Pope: Sadness can serve as ‘alarm bell’ for life

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Feelings of desolation and sadness are not signs of trials that may discourage Christians, they can be indispensable signs that point to dangers along the path toward happiness, Pope Francis said.

Although many consider sadness “an ill to avoid at all costs,” Christians should see it as “an indispensable alarm bell for life, inviting us to explore richer and more fertile landscapes that transience and escapism do not permit,” the pope said Oct. 26 during his weekly general audience.

Sadness “is indispensable for our health,” he said. “It protects us from harming ourselves and others. It would be far more serious and dangerous if we did not feel this.”

The pope continued his series of audience talks on spiritual discernment, reflecting on desolation and the role it plays in Christian life.

Recalling the words of St. Ignatius of Loyola, Pope Francis defined desolation as the “darkness of the soul” and the “unquiet of different agitations and temptations” that lead one to becoming “lazy, tepid, sad, as if separated from his or her creator and Lord.”

“No one wants to be desolate, sad,” he said. “We would all like a life that is always joyful, cheerful and fulfilled. Yet this, besides not being possible, would not be good for us either. Indeed, the change from a life oriented toward vice can start from a situation of sadness, of remorse for what one has done.”

“Sometimes sadness is a traffic light: ‘Stop. Stop. It’s red. Stop,’” the pope said.

However, for men and women who seek to do good, desolation also can be an obstacle “with which the tempter (the devil) tries to discourage us” and can lead to abandoning “work, study, prayer” or other commitments.

“Unfortunately, some people decide to abandon the life of prayer, or the choice they have made – marriage or religious life – driven by desolation, without first pausing to consider this state of mind, and especially without the help of a guide,” he said.
Through a different lens

Growing up, my maternal grandparents lived in Brushton, a tiny village in northern Franklin County. Since they were only about 10 miles from our home in Bombay, my sisters and I spent quite a bit of time at their home.

Though we were young when my grandparents sold their home, I very clearly remember sliding down the stairway railing (grandma referred to it as a “banister” when she was scolding us) in the entryway. I clearly remember sitting on my grandfather’s lap as he’d pretend to sleep and make dramatic snoring noises. I clearly remember playing in the back yard.

In fact, I often think of how my memories of that home and property centered in that yard. I remember playing games with my sisters and cousins there. I remember my grandfather growing a garden and berries. I also remember once eating all the berries along with my twin sister. I may not have realized then that the yard being large – not as large as the farm property at my other grandparents’ house, but large. Now, my husband, son and I live just a couple of miles from my grandparents’ old home. Occasionally, I’ll detour down the side road to go by the property. The first time I drove by the home as an adult, something struck me: that yard is tiny.

It’s amazing what time and experience do to perspective. I don’t view things through the lens of a child now.

My experience of that yard jumped into my head as I was praying recently about the fact that my spiritual life feels a bit dry lately.

I remember being a teen and attending Camp Guggenheim, retreats and youth events. I remember having profound experiences of God, experiences that would make me cry or fill me with feelings of love or awe. I sometimes long for those big feelings now.

But I forget that I shouldn’t view my faith through the lens of a teenager.

Raising one now, I’m regularly reminded that every emotion is a big emotion for that age group – nearly every setback feels like the end of the world, nearly every moment of joy feels like the biggest and best moment ever.

I feel those big emotions regularly now, but I’m no less loved by my God. I’m just experiencing faith in a different way, in a different time, and not through the lens of a child.

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Remembering my favorite saints

All Saints Day is one of my favorite feast days in our Catholic Church liturgical year, a day to celebrate all the saints, the canonized ones and those that are not canonized. On this feast day, I celebrate all my favorite saints.

Let me first remind you that our Catholic Church has a system to declare that a person is truly a saint. After some study, it is determined that this person has lived a life of holiness and that they are certainly in Heaven with God. Also in our Church, there is a solemn ceremony in which our Holy Father declares to the world that a person is truly a saint.

I am certain that you know many of the canonized saints. Each day of our liturgical year is dedicated as a feast day to one or more canonized saints. I have many favorites, like St. Francis of Assisi, St. Pope John XXIII, St. Bakhita, St. Andrew the Apostle (I was pastor of a parish dedicated to St. Andrew), and so many other saints.

I want you to know that I have a list of my own favorite saints who have not been canonized by the Church. They are very special people who have touched my life in a special way through their writings and teachings, and through the way in which they lived their lives. Some have been my friends. I just know that they were saints. Let me mention just a few: Catherine Doherty, the founderess of Madonna House, Thomas Merton, the Trappist monk and author, and many others. They have touched my life in a profound way and still do.

Now, I want you to know that on my list of special saints, those uncanonized saints, I have included some from my own family: my mother, my father, a few of my aunts and uncles. I truly believe they are saints and have touched me and helped me find God in my life.

And while I am at it, I must add that I have many, many personal friends who I know are saints. I think of priest friends, my skiing buddies, and many priests and religious Sisters with whom I have worked with in various parishes. They were truly saints. And many of the laity, especially those who were parishioners in the various parishes where I served as pastor, I am certain I was blessed to have known who were saints.

By the way, I am also rather bold enough here to add to my list of favorite saints some who are still alive and active. Again, I have been blessed to known many saints during my time as a pastor. I have been led and guided by them.

You probably wonder how I decide if someone is a saint or going to be a saint. Well, I must admit that I depend a great deal upon the Lord’s guidance. Truly with the Lord’s help it is rather obvious. As with so many things in life it is the little things. Someone, somewhere gave me this definition of a saint: “A saint is someone who does ordinary things in an extraordinary way.”

I have known many in my time as a priest who are anxious to tell me they will never be a saint because of present day failings and sins. As I study many of our canonized saints, they had times in their lives when they confessed to us that they were sinners. However, they were sinners who found Jesus and transformed their lives. They learned how to bring the Holy Spirit into their lives. They began to follow the Lord Jesus. They lived the lives of saints.

All Saints Day: What a terrific feast day to remember so many! May they continue to show me the way to sanctity. I want to tell you about a friend who comes to confession to me and begins “Father, I’m no saint.” My immediate response is usually, “well, you better get busy. It is the only reason that we are down here.”

