

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Bishop's Fund:
Forming lay
ministers | Page 3

Medical marijuana
during
pregnancy | Page 7

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 79 Number 19

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPTEMBER 4, 2024

UNLOCKING DIVINE RENOVATION



On Aug. 23, 120 people from around the diocese gathered at St. Agnes School and Church in Lake Placid for "Unlocked Northern New York," an opportunity to learn about Divine Renovation. Read the story on Page 4.

FATHER LEWIS RETIRES



Last week, Bishop Terry R. LaValley approved the retirement of Father Clyde A. Lewis, left, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Champlain and St. Patrick's Church in Rouses Point, and the appointment of Father Nicolas J. Revilla, right, previously parochial vicar at the churches, as administrator. The change was made effective immediately.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope Francis: Hurting migrants is 'grave sin'

By Hannah Brockhaus
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis said Wednesday those who knowingly and intentionally "repel" migrants are committing a grave sin.

Breaking from the current theme of his general audiences Aug. 28, the pope spoke at length about the poor conditions of migrants who attempt to cross a sea or desert to reach safety but who sometimes lose their lives in the process.

"The tragedy is that many, the majority of these deaths, could have been prevented," Francis underlined in his speech to thousands in St. Peter's Square.

"It must be said clearly: There are those who work system-

atically and with every means possible to repel migrants," he said. "And this, when done with awareness and responsibility, is a grave sin."

Departing from his prepared remarks, the pontiff recalled seeing the heartbreaking viral photo of the wife and child of Pato Crepin, who died in the desert in the summer of 2023 while trying to cross the border into Tunisia on their way to Europe.

Last year, Tunisian authorities were clamping down on irregular immigration by taking people who entered the country to remote areas on the borders with Libya and Algeria.

The country's leader also signed an agreement with the

European Union to receive 1 billion euros (about \$1.1 billion) in order to stem the area's highly profitable business of smuggling people from Tunisia into Europe via the Mediterranean Sea.

"We all remember the photo of the wife and daughter of Pato, dead from hunger, thirst, in the desert," Pope Francis said. "In the time of satellites and drones, there are migrant men, women, and children that no one must see. They hide them. Only God sees them and hears their cry. This is a cruelty of our civilization."

The Missing Migrants Project, run by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), records that since 2014, an es-

timated 47,000 people have either died or gone missing while attempting to migrate in Africa, Europe, and the Mediterranean areas.

Most deaths were caused by drowning, usually while attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea in unsafe and overcrowded boating vessels.

In his general audience on Wednesday, Pope Francis also waded into political arguments about immigration and borders. "We can all agree on one thing: Migrants should not be in those seas and in those lethal deserts," he said. "But it is not through more restrictive laws, it is not with the militarization of borders, it is not with rejection that we will obtain this result."

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLICPO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
USPS 0039-3400**Bishop Terry****R. LaValley**

President

Rev. Joseph A. Morgan

Vice President

James D. Crowley

Secretary-Treasurer

Darcy L. Fargo

Editor &

Communications Director



Publish

45 issues

per year:

Weekly except

skipping every

other week be-

ginning July through August

and skipping one week in

December by the

Diocese of Ogdensburg.

622 Washington Street,

Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Editorial Office:622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.**Telephone:**

(315) 608-7556

E-mail:news@northcountry
catholic.org**Entered at the****Post Office:**

Ogdensburg, NY

13669 and additional mailing
offices as

Periodical Postage.

Subscription:**For one year:**

In-Diocese Rate: \$27

Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication
should be addressed to
PO Box 326

Ogdensburg, NY 13669

and should be received by

Wednesday prior to

publication. Paper is

printed each Friday;

dateline is Wednesday.

Member, Catholic

Press Association.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to

North Country Catholic,

PO Box 326

Ogdensburg, NY

13669-0326

It's that season

"Something about apples and trees."

A reference to the expression, "the apple doesn't fall far from the tree," my son, Jake, and I use this line when Jake is exhibiting some trait or behavior that is annoyingly similar to one of my traits or behaviors.

We use the phrase a lot.

Jake and I have a lot in common. He has my outgoing, fun-loving personality, my quick wit, my love of print journalism and a good news story, my skin type, my tendency

toward procrastination...

After one of the more recent times he lobbed the expression my way, it stuck in my mind and sort of clashed with this new season of life we're in.



Darcy L. Fargo

That familiar expression "about apples and trees" implies closeness. Jake and I are very close. We spend a lot of time together and share a lot of great conversations and experiences. But we're also entering this season of life when it's common for a change in the closeness.

Jake is about to start his senior year of high school. When people ask me about that or it comes up in conversation, I often fight back tears as I answer. I'm incredibly proud of the young man he's become, but I'm more than a little sad that we're moving closer to a day when he'll leave home for the next chapter in his life.

To stick with the expression, the apple that didn't fall far from the tree is getting ready to roll away from it, and that's both awesome/happy and terrifying/sad.

I sometimes struggle with the change of seasons in life, especially when

the change is something I didn't pick. Whether it be Jake becoming an independent young man or my body not being able to do movements and tasks it used to perform effortlessly, I often struggle to accept the big changes, and I struggle to accept that where I am now is God's will for my life at this moment.

Maybe part of God's will for me right now is to work on acceptance. It's certainly something I've taken to Him in prayer a lot lately, since I seem to be in a season of change.

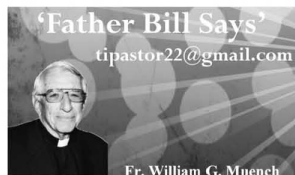
It seems appropriate that it coincides with apple season.

'Do I have faith in Jesus?'

I love John 6. We have seen John 6 the past few Sundays at Mass. I consider that it was important for people of the parish to realize this message in its completeness. So, I gave them homework: I asked them to read and meditate on this chapter of St. John's Gospel, John 6. This is an important teaching of Jesus. It's Jesus's own words concerning our sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

The final story in John 6 is that some of Jesus' disciples decide that they cannot accept this teaching of Jesus. John tells us that these disciples no longer walked with Jesus. They had lost faith in the Lord.

How is your faith in Jesus and his message? So, let's talk a little about faith today. In John 6, Jesus asks the 12 apostles whether they will continue to walk with him. Peter speaks up, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One



of God." Can you agree and say this with Peter.

So, the question is, "do I have faith in Jesus?" I believe that our Catholic faith in Jesus and in the message of the Lord must be a personal decision; our commitment is to the acceptance of a person, and Jesus is that person. Faith is not something inherited. Faith is not something I just take for granted. Faith is a personal decision that we make for Jesus as Our Lord and Savior.

Faith that Jesus came to this world to reach out to us all, to reach out to a community - the community of all people. Today, Jesus continues to reach out to bring his message in faith to this human community - to our families, to all the parishes of our Catholic Church. Jesus continues to make

our faith strong and alive through this Catholic Church. Each time we attend Mass, we are deciding for Jesus, and we are making an act of faith.

This is the very reason we participate in Mass each Sunday. As we come to the altar of the Lord to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, we continue to find and to grow stronger in our faith. We want to be the People of God. We want to do all that we can by living good Christian lives and making our world a better place. We come together united as a community, as a family with saints, with sinners, with the joyful, with the sad, with the troubled, with those in crises, with those in need. We can come together as a powerful force, faith filled and ready to act in the name of our savior, Jesus. I often think as the priest celebrant at Mass, looking out at the congregation participating with me at Mass, how powerful it would be if I could convince all of these people to do something special for God today; I could change

the whole world today. Would I ever be able to give them enough faith in Jesus and his readiness to lead them?

We, Catholics, all declare our faith at each Sunday Mass when we proclaim the Creed together. The Creed reminds us of all we believe in faith. The Creed unites us into a powerful force as the People of God always ready to act, to do something good, to truly live well. Each time we say the Creed together, we proclaim our faith to ourselves, to each other, to all who will listen, that this people of God believes in faith all that God asks of us, and we're ready to love God above all and to love our neighbor as ourselves. This people of God is always ready to walk with Jesus.

Our faith makes us this people of God - bishops, priests, dedicated religious, dedicated lay men and women - united together in faith, we are dedicated to bring Jesus to this world out there, to our own community. We are the people of God.

Fr. Lewis retires, Fr. Revilla to be administrator

Last week, Bishop Terry R. LaValley approved the retirement of Father Clyde A. Lewis, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Champlain and St. Patrick's Church in Rouses Point, and the appointment of Father Nicolas J. Revilla, previously parochial vicar at the churches, as administrator.

The change was made effective immediately.

