CELEBRATION GATHERING

Guggenheim alumni staff celebrated the ordination of Alex Pacelli (Father Pier Giorgio) at the Guggenheim Lodge on August 27 with a mass and cookout. Pictured are (back row) Joey Izzo, Kevin McCulloch, Father Martin Cline, Nicholas Olley, Conner Cummings, (front row) Kelly Bobak Smith, Mary Catherine Izzo, Erin Miner Leader, Ellen Miner McBride, Father Pier Giorgio and Johnny McBride. Father Pacelli, who spent part of his youth in Lake Placid, was ordained in July.

LAY ASSOCIATES GROW THEIR FAITH IN COMMUNITY

Some members of the Sisters of St. Joseph Associates gathered on August 15, The Feast of the Assumption, to renew their commitment as associates. Additional commitment ceremonies will be held in the future with associates who were unable to attend. The Sisters of St. Joseph Associates are currently planning three interest meetings, one in each of the three areas where they meet.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope: Euthanasia is sign of 'throwaway culture'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Increasing calls to legalize euthanasia in several European countries, as well as the disregard for vulnerable people and the unborn, are signs of a "throwaway culture" that is gaining ground across the continent, Pope Francis said.

"What is (deemed) useless is discarded. Old people are disposable material; they are a nuisance. Not all of them, but of course, in the collective subconscious of the throwaway culture, the old, the terminally ill, and unwanted children, too; they are returned to the sender before they are born," the pope said in an interview with COPE, the radio station owned by the Spanish bishops' conference, broadcast Sept. 1.

"This throwaway culture has marked us. And it marks the young and the old. It has a strong influence on one of the tragedies of today's European culture," he said.

In March, Spain's parliament passed a law legalizing euthanasia in the country, making it the fourth European country to legalize physician-assisted suicide after Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

Other European countries, such as Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Finland and Norway, allow for what is known as "passive euthanasia," in which patients, under strict circumstances, can elect to not receive treatments, such as nutrition or hydration, that would prolong their lives.

Recently, in Italy, 750,000 people signed a petition to abolish a clause in the Italian criminal code that makes assisted suicide punishable by five to 12 years in prison.

Supporters of euthanasia, the pope said, often use "the idea of compassion, 'that this person may not suffer.' But what the church is asking is to help people to die with dignity. This has always been done."

Pope Francis also lamented "the demographic winter" in Europe, particularly due to increased cases of abortion.

The pope said that while he does "not like to enter into discussions" on whether abortions are "possible up to here or whether it is not possible up to there," what is indisputable is the existence of human life.
‘It’s ok to fall apart sometimes’

A few weeks ago, I planned my Sunday homily around the Gospel reading from Mark 7, in which Jesus quotes Isaiah who speaks in prophecy as from God: “This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts.”

Praying to the Lord from the heart. In my homily, I wanted the people to realize how important and necessary it is to pray to God from the heart. As an introduction to my homily, I decided to use as an example of what it is like to live or play from the heart. I had been watching the Little League Baseball World Series that day. So, I began the homily speaking of how impressed I was with the enthusiasm and spirit these 12 year olds displayed playing for their teams. In baseball parlance, this is called playing with heart.

Jesus asks that our hearts are not far from him in prayer and dedication as his disciples. Often, our prayers can be much too wordy. We know the words of so many prayers; we’ve learned them by heart since we were children. We know the words, but often we do not know what they should mean to us. We really don’t realize how our words should make us act. Praying from the heart – we mean to act as we pray – our actions bear witness to what our prayers are saying.

I am often asked how we know that we are truly praying from the heart. Let me say, first of all, that I believe that each of us should truly realize immediately just how meaningful are prayers are meant to be. Prayers should transform our lives. We have to ask ourselves, do my prayers truly transform my life? My prayers should establish for me a good relationship with the Lord, a relationship that will make me a different person, a person that is more alive to the Lord, a person truly living in love with my God.

I have stood with families in hospitals praying with them for a loved one, who is a patient. I am certain that they were all praying from the heart. I have counseled many who have been in crisis, and we have prayed together. I have no doubt that they were praying from the heart. I have officiated at many weddings and have prayed with each couple. I would like to believe that each couple prayed from the heart, praying about their future with hope and confidence.

So, what about you and me? As we go through life living out our various vocations – often rather ordinary vocations – praying and worshipping the Lord, can we honestly say that we are praying from the heart? I believe that it begins with our relationship with the Lord Jesus. You see, if the Lord is our friend, if Jesus is truly a part of our lives, if the presence of the Our Lord is a powerful part of our life, I am certain that our prayers will unite us in a most perfect way with the Lord from our hearts.

