**Follow Me: Most COVID restrictions lifted**

On June 18, Bishop Terry R. LaValley sent a letter to diocesan priests and deacons notifying them that most COVID protocols have been lifted. "New York State announced that COVID-19 restrictions are lifted immediately because 70 percent of New Yorkers aged 18 or older have received at least one vaccination. The State health guidance and guidelines, including social gathering limits, capacity restrictions, social distancing, cleaning and disinfection, wearing of face coverings for the vaccinated, health screening and contract tracing, are lifted and are now optional." 

*FULL STORY, PAGE 3*

**Jesus prays for everyone, pope says**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Jesus is always praying for each and every person, desiring that his word would help people in their lives and that they never would feel alone, Pope Francis said.**

"Jesus prays for me – each one of us can keep this in our heart. Do not forget it, even during those terrible moments," the pope said June 16 during his weekly general audience.

With the grace of being able to pray to God and knowing we have been "prayed for," the pope said, "we have only to have courage and hope" to be able to journey on in life and give glory to God.

The audience was held in the San Damaso Courtyard of the Apostolic Palace, where the pope first walked along the barricades, greeting people, shaking hands, signing books and giving his blessing. While attendees were obliged to wear masks, many had them down or pulled them down during their moment with the pope.

In his main audience talk, the pope concluded his series on prayer, which he began May 6, 2020, offering a total of 38 reflections on the theme.

"Prayer is one of the most evident features of the life of Jesus," the pope said. "He prayed and prayed a lot," immersing himself in it "because dialogue with the Father was the indescent core of all his existence."

At the Last Supper, Jesus intercedes for his disciples and for all those who will believe in him through their word and, even during the darkest hours of suffering on the cross, Jesus continues to pray, showing he is "the absolute intercessor: he prays for others, for everyone, even for those who have condemned him," he said.

"Jesus prayed for everyone, he also prayed for me, for each one of you. Each one of us can say that Jesus, on the cross, prayed for me," and still prays for everyone each day, he said.

"Even in the most painful of our sufferings, we are never alone. Jesus' prayer is with us," he said.

On the cross he offers his love, "that is, he brings about our salvation," Pope Francis said.
The journey is important, too

We drove an hour for ice cream.

Like nearly everyone else, the Fargo family didn’t get a lot of opportunities to run the roads and travel for over a year. Now that life is starting to show some signs of normalcy again, we’re eager to get out of the house and into the world.

So, with not much to do last weekend, and while my husband was occupied, Jake and I decided to make the hour-long trek to the Saranac Lake area for no other reason than to get ice cream at Donnelly’s.

For those who don’t know, Donnelly’s is a locally owned ice cream stand that offers one flavor per day of homemade soft-serve ice cream. Donnelly’s ice cream is delicious! We figured it was worth the drive.

On the hour-long drive through the Adirondack Park, Jake and I marveled at the beauty of the mountains, lakes and trees. We chatted about school, work, football, music, a planned vacation... We just chatted. We sang obnoxiously with the radio (Ok, that was me; Jake mostly laughed at me).

We arrived at our destination, waited in line and ordered our cones. The flavor of the day was chocolate/vanilla twist.

The ice cream was good! In fact, I’d say the ice cream was excellent!

But the ice cream wasn’t the best part of the experience. The journey – the time with Jake – was the best part.

It’s easy for me to focus on outcomes, goals and destinations. I often lose sight of the importance of the journey.

It’s even true in my spiritual life. When God shows me areas of my life I need to change, I want the change to be instant. I want to get where I’m supposed to be.

Time and time again, though, God reminds me that change happens on his timeline, and it’s usually a gradual process that requires a healthy dose of both God’s help and hard work.

While I’d still rather the changes be instant, I’ve found great joy in the journey. While there are struggles, there’s also great rejoicing with each success.

I need to be willing to cooperate with God’s grace and enjoy the journeys, and I need to be willing to drive for those changes like I’m willing to drive for ice cream.

All grads could hear the same message

It is graduation time! I am so pleased that so many graduations were able to happen almost properly. I am reminded of so many graduations that I have attended and so many graduations I was a part of. I have been asked to be involved in college graduations, high school ones, in junior high graduations, even in kindergarten graduations.

This past year, we have all experienced virtual graduations. The good thing was that everyone could tune in – not just a few tickets for a family. The disappointing thing was that it was just like a television show. But they all had the usual graduation talks.

I have listened to many graduation talks. Just this past week I listened to a streamed talk given by the singer, Celine Dion, a talk she gave to the graduates of the Berklee School of Music. This is where my great niece Anna studied and graduated.

This task included gratitude for being recognized and a fine reminder to the graduates that their future is just beginning.

Now here I am, so many years after my graduation from high school. I must admit I have forgotten completely who spoke at my high school graduation. By the way, do you remember who spoke at your high school graduation?

My graduation from the seminary lead immediately to my ordination as a priest. I moved right into my future. I know that most of you had to search and try many roads of life until you were certain of the path you should follow. I suppose there were many different jobs or careers until you were certain that you had found your place.

I believe that a speaker could give the same graduation talk to those graduating from seminary and those graduating from some other college – a school of music or receiving a degree in English or science. I believe that the way to happiness must include a life that includes reaching out with concern to others, helping those in need and living without selfishness.

So, graduates spend several years of study and developing a powerful lifestyle. A graduation speaker could, I believe, bring to each similar group the very same message. You can make this world so much better by recognizing that you are the person who will be needed. We hope you will find the energy and the awareness to reach out to help those many who are going to need you. This is the message for each and every grade level – from high school to college.

That is why I propose Jesus as the greatest graduation speaker. Jesus has so many stories to tell, and actually he can be rather humorous also. So, Jesus could again tell his story of the Good Samaritan. A man falls among thieves. He is robbed and injured badly. Along comes a priest, but the priest does not want to get soiled on the Sabbath. He decides not to be of help. He walks on by.

Then comes a Levite, a temple assistant. He also doesn’t want to get soiled, so he decides to walk on by this fellow.

