Catholic

October 20, 2021

Students helping students

Seventh- and eighth-grade students from St. Mary’s School in Ticonderoga recently donated over $300 to Mission Haiti, a project the Sisters of St. Joseph have been involved in for several years. This project provides education for 10 Haitian girls from primary through secondary school; three years of technical education for 10 girls; assist in the salaries for and certification of teachers; and partial financial assistance for re-building Rose de Lima Secondary School. To support this much mission, donations can be made to Sisters of St. Joseph with “Mission Haiti” on the Memo line. Donations can be mailed to Sisters of St. Joseph, 1425 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.

Campaign funds cathedral repairs

Ogdensburg — Thanks to funding raised in the diocesan It’s Our Church, It’s Our Future Capital Campaign, St. Mary’s Cathedral is undergoing needed repairs and restoration to ensure the cathedral structure is sound and beautiful well into the future.

Two separate projects — one interior, one exterior — are underway. Both projects were funded largely by the It’s Our Church, It’s Our Future Capital Campaign. Funds for the exterior work came from the diocesan portion of the campaign, and the interior work was funded by the cathedral parish’s portion.

Pope Francis: Church must respect other cultures

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christian freedom means respecting other cultures and traditions rather than finding ways to impose “one’s own model of life as though it were the most evolved and the most appealing,” Pope Francis said.

“How many errors have been made in the history of evangelization by seeking to impose a single cultural model,” the pope said Oct. 13 during his weekly general audience in the Paul VI audience hall.

“At times, even violence was not spared to make a single point of view prevail. In this way, the church has been deprived of the richness of many local expressions that the cultural traditions of entire peoples bring with them. But this is the exact opposite of Christian freedom,” he said.

The pope continued his series of talks on St. Paul’s Letter to the Galatians by reflecting on the freedom from slavery to sin and death that comes from Christ’s death and resurrection.

St. Paul’s assertion is that freedom, given to humanity through grace and love, is “the supreme and new law of Christian life,” which “opens us up to welcoming every people and culture, and at the same time opens every people and culture to a greater freedom,” Pope Francis said.

For the apostle, the pope said, welcoming faith “involves renouncing not the heart of cultures and traditions, but only that which may hinder the newness and purity of the Gospel.”

The “freedom obtained through the death and resurrection of the Lord does not enter into conflict with cultures or with the traditions we have received, but rather introduces into them a new freedom, a liberating novelty, that of the Gospel,” he said.
I told him not to tell anyone

I agreed to do it, but I told him not to tell anyone. I was 16 or 17 years old. A friend had asked me to drive his antique tractor in a tractor pull. For some reason, he wanted it competing in the “Powder Puff pull,” the women’s competition. If I remember correctly, my friend had asked other young ladies he knew who knew how to drive tractor, and no one would agree to do it.

So, I agreed to drive the tractor in the tractor pull, but I didn’t want it “getting around” that I was doing it. I didn’t think it seemed very “cool” to be driving a tractor in a tractor pull.

The reality was that driving a tractor was part of who I was at that time. My father and grandfather co-owned a dairy farm. My dad had only daughters. My sisters and I worked in hay mows, milked cows, cleaned livestock stalls and drove tractors. I didn’t want to show people who I really was. While I can attribute some of my concern about being cool to the fact that I was a teenager at the time, don’t we sometimes shy away from showing people who we really are even when we’re far away from the years when we can use teenage insecurity as an excuse?

That entered my mind as I prayed about this week’s World Mission Sunday.

Especially in this secular world, it’s hard to profess a love of Christ to others and be who we are — children of a loving God — publicly. I know I’ve let opportunities to do it pass me by out of fear.

Yet there are others, missionaries, who travel great distances, often at great personal expense and risk, to share Christ and his love with others. And there are others, no less missionaries, who share Christ’s love with their families, their neighbors, their workplaces and their communities. They embrace who they are, and they share it.

As we approach World Mission Sunday, please support those who share their identities as followers of Christ with others, as we are all called to do, and serve the least of his people with their service, joy and love. Please pray for them. If you are able and called to do so, please support them financially.

They give a lot often with little reward (at least I got a trophy from the tractor pull; I won second place). They agreed to do it. And they agreed to tell everyone.

Reflections on the Our Father

My sister called me up on the phone this week. Among other things, we got talking about the Our Father prayer. She mentioned how much she loved this wonderful prayer. However, she then expressed her concern that she felt some people were not understanding many of the promises and prayers of this Lord’s Prayer. Many times, she felt that many say the words of the Our Father quickly and without comprehension.

So, she said “you better write a column. People have to understand what they are saying.” So here we go again; we’re talking about Jesus’ perfect prayer.

Jesus begins this prayer by calling upon our God as Father. In Jesus’ time, this must have been a huge surprise to refer to God as Father for most of the people, even for Jesus’ apostles. The ordinary people thought of God as the God of Moses — the God who Moses met at the top of Mount Sinai, a God of fear. Jesus wants his followers — then and now — to never forget that God wants always to be for us a caring, loving father. We stand before our God in prayer as a son or daughter before Our Father.

Each time we say this prayer, we proclaim our determination to make God’s name holy. In this way, we make our prayer with honor and respect to our God and Father. In this way, we bring reverence and honor to God each time we say his name. “Hallowed be thy name.”

Then we make a promise: “Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done.” We will do all we can to make our lives better, our world better as we do all we can to make God’s Kingdom united and strong right here on this earth just as in heaven. We commit to being the Kingdom of God — a people dedicated to living a good life filled with the love of Our Savior.

We go on to pray that Our Father takes care of us. “Give is this day our daily bread.” We pray that God satisfies our hunger and also our spiritual needs through the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist — the sacrament of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus at each Mass.

Then we make a solemn commitment to forgiveness. We humbly stand before Our Father seeking his forgiveness. We have failed. We have sinned all too often, but Jesus often promised us His forgiveness. Then we make a confidant commitment: “forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” Lord, treat me as I treat those who sin against me. This is a bold declaration, yet this is what we say. We have to mean it each time we pray to Our Father.

Then we ask Our Father to protect us. “And lead us not into temptation.” I believe that my God and Father never stops protecting me. With love and wisdom Our Father helps me see clearly the temptations that will distract me from following my God.

“Deliver us from evil. Amen.” We close this wonderful prayer again asking our God to protect us. We want to live in love and honesty each and every day. We ask Our Father to protect us from that evil that will block and disturb our relationships with our God and our Father so that we can lead better lives.