Father Lewis, 85, has served as pastor in Rouses Point since 2002 and in Champlain since 2013.

Born in Boston and raised in Plattsburgh, Father Lewis studied for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg, at Christ the King Seminary in Olean and at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

He was ordained Dec. 16, 1964, at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

He became pastor of St. Augustine's in Peru in 1979 and then Holy Family in Watertown from 1993 to 2002.

The priest also served the diocese as associate director of the youth department from 1966 to 1970 and associate director of religious education and regional director for St. Lawrence Deanery from 1969 to 1972.

From 1972 to 1979, Father Lewis served as diocesan director of religious education. He also served as president of the New York State Council of Diocesan Directors of Religious Education and as a member of the board of directors of the National Conference of Diocesan Directors.

In addition, the priest has served the diocese as a pro-Synodal Judge of the Marriage Tribunal, as a member of the Priests' Personnel Board and as chair of the Art and Architecture Committee of the diocesan Department of Worship.

Born in Naga City, Philippines, Father Revilla, 51, attended high school at Holy Rosary Minor Seminary in Naga City. He later attended University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Philosophy and Faculty of Sacred Theology in Manila, Philippines. He also studied at Pontifical University of St. Thomas in Rome.

He was ordained in 1999 at Basilica Minore in Naga City by Archbishop Leonardo Z. Legaspi.

While he served in a parish as a parochial vicar and at various times as a guest priest, the majority of Father Revilla's priesthood has been spent as a professor, formator or dean at seminaries in Rome and in the Philippines, where he taught metaphysics, criteriology, history of philosophy, philosophy of religion, rational psychology, cosmology, Spanish, Latin and other subjects.

Father Revilla arrived in the United States from the Archdiocese of Caceres in the Philippines in January of 2023.

Before being assigned to St. Mary's and St. Patrick's, he served for a brief time at St. Peter's Parish in Massena.

BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL

Forming lay ministers

By Catherine Russell

Formation for Ministry Program Coordinator

For over 30 years, thanks in large part to the generosity of donors to the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal, lay men and women have stepped up to be trained as commissioned lay ministers through the Formation For Ministry program. Since its inception in 1990, over 1,000 North Country men and women have been sent out from the program. The current class of 25 will be commissioned by Bishop Terry R. LaValley in June 2025.

The two-year program has evolved to meet the changing needs of parishes and those who seek to serve. Yet, the commitment of the program to provide an excellent foundation for lay ministry has not changed. The success of the program hinges on the individual working closely with his or her pastor to match the needs of both the parish and the candidate. Through a partnership with Boston College's Crossroads program, candidates take classes in an online format. The classes include Old and New Testament, Creed, Sacraments, Spirituality, Morality, Catholic Social Teaching, Church History and the Eucharist.

During year one, candidates participate in two in person workshops: "Vision of Lay Ministry" and "Recognizing Gifts." There is a day of reflection at the end of the first year. This day is an opportunity to take the time to integrate what they have learned into their own spiritual lives. During the second year, candidates choose

a ministry area from liturgy, youth, faith formation, sick and elderly and parish outreach. They then attend four all-day, in-person workshops to sharpen skills in their area of choice. The second year ends with a weekend retreat and the commissioning by the bishop.

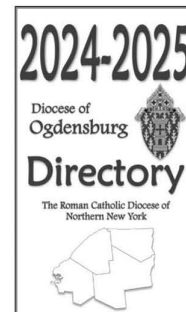
After commissioning, all lay ministers are strongly encouraged to deepen their spiritual lives and their pastoral ministry skills through participation with their regional Commissioned Lay Ministry Association and continuing education opportunities.

Tuition costs and other expenses for the

program are kept reasonable for parishes and candidates alike because of the generosity of the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal. More information on the program can be found on the diocesan website under Office of Formation for Ministry or by contacting the Director, Cathy Russell, crussell@rcdony.org.

This spring we will be looking for our next group of ministry candidates. As the new parish planning goes into effect, it will be more important than ever to have generous and competent laity to assist pastors with parish needs.

Diocesan Directories now available!



The Official 2024-2025 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.

2024-2025 Directories now available!
Online at www.northcountrycatholic.org
for faster delivery or fill out form below
(Please cut out and send entire ad)



Make checks payable to
North Country Catholic
PO Box 106

Canajoharie, NY 13317

(Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery when mailing in form)

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for _____ directories

**\$15.00
each**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Sold-out event highlights Divine Renovation

By Mary Beth Bracy, consecrated virgin
Contributing Writer

On August 23, 120 faithful from around our diocese – including priests, consecrated and laity – gathered at St. Agnes' Church and School in Lake Placid for the sold out "Unlocked" event. The all-day gathering consisted of talks, small group discussions, breakout sessions, and special times of prayer, including Mass celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley. Father John R. Yonkovig, pastor of St. Agnes, co-hosted the event with the help of Gin Shaw, St. Agnes' Parish Renewal director, and in collaboration with Father Mark R. Reilly, pastor of St. Peter's in Massena, and Marika Donders, director of Evangelization for our diocese.

Father Yonkovig welcomed attendants, offered the opening prayer and gave the homily at Mass.

"The mark is engagement, commitment, fire and passion," he said. "That is what needs to be unlocked, the power of the Holy Spirit... You and I are the hope that runs through the life of our Church because of Divine Renovation and Alpha. The noise is rattling, it is unfolding . . . You and I are love's only hope in this world. With God all things are possible."

Shaw reflected on the need for Divine Renovation and Alpha.

"You have most likely heard of a movement of Divine Renovation (DR) that is producing amazing fruit in Catholic churches in the U.S. and worldwide," she said. "In 2014, Father James Mallon authored the book 'Divine Renovation: Bringing your parish from maintenance to mission,' and in 2017 he and his team from Saint Benedict Parish in Halifax, Canada formed Divine Renovation Ministries: a global, Catholic, donor funded ministry dedicated to parish renewal. Over just the last six years, 3,795 priests have connected with DR, 21,000 lay leaders who have been equipped for parish renewal and close to 5,000 parishes began using the DR model to bring parishes from maintenance to mission – the mission of our Church, which is to 'Go therefore and make disciples.'"



(Above) the gym at St. Agnes School in Lake Placid was full as 120 people from around the diocese gathered to learn about Divine Renovation. (Right) Diocesan Director of New Evangelization Marika Donders registers attendees of the Divine Renovation conference on Aug. 23.

nance to mission – the mission of our Church, which is to 'Go therefore and make disciples.'"

In his remarks, Father Reilly related that "The culture props and societal supports for so much that the Church has done are no longer there." When he read the "Divine Renovation" book around 2016 he started looking hard at making changes. His leadership team launched Alpha, a program that invites the "unchurched" for a meal, a video and a discussion around Christian themes. "I don't want to be managing decline," Father Reilly stressed. "We need to go on the offense and turn things around." He has seen "hope, people that have come alive – beautiful, holy surprises. It really is bearing fruit."

"In fact, entire (arch)dioceses have adopted the model and are seeing their parishes come alive," said Shaw. "The DR Ministries' logo shows a circular keychain that symbolizes the Eucharist – the source and summit of our faith, as well as the three keys – described as the three keys to Unlocking Your Parish, which are: The Power of the Holy Spirit, The Primacy of Evangelization, and The Best



of Leadership. With those three keys in mind, Father Mark Reilly of St. Peter's parish in Massena and Father John Yonkovig, my pastor at St. Agnes parish in Lake Placid are leading teams of lay people in the process of renewal. I was able to attend the DR global conference in Texas in 2022 and it equipped me to assist Father John in his efforts."

"Our first step was to bring back our Holy Hour," Shaw noted. "We needed to get everyone praying and fully reliant on the Holy Spirit. Our next step was to choose an evangelization tool, and our choice was Alpha. Father Mallon mentions Alpha over two dozen times in his book and believes it to be the best program for bringing people into relationship with Jesus. With that high recommenda-

tion, we started our first trial Alpha in the fall of 2022 and are now completing our 5th Alpha course this month."

Alpha is for everyone, elaborated Shaw. "It is a great introduction to faith, or a way to take a deeper dive into one's personal relationship with Jesus. Alpha is an experience of the Holy Spirit and through friendship with Jesus ignites an awareness of God's love for and in each participant. We have witnessed the incredible power of the Holy Spirit in transforming the lives of every single one of the nearly 150 people that have taken our Alpha course over the past two years. Father Mark's parish, who started the DR renewal process years ago, has just completed their 14th Alpha course and have wit-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

SEPTEMBER 4, 2024

Divine Renovation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

nessed those transformations as well.”

