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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC
JULY 6, 2022

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SUMMER SCHEDULE
The North Country Catholic is now on summer schedule and prints every other week. There will be no newspaper next week. The next edition will be July 20.

ORDAINED A DEACON
Bishop Terry R. LaValley ordained seminarian Lukas H. Gruber to the diaconate on June 25 at St. Mary’s Church in Potsdam. The full story is on Page 3, and additional photos are on Page 16.

BISHOP LAVALLEY TO HONOR 33 WITH AWARDS
Bishop Terry R. LaValley will present awards for distinguished service to thirty-three individuals during a special gathering on July 10, 2022, beginning at 2 p.m. at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg. The Celebration of the Body of Christ, part of the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, will begin with a recital by Mr. Donald K. Fellows on the new Cathedral organ, and a Holy Hour beginning at 3 p.m., during which the awards will be presented. Bishop LaValley will honor thirty-three individuals in recognition of their dedicated service.
FULL STORY, PAGE 5

Pope: Elderly called to be 'teachers of tenderness'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The elderly can find purpose in their old age by teaching future generations about the value and importance of tenderness, Pope Francis said.

Elderly men and women often have "a special sensitivity for care, for reflection and affection" that is sorely needed in today’s war-torn world, the pope said in a video message released by the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network June 30.

"We are, or we can become, teachers of tenderness. And indeed, we can!" he said. "In this world accustomed to war, we need a true revolution of tenderness."

At the start of each month, the network posts a short video of the pope offering his specific prayer intention. For the month of July, the pope dedicated his prayer intention to the elderly. The Catholic Church celebrates the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly each July on the Sunday closest to the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, Jesus' grandparents. The celebration is July 24 this year.

In his video message, the pope noted the high number of older men and women in the world compared to young people and said that today, there are "many plans for assistance for the old age, but few plans for existence."

Nevertheless, grandparents and the elderly can find meaning by passing along their wisdom to future generations, he said.
I’ll try to do it

I couldn’t do it.
I was gathered with three other individuals, a deacon, a religious sister, and another person involved in ministry, and I was asked to lead a closing prayer after we completed a discussion.

The request made me feel a sense of panic. I was already very aware that I was the person in the room with the least theological training and experience in ministry. I was worried I’d stumble over words, or I’d say something silly, and I worried doing so would show the others — people I respect and love — that I was “out of my league.”

I couldn’t do it. I let my fear and pride get in the way of leading prayer, and I declined the suggestion quickly and repeatedly.

I couldn’t bring myself to pray with others, even though I knew those “others” to be kind, loving, and accepting people.

I thought of that incident as I attended the ordination of Deacon Lukas Gruber on June 25 and as I read Suzanne Pietropaoli’s story about the Wenzler family in Lake Placid (see the stories on pages 3 and 9).

Here are people who are not afraid to boldly follow God’s call in their lives.

Deacon Gruber is living boldly, his willingness to serve Christ and His Church as a deacon and God willing, eventually as a priest.

The Wenzlers are boldly following God’s call to be open to love and life.

Deacon Gruber and the Wenzlers have followed God’s call in these areas despite living in a culture that has normalized serving our own desires and wills, and they’ve done so in ways that are very visible and likely open them up to people thinking they are “silly” or “out of their league.”

I’d like to think that all of us, or at least most of us, sometimes struggle with feeling unworthy to do God’s will and proclaim God’s word. Let’s be honest: We’re not worthy.

But God asks us to do it anyway. He asks us to bring our unworthiness to him and allow him to use it and use us for his glory.

I sincerely hope I’ll have the courage to respond to God’s calls in my life as they present themselves in the future. While I’m sure I’ll continue to struggle with pride and feelings of unworthiness, I am committed to trying to follow the lead of those God has placed in my life to inspire me.

With God’s help, I hope I’ll at least try to do it.

The Gospels are about us

Today, I would like to bring up something that I have written about before and rather often. As you may remember, I often encourage you to recognize that most Gospel stories are read and that Mass is about us, you and me, now in our time.

Today I want to share with you a couple of such examples.

This morning, as I was celebrating Mass, a daily Mass, and as I was offering a homily on the Gospel, I noticed how this Gospel story was about me and you. This story from St. Matthew’s Gospel described the apostles crossing the sea in a boat. Jesus was with them. Suddenly a violent storm blew up. The apostles were frightened and disturbed. They looked to Jesus for help. Jesus stood up and actually calmed the storm. Then Jesus said to them, “Why are you terrified, O you of little faith.”

Fear can be so debilitating. It can cause us to lose all confidence. It can cause us to lose so much spirit in life. Jesus calls us to be people of faith and turn to the Lord as the apostles did. Let us pray for a strong, alive faith, asking the Lord to combat all our fears. Faith is what reveals Christ’s presence on our boats; faith is what permits God to console our heart, calm our fears and preserve our joy amid problems and fears. God gives us the confidence we need to face our fears.

Another example, a story that I noticed will be read in this Sunday’s Mass: This story begins as Jesus sends seventy-two disciples out in pairs to every town that Jesus planned to visit himself. This story is also about us. Even today Jesus continues to send us out — all seventy-two of us plus so many more! We are being called to bring ourselves and to lead others to a closer relationship with the Lord. This is Jesus’ challenge for us, “The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for this harvest.”

Do you realize what Jesus is saying? Now is the time to transform our world. This world of ours needs the Lord’s message, but the Lord needs us to be part of that mission. Even today the Lord’s call continues.

Jesus makes his message very clear, the message of peace, the peace of the Lord for us all. Peace must be the spirit of the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God means making our world a place of love and peace. We are marching out as the seventy-two did.

This Gospel story goes on to tell us that when the seventy-two returned to Jesus, they came back rejoicing. They found their message transforming, bringing peace and love of the Lord to others. They themselves were changed also as they brought the Lord’s call to others. This story is ours, for you and me.

So, each time you go to Mass listen carefully to the Gospel, or even better read the Gospel for that Mass. Take the time to find yourself in the story each time you participate in the Mass. This will strengthen your relationship with the Lord. He was thinking of you. He was thinking of each one of us, when he was teaching on this earth so long ago.
Bishop LaValley ordains Deacon Lukas Gruber

By Darcy Fargo

POTSDAM — “What an absolutely beautiful day for the Church in the North Country,” said Bishop Terry R. LaValley, as he delivered his homily during the ordination of seminarian Lukas Gruber to the diaconate. “Lukas, you have accepted the invitation to give yourself to Christ and to enter the journey of life with strong faith and a whole lot of hope, choosing to leave everything to follow Christ in total service to him and to our sisters and brothers. Soon you will be advanced to the Order of the Deacon as a minister of word and of charity. Our presence here this morning attests to our resolve to hold you in prayer. Today, tomorrow, every day.”

Deacon Gruber was ordained by Bishop LaValley on June 25 at St. Mary’s Church in Potsdam.

“You know we see it at Mass often, maybe without paying a whole lot of attention: Before the deacon proclaims the Gospel, he turns, and either kneeling or standing, bows before the provider to receive a blessing,” Bishop LaValley said. “The deacon is also bowing to the Gospel he will proclaim, showing in this way his own obedient submission to God’s word. Lukas, as a minister of the word, you proclaim the saving good news of Jesus Christ. Let he be foundation of the lives of each and of all who hear your words. The blessing the provider gives to the deacon is ‘may the Lord be in your heart and on your lips that you may worthily proclaim the Gospel.’ You know the deacon cannot proclaim the Gospel worthily with his lips unless he first possesses it in his heart. On this, the memorial of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we remember that Mary conceived the Word of God in her heart before conceiving him in her womb and bringing him into the world. She then treasured in her heart all things having to do with her son. Her motherly heart was pierced because of her obedience to the father. Like Mary, the deacon must conceive, treasure and yes, even suffer, the word of God in his heart.”