Then comes a Samaritan. He knows that he is a foreigner. He ignores the fact that Samaritans don’t associate with Jews. He decides he must be of help. He烘干 up the man’s wounds, and he takes him to a nearby inn. He makes certain the man will be properly cared for, and he pays for it all.

Which one made the world a better place? It is interesting to me that we know who the priest is and who the Levite is, but we do not know the business or the position that the Samaritan held. Yet we know what he did. He made the world a better place because he cared.

Have you ever been helped by a Good Samaritan? I know that I have and many times. I do hope I will have the opportunity to be a Good Samaritan. I pray for the awareness that I will recognize the opportunities to be a Good Samaritan. I pray for the compassion to help another.

May this be my purpose for the rest of my life.
Most remaining COVID restrictions lifted

Editor's Note: The following letter from Bishop Terry R. LaValley was distributed to priests and deacons of the diocese on June 18.

Dear Father and Deacon,

I am writing to communicate more particulars about the lifting of the COVID-19 restrictions by the State of New York. All policies, guidelines and protocols issued between March 2020 and May 2021 relating to the celebration of the Eucharist and administration of the Sacraments during the Pandemic are hereby rescinded with the exception of those listed in the protocol update below.

COVID-19 PROTOCOL UPDATE

June 18, 2021

New York State announced that COVID-19 restrictions are lifted immediately because 70 percent of New Yorkers aged 18 or older have received at least one vaccination. The State health guidance and guidelines, including social gathering limits, capacity restrictions, social distancing, cleaning and disinfection, wearing of face coverings for the vaccinated (including during the distribution of Holy Communion by the priest, deacon or Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist), health screening and contract tracing, are lifted and are now optional.

Unvaccinated individuals continue to be responsible for wearing masks under CDC directives. Additionally, health guidelines for large-scale indoor events (5,000 persons or more), pre-k to grade 12 schools, public transportation, homeless shelters, correctional facilities, nursing homes and health care settings remain in effect per CDC guidelines.

HEALTH AND OBLIGATION TO ATTEND MASS:

I lifted the general dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass on the Feast of Corpus Christi, June 6, 2021. However, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass does not apply to individuals who are sick, in a vulnerable category (elderly, individuals with weakened immune systems, people with long term conditions such as cancer, diabetes, heart conditions, respiratory conditions and the like), those who continue to have significant anxiety or concerns about returning to Mass in person. I request that the streaming of Sunday Eucharistic celebrations be maintained for the benefit of those who are still not in a position to attend Mass in person.

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST:

The Instructions of the Universal Church and our Diocese for the worthy and reverent celebration of the Eucharist and the Sacraments are to be fol­lowed, with the following exceptions:

- The distribution of Holy Communion will continue to be under one form, namely the Sacred Host. Continue to encourage reception of Communion in the hand.
- The principal celebrant's chalice is not shared; concelebrating priests should receive both Sacred Species by intinction (or they should have individual chalices for the reception of the Precious Blood).
- The optional sign of peace may be exchanged in a form that does not involve physical contact: for example, a bow toward or wave to others. It also can continue to be omitted.
- Our churches, as houses of God, should continue to be kept clean, specifically the sanitizing of frequently touched surfaces and objects. Cleaning between Masses is no longer required.
- Holy water may be placed in fonts, provided that the Holy Water is replaced at least weekly and fonts cleaned. Otherwise, Holy water fonts should remain empty.
- Churches should continue to assure good ventilation by introducing fresh air, whenever possible.
- Hand sanitizer should remain available at the entrances of our churches and buildings and should be available for those serving in any ministry at Mass, particularly before the distribution of Holy Communion.

BAPTISMS AND ANOINTINGS:

- Baptisms continue to use only fresh water for each baptism and the fonts are to be cleaned afterwards.
- Anointing of the Sick may be celebrated in the normal fashion, i.e., without the use of cotton balls.
- Cotton balls are no longer necessary for Confirmations.

In implementing these protocols, prudential judgment should be used in serving those entrusted to your pastoral care. I encourage you to discuss these matters with your parishioners and in consultation with your parish pastoral councils, if possible.

Pastors are asked to recognize that it will take time for all in our communities to feel comfortable in resuming pre-pandemic activities. Please communicate that there are no longer any capacity restrictions on houses of worship, and to err on the side of caution we will continue prudent and sensible practices to clean our churches and assure the safety of our parishioners.

I am most grateful to you for your patience, dedication, cooperation, and your pastoral outreach to your parishioners during this trying time. May God bless you all!

Bishop Terry R. LaValley

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Your Bishop's Fund at Work for You!
To grow in love for him

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

MASSENA—Though she's lost her sight almost completely, Shirley Kenney hasn't lost her faith or her desire to help others.

Kenney, 85, is a parishioner of St. Peter's Parish in Massena.

"I was brought up with faith," Kenney said. "My mother married a non-Catholic. Boy, she made sure we knew which faith we were supposed to follow."

In addition to regularly praying the rosary as a family, Kenney said her mother sent her and most of her five siblings to Catholic school.

"I went from Catholic school to the Catholic school for nursing in Watertown – Mercy Hospital," Kenney said. "I've been educated by Catholic teachers all along."

Kenney said her faith drove many of the decisions in her life, including who she would marry.

"I was very strong for my faith all the time," she said. "I went out with a couple boys who were not Catholic. It even got to the point of talking about marriage. They weren't interested in promising to raise any kids we'd have Catholic, so that was the end of that."

Then, one snowy Valentine's Day during nursing school, she met the Catholic man she'd later marry.

"There was a Valentine's Day dance at school," Kenney said. "Ross was one of the local boys who came for the dance. Because there was a snowstorm, there were hardly any boys there – maybe five or six. They made the rounds dancing with all the nursing students. Ross danced with one student, then he came and asked me to dance. Then he danced with another student, and he came and asked me to dance again. We ended up just dancing with each other. We started dating, and a year and a half after that, we got married. He was a good Catholic. He was brought up Catholic, and he was an altar boy and all that stuff. He was friends with the priest."

