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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 79 Number 15

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JULY 17, 2024

No NCC next week

The *North Country Catholic* is on summer schedule. There will be no newspaper next week. The next edition will be dated July 31.

Sisters celebrate jubilees

Bishop Terry R. LaValley shares his homily delivered at the Sisters of St. Joseph's Jubilee Mass celebrated July 13 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Watertown. In it, Bishop LaValley thanked the celebrating sisters for sharing Who they have received.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD

Ashley Barr, front left, a teacher at St. James School in Gouverneur, was awarded the diocesan Distinguished Teacher Award during a luncheon at Bishop Terry R. LaValley's residence on July 2. Pictured with Barr are, front row, Laurel Bartholomew, St. James School principal, middle row, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Karen Donahue, Superintendent of schools Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ, back row, Father James Seymour, pastor of St. James Church, Bishop LaValley, and Msgr Robert H. Aucoin, vicar for Education.



FOUNDATION BOOSTS PROJECTS

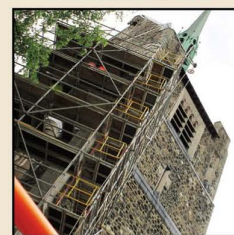


Photo by Keith Benman

The restoration of two deteriorated stone buttresses is well underway at Sacred Heart Church, in Massena. A \$25,000 Rock Charitable Fund grant is part of the overall funding for the two-year project. Administered by the Northern New York Community Foundation, the fund has helped several parishes in the diocese.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

Pope praises U.S. Eucharistic Revival

By Peter Pinedo
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis praised the ongoing National Eucharistic Revival in the United States, saying in a letter published Tuesday that he wished to extend a special blessing to all those attending the National Eucharistic Congress later this month.

"The faithful who approach the heavenly banquet, strengthened by the protection of heaven, are able to work more vigorously and diligently in sustaining their daily duties," the pope wrote. "For this reason, we were very happy to hear the news about the National Eucharistic Congress in the United

States of America."

Written in Latin, the letter was addressed to Cardinal Luis Tagle, a Filipino prelate who serves as pro-prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for Evangelization.

Tagle was appointed by Francis in May as his special envoy to the National Eucharistic Congress, an event that will take place in Indianapolis from July 17-21 and is expected to gather tens of thousands of American faithful.

Tagle will celebrate the closing Mass of the 10th National Eucharistic Congress.

In the letter, the pope commends Archbishop Timothy Broglio, president of the U.S.

Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the U.S. bishops for their efforts to increase devotion to the Eucharist.

Francis also authorized Tagle to serve as his extraordinary representative at the congress on the pope's behalf.

"Indeed, all participants in this event will be encouraged so that, united with Jesus in the Most Sacred Sacrament of our redemption, they are fully aware of the universal gifts they receive from heavenly food and can impart them to others," Francis wrote.

The pope goes on to instruct Tagle to greet all the faithful assembled for the Congress, to "encourage a more vigorous

worship of the Eucharist," and to "express our benevolence to all participants."

"We wish that the faithful, refreshed with heavenly food, may achieve a happier age and spiritual prosperity," Francis wrote. "For from the angelic bread, springing forth as if from a spiritual fountain, the wholesomeness and abundance of the Lord's blessings flow abundantly and flow down."

This will be the first National Eucharistic Congress in over half a century and a pivotal event in the U.S. bishops' three-year National Eucharistic Revival, leading into the final year of the revival — the Year of Missionary Sending.

NORTH
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I didn't know what I needed

I didn't want to do it. As I planned and prepared to have my second hip replacement, it became apparent that the best option was to spend the first few days of my recovery at my parents' house.

While I love my parents and adore spending time with them, I didn't want to do that.

While my brain recognizes needing help is part of the human condition, my natural tendency is to try to be stubbornly independent. I despised even the idea of needing help, and I didn't want to impose upon my parents, who seem to be as busy or busier in retire-

ment than they were when they both worked full-time jobs.

And I think most people prefer to be in their own home, their comfort zone, when dealing with something uncomfortable. I'm no exception.

Darcy L.
Fargo

As silly as it sounds, I was as anxious about having to stay with my parents as I was about the actual surgery. I truly thought any arrangement that had me at my house would be better than any arrangement that had me staying elsewhere.

When I'm convinced I know what's best for me,

I'm pretty sure God laughs.

Staying with my parents through my recovery was exactly what I needed. While both of my parents were great, my mom was especially awesome. She's a nurse, and she provided the kind of gentle, loving care that only nurse mom can provide, and she constantly encouraged me to get up and get moving. Beyond that, my parents' house is much larger than my house. From where my bed was set up in a room my parents added to my childhood home, it felt like eleven billion steps to get to any other room of the house.

With God's grace and my mom's help, and after taking those eleven billion steps a whole bunch of

times, I've been recovering from this hip replacement significantly faster than I recovered from the last one, and I bounced back from the last one pretty quickly. I've been more positive and upbeat after this one, as well.

While I wanted to be at my house and was convinced that would be the best thing for me, God knew better, and he made sure I ended up where he wanted me and where I would recover best - with my parents.

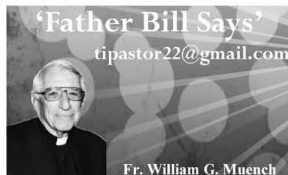
It was just one more reminder that I still need to work on trusting God and trusting the love of God as expressed through the helping hands of others.

Even when I don't want to do it.

Facing the same challenges

Recently, the Sunday Scriptures brought together a reading from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians and a Gospel reading from St. Mark's Chapter 6. You will probably remember reading from St. Paul; he writes about "a thorn in the flesh." The Gospel reading is a story about the time Jesus returned to his hometown Nazareth after being away for a time. He now returns a rabbi and a miracle worker. The town's people are surprised and find it impossible to accept the changes in him.

First, Paul's letter to the Corinthians: Paul had spent some time in the city of Corinth. The people know him; they have listened to his teachings. Now in his letter, he writes rather honestly about a personal weakness. He writes in all humility. Now, we can realize that this letter is also to us all these years later. St. Paul writes to admit to all of us that he is in the same place as we are. We learn that his challenges are the same as



ours. He uses an unique expression - he says that he has experienced a "thorn in the flesh."

Physically, a thorn in the flesh can be very painful and most annoying. However, this expression can also mean that he is suffering from an illness, a worry, a burden, an addiction, a compulsion. He tells us that he reacts much as we would - he says that he begged the Lord three times to free him. However, he realizes that God wanted him to know, "My grace is sufficient for you." God is ready to give us the power to act even in the most difficult of situations. Paul writes, "God's power is made perfect even in my weakness."

When we are open and trusting, God gives us the power and the faith to

work through seemingly impossible situations. I have written before of being with someone - some family - as they were living through what seemed to me to be an impossible time. I remember being told by them, "Father, I would not have made it through this if I did not have my faith." St. Paul says, "I boast in my weaknesses. The power of Christ dwells in me. When I am weak, then I am strong."