Finally, never forget that Our Father is a gift from the Lord Jesus. This prayer is always close to my mind. I truly need it so often. There are so many times when I just need a prayer, and this is the best prayer that we have. Many times, I want to invite some people to join me in prayer, and I am certain that they know the Lord’s Prayer, and I invite them to join me. There are times when I stand with a family around the sick bed of a loved one, and I want them to join me in prayer, and we turn with our God and our Father as we say the Lord’s Prayer.
Father Flynn evangelizes in Peru from Peru

By Mary Beth Bracy
Contributing Writer

PERU – In the midst of a pandemic, Father Francis J. Flynn continues to minister to the faithful a continent away.

When he was ordained a priest in December of 1969, Father Flynn said his desire to spend time in the missions. He was first assigned to Mollendo, Peru in 1973, where he was stationed with Father Andrew J. Amyot. Over the years, Father Flynn has made several trips back to Peru, often every other year, and currently stays in touch with his former youth group through WhatsApp – a smartphone/tablet application that allows for video meetings, text messaging and voice conversations.

Father Flynn calls Peru regularly to check-in with a different person each week and see how they are doing. One of the former members of his youth group and his family had COVID. They weren’t sure if he’d survive. Father Flynn celebrated Mass for over a year, and Father Flynn has offered Mass for them via Zoom.

During his first year in Mollendo, Father Flynn spent three weeks each month in that community and one week each month in the Caylloma Mountains. He worked with Father Paul Hagan there, covering a large area. Father Flynn came back to states in 1981 and later received permission to go as a Maryknoll priest, who worked in Peru as he ministered to in Mollendo, Peru as he celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination in early 2020.

There, he became part of a pastoral team with a Maryknoll priest, who orchestrated social activities, a priest from Iowa, a priest from Nebraska who worked with street kids, a religious sister who worked in the city, and lay people who worked in co-ops. Once a month, they shared “pastoral theological reflections,” which he described as a “powerful, big addition.”

In the smaller group, Father Flynn said the group would bring “together what you were doing – each working on something different – how does it work with evangelization and our mission.”

Father Flynn’s parish was divided into 16 zones, each comprised of zones. They had a special Mass on Palm Sunday, which began with the whole parish uniting in a huge field and processing to the church.

It was here that Father Flynn became acquainted with Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC), small communities of families and individuals united by their faith and faith sharing. They provided instruction in the parish zones.

People would share the message in the meetings,” he said. “It was a wonderful experience of BEC.”

Father Flynn became involved in youth encounters in Arequipa, which was the second largest city in Peru at the time and located up in the mountains. They were geared to 18 to 30 year olds. He recruited a few young people from his parish to go.

It was a “three-day, intense experience,” Father Flynn said. “They came back and were enthused.”

The youth encounter program continued to grow in his parish. Eventually, half the participants ended up being from his parish.

“It changed the tenor of the parish, musicians and singers were involved in Mass – guitar, mandolin, drums, tambourines,” he said.

There was a chorus, and a local music teacher became the director.

“Sunday night Masses were lively and packed. The majority was young people. It was a pastor’s dream,” said Father Flynn, noting everything sprang forth from the Mass and led to the Mass. “Youth came for hours before Mass to play music and practice and socialized after.”

Every encounter had a priest and talks given by peers. It started Friday and ended on Sunday with Mass. Day one was an encounter with self, face to face with who you are and want to be. The young people received letters from their parents. Day two was an en-

Support And Pray
For Vocations

North Country patients at CVPH
thank Fr. Bill Reamer for blessings,
spiritual guidance and prayers.

~A Friend
In Peru from Peru

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

counter with Jesus; there was a bonfire and Confession. Many times, Father Flynn explained, the young adults had not been to Confession since they made their First Communion. He can remembering hearing Confessions all night. Day three was an encounter with the Church and the world. To maintain the experience, the young people were supposed to start or join a group with like-minded people. They started a youth group in his parish to keep that experience alive.

Parents attended a Mass and welcomed the youth back home in Molloedo when they came out of encounter. It was a reconciliation experience for some, Father Flynn added. Mass was packed with young people. They gave testimonials to the congregation while waiting for the retreatants to return. They sang “Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ hear I am” in Spanish. All the youth stood up and spoke.

“They couldn’t hide from their conversion experience,” said Father Flynn. “If they fell, people reminded them.”

After this encounter, Father Flynn said of his priesthood, “Anything after that, it was frosting on the cake.” “To see young people “obtain the source and summit of their life, [they] looked forward to Mass, everything you read about and want, I had it.”

Father Flynn said members of this “young youth” group are now grandparents, and the third generation that he ministers to from afar.

Father Flynn retired in January 2020 and went to Molloedo on February 11. The faithful had a huge, three day 50th anniversary of priesthood celebration for him. There was a special Saturday Mass and Sunday dinner organized by the youth group. It was “so neat meeting the children,” Father Flynn said.

The reception was organized by the son of one of the youth group members. One young man in the youth group, Edwin, became a Jesuit priest. He is stationed in Lima and pastor of the largest and oldest Jesuit Church there. Another young lady from the youth group, Rosemary, is a doctor and head of hospital in Molloedo. He made exceptions for them to be in group due to their ages. “It was a tremendous success, [they had] credibility with their peers.”

Father Flynn flew out of Peru on the last flight before they shut the country down, closed the border, and stopped the Masses due to COVID. Although the financial situation had improved, the pandemic and political instability devastated economy, he reflected.

Currently, Father Flynn said he is in a great situation, living with Msgr. Dennis Duprey in Peru, New York. He covers Masses for priests when they are away or need to quarantine. He enjoys golfing with Father Kevin McEwan, Father Tojo Chacko, Msgr. Duprey and a few deacons. Father Flynn walks almost daily. After the lockdown, he organized his days to walk, complete puzzles, and read, which he loves.

Father Flynn said that he is “very blessed, very fortunate to be where he was, when he was.” He said he didn’t always see it at the time, but God always put him in “the right place at the right time. I’m here in Peru and this is the right place for me at this time.”

Offering praise & worship, adoration in Lake Placid

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

Lake Placid – They're mixing praise and worship music with adoration and reflections, and all are invited to join them.

Starting Nov. 5, St. Agnes Catholic Church in Lake Placid will host First Friday Praise and Worship at 7 p.m. in the church on the first Friday of every month.

The prayer offerings are being organized and led by Joey and Mary Catherine “MC” Izzo, music ministry leaders at St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid, and Father John R. Yonkovig, pastor at St. Agnes.

“The praise and worship music centers around prayer, but it’s also with more traditional adoration and benediction,” said Joey Izzo. “We do songs from all around the Catholic and Christin music scene, including a lot of songs that have been used at Camp Guggenheim, songs some of the campers will know. We wanted the kids who haven’t had camp in a couple years to have this opportunity, and we wanted to make it available to others.”