Bishop LaValley reminded Deacon Gruber that his life must reflect the Gospel.

“It’s vitally important that you possess a lifestyle in conformity with the words you preach so that the faith you profess may be conformed by the manner whereby you give witness to God’s presence,” he said.

He also noted that living his ministry will help Deacon Gruber grow in his relationship with the Lord.

“Lukas, you know that your ordination to the diaconate imprints on you a sacred and permanent character,” Bishop LaValley said. “You will be sanctified by the very ministry you carry out – the ministry of the Word, sacraments and charity. As you enable your sisters and brothers to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ, your own will grow in that process. You see, you will open yourself up to the grace of this sacred order through your praying, your preaching and your celebrating of the sacraments and serving our sisters and brothers. You will be strengthened and renewed by and through your ministry. It doesn’t mean you won’t ever get tired or even frustrated, but it does mean that you will never, ever get bored as long as you remember this sacred gift you have received and share.”

At the ordination Mass, Connor Cummings and Linda MacDougall served as lectors. Deacon Richard Burns proclaimed the Gospel. Deacon Brian Dwyer presented the candidate, and Father Christopher C. Carrara, diocesan Vicar for Clergy and director of Vocations and Seminarians, read the “election of the candidate.”

After he was ordained through the laying on of hands by the bishop and the Prayer of Ordination, Deacon Gruber was vested in the stole and dalmatic by Father Joseph Giroux.

He was then handed the Book of the Gospels by Bishop LaValley, and the bishop and deacon representatives offer a “fraternal kiss of peace,” a hug, to the newly ordained “as a welcome into the Order of Deacons.”

Deacon Gruber is currently serving at St. Mary’s in Ticonderoga and Our Lady of Lourdes in Schroon Lake while on summer assignment. He will return to Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, in August to complete his seminary studies in preparation of ordination to the priesthood next year.

2022 Diocesan Directories now available!

The Official 2022 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

During the National Family Planning Awareness Week (July 24-30), the Church calls our attention to married love and to the blessings of children. The Church invites us to deepen our understanding of God's plan for marriage and sexuality. Within that understanding, we come to appreciate the great gift offered to married couples through NFP.

In *Marriage, Love and Life in the Divine Plan*, the United States bishops remind us that “the divine plan, like the gift of marriage itself, is something we receive, not something we construct or change to fit our purposes. It is a firm foundation, a truthful guide, a trustworthy light for the way.” Tragically, God's teaching on marital love and the family is ignored or discarded by many. But, as this year’s theme indicates, God's ways lead to the joy of Love. Darkness will not overcome the Light, where true happiness is found.

As we pray and study the Scriptures, we learn that God looks at the world and human life differently from human beings with our limited vision. His view encompasses the whole of the human family and all the ages for all eternity. Today, for many, God's plan gives way to my plan. Contraception and sterilization – technological means of preventing conception – are tragic examples.

The Church teaches that marriage is a lifelong partnership of the whole of life, of mutual and exclusive fidelity, between a man and a woman, and ordered towards the good of spouses and the procreation and education of children. God is the author of marriage. God has endowed marriage with certain essential attributes, without which marriage cannot exist as God intends. The Church speaks of an inseparable connection between the two purposes of marriage: the good of the spouses themselves as well as the procreation of children. In their marriage vows, the spouses pledge love and fidelity for as long as they live. The transmission of life is a concrete realization of this radical self-gift between a man and a woman. Using contraceptive practices to close off an act of intercourse to the possibility of procreation makes the act signify something less than the unreserved self-gift intended in the marriage promises.

It's no secret. A couple's responsibility to serve life by being open to children is being rejected so frequently today. There is a loss of belief in the value of these purposes when couples treat, as separate choices, the decision to get married and then the decision to have children. This indicates a mentality in which children are seen not as integral to a marriage but as optional.

Viable scientific methods of Natural Family Planning are available to support responsible parenthood. They represent authentic family planning. This practice fosters an attitude of respect for human life, which is always sacred. It also fosters profound respect for one's spouse.

I am grateful to Suzanne and Angelo Pietropaoli, Diocesan Directors of the NFP Office. Through their ministry as directors and educators, we offer assistance to families throughout our diocese. Should you like more information about Natural Family Planning, please contact our office. Let us all renew our commitment to respect human life and follow the divine plan for marriage and family life. Children – treasured gifts for a lifetime into eternity!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

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**Called to the joy of love**

Natural Family Planning, Supporting God’s gifts of love and life in marriage

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Called to the joy of love

Diocese of Ogdensburg
Natural Family Planning Office
518-483-0459
Email: apostropaoli@rchony.org
Website: www.rchony.org/nfp

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**Called to the joy of love**

Bishop Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg
Thirty-three to be honored with awards

Bishop Terry R. LaValley will present awards for distinguished service to thirty-three individuals during a special gathering on July 10, 2022, beginning at 2 p.m. at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

The Celebration of the Body of Christ, a gathering which is part of the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, will begin with a recital by Mr. Donald K. Fellows on the new Cathedral organ, and a Holy Hour beginning at 3 p.m., during which the awards will be presented.

Bishop LaValley will honor thirty-three individuals in recognition of their dedicated service.

“IT is most fitting to acknowledge those who have served the Body of Christ in so many ways across the years,” Bishop LaValley said. “I am grateful for all the faithful discipleship of these wonderful people.”

The following individuals will be honored:

Nominee: Mr. Bruce P. Bombard
Bruce radiates joy, warmth and welcome in his service at Saint Peter’s Church in Massena and the surrounding area. His concern and compassionate care for the bereaved, homebound, and suffering inspire. Bruce has been very generous with his time and talents, including his ministry as a greeter and Lector at Mass. Bruce is a daily Rosary and Divine Mercy devotion leader. He is a man of prayer who has led Liturgy of the Hours, Rosary and Divine Mercy devotions in the parish.

Nominee: Mrs. Jane A. Boyea
Mrs. Jane Boyea is a lifelong parishioner of St. Mary’s in Brushton. Her generous sharing of her time, talent and treasure reflect her love for St. Mary’s, the Diocese and the Church. Jane is a past Trustee, a member of St. Mary’s Finance Council and brings the Eucharist to the homebound. She is a driving force for a wide range of parish activities, including ministry to the homebound. Jane is very loved by people of all ages and is always searching for ways to help her parish and diocese. She is a woman who has brought hope, joy and motivation to others.

Nominee: Mr. James T. Brady
James Brady is a devout Catholic who lives a life of exemplary virtue and service to his Church and his community. Jim serves his parish as Trustee, Lector and usher. Additionally, Jim oversees the parish properties and is active in the Knights of Columbus, bereavement committee and outreach programs to the poor and needy. Jim is highly respected in the community for his work in youth sports programs and Heuvelton Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, where many have benefited from his compassionate and generous service. Jim truly lives out his faith by living a life of virtue and serving others with compassion. I am deeply grateful for his leadership and positive influence on others.

