Holy Family School will not reopen

MALONE – The families of Holy Family School students, along with faculty and staff, were notified June 26 that the Catholic school would not reopen for the 2019-20 school year.

Pastoral leaders of the supporting parishes requested the closure June 25. The pastors and pastoral life coordinator cited declining enrollment and financial challenges in requesting the closure.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

Pope: Christian community a place of welcome

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – To be part of a Christian community is to belong to a group of believers who shun selfishness and give witness to God’s love by loving and caring for one another, Pope Francis said.

While modern society places more importance on “one’s own interests regardless of or even to the detriment of others,” true Christians “ban individualism in order to encourage sharing and solidarity,” the pope said June 26 during his weekly general audience.

“There is no place for selfishness in the soul of a Christian,” he said. “If your heart is selfish, you are not a Christian; you are a worldly person who looks only for your own benefit, your own profit.”

Prior to taking part in the final audience before his summer break, to avoid the scorching Rome heat the pope met indoors with pilgrims who are sick or have a disability.

Outside, continuing his series of talks on the Acts of the Apostles, the pope reflected on the first Christian community in Jerusalem, which was comprised of people who “felt their hearts pierced by the joyful announcement” of Christ’s salvation for all men and women.

St. Luke’s account of this community, he said, provides a glimpse of the “communion of love” that existed and was fortified by listening to the apostolic teaching, sharing their goods with one another, taking part in the Eucharist and prayer.

“These are the attitudes of a Christian; the four signs of a good Christian,” he said.

The grace that comes from baptism, he added, makes “rivalries between young and old, men and women, rich and poor” disappear.
The impact of an outstanding teacher

"In my class, you get either a zero or a 100," said Mr. Childs, my high school trigonometry teacher.

In Mr. Childs' class, homework assignments typically consisted of 25 math problems. If a student completed the assignment and didn’t get all 25 solved correctly, the student had to keep re-doing the assignment until every error was corrected.

Mr. Childs' grade book reflected a zero for each assignment until it could be changed to a 100.

I do not remember every Mass I have celebrated. I do believe they were all sacred. There are some I do remember. I once concelebrated a Papal Mass, which means joining the Pope at the altar and assisting in distributing Holy Communion. That day there were nearly 90,000 people in St. Peter's Square.

I remember the Mass I celebrated on the celebration of my 50th Anniversary as a priest. St. Mary’s was filled with parishioners, my family and so many friends from past assignments. It was a special day. In addition, I can remember many funeral Masses, especially of family and friends.

I must mention one other Mass. My friend, an experienced hiker, Father Philip Allen, invited me to accompany him on a week along a piece of the Appalachian Trail in New Hampshire. One day, as we hiked along, the forest opened right up before us, and I remember being able to see all the way down the sunny valley.

Father Allen suggested that we take the time to celebrate Mass right there on the trail. It was a very sacred and special moment — two priests, two friends uniting ourselves with the Lord as we celebrated Mass together.

I think of these things today since recently the Church celebrated the Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. This is an important moment in the church year to celebrate the precious sacrament of our faith as Catholics, the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Traditionally, this feast and procession is called in Latin, Corpus Christi.

This feast day is about gratitude. The Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist is about gratitude. Each and every Mass celebrated every day in every part of the world is about gratitude.

As Catholics, this Blessed Sacrament is central to all that we are. Jesus instituted this Blessed Sacrament at the Last Supper. Since then, whenever we, Catholics, join in prayer, we do it best by celebrating the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, as we celebrate our gratitude to the Lord.

The very word Eucharist means “thank you.” For us, our best gratitude is the very person of Our Lord Jesus, who we believe in faith is truly present in this Blessed Sacrament, Body and Blood. Each time we receive Holy Communion, we are united with Our Lord Jesus in a real and special way.

In the Offertory of the Mass, I want to remind you that we are asked to spiritually place our intentions, our cares and concerns, our hopes and dreams on the altar of sacrifice, as well as all those we pray for at that Mass.

Those people who are chosen to bring the bread and wine to the altar are very special people. For they bring us all forward, with our intentions to be placed on the altar of sacrifice. As the Mass continues, I and all other priests as ordained ministers of the Lord are allowed to say the very words of Jesus to consecrate the bread and wine and all the cares and concerns, the hopes and dreams that each one of us has placed on the altar. So that we may receive them back in Holy Communion, now blessed and consecrated by the Lord Jesus.
Bishops strengthen efforts to eliminate abuse

The Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, was not able to join the American bishops at our Plenary Assembly held recently in Baltimore. However, a letter that he wrote to the bishops was read by Monsignor Walter Erbi, the Charge d’Affaires, on his behalf. He encouraged the bishops: “As we are purified of the evil, don’t lose sight of all the good that is being accomplished.”

His letter set an insightful context for the Assembly. We need to continue our efforts to strengthen current procedures and to establish needed new policies that would assist in further purifying our Church of the evil of sex abuse by the clergy. We must facilitate a culture of healing, accountability, and transparency. Additionally, we need to do a better job of sharing information about the steps we have taken, particularly since the promulgation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth back in 2002.

A careful review of the statistics reveals that since the implementation of the Charter, there has been a drastic reduction in the number of reports of sex abuse committed by the clergy. Nevertheless, much remains to be done. I came away from the Baltimore meeting much more hopeful that the culture is changing. Indicative of a unity of purpose that was present among the bishops is the fact that the three resolutions related to this issue were adopted overwhelmingly by the bishops.

The first resolution reaffirmed the bishops’ commitment to respond directly and appropriately to cases of sexual abuse of minors or vulnerable persons, cases of sexual misconduct, and the mishandling of such cases. We will do all within our ability to help victims-survivors find the care and healing they need. Clearly, the Charter and Pastoral Codes of Conduct apply to all clergy, including the bishops. This first resolution also insisted that there must be an environment of transparency when treating these cases. To that point, we are awaiting further details of the independent investigation of Theodore McCarrick. Another crucial element of this resolution was the requirement of lay involvement throughout the investigative phase of the process.

A second resolution that received overwhelming support from the bishops included Directives for the Implementation of the Provisions of Vos estis lux mundi concerning bishops. This recent Apostolic Letter from Pope Francis addressed the responsibility of the successors of the Apostles to prevent and confront crimes of sexual abuse. To this end, one of the directives included in this resolution is the establishment of an independent, third-party reporting system. This includes informing the public about how to report cases involving bishops. The resolution also stipulated the essential participation of lay expert(s) in the process, as well as that of the Metropolitan Archbishop (Timothy Cardinal Dolan in the case of the New York State dioceses).

The third resolution, Protocol Regarding Available Restrictions on Bishops, provides for a manner of accountability for a retired bishop who resigned or was moved from his office due to grave acts of commission or omission in this area, or who subsequent to his resignation is found to have so acted or failed to act.

While the Diocese of Ogdensburg has been found compliant with the directives of the Charter since the compliance audits began, we must not become complacent. Where we have fallen short, we ask forgiveness. Our efforts to provide safe environments for the most vulnerable among us and to reach out to those who suffer from such sex abuse and misconduct call us to create a culture of accountability and transparency with the participation of lay women and men.

With John Morrison, Safe Environment Director, our Diocesan Review Board, and staff, we will be working to ensure that the recently adopted resolutions of the USCCB are included in our diocesan policies and procedures. Much good has been done, more will follow.

Other topics of discussion at the Plenary Assembly included: reports on Immigration issues, reaching out to those who are religiously unaffiliated, the death penalty and the revision of the National Directory for the Formation, Ministry, and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States, 2nd edition.

Christ-led, Christ-fed and Hope-filled, we have much to do. We know that all our efforts must be firmly grounded in prayer and attentive listening to the Holy Spirit. Thank you for your prayerful support.

