

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

June concert
to support Mission
of Hope | Page 5

Judge blocks
N.Y. abortion
referendum | Page 12

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 79 Number 7

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MAY 15, 2024

Pastoral planning process for 2025-2030

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FULL STORY, PAGE 3

VOCATIONS DIRECTORS GATHER



For the first time, the Shrine of Our Lady of the Martyrs in Auriesville hosted the annual Region II Spring meeting of Vocation Directors in New York State in late P. Father Jason Hage, director of the Office of Vocation Promotion for the Syracuse Diocese, initiated bringing the directors into the footsteps of St. Isaac Jogues. During St. Isaac Jogues' captivity at Auriesville in 1640s, Father Jogues was the only priest throughout the vast regions of what would become NYS, a scarcity keenly felt by priests today. Pictured are, from left, Father Carlos Limongi of Archdiocese of New York, Father Matthew Conger and Father Christopher Carrara of Ogdensburg, Father Jason Hage of Syracuse, Father Sean Magaldi of Rockville Centre, Father David Baker of Buffalo, and Father Mitchell Zygodlo, a pilgrimage priest from Pittsford.

IMMIGRATION BACKLOG



Father Pedro Edgardo "Jay" de la Rosa, pastor at Holy Angels Church in Altona and St. Ann's Church in Mooers Forks, will soon have to leave the North Country to return to his country of birth, the Philippines, because a change in federal immigration categories has him stuck in an immigration backlog.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope proclaims 2025 Jubilee papal bull

By Courtney Mares
Catholic News Agency

The Catholic Church's 2025 Jubilee was officially proclaimed on May 9 by Pope Francis, who presided over a formal reading of the Jubilee's papal bull of indiction.

The papal bull, titled "Spes Non Confudit," meaning "Hope Does Not Disappoint," declares that the Jubilee Year will officially begin with the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve 2024.

The pope further decreed that every Catholic cathedral around

the world should offer Mass on Dec. 29, 2024, as the solemn opening of the Jubilee Year for their local communities. Pope Francis encouraged dioceses to organize pilgrimages to the cathedrals for the occasion.

The 2025 Jubilee will officially conclude with the closing of the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica on Jan. 6, 2026, on the solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.

"May the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the 'door' (cf. Jn 10:7,9) of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere,

and to all as 'our hope' (1 Tim 1:1)," Pope Francis wrote in the papal bull.

A jubilee is a special holy year of grace and pilgrimage in the Catholic Church. It typically takes place once every 25 years, though the pope can call for extraordinary jubilee years more often, such as in the case of the 2016 Year of Mercy.

Tradition dictates that each jubilee is proclaimed through a papal bull of indiction, a document written in Latin that bears the seal of the pope. Pope John Paul II proclaimed the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 with the

bull *Incararnationis Mysterium*, meaning "The Mystery of the Incarnation."

Excerpts of the papal bull were read aloud by a prelate in the atrium of St. Peter's Basilica.

"During the Holy Year, we are called to be tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind," Pope Francis wrote.

Pope Francis wrote he would like to open a Holy Door within a prison during the Jubilee "as a sign inviting prisoners to look to the future with hope and a renewed sense of confidence."

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President

Rev. Joseph A. Morgan

Vice President

James D. Crowley

Secretary-Treasurer

Darcy L. Fargo

Editor &

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Looking for love in all the right places

As I chatted with an acquaintance after Mass, my son, Jake, disappeared.

I found him relatively quickly. He was in the back of the church we attend, St. Mary's in Brushton.

As we made our way to the exit, I noticed Jake had a book in his hand. It was Matthew Kelly's book, "Rediscover Jesus."

Jake doesn't love reading. While it breaks my English-major heart, he

is not a big fan of books. The only content he typically reads voluntarily is sports news.

**Darcy L. Fargo**

By the time he went to bed that night, Jake had read two-thirds of the book. He finished it the next morning.

"I had never thought of Jesus as radical," he told me.

We then proceeded to have a conversation about Jesus being radical and about

radical love. We talked about examples of radical love.

"You spent five hours today bored out of your mind watching a track meet to support your friend," I reminded Jake.

Jake expected nothing in return from his friend. He was just supporting, loving, his buddy.

"That's radical love," I said.

"I never thought of that," he said.

My conversation with Jake made me think about the fact that I sometimes

take for granted actions made in love by myself or others, especially when those moments don't seem extraordinary or don't involve huge sacrifices or effort.

But God is love. I look for God in my daily life, even in the everyday moments that don't seem extraordinary. Why wouldn't I look for his love, even when it's expressed through others?

Now that I'm looking for moments of love, I see them everywhere.

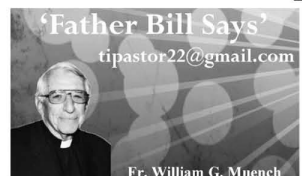
I hope that doesn't disappear.

Transformed by the Holy Spirit

Today, the sacred seasons of Lent and Easter have prepared us for the Pentecost. We have prayed and celebrated, remembering our Church's beginnings as we developed a more profound peace and sacredness. We have walked with Jesus and made his message ours: God loves us. God loves us all.

On Ash Wednesday, we began the time of Lent - the time for prayer and fasting to prepare ourselves for the celebration of the holiest week of the year, Holy Week. Holy Week is the most transformative time for us, Christians. During Holy Week, we walk with Jesus, remembering the Lord's Last Supper, the Lord's sufferings and crucifixion, and we rejoiced as we celebrated the Lord's resurrection. Easter is such a wonderful celebration - the Lord reminds us of our own resurrection as we celebrate his resurrection. "The Lord is risen; He is truly risen."

Then we spent six weeks of the Easter Season - our celebration of the Lord's Resurrection. This be-

**'Father Bill Says'**
tipastor22@gmail.com

Fr. William G. Muench

comes the time for us to prepare ourselves for the Pentecost, the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles. At the Last Supper, Jesus promised that he would send the Holy Spirit, who would become our Advocate, our guide as we live each day in the way of our savior, the Lord Jesus.

St. Luke writes the story of the Pentecost in the Acts of the Apostles. We are told that the apostles were gathered in the Upper Room. They were frightened - afraid to go into the streets, afraid to teach, afraid that they would be made to suffer as Jesus did. Then at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit comes to those apostles in wind and fire, making them ready to lay the foundation of our Church. The Holy Spirit transformed them; they were no longer afraid. They discovered a boldness

like never before. They could no longer sit still. They were now ready to bring the message Jesus to others - his message of love and peace, the message of God's love for all.

Now, this story is our story. The Holy Spirit is sent to us by our savior - the Holy Spirit comes to transform us. The Holy Spirit brings to us the same boldness as those original apostles received on the Pentecost. We receive the Holy Spirit in baptism and confirmation, and each time we receive the Lord in the Holy Eucharist.

So, we celebrate our Pentecost - this most sacred holy day, the birthday of our Church. We believe that the Holy Spirit brings to us those gifts as Jesus promised. We are called to develop our Christian life with the Holy Spirit's gifts, the gift of fortitude, wisdom, understanding, counsel, knowledge, piety and of fear of the Lord. The power of the Holy Spirit leads us each day to witness to the Lord Jesus by our lives. As Christians we constantly demonstrate our happi-

ness through God's love for us.