Nominee: Mr. Michael B. Bresnahan, Jr.
Michael Bresnahan is devoted to His Lord and the Catholic Community of Alexandria. His service as cantor, choir member, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion reveals his humble piety and devotion to God. His steadfast support for the priests who have served at the Catholic Community of Alexandria shows his generosity of spirit and compassion for others. A devout family man, Michael has shared the blessing of his life in myriad ways, such as building community by organizing parish meals, decorating St. Cyril’s Church inside and out, and caring for the needy. Michael is an inspiration to his parish and community. I am grateful for his example of prayer and service.

Nominee: Mr. Glenn R. Burdo
Glenn is a man of service who is generous with his time, treasure and talents. No matter what the need, Glenn is always willing to lend a hand. His work as greeter, usher, helper at parish dinners, and Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion allow Glenn’s devotion to God and commitment to service shine forth as a beacon of hope. He has served the Catholic Community of Saint Alexander and St. Joseph’s as a member of the Pastoral Council and Finance Council, as a Trustee and member of his parish’s Living Stone Planning team. Glenn is supportive of the bishops and priests of the diocese and is active in the Knights of Columbus. He often gives time and resources to assist with care of the church in all seasons. The diocese and Saint Alexander’s Church in Morrisonville are blessed to have him as part of the community.

Nominee: Ms. Starr Burke
Starr Burke is one of the primary providers of assistance to the poor and the homeless in the Plattsburgh area. Her work experience in social services and her active faith have given her a compassionate heart and the aptitude to effectively assist people in desperate situations. Her dedication to living the spiritual and corporal works of mercy have caused her to dedicate herself to outreach to the poor and homeless, to the benefit of her Church and her community. Starr has served as a Board Member to Catholic Charities and on the Diocesan Pastoral Council. Starr serves her parish as an Extraordinary Minister of Communion and catechist in the Confirmation Program. Starr also serves as an advisor to neighboring churches’ programs for the poor. Presently, in retirement, she is coordinating the efforts of Catholic Charities and the St. Joseph’s Outreach Center in Treadwell Mills to assist those with special needs, with special attention to migrants approaching the northern border. Starr provides outstanding leadership in the coordinated ministry of Catholic Charities and St. Joseph’s Outreach Center in Treadwell Mills.

Nominee: Mr. David M. Cline
David Cline’s long service to St. Patrick’s Church in Brushton Falls is inspiring. With his wife, Valerie, he founded a St. Vincent de Paul Society in Brushton Falls. From humble beginnings, by hard work and God’s grace, this ministry grew into a food pantry and thrift store to serve the needs of the community. David has labored in the Lord’s vineyard over the years and has remained committed to living out his faith by serving the poorest among us. David is a Commissioned Lay Minister and serves his parish by training altar servers, Lectors and Eucharistic ministers. Dave’s life is centered on God and His Church and his service has been of great assistance to the needy. I am also grateful that David’s and Valerie’s lives of service inspired their son to dedicate his life to service as a priest in our diocese.

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Thirty-three honored

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Nominee: Mrs. Ruth C. Demarse

Ruth Demarse has exhibited a love of God and neighbor in a way that has truly made her community a better place. While working full time at Alice Hyde Medical Center, Ruth made time to volunteer at the Malone Adult Center. Ruth has served fellow parishioners and neighbors by driving them to doctor appointments and by bringing Communion to the homebound. Ruth also serves her parish and community by working in the thrift store and outreach programs, and by working at parish bingos. Ruth’s selfless actions and commitment to her community serve as an inspiration to her friends, family and peers, and show what it means to truly give back to one’s community.

Nominee: Mr. Joseph E. Denoncourt

Joseph Denoncourt has served as an usher at St. Mary’s Cathedral for several decades. Joe has been the “go-to” man at the former St. Vincent de Paul Society (now Our Lady’s Outreach) for anyone seeking assistance. He has been the Treasurer until this past year, when personal illness, COVID, and care for his wife demanded more of his time. He has served on the Pastoral Council, as an usher and in many other ministries. Joe is a devout Catholic who exemplifies service. I am grateful for Joseph’s effective service and for his joyful disposition as he lives out his faith.

Nominee: Mrs. Patricia J. Fasset

A daily Mass participant, Patricia Fasset has been and remains a very active member of St. Mary’s Cathedral parish. Pat has a lively faith life and a deep concern for others. For many years, she has been an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, both to the home-bound and at St. Joseph’s Home. Her decades of work at the Outreach Store continues, volunteering many hours each week. Pat is an outstanding Catholic. I am inspired by Pat’s witness to the faith and the way she joyfully lives out her faith.

Nominee: Mr. Pat A. Fontana, Sr.

Pat Fontana Sr.’s legacy as Principal at Immaculate Heart Central school is a near perfect example of Catholic service. As a father, husband, teacher, administrator, and Principal of IHC, he fulfilled the goal of Catholic education: which is forming disciples of Jesus Christ. His spirituality is well developed, and it was very evident in his leadership. He gave many examples of his rich interior life in his dealings with faculty, parents and students. He helped many schools in the diocese with his ideas and creativity and his willingness to share. He worked hard to make IHC an excellent Catholic school. He loved the Sisters of St. Joseph and honored them as the special women they are. Pat’s active faith and his generous participation in the life of the Church are inspiring.

Nominee: Deacon Gary A. Frank

Deacon Gary A. Frank has served the people of the North Country consistently and well. Gary has been active in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults for many years. Gary is dedicated to sharing his faith with others and serving his faith community. Gary and his wife, Gayle, have worked with couples preparing for marriage and have worked to enhance family life by their ministry in the Family Life Office of the Diocese and the Family Guggenheim program. They also support the youth of the Diocese through their involvement at Guggenheim Summer Camp and their involvement in Youth Ministry on the diocesan and parish levels. Gary was ordained a permanent deacon in 1996 and has served in the parishes of St. Mary’s in Clayton and St. John the Baptist in LaFargeville. I am grateful for his generous service and commitment to forming faithful disciples.

Nominee: Mrs. Gayle G. Frank

Gayle G. Frank has consistently shared her faith in the hope of forming young Catholics, strengthening marriage, helping others to grow in their knowledge of God, and calling others to reflect God’s love and mercy in their lives. To this end, Gayle has served as a catechist and catechetical leader in her parish, director of the Diocesan Family Life Office, Diocesan Youth Minister, and leader of Guggenheim Summer Camp and Family Guggenheim weekends. With her husband, Deacon Gary Frank, she has worked with couples preparing for marriage and with married couples seeking to enhance their marriage and family life. By her hard work and good example, she has assisted others in growing closer to the Lord and becoming committed disciples.

Nominee: Mrs. Connie M. Hatch-Young

In 1996, Connie Hatch-Young volunteered to help for a few weeks as the parish bookkeeper at Saint Patrick’s Church in Colton. After six pastors and a few decades, she continues to serve and does more than just help. She is both competent and kind. She is also a woman of deep faith. Connie has done exemplary work as “the face of the Church” for countless people and neighbors who have come to the parish and remain very involved in both parish and community events. Her service is given with both joy and generosity.

Nominee: Mrs. Eileen K. Hayes

In 1997 Eileen Hayes and her family moved from Potsdam to Tupper Lake. Eileen worked as a teacher and, with her husband, raised five wonderful children. Eileen has been active with Mercy Care of the Adirondacks, reaching out to the elderly...
Celebration of Body of Christ

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

of the area. She originated early childhood education at Holy Ghost Academy in Tupper Lake and taught there for many years. With her husband, Eileen has been committed to living out her faith and the social teaching of the Church by loving God and neighbor. Her commitment to the domestic church and Catholic education will produce fruits for the Church for years to come.

