‘YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER’

Two-day LEAD event to focus on the Eucharist

LAKE PLACID – After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Diocese of Ogdensburg Department of Faith Formation is bringing back its annual LEAD workshop.

The two-day event will be held June 6 and 7 in Lake Placid.

The event will open with “Music as Prayer: It’s Role in Celebrating the Eucharist,” with presenter Sister Mary Gregory Munger, a Sister of St. Joseph.

Day two of the event “Eucharist: Remember. Celebrate. Believe,” will feature author and speaker Dr. Timothy O’Malley from Notre Dame University’s Center for Liturgy.

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Papal message on the need to embrace one’s roots

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Catholics must draw inspiration and strength from the roots of their faith and the traditions and experiences of their faith communities, but without trying “to hide there because they are afraid of growth,” Pope Francis said.

Meeting May 19 with students, priests and staff from the Pontifical Romanian College, where seminarians and priests from Romania’s Eastern-rite Catholic Church live while studying in Rome, the pope encouraged them to remember always the sacrifices of the priests, bishops, religious and faithful who went before them.

After World War II, “when the Romanian Greek Catholic Church no longer had any active bishops because they had been killed or imprisoned,” the pope said, “Bishop Ioan Ploscaru of Lugoj, who was imprisoned for 15 years, wrote in his diary. The priests and bishops of the Greek Catholic Church considered this period as the most precious of their existence. It is a grace to be able to offer to God one’s sufferings and the testimony of one’s faith, even at the cost of one’s life.”

“Those who give their lives for the sake of the Gospel think this way, embrace God’s response to the evil in the world: They surrender themselves, they imitate the meek and gratuitous love of the Lord Jesus, who offers himself for those near and far,” Pope Francis said.

Roots of that kind allow a tree “to grow strong and bear fruit,” the pope said, “You are that fruit.”

Without acknowledging, studying and being grateful for that history, he said, the church cannot grow.

Faith is endangered, he said, when “one focuses more and more on oneself, on one’s own belonging, losing the dynamism of one’s origins.”

Pope: Honor your roots, but don’t ‘hide’ there
Having spent the vast majority of my adult life in writing careers, I have a habit of “nerding out,” as I say, over discussions about grammar, punctuation and diction.

Most people who have spent time with me know this about me, so it seemed natural when Father Bryan D. Stitt brought up a punctuation-related topic in a conversation after the ordination of Father Leagon Carlin.

“I missed a comma in the program that should’ve been a period,” he said.

The sentence he referenced was at the conclusion of a description of the prayer of ordination.

The text should’ve read, “This man is now a priest.” It should’ve had a period at the end of the sentence. Instead, it read, “This man is now a priest,” with a comma at the end.

While acknowledging the error, Father Stitt noted that he liked the accidental comma ending.

“This man is now a priest, but it’s not the end,” Father Stitt noted.

“It’s kind of like that trend of people getting tattoos of semicolons,” I said.

Father Stitt gave me a look that indicated he was not familiar with semicolon tattoos.

“For a while, it was a trend for people who recovered from severe depression or addiction to get semicolon tattoos,” I explained. “A semicolon is a place in a sentence where you could logically have an ending, but by using a semicolon, the author chooses to continue the sentence; the author chooses to keep going. People who overcome depression or addiction know those things didn’t end their stories. They kept going.”

Life is full of endings. School ends with graduation. Jobs end with moves or retirement. Relationships end. Those endings can be painful. They often include at least some sadness and grieving.

Thankfully, God often turns those endings into new beginnings, and He often uses endings – even the sad ones – for His glory and to bring us closer to Him.

For Father Leagon, this ordination is an end to his time as a student, deacon and seminarian, but it’s the beginning of his new life and ministry. For those with semicolon tattoos, God helped them find new life after carrying heavy crosses and enduring hardships.

Our God is a God of new life, new beginnings and renewal regardless of what punctuation we use when describing it.

There’s no question mark about it.

Disciples of the Lord in world of violence

I was greatly disturbed by the news of the mass shooting at the Tops Market in Buffalo. Many were killed. I often shop at our local Tops Market. I could imagine how shocking that scene must have been in Buffalo. I thought of how peaceful and friendly my shopping excursions here were like.

So, you and I live in a very violent world. We know that Jesus lived in a very violent world. We know that only too well. Each time we enter our church, the very first thing we see is the cross of Jesus over the sanctuary.

Today, as I was preparing my homily for the Sixth Sunday of Easter, I realized that here was Jesus’ solution for us to learn. This was his challenge to us as disciples of the Lord in this world of violence. Jesus called his apostles and all of us followers ever since to be people of peace to live well the Lord’s way of peace. Jesus makes this promise to us,

“Peace, I leave you, my peace I give to you.” As Jesus promised the Holy Spirit, he taught us that the Holy Spirit would come to show us the way of peace and remind us of all that Jesus told us – to be people of peace.

I found this somewhere: “We, the disciples of the Lord are called to transform the world with the peace of the Lord. How can we attain the peace which the Lord Jesus offers us? Through the gift and work of the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, the Lord shows us how to yield our passions of anger and fear to him – so that we can receive his gift of peace.”

Jesus gives us the power of the Holy Spirit and leads us, challenges us to bring the Lord’s peace into our divided and violent world. We are called as Christians to become people of peace, to live and love each day in peace. This is our vocation. This is not a naive mission. We have to do something now ourselves to remove anger and hatred from our own lives and from our world, and to truly make this world of ours a better place. We do this not just by praying, although that is important, for sure, but also by the way we live our lives.