Kenney worked as a private-duty nurse early in the couple's marriage. Once their fifth child (of six) was born, Kenney became a stay-at-home mother. It was one of those children that gave Kenney one of the biggest trials of her life.

Kenney said her son, Mike, moved to the west coast more than 30 years ago. Initially, Mike remained in contact with his parents despite the distance. Eventually, though, letters to Mike started coming back undeliverable.

"I haven't heard from my son, Mike, in 30 some years," she said. "I've been praying about that ever since. That's all you can do is keep praying. You know you're going to find out what happened sooner or later. Even if you have to be in heaven to find out, you will."

When her husband, Ross, retired from his career in the aluminum industry, the couple attended Mass together daily.

"While Ross and I were both healthy enough, we went up to Sacred Heart Church for noon Mass every day," Kenney said. "That was wonderful for me. After he died, I reached a point where I couldn't walk very far. I was in my 80s by then. I had to quit going. I'm not an early riser. I can't make myself get up early enough to go to the 8:15. Now, I say my rosary every day. And I have all these prayer cards, and I say the prayers on them every day."

One of the prayer cards, a particular favorite, is a prayer to St. Jude.

"Oh holy St. Jude, apostle and martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present urgent petition, in return I promise to make your name know and cause you to be invoked."

"All you can do is hope and believe," Kenney said. "Even St. Jude has to go by God's plan. If I don't get the healing I'm asking for, it's not his fault. He's praying for me."

In more recent years, Kenney has been facing additional hardships. Glaucoma and other optical issues have largely robbed her of her sight. Despite the challenges that poses, she has continued with a giving ministry – repairing and improving dolls to donate for the annual Christmas toy drive in her parish community.

"My husband was the toy drive manager for the (Knights of Columbus)," she said. "That got us thinking about toy drives. One time, somebody gave (the Kenney family) an entire toy box of toys for the toy drive. We brought it home. The toys were all dumped in there any old way. Parts to games were all mixed with toys and crayons. Our kids had the best time sorting it all out and putting all the pieces with the games for the toy drive. I thought, 'that was pretty darned good. I could do stuff like that.' I started to go to garage sales, and I'd see old dolls. I started buying dolls. I'd bring them home, clean them up and get clothes on them. That first year, I did ten to 12 dolls."

Soon, though, she earned a reputation as "the doll lady," and people began donating or saving dolls for her. Now, years later, Kenney still spends free time crocheting doll bonnets and shoes, sewing felt booties and repairing dolls to donate to the toy drive.

Kenney said repairing the dolls helps her fill her time and allows her to show love to others. She said showing love to others is almost as important as growing in love of God.

"That's what we're here for," she said. "It's what God made us for – to grow in love for him."

Shirley Kenney
To the Editor:

Tony Beane’s Letter to the Editor in the North Country Catholic on June 16th gains Father Ted Pacholczyk’s Covid-19 vaccine articles that “bring up the cell lines from abortions that occurred long ago muddies the water and confuses people.” I disagree. Father Ted, a priest and director of Education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center (ncb-center.org), has published many articles that clarify issues relating to medical ethics, including the new COVID-19 vaccines. His background, including a doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and post-doctoral work in molecular biology at Harvard, affords an invaluable perspective.

Dr. Beane’s letter offers several problematic claims. He says that “having college students on crowded campuses make ‘informed choices’ on whether to get vaccinated will not get us over this pandemic.” Father Ted’s column entitled “Vaccine Mandates and Catholic Colleges,” refutes this view, explaining that having college students make informed choices will have the effect of getting us over this pandemic. If we carefully form and teach college students, their responses become tailored and proportional to the risk, rather than blind, reflexive, and fearful responses. Calm, careful and case-by-case discernment is crucial. Fear doesn’t achieve us.

As Father Ted puts it, “Vaccinating everyone introduces a flawed assumption that there are only benefits and no significant burdens” such as allergies, immune systems intolerant to vaccines, or which already have the antibodies. The ethical concerns about how the vaccines are made, specifically their connection to cell lines derived from aborted babies, are real concerns that should give us pause, even if we ultimately discern that we receive such vaccines as the Church permits. Vaccines are never morally obligatory, especially when such vaccines are new, not FDA approved, and we have limited knowledge of their side effects and efficacy.

Dr. Beane argues that “overcoming polio required vaccinating all children starting in the 1950s. We were trying to keep children from dying or being paralyzed for the rest of their lives.” But overcoming polio did not require that “all children” be vaccinated. It only involved achieving herd immunity, not universal vaccination. Also, there are key differences between polio and COVID-19, which again, requires careful discernment about how to counter specific disease threats. For those under 30, the risks of serious morbidity and mortality are close to zero from COVID-19, strikingly different than polio. Responses must be tailored.

Dr. Beane states he “understands why governments have to mandate certain vaccines or movement restrictions to see animals healthy in the face of disease outbreak.” We are humans with intellect, eternal souls, moral responsibility, and the primacy of conscience, not merely animals. Catholics must weigh moral implications.

Evidence-based information and moral principles rather than government mandates and fear tactics lends to a society filled with people with formed consciences, making informed decisions. Dr. Beane concludes his disjointed reflections by urging, “we must all get vaccinated as soon as possible. Let’s do the right things for ourselves and for others.” Rev. Father Ted’s other articles in the NCC, “Should We Take Whatever Vaccine is Offered?” and “Should I Get Vaccinated?” (FatherTed.com), A “one size fits all” or a “knee jerk” response is not appropriate. Father Ted is more realistic and balanced in his response. When it comes to partaking in this vaccine, the “right thing” for you may not be the “right thing” for others.

Colleen Miner Saranac Lake
During this Year of St. Joseph, it is hard not to recall the intercession of St. Brother André Bessette, whose inspiration and tireless labor were instrumental in the building of St. Joseph’s Oratory in Montréal.