Here I also think of many parents who are challenged - they know they must say something to one of their children. It was a time that demanded a serious talk with a difficult child. I believe that when they put their trust and confidence in the Lord, they will be given the right words.

Now, that Gospel: Jesus learns something about our humanity. The story is that he has returned after his travels through Galilee back to his hometown of Nazareth. He is now a rabbi; he is now a miracle

worker. Yet the people in his hometown put no faith in him. They remember the other person; they do not recognize him now. "Who does he think he is," they ask.

I must admit that as a young priest visiting my hometown, the people in my neighborhood, my high school friends, we not impressed at all with my shiny new Roman collar even though I could now celebrate the Holy Mass. I must admit I was annoyed, just as Jesus was.

I am certain it took experiences like this for Jesus to really get to know us - the People of God. However, we can be very certain that God truly knows us. No one can say, "God, you do not know what I am going through." Jesus knows everything about us. Jesus experienced it all in his human experience, even to death. Jesus knows we need so much help, and he is willing to walk with us. Our prayer can truly be, "Jesus you do know what I am going through."

Ashley Barr wins Distinguished Teacher Award

By Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ
Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. Ashley Barr, a teacher at St. James School in Gouverneur, was recognized for her distinguished service to Catholic School Education at a luncheon hosted by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on July 2.

Barr has taught at St. James School since 2013. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and a Master of Science in Education with a major in Curriculum and Instruction from SUNY Potsdam. Barr is certified in both Early Childhood Education, birth - grade 2 and Childhood Education grades 1-6.

In addition to her classroom duties, Barr is the vice-principal and literacy coach. She is the year-book coordinator, plans and implements the annual 5K Run/Walk event and routinely mentors new faculty/staff that join the school community.

Barr is recognized as a highly effective teacher, providing the perfect balance of instruction, nurturing and classroom management. She embraces and supports the Catholic faith. As noted by Mrs. Laurel Bartholomew, school principal, Barr "takes personal responsibility for helping her students grow in their relationship with Jesus."

"While Mrs. Barr's teaching at St. James is highly impressive, her dedication to our school beyond her workday is equally impressive," said Bartholomew. "Mrs. Barr is a tireless volunteer at our school. She regularly attends our Parent-Teacher meetings, advocat-

ing for the needs of our students, teachers, and families. She is an active volunteer at all school fundraising events."

Barr was joined at the luncheon, hosted by Bishop LaValley, by Father James Seymour, pastor of St. James Church, Bartholomew, Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin, vicar for Education, Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ, superintendent of Schools and Mrs. Karen Donahue, assistant superintendent of Schools.

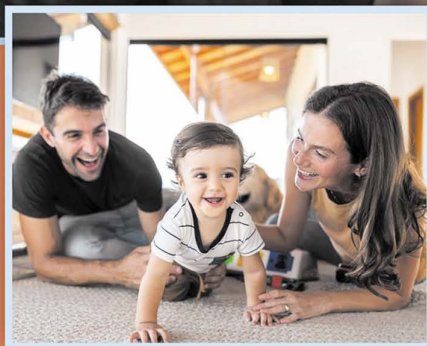


Bishop Terry R. LaValley presents Ashley Barr, a teacher at St. James School in Gouverneur, with the Distinguished Teacher Award.



LOVE BEYOND MEASURE

Natural Family Planning...
supporting God's gifts of love and life in marriage


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**Diocese of Ogdensburg
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FOLLOW ME

Celebrating 455 years of sisters' service

Editor's note: The following is Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily for the Sisters of St. Joseph Jubilee Mass celebrated July 13 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Watertown.

St. Paul told the Corinthians: "For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you..." Then he goes on to report about that Upper Room event when Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist. Dear Sisters, each of your lives has been about handing on what you have received, more precisely, the handing on of Whom you have received.

Pope St. John Paul II wrote: "More than in external works, the mission of the consecrated religious consists in making Christ present to the world through personal witness. This is the primary task of the consecrated life." Each of you has received the gift of God incarnate. Through your witness of love and service, you have been about the mission of handing on Who you have found. Talk about legacies:

75 YEARS

Sister Mary Christine Taylor

70 YEARS

Sister James Marie Kelly

65 YEARS

Sister Mary Anne Croitz

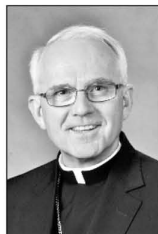
Sister Mary Rita Kempney

60 YEARS

Sister Annunciata Collins

Sister Mary Helen Hermann
Sister Mary Eamon Lyng

We're talking over 455 years of "handing on who you have received." Have we been blessed or have we've been blessed! Thank you, Sisters, thank you jubilarians!



Bishop Terry R. LaValley

In this sacred space, at this graced moment, I feel so humbled and inspired as I reflect on the generations of folks who have called the North Country home, who have been handed your Eucharistic faith - so many - whether it was in our Catholic schools, among our Native American sisters and brothers, to the scouts, those in deacon & lay Faith Formation, Special Religious Education programs, in parish pastoral ministry, campus ministry, music ministry, service to your sisters in the community's administrative tasks.

As St. Pope John Paul II, noted, "The consecrated life may experience further changes in its historical forms, but there will be no change in the substance of a choice which finds expression in a radical gift of self for love of the Lord Jesus and, in Him, of every member of the human family."

Sisters of St. Joseph, no one, no one, can lessen the powerful impact of your handing down

of the Eucharistic faith that you have lived for generations. For that, we praise God and thank you for such sacrifice and joy-filled ministry.

In our first reading from Exodus, the people responded to Moses' sharing of the Lord's revelation to him: "We will do everything that the Lord has told us...all that the Lord has said, we will hear and do."

Although the chosen people stumbled and fell in carrying out their part of the covenant of love, God remained faithful. Yes, Sisters of St. Joseph, you join your voices with that of the Psalmist: "All that the Lord has said, we will hear and do."

You have committed your entire lives to living out the evangelical counsels of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience. By professing these counsels, not only have you made Christ the whole meaning of your lives, but you continue to strive to reproduce in yourselves, as far as possible, that form of life which He, as the Son of God, accepted in entering this world.

The consecrated life truly constitutes a living memorial of Jesus' way of living and acting as the incarnate Word in relation to the Father and in relation to neighbor. Yours is a living tradition of the Savior's life and message. Your way of life is the passing on of our Savior's life and Good News. You continue to hand on who You have received because you

know that you continue to receive, indeed, are nourished by the Lord.

The Body and Blood of Christ offered to us in the Eucharist is not something. It is Someone. It is Christ Himself present to us just as He was present to people in His day. This encounter with God in the personal presence of Jesus Christ makes all the difference in the world.

We know that it made all the difference to the people Jesus invited to table throughout His ministry. It makes a difference to you, Sisters of St. Joseph.

