Holy Father: ‘Wrinkles are a sign of experience’

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Why are the elderly unappreciated and seen as useless when they carry so much wisdom about life and can open the door to God’s tenderness, Pope Francis asked.

Criticizing the obsession of trying to stay forever young in appearance, he said people must not hide or try to get rid of their wrinkles.

“Wrinkles are a sign of experience, a sign of life, a sign of having made a journey. Do not touch them to become young, that your face might look young,” the pope said June 8 at his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square.

“What matters is the entire personality; it’s the heart that matters, and the heart remains with that youth of a good wine – the more it ages the better it is,” he said to applause.

The pope continued his series of talks about old age by looking at St. John’s account of Nicodemus (Jn 3:1-21). Jesus tries to explain to the elderly Pharisee about the need to be born again.

Jesus says that to see the kingdom of God, one needs to be “born from above,” which means “a rebirth from above with the grace of God” and not to be “reborn physically” as if this life had been a waste of time or a “failed experiment” that needed to be erased and done over, the pope said.

“This life is precious in God’s eyes – it identifies us as beings who are loved tenderly by God,” the pope said.

Jesus’ encounter with Nicodemus has something to teach people today, who, like Nicodemus, misunderstand what “rebirth” is and should be in the light of faith, he said.

Today, he said, there is a “dream of an eternal youth” and a “myth that makes us want to return to our mother’s womb to come back always with a young body.”

The world, which shows “a worrisome tendency to consider the birth of a child as the simple matter of the production and biological reproduction of the human being,” also cultivates this “myth of eternal youth as the desperate obsession with an incorruptible body,” he said.

Technology has stepped in to help so that, while people await “the defeat of death, we can keep the body alive with medicine and cosmetics which slow down, hide, erase old age,” he added. “So much makeup, so many surgical interventions to appear young.”
Speaking my language

That’s a hard word to spell,” I said, as I wrote a story for this week’s edition. “What word,” asked my husband.

“Transubstantiation,” I responded. “As I’m writing it, it feels like I’m using too many vowels, Ns and Ts.” My husband, a lifelong Catholic, then asked a question that left me stunned: “What’s transubstantiation?”

I polled the room: “Jake, do you know what transubstantiation is?”

“Train substitution? Yeah. No clue.”

After giving a likely inadequate explanation to my husband and son, I went back to my story and wrote out a short definition of “transubstantiation.” I refer to it as “insider language.” Industries, professions, organizations, hobbies... they all have insider languages, words, phrases, acronyms and initials that are specific to them and understood by “insiders,” others in those industries, professions, organizations, hobbies...

When you are an insider and use insider language regularly, it’s easy to forget it may not be understood by others. I’m keenly aware of insider language, yet I still fall into using it regularly.

“Why don’t we move the first sentence of third graf to the lede,” I once said, suggesting edits to a document several colleagues and I were collaborating to write.

In that moment, it didn’t occur to me that “graf” and “lede” are terms specific to journalism. I used those words almost every day for a decade. They’re part of my lexicon.

The problem with insider language is in its exclusivity. When we use insider language, those who don’t “speak the language” may not understand what we’re trying to communicate, and it can make others feel like outsiders.

Insider language can manifest in other ways, as well. I can think of at least a few times when I’ve driven to an event “in the (name) room/chapel at (name) hall/church” only to arrive at my destination to find no signs pointing me to where that room or chapel is located.

As we share our faith and love of Christ with others, it’s important to use language that’s understandable and accessible. It’s important to remember that not everyone knows the concepts and terms and locations that are such important parts of our lives.

It’s part of being welcoming. It’s part of communicating clearly.

And it’s apparently something I need to be reminded of once in a while.

Finding joy in the Eucharist, as priest

One of my favorite non-canonized saints is Thomas Merton. He was a Trappist monk and a very popular spiritual author. Since his death in 1969, many books have been written about him and his message. Recently, I began reading a new book about him, “Man of Dialogue” by Gregory Hills.

I was attracted by one of the chapters in this book that describes Merton’s happiness upon the occasion of his ordination as a priest. I was impressed by this devotion to the sacrament of the Blessed Eucharist from the time of his conversion to the Catholic Church. This devotion became more intense upon his ordination. Now, he would celebrate the Mass himself and consecrate the Blessed Eucharist himself.

I remember well my own joy when I was ordained a priest. I found so much in common with Merton’s excitement at his ordination. I continue to remember how blessed I felt when I could celebrate the Mass those first times, and I continue to find great happiness each time I go to the altar at Mass. I am truly grateful that the Lord has chosen me.

This new book quotes several of Merton’s writings about the Blessed Eucharist and his priesthood. These are taken from his daily Journal which Merton faithfully kept during his life as a monk.

At the time of his conversion to being Catholic, the reception of Holy Communion became the central moment of his life as a Catholic. We are told that as he looked back at his newfound love for the Eucharist, that he carefully wanted his readers to understand that it was not for him a mere ritual, but a moment of profound significance.