Why do we pray? As Catholics and followers of the Lord Jesus, in faith we have made a decision, a decision for Jesus. We have made a decision that we want Jesus to be part of all that we do. We want Jesus to be our friend. We want Jesus to be our Savior. To make this possible, our prayers must be more than lip service to the Lord. We must truly pray from the heart. In this morning’s Morning Prayer, the antiphon from the Canticle from Samuel says: “My heart leaps up with joy to the Lord, for he humbles only to exalt us.”
Follow Me

Grant me the serenity...

Eleven years ago, at a Labor Day Weekend Mass, Father Joseph Morgan presented me a backpack filled with school supplies. Students were going back to school that week and so was I. I was beginning New Bishops’ School in Rome and the Cathedral parish family, at Father Morgan’s prompting, I’m sure, wanted to be sure that I was prepared for the days of rigorous study to come.

As I was reflecting on that Labor Day weekend of 2010, I recalled the conversation I had with Archbishop Sambi, Papal Nuncio to the United States, when he called to tell me that Pope Benedict XVI had selected me to be the new Bishop of Ogdensburg. Among his words of advice to me in that conversation were: “Be serene.”

I found that to be a rather curious statement. I mean, did he know something about me that I should be especially attuned to? Had he heard that I was “un-serene” like? I wondered why he offered me these words of counsel.

Serene is not a commonly used word in my vocabulary.

Be serene. Don’t worry or be anxious. Be at peace. Stay calm and unruffled.

During these most turbulent of times, how is that possible? It seems that everybody has got a beef with somebody. Often our language reveals a certain internal restlessness and, at times, even a fierce animosity towards those who see things differently than we do. We’ve moved to the extremes and found life at the poles anything but serene.

Extreme political partisanship has caused just plain decency and mutual human respect to suffer. The pandemic has created huge gaps between us due to our acceptance or non-acceptance of health care protocols such as vaccinations and facial coverings. Even the Eucharist, the reception of Holy Communion has become a topic of controversy and heated debate among some. Many of the letters that I receive these days reflect the passionate position that some individuals hold regarding many of these concerns. There are few hints of serenity in the correspondence that crosses my desk.

More and more, people are becoming uncollected, fiercely independent, distracted, angry and torn (anything but serene). With such a heightened state of emotion, unsettledness and fear, too often clear thinking, genuine listening, human respect and faith have been found wanting in our decision-making process.

Clearly, school isn’t over yet for me. I’ve learned that challenging times such as these can help us gain insight into our personal weaknesses and shed light on areas of spiritual growth that need our attention.

One area of growth and need for revival is our appreciation of the Mass. The Eucharist is an expression of our unity and vital nourishment in helping us maintain communion with one another and our Triune God. The Eucharist is a Mystery to be believed, to be celebrated and to be lived. I hope that we can all make ourselves available to participate in our parish and diocesan efforts to strengthen our Eucharistic Spirituality. It can go a long way in creating the space for serenity and inner peace while retaining our Spirit-instilled passion.

Reinhold Niebuhr penned a familiar prayer that you might find helpful in your search for serenity in these troublesome times:

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will; that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever in the next.

AMEN.

Celebrate your favorite priest in the
NCC Priest Appreciation Issue

Join the North Country Catholic in honoring the special priests in your life. The NCC will be honoring our priests in the Sept. 29 issue of the paper.

Priesthood Sunday will be Sept. 26

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

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

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

$135 - Quarter page ad

$250 - Half page ad

$475 - Full page ad

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

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

Must be returned to the NCC by Sept. 20, 2021

YES! I would like to honor a priest in the North Country Catholic

YOUR NAME__________________________

ADDRESS_______________________________
CITY ___________________ STATE ______ ZIP____

Ad Size: □ $20 Special Message only □ $40 2x2
□ $135 Quarter Page □ $250 Half Page
□ $475 Full Page □ $25 Extra for color

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

NAME OF PRIEST: _______________________

Support And Pray For Vocations

Mail checks payable to: North Country Catholic
PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY 13669
Lay Associates grow their faith in community

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

For more than 20 years, the Sisters of St. Joseph Lay Associates have been helping men and women grow in their spiritual lives and their connections to Christ, the Sisters of St. Joseph, each other and their communities.