Kurt Klement, United States Director of Divine Renovation, brought a wealth of experience with him in parish ministry and evangelization from Dallas, Texas.

“I was impressed by the collaboration and openness within your diocese,” Klement said. “That has been very encouraging. Sometimes people aren’t as open as they are here. To have 20 priests willing to attend is a great response.”

Father Reilly echoed his enthusiasm.

“I was thrilled with the turnout,” he said. “The ceiling for the number of people who could attend was expanded. Gin and her husband handled the logistics. It left me really encouraged. I am praying that it bears good fruit.”

Three breakout sessions were offered on Alpha, Hospitality and Forming Leaders. In one of the sessions, Deacon James Crowley, chancellor of our diocese, and Sylvie Marion, business manager of St. Peter’s Parish, talked about the components of Alpha and how to begin it in parishes. The 15 sessions focus on themes from “Is there more to life than this?” to “How can I make the most of the rest of my life?” to “What about the Church?” The meetings consist of connecting with others over a home-made dinner, watching 20- to 30-minute videos, and discussing the video in small groups.

Millions of people have participated in Alpha. Three parishes in our diocese (St. Peter’s in Massena; St. Agnes in Lake Placid; and St. Mary’s in Ogdensburg) are currently offering Alpha, and they are testifying to the number of conversions that are occurring. A few lay people spoke about how it reignited their prayer life, and how they were inspired to assist others in the community.

Angie Glendinning, a Divine Renovation regional leader from Concord, New Hampshire, explained how she became involved. Her parish leadership team realized that



As part of the Divine Renovation Unlocked event in Lake Placid on Aug. 23, an ice cream truck provided frozen treats to participants, as well as participants of St. Agnes Church's Vacation Bible School.

“What we’re doing is not working, we need to change what we’re doing.” She shared sobering statistics about the marked decline in Mass attendance from 75% of Catholics in 1955 to 37% in 2019. Since the pandemic 29% of those who used to go to Mass each week no longer attend. Only 48% of Catholics believe they can have a personal relationship with Jesus and 31% believe in the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

Frustrated, Glendinning continued, she and other volunteers were spending a lot of time and energy doing faith formation and trying to tweak programs. “We only had isolated stories of success — people coming back to Church.” They visited St. Benedict Parish in Halifax, where Father Mallon had been pastor, and it “blew us away.” The volunteers there were filled with enthusiasm, knowledge, and empowerment.

“We need to check our motives and look at our methods,” she said. “The Church exists for people and not people for the Church.”

People are drawn to the beauty of the faith, the sacraments, and the challenge of the Gospel. Glendinning highlighted the success story of St. Willibrord’s Parish in Montreal. When their parish was dying, they had 30 people attending weekly Mass. After be-

ginning the Divine Renovation program, within a few years the number of weekly Mass attendants increased to 150.

Presenters explained how recent popes emphasized the need for us to “get out of ourselves and go toward the periphery” (Pope Francis) because “the Church exists to evangelize” (Paul VI). Parishes begin by considering how to manage their discontent and dream about what is possible. Father Mallon encourages people to go before the Blessed Sacrament and write the goals down. Then, they crystalize their dream for the parish.

Klement added, “We are not just talking about a shift in strategy, it requires a conversion of heart. To know the love of the Father and experience grace, healing, and mercy. The Son of Man has come to seek and save what was lost.”

Referring to Father Mallon’s book, he recalled that we are called to make disciples. Vatican II expressed the universal call of all the baptized to holiness, to mission, to go and evangelize. In his video, Father Mallon unpacked St. John Paul II’s statement that “evangelization is the cornerstone of all pastoral action, the demands of which are primary, pre-eminent and preferential.”

Divine Renovation offers parishes practical resources and help to revitalize their parishes. Presenters shared ten bene-

fits of planting the flag of mission in parishes, ranging from improved hospitality and communication to conversions and the making of disciples. Their program helps equip and empower the laity for the work of ministry; it creates transformational leaders.

“I love the fire and passion it ignited in me,” Sarah Towler, cantor at St. Mary’s Church in Potsdam, said. “I am worried that I will forget and nothing will happen. The most powerful feeling all day was at the end [when attendants prayed in the Church for the Holy Spirit to come, sang songs of praise, and interceded for each other]. I wish there was more of that. I feel very blessed that my pastor [Father Joseph W. Giroux] invited me because it lighted a fire to worship and pray for each other. I am passionate to see the Holy Spirit do great things in my parish.”

“There should be miracles in our parishes every day,” Glendinning proclaimed. “We have to give our yes . . . Our mission exceeds our ability as human beings . . . Only the Holy Spirit has that power. He’s waiting for us to call upon Him and let Him act . . . The Holy Spirit is just as alive and well today in the Church as He was to the apostles at Pentecost. We need to rely on the strength of the Holy Spirit. He will give us the courage to give up control, conviction in the face of opposition, and trust in the value of the work, beyond ourselves.”

Shaw emphasized that the key is found in Father Mallon’s book, where he states that in pursuit of parish renewal, “We must know that it is possible. We must constantly see others who are doing it better than we are, or else we will stop being dissatisfied and become self-satisfied.”

“We sold out three weeks before the event,” Shaw added. “I’m hoping that those who couldn’t attend will pick up the book. I pray that the seeds take root and bear fruit.”

For more information, contact Gin Shaw (renewal@stag-neslp.org) or Marika Donders (mdonders@rcdony.org), or visit divinerenovation.org.

Environmental Stewardship**The most important component of nature – you**

The Creator fashioned billions upon billions of organisms to live on our planet, and all of them are unique. As servants of Our Lord, it is our responsibility to help in caring for as many of these living entities that fill all the spaces in nature. Yet, one is considered to be more important than any other, and that one is you.

Jesus specifically instructed His followers to love God, love your neighbor and love yourself. This strongly implies that we must first develop a deep degree of respect, compassion, caring and love for ourselves and for those people, animals, trees, flowers and other organisms that reside within our surroundings. Loving ourselves is a continual process, as we learn more about ourselves each day. As we grow in appreciation for the gift of who we are becoming, this attitude can shine forth in the ways we appreciate others. All too often, we see people immersed in a less than ideal lifestyle. It is not up to us to judge their choices, but it is our responsibility to show them respect, compassion, mercy and love.

As the theme of "Hope and Act" for this year's Season of Creation calls us, we can start to make meaningful changes within us which will in turn change our world to a degree that is noticeable and pleasing to our Creator. There is much hope for us and our entire planet if we place our trust in the Divine and allow His graces to work through us with actions. During this Season of Creation, let us reflect and focus on forgiveness, compassion, mercy and love as much as possible. It will be good for us and for God's precious creation.

By Tom Kalinowski,
St. Bernard's Church,
Saranac Lake

Rest in Peace

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

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

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

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

Sept. 7 – Rev. Manuel Belleville, 1964

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

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

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

Bishop's Public Schedule

Sept. 5 – Mass and Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of the Diocese of Arlington at Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington, VA

Sept. 6 – 6:30 p.m. – Deacon Candidates Class on Canon Law at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

Sept. 8 – 2:30 p.m. – A Life of Love - Celebrating Marriage Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral followed by a reception in Brzana Hall

Sept. 9 – 3:30 p.m. – New York State Catholic Conference Board of Bishops Executive Committee Conference Call

Sept. 10 – 12:30 p.m. – Mass at Gouverneur Correctional Facility in Gouverneur

Sept. 11 – 9:30 a.m. – Diocesan Department Head Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled Protecting God's Children training sessions. 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. Pre-registration is encouraged at www.virtus.org.

Upcoming sessions:

Sept. 4 – 6 p.m. – St. Peter's Church, Lowville

Sept. 9 – 10 a.m. – St. James Minor Church, Carthage

Sept. 12 – 6 p.m. – St. James Minor Church, Carthage

Sept. 24 – 5:30 p.m. – St. James School, Gouverneur

Celebrate your favorite priest in the**NCC PRIEST APPRECIATION ISSUE**

Join the North Country Catholic in honoring the special priests in your life. The NCC will be honoring our priests in the Sept. 25 issue of the paper.

Priesthood Sunday will be Sept. 29

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

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

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

\$135 - Quarter page ad

\$250 - Half page ad

\$475 - Full page ad

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

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

Must be received in the NCC Office by Sept. 16, 2024

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

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

YOUR NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Ad Size:

☐ \$20 Special Message only ☐ \$40 2x2
☐ \$135 Quarter Page ☐ \$250 Half Page
☐ \$475 Full Page ☐ \$25 Extra for color

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

NAME OF PRIEST: _____

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

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

- Read local stories and commentaries
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more



Find us on Facebook!



MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

Medical marijuana during pregnancy

In 2020, Amanda Aguilar was arrested after using marijuana while pregnant, and, after her son tested positive for marijuana at birth, was charged with child neglect.

She fought the charge, arguing that she had turned to medical marijuana to treat severe morning sickness during her pregnancy, and had received a doctor-approved state license for its use in Oklahoma where she lived.

Such “doctor-approved” licenses, it should be noted, are often generalized permits for unregulated personal use, rather than a medical professional’s prescribing, tracking and monitoring a patient at a tailored dose for a particular medical situation.

During the court proceedings, one of the judges stated that although Amanda had a medical permit to use marijuana, her baby did not, so a mother exposing her baby to marijuana, he concluded, should be considered an illegal act.

In 2024, however, the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals ruled that current Oklahoma law, as written, would not allow women with state medical cards who use marijuana during pregnancy to be prosecuted for child neglect. The Court, in commenting on the case, nevertheless urged the Legislature to consider changing and updating the law so that women in these situations could, in fact, be criminally charged for child neglect.

Amanda’s case shares some parallels with the consumption of alcohol during pregnancy, a practice strongly discouraged by medical professionals. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) notes, “The baby’s brain is developing throughout pregnancy and can be affected by exposure to alcohol at any time.” Similarly, the CDC emphasizes, “Alcohol use during pregnancy can cause a range of lifelong behavioral, intellectual, and physical disabilities known as fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.”

By similar reasoning, then, if it were known that exposure to marijuana in utero would likely result in developmental delays, behavioral problems, or other health issues for the child, women should avoid marijuana during pregnancy, and medical permits to use marijuana should be limited or restricted under such circumstances.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, The American Academy of Pediatrics, and the CDC all recommend against marijuana use during pregnancy. The main psychoactive component of marijuana, known as delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol or THC, has been shown to cross the placenta and can be detected in breast milk.

In recent years in the United States, cannabis use by pregnant women has been rising notably, even as alcohol

and tobacco use during pregnancy have been declining over the same period. The difference may reflect the success of cannabis legalization campaigns, which have increased the availability of marijuana and decreased perceived risks of use.

The body of research literature on cannabis use during pregnancy is not as extensive as it is for alcohol, and additional studies will be required to verify some of the negative effects reported for children born following in utero exposure to marijuana.

Nevertheless, a growing accumulation of research data is raising significant concerns and pointing towards a number of potential adverse outcomes from prenatal cannabis exposure. These include stillbirth, fetal growth restriction, preterm delivery, increased neonatal intensive care unit admissions, small-for-gestational-age infants, and socio-behavioral and cognitive impairment.

Especially during periods of critical neural growth and expansion in the fetal and infant brain, cannabis use during pregnancy and lactation raises the prospect of adversely affecting not only neurodevelopment, but also subsequent neuropsychiatric, behavioral and executive functioning of the child.

Given these significant concerns surrounding in utero can-

nabis exposure and its effects on children, following the advice of various professional medical associations to avoid cannabis during pregnancy makes good sense.

If we carefully weigh the potentially addictive nature of medical marijuana for the mother, the risks to the baby from in utero cannabis exposure, the recommendations of professional medical societies, and the availability of alternative approaches to dealing with morning sickness, the arguments for encouraging pregnant women to obtain licenses for medical marijuana to treat morning sickness do not seem compelling.

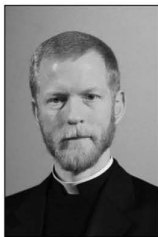
Moreover, some individuals who use marijuana to treat nausea and vomiting, especially over a longer period, may experience a phenomenon called cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome, in which the cannabis, rather than helping with morning sickness, actually exacerbates the situation by itself inducing bouts of vomiting and nausea.

Even in severe cases of morning sickness where fluid loss through vomiting occurs to the point that a mother may end up losing five percent

or more of her pre-pregnancy body weight, various effective treatments exist that do not rely on cannabis, and these are likely to be recommended by health care professionals. Several pharmaceuticals with good safety profiles can be used during pregnancy, as well as direct rehydration interventions to help with acute dehydration symptoms.

Every pregnancy involves at least two people, each of whom deserves care and respect. While it may sometimes be necessary to subject a mother to a needed medical treatment while tolerating a second and unintended effect that results in harm to her growing baby, turning to medical marijuana in an attempt to address morning sickness appears to be neither a necessary nor a prudent course of action.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as Senior Ethicist at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org and www.fathertad.com.



Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D.

BARSTOW

AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION BUICK PONTIAC GMC SUBARU

“Family owned dealership serving the North Country for over 56 years!”

For more information, visit our Website at: www.barstowmotors.com

MARKET ST., POTSDAM, NY • (315) 265-8800

LIVING STORIES OF OUR FAITH



2024 BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF OGDENSBURG



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO VIEW THE
2024 BISHOP'S FUND
VIDEO, PLEASE VISIT WWW.RCDONY.ORG/BFA

THE BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL

provides financial assistance to the vital ministries of
the Diocese of Ogdensburg.
The following ministries are supported:

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

WAYS TO GIVE

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

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

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

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

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

Gifts of Securities: Federal tax laws offer special incentives for gifts of non-cash property especially that which has increased in value since it was acquired. Please contact the Bishop's Fund Office at 315-393-2920 for transfer instructions.

Qualified IRA Contributions: For those who are 70 ½ or older, you may wish to consider a tax-free gift directly from your IRA to the Bishop's Fund Appeal. Please contact the Bishop's Fund Office at 315-393-2920 for instructions.

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

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





CELEBRATING 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated the 150th Jubilee Mass marking the anniversary of the dedication of St. Joseph's Church in Essex on July 28. Concelebrants included, from left, Father Justin Thomas, pastor, Father Scott R. Seymour, Father Francis J. Flynn and Father Howard J. Venette.

GET THE POPCORN 'The Mission'

A stunning, but frightful opening, scene shows immediately the impact, the struggles and the faith of the early missionaries in an area bordering Argentina and Brazil. Natives hurl a priest, strapped to a crucifix with a mock crown in imitation of Jesus' crucifixion, into a raging river. Ultimately, the priest on the crucifix enters immense rapids with the water of the river and the rapids swallowing him up into oblivion.

The next scene introduces another Jesuit priest who arrives by small boat among the natives and, with his musical skills, is accepted by the natives when he begins to introduce them to Christianity. With very little dialogue and haunting music, the interactions among the natives, the colonizers and the Jesuits reveal the human drama and turmoil among the Jesuits as they attempt to bring the message of Jesus to the natives along with their struggle to motivate the Spanish colonizers to live their faith and to convince the Portuguese to renounce slavery.

An immediate reaction to the water and the rapids is that of Baptism and Crucifixion, be-

ing buried in the death and resurrection of Jesus through Baptism. Am I reading into the movie or maybe just thinking up something? Well, the raging waters of the Iguazú Falls appear over and over in the movie. The Jesuit missionaries have done wonderful work bringing Christ and the Christian message to the Guarani natives. These indigenous people were baptized with the water from this river, but across these waters also came their enemies who wanted them to leave the area.



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

Although free from politics, the Guarani people came unknowingly under the influence of politics. They lived with their Jesuit missionaries on lands that were appropriated by the Spanish, thus the presence of Spanish Jesuits. The Treaty of Madrid ceded this territory to the Portuguese who were at odds with the Spanish. Civil and church authorities were afraid that there would be conflicts between the Portuguese and the indigenous people disciplined with the Spanish missionaries. Complicated? No doubt about it.

To further complicate the situation, the Spanish colo-

nists officially opposed slavery practiced by the Portuguese. Nevertheless, the Spanish connive and profit from the slave trade leading them to have no interest in the survival of the mission.

Because of its long-standing opposition to slavery and to support the work of the missions and Jesuits, Cardinal Altamirano is sent to the area to mediate between the two countries for the survival of the missions and the Guarani people. He was unsuccessful, and, according to the movie and history, he was not the right person to send.

Ultimately, the mission is attacked and destroyed. With the help of the Jesuits, the Guarani fought a hard battle. Their weapons and their determination failed to ward off the enemy.

The battle scenes tear at one's heart as we watch the innocent destroyed. Father Gabriel, a non-combatant, gathered the other non-combatants into the mission church to pray and celebrate Mass. The closing scenes show the church being burned down with Father Gabriel walking in procession with the Blessed Sacrament accompanied by his people. In the final moments, they, too, are slaughtered,

including Father Gabriel. At the final moment, one of the indigenous people is able to grab the monstrance before the Blessed Sacrament is desecrated.