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Father Bill Says

Fr. William G. Muench
Cathedral celebrates 70 years with recital

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

OGDENSBURG – At age 17, Dominic Fiacco isn't spending his free time playing hours and hours of video games. Instead, he's playing hours and hours of organ music.

Fiacco, a resident of Poland, New York, gave an organ recital on the new organ at St. Mary's Cathedral on Oct. 23, part of the cathedral's 70th anniversary celebration.

While he's been playing music – piano especially – since age 4, Fiacco first found his love of the organ during a concert he attended at age 8.

"The piano really has only one sound," Fiacco said. "The organ has dozens and dozens of sounds. It can be soft flute, bells, a huge, loud trumpet, strings and combinations of sounds. And the organ also has pedals, and you have to learn to play with your feet just like you play with your hands, and it has multiple keyboards."

Fiacco, who is home schooled, practices his craft at least a couple of hours each day.

"Because I'm home schooled, my classes are pretty flexible, and my parents are very supportive," he said. "I do my class work, I practice for a couple of hours each day, and other than that I get to do pretty normal stuff."

While he does "the hard work" at home, learning arrangements of musical pieces, Fiacco said the "fun part" begins when he sits down at an organ for the first time.

"Every organ has different sounds, a different experience," he said, as he acclimated to the organ at St. Mary's Cathedral. "Experimenting with the sounds of a new organ is really fun. I do the hard work at home, so I can have fun with this part. You need to spend a long time working on the organ and testing sounds until you find what you like."

Fiacco practiced on the cathedral organ Thursday, Friday and Saturday, joining the cathedral music ministry team for Saturday Mass and playing his recital on Sunday.

"I try to pick pieces I think the audience would like – a mix of fun pieces with more intellectual pieces," he said. "I also aim for contrast. I almost always open and end with an open, loud exciting piece. I tend to go with softer pieces in the middle. I like really dramatic French pieces of the 20th century, a lot of French Catholic pieces."

In fact, it's Fiacco's work in music ministry that has given him the greatest joy.

"I think playing in churches is more important than recitals," he said. "Mostly because Mass is more important than recitals. I like the sense that I can contribute to worship. I like feeling of uplifting them. I like studying the text of hymns to come up with sounds that match. If the verse is triumphant, I'll play it with loud, big sounds. If a verse is more somber, I can play more dramatic or somber music with it."

St. Mary’s Cathedral remains a ‘beacon of hope’

By Tyler Fitzgerald
Diocese of Ogdensburg seminarian

The crisp and brisk air of an autumn North Country day gave way to sunshine and a warm gentle breeze on the morning of October 22, 1952. Nature seemed to have set the perfect scene for two glorious occasions – the Solemn Consecration of the new Cathedral of Saint Mary and a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving.

The vast granite edifice at the corner of Hamilton and Greene Streets stood as a beacon of faith and hope for the Diocese of Ogdensburg after the devastating loss of the original cathedral five years prior. The quiet streets soon began to fill with the murmur of spectators, who came from all parts of the diocese to celebrate the occasion.

The ceremonies commenced early in the morning at 6:30 with the Rite of Consecration. Bishop Bryan D. McIntegart, fifth bishop of the diocese, assisted by Bishops Joseph Berry and Stephen Donahue, solemnly consecrated the building to the Glory of God. Through the blessing of the walls, inside and out, with Holy Water, tracing the Greek and Latin alphabet on the floor; anointing the altars with Sacred Chrism and sealing in them relics of various saints, the new spiritual home of the diocese was fully set apart as holy ground.

Crowds over-flowed out of the newly consecrated mother church of the diocese into the streets and park opposite the cathedral. Speaker systems and chairs were set up and an estimated 1,500 people made pilgrimage to attend the 11 a.m. Solemn Pontifical Mass celebrated by the archbishop of New York, Cardinal Francis Spellman. A procession of countless clergy and Prelates started at St. Mary’s Academy, led by cross and candles, accompanied by hymns and the peal of the new cathedral’s bells. The entourage reached the white chrysanthemum and yellow rose adorned High Altar, where Cardinal Spellman began the Mass.

The liturgy was miraculous; the smell of chrism and incense wafted as the Cathedral Choir provided a repertoire under the direction of Father J. Everett Denesha. Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston preached on cathedrals as Temples of the Living God.

In this ongoing celebration of 150 years of faith in the North Country, and on the seventieth anniversary of the Consecration of St. Mary’s Cathedral, perhaps these words preached by Archbishop Cushing will find a place in our hearts:

"This is a dramatic proof that God's grace has been at work here in the diocese, but it is a proof no less dramatic that God's grace has not been wasted. Thanks to that grace and to the cooperation of priests and people with it, Ogdensburg rejoices in the newest and fairest of cathedrals, a proud temple to the glory of God and the honor of the Blessed Mother." He continued, “St. Mary’s in Ogdensburg is worthy to take its place among the great cathedrals of this country... St. Mary's will long command the admiration of generations to come for its objective beauty as well as for the goodness of those who have built it.

While the world of October 22, 1952 may seem at times foreign and unrecognizable, the Diocese of Ogdensburg possesses a beacon of hope for the faithful of the North Country, a beacon whose message has remained the same.

The Gothic Revival landmark on Hamilton Street stands as a symbol of faith, rooted in the love of God. The Gothic Revival landmark on Hamilton Street stands as a symbol of faith, rooted in the love of God which the people of this diocese possess, fostered by love of Mary, the Mother of God, under whose protection we all rest. Six popes, nine bishops, thirteen presidents, and seventy years later, St. Mary’s Cathedral continues to be a splendid, holy place of prayer, where we all find a home.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg solemnly rejoiced on that historic day, let us continue this rejoicing and offer praise and thanks to God on this joyous occasion.
Made in his image: Finding the face of God

Editor’s note: The following is the fourth installment of a series looking at life after the Dobbs vs. Jackson court decision and the pro-life movement.

By Suzanne Pietropoli
Natural Family Planning Coordinator

Roe v. Wade is no more. But its legacy of abortion-on-demand is alive and well in many minds and hearts and in the laws of many states. The need for abortion necessarily remains strong in a society that has separated sex from marriage and rejects the innate connection between sex and procreation. This inevitably gives rise to a perfect storm, where a child – the natural biological result of sexual intercourse – is not a gift, but an enemy to be eliminated.