“After Vatican II, religious communities were invited to go back to their roots,” said Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, a Sister of St. Joseph. “Researching their histories, many communities found they had lay associations in addition to vowed members.”

Sister Bethany said many communities re-activated those lay associations and third orders, and other communities created new associations. The Sisters of St. Joseph Lay Associates were created in the late 1990s as a result of that resurgence in lay involvement with communities.

Associates meet monthly to learn about the spirituality and history of the Sisters of St. Joseph, pray together and share ways to deepen their spiritual lives. Currently, there are more than 70 lay associates spread throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

“Listening to what other people are saying, thinking and praying, I get to open myself up more and more to what God is telling me,” added Miller. “It’s good to have a group to grow spiritually with.”

Skillan also noted that the associates attend annual retreats during Lent and Advent. “They’re extra opportunities for prayer and reflection,” she said.

She said each associate is also paired with a sister as a “prayer partner,” committing to praying for one another.

The Sisters of St. Joseph Lay Associates is currently planning several interest meetings (see box with this story) for individuals who want to learn more about the associates and their spirituality.

“If an individual comes to explore, there’s no commitment,” said Fanning. “There’s no commitment associated with trying it out. And there’s never any cost.”

“Come and see,” added Skillan. “I think you can get a sense almost from the get-go if this is the order you would want to be a part of, and if you don’t really know until you go check it out and see if you feel a connection.”
Volunteers needed for ‘Friendship’ program

Community Health Center of the North Country (CHCNC) is pleased to announce the expansion of their Community Friendship Volunteer Program (CFVP) into St. Lawrence County.

The mission of CFVP is to help build age friendly communities by ensuring older residents remain in their own homes, retain their independence, have access to services and recreation in their community, and remain out of long-term care facilities unless that level of care is required.

The program has been serving older residents in Northern Franklin County for more than eight years and currently serves approximately 90 clients with around 45 volunteers.

According to Ray Babowicz, director of Communications and Marketing, “Older residents of our communities will need our support more than ever in the coming years. The unique caregiving constraints of living in the North Country such as long distances from services, cold and severe winters, and lack of adequate home and community based services will be amplified, as the aging population grows and government resources diminish. Fewer family caregivers will be available than in the past as younger generations continue to move away for education and better job prospects, leaving their parents behind. Combine this with the ongoing shortage of home healthcare workers, and it is easy to see why the reliance on volunteer programs is growing exponentially.”

Donna Elliott, the incoming coordinator of the Program in St. Lawrence County added, “The expansion and enhancement of the Community Friendship Volunteer Program provides a benefit to the community by allowing seniors to contribute to our social, economic, and intellectual resources. We provide comprehensive and compassionate support to vulnerable older residents and their families, free of charge, through Friendship Volunteers. Due to income restrictions, many seniors ‘fall through the cracks’ of traditional programs. This is not only the right thing to do, but it saves the healthcare system millions of dollars that can be reinvested in other ways.”

Volunteers offer services including: home visits, crafts or gardening, assistance with meal preparation, phone conversations, coordination of transportation to medical appointments, prescription pick-up, recreational activities, assistance with housework or grocery shopping and access to art/music/literature.

Although the program will not start serving clients until later this year, volunteers are what make this program successful.

Therefore, Community Health Center of the North Country invites anyone in St. Lawrence County who is interested in becoming a Friendship Volunteer to attend an orientation at the Ogdensburg Health Center, located at 102 Ford Street, on September 15 and 16 from 9 am to noon.

This orientation will also be available via Zoom for those unable to attend in person. Pre-registration is required. To request registration information, please contact Ray Babowicz at CHCNC by calling 315-713-9369 or Donna Elliott at 315-379-8345. They can be reached by email at rbabowicz@chcnorthcountry.org or deliott@chcnorthcountry.org. Those interested can also go directly to www.chcnorthcountry.org/cfvp.

Volunteers of all ages are encouraged and invited to participate. A separate orientation will be held on Nov. 3 and 4.

“Volunteers are the heart of this program,” Babowicz added. “However, without generous financial support from the Northern New York Community Foundation, the Adirondack Foundation, the Sweetgrass Foundation, and most recently from the New York State Office for The Aging, the expansion into St. Lawrence County would have certainly been delayed. So, a big thank you goes out to their teams for throwing their support behind this project.”

The program was also aided by grant funding from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation.