Peace is a serenity of mind, tranquility of soul, simplicity of mind, the bond of love, the fellowship of charity. It removes hatred, settles wars, restrains wrath, loves the humble, pacifies the discordant and makes enemies agree.

I truly believe that each day the Lord places into our lives unique opportunities for us to do something that is truly peaceful, something that bring peace into someone else’s life. Such an opportunity may be simple, but often many simple things may be so powerful, more powerful than we can ever imagine – removing from our hearts a temptation to anger, changing a moment of hatred to love and peace, saying and doing the right thing, words of peace and love. In this way, the world is transformed. We make the world a better place.

I know also that some of you may be challenged to do something great, a challenge you could barely imagine, that will be truly bring peace to our world.

Thomas Merton wrote this: “Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business. What we are asked to do is to love and this love will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy, if anything can.”

Punctuation matters
Five priests honored as jubilarians

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

OGDENSBURG—Five priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg were honored on May 18 as they celebrate jubilee anniversaries of their ordination to the priesthood.

The Jubilee Mass was held at Wadhams Hall, part of the annual Presbyteral Assembly, held this year as a retreat for priests of the diocese.

Honored for 25 years of service was Father Mark R. Reilly, pastor of St. Peter’s Parish in Massena, and Father James V. Teti, currently administrator of St. Henry’s in Long Lake and St. Therese in Newcomb and soon to be pastor of those churches and St. Alphonus-Holy Name Parish in Tupper Lake; honored for 50 years of priesthood were Father Gerald A. Cerank, a retired priest of the diocese currently living in Bradenton, Florida, and Father Daniel L. Chapin, currently serving with Maryknoll Fathers in a missionary capacity; and honored for 60 years was Father John P. Kennehan, a retired priest of the diocese who resides in Ogdensburg.

At the Jubilee Mass, Bishop Terry R. LaValley thanked the jubilarians and all the priests of the diocese for their service to God and His people here in the North Country.

“What does love look like?” Bishop asked. “Sacrifice for the sake of the good of another… It’s reflected in the lives of our jubilarians and in all of your priestly lives as you sacrifice so much for the love of Christ and the good of His Church. This sacrifice – born of the salvation of souls – takes on special meaning for us as this local church looks back and counts our blessings for the last 150 years of priestly love shared with the folks of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.”

Bishop LaValley encouraged the priests to continue in their efforts to share that love – the love of Christ – with their parishes and those they encounter.

“I thank God for the gift of your fidelity and perseverance,” he said. “And for the joy of the faith that you pass on amid so many challenges today. We know that the priest’s task is to teach people love. That’s the real task for someone who speaks about God. This is what we need most – to love and to teach them love.”

Three of the five jubilarians were in attendance at the Mass. They were also celebrated at a meal after the Mass, as well as with a reception prior sponsored by the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society (DOVS).

25 YEARS
Father Mark R. Reilly
Pastor of St. Peter’s Parish in Massena and Dean of the St. Lawrence Deanery, Father Reilly, 58, was ordained Aug. 9, 1997, by Bishop Paul S. Loverde.

A Syracuse native, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps after graduating from high school and entered LeMoyne College. Upon graduation from LeMoyne, he was commissioned as a second lieutenent and was on active duty from 1986 to 1992. He entered Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, in 1992.

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Father Reilly’s first assignment was as parochial vicar in Saranac Lake. In 1999, he became spiritual Director at Immaculate Heart Central Jr./Sr. High school in Watertown. In
Jubilarians honored

2006, Father Reilly was named pastor of St. Mary’s Church in Evans Mills, St. Theresa of Avila Church in Theresa, and St. Joseph Church in Philadelphia. In 2010, Father Reilly was named pastor in Saranac Lake with parishes at Lake Clear and Bloomingdale and mission in Gabriels.

In 2005-06, he was called up for active duty as a navy chaplain to serve with the Marines in Iraq, and again was activated for service from August 2012 to August 2013 in Djibouti, Africa. He retired from the Navy Reserves on June 1, 2014.

Father James V. Teti

Father Teti is a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark; in residence at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart and as the archbishop’s secretary; as parochial vicar of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Verona, New Jersey; as assistant director of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Newark; in residence at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart and as the archbishop’s secretary; as parochial vicar of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Saranac Lake with parishes at Lake Clear and Bloomingdale and mission in Gabriels.

Prior to arriving in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Father Teti, 51, served as parochial vicar of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Ridgefield Park, New Jersey for several months after ordination before relocating to Rome to study at the North American College.

After completing his studies in Rome, Father Teti served as parochial vicar of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Verona, New Jersey; as assistant director of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Newark; in residence at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart and as the archbishop’s secretary; as parochial vicar of Our Lady of the Lake Parish and St. Teresa of Avila Parish in Summit, New Jersey; as director of the Permanent Diaconate for the Archdiocese of Newark; as pastor of Annunciation Parish in Paramus, New Jersey; and as administrator of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Mountainside, New Jersey.

50 YEARS

Father Gerald A. Cerank

When he enrolled at Plattsburgh State College in the early 1960s to pursue a teaching career, he wasn’t even Catholic, but he soon found his way to Christ, his Church and the priesthood.

After 10 years of study, first at Plattsburgh State, then St. Mary’s in Kentuck, Wadhams Hall, St. Joseph’s Seminary in Yonkers, and finally Fordham University, where he earned a master’s degree in Divinity and Religious Education, Father Cerank was ordained to the priesthood May 13, 1972.

After serving in various locations around the diocese, Father Cerank was assigned to St. Ann’s Church in Mooers Forks, where he served for 20 years until he retired in 2014. Among his accomplishments in Mooers was the construction of a new rectory at the parish, completed shortly after his arrival there.

He is currently retired and living in Bradenton, Florida.

