

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Memorial planned for Father James Spenard | PAGE 3

'I would choose to do His will' | PAGE 5

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 75, Number 24

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

OCTOBER 21, 2020

DEVOTION TO ST. JOSEPH



At Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh, teachers placed pictures of St. Joseph in a place of honor in their classrooms, since our diocese was consecrated to St. Joseph on May 1. The teachers and students said a special prayer to St. Joseph. Mrs. Natalie Wylie, kindergarten teacher, shows the picture to Elijah Maggy before putting it on the bulletin board.

HONORING GRACE

Infant loss inspires hospice creation



After choosing to give birth to a daughter she knew she wouldn't get to take home from the hospital, Sarah Munn Wojtaszek is honoring that daughter by forming a charitable organization to aid families who experience a pregnancy loss or infant loss. Wojtaszek is the founder of Healing Grace Perinatal Hospice. The organization is based in Lyon Mountain, but hopes to serve the entire North Country region.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope: God is the only source of salvation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The purpose of crying out to the Lord in prayer is not to get used to suffering, but to remember that God, and not humankind, is the only source of salvation and consolation, Pope Francis said.

The Book of Psalms, with its many prayers of supplication, teaches Christians how to ask "God to intervene where all human efforts are in vain. That is why prayer,

in and of itself, is the way of salvation and the beginning of salvation," the pope said Oct. 14 during his weekly general audience at the Paul VI audience hall.

"The prayer of the psalms is the testimony of this cry: a multiple cry because in life, pain takes a thousand forms and takes the name of sickness, hatred, war, persecution, distrust; until the supreme 'scandal,' that of

death," he said.

Prior to the pope's arrival, participants were told that he would not be greeting them from up close and that they were to maintain proper distance from each other.

With a steady increase in COVID-19 infections prompting fears of a second wave of the pandemic, the Italian government issued a series of new decrees, including extending

mandatory use of masks indoors, except in private homes, to requiring masks be worn outdoors, as well as the early closing of bars and restaurants.

Religious and civil ceremonies were also limited to no more than 30 guests. According to the Italian newspaper, La Repubblica, the Italian National Institute of Health reported that 77% of new infections occurred among family members.

Before concluding the audience, the pope apologized to those present and explained that with the new safety regulations in place, "it is better if we keep distant."

"You are sitting prudently distant as it should be," the pope said. "But it often happens that when I go down, everyone gets close and piles up. And it's a problem because there is a risk of infection."

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Even if it feels like work

When people ask if I mind my long commute to work (about an hour and 15 minutes), I generally respond, "I don't like the wear and tear on my vehicle, but I like the opportunity to change from wife/mom mode to work mode in the morning and from work mode to wife/mom mode in the late afternoon."

At the peak of the pandemic precautions, when many of us lucky enough to remain employed worked at home, all the modes blended together. A typical workday

didn't exist. Instead of working my regular hours, I was getting up early, working for a few hours, getting my son, Jake, out of bed and getting him breakfast, helping Jake with school work for a couple hours, making lunch, working an hour or two, helping with more school work, then working for another hour or two.

There was no delineation between work, helping with school and family life.

I was thinking about that as I dreaded preparing for Mass

Sunday morning. It's not that I don't enjoy Mass, but working in ministry has blurred the lines between work and worship. So much of my work involves attending Masses or events that include worship, worship begins to feel like work sometimes.

Even for those of us who don't work in ministry, attending Mass, volunteering for our parishes or even praying can feel like work sometimes. It can feel like yet another obligation in our already busy lives. It can feel like we're making the effort to show up and complete the required steps associated

with our worship, service or prayer, but maybe we don't feel like we're getting any consolation, graces or other benefits from our participation. Sometimes, it just feels empty.

That's ok. Sometimes we're not in a frame of mind to be open to gifts. Sometimes, maybe God has a purpose for us going through a period in which we don't perceive graces or consolation.

And (I need to remind myself this frequently), it's not about us. It's about worshipping God because He is God, not about what we can get out of it.

Even if it feels like work.



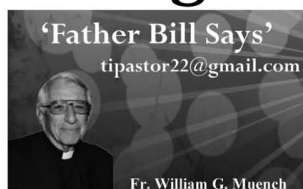
Darcy L.
Fargo

Live like a neighbor, like a Samaritan

Months ago, when the pandemic began and truly changed the way we lived and prayed, I believed it was a good idea to add an intention to the Prayer of the Faithful at each Mass, a petition that we all pray together for our brothers and sisters on this planet, for we are all together in the danger of this pandemic. This pandemic unites all peoples on the planet more than ever before.

So, you see, I was truly pleased as I began reading Pope Francis' new encyclical that calls upon us all, the peoples of this planet, to unite in spirit and action. Pope Francis hopes that there will be a dialogue among the people of this world.

This new encyclical is entitled, "Fratelli Tutti" – we should see ourselves as brothers and sisters. Pope Francis says of his encyclical: "I offer this social encyclical as a modest contribution to a continued reflection in the hope that in the face of present-day attempt to eliminate or ignore others, we may



prove capable of responding with a new vision of fraternity and social friendship that will not remain at the level of words."

Pope Francis demonstrates his hopes and dreams for a united, peaceful world of people living and working together by dedicating his encyclical to the honor of St. Francis of Assisi. Pope Francis spends several pages in an effort to describe St. Francis and his fraternal openness. Pope Francis tells us of the spirit and dedication of St. Francis and his original community. Pope Francis writes that St. Francis appreciated, even loved each person that he met, regardless of where he or she was born and lived.

Wherever he went, St. Francis sowed the seeds of peace. He walked alongside the poor, the abandoned, the in-

firm, the outcasts, the least of his brothers and sisters. Pope Francis this begin his encyclical by reminding us of the example of his patron, St. Francis of Assisi.

Pope Francis then begins his message by focusing on the Gospel parable of Jesus, the parable of the Good Samaritan. This story of Jesus has influenced Christians, actually all peoples, for all time. The story teaches us that the world is a better place when we all are caring and loving people who think and pray for each other regardless of our relationship to those in need.

Let me take a moment to remind you of this rather familiar Parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus uses this parable to answer a question that is brought to him. A Jewish scholar of the law asks Jesus what is necessary to inherit eternal life. Jesus answers with a question: What is written in the law? This man is a scholar of the law. This scholar knows the answer is the two great commandments – love God above all things and love your

neighbor as yourself. Jesus praises his answer, "You have answered correctly, do this and you will live." This scholar, however, comes back with a further question, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus takes this moment to tell his parable, the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus knows what he wants to make it clear that if we are people of faith, we will always be ready to help all others who are in need no matter where they are from or where they live. Jesus strives to demonstrate this with his unique and clever parable, a story most people still remember well. Jesus knows he is speaking to Jewish people. He knows there is no love or respect for Samaritans, but in his story, the Samaritan is the example of a good neighbor. The Samaritan is far better than the priest or the Levite who do not stop to help the man in need.