Bishop LaValley: Bishop-elect is a ‘servant leader’

The following is a statement from Bishop Terry R. LaValley on the appointment of Father Douglas Lucia as the 11th Bishop of Syracuse:

For the past 10 years, the Diocese of Syracuse has been blessed with a shepherd who cares deeply for his people. Bishop Robert Cunningham has been a friend whose example continues to be an inspiration and support to this neighbor to the north. We congratulate him for his faithful leadership of the Diocese of Syracuse and wish him continued good health and well-deserved relaxation in retirement.

I have known Bishop-elect Lucia since our seminary days. He is a trusted friend whose strong faith and deep love for the Church will become quickly evident to the faithful of the Diocese of Syracuse.

He has held various positions here in the Diocese of Ogdensburg over his thirty years of priestly ministry. He is well-respected and loved by the clergy, religious, seminarians, diocesan staff, and parishioners.

Personally, I am so grateful for the selfless assistance he has given to me. He will be greatly missed. We have been so blessed.

Bishop-elect Lucia is a humble man of prayer who will bring a wealth of pastoral experience and a deep desire to share the Good News with all in the Diocese of Syracuse. Parish leaders and diocesan staff will experience him as a true servant leader and fine collaborator in his episcopacy. He will be a tireless shepherd of souls.

We pray God bless him abundantly as he prepares to lead the Diocese of Syracuse.
Augustinian’s Margrey is Outstanding Teacher

Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ Superintendent of Schools

OGDENSBURG - Ms. Shannon Margrey from Augustinian Academy in Carthage has been named the 2019 Outstanding Catholic School Teacher for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Ms. Margrey has been a member of the Augustinian family since she was 8 years old. She attended Augustinian Academy through eighth grade and graduated from Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown.

Ms. Margrey has been a teacher at Augustinian Academy since 2001. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science from SUNY Plattsburgh and a Master of Science in Teaching in Elementary Education from SUNY Potsdam. Initially, Ms. Margrey taught 7th grade ELA, Social Studies and Religion. When grades 5-8 were departmentalized she continued to teach ELA and Social Studies for several years. Currently Shannon is teaching Science in grades 5-8, putting her Science degree to good use for Augustinian.

Ms. Margrey is actively involved in the life of the school. She coaches basketball and soccer, is an advisor for the Student Council, the Science Olympiad Team and the Iron Chef Team.

Ms. Margrey coordinates the school Spelling Bee, as well as the school Science Fair and Middle School History Fair. She collaborates with other teachers to create activities and events to enhance the academic and spiritual life of the students.

Ms. Margrey is a member of many committees. She has worked with the Diocesan Report Card Committee and assisted with professional development on Diocesan Superintendent’s Days. At Augustinian Academy Shannon serves on the AdvancEd Internal Committee and has assisted in updating student and faculty handbooks.

She values good professional development that helps improve teaching practices and engage the students in active learning.

For the past four years she has collaborated with several of the Augustinian teachers with Professional Learning Communities through the Jeff Lewis Teacher Center. In nominating Shannon, Mrs. Mary Ann Margrey, principal at Augustinian, wrote, "If Shannon agrees to help, you know it will be done and done well!"

Ms. Margrey has spent most of her life in Catholic education. She understands that her religious values and beliefs have shaped who she is. On the application for a teaching position at Augustinian in 2001 she stated, “I simply want to teach my students, by example, what a large part God plays in my everyday life and how He guides all my beliefs and actions.”

For 18 years, Augustinian Academy has been blessed with Ms. Margrey’s professional competence and living witness to the Catholic faith.

Ms. Margrey was honored on June 26 during a luncheon hosted by Bishop Terry LaValley at the Bishop’s residence. She was joined at the luncheon by Msrs. Mary Ann Margrey, principal of Augustinian Academy, Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin, Vicar for Education, Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ, Superintendent of Schools and Mrs. Karen Donahue, Assistant Superintendent of Schools.
**Holy Family School in Malone will not reopen**

MALONE - The families of Holy Family School students, along with faculty and staff, were notified June 26 that the Catholic school would not reopen for the 2019-20 school year.

The pastoral leaders of the contributing parishes, St. André Bessette Parish in Malone, St. Augustine's in North Bangor and St. Mary's in Brushton, informed the school's Education Council that they were requesting the closure at a June 25 meeting.

The request was approved by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on June 26. Students' families, faculty and staff were notified of the decision in a call from Principal Marianne Jadlos.

"No one can deny the immense good that has been done in our parishes and the wider community by our previous Catholic schools and by Holy Family since its founding in 1990," the pastors and pastoral life coordinator said in a written statement. "These factors have made the decision a very difficult one. Nonetheless, based on the facts at hand, it is our responsibility as pastors and pastoral leaders to take this action at this time."

The pastors and pastoral life coordinator cited declining enrollment and financial challenges as the critical factors that made the closure necessary.

The school has been struggling with declining enrollment for the past several years, and as of the June 25 meeting, enrollment targets for the 2019-20 school year had not been met.

The pastoral leaders also expressed concerns that if the school didn't meet budgeted targets for tuition and fundraising, the responsibility for making up any shortfall would fall to the participating parishes.

"These facts have not instilled confidence in us, nor in our parish councils, about the vitality and viability of Holy Family School moving into another school year," the pastoral leaders' statement said.

In writing to the pastoral leaders, Bishop LaValley noted that while the school will be closed, the parishes must continue to provide ministry and catechesis to the youth of their communities.

"Even though this chapter in the history of the Malone area Catholic churches has come to an end, the mission to catechize and evangelize does not end," Bishop LaValley said in a letter to pastoral leaders. "As parish leader, you must continue to provide enriched catechetical programs for our children and youth entrusted to your pastoral care so that they can have the support of the Church as they mature and grow in faith."

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**McElheran, Murrock win IHC’s Gaffney athletic award**

WATERTOWN – The Clarence "Boots" Gaffney Awards are made annually to the outstanding male and female graduating athletes for their exceptional athletic performance and personal growth throughout their years at Immaculate Heart Central High School.

Input is solicited from the entire school faculty and final determination is made by the athletic director, two girls' varsity coaches and two boys' varsity coaches.

The female winner is Amanda McElheran, daughter of Mr. Michael and Mrs. Patti McElheran, Watertown.

Miss McElheran is also the female recipient of the Air Force Recruiting Service Scholar/Athlete Award and NYSPHSSA Section III Scholar-Athlete Award for soccer, basketball, and lacrosse, The United States Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence Award, and Immaculate Heart Central School's Faith Community Service Award for Exemplary Service Hours (60+ community service hours).

In addition to these awards, she is also the recipient of the 5th Place New York State Mathematics League Certificates of Merit, as well as the Diocesan Outstanding Student Award. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Yearbook Committee, Newspaper Club, Whiz Quiz, Mystery Players, and Rotary Interact.

Miss McElheran will attend the University of Albany in the Fall with intent to play Division I Lacrosse and will be majoring in Biology with a minor in Criminology. She plans to be a Physician Assistant then continue her education to become a Medical Examiner.

The male winner is Matthew Murrock, son of Mr. Todd and Mrs. Kim Murrock, Watertown.

Mr. Murrock is also the recipient of the $1,000 William P. Plante Memorial Scholarship and the Frontier League Scholar Athlete Award. He is a member of Mystery Players, Newspaper Club, Student Council, National Honor Society, and represented Immaculate Heart Central School at Rotary Club of Watertown events during the 2018-2019 school year.

He was a Varsity Soccer Team Captain and received Honorable Mention, played varsity basketball, and varsity lacrosse also receiving Honorable Mention.

Mr. Murrock will attend the State University of New York at Oswego and will be majoring in Business this Fall.
Funeral Mass said for Sister Cordata

A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Marie Cordata Kelly was celebrated June 24, with Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrating and Father Donald Robinson delivering the homily.