Nominee: Mr. Gerald J. LaValley

Like Simeon and Anna, Gerald LaValley and his wife, Darlene, are always in Church, and like Simeon and Anna they direct our attention to Christ. He serves as Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and volunteers in the Food Pantry or by providing other services. While raising five children, Gerry and Darlene also fostered over sixty children from troubled homes throughout the years. They are an excellent example of married life and recently celebrated their sixty-second anniversary. They share their experience as catechists in the Pre-Cana Marriage Program.

Nominee: Dr. Victor W. Ludwig

Victor Ludwig, and his wife Barbara, are long time parishioners of Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh. Dr. Ludwig lives out his faith in quiet ways that have a positive impact on his parish and community. As a physician, Dr. Ludwig was known for his compassion and concern for his patients. In addition to caring for their physical well-being, he also reflected to his patients the compassion and power of Jesus, the healer of souls. His musical talents enhance liturgies at Holy Cross Parish. Additionally, Victor and Barbara serve as sacristans and help with liturgical decorations in their parish. They were instrumental in obtaining the statue of St. John the Baptist when that Church building was renovated.

Nominee: Mrs. Barbara C. Ludwig

Barbara Ludwig and her husband, Victor, are long time parishioners of Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh. Barbara serves as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, sacristan and member of the liturgical environment team that decorates the Church inside and out. Barbara and Victor were instrumental in obtaining the statue of St. John the Baptist when that Church building was renovated.

Nominee: Ms. Leslie A. Marvel

Leslie Marvel remains an effective administrative assistant and bookkeeper for the parishes in the Plattsburgh area. She served at St. Mary’s of the Lake Church in Cumberland Head, St. John the Baptist Church, and presently at Holy Cross Parish. Her dedicated service and competence was a blessing during the consolidation of the parishes of Plattsburgh. Leslie has also served her Church as a catechist and catechetical leader in the religious education program, leader and teacher in the Vacation Bible School, and coordinator of parish festivals and fundraisers. She is a Commissioner Lay Minister and served on the Eastern Region CLM Advisory Board. Leslie’s competent service and faithfulness have earned her the respect of her pastors, fellow employees, parishioners and her community.

Nominee: Mr. Angelo E. Pietropaoli and Mrs. Suzanne Paletropaoli

Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli, from St. Andre’s Parish in Malone, have been tireless in their work of sharing the Church’s teaching on married love and authentic sexuality. In a world increasingly hostile to the teachings of our faith, their faithfulness, perseverance and courage are so very admirable. They have “walked the walk” in raising their own family, and their children now give witness to the Catholic faith in beautiful and varied ways. Since 1980, Suzanne and Angelo have been instrumental in coordinating the diocesan Natural Family Planning Program. They are active in the Catholic pro-life movement both locally and nationally through ministries like Birthright, Life Chain and the annual March for Life. Together they led a charismatic prayer group and remain active at the Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer in Ellenburg Center. Angelo was a catechist in Religious Education group. He is in his fourth decade serving as an organist at Saint Andre Besette Parish. Angelo helped form the St. Andre’s Brothers men’s group and is a Third Degree Knight of Columbus.

Nominee: Mrs. Elsie L. Scruggs

Mrs. Elsie Gabri Scruggs is and has been, for decades, a pillar of the Catholic community and a true icon of Christian service in Massena. She and her husband, the late Carl Scruggs Sr., were steadfast supporters of the parish and school for many years. A Commissioner Lay Minister, Elsie remains joyful, passionate, supportive and deeply faithful. For years, Elsie has been a daily Mass communicant. She was very involved as a Lector and in the Sacred Heart Church music ministry as a pianist and organist. Additionally, she gave countless hours of service to Sacred Heart School, and later Trinity Catholic School, joyfully supporting student engagement and fundraising efforts with her musical gifts. She consistently served the elderly at the St. Regis Nursing Home, leading the Rosary and playing music for Mass each week. Elsie was also instrumental in forming and leading an active bereavement outreach and support ministry in Massena and is a Lay Associate of the Servants of Mary.

Nominee: Mrs. Donna J. Sweeney

Donna Sweeney is a long-time parishioner of St. Patrick’s Church in Brasher Falls. Donna successfully coordinated the Gabriel Project for close to 20 years and continues to lead a team of volunteers assisting mothers in need. She is currently an elementary school administrator. Donna ministered as both a catechist and later as the catechetical leader in her parish. Donna’s faithful service and good example have won her the admiration and respect of her parish family and community. Her work has been a source of blessing for mothers in need and the young people in her parish and community.

Nominee: Mr. Daniel J. Steenberg

Mary Catherine Spilman has been a faithful Catholic her entire life. Mary Catherine generously shares her musical skills as organist for weekend, holy day and funeral Masses at Our Lady of Grace Parish. Additionally, she supports her parish by serving on the hospitality committee and Altar and Rosary Society. Mary Catherine has supported the diocese by working as an administrative assistant in the Diocesan Education Office, and as a volunteer assisting with the archives and special projects at the Chancery Office. Mary Catherine allows her faith to shine forth through her generous service and her good example.

Nominee: Mrs. Donna J. Steenberg

Donna Steenberg is a long-time parishioner of St. Patrick’s Church in Brasher Falls. Donna successfully coordinated the Gabriel Project for close to 20 years and continues to lead a team of volunteers assisting mothers in need. She is currently an elementary school administrator. Donna ministered as both a catechist and later as the catechetical leader in her parish. Donna’s faithful service and good example have won her the admiration and respect of her parish family and community. Her work has been a source of blessing for mothers in need and the young people in her parish and community.

Nominee: Mrs. Mary Catherine Spilman

Mary Catherine Spilman has been a faithful Catholic her entire life. Mary Catherine generously shares her musical skills as organist for weekend, holy day and funeral Masses at Our Lady of Grace Parish. Additionally, she supports her parish by serving on the hospitality committee and Altar and Rosary Society. Mary Catherine has supported the diocese by working as an administrative assistant in the Diocesan Education Office, and as a volunteer assisting with the archives and special projects at the Chancery Office. Mary Catherine allows her faith to shine forth through her generous service and her good example.
Bishop bestows honors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Knight of the local Knights of Columbus. He is a man of the Church. He knows the local Church history better than anyone in the parish, but he does not live in the past. He knows and respects clergy and religious, and he loves his married life. Dan gives the best example of someone living out the lay apostolate. He continues to be involved with Catholic education and service to his parish.

Nominee: Sister Mary Christine Taylor, S.S.J.

Sister Mary Christine Taylor, S.S.J. has been a force for good in the Diocese of Ogdensburg for more than half of the 150 year existence of the diocese. Scholar, historian, author, teacher, administrator and pastoral ministry is a short list of the roles she has played in educating others about God and nurturing their faith. Sister Christine served as a professor of history and religious studies at Mater Dei College, Wadham’s Hall Seminary College, and St. Regis Mohawk Branch Campus of Mater Dei. She taught at Catholic schools in Watertown, AuSable Forks, Massena and Carthage. While teaching, she also filled administrative positions, such as a member of the Saint Joseph Leadership Council, academic dean at Mater Dei College and its Mohawk Branch campus, and academic dean at Wadham’s Hall Seminary College. Sister Christine’s faith in God and love of learning has been a blessing for countless students across the diocese and across the years, but special mention of her work and life among the Mohawks at Akwasasne needs to be made. Sister Christine was the driving force behind the expansion of Mater Dei College onto the reservation and a driving force behind pastoral outreach efforts for the Saint Regis Mission Church. In addition to serving as administrator and teacher at the St. Regis Branch Campus, Sister Christine helped establish the Office of the Aging of the Mohawk Nation and Partridge House, an alcohol and drug rehabilitation program on the reservation. Sister Christine’s work has brought her a number of awards, but her only motivation has been to give glory to God. Recognizing that no award can adequately express our gratitude and respect for all Sister Christine has done, I offer this award as a token of our gratitude and affection for her. I cannot overstated the positive impact Sr. Christine has had on our diocese and our Church.