Father Daniel L. Chapin

Father Chapin is currently serving as a priest associate with Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers.

Born in Malone and raised in North Bangor, Father Chapin, 75, studied for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall Seminary and St. Bernard’s Seminary in Rochester before his ordination May 13, 1972, by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana.

Father Chapin served as an assistant pastor at St. Mary’s in Ogdensburg before beginning 10 years of missionary work with the Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate, serving at St. Martin de Porras Parish in Mollendo, Peru, from 1976 to 1986. He was pastor from 1981 until returning to the United States.

Upon returning to the U.S., Father Chapin again served as parochial vicar at the cathedral for a short time until taking part in a sabbatical year at the Jesuit Weston School of Theology in Cambridge, Mass. While on sabbatical, he worked as a chaplain intern at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Brighton, Mass., and then at Hotel Dieu and Kingston General Hospitals in Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

Upon his return to the diocese, he served as parochial vicar at Holy Family in Watertown and priest chaplain at Jefferson Community College in Watertown until being named pastor at St. Mary’s in Clayton before being assigned to the Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate in 1967. He served in Mollendo, Peru, until 1974, when he was named pastor of St. Patrick’s in Colton.

Father Kennehan returned to Peru from 1981 to November, 1982, when he was named pastor of St. James in Gouverneur. One year later he was named pastor in Norfolk, a position he held until 1989. At that time, he went to the University of St. Louis, Mo., for study in pastoral counseling.

Upon his return to the diocese, Father Kennehan was named pastor at Pope John XXIII campus parish in Plattsburgh in 1992; in Potsdam in 1994, and pastor in pastor in Brownville and Dexter in 2002.

Father Kennehan also served the diocese as a pro-synodal judge for the tribunal from 1975 to 1980, vicar for religious from 1978 to 1982 and as a member of the Department of Worship’s Art and Architecture Committee.

After retiring in 2003, he lived in Springfield, Missouri for a time. He currently resides in Ogdensburg.

DIOCESAN LIFE
NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MAY 25, 2022

Congratulations
Fr. Mark R. Reilly
On celebrating 25 years in the Priesthood.
We are very blessed to have you as our pastor.

Congratulations
Fr. Gerald A. Cerank
On celebrating your 50th Anniversary
LEAD two-day event focuses on Eucharist

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

LAKESPLACED—After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Diocese of Ogdensburg Department of Faith Formation is bringing back its annual LEAD workshop.

“We’re excited to be able to bring everyone together in person again,” said Catherine Russell, Faith Formation Western Regional Center director.

“And we’re excited to continue focusing on the Eucharist.”

The two-day event will be held June 6 and 7 in Lake Placid.

The event will open with “Music as Prayer: It’s Role in Celebrating the Eucharist,” with presenter Sister Mary Gregory Munger, a Sister of St. Joseph.

“Enjoy an interactive and lively presentation involving singing, praying and sharing,” the presentation description states. That portion of the event will be held at 7 p.m. at St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid, followed by a social at High Peaks Resort.

Day two of the event “Eucharist: Remember. Celebrate. Believe,” will feature Dr. Timothy O’Malley from Notre Dame University’s Center for Liturgy. That portion of the event will be held starting at 9 a.m. at High Peaks Resort and will conclude with Mass at St. Agnes Church.

Dr. O’Malley researches and teaches at Notre Dame in the areas of liturgical-sacramental theology, marriage and family, catechesis, and spirituality. He is the author of a number of books, most recently “Off the Hook: God, Love, Dating, and Marriage in a Hookup World” (Ave Maria Press, 2018) and “Lift Up Your Hearts: Liturgical Formation in the RCIA” (Liturgical Press, 2019). He is currently working on a multi-volume work on the history of liturgical formation beginning with St. Augustine.

Dr. O’Malley said he hopes to communicate how the Eucharist can transform.

“Lots of people in the Church right now are talking about the Eucharist,” he said. “But how can the Eucharist as a memorial of Christ’s sacrifice, the real presence of Love given to us, and a pledge of future glory transform our parishes, schools, families, and neighborhoods? I hope that the presentations start to answer these questions.”

Dr. O’Malley said his presentation will include both art and music.

“We want to contemplate a mystery together,” he said. “And endless words are bad for us. So, expect music. Expect art. Expect an encounter with the Tradition of the Church.”

The visiting professor said he’s excited about the topic, as it’s close to his heart.

“It’s important to me because I love the Eucharist,” he said. “The Eucharist makes sense of what it means to be a Catholic, someone called to make a living sacrifice to the Father through our lives. This is the mystery of the Eucharist as it’s lived out. We receive infinite Love, so that we can become this infinite Love, and then we can give this infinite Love away.”

While he addresses some of these themes in his books and writings, Dr. O’Malley said those attending the two-day event need not be familiar with his works.

“I never presume pre-knowledge in any presentation,” he said. “It’s a fresh introduction to all the themes that matter in my writing and teaching.”

Dr. O’Malley is married and has two children. Originally from Knoxville, Tennessee, Dr. O’Malley said this will be his first visit to the North Country.

“I hope to be able to do some hiking in the area, which I love but can’t do often because I live in a place that’s rather flat,” he noted.

Cost two attend the two-day event is $30, and High Peaks Resort is offering a room discount for anyone interested in staying on-site. Attendees are responsible for their own room reservations.

To register, visit rcdony.org/lead2dayevent.

Congratulations
Fr. James V. Teti
On celebrating your 25th Anniversary!
Welcome to the Diocese of Ogdensburg!