Community Health Center of the North Country, one of Northern New York’s premiere providers of healthcare services for people of all income levels, is part of a national network of community health centers serving over 29 million patients including 300,000 veterans, 1 in 6 Medicaid beneficiaries nearly 1.2 million homeless, and over 7.5 million children. They have locations in Canton, Gouverneur, Malone, and Ogdensburg. More information is available at www.chcnorthcountry.org.
To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terri-anne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 3050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terri-anneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rdony.org Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340. If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at 800-276-1562 or www.ReportBishopAbuse.org.

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!

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On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.
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CHEVROLET

Bishop’s Public Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 8</td>
<td>9:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop’s Residence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 9</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg</td>
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<td>Sept. 10</td>
<td>12:05 p.m.</td>
<td>Bishop’s Hermitage Council and Memorial Legacy Society Mass at Holy Cross Parish at St. Peter’s Church in Plattsburgh followed by a lunch-eon</td>
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<td>Sept. 11</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting at St. Mary’s Parish Center in Brushton</td>
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<td>Sept. 12</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass in Celebration of the 200th Anniversary of St. James Minor Church in Carthage and the Installation of Reverend Todd E. Thibault as Pastor of St. James Minor Church in Carthage and St. Mary’s Church in Copenhagen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 13</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Investment Advisory Committee Meeting at Bishop’s Residence</td>
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<td>Sept. 14</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Presbyteral Gathering at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg 8 a.m. – Mass at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>Presbyteral Gathering at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg 1 p.m. – Council of Priests Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg 5 p.m. – Mass with the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod at the new convent in Lisbon</td>
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Environmental Stewardship

What is the Season of Creation?

The Season of Creation is celebrated around the world and in many faith traditions. The season began on September 1, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and runs through October 4, the Feast of St. Francis, who is the patron saint of ecology in many traditions. It is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.

The theme for 2021 is “A Home For All: Renewing the Beloved Community of God.” The earth, our common home, belongs to God, and each beloved creature belongs to this community. The earth is a gift, and we are called into kinship to protect and support this gift so generously given. Throughout the month-long celebration, the world’s 2.2 billion Christians come together to care for our common home.

As Catholics we celebrate the giving of thanks in Eucharist (eucharistos) as its source and summit of our faith. Studies even reveal that gratitude helps us live more sustainably, reins in anxiety about changing climate and bolsters our immune system for the challenging days and years ahead. When you consider being alive on earth at this time in human history, what are you most grateful for? Rooted in that wellspring of wonder, how do you choose to take part in the healing of our world?

Grounded in gratitude for those particular places that are special or sacred to you, consider committing time and energy to their preservation and protection. September is National Clean-up Month, and Sept. 18th is World and National Clean-up Day. From coast to coast, organizations and individuals volunteer to clean up parks, trails, beaches, mountains and open spaces. Search your region for opportunities to sign up, or create your own project with others in your parish or community. Enjoy! WORLD OF GRATITUDE SEASON OF CREATION 2021 on YouTube.

Bishop’s Fund supports Family Life ministry

By Stephen Tartaglia
Director of Family Life

The mission of the Christian family is to sanctify and transform our present society according to God’s plan. Spouses are responsible to help each other get to heaven, generate children, and raise their children to be physically, mentally and spiritually healthy. The Church teaches that the traditional nuclear family, the man and woman united in marriage and their children, is the norm and that public authorities have an obligation to recognize it.

It should come as no surprise that God’s plan for marriage and family life is actually good for society, after all the family is the building block of society.

Studies have shown that traditional nuclear families are economically stronger, more law abiding, more active politically, more productive with fewer days off school and/or work, have less childhood poverty, their children experience better educational outcomes, and present less of a financial burden on the state than other non-traditional families.

Unfortunately, we live in a culture that works against God’s plan for marriage and family life in many and various ways. In the last two generations, there has been a dramatic rise in irregular marital situations and, consequently, fewer children are brought to worship at Mass, to learn Church teaching in parish catechesis classes or in Catholic schools, and to receive the sacraments. Deprived of the knowledge of God and the opportunities to receive His Grace, these children are statistically more likely to be involved in irregular marital situations themselves as they grow older.

The Family Life Office exists to help families live God’s plan.

We support families through several different ministries and activities, including marriage preparation and marriage enrichment, ministry to separated and divorced families, retreats for men, women and the entire family, grief workshops, and celebration of married couples in the annual Married/Religious Jubilee. We provide materials to parishes in support of family ministries, and we collaborate with other Diocesan Offices in workshops, and special diocesan wide events.