Merton often wrote about his faith in the Holy Eucharist. He discovered a God who desires to become one with us through the Eucharist, a God who incorporates us into the divine self out of love.

Merton entered the Trappist Monastery at Gethsemani, Kentucky, in 1941. He was ordained a priest in 1949. I am so impressed by his writing as he expressed his joy as he prepared for his own ordination. He writes: It seems to me impossible that I should live the next two and a half weeks without keeling over, dying of heart failure, or having the house come down on my head. How can I possibly achieve such a wonder as the priesthood? To do the thing that transforms the world and brings health to it makes me capable of such happiness.

I do wish I could express my own gratitude to Almighty God, for choosing me to be a priest. I have been given many years as a priest to bring the Lord Jesus to so many through the celebration of the Mass and the Blessed Eucharist. Each time I offer Mass I have been blessed and allowed to say the very same words that the Lord Jesus spoke at the Last Supper. I have been chosen by the Holy Spirit to consecrate the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of my Savior, Jesus. As I do I remember all of you, my friends through this column, and place you on the altar of the Lord.
‘The Gifts of God’s Holy Spirit must guide’

It’s always such a joy for me to make pastoral visits to our parishes. I’m especially privileged to meet the young women and men who seek to be fully initiated into our faith through the Sacrament of Confirmation. Words of gratitude go out to their pastors, catechists, grandparents and parents whose accompaniment continues to be crucial to their ongoing formation in the faith.

As I near the completion of Confirmations in our parishes this year, I share with you a message that I shared with the Confirmation candidates on Pentecost Sunday at St. Mary’s Cathedral.

Creativity is a marvelous gift. Our world has benefited in countless ways because of creative minds thinking outside the box. Discoveries in science, the fruit of creative minds, continue to enrich our lives.

With the gift, however, comes responsibilities, even hazards that we must always keep in mind. Because we know how to create certain technologies, should we? With great knowledge comes the temptation to think we can create whatever we want, design whatever we please. In other words, I can play God. The human person can design smartphones, smart weapons, smartboards. We think we can even design smart humans without flaws. If, from the moment of conception in the mother’s womb, the unborn child gives evidence of weakness or defect, we can terminate the human person’s life. We can design the perfect person or so we think.

We can design the homes we want to live in, we can design the clothes we wear. We design vehicles, aircraft, even spacecraft that reflect great human ingenuity and knowledge. Now, some of us think we can even design ourselves, never mind how our God designed us. We think – I know myself better than any god. I am free to do what I please, no matter my age or my design plans. I should be able to define, design marriage the way I please, never mind God’s design.

I should be able to pick and choose what I want to do with those things they call commandments. Never mind they are commandments from our Divine Designer. Truth be told, I want to design God according to my specifications. I should be free to make God in the image I think God should be. Some call it “progress.” If you disagree with me, you are intolerant, a bigot, old-fashioned, out of touch with the real world. My sisters and brothers in Christ, without a connection to God, we become like satellites that have left their orbit and then hurtle randomly into the void and not only destroy ourselves but also threaten others. The Gifts of God’s Holy Spirit must guide how I use any of my gifts of human creativity or design plans that I may have concocted. These gifts of the Holy Spirit are permanent dispositions which enable you and me to follow the inspiration of God’s Spirit. Wisdom: helps us judge what is important, meaningful; Understanding: to know something is different from truly understanding it. I can know a lot of facts about someone, but that is different from truly understanding that person; Counsel: helps us differentiate between right and wrong (and there is right and wrong); Fortitude: courage and endurance to do the right thing, never mind what everybody else does or thinks; Knowledge: helps us to know God; Piety: proper reverence for God, helps us obey God out of love and give respect to every human person, made in God’s very image and likeness; and Fear of the Lord: proper rejection of sin and awe and gratitude for God’s goodness and unconditional love.

With the sacrament of Confirmation, comes a special outpouring of these gifts. Every one of them is a vital aid to living an authentic Catholic life. Candidates, allow the graces of this empowering sacrament stretch your minds and hearts to embrace God and the wonders of His creation. Remember, too, that no one is strong enough to travel the entire path of salvation without assistance. Share your faith, talk about God with your friends. Know that they are fellow companions who can challenge and support you on this journey of faith.

Candidates, this afternoon, you will be empowered by the seven gifts of God’s Holy Spirit to meet the challenges of your tomorrows with a whole lot of hope and confidence. Don’t stifle your creativity, it’s God’s gift to you. But be sure to always allow the graces of this empowering sacrament to stretch your minds and hearts to embrace God and the wonders of His beautiful creation. Through all that we do: May God be praised...forever may God be praised!