Jesus' instruction is simple: Go and do likewise. An interesting message, he tells this Jewish scholar to live like a Samaritan.

Memorial Mass planned for Father Spenard

CARTHAGE – A Memorial Mass for Father James T. Spenard, an Augustinian and long-time pastor at St. James Church in Carthage will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 31 at St. James Church.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley will celebrate the Mass.

Father Spenard was born on October 4, 1946, in Waterford, New York, one of two sons of John Spenard and Marie Alma Baillargeon. He was baptized on October 20, 1946 at Saint Mary's Church, Waterford, and attended Waterford Public School from 1951 to 1953 and Saint Mary's School, Waterford, from 1953 until 1960. He then attended LaSalle Institute in Troy, New York, from which he graduated in 1964. Jim entered Our Mother of Good Counsel Novitiate, New Hamburg, New York on September 9, 1964, and professed simple vows on September 10, 1965.

Following religious profession, he attended Villanova University and graduated in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in Philosophy. He made his profession of solemn vows on September 14, 1968 at Villanova.

During the summers between 1969 and 1971, he took graduate classes in education and sociology at Villanova. He pursued theological studies at the Washington Theological Coalition from



Father James Spenard, OSA

1969 to 1972, when he received a master's degree in Theology. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 17, 1972 at Saint Mary's Church, Waterford, by Bishop Edward J. Maginn.

Father Spenard was assigned to Saint Denis Church, Havertown, Pennsylvania, in June 1972 and to Saint James Church, Carthage in January 1973. In June 1977

he was transferred to Immaculate Conception Church, Hoosick Falls. He returned to his role as pastor at Saint James in Carthage in August 1979, a position he would hold for 18 years.

According to *North Country Catholic* archives, Father Spenard oversaw an extensive renovation project at St. James during his tenure. He was also quoted as

saying he saw "keeping Augustinian (Academy) alive" as one of his major accomplishments.

The NCC reported that family and community have been two major themes of his preaching. He tried to emphasize "the community in terms of the parish, that there is a bond there, that the faith ties us together." He placed special emphasis on the Eucharist, the sacrament of unity, as "the true binding force of Catholic life," as he encouraged his parishioners in reception of all the sacraments.

After 18 years of ministry in this role, he received a brief sabbatical in September 1997. In March 1998, he was appointed pastor of Saint Augustine Parish in Troy. He also served Saint Augustine's at various times as prior, treasurer and local superior of the Augustinian community.

In August 2015, he was assigned to Saint Rita of Cascia Friary, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he assisted in Shrine ministry with particular responsibility for couples preparing for marriage at the Shrine.

In March 2019, with the merger of the religious communities of Saint Rita and Saint Nicholas of Tolentine, he was assigned to the newly formed Au-

gustinian Community of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Philadelphia, and from there continued his ministry at Saint Rita Shrine.

On August 30, 2020 Father Jim suffered a stroke and was admitted to Jefferson Hospital. While there, as he was awaiting transfer to a rehab facility, he suffered two more strokes and was transferred to Kindred Hospital, Philadelphia, where he died in the early hours of Thursday, October 8, 2020.

Father Jim Spenard's entire priesthood of 48 years was devoted to pastoral work in direct service to the faithful. His quiet, gentle, and dedicated leadership and long service in both Carthage and Troy, New York, earned him the respect and devotion of these communities and an enduring remembrance in their history of these parishes.

Burial will be private in St. John's Cemetery, Troy.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon him.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,

through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.



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Losing daughter inspires mom to form hospice

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

LYON MOUNTAIN— After choosing to give birth to a daughter she knew she wouldn't get to take home from the hospital, Sarah Munn Wojtaszek is honoring that daughter by forming a charitable organization to aid families who experience a pregnancy loss or infant loss.

Wojtaszek is the founder of Healing Grace Perinatal Hospice. The organization is based in Lyon Mountain, but hopes to serve the entire North Country region.

"Healing Grace has my daughter's name in it," Wojtaszek said. "In 2008, I was pregnant with our first child. At the 20-week ultrasound, the baby was diagnosed with anencephaly, a neural tube defect. It's a terminal diagnosis. At the time, my husband and I were living in a suburb of Kansas City. The law there for termination said the pregnancy could be terminated up to 21 or 22 weeks. I was given the option to proceed with the pregnancy or end the pregnancy. Truth be told, my first reaction was to end the pregnancy. I couldn't say those words, but that was my thinking."

Wojtaszek said her husband, Keith, supported her in whatever decision she felt she had to make.

"My husband was like, 'I'm here for whatever you need. You have to do what you have to do,'" she said. "I went to the doctor to schedule the termination. I went in on a Friday and was scheduled for the termination on Tuesday. We wanted to name the baby and give the baby a funeral, and we were just experiencing a lot of feel-



Keith and Sarah (Munn) Wojtaszek hold their baby, Grace, shortly after her birth. Grace lived only five hours. In honor of Grace, the Wojtaszeks are starting Healing Grace Perinatal Hospice, an organization that supports families experiencing the pain associated with infant or pregnancy loss.

ings. We started praying and reading the Bible. The Scriptures for that Tuesday – the day we were supposed to terminate the pregnancy – was Matthew 18:5, 'And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me.' We looked at each other, and we knew we couldn't terminate the pregnancy. We knew we were going to carry the baby to term and give the baby a name."

Once they decided to carry the baby to term, the Wojtaszeks were referred to Alexandra's House, a perinatal hospice in Kansas City.

"We met other families who had lost babies due to infant loss or miscarriage," she said. "We met with the groups, and they supported us through the pregnancy."

While babies with anencephaly often don't make it to full-term, Wojtaszek's baby, a girl named Grace, did.

"She could've passed at any point," Wojtaszek said. "Babies with this diagnosis don't normally go to term. If they do, they don't usually survive

labor."

Wojtaszek's pregnancy advanced to nearly full term, and she worked with her medical team to form a birth plan "and to plan how we wanted the day to go."

"The best way to go was c-section," she said. "We met with a priest, and he agreed to come into the birth so she could be baptized as soon as she was born. When she was born, Grace lived about five hours."

When the Wojtaszeks moved back to the North Country, they realized there was no perinatal hospice to provide families dealing with pregnancy or infant loss with support.

"There's nothing here supporting these families," Wojtaszek said. "When we were in Kansas City, we had all of this help and information laid out for us. We had people supporting us. Since we were falling apart, there were people there to hold us up. By being part of the group, and using the group as a healing center, it started to lessen my

Help the hospice

Healing Grace Perinatal Hospice could use the following supports:

- Donated items (handprint/footprint kits, hats for infants...) for Remembrance Boxes to provide families experiencing infant loss.
- Counselors and medical professionals willing to run support groups and aid families.
- Photographers willing to donate time shooting photos of babies.
- Financial donations, which can be mailed to Healing Grace Perinatal Hospice, 3887 State Route 374, Lyon Mountain, NY 12952. Healing Hands is a legal entity in New York State and has applied for not-for-profit status with the Internal Revenue Service.
- Prayers for the organization's success and for families recovering from infant or pregnancy loss.

hurt. The more I talked about Grace and made her real in my life, the more she was still real, and the more I felt like she was still part of us. I want people here to have that support and that experience."

