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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 77 Number 18

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPTEMBER 7, 2022

North Country man professes solemn vows

Brother André Bedore, OSB, made his solemn profession of vows as a monk of Subiaco Abbey at Mass on August 15, 2022, in the Abbey Church.

Having completed the period of triennial vows, he professed this life-long commitment as a Benedictine monk. Brother André was born August 14, 1985, in Saranac Lake, to Glenn and Anne Bedore. He graduated from Tupper Lake High School in 2003 and from SUNY Potsdam with a bachelor's degree in philosophy as well as from SUNY Canton with an associate's degree in accounting. He last worked as a reservations agent for a regional airline.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

BLESSING FLOWERS, HERBS & GRAINS

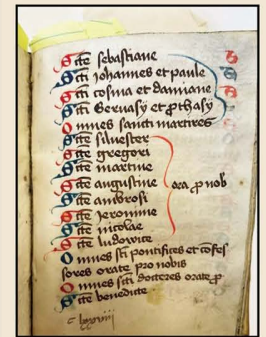


PHOTOS BY ELAINE ROSICZKOWSKI

Father Douglas Decker blesses flowers, herbs and grains at St. Hedwig's Church in Houseville. The traditional blessing is intended to honor our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of the Greens.



DIVING INTO DOCUMENTS



Diocese of Ogdensburg seminarian Tyler Fitzgerald completed an independent study in the special manuscript collections at the Pontifical College Josephinum as part of his last year studying at the seminary. Fitzgerald, who said he has always loved history, created catalog entries for pieces included in the collection, making the works more accessible to researchers.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope: Blessed John Paul I showed God's goodness

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Beatifying Blessed John Paul I, Pope Francis praised the late pope for showing the world God's goodness and for living the Gospel without compromise.

"Our new blessed lived that way: in the joy of the Gospel, without compromises, loving to the very end," the pope said.

"He embodied the poverty of the disciple, which is not only detachment from material goods, but also victory over the temptation to put oneself at the center, to seek one's own glory" as he followed the example of Jesus and was "a meek and humble pastor,"

he said.

The pope spoke during a homily in St. Peter's Square at a Sept. 4 Mass attended by an estimated 25,000 people under dark skies and rain, with an occasional roll of thunder and clap of lightning.

"With a smile, Pope John Paul managed to communicate the goodness of the Lord. How beautiful is a church with a happy, serene and smiling face, a church that never closes doors, never hardens hearts, never complains or harbors resentment, does not grow angry or impatient, does not look dour or suffer nostalgia for the past," the pope said.

"Let us pray to him, our father and our brother, and ask him to obtain for us 'the smile of the soul'" that is "transparent, that does not deceive," Pope Francis said. "Let us pray, in his own words, 'Lord take me as I am, with my defects, with my shortcomings, but make me become what you want me to be.'"

During the beatification ceremony, which took place at the beginning of the Mass, an image of the new blessed was unveiled on a huge tapestry affixed to the facade of the basilica. The image was a reproduction of an oil painting, "The Smiling Pope," cre-

ated by Zhang Yan, a Chinese artist whose work combines Eastern and Western painting techniques.

The relic, carried by Lina Petri, the niece of the late pope, was a piece of paper, yellowed with age, upon which the pope had written an outline for a spiritual reflection on the three theological virtues — faith, hope and charity — the themes of three of his only four audience talks.

The materials for the reliquary, a sculpted wooden cross on top of a smooth stone, were taken from where Blessed John Paul was born and grew up in northern Italy.

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Publish 45 issues per year: Weekly except skipping every other week beginning July through Aug. and skipping one week in Dec. by the Diocese of Ogdensburg. 622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Editorial Office:

622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

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catholic.org

Entered at the

Post Office:

Ogdensburg, NY
13669 and
additional mailing offices as
Periodical Postage.

Subscription:

For one year:
In-Diocese Rate: \$27
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication

should be
addressed to
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
and should be received by
Thursday prior to
publication.Paper is printed each
Monday;
deadline is Wednesday.
Member, Catholic Press
Association.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to
North Country Catholic,
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY
13669-0326

A souvenir from a place I've never been

I've never been to "Fort Wayne's Famous Coney Island" in Fort Wayne, Indiana, but a mug from that "oldest hot dog stand in America" is one of my favorites in my collection.

