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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 78 Number 18

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

AUGUST 30, 2023

## No NCC next week

There will be no *North Country Catholic* the week of Sept. 6. The next edition will be dated Sept. 13.

After that edition, we will resume our regular schedule of weekly publication.

## New principal, assistant at St. Agnes

When students, staff and teachers at St. Agnes School in Lake Placid return to class, they'll have a new principal and assistant principal leading the school.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## AT FAMILY CAMP



PHOTO BY DAYNA LEADER

Father Matthew Conger celebrates Mass along the Lower Saranac Lake at Camp Guggenheim as part of the 2023 season of Family Camp.

## A SEASON AT CAMP



Paul Martin Jr., 12, plays basketball during the Week 5 session at Camp Guggenheim. Paul and his sister, Valerie, 13, are the children of Paul & Veronica Martin. Veronica is from Mollendo, Peru, where the Diocese of Ogdensburg formerly served in mission.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

# Pope: Eucharist can fill 'wounds and voids'

By Courtney Mares  
Catholic News Agency

Jesus' healing presence in the Eucharist can "fill with tenderness" the voids and wounds produced by sin in individual lives and in society, Pope Francis said on Friday.

In a meeting at the Vatican with a pilgrimage group led by the Sister Disciples of Jesus in the Eucharist on Aug. 25, the pope noted that in the eyes of the world, it might appear "absurd" to begin confronting societal problems by prayers on one's knees in "adoration and reparation," but that it is always effective.

Pope Francis pointed out that the story behind the founding of the sisters' religious order and the revival it sparked gives witness to this reality. The Sister Disciples of Jesus in the Eucharist were founded in one of the poorest dioceses in southern Italy by Servant of God Bishop Raffaello Delle Nocche in the wake of World War I and the devastating Spanish flu pandemic.

The sisters were to be "poor servants of a poor people." Pope Francis explained: "At the center of their lives was the Eucharist, 'a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity,' as the Second Vatican

Council teaches us (Sacrosanctum Concilium, 47)."

"Love, unity, and charity. What does this mean? To adore, to serve, and to repair, that is, to fill with tenderness ... to fill with tenderness the wounds and voids produced by sin in man and society, beginning by kneeling before Jesus in the Consecrated Host, and remaining there for a long time," he said.

Bishop Nocche recommended that the sisters remain in prayer before the Eucharist "even when we seem to feel nothing, in quiet and trusting abandonment, because 'Magister adest,' ('the Master is here'

(Jn. 11:28)."

"By the world's standards this strategy of action seemed absurd: in the face of immense needs and with almost no resources available, what sense could there be in telling the sisters to get down on their knees for 'adoration and reparation'? Yet, as always, the way of faith and self-offering worked in this case too," Pope Francis said.

"The prayers of those courageous women indeed generated a contagious force, which soon led them to undertake and promote works of material, cultural, and spiritual redemption far exceeding all expectations."

NORTH  
COUNTRY  
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# Through XYZ and ABC

"Life should slow down, and I should have more free time after (X, Y and Z)."

I've said it. I've said it a lot, in fact.

But we all know how it goes. After X, Y, and Z comes A, B and C, more commitments, life issues, medical appointments/procedures, projects to work on.... It's just this time of life, I think.

On Friday morning, the day I file the NCC pages

to be printed or "put the paper to bed" in newspaper speak, I was playing

**Darcy L. Fargo**

the last couple of weeks over in my head trying to see where God was working in my life as I tried to write this column.

The last handful of weeks have been super busy - working on projects, dealing with life, family and health issues, traveling,

preparing to send my son back to school... As

I looked through all that trying to find where God was working in my life, it occurred to me: I haven't made very much time and space for God lately.

After I realized it, I saw even more evidence confirming it. I certainly didn't have God's peace in my heart in that moment.

I took a pause for a few minutes. I tried to pray to God that He'd help me surrender some of my worries, my stress and my commitments to Him, but I struggled to pray that genuinely. I don't like sur-

rendering. So, I asked to God make me the kind of person who actually wants to surrender. It's the best I can do right now.

And I was reminded that I need to focus again on building even tiny pauses into my day; times to just be with God for a couple of minutes.

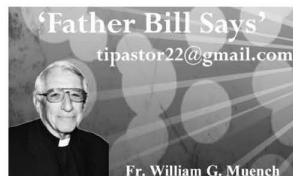
Even when life doesn't slow down, maybe especially when life feels crazy and chaotic, I'm called to slow down, if even for a minute or two, to find free time and freedom in our Lord.

## Transformed by the Eucharist

Today, I would like to write to you again about the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. I want to continue to encourage you to continue to develop a deeper appreciation of and love for the Holy Eucharist as dedicated Catholics. Won't you join me in developing a proper love and devotion for the Holy Eucharist?

Speaking for myself, I truly love the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. I love every opportunity I have for celebrating Mass. I pray often that the Lord helps me to find ways to bring others to a deep respect and love for the Holy Eucharist. This sacrament is transformative for all of us as Catholics.

I believe the Mass is one of God's greatest gifts to his Church and to each of us, the people of God. This sacrament of the Holy Eucharist is the heart and soul of the life of our Catholic Church. Personally, I have great gratitude to my God for choosing me to be a priest and to celebrate the Holy Mass; I am allowed to bring the Lord Jesus in Holy Communion, Body and Blood,



Fr. William G. Muench

to the people of God.

When we talk about this sacrament we use the word "transubstantiation." Through the sacrament of Holy Orders, a priest calls upon the action of the Holy Spirit during Mass and Jesus becomes present in the bread and wine placed on the altar at the offertory.

Here are the words that the Council of Trent used to teach about the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist: Under the consecrated species of bread and wine, Christ himself, living and glorious, is present in a true, real and substantial manner - is truly the Body and Blood of Christ, Our Savior.

This is what we, Catholics, believe. However, for many it seems unbelievable. The reception of Holy Communion indicates that Jesus wants to be one with us, united in a special way, spiritually

and physically. Each time we receive Holy Communion we are transformed. We truly become a new person, and we do it repeatedly. This sacrament is a source of new life and strength for each of us. This sacrament is not meant to be some sort of reward for the disciples of Jesus. This Holy Eucharist brings to us God's help and support, strengthening us as disciples of the Lord and filling our lives with the love and peace of Our God. In the Eucharist, we are empowered to make this world a better place.

Each Mass is a constant source of power to make us new and alive - dedicated in every way to the Lord Jesus Christ and united in every way to the Lord. Each time we leave the church after celebrating Mass, we are a new and different person. We have spent time with the Lord; we have received Holy Communion. Of course, we must be different. Our time with the Lord is transformative. We must be more dedicated, more active, more enthusiastic as we prepare to live this

day alive in our Catholic faith.

So, I want to encourage you to allow this magnificent sacrament of the Holy Eucharist to be a part of all you are and do. Let the Lord come alive in you, transforming all you do by the grace of the Holy Eucharist.

Personally, I know I expect so much from the Lord each time I celebrate Mass. So, I take the time to prepare well for the time when I go to the altar for Mass. I want to make this spiritual experience to be truly profitable for my own spiritual life and for those in the congregation. I want us all to become new each time we receive the Blessed Eucharist in Holy Communion.

I pray that you will make the Holy Eucharist an important part of your spiritual life. This is truly the prayer of our Catholic Church. I believe that this is truly the way in which Our Lord will make each parish strong and active, united with the Lord and with each other, and bringing new love and peace to each of our communities.



# New principal, assistant principal at St. Agnes



**Katie Turner, principal**

As students, teachers, staff and administrators around the diocese and state prepare for the start of the 2023-24 school year, St. Agnes School in Lake Placid is preparing for the new year with new leadership.

After eight years in various roles at the school, Katie Turner will serve as the principal.

Turner, who earned both her bachelor's degree and master's degree in elementary education with a focus on literacy and training as a reading specialist, has previously served as a art and science teacher, after-school and summer program director and family support coordinator at the school.

"St. Agnes has held a special place in my heart since I moved to Lake Placid, and I look forward to another amazing school year."

Vanessa Pillen will serve as St. Agnes School's new assistant principal.

Before earning a master's degree in



**Vanessa Pillen, assistant principal**

educational administration and teaching certificate, Pillen attended Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts, where she majored in biblical and theological studies.

Pillen has experience in a variety of roles in both public and private schools, including time as a director of special education and, most recently, a third-grade teacher.

# Couples invited to jubilee

Married couples and their families, are invited to the Diocese of Ogdensburg's Marriage Jubilee Celebration on September 10 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley will preside at the event and celebrate the 2:30 pm Mass.

All married couples

are invited to attend the Marriage Jubilee Mass. There is no charge. Couples registered before September 1, will receive a certificate from the Family Life Office and the St. Lawrence Society of Deacons, co-sponsors of the Marriage Jubilee.