Born August 9, 1845, St. André died on January 6, 1937, at the age of 91 and his funeral was attended by over a million people. St. André visited our diocese numerous times, touched the lives of countless North Country residents and still has relatives here.

Father Normand C. Cote of Holy Cross Parish, Plattsburgh explained that St. André was faithful to the humble task of doorkeeper, and God was able to work miracles through him for souls.

Mary Clark is St. André’s fourth cousin three times removed. In 2011, her family donated a table at which Brother André prayed to St. John’s Church in Plattsburgh. It is now located to the right of the sanctuary, underneath the statue of Brother André, near St. Joseph’s statue.

“My mother (whose maiden name was Bessette) and her family would sit at that table and pray with him when he came to Malone to visit,” Clark said. “He held a very special place in their hearts. Our family still prays to Saint Brother André.”

Clark said the family feels very blessed he is now a Saint.

“There was always a candle in the drawer (of the table) to use when he came for prayer. When we were in Rome for the canonization, I bought a candle with Saint André on it, and placed it in the drawer,” said Clark.

St. André is often remembered for bringing hope to the sick through the intercession of St. Joseph. Stephen Hebert of Plattsburgh, a Montréal native, developed Meningitis C in February 1991. Ten people contracted it and, at the age of 24, he was the only survivor.

“This bacteria plunged me into a 10-day coma and created a bunch of complications; every single one of them could be deadly,” Hebert said. “To give you a general idea of the state I was in, I had five cardiac arrests, kidney failure, an oedema to the brain and one to a lung, and my blood pressure was so low, I was losing circulation to my right foot.”

Hebert didn’t tell anyone about his plan.

“I think St. Joseph heard me because a couple of days later my uncle, who was a priest, came to visit me at the intensive care unit and had a piece of cloth that belonged to Brother André and some St. Joseph’s oil. He knew an old priest at the Oratory and told him about me, so that’s how my uncle got the cloth. He wrapped my foot in the cloth with St. Joseph’s oil, to the great despair of doctors, and told me to be patient. After about a week, the necrosis was gone except for the tip of the toes. I had those amputated, but just the last articulation of each toe (all five). It was much better than losing a foot. I was able to do any sport and climb anything, so this is truly one of the many miracles I had and also the fact of getting the piece of cloth, that relic, without telling anyone.”

St. André’s intercession for Hebert didn’t end there.

“Later in life, I met my soulmate and got married,” he said. “She’s an American. I moved to Upstate New York where we got married at St. Peter’s Church in Plattsburgh. Guess what? In that church there is a chapel dedicated to Brother André with his picture on the front entrance. I could never have foreseen this coming . . . God acts in mysterious ways.”

‘If it wasn’t for Brother André, I wouldn’t be alive’

When Father Joseph W. Giroux first arrived in Malone, some parishioners were going to St. André’s canonization in Rome. Someone had to back out at the last minute, and they offered Father Giroux the ticket.

“This was long before we had thought of merging the parishes or certainly of naming them after him,” Father Giroux said. “When I returned, I was visiting with my grandparents in Plattsburgh and my grandfather (Leo Giroux) told me a story that I couldn’t believe I had never heard before about his mother (Corine Guay Giroux). After she had her first child, she had some difficulty with her legs and was no longer able to walk.”

It was thought that her first child was going to be her only child.

“Brother André prayed with her, and she was cured,” Father Giroux said. “She went on to have Father Giroux’s grandfather and a number of other children. Father Giroux realized that “if it wasn’t for Brother André, I wouldn’t be alive.”

The pilgrimage, along with St. André’s visits to Malone, planted the seed in Father Giroux’s mind to name the parishes after him.

“We could document certain days that St. André was in the village of Malone over the years, and we knew for a fact that he’d come to Mass and prayed at Notre Dame Church,” Father Giroux said. “He still has the relatives there. Many people had memories of him. Even more, in Brother André we found things of each of the parishes that were being
united. Obviously, there was his devotion to St. Joseph and that was connected to St. Joseph's, the oldest and original Church in Malone. His work as a doorkeeper was at Notre Dame College in Montréal and he certainly had great devotion to our Blessed Lady, so that was connected to Notre Dame Parish. He had great devoted care to the sick and to the poor and to children, which was a link to St. John Bosco, who did much of the same. And he had a heart for the down trodden."

There were other connections, as well, Father Giroux explained.

"He belonged to the order of the Holy Cross," he said.
St. Helen discovered the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, which made a connection to the parish in Chasm Falls.

"So, there was all of those various connections that made Brother André seem like he was the obvious patron around whom we could rally and unite," Father Giroux said. "I think, in many ways he seemed to accomplish that. To me he was the obvious and, in many ways, only choice. We do well to have these holy patrons. It helps people to rally and helps bring people together, under a new identity, as one.

"We made sure that we would celebrate his feast day. Very graciously, St. Joseph's Oratory in Montréal presented a relic to the parish on the day that it was founded. We've had veneration of his relic on his feast and at other times to incorporate him into the churches. I was always touched to see – there was already a present devotion to St. André, prior to the merger of the Churches – but it grew. To see people praying at his statue, lighting a candle there, it just affirmed for me that we'd done the right thing."

When we merged the parishes, we had an evening where a number of people shared their personal stories of St. André because there were a number of his relatives in Malone who used to visit there, some cousins who used to live on Main Street, where unfortunately there is a Gas Station now," Father Giroux said. "Some of his distant relations are still around and they came. A number of people told stories of meeting him. There was one parishioner, she'd grown up in Montréal, whose father was one of St. André's chauffeurs. He would drive St. André around for various obligations he had. So, she had some recollections of him from her childhood. Others spoke of his intercession and miraculous things that had happened, healings in particular, in their lives and their families over the years."