The Holy Spirit brought a transforming boldness to those apostles, making them missionaries of the Lord Jesus. Today the Holy Spirit bring to us that same boldness, leading us a new life as today's missionaries of our Church with a new spirit for all that we are called to accomplish by the Lord. Today, the Lord has a plan for each one of us, giving us the boldness of the Holy Spirit - a spirit for all of the Lord's apostles through the centuries.

Our Christian vocation is to be missionaries now, right here, right where we are. It is our call to lead others to the Good News of Jesus. We are called to be witnesses of the Lord. Yes, others should see Jesus in us. The true miracle of our faith is that from those humble beginnings of the Church on that first Pentecost to this day of the magnificence of our Church throughout the world. The Holy Spirit stays with us and challenges us to be bold witnesses of the Lord.

Pastoral planning for 2025-2030

Living Stones Planning Committee focuses on challenges, parish vibrancy

Pastoral Planning is an on-going process. The current pastoral plan for the Diocese of Ogdensburg runs through 2025. The Living Stones Planning Committee ("LSPC") has been focused the past several years on developing a pastoral plan for 2025-2030. Under the leadership of Gary West, the LSPC has developed a process to guide parish leaders as they formulate a plan that will meet the needs of their parishioners moving forward.

The goal of pastoral planning is to allocate our personnel and resources in a manner that will enable the Church to serve the needs of our parishioners. A vibrant parish is one that encourages its parishioners to be actively engaged in the mission of the parish so the needs of all can be met. To be vibrant, a parish must (1) center its life on prayer and liturgy, particularly the Sunday Eucharist, (2) offer faith formation and evangelization that forms authentic and enthusiastic parishioners; (3) receives sufficient support for its personnel and programs; (4)

demonstrates strong leadership by the pastoral staff, pastoral and finance councils and trustees; (5) has sufficient staff to support its mission, and (6) has adequate facilities to fulfill its mission.

The formulation of pastoral plans for 2025-2030 will be particularly challenging. During that timeframe, 14 of our current pastors will reach the normal retirement age of 75. Additionally, we currently have five pastors who are already over the age of 75 who will most likely retire during that time period. During this period, we anticipate there will be two to four ordinations to the priesthood for our diocese. These demographics present a challenge, but forming vibrant parishes to carry on our mission as a diocese is possible.

In our diocese, we are blessed by permanent deacons, commissioned lay ministers, dedicated staff, and hard-working priests to lead our pastoral care areas. Increasing the commissioned lay leadership in our pastoral care areas will be crucial in our 2025-2030 plan. Enabling

permanent deacons to engage more deeply in pastoral ministry in our parishes will ease the load for our priests and will assure that we meet the spiritual needs of all.

In addition to the decline in the number of pastors, our parishes have faced decreased income and lower Sunday Mass attendance. This follows national trends, but the challenge is greater in our region of the country where we see an overall loss of population, an aging population, a challenging economy, and pervasive secularization.

"Cooperation between parishes that make up our pastoral care areas will be more important as we move forward," according to West.

The process for formulating pastoral plans encourages pastoral care areas to reflect on how to provide sustaining worship, especially Sunday Mass in which all are fully and actively participating. Pastoral care areas are also asked to assure sufficient stewardship to support its mission, provide effective lay leadership, provide for an adequate staff, enable it to accomplish its mission and maintain its facilities.

"Making the pastoral care areas vibrant is our focus and our goal," said West.

The process charted by the LSPC proposes 29 pastoral care areas for our diocese. The plan asks the pastoral care areas to focus on becoming more vibrant and gives 39 guidelines and policies to help them in their task.

"I am grateful to the Living Stones Planning Committee," said Bishop Terry R. LaValley. "The planning process presents us with some challenges, but I am confident that we can work together in forming vibrant parishes that will serve the people of the North Country. Trusting in the Holy Spirit and cooperating with God's grace, we can continue our mission of proclaiming the Gospel and serving our brothers and sisters. I ask that we all embrace this planning process and that we be willing to make the hard choices and accept the sacrifices that will be


necessary to make this process successful".

In the coming months, the deans of the diocese will convene the clergy in their deanery to explain the challenges, the process for planning, and guide the process as it moves forward. The clergy, in turn, will lead the process on the parish level by bringing clergy, religious and lay people together to evaluate their needs and formulate their plan for parish vibrancy. When the pastoral care areas have finished their work, the Living Stones Planning Committee will recommend specific pastoral plans to Bishop LaValley. Pastoral plans will be implemented as circumstances dictate over the course of the next five years.

"This is an important undertaking," said Bishop LaValley, "and the sacrifices we make now will pay dividends in the future of our diocese. Please pray for and participate in this important planning process."

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Immigration change sends foreign priests home

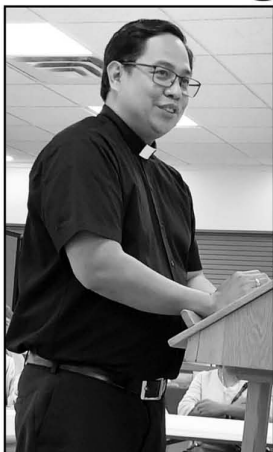
By Darcy Fargo
Editor

Changes in immigration categories related to foreign-born priests and religious and a related processing backlog have lengthened the process for obtaining green cards or visas, and the delay is forcing some of those individuals to return to their home countries for a year.

Father Christopher C. Carrara, diocesan vicar for clergy, says the issue was created when a large group of individuals was added to the same immigration category as the priests and religious.

"The problem, as I understand it, is that there are a limited group of visas available," he said. "Religious workers from all denominations fit into one category. With all the immigration issues happening, unaccompanied minors have been added to that category. So now there's a huge group of needy kids stuck in the same category as religious workers, and now they're all competing for the same visas. It's a no-win situation."

Because of the huge influx of applicants in the category, visas have taken significantly longer to process, if they're moving at all. As a result, visas expire before



Father Pedro Edgardo
"Jay" de la Rosa

further actions are taken, forcing the individual caught in the backlog to return to his or her country of origin for a year.

"USCCB (The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) is actively working on this topic with the Biden administration," Father Carrara said. "The administration has said they plan to address that (one-year) period of time and shorten it for religious workers. The challenge is that it won't happen quickly, likely not before the next election."

Father Carrara noted USCCB has issued an action alert on the matter, urging Catholics to contact their U.S. representatives and senators urging them to adopt the Protect Vulnerable

Contact your representatives

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Action Center has a form to make it easy to contact federal officials urging them to address juvenile immigration separate from religious worker/employment-based visas. Access that form at <https://www.votervoicenet/USCCB/Campaigns/106744/Respond>

Immigrant Youth Act, which would put the unaccompanied minors in a humanitarian protection immigration category instead of an employment-based immigration category.

"This would ensure that abused, neglected, or abandoned youth who are deemed eligible for relief by state courts no longer need to compete with adults relying on the same category of visas," the USCCB action alert states. "These minors are ill-suited for the EB-4 visa category, as they are seeking humanitarian protection, not employment-based immigration. Passage of the bill would simultaneously free up visas for others in the EB-4 category, including immigrant religious workers depended upon by many Catholic dioceses and other religious organizations throughout the United States."