Registration is available on-line at <https://www.rcdony.org/family-life/jubileereg.html>.

If you are unable to access the website, contact the Family Life Office at 315-393-2920 or reach out to your pastor or a deacon in your parish.

A reception will follow the Mass in Brzana Hall at the cathedral. Certificates will be distributed at that time.

Celebrate your favorite priest in the

**NCC PRIEST APPRECIATION ISSUE**

Join the *North Country Catholic* in honoring the special priests in your life. The *NCC* will be honoring our priests in the Sept. 27 issue of the paper.

Priesthood Sunday will be Sept. 24

We invite you to send a message to your pastor, spiritual advisor or priestly friend.

\$20 - a 1 column X 2 inch ad with a short message (e.g., Father Smith, we appreciate your service, from the Jones Family)

\$40 - a 2 column x 2 inch ad featuring your message, a photo or graphic design

\$135 - Quarter page ad

\$250 - Half page ad

\$475 - Full page ad

If you have a specific budget that is not listed we can design an ad based on that.

If you would like your ad in color please add \$25 (The *North Country Catholic* provides design services)

**Must be received in the NCC Office by Sept. 18, 2023**

Please cut out the entire ad when you send in your request.

YES! I/We would like to honor a priest in the *North Country Catholic*

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\$20 Special Message only  \$40 2x2

\$135 Quarter Page  \$250 Half Page

\$475 Full Page  \$25 Extra for color

Message as it will appear in the ad (please print) Feel free to use your own paper.

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Mail checks payable to: *North Country Catholic*  
PO Box 106, Canajoharie, NY 13317

# Camp Guggenheim season comes to close

## Camp keeps family connected to diocese

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

Currently residents of Baltic, Connecticut, Paul and Veronica Martin first met because of their connections to the Diocese of Ogdensburg and its mission in Mollendo, Peru. The couple's two children, Paul Jr. and Valerie, have continued that connection with the diocese by attending Camp Guggenheim.

Paul Martin was introduced to his now-wife in May of 2003, when Sister Mary Ellen Brett, a Sister of St. Joseph, introduced Paul to Veronica at a party celebrating the 40th anniversary of the founding of St. Martin de Porras Parish, the parish served by priests from the Diocese of Ogdensburg in the diocese's former mission in Peru.

"Veronica asked me if Paul was a priest," Sister Mary Ellen Brett wrote of the incident years later. "I said, 'no,' and introduced Veronica and Paul. I was part of the conversation for a while, and then they danced the night away. Veronica and Paul corresponded, and Paul made trips to Mollendo to visit Veronica. On May 3, 2008, they were engaged. Marriage followed."

The Martins have two children, Valerie, age 13, and Paul Jr., age 12. Both of the Martin youth attended week 5 at the camp, one of the 4 weeks of sessions for youth ages 12 to 15.

Valerie attended Camp Guggenheim for the second time. Paul Jr. was a first-time camper.

The two traveled six hours with their family to Saranac Lake for the Camp Guggenheim experience.

"I have a whole bunch of friends here now," said Valerie, explaining why she wanted to return for a second year at the diocesan youth camp. "And it's a lot of fun."

Valerie said she's stayed in contact with some of her camp friends throughout the year via text messaging and social media.

Paul Jr. said he was excited to attend after hearing about his sister's experience and enjoyed his time at camp.

"I'm making friends," he said. "And I liked the volleyball tournament. I play a lot of sports."

During the week the Martins were at camp, the chaplain was Father Stephen Rucker. Father Rucker, who served at the diocesan mission in Mollendo, Peru, was the officiant at Paul and Veronica Martin's wedding.

The two said they appreciated visiting and having a connection to this diocese that is so connected to their family.

"It's definitely special," Valerie said.



Marissa Davison, 14, of Chazy (right), makes a wrist rosary with friends at Camp Guggenheim with help from counselor Sarah Samperi (left).

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

It was another summer giving youth from around the diocese and beyond a chance to "hike, swim and praise" at Camp Guggenheim.

This year, camp kicked off with a new format for week one, three mini sessions for youth ages 11 to 13 to try out the sleep-away camp experience. If they enjoyed their mini-camp experience, the 12- and 13-year-old participants could then return for a full week of camp during weeks two through five, which were open to youth ages 12-15.

Week six is for campers ages 16 to 18.

Marissa Davison, who turned 14 just before the start of week five of camp, attended one of the mini sessions with her brother, James.

"If we liked it, we could determine if we

came back," said Davison, who lives in Chazy. "I was really happy I got to come back. I didn't want to leave after the mini sessions."

Davison said she attended the full week of camp by herself, not knowing any other youth attending week five.

"I'm making lots of friends," she said. "My number one, favorite experience was wrist rosary making. I saw them on the counselors' wrists, and I wanted to make them. If anybody is thinking about attending a camp, they should think about coming here. It's a great experience."

Anastazia Wojtaszek, 13, of Lyon Mountain, was attending camp for the second time.

"I like coming here with my friends, and I like meeting new people," she said. "Last year, I came with someone I

knew. This year, she and I went different weeks. A different friend came this week. It's a whole new group of people. That's my favorite part: meeting and interacting with new people."

The teen said she also enjoys the athletic opportunities at Camp Guggenheim, especially volleyball and swimming. Mostly, though, she enjoys the atmosphere.

"It's inclusive," Wojtaszek said. "Everyone joins in, and no one is left out. And it's fun."

During the week, campers rotate through a variety of morning activities, including liturgy, waterfront, project adventure and arts and crafts. Camp evenings feature special events like camp games, bonfires, a dance and a reconciliation service.

For more information, visit <https://www.rcdo.org/youth/camp>.



# Celebrating the Season of Creation

By Sister Bethany Fitzgerald  
Faith & Ecology

Each year, the Christian family unites to celebrate the Season of Creation from Sept. 1 to Oct. 4, a worldwide opportunity to pray and act to protect our common home. This season was first celebrated in 1989 and is encouraged by Pope Francis. As followers of Christ, we share a call to care for creation. We are part of all that God has made. Our wellbeing is interwoven with the wellbeing of the Earth.

We rejoice in this opportunity to safeguard our common home and all beings who share it. "The Season of Creation is a reminder... that God is Creator, and we humans, along with other animals and plants, are creatures. It is a reminder that we need to take care of one another as God our Creator takes care of us."

This year's theme for the Season is "Let justice and peace flow," taken from the Book of Amos 5:24. It provides us with an opportunity to pray, reflect and act together as the People of God for our common home. Like tributaries joining forces to become a mighty river, the ecumenical family comes together to care for our common home with a spirit of justice and peace.

As a world community, the imminent need is to protect our earth and help keep our global brothers and sisters safe and secure as we plan for a sustainable future for our children. The term "sustainable" refers to a substance, resource, or practice which is ongoing "forever" in terms of best practices in ecology and our earth. We can cite many examples of how our use of resources may have been positive in the short term but after decades, the practices are no longer sustainable. Practices must change for the system to survive and thrive. We cannot expect to see changes in our resource availability, air quality, water quality or even land availability to become evident immediately, but we do have a responsibility to assess our own practices. These steady minor changes in our lifestyles may cause minor inconveniences, but if we all seek to practice

conservation, we hope to see a change in attitude and in quality of life on earth.

It is no longer enough only to "reduce, reuse, recycle." We must learn the deep concerns emerging as our earth experiences changes which currently outpace our ability to cope without lifestyle changes. This includes our consumption and shopping practices and it certainly requires our responsibility to be informed ecologically and politically.

This season of celebration is a time to become more informed and make small

lifestyle changes, that with a unified effort, will make a difference for us and our future families.

Not everything has an easy answer or an instant fix. One may smile when observing solar and wind farms in operation. Even if they do require an openness to something new, these mechanisms provide a more sustainable alternative to fossil fuels that continues to warm our planet. Omitting a plastic bag in the produce aisle and replacing it with a reusable mesh bag may make a very small difference, but many small differences can help. Some plastic are necessary and helpful, but we can become more creative in discovering ways of replacing single-use plastics with reusable alternatives.

#### Suggested reading, programs:

- Read Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home by Pope Francis. Available on-line through United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) website

- See The Season of Creation Guide for a 6-minute video for more ways to celebrate

- Attend area viewing and discussion of "The Letter: A Message for our Earth as part of our Diocesan Celebration of the Season of Creation. The film will show in three locations. It is available on YouTube by searching "Environmental Crisis: Frontline Leaders."

#### Five ideas on how you can care for our Common Home now:

- (1) Leave the ice and plastic straw out of your drink and forgo the lid!