Nominee: Mr. Michael J. Tooley

Michael Tooley has served as the Diocesan Fiscal Officer for twenty years. In this capacity he has overseen a fiscal office that is supportive of the many parishes, ministries, programs and entities in our diocese. Mike has supported four bishops in his role of Diocesan Fiscal Officer by his leadership and good stewardship. Mike supported his community for many years by serving on the public school board of education. Mike served as a catechist in the Confirmation program at Notre Dame Church for many years. Mike and his family continue to support their parish in many ways. I am most grateful for Mike’s dedicated service to the diocese and his faithful participation in the life of his parish.

Nominee: Miss Michelle E. Watkins

Michelle Watkins and Youth Ministry in the diocese have been linked together for decades. At Camp Guggenheim, in the heart of the Adirondacks, Michelle serves as counselor and Waterfront Director for four summers before beginning an eleven year stretch as Camp Director. Making the celebration of the Eucharist, the sacrament of Penance and faith-filled service the mainstays of life at Camp Guggenheim, Michelle touched the lives of countless youth and helped them appreciate the beauty of our Catholic Faith and the joy of being a disciple of Jesus. Michelle possesses a rare ability to share her deep faith and relate to teens. Michelle is an active parishioner at Saint Stephen’s Church in Croghan and Saint Francis Solanus Church in Harrisville. She serves as Lector and supports youth Ministry through retreat weekends, hiking trips and outreach programs. She shares her knowledge and gifts with parishes across the diocese and other camps. She is an award-winning teacher of Biology and Environmental Science at Beaver River Central School. Michelle is most generous with her time and the gifts and talents God has given her. Michelle’s tireless efforts and outstanding witness have won her the admiration and respect of the people in our diocese and beyond.

Nominee: Mrs. Linda F. Young

In 1985, Linda Young, a parishioner at St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid, launched the Ecumenical Food Pantry. There was a need to address the real poverty hidden in what was seen as an affluent village. Guided by her faith and aided by a tireless work ethic and persuasive example, she convinced others to provide for the poor and needy through the food pantry and thrift shop. Working out of the basement at St. Agnes Church, Linda’s efforts built a network of care for those on the margins of society. Whether it be a Thanksgiving meal, scholarships for the young, shelter for the homeless or furniture for those who had none, Linda’s leadership has created a bond of love with those who struggle to get by each day. Her humble approach to ministry and her good example have brought out the best of those who serve and those who are served. Her faithful participation in the life of St. Agnes Church is further sign of her love for the Lord.

REDONDED sexuality

By Theresa Notare

As Christians we should be grateful beyond words for the gift of our redemption. We believe that Christ’s action on the cross has changed all things, for all time. We should seek to relate every aspect of our lives to how Christ has redeemed us and our world. When we consider the mystery – and contemporary confusion – of human sexuality, it is even more urgent for Christians to ask: How has Christ redeemed human sexuality? Today our media features topics that not long ago would have been labeled science fiction, or pornography. Cloning, casual sex, getting pregnant by means of reproductive technologies, frozen embryos, adultery – the list goes on. Does anyone in the public square relate these issues to the spiritual? When those of us try to bring God into the equation, we are often told that individual morality must not be imposed on the public. But that should not deter the Christian.

Christ’s work on the cross has restored all of human life, even human sexuality. That means that human sexuality is not tinged with sin, nor is it morally neutral. Although we can misuse even the best of God’s gifts, that does not change the fact that sex is God’s gift of life and love to us. Specifically, sexual intercourse was never meant to be directed to the individual. It’s not a sport or game to be enjoyed on its own. Sexual intercourse is a powerful event of interpersonal communion – it is a sacramental event.

This makes more sense when we realize that Christian marriage is a sign of Christ’s presence in the world. As Christians we accept on faith that human sexuality is caught

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A house full of life

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Staff Writer

LAKE PLACID—“Children are a blessing, a gift from the Lord... Happy the one whose quiver is filled with them.” These words from Psalm 127 echo across the centuries in Scripture and in the constant teaching of the Church. Happily, they have also found a home in the hearts of Fritz and Annie Wenzler, who share life and love with their six children at home in Lake Placid.

Their family journey began when the couple married in their mid-twenties, they explain.

“Fritz was attending school full time, and Annie was working full time. We both hoped children would be in our future but were enjoying the newlywed life of friends, travel, and community. We always viewed children as a blessing, entrusted to us by the Lord.” And when they started having children, they note, “We were never set on a number. It was a fresh conversation with each baby. But with continued prayer we were always able to hear God’s path for us.”

In fact, God has always been central to their conversation about family size.

“In daily prayer,” says Annie, “we pray for trust in His will for our family... whatever that may be. Discerning God’s will means talking and listening to each other and to God, every day! NFP helps with this, as it is all about communication. Especially as we age, NFP has been more valuable. It allows us to look at the big picture of overall health, of each other and of our children, and what might be next for how our family grows—whether growing bigger in number or growing deeper in our relationships with each other.”

Growing in faith is also important for this young family, who are parishioners at St. Agnes.

“Our Catholic faith leads us to Mass each Sunday as a family, to celebrate liturgical holidays, and to a monthly rosary group where we share faith and fellowship with other families,” Fritz said. “Guggenheim Family Camp has been a cornerstone for our family’s growth in faith. Big, faith-filled families are a rarity, and to be surrounded by them when at camp is inspirational.” This inspiration also extends into the Wenzlers’ daily life.

As Annie explains, “Our family makes special occasions of birthdays, Baptismal anniversaries, and holidays. We also follow along with the rhythm of liturgical seasons, highlighting feasts and fasts with special dinners or activities. We have found great fellowship in our rosary group, and our families do a lot of outdoor adventures together.”

Indoors and out, this family values time spent together.

“Marking the little things is important too: end of the school year, good report cards, snow days, a first loose tooth,” Annie said. “Our favorite parts of the year are Christmas, Family Days, and our annual vacation to the ocean. Our family spends a lot of time outside every day, all four seasons. We are fortunate to live outside of town and to have lots of space to play! Most times we enjoy our neighborhood trails by hiking, biking, or cross-country skiing. In the summer we enjoy swimming, boating, and camping. Typical Adirondack family!”

“Life is beautiful,” the couple concludes, “and our house is certainly full of life! A full house means more occasions to celebrate. Challenges include the volume and emotions that can build up through the day, but we are often outside which does counter that. The only way we do it is imperfectly.” Adds Annie, “Our children enjoy their siblings and have each other to play with. They are always talking up a new project, plan, or scheme. Our family is big, and our family is wide, so the age range allows the older children to help with the littles. New babies are very exciting to all!”

Redeemed sexuality

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

up in Christ, uniting a man and woman in a union which reflects God’s love in the world and is directed to others. With that starting point, it makes excellent sense to keep sex in marriage.