Healing Grace Perinatal Hospice was born.

"I worked with a business coach, and things started to progress," Wojtaszek said. "I got a lawyer, and the lawyer did all the required paperwork free of charge. I'm working toward my dream of honoring my daughter with a perinatal hospice here."

Wojtaszek, the organization's executive director, is working with other volunteers who form the board of directors for Healing Grace. The board includes Physical Therapist Kathryn LaValley, Physician Assistant Megan Baker, Keith Wojtaszek, Lisa Wells, Father Christopher J. Looby, Dr. Anthony Garami, a pediatrician, and Dr. Ariel

Goodman, a professor of counseling at SUNY Plattsburgh.

"We hope to by operational by the new year," said Wojtaszek. "Funding is a huge issue right now. And we're working on developing what services we're going to provide starting out. We're developing a website – a place where people can contact us and refer families. We're going to start with peer support groups. Working with Dr. Goodman, we're hoping to eventually have clinical support groups and hopefully a psychologist on staff."

Healing Grace is working with the local medical community to create a peer support system that could support families experiencing miscarriage or infant loss.

"We're hopefully going to get therapists that are trained in this specific area," Wojtaszek said. "Long-term, we'd like to have a retreat center in the Adirondacks where we can create a network of families to support one another, commiserate and talk."

Wojtaszek said the organization would like to help families both immediately after a loss and those who suffered a loss years ago but still want support.

"We want to reach out to anyone and everyone who's experienced a loss," she said. "We want to provide help and support. We're hoping to extend as far away as Watertown and Burlington. There's nothing else in the area offering this type of support."

Wojtaszek and her husband, Keith, now have two daughters, Julia and Anasthesia, in addition to Grace.

'I would choose to do His will'

By **Mary Beth Bracy**
Contributing Writer

CHAMPLAIN—Imagine yourself adrift in the ocean in a small fishing boat for days. Sometimes you hear shooting above your head. Three times, pirates stop your boat, looking for gold or other valuables. They kidnap and rape some of the young girls on your boat. If you are caught, you will be imprisoned or have to pay a fine.

This is how Father Duc Nguyen escaped from Vietnam, where he was born, at the age of 14. After the war, the country's new governmental system, "reeducated" people, changed their money, and ended freedom of religion. We were not allowed to worship," he explained.

Thankfully, Father Nguyen and his uncle, who fled by boat, were rescued by the United States military, which brought them to a refugee camp in Malaysia. They were put on an island, where they received food from the United Nations and the Red Cross each week.

Although they cleaned the island, there were no paying jobs. When his paperwork was completed and it was decided that he would go to the United States, Father Nguyen studied English.

Sponsors paid for airplane tickets and Father Nguyen went to stay with his aunt in Pennsylvania. Catholic Social Services were also helpful.

When he was adrift in the ocean, Father Nguyen said he prayed that, "If God delivered me, I would choose to do His will." He said he relied on



Father Duc Nguyen

God in everything. In the refugee camp, priests came every once in a while, sometimes each month. It made him realize how many more priests were needed and how great the spiritual needs of people were.

At first, when he came to America, Father Nguyen was a Sunday Catholic. Over time, as others prayed for the grace of his conversion, he took his faith more seriously.

"It is challenging, in many vocations," Father Nguyen said. "What we need is prayer to live out the Gospel, to love Jesus, love our neighbor as ourselves, to love others as we love ourselves."

Father Nguyen was serving in Kansas City, Missouri until a little over a year ago, when he volunteered to come to the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

He has relatives in Long Island, and he wanted to be closer to them, and he also saw that our diocese has a priest shortage.

Currently, Father Nguyen is the parochial vicar at St. Patrick's in Rouses Point and St. Mary's in Champlain.

A challenge in the North Country is that, unlike big cities, people are "spread out."

Currently, many are still unable to attend church. Since some are not able to come back due to COVID, Father Nguyen goes out to them, making home visits to bring the sacraments. When he is able, Father Nguyen says Mass at the senior housing center and nursing home.

As people have their spiritual needs met, Father Nguyen shared, they are "happy and grateful." Father Nguyen has also

assisted with religious education, visiting the homebound, and shut-ins. He brings people Holy Communion, offers Mass at the parish and prays for the parishioners. Some of the ministries that Father Nguyen is most passionate about are: "faith formation, teaching Confirmation class for young people, religious education on Sundays, spending time with people to answer their questions, provide guidance and support in the faith." He's also helped train altar servers.

One of the most inspiring aspects of Father Nguyen's priesthood, he noted, is when he is able to help those who are leading difficult lives to encounter God. To help lead the dying to "receive the sacraments and bring them closer to God as they prepare for the next life" is very fulfilling, he said.

Father Nguyen hopes to help "people grow close

to God and pray."

He said we need "grace and strength to serve and live our vocation in life as a Christian."

Speaking of vocations, Father Nguyen said these are challenging times. He said it is important to "receive the sacraments . . . this will lead us in the vocation to holiness that all are called to live out [whether priesthood, consecrated, or married life]."

He also noted that it is essential to pray that "God will give us grace and direction."

Some of Father Nguyen's favorite devotions are to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Rosary. He loves to "contemplate and meditate on the mysteries of Christ's life." St. Anthony of Padua is one of his favorite saints.

"This patron of finding lost things will help us to find direction in life to lead us to God," Father Nguyen said.

Pyrites church celebrates 100 years

PYRITES—There will be a special Outdoor Mass in celebration of 100 years at St. Paul's Church (Oratory) in Pyrites at 3 p.m. on Sunday, October, 25. The Mass will be celebrated by the former pastor, Bishop Douglas J. Lucia, bishop of Syracuse, and will be concelebrated by the current pastor, Father Bryan D. Stitt. Other diocesan priests are invited to concelebrate.

All those attending are asked to bring a lawn chair. Masks and social distancing will be required. The Mass will take place regardless of weather.

After being a mission church until 1918, St. Paul's Parish was founded in 1919. In 1920, the present Church was built through the hard work of the pastor, Father Michael Kelly, and the citizens of the booming mill town, Pyrites. St. Paul's became a mission of Canton in 1931. Since 1990, St. Paul's has been designated as an oratory.

For questions please call the St. Mary's Church rectory at 315-386-2543.

Environmental Stewardship

A season for everything

"There is a season for everything" Ecclesiastes tells us. What messages does God give us in the season of fall?

In her book *Fresh Bread*, Joyce Rupp, SM, reflects that autumn teaches us "there is a time for yielding and rising. May we have the courage to continue the transforming process."