#### Save the date

There will be several viewings and discussions of the film *The Letter: A Message for our Earth* as part of the diocesan celebration of the Season of Creation.

- **Sept. 23** – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Mary's Parish Hall in Waddington

- **Sept. 24** – 1 to 4:30 p.m. at St. Anthony's Church in Watertown

- **Sept. 30** – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Emmaus Room at St. Peter's in Plattsburgh.

Straws, even when properly disposed of, often blow into waterways and end up in the ocean. The same is true of plastic lids.

- The energy required to turn 1 liter (1kg) of water at 0°C to ice at 0°C is equivalent to lifting it 21 miles!

- Drink liquids that are refrigerated so don't need ice...ice reduces the liquid served to you.

#### 2) Avoid single-use plastic

- Carry reusable (wood or metal) cutlery to avoid disposable plastic.

- Buy milk in completely cardboard cartons or reusable glass.

- Get natural fiber clothing (cotton, wool, silk); none of the "polys" can be recycled!

- Plastic fibers are released every time poly-whatever clothing is washed; micro-plastics are found everywhere on Earth, even in Antarctic, deep sea trenches!

- If something you want is in plastic wrap, think about not buying it to help reduce demand.

#### 3) "Fast" from driving one day a week

In 2020, US had 330 million people, 25% claimed to be Catholic in Gallup poll (Wikipedia). If all 83 million Catholics reduced driving by 1/7 in 2020, it would have reduced the U.S.

CO2 emissions from cars by almost 25 million tons. (Cars emit 681 million Tons of CO2 / year)

#### 4) Reduce the size of your mowed lawn and replace a part of it with wildflowers.

800 million gallons of gasoline used annually in the U.S. for lawn care and maintenance. 17 million additional gallons spilled in the process. 26.7 million tons of

pollutants! (Princeton University Study, May 2020) Check out Vermont Wildflower Farm Seed Company for seeds suitable for our bio-region and how to create a wildflower area.

#### 5) Improve home insulation, weather stripping and seek a greener furnace (or add a heat pump).

Heat pumps use outside air to heat the home and can also cool your home!!

#### Reconciling God, Creation and Humanity

We are most likely all familiar with an examination of conscience; but are you familiar with the Eco-Examen? This practice, rooted in Ignatian spirituality, is a tool for reconciling God, creation and humanity. It asks us to reflect on our personal relationship with creation, and to acknowledge and mend our ways and to promote ecological justice by standing in solidarity with those most impacted by environmental harm. The six steps are:

- (1) I give thanks to God for creation and for being wonderfully made. Where did I feel God's presence in creation today?

- (2) I ask for the grace to see creation as God does in all its splendor and suffering. Do I see the beauty of creation and hear the cries of the earth and the poor?

- (3) I ask for the grace to look closely to see how my life choices impact creation and the poor and vulnerable. What challenges or joys do I experience as I recall my care for creation? How can I turn away from a throwaway culture and instead stand in solidarity with creation and the poor?

- (4) I ask for the grace of conversion towards ecological justice and reconciliation. Where have I fallen short in caring for creation and my sisters and brothers?

- (5) I ask for the grace to reconcile my relationship with God, creation and humanity, and to stand in solidarity through my actions. How can I repair my relationship with creation?

- (6) I offer a closing prayer for the earth and the vulnerable in our society.

## Environmental Stewardship

## Invasive species in NY

Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si' On Care for Our Common Home*, reflects on the relationship between faith and ecology, stressing that care for the environment is an ethical and spiritual imperative. Pope Francis stresses our need to care for our Common Home and to better understand the interconnectedness between ourselves and earth.

Our diocese is blessed with natural beauty unlike anywhere else. Unfortunately, invasive species have become a pressing concern, endangering the delicate ecological balance. Non-native plants and insects threaten the local environment, biodiversity and economy.

Invasive species cast a shadow on the region's economy, damaging crops and affecting tourism. The emerald ash borer poses a threat to the timber industry, attacking valuable trees found in area woodlands. The invasive zebra mussel disrupts power plants and impairs water quality. A new concern is the spotted lantern fly that damages fruit like grapes. There are times we unknowingly spread these creatures and expand their territory of influence.

Addressing invasive species demands a comprehensive approach. Raising awareness through articles like this can create awareness and perhaps stimulate discussions. This may be a calling for someone as a new ministry for our faith community.

Pope Francis wishes us to recognize our shared responsibility to take care of our planet. Our actions, intentional or not, may have a profound impact.

As guardians of God's creation, we must rise to the challenge of combating invasive species in Northern New York State. Together, we can safeguard our natural heritage for generations to come. Future articles will focus on invasive species in our diocese.

By Jack Lucia  
St. Mary's Church, Clayton

## 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](http://www.virtus.org). Upcoming sessions:

**August 30** – 2 p.m. – St.

James Minor Church, Carthage

**August 31** – 2 p.m. – St.

Agnes School, Lake Placid

## Rest in Peace

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

**Aug. 30** – Rev. Bartholomew McLaughlin, 1914

**Aug. 31** – Rev. James J. Sherry, 1890; Albert R. Plante, 2000

**Sept. 1** – Rev. Michael Guth, 1864; Rev. John B. Martin, O.S.A., 1955

**Sept. 2** – Rev. Timothy J. Mahoney, 1938; Msgr. Claudius Sechi, 1966; Rev. Thomas G. Votraw, 2007; Rev. Floyd J. Bleaux, 2009

**Sept. 3** – Rev. David W. Driscoll, O.S.A., 1963; Rev. John S. Branche, 2003

**Sept. 4** – Rev. Alphee Perron, 1938; Rev. Walter J. Charbonneau, 1982; Msgr. Robert J. Giroux, 2000; Rev. Patrick Mundy, 2017

**Sept. 5** – Rev. Arthur Tardiff, O.M.I., 1961; Rev. John Sullivan M.S.C., 1962; Rev. Louis C. Gardner, 2000

**Sept. 6** – Rev. James Connor, 1930; Rev. Joseph Stanislaus Carroll, 1952

**Sept. 7** – Rev. Manuel Belleville, 1964

**Sept. 8** – Rev. Michael Jacobs, S.J., 1988; Rev. William H. Coffey, 2000

**Sept. 9** – Rev. Michael Olivetti, 1863; Rev. Thomas P. Fitzgerald, 1914; Rev. Antonio Audet, 1957

**Sept. 11** – Rev. J. A. Langlois, 1872; Rev. Hyacinth Rueberg, 1913

**Sept. 12** – Rev. Abraham T. Guertin, 1933; Rev. Vincent Skiba, 1984

# Funeral Mass celebrated for Daphne 'Betty' Steele

A Funeral Mass was celebrated for Daphne

M. (Betty) Steele, 98, a lifelong resident of Heuvelton and Ogdensburg, on Aug. 21 at St. Mary's Cathedral, with Father Joseph Morgan celebrating. Burial was in Hillcrest Cemetery.

Ms. Steele passed away Friday, August 18, 2023.

Born February 15, 1925, to the late Ralph and Mary Steele, Heuvelton, she was known to everyone as Betty.

As a North Country photographer, she was the recipient of the Ogdensburg Historic Commission's Elizabeth Baxter Award in 2018 for her lifetime of documenting the city and region.

Betty photographed presidents, British royalty, politicians and celebrities. Earlier in her career, she worked with the *Watertown Times* and the *Ogdensburg Journal*. She owned her own studio, "Steele Photography" on Black Lake Road. She captured the history of people in the North Country, photographing

weddings, family gatherings and portraits. She won numerous state and national awards for her work.

Betty, for many years has covered the special events at St. Mary's Cathedral, and her work regularly appeared in the *North Country Catholic*. Since her retirement, friends and family have enjoyed Betty's Facebook postings of historical photos featuring St. Lawrence Seaway development and Ogdensburg in the 50s, 60s and 70s. Betty loved and developed her photography skills since she was a teenager, progressing from a box Brownie camera to becoming a certified professional photographer using high tech digital equipment.

Betty is preceded in death by her brother, Alvin Steele and sister, Marjorie B Larsen. She is survived by nieces: Cathy (Fred) Piper, Pennsylvania, Ellen Prandi, Florida, Susan (Jerome) Pastwick, Oregon, and nephew John (Vivian) Larsen, Idaho.

"Aunt Betty" was a strong independent woman, loved and admired by her family. She will be missed.

Special Thanks to Betty's niece Cathy and Fred Piper for always being by her side and longtime friend, Yvonne Lesperance. Thanks also for the support and care given by friends and neighbors during these later years.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Betty's memory to the Ogdensburg Catholic Charities, 214 Caroline Street, Ogdensburg, NY 13669.

Online condolences may be made at [www.fraunfuneralhome.com](http://www.fraunfuneralhome.com).

