Pope's Canada trip starting, ending with 'sorry'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis said all the speeches he has prepared for his trip to Canada "begin and end" with asking forgiveness.

In an early July interview, he acknowledged the "cruel way" the Catholic Church collaborated with the Canadian government in "colonization" by uprooting Indigenous children from their families, cultures and spiritualities and forcing them to attend residential schools where many suffered emotional, physical and sexual abuse.

Cutting children and young adults off from their cultures "is diabolical, it is to kill life and richness," the pope said in the interview that aired July 11 on Univision.

Pope Francis is scheduled to be in Canada July 24-29, flying to Edmonton, Quebec and Iqaluit. He also will visit the site of a former residential school near Edmonton, join Indigenous pilgrims at Lac Ste. Anne and celebrate Mass at the National Shrine of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré near Quebec.

Ted Quewezance, a former chief of the Keeseekoose First Nation and former executive director of the National Residential School Survivors Society, was at the Vatican in early April when Pope Francis apologized to delegates of Canada’s Métis, Inuit and First Nation communities.

And he plans to be there July 25 when Pope Francis visits Maskwacis, Alberta, home of the former Ermineskin Residential School, one of the largest residential school sites in Canada.

Quewezance was one of the first survivors in Canada to speak publicly about having been sexually abused at a church-run residential school. While he still gets emotional talking about it – "when you shed a few tears, more weight comes off your chest," he said – after the Rome trip he decided it was time to forgive and move forward.
Moving past the fear

I celebrated Mass this morning. As I began to pray the words of the opening prayer, I realized that this prayer was so very meaningful. This opening prayer, often called the Collect, is the prayer at the beginning of Mass that unites the prayers of the whole community, drawing us all into prayer.

This prayer today was the Opening Prayer for the Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time. Today, I would like to take some time with you to consider this prayer. I hope to show you how special and unique this prayer is.

This prayer begins in praise of our God. We pray, “O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path.”

I am leading this community in prayer that our God will bring his light of truth to all those of this parish and Church. This light of truth brings the message of Jesus – the Lord’s words of peace and love – especially to those who have gone astray. The whole congregation prays that the Lord’s truth is light into the darkness that blocks so many in our community from the light of the Lord, the darkness that causes some to stray from the way of the Lord Jesus and his message.

I noticed that the purpose of my prayer was to pray for those who have gone astray. I must dedicate myself that they will return to the right path of the Lord. My place as the presider at this Mass was to pray in hope and confidence that the light of the Lord will find those who have strayed from the way of the Lord. They are truly special in my thoughts and intentions.

As I proclaimed this prayer at the Mass, I realized I was also praying for myself. There have been times when I was that stray. There were times I had allowed my life to stray from the path of my Lord Jesus. So, I must pray that the Lord would always find me, bring his truth and message, his light into my darkness, so that I will stay on the right path, the path of my Savior, my Lord Jesus.

Today’s prayer then goes on asking God “to give all who for the faith they profess as accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ”.

I must continue to pray for all in this community who declare themselves as Christians, ready to walk with the Lord and establish a strong relationship and friendship with Our Lord Jesus. And so, I pray for all of those that the Lord will flood into their lives the grace and protection to reject all that is contrary to the name of Christ.

The name of Christ is a powerful symbol. As the people join with me in the celebration of the Eucharist, we are shedding ourselves to our Lord, striving always to a life lived well in the Spirit of the Lord, dedicated always to reject all that is contrary to the way of the Lord and “strive after all that does it honor.”

My life as a Christian and disciple of Jesus – the lives of my congregations as Christians and disciples – means more than a readiness to reject all that is contrary to my Lord and Jesus. It also means doing all that we can as a parish and a community to bring constant honor and glory to the Lord.

“My sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, forever singing your praise.”

Considering the opening prayer

Just a few years removed from a total hip replacement, I didn’t know I could “hit the deck” like that.

What caused me to hurl my body to the floor with reckless abandon? There was a bat in my house, and it was flying toward me. I am terrified of bats. That’s actually an oversimplification. I’m 100 percent ok with bats when they’re outside eating insects (something else I don’t love). When there’s a bat in my home, however, I am not ok.

Our house was built in the late 1800s. While it’s had a number of upgrades over the years, it’s not perfect, and there are gaps and spaces that allow creatures like bats, rodents and insects to access our living area on occasion.

My wonderful husband has no problem removing rodents and insects on my behalf, but even he has a healthy amount of apprehension about dealing with bats.

Despite his reservations, and likely at least a bit of fear, my husband securely netted the offending flying creature and removed it – completely unharmed – from our house (I’m pretty sure the bat escaped with fewer injuries than I did; while my hip was fine from my encounter with the floor, my elbow was bruised for a few days). Despite his reservations and fear, my husband stepped up and did what needed to be done.

I thought of Adam’s bat heroics as I attended the Celebration of the Body of Christ on July 10.

The individuals honored at that celebration serve in a variety of ministries. Some of the honorees are catechists, some serve the disadvantaged among us, some participate in organized ministries, and some serve their communities as foster parents, volunteers, firefighters and emergency medical responders. All of them love the Lord and seek to serve him and bring his love to their neighbors.

And while 33 people were honored, they’re not even close to the only ones undertaking such activities. There are many, many individuals in our diocese who serve the Lord and their neighbors in various ways.

It can be scary following the Lord’s call, especially in this culture that tells us to serve ourselves and our own wills. Those who serve do what needs to be done, relying on the Lord for their strength, regardless of their fears and apprehensions. They help us. They inspire us.

Congratulations to the honorees, and thank you to all who serve their families, parishes, communities, diocese and Church in response to the Lord’s call.

While some of us hit the deck, you’re lifting us up.
Celebrating grandparents and the elderly

Sunday, July 24th is the Second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Pope Francis chose a verse from Psalm 92 as the theme for this special day. It highlights how grandparents, and the elderly are much-valued gifts for society and for our parishes: “In old age they will still bear fruit.” He asks us to make it a feast day of special encounter between grandparents and grandchildren and between the young and the not-so-young.