“Our children are the most precious and vital part of ourselves. Every parent knows there is nothing we will not do to shield our children from harm. Our first task is caring for our children. If we don’t get that right, we don’t get anything right. That’s how as a society we will be judged.” These words were spoken by then-President Barack Obama to the grieving people of Newtown, Connecticut, in December 2012. These remarks by a strongly pro-abortion president mirror our nation’s strangely schizophrenic attitude towards children. On the one hand, the loss of a “wanted” child is utterly tragic; on the other hand, the loss of 63 million children (and counting) to abortion hardly merits a mention apart from raw statistics. Yet those numbers, and the tragic destruction of human life they represent, have had an effect. In the centuries before Christ, the Greek philosopher Aristotle observed that we become what we habitually do. The legal destruction of unwanted persons through abortion has created a profound indifference to the value of human life, yielding an increasingly bitter harvest of violence in our homes, on our streets, and in our schools. Scripture warns that we reap what we sow (Gal 6:7).

Since the first century, the Church has held fast to the teaching of Jesus, clearly distancing itself from prevailing social norms that devalue human life. The Church likewise calls people to fidelity to God, even as “choices once unanimously rejected by the common moral sense are becoming socially acceptable” (Gal, 4). Why? St. John Paul II explains in THE GOSPEL OF LIFE: “God has granted to man a dignity that is nearly divine. In every child, in every person who lives or dies, we see the image of God’s glory. We celebrate this glory in every human being, a sign of the living God, an icon of Jesus Christ” (Gol, 84).

Created by God in love and for love, in his very image, it is the task of human beings to grow in likeness to God. This truth informs every dimension of Catholic belief in the dignity of the human person, and of the inviolability of every person’s right to life.

Thus, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church (2258) makes clear: “Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the sacred action of God, and it remains forever in a special relationship with the creator who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life, from its beginning to its end: no one can, in any circumstance, claim for himself the right to destroy directly an innocent human being. Because such actions are radically incompatible with the love of God and the dignity of the person created in his image, the Church teaches that: “Such choices cannot be redeemed by the goodness of any intention or consequences... The deliberate decision to deprive an innocent human being of life is always morally evil. It is in fact a grave act of disobedience to the moral law, and indeed to God himself. God proclaims that he is the absolute Lord of human life... He is the defender of the innocent, who does not delight in the death of the living” (Gol 53).

Abortion, on the other hand, bespeaks a dark hopelessness, a last resort, a final solution. Its destructive power leaves brokenness, emptiness, and pain in its wake – for mothers and fathers, for families, for society. But it can never overcome the light of Christ or the power of his mercy. The salvation Jesus won for us on the Cross has triumphed over sin, and his mercy reaches deeply into the hearts of those who seek him. Women and men whose lives have been marred by abortion have, in the sacrament of reconciliation, an unparalleled opportunity to encounter the healing grace of God, who waits for them with perfect love.

The bishops of our country, on their USCCB website, remind us: “While the Catholic Church is pro-life, and abortion is a serious sin, forgiveness, hope, and healing are available. If you are Catholic and had an abortion, you can be reconciled to the Church by going to confession. For many women who have had abortions, there is a grieving process. Project Rachel is a ministry for those who have been involved in abortion and is open to people of all faiths.”

As well as post-abortion healing, the Church offers many avenues of assistance to help women choose life for their unborn babies. As long ago as 1995, St. Pope John Paul II called all believers to join in this ongoing work, “to show care for all life, and for the life of everyone... To this end, appropriate and effective programs of support for new life must be implemented, with special closeness to mothers who, even without the help of the father, are not afraid to bring their child into the world and to raise it. (Gol, 87).” This promise was recently renewed by the New York State Bishops, and such help is widely available. (See box at left.)

In the closing pages of The Gospel of Life (#97), the late Holy Father clarified that the “trivialization of sexuality is among the principal factors which have led to contempt for new life. Only a true love is able to protect life. We [must] help the young to accept and experience sexuality and love and the whole of life according to their true meaning and in their close interconnection... that manifests its utmost meaning in leading the person to the gift of self in love.”

First and last, “Jesus has a unique relationship with every person, which enables us to see in every human face the face of Christ... It is the call for a sincere gift of self as the fullest way to realize our personal freedom” (Gol, 81).
The possibility of suffering from dementia later in life is a worrisome and unpleasant prospect for many of us. Most people I know would like to remain in possession of their mental faculties until the end. Stephen Post, Director of the Center for Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care and Bioethics at Stonybrook University describes it this way:

“The leading symptoms of dementia are, frankly, terrifying: loss of memory, of language, and of reasoning ability. We all feel at least a slight anxiety about dementia because these dreaded symptoms seem to assault our very identities, to dissolve the autobiographical narratives that constitute the very story of our lives.”

The dreaded symptoms of dementia may lead to spiritual temptations. The prospect of losing autonomy and control can lead some to despair and even attempt suicide.

What can we say about the meaning of a life-changing reality like dementia for ourselves and our loved ones? Could it be that God is seeking to carry out a particular spiritual work?

For some who face dementia, it can have the effect of getting them off the treadmill and detaching them from those aspects of their lives that may be binding them, whether it’s work and career, hobbies or pastimes, or something else that may be drawing them away from a needed spiritual focus.

In one of his articles, Stephen Post mentions Peter, who through his struggle with a diagnosis of Alzheimer’s, experienced a spiritual reawakening and encountered the Lord’s grace: “I’d say, ‘Why did you let this happen to me? I had such a good career. Everything was going fine for me.’ He would say to me probably, ‘Well, why did you fight it? I was trying to lead you in this direction.’ Oh, I didn’t realize that. Well, I’ve come to the conclusion that everything has a purpose, so the Good Lord, He knows the best for you. So maybe this was to slow me down to enjoy life and to enjoy my family and to enjoy what’s out there. And right now, I can say that I’m a better person for it, in appreciation of other people’s needs and illnesses, than I ever was when I was working that rat race back and forth day to day.”

It can be very hard for a family, especially a spouse, to watch the slow destruction of a loved one’s faculties. At times the person suffering from dementia can become so frustrated they are aggressive towards those around them. There is need for a great deal of patience and spiritual and social support in these situations.