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.

Body of Christ, save me.

Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.

Passion of Christ, strengthen me.

O Good Jesus, hear me.
Within Thy wounds, hide me.
Suffer me not to be separated from thee.

From the malignant enemy defend me.

In the hour of my death, call me.

And bid me come unto Thee,
That with all Thy saints,
I may praise thee
Forever and ever. AMEN

Good St. Joseph pray for us. Sisters, God bless you for your faithfulness. We are Christ-led, Christ-fed, and so Hope-filled. Through it all-- May God be praised... forever may God be praised!

Funeral Mass celebrated for Rose Frattali

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Rose E. Frattali at St. Simon Stock Catholic Church in Berlin, New Jersey.

Rose died June 22, 2024, at Samaritan Hospice in Voorhees, New Jersey. She was 93.

Born in Watertown, on April 5, 1931, she was the daughter of Joseph and Angeline Oliver.

She graduated in 1949 from Immaculate Heart

Central. Immediately after graduation, she accepted a secretarial position with the Agricultural Insurance Company (The Ag). In 1972, she was elected corporate officer. In 1976, she and Ervin J. Dickey, former president of the Ag, founded New York Casualty Insurance Co. She was elected president in 1984 and chief executive officer in 1985. Rose retired from the company

in April 1996.

Rose served on Marine Midland Bank Advisory Board, Mercy Center Board, The Business Council for the State of New York, Finance Committee for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization, Jefferson County College Foundation Board, WNPE-WNPI TV Board, City Center Development, Inc. of Watertown, Finance Com-

mittee at St. Anthony's Church and the Finance Board of Sisters of St. Joseph.

In 1991, she was given the first Athena Award, a national award honoring women in leadership.

In August 1954, she married Vincent J. Frattali. Deacon Frattali predeceased her in 2003.

She is survived by a son, Dr. Steven Frattali; a daughter Lisa Frattali; a son-in-law Jerrold

J. Jack; granddaughters, Christina L. Farrell, and Danielle M. Farrell; a great-granddaughter, Gianna Agresta; a sister-in-law, Mrs. Jan Oliver; a nephew, Dr. James Oliver and Mrs. Kim Oliver; and nieces, Nan Oliver and Mary Catherine White.

Memorial donations may be made to the Sisters of the Precious Blood, 400 Pratt St. Watertown, New York, 13601.

Foundation boosts church projects

By Keith Benman
Contributing Writer

Stained glass windows, church masonry, grave sites and cemeteries within the eastern region of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are being restored thanks to specific donor requests at a secular foundation.

The Northern New York Community Foundation's recently announced campaign to improve Glenwood Cemetery in conjunction with Blessed Sacrament Parish in Watertown is just one of the foundation's latest such efforts, according to foundation executive director Rande Richardson. The goal is to raise \$1 million for infrastructure projects at the Watertown cemetery.

"Really, it's a reflection of increased specificity when it comes to donor intent," Richardson said. "Our main obligation is to honor the wishes and intentions of donors."

In the past, the foundation generally did not support projects at houses of worship or church-affiliated cemeteries. But specific donor requests in recent years now have the foundation funding numerous such projects at houses of worship and cemeteries affiliated with many different faiths.

Richardson cites a \$4 million bequest from long-time St. Lawrence County resident and retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Marjorie J. Rock with starting the trend.

Rock died in 2017, and her bequest stipulated that proceeds from the Rock Charitable Fund be used for three main

purposes: maintenance and preservation of churches and cemeteries in St. Lawrence County; preservation and maintenance of places of historical significance in the county; and to benefit military veterans residing in the county.

Since 2019, the fund has disbursed nearly \$557,000 in support of 34 projects. In addition to church and church-affiliated cemeteries, Rock Charitable Fund grants have benefitted synagogues, secular cemetery associations, veteran organizations and community organizations.

The first grant made to a Catholic church was \$35,000 to aid in the first phase of renovations to preserve St. Mary's Church in Canton in 2020. That was followed by a \$25,000 grant in 2021 to help fund the rebuilding of buttresses at Sacred Heart Church in Massena. In 2022, a \$15,000 grant went toward the restoration of the sanctuary's stained-glass window at St. James Church in Gouverneur. That same year, a \$6,000 grant went toward repairing foundations on historic markers at St. Andrew's Calvary Cemetery in Norwood.

For most large-scale projects such as the St. Mary's renovations and the rebuilding of buttresses at Sacred Heart, the Rock Charitable Fund makes up only part of the financing. The organizations that own the churches usually contribute most of the funding.

Glenwood Cemetery in Watertown is a part of Blessed Sacrament Parish. In addition to



An architectural rendering illustrates a planned columbarium at Glenwood Cemetery for holding funerary urns of cremated remains. It is part of a planned revitalization that will be made possible by a \$1 million fundraising campaign by the Northern New York Community Foundation and Blessed Sacrament Parish.

the just-announced campaign to improve the cemetery, it is also benefiting from a Glenwood Cemetery Endowment Fund for maintenance established three years ago at the foundation. That fund was started by Blessed Sacrament parishioners who had loved ones interred at the cemetery.

"Glenwood Cemetery is a community asset, home to our deceased loved ones, cherished holy ground. It is our responsibility to maintain and improve the cemetery we love," said Blessed Sacrament Pastor Father John M. "Mickey" Demo when the improvement campaign was announced.

"Cemeteries are really part of a community's history and legacy and how we care for those who have passed," Richardson said.

He said the same goes for church buildings. They are not only houses of worship for their respective faiths. They are often prominent landmarks in the community. In some cases, they are important to quality of life as part of the fabric holding downtowns together.

A remarkable woman's remarkable gift

The Rock Charitable Fund is the result of a restricted \$4 million bequest from a woman of faith with deep roots in the St. Lawrence County Community. Marjorie J. Rock grew up on a farm in Depeyster and graduated from Heuvelton High. She joined the U.S. Army Nurse Corps during World War II, serving in North Africa and Italy. After the war, she obtained her bachelor's and master's degrees and taught nursing.

She rejoined active military service in 1954 and served in both Korea and Vietnam. She retired from the service in 1970 as a lieutenant colonel. For the rest of her life, she lived in St. Lawrence County, where she was active in St. John's Episcopal Church, Ogdensburg. She died



Marjorie J. Rock

in 2017 at the age of 96. Along with her extended family, she also established scholarships for college students in St. Lawrence County.

Sources: Northern New York Community Foundation; Marjorie J. Rock obituary.

Donors choose the Northern New York Community Foundation to manage funds benefiting houses of worship and cemeteries for a variety of reasons, Richardson said. First is its reputation in the community, established during almost 100 years of operation. There is trust among donors that the foundation will still be there

to direct donations appropriately for years to come.