In such an encounter, the Holy Father points to a fundamental role for the elderly generation. He writes, “We elderly people often have a special sensitivity for care, for reflection, and affection. We are, or we can become, teachers of tenderness. In this world accustomed to violence and terror we need a true revolution of tenderness. We have a great responsibility towards new generations about this.” In our world today, tenderness is too often considered a sign of weakness. As our society is getting older and older, it should also become increasingly tender and caring.

At the conclusion of those Masses where I confirmed our youth, I think it important to thank the many people who are instrumental in the faith life of the newly confirmed. After one Mass, a parishioner approached me and thanked me for my expressions of gratitude. However, he noted that I neglected to thank the grandparents. “Bishop, don’t forget to thank the grandparents!” Boy, was he right! Our grandparents are critical witnesses of faith for the newly confirmed. As we continue to seek to strengthen faith formation in family life, our grandparents are key partners with our parents. Especially today, our grandparents’ prayers, encouragement and faithful witness to the Catholic faith are crucial for the faith formation of our youth.

You know that so many of our grandparents today work hard to foster the faith of their adult children and grandchildren.

On July 26th the Church celebrates the Memorial of Saints Anne and Joachim, grandparents of Jesus. Undoubtedly, their strong belief in God provided the environment from which their daughter, the Blessed Virgin Mary would proclaim her magnificent fiat: “Let be done to me according to your Word!”

Let us pray for the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people. May their experience and wisdom help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility.

Our pastoral outreach to the elderly should not be sporadic but routine, especially since so many in our diocese are isolated, a situation exacerbated by the pandemic. Join me in thanking our grandparents for their witness to the Faith. God’s blessings to all our not-so-young family members and neighbors! Happy Grandparents and Elderly Day!

Fourteen Respect Life Grants awarded

By Colleen Miner
Diocese of Ogdensburg
Respect Life Co-Director

Many thanks to all those who donated to the Respect Life second collection taken up in churches the third weekend in January. When all the collections were received in May, the total was $53,554. Special thanks to those parishes who collected $1,000 or more: St Anthony’s in Watertown ($1,024), St. Patrick’s in Watertown ($1,076), Adams ($1,123), Ellenburg ($1,178), Morrisonville ($1,194), Saranac Lake ($1,407), Carthage ($1,468), Croghan ($1,622), Ticonderoga ($1,757), Lowville ($1,819), Malone ($2,004), Holy Family in Watertown ($2,017), Ogdensburg ($2017), Massena ($2,650) and Plattsburgh ($3,339).

On May 24, the grant board met to discuss the suggested grant amounts for Bishop LaValley’s consideration. The committee members are Father Martin Cline, Stephen Tartaglia, Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli and John and Colleen Miner. On June 8, Bishop LaValley approved the grants. Fourteen grants were awarded.

Five Gabriel Projects received grants, Potsdam, Brasher Falls, Massena, Plattsburgh and Ogdensburg.

Other direct service ministries who received grants are Plattsburgh Pregnancy Center (six months of rent), Plattsburgh Birthright and Watertown Walking with Moms in Need (outreach services), Malone Catholic Charities (Childbirth/Parenting Program).

Education efforts receiving grants included Lewis County Right to Life (pro-life summer fair booth), Lifefight of Watertown (tv ads, oratorical contest, newsletter), Light of Truth Radio (Human Sexuality & Life Issues series, Loving Authentically seminar) and Natural Family Planning (Awareness week materials).

Thank you to all those who work to promote the sanctity of human life. Please continue to pray for and support all those faced with an unplanned pregnancy, suffering after the loss of their child and those struggling to care for the elderly, sick or dying.

Please also pray for guidance for those who make the laws that protect the vulnerable.
Remembering Father Peter M. Berg

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

Serving the Diocese of Ogdensburg for more than 50 years, Father Peter M. Berg will be remembered as a "caring and giving priest," said Father Sony G. Pulickal, vicar forane of the Hamilton-Herkimer Deanery and pastor of St. Ann's Church in Wells and St. James Major Church in Lake Pleasant.

“He was a super nice priest,” Father Pulickal said. “He was a simple priest. He lived a simple lifestyle. He was always thinking about his people, especially the less fortunate, and sharing what he had, both money and time.”

Since his ordination in 1971, Father Berg served at St. Patrick’s, Watertown; St. Peter’s, Lowville; St. Mary’s Cathedral, Ogdensburg; Sacred Heart, Massena; St. Vincent of Paul, Cape Vincent; St. Mary’s of the Lake, Plattsburgh; St. Michael’s, Antwerp; St. Joseph’s, Philadelphia; Holy Angels, Altona and St. Alexios, Jericho; Notre Dame, Malone and St. Augustine, North Bangor. His final and longest assignment, from June 2003 until April of 2022, was as Pastor of St. Therese in Newcomb and St. Henry’s in Long Lake. Father Berg also served as full-time Catholic Chaplin at Clinton Correctional Facility, a maximum-security prison in Dannemora from 1991-2002.

Father Pulickal said he brought those communities a reverent love of the Eucharist and service. “He loved the Eucharist,” Father Pulickal said. “Even when he was sick, he wasn’t able to stand for Mass, but he still wanted to celebrate. He’d collapse between Masses. He was that committed to the Eucharist. He went to the nursing home in North Creek regularly. He and Father (Philip T.) Allen would take turns covering Mass there. North Creek is pretty far away from Newcomb. He was committed and dedicated.”

Father Pulickal said Father Berg was also known for his generosity. “People would give him gift certificates for the restaurant in Long Lake,” Father Pulickal said. “He’d collect all the gift certificates. He’d wait until he had $100 or $150 in gift certificates, and he’d invite all the priests from the area to the restaurant and give us lunch. People would give him something for himself, gift certificates for his own food, and he’d share it with others.”

Father Berg also had a reputation for being an “independent thinker,” Father Pulickal said. “He’d read all the articles and news and what all the bishops think, yet he was always his own man and an independent thinker,” he said. “He disliked clericalism, and he worked to dilute that image of clericalism. He was a quality priest. I liked him.”

