moving-up day

Saturday, July 29, 2023, was another grand day for the permanent diaconate. Six men took the next step toward ordination as deacons. Bishop Terry R. LaValley accepted those men as candidates for ordination in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. That is a big deal.

Do not misunderstand, dear friends. Candidacy is not as significant as ordination itself. However, candidacy carries with it a certain amount of confidence that each

man has the potential to be a member of the clergy.

The formators, their teachers, recommended to the director, Msgr. Robert Aucoin, that each of the six has demonstrated spiritual, academic, personal and practical growth in the last year.

Monsignor considers those thoughts and his own observations before making a final recommendation to the bishop.

Every vocation is a

little bit different. My wife, Kathy, likes to ask deacon wives, "Did you think on your wedding day that you would be marrying a future deacon of the Catholic Church? God did!"

The notion of a clerical vocation may have occurred to the future deacon a few times in the past or happened spontaneously.

If the man responds to the call, the same with religious sisters, the first step is to look into the possibility. We call that the inquiry stage. A future deacon learns a little bit about the deacon's role in the church, and the formation director finds out what makes the man tick.

Assuming the parties end up on the same

page, the man is invited to aspirancy.

I call the men at this stage and even candidates, "wannabees" (I wannabee a deacon), but don't tell them I say that.

In our diocese the aspirants take some online courses from Notre Dame University and spend a Friday to Saturday each month (except July and August) at Wadhams Hall for further classroom work and community building.

It is at the end of this first year that our men have been elevated to candidate.

Gordon Burdo of Plattsburgh, JB Kavanaugh of Clayton, Jamie Law of Rainbow Lake, Frank Sczerzenie of Piseco, Garry Stevens of Castorland, and Nick

Tsibulsky of Massena are the candidates. Their wives, Julie, Wanda, Robin, Mary Kiewicz, Rosalie and Sarah, are not required to do the course work but are welcome to sit-in, and some do.

A deacon's wife is not ordained with him, but a man cannot be ordained without his wife's written support. We call it permission.

With God's grace these new candidates will be ordained in 2025.

The diocese is considering starting another cohort this fall. If you are interested, even a little bit, give Msgr. Aucoin a shout or talk to your pastor.

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

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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

'Reach out to all humankind'

Dear Readers,

I write to you today with an inspiring message and a hope that you will support the Society of St. Peter the Apostle and those called to consecrated life.

Earlier this week, I received a letter from the National Director of The Pontifical Mission Societies, but it wasn't something he had written. Instead, Monsignor Kieran Harrington shared with me a letter from Christopher Fernandez, a 25-year-old seminarian from Mumbai, India, who asked him to personally thank you for your prayers and generous contributions which make it possible for him to study at the local Pius X Seminary.

In India, where Catholics represent less than 1.5 percent of the population, seminaries and novitiates bring people together regardless of rite, language, or caste. I hope that Christopher's words will inspire you as much as they inspired me.

"I first thought about becoming a priest during my Confirmation class. I lived in a neighborhood in Mumbai where you can find both wealthy and poor people attending a parish. And I was moved by the love those who had no material possessions readily shared with me. Their generosity towards me, a young boy with nothing to give, was so palpable that I began to wonder if God was calling me for something more.

I pray that God will give me the grace of embedding my ministry with that selfless will to serve others and inspire them to get to know Christ. Christians here are a very small minority, and we are called to reach out to all humankind. Everywhere we go, we are missionaries, tasked with spreading the Word of God to the rich and the poor, to those who know Him already as well as to those who have forgotten Him or reject Him.

I am blessed to have the opportunity to be in this seminary, hopefully only two years away from being ordained a priest. And I wanted to reach out to you to personally say thank you for your prayers and for your generous support.

I cannot see God, but I feel him guiding my life. And I do not know the names of the donors who support the Society of St. Peter the Apostle, but their prayers and sacrifice sustain me in my formation. Because of these generous donors, I can prepare for a life of service to Christ and the Church.

I am reaching out to you, a generous friend of the missions, in the name of the thousands of seminarians who rely on the blessing of your support and are sustained by your prayers."

May God bless you abundantly,
Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ

OBITUARIES

Adams – Elizabeth H. "Betty" Turner, 94; Mass of Christian Burial at St. Cecilia's Church; burial in Union Cemetery.

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

Black River – Mary Rita (Aubin) Gracey, 94; Mass of Christian Burial July 24, 2023 at St. Paul's Church; burial in Sanford Corner Cemetery.

Bloomington – Lisa Marie LaFountain, 65; Graveside Services July 29, 2023 at Brookside Cemetery.

Brushton – Christopher W. Jock, 63; Mass of Christian Burial July 27, 2023 at St. Mary's Church.