Also, the foundation helps donors effectively manage tax deductions for charitable contributions. It gives donors a variety of options for giving, which include restricted and unrestricted bequests in wills and donations that will pay the donor an annuity.

Environmental Stewardship

What can I do?

As faithful caretakers of God's Garden, we hear the call to attend to the urgent plastic problem. Air, water and soil are contaminated with micro plastics. There are mountains of it, and it's impacting those living in poverty most. But Jesus said our faith can move mountains!

There are two initiatives underway that help us answer this call to be resourceful stewards.

First, more than 100 million people from 190 countries are participating in Plastic Free July. You and I are being invited to the Plastic Challenge this month by choosing to refuse single-use plastics. This global effort provides resources and ideas to help you — and millions of others around the world — reduce single-use plastic waste every day at home, work, school, and even at your local café.

A few suggestions:

(1) Avoid single-use plastic straws. Americans alone use about 500 million plastic straws each day! Four to six billion end up in landfills every year;

(2) Choose bar soap in place of liquid in plastic containers;

(3) Don't use plastic bags as wastepaper basket liners.

For more ideas, search online for "Plastic Free July." Choose to refuse one single-use plastic in July — and beyond! Being part of Plastic Free July may help us to find great alternatives that can become new habits forever.

Second, we can pray for the success of the first-ever global pact to address the plastic crisis. As these global talks take place, let us pray for a binding agreement that sees the end of plastic pollution and the damage it's causing across the world.

Let us pray, Creator God, give those who are negotiating the treaty wisdom and insight, ensure the agreement addresses the human impact of plastic pollution on the entire web of life. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

is able to schedule sessions of the training, Protecting God's Children for Adults. This 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

Rest in Peace

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

July 18 — Msgr. Joseph Domina Brault, 1966

July 19 — Rev. Thomas M. Carroll, 1884; Rev. Francis E. Gilbert, 1939; Rev. James Karlton Dewey, 1963; Rev. Arthur J. Trudel, 1967; Msgr. Donald M. Kelly, 1969; Rev. Thomas A. Moody, 2010

July 20 — Francis Leo Desrosiers, 1956; Gerald F. McGrath, 2016

July 21 — Msgr. John H. O'Neill, 1938

July 23 — Rev. Pierre Casenave, O.M.I., 1884; Rev. Francis J. Casey, O.S.A., 1958

July 24 — Rev. George Burque, 1897; Rev. James Joseph Gainor, 1946; Rev. Bartholemew Aloysius O'Connell, 1963; Rev. Henry Wilcott, 1965; Rev. Francis Edic, O.F.M.Conv., 1975

July 25 — Rev. Simon Wallace, M.S.C., 1941

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

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

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

Judith 'Judy' Ruddy passed away June 30

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Judith B. "Judy" Ruddy on July 6 at St. Mary's Church, Canton. Bishop Terry R. LaValley was principal celebrant, and Father Bryan Stitt concelebrated.

Burial was in Glenwood Cemetery, Watertown.

A resident of Canton and formerly of Cape Vincent, Judy passed away peacefully on Sunday, June 30, 2024 at the Canton-Potsdam Hospital, where she was surrounded by her loving family.

She was 85.

Born May 3, 1939 in Canton, she was a daughter of the late P.



Judith B. 'Judy' Ruddy

Emerson "Emmy" and Bernetta L. (Moore) Bartman. She graduated from Canton High School in 1957 and later from the Harper Method Beauty School in Rochester, NY. Judy was a hairdresser in Canton

and in Watertown for a total of 42 years.

On September 17, 1960, Judy married Robert V. Ruddy at St. Mary's Church in Canton, with Msgr. James J. Ruddy (brother of the groom) officiating their marriage. Deacon Ruddy predeceased her on October 29, 2013.

Judy was a member of the Altar and Rosary Society in Cape Vincent, The Legion of Mary and became a Lay Minister within the Catholic Church in 1994. She was an avid knitter, reader and enjoyed spending time with family.

She is survived by her three children, Michelle (Terry) Conant of Canton, NY, M. Peter (Sandra) Ruddy of Rochester, NY and Patrick (Leslie) Ruddy of Huntersville, NC; seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren; sister JoAnne Scott of Canton, NY and by two nephews.

In addition to her beloved husband, Deacon Robert Ruddy and parents Emerson and Bernetta, she was predeceased by a niece.

Burial will be held in the Glenwood Cemetery, Watertown, NY.

In Lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Mary's Church, 68 Court Street, Canton, NY 13617 or the Lodge at Dreaming Tree Ranch, 5905 CR 27, Canton, New York 13617.

Memories and condolences may be shared with Judy's family online at www.olearyfuneralservice.com. Arrangements for Judy are under the care of the O'Leary Funeral Service of Canton.

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terriane Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianeyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-358-3145, Ext. 7179 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rcdony.org Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340. **If you have a complaint** of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at 800-276-1562 or www.ReportBishopAbuse.org

Bishop's Public Schedule

July 15-22 — National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, Indiana
July 23 — 2:30 p.m. — Gathering with our Seminarians and Rite of Candidacy for Michelet Boncoeur at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg followed by Dinner
July 24 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
July 25 — 4 p.m. — Mass at the Franklin Correctional Facility in Malone
July 26 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
July 27 — 4 p.m. — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
July 28 — 10:30 a.m. — Mass Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of St. Joseph's Church in Essex (The Catholic Community of St. Philip of Jesus and St. Joseph)
July 30 — 9:45 a.m. — Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch
 4:30 p.m. — Mass for Youth Camp at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake
July 31 — 11 a.m. — Council of Priests Meeting at Our Lady of Grace Parish in Morristown followed by Lunch

Knights to cover mosaics created by accused priest

By Hannah Brockhaus
Catholic News Agency

The Knights of Columbus announced July 11 it will cover mosaics by the accused abuser Father Marko Rupnik in Washington, D.C., and Connecticut, a dramatic move that represents the strongest public stand yet by a major Catholic organization regarding the former Jesuit's embattled art.

The 2.1-million-member lay Catholic fraternal order said it would use fabric to cover the floor-to-ceiling mosaics in the two chapels of the St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington and in the chapel at the Knights' headquarters in New Haven, Connecticut – at least until the completion of a formal Vatican investigation into the Slovenian priest's alleged abuse.

Patrick Kelly, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, told EWTN News July 11 the opaque material would be installed "very soon" but gave no firm timetable. The Knights said in a statement that the artwork may later be more permanently hidden with a plaster covering after the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith issues its ruling on Rupnik.

The decision by the Knights to cover the sprawling works, which envelop both spaces, was made at the end of a comprehensive, confidential review process that included consultations with sexual abuse victims and those who minister to them, art historians, pilgrims to the shrine, bishops, and moral theologians.

"The Knights of Columbus have decided to cov-

er these mosaics because our first concern must be for victims of sexual abuse, who have already suffered immensely in the Church, and who may be further injured by the ongoing display of the mosaics at the shrine," Kelly said in the statement.