Father Carrara also made the New York State Catholic Conference aware of the issue, and the state Conference has been helping New York dioceses and bishops work with USCCB to contact federal officials and advocate on this issue since.

Dennis Poust, executive director of the Conference, said the issue wasn't on the state organizations' radar prior to an inquiry from Father Carrara, as no other diocese had brought up the issue at the state level.

After looking into the matter, Poust said it was determined "that every diocese in the state is dealing with it in some way."

In our diocese, Father Pedro Edgardo "Jay" de la Rosa, pastor at Holy Angels Church in Altona and St. Ann's Church in Mooers Forks, is caught in the visa delay, and he'll be required to return to the Philippines on June 12.

While originally from the Philippines, Father de la Rosa has been incardinated and is a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

"It's hard for me," Father de la Rosa said. "When I go home, I'm no longer incardinated in the archdiocese there. Unlike other priests from the archdiocese who are also going home, they already know where to go. For me, who is not incardinated, I don't have that."

Father de la Rosa said he's in communication with the archdiocese where he's from, and he's hoping to be able to celebrate Masses and assist there during his year away from the North Country.

Beyond living his vocation, Father de la Rosa said he also has to work out day-to-day concerns.

"When I was incardinated here, I sold my car (in the Philippines)," he said. "When I went home to visit last September, I was able to

borrow a car. Right now, I don't see being able to borrow a car for a year. These are the things I'm thinking about right now."

Of Father de la Rosa's immediate family, only his brother remains in the Philippines. The majority of his family lives in North America.

While he will remain the pastor of St. Ann's and Holy Angels churches, a temporary administrator will be appointed, as well.

"Right now, I'm the pastor," he said. "When I go home, I'm still the pastor. I won't be there physically, but I plan to stay connected to the parish. With the day-to-day activities, I will not interfere, but I want to know what's happening, so I won't be a complete stranger when I come back."

He also looks forward to staying in contact with his parishioners.

"They're not just parishioners," he said. "To me, they are family."

Father de la Rosa said it's not just his parishioners he'll miss.

"I'm part of the presbyterate of the Diocese of Ogdensburg," he said. "The priests are brothers to me. They tell me, 'it's only a year.' I hope it'll pass quickly. Am I excited and happy to go home? Of course I'm happy going home. My friends and former parishioners will be happy to have me, but it's also hard because this is home, too."

Unless the situation changes, Father de la Rosa will be out of the country until June 13, 2025.

"I ask the people here to pray for me while I'm home," he said. "And I will pray for all of you."

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June 9 concert to support Mission of Hope

The band, Towne Meeting, known for their powerful vocal harmonies and engaging performances, will be performing a benefit concert for the North Country Mission of Hope on Sunday, June 9 at 7 p.m. at St. Augustine's Church in Peru.

Always a crowd pleaser, Towne Meeting is back by popular demand to perform a concert at St. Augustine's Church. Oriented in folk, Towne Meeting's music branches out into many other genres, from Americana to classic acoustic rock and sometimes country and bluegrass.

Towne Meeting has been enthusiastically received throughout the region for several years.

They have produced seven CDs with an outstanding collection of their music which will be sung including familiar favorites as well as original works highlighting peace and justice themes, the environment, and the beauty of the North Country. Over the years, because of the spirit of generosity on the part of the people of the North Country and the band, more than \$10,000 has been raised for the Mission.

Admission to the June 9 concert is by donation, and all proceeds will be used to support ongoing projects of the North Country Mission of Hope. Come, relax and enjoy an evening of fine music while helping our neighbors here and around the globe.



Towne Meeting is comprised of Gary VanCour (vocals, guitar, ukulele, and percussion), Dennis Hulbert (vocals and guitar), Anastasia Pratt (vocals and bass) and Miles Moody (vocals and guitar). The band will perform June 9 at St. Augustine's in Peru to raise funds for North Country Mission of Hope.

State Catholic Conference updates website

The New York State Catholic Conference (NYSCC) has launched a newly redesigned website aimed at improving accessibility and user experience.

The site streamlines navigation and improves the ability for users to connect with content.

"The redesigned website has a fresh, clean, modern design which will make it easier and more efficient for our audience to access content," said Gillian Murphy, director of digital media & advocacy. "In these complex and controversial times, there are so many important public policy issues which affect Catholics across New York State, and our hope is that the redesigned site will facilitate users' understanding of these issues



The New York State Catholic Conference's redesigned its website to focus on public policy issues and make the site easier to navigate and more accessible to individuals with disabilities.

and educate them on Catholic social teaching." The NYSCC's prior intuitive design offers website was launched over a decade ago. The optimization for any device, whether using a

desktop, laptop, tablet, or handheld device. Recognizing the diversity of New York's Catholics, the website improves accessibility to support people with disabilities.

"The Conference wants to thank Web Instinct and Erin Ryan Designs for their collaboration with us on the redesign," said Murphy, who noted that the redesigned website coincides with an update to the Conference's logo colors, replacing the previous red and black with gold and navy to more closely reflect the Empire State.

Visit the new website at <https://www.nyscatholic.org/>.

The Catholic Conference represents the Bishops of New York State in public policy matters.

Environmental Stewardship

Living stones of hope

We hear in 1Peter 2:5 that we are called to be "living stones, (who) are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." Becoming a living stone in the Church calls us to an intimate relationship with God and an active participant in his mission of love.

Last week, we considered along with our amazement of God's creation, a sense of profound grief when we see the ways human activities have caused devastation in the garden entrusted to our care. As living stones in Christ's Body, the Church, we may ask how we can help create a brighter future for all.

A starting place for this work can begin at home with you, your family and your neighbors doing little, concrete acts of reducing, repurposing and recycling. However, constructing a building requires many stones put together. When you join others who have an awareness of the criticalness of this moment we are living in and want to know what else can we do, it can generate greater hope for the future.

Did you know that countless parishioners are creating Creation Care Teams in their parishes? You may be thinking, "What is a Creation Care Team? What does it look like? How does one start one? How many people do you need to start one?"

In response to these questions, register now for the virtual event, LET US ACT WITH HOPE: Planting Creation Care at www.rcdony.org/laudatosi. The speakers will provide us with many reasons for hope and amazing resources to create circles of hope in our own backyards and parish churches.

This event is sponsored by the Laudato Si' Committee of Diocese of Ogdensburg and Task Force of Diocese of Syracuse. Our bishops will be offering the prayer each night.

Editor's Note: In celebration of the Eucharistic Revival, Father Bryan Stitt, director of Worship for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, will answer questions about worship, the Eucharist and related topics. To submit a question, email bstitt@rcdony.org.

What's the difference between a funeral Mass, a Catholic funeral service, and a Memorial Mass?

Rest in Peace

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

May 15 – Rev. William Rositer, 1908; Msgr. James R. McClure, 1960; Deacon William G. Schmidt, 2016

May 16 – Rev. Moses Legualt, 1908; Rev. John M. McIntyre, 1944; Msgr. Peter R. Riani, 2019

May 18 – Rev. John B. A. Legrand, 1891; Rev. Richard J. Cotter, 1928; Rev. Augustus J. Dumont, 1949

May 19 – Msgr. Arthur M. Leary, 1968; Deacon Vincent J. Frattali, 2003; Rev. Richard S. Sturtz, 2021

May 20 – Rev. Eugene Noury, O.M.I., 1961; Rev. P. Andrew L'Esperance, M.S.C., 1962

May 21 – Msgr. John Pendergast, 1998

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg is able to schedule sessions of the training, Protecting God's Children for Adults. This required training addresses child abuse, the methods and means by which abusers commit abuse, and the five steps to prevent abuse from occurring and stop it from continuing. To arrange for training, call 315-393-2920 or email jgrizzuto@rcdony.org

Funeral Mass?