The two also shared an inside joke. “Among all the meat items, he only ate chicken,” Father Berg said. “I called him ‘the chicken priest.’”

A complete obituary is printed below.

Mass of Christian Burial to be held August 5

Reverend Peter Michael Berg, a beloved parish priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, peacefully passed away at his home in Bennington, New York, surrounded by loved ones on July 3, 2022.

Born February 16, 1941, the son of Louis and Agnes (nee Quinlan) Berg, Father Berg grew up and attended school in Tonawanda, New York, graduating from Bishop Duffy High School. Following his father who was a career postal employee, he worked for a short time at the Tonawanda Post Office. Father Berg then once again followed his father's footsteps joining the US Navy, serving proudly on active duty from 1960-1962. He then began his priestly studies, graduating from St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry in Rochester in 1971. On December 5, 1971, he was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in St. Patrick's Church in Watertown, New York, by the Most Reverend Stanislaus Brzana, bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

For the next 50 years, he traveled throughout the North Country serving the faithful at numerous parishes including, St. Patrick's, Watertown; St. Peter's, Lowville; St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg; Sacred Heart, Massena; St. Vincent of Paul, Cape Vincent; St. Mary's of the Lake, Plattsburgh; St. Michael's, Antwerp; St. Joseph's, Philadelphia; Holy Angels, Altona and St. Alexios, Jericho; Notre Dame, Malone and St. Augustine, North Bangor. His final and longest assignment, from June 2003 until April of 2022, was as Pastor of St. Therese in Newcomb and St. Henry's in Long Lake. Father Berg also served as full-time Catholic Chaplin at Clinton Correctional Facility, a maximum-security prison in Dannemora from 1991-2002.

Whenever Father Berg arrived at a new church, he began a process of visiting every parishioner in the parish, which sometimes took over a year. For many of those visited, it began a lifetime relationship.

Father Berg lived a spartan life, spending almost nothing on himself, yet he would give away anything to anyone in need. As one parishioner described him, “he was a saintly man who lived the Beatitudes.”

Father Berg made a lasting impact on those he shepherded, right up to his death he was corresponding with hundreds of former parishioners going back to his first assignment.

Father Berg also served as his family’s genealogical researcher and keeper of family records. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Tonawanda Historical Society and the Northern New York American-Canadian Genealogical Society.

Father Berg is survived by his brother, David Berg, and his wife, Dawn, with whom he spent the last three months of his life; his sister, Mary Jo Butler, and her husband, Bob; along with many nieces, nephews and cousins.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by the Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, at 1 p.m. on August 5 at St. Therese Church in Newcomb.

Father Sony G. Pulickal, vicar forane of the Hamilton-Herkimer Deanery, will be the homilist.

Father Berg’s ashes will be interred in the historic Chapel of St. Francis of Assisi Church, Tonawanda, the same chapel where he received the sacraments of baptism, First Communion and confirmation, and where he served as an altar boy.

Memorial donations may be made to the Tonawanda Historical Society, 413 Main St., Tonawanda, NY 14150.
Thirty-three honored at Celebration

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

OGDENSBURG – Joy filled St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg as Bishop Terry R. LaValley honored 33 individuals for their faithfulness and contributions to the Church during the Celebration of the Body of Christ on July 10.

The event began with an organ recital by Donald K. Fellows, former director for music at St. Mary’s Cathedral and Wadhams Hall Seminary College on the cathedral organ.

“I just want to say thank you for attending this part of this afternoon’s festivities,” Fellows said. I am really honored to be back here after quite a few years ago. I’m humbled, too, to see all names in program of all you wonderful people that make the North Country Catholic life alive and well. Congratulations to all of you.”

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament followed the recital. Judy Pearson served as lector. Adoration included a Litany of Parish Intercession of the saints that invoked the intercession of the saints for whom diocesan parishes are named.

Following Adoration, Bishop LaValley addressed the assembly.

“While there are so very many faith-filled individuals in our diocese who are worthy of this special recognition, it is with great pride and much gratitude that I’m pleased to confer special honors to some parishioners as we acknowledge their exceptional discipleship in the Church,” Bishop LaValley said. “As we continue to celebrate the 150th anniversary of this family of faith of the North Country, the Bishop Wadhams Award, named in honor of our first bishop, recognizes individuals for their outstanding service. As we celebrate 150 years as a diocese, this is but one expression of gratitude to our honorees and to all those who so faithfully support and build up our local Church. You live humbly what we celebrate. You live humbly what you believe. You challenge all of us to reflect on the depth of our own faith and how we give witness to it in our local parishes and so often with much personal sacrifice.”

Bishop LaValley noted that the honorees are living examples of discipleship and mission.

“In his exhortation, Evangelii Gaudium, Pope Francis said that ‘everyone can share in some way in the life of the church,’” Bishop LaValley said. “Well certainly today’s honorees do just that. The holy father said that ‘people of faith are needed who, by the example of their lives, point out the way to the promised land and keep hope alive.’ Sisters and brothers, the citations you will soon receive attest to the hope that you instill in the rest of us. My sisters and brothers, the citations you will soon receive help us to keep faith alive. Yes, we journey into the future with great hope. Yes, we know well the challenges that lay ahead. But we know, too, the wonderful possibilities we have to grow as Church, energized and inspired by the faith life of our honorees this day. We are impelled, with these honorees as remarkable examples, to continue to follow Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life. Our journey in this life has as its ultimate end – sometimes the world forgets this: Our ultimate end is our full encounter with God, and through the journey, the Holy Spirit purifies us, lifts us up and sanctifies us so that we may enter into the happiness for which our hearts long. Jesus is and must always be the center of our lives.”

The bishop then congratulated the honorees and encouraged all to continue in the celebration of the diocesan anniversary. With the Church of Ogdensburg, I want to congratulate our honorees and their families,” he said. “Thank you. Thank you for your faithfulness and the support of your parish family. Let us all now continue our anniversary celebration with dogged determination and fortified faith to heed Jesus’ call – follow me. Together with much gratitude, we remember the clergy, consecrated religious and lay women and men who followed Jesus in years past. We renew our baptismal promises to be joy-filled disciples in mission. We rejoice in being Christ-led, Christ-fed and hope-filled.”