The couple stressed that the First Friday Praise & Worship nights will not be concerts. Instead, they are prayer opportunities.

“One of the beauties of praise and worship music with adoration is that – just like there are different types of learners – there are different types of prayers,” Mary Catherine Izzo added. “If you come and are really excited to sing, we have lyrics available. A lot of the songs are songs that people who either went to camp or who listen to mainstream Christian radio would know. Others may want to sit and listen, read along with the lyrics and meditate on the words in the presence of the Eucharist and see how the Lord speaks to them in that way.”

“Growing up, my mom brought us to adoration once a month,” Joey Izzo added. “It’s that feeling of just sitting next to someone and not having a conversation, but knowing they’re there. It’s comforting. I feel like that joy and comfort is really needed right now. I hope more people get to know what it feels like.”

In addition to appealing to people who pray in a variety of ways, the Izzos hope the First Fridays will draw a variety of people.

“It’s an invitation to prayer, and we hope people will see how the Lord is calling them to use that hour,” Mary Catherine Izzo said. “We feel like there’s a piece to offer everyone who comes. It’s for families with young children, older adults – everyone. Just come with an open mind and see how the Lord wants to meet you in prayer. Kids are very welcome. I’ll likely have my 2 year old and 8 week old.”

Each First Friday session will also include readings and reflections from Father Yonkovig.

“Father John has been very supportive,” Mary Catherine Izzo added.

The Izzos previously conducted a similar praise and worship series at St. André Bessette Parish in Malone.

“We were doing once a month in Malone when Father Joe Giroux was there,” Joey Izzo said. “We noticed how the following became consistent because we stayed consistent with it. When we started here at St. Agnes, we came in just as the pandemic hit. We’ve wanted to do this for a while, but the timing wasn’t right until now.”

In addition to praise and worship music and adoration, the monthly series will include time for food and fellowship. “That’s something we took from the Malone series,” Joey Izzo said. “We wanted an opportunity for people to gather and talk after. You don’t often get to sit in a room and just talk to people who share the same faith and who shared the same kind of prayer you did and shared time sitting with Jesus in the Eucharist.”

“Making connections is how we build the Church and build the body of Christ,” Mary Catherine Izzo added.

While the First Friday Praise and Worship series is open to all, the Izzos said they also know not everyone is able to travel to Lake Placid every first Friday.

“Even if you can only come once, all are welcome to join us,” said Joey Izzo. “And we’ll be livestreaming on the St. Agnes Facebook page for those who can’t make it.”
Should serve us well for many years’

Repairs to St. Mary’s Cathedral funded by It’s Our Church, It’s Our Future Capital Campaign

By Darcy Fargo

OGDENSBURG – Thanks to funding raised in the diocesan It’s Our Church, It’s Our Future Capital Campaign, St. Mary’s Cathedral is undergoing needed repairs and restoration to ensure the cathedral structure is sound and beautiful well into the future.

“We actually have two projects going on – one interior and one exterior,” said Father Joseph A. Morgan, rector of St. Mary’s Cathedral.

Crews from Lupini Construction, a Utica-based firm, are completing exterior work.

“They’re repointing the facade of the cathedral,” Father Morgan said. “And restoring a limestone column that has degraded.”

Father Morgan said the currently ongoing exterior work is an extension of previous work that had been done to repair the stone.

“We did the north wall one year, the west wall another,” he said. “We’ve repaired a number of spots that were leaking. A big chunk of the work has been done by Lupini. They’ve done a lot of work in churches throughout the diocese, and they’ve been doing work on our cathedral for many years. They first came here around this time in 2010.”

Inside the cathedral, Stuart Riche, a local contractor who also completed the restoration at St. Lawrence University’s Gannon Memorial Chapel after it was gutted by fire, is completing a number of improvement projects.

“Where water has come in and streaked the stone, they’re cleaning that,” said Father Morgan. “Some of the windows are showing the effects of water coming in over almost 70 years. They’re working on those, and they’re repairing and restoring the Stations of the Cross and other wood things in the cathedral. Some of the stations have significant cracks, some have missing or broken crosses. Riche’s work also includes refinishing the cathedral doors.”

Father Morgan noted that the repairs have been funded largely through the It’s Our Church, It’s Our Future Capital Campaign.

“Some of the exterior work is from the diocesan portion of the campaign,” he said. “A lot of the interior work is from the parish portion of the campaign. We wouldn’t have been able to do this work without incurring debt otherwise. We’ve also been able to do a number of projects at Notre Dame. We’ve made the entryway safer, and there’s a new boiler and sound system. All that work was completed before we started work on the cathedral.”

Father Morgan said he hopes the renovation work will be completed before the diocese celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2022.

“We’re doing the exterior now, and we hope to focus on the cement work in front of the cathedral in the spring or summer,” he said.

Father Morgan said he is grateful to those who supported and continue to support the Capital Campaign.

“I’m so grateful to everybody who participated in – and those still participating in – the Capital Campaign,” he said. “People were very responsive, and we were over our goal. The work they’ve enabled us to do should serve us well for many years.”

He also expressed gratitude to those impacted by the ongoing projects.

“Funerals have all shifted to Notre Dame during this time,” Father Morgan said. “For the most part, people have been very under-
Grey Nuns embrace Laudato Si’ action platform

The Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart affirm their commitment to a spirituality of compassionate concern and care for the ecological wellbeing of Earth and the universe.

In a statement of their Commitment to the Laudato Si’ 7-Year Journey to Integral Ecology, the sisters write that “…we renew our lifelong commitment to ecological conversion.”

This ecological conversion involves dedication to a seven-goaled action platform that supports Pope Francis’ encyclical, Laudato Si’, Care for Our Common Home.

The Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart are making this commitment in solidarity with women and men religious around the world who have “set out on the long path of renewal” to integral ecology envisioned by Laudato Si’.

Beyond women and men religious, Pope Francis is calling on six other groups found in the Catholic Church to also adopt the goals of the Laudato Si’ Action Platform. These include: families; dioceses and parishes; educational institutions; hospitals and health care centers; organizations and groups; and businesses and agricultural organizations.

The seven goals of the platform, which apply to everyone are:
- Responding to the cry of the Earth
- Responding to the cry of the poor
- Building ecological economies
- Adopting simple, sustainable lifestyles
- Creating ecological education
- Sharing ecological spirituality
- Promoting community engagement through action and advocacy

The hope is that these seven goals, undertaken by the global church will create an irreversible, systemic change in seven years.

The Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart have already embraced many of these seven goals with such actions as their support for the Earth Charter principles, their corporate stand against the death penalty, their support for fair trade and socially responsible investing, avoiding single use plastic, Eco Spirituality retreats, their work with migrants and creation advocacy.