"While opinions varied among those consulted," he said, "there was a strong consensus to prioritize the needs of victims, especially because the allegations are current, unresolved, and horrific."

Kelly reiterated that point in his interview with EWTN News.

"Our decision process really came down to multiple factors. But the No. 1 factor was compassion for victims," Kelly said. "We needed to prioritize victims over anything, any material thing. So that was our primary consideration."

Once a renowned artist Rupnik, whose mosaics are featured in hundreds of Catholic shrines, churches, and chapels around the world, was expelled from the Jesuits in June 2023.

His expulsion followed a long review of what the society called "highly credible" accusations of serial spiritual, psychological, and sexual abuse of as many as 30 religious sisters by the priest spanning decades. Some women allege Rupnik's abuse sometimes happened as part of the process of creating his art at the Centro Aletti, an art school he founded in Rome.

The Vatican announced in late October 2023 that Pope Francis had waived the statute of limitations in the Rupnik case, allowing the Dicastery for the

Doctrine of the Faith to do a canonical investigation into the allegations.

There has been no further communication from the Vatican about the inquiry, and it is unclear whether Rupnik may still be living in Rome despite having been given priestly faculties in a diocese of his home country of Slovenia last year.

What to do with Rupnik's once widely-praised works, colorful mosaics characterized by grand, flowing figures and large eyes, has proven to be a divisive question in the wake of the numerous allegations against him, which first came to public attention in December 2022.

While some want to await Vatican judgment before dismantling and replacing Rupnik's works, much of it made in collaboration with other artists of the Centro Aletti – a Rupnik-founded art school and theological center in Rome – the public outcry for the removal of his art has intensified.

The Knights also announced several immediate changes that would be enacted at the shrine in solidarity with abuse victims, including providing educational materials about the mosaics, making clear that their display during the consultation process "was not intended to ignore, deny, or diminish the allegations of abuse."

Every Mass at the St. John Paul II National Shrine will now also include a prayer of the faithful for victims of sexual abuse, and saints with connections to abuse victims, such as St. Josephine Bakhita, will be specially commemorated.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Firefighters extinguish blaze at French cathedral

Firefighters extinguished a fire that broke out on Thursday on the spire of Rouen Cathedral, a historic Gothic church in northern France. Rouen Mayor Nicolas Mayer-Rossignol confirmed the incident on social media, sharing an image showing smoke rising from the cathedral's spire. According to Le Monde newspaper, 63 firefighters and 33 fire engines participated in the operation. Authorities announced they had "brought the fire under control" in just under two hours after an alert was issued at noon local time. The cathedral was evacuated and a security perimeter established, local media reported July 11. Citing information by the French Ministry of Culture, the newspaper Le Figaro said the fire was caused by "mishandling by workers."

'The Bible in 10 minutes' video by popular priest goes viral

Father Mike Schmitz's "The Bible in 10 Minutes" has become the popular Catholic priest's most viral video yet, garnering over 358,000 views in its first 24 hours. Released on July 9, the video was produced by Ascension and Coronation Media. "The Bible is amazing, but sometimes confusing and hard to read," Schmitz begins in the video. "This is because it's not just one book, but a collection of books written over thousands of years in lots of different styles, all inspired by God and assembled by the Catholic Church into the Bible." While acknowledging the difficulties that some may face in attempting to read the Bible, Schmitz speaks of the "narrative throughout the Bible that tells a single story: the story of God's plan for our salvation." "Once we understand that story, we can understand the context of every book of the Bible," he continues. "So, here's the story in less than 10 minutes." Beginning with the creation of Adam and Eve, Schmitz outlines the Bible's story of salvation alongside vivid, colorful animations. The video also brings attention to Moses' flight out of Egypt, David's rule over Israel, and the passion of Jesus Christ among other key moments.

States, doctors sue Biden admin over transgender mandate

Seven states and a group of pediatricians are suing President Joe Biden's administration over a rule that would force doctors to provide sex-change procedures and require health insurers to cover them. "Joe Biden is once again exceeding his legal authority in order to force his radical transgender ideology onto the American people," Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey, who led the seven-state coalition, said in a statement July 10. The lawsuit argues that HHS did not have the authority to create the rule and that it is not a legitimate interpretation of the Affordable Care Act's prohibition on sex discrimination. It also argues that the rule violates the First Amendment and Fifth Amendment rights of health care providers. The Biden administration "is threatening to hold federal funding hostage from any health care provider that refuses to perform or affirm harmful and irreversible transgender procedures," Bailey said. Other states joining the lawsuit are Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Utah.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

FRIENDSHIP GROUP MEETING
Our next Friendship Group meeting will be held.

Date: July 25

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Zoom

Features: We will be blessed to have Father Bill Neubecker, OMV return to talk with us and answer questions about the second half of "Finding Peace in the Storm," by Dan Burke. If you didn't attend the first meeting, it's not too late to join.

Contact: To order the book, please visit sophiainstitute.com and use code Friendship25 to receive a 25% discount. Sign up for Friendship Groups at <https://mailchi.mp/sophiainstitute/friendship-groups> If you have questions, contact Mary Beth Bracy at mbracy@sophiainstitute.com.

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

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

Date: Every third Friday of the month.

Time: Following 9 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: Light breakfast will be served. In addition to weekly fellowship, there will be a Book Club.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

INDOOR YARD SALE

Chazy — Sacred Heart Parish will be having its indoor yard sale.

Date: July 20

Time: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Features: Furniture, appliances, household items, toys, books, games, dishes, collectibles, tools, gardening, holiday, bicycles, and more! We also have concessions.

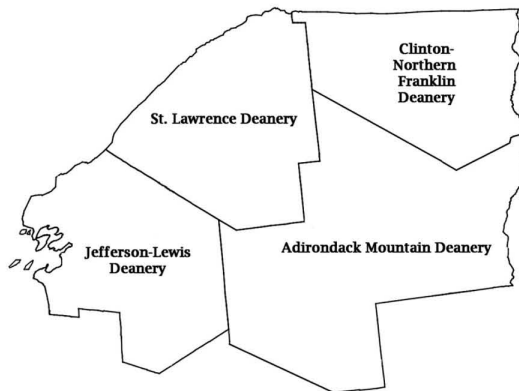
Contact: For more info, contact the rectory 518-846-7650.

BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL

Altona — St. Ann's and Holy Angels' parishes are hosting a Blueberry Festival.

Date: July 28

Time: 8 a.m. to Noon



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.

Place: Holy Angels Church Hall

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

Menu: Blueberry pancakes, regular pancakes, French toast, sausage, eggs, homefries, beverages.

Features: Take-outs available.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Plattsburgh — The 20th annual McSweeney's/North Country Mission of Hope Golf Tournament will be held.