It is a time to enjoy the feel of crisp air, sounds of geese, the taste of the harvest;

It is a time rake the lawn and put the garden to bed;

It is a time to button up our homes to keep in the heat and keep out the cold;

It is a time to let go of what we don't need any more and to make space for whatever God desires to give us;

As we celebrate this year's Respect Life theme "Celebrate the Gospel of Life," it is a time to widen the tents to include all life. The call of Catholic social teachings begins with respecting the dignity of the human person. Our pro-life stance begins with protecting the birth of every child made in God's image. After birth, the child also needs a loving home and a healthy environment to grow in. Catholic Social Teachings include the needs of the human person, the worker, the family, and the earth community itself. The ecological conversion that *Laudato Si: On Caring for Our Common Home*, calls us to as followers of Christ recognizes this: The gift of life and the quality of life are intricately connected.

It is a time to speak for the voiceless, the poor and the earth! It is a call to look seriously not only at our own personal daily routines and their impact on the environment and others, but we must also make our voices heard in all levels of our government and as policies are made. Who is our neighbor? Reflections on Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan may give us some insights on how far we need "to widen our tents" to be good neighbors. Who are the voiceless that need us to speak out for in their behalf?

Rest in Peace

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

Oct. 21 – Rev. Peter LaFort, 1939; Msgr. Robert A. Farmer, 1979

Oct. 22 – Rev. Thomas McNally, 1883; Rev. George J. Savage, 1918; Rev. Michael A. Jarecki, 2012

Oct. 23 – Rev. Discorides Forget, O.M.I., 1916

Oct. 24 – Rev. John P. O'Rourke, 1918; Deacon Frederick J. Mader, 2018

Oct. 25 – Rev. J. Michael Duvic, O.M.I., 1917

Oct. 26 – Rev. J. G. Lavoie, O.M.I., 1908

Oct. 27 – Rev. John M. Fagan, O.S.A., 1966; Msgr. George Norton Whittaker, 1971; Msgr. Gerald H. Service, 2002

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri-
anne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terri-
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Phone: 518-651-2267 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**
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www.ReportBishopAbuse.org.

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg uses the training, *Protecting God's Children for Adults*. There are no live trainings scheduled. If you need to complete VIRTUS training, contact Jean Grizzuto, jgrizzuto@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920 x 1413, who will coordinate online training.

Bishop's Public Schedule

Oct. 21 – Council of Priests Meeting at St. Andre's Outreach Center (formerly Holy Family School) in Malone

Oct. 22 – 6 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Andrew's Church in Norwood along with Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond in Norfolk and St. Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls

Oct. 23 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Oct. 24 – 1:30 p.m. – Meet with the Formation for Ministry Candidates at St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Tupper Lake followed by 4 p.m. Mass

Oct. 25 – 10:30 a.m. – Confirmation at The Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph in Morrisonville along with St. James Church in Cadyville, St. Joseph's Church in Dannemora and the Church of the Assumption in Redford

Oct. 26 – 9:30 a.m. – School Mass at St. James Minor Church in Carthage followed by a visit to Augustinian Academy

Oct. 27 – 9 a.m. – Virtual Prayer Service at St. Agnes School in Lake Placid followed by a school visit 10:30 a.m. – Virtual Prayer Service at St. Bernard's School in Saranac Lake followed by a school visit

7 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Patrick's Church in Watertown along with the Church of the Holy Family, St. Anthony's Church and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Watertown

Oct. 28 – 10:30 a.m. – Diocesan Finance Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

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 500.

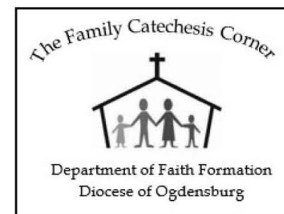
- We cannot accept letters which support ideas which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

- Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or e-mail to news@northcountrycatholic.org

- Join the conversation!

Series helps parents, catechists

By Jessica Hargrave
Contributing Writer



A faith formation series can help catechists polish their skills in delivering the Good News. The Catechetical Formation Series from Loyola Press will build confidence in catechists and parents by getting back to the basics. During these challenging times, parents have become the frontline catechists to their children and may feel like they are in over their heads in keeping the faith going in their home. This free, online catechist training resource offers the basic knowledge and skills needed to engage people of all ages in faith formation. Presenters Joe Paprocki and Dierdre Mullane break down sessions into three areas: Doing, Knowing, and Being.

Sessions one through four cover "Doing" concepts, which include getting started planning and preparing, laying the foundation of faith formation, how to lead others in various types of prayer and facilitation skills. Sessions five through nine are about "Knowing" the basic beliefs, sacraments, morality and scripture. The last section is "Being," a section in which catechists and parents can hone their vocation.

Alesia Olney, the catechetical leader for St. Bartholomew's Church in Old Forge and St. Anthony of Padua Parish of Inlet and Raquette Lake, tells unsure parents to not worry.

"God will prepare you for every good work," She said. "They do not need a degree in Catholic theology, and they don't need to be a biblical scholar to teach what the Catholic Church teaches. God will teach them little by little, as they present the lessons to their children. Children will learn the most about real life by following their parents' example."

Just like the Diocese of Ogdensburg's Department of Faith Formation, Olney wants parents and catechists with questions to know she and parish staff are willing to help with great love.

For more information on the Catechetical Formation Series go to www.loyola-press.com/catecheticalformationseries or call the Department of Faith Formation at (315) 393-2920.

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COVID hasn't slowed NFP ministry efforts

By Angelo & Suzanne Pietropaoli
Diocesan NFP Directors

The Natural Family Planning Office owes great gratitude to the Bishop's Fund and its supporters for making this ministry possible. It is our great privilege to share with all the good news of God's plan for married love, and to journey with couples as they seek to understand and live this truth.

"The truth is that God does have a plan that is beautiful, life-giving, and practical," Bishop Terry R. LaValley wrote in his pastoral letter for NFP Awareness Week 2020. "Authentic family planning honors God's design by supporting the love-giving and life-giving nature of sexual intercourse. It promotes openness to new life and the value of the child. It helps to enrich the marital bond between husband and wife...[and] builds healthy and holy families. Through NFP, married couples celebrate and reverence God's vision of human sexuality."

The NFP office strives to communicate this vision in season and out – even amid the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic. A primary opportunity for promoting God's plan for marriage is, of course, in Pre-Cana and

Natural Family Planning activities in the Diocese of Ogdensburg are supported by funds raised through the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal. Thank you for generously supporting NFP and other vital ministries through the annual appeal.

other marriage preparation settings. There, we offer couples a comprehensive introduction to both the theology and the biology of Natural Family Planning.

This year saw in-person presentations until February; as the diocesan Pre-Cana went to a virtual model, we integrated our presentations into that format. The in-person classes we were teaching prior to the shutdown also shifted to an internet-based interface.

Our office again participated in NFP Awareness Week (July 19-25), an annual initiative sponsored nation-wide by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. As noted, Bishop LaValley marked the week-long observance with another fine pastoral letter, and our office mailed posters and bulletin information to all parishes.