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**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

**Aug. 31** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Sept. 2** – 4 p.m. – Installation Mass of Reverend Raymond J. Moreau as Pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls, the Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond in Norfolk and St. Andrew's Church in Norwood (at St. Andrew's Church in Norwood)

**Sept. 3** – 8 a.m. – Mass Celebrating the 175th Anniversary of St. Francis Xavier Church in Redwood

**Sept. 5** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

3:30 p.m. – New York State Catholic Conference Board of Bishops Executive Committee Conference Call

**Sept. 6** – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch

**Sept. 7** – 9:30 a.m. – Department Head Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

**Sept. 8** – 8:15 a.m. – Opening School Year Mass at St. Catherine of Siena Academy in Canton

7 p.m. – Deacon Candidates Class on Canon Law at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

**Sept. 9** – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Sept. 10** – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

2:30 p.m. – Diocesan Marriage Jubilee Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral followed by a reception in Brzana Hall

**Sept. 11** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Sept. 12** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

## To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terrianne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; [terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com](mailto:terrianneyanulavich@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](mailto:ccarrara@rcdony.org) Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340.

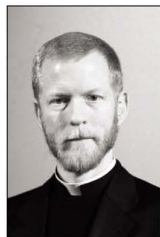
If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at 800-276-1562 or [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org)



## MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

# What about synthetic embryos?

Embryonic stem cells have held out a certain appeal and promise because they are remarkably flexible. Researchers can make various cell types out of them, whether nerve cells or pancreatic islet cells, and these could, in theory, be used to treat diseases like Parkinson's or diabetes. These morally-problematic cells, obtained by destroying human embryos, are, however, limited in their degree of flexibility, lacking the ability to "rewind" and make an entire embryo.



Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D.

Until now.

Recent reports suggest it may now be possible to generate "synthetic embryos" from embryonic stem cells through various manipulations, including genetic reprogramming steps and mixing various cell types together, without the need for sperm and egg. Researchers claim that synthetic embryos could be used to help them unlock the mysteries of very early human development, and address early pregnancy loss.

When a researcher from Cambridge University and another in Israel recently announced that they had been able to produce such an "embryo model," a longstanding "line in the biological sand" appears to have been crossed, along with some important ethical lines as well.

At least two notable ethical concerns arise in the wake of this new technology: First, the use of unethically-derived cell types in biomedical research, especially human embryonic stem cells, still remains a major con-

cern. Second, if scientists are able to successfully produce a living human embryo by this technology, this would clearly raise additional serious ethical objections.

New human beings are entitled to the respect of entering the world only through the marital embrace. Any time we create living human embryos by other approaches, whether by cloning, by IVF, by synthetic embryo construction, or by other novel methods, we cross a key moral line.

The big question hanging over this research is: Are these so-called "synthetic embryos" really living human embryos? If they are, we have walked right into the ethical landmine of creating human beings solely to be exploited for research or experimental purposes. If they are not, can that line be crossed through additional steps to make them authentic human embryos?

Scientists are likely to continue to improve their techniques so as to generate better embryo stand-ins, enabling them to study in ever greater detail the way that early human development unfolds.

As the Director of the Anscombe Bioethics Centre, David Albert Jones, sums it up: "A synthetic embryo is not a 'model' of an embryo, it is an attempt to make an embryo. If this attempt is successful, scientifically, then it will be wrong ethically, but if it is not successful scientifically then it will not be able to tell us much about normal human development."

The lab from Cam-

bridge concluded that the structures it made were not real embryos. Alfonso Martinez Arias, a developmental biologist at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona, Spain agreed, describing them as "masses of cells separated into compartments, but no embryo-like organization." He suggested that the cell manipulation "confuses what [the] cells do" so that a real embryo is not produced.

The research team based at the Weizmann Institute in Israel, however, produced extremely realistic synthetic embryo models that grew for up to two weeks. They exhibited characteristics quite similar to regular embryos, as developmental biologist Jesse Veenvliet of the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics pointed out: "The similarity to the natural embryo is remarkable, almost uncanny." If it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck then, as they say, might it really be a duck?

Some claim that if synthetic embryos were implanted, they would fail to initiate a pregnancy, and this proves they aren't real embryos. But women's pregnancies sometimes fail through miscarriages not because their child was "not an embryo," but because their child was affected by a genetic or developmental defect.

Could these newly-produced synthetic embryos be real embryos that have a defect thanks to the various laboratory manipulations they have undergone? It seems unsafe to start from the assumption that they are "synthetic" and hence "not-truly-embryos," given the challenging task of distinguishing a "non-em-

bryo" from an "embryo with a defect."

By employing terms like "embryo structures," "synthetic embryos," "stem cell embryo models," or even "stembryos," researchers may be seeking to go around ethics by relying on euphemism.

Even though sperm and egg are not directly employed to make synthetic embryos, this also does not rule out the possibility that these entities could be genuine embryos. In human cloning, for example, no sperm is needed to make real cloned human embryos. Dolly the sheep arose from a real sheep embryo, even though no sperm was involved. Over time scientists are coming up with more technologically advanced ways of creating organisms, including human organ-

isms, apart from the usual approach that relies directly on sperm and egg.

Ethically speaking, a great deal is at stake in these kinds of synthetic embryo experiments that threaten to manipulate and destroy human life. These developmental studies ought to be carried out by studying animal models, carefully avoiding the use of human embryonic stem cells and the production of human embryos.

*Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See [ncbcenter.org](http://ncbcenter.org) and [fathertad.com](http://fathertad.com).*

## REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

Eternal Father, we lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

(With ecclesiastical approval)

Mass  
Rosary  
Fasting  
Day Offering  
Eucharistic Adoration  
Offering of Sufferings  
Divine Mercy Chaplet

Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him

September  
Our Lady of Sorrows

### SEPTEMBER 2023

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY		SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
For more copies contact: Diocese of Ogdensburg PO Box 369 Ogdensburg, NY 13669								BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY
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A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated. The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by: Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society [www.vocationsnet.net](http://www.vocationsnet.net)



# We Share the Burden

## 2023 BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL



Your gift helped me to become a priest, thank you.

Thank you for the opportunity to build my leadership skills.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg

Thank you for the opportunity to become a Deacon.

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For more information and to view the 2023 BISHOP'S FUND video, please visit [www.rcdony.org/bfa](http://www.rcdony.org/bfa)

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provides financial assistance to the vital ministries of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

The following ministries are supported:

- Education of Seminarians
- Family Life Office
- Natural Family Planning Office
- Respect Life Ministry
- Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund
- Formation for Ministry Program
- Office of the New Evangelization
- Continuing Education and Formation of Priests
- Priests' Graduate Studies
- Vocation Office
- Permanent Deacons
- Deacon Formation
- Tuition Assistance Program
- Campus Ministry Program
- Matching Gifts to Catholic Schools
- Department of Faith Formation
- Diocesan Center of Youth Ministry
- Young Adult Ministry
- Guggenheim Center
- Department of Worship

## WAYS TO GIVE

**Gifts of Cash:** Checks should be made payable to the "Bishop's Fund Appeal."

**Pledge:** A gift to the Bishop's Fund Appeal may be paid in four payments - at the time of the pledge, December, February and April.

**Online Giving:** The Bishop's Fund Appeal offers the opportunity to make your gift and pledge payments online using a credit card. To donate online, please visit [www.rcdony.org/giving/donate-now-bishop-s-fund](http://www.rcdony.org/giving/donate-now-bishop-s-fund). If making a pledge, enter your first payment in the "amount" box and in the comments section indicate the total amount you wish to pledge.

**Automatic Pledge Payments:** To set up automatic credit or debit card pledge payments, please contact the Bishop's Fund Office at 315-393-2920.

**Matching Gifts:** Many companies endeavor to match the charitable contributions of employees. Please contact your company's Human Resource Department to determine if your company participates in the Matching Gift Program for Catholic Schools.

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**Bequests:** When considering gifts to a charity in your Will, please remember the Bishop's Fund Appeal. Gifts can be made in the following manner through your Will: Specific dollar amount; a percentage of your estate or a particular asset such as real estate or other valuables.

**Mailing Your Gift:** Please feel free to mail your donation to:  
**The Bishop's Fund Appeal,  
PO Box 150, Ogdensburg, NY  
13669.**





## OBITUARIES

**Alexandria Bay** – Jean (Carley) Elk, 100; Memorial Services Aug. 20, 2023 at the Costello Funeral Home.

**Au Sable Forks** – Gary E. Frenia, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 16, 2023 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

**Brownville** – Anne M. (St. Croix) Richie, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 25, 2023 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Dexter Cemetery.

**Brushton** – Margaret "Peggy" (Van Slyke) Mayer, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 18, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Bombay.