Sister Cordata died June 19, 2019 at Rochester General Hospital, Rochester at the age of 80.

She was born, Janet Kelly in AuSable Forks, March 28, 1939, daughter of Bernard Kelley and Messina Chasolen McDonald, Kelley, Kilburn.

She attended Holy Name Catholic School and graduated from AuSable Valley High School, AuSable Forks. She earned her BA degree in Education from SUNY Potsdam, NY, a MA Business Education and Office Supervision from the The Catholic University in Washington, DC and a MA degree in Theology from St. Bonaventure University, Allegeny, NY.

She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph on February 10, 1957. She received the habit on August 18, 1957 and made Final Profession on August 28, 1962.

She taught in the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Ogdensburg at St. Andrews School, Norwood, NY, St. Mary’s School, Fort Covington, NY, St. Joseph the Worker, Mineville, NY, St. Mary’s School, Massena, NY, Immaculate Heart Central School, Watertown, Seton Catholic High School, Plattsburgh, NY. Sister Cordata was Principal at Seton Catholic High School, Plattsburgh, NY and St. Mary’s School, Champlain, NY until the school closed in 2012.

Sister Cordata was assigned to the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph to be the secretary to the Major Superior. She served on the Council of the Sisters of St. Joseph from 2013 to the present. She also served on the IHC Educational Council as a Board member. Sister Cordata was on the Diocese of Ogdensburg Planning Team for the 2016 Vacation Summit.

Sister Cordata is survived by her sisters-in-law Judy Kelley and Eileen Kelly, both from The Villages, FL and by nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents Bernard and Messina, she is predeceased by her sister Eleanor Kelly Wardell and brothers Bernard Kelly and William Kelley.

Catholic, PO Box 12883, Ticonderoga

Response from a youth

Pope Francis asks “What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? It is no longer enough, then, simply to state that we should be concerned for future generations. We need to see that what is at stake is our own dignity. Leaving an inhabitable planet for future generations is, first and foremost up to us.”

My name is Anna Dalton. I am a member of St. Patrick’s Church in Chateaugay. Last year as a fourth grader, I started an environmental group at my school called The Chateaugay Environment Rangers. We have been meeting on Wednesdays after school to come up with a way to have less garbage in our school cafeteria. We worked on a presentation and went to the school board at Chateaugay Central School. We recommended the school go straw free. After the meeting, the board took all of the straws out of our school cafeteria. We are now straw free. Our current project is working with the cafeteria to find out more ways we can reduce the amount of garbage we have in school. Our efforts were featured in our local paper two days in a row.

On Thursday June 6, two members of the Faith and Ecology Group, Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, a Sister of St. Joseph, and Linda Soderbaum, came to Chateaugay Central School to attend our end of the year meeting. We showed pictures from our Clean Up Day event where we went around Chateaugay cleaning up trash. We picked up over 40 pounds of trash in two hours. Then we thought of ideas for next year. We came up with roughly 21 ideas, such as composting, getting metal silverware for our cafeteria, and getting paper straws for our school store. At the end of our meeting, we were presented the Pope Francis Green Apple Award that recognizes young people who have demonstrated ways that they have “cared for our common home.”
By Suzanne Pietropaoli

Dr. Maura Hearden Fehlner will bring an unusually rich and diverse background to the marriage-building workshop scheduled for July 27 at Fr. Amyot Parish Center in Norfolk. Author, teacher, public speaker, and radio talk show hostess, Dr. Fehlner earned her Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Marquette University after earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in theater; she has been teaching theology to college students for nearly two decades.

But five years ago, theory met experience when Dr. Maura Hearden married Deacon John Fehlner. As she explained in a recent NCC interview, “Being married to John involves the challenges of sharing your life with someone else – something that might be especially difficult for two people who get married when they are older and set in their ways, as we did. But being married to John has let me experience the incredible gift of facing those challenges with the help of sacramental grace and a spouse who is willing to give his life for me. I am amazed at God’s goodness every day of my life with John, and I am privileged to be able to tell people from first-hand experience, “Hey! The Church’s approach to marriage really works! We really are happy, and this is why! The Church teaches that sacramental marriage is all about imaging the self-giving love that flows between Christ and his Church. It’s about living this kind of sacrificial love and receptivity so that you and your spouse grow spiritually, to advance toward your ultimate home in heaven; it’s about extending that love to children and the community at large, making everyone’s quest for holiness that much easier. I never knew the profound joy and peace of having someone in your life who was really, consciously dedicated to doing just that.”

Yet if Church teaching about marriage is such a blessing for couples, then why do so many people find it so difficult? Dr. Fehlner particularly cites both cultural influences and fallen human nature. “Popular culture has embraced a sexual ethic that, in many ways is the polar opposite of Church teaching – and cultural movers and shakers who have their own dogmatism are working hard to spread their message. We are bombarded with a steady diet of lies and misconceptions about human sexuality coming at us from public education curricula; entertainment, news, and social media; politicians, activists, and a host of other public figures.”

At the same time, Dr. Fehlner asks, “What do these same sources say about the Catholic Church? According to them, the Catholic hierarchy is the enemy of liberty: the retrograde, oppressive, sexually repressed and perverted institution that produces nothing but pedophiles and a bunch of rules created by old white guys who want to amass power and spoil your good time. Obviously, if you do not make a special effort to counteract this bombardment, you will succumb to the brainwashing.” Then, too, we are all affected by the lure of sin. “We have to be honest,” Dr. Fehlner reminds us. “We sin because we like it. Any sin we commit, sexual or not, we commit because, at least in that moment, we genuinely think that the pleasure of sin outweighs any long-term difficulties. Sin is like addiction. We see the prize. We want it, and we will rationalize that having it is actually good.”

Dr. Fehlner explains that her varied experiences have not confined her to an ivory tower, away from all the ‘complicated’ realities of the world. I am, in fact, quite familiar with them, I know what it is to care deeply about people who reject Catholic moral teaching, and I know how hard it is to try to witness to the truth without alienating them. I also know how destructive certain behaviors can be to the people we love, and how important it is to offer them a life-giving alternative. To that end, we need to support each other in our quest for truth amid the confusion all around us. And we need to come together to study and pray so that we know we’re not alone.”

These are exactly the opportunities that the July 27th workshop offers. According to Dr. Fehlner, “This conference will be helpful to adults of all ages who want to deepen their understanding of the reasons behind Church teaching on human sexuality. Maybe you have children, grandchildren or other family members or friends who challenge Church teaching. Maybe you’re a little puzzled about the reasons for Church teaching and you’d like to know more. Or maybe you already understand the teaching and just want to know that you are not alone. If any of these scenarios fit you, you’re going to want to come to this conference.”

Dr. Fehlner will open the day by laying out a few key principles to help people understand and explain Church teaching. “You might be surprised,” she notes, “to find out how logical and clear these principles are! That’s what my talk, ‘How to Set Your Moral Compass,’ is about. It’s critically important to have the reliable, rock-solid tools you need to set your moral compass correctly.”

“The day will also feature a powerful movie,” Unprotected, Dr. Fehlner concludes, “that gets into some specifics of the sexual revolution and the Church’s response. There will also be discussion time to allow people to ask questions about the presentations and/or anything else weighing on their minds. It’s going to be a great day! And bring the kids as they will have their own activities.”

“Loving Authentically: Creating Thriving Relationships in Trying Times” will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 27. There is no charge for the day; lunch will be provided. For info/to register, call Family Life Director Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 EXT. 1420/email startaglia@rcdony.org. You may also register at rcdony.org/relationships.
Respect Life collection funds 20 grants

OGDENSBURG – The Respect Life second collection is held each year around the anniversary of the Roe v Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. The collection aids prolife efforts in the Diocese of Ogdensburg thru a grant process.