Father Daniel Chapin
The Diocesan Mission Office congratulates you on your 50th Anniversary in the priesthood. We thank you for your missionary service to the diocese and to the missionary needs of the universal Church. God Bless!
Mass of Christian Burial celebrated for Aelene Reilly

NEWPORT, New York – Aelene Bridget Ann Reilly, 81, formerly of Newport, New York, died on May 16, 2022, at Augusta Health General Hospital in Fishersville, Virginia.

She was born in Little Falls, New York, to Wilfrid and Charlotte (Burrroughs) O’Hara on August 14, 1940. After graduation from St. Mary’s Academy in Little Falls in 1958 she moved to Syracuse, New York, where she met Michael J. Reilly. They were married at St. Mary’s Church (now part of Holy Family Parish) in Little Falls on May 14, 1960. While raising their family they lived for a time in Syracuse, North Syracuse, Oswego, Fayetteville, and Newport, New York. It was in Newport that she and Mike were proprietors of the Yankee General, from 1987 to 2001. In 2002, she relocated to Staunton, VA.

A lifelong Catholic, she was an active member and officer with the Court Reardon #841 Catholic Daughters of the Americas, at St. John’s in Newport, New York. She was also an active member of the Our Lady of Mount Calvary Community of the Order of Discalced Carmelites Secular (or, “Third Order”), based at St. Joseph’s - St. Patrick’s Parish in Utica, New York. Her deep and abiding faith in God was evident, and she was steadfast in passing this along to her children, grandchildren, and all who met her.

Surviving Aelene are her five sons, Christopher Reilly (Senoia, Georgia), Rev. Mark Reilly (Massena, New York), Michael T. Reilly and his wife, Elaina (Thousand Oaks, California), Kevin Reilly (Cleveland, Ohio), Sean Reilly and his wife, Allison (Delmar, New York); her daughter Erin and husband, Jim Knapik (Bridgewater, Virginia); her sisters Monica Wnuk (San Ramon, California) and Theresa Van Allen (Little Falls, New York); 13 grandchildren; and several nephews, nieces, and cousins.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was predeceased by her sister, Maureen Helmers.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. John’s Church, 7512 Main Street (Route 28), Newport, on Monday, May 23 at 10:30am, with the Rev. Mark Reilly as the principal celebrant.

Interment will immediately follow at St. Mary’s Cemetery, Town of Herkimer.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. John’s Restoration Fund, P.O. Box 475, Newport, New York 13416.

“Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.”

Online tributes can be left at autenrithfuneral.com.

Visit our website www.northcountrycatholic.org
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• View diocesan events and much more

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By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Staff Writer

FORT COVINGTON — “You have been enlightened by Christ. Walk always as a child of the light and keep the flame of faith alive in your heart.”

These words from the Rite of Baptism have come to life for Chelsea Lavoie, who was baptized, communicated, and confirmed at the Easter Vigil at St. Mary’s Church in Fort Covington. Her joy is contagious as she confides: “Everything is different now.”

That difference becomes clear as Lavoie explains her journey to the Catholic faith.

“I had always been searching, looking and wondering why I and so many other people were so unhappy,” she said. “My parents believed in God, but there was never any practice of religion. Even when I was younger, I noticed that religion plays a big part in people’s happiness. Sometimes I went to church with a Methodist friend but did not find what I was looking for.”

That began to change when, as a young adult, Lavoie met the man who would become her husband.

“At one point I asked Scott how he would handle a certain situation,” she said. “He told me that he never felt alone because he could always talk to God. But I always felt alone. Now I knew that I wanted to have this faith, to never be alone.”

Even though Scott was not a regular churchgoer, his parents were excited to learn that Lavoie was so interested in the Catholic faith.

“When I told Scott’s parents that I wanted to have this faith, and to raise my children this way, they invited me to attend Mass with them. This was real worship at last, real thanksgiving,” Lavoie recalls.

However, more years passed between that discovery and Lavoie’s entrance into the Church. Eventually the couple became parents to Henry (6), Graham (5) and Abigail (8 months).

“When I was pregnant with Henry,” Lavoie relates, “I knew we had to go to church. I asked Scott questions about it all, but he didn’t know the answers. I appreciated the Mass, but I did not understand it. I usually took the boys to church by myself. It was challenging, so attendance became irregular.”

Before too long, Lavoie was drawn back to church by a particularly challenging event.

“We were set to take over the family farm,” she remembers. “When it fell through, I was miserable and unhappy. I expected Scott to fill that gap, which was not possible. I was determined to go to Mass. I wanted to take classes. I wanted to be able to answer Henry’s questions about God and about what was happening at Mass. We were attending Mass at St. Francis in Constable. But I wanted Henry to start religious ed classes and realized that it might be easier for him in Fort Covington, where he goes to school. That way he would be in classes with kids he already knew.”

With Henry in classes at St. Mary’s, Lavoie and her other children began attending Mass there as well.

“Jocelyn Kelly and Kathleen Lauzon—who would become my sponsor—made me feel at home right off,” Lavoie said. “I was taking all three kids by myself, and they were so kind and helpful. One day I talked to Deacon Brian Dwyer about having Abigail baptized and mentioned that I wanted to become a Catholic. Once I started RCIA, the cloud of sadness disappeared, and I just feel different. I am happy!”

Lavoie said she feels her years of searching are over.

“I have always been searching for happiness and connection,” she said. “Now I know it is not about me, but about loving and serving God. In a recent conversation with Scott, we talked about what we are here for. I told him that I now know that we are made in God’s image and are here to do his will. And happiness comes out of that! It is one big circle.”

“Abigail, Henry and baby Abigail pose for a photo with Deacon Brian Dwyer at Abigail’s baptism at St. Mary’s Church in Fort Covington.”