**Canton** – Patricia M. (Graveline) Morgan, 86; Memorial Mass Sept. 8, 2023 at St. Mary's Church.

**Cadyville** – Oscar G. Rabideau, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 18, 2023 at St. James Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Chateaugay** – Irene F. (Lawrence) McKee, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 16, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. George's Cemetery, Burke.

**Copenhagen** – Irvine J. "Dutch" Buchal, 93; Funeral Services Aug. 18, 2023 at Iseneker Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Croghan** – Arthur Roy Houppert, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 21, 2023 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

**Croghan** – Veronica R. (Sweredoski) Robbins, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 25, 2023 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

**Gouverneur** – William Leo Bodah, 73; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 16, 2023 at St. James Church.

**Hogansburg** – Robert J. Mitchell, 49; Mass of Christian Burial Aug.

25, 2023 at St. Regis Church.

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

**Lyon Mountain** – Isabelle "Theresa" (Ducharme) Wilson, 97; Graveside Services Aug. 26, 2023 at St. Bernard's Cemetery.

**Malone** – Nathaniel John Mills, 54; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 19, 2023 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Malone** – Joel T. Saumier, 54; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 12, 2023 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Norwood** – Dennis L. Jay, 69; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 14, 2023 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Katherine "Peanut" M. (Adams) Armstrong, 63; Funeral Services Aug. 23, 2023 at LaRue & Pitcher Funeral Home.

**Ogdensburg** – Barbara A. (Jeanneau) Ashley, 83; Funeral Services Aug. 17, 2023 at Frary Funeral Home.

**Ogdensburg** – Joan M. (Hall) Brossoit, 80; Funeral Services Aug. 14, 2023 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home.

**Ogdensburg** – Howard W. Quinn, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 18, 2023 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

**Ogdensburg** – Linda A. (Bogart)

Trimm, 57; Funeral Services Aug. 15, 2023 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in the White Church Cemetery, Lisbon.

**Peru** – Clara (Pelkey) Bruce, 91; Funeral Services Aug. 16, 2023 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

**Peru** – Charles A. Nocher, 75; Mass of Christian Burial at St. Augustine's Church.

**Plattsburgh** – Patricia M. (Prenoveau) Ruffino, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 14, 2023 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in Saratoga National Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Michael J. Whalen, 79; Funeral Services Aug. 16, 2023 at the Brown Funeral Home.

**Redford** – Leon R. "Ray" Durocher, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 26, 2023 at Church of the Assumption.

**Redford** – Constance A. (Maggy) Hall, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 15, 2023 at Church of the Assumption; burial in parish cemetery.

**Sackets Harbor** – Sally Ann (Brabant) Farmer, 87; Graveside Services Sept. 6, 2023 at Sackets Harbor Military Cemetery.

**Sackets Harbor** – Bernita S. "Toots" (Cullen) Huttemann, 108 ½; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 18, 2023 at St. Andrews Church; burial in Lakeside Cemetery.

**St. Regis Falls** – Helen C.

(Goodrow) Chambers, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 23, 2023 at St. Ann's Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery, North Lawrence.

**Tupper Lake** – Herman Charland, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 28, 2023 at St. Alphonsus Church.

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

**Watertown** – Linda (Fuller) Giltz, 83; Funeral Services Aug. 22, 2023 at Cummings Funeral Service, Inc.; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Diane F. (DiMinico)

Lane, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 18, 2023 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Dexter Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Agnes (Morgia) Natali, 100; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 21, 2023 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Lawrence Thomas Rose, 57; Memorial Services Aug. 26, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Watertown** – Leigh Ann (Taylor) Steinbarger, 56; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 12, 2023 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

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# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## San Francisco Archdiocese files for Chapter 11 reorganization

San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone on Monday announced that the archdiocese would be submitting a Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing, a development the prelate had earlier warned might come about as a result of numerous abuse filings against the bishopric. Cordileone earlier in August had warned that the filing was "very likely" in response to the "more than 500 civil lawsuits" alleging clerical sexual abuse filed against the archdiocese. A Chapter 11 filing, the archbishop said at the time, would allow the archdiocese to deal with those cases "collectively rather than one at a time," resulting in both a "faster resolution" of the crisis as well as "fair compensation" for the victims. "We believe the bankruptcy process is the best way to provide a compassionate and equitable solution for survivors of abuse," the archbishop said, "while ensuring that we continue the vital ministries to the faithful and to the communities that rely on our services and charity."

## Pope Francis is writing second environmental document

Pope Francis announced during an audience with lawyers Monday that he is writing a second part to his 2015 environmental encyclical *Laudato Si'*. The pope said with this new writing he is updating *Laudato Si'* to cover current issues. The Holy See Press Office Director, Matteo Bruni, confirmed to CNA Aug. 21 that "the pope is working on a letter updating *Laudato Si'* with regard to the recent environmental crises." He could not provide any information on when the letter will be released. Pope Francis made the statement about an update to *Laudato Si'* on the morning of Aug. 21 at the end of a speech to lawyers from the Council of Europe member states that signed the Vienna Declaration on the Support of the Rule of Law in 2022. Pope Francis told the lawyers he is sensitive to their care for the common home and commitment to the development of regulatory frameworks for environmental protection. *Laudato Si'* is the second of three encyclicals published in Pope Francis' pontificate thus far. *Laudato Si'* was released in 2015.

## Cardinal Dolan celebrates Mass at historic Irish 'Mass rock'

Irish-American Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York celebrated Mass at a "Mass rock" in Killarney, County Kerry, Ireland, during a pilgrimage with roughly 40 people from the Archdiocese of New York on Aug. 21. Dolan shared in a video that he has had the honor of celebrating Mass in several special places such as St. Peter's Basilica, Lourdes, and the Holy Land, but this location is particularly meaningful. "I don't know if anything is more meaningful than having Mass on a rock in the middle of the woods, hidden away, and recalling those brave Irish people who, because they were persecuted for their faith, at the threat of their lives, would sneak out into the woods when the priests would come, with sentinels watching for the British troops, and come to hold Mass and holy Communion here," he said.

# Bishops ask SCOTUS to uphold gun ban in domestic violence cases

By Kevin J. Jones  
Catholic News Agency

The U.S. Supreme Court should uphold a federal law that allows people under domestic restraining orders to be banned from carrying firearms, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has said in an amicus brief in a pending case.

"As the Church teaches, and this nation's historical traditions demonstrate, the right to bear arms is not an unqualified license that must leave vulnerable family members to live in fear," said the bishops' amicus, or "friend of the court" brief. "Abused victims are precisely the people whom a just government is tasked with protecting. The Second Amendment does not stand as a barrier to their safety."

The Supreme Court will hear the case *U.S. v. Rahimi* in its upcoming session in response to a lower court decision.

In May, a three-judge panel of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals sided with Zackey Rahimi, a Texas drug dealer with a violent history. The lower court vacated his conviction for illegal gun possession while under a domestic violence restraining order, Reuters reported. The court said the 1994 federal law Rahimi violated was not consistent with the Second Amendment and American traditions of law. People who are under domestic violence restraining orders do not lose their constitutional right to own firearms, according to the ruling.

The appellate court ruling was based on a new standard set in the June 2022 Supreme Court decision *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*, which said the U.S. Constitution protects an individual's right to carry a handgun for self-defense outside the home. That ruling means that lower courts need to consider whether firearm regulations are consistent with the Second Amendment text and with U.S. history and tradition, according to Bloomberg News.

The U.S. bishops' amicus brief stated that the bishops have an interest in *U.S. v. Rahimi* because they think it is particularly important to advance "the protection of the dignity and well-being of vulnerable and disadvantaged persons who live under threat of violence."

According to the brief, the law in question does not violate the precedent of the Supreme Court's *Bruen* decision. The bishops' brief said the federal law

assumed that "uniquely dangerous individuals can lose their right to keep and bear arms" and added that this is a constitutional assumption. The brief argued Congress has "legitimate authority to disarm those who have demonstrated - to the satisfaction of a juridical fact-finder - that they pose a unique danger to those close to them and to the common good."

Restrictions on firearms "must be consistent with the nation's historical tradition of such regulations" and this "requires continuity of principles," the brief said, summarizing the court precedent. The brief includes a consideration of how to engage with tradition, citing examples of Catholic history and the ideas of the development of Christian doctrine put forward by thinkers such as St. John Henry Cardinal Newman.

Regarding the American legal tradition of gun regulation, the brief said the Supreme Court "should clarify that the tradition as a whole is the point of comparison, not individual historical laws considered in a vacuum."

The bishops' brief objected that the Fifth Circuit's decision wrongly interpreted tradition and history, and wrongly focused on contexts in which there was no support for legal intervention against domestic violence. Domestic violence victims have a claim on the state for protection, and their cause is not truly separate from protecting the social order against violent individuals.