Grant applications are due at the end of February. After collections are received, the grant board meets to discern grant amounts that will be suggested to Bishop Terry R. LaValley, who grants final approval.

This year, the grant board met on May 8. On June 11, the amounts were approved. Award letters with checks were mailed the same week.

The grant board consists of diocesan Natural Family Planning Directors Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli, Father Patrick A. Ratigan, Family Life Director Stephen Tartaglia, and Respect Life Directors John and Colleen Miner.

Twenty grants totaling $59,267.99 were awarded from this year’s collection. This is a decrease from last year’s collection of $74,142.32.

This meant that some organizations did not receive the amount they initially requested. But according to Colleen Miner, “even with an almost $15,000 difference, great things are happening in our diocese. So many are dedicated to building a culture of life.”

An educational opportunity that was afforded due to a grant was Teen Life Days. A grant helped bring Students for Life to the diocese for two days of teaching. The group was joined by as well as other guest speakers, including Dr. Jan Patterson of the Albany Gianna Center, Kathy Gallagher of the New York State Catholic Conference, Nancy Belzile, who coordinates 40 Days for Life, Silent No More, and Kitty St. Denis of the Plattsburgh Pregnancy Center.

Five Gabriel Projects – Brasher Falls, Potsdam, Ogdensburg, Massena and Plattsburgh – received grants. The parish-based, crisis-pregnancy, apostolate helps hundreds of women throughout the year.

Two pro-life fair booths received grants: Lewis County Right to Life and Champlain Valley Right to Life.

Three pilgrimages to the DC March for Life were aided thru the collection: Campus Ministry, Youth Buses for Life and Lewis County Right to Life.

Other recipients included: Plattsburgh Pregnancy Center, Lifeflight of Watertown, Birthright, Life of Truth Radio in Lake Placid, Catholic Charities in Malone, and 40 Days for Life 2020 Spring and Fall campaigns.

Grants were also given to help provide materials to pastors, Natural Family Planning received a grant for NFP awareness week materials, and the Respect Life office received a grant for USCCB Respect Life month informational packets.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Respect Life second collection.

Next year’s collection will be held the weekend of January 25-26.

Knights of Columbus
Twenty Sixth Annual Bus Trip
Pilgrimage

St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte, Vermont
Saturday and Sunday, July 20th and 21st 2019
The Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Anne
(Mother of Mary)

Saturday: July 20th

9:00AM Depart IHC Intermediate School (formally St. Pat’s), South Massey St., Watertown
3:00PM Arrival at Isle La Motte, Vermont

We will be stopping for lunch along the way.

We will be staying at the cottages on site.

4 to 5PM Hors d’oeuvres
5:00PM Dinner at the Shrine
7:00PM Mass at the Shrine

Sunday: July 21st

8:30AM to 11:30AM Breakfast at the Shrine’s cafeteria
12:15PM Mass with Bishop LaValley
1:15PM Picnic, free time for prayer and Rosary
4:00PM Depart

We will be stopping for a light meal on the way home.

9:00PM Arrival in Watertown

Total Cost including all meals is $300 per couple or $150 per person as singles are invited.

DRESS: Saturday and Sunday are both casual - slacks, shorts, etc.

We can take a total of 40 people, so reservations will be on a first come, first serve basis. Money and reservations are due by July 17, 2019.

We will be traveling up Route 11 and can pick up along the way.

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Securing authentic children’s rights

Children require extensive support and protection to meet their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. They are uniquely dependent on their parents because they are particularly vulnerable. Often they are unable to speak on their own behalf or effectively defend themselves from various forms of exploitation.

Considerations like these provide the basis for acknowledging the reality of “children’s rights.” Providing an appropriate family environment, with the presence of both a mother and a father, has long been recognized as one of the paramount examples of fulfilling children’s rights. A proper family environment offers essential safeguards for a child, and helps assure the “full and harmonious development of his or her personality” — to borrow a phrase from the 1990 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Such “full and harmonious development,” however, is becoming more difficult to secure for many children in part due to a growing societal acceptance of powerful new assisted reproductive technologies that can isolate children and deprive them of critical parental and family supports during their childhood. Children brought into existence using anonymous donor sperm and artificial insemination, to consider one example, often struggle with a sense of violation as they end up spending years or even decades searching for information about their biological father in the desperate hope of discovering his identity, meeting him in person, and learning more about their own roots and identity. Katy Faust, founder of the children’s rights organization Them Before Us, notes how children born from these techniques are “just like every other human child who longs to be known and loved by the two people responsible for their existence.”

Children enter the world through in vitro fertilization similarly struggle with their unnatural circumstances in which the hired services of a third-party contractor, rather than their parents’ loving embrace, resulted in their coming-into-being. As they grow up in these situations, they may also face wrenching questions about how many other embryonic siblings were discarded, frozen, or otherwise lost through the complex laboratory manipulations that created them. Surrogate mothering gives rise to yet another approach that can fracture a child’s sense of family connection. This technique frequently relies on multiple parental figures: one who provides sperm, another eggs, and a third a womb for hire. An even greater number of parental figures can be involved in the production of so-called “three-parent embryos.”

While many of these assisted reproductive technologies chip away at the stabilizing presence of maternal and paternal figures in the life of a child, their growing use by same-sex couples to facilitate same-sex parenting raises further serious concerns about harming children and ignoring their best interests. Nobody denies that two men might each be able to be a good father, but neither can be a mom. It is part of natural biological filiation for children to flourish under the loving care of their own mom and dad. No same-sex couple can provide that. As Katy Faust notes, “Until recently, our culture and laws have recognized that children have an innate right to their mother and father. When this right is violated, children become ‘items’ to be cut and pasted into any and every adult romantic relationship.”

Additional “cutting and pasting” in children’s lives occurs through the growing phenomenon of “triple-parenting.” Because a same-sex couple (two lesbians, for instance) cannot have a child unless someone provides the missing ingredient of donor sperm, they must rope in a male for the project — perhaps an anonymous sperm donor, or a friend who agrees to donate his sperm or an agreeable male friend willing to have sex with one of them. In any of these scenarios, a de facto relationship comes to exist between the same-sex couple and this third party individual, raising the prospect of triple-parenting.

California was one of the first states that tried to pass a law allowing children to have three legal parents. In some cases the lesbians will entirely avoid interaction with any father/donor. In others, they will want their child to have an ongoing relationship with him. Some men may not care; others may be eager, and push to get involved with their biological kids. The growing acceptance of same-sex parenting has created momentum for these kinds of triple-parenting situations to arise, bringing additional complications into the lives of the children caught in the middle and subjecting them to further ambiguity regarding their own identity and their relationship to their parents.

Notwithstanding rapidly changing social mores, a truly civilized society will never prioritize the desires of adults ahead of the innate rights of vulnerable children. As Jennifer Roback Morse, a tireless advocate of marriage and family concludes, “We are replacing the natural pre-political concept of biological parenthood with an artificial, government-created concept of parenthood that is entirely socially constructed... Triple-parenting and genderless marriage are destructive policies. They must be stopped.”

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 the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org

Order your 2019 Diocesan Directory!

The Official 2019 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.

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City__ State__ Zip__
CHAMPLAIN VALLEY RIGHT TO LIFE MEETING
Plattsburgh – Champlain Valley Right to Life meeting to be held.
Date: July 7
Time: 1 p.m.
Place: Newman Center
Features: Please join us for an informative video, refreshments and an interesting discussion! Short business meeting, educational materials, we will be watching the movie Thine Eyes: Witness to the March for Life. Free! Bring a friend!
Contact: More info: 518-593-6024

GOLF TOURNAMENT
Plattsburgh—St. Alexander’s 15th Annual Golf Classic to be held.
Date: July 12
Time: Shotgun start at noon
Place: Barrack’s Golf Course
Cost: $50 for Barrack’s members and $60 for non-members.
Features: Price includes complimentary gifts, greens fee, cart, a BBQ chicken dinner and much more!
Contact: If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Dodds at 518-572-4622 or Jackie at the parish office at 518-561-5039.