Great question!

A funeral Mass is the core of the Catholic funeral rites. Our funerals ideally have three parts. First is the vigil (often known as the wake) where family and friends gather in the presence of the deceased to pray in the presence of their body, to share stories, and to console one another.

This used to be done

Bishop's Public Schedule

May 13-15 – Presbyteral Assembly at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

May 16 – 1 p.m. – Priest Council of New York Virtual Meeting

6:30 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid with St. Brendan's Church in Keene, St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake and St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Tupper Lake

May 17 – 4:30 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Cecilia's Church in Adams with Queen of Heaven Church in Henderson

May 18 – 1 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Martin's Church in Port Leyden with St. Mary's Church in Constableville, St. John's Church in Lyons Falls and St. Mary's Nativity Church in West Leyden

May 19 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

3 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg with St. Raphael's Church in Heuvelton, Saints Philip and James Church in Lisbon, St. Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls, the Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond in Norfolk and St. Andrew's Church in Norwood

May 20 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch

May 21 – 1:30 p.m. – Mount St. Mary's Seminary Board of Trustees Meeting



FROM WONDERING TO WONDER IN WORSHIP

With Father Bryan Stitt, Diocesan Director of Worship

at the family home but almost always happens at a funeral home today.

The end of the three-part funeral rite is the burial. Catholics feel strongly about burying the dead just as we buried the body of our Lord. Even when cremation occurs, the remains are to be buried (not sprinkled) to allow for a fitting lasting location to come and pray and remember our loved one.

This also prevents the sad situation of possibly losing the remains if they are left unburied.

The climax of the funeral rites takes place at the church. And here is the answer to your

question: What happens when the body/remains are brought to the church is a funeral Mass or a funeral service? There is a difference.

Many people are surprised to know that Catholics can have funerals that aren't part of a Mass. It's true.

While the Mass is the greatest of prayers and is the presumed option, the Church foresees the possibility of a service (not a Mass) when a large percentage of the family/friends are not Catholic.

For them, the prayers that are particular to a Catholic Mass (for example: "May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of His name, for our good and the good of all His Holy Church.") are cumbersome and confusing.

Since there is no prayer greater than the Mass, the parish should always celebrate a Mass for each of her deceased parishioners, but the funeral does not necessarily have to be in the context of Mass.

A Mass that would be offered for the deceased could be called a Memorial Mass. We would do so if the body/remains were not able to be brought to the church for funeral (When the body is donated to science would be an obvious example here).

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terrianne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-358-3145, Ext. 7179 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rcdony.org Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340.

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

Study suggests 'cafeteria Catholicism' is rampant

By Peter Pinedo
Catholic News Agency

Ryan Burge, a leading researcher on religion and politics, recently compiled data indicating that "cafeteria Catholicism" is rampant in the United States. Specifically, the country's Catholics express widespread disagreement with the Church's teaching on abortion, euthanasia, and the death penalty.

The term "cafeteria Catholic" refers to a Catholic who picks and chooses which Church teachings he or she affirms and adheres to. Washington, D.C., Cardinal Wilton Gregory recently used the term to describe President Joe Biden, who as president has advocated for unrestricted abortion through all nine months of pregnancy.

Burge found that only 0.9% of Catholics agree with Church teaching on all three of the issues. His conclusions were based on 2022 data collected by the Global Social Survey (GSS) and compiled by the Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA). Burge told CNA that the 0.9% number is an all-time low since GSS started collecting data in 1972.

"It's not just many Catholics who disagree with the teachings of the Church - in fact, if you look at the data, it's nearly all of them," said Burge, who teaches political science at Eastern Illinois University.

This coincides with an overall 12% decline in Church attendance among Catholics over the last two decades, as

found by Gallup.

ABORTION

Despite the Catholic Church's clear teaching that abortion is gravely immoral, Burge said, there is "clear majority support for elective abortion in almost every circumstance."

Over 50% of Catholics support abortion when the mother's health is at risk, the child is the result of rape, if there is a "strong chance of serious defect in the baby," and when the family or mother either does not want or cannot support another child.

Nearly 90% of Catholics support abortion in such cases in which the mother's health is at risk. Over 80% of Catholics support abortion in cases of rape, and close to 80% of Catholics support abortion for serious defects.

ARDA also reports that 17.7% of Catholics believe abortion should be illegal in all cases.

EUTHANASIA

Regarding euthanasia, which the Church teaches is morally unacceptable, and suicide, which the Catechism of the Catholic Church calls "contrary to love for the living God," most Catholics again are not in agreement with the Church's teaching.

According to the data, 70% of Catholics support euthanasia, defined in the survey as a person's ability to commit suicide in the case of an incurable disease. As pointed out by Burge, Catholics' support for euthanasia and assisted suicide has been growing since the 1980s.

DEATH PENALTY

In recent decades,

the Church has been increasingly voicing its opposition to the death penalty. In 2018, the Catechism of the Catholic Church was revised to reflect that opposition.

The catechism acknowledges that in the past "recourse to the death penalty on the part of legitimate authority, following a fair trial, was long considered an appropriate response to the gravity of certain crimes and an acceptable, albeit extreme, means of safeguarding the common good."

"Today, however, there is an increasing awareness that the dignity of the person is not lost even after the commission of very serious crimes. In addition, a new understanding has emerged of the significance of penal sanctions imposed by the state. Lastly, more effective systems of detention have been developed, which ensure the due protection of citizens but, at the same time, do not definitively deprive the guilty of the possibility of redemption," the catechism indicates.

The catechism goes on to quote Pope Francis in stating that "the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person."

Despite this, ARDA found that 61% of Catholics are in favor of the death penalty for convicted murderers. Support for the death penalty among Catholics has waned in recent decades after reaching a high of 81% in 1990.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Man who stole Pope Benedict's pectoral cross gets prison time

The man arrested for the theft of a pectoral cross bequeathed by the late Pope Benedict XVI to a parish in his native Bavaria is now facing time behind bars. According to CNA Deutsch, CNA's German-language news partner, the Traunstein district court on Monday sentenced a 53-year-old Czech citizen to two years and six months in prison. The perpetrator, whom authorities described as a serial thief with a history of crimes across several European countries, left traces at the crime scene that led to his identification and arrest. However, local media reported that the cross is still missing, and the verdict may yet be appealed. Despite the judge interrupting the trial twice to give the defendant and his lawyer time to call an associate to whom he allegedly had given the cross "for safekeeping," all attempts to contact the associate were unsuccessful - leaving the cross' whereabouts still unknown. Before the verdict was announced, the defendant addressed the court, promising the cross would come back to Traunstein, Bavaria state media reported.