The brief argued the Fifth Circuit ruling failed to recognize the early American traditions of protecting wives from domestic abuse and failed to engage with the centuries of development in protections for violence victims.

"Society developed a greater appreciation of the danger posed by intimate partner abusers and linking the once-'private' acts to public safety risks," the brief said.

The Fifth Circuit ruling cited various reasons it is unconstitutional to disarm those accused of domestic violence. Surety laws, in which an accused person is allowed to post a bond, did not traditionally interfere with the accused's right to carry weapons, according to the lower court. Laws against dangerous persons historically aimed to preserve the political and social order, not to protect an identified person against "domestic gun abuse."



## VIRTUAL EVENT

## 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:** Sept. 14

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** Zoom

**Features:** Father Jonas Verdeflor, OMV will discuss the book *Total Consecration through the Mysteries of the Rosary* by Father Ed Broom, OMV with us and answer your questions. All it takes is a few minutes daily. In these pages you will be transformed as you grow closer to Our Lord and Our Lady. If you already have this book, you may start your preparation on Sept. 3 in order to make your consecration on Oct. 7, Our Lady of the Rosary.

**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

## FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

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

**Schedule:** Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2

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

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

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

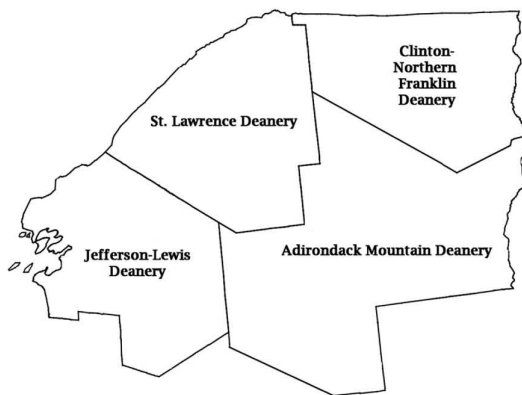
## PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

Plattsburgh - Are you a single Catholic man who is hearing the Lord's call to the Priesthood? Consider joining others who are listening and seeking to respond.

**Date:** Sept. 3 and 17, Oct. 15 and 29, Nov. 12, Dec. 3

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 5

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



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.

**Features:** High school age men and older are invited to gather with Father Howard Venette to discuss this vocation. Virtual participation may also be available for those unable to attend in person.

**Contact:** Please email Father Venette at [info@rcdony.org](mailto:info@rcdony.org)

## TURKEY DINNER

Lyon Mountain – St. Bernard's & St. Edmunds will be having a Fall Turkey Dinner.

**Date:** Sept. 10

**Time:** 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Place:** Lyon Mountain American Legion Post 1623

**Cost:** Adults, \$15; Children 6-10, \$10; under 5, free

**Features:** 50/50 various raffles. Proceeds will benefit the parish fuel fund.

**Contact:** For more information call 518-594-3907 or 518-593-2052

## APPLEFEST

Peru – The 45th Annual St. Augustine's Applefest to be held.

**Date:** Sept. 16

**Schedule:** Grounds open at 10:30 a.m.; Parade at 11 a.m.

**Features:** Giant Craft Fair, Music, A Multitude of Foods including a Chicken BBQ, Bake Sale, Games, Train Ride, Bouncy House, Silent Auction, Grand Raffle, Pull Tabs.

## ST. ANN'S HARVEST DINNER

Altona – St. Ann's and Holy Angels Parishes will be having a harvest dinner.

**Date:** Sept. 17

**Time:** 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Place:** Holy Angels Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$15; Children 6-12, \$8; under 5, Free

**Features:** Turkey and all the trimmings, Apple and Pumpkin desserts, Bake Sale, Themed Basket Raffle and 50/50 Raffle.

**Contact:** For more info., please call 518-236-5632

## WALKING WITH PURPOSE

Plattsburgh – Women's Ministry to be held offering two new studies.

**Date:** Begins Oct. 12 and will last for 22 weeks.

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

**Place:** St. John's Dwyer/McAvoy Parish Center

**Cost:** Suggested donation is \$40

**Features:** The two studies being offered are "Opening Your Heart" for newcomers and "Touching The Divine" for the 2nd year group.

**Contact:** For more information contact Janice Tobin at 518-569-5370

## LIVING STONES, A CALL TO SERVICE

Plattsburgh - Members of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Living Stones Committee will be updating on the work of the committee and plans for the future of our diocese.

**Date:** Oct. 4

**Time:** 6 p.m., Mass; 7 p.m., Program; 8 p.m., Fellowship

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

**Cost:** \$5 per person for refreshments would be most appreciated.

**Contact:** RSVP to Mary Skillan at [mskillan30@gmail.com](mailto:mskillan30@gmail.com)

## 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 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.

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

## FRANCISCAN MINI RETREAT

Watertown – The Secular Franciscan Fraternity invites you to join them for a time of scripture, prayer and fellowship followed by refreshments.

**Date:** Sept. 17

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

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

## THEME BASKET RAFFLE

Houseville – St. Hedwig's Society will have their Annual Theme Basket Raffle.

**Date:** Oct. 8, 15, 22 after the celebration of the 11 a.m. Mass. No tickets sold during Mass.

**Cost:** \$1 per ticket or \$5 for 6 tickets

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

**Features:** Theme baskets will be on display. Final drawing will be on Oct. 22 at 1 p.m. A bake sale and limited kielbasa sandwich luncheon will also be featured on this day. Proceeds will support church restoration and community outreach.

**Contact:** For questions or donations of theme baskets or bake sale items please contact Elaine 315-486-5532, Mary Ann 315-348-6260 or Lydia 315-348-7006.

## ST. LAWRENCE

## ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

# Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

**Date:** Sept. 2

**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:** Sept. 2

**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:** Sept. 2

**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:** Sept. 10 (Second Sunday of each month)

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

**Place:** Father 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.

## 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 massencatholics.com for info or to register.

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

### SURVIVING DIVORCE

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

**Date:** Starting Aug. 30

**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 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.

### 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 no later than 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. Don't suffer alone. Help is available.

### SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH LAY ASSOCIATE PROGRAM

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

**Schedule:** Sept. 16, 2 p.m. to 4 at St. Patrick's Parish Center, Colton; Sept. 17, 2:30 p.m. to 4 at St. John XXIII Newman Center, Plattsburgh.

**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](mailto:smelyngssj@yahoo.com)) or Sister Bethany [srbethsj@gmail.com](mailto:srbethsj@gmail.com) or call 315-782-3460.

### 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 through all 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. 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](http://www.rcdony.org/christ)

### HIGHSCHOOL 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> Questions contact, Anita Soltero, Youth Director at [info@rcdony.org](mailto:info@rcdony.org) or 315-393-2920

### BLUE MASS

Morrisonville - The entire Northern NY Community is invited to join in prayer for the safety and well being of all first responders and public safety personnel.

**Date:** Sept. 24

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

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

**Features:** Bishop LaValley will celebrate the annual Blue Mass. The Blue Mass is the Church's way to offer thanksgiving to God for the dedication and sacrifices made by the men and women of Fire, EMS, Corrections, Law Enforcement, and Communications. First Responders, their families, and all the faithful are invited to attend the celebration. Uniforms are encouraged but not required.

**Contact:** Questions can be addressed to Father Chris Carrara, Blue Mass Committee Chair at [info@rcdony.org](mailto:info@rcdony.org) or by phone at 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/ourlady>. Donations accepted to be payable to OLRHR and sent to Wadhams hall.

### ANDREW 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>.

### FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake - Family Guggenheim registration is open.

**Schedule:** 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](http://www.rcdony.org/family-life/fg.html) or contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920, [info@rcdony.org](mailto:info@rcdony.org).

# Rescuing lost, neglected Catholic books

By **Zelda Caldwell**  
Catholic News Agency

John Emmet Clarke, the 31-year-old editor-in-chief of the Catholic publishing house Cluny Media based in Providence, Rhode Island, is on a mission to rescue lost and forgotten Catholic books.

Unlike other publishers who publish the works of living authors, Cluny deals mostly with the dead - writers whose books have been out of print for decades and can only be found in used bookstores, if at all.

The company looks for "simply good books that are hard to find, too expensive, or just plain forgotten, and licensing new editions or recovering them from the public domain and putting them out again," Clarke said.

Founded in 2015, Cluny Media has amassed a catalog of about 360 titles, fiction, nonfiction, and books on Catholic spirituality that were out of print and unavailable. The company's logo depicts a monk writing in a book - a nod to the monks of the Abbey of Cluny, whose library was for centuries one of the greatest repositories of the written word.