Honored at the Celebration of the Body of Christ were:

- Mr. Bruce P. Bombard – St. Peter’s Parish, Massena
- Mrs. Jane A. Boyea – St. Mary’s Church, Brushton
- Mr. James T. Brady – St. Raphael’s Church, Heuvelton
- Mr. Michael B. Bresnahan, Jr. – Catholic Community (CC) of Alexandria, Alexandria Bay
- Mr. Glenn R. Burdo – CC of St. Alexander and St. Joseph, Morrisville
- Ms. Starr L. Burke – Holy Cross Parish, Plattsburgh
- Mr. David M. Cline – St. Patrick’s Church, Brasher Falls
- Mrs. Valerie R. Cline – St. Patrick’s Church, Brasher Falls
- Sister Sharon A. Dalton, SSJ – St. Mary’s Church, Ticonderoga
- Mrs. Ruth C. Demarse – St. André Bessette Parish, Malone
- Mr. Joseph E. Denoncourt – St. Mary’s Cathedral, Ogdensburg
- Mrs. Patricia J. Fassett – St. Mary’s Cathedral, Ogdensburg
- Mr. Pasquale A. Fontana, Sr. – St. Anthony’s Church, Watertown
- Deacon Gary A. Frank – St. Mary’s Church, Clayton
- Mrs. Gayle G. Frank – St. Mary’s Church, Clayton
- Mrs. Connie M. Hatch Young – St. Patrick’s Church, Colton
- Mr. Jeremiah M. Hayes – St. Alphonsus – Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Tupper Lake
- Mrs. Eileen K. Hayes – St. Alphonsus – Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Tupper Lake
- Mr. Gerald J. LaValley – St. Ann’s Church, Mooers Forks
- Mrs. Darlene M. LaValley – St. Ann’s Church, Mooers Forks
- Dr. Victor W. Ludwig – Holy Cross Parish, Plattsburgh
- Mrs. Barbara C. Ludwig – Holy Cross Parish, Plattsburgh
- Ms. Leslie A. Marvel – Holy Cross Parish, Plattsburgh
- Mr. Angelo E. Pietropaoli – St. André Bessette Parish, Malone
- Mrs. Suzanne R. Pietropaoli – St. André Bessette Parish, Malone
- Mrs. Elsie L. Scruggs – St. Peter’s Parish, Massena
- Mrs. Mary Catherine Spilman – Our Lady of Grace Parish, Morristown
- Mrs. Donna J. Steenberg – St. Patrick’s Church, Brasher Falls
- Mr. Daniel J. Sweeney – St. Mary’s Church, Canton
- Sister Mary Christine Taylor, SSJ – Diocese of Ogdensburg
- Mr. Michael J. Tooley – Diocese of Ogdensburg
- Miss Michelle E. Watkins – St. Stephen’s Church, Croghan
- Mrs. Linda F. Young – St. Agnes Church, Lake Placid
Supporting work in Latakia, mission areas

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Missionary zeal has always been a telling sign of the vitality of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The annual collection for the **Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg (MPDO)** offers us the opportunity to further our own zeal in supporting the ministry of our missionaries who faithfully serve in often forgotten places in our world.

The parishioners of Franklin, Hamilton-Herkimer, Essex, Clinton, and Adirondack Deaneries will be given an opportunity to support our missionaries during the weekend Masses of July 30th and 31st. This year, our focus continues to be the Diocese of Latakia in Syria where our twinning relationship continues. Located on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, Latakia is home to the oldest Christian settlements on earth. Our Solidarity in Faith endeavor provides concrete ways for the faithful of our diocese to learn about Latakia while supporting their relief programs. Due to a large influx of refugees, relief efforts have had to expand, increasing the need for donations. Your sacrifices will assist with providing for basic needs, as well as support their marriage preparation and faith formation programs.

The MPDO collection will also continue to be used to provide financial support of our former mission in Mollendo in Peru, support the United States Bishops’ annual appeal for Latin America and assist with other missionary projects throughout the world as part of our evangelization efforts.

The money raised in the 2021 MPDO collection contributed to a $25,000 donation to Latakia in Syria and a $10,000 donation to Ukraine. Let us continue to pray for Bishop Chbeir and his diocesan church and for the victims of terror and violence in the Ukraine.

I am very grateful for your gift to this year’s MPDO collection. God bless you for your generous support of the Church’s missionary efforts.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg
Women’s Rosary Retreat to focus on healing

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Staff Writer

OGDENSBURG – A retreat is a time-honored way to step out of the busy routines of daily life to make more room within ourselves for God. The women’s retreat scheduled for October 6-9, 2022, at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg offers this opportunity with a specific focus on healing.

Sponsored by St. André’s Sisters, the women’s group of St. André Bessette Parish in Malone, this retreat has been a long time in the making.

Kathleen Nichols, spokesperson for the retreat committee, explains that the idea for such an event originated in a Judith Retreat she attended several years ago in western New York.

“I realized how wonderful it would be to offer a healing retreat to the women of our own diocese,” Nichols said. “St. André’s Sisters really helped make the retreat a reality. With our ongoing focus on women gathering to grow in faith through prayer, study, and fellowship, our group was immediately enthusiastic about the retreat. By last October, a committee (including Charlotte Broeker, Darcye Gervais, Charlotte Broeker, Judy Pelkey, and Kelly McGivney-Petrilli) had formed, and work began in earnest. After seeking and receiving permission from Bishop LaValley, we were fortunate to have the help of Father Joe Giroux, and of Father Kevin O’Brien with respect to the necessary paperwork.”

With the groundwork laid, the organizers began planning for the retreat itself. They were blessed when Father Bryan Stitt agreed to serve as chaplain for the retreat, with Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth Sister Kelly Francis and Sister Grace Marie serving as speakers and prayer leaders. Dave McClow, M.Div., LCSW, a clinical associate for the Pastoral Solutions Institute, brings more than 30 years’ experience to this retreat. His counseling specialties include depression, anxiety, trauma, and the building of practical skills to cope with such emotions. McClow has always recognized God as the source of healing and has integrated his faith into his counseling practice.