COVID restrictions discouraged the placement of non-essential materials in church buildings, which prevented our annual mailing of print and audio information for

parish book racks. However, with the kind assistance of the Vocation Office, we were able to redirect those resources to our diocesan seminarians. Happily, nothing interfered with excellent NFP Week representation (ad and articles) in the North Country Catholic. An ad and accompanying articles were also supplied for the paper's annual marriage issue.

Amid many restrictions, of course, came an abundance of new virtual opportunities. Among the various conferences, two in particular highlighted this time for us. The first was that of the Theology of the Body Institute, which offered considerable education and enrichment for our work in Natural Family Planning. The second was our participation in "Iron Sharpens Iron," the virtual conference of our diocesan Family Life Office. This format allowed us to make a presentation on the connection between NFP and living as married disciples of Jesus.

During this time, we

were also challenged to re-design our NFP Office website, which was beautifully accomplished with the expertise of the diocesan IT Office. Rich in images, it links to a wide range of video presentations explaining the personal, physiological, relational and theological elements of Natural Family Planning.

One especially happy aspect of our work has held steady: ongoing phone and email contact with clients and inquirers. Clients – that is, people to whom we have taught Natural Family Planning – reach out with cycle and charting questions, especially as they move through various phases and events of reproductive life.

Occasionally, they may be in a moment of struggle, or a time of great happiness. Sometimes it is both: a year ago Katie needed understanding and reassurance while she grieved a miscarriage. After healing emotionally and physically, she shared with us the joy of a new and successful pregnancy; we look forward to hearing soon that her and Ryan's newest gift from God has safely arrived. Accompanying such couples as they build and raise their families is a unique blessing in this

ministry.

A substantial number of contacts we receive involve requests for general NFP information, though sometimes we speak with couples who have previously learned a different NFP method and need to connect with an instructor in that specific methodology. With the access to resources provided by the USCCB/NFP Office, we can help them make those necessary connections.

An increasing number of questioners have cycle dysfunction, infertility, or other medical issues. We are happy to be able to refer them to the Gianna Center in Albany. There, Dr. Jan Patterson, M.D. provides "a natural, restorative, scientifically-based approach to monitoring women's health and managing fertility."

The women we have sent there can testify to the effectiveness of this approach.

As well, all the couples we are privileged to work with can attest that Natural Family Planning is healthy and effective, that God's way is good and has blessed their marriages and families. On their behalf, and on our own, we thank the many members of our diocesan family whose generous support of the Bishop's Fund makes all this possible.

Letters to the Editor

Knights collect food, donations to support local food pantries

On October 2nd through October 4th, Champlain Knights of Columbus, Council #3525, conducted the 10th annual Northern Tier Food Drive. Over this three-day period, 1,774 non-perishable food items, netting approximately 2,087 lbs. were collected. Additionally, \$3,825 was col-

lected in monetary donations. Once again, the community support is overwhelming.

The Champlain Knights of Columbus would like to thank the community and our Vermont and Canadian friends for their overwhelming generosity. We also extend a special thank you to our Brother Knights, and the Mooers Food Pantry volunteers, for their outstanding support of

time, talent and contributions.

Additionally, we would like to thank "Price Chopper" for sponsoring this event again and Border Press for their generous contribution to our advertising.

During the Covid-19 Quarantine, in April and May of this year, Champlain Knights of Columbus, Council #3525, conducted a Virtual Food Drive to support three local food pantries. This was ac-

complished using a Go-Fund me page raising \$5,225.

The Champlain Knights of Columbus would like to thank our Brother Knights and the community for their overwhelming generosity.

Thomas Trombley
Program Director
Knights of Columbus #3525

Speaker: Pandemic increases risk of human trafficking

ROME (CNS) – While the COVID-19 pandemic has shut down or slowed most businesses, it does not appear to have put a dent in human trafficking, said Callista Gingrich, U.S. ambassador to the Holy See.

In fact, the financial difficulties many families face around the world actually make people more vulnerable to traffickers' offers of quick cash or false promises of good jobs in other lands, said speakers at the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See's symposium Oct. 14, "Combating Human Trafficking: Action in a Time of Crisis."

Faith-based organizations "are among some of our best partners" in the push to end trafficking and assist the victims, Gingrich said, pointing specifically to Talitha Kum, the international network involving some 2,600 women religious and their collaborators around the world.

Loreto Sister Patricia Murray, executive secretary of the women's International Union of Superiors General, said the poor who are susceptible to traffickers are "doubly vulnerable" during the pandemic, when many more families are facing hunger.

"It's estimated that an additional 130 million (people) will fall below the poverty line this year, and I suspect that that is an optimistic figure," she said.

Comboni Sister Gabriella Bottani, coordinator of Talitha Kum, said that in 2019 the members of the network provided direct assistance – rescue, housing, education and psychological support – to 24,700 survivors.

"Each one of these is a story of an encounter of sisters and survivors," she said.

The COVID-19 pandemic, Sister Bottani said, has been a magnifying glass that has highlighted the inequality and injustices that make some people easy prey for traffickers.

"Protective protocols of hygiene and social distancing are reserved for the privileged," she said, since the poorest of the poor have no choice but to go out seeking ways to earn money and often do not have access to running water, let alone hand sanitizer.

Trafficking in persons ultimately is the result of an economic system based only on consumption and on valuing human beings according to the wealth they can produce for another, she said. "It's a cry for conversion, for deep change" at a personal, social, national and international level.

The pandemic and its lockdown, she said, not only increased poverty, but also increased acts of violence against women and children held by traffickers, increased online pornography with its exploitation of women, children and adolescents, and it left many migrants who had been trafficked for work stranded and with nothing.

Olga Zhyvytsya, international advocacy officer at Caritas Internationalis, added that the lockdown and travel restrictions meant that victims of trafficking have had fewer opportunities to escape or attract the attention of someone who can help.

Kevin Hyland, a former London police officer and

longtime anti-trafficking campaigner, told the symposium that "symptoms of human trafficking are evident in every nation, every city and town," yet individuals and governments seem to do very little to stop it. At times, they even seem to turn a blind eye to it, for example, with trafficking for prostitution or for domestic work.

"The notion that human trafficking is inevitable," he said, has resulted in it being so.

Princess Okokon, a Nigerian who survived trafficking and now helps other survivors in northern Italy, said traffickers who exploit women for the sex trade treat them "like an ATM, and when the ATM runs out of cash, they discard them."

She told the conference that just as traffickers have recruiters in poor communities, especially in Africa, it is important that groups like Talitha Kum and, especially, survivors work in those communities, warning people about the way recruiters operate and the lies they tell.

Cardinal Michael Czerny, undersecretary at the Migrants and Refugees Section of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, told symposium participants that "the biggest, basic problem" is that while a few people in churches, governments and non-governmental organizations are dedicated to fighting trafficking, much of the world seems not to know human slavery still exists.