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Games of Chance
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Every day wrist bands will be available for just $20 for 4 hours of unlimited rides! Thurs 6-10, Fri 6-10, Sat 1-5 & 6-10

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Immaculate Heart Central names top grads

WATERTOWN - Immaculate Heart Central (IHC) in Watertown has announced its valedictorian and salutatorian for the Class of 2022.

Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown is proud to present its class of 2022 valedictorian, Raphaela Harrienger.

Harrienger is a member of the National Honor Society, has been in the Tri County Art Show for the past four years, has played tennis her entire high school career, ending on the Frontier League Division Team, and played lacrosse for two years. Harrienger has received the Scholarship for Academic Excellence, the Alice Jane Coughlin Memorial Scholarship and the Office of the NYS Comptroller award.

Harrienger painted The Daughter of Eve Mural for IHC and received the Immaculate Heart Central Artifact Legacy Award. She has worked weekends the past year at a job she loves and volunteered for the last three summer church camps at Holy Family Church.

Harrienger will be attending St. John Fisher in the Fall in their pre health/biology major towards becoming a physician assistant.

IHC has named Victoria “Tori” Ledoux the salutatorian for 2022.

Ledoux has received many awards throughout her high school career including the the Sisters of St. Joseph Departmental Awards in History and Science, the Augsburg Scholarship at St. Lawrence University, the United States Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award, Frontier League and Section 3 Scholar Athlete Awards, the Joe Macsuga Memorial Coaches’ Award and the Clarence “Boots” Gaffney Athletic Award.

Ledoux is a member of the National Honor Society, in which she served as treasurer and secretary. She is a member of the Faith Community Service Program and earned first place in the Tri County Art Show. She was captain of her varsity soccer, basketball and lacrosse teams where she was named a Frontier League All-Star and All-North Athlete.

Ledoux will be attending the Frederick Gunn School in Connecticut in the fall for a post-graduate year. She is the daughter of Michael and Tricia Ledoux, Watertown.

Ahmad, Yang lead Seton Catholic Class of 2022

PLATTSBURGH – Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh has announced its top graduates from the class of 2022.

Sheikh Ahmad is class valedictorian.

During his time at Seton Catholic, Ahmad has participated in Model United Nations (grade 10), Faith Ambassadors (grades 11 and 12), Student Council (grade 12) and National Honor Society (grade 12).

He plans to attend SUNY Binghamton to study biochemistry.

Faline Yang is class salutatorian.

While at Seton, Yang participated in Student Council (grades 9 through 12), including serving as council president in grade 12; National Honor Society (grades 11 and 12), serving as society president in grade 12; National Junior Honor Society (grades 9 and 10); Model United Nations (grade 10); Faith Ambassadors (grades 9-12); Cross Country (grades 9-12), serving as team captain in grade 12; Indoor track (grades 9-12), serving as team captain as a senior; outdoor track (grades 9-12), serving as captain in grade 12; and yearbook (grade 12).

She plans to study psychology at Providence College.

Seton Catholic will honor its graduates at commencement on June 18.
LEAD two-day event focuses on the Eucharist

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

LAKE PLACID — “When we receive the Body and Blood of Christ at Mass... you are not just receiving the idea of Jesus,” said Timothy O’Malley, Ph.D., author and director of education at the McGrath Institute for Church Life and academic director of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy. “What you are receiving is the presence of love, a divine gift, that transforms your body here and now into what it is to become – divine. You participate in God’s own life here and now. Think about the gift of this... It means our bodies, our lives here and now, our interior life and exterior life, is the very space where God comes to dwell among us.”

O’Malley was the keynote speaker at a two-day Leadership for Evangelization And Discipleship (LEAD) event held June 6 and 7 at St. Agnes Church and High Peaks Resort in Lake Placid. His presentation, “Eucharist: Remember. Celebrate. Believe.”, was divided over several sessions of the second day of the event.

In each session, O’Malley presented information about the Eucharist before participants, seated in tables as small groups, discussed questions related to the presented materials. Participants also had opportunities to ask questions about the material.

One session focused on transubstantiation, the conversion of the substance of the Eucharistic elements into the body and blood of Christ.

“In the doctrine of transubstantiation, bread and wine at their level of substance – what they are – are no longer bread and wine,” O’Malley said. “They are the Body and Blood of Christ, soul and divinity, the whole Christ given to the believer.”

O’Malley said he’s noticed a tendency to look to prove transubstantiation by pointing to Eucharistic miracles.

“There is no proof,” he said. “Substance is not visible. It’s invisible.”

O’Malley said Christ comes to us in the “sign of bread and wine” because “God wants to unite himself with us, and He wants to do so in a way we can receive it.”

And God comes to us in a way that gives us freedom.

“The Eucharist is the least forceful thing in the world,” O’Malley said. “How does God give himself to you? As a plain, white host. It’s almost nothing to see. It’s almost nothing to grasp. There’s almost nothingness to it. That’s the freedom of love. You have the freedom to give yourself in return and seek union in return.”

O’Malley also said the way God transforms the substance of bread and wine into Himself, He is also transforming individuals and the world.