(Left) Deacon Brian Dwyer, Henry and Abigail Dwyer pray outside St. Francis of Assisi Church in Fort Covington.

(Lower Right) Deacon Brian Dwyer prays with the baby and mother, Chelsea Lavoie, during the Easter Vigil at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Fort Covington.

(Lower Left) Jocelyn Kelly and Kathleen Lauzon at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Fort Covington.

(Lower Center) Chelsea, Graham, Henry and baby Abigail pose for a photo with Deacon Brian Dwyer at Abigail’s baptism at St. Mary’s Church in Fort Covington.
JUBILEE MASS HELD DURING ASSEMBLY

Priests of Diocese of Ogdensburg attended retreat at Wadham's Hall May 16-19
O Lord, the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Ogdensburg is an occasion for joy, gratitude and resolution. There is joy knowing that Christ has been brought to His people and lives with them through the constant preaching of His Word and through His sacramental graces. We rejoice in the many generations that have known this salvific presence of the Savior in the North Country. Thanks are given to God and His many servants who have and continue to sow the seed for the Lord’s harvest. Strengthen our resolve to urgently continue the work of faith, striving with ever greater intensity to make Christ’s presence felt for it is His work we do and His glory we seek. Amen.
Praying for the sanctification of our priests

World Day for the Sanctification of Priests takes place every year on the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. This day is celebrated on Friday, June 24, 2022.

This day is all about praying for your priest or priests in your parish and his sanctification, that is, his/their holiness!

Every day, our priests pray for us and our intentions at they preside over Mass, hear confessions, baptize our children, or bury our loved ones. Our priests need our prayers.

The following is a prayer that can be offered on World Day of Sanctification of Priests:

Sacred Heart of Jesus, protect our priest, (PRIEST’S NAME) in the midst of his work at our parish, (PARISH NAME). Comfort him in his afflictions. Give him health of body, assistance in his temporal needs, and your blessing on all that he does. We ask the Holy Spirit to come down and light his heart anew for the priesthood and help him to grow in holiness. Amen.

‘Celebrating the Body of Christ’ as part of 150th

OGDENSBURG – On July 10, the Diocese of Ogdensburg will host a Celebration of the Body of Christ at St. Mary’s Cathedral as part of the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the diocese.

Saint Paul reminds us, “Now you are Christ’s body, and individually parts of it” (1Cor 12:27). This celebration is an opportunity for the Church of Ogdensburg to recognize some of the people who have given and continue to give extraordinary service to Christ and his Church. These people were nominated by the parish pastors to Bishop LaValley.

The Celebration of the Body of Christ will begin with an organ recital featuring Donald K. Fellows on the new cathedral organ. Fellows previously served as director of Music for Saint Mary’s Cathedral and Wadhams Hall. The event will continue with a Holy Hour including the presentation of honors and reception. Fellows will also provide music for the Holy Hour.

On February 16, the Diocese of Ogdensburg marked its 150th anniversary. It was on February 16, 1872, that Pope Pius IX separated what was then a sprawling Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany into two, and the Diocese of Ogdensburg – encompassing Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties, as well as northern Herkimer County – was created.

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Diocesan Life

North Country Catholic

May 25, 2022
Understanding Americans' abortion views not easy

WASHINGTON (CNS) – How to make sense of Americans' attitudes toward abortion? It isn’t easy. In polls, many respondents will give answers that contradict each other.

A Gallup poll in 2019 — Gallup has polled regularly on abortion since 1975 — found that 92% of Americans believed that using birth control was “morally acceptable,” but their support for abortion, by contrast, was more mixed. (The Catholic Church teaches that both are morally wrong.)

But the year before, Gallup found that 65% of Americans believed abortion should generally be illegal during the second trimester of pregnancy — but in the same survey, 69% said the Supreme Court should not overturn Roe v. Wade.

FiveThirtyEight, which itself analyzed abortion polls, “found that a large majority of Americans support abortion in the first trimester, but that support tends to drop in the second trimester.”

In an ABC News-Washington Post poll conducted in late April, 54% of Americans want the court to uphold Roe, nearly twice as many as the 28% who want it struck down. Also, an ABC poll offering only a yes-or-no choice found that 57% of Americans opposed a ban on abortion after six weeks of pregnancy, while 58% opposed a ban after six weeks.

If abortion weighs on the mind of pregnant women, talking about it seems to be just as difficult for all Americans.

Hannah Hartig, a research associate on the U.S. politics team for the Pew Research Center, calls it “cross pressure.”

Pew has been polling regularly about abortion since 1995. Pew has found that whether certain statements about abortion used in its polling also describe the respondent’s views as well, they’ve been offered the same seeming contradictions.

“Thirty-three percent of adults say human life begins at conception, and so a fetus is a person with rights,” Hartig told Catholic News Service in a May 16 phone interview, yet they also hold that the decision on whether to have an abortion belongs to the woman.

“So on one hand you can look at them at think they’re contradictory,” she said, but it isn’t necessarily the case because of this cross pressure.

Results of Pew’s latest polling on abortion, issued May 6, show a starker partisan divide than had existed in the past.

Since 2007, Republicans who say abortion should be legal in all or most cases went up from 37% to 39%. Among Democrats, the percentages went up from 63% in 2007 to 80% in 2022. In 2012, the percentages of Americans either for or against abortion came together the closest they’d been, but support for legal abortion has never fallen below 50%.

Younger Republicans, including 47% of those ages 18-29, said abortion should be legal in most or all cases. Among all Americans, though, the older the respondent, the less likely they are to agree with that view — although majorities supporting a right to abortion extends through the oldest age group.