Date: Aug. 9

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Place: Barracks Golf Course

Features: The tournament is a two-person scramble with a shotgun start, games, prizes, and meals served on the course. All proceeds benefit the Mission feeding programs. Please join us for a fun afternoon of golf that benefits those facing desperate need.

Contact: Please contact

Deacon James Carlin at 518-593-9718 or jpcarlin1963@gmail.com for more information or to sign up to play.

HEARTWELL HOMESTEAD

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Plattsburgh — Heart Well Homestead to have their First Annual Gold Tournament.

Date: Aug. 23

Time: Shotgun start at 12:30

p.m.

Place: The Barracks Golf Course

Cost: \$65 for Barracks members and \$75 for non-members

Features: Help us to establish this much needed home for mothers.

Contact: Register your team by Aug. 9, sponsor a hole, volunteer or make a donation at www.HeartWellHomestead.org/#events.

5K RUN/WALK

Plattsburgh — Heart Well Homestead is hosting a competitive and family oriented Superhero Strides 5K run / walk.

Date: Sept. 7

Place: YMCA on the Oval

Features: Race timing and logistics are provided by Adirondack Coast Events. Proceeds go to opening Heart Well Homestead, a home for unhoused pregnant and postpartum women.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

SUMMER CONCERTS

Clayton — The Music Ministry of St. Mary's Church, Clayton is pleased to present two summer concerts.

Schedule: Aug. 4 at 6:30 p.m. at Frink Waterfront Park in Clayton. Bring a chair for this free concert featuring St. Mary's music ministry choir, soloists, small groups, and our youth choir.

Aug. 11 at 6:30 p.m. in St. Mary's Church, Clayton, we will present "An Evening of Sacred Music: Songs of Praise & Thanksgiving". This is also a free concert featuring St. Mary's music ministry, organist Vincent Kinnard, Silver Tones Flute Choir, pianist Helen Timmerman, and soprano Kathryn Ingerson.

Features: All are welcome to attend these events. A free-will offering will be available at both events to support the work of our music ministry.

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

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: Aug. 4, Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 1

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

ST. LAWRENCE

ST. JAMES RAFFLE

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

Cost: Donation price of \$100 each

Features: Grand Prize, \$10,000; 2nd Prize, \$5000; 3rd Prize, \$2500; 4th Prize, \$1500, 5th Prize, \$500. Grand Prize drawing will be held Sept. 8 at a chicken BBQ at the school. Tickets remain in the drum and are eligible for every prize drawing. Per NYS Law, required withholding & tax documents will be completed upon payment of prize monies. **Contact:** Tickets are available by calling the church office at 315-287-0114.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT GATHERINGS

Are you a single Catholic man, of high school age or older, who is hearing the Lord's call to the

Priesthood? You are invited to join fellow discerners and Father Howard Venette for the following gatherings.

Schedule: St. Bernard's Church, Saranac Lake, July 27, Nov. 23

St. Mary's Church, Canton, Sept. 21

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Features: Lunch will be provided at each of the church locations.

Contact: For more information **contact:** Father Howard Venette — hvenette@rcdony.org

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Norfolk — ALL Catechetical Leaders, (DREs) veterans, new and certified, are asked to join us for a training session, "The Ins and Outs" of Parish Catechetical Leadership."

Date: Aug. 3

Time: 9:15 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Place: Norfolk Parish Center

Features: 3 Course Credits will be given to everyone toward Certification or Continuing Ed. Lunch provided. \$50.00 stipend for attending.

Contact: Register at rcdony.org/called Questions contact Anita Soltero asoltero@rcdony.org or Cathy Russell crussell@rcdony.org

YOUTH SERVER

APPRECIATION DAY

Saranac Lake — ALL parish youth altar servers, lectors, greeters, music/choir members, greeters, ushers and faith formation assistants with their families are invited to a Youth Server Appreciation Day. Sponsored by Youth and Vocations Offices.

Date: Aug. 12

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: Camp Guggenheim

Contact: Registration required by Aug 5th at rcdony.org/ya. Questions, contact Anita Soltero, Youth Director at asoltero@rcdony.org

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake — Family Guggenheim to be held with the theme

GET THE POPCORN A Man for All Seasons

This famous 1966 film, winner of six Oscars including Best Picture and Best Actor, was well named because this man, St. Thomas More, acted in a stellar fashion such that even today civil, political, church, and business leaders should model his motivation and behavior.

Thomas More held the title and responsibility of lord chancellor of England. King Henry VIII greatly admired Thomas' wisdom and ability. However, Henry also wanted an annulment of his marriage because his wife, Catherine, did not bear a son who could succeed Henry in the throne. The pope did not grant the annulment leading Henry to sway the English bishops to his side, to marry Anne Boleyn, and to declare himself the head of the Church of England.

One could easily describe



Msgr. Robert
H. Aucoin

Thomas More as stubborn, and the casual observer would agree. The king exercised great power, and so many in his administration wanted to remain in good standing, including some of the clergy, that they pledged obedience and loyalty to the king of the land who self-proclaimed himself to be the leader of the Church of England. Thomas was not being stubborn. Thomas was being true to his faith, the teachings of the Gospel as transmitted and explained by the Church over the centuries.

The conflict experienced by Thomas has been replicated over the centuries. Some leaders have remained faithful to their convictions, to our Christian heritage. Others, unfortunately, have let erroneous, popular opinion replace their convictions so that, like those surrounding Henry VIII, they

could remain in good standing with electors and with their superiors and keep their jobs and positions. The phrase "survival tactics" best describes the actions of so many.

"A Man for All Seasons" is based on a play with the same title. The writer, a non-Christian, Robert Bolt, focuses in his writing on the notion of an oath, the oath made by Thomas More. Bolt reflects his belief with these words spoken by Thomas to his daughter, Meg: "When a man takes an oath, he's holding his own self in his own hands, like water. And if he opens his fingers then ... he needn't hope to find himself again. Some men aren't capable of this, but I'd be loath to think your father one of them."

The film has many such citations from Thomas More explaining why he could not be just one of the crowd but had to remain loyal. Thomas' life revolved around loyalty to his

family, to the king, and to God. He defines his loyalty in his own words, as he approached the executioner's block: "the King's good servant, but God's first."

In 2024, this 1966 film takes on a greater meaning that the author could not have predicted. The rejection of some core values such as self-respect, the dignity of the human person, the value of life, and the denial of objective truths results in people not remaining faithful to their baptismal promises and to their rejection of the fundamental teachings about human behavior as found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Thomas More is definitely a man for all seasons, all generations, all times. Stream the video, listen carefully to the dialogue, watch the human emotion, and experience the war between corruption and the faithful observance of God's law.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

"Trailblazers for Jesus"

Date: Aug. 22-25 or Oct. 11-13

Features: Come join us for a Family Guggenheim, a place to play and pray together as a family.