The lives of caregivers tend to be upended and changed profoundly by caring for a family member, relative or friend with dementia, and the generous love they share is itself often sustained by faith in God. As caregivers watch their loved ones with “deep forgetfulness” disengage from the people around them, and from other previously important reference points in their lives, they also witness the emergence of an unmissable simplicity in those they care for.

In a 2010 essay, Mary Anne Moresco beautifully sums up her dad’s and her family’s transformative spiritual journey in this way: “My 83-year-old father has dementia. He can remember things that happened a lifetime ago like it was yesterday, but he often can’t remember yesterday at all... My father needs this time in life. And we, his children, need it too. We needed to glimpse into his past days, as he journeys backward. We need to show him love, as best as we can. We need to offer up our prayers for him. This time is useful. It is valuable. For everything there is a season, and this winter season of my father’s life is part of what will help guide his soul into eternity. Dad, through his dementia is working out his salvation. He isn’t doing that the way the way his children wanted him to do it. He isn’t doing that the way he wanted to do it. He is doing it the way God has deemed that he must do it. ‘...unless you become like little children, you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven.’ (Matt: 18:3)... With each passing month, my father grows more humble and more childlike, more dependent and more trusting and I do not doubt, closer to our Lord and to Heaven.”

As the symptoms and complications of dementia unfold, the challenges we face from the disease can unexpectedly become an invitation from God. Although dementia can contribute to spiritual growth, it almost always involves a great deal of suffering for all concerned, and the challenges should not be underestimated. Such moments, nevertheless, offer important opportunities to grow in grace, to slow down, to reevaluate our priorities and to enter into a more profound relationship with Him who is our final destination and abiding hope.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See ncbcenter.org and fathersrad.com.
**National Vocation Week**

**Bringing hope to the world**

“May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might, which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come.” – Ephesians 1:18-21

St. Paul reminds us in this week of National Vocations Awareness that each of us has received a call to share in the riches of the heavenly glory and presence of the Risen Lord and to be with all the holy ones who have lived and witnessed the Gospel of Jesus Christ. By our Baptism, we are the chosen ones who have been called either as mothers and fathers, or called to priesthood or consecrated life, or to be single, and to carry forward Jesus’ mission of living the Good News of Salvation through acts of loving, forgiving, healing, teaching, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, listening to the broken-hearted, working for peace, climate change, etc.

Our baptismal vocation calls us to evangelize and to make disciples in a world that is fast changing and struggles to find God and to find the face of Jesus Christ to those on the margins and even to those who are our next door neighbors.

This National Vocation Week is a call to all of us to “wake-up” to the call of Jesus to know, to love, and to serve Him in a special way to help change the world, to build up the Kingdom of God with greater justice, peace and love. The world needs YOU – to bring Jesus’ love to a broken world, to bring healing to the broken-hearted, those on the margins of life, to those who have no hope or faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you hear His call?

St. John Paul II said, “The way Jesus shows you is not easy. Rather, it is like a path winding up a mountain. Do not lose heart! The steeper the road, the faster it rises towards ever wider horizons.”

How true this is! God’s call takes us to places and situations far from our imagining and graces us to bring hope to people hungry for Him. People do not know they are hungry for God. We are called to help fill that hunger.

Let us pray for more vocations to the married life, for family life to be strengthened. It is from families that the call to priesthood and consecrated life are heard. We especially need more vocations in this diocese, especially priests to celebrate the sacramental life of the Church, to “pastor” the People of God; deacons to be of service to the people in parishes; consecrated men and women to teach the Catholic faith, to visit the sick and those in prison.

All of us all called to “open the eyes of hearts” longing to really know that God loves them personally and holds them in His heart.

The Church prays this week in a special way for someone like YOU to hear and answer the call: “Follow Me!” As St. Teresa of Avila proclaimed: “God has no body but yours...No hands, no feet but yours. You are the feet with which he works to do good. Yours are the hands, through which he blesses the world.”

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**Environmental Stewardship**

**Life lessons learned from creation**

Praying with God’s creation is a practice that dates back as far as the Bible itself, i.e. the Book of Psalms and the parables of Jesus. It can reveal to us the mysteries hidden beneath the surface of life if we but take the time to be still and listen.

This practice continues through history to our present day. Some examples are: St. Columba, who lived in the sixth century in Ireland, advised: “If you want to know the Creator, look at creation.” St. Hildegard of Bingen stated, “Glance at the sun. See the moon and the stars. Gaze at the beauty of the Earth’s greenings. Now, think...there is the music of Heaven in all things.”

In the words of Thomas Merton: “By reading the scriptures I am so renewed that all nature seems renewed around me and with me. The sky seems to be a pure, a cooler blue, the trees a deeper green. The whole world is charged with the glory of God and I feel fire and music under my feet.”

In her prayer for Autumn season, author Sister Joyce Rupp prays with all of creation as she shares the messages they have inspired in her: “God of Autumn, as trees are saying goodbye to their green, letting go of what has been. We, too, have our moments of surrender with all their insecurity and risk. Help us to let go when we need to.”

“God of geese going south for another season, may Your wisdom enable us to know what needs to be left behind and what needs to be carried into the future. May we yearn for insight and wisdom.”

“God of flowers touched with frost and windows wearing white designs, may your love keep our hearts from the cold in empty seasons.”

When Jesus wanted to teach us about the paschal mystery of life that we are called to enter into freely, He turned to the cycles in nature found in the grain of wheat. (John 12:24-26) What have you observed in nature that has taught you a valuable lesson about life?

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**Rest in Peace**

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


**Nov. 3** – Rev. Thomas Plunkett, 1904

**Nov. 4** – Msgr. Benjamin Harrison Stiege, 1970

**Nov. 5** – Most Rev. David E. Bacon, 1874; Rev. Bernard Wyzkowski, 1969; Rev. John Michael Wyzkowski, 1969

**Nov. 7** – Rev. Dennis Nolan, 1911; Rev. William Ouellette, O.M.I., 1936; Msgr. William H. Brennan, 1986; Deacon Peter J. Lawless, 2020

**Nov. 8** – Rev. Patrick McGilligan, 1828

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**Protecting God’s Children**

**The Diocese of Ogdensburg** has scheduled sessions for Protecting God’s Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required. Participants may preregister at www.virtus.org.