Sister Denise Roche summed up the Grey Nuns commitment: “We, the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, want to endorse and participate fully in the world challenge to save and enhance the beautiful gifts given so abundantly by our loving God.”

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!

Thank you Fr. Bryan Stitt
For being such a fantastic & holy priest.
Thoughts and prayers.

From your fan club
Diocese of Ogdensburg
Mission Office 2020 Annual Report

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

World Mission Sunday – the annual, worldwide Eucharistic celebration for the Missions of the Church – will be on October 24 this year. This important day in the life of the Church Universal fortifies our understanding of our shared call to mission, bestowed upon us at Baptism.

Pope Francis’ message for World Mission Sunday reflects on the theme: “We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20). The Holy Father shares his zeal, reminding us that, “as Christians, we cannot keep the Lord to ourselves,” as we “recall with gratitude all those men and women who by their testimony of life help us to renew our baptismal commitment to be generous and joyful apostles of the Gospel.” He invites us to speak of our faith!

World Mission Sunday provides us with that very opportunity. We can speak about our faith and respond to our missionary call – through prayer, participation in the Eucharist, and giving generously – to the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Your gifts support and sustain priests, religious and lay pastoral leaders in more than 1,100 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe as they proclaim the Gospel, build the Church, serve the poor – and speak of our shared faith in all corners of the world.

“The global pandemic has brought to the fore and amplified the pain, the solitude, the poverty, and the injustices experienced by so many people,” reminds Pope Francis. This year, as the world recovers from the loss and the challenges that resulted, let us respond with generous hearts.

Thank you for helping us to reach out in solidarity and support for the Mission Church, and the work and witness of missionaries.

In this spirit, I offer my personal gratitude for your kind missionary heart, reaching out in love throughout Mission Month and beyond.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

Pray and give generously October 24, 2021

The Society for THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH
...a Pontifical Mission Society

Dear Director: I’d like to share my blessings with the poor for the sake of the Gospel, so I’m enclosing a sacrifice for the missions. Please pray for my intentions:

Enclosed is my sacrifice in the amount of $__________________

Name ___________________ Address ___________________ City ___________________ State ___ Zip ___

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith • Diocese of Ogdensburg
622 Washington St • PO Box 369 • Ogdensburg, NY 13669
Tel: (315)-393-2920 • Fax 1-866-314-7296
website: www.rcdony.org/mission
Email: amichael@rcdony.org
Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director
Please remember The Society for the Propagation of the Faith when writing or changing your will.
**The Pontifical Mission Societies in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc., thanks our generous donors who participate in collections, appeals and bestow unsolicited gifts to the Missions. God bless you!**

### Mission Support
- Mission Sunday $52,297.41
- Legacies $0.00
- Perpetual Memberships $800.00
- Lenten Gifts $2,040.00
- Lenten Appeal $8,215.00
- Christmas Appeal $8,634.00

### The Special Funds
- Missionary Project of the Diocese of Ogdensburg $36,562.49
- Missionary Cooperation Plan $1,420.25
- Missionary Cooperation $1,475.65
- Missionary Project of the Diocese of Ogdensburg (MPDO) Collection, while the other half takes up the Missionary Cooperation Appeal, in the following year the collections are reversed.

**St. Peter Apostle Appeal**
$5328.00 was given by our people to the Society of St. Peter the Apostle to educate native priests and novices for mission areas.

**2020 Financial Statement**
- Total Revenue: $109,337.00
- Total Operating Expenses: $41,213.00

**Notice**
This report covers the fiscal year of Jan. 1, 2020 to Dec. 31, 2020; with the exception of the Missionary Childhood, which covers September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021 and MPDO which is July 2020-June 2021.

---

### CATHOLIC SCHOOL GIFTS TO THE MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION
**September 1, 2020 - August 31, 2021 (School Year)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CARTHAGE - Augustinian Academy</td>
<td>$76.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOUVERNEUR - St. James School</td>
<td>$1000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASSENA - Trinity Catholic School</td>
<td>$800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAKE PLACID - St. Agnes School</td>
<td>$832.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TICONDEROGA - St. Mary’s School</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,208.86</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Totals do not reflect donations received after August 2021 or donations forwarded directly to the National Office.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM GIFTS TO THE MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION
**September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021 (School Year)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Mary’s Church - Copenhagen</td>
<td>$310.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Raphael’s Religious Education Program-Heuvelton</td>
<td>$25.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$335.25</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* These totals do not reflect those donations that were mailed directly to National Office in NYC by individual Parish Religious Education Programs.

**Missionary Childhood Association Funds for School Year 2020-2021**
- School Totals $3,208.86
- Religious Education Totals $335.25
- MCA Totals $3,544.11