Contact: For more information and to register, go to <https://www.rcdony.org/newsevents/family-guggenheim.html>. Questions? Call Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920.

DIVINE RENOVATION

Lake Placid – Workshop to be held to help "Unlock" your parish and help it to be fully alive.

Date: Aug. 23

Time: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: St. Agnes Parish

Cost: \$30 per person or \$25 for 4 or more.

Features: Learn the three keys to unlocking your parish; be equipped for mission; connect with a growing community in the space of parish renewal;

Be inspired to dream of what possible for your parish. This is a joint project of St. Agnes in Lake Placid, St. Peter's in Massena, and the diocesan Office of the New Evangelization.

Contact: For more information contact the Office of Evangelization at mdonders@rcdony.org or Gin Shaw at renewal@stagnesp.org. Register at <https://divinerenovation.org/events/> and register for DR Unlocked: Northern New York.

CERTIFICATION OPPORTUNITY

Massena – All parish catechists; new, veteran and certified are asked to join us to receive 3 course credits toward certification or continuing ed.

Date: Aug. 24

Time: 9:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Features: These are courses not previously offered. Please bring a bag lunch.

Contact: If you have questions, contact Anita Soltero at asoltero@rcdony.org

rcdony.org or Cathy Russell at crussell@rcdony.org

more information, contact Steve Tartaglia at 315.393.2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org.

MARRIAGE JUBILEE

Ogdensburg – Annual Marriage Jubilee to be held.

Date: Sept. 8

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg

Features: Bishop Terry R. LaValley, will celebrate the Mass.

Contact: To register, go to www.rcdony.org/jubilee. For



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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

'It's time for a staycation'

Here's an interesting expression: "A hole in my soul." The musical group Aerosmith had a song with that title. Some of you may remember some of the words or perhaps you don't because they are quite forgettable. Here are some: "There's a Hole In My Soul. That's been killing me forever. It's a place where a garden never grows..." and it goes from there. Many other pop musicians have songs and albums with that expression. Google this expression and see what you get.

Nevertheless, this interesting phrase connotes a real spiritual meaning. A hole in my soul expresses a lack of something in my spiritual life. Materially, one's life may be replete

with nothing missing, but deep down something more is needed. There is a hole in one's soul.

Today's Gospel describes a situation in which Jesus and his disciples are trying to get away to relax and regroup, but people kept coming because they wanted to hear Jesus speak. Jesus describes them as sheep without a shepherd. In today's lingo, they were people with a hole in their souls. Spiritual hunger expresses that same reality.

Some people will go to great lengths to fill the holes in their souls, to satisfy their spiritual hunger. Those holes become more evident to us at special moments in our lives. For example, extreme civil unrest that



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

July 21

**Sixteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

READINGS

Jeremiah 23:1-6
Ephesians 2:13-18
Mark 6:30-34

we witness in our country may make us wonder what is really going on. In fact, these kinds of events can punch spiritual holes in our souls.

Many make false attempts at filling the holes in their souls. The obvious false attempts are forays into drugs and alcohol or unbridled denial. Others are a bit more disciplined and try to fill their spiritual cravings with contemporary forms of what is called spirituality but are really attempts at finding fulfillment in humans rather than looking for God, the source of all spirituality.

In today's gospel, Jesus invites his disciples to go on a staycation, to go off with him and get spiritually replenished and refreshed at the true source of spirituality. All of us can use a good spiritual staycation every now and then. The examples of extreme unrest in our country can remind us of the fragility of life. The ever-increasing assaults on the value of Christianity may weaken our resolve. We cannot let that fragility, or those attacks overtake the spiritual core of our lives. A spiritual staycation gives us the opportunity to replenish the spirit so that God can reinforce and strengthen the reality of our lives.

The summer is a time to slow down a bit. Perhaps you can use the leisure of summer to go on a spiritual staycation and spend some time with

God in prayer. Prayer is about God. A simple, but profound, approach to prayer comes from God himself. God said simply: "Be still and know that I am God." There is a lot going on in that simple command.

So, if you feel like a sheep without a shepherd, if you are confused by so much going on in your lives, if you believe that God has left your life, then, it's time for a staycation and reflection on those words: "Be still and know that I am God." Let this celebration be a mini staycation in your relationship with God. Remember the words of our responsorial psalm: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. We use those words at a funeral. Let's make sure that we also use them as we live each day that God gives us: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."

CALLED TO SERVE

Some thoughts on service

Psalm 105 says, in part, "seek to serve him constantly."

The "him" in the psalm is Him, the Lord.

It is an appropriate vocation mantra, particularly a vocation to the clerical or religious life.

It fits married and single vocations too. Kathy and I have seen God present lots of times in our marriage of 53 years. We try to give back with our service to the Church and the way we treat others.

I see God at work in couples and I have seen Him present to single folks as well.

In our parish, the deacons help the pastor prepare couples who request Baptism for their child. I am amazed how many couples, originally mar-

ried outside the Church for whatever reason, are now looking to have their marriage blessed, what the Church calls convalidation, in conjunction with the baptism of their child.

The word convalidation means to firm-up, to strengthen. For the couple married lawfully in a civil ceremony, the marriage is strengthened, convalidated, by the Church as it blesses the union and asks God to become actively involved in the couple's future. The Church hopes the couple will see God at work in their family and will respond to God's presence by serving Him.

That Psalm phrase, "seek to serve him constantly," is quite appro-

priate to deacon couples.

Better than 90% of the deacons in the Diocese of Ogdensburg are married. A few were ordained when they were single, either by choice or because their spouse died before ordination.

The committee that selects men to be formed as deacons attempts to determine if the inquirer comes from a stable home life, was he a good husband and father. Has he, they, served the Church well as lay persons.

The committee also attempts to determine if the wife supports her husband in his ambition to become a deacon.

That support is critical. A man cannot be ordained to the diaconate without the written approval of his wife.

You read that correctly. As we might say from the pulpit, "let me repeat that." A man cannot be ordained to the diaconate without the written approval of his wife.

Who better to recognize the man presenting for ordination than his wife? Who better understands the commitment

a man is about to make after ordination to their parish as a volunteer and the challenges that commitment will place on the couple and family? Who



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

better to determine if her husband is sincere in his desire to serve God as a deacon of the Church?

Rose Frattali, widow of Deacon Vince Frattali and Judy Ruddy, widow of Deacon Bob Ruddy, died recently. They were important to their husband's ministries and supportive of their call to serve.

We mourn their deaths and the death of all wives who supported deacon husbands. We pray He will reward their lives as wife, mother, and servant to Him.

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

Embracing Independence

As the summer sun shines upon us, we celebrate a beloved American holiday - Independence Day. We celebrate the freedom and opportunities our nation provides. It's a day of barbecues, fireworks, and cherished moments with family and friends. As we revel in the United States' independence, let us not forget our brothers and sisters around the world who depend on us, both for prayer and material support.