The Family Gugenheim program, a weekend family retreat at Camp Gugenheim, has a history going back over 30 years. It has touched multiple generations of hundreds of families within the Diocese of Ogdensburg and many that have moved away but return to participate in the program with their children and grandchildren.

I whole-heartedly thank God for allowing me to be involved in ministering to you and your families. This office is supported through the Bishop’s Fund, I whole-heartedly thank you for your ongoing support as well.
Supreme Court rules against blocking Texas' abortion rules

WASHINGTON (CNS) – In a late-night decision Sept. 1, the Supreme Court ruled against blocking a Texas law banning abortions at six weeks of pregnancy.

The 5-4 vote, issued with a one-paragraph unsigned opinion, said the challengers to the Texas law – which went into effect Sept. 1 – did not adequately address the “complex and novel antecedent procedural questions” in this case.

“This order is not based on any conclusion about the constitutionality of Texas’ law, and in no way limits other procedurally proper challenges to the Texas law, including in Texas state courts,” the opinion said, leaving open the possibility that the state’s abortion providers could challenge it in other ways.

The Texas abortion providers had come to the Supreme Court with an emergency appeal to stop the law, but the court initially did not respond.

Chief Justice John Roberts joined Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Stephen Breyer in dissenting votes and each of them wrote separate statements expressing their disagreement with the majority.

A key part of the law that the dissenting justices took issue with is its emphasis on private citizens bringing civil lawsuits in state court against anyone involved in an abortion, other than the patient, but including someone who drives the patient to a clinic.

The night before this took effect, court watchers on both sides of the issue kept vigil at the Supreme Court waiting for an order that never came. Abortion providers in the state had argued that the law would prevent about 85% of abortions in the state and will likely cause many clinics to close.

Currently, at least 12 other states have legislation banning abortions early in pregnancy, but these bans have been blocked by courts.

“Hopefully, this law will begin saving the lives of tens of thousands of Texas babies and we look forward to the day that babies’ lives will be spared across America,” said Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life.

She also applauded the efforts of the Texas Right to Life and “pro-life Texans who have been devoted to providing a voice for the voiceless. We praise all of our state affiliates who have diligently and tirelessly worked with state legislators to protect unborn babies by passing laws that protect children whose hearts have begun to beat,” she said in a Sept. 1 statement.

Two months after the law was signed, abortion providers challenged it in court, saying it violated patients’ constitutional right to an abortion before viability, when a fetus is said to be able to survive on its own.
CHINESE AUCTION
Lyons Mountain – Chinese Auction to be held.
Date: Sept. 5
Time: 3 p.m.
Place: Lyons Mountain American Legion Post
Features: There will be a 50/50 Michigan platter, and some special drawings. If you would like to donate gifts or gift cards, please give to Jean LeClair (518-735-4782) or leave them at the Legion with your name on it so we will know who donated it.

APPLEFEST
Peru – The 43rd Annual St. Augustine's Applefest to be held.
Date: Sept. 18
Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center
Schedule: Craft booths at 10 a.m.; Food booths at 10:30 a.m. followed by games and raffle. Community parade will begin at 11 a.m. leaving the Peru Elementary School. The rocking On Three Band will perform throughout the afternoon. There will be several new games for children of all ages, plus apple fritters, fried dough, hot dogs, Michigans, burgers, sausages and the K of C's famous chicken BBQ.
Features: Covid regulations in effect on Sept. 18th will be in place. As of July 15th, masks are required indoors for all unvaccinated individuals.

HARVEST DINNER
Chazy – Sacred Heart Parish will be having their Harvest Dinner.
Date: Sept. 26
Time: 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: Adults; $12; Children 5-12, $5; under 5, Free; all take-outs, $12
Menu: Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, turnip, corn, coleslaw, cranberry sauce, rolls and butter, plus beverage. Apple or pumpkin pie.
Features: Take a moment to shop our “Sinners’ Den” where you will be tempted by sinfully delicious treats and take a chance on our raffle.

ESSEX
150TH ANNIVERSARY
Olmstedville – St. Joseph’s Church celebrating their 150th Anniversary.
Date: Sept. 5
Time: 11 a.m.
Features: Potluck luncheon to be served.