Florida sues Biden administration over gender ruling

The attorney general of Florida on Tuesday announced a lawsuit against the Biden administration over new federal rules requiring insurers to cover gender-based surgeries and medical procedures. The lawsuit, filed on Monday in U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida, is meant to halt the White House's attempt to "force the state to pay for puberty blockers and gender-transition surgery for children," Attorney General Ashley Moody said in a press release. The administration's recently promulgated rule, filed in the Federal Register on Monday and set to go into effect in July, amends the non-discrimination clause in Section 1557 of the federal Affordable Care Act by expanding the definition of "sex" to include "gender identity," among other new additions. The change means that any insurer or physician receiving federal financial assistance must cover or provide sex-reassignment surgeries and therapies on the grounds that refusal to do so would constitute discrimination based on sex.

Vatican to publish new document on Marian apparitions

The Vatican's doctrine office will publish a new document next week on discerning Marian apparitions and other supernatural events. The Holy See Press Office announced on Tuesday that Cardinal Víctor Manuel Fernández, the prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith (DDF), will unveil new norms for discernment regarding "apparitions and other supernatural phenomena" on Friday, May 17. In an interview with the National Catholic Register, CNA's sister news partner, last month, Fernandez said that the document will provide "clear guidelines and norms" for discernment. The new norms will be the first time that the Vatican's doctrinal office has issued a general document on apparitions in four decades. Pope Paul VI approved norms on "the discernment of presumed apparitions or revelations" in 1978.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

PODCAST RETREAT

Join Father Chris Looby (pastor of St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga) on a spiritual journey through the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary with 'Days of Light: Reflections on the Luminous Mysteries,' a new podcast hosted by Father Chris from St. Mary's Church."

Date: Beginning May 13 for a total of 5 days.

Place: Available on Apple Podcast, Spotify and Amazon Music, go to www.route74catholics.org for the link.

Features: Each episode delves into one Luminous Mystery, exploring its scriptural foundations, its significance in our lives today, and leading us in prayer. Whether you're at home, in your car, or taking a peaceful walk, 'Days of Light' offers you a chance to reflect, pray, and grow in your faith with these powerful mysteries.

PLANTING CREATION CARE TEAMS

Join us for two virtual presentations, reflection time, and opportunities to share ideas to start and maintain a creation care team. Event is organized by the Laudato Si' Committees of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and Syracuse.

Date: May 16 and 23

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8

Place: Zoom (link will be sent a few days before event)

Features: Creation Care Teams raise awareness of Catholic Social Teaching on the care for our common home, discover practical ways to promote ecologically sound practices, and foster a thriving sustainable community within your parish.

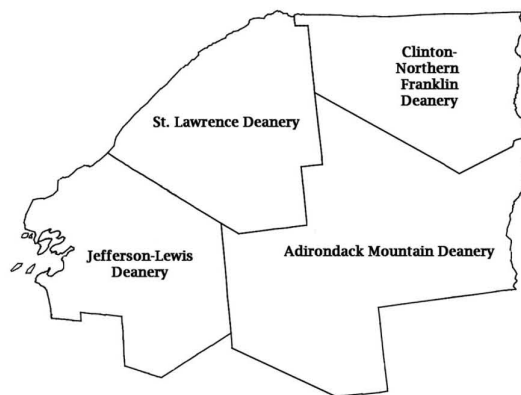
Contact: To register: www.rcdony.org/laudatosi

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Ticonderoga — Join for a Women's Ministry, a place of fellowship, faith and friendship.

Date: Beginning May 17 and then every third Friday of the month.



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

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

e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

Time: Immediately following the 9 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: Light breakfast will be served. In addition to weekly fellowship, there will be a summer Book Club beginning in June. Details and book selection will be announced at the May 17 meeting. Beth Tiger is a Catholic speaker, author and facilitator. She is also the founder & Executive Director of 'Her Hands'; an anti-trafficking organization originally known as Durga Tree International. A new resident of Ticonderoga, she is looking forward to meeting spiritually like-minded women and creating a ministry where all can deepen their faith, form new friendships and be of service to the local community.

DINNER & BUFFET

Lake Placid — St. Agnes and Mr. Mike's are teaming up to host a fundraiser to benefit the NEW Food Pantry and Thrift Store Building Fund.

Date: May 19

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7:30

Place: Mr. Mike's Pizza

Cost: Suggested Donation is \$20 per adult, \$12 per child. Cash or Checks (made out to Ecumenical Food Pantry) only. Sorry, no credit cards.

Features: Eat So Others May

Eat! Join us for an Italian Dinner & Pizza Buffet.

Contact: For further information **contact:** stagnel-poutreach@gmail.com.

HGA AUCTION & FLEA MARKET

Tupper Lake — Auction & Flea Market to be held.

Date: May 19

Time: 9 a.m. Flea Market, Noon Auction begins

Place: Holy Ghost Parish Center

Features: Flea Market all day, Auction starts at noon and will go until everything is gone. Concession will be open. 50/50 Raffle. Hourly Prize Draws. Proceeds to: Tupper Lake Food Pantry, Tupper Lake Ecumenical Pastor's Fund and Catholic Youth Activities

Contact: Lisa at the Parish Center 518-359-3405

BLACK FLY 5K RUN, WALK, ROLL OR STROLL

Saranac Lake — St. Bernard's school invites you to help support their school as they gather funds with an enjoyable event of running, walking, strolling, or rolling.

Date: June 1

Place: Adirondack Park at Dewey Mountain

Time: Registration begins at 10 a.m., Race begins at 11 a.m.

Cost: Adult, \$25; Student, \$20; Families of 4 or more will receive

a \$10 discount. All participants will receive a custom shirt while supplies last.

Features: This event caters to all levels of participation, from laid-back to competitive, from earnest to lighthearted. Our goal is to engage everyone in this healthy endeavor, contributing to our school's mission of delivering quality Catholic education at an affordable cost. The event will be followed by post-race festivities and delicious food and drink. Prizes will be awarded by age category. Prizes will also be awarded to most enthusiastic, largest family in attendance, and other fun categories.

Contact: To register or to learn more— <https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/SaranacLake/StBsBlackFly5K>

EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION & ROSARY

Saranac Lake — Join us on Corpus Christi as we pray for our nation and Church.

Date: June 2

Time: After 10 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Bernard's Church

Features: The event will include Eucharistic exposition, a short talk, a Eucharistic procession with rosary recitation, silent adoration, and benediction. A rosary will be led inside the church for those who cannot walk in the procession.

Contact: For more info, contact Deacon John Fehlner: 518-312-5636 or fehlnerjohn@gmail.com.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

BELATED 40TH ANNIVERSARY MASS

Ellenburg — Father Garvin J. Demarais, who was ordained May 2, 1981, will celebrate a belated 40th anniversary Mass.

Date: May 26

Time: 2 p.m.

Place: St. Edmund's Church

Features: Bishop LaValley, along with priests, religious, deacons and lay people from around the diocese will be in attendance. Reception to follow.

Contact: Send notes to PO Box

1741, Plattsburgh, NY 12901

CAR SHOW

Altona — St. Ann's to have their 6th Annual Car Show.

Date: June 2

Time: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: St. Ann's Grounds

Cost: Vehicle Pre-Register \$15 or the day of the show, \$20

Features: Craft Fair, Theme Baskets, Food & Entertainment. Kids Power Wheels Show entry fee of \$10. There will be How Wheel Races for kids and adults (Kids, \$5, Adults, \$10 and includes car). Awards at 3 p.m.