For starters, it's just a nice mug. It's heavy, and it has thick walls, and it seems to keep coffee hot for longer than some of my other mugs.

Even more than that, though, I love the mug for what it represents.

The mug was given to me as part of a "Hometown" gift exchange hosted on a social media platform. Much like a

"Secret Santa" exchange, users of the platform could sign up to participate. By signing up, you committed to sending a gift worth \$20 or more related to the theme to a stranger assigned to you by the platform.

For the "Hometown" exchange, gifts were supposed to represent the sender's hometown. Participants answered questions during registration to provide some basic preferences and allergies to guide the process.

I sent a gift representing the North Country to a woman in Oregon. I re-

ceived a package from Fort Wayne, Indiana. My favorite mug was in that package, along with a post card featuring a local scene, gummy worms produced nearby and locally brewed coffee. I loved everything in the package. The post card, candy and coffee are long gone. The mug has been a lasting gift.

So, what does the mug represent? Every time I drink from that mug, I think about that gift exchange, and I'm reminded that people can be loving, kind and generous enough to send gifts to complete strangers. Thinking about that reminds me that God made us all in His image and likeness. Anything made in the

likeness of God must be inherently good. People are inherently good. I sometimes forget that. The mug reminds me.

I'm guessing the sender didn't know that mug would mean so much to me and take on so much significance.

It's amazing how the Lord sometimes uses little things – brief exchanges, small gifts or items – to touch our hearts and remind us of His big love.

I'm not sure I ever want to go to "Fort Wayne's Famous Coney Island." Going there would likely make me think of the hot dog joint when I drink from my mug.

I'd rather think of the gifts.

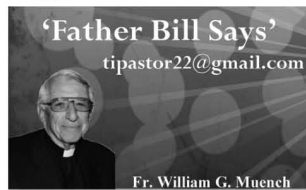
Darcy L.
Fargo

Establishing a relationship with the Lord

I remember the first day of the school year way back when I was a little kid. As I remember, everything seemed new and different. I also remember I was always getting something mixed up. I remember one year on the first day of a school year, I ended up in the wrong classroom, the wrong grade. I didn't want to cause any trouble, so I just quietly sat through the period.

I also remember many first days of the school year when I was a teacher. Each first day brought in a whole new group of students. Then began the task of getting to know each other during the first week.

Recently, the Gospel readings at the daily Masses describe for us the early days of Jesus' ministry. We might say these stories are about his first days of ministry. These were his first days as a teacher. As I read these Gospel stories again, I am so impressed at how the people were attracted to follow Jesus. We are told that those



Fr. William G. Muench

people were drawn to Jesus because he taught with authority. I wonder sometimes if I teach with authority.

Just as those people discovered Jesus and his message, I know that we are challenged each day to find Jesus. Sometimes I believe that I have already found Jesus. I have prayed and participated at Mass for many years. However, I want to say to you that there is so much more we must discover new about the Lord, so much more for us to learn. We must never be satisfied that we know all there is to know about Jesus. I believe that we all need a lifetime to form well our understanding of and relationship with the Lord.

As we establish our relationship with the Lord, the

first step for you and I is the realization that a most important part of our prayer is that we must listen. The words of prayer are important, but we must also listen. You see, I believe Jesus always has a new and important message for each of us now, a new message for today.

St. Paul has written that we must listen with the ears of our heart. This may sound curious, yet it is so important. The Lord wants to reach is not just with a message that is intellectual. Rather he wants us to discover his message of love and true dedication to all that the Lord challenges us with. That may take time to recognize. This truly takes a lifetime.

In those early years, Jesus also realized that he must do something for his followers. He realized that many were suffering from demons, demons that kept them from discovering his message and discovering the importance of God. So, with power he

drove out those demons that the individuals would be open and accepting of the Lord's words.

Even today the Lord knows that his followers continue to suffer from demons, demons that block us from recognizing God's presence in our lives and how to accept our God, how to realize what the Lord expects of us. We must turn often to Our Savior to remove those demons from us, just as he did in those Gospel times for those people as we read about.

Finally, Jesus began his ministry by teaching us and his early followers about God. He teaches us to begin our prayer by saying, "Our Father." God wants to be our Father. God wants us to call him "Abba." God wants to come to us in love and care. Our God is not that God of the Old Testament; our God is not the God of lightning on the mountain. Our God wants to establish a relationship with us like a loving and caring Father.