The redeemed nature of marriage was understood by the Church from our earliest history. Following up on Jesus’ own words on the indissolubility of marriage, St. Paul likened Christian marriage to Christ’s relationship with His Church. As Christ loved the Church...so the husband should love and cherish his wife as he cherishes his own body; for husband and wife are one body, as Christ and the Church are one body. This is a great mystery (Ephesians 5:21-33). St. John Chrysostom (347-407) taught that the one flesh union of the spouses is not an empty symbol. They have not become the image of anything on earth, but of God Himself (Homily 12).

The love of spouses, says the Catechism, requires of its very nature, the unity and indissolubility of the spouses’ community of persons, which embraces their entire life (#1644).

The root of this indissolubility is found in God Himself, who taught us of His fidelity through His covenant with Abraham. It is found finally in Christ, who united Himself with His Church.

In the age of continuous assaults on God’s design for life and love, it would do the world good if Christians reclaimed our rich heritage. Before we can do this we need to return to the mystery of our faith and meditate on who Jesus is, what He did for us, and how this has changed all life for all ages.

Theresa Notare, PhD, is Assistant Director of the Natural Family Planning Program of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. This is an edited version of an article that was first printed as a Life Issues Forum column. It is reprinted here with permission.
Environmental Stewardship

*Care for our common home*

Care for our “common home” is by now a recognized sentiment of inspiration from Pope Francis’s Encyclical *Laudato Si*. As our actions in any part of the world eventually impact all the rest of the world we must become more conscious of this connectedness to the earth and all people. Following are some actions that can contribute to the sustainability of God’s Gifts of Creation. Though each action may be small in consequence, magnified by the many taking on these actions, the results can be enormous.

**LOWERING ENERGY CONSUMPTION and COST**

- Use hydropower, solar or wind as sources of renewable energy. We are fortunate here in the St. Regis area to have access to the local Northern Power and Light of Adirondack hydro-electric power projects. To learn more about what is available in your area, NYSERDA offers education on various sources of renewable energy and how to assess them
- Take advantage of passive solar and cooling within homes by using blinds/curtains during the day and opening the house to the cool evening air; ceiling fans also aid in heating and cooling
- Eliminate vampire or stand-by power which is expended when plugs not in use are left in sockets, remedied by use of outlet power switches; use of energy efficient light bulbs; on-demand hot water and clotheslines
- Have an energy audit done to determine the optimum household energy requirements and how to fix any places where you are losing energy
- Keep vehicles, furnaces, appliances and tools in good working order to allow them to run most efficiently and safely; when they are in need of replacement look into their energy efficiency, longevity and their actual need
- Combine car trips to serve more than one purpose and shared rides

Consider this week how many ways you are caring for God’s garden and our common home. Are there any ways from the list above that you can add to your list?

By Richard and Susanne Arens
St. Ann’s Parish, St. Regis Falls
Members of the Faith and Ecology Group

Rest in Peace

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

**July 6** – Rev. Armand Baron, O.M.I., 1936
**July 7** – Rev. Felician Fechner, O.F.M.Conv, 1952
**July 9** – Rev. John Rogers, 1887
**July 13** – Rev. George Garand, 1941
**July 18** – Msgr. Joseph Dominica Braught, 1966

Bishop’s Public Schedule

**July 7** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
**July 9** – 10:30 a.m. – Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting at St. Peter’s Church in Hammond
- 4 p.m. – Installation of Reverend Frank T. Natale, MSC, as Pastor of St. Mary’s Church in Evans Mills and St. Paul’s Church in Black River along with The Church of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Watertown at St. Mary’s Church in Evans Mills
**July 10** – Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ogdensburg at St. Mary’s Cathedral
- 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
- 2 p.m. – Organ Recital by Mr. Don Fellows
- 3 p.m. – Eucharistic Exposition and recognition of the faithful of the diocese
**July 12** – Gathering with the Seminarians followed by Mass and Lunch at Camp Gugenheim in Saranac Lake - Time TBD
**July 13** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
**July 14** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
**July 16** – 10:30 a.m. – Council of Deacons Meeting at St. Mary’s Cathedral (Brazna Hall)
- 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
**July 17** – 12:15 p.m. – Mass at the 74th Annual New York State Knights of Columbus Pilgrimage at St. Anne’s Shrine in the Isle La Motte in Vermont

To Report Abuse

*If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terrianne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, S050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rdcony.org Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340. If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at 800-276-1562 or www.ReportBishopAbuse.org.*

**CALL TO THE JOY OF LOVE**

The richness in Church teachings

By Janet E. Smith

The Church’s teaching on contraception is not just a doctrine that states what not to do. Many people would benefit from knowing that it is a doctrine that explains how extraordinarily important is the act of having children. One reason that modern culture has trouble understanding the truth of Humanae Vitae is that it fails to appreciate what a profound good children are. It is true that most parents love their children beyond belief and frequently even acknowledge that they are great gifts from God. Many parents will testify that when they held their baby for the first time, they experience a rush of love matched by little else.

But they do not always realize that in having children they are “co-creators” with God. This is not a term used by Humanae Vitae; it is a term used by John Paul II in his writing. Humanae Vitae does speak of the “extremely important mission of transmitting human life” that God has entrusted to spouses. A human life is of inestimable value; a human soul is destined to share a blissful eternity with God, the angels and saints. Only God can create a new human soul but he needs the help of human beings to bring forth a new person. When engaging in sexual intercourse spouses are inviting God to perform his creative act of bringing a new human soul into existence: they supply the sperm and egg; God provides the soul. He then en-trusts that soul to the parents to guide and educate and ultimately to help get them to heaven.

Our culture does not really focus on helping people to realize that some day they will likely be parents and how tremendously important a task that is. We do not often think that we should be spending much of our youth preparing for the responsibilities of being parents. Contraception enables us to think of sexual intercourse as a casual and to some extent as an insignificant act rather than an act that can change the universe – for the coming to be of a new human being truly changes the universe. Someone who did not exist before comes into existence and will remain in existence forever.

If people were conscious of the extreme significance of the sexual act, they could not possibly be as cavalier about it as they now are. They would choose their spouses very carefully – and use as a foremost criterion the suitability of that person to be a parent. Those who succeed in marrying someone who will be a good parent – someone who is patient, generous, responsible, kind, other directed, and reliable also are nearly guaranteed to get a terrific spouse – for who wouldn’t want a spouse with those virtues? Our sexually out of control culture and divorce culture has led 68% of children born in the U.S. to being born out of wedlock or born into households that will frag...
CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Agencies expect to help more women, babies after Dobbs
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) -- With the reversal of Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion nationwide -- a fixture of Catholic pro-life activism and bus pilgrimages to the nation's capital. So the ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, and Gray's mission accomplished, has led to speculation as to the future of the national march. Will it continue? Yes, said Jeanne Mancini, who became March for Life president in 2013, a year after Gray's death. But there's a new emphasis on growing statewide marches, an effort that began a few years ago. "We will still be having our federal legislative battles," Mancini said on a June 29 webinar, "Life Beyond Roe," sponsored by a consortium of pro-life groups. But "I would say the voices will have more impact at the state level" as state legislatures that have not already enacted abortion bans begin to debate legislation, she said. "So it's like less is more." March for Life has held state marches in Connecticut, Virginia and California, with ones planned for Pennsylvania in September and Ohio in October.