LATIN MASS
Port Henry – Ordinary Form Latin Mass to be held each Sunday.
Schedule: 1 p.m. on Sundays
Place: St. Patrick's Church
Features: The traditional Latin Mass celebrated according to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS
SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER
Evans Mills – The Indian River Knights of Columbus #7471 to have a spaghetti and meatball dinner.
Date: Sept. 11
Time: 4 p.m. to 7
Place: St. Mary's Parish Center
Cost: Adults; $9; Senior Citizens; $8; Children under 12, $5; under 5, Free if eating at the parish center; Sauce, $5 per quart

DRIVE THRU DINNER
Lyons Falls – St. John’s Church to have a drive thru Chicken and Biscuit dinner to benefit St. John’s Catholic Church and St. John’s Altar and Rosary Society.
Date: Sept. 15
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6
Cost: Adults; $10; Children 6-12, $6
Menu: chicken and biscuit with homemade biscuits, real mashed potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce and dessert.
Contact: This is a pre order, drive-thru dinner. Please call 315-348-8945 or 315-348-8577 before September 10th. Deliveries are available!

EXPLORING THE SOJOURN WITH CHRIST IN THE EUCHARIST
Watertown – The Commissioned Lay Ministers Association of the Jefferson-Lewis Deanery is excited to announce the fall event, Exploring a Sojourn with Christ in the Eucharist.
Date: Oct. 14
Time: 5:15 p.m. Mass following dinner and presentation by Deacon Tom Yousey
Place: Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse
Cost: Dinner $13 per person
Contact: Register at www.rcdony.org/clm-event. The deadline to register is Oct. 7.

ST. LAWRENCE
PRAAYER ANDADORATION
Massena – Commissioned Lay Ministers are invited to gather for Adoration and Rosary.
Date: Every third Wednesday of the month (Sept. 15)
Time: 6:30 to 7 p.m.
Place: Sacred Heart Church

CABBAGE ROLL SALE
Norwood – The Norwood Knights of Columbus will be having a Cabbage Roll Sale.
Date: Sept. 18
Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. or until all are sold.
Place: St. Andrew’s Church
Cost: $4
Contact: Pre order is requested. Please call Mark Tebo at 315-353-8821.

SACRED HEART FOUNDATION DINNER
Watertown – Sacred Heart Foundation to have 48th Annual Benefit dinner with Bishop Douglas Lucia, bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse, as guest speaker.
Date: Sept. 21
Time: 6 p.m. social hour, 7 p.m. dinner.
Place: St. Mary’s Social Hall
Features: Explore life and the Christian Faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. No pressure. No follow up. No charge. Alpha runs for 11 weeks and includes food, a short talk and time to share your thoughts.
Contact: For more information contact 315-769-2469 or www.masseancatholics.com

DOCESAN EVENTS
MYSTERY OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST
Special event to be held for those serving in any ministry in their parish. Time to refocus our attention on the Holy Eucharist as a “Mystery to be believed, a Mystery to be celebrated, a Mystery to be lived.”
Date: Sept. 18
Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Locations: IHC in Watertown, St. James School in Gouverneur, St. Mary’s School in Ticonderoga, Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh, St. Edmund’s Parish Center in Ellenburg, St. Peter’s Church in Lowville, the parish center in Waddington, and St. Mary’s Parish Center in Brushton
Features: This is an in-person event only. Attendees must bring their own lunch. Light refreshments will be provided.
Contact: Registration is due by September 9. Space is limited therefore registration is first come, first serve. Register at: https://www.rcdony.org/mysteryeucharist

CLM ANNUAL MEETING AND BBQ
The Commissioned Lay Ministers Association in SLFA Deaneries are invited to attend an annual meeting and barbecue. For the St. Lawrence, Franklin and Adirondack deaneries.
Date: Sept. 19
Time: 1 p.m. to 4
Place: Camp Guggenheim
Features: Celebrate Mass with Bishop LaValley at 1 p.m. It is free to attend, and lunch will be provided.
Contact: Registration is required: www.rcdony.org/clm-event

MARRIED AND RELIGIOUS JUBILEE
Ogdensburg – The annual Jubilee Mass to be held.
Date: Oct. 3
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Place: St. Mary’s Cathedral
Features: The Mass honors religious sisters for their decades of service to the Church and married couples celebrating anniversaries (from one year and up). Family and friends of the honorees are welcome to attend. Bishop LaValley will host a light reception immediately following Mass.
Contact: Couples only please register for the Mass through your parish or register at rcdony.org/jubilee by Sept. 24, 2021. For further information, please contact Steve Tartaglia at (315) 393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org or Sister Bernadette Collins, SSJ at (315) 393-2920 or bcollins@rcdony.org.