**Upcoming sessions:**

**Nov. 17** – 6 p.m., St. Peter’s Church, Lowville

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**To Report Abuse**

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious employees or volunteers, contact Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terrianne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; cncarrara@rdcony.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.

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**Bishop’s Public Schedule**

**Nov. 2** – 1 p.m. – Annual Catholic Charities Board of Trustees Meeting at Bishop Conroy School in Ogdensburg

**Nov. 3** – 11 a.m. – Development Board of Advisors Meeting at Bishop’s Residence

**Nov. 4** – 11 a.m. – Prayer Service with the Students at St. Bernard’s School in Saranac Lake followed by Classroom Visits

1 p.m. – Prayer Service with the Students at St. Agnes School in Lake Placid followed by Classroom Visits

**Nov. 5** – 11 a.m. – Council of Deacons Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral

**Nov. 6** – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral

3 p.m. – Concert and Dedication of the New Organ at The Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph in Morrisonville

**Nov. 7** – 10 a.m. – Mass at Clinton Correctional Facility

**Nov. 9-10** – Seminar visit at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio
Synod report shows enthusiasm and obstacles

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Catholics around the globe long to share the Gospel with a world in need, but they see situations and tensions within the church that challenge their ability to do so, said one of the drafters of the document for the continental phase of the Synod of Bishops.

The reports sent to the Vatican from local and national listening sessions show "a deep, deep hunger for a new confidence in the church, a confidence in its ability to proclaim the Gospel to a world so deeply in need," said Anna Rowlands, a professor of Catholic social thought and practice at Durham University in England.

Rowlands, who read many of the contributions to the synod before helping draft the new document, told reporters at the Vatican Oct. 27 that the reports showed that confidence is challenged by internal church problems, especially the clerical abuse scandal.

With "just as much" focus on mission, she said, the reports ask, "What condition does the church have to be in its own internal life and relationships to be able to carry that message to the world? To meet Christ in the world and bring Christ to the world in a Spirit-led way?"

In talking about exclusion and clericalism and a lack of listening to each other, "the reports are saying that sure aspects of our own relationships, our capacity for genuine unity in diversity," that stand in the way, Rowlands said.

The reports acknowledge that it is difficult to speak authoritatively to the world of reconciliation in Christ "if we cannot ourselves be brothers and sisters, if we can't heal our own divisions, our mutual suspicions, our lack of fundamental trust."

The synod document is titled "Enlarge the Space of Your Tent," a quotation of the Lord’s command to the people of Israel in the Book of Isaiah.

"Enlarging the tent requires welcoming others into it, making room for their diversity," the document said. But echoing the submissions to the synod’s Vatican office, the document listed people and groups who often feel excluded or are seen to be excluded: women, young people, people with disabilities, the poor, those who are divorced and civilly remarried, single parents, those in polygamous marriages and members of the LGBTQ communities.

 Asked if there were limits to who could be let into the church's tent and about Catholics who do not want the tent enlarged, Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich of Luxembourg, relator general of the synod, responded, "There will be groups sitting in the tent who are not very happy that some people are in one corner."

"But who is invited to the tent? All the people created and loved by God. All the people," he said. "Our behavior perhaps is sometimes a bit more fragmented, and our love is not as big as the love of God, so therefore we create segregations, even inside the tent."

Everyone naturally likes some people more than others, but in the church all are called to look at each person as "someone loved by God, called into being by God. Christ died for this person on the cross, so if I am not capable of giving space to this person in the tent, I have a problem with God."

 Asked about the document drafters pushing or prioritizing certain themes, such as the call for women to have a greater role in church leadership, to continue studying the possibility of women deacons and the mention of some reports that even called for the ordination of women priests, Cardinal Mario Grech, synod secretary-general, insisted the document only reflects what the reports sent in said.

"No decisions have been made" on any issue, he said. "We are not pushing any agenda. This has been said from the beginning. Our responsibility was to present and to give back to the people of God that which was entrusted to us. There is no agenda."

Rowlands added that in drafting the document, if an issue came up "over and over" in the national syntheses, "we had to honor" and include it in the document.

The question of women’s role in the church and society and their experiences in both "were brought up across the reports; it is an astonishing, common theme," she said. But it is also important to note how they spoke about the issue; "this is rooted in people's sense of the common dignity that comes from their baptism."

The discussion was not about women's rights, but about "the living out of a common baptismal vocation in the church in such a way that the charisms of the Spirit, the gifts and capacities and skills of all the baptized, are able to be honored and nurtured and flourish," Rowlands said.
**ADIRONDACK-FRANKLIN**

**FIRST FRIDAY PRAISE AND WORSHIP**
Lake Placid — Monthly praise and worship to be held.
- **Date:** First Friday of the month
- **Time:** 7 p.m.
- **Place:** St. Agnes Church
- **Features:** Music led by Joey and MC Izzo. Time for fellowship and snacks afterwards. Will be livestreamed as well on St. Agnes Facebook page.

**SOMETHING FOR ALL FAIR**
Brushton — St. Augustine’s and St. Mary’s Altar Rosary Society is sponsoring something for all fair.
- **Date:** Nov. 5
- **Time:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Place:** St. Mary’s Parish Center
- **Features:** There will be over 25 Vendors! Homemade Donuts will be for sale and the Adirondack BBQ will be here serving Breakfast and Lunch. Don’t miss this one!
- **Contact:** For more information, call 518-529-7474.

**CABBAGE ROLL SALE**
Brushton — St. Mary’s will be selling their famous homemade Cabbage Rolls.
- **Date:** Nov. 8
- **Time:** 6 a.m. until gone
- **Place:** St. Mary’s Parish Center
- **Cost:** $5.50 each
- **Contact:** May be preordered on Nov. 6, 7, and 8th. Call 518 529 6580.

**DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR**
St. Regis Falls — All are invited to the monthly first Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour for Vocations.
- **Date:** First Saturday of the Month
- **Time:** Following the 4:30 anticipated Mass
- **Place:** St. Ann’s Church

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**JEFFERSON-LEWIS**

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE**
Watertown — LifeRight will participate in the “40 Days for Life” Campaign
- **Date:** Starting Sept. 24 and 40 days after (Nov. 3)
- **Time:** 12:30 p.m. to 1:30
- **Place:** Across from Planned Parenthood
- **Features:** Pro-Life people will stand to draw attention to the fact that they are the number one abortion provider. This is a peaceful prayerful gathering. Participants will hold signs supporting moms and their unborn children.

**HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY**
Houseville — A Holy Hour of Adoration with the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be observed the first Sunday of the month.
- **Date:** Nov. 6
- **Time:** Following 11 a.m. Mass
- **Place:** St. Hedwig’s Church
- **Contact:** 315-348-6260

**ELECTION NIGHT SPAGHETTI SUPPER**
Lyons Falls — There will be an election night drive thru and delivery spaghetti dinner to be held.
- **Date:** Nov. 8
- **Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 6
- **Place:** St. John’s Church
- **Cost:** $11
- **Menu:** Include spaghetti with meatballs and/or sausage, Italian bread, tossed salad, and dessert.
- **Features:** Proceeds go to the Red Kettle Salvation Army organization. Funds stay in our local area.
- **Contact:** By ordering call 315-348-8945 or 315-348-8577 by Nov. 1.

**ELECTION NIGHT DINNER**
Alexandria Bay — St. Cyril’s Church to have dinner on election night.
- **Date:** Nov. 8
- **Time:** 4 p.m. to 6, take-out only
- **Cost:** $10
- **Contact:** For take out call Carol Shepard, 315-482-5227 or Sally Tousant, 315-482-2724; For Deliveries call Joanne Fitch, 315-955-5504

**SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER**
Evans Mills — The Indian River Knights of Columbus 7471 will be having a spaghetti and meatball dinner.
- **Date:** Dec. 10
- **Time:** 4 p.m. to 7
- **Place:** St. Mary’s Parish Center
- **Cost:** Adults, $9; Seniors, $5; Children under 12, $5; under 5, Free; Sauce, $6 per quart
- **Menu:** Includes spaghetti & meatballs, salad, bread, beverage and dessert.

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**ST. LAWRENCE**

**HOLY HOUR**
Canton — Holy Hour for Vocations to be held.
- **Date:** Every Tuesday
- **Time:** 4:10 p.m.
- **Place:** St. Mary’s Church
- **Features:** Holy hour followed by Mass at 5:15 p.m. and confessions at 5:45 p.m.

**ROSARY FOR LIFE**
Canton — Rosary for life to be held.
- **Date:** Every Saturday
- **Time:** 4:25 p.m. preceding the 5 p.m. Vigil Mass

(Continued on page 9)
Priest: Praying rosary deepens our love for God

HOUSTON (CNS) — Although the idea of praying the rosary might be daunting for some, Dominican Father Lawrence Lew, the general promoter of the rosary for the Dominicans, said it doesn’t have to be.

In Houston’s Holy Rosary Catholic Church for feast of the Holy Rosary Oct. 7, Father Lew shared a handful of tips about this prayer.

"Begin praying the rosary slowly," Father Lew said. "If you’ve found it (lacking), slowly begin with one decade a day."

For those moments during the rosary, or at any time in prayer when the mind wanders or get distracted, Father Lew suggested having something to focus on, such as sacred art.

The priest, who is rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary in London and also a prolific photographer, recently published a book with Ignatius Press called "Mysteries Made Visible: Praying the Rosary with Sacred Art."

He traveled to the U.S. for the rosary celebration at Holy Rosary and preached during a weekend Mass there.

He advised those starting to pray the rosary to continue to gradually increase the number of decades prayed each day, praying one decade at a time, spreading each throughout the day.

For example, he said to consider praying one decade in the morning when getting ready for the day. Then, as the day progresses, he suggested keeping the rosary close at hand or using fingers to keep count of prayers. Father Lew said the moments in between that fill our day can be a special time for grace and prayer, such as waiting at a stoplight, being on bus or the elevator.

In his role as general promoter of the rosary, he actively advocates and preaches about the rosary within the Dominican Order and encourages his fellow Dominicans to preach about the rosary, which he said is part of the sacred heritage of the Dominican order.

### Around the diocese

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8**

**Place:** St. Mary’s Church

**ADORATION**

Norwood — St. Andrew’s Church to offer Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday.

**Time:** After 8:30 a.m. Mass until Noon

**Features:** Sign up is not needed.

**HARVEST DINNER**

Gouverneur — St. James School to have a harvest dinner.

**Date:** Nov. 3

**Time:** 4:30 until gone

**Cost:** $15

**ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS**

Ogdensburg — The Legion of Mary will pray the rosary with devotions.

**Date:** Nov. 5

**Time:** 8 a.m.

**Place:** Nottie Dame Church, Ogdensburg

**Features:** Rosary with devotions

**FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY DEVOTION**

Massena – Sacred Heart Church to have First Saturday Rosary Devotion.

**Date:** Nov. 5

**Time:** 3:15 p.m.

**Features:** First Saturday Rosary Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. Confessions will be available. Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 p.m.

**MEN’S PRAYER GROUP**

Massena — Men’s prayer group to meet for Mass and Adoration.

**Date:** Nov. 5

**Time:** 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

**Place:** St. Mary’s Church

**ORGAN RECITAL**

Ogdensburg — Organ Recital with Christine Bookman to be held.

**Date:** Nov. 27

**Time:** 3 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary’s Cathedral

**Features:** No cost to attend. Come hear Mrs. Christine Bookman on both the new organ as well as the antique Steinway.

**Contact:** For more information, contact the Parish office at 315-393-3930.

**ANNUAL BAZAAR**

Massena — St. Peter’s Parish to have an Annual Bazaar.

**Date:** Nov. 12

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary’s Social Hall

**Features:** Win $2500 Big money raffle. Come enjoy delicious fried bread dough as well as other great food from the concession all day. Turkey raffles, pull tabs, 50/50 Skilo, quilt raffle, country store, cake walk, children’s activities and more.

**Contact:** For more information call 315-769-2469

**MONTHLY BRUNCH**

Norfolk — Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond’s will have its monthly Knights of Columbus Brunch.

**Date:** Nov. 13 (Second Sunday of each month)

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 11:30

**Place:** Fr. Amyot Parish Center

**Cost:** Adults, $10; under 12, $5; under 5, Free; Omelets, add $3; Take-outs available

**Contact:** For more information contact Grand Knight Gil Gonthier 315-212-5166.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT**

The Vocation Office and the Office of Youth Ministry is sponsoring a Middle School Retreat (Grades 6-8) in three regions of the Diocese.