Seminarian dives into history, manuscripts

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

Diocese of Ogdensburg seminarian Tyler Fitzgerald loves history.

“One of my biggest hobbies and interests is genealogy,” Fitzgerald said. “And family and local history.”

So, when he learned his seminary, Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, had an extensive collection of “rare manuscripts and old books,” Fitzgerald was immediately interested in the collection.

“When I first arrived at the seminary, they gave us new seminarians a tour through campus,” he said. “That’s when I first heard mention of the special collections department.”

Then, in one of his history classes, the young seminarian from St. John the Baptist Church in Madrid had an opportunity to see some of the documents in the collection.

“My professor had a (doctorate) in handwriting analysis and specializes in medieval and Celtic manuscripts,” Fitzgerald said. “He took us into the special collections and showed us some of the things. The first time I saw them, I was hooked. It struck me that we have this very modern library, and there were books and things published that month and things from the 12th century sitting in the same building.”

When he reached his final year at the Josephinum, Fitzgerald approached a favorite professor, a medieval Spanish Church historian, and asked him about accessing the special collections as part of an independent study.

“In the spring semester, we started by meeting in (the professor’s) office and looking through facsimile books and learning the basics – things like what is parchment paper, how it’s made, how ink is made, who made the manuscripts...,” Fitzgerald said. “After a couple weeks of that, my professor said ‘what do we do?’ I said I wanted to explore the collection.”

Fitzgerald began a project to catalog six of the manuscripts, creating a document researchers could use to know what the manuscripts were and what they contained.

“The librarians were ecstatic,” he said. “It had been 20 to 30 years since anyone had done research on the collection. There was a student from Ohio State

who wrote a thesis on one of the manuscripts, a partial Bible from twelfth- or thirteenth-century France. The Bible was split apart in the 1980s, and now there’s a worldwide academic search to put it together again. The Josephinum has the largest physical portion. Apart from (the Ohio State student), no one was doing research in the manuscripts. I was the first seminarian in many, many years to handle them.”

As he dove into the collection, he recorded the document name and title, the origin country and year, and a description of the document.

“When researchers catch wind of a manuscript, they can call and request the manuscript entry, and they’ll be provided with that information,” Fitzgerald said. “There’s a portion where you need to count how many leaves – they’re leaves not pages. The numbering is unique. One leaf has front and back.”

Additionally, working with the collection required Fitzgerald to learn more about historical documents in general.

“I learned about how to handle them, and I learned more than basic manuscript document preservation,” he said. “I learned some basic medieval script. Before this, I didn’t realize how many different style of writing there were. People think of medieval documents, and they think of that gothic style. That’s just a drop in the bucket of medieval styles, and it was reserved for expensive, artistic manuscripts. Some of the handwriting resembles what we would write today.”

Fitzgerald later was able to present his research to the seminary community.

“I hope to ignite interest in other seminarians, and I hope they’ll take advantage of this collection,” he said. “You can have someone be passionate and excited and working hard on something, but if you don’t have others engaged, it’s all going to fall apart.”

While he enjoys an open invitation to access the collection at the Josephinum in the future, Fitzgerald says he hopes the skills he learned completing the project will serve him as he moves forward in formation for the priesthood.

“I’m going to use what I learned as I continue researching my family history, and in the long run, I’d love to have some historical project to work on for the diocese or a parish,” he said.



PHOTO BY SEMINARIAN MAX GALLEGOS, DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM ALABAMA
Diocese of Ogdensburg seminarian Tyler Fitzgerald, a parishioner of St. John the Baptist in Madrid, presents his research on the special collection of manuscripts housed in the library at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

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North Country man professes vows as monk

Brother André Bedore, OSB, made his solemn profession of vows as a monk of Subiaco Abbey at Mass on August 15, 2022, in the Abbey Church.

Having completed the period of triennial vows, he professed this life-long commitment as a Benedictine monk. Brother André was born August 14, 1985, in Saranac Lake, to Glenn and Anne Bedore. He graduated from Tupper Lake High School in 2003 and from SUNY Potsdam with a bachelor's degree in philosophy as well as from SUNY Canton with an associate's degree in accounting. He last worked as a reservations agent for a regional airline. He serves at Subiaco Abbey as Custodian of Masses, soap maker, bell ringer and weather recorder.

During the rite of Solemn Profession, Brother André chanted: "Sustain me, O Lord, as you have promised, that I may live, and disappoint me not in my hope."