“This way of seeing, of course, is essential in our lives,” he said. “God is transforming our world in love, even if you have to admit sometimes you don’t see it... Look beyond the visible to that which is invisible. Give ourselves faithfully to what is given to us. That’s the document of transubstantiation. All of this transforms our lives slowly by grace.”

The two-day event also included “Music as Prayer: Its Role in Celebrating Eucharist,” a presentation by Sister Mary Gregory Munger, a Sister of St. Joseph.

It concluded with Mass at St. Agnes Church with Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrating.
Environmental Stewardship

**Black plastics**

Not all plastics are created equally. With today’s scientific knowledge, plastics can be designed by chemical engineers to have physical properties that make each type of plastic unique and ideal for a specific purpose.

One category of plastics, known as black plastics because of their pure black color, comprises a small, but significant portion of plastics manufactured today. Black plastics are produced in part from an assortment of recycled plastics. This initially made them appealing to groups wanting to utilize recycled material, especially old plastics. However, in the manufacturing process plastics from recycled electronics, like computers, cell phones, televisions, and printers made their way into this mix, along with isolated electronic components that contain small amounts of cadmium, mercury, lead and other toxic elements.

Because the long-range durability of this grade of plastic is not as high as other plastics, black plastics became ideal for items that were to be used only once, and then thrown away. Garbage bags, for example, are filled with trash, and then tossed into a landfill where they remain forever. In a similar manner, lids for hot beverage cups, and “plastic ware” given out by some fast-food restaurants are also made from black plastic, as these items are typically tossed out after use.

It is believed by some health professionals that food items that come into contact with black plastic might absorb small amounts of unwanted toxic compounds, especially if the food or beverage is hot and touching the plastic surface for several hours, or longer. Such would be the case for take-out containers made from black plastic.

Companies often use whatever items are the lowest price, and little thought is given to possible health risks, especially if the risks have not been convincingly proven. It is wise to just refrain from using black plastics whenever food is being considered. Also, even though some black plastic objects have a recycle code on them, it is always best to place these items in the garbage, as nearly all plastic sorting equipment in recycling centers cannot recognize the color black and therefore rejects this type of plastic as pure garbage.

### Bishop’s Public Schedule

**June 15-17 — United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Meeting in San Diego, California**

**June 18 — 5:30 p.m.** Mass in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of St. Cyril’s Church in Alexandria Bay

**June 19 — 11 a.m.** — Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral followed by Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession

**June 20 — Noon** — Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral

**June 22 — Noon** — Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral

### Rest in Peace

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

- **June 15 — Rev. Francis C. A. Cornish,** 1960
- **June 17 — Rev. Thomas J. Thotumkal,** 1992
- **June 20 — Rev. James O’Hara,** 1949

### To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terri-anne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terri-anneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rdony.org Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340. If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at 800-276-1562 or www.ReportBishopAbuse.org.

### 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 pre-register at www.virtus.org. For more information or to arrange training, contact Jeannie Grizzuto at 315-393-2920 or jgrizzuto@rdony.org.

### North Country Catholic has Green option

Our E-paper is now easier to read online. You can receive your North Country Catholic in your e-mail rather than in the mail. Fill in your information and send this form to:

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The Diocese of Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Switch to the E-paper to make the change

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@catcharities.org
  - 80 Park Street, Suite 2
  - PO Box 701
  - Tupper Lake, NY 12986

**Clinton and Essex County:**

- **Kate Gardner**
  - 518-566-0944
  - kgardner@catcharities.org
JUNE 15, 2022

CATHOLIC WORLD

AT A GLANCE

Pope's knee troubles force cancellation of July trip to Africa

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Because of continuing problems with his knee, Pope Francis has postponed his planned trip to Congo and South Sudan July 2-7, said the Vatican press office. Matteo Bruni, director of the press office, did not mention whether the pope’s planned trip to Canada in late July was still set. "At the request of his doctors, and in order not to jeopardize the results of the therapy that he is undergoing for his knee, the Holy Father has been forced to postpone, with regret, his apostolic journey to the Democratic Republic of Congo and to South Sudan," Bruni said June 10. The trip would be moved "to a later date to be determined." Although Pope Francis has canceled several events since mid-January and has begun using a wheelchair or a cane, the Vatican had continued to insist that he would make the two trips in July. The Vatican press office published a detailed schedule for the Africa trip May 28 and released a list of the journalists accredited to the papal flight to Africa June 8. The South Sudan portion of the trip had been in the works for years.