The retreat, which begins Thursday evening and concludes with 11 a.m. Sunday Mass, is specifically focused on faith, wisdom integrates faith with insights gained from psychology and counseling. Holy Mass (including one with Bishop Terry R. LaValley on Friday afternoon) anchors the daily schedule, along with Eucharistic Adoration, selected Hours of the Divine Office, the Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and time for personal prayer and reflection.

Complementing these daily prayer opportunities will be talks, meditations, and small group sessions led by Dave McClow, Sister Kelly Francis, and Sister Grace Marie. They will also be available at stated times for those desiring spiritual guidance, as will Father Stitt, who will also hear confessions. To ensure the privacy of participants, cell phones are not allowed during group sessions; retreatants also make a pledge of confidentiality.

This retreat is open to all women, aged 18 and over.

“All of us are wounded and in need of healing,” Nichols said. “And it is difficult with the daily routine of life to address that. Whether our wounds are spiritual, mental, emotional, due to our own sin or the sins of others, or to our fallen nature: This retreat is time set aside to allow God to enter in and heal what he desires to heal, to make us whole – especially in our relationship with him. Without time set apart, it is hard to fully surrender our fears, hurts, and wills to God’s healing mercy.”

In fact, the retreat has been purposefully placed under the patronage of three women who knew great suffering – but also profoundly experienced the mercy of God: Our Lady of the Rosary, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. Josephine Bakhita.

The retreat committee expresses their gratitude for the great outpouring of support – prayerful and financial – the people of St. André Bessette Parish have contributed to this effort. The final prayer project will begin on the Feast of the Assumption (August 15) and finish on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7) as St. André’s Sisters and others pray the 54-Day Rosary Novena for God’s blessings on all those participating in the retreat. All prayers are welcome. Anyone wishing to join this prayer can google “54 Day Rosary Novena” for various format options.

Registration for the retreat will open by the end of July on the diocesan website, rcdnyc.org. For further information, please contact Kathleen Nichols at jnicholl@twcny.rr.com or at 518-515-6895.

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CELEBRATION OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

Photos by Jesse Sovie & Darcy Fargo
Valleyfield Bishop visits St. Regis Mission

By Dr. RJ Dolly McDonald
St. Regis Mission Communications Liaison

ST. REGIS – St. Regis Mission Church hosted its 2022 confirmation with Bishop Noel Simard of the Diocese of Valleyfield on Sunday June 12.

Confirmandi included Ryder Sunday, Christopher James Cook and Tobilee Marie Roundpoint.

The confirmation was part of a pastoral visit from Bishop Simard, which also included a gathering with St. Regis Mission lay leaders, ministers and members of the Mission Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils.

The culmination with a luncheon hosted at the Tsaihne Recreation Center.

Bishop Simard shared with the representatives gathered, an update on the Pope Francis “Synod on Synodality.”

The Synod on Synodality is a two-year process that Pope Francis began last October. Officially known as “Synod 2021-2023: For a Synodal Church,” the Synod is a process that allows bishops to consult with Catholics – parishioners to priests – in a spirit of collaboration and openness.

Bishop Noel Simard closed the gathering by reporting on the greatly anticipated visit of Pope Francis to Canada in July.

The Vatican formally announced the visit by Pope Francis to Canada which will be from July 24 to 29.

Pope Francis will make three stops to sites of former Indian residential schools, in Edmonton, Quebec City and Iqaluit.

The St. Regis Mission is hoping to charter a group of parishioners to attend the Papal visit when the date is confirmed.

For more information for anyone who might be interested in traveling to Quebec City for the papal visit, please contact the St. Regis Mission Rectory between Wednesday and Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 613-375-2753 or leave a message via the St. Regis Mission Facebook page at facebook.com/stregismission.

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@rcdony.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.

Support And Pray For Vocations
USCCB issues annual audit on compliance with charter by dioceses, eparchies

WASHINGTON (CNS) - The U.S. bishops' annual report on compliance with the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" shows that 2,930 victim survivors came forward with 3,103 allegations during the audit year of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

The number of allegations is 1,149 less than that reported in 2020, according to the audit report released July 12 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection.

"This decrease is due in large part to the resolution of allegations received as a result of lawsuits, compensation programs, and bankruptcies," said a news release accompanying the report. "Of the allegations received, 2,284 (74%) were first brought to the attention of the diocesan/eparchial representative by an attorney."

The majority of allegations were received "historical in nature," meaning the alleged victim is now an adult and the abuse happened in years or decades past. During this audit year, there were 30 new allegations.

The report is based on the audit findings of StoneBridge Business Partners, a specialty consulting firm based in Rochester, New York. Also included in the report are results of a survey on allegations conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University.

The charter was adopted in 2002 by the U.S. bishops following widespread reports of clergy abuse and has been revised several times since to adapt to changing situations surrounding the question of clergy sexual abuse of minors. It was revised in 2005, 2011 and 2018.

Of the new allegations made by current minors, six were substantiated; nine are still under investigation; nine were unsubstantiated; five could not be proven; and one was referred to the provincial of a religious order.

"This year's audit, once again, shows that new cases of sexual misconduct by priests involving minors are rare today in the Catholic Church in the United States," Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez, USCCB president, said in a preface to the report. He added that "every offender was removed from ministry. Every allegation was reported to law enforcement."

"As we know, one allegation of abuse is too many," he said, "but my brother bishops and I remain firmly committed to maintain our vigilance in protecting children and vulnerable adults and providing compassion and outreach to victim-survivors of abuse."

"On behalf of my brother bishops, I again want to express our sorrow and apologies to every person who has suffered at the hands of someone in the church. And again, we pledge our commitment to the healing of victim survivors and to doing everything in our power to protect children and vulnerable adults."

The report shows that dioceses and eparchies provided outreach and support to 285 victim survivors and their families who reported an allegation during the audit period. Continued support was provided to 1,737 victim survivors who had reported in prior audit periods.