These words from the 116th verse of Psalm 119 have echoed throughout the centuries in the profession rites of Benedictine monks. This prayer of supplication, however, is only one example from the rite of the solemn profession of a monk that has shed some light on the journey toward God. The mystical burial and the sign of peace also show glimpses of the great task that lies before the newly professed as he continues his search for God in the monastery until death. In the mystical burial, which follows the chanting of the *Suscipe me, Domine*



Brother André Bedore

(Psalm 119:116), the newly-professed monk lies prostrate before the altar, and is covered with the funeral pall, symbolizing his death to his former way of life. The paschal candle, symbolic of the risen Christ, lights his path in his exodus from death to life. Accompanying him on this journey are all the saints, represented by a solemn plea for their assistance in the Litany of Saints.

The sign of peace given by the solemnly professed members of the community to the newly professed monk most eloquently expresses the command of our holy founder Saint Benedict, in the words of chapter 72 of the Rule on the good zeal, which monks ought to have. In this beautiful expression of fraternity,

the newly professed receives the assurance that his confreres will support him in the task which he has undertaken for the salvation of his soul and promises to be a source of strength and encouragement as they continue to persevere in their commitment to God.

Subiaco Abbey is a Benedictine monastery of the Swiss-American congregation located in Subiaco, Arkansas. It was founded in 1878 by monks from St. Meinrad in Indiana and the Abbey of Maria Einsiedeln in Einsiedeln, Switzerland.

Today, the abbey is comprised of 32 solemnly professed monks with three men in formation.

More information can be found at the Abbey website of www.subi.org.

Ose, 'The Colonel,' honored on Knights' pilgrimage

By John T. Ryan

ISLE LA MOTTE, VERMONT – On July 17, North Country Knights of Columbus and friends honored the late Bill Ose at the 74th Annual NYS Knights of Columbus Pilgrimage to St. Anne's Shrine in Isle LaMotte, Vermont.

Beginning in 1994, Ose recruited a busload of pilgrims from the Watertown area and accompanied them as they made the four-hour journey to the shrine. The bus departed Watertown on Saturday morning, often picking up along the route, and returned home following the Sunday Mass and Benediction.

Ose passed away last April, however, his brother knights, led by Constableville Council 2175 Grand Knight Steve Kraeger and Ose's pilgrimage secretary, Rose Morgan, were determined that the bus would continue.

Saturday afternoon July 16, a bus carrying 40 pilgrims arrived at the shrine. At the close of Sunday's Mass, Rose Morgan presented an inscribed picture of Ose to St. Anne's Shrine Director Father Brian Cummings. Father Cummings will place the image in a prominent place at the shrine.

The inscription on the framed picture reads:

*William C. Ose
(Bill or Colonel)
January 25, 1939 – April 21, 2022*

Bill was an active member of NNY Knights of Columbus, Diocese of Ogdensburg. He had many



A framed picture honoring long-time Knights of Columbus pilgrimage bus organizer Bill 'The Colonel' Ose will be placed at St. Anne Shrine.

leadership roles at his local Council #7364, Adams, NY, the Northern Conference and was also State Warden for the NY Knights of Columbus.

In 1994, Bill made a promise to his wife Janet to bring a bus from Watertown, NY to Isle La Motte for an annual pilgrimage in July with the Northern Conference, a promise he kept until his death, over 25 years.

Throughout those years, with the help of his fellow pilgrims, the "Bus People" purchased the granite bench and kneeler by the grotto of our Blessed Mother. Seeing another need, Bill and good friend, Bill Boulio, acquired a golf cart, named "J,J & J" for the grounds which fellow pilgrims funded. It was named after Janet, Jill (Bill's second wife), and Joan Boulio.

The Colonel loved his Country, The Church, his Brother Knights, family and friends. He enjoyed coming to St. Anne's Shrine with a bus full of pilgrims.

BISHOP'S FUND: TOGETHER IN FAITH

Thirty-two years of forming lay ministers

By Cathy Russell

Director of Faith Formation

For the past 32 years, thanks in large part to the generosity of donors to the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal, lay men and women have stepped up to be trained as commissioned lay ministers through the Formation For Ministry program. Since its inception in 1990, over 1,000 north country men and women have been sent out from the program. The current class will be commissioned

by Bishop LaValley in June 2023.