Italian financier says Vatican at fault for financial losses

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Taking the stand at a Vatican trial, London-based Italian financier Raffaele Mincione said the Vatican Secretariat of State’s decision to back out of its investment in a London property is to blame for its financial losses. Mincione told the court June 6 that the trial was "the first time that I find myself in this kind of situation" of being accused of wrongdoing. Vatican prosecutors accused him of embezzlement, fraud, abuse of office, misappropriation of funds and money laundering. "I have never been fined in the 35 years of my career; I have never received a reprimand from the central banks that regulate my work," he said. Mincione is one of the 10 defendants facing a slew of charges of financial malfeasance related to a property development project in London’s Chelsea district that resulted in the loss of hundreds of millions of euros. Before enduring a nearly seven-hour cross examination by Vatican prosecutors, Mincione denounced how the media has portrayed him as a "criminal" due to his involvement in the failed investment.

Archbishop: Charter anniversary calls for 'continued vigilance'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The 20th anniversary of the U.S. bishops’ passage of the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” is "not a time of celebration, but a time of continued vigilance and determination," said the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "In these 20 years, we have greatly benefited from listening to and working with survivors of abuse. We are grateful for their courage in sharing their stories and for helping the church strive to create a culture of protection and healing," Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez said in a June 9 statement. The witness of survivors "has led directly to meaningful reform in the church and to a greater awareness of sexual abuse in the wider world. For past survivors and future children, it is imperative that we remain vigilant," the archbishop said. The charter was originally approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in June 2002 during their spring assembly in Dallas. It is a comprehensive set of procedures for addressing allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy. It includes guidelines for creating a safe environment for children and young people; healing and reconciliation for abuse survivors; making prompt and effective response to allegations; cooperating with civil authorities; disciplining offenders; and providing for accountability and the prevention of future acts.

'Life and Dignity for All' is theme of USCCB's Religious Freedom Week

WASHINGTON (CNS) — "Life and Dignity for All" is the theme of this year's Religious Freedom Week of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The observance opens June 22, the feast day of Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, both English martyrs who fought religious persecution. The week ends June 29, the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, and includes the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, which is June 24.

"This year, as we approach the Supreme Court’s decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, the USCCB is especially mindful of the debates around our country about abortion," said a news release about Religious Freedom Week. "The Catholic Church plays a crucial role in bearing witness to the Gospel of life and serving all who will be affected by these discussions and their outcomes."

The Dobbs case involves a Mississippi law banning abortion after the 15th week of pregnancy.

An initial draft of a Supreme Court opinion in the case that was leaked May 2 indicated the high court is set to overturn its Roe v. Wade decision, which 50 years ago legalized abortion nationwide.

The court also is expected to overturn its 1992 ruling in Planned Parenthood v. Casey, which affirmed Roe and prohibited regulations that created an "undue burden" on women seeking an abortion.

If the final ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization overturns Roe and Casey, the issue of abortion would be returned to the states.

Another major area of concern continues to be protecting the religious freedom of U.S. Catholic institutions, such as schools, hospitals and child welfare service providers, "to carry out their missions with integrity" and in accordance with their religious beliefs, the USCCB news release said.

"In particular, protecting Catholic adoption and foster care will become even more vital, as we take new steps in building a culture of life and dignity for all in the United States," it said.

"To build a culture of life and dignity for all," the Catholic Church "must support women and children," the release added.

To that end, the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities in 2020 launched the "Walking with Moms in Need" nationwide initiative. Its aim is "to engage every Catholic parish in providing a safety net to ensure that pregnant and parenting moms have the resources, love and support they need to nurture the lives of their children."

In starting the initiative, the U.S. bishops said they want to ensure "our Catholic parishes are places of welcome for women facing challenging pregnancies or who find it difficult to care for their children after birth, so that any mother needing assistance will receive life-affirming support and be connected to appropriate programs and resources where she can get help."

Among its goals is to help Catholics "recognize the needs of pregnant and parenting moms in their communities, enabling parishioners to know these mothers, to listen to them, and to help them obtain the necessities of life for themselves and their children."

Another focus of Religious Freedom Week is international, the USCCB release said. The USCCB's Committee for Religious Liberty has collaborated with the Office of International Justice and Peace "to raise awareness about religious liberty in China and in solidarity with people throughout the world who suffer for their faith."

The USCCB provides "Pray-Reflect-Act" resources at www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek. Each day focuses on different religious liberty topics and this year's daily themes intersect with life issues.

"Through prayer, education and public action during Religious Freedom Week, the USCCB continues to advocate for the essential right of religious freedom for Catholics and for those of all faiths," the release added.
VIRTUAL EVENTS

BROWNBAG CHATS BEGIN
The Office of New Evangelization will be running a new Brownbag Chat during lunchtime via zoom.
Date: Wednesdays starting June 15
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

PRAISE & 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 on the St. Agnes Facebook page.

CLINTON

GOLF TOURNAMENT
Peru – The 34th Annual Peru Knights of Columbus Council 7273 Bill McBride Jr. Memorial Charity Golf Tournament will be held.
Date: June 17
Time: Shotgun start at 10 a.m.
Place: Adirondack Golf and Country Club
Features: The four-person scramble will feature a “New Car Hole in One” sponsored by Bailey Ford and other great prizes. All are invited!
Contact: Obtain entry forms and information from Greg Lombard at 518-593-2652 or email gnelombard@charter.net.