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY RIGHT TO LIFE MEETING
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Contact: More info: 518-593-6024

INDOOR YARD SALE
Chazy – Sacred Heart will be holding it’s Annual Indoor Yard Sale.
Date: July 27
Time: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Features: Something for everyone. Refreshments will be served.
Contact: For more information call 518-846-7650

Raising Joyful Noise
Alex Bay – St. Cyril’s Choir to present their 11th Annual Summer Concert.
Date: Aug. 25
Time: 4 p.m.
Place: St. Cyril’s Church
Features: Free Admission. The choir will be performing an all new program of religious, jazz, pop and patriotic music.

TI CATHOLIC MEN’S GROUP
Clayton – The Thousand Islands Catholic Men’s Group is a group of Catholic men who meet on a regular basis to discuss their experiences as Catholic men in today’s society.
Date: Second Saturday of every month
Time: 9 a.m.
Place: St. Mary’s Church Parish Center
Features: Come join us, whether you’ve been to a meeting before or not.
Contact: For further information contact Scott Beesle at 315-686-1303 or Gene Kleinhans at 315-482-3981.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS
Houserville – Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of July to be held.
Date: July 7
Time: 3 p.m.
Place: St. Hedwig’s Church
Features: For more information, contact St. Mary’s parish office at 315-686-3398.

ST. LAWRENCE
QUEEN OF HEARTS
Canton – Queen of Hearts Game coming to the Knights of Columbus Hall.
Place: Knights of Columbus Hall, Minner Street
Cost: $1 per ticket or 6 for $5
Time: Tickets will be sold Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and Thursday evenings from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Drawing will be held Tuesday at 6 p.m.

BREAKFAST BUFFET
Norwood – St. Andrew’s Church will hold its 13th Annual Summer Social.
Date: July 10
Time: 5 p.m. to 7
Features: Delicious picnic menu starting with Millers Hamburgers and ending with Stewarts Ice Cream, ala carte pricing. Come and enjoy an inexpensive and fun evening out with games, raffles, and socializing with friends as well as a free Magic Show which will begin at 6 p.m.

MORNING PRAYER, ADORATION
Lowville – To thank God & to honor the Most Blessed Sacrament, all are invited to morning prayer, Mass, exposition, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, silent adoration, and benediction.
Date: July 18
Time: 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Place: St. Peter’s Church (Lowville)

TRIP TO SEE YANKEES
The Canton Knights of Columbus is once again sponsoring a trip to New York City to see the NY Yankees play the Toronto Blue Jays.
Date: July 12 & 13
Cost: $320 per person, double occupancy you will get Luxury Coach transportation, Ticket to the two ball games, one night hotel stay at the La Quinta Inn and breakfast on Saturday.
Features: As an added bonus the July 12 game is a Mariano Rivera Bobble Head giveaway and the July 13 game is Yankees Camo Hat day.
Contact: For more information or to reserve your spot email cantonkofc@gmail.com or call 315-714-2016.

DOVS LUNCHEON
Norfolk – DOVs (Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society) Luncheon to be held.
Date: July 17
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Place: Fr. Amyot Parish Center
Features: Darcy Fargo, Editor of the North Country Catholic, will be talking about Understanding Autism and Creating Welcoming Faith Communities. Open to the public and free of charge.
Contact: Please register by calling Connie Randall at 315-265-2762 or Mary Eason at 315-268-1016.

WEAVING COSMOS, EARTH AND SOUL
Ogdensburg – A two day retreat to be held.
Date: Aug. 2-3
Place: Wadhams Hall
Features: Celtic spirituality nurtures a sense of the closeness of the natural and the spiritual. In a series of talks and rituals, participants will be invited to deepen their understanding of our

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11
**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**An Open Letter to Pastors**

Each weekend we all hopefully see new faces at Mass or faces we have not seen recently. That is a great experience, especially considering the statistic that for every person who enters the Catholic Church six are leaving.

But how do those welcome faces arrive, what did they go through just to be there, to have the most up-to-date info available?

Occasionally I surf the websites of other parishes, as well as the Diocesan website, just to explore what happens elsewhere. “Check the bulletin for details” is a statement often found, although not quite as much as in the past. Just how easily is that done?

Sometimes the bulletins are available by mid-week before the weekend, sometimes available barely by mid-week afterwards. Some show up by anticipated Mass, while some parishes have no website at all.

One goal of the census was having people actively return to the Church, those faces we are glad to see. However, if they are not in church where the printed bulletins are and the bulletin is late or not available at all online, just how do these people check the bulletin?

And other people also need to see bulletins online and timely – people visiting family and friends or just passing through the area, people who are thinking of relocating or people who have already relocated and are looking for a spiritual home.

Being a “welcoming Church” does not start with greeters at the door. For many people these days, it starts online. Please think about that when planning bulletin posting times. Please think about that if the parish does not have a website. Surely someone in the Diocese can help with that, too. We need to be welcoming, even before people arrive at the door.

Gene Kleinhans, Jr. CLM

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**Around the diocese**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2**

physical and spiritual connections to the universe and the Earth. Presenters are Aileen O’Donoghue, St. Lawrence University professor of physics, author & contributor to the monthly magazine, Living Faith; and Delores Hall, Retreat Director, Ottawa, Ontario.

Cost: Suggested offering is $120.

Contact: For more information or to register, contact 315-212-6592 or srbeths@gmail.com, or 315-212-9754 or mamonieli@twcny.rr.com.

**177 PROJECT**

Canton – An Evening of Adoration and Music to be held.

**Date:** Sept. 17

**Time:** 7 p.m. to 9

**Place:** St. Mary’s Church

**Features:** Come join us as we adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament with worship music provided by Catholic musician, Lee Roessler. This event is free and open to all.

Contact: Amanda at 315-386-2543 or conklina@canton.edu for more information. For additional information visit www.177Project.com

**DIOCESEAN EVENTS**

**SUMMER DISCERNMENT WEEKEND FOR MEN**

Saranac Lake – Summer Discernment weekend retreat weekend for men to be held.

**Date:** July 5 at 5 p.m. to July 7 at noon

**Place:** Guggenheim Main Lodge

**Features:** includes a cash bar, as well as the option to order from the restaurant menu. Lester Gates will be performing. All majors and all years of graduation are invited.

Contact: While not required, those who plan to attend are asked to RSVP to Marla Kinch at 315-323-2572 or through the Facebook page, “MY COL-LEGE DOESN’T EXIST ANYMORE? MATER DEI ALUMNI.”

**DAY OF RECOLLECTION**

Saranac Lake – In Conjunction with the discernment retreat there will be a Day of Recollection for High School Young Men age 14-17.

**Date:** July 6

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

**Place:** Guggenheim Main lodge

**Features:** Participants may want to bring swim trunks and towel. Parental Consent and Medical Forms are required and will be provided when registering.

Contact: Father Doug Lucia at dlucia@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920 or 315-388-4466

**MATER DEI COLLEGE REUNION**

Morristown – A reunion will be held for all Mater Dei alumni, professors, staff, former students – anyone with an affiliation with the college.

**Date:** July 13

**Time:** 4 p.m.

**Place:** Ella’s on the Bay

**Features:** includes a cash bar, as well as the option to order from the restaurant menu. Lester Gates will be performing. All majors and all years of graduation are invited.

Contact: While not required, those who plan to attend are asked to RSVP to Marla Kinch at 315-323-2572 or through the Facebook page, “MY COL-LEGE DOESN’T EXIST ANYMORE? MATER DEI ALUMNI.”