'I always will have a strong devotion to St. Joseph and Brother André'

"At the age of seven and at the end of October 1935, I caught pneumonia," shared Father Gilbert B. Menard. "I had a fever of 104. Dr. Gagnier sent me to the then Champlain Valley Hospital in Plattsburgh. In those days, there was no penicillin, so the doctor punched a hole in the side of my back and inserted a tube to drain all the pus from the back of my lungs (maybe also inside, I do not know). I was in the hospital for 31 days. When I was released, Dr. Gagnier mentioned to Dad and Mom that nothing else could be done. If the pneumonia came back, I would not live. Within two weeks, the pneumonia came back. All I know was that I was very sick."

Father Menard continued "Mother then called Msgr. A. M. Gilbert of St. Ann's Church, Mooers Forks, mentioned my problem, and what Dr. Gagnier had said. Msgr. Gilbert came with a medallion of St. Joseph and a little prayer card of Brother André. Mom mentioned to me that he prayed over me, placed the medal of St. Joseph on my sealed incision which is in the form of a cross. Finally with Mom he recited the prayer of Brother André from the little card. Msgr. Gilbert said to Mom, 'Be prepared with lots of pieces of cloth, because within two hours the pus on his lungs will all come out.' Mother mentioned to me later that within two hours, the sealed (healed) incision opened and all of the pus came out."

"I was weak for two months but at the end of February in 1936, I was strong enough to go back to school," Father Menard remembered. "I always had, still have, and always will have a strong devotion to St. Joseph and Brother André, now St. André Bessette."

Father Philip T. Allen, pastor of St. Joseph's in Olmstedville, St. Mary's in Indian Lake, and St. Paul's in Blue Mountain Lake, reechoed his devotion to St. Joseph and St. André.

"We had a little boy I knew that Brother André came down to St. Catherine's Church Clintonville and St. Patrick's in West Peru," Father Allen said.

"Those neighboring parishes had direct contact with Brother André through their pastor Father Francis Cornish. My father went to boarding school at the College of St. Lawrence (high school) in Montréal. Since there wasn't a Catholic high school in Plattsburgh in the early 1900s, his pastor suggested it. He was very interested in Mt. Royal and what Brother André was doing. Father Cornish was pastor first in Clintonville, then West Peru, and later of Immaculate Conception in Keeseville. Brother André came to visit there as an elderly man."

Most clearly, Father Allen remembers "(Msgr.) Peter Riani's story about Brother André wanting Father Cornish to have a Holy Hour at his parish at Immaculate Conception every Sunday. Brother André was very strict about it and Father Cornish did it."

"That was a lasting mark on that parish," Father Allen said. "He wanted vocations prayed for and they got the vocations, Msgr. Riani and Father Jack Downs, who were ordained in 1955. They, as boys, had gone to that Holy Hour that Brother André had asked for. Father Cornish saw that it was carried out every Sunday."

Greatly devoted to the Holy Eucharist, Brother André led weekly Stations of the Cross and a Holy Hour in the small chapel before the Blessed Sacrament. He often spent his nights in prayer before our Eucharistic Lord. Brother André's bedroom, where he cared for the sick and dying, overlooked the chapel. He cut out a window in his room so that he could look at the tabernacle and pray to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament day and night.

Brother André, was "a holy man, a miracle worker, that we knew about. Montréal didn't seem that far away," reflected Father Allen. Brother André was "well-known and well-authenticated, he never took any credit for it himself, people knew that it was because he was promoting devotion to St. Joseph that the miracles happened. Go to Joseph" He was "a very humble man, a man of such poor health, and lived so long."

Editor's note: Additional stories in this series will appear in a future edition of the North Country Catholic.
Bishops vote to draft document on Eucharist

The U.S. bishops approved by a wide margin a plan to draft a document to examine the "meaning of the Eucharist in the life of the church" following a lengthy debate during their spring general assembly.

The action to move forward passed with 168 votes in favor and 55 votes against it. There were six abstentions.

The results, announced June 18, the final day of the virtual spring assembly, allow the bishops' Committee on Doctrine to draft the document and present it for discussion when the bishops reconvene in person in November.

For more than two hours June 17, 43 bishops shared their views on whether such a document was necessary at a time when Catholics are returning to regular Mass attendance as pandemic restrictions ease or if it should even be considered lest it be perceived as fracturing the unity of a church already faced with numerous challenges.

The bishops reached no consensus during the discussion. They voted electronically immediately after the second day of the meeting concluded late in the afternoon.

As expected, viewpoints varied among the bishops.

Most bishops welcomed the idea of strengthening teaching about the Eucharist, especially given that the bishops have embarked on a multiyear National Eucharistic Revival initiative that is part of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' 2021-2024 strategic plan, "Created Anew by the Body and Blood of Christ: Source of Our Healing and Hope."

In a prerecorded presentation, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, chairperson of the doctrine committee, reviewed an outline of the document, which would include three parts, subtitled "The Eucharist, A Mystery to be Believed," "The Eucharist, A Mystery to be Celebrated," and "The Eucharist, A Mystery to be Lived."

As proposed, each part includes three topics that would be addressed including, respectively, the presence of the body and blood of Christ in Communion; unity, beauty, and identity as the "fount and apex of the whole Christian life"; and moral transformation, eucharistic consistency and missionary discipleship.

He said the document was never intended to present national norms for the reception of the Eucharist, but to serve as a teaching tool for Catholics about the reception of holy Communion as a grace-filled gift.

He said the document was developed in light of the decline in the belief among Catholics in the Real Presence in the Eucharist as well as the long absences from regular Mass attendence, which may have led people to place less significance of the Eucharist in their lives.

He said the committee wanted to address the "need therefore for a unified and strong revival for the meaning of the Eucharist in the life of the church."

During a news conference at the conclusion of the day's meeting, Bishop Rhoades said that the committee had no plans to develop a statement on the Eucharist despite the conference's strategic plan until Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, USCCB president, asked it to develop a document on "eucharistic consistency" earlier this year.

He also told reporters that May 7 correspondence from Cardinal Luis Ladaria, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican, to Archbishop Gomez influenced the committee's thinking on the document.

Cardinal Ladaria in his letter urged the U.S. bishops to proceed with caution in their discussions about formulating a national policy "to address the situation of Catholics in public office who support legislation allowing abortion, euthanasia or other moral evils."