HOUSE SITTERS
Ellenburg Center – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer is looking for many Volunteer “House Sitters”.
Time: The responsibility is to arrive by 10 a.m. on your chosen day(s) and remain on premises until 4 p.m. to welcome visitors.
Features: Lunch and snack items on hand along with tea, coffee, soda, and bottled water. Training will be provided on the history of the House of Prayer, its mission, and the various ways to carry out this gentle ministry of hospitality for those seeking time in a home of Mary to listen to our Lord, browse in the library, or visit the “Gift Shop”. Flexible schedule (and hours) are fine.
Contact: If interested in volunteering for one day a month, or week, or more, please call Sarah Anderson at 518-534-9976.

ST. ANDRE BESSETE PARISH PILGRIMAGE
Malone – St. Andre Bessette Parish Pilgrimage walk to be held.
Date: July 9
Time: 8 a.m. to noon
Place: 9 mile walk from St. Helen’s, Chasm Falls Whippleville Road and River Road and will end at Notre Dame Church.
Features: Light refreshments will then be served. If you are concerned about your ability to walk the route, please consider joining in a Eucharistic Adoration prayer at Notre Dame. It will take place at the same time as the walk, from 8 a.m. to Noon. Proceeds from this fundraiser will help defray the cost of the Our Lady of the Rosary Healing Retreat, to be held at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg Oct. 6-9 for women of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.
Contact: For more information contact Nancy and Mark Beddoe at beddoe@sympatico.ca.

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

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 3:15 p.m. and confessions at 5:45 p.m.

FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI
Canton – Mass with Eucharistic Procession on the Feast of Corpus Christi to be held.
Date: June 19
Time: 9 a.m.
Place: St. Mary’s Church
Features: As a sign of our common faith and adoration, St. Mary’s will again process with the Blessed Sacrament through the village of Canton. All are invited to join us for this annual Procession. The procession will conclude in the church with Benediction. Those unable to walk the 1/4 mile procession are invited to remain in the church to pray the rosary in anticipation of Benediction.

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY
Massena – Sacred Heart Church to have first Saturday Rosary Devotion.
Date: July 2
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.

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS
Ogdensburg – The Legion of Mary will pray the rosary with devotions for First Saturday.
Date: July 2
Time: 8 a.m.
Place: Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg
Features: Rosary with devotions

ORDINATION TO DIACONATE
Potsdam – The Ordination of Deacon Todd A. St. Louis will be held.
Date: June 25
Time: 11 a.m.
Place: St. Mary’s Church
Features: A Reception will immediately follow the Ordination on the rectory lawn across the street from The Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary.

SIDEWALK ADVOCATES FOR LIFE
Experience Sidewalk Advocates for Life’s new virtual basic training 2.0.
Features: Sidewalk Advocates for Life empowers peaceful, prayerful, loving, and law-abiding outreach outside of abortion centers to aid mothers in crisis and connect them with life-affirming resources in the effort to save their preborn children and end abortion.
Contact: To get started, fill out the brief application at sidewalkadvocates.org/trainingapp. Upon receipt, we’ll be in touch with next steps for accessing the online training.
Today, the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, we celebrate the central mystery of our faith, God as sacrificial food for the world. All three readings speak about some important events in the Bible that lead up to the greatest gift Christ left us, the sacrifice of the Mass. Our late Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, referred to the Eucharist as the “source and summit” of our lives, while Pope Benedict calls it the “Sacrament of Love.”

In the first reading, Melchizedek, King and priest of Salem, in return for a favor, gives bread, wine and blessing to Abram (later called Abraham). In turn, Abram makes a covenant with Melchizedek, and gives him a tenth of all his possessions. Melchizedek is still referred to in our liturgies as a “fore-runner” of Christ, the eternal priest. The second reading from 1 Corinthians, tells us what happened at the Last Supper, when Jesus makes a covenant in His own Body and Blood with the apostles and all who would later follow Him. It’s the first telling in Scripture of the story of the Eucharist. Later, the Gospels would fill in more details, telling us that Jesus Himself is the food of sacrifice, offered for the salvation of the whole world. He tells his followers to “Do this in remembrance of me,” thus establishing the Mass. It is the Holy Spirit which empowers those words of Jesus in the mouths of His priests.

The Eucharist is the greatest remedy in every age to heal the brokenness of our lives, and the sickness in our world. It is needed now more than ever before to bring about a healing for the sins of society, and especially the weaknesses of a Church which is supposed to offer the light of truth and a love that can be trusted. Pope John Paul II, in a news interview on his way to the Shrine at Fatima some years ago, said that the Church “has profound need to relearn penance, to accept purification, to learn on the one hand for-giveness but also the ne-cessity of justice.”