**Schedule:** Nov. 4 at Immaculate Heart Central School, Watertown for Jefferson, Lewis, Hamilton-Herkimer Deaneries; Nov. 16 at St. Mary’s Social Hall, Massena for the St. Lawrence and Franklin Deaneries.

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Features:** Young people will have an opportunity to prayerfully consider what God’s plan is for their lives. Open to students in Grades 6-8 both in the Catholic and public schools. This is a Retreat Day and is considered a legal excused absence.

**Contact:** Your pastor, Catholic school principal, or Religious Education Coordinator to register.

**BECOMING A EUCHARISTIC FAMILY**

The Department of Faith Formation will be hosting an event, “Becoming a Eucharistic Family, tips to make Christ alive in your home!"

**Schedule:** Eastern Region: Nov. 5, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Joseph’s Outreach Center, Plattsburgh; Western Region: Nov. 6, 2 p.m. to 5 at Bastie Hall, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Watertown

**Contact:** Register at www.rcdn.org/lead

**MEN’S DISCERNMENT GROUPS**

Are you discerning how God is calling you to serve Him? Are you between the ages of 18 and 40 and open to God’s plan for you? Have you ever considered priesthood or religious life? Men’s Discernment Group is for you!

**Schedule:** Plattsburgh Discernment Group — Nov. 8 & 28 at 6 p.m. at St. John XXIII Newman Center Facilitator: Deacon Brent Davison bdavison71@westelcom.com or 518-563-0730; Potsdam Discernment Group — Nov. 12 & 26 at 11 a.m. at St. Mary’s Parish Rectory Facilitator: Connor Cummings campusministry@gmail.com or 315-783-5477; Watertown Discernment Group — Nov. 12 & 26 at 11 a.m. at St. Patrick’s Parish Center Facilitator; Father Matt Conger mconger@rcdon.org or 315-323-8151

**LOVING AUTHENTICALLY**

All are invited to attend this free seminar designed to deepen our understanding of how Church doctrine on sexual morality connects with our happiness.

**Schedule:** 4 different times and locations to attend. Nov. 19, 2022 at St. Mary’s Massena; Feb. 12, 2023 at Newman Center, Plattsburgh; April 22, 2023 at St. Bernard’s Saranac Lake; May 25, 2023 at St. Mary’s Ticonderoga.

**Contact:** to register, visit rcdn.org/lovingauthentically. For more information, contact Stephen Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdon.org

**YOUTH BUSES FOR LIFE**

Washington DC — Travel to DC with other Highschool students for the Youth Bus for Life Pilgrimage to join in the 50th March for Life.

**Date:** Jan. 19 – 21, 2023

**Cost:** $150 includes transportation, two hotel nights and 5 meals.

**Features:** Pick up locations: Potsdam, Gouverneur and Watertown.

**Contact:** Visit rcdn.org/ pro-life to view complete itinerary and to register. Contact the Respect Life office with questions.
God loves all he has created

Ever since Galileo’s telescope, we have reluctantly admitted that Planet Earth is not the center of the universe. Every day, scientists find more galaxies, more planets, more stars. The Book of Wisdom says in today’s first reading: “Before the Lord, the whole universe is as a grain from a balance” Nevertheless, God loves all he has created, even this sinful Earth. He despises nothing of what He has created and shows boundless mercy and love. He is patient and gentle as He draws us towards repentance.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus is gradually working his way toward Jerusalem. The crowds have been witnessing Jesus’ miracles with growing enthusiasm. As he wends his way through Jericho, he glances up and spots a very wealthy tax collector called Zacchaeus. Here is a hated employee of the Romans, Yet, Jesus’ glance looks into the heart of Zacchaeus, and recognizes the beginnings of contrition. “Zacchaeus, come down quickly,” Jesus says, “I want to have dinner with you today.”

The crowd gasps in disbelief and revulsion that the Healer would have anything to do with this despised sinner. As the delighted little man explains to Jesus how he means to make up for his many sins, Jesus turns the Healer into a lover called Zacchaeus, and recognizes the beginnings of contrition. “Zacchaeus, come down quickly,” Jesus says, “I want to have dinner with you today.”

The yard work reminded me of the bill in the houses of the New York State Legislature dealing with the composting of human bodies or, as the bill sponsors prefer to call it, “the creation, operation, and duties of natural organic reduction facilities as cemetery corporations.” Coincidentally, our local newspaper reprinted a Kaiser Health News feature article last week titled Dust to Dust? that extolls the benefits of composting human remains over burial or cremation.

“I don’t know about you,” the article’s author says, “but I like the sound of that (at least compared with the other two options).”

In New York State a bill has been considered by the last two legislatures to make “natural organic reduction” legal. The bill finally passed the Assembly and Senate in the first week of June. The Executive Branch, i.e., the Governor, has not reported the bill as signed or vetoed.

How does your garden grow

Fall is my favorite season. The air is usually crisp but not brutally cold. The colors in the trees and other vegetation take your breath away. I can still smell burning leaves in the raked piles in front of our home in Queens. Burning leaves is no longer allowed in Queens and most other places but the memories linger.

It is also time to pull the spent plants from the garden. The tomatoes, eggplant and cukes have fought their way through spring and summer, yielding what they could and leaving us happy.

As I pulled the plants, I was not concerned about spilling some dirt or other materials from the planters. There are no bodies buried in the garden boxes, no relatives or former friends mixed in with the compost. Just food scraps, some lawn clippings and some cardboad.

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How does your garden grow

Here’s what I remember from my high school civics class:

While the Legislature is in session, the Governor has 10 days (not counting Sundays) to sign or veto bills passed by both houses. Signed bills become law; vetoed bills do not. However, the Governor’s failure to sign or veto a bill within the 10-day period means that it becomes law automatically.

The funeral directors I spoke with do not consider the bill “law.”

The bills passed in the Senate and Assembly on the last day before summer recess. Since the legislature is not officially in session, my guess is that gives the Governor extraordinary time to “consider the legislation.” After the election might work.