LIFECHEM
Stand up for life. Join in the annual peaceful, prayerful, public, pro-life witness. Rain or shine. All faiths welcome.
Date: Oct. 3
Locations: Plattsburgh, Potsdam, Saranac Lake
Time: 2:30 p.m. to 3:30
Features: Signs provided. Lifechain practices social distancing.
Contact: Visit Lifechain.net for more info.
NEW YORK (CNS) — With his duo of recent films, “Get Out” (2017) and 2019’s “Us,” Jordan Peele has employed the horror genre as a vehicle of social commentary to both critical and popular acclaim.

Now he has co-written the script for the thriller sequel "Candyman" (Universal) with an eye to the same end. Morally, however, this latest project diverges widely from his earlier movies, and the upshot is unsettling.

In crafting a follow-up to the eponymous 1992 movie – one adapted, like its predecessor, from the short story "The Forbidden" by Clive Barker – director Nia DaCosta, who collaborated on the screenplay with Peele and Win Rosenfeld, keeps the focus squarely fixed on her protagonist, Chicago painter Anthony McCoy (Yahya Abdul-Mateen II). Though successful in the past, Anthony is currently artistically blocked.

Searching for fresh inspiration, Anthony eventually finds it in his own backyard. Together with his cohabiting girlfriend, gallery director Brianna Cartwright (Teyonah Parris), Anthony lives in in a gentrified neighborhood that was formerly home to the Windy City’s notorious Cabrini-Green housing project.

Along with other circumstances, a chance encounter with William Burke (Colman Domingo), a veteran resident of the once-deprived area, prompts Anthony to investigate the urban legend concerning the hook-handed murderer of the title that long prevailed among the denizens of Cabrini-Green. His interest in the grim but complicated story soon becomes obsessive.

Even from the start, the nature of this picture’s antecedents makes the harnessing of a blood-soaked slasher flick for the purposes of satire feel like an unequal – and therefore awkward – yoking. By the time of its conclusion, however, “Candyman” has degenerated into a fantasy of racial revenge wholly at odds with Gospel values.

To have a rampaging killer unleashed on the fictional representatives of real-life injustice not only appeals to the audience’s basest instincts. It also represents an unhelpful pseudo-solution to problems that require sensitive and thoughtful assessment.

Thus, unlike Peele’s earlier work cited above, “Candyman” ultimately does little or nothing to provide viewers with insight or to advance dialogue in the real world about the vital topics on which it touches.

The film contains much gory violence, gruesome images, a vengeance theme, cohabitation, a benignly viewed homosexual relationship, drug use, a couple of profanities, about a half-dozen milder oaths, frequent rough language as well as considerable crude and crass talk. The Catholic News Service classification is O – morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association rating is R – restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

CNS PHOTO/UNIVERSAL PICTURES AND MGM PICTURES
Yahya Abdul-Mateen II and Colman Domingo star in a scene from the movie "Candyman." The Catholic News Service classification is O – morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association rating is R – restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.
There are many meanings to the phrase “comfort zone.” For people, their comfort zone is sitting in an easy chair with a good book. As a teenager, my mother would constantly pry me out of my “comfort zone” in our home. Jesus applied a stronger “shock treatment” than that to the comfort zone of his apostles in this week’s Gospel. After he had challenged them to confess that He was more than just a human teacher, one with divine authority, He then announced to them the sobering news that He would soon suffer a humiliating passion and death at the hands of His enemies. Ironically, it was Peter who had just publicly proclaimed that He was the Son of God, who immediately rebuked Jesus for such defeatist talk. And Jesus swiftly retorted, “Get thee behind me, Satan!”

Do we modern-day disciples do any better at accepting a Messiah who calls himself a “suffering servant”? How good are we at joining our own sufferings with Jesus’ redeeming passion and death? Perhaps it’s something small, like a cut finger, or a toothache or a minor ear infection. But it also might be something much more serious – a heart problem or cancer. It takes faith to unite our sufferings with the Passion of Jesus, just as it takes faith for the less painful actions of love and service in the community of our Church. It’s all part of the faith plus good works that St. James speaks about in today’s second reading. He insists that faith without loving works is dead. For centuries, battles have raged about “faith alone” or “faith and good works” being necessary for salvation. Of course, we cannot pull ourselves into heaven without the grace of God, but faith without actions that flow from that faith is useless and hollow.