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PILGRIMAGE**

Isle LaMotte, VT - Knights of Columbus, families and friends from throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg will participate in the 71st annual pilgrimage to St. Anne’s Shrine.

**Date:** July 21

**Schedule:** The pilgrimage begins with the celebration of a 12:15 p.m. Mass by Bishop Terry R. LaValley. Following Mass, Bishop LaValley will join the pilgrims for a picnic lunch on the shrine’s beautiful grounds. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will take place at 3 p.m.

**Features:** All pilgrims are invited to the picnic lunch and if practical asked to bring a dish to share. The Knights of Columbus will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, and beverages. Lunch is also available in the shrine’s cafeteria.

Contact: For more information please call Pilgrimage Coordinator Peter Keenan at 518-643-9241.

**STEBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE**

Attention all high school youth, the Steubenville Youth Conference to be held this summer.

**Date:** July 19 – 21

**Features:** The best Catholic speakers, powerful praise and worship, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Celebrate of the Holy Mass, small groups, Adoration and more! All with 2,500 other faithful teens!

Contact: For more information contact Dayna Leader Family Life Associate at dleader@rcdony.org 315-323-0827 and visit Family Life Office at www.rcdony.org

https://www.rcdony.org/kenmore-summer-youth-conference/registration.html

**MARRIAGE BUILDING WORKSHOP**

Norfolk – Marriage building workshop to be held.

**Date:** July 27

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

**Place:** Fr. Amyot Parish Center

**Features:** Come pray and play with other faithful families, enjoy the beautiful mountains and lake, beach time, engaging workshops, and liturgies. Families of all sizes and ages are welcome!

Contact: For information contact Deacon Henry and Dayna Leader, Family Gugghenheim Directors dleader@rcdony.org 315-323-0827 visit https://www.rcdony.org/family-life/kenmore-family-gugghenheim.html

**ALTAR SERVER GATHERING**

Ogdensburg – Altar Serving Gathering to be held.

**Date:** Aug. 16

**Schedule:** 10 a.m. Registration and Cathedral Tours; 11 a.m. Presentations; 12 p.m. Mass with Bishop LaValley at Cathedral; 1 p.m. Picnic and tour of Bishop’s House.

Contact: Register by contacting Shayne Lippincott at slippincott@rcdony.org or by calling 315-782-3620 by Aug. 9

**FAMILY GUGGENHEIM**

Saranac Lake – Registration is open for Family Gugghenheim 2019.

**Date:** Session 1: Aug. 15 - 18; Session 2: Aug. 22 – 25; Session 3: Oct. 11 - 13

**Features:** Come pray and play with other faithful families, enjoy the beautiful mountains and lake, beach time, engaging workshops, and liturgies. Families of all sizes and ages are welcome!

Contact: For information contact Deacon Henry and Dayna Leader, Family Gugghenheim Directors dleader@rcdony.org 315-323-0827 visit https://www.rcdony.org/family-life/kenmore-family-gugghenheim.html

**Letters to the Editor**

We welcome letters from readers of the North Country Catholic.

- Due to space limitations, we ask that the number of words be limited to 300.
- We cannot accept letters which support ideas which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or e-mail to news@northcountrycatholic.org
- Join the conversation!
NEW YORK (CNS) – Snappy and substantial, "Spider-Man: Far From Home" (Columbia), director Jon Watts’ follow-up to his 2017 feature "Spider-Man: Homecoming," is an adventure full of bloodless derring-do and gentle, innocent romance. As a result, many parents may consider it acceptable for older teens.

True to its title, the film finds the eponymous superhero (Tom Holland) traveling across Europe on a summer trip organized for the students of his high school. He wants to spend the journey, which includes stops in Venice and Prague, courting MJ (Zendaya), the vaguely goth classmate with whom he’s smitten, and Oake (Numan Acar, Tom Holland and Jake Gyllenhaal star in a scene from the movie "Spider-Man: Far From Home."), an alien whose world — a version of Earth that existed in a different part of the multiverse — was destroyed by the creatures.

He’s eventually so impressed with this new comrade that he gives him the vastly powerful technological system, dubbed EDITH, that he inherited from his late mentor, Tony Stark, alias Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr., seen only in images). Peter soon discovers, however, that his trust may have been misplaced.

Screenwriters Chris McKenna and Erik Sommers continue to explore the franchise’s recurring theme about the responsibilities that come with power. In this case, Peter’s regifting of EDITH, a sort of weaponized Alexa or Siri, is symptomatic of his doubts about his ability to step into Tony’s shoes. (The fact that Peter is mourning Tony connects the movie not only to its predecessor but to "Avengers: Endgame" from earlier this year in which Iron Man’s self-sacrificing death was portrayed.)

The script touches comically on some subjects unfit for little kids. Thus a character is quoted as the-
Catholic World

At a Glance

Supreme Court to take up DACA case, not abortion law

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In its next term, the Supreme Court will examine if the Trump administration illegally tried to end a program that protects young adults brought to the U.S. as minors without documentation. The court announced in June 28 order that it will consolidate three cases on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, in its term that begins in October. President Donald Trump has been wanting the high court to overturn appellate court rulings that have kept in place the DACA program initiated by President Barack Obama in 2012, which has protected nearly 700,000 people brought to this country as children, commonly known as “Dreamers.” Without action from the high court, the lower court rulings have been kept in place, blocking the president’s effort to end DACA, which he ordered in 2017 when then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions called DACA “an unconstitutional exercise of authority.” Although qualifying DACA recipients do not get legal status, they receive a work permit and get a reprieve from deportation and other temporary relief.

Canadian bishops pay close attention to married priest talks

TORONTO (CNS) — When bishops convene in Rome this fall to begin discussions about ordaining married men to serve as priests in remote, indigenous communities in the Amazon, bishops in northern Canada will be listening closely. The Vatican put a discussion about married priests on the agenda for the Oct. 6-27 Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon region. The working document for the Rome meeting calls for “ministry with an Amazonian face” and greater access to the Eucharist in remote communities that rarely see a priest. Like the Amazon, Canada’s North faces a severe shortage of priests and a complete absence of indigenous priests. “The people really do appreciate the sacraments. At this point, they just can’t do that without a priest,” said Bishop Jon Hansen of Mackenzie-Fort Smith. Bishop Hansen’s diocese covers 797,000 square miles, with 30,000 Catholics in six parishes, 27 churches and no incardinated priests. Priests currently serving in Canada’s North are on loan for periods of anywhere from six months to two years.

Vatican tells clergy in China to follow their conscience

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has told bishops and priests in China that they must follow their own consciences in deciding whether to register with the government, and it urged Catholics in the country not to judge them for the choices they make. The problem, the Vatican said, is that registration almost always requires the bishop or priest to accept “the principle of independence, autonomy and self-administration of the church in China,” which could be read as a denial of one’s bonds with the pope and the universal church. Releasing the “pastoral guidelines of the Holy See concerning the civil registration of clergy in China” June 28, the Vatican acknowledged that acceptance of the independence of the church in China comes despite “the commitment assumed by the Chinese authorities,” in an agreement with the Vatican in September, to respect Catholic doctrine. Deciding whether to register with the government, which is the only way to be able to minister openly, is a choice that is “far from simple,” the guidelines said. “All those involved — the Holy See, bishops, priests, religious men and women and the lay faithful — are called to discern the will of God with patience and humility on this part of the journey of the church in China, marked, as it is, by much hope but also by enduring difficulties.”

Hearing examines Christian persecution around the world

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Speakers at a June 27 hearing on persecution against Christians by governments worldwide lamented the lack of action by many nations, but noted the improvements made by a couple of them.

“Christians remain the most persecuted religious group in the world — in the world! — and thus deserve this special hearing focusing on them,” said Rep. Christopher Smith, R-New Jersey, co-chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, who conducted the hearing.