JUDGE KETANJII BROWN JACKSON

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson sworn in as Supreme Court justice June 30, becoming the first Black woman in that role. The ceremony took place at the Supreme Court, after the court finished issuing its final opinions of the 2021-2022 term, and Justice Stephen Breyer's retirement was official. Jackson took the constitutional oath, administered by Chief Justice John Roberts and a judicial oath, administered by the newly retired Breyer. "With a full heart, I accept the solemn responsibility of supporting and defending the Constitution of the United States and administering justice without fear or favor, so help me God," she said. "I am truly grateful to be part of the promise of our great nation," she added. Jackson, in the presence of other justices and retired Justice Anthony Kennedy, took the oaths with her hand on two Bibles held by her husband, Patrick: a family Bible, and a Bible described as the "Harlan" Bible, that Justice John Marshall Harlan gave to the court in 1906. In a statement, Justice, 51, thanked both Roberts and Breyer and said Breyer had been her "personal friend and mentor" for two decades.

OFFICIAL: March will continue until 'abortion is unthinkable'
WASHINGTON (CNS) -- When the Supreme Court ruled June 24 that there is no constitutional right to abortion, the historic decision came a day before what would have been the 98th birthday of Nellie Gray, founder of the March for Life. The March -- which Gray, a Texas-born government lawyer, founded in 1974 to mark the first anniversary of the court's Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion nationwide -- is a fixture of Catholic pro-life activism and bus pilgrimages to the nation's capital. So the ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, and Gray's mission accomplished, has led to speculation as to the future of the national march. Will it continue? Yes, said Jeanne Mancini, who became March for Life president in 2013, a year after Gray's death. But there's a new emphasis on growing statewide marches, an effort that began a few years ago. "We will still be having our federal legislative battles," Mancini said on a June 29 webinar, "Life Beyond Roe," sponsored by a consortium of pro-life groups. But "I would say the voices will have more impact at the state level" as state legislatures that have not already enacted abortion bans begin to debate legislation, she said. "So it's like less is more." March for Life has held state marches in Connecticut, Virginia and California, with ones planned for Pennsylvania in September and Ohio in October.

WORLD/NATION

Court allows health worker vaccine mandate without religious exemption

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The Supreme Court June 30 rejected a challenge to New York's vaccine mandate for health care workers with no religious exemption. By denying the appeal, the justices left a lower court ruling in place that rejected the health care workers' claim that the COVID-19 vaccine mandate violates a constitutional prohibition against religious discrimination.

The justices did not explain why they chose not to take up this case, but the dissenters, Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch, did. A dissent written by Thomas, and joined by Alito and Gorsuch, said: "The New York mandate includes a medical exemption but no religious exemption, even though allowing a health care worker to remain unvaccinated undermines the state's asserted public health goals equally whether that worker happens to remain unvaccinated for religious reasons or medical ones."

Thomas also said that by taking this case, the court could "give much-needed guidance." The order was issued on the last day of the court's term. The high court also sent some cases back to lower courts due to its recent rulings on abortion and gun rights.

Last December, the Supreme Court similarly declined to temporarily block the vaccine requirement for New York health care workers and the same three justices dissented.

The state's mandate was first imposed last August and had allowed exceptions for medical reasons or religious objections, but the religious exemption was later removed.

Initial lawsuits filed by New York nurses, doctors and other health care workers said their religious reasons for not wanting the COVID-19 vaccinations were due to a link to cells from aborted fetuses that were used in the development or testing of the vaccines.

One group challenging the mandate said it "imposes an unconscionable choice on New York health care workers: abandon their faith or lose their careers and their best means to provide for their families."

In response, the state's brief said the vaccines do not contain aborted fetal cells but that an abortion-derived cell line was used during the research and development of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

It added that the "use of fetal cell lines for testing is common, including for the rubella vaccination, which New York's health care workers are already required to take."

The state's lawyers also pointed out that Pope Francis and other Catholic leaders have approved of the COVID-19 vaccines being administered and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops called the connection between the vaccines and abortion "very remote."

Richness in teachings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

ment through divorce. One out of four pregnancies is aborted.

Those who understand the Church's teaching on sexuality know that to a great extent it is shaped by a concern for the well-being of any children who may result from acts of sexual intercourse. Children born into families where their parents are sexually self-controlled, where they are faithful, stable, and desirous of children are predictably much better off than those born to single parents, to the unfaithful, to those open to divorce or divorced. The Church's teaching is also shaped by a knowledge that those who become parents generally become much better people; they need to develop quite a set of virtues in order to be good parents. Those virtues also help them be good spouses, good co-workers, good citizens. Those who use natural family planning to plan their family size develop the virtues needed to be good parents; they develop sexual self-control and pa-

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**ADIRONDACK**

**ST. ANDRE BESSETTE 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 be served. If you are concerned about your ability to walk the route, please consider joining us in 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:** Sarah Anderson at 518-534-9976.

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**APPLEFEST**

Peru – The 44th Annual St. Augustine’s Applefest 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.

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**CLINTON**

**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.

- **MONTHLY BRUNCH**
  - Norfolk – Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond’s will have their monthly Knights of Columbus brunch.
  - **Date:** July 10 (Second Sunday of each month)
  - **Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 11:30
  - **Place:** Fr. Amyot Parish Center
  - **Cost:** Adults, $10; $10 under 12, $5; under 5, Free; Omelets, add $3; Take-outs available

- **ROSARY DEVOTION**
  - Ogdensburg – Sacred Heart Church to have first Saturday Rosary Devotion.
  - **Date:** Aug. 6
NEW YORK (CNS) – Wise men say only fools rush in – and skip seeing “Elvis” (Warner Bros), a highly entertaining, turbocharged biography of a music legend.

This lavish, over-the-top production has all the creative hallmarks of its flamboyant director, Baz Luhrmann (“Moulin Rouge”, “The Great Gatsby”). The story unfolds at a dizzying pace, propelled by sensational musical numbers, good use of archival footage and a star-making performance by Austin Butler.

Although the script – by Luhrmann, Sam Bromell, Craig Pearce and Jeremy Doner – turns soap at times, the true story remains compelling, the meteoric rise and tragic fall of the biggest-selling solo artist of all time, set against the racially charged music scene of the 1950s and 1960s.

The story opens in rural Mississippi, where young Elvis (Chaydon Jay) is transfixed by the musical vibe and suggestive dancing of his African-American neighbors, on display (chastely) in church services and (lasciviously) in speakeasies.

Years pass, and Elvis embarks on a music career, drawing upon these styles. With slicked-back hair, a smoldering gaze and swiveling hips, he is an overnight sensation. A carnival barker, “Colonel” Tom Parker (Tom Hanks, well-padded with prosthetics), sees his meal ticket and offers to be Elvis’ manager, with the blessing of his parents, Gladys (Helen Thomson) and Vernon (Richard Roxburgh).

Focusing on one of Elvis’ screaming female fans, Parker recalls, “He was a taste of forbidden fruit. She could have eaten him alive.”

The overtly sexual nature of Elvis’ style escapes his saintly mother. “The way you sing and move is God-given,” Gladys tells her son, “so there can’t be anything wrong with it.”

In this case, mother doesn’t know best. But the dirt-poor Presleys happily land on Easy Street with Parker in tow. The villain of this story and a veritable Rasputin, Parker keeps Elvis on a short leash, while enriching himself on the side.

Competing for Elvis’ attention is the comely Priscilla (Olivia DeJonge), who becomes his wife and confidante, and seeks in vain to shield him from the excesses of success.

Meanwhile Elvis faces threats from the authorities, who see him as a threat to race relations and the status quo, and struggles to remain relevant as tastes change once a quartet of mop-topped lads from Liverpool arrive in the U.S.