The two-year program has evolved to meet the changing needs of parishes and those who seek to serve. Yet, the commitment of the program to provide an excellent foundation for lay ministry has not changed. The success of the program hinges on the individual working with the pastor to match the needs of the parish and the candidate. Through a partnership with Boston College's Crossroads program, candi-

dates take classes online. The classes include Old and New Testament, Creed, Sacraments, Spirituality, Morality, Catholic Social Teaching, Church History and the Eucharist.

During year one, candidates participate in two in person workshops: "Vision of Lay Ministry" and "Recognizing Gifts." There is a day of reflection at the end of the first year. This day is an opportunity to take the time to integrate what they have learned into their own spiritual lives. During the

second year, candidates choose a ministry area from liturgical, youth, faith formation, sick and elderly and parish outreach. They then attend four all day in person workshops to sharpen skills in their area of choice. The second year ends with a weekend retreat and the commissioning by the bishop.

After commissioning, all lay ministers are strongly encouraged to deepen their spiritual lives and their pastoral ministry skills through participation with

their regional Commissioned Lay Ministry Association and continuing education opportunities.

Tuition and other expenses for the program are kept reasonable for parishes and candidates because of the generosity of the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal. More information on the program can be found on the diocesan website under Office of Formation for Ministry or by contacting the director, Cathy Russell, crussell@rcdony.org.

From troubled past to helpful, hopeful future

By Robin LaBarge

PLATTSBURGH – If you are struggling and don't think you can turn your life around you need to take a lesson from Leroy "Lee" Beshon of Plattsburgh, a man who just recently got himself on the right path.

Lee was born in 1956, one of six siblings, four boys and two girls. In 1964 his mom died of cancer and the children were separated. Beshon ended up in the "Home for the Friendless," an orphanage in Plattsburgh. The name was later changed to the "Children's Home of Northern New York."

At the orphanage, Beshon said he was physically and mentally abused by staff.

From there Beshon was sent to live in a foster home, but he kept running away. So, at 11 or 12 years old he was sent back to the Children's Home. Continuing to run away from there, Beshon was finally sent home to live with his father.

"I was the wild kid, skipping school and didn't have to come home because my father didn't care where I was," Beshon said.

When he was 13 years old, Beshon went to the famous Woodstock concert

in Bethel, New York, with some college kids for a week.

"When I came home, the only thing my father wanted to know was if I'd be around for supper that night," Beshon said. "Dad didn't really care where I'd been."

Things were not any better by the time middle school came around. He had some "disagreements" with a math teacher, threw a chair at a history teacher and eventually set the school on fire in 1970. That was when he was banned from all city school property. Beshon was sent to the Tryon State School for Boys in for eight months in 1971. This reform school, better known as New York's most infamous juvenile prison, was eventually closed in July 2010 at least in part due to abuse discovered there. Goshen Secure Center, a juvenile detention center in Orange County was Beshon's next stop at 15 years of age. By 16, he was caught stealing and ended up in the Clinton County Jail. Interestingly, one of his buddies from the Woodstock days who was living in Albany, came to Plattsburgh and bailed him out, and Lee was told not to come back

to Clinton County.

"I just lived with my friend in Albany and partied, drank and stole stuff," he said. "I was driving a stolen car in Albany with no license, and I got stopped. They never asked me for ID or registration, just searched me and found some pot, took the pot and told me to get lost. I was driving a stolen car!"

Beshon became a proficient burglar and when asked why that was his chosen vice he said, "It was like an addiction, every time I stole something and got away with it, it was like a high. I'd drink and get my courage up and go steal something."

Beshon went to prison on Halloween in 1974 and has been in and out of prison from then till his last bid in 2016. Released in 2018, he has been sober and out of trouble for four years now.

"Something clicked this time," he said. "I was just sick and tired of the way I was living my life. Why am I here and not dead somewhere? Maybe cause I'm too mean to die? I don't know. I'm not a particularly religious person, but I think God doesn't want me yet."

Out of six kids, he and one sister are the only ones



PHOTO BY ROBIN LABARGE

Leroy "Lee" Beshon of Plattsburgh, organizes and cooks for community meals at Holy Cross Parish and Trinity Episcopal Church.

left.

When asked if he has any advice for those reading this, he paused a long time before saying, "Don't put yourself in a position to be controlled by something else – alcohol, drugs, an addiction, another person."