In the Communion of Saints, we are bound together as one family, connected through our love of Christ. This connection transcends borders. While we celebrate our own freedom, we must remember that millions across the globe are still yearning for liberation from poverty, oppression and persecution. Furthermore, there are millions who are waiting for the freedom that comes from realizing that they are children of a loving God who has a plan for them because they have yet to be introduced to the joy of the Gospel.

This Independence Day, and throughout these summer months, let us make a conscious effort to extend our hearts and prayers beyond our own little corners. Let us remember those who suffer and continue to face unimaginable challenges, and let us also remember those who accompany them, the missionary women and men, the priests and religious, and the thousands living a life dedicated to faith and service.

Prayer is a powerful tool that unites us with our brothers and sisters in need. In our moments of gratitude for our own blessings, let us offer prayers for those who are still caught in the grip of poverty and injustice. Through our prayers and in offering up our more challenging realities, we become a beacon of hope. Together, we can create a network of faith, love and support that transcends distance and brings comfort to the afflicted.

Furthermore, let us remember the material support we can provide. The Pontifical Mission Societies have been working tirelessly to alleviate suffering and bring the light of Christ to those in need. Our generosity can make a tangible impact on the lives of our brothers and sisters, providing them with the resources they desperately need to build a brighter future.

So, as we celebrate the red, white, and blue, let us also embrace the call to solidarity. Let us remember our responsibility to those who are dependent on us. May we be driven not only by our love for our nation but also by love for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Article courtesy of the National Pontifical Mission Societies and written by Ines San Martin.

Please remember the Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg INC. when writing or changing your will.

AuSable Forks – Linda (Nelson) Fournier, 75; Mass of Christian Burial July 6, 2024 at Holy Name Church; burial in St. Matthew's Cemetery, Black Brook.

Brasher Falls – Ernest J. McGregor, 79; Graveside Services July 8, 2024 at St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Brushton – Mary B. (Trippany) Trumble, 98; Mass of Christian Burial July 11, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Champlain – Pearl Ann (Gooley) Hebert, 76; Memorial Mass July 24, 2024 at St. Mary's Church.

Croghan – Muriel (Jackson) Lee, 91; Mass of Christian Burial July 6, 2024 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in Old Glendale Cemetery.

Forestport – Donald G. Pfendler, 69; Graveside services July 13, 2024 at St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Gouverneur – Scott Wade, 57; Mass of Christian Burial July 13, 2024 at St. James Church.

Keeseville – Mary Brenda Bailey, 87; Graveside Services July 20, 2024 at Immaculate Conception Cemetery.

Keeseville – Ralph Louis Campanella, 88; Mass of Christian Burial July 8, 2024 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Keeseville – Robert DeGroat, 89; Mass of Christian Burial July 5, 2024 at St. John's Church; burial in Evergreen Cemetery.

Lake Placid – Francis Murray Kilfoyle, 86; Funeral Services July 12, 2024 at Elderwood of Uihlein; burial in Union Cemetery, Vermontville.

Lake Placid – Alta C. (Supernaw) White, 86; Memorial Mass July 5, 2024 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Lowville – Bruce F. Buckingham, 75; Mass of Christian Burial July 10, 2024 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, New Brehm.

Lyon Mountain – Sally Ann (Bracey) Shusda, 80; Mass of Christian Burial July 9, 2024 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

OBITUARIES

Madrid – Yvonne M. (Shea) Dunbar, 78; Graveside Services July 10, 2024 at St. John's Cemetery.

Malone – Esther Sadie (LaMere) Fleury, 91; Funeral Services July 6, 2024 at St. Mary-Murphy-Wilcox Funeral Home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Malone – Gertrude K. (McGivney) Jock, 73; Mass of Christian Burial July 12, 2024 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Massena – Colleen M. LaBaff; Mass of Christian Burial July 1, 2024 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Paul B. Morrow, 81; Memorial Mass July 12, 2024 at St. Mary's Church.

Massena – Carol Anne Pelkey, 83; Mass of Christian Burial July 8, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Visitation Cemetery, Norfolk.

Massena – Lois Vallance Tucker, 97; Mass of Christian Burial July 9, 2024 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Patricia (Flick) Smith, 74; Mass of Christian Burial July 6, 2024 at St. Alexander's Church.

New Bremen – Elizabeth Ann (Burns) Bush, 89; Mass of Christian Burial July 1, 2024 at St. Peter's Church; burial in church cemetery.

Norfolk – Carolyn A. (Goodnow) Purvis, 73; Mass of Christian Burial July 11, 2024 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Norwood – Mary P. (Gebo) Paul, 94; Graveside Services at St. Mary's Cemetery, Potsdam.

Norwood – John P. Perazzo, 77; Funeral Services July 9, 2024 at Buck Funeral Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Timothy Richard Irvine II, 38; Mass of Christian Burial July 3, 2024 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Marie Grace (Seymour) Morley, 92; Mass of Christian Burial July 12, 2024 at St.

Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Peru – Owen Patrick Thornton, 81; Funeral Services July 10, 2024 at Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Robert Owen Brooks, 98; Mass of Christian Burial July 8, 2024 at St. John's Church.

Plattsburgh – Helen A. (Haus) O'Neil, 92; Mass of Christian Burial July 13, 2024 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Mark J. Rasco, 91; Mass of Christian Burial July 5, 2024 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Church of the Assumption Cemetery, Redford.

Plattsburgh – June Miller Scardaccione, 93; Memorial Mass Oct. 4, 2024 at St. Peter's Church.

Ticonderoga – Maureen (Mead) Johns, 86; Mass of Christian Burial July 8, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Jane (Sivers) LaVoy, 77; Mass of Christian Burial July 15, 2024 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Michael Patrick Rolley, 46; Funeral Services July 16, 2024 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Waddington – Shirley M. (Champion) O'Neil, 85; Mass of Christian Burial July 12, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Watertown – Loretta E. (Bond) Esposito, 93; Mass of Christian Burial July 3, 2024 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Sabatino A. Luciani I, 83; Mass of Christian Burial July 13, 2024 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Richard U. Ulmen, 89; Mass of Christian Burial July 12, 2024 at St. Patrick's Church.

Willboro – Donald Shambo Sr., 93; Mass of Christian Burial July 6, 2024 at St. Philip of Jesus Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

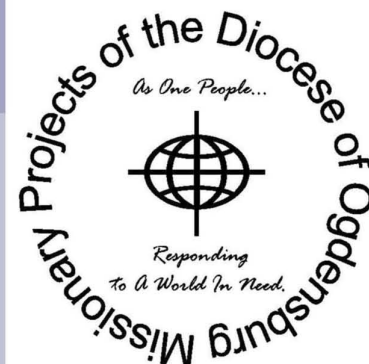
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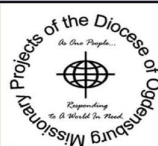


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