---

**Visit Our Updated Mission Office Website:**
www.rcdony.org/mission
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adams</td>
<td>$612.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>700</td>
<td>Lake Placid, Speculator</td>
<td>$375.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henderson</td>
<td>$356.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wells</td>
<td>$2,286.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community of Alexandria</td>
<td>$865.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>249</td>
<td>Lyons Falls</td>
<td>$1,279.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AuSable Forks/Black Brook</td>
<td>$1,062.00</td>
<td>$913.50</td>
<td>$1,279.00</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>Upper - St. Peter’s Parish</td>
<td>$1,211.00</td>
<td>$2,565.75</td>
<td>$1,645.00</td>
<td>1735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilmington</td>
<td>$1,734.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,734.00</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>Cohoes</td>
<td>$195.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black River</td>
<td>$310.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>90</td>
<td>Montville</td>
<td>$856.73</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brownville-Dexter</td>
<td>$1,217.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>821</td>
<td>Newcomb</td>
<td>$2,365.77</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brownsville</td>
<td>$617.00</td>
<td>$223.00</td>
<td>$1,226.00</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>Long Lake</td>
<td>$3,055.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Barge-BC of St. Auguste</td>
<td>$906.00</td>
<td>$568.50</td>
<td></td>
<td>206</td>
<td>St. Peter’s Parish</td>
<td>$1,645.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cadizville</td>
<td>$3,477.78</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>178</td>
<td>Inlet - Raquette Lake</td>
<td>$1,208.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Vincent/Charmont/Rosiere</td>
<td>$599.00</td>
<td>$651.00</td>
<td>$810.00</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>Pittsfield - St. John</td>
<td>$898.00</td>
<td>$626.00</td>
<td>$380.00</td>
<td>880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caperton</td>
<td>$1,470.14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>880</td>
<td>Paterson</td>
<td>$2,106.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapeau</td>
<td>$561.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>500</td>
<td>Cohoes</td>
<td>$830.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chateaugay</td>
<td>$335.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>390</td>
<td>Utica</td>
<td>$1,031.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>做</td>
<td>$520.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Star Lake</td>
<td>$195.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clayton</td>
<td>$2,041.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>390</td>
<td>Lyons Falls</td>
<td>$220.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloyon</td>
<td>$859.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>600</td>
<td>Parish</td>
<td>$859.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colburn</td>
<td>$1,685.00</td>
<td>$801.00</td>
<td>$1,335.00</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>Roses Point</td>
<td>$1,135.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constable/Westville</td>
<td>$673.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>400</td>
<td>Saranac Lake</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constableville</td>
<td>$109.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>160</td>
<td>Schroon Lake</td>
<td>$494.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Leyden</td>
<td>$399.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Ogdensburg</td>
<td>$399.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croghan</td>
<td>$1,129.00</td>
<td>$614.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>519</td>
<td>Star Lake</td>
<td>$399.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dannemora</td>
<td>$455.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>435</td>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>$66.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redfield</td>
<td>$611.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>325</td>
<td>St. Regis Falls</td>
<td>$66.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westport</td>
<td>$206.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>90</td>
<td>Triadelphia</td>
<td>$66.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabethtown</td>
<td>$823.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Utica</td>
<td>$410.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evans Mills</td>
<td>$680.50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>66</td>
<td>Watertown</td>
<td>$1,555.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Covington</td>
<td>$133.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>246</td>
<td>Watertown - St. John</td>
<td>$143.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iroquois Bay</td>
<td>$324.20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>850</td>
<td>Watertown - St. John</td>
<td>$1,452.75</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presque Isle</td>
<td>$703.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>514</td>
<td>Watertown - St. John</td>
<td>$453.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>$247.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>180</td>
<td>Watertown - SA</td>
<td>$988.80</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herkimer</td>
<td>$480.00</td>
<td>$170.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>240</td>
<td>Watertown - SF</td>
<td>$1,452.75</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Placid</td>
<td>$1,547.00</td>
<td>$1,100.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>600</td>
<td>Phelps</td>
<td>$1,085.00</td>
<td>$1,085.00</td>
<td>$1,085.00</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keene</td>
<td>$438.00</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>130</td>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>$52,297.41</td>
<td>$37,298.83</td>
<td></td>
<td>335</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mission Sunday and Mission Coop Appeal 2020 collections are calculated using the dates of our Fiscal Year (Jan. – Dec. 2020). Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Appeal 2020 is calculated using the dates of July 2020 - June 2021. Due to COVID-19, the entire Diocese held a collection for the Missionary Projects for the Diocese of Ogdensburg Appeal. These totals do not reflect any 2020 late payments that were received in the Mission Office. It is also possible that some amounts represent combined totals amongst parish groupings.

We Cannot but Speak About What we Have Seen and Heard (Acts 4:20)

Speak About Africa... ...Where 19,000 young men are preparing for the priesthood.

Speak About Asia... ...Where six million children receive an education from Religious Sisters in more than 15,000 Church-run elementary schools.

Speak About Latin America... ...Where catechists travel to remote areas to bring the Good News of God’s great love to families.

Speak About the Pacific Islands... ...Where 3,500 religious bring the Lord’s mercy and peace to those in need.

Speak About Europe... ...Where new churches are being built to welcome faith communities, renewed after years of persecution.
PLATTSBURGH – If you want to know what Father Tojo Chacko’s life as a priest was like in India, ask him to show you pictures. His face lights up as he scrolls through the montage of images: seminarians fishing together and working in rice paddies, visiting families and playing with school children, celebrations on feasts that attract thousands to shrines, and offering Mass for the faithful.

“In South Central India (around 2003-04), I used to work with Salesians and the street children, who had no one,” Father Chacko reflected. “Sometimes they were kids who ran away from their homes. They used to be in the streets begging or things like that. We used to invite them to our home, give them food or boarding. We used to teach them and send them to schools, teach them trades like carpentry. We had a big rehabilitation center where we would send them to school to grow. It’s alarming the number of kids who run away or have lost their parents. In many of the cities, we can find a lot of children without anyone to take care of them.”

His memories continued, “Especially in Northeast India, I was in a school and parish. It was multilingual and had many different languages. We used to go Christmas caroling at every house in the village, taking Jesus and dancing and singing. Everyone welcomed us and would partake in the festivities. India has a lot of religious and cultural festivals. Most people regardless of religion take part in each other’s festivals, especially Christmas.”

In the last parish he was assigned to in India, Father Chacko jokingly shared that he supervised 200 boys “to keep them from smashing each other’s heads” in K–12th grade.

“We had a daily routine like prayer, early Mass, then classes and games,” he said.

He also did a lot of house visitations. “Basic Christian communities” are really important there, where “groups of Christians get together, read the Bible, say the prayers, and have a meal together. They are based around the parish. Over the years religious identity has become a big thing because of religious persecutions, we tried to remain as close knit as possible. They are a praying community that supports each other through setting common goals, financial or social. So, they aren’t just a praying community alone, it is much more than that. They may start small scale businesses or endeavors to help with their goals in education and health, and various other things.”

“When I worked in Northeast and Central India,” Father Chacko added, “we can go and meet and speak with anyone and people mostly accept us. A lot of common, every day people accept and listen to us. There are a lot of people who believe in Jesus and pray to our Mother Mary and come to our shrines, though they won’t be converted to Christianity for various reasons. In some of the Northern parts of India you have to be very careful, it can become dangerous sometimes. It is multilingual and multicultural, everyone live in harmony and peace. Naturally people are good with each other. Most people send their kids to Christian schools to receive education because of their standard of education.”

Recalling his seminary days, Father Chacko shared:

“In South Central India, we used to go to villages and visit most houses, gather people together and pray. A lot of people came, despite of different religious beliefs. We focused on teaching the children the basics. A lot of singing, praise prayers, reading Scripture, preaching. We taught kids to write and read. We told them stories, mostly from the Bible and for life.” He said he encountered “A lot of people who are very poor who are farmers, who depend on the seasons and the climate. A lot of people who have only a meal a day. There are a lot of kids who can’t go to school. It is very sad.”

When Father Chacko visited India in the spring, he noted: “There was a strict lock down and no public Masses. I spent time with family and celebrated Masses, but not public via live streaming.”

In India, there are anti-conversion laws, and Christians are not allowed to evangelize. “Because of the popular Hindu movement, they try to say that Christians want to convert everyone,” Father Chacko said. “It is not so, if it were true, India could have already become a Christian nation. We want to spread the good news about Jesus Christ, who Jesus is and what He did. In India we have a mutual respect for our beliefs. A lot of people come to our Churches and shrines to pray. Christianity in India is growing, but many are afraid to identify themselves as Christians though they believe in Jesus.”