Indian Lake – Jeanne L. (Bordeaux) Gerber, 87; Mass of Christian Burial July 29, 2023 at St. Mary's Church.

Madrid – Lucille Matilda (Duresne) Burns, 93; Private Services to be held.

Malone – Adele Eleanor (Fellion) Fleury, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 1, 2023 at Notre Dame Church.

Massena – Mary Elizabeth (Salisbury) Dumas, 98; Private services to be held; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Norman C. Halley, 74; Mass of Christian Burial July 28, 2023 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Donald Paul Portolese, 93; Mass of Christian Burial July 27, 2023 at Church of the Sacred Heart.

Norfolk – Jean T. (Amo) Deleel, 90; Private Services to be held.

Norfolk – Robert E. Joy, 68;

Funeral Services July 28, 2023 at the Buck Funeral Home; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Ronald J. Bruyere; Memorial Services Aug. 1, 2023 at Notre Dame Church.

Ogdensburg – Mary E. (Murray) Walker, 85; Mass of Christian Burial July 28, 2023 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Peru – Marilyn "Lyn" Brow Premo, 78; No Services

Port Henry – Catherine "Kay" (Dougal) Manley; Mass of Christian Burial July 25, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church.

Potsdam – Joretta (Pierce) Creighton, 85; Funeral Services July 26, 2023 at Donaldson-Seymour

Funeral Home; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Colton.

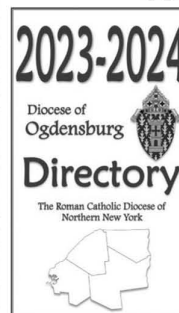
Potsdam – John Joseph "Jack" Maroney, 87; Mass of Christian Burial July 25, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Potsdam – June (James) Whalen, 94; Mass of Christian Burial July 28, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

St. Regis Falls – Maurice G. "Mose" Richards, 90; Mass of Christian Burial July 26, 2023 at St. Ann's Church; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery.

West Chazy – Ann J. (Brean) Gar-rant, 82; Mass of Christian Burial July 22, 2023 at St. Joseph's Church burial in parish cemetery.

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St. Mary's in Canton has the answers you need

By Keith Benman
Contributing Writer

Where does the July 4th Famous Nathan's hot dog eating contest take place?

Which two U.S. presidents died on the same day: July 4, 1826?

There are seven sacraments recognized by the Catholic Church, can you name four?

What's the latest and greatest social event taking place at St. Mary's in Canton? Okay, you probably guessed it by now: Trivia Night.

"It's another way to welcome community members, not just people in the parish, but others as well," said co-organizer Patty Biczo.

On a recent Saturday night about 30 people showed up for an hour-and-a-half of Trivia fun, pizza and beverages at St. Mary's church hall. The first parish Trivia Night, taking place in the winter - with less competition from outdoor diversions - drew about 60.

"Everybody was saying they had so much



PHOTO BY KEITH BENMAN/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

The teams are hard at work coming up with an answer at Trivia Night at St. Mary's Canton, on Saturday, July 15.

fun and please, please do it again," said Amanda Conklin, the event's other co-organizer.

Andrew and Alyssa Bigelow were among those wanting to do it again.

"We enjoyed it," Andrew said. "And we won," chimed in Alyssa.

Andrew and Alyssa were hard at work with their team on the recent Saturday night.

St. Mary's Pastor Bryan Stitt was the emcee call-

ing out the questions. There are four categories of 10 questions each to answer. And there's also pizza, popcorn, and beverages, including wine and beer. Three door prizes are dished out during the night as well as a grand cash prize for the winning team. Admission fee is \$20.

A big part of the idea was to give parents a cheap night out where they could socialize and

get a break from the kids, Conklin said. To that end, child care is included. It's just down the hall in a classroom.

Conklin and Biczo came up with the idea by separate paths. Conklin is St. Mary's director of new evangelization. Biczo is a new parish member. Conklin had heard about how much fun Trivia nights are from her sister, who plays at St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake.

Biczo says she and her husband are Trivia enthusiasts who moved to the Canton area recently from Phoenix, Ariz.

"It's a good community builder," said Biczo. "We really liked the idea of getting people together outside of church."

The organizers and Fr. Stitt emphasize the night is open to all adults age 21-and-over from the community - Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

They plan to hold the Trivia nights quarterly. So the next chance to show off your knowledge should be sometime this fall. Just keep an eye on your flocknotes or the "St. Mary's Catholic Church Canton" page on Facebook.

Bonus: Answers to first three questions above

- Coney Island
- John Adams and Thomas Jefferson
- The seven sacraments of the Catholic Church are Baptism, Penance, Eucharist, Confirmation, Matrimony, Holy Orders and Anointing of the Sick.



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