No scene shows what happens after the battle except for the young children who walk among the dead and burned down buildings giving the impression that they are left to carry on. Even those who do not cry during movies would be hard pressed not to shed a tear or two.

Jeremy Irons as Father Gabriel and Robert DeNiro as Father Mendoza, haunting music that, along with stunning photography all meshed together to create an extraordinary experience. Spectators will agonize over the plight of the Guarani people and the missionaries, but they will also gain a greater understanding of what can happen when we follow our own misguided ways rather than God's ways.

At the film's very end, after the final credits, Altamirano gives the audience an ambiguous, almost accusing look, as if he were asking it, "Would you or would you not have done this?" View the film to see how you would answer.

Next, we'll look at the film, "Chariots of Fire."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Judge: NY targeting pregnancy center ads violates free speech

A New York court has temporarily blocked the state's attorney general's efforts to keep a group of faith-based pregnancy centers from promoting abortion pill reversal medications. The ruling, in the form of a preliminary injunction, comes after Attorney General Letitia James sued 11 faith-based pregnancy centers in the state because their promotion of abortion pill reversal was allegedly spreading "false and misleading" information. Issued on Aug. 22 by Judge John Sinatra of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York, the ruling means that the pregnancy centers can continue promoting these medications as the case proceeds in the courts. Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), a law firm that specializes in religious liberty cases and is representing the pregnancy centers in the case, called the ruling a victory for both freedom of religion and freedom of speech. "Pro-life centers should be free to offer lifesaving info to women who want the choice to save their child," ADF said in a post on X. "The court was right to affirm this while the case proceeds."

Dictatorship in Nicaragua eliminates priests' retirement fund

The Ortega dictatorship in Nicaragua has eliminated and confiscated a retirement fund for aging Catholic priests, which it had previously frozen a year ago, in yet another move to undermine the Catholic Church in the Central American country. According to the Nicaraguan newspaper La Prensa, the Insurance Fund for Priests Association is one of the 1,500 nongovernmental organizations whose legal status was canceled by the dictatorship on Aug. 19. The legal personhood of this association, the newspaper reported, had been approved by the National Assembly in 2005. According to a source quoted by La Prensa, with this measure Catholic priests will no longer have the benefits of the insurance fund they paid into annually. "In my case, I paid \$300 annually for many years and since last year I have not paid due to the account being frozen, but the theft is already in effect, which in the end was stolen from the parishioners, who generously help us," the source said.

China officially recognizes formerly 'underground' bishop

The Vatican announced Tuesday its "satisfaction" that China has officially recognized Bishop Melchior Shi Hongzhen as bishop of Tianjin. "This provision is a positive fruit of the dialogue established over the years between the Holy See and the Chinese government," reads a Holy See statement released Aug. 27. According to Reuters, 95-year-old Shi had once been placed under house arrest after refusing to join the church officially backed by the Chinese government. Under Pope Francis, the Holy See has expanded dialogue with China and engaged in talks regarding provisional agreements on the appointment of bishops in the Asian nation. The controversial Sino-Vatican Agreement, signed in 2018 and never made public, is said to stipulate that the Church is allowed to have bishops in communion with Rome who are at the same time recognized by Chinese authorities in the country.

Get to know the farm bill

By Daniel Payne

Catholic News Agency

The U.S. farm bill — a key part of American domestic policy that regulates a broad range of programs and practices ranging from agricultural research to farm subsidies to food assistance — is likely to be up for a vote next month.

As a major omnibus bill that touches countless aspects of U.S. policy, there are numerous aspects of the legislation that may be of particular interest to Catholics. The U.S. bishops and some Catholic groups, meanwhile, have expressed concern over some of its provisions.

The farm bill is updated roughly every five years, with the most recent passing in 2018. That year's bill cost \$428 billion over five years. President Joe Biden last year signed an extension of that bill, which is set to expire Sept. 30.

This year's version of the bill has been stalled in Congress since the spring; it was voted out of the House Committee on Agriculture in May. Rep. Mark Alford, R-Missouri, said last week that he and his fellow House Republicans will push for the bill's passage next month, though he expressed doubt that it would be voted on in the Senate in the near future.

The U.S. government sets levels for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Thrifty Food Plan (TFP). The program, formerly known as "food stamps," distributes benefits via an electronic benefits transfer (EBT) card to recipients to allow them to purchase food from grocery stores.

In 2021 the Biden administration issued new rules that increased SNAP benefits significantly — by \$256 billion over 10 years. That increase was due to the administration's rollout of new nutrition standards for the TFP that resulted in about a 25% increase in benefits.

The House's 2024 farm bill would allow increases to keep pace with inflation but end increases based on future scientific research on nutrition, which were part of Biden's 2021 rules change. Pennsylvania Rep. Glenn Thompson calls this a "cost-neutral process" that will also take into account "food prices and composition, consumption patterns, and dietary guidance."

The U.S. bishops in May said they were "deeply concerned" about the bill's proposal to "[rescind] recent up-

dates to the Thrifty Food Plan."

The bishops argued that under the bill, the Thrifty Food Plan "would be unable to reflect any new scientific nutrition evidence," effectively "act[ing] as a cut to future SNAP benefits for the millions of people who rely on the program for basic nutrition."

The average monthly SNAP benefit for a family of four in fiscal year 2024 was \$713. Families are eligible for the plan if their net monthly income is at or below 130% of the poverty level.

One potential change proposed in the 2024 farm bill is a provision that would restrict state regulation of pesticides, a mainstay component of U.S. farming.

The proposed change would essentially standardize pesticide labeling at the federal level. It would further restrict states from taking action against pesticide manufacturers based on label requirements that are different from those of the federal government.

Specifically, the bill would "prohibit any state ... or a court" from "directly or indirectly imposing or continuing in effect any requirements for, or penalize or hold liable any entity for, failing to comply with requirements with respect to labeling or packaging that is in addition to or different from the labeling or packaging" approved by the federal government.

Critics have warned that the measure could weaken protections against pesticide harms.

The Natural Resources Defense Council argues that the language "could prevent the kinds of lawsuits that have compensated victims of pesticide exposure" and could "strip local power to restrict pesticide use."

Catholic leaders have warned of the possible dangers of pesticides in recent years. In his landmark environmental encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis named "insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, and agrotoxins in general" as among the "pollution that affects everyone."

In their document "For I Was Hungry and You Gave Me Food: A Catholic Agenda for Action — Pursuing a More Just Agricultural System," the U.S. bishops argued that agricultural labor "involves some of the most dangerous jobs in the United States, with workers exposed to harsh working conditions, pesticides, and other chemicals."

"We urge farmers to minimize their use of pesticides and other chemicals and, where they are used, to take strong measures to protect themselves, agricultural workers, and their families from exposure," the bishops wrote.

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

ALPHA

Lake Placid – All are invited to Alpha.

Date: Wednesdays, starting Sept. 5

Time: 6:15 p.m. to 8:15

Place: St. Agnes School

Features: Free to all, regardless of belief and includes dinner.

Contact: Go to <https://stag-neslakeplacid.com/alpha> for more info and to register.

COMPASSIONATE COMPANIONS

Ticonderoga – Southern Adirondack Compassionate Companions, a faith-based Age-friendly Communities Initiative, is recruiting new volunteers and has scheduled a Compassionate Companions Volunteer Training Program.

Date: Sept. 17

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

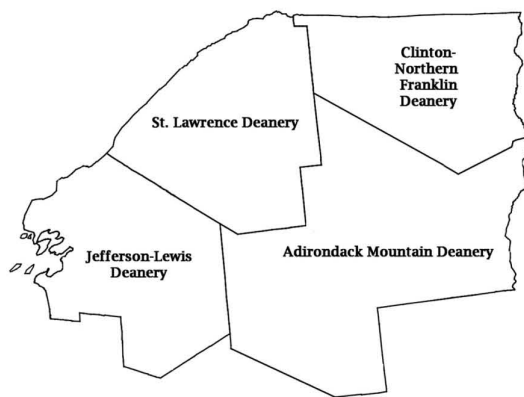
Place: Knights of Columbus Hall

Features: We are inviting new volunteers from Ticonderoga, Schroon Lake, Crown Point, and surrounding communities in southern Essex County to pioneer this new Age-friendly Communities Initiative. Compassionate Companions will help their elder neighbors stay connected to their communities and help make their lives easier and happier. Southern Adirondack Compassionate Companions will provide informal social supports to older adults, such as in-home visits, social outings, assistance with grocery shopping, or transportation to medical appointments. There is no cost for the training, but registration is required. Lunch will be provided.