Arriving in the United States, Father Chacko said he experienced a bit of culture shock.

“Coming to U.S. was an eye opener,” he said. “What we know about U.S. in India is from Hollywood movies. I was surprised to see a lot of good Catholic families. There is a lot of faith.”

The United States and India are both mission territories, he noted.

“You can compare it in both extremes,” he said. “In India a lot of people who may not have even heard about Jesus. In the U.S. there are people who have heard about Jesus but don’t know Him fully.”

In the United States Father Chacko has enjoyed “working a lot visiting hospitals and the homebound, bringing Communion.”

“It has helped me grow as a priest and in my faith in Christ, especially ministering to the sick and the suffering,” he said. “There are a lot of people who have a lot of tragedies in life. They hold on to Jesus, they hold on to their faith. In my encounters with them, it has helped me a lot. Through my years here, I have known many families who have had a tough life due to tragedies or illnesses in their families. It has helped me a lot in my journey of faith.”
Seal of confession is topic of debate in France

PARIS (CNS) – Church and government leaders in France are at odds over whether priests should be required to report the abuse of minors if they learn about it in the sacrament of confession.

Archbishop Eric de Moulins-Beaufort, president of the French bishops’ conference, and Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin met to discuss the issue Oct. 12, a week after the release of a report by an independent commission that estimated 330,000 children had been abused by Catholic priests or church employees in France since the 1950s.

At issue is whether French law takes precedence over the seal of confession, a sacred practice in which a confessor does not reveal what is told to him during a confession.

One of the recommendations in the commission’s report urged the church to “send a clear message from the church authorities to penitents taking confession and to the faithful that the seal of confession may not derogate from the obligation provided for by the (French) Criminal Code ... to report to the judicial and administrative authorities all cases of sexual violence inflicted on a child or a vulnerable person.”

Darmanin told legislators Oct. 12 that he had reaffirmed “the primacy of French laws” during his meeting with the archbishop and said Catholic confessional secrecy could not be “used as a justification for not denouncing sexual crimes against children.”

“The secret of confession has operated for 200 years in our law and is recognized as a professional secret, as with doctors and lawyers — but there is an exception for crimes committed against children under age 15,” added the interior minister, who also heads the government’s department for religions.

After the meeting, the French bishops’ conference issued a statement saying: “The scale of violence and sexual assault on minors revealed by this report requires the church to reexamine its practices in light of reality. Work is therefore needed to reconcile the nature of confession with the necessity of protecting children.” The bishops’ conference said it would work on necessary “measures and reforms” in line with the report’s recommendations at its upcoming Nov. 3-8 plenary.

In a note approved by Pope Francis and published by the Vatican in mid-2019, the Apostolic Penitentiary affirmed the absolute secrecy of everything said in confession and called on priests to defend it at all costs, even at the cost of their lives.

Just after the commission’s report was released, Archbishop de Moulins-Beaufort told France Info public radio that confessional secrecy opened up “a space of free speech before God” and should be considered “stronger than the laws of the republic.” After his remarks drew angry reaction from government officials and the media, the archbishop said he recognized his interview remarks had been “clumsy” and apologized to “victims and those saddened or shocked” by the subsequent controversy.

Pope Francis described the report’s publication as a “moment of shame” at his Oct. 6 Rome general audience. He is to meet Darmanin and French Prime Minister Jean Castex in Rome Oct. 18.

Biden, Pope Francis to meet

WASHINGTON (CNS) – President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden will have an audience with Pope Francis Oct. 29, the day before the G20 Leaders’ Summit starts in Rome, White House press secretary Jen Psaki announced Oct. 14.

“They will discuss working together on efforts grounded in respect for fundamental human dignity, including ending the COVID-19 pandemic, tackling the climate crisis and caring for the poor,” she said in a statement.

Biden and Pope Francis previously met in 2016, when Biden was vice president, after they both spoke at a conference at the Vatican.

In recent weeks, there has been speculation that the two leaders would likely meet since Biden would be in Rome.

In a recent interview with Catholic News Service, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, said he was helping the Holy See prepare for Biden’s first presidential visit to the Vatican, sometime during an Oct. 30-31 Rome summit of leading rich and developed nations.

“It would be an anomaly if he did not meet the pope while in Rome,” especially since Biden is the first Catholic to be U.S. president in 58 years, the nuncio said.
FALL SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

5:30 p.m. Mass, Children's Box Raffle

SUNDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish
5:30 p.m. Mass - Children's Raffle

MONDAY

7:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 7:30 p.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

TUESDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

WEDNESDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

THURSDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

FRIDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass, Children's Box Raffle

SATURDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

SUNDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish
5:30 p.m. Mass and Children's Raffle

MONDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

TUESDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

WEDNESDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

THURSDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

FRIDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass, Children's Box Raffle

SATURDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

SUNDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish
5:30 p.m. Mass and Children's Raffle

MONDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

TUESDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

WEDNESDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

THURSDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

FRIDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass, Children's Box Raffle

SATURDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

SUNDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish
5:30 p.m. Mass and Children's Raffle

MONDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

TUESDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

WEDNESDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

THURSDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

FRIDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass, Children's Box Raffle

SATURDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

SUNDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish
5:30 p.m. Mass and Children's Raffle

MONDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

TUESDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

WEDNESDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

THURSDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

FRIDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass, Children's Box Raffle

SATURDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

SUNDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish
5:30 p.m. Mass and Children's Raffle

MONDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

TUESDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

WEDNESDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

THURSDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

FRIDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass, Children's Box Raffle

SATURDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

SUNDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish
5:30 p.m. Mass and Children's Raffle

MONDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

TUESDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

WEDNESDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

THURSDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

FRIDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass, Children's Box Raffle

SATURDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

SUNDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish
5:30 p.m. Mass and Children's Raffle

MONDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

TUESDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

WEDNESDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

THURSDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

FRIDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass, Children's Box Raffle

SATURDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

SUNDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish
5:30 p.m. Mass and Children's Raffle

MONDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

TUESDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

WEDNESDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

THURSDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

FRIDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass, Children's Box Raffle

SATURDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

SUNDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish
5:30 p.m. Mass and Children's Raffle

MONDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

TUESDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

WEDNESDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

THURSDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary's Parish

FRIDAY

7:30 a.m. Mass, Children's Box Raffle
NEW YORK (CNS) — Understated and strikingly realistic, "Mass" (Bleecker Street), actor-turned-writer/director Fran Kranz's feature film debut, tackles a tough subject: the emotional impact of a school shooting on those left behind.