When some people in the world are lacking the most basic things necessary for their survival and,

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope, Council of Cardinals meet online to discuss Curia reform

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis and his international Council of Cardinals met virtually Oct. 13, discussing the updated draft of a constitution reorganizing the Roman Curia and steps to implement it, the Vatican press office said. The first draft of the document, provisionally titled "Praedicate evangelium" ("Preach the Gospel"), was sent to the heads of current Vatican offices, bishops' conferences around the world and other experts in the spring of 2019. After receiving feedback and discussing possible amendments, "during the summer months the council was able to work via internet on the text of the new apostolic constitution, the updated draft of which was presented to the Holy Father," the Vatican said Oct. 13. "In accordance with usual praxis, the competent dicasteries are now proceeding with the reading of the text. Today's meeting was convened to summarize the work done and to study how to support the implementation of the new constitution, once promulgated," the statement said. Pope Francis, according to the press office, told the six cardinals that while the text has not been completed and promulgated, "the reform is already underway, also in some administrative and economic aspects."

Statue honors Mother Cabrini for devotion to those in need

NEW YORK (CNS) – A statue of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, the patron of immigrants, now stands overlooking the New York Harbor and the Statue of Liberty. Unveiled during a dedication ceremony in Battery Park City on Columbus Day, Oct. 12, the statue honors Mother Cabrini, as she is best known. She is revered for not only her devotion to immigrants but also to children and the destitute. The sculpture, designed by Jill and Giancarlo Biagi, shows the saint "in motion and taking care of children" and it "does her justice," Brooklyn Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio said in his remarks at the ceremony. "I know for the artists it was a work of passion. We hope that people who visit this memorial will recognize that history should be repeated, that there was a care for the outcast and marginalized which Mother Cabrini understood, and we need that same care today. This is not just history, we want to make history with a new understanding of how we take care of people." Others at the dedication ceremony included New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and fellow members of the Mother Cabrini Memorial Commission.

Pope repeats call to divert funds from military to hunger

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Repeating a call first made by St. Paul VI, Pope Francis urged a global move to divert money from national military spending and use it to "definitely defeat hunger." Addressing representatives of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization Oct. 16, World Food Day, Pope Francis seemed to go a step further than St. Paul VI, who – in his 1967 encyclical "Populorum Progressio" – asked "world leaders to set aside part of their military expenditures for a world fund to relieve the needs of impoverished peoples." Pope Francis, in his recent encyclical "Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship" and in his video message to the FAO, said that "a courageous decision would be to use the money spent on arms and other military expenditures to constitute a 'Global Fund' so that we can definitively defeat hunger and help the development of the poorest countries." As the U.N. agency celebrated its 75th anniversary, Pope Francis told staff and members, "Your mission is beautiful and important, because you are working to defeat hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition."

CLINTON

EASTERN REGIONAL CLM FALL EVENT

Plattsburgh – All Commissioned Lay Ministers are invited to learn about Catholic Leadership in a COVID-19 world.

Date: Oct. 21

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

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: Mass will begin at 6 p.m. with Deacon James Crowley presenting a program on Catholic Leadership in a COVID - 19 World after. Due to NYS Health restrictions, there will not be a meal at this event. There is no cost for this event, donations are welcome.

Contact: Please register before Oct. 16 to register, simply go to <https://www.rcdony.org/formation/clm/events.html> For additional information, please contact Deanna Kneussle (deebob@aol.com) or Dorothy McDevitt (dmcdevitt@earthlink.net)

VIRTUAL SETON GALA

Plattsburgh – Seton Catholic invites everyone to join us for our Virtual Mardi Gras Gala.

Date: Oct. 24

Features: The idea is a dinner-for-eight style evening where you can dine in the safety of your home and support Seton at the same time. Corporate sponsorship is \$600, Individual tickets are \$50 each and \$25 for Seton Staff. Silent and Live Auctions will be available online. Party baskets will be delivered to participants. Help us make this unique Gala a huge success!

Contact: Susan FitzPatrick Pellerin at spellerin@setonknights.org for more information.

FRANKLIN

CABBAGE ROLL SALE

Brushton – St. Mary's will selling homemade cabbage rolls.

Date: Nov. 3

Time: 6 a.m. until gone

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center, Take-out only

Cost: \$4.50

Contact: May be pre-ordered Nov. 1 to Nov. 3 by calling 518-529-6580

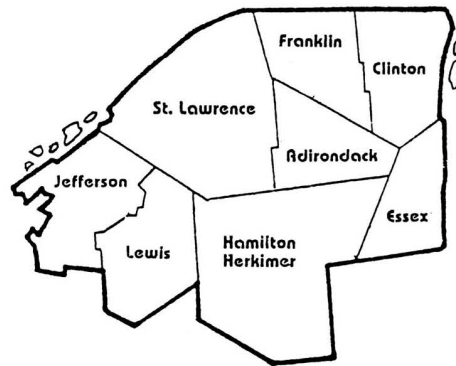
JEFFERSON

ELECTION NIGHT HAM DINNER

Alexandria Bay – The Annual Election Night Ham dinner to be held, take-out only.

Date: Nov. 3

Time: 4 p.m. to 7



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; fax, 315-394-0670;
e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

Place: St. Cyril's Church

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children, \$5

Contact: Reservation please call 315-482-5227 or 315-955-5504. For Deliveries call 315-482-5227

LEWIS

CHICKEN & BISCUIT DINNER

Lyons Falls – St. John's Catholic Church to host a pre-order, drive-thru chicken and biscuit dinner.

Date: Oct. 27

Time: 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Place: St. John's Catholic Church

Features: Dinners available by pre-order. To order, call 315-348-8945 or 315-348-8577. Dinner includes chicken and homemade biscuits, real mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, cranberry sauce and dessert. Deliveries are available.

Cost: \$10 for adults; \$6 for ages 6 to 12; free for ages 5 and under.

ST. LAWRENCE

HARVEST DINNER

Gouverneur – Curbside pick up Harvest dinner to be held.

Date: Nov. 5

Time: 4:30 p.m. until gone

Place: St. James School

Cost: Adults, \$12; children 12 and under, \$6; 5 and under, Free

DIOCESAN EVENTS

VIRTUAL PRIEST DISCERNMENT SESSIONS

Zoom in to Priest Discernment. High School Junior men & older are invited to join Father Howard Venette & guests for 60-minute virtual discernment sessions.

Dates: Nov. 1, 15 & 29 and Dec. 13

Time: 3 p.m.