Beshon says he's doing OK right now because he's got a close personal relationship and a good support system from Trinity Episcopal Church here in Plattsburgh. He has purpose, as Beshon is now in charge of organizing and cooking for the community meals in Plattsburgh on Tuesdays at Holy Cross

Parish-Our Lady of Victory on South Catherine Street and at Trinity Episcopal Church, 18 Trinity Place on Thursdays. He's the guy in charge of the whole operation. Stop by and give him a thumbs up. He would love to see you there.

People from the church community say there has been a good person inside of Beshon for a long time now, and it's good to see that person finally come out. Stayed tuned, as Beshon is writing a book with the help of his friend Keith and he will have more to share in the near future.

Environmental Stewardship

Praying with God's creation

One way of celebrating the five weeks of the Season of Creation is to take time with the "magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of his infinite beauty and goodness." (Laudato Si #12)

Spending time in nature is a great way to connect with the Divine. We learn from a very early age that God is everywhere, and you can talk or pray to Him any place. Relatively isolated sites, such as a forest thicket, a hidden garden or a remote mountain peak, are the special places where many of the great saints and mystics tended to go to get closer to Our Lord.

Additionally, these very spiritual and prayerful individuals discovered that quieting the mind and letting go of all their worldly concerns allowed them to more easily open their hearts which enhanced their "quality time" with the Creator.

Taking several deep breaths at the start of their prayer typically is done to help relax the body and slow down the mind. For most people, it is not easy to sit quietly for any period of time without their imagination going to work and activating their thought process. It takes time, much practice and an incredible amount of patience to be able to clear your mind so that your heart can become the forefront of your conscious self rather than your managing self.

This prayer process can take years to develop, yet anyone who has developed it will assure you that the effort is well worth it.

Being immersed in nature is said by some to help us recognize the bond that each of us shares with God and each other. Being immersed in a world of so many plants and animals, regardless of whether you can see them or not, contributes to our eventual realization that we are all part of the same incomprehensibly complex work of creation!

By Tom Kalinowski
St. Bernard's, Saranac Lake
Member of Faith and Ecology Group

Bishop's Public Schedule

Sept. 7 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

Sept. 8 – Noon – Bishop's Heritage Circle and Memorare Legacy Society Mass at Holy Cross Parish (at St. John the Baptist Church) in Plattsburgh followed by a luncheon at Anthony's Restaurant and Bistro

Sept. 9 – 9:40 a.m. – Mass at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown

Sept. 10 – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Sept. 11 – 2:30 p.m. – Diocesan Marriage and Consecrated Life Jubilee Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral followed by a reception in Brzana Hall

Sept. 13 – 9:30 a.m. – Diocesan Department Head Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

Sept. 14 – 1 p.m. – Dedication and Blessing of Peyton Morse's Path at Siena College in Loudonville

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-
annyanulavich@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 Serv-
ice** at 800-276-1562 or
www.ReportBishopAbuse.org.

Rest in Peace

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

Aug. 31 – Rev. James J. Sherry, 1890; Rev. Albert R. Plante, 2000

Sept. 1 – Rev. Michael Guth, 1864; Rev. John B. Martin, O.S.A., 1955

Sept. 2 – Rev. Timothy J. Mahoney, 1938; Msgr. Claudius Sechi, 1966; Rev. Thomas G. Votraw, 2007; Rev. Floyd J. Bleaux, 2009

Sept. 3 – Rev. David W. Driscoll, O.S.A., 1963; Rev. John S. Branche, 2003

Sept. 4 – Rev. Alphee Perron, 1938; Rev. Walter J. Charbonneau, 1982; Msgr. Robert J. Giroux, 2000; Rev. Patrick Mundy, 2017

Sept. 5 – Rev. Arthur Tardiff, O.M.I., 1961; Rev. John Sullivan M.S.C., 1962; Rev. Louis C. Gardner, 2000

Sept. 6 – Rev. James Connor, 1930

Protecting God's Children

The **Diocese of Ogdensburg** has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required. Participants may preregister at www.virtus.org.
Upcoming sessions:
Sept. 14 – 6 p.m., Seton Catholic, Plattsburgh
Sept. 17 – 10 a.m., Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh



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NCC PRIEST APPRECIATION ISSUE

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Priesthood Sunday will be Sept. 25

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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope praises Gorbachev's commitment to harmony, progress