"We took that (national reference) out even though our intention wasn't to develop national norms. Our plan wasn't to go in that direction," Bishop Rhoades said.

The third part of the document drew the broadest objections from more than a dozen bishops, who said that it appears to single out a single category of Catholics - those in political life who support keeping abortion legal.

Bishop Robert M. Coover of Lubbock, Texas, said he was concerned the document was being developed in time to be used as a political cudgel given that congressional elections are on tap for 2022 with a presidential campaign two years later.

Other bishops expressed concern that the process to adopt the document appeared to be "rushed."
**CLINTON**

**ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC**
Morrisonville – The RCC of St. Alexander and St. Joseph to hold their 16th Annual Golf Classic.

**Date:** July 9
**Time:** Shotgun start at noon
**Place:** Barrack’s Golf Course

**Cost:** $50 for Barrack members and $60 for non-members (includes golf, cart, complimentary gifts, BBQ chicken dinner and much more.)

**Contact:** Applications can be picked up at the Barracks or by calling Jackie at the Parish Office at 518-561-5039. Registrations are due by July 2. For more information call the parish office or Cheryl Dodds at 518-572-4622.

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**LATIN MASS**
Port Henry – Extraordinary Form Latin Mass to be held each Sunday.

**Schedule:** 1 p.m. on Sundays
**Place:** St. Patrick’s Church

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**FRANKLIN**

**ROSAry NOVENA WALK**
Malone – Mark your calendars to participate in the St. André Bessette Parish Rosary Novena Walk and Eucharistic Adoration for the intentions of an end to violence against human life, for conversions, and for parish priests.

**Dates:** June 23, 30; July 7, 14, 21, 28; Aug. 4, 11

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**JEFFERSON-LEWIS**

**STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**
Port Leyden – St. Martin’s and St. John’s will hold their annual Strawberry Social as a drive thru.

**Time:** 6 p.m.
**Place:** Port Leyden Community (Fire) Hall
**Features:** A picnic menu: hamburgers, hot dogs, silent auction and several raffles.

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**ST. LAWRENCE**

**PILGRIMAGE TO ISLE LA MOTTE**
Vermont – Knights of Columbus from throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg will participate in their 73rd annual pilgrimage to St. Anne’s Shrine in Isle LaMotte.

**Date:** July 18
**Time:** 12:15 p.m.
**Features:** Bishop Terry R. LeValley will celebrate Mass.

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**DIOCESAN EVENTS**

**CONTACT:** For more information, please call the RCC of St. Alexander and St. Joseph at 518-643-9241.

**FORMATION FOR MINISTRY**
Looking to grow in faith and service? God continues to call everyone to use their gifts in service to others. For more information about the two year program, go to www.rccdny.org/formation/candidate or contact Cathy Russell at 315-393-2920 or email at crussell@rcdny.org.

Registration deadline is July 15. “Be not afraid” of God’s invitation!

**SIDEWALK ADVOCATES FOR LIFE**
Experience Sidewalk Advocated for Life’s new virtual basic training 2.0.

**Features:** Sidewalk Advocates for Life empowers peaceful, prayerful, loving, and law-abiding outreach outside of abortion centers to aid mothers in crisis and connect them with life-affirming resources in the effort to save their preborn children and end abortion. By God’s grace, this effort has witnessed over 9,000 women turn around at abortion centers and CHOOSE LIFE!

**Contact:** To get started, YOU’RE INVITED to fill out the brief application at sidewalkadvocates.org/trainingapp. Upon receipt, we’ll be in touch with next steps for accessing the online training.

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**NEW YORK (CNS) –** The work of God’s providence is central to the drama “A Father’s Legacy” (Cinedigm), which comes to theaters for one night only June 17 as a Fathom Events presentation.

The simple yet touching story of a son searching for a dad he has never known, the film makes apt viewing for Father’s Day.

Tobin Bell plays Billy, a solitary widower whose tranquil life is passed in a secluded cabin by a picturesque pond. Billy’s calm routine is suddenly and dramatically interrupted one night when a young man named Nick (Jason Mac) barges into his home wielding a gun and demanding that Billy hide him from the police.

Nick needs a place to lie low after committing armed robbery. He also has to do something about the gunshot wound he sustained while carrying out the crime.

Despite his blustering manner, it soon becomes clear that Nick is no hardened felon. So Billy tends to his captor’s injury and, as Nick confides in him, the two carry on conversations that become increasingly personal and revelatory.

Nick’s wife, Jean (Rebecca Robles), is pregnant. She thinks he’ll be a great dad but, never having known his own father, Nick himself has his doubts. Having hired a private investigator to locate his dad, Nick was driven to larceny to pay the man.

Predictably, Billy becomes a paternal figure to Nick, patiently imparting nuggets of wisdom and calling him son. Mac, who also wrote and directed, scores big with his pairing of characters who are gruff and conflicted, yet also vulnerable and capable of showing compassion. The moments of prayer interspersed throughout his script, moreover, will be especially welcome to believing moviegoers.

As a faith-based study of familial relationships, “A Father’s Legacy” could be a good conversation starter for parents and teens, despite the mildly off-color vocabulary that occasionally crops up in the dialogue.


**NOW PLAYING**

**A FATHER’S LEGACY**

**JUNE 23, 2021**

**NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC**

**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**ST. LAWRENCE**
will celebrate a Mass on the feast day of Sts. Peter and Paul.
**Date:** June 29
**Time:** 6 p.m.
**Place:** St. Paul’s Oratory
**Features:** Father Giroux will lead a procession to Sacred Heart Shrine after Mass. An ice cream social will follow. Bring a lawn chair.

**PATRIOTIC ROSARY**
Ogdensburg – The Legion of Mary will host a Patriotic Rosary.
**Date:** July 4
**Time:** After 9:30 a.m. Mass
**Place:** Notre Dame Church
**Features:** Join us to pray and sing along with an historical and lively celebration of the founding of our country.