Smith’s assessment was confirmed by Sam Brownback, U.S. ambassador-at-large for religious freedom. “Christians face the most widespread harassment of any religious group. They’re targeted in 144 countries globally,” Brownback said.

The hearing came less than a week after the release of the State Department’s annual report on religious freedom across the globe. A forum known as a “ministerial” on religious freedom will be held in July, with 115 nations on the invitation list, according to Brownback.

“In Iran, many languish in jail just for exercising their fundamental freedom to worship, to practice and teach their faith,” Brownback said. “In Nicaragua, religious leaders report constant surveillance, intimidation and threats” and “beatings in broad daylight” by government forces.

China came in for a lion’s share of the hearing, as it has an estimated 100 million Christians in the country, according to Thomas Farr, president of the Religious Freedom Institute, a nongovernmental organization which working to achieve worldwide acceptance of religious freedom.

“China is trying to cut off the growth of Christianity and other religions by cutting off the pipeline — stopping the religious education of children,” through a law that declares that no one under age 18 may receive religious education of any kind from anyone, Farr said. Teachers also must “profess that their teachings are compatible with the philosophy of the Chinese government and support the Chinese Communist Party.”

Farr later criticized the Vatican for its accord with the Chinese government. “On the Vatican, excuse me for chuckling, but to put it as nicely as I can, I am befuddled by how the Vatican concluded this accord,” he said. “I feared that this was a return to the foreign policy of the Vatican before Pope John Paul II came in, which was called a policy of re­alpolitik, but it was a policy for enemy indemnification, a failure to understand the evils of communism.”

He added, “To just sign an accord that allows Beijing to participate in the choosing of Catholic bishops — Catholics have to have bishops — is a very bad idea on its face. ... I have no inside information, but I’m hoping the Vatican is assessing not only this accord but also what was supposed to be the next step but the next step — recognizing Beijing as the capital of China.”


“The Holy Father (Pope Francis) has been heroic in calling out religious persecution about all people. My comments were about the foreign ministry of the Vatican and their capacity to move in a direction they want to move in rather than a direction the country (on the other side of the negotiations) needs to move in,” he said. “The diplomats around the Holy Father who have led the Vatican in the wrong direction. They are very talented men, and very dedicated priests. They just got this one wrong.”

The Vatican describes the “accord” as a provisional agreement, which church and Chinese officials signed last September. The Vatican did not release the text of the agreement nor provide details about what it entailed. News reports said the agreement would outline precise procedures for ensuring Catholic bishops are elected by the Catholic community in China and approved by the pope before their ordinations and installations.

During the commission hearing, Sri Lanka also received focus. A series of coordinated bombings on Easter this year killed 259 people. Catholics are “being told not to go to Mass for their own protection. Some of their churches are guarded by members of the military,” Brownback said, adding they are “understandably nervous about the government’s intentions.”
God’s recipe for peace and prosperity

This weekend’s celebrations of our beginnings as a nation stir our hearts to renewed loyalty to our beloved country. Yet this nation is now in the throes of a huge debate about policies concerning immigrants. Our borders once offered hope and hospitality to the stranger. No more! The torch of Lady Liberty in New York harbor is as much a warning fire as it is a beacon of hope. At the same time, the number of displaced peoples in the world has reached 20 million. How much of our freedom are we willing to share?

The Scripture readings for this Sunday offer food for reflection, and God’s recipe for peace. Beginning with Isaiah, we hear that the Lord offers a future of peace and prosperity to every village and hamlet, they preach the Good News, heal the sick and drive out demons. Jesus has instructed them to travel very light, relying on the common people to feed and protect them. They are not to take staff or traveling bag. Unfortunately, Jerusalem rejects the message, puts the Son of God to death, and seals its own fate, not the peace of Jerusalem, but its eventual destruction in the year 70! No wonder that, when Jesus arrives, He weeps over the city’s rejection, again using the image of God as a tender-hearted mother.

Our late Holy Father, John Paul II, reminded us that peace begins in the human heart. Peace will only come from those whose hearts are filled with God’s love, and obedience to His plan for the world. At the same time, Paul reminds us in the second reading, that the disciple must be prepared for rejection, bearing the marks of the Cross in his or her own body.

State-sanctioned killing is not about love

The following is an editorial titled: “State-sanctioned killing is not about love” from the June 22 issue of The Australian, a daily newspaper based in Sydney. It was written by Sydney Bishop Anthony C. Fisher and shared by Catholic News Services.

Before you say: “He would say that, he’s a bishop,” please hear me out. When it comes to calls for euthanasia, I get it, I really do. A few years ago, I was close to death. I had a severe case of motor neuron disease, the father of modern human rights thinking, John Locke, pointed out, you can’t protect the vulnerable from lethal violence if you allow them to opt out of protection from this; if human dignity or the right to life is inalienable, then no one can lose it, no one can take it away and no one can volunteer it away. If we do allow that some people can be excluded from the law’s protection of life, the implications are enormous.

If we’ve reached the point, as a society, that we are willing to say some people are better off dead, or that we will be better off if they are dead and state-sponsored killing is OK, we have reached a chilling moment in our history.

We already have too much violence in our community, some of it lethal: violent crime, domestic violence, child abuse, abuse of people with disabilities, elder abuse in nursing homes and beyond, coward punches outside bars, suicide and other self-harm. We should do nothing that normalizes killing or neglect, whether of the young or elderly, the able or disabled, the depressed or lonely, the living or the dying.

Surely it is not beyond the wit of human beings to find a better way to deal with suffering.

If we were serious about this, we’d at least ensure there was the option of pain management and other palliative care for everyone who might benefit. But the experts tell us we’re still a long way from having such care available to every Australian.

But what about ineradicable suffering, humiliation, the sense of being a burden to others and to self? That’s the crunch point. That’s what I had to face when totally paralyzed and uncertain whether I would die or survive but be unable to communicate or be seriously handicapped in some other way long term.

It was a frightening and lonely time, even with the best of medical care and human support, even for someone with faith in God’s loving providence.

Those who advocate euthanasia say it’s about mercy and autonomy. No doubt those are real motives.

But every place that has gone down the euthanasia path has left the frail, elderly, sick and disabled with fewer options, not more; with less care, not more. It also has encouraged other classes of non-terminal sufferers to consider a state-sanctioned death.

Despite the culture of the quick fix, despite demands for governments or health professionals to make everything nice, some suffering is unfixable.

Then our resilience, our character and our hope are really tested. Then our community’s resolve to stand with us, to invest itself in us, not only financially and pharmaceutically but also emotionally and spiritually, is tested. Then the hard loving starts. I have known such hard loving when I was close to death. I ask that others receive it also.

No matter how you package it, state-sponsored killing is not loving.
St. Peter Apostle Appeal 2019

Every July brings the St. Peter Apostle appeal to your doorstep. This is a National Appeal that targets the need for financial assistance with vocations to the priesthood. Although vocations to the priesthood in the Missions are increasing dramatically, there is still an insufficient number of priests to cope with the decrease in missionaries in some places and the increase in population in other areas.

The Society of St. Peter Apostle, an affiliate of the Propagation of the Faith, provides support for mission vocations. The financial support provides aid to men who hear the call to follow Jesus as a priest but who would, without your help through the St. Peter Apostle, not be able to enter a seminary because of material poverty. Likewise help is given to those who want to be Religious Brothers and Sisters. Typical help for a seminarian’s education is $700 a year. Each Sister and Brother needs $300 for Spiritual Formation. The Pontifical Society of St. Peter Apostle also supports the formation of more than 9,000 religious Sisters and Brothers who serve the poorest and most vulnerable of our mission families – especially children in schools and orphanages, and the elderly and sick in Church-run hospitals. Your donation instills hope in so many ways! A bishop serving in a mission country tells us that no missionary is more important than the Sisters, who are priceless because they bond with the people, in particular the women, and greatly influence the faith lives of the poor. Would you in your kindness please contribute to this essential work of our Church?