Renewed devotion to the Eucharist through the Mass and our prayer of reparation before the Blessed Sacrament is surely the very best way to bring about the healing of a wounded church and a restored trust in the shepherds of the Church.

“How’s it going?” That may be the most dangerous question one person can ask another. Somebody told me once that trial lawyers adopt the proposition “never ask a question you do not already know the answer to.” That’s a good commandment to live by.

“How’s it going?” For a professional counselor or for a listener like a clergyman, an open-ended question like that could lead to a lengthy, heart wrenching, complicated and sometimes eye-opening response. I’ve even seen that simple question result in spontaneous tears or a breakdown.

It can also evoke a quip. “How’s it going?” Answer, “same stuff, different day!” “How’s it going?” Answer, “Oh, you know, keeping my head above water.”

Recently I asked a lady, “How’s it going?” and she said, “it’s better than pushing up grass!”

A funeral director friend of mine likes to remind people, “it’s better to be seen, than viewed.”

Death, the true reference in the last two comments, is what captured my thinking this week.

In the parish where I serve, there has been a rash of funerals lately. We have three worship sites in our parish. Each has a pretty good size congregation, so it is natural for us to experience deaths. But even for us, the number has been worth conversation around the sacristy.

We also have a Catholic cemetery associated with the parish, so the number of deaths has been reflected in the number of burials. It’s good for business, but we almost wish we were not reporting positive numbers.

There was a fellow who used to visit the newsroom I worked in a few years ago. Nick was a great guy. He had some severe disabilities, including a speech impediment. Nick was still able to get around and communicate. The first question out of his mouth on each visit was “who died?” Nick was pumping us for information but, with a chuckle and grin, he really wanted to know if we knew about a death he had already confirmed.

Our local paper has expanded its obituary section, the broadcast stations have death notices.

We are very conscious about who among us has died and we are sad. It is ok to be down about a loved one who will no longer be with us. Someday it will be our turn. Psalm 62 reminds us, “mortal’s are a mere breath.”

The Church recognizes the pain of separation but helps us cope with death through the vigil, the funeral Mass and the final commendation. “For the Christian,” the Church writes in the Catechism, “the day of death inaugurates, at the end of his sacramental life, the fulfillment of his new birth begun at Baptism... participation in the feast of Kingdom.”

That’s what we all believe and look forward to with anticipation. I just wish more families would take advantage of the Church’s liturgical celebration of the Christian funeral.

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown. He is the Director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.
Jurassic World: Dominion

NEW YORK (CNS) — It’s old home week for a $5 billion sci-fi franchise. That’s because “Jurassic World Dominion” (Universal), which wraps up the second trilogy of films ultimately derived from novels by Michael Crichton, features not only the duo whose adventures have been charted in the more recent movies, but the trio of scientists at the heart of the 1993 original as well.

Yet this reunion, though affectionate enough, involves slightly grittier content than its two predecessors in the current series. So the parents of persistent teens will need to be wary.

Those old enough to remember Bill Clinton’s first term and Whitney Houston belting out “I Will Always Love You,” may recall Jeff Goldblum’s black-clad mathematician, Dr. Ian Malcolm. Can they also bring to mind the romantic attraction of paleontologist Alan Grant (Sam Neill) and paleobotanist Ellie Sattler (Laura Dern)? Director Colin Trevorrow and his script partner, Emily Carmichael, clearly hope so.

No such powers of recollection are required to place Chris Pratt’s animal tamer Owen Grady or Bryce Dallas Howard’s career-focused executive turned heroine Claire Dearing; we saw them as recently as 2018’s “Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom.” It’s just as well that both Owen and Claire have gained a taste for domesticity since they’re not only married but raising an adoptive daughter, Maisie (Isabella Sermon).

How do Trevorrow and Carmichael bring this disparate ensemble together? Through the good offices of an evil corporation called Biosyn and its ruthless CEO, Lewis Dodgson (Campbell Scott).

Dodgson gets on the oldsters’ nerves by reanimating prehistoric locomotives who chomp on any grain not designed by Biosyn, thus raising the specter of worldwide famine. He annoys the younger set by kidnapping genetically unique Maisie so Biosyn can make a study of her.

Owen and Claire acquire an ally, as they hunt for Maisie, in the person of tough pilot Kayla Watts (DeWanda Wise). The screenplay takes a momentary detour to inform us that Kayla likes ladies. Having checked this obligatory box, it’s back to the action.

Dodgson’s machinations are made the cue for some inconsequential philosophizing about the ethics of cloning and the relationship of humans to nature. These rambling reflections include Malcolm’s explicit denial that we have “dominion” over the rest of creation – seemingly a direct contradiction of the Book of Genesis.

Viewers’ opinions will vary on how seriously this remark ought to be taken, however. Malcolm is, after all, as eccentric as he is supposedly insightful.