His strategy of feeding the audience information in little bits and bites pays off as viewers are made to feel like fly-on-the-wall witnesses to the intense encounter he portrays.

Kranz begins by building a subtle form of suspense. We watch as parish employee Judy (Breeda Wool) prepares a room on the premises of the small-town Episcopal church for which she works for some kind of meeting.

She meticulously oversees every minute detail, somewhat anxiously arranging furniture and putting out snacks, fussing over everything as if she were preparing for a gathering of VIPs. Then social worker Kendra (Michelle N. Carter) surveys the mostly unadorned space to make sure it's appropriate for the solemn event that follows.

Even when the quartet for whom these careful arrangements have been made — couples Jay (Jason Isaacs) and Gail (Martha Plimpton) and Richard (Reed Birney) and Linda (Ann Dowd) — arrive, the audience is still uncertain what brings them together. Awkward pleasantries are exchanged, and it's not until fully a third of the way into the film that Kranz tips his hand.

In responding to a query from Linda, Gail says, "Why do I want to know about your son? Because he killed mine."

Kranz then sensitively probes the many questions such a tragedy provokes. He also shows how each parent has reacted to their shared affliction in a different way. Brought together in a safe environment, they have the opportunity to discuss and work through their varied feelings of anger, regret, confusion and grief.

The naturalistic ebb and flow of conversation as well as the interior ups-and-downs evoked are adroitly handled both by Kranz himself and by his cast of gifted character actors.

Isaacs and Plimpton convey how bereavement can engulf the soul. Birney's Richard, by contrast, initially seems to be above it all. But such appearances, of course, can be deceptive. As for Dowd, she delves deftly into the paradoxical — yet understandable — plight of a mother forced to acknowledge that she raised a murderer but still determined to love her son.

Beyond its setting, the movie does not explicitly place the sufferings of its principals within a religious context. Simply by his choice of a title, however, Kranz seems to imply that God is present with the protagonists as they experience and express, on the one hand, their confusion and anguish and, on the other, their openness, empathy and willingness to forgive.

The film contains mature themes and a single crude term. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

NEW YORK (CNS) — Daniel Craig’s James Bond is a busy man in "No Time to Die" (MGM/United Artists), the actor’s fifth big-screen outing as Ian Fleming’s iconic spy.

Below this hectic adventure saga’s predictably glossy surface, however, lurk plot developments requiring careful discernment on the part of those viewers inclined to probe its underlying values.

As far as his personal life is concerned, Agent 007 seems to have found a soulmate in psychologist Madeleine Swann (Lea Seydoux). But romantic complications that may or may not be due to behind-the-scenes trickery leave him wondering whether he can ever really trust her.

Professionally, Bond longs to retire. But, as gangster Michael Corleone in the "Godfather" franchise once famously complained about his own supposed plight, he keeps getting pulled back in — specifically here by a plot to unleash a highly refined biological weapon on the world. So he’s soon in conflict with veteran adversary Ernst Blofeld (Christoph Waltz) as well as newcomer Lyutsifer Safin (Rami Malek).

Bond’s mission is made more complicated by the fact that a rift has opened up between the British and American intelligence authorities, primarily due to a dark secret his long-time boss M (Ralph Fiennes) is harboring. He also finds himself in competition with Nomi (Lashana Lynch), a much younger MI6 operative intent on taking charge.

Fortunately, though, Bond can ultimately rely on aid from M’s secretary, Moneypenny (Naomie Harris), and from gadgetmeister Q (Ben Whishaw). For no particular reason, the latter is now gay, but the treatment of this subject is restricted to his interrupted preparations for a same-sex dinner date.

Long notorious for his promiscuous heterosexual bed-hopping, Bond has evolved sufficiently to yearn for a stable home life with Madeleine. Yet, while he may be progressing morally on that front, Neal Purvis, Robert Wade and Phoebe Waller-Bridge’s script muddies the ethical waters by having Bond exact revenge on a couple of his enemies in a way that can’t be squared with scriptural values.

Equally troubling is the dramatically powerful but morally problematic conclusion of director Cary Joji Fukunaga’s world-traversing adventure. While a detailed analysis would necessitate an unforgivable spoiler, suffice it to say that Bond makes a choice that aligns with a purely romantic worldview but not with a Christian outlook.

For those content to consume popcorn and skim along the surface of this long, sprawling, action-packed and unapologetically escapist fantasy, however, such ponderous issues will remain as remote as that interrogatable question: Why shaken, not stirred?

The film contains mature themes, including vengeance, suicide and an out-of-wedlock birth, much stylized violence, brief gory images, premarital cohabitation and sensuality, partial nudity, vague references to homosexuality, a few profanities, a handful of milder oaths and at least one instance each of rough and crude language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.
God wants to gather all into his kingdom

Have you ever had a neighbor who noticed you and your family going to Mass every Sunday and envied your great joy? Maybe one day they told you this. How did you respond? Did you think of inviting them with you? There are many stories of how this led them to seek full communion through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA).

In today’s first reading from the prophet Jeremiah, we find God speaking to people who had been led into exile in Babylon because of their refusal to obey the commandments and had even worshiped pagan idols. After severe penance, God wants to bring them back to Jerusalem. He even promises that mothers and mothers-to-be will know see a prosperous future for themselves and their children. God will show them they are fully forgiven and once again his special people.

In the second reading from St. Paul to the Hebrews, he shows them that he has called their priests and empowered them to be his true shepherds, caring for and protecting their flocks. The Great high priest, Jesus, is the model for all those who must make their followers holy. Every one of them (and us) is called to this closeness to God.

Today’s Gospel from Mark speaks both of physical blindness and spiritual blindness. The blind beggar, Bartimeus is physically blind, but he sees in faith that Jesus is the true divine Messiah: “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me.” Jesus’ disciples, who can see physically but are spiritually blind to why Jesus has to suffer and die, try to hush the beggar until Jesus calls Bartimeus. He listens to his request and brings sight to him. May we have faith enough to realize that we are all sinners in need of forgiveness and greater spiritual sight.

Today is World Mission Sunday. It’s a day to connect with God’s plan for Christ’s followers to gather in absolutely everyone – rich and poor, the powerful and the weak – into his kingdom. That means that we are called to evangelize through our speech and deeds for this to happen. Someday, God wants to see all people come marching in with joy to Eternal life.

Lord, thank you for the colors

“Upstate” to a “New York down Stater” means anything on the northern side of the Mario Cuomo (formerly Tappan Zee) bridge. That’s roughly Westchester north and includes places like Catskill along the Thruway or Kaimesha Lake on the Delaware River.