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis offered his prayers and praise for former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who died at age 91 Aug. 30 in Moscow after a long illness. In a telegram sent to Gorbachev's only child, Irina Virganskaya, the pope conveyed his "heartfelt condolences" to her, all family members and those "who saw him as an esteemed statesman." The Vatican published the telegram Aug. 31. The pope expressed his spiritual closeness during "this moment of sorrow for the death of your honorable father, Mikhail. Recalling with gratitude his far-sighted commitment to harmony and fraternity among people, as well as to the progress of his own country during an era of important changes," the pope offered his prayers of suffrage, "invoking eternal peace for his soul from the good and merciful God." Gorbachev was known for his policies of "glasnost" (openness) and "perestroika" (restructuring) that set the stage for the breakup of the Soviet Union and the return of religious freedom. He played a pivotal role in ending the Cold War of long-standing tension between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Number of Catholic institutions with unions grows

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The number of Catholic institutions where at least some of its employees have union representation has grown to more than 600, according to the annual "Gaudium et Spes Labor Report" issued Aug. 24 by the Catholic Labor Network. The number could be even greater, as most unionized Catholic workplaces have self-reported to the Catholic Labor Network, according to its executive director, Clayton Sinyai. Most of these workplaces are concentrated in the health care and education fields, according to the report. "There are more than 600 Catholic institutions in the United States modeling Catholic social teaching through collaborative, mutually rewarding relations of collective bargaining with their direct and indirect (contract) employees," Sinyai said in the report's preface. The report takes its name from "Gaudium et Spes," the Second Vatican Council's Pastoral Constitution on the Church and the Modern World. One passage in "Gaudium et Spes" proclaims: "Among the basic rights of the human person is to be numbered the right of freely founding unions for working people. These should be able truly to represent them and to contribute to the organizing of economic life in the right way."

Sister freed after five months of captivity in Burkina Faso

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — Marianite Sister Suellen Tennyson, who was kidnapped from the convent of her educational and medical mission in Yalgo, Burkina Faso, in early April, has been found alive and is safe after nearly five months of captivity, a congregational leader of the Marianites said Aug. 30. "She is safe," Marianite Sister Ann Lacour said. "She is on American soil, but not in America. She is safe." She said Sister Suellen was recovered Aug. 29 and the sisters in the congregation have spoken to her. "She eventually will get back to the United States," she added. Sister Ann told the Clarion Herald, archdiocesan newspaper of New Orleans, that she spoke with Sister Suellen by telephone. At least 10 armed men were involved in the attack in which Sister Suellen, 83, was abducted, the Marianites of Holy Cross said in an electronic newsletter at the time of the abduction. Since then, there had been no news of her whereabouts or condition. Sister Ann said when she spoke with Sister Suellen, the missionary did not actually "know where she was." "She's totally worn out," Sister Ann said.

Bishops urge listening to the 'cry of the earth' during Season of Creation

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Stressing that listening for God's call to discipleship is integral to faith, the chairmen of two U.S. bishops' committees invited people to also listen to the call of the earth during the observance of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

The day, Sept. 1, is set aside by Christian churches and people of faith to reflect on the gift of creation. It launches the Season of Creation, which runs through Oct. 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology.

"We must learn the art of listening to sustain our faith, lest we end up among those, as the Old Testament prophets wrote, 'who have ears, but hear not.' We must also learn the art of listening to protect the environment," said the Sept. 1 statement from Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, Illinois, chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace.

The bishops cited Pope Francis' invitation to reflect on the season's theme, "Listen to the voice of creation," as an important starting point to recognize the vital need to protect the environment.

"With careful attentiveness, the Holy Father rightly identifies a dissonance in the world, also resoundingly true in the United States. The beauty of the natural world and the harmony that comes from the integrity of cre-

ation speaks to us," the bishops said.

"Yet we also hear the 'cry of the earth and the cry of the poor,' the 'little ones' being wounded by a throw-away culture fueled by greed, over-consumption, technocratic power, and indifference. We continue to experience the destructive force of natural disasters, floods, fires and heat waves and the consequent suffering of people, animals and ecosystems," they said.

The prelates suggested that despite such challenges, by listening attentively "we can also catch the sound of hope emerging from our collective actions to protect creation, perhaps surprisingly, from our national politics and within our pilgrim church."

Citing Pope Francis' invitation in his encyclical "Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship," to "a better kind of politics," the bishops said the pope implicitly appeals to "a better kind of 'eco-politics' that protects rather than exploits the environment and green ideologies for partisan gain."