Contact: For more information or to pre-register call 518-236-5632, 518-236-7200 or 518-565-6754

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

RUMMAGE SALE

Evans Mills — St. Mary's Church to have a Rummage Sale.

Date: May 17 and 18

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

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Features: Items include M & M candy collectibles, dishes, linens, furniture, spinning wheel, fabric and much more. Sale is located in the Parish Center directly behind the church.

Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY

Houseville — Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament and the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be observed the first Sunday of the month.

Date: June 2, July 7, Aug. 4.

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

ST. LAWRENCE

ST. JAMES RAFFLE

Gouverneur — St. James School to have summer raffle with a chance to win \$10,000. Only 350 tickets will be sold.

Cost: Donation price of \$100 each

Features: Grand Prize, \$10,000;

Tom Brady, Garth Brooks at the Vatican

By Courtney Mares
Catholic News Service

Garth Brooks may have friends in low places, but on Saturday he was scheduled to perform at a high-level Vatican event with Nobel Peace Prize winners, business leaders, and professional athletes, including former NFL quarterback Tom Brady.

Brady, Brooks, and other celebrity guests planned to meet Pope Francis in an audience at the Apostolic Palace on the morning of May 11 as participants in the Vatican's World Meeting on Human Fraternity.

It will be the second time that the longtime quarterback for the New England Patriots has met a pope. Brady met John

Paul II in 2004 after winning the Super Bowl.

Brady was scheduled to speak at a Vatican roundtable on sports titled "Competing in Mutual Esteem" on Saturday at 4 p.m. at the Italian National Olympic Committee's Hall of Honor.

It is one of 12 roundtables organized throughout Rome at the second annual World Meeting on Human Fraternity - called #BeHuman - on topics ranging from education to peace-building, with economist Jeffrey Sachs and New York Mayor Eric Adams among its speakers.

On Saturday night, Brooks was set to sing some of his country hits in St. Peter's Square starting at 9:30 p.m. as the culminating concert of the

two-day human fraternity event organized by the Fratelli Tutti Foundation.

When asked why Brooks was chosen to perform at the Vatican, Father Francesco Occhetta, the secretary general for the Fratelli Tutti Foundation organizing the event, told CNA that the foundation has built relationships in the United States, adding: "We did not have a lot of time to invite more artists."

Last year, Grammy winner Andrea Bocelli performed at the World Meeting on Human Fraternity during which Pope Francis signed a document drafted by a dozen Nobel Peace Prize winners together with representatives of former Nobel Prize-winning organizations calling for a commitment to hu-

man fraternity.

Nobel Prize winners will return to the Vatican this year for a roundtable on peace on Friday, May 10. Cardinal Pietro Parolin will give the opening speech for the roundtable, which will include Russian journalist Dmitri Muratov, American human rights activist Jody Williams, Yemeni activist Tawakkol Karman, Filipino journalist Maria Ressa, Liberian pacifist Leymah Gbowee, Guatemalan activist Rigoberta Menchú Tum, and Bangladeshi economist and banker Muhammad Yunus.

Other participants in the peace roundtable include the former prime minister of Niger, Ibrahim Mayaki, and Graça Machel Mandela, the widow of the late Nelson Mandela.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

2nd Prize, \$5000; 3rd Prize, \$2500; 4th Prize, \$1500, 5th Prize, \$500. There will be 5 early bird drawings for \$100 each on June 30th. Grand Prize drawing will be held Sept. 8 at the chicken bar-b-que being held at the school. All ticket are eligible for every prize drawing.

Contact: Tickets are available by calling the church office at 315-287-0114.

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

Date: June 1

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: June 1

Time: 3:15 p.m.

Features: First Saturday Rosary Devotion to OUR Lady of Fatima. Confessions will be avail-

able. 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: June 1

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

DIOCESAN EVENTS

DOVS RAFFLE

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society (DOVS) is having a Raffle from Sunday, April 21-June 20, 2024 to support promoting the culture of vocations in the Diocese.

Cost: The cost of the tickets is \$5.00 or 5 tickets for \$20.00.

Features: 1st Prize--\$500.; 2nd Prize--Quilt and Rocking Chair; 3rd Prize--\$50 gift card, \$25. Visa Gift Card, \$25.00 Gift Card to Walmart.

Contact: For any questions, contact Constance Randall, connierandall47@yahoo.com (315) 783-0574.

ORDINATION TO THE ORDER OF THE PRIESTHOOD

Ogdensburg - Through the laying on of hands and the invocation

of the Holy Spirit, the Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg, will Ordain to the Order of Priesthood Deacon Carter Gabriel Pierce and Deacon Douglas Alexander Schirmer.

Date: May 25

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: A Reception will immediately follow the Liturgy downstairs in the Brzana Hall. The Ordination Mass may be viewed at www.rcdony.org/ordination. The Ordination Mass program will be available at the same link shortly before the Liturgy.

LIFE-GIVING WOUNDS RETREAT

Saranac Lake - A healing retreat for anyone 18 and over whose parents are no longer together to be held.

Date: June 14-16

Place: Guggenheim Center

Cost: \$125, Financial Assistance is available

Features: This retreat is designed for adults whose parents are separated or divorced. Topics discussed include anxiety, anger, sin, temptation and forgiveness. Presentations are given by trained speakers who are also adult

children of divorced families.

Contact: To register online go to www.rcdony.org/lifegw; To learn more about Life-Giving Wounds ministries go to www.lifegivingwounds.org; For more information, contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org

CAMP GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake - Registration is now open for Camp Guggenheim.

Schedule: Session 1: June 30 to July 3 (11-13 yrs old); Session 2: July 7 to July 12 (12-15 yrs old) \$425; Session 3: July 14 to July 19 (12-15 yrs old) \$425; Session 4: July 21 to July 26 (12-15 yrs old) \$425; Session 5: July 28 to Aug. 2 (12-15 yrs old) \$425; Session 6: Aug. 4 to Aug. 9 (16-18 yrs old) \$425

Cost: Session 1, \$200 per Camper. Session 2-6, \$425 per camper

Features: Since 1972, young people have called Guggenheim "home away from home." Located on the shores of lower Saranac Lake, Summer Camp Guggenheim is a great place to make friends, draw closer to Christ and have a fun in a natural setting.

Contact: For more information or to register go to www.rcdony.org/youth/camp by June 1

WOMEN'S HEALING RETREAT

Ogdensburg - Our Lady of the Rosary Healing retreat to be held for women.

Date: Oct. 10 - 13

Place: Wadhams Hall

Features: The retreat is open to 45 women over the age of 18. Presenters from the John Paul II Healing Center. Priests in residence will be Father Joseph Giroux and Father Albert Hauser.

Contact: For more information and registration, please visit the diocese website at www.rcdony.org/ourlady If you would like to send a donation to help defray the cost of the retreat, please mail a check to Mr. Bill Seymour, Wadhams Hall, 6866 State Highway 37 Ogdensburg, NY 13669.



SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

'We need the Holy Spirit'

In getting a sudden burst of energy, we call it a "second wind." In hearing about something, you "get wind of it." In taking drastic action in life, you "throw caution to the wind." Being called a "bag of wind" definitely does not count as a compliment. Come to church and we hear about a group of men sitting around worried about what will happen and "Suddenly from up in the sky there came a sound like a strong driving wind."