Surprisingly, Elvis’ movie career is glossed over, denying viewers a glimpse of his first screen kiss with actress Dolores Hart in 1957’s “Loving You.” Hart famously left Hollywood six years later to become a Benedictine nun.

Overstuffed and furious, “Elvis” borders on sensory overload – think shake, rattle and roll on steroids. With its well-known conclusion, it remains a cautionary tale best reserved for mature teens and above.

The film contains suggestive dancing, drug use, implied adultery and several profane and crude oaths. 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.
On this Fifteenth Sunday, we find Jesus answering a very simple question: “Who is my neighbor?” In effect, our neighbor is anyone in need. It may be in my own family, or someone among our friends, or it might be anyone struggling with addiction, or someone we think of as an enemy.

The homily is the proclamation of the Word that became flesh. The verb in Greek is kerygmatic, meaning conversation. The homily is a speech, an oration, usually by an ordained person to a congregation in a church.

The word homily is derived from the Greek word homilia, which means conversation.

The lector, usually a layperson, presents scripture in the first and second readings. A deacon or a priest if a deacon is not present proclaims the Gospel.

The celebrant, a priest, usually delivers the homily. Sometimes, I dare say more often than in the past, a deacon delivers the homily.

The Catholic bishops of the United States in their document on the subject said preaching “is nothing less than a participation in the dynamic power of the apostolic witness to the very Word that created the world, the Word that was given to the prophets and teachers of Israel, and the Word that became flesh.”

Priests and deacons, who have spent countless hours preparing and studying scripture, the Catechism, the writings of the Church fathers, are trained to preach. Most are very good at preaching. Some, none in our diocese, could use a little work.

When a man is ordained a priest he receives, among other things, the faculty to preach at the Sunday Eucharist and on Holy Days.

In the Diocese of Ogdensburg, deacons do not receive the faculty when they are ordained. They wait a year from ordination and then apply to begin a process. If accepted, the deacon who wants to be a preacher needs a priest mentor and then writes and delivers four different homilies over the next few months.

If the critiques from randomly selected parishioners, the deacon’s pastor and the deacon’s mentor are all favorable, the bishop receives a recommendation to grant the deacon the faculty to preach. He, the bishop, then decides whether to grant the faculty or not.

Think of a faculty as permission. The deacon, if granted, is now allowed to preach at Sunday Mass. That’s a big deal.

For the preacher candidate it means the fulfillment of his formation. The deacon prepared for three years during formation to preach. Now, God willing, he will receive that permission.

The homily, as Pope Francis wrote, is the voice of God “who seeks to reach out to others through the preacher and displays his power through human words.”

The permanent deacons ordained last October will begin the process soon of working toward the faculty to preach. Once received they will share the responsibility of preaching and teaching at the Sunday liturgy with their pastor and associates.

Pray for them all.

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown. He is the Director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.
Earlier this month, we were lucky to be able to send our secretary to this year’s Pontifical Mission Societies’ national meeting, where she was able to meet with the new director, his staff, as well as representatives from offices across the United States. We continue to be a universal organization that works together to provide ongoing support for dioceses in developing countries.

The Pontifical Mission Societies (TPMS) supports the daily activities of dioceses across all of Africa (excluding Egypt), all of Asia (excluding the Philippines), all of Oceania (excluding Australia), and 60-70 dioceses in Latin America. The money we collect yearly goes to Rome to be distributed to these parishes to allow them to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of those in their diocese. When the Catholic Church was originally founded in the United States of America, we received support from other national TPMS offices. Now, we are able to give to those who need help from us.

Every year, the October World Mission Sunday (WMS) collection and our Lenten and Christmas appeals go directly to this cause. Money raised for the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) directly helps the children in these dioceses with food and water, as well as assisting in funding schooling and faith formation. Finally, the Saint Peter Apostle Appeal (SPA) directly supports the 75,000 seminarians in the aforementioned mission territories.

Monsignor Kieran Harrington, our new director, is looking to reanimate our national branch of TPMS and provide greater transparency to our donors. We are hopeful that our ongoing efforts will encourage your missionary hearts to donate to those who otherwise would not be able keep their dioceses active and care for those in need.

To be added to our mailing list or to learn more please feel free to contact us at amichael@rcdony.org. More information can also be found at our website www.rcdony.org/mission. And as always, please remember “The Society for the Propagation of the Faith” when writing or changing your Will.

**OBITUARIES**

**Brownville** – Sally J. Parker, 62; Mass of Christian Burial June 24, 2022 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Brushton** – Elizabeth J. (Mayville) Drumm, 86; Mass of Christian Burial June 21, 2022 at St. Mary’s Church.

**Carthage** – Joseph S. Shambo, 89; Mass of Christian Burial June 27, 2022 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

**Champlain** – Fred G. Stone, 77; Mass of Christian Burial June 21, 2022 at St. Mary’s Church.

**Colton** – Nancy J. (Webert) Demo, 87; Mass of Christian Burial June 21, 2022 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery.

**Constable** – Barbara T. (Rest) Drees, 90; Graveside services June 20, 2022 at St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery.

**Crogan** – Linda (Martin) Hall, 83; Mass of Christian Burial June 23, 2022 at St. Stephen’s Church; burial in St. Peter’s Cemetery, New Bremen.

**Ellenburg** – Anne Marie (Garrow) Sylvester, 52; Mass of Christian Burial June 25, 2022 at St. Edmund’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.


**Harrisville** – Clyde “Ike” A. LaDuc, 88; Mass of Christian Burial July 9, 2022 at St. Francis Solanus Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Heuvelton** – Bernard G. Hynes, 85; Funeral Services June 23, 2022 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Hillcrest Cemetery.


**Keeseville** – Rita C. Sullivan, 95; Mass of Christian Burial June 27, 2022 at St. John’s Church; burial in Immaculate Conception Cemetery.

**Lowville** – Jeffrey F. Sauter, 66; Mass of Christian Burial June 25, 2022 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in Croghan Mennonite Cemetery.

**Malone** – Edward “Ned” J. Lemieux, 84; Funeral Services June 22, 2022 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Ladd Cemetery, Duane.

**Morrisonville** – Charles V. Trudo, 76; Mass of Christian Burial July 1, 2022 at St. Alexander’s Church; burial in Mother Cabrini’s Shrine, Peru.

**North Bangor** – Stella (Benware) O’Connor, 88; Mass of Christian Burial June 23, 2022 at St. Augustine’s Church; burial in St. Augustine’s Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Bernadette B. (LaFave) McLean, 90; Funeral Services June 28, 2022 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Kent J. Pliner, 64; Funeral Services June 22, 2022 at LaRue & Pitcher Funeral Home; burial in Ogdensburg Cemetery.

**Peru** – Donald E. Truly, 85; Mass of Christian Burial June 22, 2022 at St. Hubert’s Church.

**Plattsburgh** – Jane O. Chagnon, 91; Funeral Services June 23, 2022 at Brown Funeral Home; burial in St. Amadeus Cemetery, Alburgh, VT.

**Redford** – Madelyn Parker, 88; Mass of Christian Burial June 23, 2022 at Church of the Assumption; burial in Saranac Independence Cemetery.

**Star Lake** – Robert Pommerville, 85; Mass of Christian Burial June 22, 2022 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

**Watertown** – John C. Webb, 58; Funeral Services July 2022 at Cummings Funeral Service, Inc.; burial in Glenwood Mausoleum.
ORDINATION OF DEACON LUKAS GRUBER

Photos by Jesse Sovie & Darcy Fargo