It was a treat to tell relatives and friends downstate that we were moving to Potsdam, upstate. Remember, those were the days when you did not move out of your neighborhood, ever, unless Uncle Sam or the law said you had to move.

It was impossible to help people visually locate Potsdam by telling them the village is north of Albany or Utica. For most downstaters those are just names. “I had a cousin who moved to Rochester once, is it near there?”

Instead, we would tell folks we were going to live where you had to flip the map of New York State over to find.

The response was usually, “Up there!” or “Near Canada!” like that was the other side of the Arctic or something.

Some had heard of the St. Lawrence River but they thought that was near New Paltz. “Are we almost there yet?”

I came north from Queens for orientation at Potsdam College. Queens to Potsdam seemed like a long trip by car (8 ½ hours or so) so I flew to Massena (just over an hour). I think I flew Mohawk Airlines from Kennedy International to Massena International.

I saw the Catskills and the Adirondacks from 25,000 feet. I had never seen so many trees in my whole life (all 19 years of it). It was a breathtaking sight! I’m not a hiker or camper or anything like that, so I can’t say we frequented the woods. However, Kathy and I had some commitments in Plattsburgh and Lake Placid over the last couple of weeks and those road trips from Watertown took us through the Adirondacks at peak leaf season.

The leaves were only starting to fall. The browns and yellows were vivid. Here or there bright, lovely reds would pop. The sky was mostly clear and blue with only an artist’s hint of a cloud now and then to make the scene perfect.

I didn’t really care that we had a hard time finding an open restaurant in our travels. The number of tourists on the road and packing the usual ADK villages didn’t bother us either.

Nature has a way of reminding us of God’s marvelous hand. He created all that vegetation on the third day according to Genesis.

Nice job, God. As we drove through the vegetation, I was reminded of seeing it from above and reliving the same awe.

This coming weekend our response to the psalm is most appropriate, “The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.” Thank you, God.

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown. He is the Director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.
Pope Francis discusses World Mission Sunday

The following are excerpts from the Holy Father’s message for the celebration of World Mission Sunday 2021:

WE CANNOT KEEP THE LORD TO OURSELVES

Once we experience the power of God’s love and recognize His fatherly presence in our personal and community life, we cannot help but proclaim and share what we have seen and heard.... “Go therefore to the highways and byways, and invite everyone you find” (Mt 22:9). No one is excluded, no one need feel distant or removed from this compassionate love.... As Christians, we cannot keep the Lord to ourselves: the Church’s evangelizing mission finds outward fulfillment in the transformation of our world and in the care of creation.... The theme of this year’s World Mission (Sun)day – “We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20), is a summons to each of us to “own” and to bring to others what we bear in our hearts. THE EXPERIENCE OF THE APOSTLES

The first Christians began the life of faith amid hostility and hardship.... those experiences impelled them to turn problems, conflicts and difficulties into opportunities for mission.... Nothing and no one was to be excluded from the message of liberation. Like the Apostles and the first Christians, we too can say with complete conviction: “We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20). Everything we have received from the Lord is meant to be put to good use and freely shared with others.... The first Christians, far from yielding to the temptation to become an elite group, were inspired by the Lord and His offer of new life to go out among the nations and to bear witness to what they had seen and heard: the good news that the Kingdom of God is at hand....

AN INVITATION TO EACH OF US

On World Mission (Sun)day, which we celebrate on the penultimate Sunday of October, we recall with gratitude all those men and women who by their testimony of life help us to renew our baptismal commitment to be generous and joyful apostles of the Gospel. Let us remember especially all those who resolutely set out, leaving home and family behind, to bring the Gospel to all those places and people thirsting for its saving message.

To be on mission is to be willing to think as Christ does, to believe with Him that those around us are also my brothers and sisters. May His compassionate love touch our hearts and make us all true missionary disciples.

OBITUARIES

AuSable Forks – Ronald Marbut, Sr., 69; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 14, 2021 at Holy Name Church; burial in St. Matthew’s Cemetery, Black Brook.


Lake Placid – Mary Margaret (Courtney) Cayea, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 16, 2021 at St. Agnes Church.

Madrid – Pauline M. (Ashley) Tyndall, 90; Mass of Christian Burial at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in St. John the Baptist Cemetery.


Morrisville – Lillian L. (Poulin) Thompson, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 18, 2021 at St. Alexander’s Church.

Norfolk – Chelsey A. Doran, 28; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 16, 2021 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Calvary Cemetery, Norwood.


Ogdensburg – Elizabeth “Betty” Pearl (Kelly) Chauvin, 89; Funeral Services Oct. 14, 2021 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Esther J. (Poliak) Gonyou, 95; Funeral Services Oct. 13, 2021 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Ogdensburg – Mary E. (Robinson) Murray, 82; Funeral Services Oct. 9, 2021 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Leita A. LaClair, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 13, 2021 at Our Lady of Victory Church.


Star Lake – Pauline Louise (Dean) Bassette, 108; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 13, 2021 at St. Hubert’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery, Potsdam.

Watertown – Harry E. Bracken, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 16, 2021 at St. Anthony’s Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.


Watertown – Sophie Elizabeth “Betty” (Lustyik) Lawrence; Services to be held at a later date.


Watertown – James E. McAuliffe III, 71; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 9, 2021 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Kathryn E. “Katie” Storino Rowell, 48; Funeral Mass to be held at Holy Family Church.

Westport – Jean Kerrigan, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 8, 2021 at St. Philip Neri Church; burial in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, East Hanover NJ.
Get more than basic Medicare?

See what **UVM Health Advantage** can do for you.

If you only have original or basic Medicare, you may be missing out. Get the support, added benefits and value you need with UVM Health Advantage.

**Benefits that go beyond Medicare:**
- $0 co-pay for primary care visits
- Prescription drug, dental, vision and hearing coverage
- Virtual care, free rides to medical appointments and free meal delivery after a hospital stay

**Plans starting at $0 per month!**

**UVM HEALTH  MVP HEALTH CARE**

**Talk to one of our expert Plan Guides today.**
**Call 1-833-368-4596 (TTY: 1-800-662-1220)**
Seven days a week, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Eastern Time
**Visit UVMHealthAdvantage.com/more**

The annual election period for UVM Health Advantage Medicare Advantage health plans is Oct. 15–Dec. 7, 2021. MVP Health Plan, Inc. is an HMO-POS/PPO/MSA organization with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in MVP Health Plan depends on contract renewal. Other physicians/providers are available in the MVP Health Care network. Virtual care services from MVP Health Care are provided by UCM Digital Health, Amwell and Physera at no cost-share for members. (Plan exceptions may apply.) Members’ direct or digital provider visits may be subject to co-pay/cost-share per plan.