Wind can fascinate us. We cannot see wind. We can only see the effects of wind: the blowing curtains in the house, the trees bouncing in the air, the rough seas in a storm, and some people, not me, have their hair blown in the wind. We don't see the wind; we just experience the effects of the wind.

If we want to understand the Holy Spirit, we only need to think about the wind. Just as we don't see the wind, but only the effects of the wind, so too we don't see the Holy Spirit, just the effects of the Holy Spirit. Also, just as we can keep out the wind by closing the windows, battening down the hatches, and wearing a kerchief or hat, so, too, we can keep out the Holy Spirit by refusing to cooperate.

We have received the Holy Spirit, God dwelling in us. This Holy Spirit came at baptism and was reinforced in confirmation. In fact, in receiving the Holy Spirit, we received gifts of wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, piety, fortitude, and fear of the Lord. Each of those gifts is like a burst of wind to guide us as



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

May 19

Pentecost Sunday

READINGS

Acts 2:1-11

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

John 20:19-23

we live the routine of everyday living. Just because we don't see big bursts of divine energy as did those early apostles, it doesn't mean that the Holy Spirit is any less alive.

After all, to see the effects of these gifts, we have to look to people. Blowing curtains tell us that there is a wind. People living according to the Spirit tell reflects the Spirit alive and well.

Most of us live pretty ordinary lives. Sure, on occasions there are dragons to slay, holy grails to search. Moses had no map as he led the people through the desert. We often make false starts and wrong turns. But through all of that

we need to look at those gifts and the Holy Spirit, our God, who is more often than not a gentle breeze looking to guide us along the way.

Have you ever had a conversion experience? Most of us have at one time or another. A conversion experience is a moment in our lives when we think that we need to be doing something different. It does not mean that what we have been doing is bad, but rather that we need to move from where we are to somewhere else. I'm in college, but now I have to do something different. I am at this job, but it's time for me to advance in my career. I have been away from God, but now it's time to start paying attention to his all-embracing love.

Conversion can take place in a few moments. Transformation can take much longer. Conversion is enjoyable because we see something better on the horizon. Trans-

formation challenges us because it often means taking on new behaviors, changing lifestyle, moving beyond our comfort zone. In biblical terms, Pentecost Sunday, was a conversion experience for the apostles. The rest of the Acts of the Apostles describes their transformation and the transformation of the early Church. The day of marriage is a conversion experience for the bride and groom. The rest of their lives are spent in transforming themselves into husband and wife.

We need the Holy Spirit, we need his gifts, we need his love both to convert and to transform ourselves. Without the Holy Spirit we are left to ourselves, and that can be scary. With the Holy Spirit our lives have focus and direction. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

CALLED TO SERVE

Calling all deacons

For several days earlier this month, Kathy and I spent some wonderful time with members of the deacon community in our diocese. There were deacons in attendance. About half were accompanied by their wives.

Like the priests, who are also meeting in May but during a different week, the annual assembly is called by the diocesan bishop. The assemblies give the bishop an opportunity to meet with his clergy. For the participants, it is also a chance to learn, share and visit.

Priests and deacons are all about spreading the good news in parishes. That task does not leave much time to renew acquaintances and find out how things are going with classmates and old friends. These times away make that possible.

The theme of our gathering was Create In Me A Servant Spirit. The intention of the group that organized the program was to provide us with information about inspiring programs that are taking place in parishes across the diocese. We were not disappoint-

ed.

Deacons and spouses swapped information about parish programs for adults and children, talked about ways to reach out to women before and after childbirth, and shared successful and not so successful adventures with new and old technology.

We were also reminded of existing programs at the diocesan level dealing with divorced Catholics and a theology of the

body program called Living Authentically.



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

Father Bryan Stitt taught two workshops; one dealt with a liturgical practice and the other with the celebration of a Sunday liturgy in the parish if a priest is not available.

There was still plenty of time for the participants to pray together and to spend time with each other.

The first assembly of deacons in the diocese was called by Bishop

LaValley for 2014. This would be the eleventh anniversary, but the pandemic scuttled two gatherings. Using all my fingers I reached the conclusion that next year is an anniversary year for the Deacon Assembly.

It'll be a Jubilee Year for the Church (2025) and the tenth anniversary of deacons in the diocese called by their bishop to assemble.

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



The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296
mbrett@rcdony.org

Dedicated to Bl. Pauline Jericot

Father Tadeusz Nowak, secretary general of the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith (POPF), describes as a "historic moment" the inauguration of the chapel of the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) in Romania, Bucharest.

This is the first place of worship in Romania named after Blessed Pauline Jaricot, foundress of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. The inauguration ceremony took place after a Mass in the parish church near the headquarters of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Romania, presided over by the Archbishop of Bucharest, Aurel Perca.

At the beginning of the Mass, the archbishop blessed the image of Blessed Pauline Jaricot, painted by the artist Lalo Garcia, which was then placed in the central altar of the chapel. The artist brought the painting to Romania and declared himself "privileged to have been chosen to paint the image of Blessed Pauline." In the painting, Pauline is holding a rosary in her hands, which is a replica of a wooden rosary the artist carried with him throughout the creation of the work and which he presented to Father Eugen Blaj at the end of the Mass as a gift for the Pontifical Mission Societies.

In his homily, Father Nowak spoke about the life of Pauline Jaricot and her charism. Father Tadeusz recalled that the Church is missionary by nature and lives to evangelize, emphasizing that "we are all called to mission."

Father Nowak spoke of the means that Pauline Jaricot mentioned as contributing to the missionary apostolate: prayer...and knowledge of missionaries' needs and support of the Church's missions. "Pauline died poor in material goods but rich in spiritual goods," explained the priest at the end of the homily, "this was recognized by the Church after two hundred years and she was declared beatified. Let us thank God for the charism he gave to Blessed Pauline Jaricot and that she left to the Church, and let us pray that the hearts of all Christians will become more eager and open to share the Good News with others and to participate in the mission of the Church, bearing witness to the mystery of the Risen Christ."

"We thank God for this great gift of having Blessed Pauline among us as we dedicate the first chapel in Romania in her honor. We pray to Blessed Pauline that through her service and courage she will inspire us to live our lives in Christ, and that the celebration of her holiness serves for the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls," says a statement from the Pontifical Mission Societies.

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

OBITUARIES

Brushton — Darlene (Jock) Herne, 68; Memorial Mass May 7, 2024 at St. Mary's Church.

Cape Vincent — Paul Lawrence Docteur, 81; Mass of Christian Burial May 11, 2024 at St. Vincent of Paul Church.

Canton — Paul E. Howard, 87; Mass of Christian Burial May 13, 2024 at St. Mary's Church.

Carthage — Evelyn C. Peckman, 90; Mass of Christian Burial May 8, 2023 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Champlain — Nicholas Patrie, 44; Mass of Christian Burial May 8, 2024 at St. Mary's Church.

Chasm Falls — Richard Anthony Reyome, 75; Graveside services May 11, 2024 at St. Helen's Cemetery.