Contact: To register for the training, please contact Pam Arzberger, Southern Adirondack Compassionate Companions Program Coordinator, or visit route74catholics.org. For more information, email Pam at compassionatecare83@gmail.com or call 518-547-0782.

CHICKEN AND BISCUIT DINNER

Malone – The Malone Council of



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.

the Knights of Columbus will hold a Chicken and Biscuit dinner.

Date: Sept. 18

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: Knights of Columbus

Cost: \$12

Features: You can choose take-out, drive-thru, or eat in. Proceeds will benefit the Women's Healing Retreat to be held in October.

Contact: For more information, please contact Angelo Pietropaoli at 518-483-0459 or Gene Bashaw at 518-483-5383.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

OUR LADY OF THE ADIRONDACKS EVENTS

Ellenburg Center – We are pleased to announce the House of Prayer is open during the summer and fall seasons for the following regular activities. All are welcome!

Schedule: Wed., Open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with Dan Hobbs, Volunteer; 2nd Thurs., Open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with Volunteers Eve McGill and Lucy Wood facilitating Recitation of Rosary at 11 a.m. and Soaking Prayer from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. (Please bring a bag lunch. Light refreshments provided.); Fri., Open Noon to 4 p.m. with Volunteer, Cheryl LaGree, leading Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 p.m. followed by Recitation of the Rosary; First

Sat. Devotions to the Immaculate Heart of Mary beginning at 8 a.m. with Deacon Ken Lushia; Second Mon., 6 p.m. Mass followed by Board Meeting.

Features: All are welcome to attend. Is the Lord calling YOU to become involved? Come and see the House of Prayer, a quiet, simple treasure of the North Country. Are you thinking of a private/group (7 max) overnight retreat or a day meeting (20-30 max)? Call Sarah at 518-534-9976 for more information.

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. All proceeds go to opening Heart Well Homestead, a maternity home for unhoused pregnant and postpartum women within the city of Plattsburgh.

TURKEY DINNER

Lyon Mountain – St. Bernard's & St. Edmund's will be having their annual Fall Turkey Dinner.

Date: Sept. 8

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

Place: Lyon Mountain Ameri-

can Legion

Cost: Adults, \$15; Children 6-12, \$7; under 5, Free

Menu: Home Cooked Turkey with all the trimmings, Coffee & Dessert

Features: Proceeds to benefit the parish fuel fund.

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

APPLEFEST

Peru – The 46th Annual St. Augustine Applefest to be held.

Date: Sept. 21

Place: St. Augustine's Church

Schedule: 10:30 a.m., Giant Craft Fair, Food Booths, Kids Activities; 11 a.m., Parade, Live Music, Chicken BBQ, Games, Bounce House, Train Ride, Raffles. Grand Raffle Drawing at 4 p.m.

TURKEY DINNER

Chazy – Sacred Heart Parish is having their Harvest Dinner.

Date: Sept. 22

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$15; Children 6-12, \$8

Menu: Roast turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, corn rutabaga, rolls and butter, beverage, apple or pumpkin pie.

Features: Visit our Sinners' Den Pantry for "sinfully" delicious goodies. Raffle with great prizes. Please join us! We are handicapped accessible.

Contact: For more information, 518-846-7650 or Chazypa@rcdony.org

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

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

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Carthage – Pancake Breakfast to

be held in support of Augustinian Academy, sponsored by the Carthage K of C Father John Cosmic #291 and Ave Maria Circle.

Date: Sept. 8

Time: 8 a.m. to noon

Place: St. James Community Room

Cost: Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$7; Children under 10, \$4; Family of 4, \$27

Menu: Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes, French Toast, Ham, Sausage, Baked Goods, Juice, and Coffee

Contact: For more information call 315-493-3224

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Clayton – The Catholic Community of Alexandria is hosting the Father Meehan Memorial Golf Tournament.

Date: Sept. 13 (rain date Sept. 20)

Time: Sign in at 11 a.m., shotgun start at 11:30 a.m.

Place: LA Golf Course

Cost: Captain and Crew, \$400 per 4 person team, includes fish fry dinner.

Features: Prizes, 50/50, and Silent Auction. Register after Mass at St. Cyril's Church, Alexandria Bay or look for "Father Meehan Memorial Golf Tournament" on Facebook.

Contact: For questions, contact St. Cyril's/St. Mary's parish office at 315-686-3398.

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – The Indian River Council 7471 Knights of Columbus will be having a spaghetti & meatball dinner.

Date: Sept. 14

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$8; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free

Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

SILENT AUCTION AND BBQ

Watertown – Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church is having their Annual Silent Auction and Pulled

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Pork BBQ Dinner.

Date: Sept. 21

Time: Doors open at 3 p.m. for raffle items and dinner will be served starting at 5 p.m.

Features: Silent Auction items to bid on, large raffle items, 50/50 raffle and much more. Pre-sale tickets will be available the week-end of Sept. 14th & 15th after all Masses.

Contact: For further information, please contact the office at 315-782-1474.

RAFFLE

West Leyden – Tickets for two separate raffles at St. Mary's Nativity are now on sale.

Cost: \$5 a piece or 5 for \$20. They can be purchased after the 4 p.m. Mass, by calling the Parish office at 315-348-6104, online at <https://catholicparishesofslc.weebly.com/tithely-giving.html> or from any parish council member.

Features: The first raffle is the church's afghan raffle. Parish Council member Diane Markham created an 8 x 10 piece featuring a deer against a sunset background. The drawing will take place at the conclusion of the annual Chinese auction on Nov. 2. The second raffle is the Lenten Creation Raffle. During this past Lent, West Leyden native and parish council member Jeff Nellenback built a rustic sofa table, a bulky bench, and a wooden wall quilt. These will be raffled as a first, second and third prize raffle with the drawing taking place after 4 p.m. Mass on Dec. 21.

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; 2nd Prize, \$5000; 3rd Prize, \$2500; 4th Prize, \$1500, 5th Prize, \$500. Grand Prize drawing will be held Sept. 8 at the chicken bar-b-que being held at the school. All tickets remain in the drum and are eligible for every prize drawing. Per NYS Tax Law, required withholding & tax documents will be completed upon payment of prize monies. Need NOT be present to win.

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

ALPHA

Ogdensburg – You are invited to Alpha.

Date: Tuesdays, starting Sept. 10

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 8

Place: St. Marguerite D'Youville Academy

Features: Alpha is a series of weekly sessions to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. No pressure. No follow-up. No charge. And dinner is included!

Contact: Please register at <https://ogdensburgcatholics.org/alpha>. Or contact us to register or ask questions at 315-393-3930 or email ogdenburgsec@rcdony.org

ALPHA

Massena – You are invited to ALPHA.

Date: Tuesdays starting Sept. 10

Time: 6 p.m. to 8:30

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Features: This is a free event.

Contact: For more information call 315-769-2469

SLFA CLM ANNUAL DINNER

Norfolk – The Annual SLFA Deaneries Commissioned Lay Ministers Association presents the CLM Annual Dinner.

Date: Oct. 16

Time: Mass at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m.

Place: Fr. Andrew Amyot Parish Center

Cost: \$20 per person

Features: Join us for an evening of prayer and reflection with a celebration of Mass and presentation entitled: Pope Francis "Year of Prayer" the Lord's Prayer, with guest speaker The Most Reverend Terry LaValley, Bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Also speaking will be Hattie Taylor, Campus minister for St. Mary's church in Potsdam and St. Patrick's church in Colton.

Contact: Register here: <https://www.rcdony.org/clm-event>

DIOCESAN EVENTS**SSJ LAY ASSOCIATE PROGRAM**

The Sisters of St. Joseph invite you to a one of their informational meetings if you are interested in learning about their Lay Associate Program.

Schedule: Sept. 7, at St. Patrick's Church in Colton at 1 p.m.; Sept. 8 at St. John XXIII Newman Center in Plattsburgh at 2:30 p.m.; Sept. 22 at St. Patrick's Church in Watertown from 2 p.m. to 4.

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

Contact: If you are interested,

please contact Sister Mary Eamon (smelyngssj@yahoo.com) or Sister Bethany srbethssj@gmail.com or call 315-782-3460.

BLUE MASS

Canton – Bishop Terry R. LaValley will celebrate the annual Blue Mass.

Date: Sept. 29

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

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

Contact: Questions can be addressed to Father Chris Carrara, Blue Mass Committee Chair at info@rcdony.org or by phone at 315-393-2920.

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

Discernment is a call, listen with others. It is a journey of faith, traveling with companions. 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 Nov. 23, St. Mary's Church, Canton Sept. 21

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

Features: Lunch will be provided.