All this woolgathering is, moreover, mere filler as we await the appearance of the picture’s real stars: those outsized dinosaurs whose ill-advised revival from extinction continues to pester humanity around the globe. To the terror of those on screen – and the delight of those consuming popcorn – these beasties roar and rampage, stomping around and imperiling crowds of hapless folk.

Given the box office record of the past 30 years, many clearly get a frisson from the fear of the fictional.

The film contains much stylized, though occasionally disturbing violence, vague references to lesbianism, a couple of profanities, about a dozen milder oaths, several crude terms, a couple of crass expressions and an obscene gesture. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG-13 – parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.
Saint Peter Apostle Appeal

"Might I interest you a bit in my seminary?" That was the question written in the late 19th century to Jeanne Bigard and her mother, Stephanie, by a bishop from their home country of France who was serving in Japan. He told the mother and daughter of the more than 50 young men preparing for the priesthood and the difficulties he was having providing for their formation and for the growing numbers of seminary applicants. Starting to gather help immediately, the two established, in 1889, the Society of St. Peter Apostle, providing help for some 2,700 seminarians.

Today, more than 28,000 seminarians, mostly in Asia and Africa, receive an average annual subsidy of $700 from the Society for the Propagation of the Faith/Society of St. Peter Apostle. Your donation provides textbooks, technology, classrooms, housing, lodging, food and medical care. With the understanding that only you know what gift amount is right for your own life circumstance, be assured that your continued support will help prepare tomorrow’s mission priests, who will proclaim the Gospel, celebrate the Sacraments, and serve the poor in the world’s most vulnerable communities.

Currently the Diocese of Ogdensburg has priests serving from the countries of Fiji, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Ghana, Philippines, Haiti, Kenya, India, and Canada, many of which would have been eligible to receive assistance from the Society of Saint Peter Apostle during their formation.

What began with a mother and daughter continues with you. I am most grateful for your generosity and assure you of my prayers for you and your intentions for your kind missionary heart.

Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ
Diocesan director

OBITUARIES

Cape Vincent – Edward J. “Joe” Mul laney, 77; Memorial Mass June 17, 2022 at St. Vincent of Paul Church.

Croghan – Carolyn (Hannon) Lyndaker, 86; Mass of Christian Burial June 8, 2022 at St. Stephen’s Church; burial in St. Stephen’s Cemetery.


Ellenburg – Rufus J. Rabideau, 86; Mass of Christian Burial June 8, 2022 at St. Edmund’s Church; burial in Ellenburg Mausoleum.

Ellenburg – Yvonne (Seguin) Taylor, 99; Mass of Christian Burial June 7, 2022 at St. Edmund’s Church; burial in Town of Ellenburg Mausoleum.

Hague – Merlin Elijah “Slim” Jordon, 87; Graveside services June 26, 2022 at the May Memorial Cemetery.

Harrisville – Richard Joseph Wee kes, 83; Private Services to be held; burial in Harrisville Cemetery.


Hogansburg – Marion (Wariansen) Lazo re, 74; Mass of Christian Burial June 7, 2022 at St. Regis Church.

Massena – Ida Mary (Zapapa) Claffey, 93; Mass of Christian Burial June 13, 2022 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Mor rosville – Barbara “Gail” (Lavigne) LePage, 83; Mass of Christian Burial June 9, 2022 at St. Alexander’s Church.


Tupper Lake – Eileen (LaPlante) Car row, 94; Mass of Christian Burial June 10, 2022 at St. Alphonsus Church.


Watertown – Maureen A. (McCarthy) Sarsfield, 82; Mass of Christian Burial June 8, 2022 at Holy Family Church.

Watertown – Ursula J. ‘Jane’ (St. Croix) Tarzia, 78; Mass of Christian Burial June 14, 2022 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

West Chazy – Clarence “Clay” G. Parker, 89; Mass of Christian Burial June 9, 2022 at St. Joseph’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATION

First Communion was celebrated on Sunday, June 5 at St. Martin’s Catholic Church in Port Leyden. Pictured left to right are Deacon James Chauftry, Juliet Hastwell, Haylee Kraeger, Paislee Farz, Kaitlyn Kraeger, Cooper Brown, Tucker Brown and Father Lawrence Marullo.
For 150 years, the Lord has blessed the people, the Body of Christ, of the Diocese of Ogdensburg with charisms to lead and minister to His flock.

The Celebration of the Body of Christ is our opportunity to recognize the many graces the Lord has bestowed on his people. We will acknowledge and honor those who have given distinguished service to their communities, parishes, diocese and the Church. Please join us for this special time of music, prayer and gathering.

**ST. MARY’S CATHEDRAL, OGDENSBURG**

**JULY 10**

2 P.M. – Donald K. Fellows, past director for music for Saint Mary’s Cathedral & Wadhams Hall Seminary College offers a recital on the cathedral organ

3 P.M. – Holy Hour and Presentation of Honors to distinguished guests

Reception to follow on cathedral lawn