And through it all, Gallup has found that support for legal abortion, after nearly 50 years of polling, has gone up all of 1%, and opposition is down by the same 1%.

Hartig told CNS a “halo effect” can apply to phone polling, as the respondent may offer answers that he or she thinks the pollster wants to hear. “Online polls,” she said, “typically show less of a social desirability bias,” another way of saying halo effect. She said the May Pew poll was conducted online.

Regardless of how the poll is conducted, Hartig said Pew doesn’t want to inundate respondents with questions about abortion, “which we know is a very personal, sensitive topic for many Americans. Intimate – yes, that would be a factor.”

“Whenever the Pew Research Center is tracking a sort of trend, we always at minimum want to place it in context to a question we’ve asked before” on the topic, she said. “We also want to keep it away from certain political topics. We want to give people a clean read about it. We also want to avoid questions about the Supreme Court.”

Hartig said, “When we’re designing these, we want to be very careful about the questions that we ask.” Pew gives them a chance to offer additional thoughts on abortion. “I would say about a third of respondents chose to answer these open-ended questions,” she added. “It is a fair number who ended up skipping” the opportunity to flesh out their thoughts.

Hartig said Pew does not spin the results. “The motivation for this study is research,” she declared. “We always hope the Pew Research Center, in conducting these large studies, is that it’s a straightforward contribution to the public dialogue. We want people to look at the data and digest it for themselves. We take great pains to make sure our questions are fair and reasonable.”
VIRTUAL EVENTS

BROWN BAG CHATS BEGIN

The Office of New Evangelization will be running a new Brown Bag Chat during lunchtime via zoom.
Date: Wednesdays starting June 8
Time: Noon to 1 p.m.
Features: We will use videos from The Search Continues on Formed.org. In each session, we will watch one or two short videos together via zoom and then have an informal discussion.
Contact: If you would like to join us this series of lunch-time chat discussions, please sign up online at https://www.rcdony.org/brownbag. For more information, contact Marika Donders at mdonders@rcdony.org.

ADIRONDACK

5K RUN, WALK, ROLL OR STROLL
Saranac Lake - St. Bernard’s School will host their annual Black Fly 5K Run, Walk, Roll, or Stroll.
Date: June 11
Time: 10 a.m.
Place: Dewey Mountain Recreation Center
Cost: Adult, $25; Student, $20; Family Discounts
Features: All proceeds benefit St. Bernard’s School Tuition Assistance Program. Whether casual, competitive, serious, or silly, all ages and abilities are welcome to join. Community members can form teams, enter as solo competitors, or even just sponsor a runner.

CANTON

Devotion and Holy Hour
St. Regis Falls - All are invited to attend 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
Contact: For more information call 315-714-2016, text 393-2920

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

RUMMAGE AND YARD SALE
Evans Mills - St. Mary’s Church will have a Rummage and Yard Sale.
Date: June 3 and 4
Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Place: Parish Center
Contact: For more information call parish office at 315-686-3398 or reception@stmarysclayton.org.

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.

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY
Massena - Sacred Heart Church to have first Saturday Rosary Devotion.
Date: June 4
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.

ROSY WITH DEVOTIONS
Ogdensburg - The Legion of Mary will pray the rosary with devotions for First Saturday.
Date: June 4
Time: 8 a.m.
Place: Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg
Features: Rosary with devotions.

CHICKEN BBQ
Canton - St. Mary’s and the Knights of Columbus to have their Annual Chicken BBQ.
Date: June 12
Time: 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Place: St. Mary’s (Drive thru at the corner of Powers and Main Streets)
Cost: Full Meal, $15; half chicken, $10
Contact: For more information call 315-386-2543

USA FLAG RAFFLE
The Bishop McIntegart 4th Degree Assembly 707 of Canton, Potsdam, Norwood and Star Lake are holding a patriotic raffle of a USA Flag.
Cost: 1 ticket $5 OR 3 tickets for $10.
Good news, there are only 500 tickets being sold.
Features: 1 grand prize - 15-21 ft flag pole set (installed); 2nd prize, porch mount heavy metal pole; 3rd prize, porch mount heavy wood pole; 4th prize, porch mount metal poles.
Drawing June 14.
Contact: See your local Sir Knight to get yours or call 315-714-2016, text 315-244-4455 or contact Scott Niles on Facebook or see https://www.facebook.com/Knights-of-Columbus-Sarto-Council-1059-112451473588863

LIFE GIVING WOUNDS RETREAT
Saranac Lake - Retreat to be held for anyone 18 or over whose parents are no longer together either through separation, divorce, or were never married.
Date: June 10 – 12
Place: Guggenheim Center
Cost: $100 includes lodging, food and retreat materials.
Features: Topics will include anxiety, anger, sin, temptation and forgiveness. All presentations are given by trained, expert speakers who are children of divorce.
Contact: To register, go to www.rcdony.org/lifegw For more information about the retreat www.lifegivingwounds.org. If you are in need of financial assistance to attend the retreat, please contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org

DIOCESAN EVENTS

GUGGENHEIM 50TH ANNIVERSARY
Saranac Lake – Campers, Staff, Members and Chaplains...Past Present and Future...and anyone who might be interested in seeing what Guggenheim has to offer, are most welcome. This is a terrific opportunity to reconnect with those that share our Guggenheim experience, and others who love camp just as much as you did!
Date: May 28
Schedule: 9 a.m. to 10 arrival; 11 a.m. Mass with Bishop LaValley; Noon, Lunch; 1 p.m. Tours of Camp and fun; 4 p.m. Departure
Contact: You must register to attend at www.rcdony.org/gugg50. Those under 18 must attend with a parent/guardian.
When the demise of an old beau of Violet's leaves her in possession of his seaside villa in the South of France. So, the couple – with several other family members in tow – decamps for the Riviera. Then, the story follows parallel lines. While the traveling Crawleys tangle with the resentful widow (Nathalie Baye) of Violet's former flame but befriend her more accommodating son (Jonathan Zaccai), Robert and Cora's elder daughter, Lady Mary (Michelle Dockery) – a semi-abandoned wife who now supervises the Downton estate – stays behind to oversee the film shoot, during which Jack falls hard for her.