Some of the books they've republished are lost classics by well-known, mostly Catholic authors, including French Catholic George Bernanos, American writer Willa Cather, Italian novelist Ignazio Silone, and the Norwegian Catholic convert Sigrid Undset.

Others are by authors whose works have been consigned to oblivion because tastes changed and it was no longer profitable to publish them.

"A lot of these works from the recent tradition, the last 120 years, have been neglected not

so much out of choice, because they're not quality or they have been replaced by superior works - it's simply because you can't access them because it's unclear who owns them," Clarke said.

Some of the books are now in the public domain and no longer protected under copyright laws, but for others, it takes a bit of legal detective work to determine who owns the rights to the works.

For Cluny Media, familiarity with the law is just as necessary as knowledge of the Catholic literary tradition.

"My father [Leo Clarke] is one of the co-founders and he's an attorney. And so part of his background is his understanding of copyright law, which is the main barrier to entry, really, for the past in terms of publishing, because it's a very difficult, intricate area of law to navigate," Clarke told CNA.

Clarke and his former classmate at Providence College, Scott W. Thompson, 31, who serves as Cluny's chief operating and financial officer, took over ownership and operation of the company in 2017.

In the company's early days, Clarke recalled, they used Robert Royal's "A Deeper Vision: The Catholic Intellectual Tradition of the Twentieth Century" (Ignatius, 2015) as a reference to help identify works to publish.

Among the first Cluny books was the French Catholic philosopher Jacques Maritain's 1920 book "Art and Scholasticism," which Clarke was assigned to read as an undergraduate.

"The professor would have to Xerox the book for us because he couldn't ask us to buy it because it was only avail-

able used. You can't ask 20 students to each drop \$100 on a used copy," Clarke said, recalling that he read Maritain's books as a "stapled printer paper edition" for four classes while a philosophy major at Providence.

"I finally emailed my professor after graduating, 'We're starting this publishing house and we're looking to recover lost works. Do you know why 'Art and Scholasticism' has never been republished in a quality edition? He said, 'I think it's because no one knows who Maritain's estate is, and so no one's really touched it.' So that became one of our first works. We identified the rights holder, licensed the book, and republished it," Clarke said.

They acquired their second book in a similar way: Myles Connolly's 1928 novel "Mr. Blue," about a modern-day St. Francis who gives up a life of riches in New York City to live a life of poverty and serve the poor. The Jesuit-run publishing company Loyola Press came out with a new edition in 2005 but let its license lapse, so Cluny swept in and purchased the rights to republish it.

Sometimes it takes years to acquire the rights to a book. Such was the case with "All in the Family," a 1966 novel about a Kennedy-esque Boston family by the Pulitzer Prize-winning author Edwin O'Connor, best known for his novel "The Last Hurrah."

"We tried for at least three or four years investigating, trying to find who in his family or his prior literary agents actually was the decision maker. And finally, I found three people in the state of Connecticut who could possibly be it. And I called their homes. I just

looked in the phone book and called and I spoke with [O'Connor's] granddaughter. I explained who I was. She was very taken aback, actually. 'How did you find me?' 'In the phone book.'"

Those who have read Sigrid Undset's Nobel Prize-winning trilogy "Kristin Lavransdatter," which some have called the greatest Catholic novel ever written, might be thrilled to discover that there are other books of hers to read. Her long out-of-print "The Wild Orchid" and "The Burning Bush" are available in new editions (like all Cluny books, the cover art is designed by Clarke and his mother, Kathleen Clarke).

Clarke says he's also proud to be bringing back to life the novels of Helen C. White, a longtime professor of English at the University of Wisconsin who wrote historical fiction in the 1930s. Cluny published her novel "A Watch in the Night," about a Franciscan friar in the 13th century, and plans to publish more of her books in the future.

"She was runner-up for the Pulitzer for it and almost won the National Book Award. It's a phenomenal book, and it only ever had one printing despite the fact that it almost won those awards. And same with all her books she's published by McMillan."

"I can't even remember where I first found her name, but that was really amazing to find these historical novels. I haven't found anything else really like them," he said.

Among Cluny's current bestsellers, which are available online and at some independent and university bookstores, is "A Sign of Contradiction," a book of meditations taken from a Lenten

retreat given by Cardinal Karol Wojtyla before he became Pope John Paul II.

Also popular: Rumer Godden's 1969 novel "In the House of Brede"; the English Catholic priest and theologian Ronald Knox's "The Mass in Slow Motion"; and French Catholic historian Henri Daniel-Rops' 10-volume history of the Catholic Church, which became something of a surprise hit, Clarke said.

A cradle Catholic, Clarke attributes his taste for old books to his upbringing. His mother used the "great books" program as part of her home schooling curriculum.

Clarke laments that as a society we have lost touch with the past and attributes it in part to a neglect of its literature.

"If you only read the new stuff without that foundation, I think you just get lost. But I think we see that in our discourse, whether that's within the Church or within our political order. There's a lot of talk and a lot of ideas and a lot of remonstrations. But no common foundation because we don't know our past," said Clarke, whose own writing can be found on his Substack, "Lord of Indiscipline."

"We don't share common books, though we have a common past. So why don't we access that common past through literature and understand where we came from so we can see where we're going?"





## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

## It's not always easy

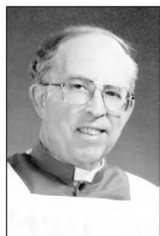
In last week's readings, Peter was given the keys to the kingdom. In this week's readings, he nearly gets them taken away! Jesus is so upset with him that he exclaims, "Get thee behind me, Satan!" That's tough language!

Peter got himself in trouble for strongly protesting Jesus' prediction of His Passion. In effect, Jesus is telling his disciples, I never promised you a rose garden!"

If we think Jesus is unfair, His Father had done this before.

Jeremiah, in the first reading, had been made a reluctant prophet. Jeremiah even claims that God duped him into the job. He's so angry and discouraged at the rough treatment he receives from his own Jewish people that he decides to quit. However, he can't get rid of the fire in his heart, so he continues to prophesy that Babylon was chosen as God's instrument for chastising Israel.

Why? Because Israel was just plain unfaithful,



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

September 3

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Jeremiah 20: 7-9  
Romans 12: 1-2  
Matthew 16: 21-27

and they deserved punishment.

Not that the truth makes a prophet's job any easier!

God has called all of us to discipleship, and we must be prepared for opposition.

It goes against popular thinking and popular belief to be either a prophet or an apostle.

How about just a plain, ordinary Chris-

tian?

We don't fare any better.

We get criticized at home, at the office, and even sometimes in Church from more comfortable Church members.

How many times in our lives have we felt that Jesus' teaching was just too much? We don't like turning the other cheek or forgiving 70 times seven times. We don't like being criticized or even ridiculed for standing up for Church teaching on abortion or contraception or stem cell research or the death penalty.

Yet, if we're loyal and

faithful....

St. Paul gives us some very good advice in today's second reading (You might even mark your bible, even memorize it): "Do not conform ourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind" and "offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God."

Following Christ isn't for babies. So maybe God or the priest didn't tell us everything when we started out. But that was a long time ago, and we've grown up since then. So, let's get on with it, and remember, there is a final act called Resurrection.

## CALLED TO SERVE

## Marriage: God found it very good

You may have witnessed a renewal of promises by a married couple at Mass on occasion. This beautiful practice is usually reserved for a significant anniversary, 25 or 50 or more years.

I presided at such an event once and said in my reflection that I was not comfortable with the word "renew" when it comes to the promises a couple makes to each other on their wedding day.

We renew a driver's license or a magazine subscription.

Somehow the word "renew" just doesn't seem appropriate to promises that are so significant, so compelling to the lives of the man and woman who have committed themselves to each other before God.

But I challenge you to find a word that better defines the act of restating those promises made a while back.

Marriage is a wonderful vocation.

Ask any couple married for a significant period and they will tell you it has not been a

cake walk. Kathy and I have been working at it for almost 53 years.

Marriage has its challenges, its difficult moments, but they are just that - moments. The promise a couple makes is for a lifetime. Those moments pale over the long haul.

An author on the Catholic Mom website, Jenelle Peregoy, spoke of marriage when she wrote recently, "I

commend you for setting aside your skepticism enough to seek a partner. I commend you for falling in love. I commend you for allowing yourself to become vulnerable and in turn accepting your partner's vulnerability. These are

the building blocks of intimacy. More than anything else, I commend you for trusting God and trusting your future spouse. Your marriage will depend on that continued trust."



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

Our diocese will celebrate that trust when Bishop Terry R. LaValley blesses all the married couples when they gather at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg September 10.

The 2:30 p.m. Mass and blessing that day marks the successful completion of a day or many, many years in married life.

The deacon community in the diocese and the Family Life Department cosponsor the

event. You can register at [www.rcdony.org](http://www.rcdony.org). Do it today so your anniversary can be memorialized with a certificate.