So, we need to get out of our comfort zone from time to time. We’re not star boarders in this world. We’re looking for purity of heart and purity of life. And you can believe that purity is going to take some effort. We can’t just jump over it. We have to step on the gorilla and it’s going to be a little unpleasant. But we will be comforted by the thought that Jesus has gone before us and will comfort us in our times of trouble.

And it is impossible to forget the 2,996 innocents who died on September 11, 2001, and so many who have died as a result of medical issues stemming from their rescue efforts that day. There is a prayer in the Roman Missal that sums up the lives of all those people who have died over the years. “We pray, almighty God, that they may advance our salvation and bring pardon to the souls of your servants, for whom we implore your mercy.”

“Who died?” Nick would ask. He did. We all will. “Let us console one another in the faith of Jesus Christ.”

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown. He is the Director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.
Photo reflections

“My absolute personal favorite is the little girl at the dump, looking up at me and thanking me for coming back to feed her (and hundreds of others). She says, "I had hoped you would come back!" A couple days previous to that photo, she came up to me and grabbed me around the knees, pleading with me to feed her. I truly sobbed and told her the truth, i.e., I didn’t have any food that day but would try to help soon.”

– Image and story courtesy of Sister Debbie Blow of North Country Mission of Hope

Use papal teaching to discern ‘ecological conscience’

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The chairmen of two U.S. bishops’ committees echoed Pope Francis’ invitation to cultivate an "ecological conscience" in response to growing environmental challenges that affect human life in a message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

"Our times require robust consciences, capable of wise discernment in the face of complex moral problems," said Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, Illinois, chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace.

Observed Sept. 1, the day opens the Season of Creation, a five-week period set aside annually to allow individuals to reflect and pray about how they can protect the earth from the unfolding ecological crises resulting from climate change, widespread pollution and degradation of the environment.

While focusing largely on the pressing need to address environmental concerns, the prelates’ message also quoted Pope Francis’ March 2021 speech celebrating St. Alphonsus Liguori as a doctor of the church. The pope then cited "countless challenges" to humanity, including the defense of life, advancing artificial intelligence, threats to democracy and "the urgency of brotherhood."

"These 'countless challenges' must be met with a deep and well-formed faith," the three-page statement said. "Indeed, one of the underlying drivers of our current crisis, both moral and ecological, is a radical world view that has placed excessive trust in the power of mankind and disregarded God."

Such challenges, they continued, require "a well-formed reason that can integrate knowledge and information from different secular disciplines."

"It is a mistake to think that faith alone is sufficient for the Christian life, especially when it comes to complex moral problems that require both faith and reason, they said, referencing St. John Paul II’s 1988 encyclical "Fides et Ratio" ("Faith and Reason"). "We must especially hold reason and conscience to the highest standards."

The bishops acknowledged that the environmental problems confronting humanity can be difficult to understand because of the complexity of information being shared. They also said understanding is complicated by what Pope Francis called in his encyclical "Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship," the flood of information that at times is "deliberately used to confuse and manipulate consciences."

Still, they called people to remember that "our times require robust consciences, capable of wise discernment in the face of complex moral problems." Regarding the environment, the bishops encouraged people to "seriously consider" the findings of the most recent assessment report of the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released Aug. 9. It determined that severe flood, long-term drought, wildfires and extremes of heat and cold are all resulting from climate change.
The Bishop’s Fund Appeal provides financial assistance to the vital ministries of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The following ministries are supported:

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

GIFTS OF CASH: Checks should be made payable to the “Bishop’s Fund Appeal.”

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

ONLINE GIVING: The Bishop’s Fund Appeal offers the opportunity to make your gift and pledge payments online using a credit card. To donate online, please visit www.rcdony.org/bfa.html#donate. If making a pledge, enter your first payment in the “amount” box and in the comments section indicate the total amount you wish to pledge.

AUTOMATIC PLEDGE PAYMENTS: To set up automatic credit or debit card pledge payments, please contact the Bishop’s Fund Office at 315-393-2920.

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

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

QUALIFIED IRA CONTRIBUTIONS: For those who are 70 1/2 or older, you may wish to consider a tax-free gift directly from your IRA to the Bishop’s Fund Appeal. Please contact the Bishop’s Fund Office at 315-393-2920 for instructions.

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

MAILING YOUR GIFT: Please feel free to mail your donation to: The Bishop’s Fund Appeal, PO Box 150, Ogdensburg, NY 13669

For more information and to view the 2021 Bishop’s Fund video, please visit www.rcdony.org/bfa