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops presents many prayers on their website. I would like to share with you their prayer for mission vocations:

He said to them “Come and See.”

They came and saw where he was staying (John 1:39).

God of all nations, we are most grateful for the first Catholic missionaries and explorers who came here.

As strangers in a strange land, they brought with them countless skills, talents and traditions, but their greatest treasure was their faith.

May the good News of Jesus Christ, which molded and shaped their lives, continue to mold and shape our lives today.

Bless our diocese with men and women who will follow in their footsteps to serve the Church as religious brothers, sisters, priests, and deacons.

Lord Jesus Christ, help to hear your call to “Come and See.”

Thank you for your help growing vocations in the mission lands. While you won’t know those you support, you have their prayers. Know you do make a difference. You make a difference in the worldwide mission of Jesus.

God bless.

OBITUARIES

Champlain — Denise (Larsen) Marie Gooley, 70; Mass of Christian Burial June 22, 2019 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Chasm Falls — Jason A. Cogan, 41; Mass of Christian Burial June 26, 2019 at St. Helen’s Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery, Malone.

Croghan — Todd Kloster, 52; Mass of Christian Burial June 26, 2019 at St. Stephen’s Church; burial in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery, Belfort.

Dannemora — Gary J. Donivan, 80; Mass of Christian June 19, 2019 at St. Joseph’s Church.

Gouverneur — Christopher Blaise Fuller, 21; Mass of Christian Burial June 26, 2019 at St. James Church; burial in Hailesboro Cemetery.

Hogansburg — Beatrice A. Cole, 88; Mass of Christian Burial June 18, 2019 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Joseph’s Cemetery.

Hogansburg — Barney J. Rourke, 94; Mass of Christian Burial June 19, 2019 at St. Regis Church; burial in Rourke Family Cemetery.

Keevillon — Nancy Lee (LaBounty) Boissoau, 89; Mass of Christian Burial June 18, 2019 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in Evergreen Cemetery.

Keevillon — Carolyn A. (Graves) Finmegan, 87; Mass of Christian Burial July 1, 2019 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in parish cemetery.


Lowville — Anna (Honey) Mashier, 74; Funeral Services June 28, 2019 at the Iseneker Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in Sands Cemetery, Greg.


Massena — Elizabeth (Sharlow) Bouchard, 95; Mass of Christian Burial June 27, 2019 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Francis C. Browning III, 55; Mass of Christian Burial June 29, 2019 at Sacred Heart Church.

Massena — Gerald L. Layo, 79; Mass of Christian Burial June 22, 2019 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.


Norfolk — Duane E. Jenne, 79; Mass of Christian Burial July 1, 2019 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Riverside Cemetery, Hannawa Falls.

Ogdensburg — Bernard S. Boyer, 92; Mass of Christian Burial June 27, 2019 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Ramon Gonzales, 73; Mass of Christian Burial June 18, 2019 at St. Mary’s Cathedral; burial in Hillcrest Cemetery, Heuvelton.

Ogdensburg — Phillip L. Jennings, Sr., 91; Mass of Christian Burial June 21, 2019 at St. Mary’s Church.

Peru — Steward G. “Jessie” James, 81; Funeral Services June 26, 2019 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Alexander’s Cemetery, Morrisville.

Peru — Beverly A. (Siddon) Lathrop, 81; Mass of Christian Burial June 28, 2019 at St. Augustine’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Frances Theresa Behan, 80; Mass of Christian Burial July 1, 2019 at St. John’s Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Michael H. Berry, 76; Mass of Christian Burial June 22, 2019 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in St. Peter’s Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Robert F. Burgess, Jr., 92; Mass of Christian Burial June 19, 2019 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Mary’s of the Lake Cemetery, Cumberland Head.

Plattsburgh — John F. Mahoney, 90; Funeral Services June 12, 2019 at the R. W. Walker Funeral Home; burial in Holy Angels Cemetery, Altona.

Plattsburgh — June P. (LaPorte) Newell, 89; Mass of Christian Burial June 24, 2019 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Port Henry — Joan (Thompson) Petro, 88; Mass of Christian Burial June 28, 2019 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in CC of Moriah Cemetery.

Port Henry — Gerald W. Wojewodzic, 63; Mass of Christian Burial July 1, 2019 at St. Patrick’s Church.

Potsdam — Anna (Simmons) Manning, 70; Mass of Christian Burial June 26, 2019 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Chapel Hill Cemetery, Parishville.

Potsdam — Ronald L. McCasland, 88; Mass of Christian Burial June 19, 2019 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Redford — Florence Waldron, 94; Mass of Christian Burial June 28, 2019 at Assumption of Mary; burial in parish cemetery.

Rouses Point — Ward James Boire, 73; Mass of Christian Burial June 29, 2019 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.


Star Lake — Robert E. Bebee, 72; Funeral Services July 1, 2019 at the French Funeral Home; burial in Woodland Cemetery, Fine.

Ticonderoga — Jean A. Hopkins, 93; Mass of Christian Burial June 22, 2019 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Ticonderoga — Shirley Ann (Johnson) Walraven, 86; Mass of Christian Burial June 21, 2019 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

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FACES OF FAITH

St. Peter’s in Plattsburgh recently celebrated First Communion. The youth were joined by Deacon Brent Charland from Malone, whose granddaughter was a recipient, Msgr. Dennis Duprey and Father Eduardo Pesigan.

The Sisters of St. Joseph Departmental Awards are made in honor of the Sisters of St. Joseph who founded what is now Immaculate Heart Central in 1881. They have been an integral part of the IHC faculty from then until now. These prestigious awards are presented to the outstanding graduating student in each department. This year’s recipients are (back row, from left) Megan Welch, Marialena Mouaikel, Caroline McPherson, (bottom row) McKayla Weber, Theresa Van Wormer and Dominic Duah.

St. Augustine’s Knights of Columbus Grand Knight Keith Kemp, left, presents Council 7273’s Family of the Year Award to Judy and Bob Akey. Bob, Judy, their daughters Dorina and Sarah and their families are participants in a multitude of parish and/or council activities. The Family of the Year plaque quotes 2 Corinthians 9:7: “God loves a cheerful giver.” The Akeys are joyful givers.

During the last day of art class playing with sidewalk chalk, two of Mrs. Linda Chamberlain’s Immaculate Heart Central second-grade students, saddened by the paint on St. Therese’s face, decided on their own to pray for forgiveness to whoever was responsible. They made the sign of the cross and said a Hail Mary and an Our Father.

Obituaries

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Watertown — Catherine (Gracey) Grant; Mass of Christian Burial June 28, 2019 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.


Watertown — Johanna R. (Cavallario) Sburo, 91; Mass of Christian Burial June 24, 2019 at St. Anthony’s Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Mary Alice (Stumpf) Towsey, 97; Mass of Christian Burial June 28, 2019 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Patricia A. Gregor Wildes, 93; Funeral Services June 26, 2019 at the D.L. Calarco Funeral Home; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

West Chazy — Clara Z. (St. John) Ducharme, 83; Mass of Christian Burial June 27, 2019 at St. Joseph’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Westville — Wanda J. (Pecore) Saumier, 75; Mass of Christian Burial June 29, 2019 at Our Lady of Fatima Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Watertown — Myron F. DeFranco, Sr., 86; Mass of Christian Burial June 28, 2019 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Catherine (Gracey) Grant; Mass of Christian Burial June 28, 2019 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Johanna R. (Cavallario) Sburo, 91; Mass of Christian Burial June 24, 2019 at St. Anthony’s Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

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