Contact: Registration required, please go to www.rcdony.org/priesthooddiscernment. For more information, contact Father Howard Venette – hvenette@rcdony.org

MARRIAGE JUBILEE

Ogdensburg – Annual Marriage Jubilee to be held.

Date: Sept. 8

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: Bishop Terry R. LaValley, will be presiding.

Contact: To register, go to www.rcdony.org/jubilee. For more information, contact Steve Tartaglia at 315.393.2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org.

HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

Saranac Lake – High School students in grades 9-12 are invited for an action-packed weekend of fun, friends, skill building workshops and moving prayer experiences.

Date: Sept. 20-22

Place: Camp Guggenheim

Cost: \$95

Contact: Register at rcdony.org/leadership before Sept. 18th to secure your spot! Contact Anita Soltero at asoltero@rcdony.org with questions or call 315-393-2920.

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

Saranac Lake – Young Adult Retreat to be held.

Date: Sept. 20-22

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

Features: Save the dates so you can join us for this weekend retreat to pray and gather in community with other young adults while enjoying the peace and beauty of Saranac Lake and the Adirondacks.

Contact: We need your help! If you would like to help plan the details for the retreat and are a young adult in your 20s or 30s, contact Marika Donders at mdonders@rcdony.org.

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake – Family Guggenheim to be held with the theme "Trailblazers for Jesus".

Date: Oct. 11-13

Features: Yee Haw! Come join us for a rootin' tootin' good time at 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.

North Country Catholic has Green option

Our E-paper is now easier to read online. You can receive your *North Country Catholic* in your e-mail rather than in the mail. Fill in your information and send this form to:

☐ Please switch my current NCC subscription to E-mail

Name

Address

City State Zip

E-mail

PO Box 326

Ogdensburg,

NY 13669

OR Call

Christine at

315-608-7556

to make the

change

Priest's restaurant serves second chances

By Francesca Pollio Fenton
Catholic News Agency

It's not every day that you see a Catholic priest working in the kitchen of a restaurant. But Father Leo Patalinghug isn't your typical priest.

Based in Baltimore, Patalinghug is a radio and TV host - one of his programs is "Savoring Our Faith" in which the priest "talks food and faith" on EWTN. He is also an award-winning chef.

In 2009, Patalinghug was crowned the winner of the cooking competition "Throw-down with Bobby Flay" on the Food Network. From there, he went on to start his food truck initiative called Plating Grace and Grub, and recently opened a new restaurant in downtown Baltimore called Gastro Social.

At his new restaurant as well as on his food truck, Patalinghug employs those who were previously imprisoned and need a second chance as well as those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The idea for Gastro Social came after seeing how successful the food truck - which has become a regular sight in the underprivileged neighborhoods of Baltimore - was and how lives could be changed.

"So in order to grow the food truck's efforts we're going to use this restaurant space as our commissary, but also turn it into a place where we can keep people hired throughout the year," Patalinghug told EWTN News cor-



EWTN NEWS IN DEPTH SCREENSHOT
Father Leo Patalinghug inside his restaurant, Gastro Social.

respondent Colm Flynn on "EWTN News In Depth."

The priest also wants to use the space to "bring people from all different backgrounds to celebrate around food" and continue the mission of his nonprofit organization, The Table Foundation, which is to "harvest the power of food to do good."

Throughout his time serving and helping those in need, Patalinghug shared, he feels at times as though they're only "putting a Band-Aid on a situation" but maybe "if with just one of our staff members we can get to the core of their wound and heal them, we know that it can change their life."

One of these lives that has been changed thanks to Patalinghug's work is 22-year-old Emmanuel McFadden. The young man grew up in a dangerous neighborhood in Baltimore and got caught up in drugs and other dangers of the streets. One day he realized that if he didn't make a change

in his life he would end up in jail or dead, as many of his friends had. After hearing about McFadden's desire to become a chef, Patalinghug gave him a chance.

McFadden told Flynn that Patalinghug teaches his employees more than just how to cook; "he also teaches us other skills like communication."

"I always believed in God," McFadden said. "I never got too deep in my religion but I always knew there was Jesus. Jesus always had my back. That's why I'm here today. A lot of my friends are in jail, some dead, and I'm here - no record, I've never been locked up, you can't tell me that ain't Jesus."

Another life that was greatly changed by Patalinghug is now executive chef of the popular restaurant Cuba Libre in Washington, D.C. After spending six years in prison for assault, Steven Allbright received his second chance working with Patalinghug, and now



EWTN NEWS IN DEPTH SCREENSHOT
Emmanuel McFadden, 22, an employee of Father Leo Patalinghug.

he's running a multi-million-dollar kitchen and operation.

"I was really hoping that someone would give me an opportunity just to wash dishes in the kitchen," he told Flynn. "I'm getting goosebumps still every time I talk about how God has worked in life - just with the introduction of Father Leo, learning to forgive myself, and learning that God forgave me."

"Never in my life did I think that I'd be standing here in this kitchen as the boss," Allbright shared. "I am here because of God."

When asked why this ministry is so important to him, Patalinghug

said: "For me as a Catholic priest, the most important thing that I have in my life is the Eucharist. It's food, and if I receive that I'm supposed to, as my mom would say, become what I eat."

He added: "So I just know that offering food to those in need and also feeding those not just who are hungry in body but mind and soul, really changes people."



Service Available

D.L. CALARCO
Funeral Home, Inc.

135 Keyes Avenue
Watertown • 782-4910

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

'Look to the healing message of Jesus'

The deaf will hear, the mute will speak, the lame will leap like a young stag. Those words from the prophet Isaiah form part of this week's first reading. For us older people, our hearing is challenged. We search for the right words to use. Leaping around like a young deer is probably the last thing on our to-do list. So, we know that the Messiah doesn't seem to be coming quickly, but with all the issues in life, we cannot just sit back and watch the world go by. We need to engage ourselves in living.

In the Gospel, we have Jesus performing a very tangible type of healing. The deaf mute wanted to hear and speak just like everyone else. When we hear and read Jesus' many acts of curing people, we may wonder why doesn't Jesus just say to the man:

"OK. You're cured." Instead, Jesus gets very hands on. He puts his fingers in the man's ears, he spits, he touches the man's tongue, and groans the words "be opened." It almost sounds as if he is struggling, but the gospel quickly points out that the man was immediately healed.

Now, you may say something like: "That was then. This is now. What can we learn from this saving work of Jesus?" This Gospel may not be surprising to us, for we who have heard the other Gospel stories know that Jesus is simply being himself: He is doing the will of the Father, which is to bring healing. Yet if our familiarity with Jesus' healing power compromises our awe at his goodness, then we are in exactly the same position as the deaf man at the story's beginning.



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

September 8

**Twenty-third Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

READINGS

Isaiah 35:4-7a

James 2:1-5

Mark 7:31-37

If our reaction is simply, well just another miracle, what's the big deal, then we, too, need to rebuild a right relationship with God, and we need healing to hear his voice again. The healed heart not only hears Jesus the healer but also runs to him and begs for the help we need, that our families and friends need, that our world needs.

You see, we may have become deaf to the words of Jesus. We may hear the noise of the words, but we miss the content of what he is saying and doing. We sometimes don't let Jesus touch us as he touched the man in the Gospel.

Thankfully, part of Jesus' mission - his being

who he is - restores us to right relationship with God. He comes for us, whether or not we know how much we need him, and he longs to give us what we need. In the Gospel Jesus groaned when he pronounced the words "Be Open." The Lord's groans to heaven are for us - for you and for me - to be open to receive all we need from him.

We come to church to celebrate the Eucharist. Each Mass is not just another Mass. Why? Well, at this Mass, we are not the same people we were last week. Many events in our own lives and in the world around us have changed us. As a country, we struggle, crime surrounds us, COVID reappears every now and then, countries are at war. Likewise, we should be concerned about those many people who are suffering pain and anguish from natural disasters. And we can rightfully wonder whether or not we will ever be able to

resolve the immigration issues, inflation, human trafficking, and whatever other deviation from what God intended can arise in our lives.

So, we may not be deaf and mute, but we are a people who need healing. So many of our human efforts have failed and failed miserably. Perhaps our failures stem from the fact that we rely totally on ourselves rather than our creator and redeemer. Instead of pretending that we are totally in charge, maybe we need to open our hearts and ears to the word of God as well as use our gift of speech to bring hope and healing to others. Perhaps, we should look to the healing message of Jesus in the Gospels to figure out how we should face the reality of the world.