Ellenburg — Barbara (Forett) McDonald, 72; Mass of Christian Burial May 7, 2024 at St. Edmund's Church.

Hopkinton — Sharlyn A. (Tougas) Crump, 91; Mass of Christian Burial May 10, 2024 at Church of the Holy Cross; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery, North Lawrence.

Fort Covington — Karen "Dolly" St. Ann-Brown, 56; Mass of Christian Burial May 10, 2024 at St.

Mary's of the Fort Church.

Madrid — Eleanor (Packard) O'Neil, 86; Mass of Christian Burial May 6, 2024 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in Madrid Cemetery.

Massena — Jane E. (Martin) Cross, 91; Mass of Christian Burial July 27, 2024 at Church of the Sacred Heart.

Massena — Phoebe H. (Herne) Curran, 87; Mass of Christian Burial May 8, 2024 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Carville Cemetery, Helena.

Massena — Paul J. Giametta, 75; Mass of Christian Burial May 6, 2024 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery, Parishville.

Mooers — Paul Allen Rowe, 67; Funeral Services May 8, 2024 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

Norwood — Patricia L. "Patty" (Sullivan) McGinnis, 77; Graveside services held privately at Calvary Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Candace E. Hooper, 68; Funeral Services May 14, 2024 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Oswegatchie Mausoleum.

Ogdensburg — Elizabeth "Liz" (White) Leger, 88; Mass of Chris-

tian Burial May 10, 2024 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery

Plattsburgh — Genevieve Mae (Carter) Corron, 83; Mass of Christian Burial May 11, 2024 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Plattsburgh Community Mausoleum.

Plattsburgh — Robert M. Martin, 90; Mass of Christian Burial May 13, 2024 at Our Lady of Victory Church.

Sackets Harbor — Nancy A. (Herriman) Curcio, 78; Mass of Christian Burial May 18, 2024 at St. Andrew's Church.

Tupper Lake — Margaret Mary (Becker) Benware, 77; Mass of Christian Burial May 10, 2024 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

Tupper Lake — Roger Henry Peets, 80; Mass of Christian Burial May 17, 2024 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Waddington — John C. Keenan, 79; Graveside Services at St. Mary's Cemetery.

Watertown — Stephanie "Steve" (Wells) Mider, 82; Funeral Services May 8, 2024 at the Reed & Benoit Funeral Home.

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Judge blocks N.Y. abortion referendum

State to appeal, wants abortion enshrined in state Constitution

By Tyler Arnold
Catholic News Agency

A New York Supreme Court judge ruled that a referendum to enshrine a right to abortion in the state's constitution cannot appear on the ballot in November because the state did not follow the proper procedure — but the state plans to appeal the decision.

The proposed “Equal Rights” amendment would have established broad rights to “reproductive health care” by prohibiting discrimination based on “pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive health care and autonomy.”

Although the text avoids use of the word “abortion,” the proposal was widely seen as creating a constitutional protection for women to access abortion.

In a ruling on Tuesday, Judge Daniel J. Doyle ordered that the referendum be removed from the Nov. 5 ballot because

lawmakers did not follow the procedure laid out in the state constitution.

According to the New York Constitution, lawmakers must submit proposed amendments to the attorney general for review before they can adopt the language. The attorney general must respond within 20 days of the submission, but if the attorney general does not respond in that time frame, the lawmakers can proceed without that official's input.

Even though the lawmakers referred the language to the attorney general, the lawmakers voted on the referendum on the same day that they referred it to the attorney general. They had not received a response, nor had they waited 20 days. According to the judge's ruling, this vote was in violation of the New York Constitution because it bypassed the proper procedure.

“The constitution is the su-

preme will of the people,” Doyle said in his ruling.

“This court cannot condone the actions taken by the Legislature in derogation of the expressed will of the people,” Doyle continued. “The Legislature's vote ... prior to receiving the opinion of the attorney general frustrated the deliberative process intended by the people in [the state constitution].”

New York Attorney General Letitia James said in a post on X that she intends to appeal the ruling.

“In New York, the Equal Rights Amendment was advanced to protect people's fundamental rights like reproductive freedom and access to abortion care,” James said. “The decision to strike the ERA from the ballot in November is disappointing, and we're appealing to defend New Yorkers' rights.”

If the judge's decision stands, it would force lawmakers to start the amendment process from the beginning. To approve an amendment to the constitution in New York, both

chambers of the Legislature must approve the proposed language two years in a row — and then it can be placed on the ballot for a vote by the public.

Current abortion laws in New York allow women to abort their preborn children through the 24th week of pregnancy.

It's unclear whether the proposed amendment would have extended this limit until birth. The language would have also promised equal protection under the law and prohibit any person, corporation, institution, or government agency from discriminating against a person covered under the law.

The proposed amendment would have also prohibited discrimination based on a person's “sexual orientation, gender identity, [and] gender expression.”

Voters in various states are slated to vote on abortion-related referendums in November. In some states, petitioners are still working to get proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot.

N.Y. AG sues pregnancy centers, pro-life group

By Daniel Payne
Catholic News Agency

New York Attorney General Letitia James on Monday filed a lawsuit against multiple pregnancy resource centers and a pro-life group over what the prosecutor alleged were misleading statements about abortion pill reversal.

James said in the filing that the defendants — the group Heartbeat International and 11 crisis pregnancy centers affiliated with the non-profit — have engaged in “repeated and persistent misleading and/or false claims” regarding the medical procedure of abortion pill reversal.

The abortion pill is a two-step procedure in

which a pregnant woman first ingests the drug mifepristone, which cuts off the unborn baby's supply of the hormone progesterone, leading to the baby's death.

The woman then takes a second drug, misoprostol, which causes the uterus to contract, eventually expelling the baby's body.

Abortion pill reversal works by administering progesterone in high doses after a woman has ingested mifepristone; the hormone is meant to counteract the effects of the abortive drug. Several surveys have found evidence that the drug can be effective at halting a medicated abortion.

Downplaying that evidence by pointing to

scientific disputes over the studies in question, James in her filing alleged that there is “no competent and reliable scientific evidence” to support the abortion pill reversal procedure.

The defendants “distort the evidence and mislead New Yorkers” with claims about the effectiveness and safety of abortion pill reversal, James argued.

The filing asks that the defendants be ordered to “remove from their websites, social media accounts, and other promotional materials” their claims about abortion pill reversal, that they be fined thousands of dollars for their purported violations of state law, and that they be prohib-

ited from making similar claims in the future about abortion pill reversal.

In a statement announcing the filing, James claimed that abortions “cannot be reversed.”

The state “must protect pregnant [women's] right to make safe, well-informed decisions about their health,” she argued in the press release.

This is not the first time that abortion pill reversal has been targeted by pro-abortion politicians and government officials.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta in September 2023 sued five pro-life pregnancy centers and Heartbeat International, accusing

them of utilizing fraudulent and misleading statements when advertising the abortion pill reversal drug.

In April 2023, meanwhile, Colorado enacted several new pro-abortion laws including a ban on abortion pill reversal treatments.

A mother-and-daughter team of Catholic nurse practitioners brought suit against the Colorado law in October in order to be allowed to continue helping women reverse unwanted chemical abortions.

A judge issued an injunction against the reversal ban, allowing the women to continue their medical practice while the lawsuit plays out in court.