Here is a prayer that blesses the women and men who have answered the call to a marriage vocation.

"Lord, look with kindness upon them today, and as you have sustained their communion amid joys and struggles, renew their Marriage covenant each day, increase their charity, and strengthen in them the bond of peace, that they may forever enjoy your blessing. Through Christ our Lord. Amen!"

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

## Prayer amidst pain

*Pakistan is known for its ongoing tensions between the various religious groups present in the area. In recent months, some Christian Pakastani have been accused of blasphemy and arrested. This has led to acts of violence against Christians living in the region.*

Prayer, solidarity with the displaced, demand for justice: this is how the Christian community in Pakistan lives in the days following the events of Aug. 16 in the town of Jaranwala, where a wave of violence - caused by charges of blasphemy against two Christians - destroyed 26 churches, chapels and halls of worship (including three Catholic), 800 houses and left more than three thousand Pakistani citizens of Christian faith homeless. In the Diocese of Faisalabad, which encompasses Jaranwala, Catholic communities have come together to pray in all churches.

On Aug. 20, a special Day of Prayer announced by the Episcopal Conference of Pakistan, Msgr. Indrias Rehmat, Bishop of Faisalabad, celebrated Mass in the streets of the devastated neighborhood near the rubble of St Paul's Catholic Church alongside Father Khalid Mukhtar, the neighborhood's Catholic priest. All the Christian families participated with devotion and emotion, finding consolation in the closeness expressed by all the other faithful and in the approach to the Eucharist. "The Lord is always by our side. He is with us in suffering. His Body and His Blood are a source of strength, patience, hope and bear witness to God's eternal love for his people. He is in the midst of us today and let us not despair," the bishop told the faithful, many of whom had lost their homes and personal belongings.

[...] Along with prayer, a joint solidarity effort is underway for displaced families in Jaranwala. Caritas Faisalabad, with a team of volunteers, is distributing food parcels, hygiene kits and cooking utensils to affected families. Religious communities such as the Dominican Sisters of Faisalabad are active preparing and bringing cooked food to the displaced. The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate are working in the area to provide basic necessities such as tents and blankets. An action has also been launched by the Cecil & Iris Chaudhry Foundation led by Catholic Michelle Chaudhry.

There are around 3,000 displaced people, including 200 children. [...]. The police have already arrested more than a hundred suspects who are believed to be frontline looters. Meanwhile, to meet the needs of displaced families, the Punjab provincial government said it had approved compensation of 2 millions of rupees (6,700 USD) for each of the affected families."

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

# Funeral Mass celebrated for Joseph Denoncourt

A Mass of Christian Burial for Joseph E. Denoncourt, 92, of Ogdensburg was celebrated on Friday, August 11, at St. Mary's Cathedral with Father Joseph Morgan as celebrant.

Mr. Denoncourt died on Monday morning, August 7, 2023, at St. Joseph's Nursing Home surrounded by his loving family.

Joseph E. Denoncourt was born on August 7, 1931, in Manchester, New Hampshire. He was the son of the late J. Edward and Rose (Therrien) Denoncourt. He attended Central High School and earned his GED, enlisted in the United States Air Force, and served in the Korean War as a Maintenance Mechanic.

On April 17, 1953 he married Mary Ellen Gaffney at the Sacred Heart Chapel in Ogdensburg. Mrs. Denoncourt died on November 11, 2022.

After Joe's time in the Air Force, the couple moved back to Ogdensburg in 1955. In 1956, their first child was born. In 1958, Joe built their home at 1210 Jay Street without a power tool. Over the years, Joe worked all sorts of jobs from working at the A & P, remodeling homes and installing new roofs, and digging graves in the St. Lawrence Cemetery on the Grounds of the State Hospital. He worked as a foreman at Diamond National until its closure. After that Joe went to work at the Og-

densburg Housing Authority as clerk of the works until his retirement in 1991.

He enjoyed couples bowling, square dancing, and traveling; Alberta Canada, Branson Missouri, and Florida to name a few. The couple made an annual trip to Hampton Beach, New Hampshire with the children for many years. They enjoyed their boy's hockey years and their grandchildren's sporting events.

For many years, Joe proudly maintained a large garden, winning the "Maple City Award" one year.

He was a devout Catholic, a parishioner of St. Mary's Cathedral, a hardworking member of the St. Vincent De Paul Society, helping the needy for over 25 years, and a proud 4th-degree Knight in the Knights of Columbus.

On July 10, 2022 Joe received the Edgar P. Wadhams Award for Distinguished Service for St. Mary's Cathedral from Bishop Terry R. LaValley for his years of devoted service.

His greatest joy was spending time with his

children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

He is survived by his children, Myra Pitcher and her husband Curtis, Denise Barse and her husband Fred, Joseph Denoncourt and his wife Jennifer, Michael Denoncourt and his wife Karen, and Danielle Denoncourt; two brothers, Robert (Pauline) Denoncourt and Roger (Jeannine) Denoncourt; his brother-in-law, Merrill Shipman; 20 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He is predeceased by his son, Patrick Denoncourt; granddaughter, Monica Ellen Barse; his grandson, Cory Edward Denoncourt; and his sisters, Irene Shipman and Rose Morris.

Expressions of sympathy may take the form of donations to Our Lady's Ministry C/O St. Mary's Rectory 125 Ford Ave. Ogdensburg, NY or to the Ogdensburg Boys and Girls Club 610 Paterson St. Ogdensburg, NY 13669.

Online condolences may be made at [www.LaRuePitcher.com](http://www.LaRuePitcher.com)

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# Bishop LaValley to celebrate Mass at state Eucharistic Congress

Bishop Terry R. LaValley will celebrate Mass at Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine in Auriesville on Oct. 21 as part of the New York State Eucharistic Congress.

Bishop LaValley will celebrate the Mass at 11 a.m.

The Eucharistic Congress will run from Oct. 20 to 22.

So far, more than 5,000 are registered to attend. Registration is required for all who plan to attend, including those attending as a group or as volunteers. Register at [nyseucharisticcongress.org](http://nyseucharisticcongress.org).

Speakers include:

• **Cardinal Timothy Dolan** - Welcome and remarks

• **Father Dave Dwyer, CSP** - "Understanding What We Are Doing: Toward a More Active and Prayerful Participation in the Mass"

• **Bishop Joseph Epaillet II** - "Adoration: Fulfilling Our Vocation to Love"

• **Father Richard Fragomeni, Ph.D.** - "Bread of Angels, Gift of Baptism, Promise of Life: The Eucharistic Fulfillment of God's Desire"

• **Tim Glemkowski** -



## NYS Eucharistic Congress

October 20-22, 2023  
Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine, Auriesville, NY

Join 10,000 Catholics to worship at the sacred spot where the North American Martyrs gave their lives for Christ and where St. Kateri Tekakwitha was born.

### EVENTS INCLUDE:

- Mass with New York Bishops
- Confessions
- Great Speakers!
- Eucharistic Adoration and Procession

To register and find out more, visit [nyseucharisticcongress.org](http://nyseucharisticcongress.org).

"The Need for a Eucharistic Revival"

• **Patrick Kelly** - "The Eucharistic Heart of a Father"

• **Dr. Peter Kreeft** - "The Eucharist as the Remedy and Response to Secularism"

• **Father Roger Landry** - Emcee

• **Sister Mary Grace Langrell, SV** - "Eucharistic Intimacy: Letting Love Conquer Your Heart"

• **Bishop Terry R. LaValley** - Saturday Mass homilist

• **Lisa Lickona** - "My Defense and Shield and Strength and Salvation": The Eucharist in the lives of our American Woman Saints"

• **Mother Clare Matthiass, CFR** - "The Incredible Gift of Eucharistic Adoration"

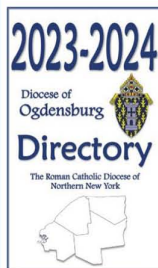
• **Katy Prejean McGrady** - "Fostering Eucharistic Love Within the Family"

• **Father Malachy Napier, CFR** - "Saint Francis of Assisi and the Furnace of Charity"

• **Mari Pablo** - "Heart to Heart: Jesus' Eucharistic Heart and Ours"

• **Bishop Edward Scharfenberger** - Sunday Mass homilist

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## CONCERT FOR UKRAINE



(Above) Father John Yonkovic, pastor of St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid, introduces (below) world renown pianist, Dr. Alexander Tentser. Dr. Tentser played to an exceptionally energetic audience on Aug. 14 at St. Agnes. The concert featured music by Ukrainian composers including Lysenko, Revutsky and Kosenko. The free will offering amounted to \$8,141, which will go directly to humanitarian relief efforts in Ukraine.