When we approach the Eucharistic table, let us seek what we need. Our God is the God of healing, forever worthy of our thanks and praise.

CALLED TO SERVE

The joy of being a grandparent

My brother Dan and I, my first cousins too, all called our maternal grandmother Nana. For my brother and me, our paternal grandmother was Nanny. We saw the latter grandmother infrequently. We shared a house in Queens, New York, with my mother's mother, Nana, and my grandfather, Dad, so we saw them all the time.

Kathy's grandparents were Nana and Pop on her mother's side; Grandma Mary on her father's side but Kathy never knew Grandma. "She died before my parents were married," she told me, "but I pray through her all the time."

You would think we would have continued the Nana and Pop theme, but we did not completely. I am Pop to my grandsons. That is consistent. Kathy is Grammy. Where did that come from? I am sure there is a story. I'll probably hear about it when my bride reads this column.

Grandparents were important to us. They were revered in a way. Their discipline of us was somehow different from the correction we heard from our parents. And they were always giving us things. That was special too.

In the secular world we will celebrate Grandpar-

ents Day September 8. It is always observed the first Sunday after Labor Day.

I'll bet it is one of those "Hallmark Days" invented by the card companies to boost sales. There is, in case you wondered, a separate day for grandmothers and one for grandfathers during the year. Gotta love those greeting card people.

We do not know very much about Jesus' grandparents.

His mother Mary's parents were Joachim and

Anne. We honor them July 26 as the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

We are less certain about Joseph's parents, Jacob and Rachel get the most votes.

Jesus must have had a name for his paternal and maternal grandparents. In Hebrew, grandfather is sava and grandmother is sava. In Aramaic, grandfather is saba and grandmother is savta.

I did not know those names; I looked them up. So, Jesus might have called his grandmother Anne, Sava or Savta or



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

maybe Grammy.

Since the average age in the middle east in Jesus' day was 40, he may or may not have known any of them. If he did, I'll wager that grandparents were like they are today - wise, loving, generous, mostly patient, and in awe of their grandchild's accomplishments and knowledge.

We love being grandparents. To those of you who are similarly blessed, happy Grandparents Day!

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

Prayers for Nicaragua

Two years ago, as part of an ongoing effort to silence voices of dissent in Nicaragua, the government placed Bishop Rolando Alvarez under house arrest, charging him with "crimes against spirituality."

Since then, Bishop Alvarez has been sentenced to 26 years in prison, where he remained for 11 months in unsanitary conditions, deprived of natural light and isolated from the outer world. In January of this year, along with Bishop Isidoro Mora of the Diocese of Siuna, and 18 priests and deacons, he was forced into exile.

Persecution has increased once again in recent days. Vatican News reports that Father Jarvin Tórrez, the rector of San Luis Gonzaga Major Seminary of Philosophy and parish priest of Santa María de Guadalupe church, was taken to prison on Aug. 5.

As the Church was preparing to celebrate the feast of St. John Marie Vianney, patron saint of parish priests, on Aug. 4, the government of Nicaragua once again tried to sow fear among our brothers and sisters in the faith, taking 11 members of the clergy, including priests, deacons, and friars. It is unclear where they are being kept or under what charges. No official statement was made.

Most of those arrested belong to the Diocese of Matagalpa, further demoralizing the diocese.

Monsignor Ulises René Vega, Monsignor Edgar Sacasa, Father Jairo Pravia, Father Víctor Godoy, Father Marlon Velasquez, Deacon Ervin Aguirre, Friar Silvio José Romero, Friar Ramón Morras, and Fathers Antonio López, Raúl Francisco Villegas, and Salvador de las Calabazas were detained between Friday and Saturday.

The most recent series of arrests began on July 27 with the detention of nearly 80-year-old priest Frutos Constantino Valle Salmerón, administrator ad omnia of the Diocese of Estelí. On Aug. 1, two more priests were detained during the religious festival of Santo Domingo de Guzmán.

So far, the Nicaraguan government has not issued official statements or explanation regarding these detentions. President Daniel Ortega and his wife, Vice President Rosario Murillo have been hostile to the local clergy, with the VP labeling priests and bishops as "sons of the devil" and "agents of evil."

Let us pray for the safety and strength of all members of the clergy who are courageously upholding their faith amidst persecution. Our prayers can offer them solace and support, reminding them that they are not alone in their struggle.

Article by FIDES information service of the Pontifical Mission Societies.

A GROWING VOICE

As the song says...

Do you remember when I said I like to quote songs in everyday conversations? Well, that's exactly what I'm going to do. There's this one song that I have become very well acquainted with due to my sister playing it on repeat for most of the summer: "The Mountain Song" by Tophouse.

The chorus of the song says, "Why do people climb mountains? Is it just to reach the top and see the view? Well, I'll tell you something: every rock and every river, every sore and every splinter, I would climb every mountain with you!"

Now, I've never been a fan of hiking myself, so for me, you have to really enjoy someone's company to be able

to climb every mountain with them, regardless of the physical pain it'll bring you. And after my 99th time hearing the song, I thought to myself, that's actually such a cool metaphor.

Our ultimate goal is Heaven, right? So, in this case, that's the mountaintop with the beautiful view. And God is leading us there, over every peak and valley, but we have to be willing to follow Him, to climb with him up every mountain.

Everyone goes through struggles and trials, it's a part of life, we just have to remember that

every rock, every river, every sore, and every splinter, is a part of our journey toward that beautiful summit: Heaven.



Erin Savarie

OBITUARIES

Brownville — Joan M. Monroe, 70; Mass of Christian Burial Sep. 7, 2024 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Brownville Cemetery.

Chateaugay — Robert E. Jones, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 26, 2024 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Croghan — William A. Moore, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 28, 2024 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery, Belfort.

Hogansburg — Norman "Onennakenra" King, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 27, 2024 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

Malone — Eric Evan Livernois, 58; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 31, 2024 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Randy C. Gotham, 63; Funeral Services Aug. 29, 2024 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Oswegatchie Mausoleum.

Peru — Robert A. Shea, Sr., 84; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 30, 2024 at St. Augustine's Church;

burial in parish cemetery.

Peru — Bernard "Barney" Lee Walpole, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 10, 2024 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in God's Acre Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — William M. Clark, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 31, 2024 at St. John's Church.

Saranac Lake — Eileen M. (Hand) Wokcik, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 27, 2024 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery, Lake Placid.

Star Lake — Theresa Louise (LaTray) Stotzer, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 14, 2024 at St. Hubert's Church; burial in St. Hubert's Cemetery.

Theresa — Gianfranco "Franco"

Jones-Otiz, 23; Funeral Services Aug. 31, 2024 at the Frederick Bros. Funeral Home.

Watertown — Thomas E. Bartelson, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 26, 2024 at St. Patrick's church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Marc C. Biondo-lillo, 35; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 5, 2024 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Sanford Corners Cemetery.

Watertown — Ronald J. Burns, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 30, 2024 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Lee Clary, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 27, 2024 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Black River Cemetery.

MONASTERY CARD SHOP

Cards for All Occasions

Mass Enrollments for your living & deceased loved ones.

Precious Blood Monastery

OPEN: 9 AM - 5 PM
SATURDAY 9 AM - 12 PM

400 PRATT ST., WATERTOWN

315-788-1669

www.sisterspreciousblood.org

FACES OF FAITH



(Above) St. Stephen's Parish in Croghan had a very successful Vacation Bible School entitled, Catholics, Training to Be Champions of Christ. Forty students participated this year. Our week ended with Mass and a picnic. (Right) Father Don Manfred said grace before the picnic.



On August 8, the Knights of Columbus Council 350 of Clayton sponsored a trip to the Water Safari in Old Forge for the altar servers of St. Mary's and St. Cyril's parishes. The kids enjoyed a fun day as the Knights provided the park ticket, lunch and an ice cream treat. The Knights wanted to thank the young altar servers for their service to our churches. Pictured are, from left, Sam Duffany, Greyson Topa, Cady Willis, Michael Duffany, Cecelia Duffany, Timothy Duffany and Joseph Zalewski. Jacob Duffany, Katie Rose and Tristan Topa are missing from the photo.



PHOTO BY LYDIA WOJNOWSKI

Father John Kennedy Ojuok blesses flowers, herbs and grains at St. Hedwig's Church, Houseville. This Polish custom honors our Blessed Mother, Matka Boska Zielna, Our Lady of the Greens. Father Ojuok was aided by Deacon Rob Uttendorfsky.



Bishop Terry R. LaValley visits Father Michael J. Jablonski, right, and his father at the annual Redford Picnic at Church of the Assumption on Aug. 18.