As directed by Simon Curtis, Fellowes' script affirms marital fidelity even in the face of neglect and celebrates the reconciliation of once-antagonistic relatives. It also depicts the affectionate bond that develops between Thomas and the Douglas Fairbanks-like Guy, who eventually invites Thomas to follow him back to Hollywood, with apt discretion and even ambiguity.

Indeed, Fellowes brings a Catholic sensibility to the picture's treatment of same-sex attraction, with an emphasis on companionship over mere appetite, and a sympathetic view of the plight of homosexuals in the 1920s. Yet, the inclusion of this ongoing plot thread makes "Downton Abbey: A New Era," like its predecessor, best for grown viewers – though some parents may deem it acceptable for older teens.

The film contains mature themes, including same-sex attraction and illegitimacy, and a couple of mild oaths. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG – parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

Now is the perfect time to volunteer.

With everything that has happened in our community this year, it is more important than ever for volunteers to stand up and support their friends and neighbors. When joining RSVP, not only are you helping your community, but you're joining a family who cares as much as you.

The RSVP Program is hosted by the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and supported by AmeriCorps Seniors, a federally funded agency responsible for building volunteer based programs for over 50 years and counting.

Upcoming opportunities

There are so many ways you can help your community out that you might not even know about! Here are some examples of what you can do!

- Be a Friend - Check on friends, share a meal, help around the house, go for a walk or just stop by to catch up.
- Give a Ride - Drive your neighbors to their appointments, to pick up prescriptions or to the store.
- Help at School - Volunteer at local elementary schools, tutor students, or be a mentor to those in need.
- Give a Meal - Support the local food pantry by shopping, organizing, cooking, or anything else.
- Meals On Wheels - Donate your time to your local Meals On Wheels program and prepare or deliver meals.

Not only do you get the benefit of feeling amazing after helping someone, RSVP will help pay some of your mileage (.56 cents/mile) and honor your efforts at a yearly recognition event.

Opportunities available in Franklin and Hamilton County

Want more info about how to get started?

Hamilton and Franklin County: Melissa Howard 518-359-7688 mhoward@cathcharities.org 80 Park Street, Suite 2 PO Box 701 Tupper Lake, NY 12986

Clinton and Essex County: Kate Gardner 518-566-0944 kgardner@cathcharities.org

Catholic Charities Diocese of Ogdensburg

AmeriCorps Seniors
**Trust in the power and promise of Jesus**

Did you ever wonder what thoughts went through Jesus’ mind as he spent long hours in prayer on a mountain side in the darkness? Being human as well as divine, He must have worried that his followers were so slow to understand who He was and why He had come. Even after His resurrection, He knew He was very concerned about leaving them alone until the Holy Spirit came. He knew this idea of founding a Church was a risky venture. Would it survive?

In today’s Gospel, we hear Jesus pour out His love for them and for those of us who would come later. He prayed for their strengthening and their courage. He is so concerned that they still do not know His relationship with the Father, how the Persons of the Trinity meld into one God. He so wishes that they could understand the vibrant, joyful life of heaven. And so, He prays for faith for them and for all who will hear the Word, as well as for that unity that will bind the Church on earth to the Church in heaven.

For all of us today who live in a Church under siege— from unbelief, from anger at a sinful, imperfect Church, from fears that the Holy Spirit has abandoned us—we need to read carefully this Gospel and the whole farewell sermon of Jesus that night before His Passion. As the apostles then, and later gathered in prayer with Mary in the upper room, we need to trust in the power and promise of Jesus to His followers.

As there were martyrs soon after Pentecost like Stephen (in the first reading), so there are thousands since then who have “washed their robes so as to have a right to the tree of life.” Our own century has produced more martyrs for the faith than all the preceding centuries of Christianity put together. While none of our readers will ever be stoned to death, many Catholics feel spiritually stoned from parish closings, and from lack of enough priests to live in our midst as consoling ministers of the Word and the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. We feel under attack from an indifferent, secular society.

In this last Sunday before Pentecost, may we take courage in the vision of Stephen, then the vision of John in the Apocalypse, and finally the great vision of Jesus Himself of a world at peace, living in unity and love.

May we pray today with Jesus’ prayer for unity, both in church, in parish meetings, and in the universal church. We beg God for stronger faith and stronger love and stronger courage in our own witnessing.

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**CALL TO SERVE**

**Accompaniment: Connecting faith and life**

“Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you shall be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:26-28

“Deacon” is often defined as “servant” in the Catholic Church. Bishops cite the passage from Matthew regularly as they congratulate and charge the men they have just ordained deacons.

Some homilies and texts talk about the deacon as a man “configured to Jesus Christ, the servant.” Bishop Douglas Lucia, Diocese of Syracuse, spoke of the relationship when he quoted then Cardinal Ratzinger as saying, “This is a central aspect of the mystery of Jesus Christ, the fact the Lord of us all is deacon: a servant who goes around and serves us and thus reveals to us the mystery of God’s love.”

Bishop Lucia took the servant notion a step further when he addressed an Ogdensburg deacon assembly lately. He urged deacons to serve but also to accompany individuals and groups of all ages and in all stages of their Christian journey.