Contact: Father Venette at hvenette@gmail.com for meeting access.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

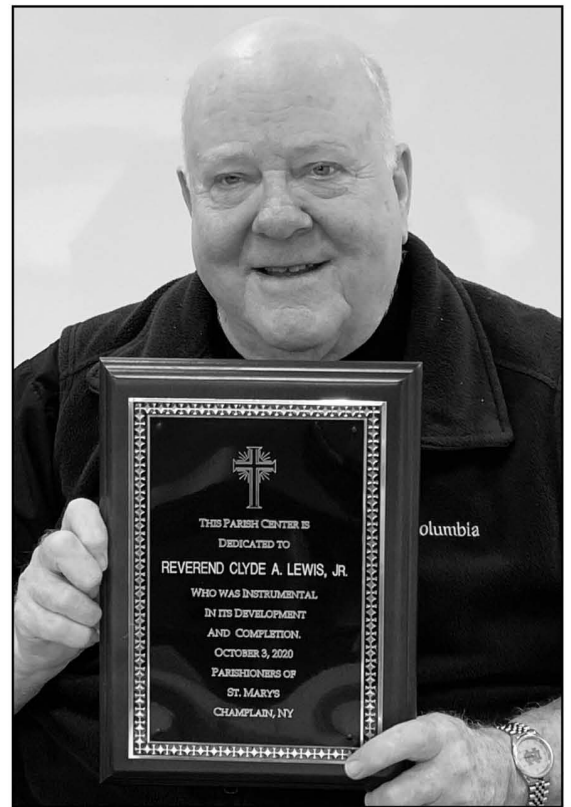
RESOURCES TO PROMOTE FAMILY PEACE

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Even before the added stress and isolation of COVID-19, one in four women and one in nine men experienced severe intimate partner physical violence, as reported by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Domestic abuse and violence refer to the physical, sexual, or psychological harm by a current or former partner or spouse including teen relationships.

Faith communities are called to offer hope, help and healing to all harmed by domestic abuse and violence. We must learn to recognize domestic abuse, respond with compassion and refer people to services that are prepared to help them.

Catholics for Family Peace Education and Research on Domestic Abuse is offering ways to promote family peace, respond to domestic abuse, promote prayer for families and provide resources. To learn more, visit www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org.

BLESSING & DEDICATION




St. Mary's Church in Champlain celebrated the blessing of its new parish center on Saturday, October 3 with Bishop Terry R. LaValley. The parish center was also dedicated to Father Clyde A. Lewis, pastor of St. Mary's Church.



Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

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

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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Do you love God enough?

If someone were to suddenly ask you, "Do you love God?" you would probably reply immediately, "Of course I love God." If that person persisted with a greater challenge, "Do you love God... enough?" then you might hesitate, then reply, "Well...no. Who does?"

The lawyer in today's Gospel was quite satisfied when, in answer to the test question he gave Jesus, "Teacher, which commandment in the Law is the greatest?" Jesus quoted the great Shema from Deuteronomy, "Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God,

with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength."

Even today, a pious Jew, as he enters his house, will touch a little box called a mezuzah which contains the words of the Shema that is attached to the door post. The gesture reminds him of the great commandment. We, as Christians, are bound to that same law. So,

no wonder any honest person would reply to the person who asked if we love God enough, "No...who does?"

But Jesus went further by naming a second commandment which is like the first, the law from Leviticus, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." When Jesus tells the

October 25

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Exodus 22:20-26

1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10

Matthew 22:34-40



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

lawyer, "On these two commandments depend the whole law and the prophets," the lawyer approves. So, we have, in a nutshell, what God's will is for us. It is love! And we cannot really love God without loving our neighbor.

How do we grow in love for God? We grow in His love by loving Him and our neighbor. In that same first reading, God tells the Israelites who their neighbor must especially include – the alien, the widow and the poor. And God tells them that He always hears the cry of the poor, for He

is compassionate. Our recent Holy Father, Pope Benedict, tells us in his book, Jesus of Nazareth, that God's compassion is like a mother's love for the child of her womb.

Not loving God as we should is a sincere concern for most people. What a relief to know that if we look at just about everyone as our neighbor, we actually grow immensely in our love for God. If we're honest, we all have some difficulty with recognizing other people as neighbors and to try to respond to them as God does – with true compassion. Perhaps if we could actually look into the faces of everyone to whom we give money or clothing or help, it would make a difference.

If we could see where they live, what their fears and dreams are, it would help us to see them as

neighbors. If we could recognize the face of God in the immigrant, the poor, the hungry family, the sick man or woman without insurance, then we would find it easier to feel compassion. Numbers and labels don't really help.

As a postscript, we know how much tension and stress there is in our country at the present time. As a result of the coronavirus and the financial downturn, many of our neighbors are in serious need. If we can be sensitive to their needs, even in small ways, it will help us cope with our own anxieties and stress. Add to compassion, frequent prayer, and reading and reflecting on Scripture, including the psalms. Then we would come much closer to loving God with our whole heart, our whole soul, and our whole strength.

CALLED TO SERVE

A couple Knights named McGivney

The membership card says Deacon Kevin is a 3rd degree member of the Knights of Columbus. The sticker says I have been a member for 16 years. That's true. This "lost" Brother found his way back to the fraternity 16 years ago at the insistence of then Council 259 Grand Knight Sam Tufo. If you have ever been chased by Sam to get something done, you understand why I said "yes" and reupped.

I actually joined the Knights when I was 18. The Council I was affiliated with was in Elmont, New York. Unfortunately, for me, I let my membership lapse during my college and young adult years. If you are a young Knight, don't let your involvement

in the Catholic men's organization lapse. You will regret it.

In a few days, October 31, 2020, the man credited with founding the Knights of Columbus will be beatified in a ceremony at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford, Connecticut. That's where the Knights was founded in 1881 by Father Michael McGivney. That original group of 80 or so men interested in what Father McGivney had in mind has grown to over 2 million. There are 83,000 members in New York State and of them 4,275 are affiliated with the 46 active Councils in the Northern Conference, roughly the same area as the diocese.

Father McGivney's cousin was a Watertown fellow of

the same surname. Gary worked for the State Department of Labor until he won the lottery. He won several million dollars to be exact. I knew Gary through our jobs. The combination of his beneficence to the diocese and the parishes in Watertown, his unwavering support of and involvement in the Knights and that relationship to the founder all piqued my reporter's interest. I interviewed Gary and wrote a couple of articles about him over the years for this paper.

Gary McGivney turned me on to the parish priest, Father Michael McGivney.

In March 2008, Pope Benedict XVI declared McGivney "Venerable" in recognition of his "heroic virtue." After Pope Francis recognized a miracle attributed to the intercession of Venerable Michael, his beatification was approved.



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

Under normal circumstances I would guess the Cathedral in Hartford would be packed to overflowing for the Mass. Because of

COVID, attendance will be limited. The ceremony will be broadcast on EWTN and other places, so I suspect there will still be a pretty good-sized audience.

The original motive for

the Knights, in Father McGivney's mind, was a group that was benevolent, fraternal and soundly religious. Father McGivney, who was only 27 years old at the time, was concerned about young widows left to care for themselves and children if her husband should die. He organized the men to care for each other and their survivors. Out of that family-oriented concern came charitable work for each other. Gary McGivney gave a lot of his lottery winnings away. He told me in 2007, "I guess sharing is in our blood."

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

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director
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mbrett@rcdny.org

Memorial of St. Thérèse of Lisieux

This week's Mission Column comes to you from the Pontifical Mission Societies website, Missio.org. Missio helps connect you with change-makers in the mission lands all over the world. The site has informative and thoughtful content. One such aspect are their blogs known as "Homily Helper." These wonderful tools and resources can help one reflect on the homily and draw a direct connection to the mission lands. Please enjoy this excerpt from the Missio.org blog, "Homily Helper."