We have mentioned this bill a couple of times in this column. The New York State bishops are opposed. Through the New York State Catholic Conference, they have raised objection based on the church’s “reverence for the sacredness of the human body and its dignity.” The Conference, in its published memorandum on the subject, goes on to say, “a process whereby human remains are composted and scattered in a designated scattering garden or area in a cemetery” (bill language) fails to sufficiently respect the dignity due the deceased.”

The method reminds me of the time I was invited to preside at the “funeral” for a guy who wanted his ashes strewn about his hunting camp. I declined.

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown. He is the Director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.
Praying the rosary for peace

The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.
The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, S.S.J. Director
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296
mbrett@vatican.org

In this month dedicated to the rosary, the Korean Archdiocese celebrated a Holy Mass in honor of Our Lady of Fatima on October 13 in the Seosomun Shrine on the 105th anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady in Fatima. About 800 people were present.

Before the celebration of the Eucharist, the faithful prayed the rosary together. The faithful were able to light candles for peace in Ukraine in front of the statue of Mary.

In the shrine of the Korean martyrs in Jeoldusan in the greater Seoul area, the faithful accepted an invitation from the local section of the Pontifical Foundation “Aid to the Church in Need,” to pray together for an end to the war in Ukraine, recalling the invitation of Our Lady of Fatima to pray the Rosary daily, invoking the gift of peace.

At the Eucharistic celebration in the Seosomun Shrine, the Archbishop of Seoul and Apostolic Administrator of Pyongyang Peter Chung Soon-taick expressed his address to the faithful: “In memory of the Blessed Mother’s request 105 years ago in Fatima to pray the Rosary for world peace and an end to war, today we are all called to pray for the search for true peace in the Korean Peninsula and in Ukraine.”

“The Rosary is a simple prayer that gives great strength and comfort when we say it together,” said Cardinal Andrew Yeom Soo-jung, Archbishop Emeritus of Seoul, who, along with priests, religious and lay faithful of the archdiocese at the initiative to enable those who pray to be “agents of peace” and “reshape the world.

Already on May 31 of this year, at the end of the Marian month, Pope Francis prayed the rosary in front of the statue of Maria Regina Pacis in the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome, to “offer a sign of hope to the world, suffering from conflict in Ukraine, deeply wounded by the violence of the many wars still going on.”

Korean Catholics also pray for peace and reconciliation on the Korean peninsula, which is repeatedly affected by political and military tensions. In recent years, the Korean bishops have dedicated the daily prayer of the Rosary in May and October, with a special prayer for peace in Korea.

At the Sanbon Parish Church in Suwon Diocese, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Rosary, Veronica Yoon Seon-hee, who leads a prayer group, said: “We entrust to the Virgin Mary the painful situation of war and the suffering of so many people. We wholeheartedly ask Our Lady for her intercession that a ceasefire be reached in Ukraine as the beginning of a path of peace and that a period of dialogue and acceptance of the other may return between North and South Korea sure that Our Lady cares for us, her children.”

Article from FIDES missionary news service of the Pontifical Mission Societies

OBITUARIES


Chateaugay – Shirley Premo Swanston, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 27, 2022 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in North Burke Cemetery, Burke.


Lake Placid – Joan Tuomey Reiss, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 24, 2022 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Lowville – June (Hall) Watkins, 91; Funeral Services Nov. 6, 2022 at Sundquist Funeral Home; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Massena – Bruce P. Bombard, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 31, 2022 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Pine Grove Cemetery.


Massena – Philip E. Therrien, 84; Memorial Services to be held at a later date.

Ogdensburg – Jordan Beaulieu, 32; Funeral Services Oct. 28, 2022 at Frary Funeral Home.

Ogdensburg – Michael C. Santora, Jr., 89; Funeral Services Oct. 21, 2022 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

St. Regis Falls – Gaynell (Smith) Stewart, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 28, 2022 at St. Ann’s Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery, Malone.


Watertown – Robert J. Korzuch, Sr., 85; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 2, 2022 at St. Anthony’s Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.


D.L. Calarco Funeral Home, Inc.
135 Keys Avenue
Watertown • 782-4910

Program and Retreat Coordinator
Pyramid Life Center

PLC is seeking candidates for the Program and Retreat Coordinator who will coordinate summer and year-round programming in accordance with the mission and vision of Pyramid Life Center. Main responsibilities include oversight and development of youth and adult programming.

Full description available at www.pyramidlife.org

Inquiries and Resumes to:
Pyramid Life Center
Brian Evers, Executive Director
1 Pyramid Road
Paradox, NY 12858
Did You Know?

• Without the AMS there would be no Catholic chaplains. The AMS is the only Catholic diocese in the United States responsible for endorsing priests to serve as military chaplains and for the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers.

• AMS faithful are the men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces, enrolled in U.S. Military Academies, undergoing treatment at a Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, working in civilian jobs for the federal government beyond U.S. borders - and their families.

• Programs and services readily available in other U.S. dioceses are vitally important to the men, women, and children served by this Archdiocese, including Evangelization and Catechesis, Sacramental Records, Tribunal, Vocations, and the pastoral care of Veterans.

• The AMS is the Archdiocese for the Military Services, not of the Military Services. This is an important distinction, as it receives no funding from the U.S. Government or U.S. Military and has no parishes from which to receive a weekly assessment. Instead, it must rely on the generosity of individuals, foundations, and organizations whose values and priorities align with its mission, programs and services.

• The AMS Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program is the only U.S. Vocations Program that provides priests to serve as military chaplains, and also to serve in parishes and dioceses across the country that struggle with their own critical shortage of ministers.

• In 2021, the number of sacraments celebrated for AMS faithful included 1,428 baptisms, 975 confirmations, 1,070 first Holy Communions, and 192 marriages.

AMS Coat of Arms

The coat of arms of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA is divided into three sections, one in red, one in silver or white, and one in blue – the traditional colors of the United States. In the uppermost portion, there is an American Bald Eagle holding in each claw the universal symbol of peace, a green olive branch. In the middle portion, there is a silver cross on the outline meridians of the earth.

In the lowest, the red portion of these arms, are the gold and silver crossed keys of Saint Peter. The composition of the arms conveys the message and mission of the Archdiocese for the Military Services – to be Americans bearing peace; to proclaim Christ all over the world; and to carry out the mission of the Church to offer healing through the forgiveness of sins.

Support the National Collection Today!
www.milarch.org