One author reports six Catholics leave the church for every newly baptized Catholic. That is an unhealthy trend.

Deacon Matthew Halbach, PhD, also wrote that new evangelization is not as much about conversion to Catholicism as it is about helping Catholics “discover new meaning in their religious and/or religious community, when the life of faith seems to be on life support.”

Pope Francis, Bishop Lucia, Deacon Halbach and others think the answer is in accompaniment.

Accompaniment is the new, old word in evangelization. It has been around for years under other names. Halbach says companionship has been known by names such as “community life,” “service,” or “pastoral ministry.” It is a way of connecting faith and life experience; love of God and love of neighbor. It is about personal relationships. It is about not being afraid to talk about God and what we believe outside the church.

Bishop Lucia gave some examples that might be used in the Diocese of Syracuse soon. Accompaniment for Discipleship instead of Sacramental Preparation; focus on people and their needs, not on programs; provide Encounters with Christ not just activities that are supposed to magically introduce Jesus without ever saying his name.

“The old ways will give ground to the new ways,” Bishop Lucia said. “All our actions as church leaders in Syracuse will have to meet our new thinking about evangelization,” he said. “The paradigm shift in thinking has already begun.”

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown. He is the Director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.
Congratulations, Jubilarians

We at the Mission Office would like to congratulate this year's priestly jubilarians:

25 YEARS
Reverend Mark R. Reilly

50 YEARS
Reverend Gerald A. Cerank
Reverend Daniel L. Chapin

60 YEARS
Reverend John P. Kennehan

We thank you for all that you do for the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and beyond. It was your answer of “yes” to the call of priesthood so many years ago that has allowed you to touch so many lives in your ministry and we look forward to many more in the future.

We would also like to extend a heartfelt congratulations to Father Leagon Carlin for his ordination to the priesthood this past Saturday.

We are grateful for your “yes” and look forward to working with you and seeing you grow within your vocation for years to come.

Funeral Mass celebrated for Bruce Favreau

Bruce Thomas Favreau, 70, left his earthly dwelling on May 18, 2022 at the McClure Miller Respite House in Colchester, Vermont.

Bruce was born in Plattsburgh, February 25, 1952, the son of the late Edward and Eva (Filion) Favreau. He grew up in Champlain and graduated from St. Mary’s Academy in 1969. He later graduated from Wadham’s Hall Seminary and Christ the King Seminary and was ordained a priest on May 3, 1980.

Bruce served the Diocese of Ogdensburg for 20 years. Throughout that time he met and held many friendships. He resided in the Burlington, Vermont, area for the remainder of his years.

Bruce was a genuine and kind person. He cultivated friendships wherever his travels took him. For many, he was more like family than friend.

Left to cherish the memory of Bruce are his sister, Susan Phillips; brothers, Richard Favreau and Lora, James Favreau and Sherry Favro, Jeffrey Favreau, and Mario Guillemette and their respective families; and his long time friend, Michel St. Germain.

The family will receive guests on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 from 10 to 11 am at St. Mary’s Church in Champlain. A Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 11. Committal prayers and burial will follow in the parish cemetery.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Ogdensburg – Andrew Grady, 30; Funeral Services May 26, 2022 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.


Saranac Lake – Evelyn M. (Durkee) Martelle, 85; Graveside Services May 17, 2022 at Harrietstown Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Antoinette T. “Toni” (DeLong) Harblin, 92; Mass of Christian Burial June 7, 2022 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in Glenwood Mausoleum.

Watertown – Antoinette T. “Toni” (DeLong) Harblin, 92; Mass of Christian Burial June 7, 2022 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in Glenwood Mausoleum.
Sisters of St. Joseph create Laudato Si’ plan

Sisters of St. Joseph

WATERTOWN – The Sisters of St. Joseph in Watertown give public voice to their commitment to embark on a seven-year journey to promote integral ecology.

Pope Francis in Laudato Si’, the Church’s first encyclical on care of creation and the environment, calls us to care for the earth as our common home created by God. The call to integral ecology is a call to us to care for all of life by protecting nature and resources for future generations, combatting poverty, and a conversion of lifestyle and choice that protects the poor and suffering while protecting the environment.

Our current Directional Statement for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Watertown challenges us to:
• identify possible ways to use the abundance of our resources and
• discern which possibilities will be addressed given local and global needs, resources and available partnerships.

In response to Pope Francis’ challenge, given our geography, Northern New York culture, our strengths and challenges and through the charism lens of reconciliation and all inclusive love, we choose as the Sisters of St. Joseph of Watertown to accept the seven-year challenge of the Laudato Si’ Platform and join in universal solidarity to respond to:
• The Cry of the Earth
• The Cry of the Poor
• Ecological Economics
• Adapting a Simple Lifestyle
• and nurturing all of these through our spirituality, education and networking with our local communities.

The Sisters of St. Joseph will embark on a plan over the next five years as they engage in practices to protect “our common home” and implement their chosen goals of:

Response to the Cry of the Earth

Goals:
• To reduce our use of water and support clean water initiatives
• To support biodiversity locally and globally

Response to the Cry of the Poor

Goal: To use our resources to bring about systemic change for the destitute and for victims of violence

Ecological Economics

Goals
• To reduce our use of fossil fuel energy
• To reduce investments in fossil fuels to zero and to invest in renewable energy

Adapt a Simple Lifestyle

Goal: To adopt a simpler lifestyle

Ecological Education

Goal: To use the Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching to promote ecological awareness

Ecological Spirituality

Goal: To revitalize a vision of God’s creation

Community Engagement

Goal: To network with groups whose purpose is caring for all creation

North Country Catholic has Green option

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