Although Thérèse's life was brief, quiet and hidden, her dedication to God and His people still attracts those who also want to do simple everyday things to serve our Lord for the sake of love alone.

The Church venerates today one of its best-known and loved saints – St. Thérèse of Lisieux (of the Child Jesus). Born to a very religious family in Alençon, France, in 1873, Thérèse Martin grew up determined to serve God. She particularly wanted to be a cloistered nun and entered the Carmel of Lisieux at age 15. She spent the next nine years in prayer and penance, growing ever closer to Christ and developing her Little Way of holiness. When her autobiography, written under obedience to her superiors, was published as *The Story of a Soul* after her death, it became internationally popular. Although Thérèse's life was brief, quiet and hidden, her dedication to God and His people still attracts those who also want to do simple everyday things to serve our Lord for the sake of love alone. She rejoiced in the holiness of doing much by being little.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux was long interested in going to the missions herself, but, instead, because of health problems, she fulfilled God's design without leaving her convent. She wrote, "Here are Jesus' words: Lift up your eyes and see. See how in heaven there are empty places? He asks you to fill them.... Request workers of Me, and I will send them. I only wait for a prayer or a sigh of your heart! The apostolate of prayer, is it not so to say, higher than that of preaching? Our mission, as Carmelite, is one of forming evangelical workers that will save millions of souls whose mothers we will be." She died in 1897 after intense suffering from tuberculosis and was canonized in 1925. Just two years later, at the direction of Pope Pius XI, she joined St. Francis Xavier, the great 16th century Jesuit missionary of Asia, in becoming co-patrons of the missions. St. Thérèse of Lisieux was also honored in 1997 as a Doctor of the Church because of the immense spiritual influence of her writings.

October is Mission Month, so let us each day, like St. Thérèse of Lisieux, offer our own "little way" in support of the continuing mission of the Church.

OBITUARIES

Black River – Geno H. Martini, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 15, 2020 at St. Paul's Church; burial in Black River Cemetery.

Brushton – Lila Agnes (Wemette) Jock, 94; Private Services to be held at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Cadyville – Mildred Jeanette (Durocher) Passino, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 14, 2020 at St. James Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Chazy – Norman Edward Duprey, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 12, 2020 at Sacred Heart Church.

Constable – Theresa Bova Patnode, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 19, 2020 at St. Francis of Assisi Church; burial in St. Francis Cemetery.

Lake Placid – Joseph Frank Claus, 31; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 12, 2020 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. James Cemetery, Cadyville.

Lake Placid – Horace D. Pratt 89; Private Services held Oct. 12, 2020 at M. B. Clark, Inc. Funeral Home.

Lowville – James M. Freeman, 73; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 13, 2020 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Beaches Bridge Cemetery.

Malone – Bruce Hastings, 67; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 14, 2020 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery, North Bangor.

Massena – Raymond G. Lancto, III, 30;

Private Mass of Christian Burial to be held; burial in Visitation Cemetery, Northfolk.

Moriah – Gloria A. (Burgart) Pratt, 88; Graveside services Oct. 10, 2020 at St. Peter and Paul Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Carolyn M. Murphy, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 13, 2020 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Ogdensburg Cemetery.

Peru – Maurice R. Bezio, 82; Funeral Services Oct. 15, 2020 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

Plattsburgh – Roland A. Carter, 56; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 15, 2020 at St. Peter's Church.

Plattsburgh – John "Jack" Crowley, Sr., 87; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 12, 2020 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Anthony E. Garrow, 90; Private Mass of Christian burial to be held at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Potsdam – Jeff J. Fuller, 57; Funeral

Services Oct. 20, 2020 at Garner Funeral Service; burial in Bayside Cemetery.

Potsdam – Robert E. Rumrill, 88; Graveside Services Oct. 16, 2020 at Bayside Cemetery.

Rouses Point – Aaron James Babbie, 38; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 17 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Champlain.

Saranac Lake – Alma B. (Charbonneau) Sawyer, 97; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 16, 2020 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Harvey W. Yaw, Sr., 86; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 16, 2020 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Watertown – Frances Siragusa Barry, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 15, 2020 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Sally A. (Johnson) Shaughnessy, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 22, 2020 at Holy Family Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

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Exhibit honors St. John Paul II

ROME (CNS) – A few steps from the Vatican, on the 42nd anniversary of the election of St. John Paul II, a small exhibit opened to celebrate the Polish-born pope, but also a father-daughter team of photographers who helped document his pontificate.

Giancarlo Giuliani began covering the Vatican as a photojournalist in 1961; his daughter, Alessia Giuliani, joined him in 1999.

St. John Paul was born in 1920; the COVID-19 lockdown and ongoing restrictions meant that most of the events planned in Rome to mark the centenary of his birth were canceled or postponed.

But at the Arte Poli gallery, from Oct. 16 to April 2, 2021, visitors can glimpse the late pope's personality through the Giulianis' photographs and through objects he used, speeches written in

his own hand and sculptures of him loaned to the exhibit.

For the elder Giuliani there is no doubt who was his favorite pope to photograph.

St. John Paul "was an actor," who was comfortable in front of the cameras and who "would let us work," he said.

The sporty Polish pope was only 58 when he was elected and he traveled the world, even once age and Parkinson's disease began to curve his back and make his steps falter.

Giuliani, the father, said he photographed St. John Paul on 103 of the 104 foreign trips he made, missing only a 1985 day trip to Lichtenstein because he wasn't feeling well.

He admired St. John Paul as a person, he said, "and I wanted to bring out his humanity in my photos and share it."

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CELEBRATING WITH THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH



(Above) Every Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph celebrated Foundation Day on Oct. 15, including the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. It was on the feast of St. Teresa of Avila, October 15, 1650, in the town of LePuy, in southern France, that six women – Anna Brun, Marguerite Burdier, Claudia Chastel, Anna Chaley, Anna Vey, and Francoise Eyraud – asked to embrace religious life and formed the first beginnings of the Sisters of St. Joseph. These first Sisters chose a lifelong commitment of gift of themselves to God through the service of the dear neighbor. This newly formed congregation was dedicated to the instruction of youth, the direction of orphanages, and the care of the poor and sick. As part of their Foundation Day celebration, the halls of the Motherhouse were named – Jean-Pierre Medaille, LePuy, Bishop De Maupas, St. Joseph, Mother St. John Fontbonne, Mother Mary Anna, Mother Evarista, Mother Immaculata and Mother Assumpta – and blessed. Following the blessing of the Halls, the sisters prayed Evening Prayer for Founders' Day and the American Foundation. The Prayer was followed with a turkey dinner. (Below) The Sisters of St. Joseph celebrated Sister Jean Marie Chiovitti's 100th birthday Oct. 17. The festivities included video chats with family and friends, a Mass for her intentions, a small party and an interview with WWNY TV.