In 2021, the church conducted 1,964,656 background checks on clergy, employees and volunteers. In addition, over 2 million adults and over 2.4 million children and youth were trained in how to identify the warning signs of abuse and how to report those signs.

Data from CARA said the costs related to allegations for diocese and eparchies for fiscal year 2021 were: settlements, $118,516,493; other payments to victims, $113,103,280; support for offenders, $9,972,414; attorneys' fees, $45,597,100; and other costs, $6,930,931.

The grand total of costs was $194,120,218. This figure is 38% less than the grand total of $311,980,666 for fiscal year 2020.

Six-tenths of the payments made by dioceses and eparchies between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021, were for settlements to victims (61%) and almost a quarter of the total cost is for attorney's fees (23%)," CARA said.

Despite restrictions experienced due to the pandemic, elements included in the charter audit process conducted by StoneBridge Business Partners, were not altered.
ADIRONDACK

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

CLINTON

**FOUNDATION DAY**
Ellenburg Center – Join for a festive celebration of Foundation Day at Our Lady of the Adirondacks.
**Date:** Aug. 13
**Schedule:** 9:30 a.m., Welcome and coffee; 10 a.m. Guest Speaker Mary Beth Brady, from Holy Cross Parish, Plattsburgh, who will share thoughts on her blessed vocation in Christ; Special Music with Per melia (Perry) Provost; 11 a.m. Celebration of Sat Morning Mass with Bishop Terry R. LaValley; Noon, Luncheon
**Features:** We remember, with gratitude, Fr. Joseph Trombley and all whose joy in Christ led to the establishment of this treasured ‘listening’ House. “Listen to Him!” the Holy Spirit states. “Do as He tells you,” our Blessed Mother says. All are welcome!
**Contact:** Please call 518-534-9976 (Sarah) or 518-594-3253 (House) to indicate how many will be joining us for lunch!

APPLEFEST
Peru – The 44 Annual St. Augustine’s Apple fest to be held.
**Date:** Sept. 17
**Schedule:** Craft fair at 10 a.m., community parade at 11 a.m., Chicken BBQ at 1:30 p.m.
**Place:** St. Augustine’s Church
**Features:** Food, games, and raffles.

**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.” Flex-ible 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.

FRANKLIN

**GIGANTIC YARD SALE**
Brushton — St. Mary’s to have a gigantic yard sale.
**Schedule:** July 22, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; July 23, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
**Features:** Nice variety of items, good prices. Have lunch, enjoy our famous Michigan, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, and food sale items.

**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

JEFFERSON

**HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY**
Housesville — A Holy Hour of Adoration with the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be observed the first Sunday of the month.
**Date:** Aug. 7
**Time:** Following 11 a.m. Mass
**Place:** St. Hedwig’s Church
**Contact:** 315-346-6260

ST. LAWRENCE

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

**ROSARY FOR LIFE**
Canton — Rosary for life to be held.
**Date:** Every Saturday
**Time:** 4:25 p.m. preceding the 5 p.m. Vigil Mass
**Place:** St. Mary’s Church

**ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS**
Ogdensburg — The Legion of Mary will pray the rosary with devotions for First Saturday.
**Date:** Aug. 6
**Time:** 8 a.m.
**Place:** Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg
**Features:** Rosary with devotions

**FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY**
Massena — Sacred Heart Church to have first Saturday Rosary Devotion.
**Date:** Aug. 6
**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.

**PICNIC AND CELEBRATION**
Massena — Parish picnic to be held along with the celebration of Fr. Mark Reilly’s 25th Anniversary of the Priesthood.
**Date:** Aug. 7
**Time:** Noon, following the 11 a.m. Mass
**Place:** St. Mary’s Church
**Features:** Everyone is welcome! There will be lots of food (featuring a pig roast from Pig and Moo BBQ), games for children (adults, too!), great company and conversation and loads of fun for all!
**Contact:** We ask that if you plan to attend, please contact the parish office at 315-769-2469 and let us know how many are coming, so we can properly plan for the food.

**MONTHLY BRUNCH**
Norfolk — Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond’s will have their monthly Knights of Columbus Brunch.
**Date:** Aug. 14 (Second Sunday of each month)
**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 11:30
**Place:** Fr. Amyot Parish Center
**Cost:** Adults, $10; under 12, $5; under 5, Free; Omelets, add $3; Takeouts available
**Contact:** For more information contact Grand Knight Gil Gonzalez 315-212-5166.

**DIOCESAN EVENTS**

**150TH ANNIVERSARY MASS**
Ogdensburg — To give praise and glory to the Lord for the One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary of the Founding of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, His Excellency, The Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, cordially invites all the faithful to a special Eucharistic Celebration of Thanksgiving.
**Date:** Aug. 10
**Time:** 1 p.m.
**Place:** St. Mary’s Cathedral
**Features:** Picnic to follow on the Cathedral lawn. For those unable to attend, Mass will be livestreamed at www.rcdony.org/live mass.

**MARRIED AND RELIGIOUS JUBILEE 2022**
Ogdensburg — We invite all families to join us at the annual Married and Religious Jubilee.
**Date:** Sept. 11
**Time:** 2:30 p.m.
**Place:** St. Mary’s Cathedral
**Features:** Bishop LaValley will be presiding. Whether you have been married for less than 1 year, over 50 years, or anything in between, we want to acknowledge your commitment and celebrate with you. There will be a gathering with refreshments after the Mass.
**Contact:** Married couples that wish to receive a certificate signed by Bishop LaValley and have their names appear in the program should register no later than Sept. 2nd at https://www.rcdony.org/family-life/jubileeereg.html. For more information please contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org.

**FAMILY GUGGENHEIM**
Saranac Lake — Online registration is now open for Family Guggenheim.
**Date:** Session 1 Aug. 18-21; Session 2 Aug. 25-28; Session 3 Oct. 7-9
**Place:** Guggenheim

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**Cost:** Visit www.rcdony.org/family-life/gf for more information
**Features:** Family Guggenheim welcomes families of all dimensions to come enjoy a special weekend in the beauty of the Adirondacks. Expect fun family workshops and activities that will have you working and laughing together. Celebrate Christ’s presence in your lives through liturgy (often outside) and special prayer services. Take time for great outdoor activities like paddle boat rides, beach volleyball, and hiking. You are never too young or too old to enjoy being family at Camp Guggenheim!