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**JEFFERSON-LEWIS**

**STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**
Port Leyden – St. Martin’s and St. John’s will hold their annual Strawberry Social as a drive thru.

**Time:** June 27
**Date:** June 27
**Time:** 3 to 5 p.m.
**Place:** Port Leyden Community (Fire) Hall
**Features:** To benefit numerous building projects. The Social is offering a picnic menu: hamburgers, hot dogs, hot and sweet sausage, strawberry shortcake, sundaes, and milkshakes. There will be a Chinese Auction, a fancy cake silent auction and several raffles.

**Contact:** To pre-order, call Stacey McCall at 315-348-5138 or Chris Chaufy at 315-766-6897.

**FEAST DAY OF STS. PETER & PAUL**
South Colton – Father Joseph Giroux will lead a Mass to celebrate the Feast Day of Sts. Peter and Paul.
**Date:** June 29
**Time:** 6 p.m.
**Place:** St. Paul’s Oratory
**Features:** Father Giroux will lead a procession to Sacred Heart Shrine after Mass. An ice cream social will follow. Bring a lawn chair.
SCIENTIFIC HEADLINES

Wide

It seemed so

American.

Although they

especially bonded! He cre-

ated us for happiness,

cyclopedia entry tells us,

dersonville to house today. The presses will roll plished before a ATM machine at At the pharmacy, the

Civil

off that dream!

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tedness. bank for a quick

up some dry clean-

The plan was to utes. I can make it.

The clock is ticking.

Andoverville was a national historic site

mean

All the phrase, Mr.

find the key to life (the

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of self and sharing gen-

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and are with the “have

nots” in our midst. By giving

up His life, Jesus re-

stored eternal life to all.

The Gospel has that in-

teresting “sandwich” type

of story-telling – two sto-

ries in one. It’s the story

of the healing of a prominent

Jew’s daughter. Jairus falls

before Jesus, acknowledg-

ing his power to heal, and

begs Jesus to come to his

house, where his 12-year

old daughter is on the

point of death. Jesus goes

immediately with Jairus, a

large crowd following.

Now comes the “story

within a story.” A poor

woman who has ex-

hausted all her money on

doctors, none of whom

can cure her from her seri-

ous illness, sees Jesus

coming, and quickly

comes up behind Jesus.

Now, it’s important to

know that she is legally

“unclean,” and therefore

cannot touch anyone.

Nevertheless, she reaches out

and touches Jesus’ cloak.

Both she and Jesus know

that healing power has

gone forth. Jesus turns

around, inquiring who is

the one who has touched

him. Fearfully the woman

admits that she is the one.

Jesus immediately calms

her fear, telling her to go

home in peace, for she is

healed. Then, he proceeds

to the house of Jairus,

where he learns that the

little girl has died. Quiet-

ing all the commotion, he

goes in with the child’s

parents and Peter, James

and John. Taking the hand

of the girl, he brings her

from death to life, order-

ing that some food be

brought to her. How

thoughtful of him!

Today’s theme is all

about life. God is the cre-

ator, the source of life.

Wherever there is “death,”
either through sin, disease

or distress of any kind, He

brings healing and an end
to fear. He brings even

more life than existed be-

fore. No, God did not in-

vent death, nor does he

rejoice in it. Death in the

name of religion is a con-

tradiction! What a great

God we have, worthy of

our constant gratitude,

our praise, and our love!

Let us always adhere to

His truth.

You probably don’t re-

member the movement that swept our country al-

most 40 years ago. En-

thusiastic, clean-cut youth

singing their theme song, “Up,

Up with People?”

Although they

traveled worldwide, it seemed so

to fit with the American dream. Every July 4th holi-
day, we try hard to

polish the tarnish

off that dream!

The readings for this

13th Sunday in Ordinary

time fit so well with our
dream since they’re all

about life. They remind

us that God and people

are especially bonded! He

created us for happiness,

freedom, and life to the

full. “God did not make
death, nor does he rejoice

in the destruction of the
living”, the Book of
Wisdom declares.

So, then, who did

invent death? Satan the De-

stroyer! All who submit to his rule will experience
death! How then,
do we escape death?

Through clinging with all

our strength and will to

the command-
ments of God, and

the teaching of His Son,

Jesus. In particular, we

find the key to life (the

second reading) in letting go

of self and sharing gen-
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name of religion is a con-

tradiction! What a great

God we have, worthy of

our constant gratitude,

our praise, and our love!

Let us always adhere to

His truth.

Andoverville is a little
city of 250 folks or so in

southwest Georgia. There

is a national historic site

ded Camp Sumter at An-
dersonville to house incoming Union prisoners of war. The overcrowded Andersonville Prison was notorious for its bad conditions, and nearly 13,000 prisoners died there. After the war, Henry Wirz was convicted for war crimes related to the command of the camp.”

I mention that because the camp is also known as the location of a “dead line.” The phrase figured prominently in Wirz trial. If a prisoner escaped and crossed the “dead line,” the do-not-cross line, he was captured and killed.

Things don’t always go my way

Over time the phrase found its way into newspaper editorial offices to mean “I have to have that story now or it won’t be published in the next edition.” Reporters constantly worked toward the next deadline. They still do today. The presses will roll at a certain time, the Evening News happens at 6 p.m., the radio newscast is on the hour. Those are definite times, deadlines for people in that business.

We live each day chasing real or imagined deadlines. A friend of mine writes a column for publication in some parish bulletins. She has set a personal dead-

line, the 15th of the previ-

ous month, to distribute columns for the next month bulletins.

Darcy, the talented ed-
tor of the North Country

Catholic, sets deadlines for

reporters and columnists to have our material in her hands each week.

Recently I created a deadline for myself. I had a one-hour win-
dow to get a bunch of stuff accomplished before a scheduled (aka
deadline) electronic meeting. No

problem.

The stuff in-

cluded going to a bank for a quick

transaction, picking up some dry clean-
ing, taking those items to church and hanging them up, and dropping off some
paperwork to the parish secretary, then scooting out to the pharmacy to pick up a prescription. No

problem. I had the most ef-
ficient route all figured out

so this could all be accom-
plished in the time allotted before the deadline.

Things went away from the start. A great Evening News producer at WWNY-TV, Ted Ford, used to say, “when did we lose control?”

I was going to the

ATM machine at the

bank. Of course, a couple of

bank staff people were reloading

the machine when I ar-

rived. That caused a delay, but not in-
surmountable.

The plan was to

drive directly to the dry cleaners. But I forgot it was farmers market day, and that convenient street was blocked-off. So, I had to

use an alternate, longer

route.

When I got to the dry cleaners, the vestments and Altar cloth that were

supposed to be ready that
day were not. We agreed to

a new “ready” date.

I still had to go to the parish office to drop off the paperwork but I had to

use another, longer, alter-

cate route.

The clock is ticking.

At the pharmacy, the prescription was not avail-
able. Something about a certification from the doc-
tor to the insurance com-

pany...whatever, this trip

was in vain.

The electronic meeting

would begin in five min-
utes. I can make it.

The meeting was can-
celled, not because of me, it just was.

All I could do was smile. The phrase, “not my will

but God’s” kept rumbling

around in my head.

Ever had an hour, a day, a year like that?

Haven’t we all!
Remembering priests and sisters who died

FIDES missionary news service
Pontifical Mission Societies

The Catholic Church in India remembers the missionaries who died during the pandemic.

"Most of them died, but they were not forgotten. We remember them, and their sacrifice will be remembered forever," says the Bishop of Ogdensburg. "They were dedicated to their mission, and they continued to serve the most vulnerable during the most difficult times." 

The Missionary Society of St. Francis de Sales continues to provide care and support to those in need, even during times of crisis.

NEWSPAPERS ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED IN NORTHERN COUNTRY.

**OBITUARIES**

Canton — Gerald J. Smilgin, 80; Mass of Christian Burial June 19, 2021 at St. Mary’s Church.

Chateaugay — Patricia A. (Mellon) Landry, 87; Services to be held at a later date.

Constable — Ronald A. Conners, 72; Mass of Christian Burial June 18, 2021 at St. Francis of Assisi Church; burial in St. Francis Cemetery.


Dannemora — Phyllis June (Kennedy) Maggy, 84; Mass of Christian Burial June 19, 2021 at St. Joseph’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Gouverneur — Vernon “Brother” William Fuller Jr., 52; Mass of Christian Burial June 18, 2021 at St. James Church; burial in Hallesboro Cemetery.

Keeseville — Catherine McDowell, 69; Funeral Services June 16, 2021 at Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Memorial Cemetery, Willboro.

Massena — Joseph R. Charette, 94; Mass of Christian Burial June 16, 2021 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville — Simon G. Perry; Mass of Christian Burial June 18, 2021 at St. Alexander’s Church; burial in Saranac Cemetery.

Naples — Michael A. Bregg, 66; Graveside Services July 23, 2021 at Visitation Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Richard G. Legault, 73; Mass of Christian Burial June 12, 2021 at Frary Cemetery; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Harry Louis Lucchetti, 80; Mass of Christian Burial June 16, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Peru — Robert Stevenson Halstead, 90; Mass of Christian Burial June 21, 2021 at St. Augustine’s Church; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery.

Peru — Gloria M. (Cusson) Pratt, 79; Mass of Christian Burial June 12, 2021 at St. Augustine’s Church.

Plattsburgh — James Dugan, 88; Mass to be held at a later date; burial in St. Ann’s Cemetery, Mooers Forks.

Plattsburgh — Michael Kemp, 71; Mass of Christian Burial June 18, 2021 at St. John’s Church; burial in St. Peter’s Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Alice Church Mannix, 85; Mass of Christian Burial June 17, 2021 at St. Peter’s Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Anthony J. Tarricone, 94; Mass of Christian Burial June 14, 2021 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Potsdam — Marcy (Collins) Bailey, 89; Memorial Mass June 12, 2021 at St. Mary’s Church.

Potsdam — Clarence “Lee” Donah; 83; Funeral Services June 17, 2021 at Garnet Funeral Service.

Ticonderoga — Sandra Lee Maloney Davies, 64; Graveside services June 26, 2021 at St. Mary’s Parish Cemetery.

Ticonderoga — Marilyn Ann (Chabonneau) Pozzouli, 76; Funeral Services June 18, 2021 at the Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary’s Parish Cemetery.

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**FIDES missionary news service**

Pontifical Mission Societies

The Catholic Church in India remembers the missionaries who died during the pandemic.

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Bishops discuss Native American ministry

WASHINGTON (CNS) – U.S. bishops were asked June 17 to consider authorizing development of a new formal statement and comprehensive vision for Native American and Alaskan Native ministry, since the last one approved was over 40 years ago.

Bishop James S. Wall of Gallup, New Mexico, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Subcommittee on Native American Affairs, said Catholic Native American leaders at a summit requested that a complete pastoral plan be developed and presented to the general assembly of bishops.

“During the summit, the Catholic Native leaders presented their concern that there was a perceived lack of interest in Catholic Native ministry by the Catholic Church in the United States,” said Bishop Wall, addressing prelates via Zoom on the second day of their three-day spring general assembly, held virtually due to the pandemic.

“A pastoral plan will help reassure Catholic Natives that their ministry has a high priority in the church,” he said. “The last time the general assembly passed a major pastoral plan for Native Americans was 1977.”

Much has changed in those 44 years, Bishop Wall said, including approaches to racism, the canonization St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the first North American Indian saint, and new approaches to aspects of social justice in native communities.

CELEBRATING MILESTONE

Mary Marino was recently recognized for 25 years as a faith formation teacher. Mary has truly given her all in spreading her love of the Catholic faith to children. Through the years she has been very instrumental in encouraging her students to become altar servers. She has always kept the children engaged and also keeping learning fun for the children.

Remember me? Snookie, from Wholesale Homes of Malone

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