**Contact:** For more information, please contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org.

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**RACHEL’S VINEYARD RETREAT**
Saranac Lake — After Abortion Healing weekend to be held.
**Date:** Sept. 2-4
**Place:** Guggenheim Center
**Features:** If you (or a friend) are suffering after an abortion, you’re not alone. Consider participating in the next Rachel’s Vineyard retreat. The weekend will be held at the main camp to provide more social distancing. Each retreatant will have their own room. Open to women and men. Don’t suffer alone. Help is available.
**Contact:** Registration is online at rcdony.org/pro-life or contact the Respect Life office 518-524-0774 or cmrine@rcdony.org.
NEW YORK (CNS) - Tongue-in-cheek humor paces the vivid action in "Thor: Love and Thunder" (Disney), the third direct sequel to the Marvel Comics-based franchise's 2011 original.

While it makes for an aesthetically satisfying extension of the saga, however, the film pushes the series' previous boundaries in a number of ways, making it unsuitable for any but grown moviegoers.

Via the script he wrote with Jennifer Kaytin Robinson, returning director Taika Waititi, who helmed the previous outing, presents the Norse deity of the title (Chris Hemsworth) with a formidable new adversary, Gorr the God Butcher (Christian Bale). A disillusioned former believer in the deities of paganism, Gorr has obtained a magical sword capable of slaying them and has launched a killing spree targeting them.

In response, Thor rallies Valkyrie (Tessa Thompson), the sovereign of New Asgard, and another of his sidekicks, Korg (voice of Waititi), an anthropomorphized pile of rocks, to stop the villain. But his crusade takes an unexpected detour when he's reunited with his true love, Jane Foster (Natalie Portman), a human astrophysicist who now turns up as his female alter ego, wielding his trademark hammer.

Thor's romance with Jane has been hampered by his fear of commitment in the past and continues to be hobbled by his amusingly excessive emotional neediness and endless desire for affirmation. Waititi and Robinson also garner laughs with material satirizing the series itself.

However, while some of the picture's underlying values - exalting teamwork and the importance of enduring relationships - are straightforward enough, others range from the complex to the downright murky. What are viewers to make, for example, of early scenes showing the futility of Gorr's faith, depicting humans as the playthings of the gods and denying the afterlife?

If all this applies only to the imaginary immortals of the ancient world, fair enough. But is the audience meant to apply Gorr's bitter lesson to religion more broadly? The wrap-up eventually mitigates Gorr's nihilism but not so decisively as to relieve moviegoers of the need to interpret his experience carefully.

The screenplay also includes some problematic elements of gender-bending and homosexuality. Thus Valkyrie, a lesbian, is referred to as the King, rather than the Queen of New Asgard.

Thor's buff physique has long been both a drawing card and a subject of jokes for the franchise. Here, though, the comedy surrounding it veers briefly into bawdiness.

All told, this latest visit to the Marvel Cinematic Universe cannot be endorsed even for mature teens. That's a shame because, so long as it sticks to its real job of diverting popcorn-munching movie patrons, "Thor: Love and Thunder" succeeds quite well.

The film contains frequent bloodless but sometimes intense battle violence, fleeting rear nudity, some sexual humor, references to lesbianism, about a half-dozen mild oaths, several crude terms and at least one crass expression.

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.

A great nation begins to come to its senses

This past weekend in Houston, I had the opportunity to speak at a religious liberty conference about transgender issues, homosexuality and contraception. The conference happened to open on the same day that the Dobbs decision overturning Roe vs. Wade was released by the Supreme Court.

There was a noticeable "buzz" in the air because of the Court's decision. Whenever a speaker would mention the ruling, spontaneous applause would erupt from the audience. Young and middle-aged conference attendees, most of whom had grown up with Roe vs. Wade, couldn't recall a time in their lives when abortion-on-demand had not been legal in all states. There was a strong sentiment that because of the decision, we had reached a turning point as a society, with an onerous weight finally being lifted from the conscience of the nation.

Abortion-on-demand was the law of our land for nearly a half-century, ending the lives of more than 63 million vulnerable unborn humans. Because of judicial brute force for five decades, the moral sense and reasoning ability of many citizens was weakened, with many Americans growing accustomed to the ongoing practice. A number of other nations also legalized abortion, following our troublesome lead.

This historic reversal by the Supreme Court has myriad implications. People are stirring again and beginning to ponder their longstanding complacency. Many are starting to ask how a country professing "liberty and justice for all" could enshrine killing on such a colossal scale. Other nations are re-examining their policies. The jolt from the court's decision is also prompting questions about the enormous sums of American taxpayer money that have been funneled into the coffers of the abortion industry.

We stand at a pivotal moment, a moment of reawakening, dialogue, conversion and renewal.

This historic Dobbs decision has also sent shock waves through the abortion industry as it suddenly realizes that its profitable enterprise of death is facing an existential threat in many states. Its forces are certain to intensify the relentless misinformation campaigns that have misled people for decades, relying on support from corporate America, Hollywood, and the media. Those same forces have already shown that they will not hesitate to gin up noisy, and sometimes violent, protests around the country.

With the Court's decision, a first and important first step has taken place. What Dobbs did, as noted on the first page of the decision, was to leave abortion policy "to the people and their elected representatives."

Now that the Court has assumed a neutral position on the issue, and state or federal legislators can enact measures to protect moms and their unborn children at any stage of pregnancy, the door has finally been opened to protect human life by revamping and strengthening state and local laws.

As new legal initiatives made possible by Dobbs begin appearing on state legislative dockets, Americans will have an opportunity to mount a full court press to bring abortion to an end in their home states. Bold legislators, courageous governors and informed voters will need to work to...

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Considering prayer

In our first reading today, we find how powerful is the righteousness of only a few people in saving a city, a nation, or even the whole world from destruction. This is why prayer is so important to save the darkness, fear, and division of our own troubled world.

In the second reading, the power of our prayer is again emphasized. Only a few people can make such a tremendous difference. Today’s Gospel from Luke urges us not to refuse the request of a neighbor in need. Last Sunday’s Gospel expands on our narrow perceptions of just who “neighbor” includes. We all struggle with that question. With a solemn promise, God assures us to ask Him to knock at His door.

He always answers our prayers in a manner this is best for us. He is our powerful and loving Father. Sometimes the answer is no, but something better will come. That takes so much faith and trust!

So many people no longer believe in this loving God, much less in praying to Him daily. It takes perseverance in our times.

After all, it’s God’s world. With all the dangers of the COVID pandemic and the dominance of dictators with their lust for power, all the hunger and poverty among the nations, our job is to be ambassadors for God’s love and care.

We are so few in numbers, but all through the centuries, He has always been dependent on a faithful remnant to accomplish His Will.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

July 24

17th Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

Genesis 18:20-32
Colossians 2:1-14

Luggage carts

Someday came to my house recently.
Someday is the shortened version of, “I’ll get around to doing that someday.”

With the help of my able assistant Jack, who happens to be one of my grandsons, I started the noble attack of the dreaded honey-do list that has plagued me for about a decade.

Granted, some of the debris of needed removal, repositioning, repair or replacement, is the product of my own doing. Like the perfectly good bi-fold door set that we removed from a downstairs room in 1975 and stored in the attic of our house since.

“It is a perfectly good set of doors,” I remember commenting to my bride at the time. “Let’s hold onto them. I’m sure we will have a use for them.”

I couldn’t believe it took three days recently before someone rescued the door set from in front of my house. Hopefully the new owners will find a suitable use for them.

The attic of the house, the scene of our initial foray, held other treasures.

There was the accumulated luggage. We do travel a bit. Not nearly as much as we used to. So, luggage is a necessary item. Ten bags of various sizes and shapes may be a little over the top.

We tend to use soft bags for short stays and more stable luggage for longer trips. However, we do like the luggage with wheels that allows you to drag the bag rather than carry it.

Just about anything that fits the carry category has found a new home in a thrift shop.

Speaking of drag, the attic held a surprise when I found the collapsible luggage cart that I used a couple of decades ago to haul texts books to and from Wadhams Hall for deacon formation classes. Come to think of it, I believe that cart was my introduction to bungee cords too. Can’t part with that.

One corner of the attic held a collection of toys that were my daughter’s when she was little. Most of the items were Barbie doll furniture and Sesame Street vehicles. We found a bunch of little wooden Sesame Street characters, too – Big Bird, Grover, Oscar the Grouch, among others. We found Bert but alas, Ernie is among the missing. All that stuff found suitable homes where little people can enjoy them in future years.

There was a perfectly fine, in fact pristine, highchair that will be put to good use by someone someday. There is a wonderful crib too but I’m sure the wooden crib would not pass current regulations, since the slats are too far apart and the side drops down... apparently a no-no in our current consciousness.

This just gives you a taste of what Jack and I found in the attic. We are not really done but our efforts did prompt Jack to say, “It looks pretty good up here, Pop!” That is like getting an “A” on your report card.

We still have the end of July and all of August to work on the list. One item checked but plenty to go.

It sure beats putting your feet up and reading a book. Not.

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown. He is the Director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.
A great nation begins to come to its senses

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together.

Steven Mosher of the Population Research Institute offers some helpful recommendations:

“In states that do not yet ban abortion, we must work with pro-life state legislators to protect all human lives. Where a complete ban is not possible, we must advocate for Heartbeat legislation, that will prevent all abortions after six weeks, understanding that this is only a way station on the way to a complete ban.... At the local level, talk to your city councilman or county supervisor about making the place where you live a sanctuary for the unborn. Outlawing abortion within city or county limits is possible even in hostile states like New York or California if you happen to live in the more socially conservative parts of these states. Even closer to home, support your local crisis pregnancy centers, whose services will now be more in demand than ever before from young women who have nowhere else to turn.... Volunteer if you can, donate if you can’t.

The years of dedicated work that have gone into educating people about the harsh realities surrounding abortion, setting up crisis pregnancy centers, drafting pro-life legislation and electing pro-life candidates has created critical momentum for definitively enacting pro-life laws and securing the human rights of unborn children around the country, state-by-state, instead of having such initiatives almost continually enjoined by courts. We should all have a renewed sense of hope and determination as a great nation once again comes to its senses in the face of abortion’s longstanding injustice and violence.

Rev. Tadeusz Pachelczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org and www.fathertad.com.
Celebrate 150 years with the People of the Diocese of Ogdensburg

ANNIVERSARY MASS

AUGUST 10

AT SAINT MARY’S CATHEDRAL, OGDENSBURG

1 P.M.

PICNIC TO FOLLOW

INCLUDING SPECIAL GUESTS:

HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL TIMOTHY M. DOLAN
ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK

ARCHBISHOP MARCEL DAMPHOUSSE
ARCHBISHOP OF OTTAWA-CORNWALL

ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL MULHALL
ARCHBISHOP OF KINGSTON

BISHOP GERALD M. BARBARITO
BISHOP OF PALM BEACH & FORMER BISHOP OF OGDENSBURG

BISHOP ROBERT J. CUNNINGHAM
BISHOP EMERITUS OF SYRACUSE & FORMER BISHOP OF OGDENSBURG

BISHOP PAUL S. LOVERDE
BISHOP EMERITUS OF ARLINGTON & FORMER BISHOP OF OGDENSBURG

BISHOP CHRISTOPHER J. COYNE
BISHOP OF BURLINGTON

BISHOP DOUGLAS J. LUCIA
BISHOP OF SYRACUSE

BISHOP RICHARD J. MALONE
BISHOP EMERITUS OF BUFFALO

BISHOP SALVATORE R. MATANO
BISHOP OF ROCHESTER

BISHOP NOEL SIMARD
BISHOP OF VALLEYFIELD