Hopeful responses to the pope's invitation have come about in several ways, the bishops said. They pointed to the synodal process that involves listening to each other that is occurring throughout the church worldwide in preparation for the 2023 world Synod of Bishops on synodality.

The statement also noted the U.S. bishops' adoption last November of new socially responsible investment guidelines and that the section on climate-related concerns had the

largest number of revisions.

They also summarized the steps by other entities, such as the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Charities USA member agencies, Catholic Rural Life and Catholic Relief Services for their work to address environmental concerns.

In addition, Archbishop Coakley and Bishop Malloy referred to efforts by "liberal and conservative lawmakers who share concerns about both the world's climate and the welfare of our nation."

"They are doing the hard work of considering bipartisan policies that can preserve the environment, promote energy security, and grow the economy. We pray now, and in the future, both parties will continue to put forward their best environmental policies and work together to protect 'our common home which God has entrusted to us,'" the bishops said, quoting Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home."

While such efforts give the bishops hope, they said the actions are "far from sufficient to meeting the challenges of our times." They also spoke of the need to safeguard against "complacency and hubris" by participating "in a listening faith, always aware of God's action preceding and increasing our own efforts."

"This Season of Creation," the bishops concluded, "we give thanks to the professionals and everyday citizens who work to protect the environment and promote the common good."

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.

100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Saranac Lake – This fall, St. Bernard's School will celebrate our 100th Anniversary!

Date: Sept. 23 to 25

Schedule: On Friday evening we will have dinner at The Hotel Saranac, Saturday will be our annual Golf Tournament, and on Sunday we will have a reception after 10am Mass and school tours.

Features: Our school began as a one room schoolhouse in the fall of 1922, and we have been providing the families of Saranac Lake a quality Catholic education ever since. In all these events we will have opportunities to look back at the school throughout the years, connect with other alumni, and meet current staff, parents, and students.

Contact: Please email: principal@st-bernardsschool.org, call: 518-891-2830, or use the QR code to RSVP to any of these events or for more information.

CLINTON

TURKEY DINNER

Lyon Mountain – St. Bernard's and St. Edmund's to have Turkey Dinner and 50/50 raffle to benefit the fuel fund.

Date: Sept. 11

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 4

Place: Lyon Mountain American Legion Post 1623

Cost: Adults, \$15; Children 6-12, \$7

Contact: For more information call 518-594-3907 or 518-593-2052

GARAGE SALE

Ellenburg Center – St. Bernard's and St. Edmund's will have a parish garage sale.

Date: Set. 17 and 18

Place: St. Edmund's Church Hall

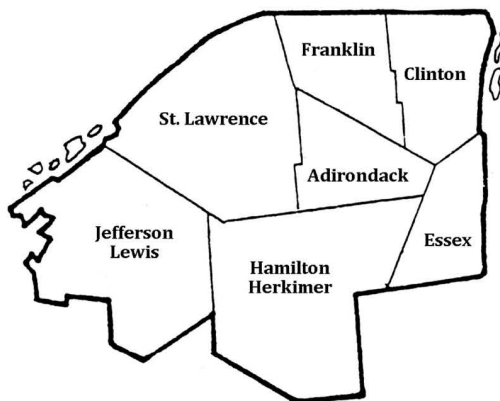
Contact: For more information contact the parish office at 518-594-3907

APPLEFEST

Peru – The 44 Annual St. Augustine's Applefest to be held.

Date: Sept. 17

Schedule: Craft fair at 10 a.m., com-



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese."

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;
e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

Items must be received in the NCC office by the Thursday before publication.

munity parade at 11 a.m. with Bishop Terry R. LaValley as parade marshal, Chicken BBQ at 1:30 p.m.; Grand Raffle drawing at 4 p.m.

Place: St. Augustine's Church

Features: Live music, games for children of all ages, grand raffle, silent auction, bake sale, chicken bbq, apple fritters, fried dough, sweet sausages, michigans, burgers, and more

HARVEST DINNER

Ellenburg Center – Catholic Daughters Court Little Rose #1300 will hold its Harvest Dinner and Big Ticket Raffle.

Date: Sept. 25

Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Raffle drawing at 4:30 p.m.)

Place: St. Edmund's Church Hall

Cost: Adults, \$12; Children 6-12, \$6; under 5, Free

HOUSE SITTERS

Ellenburg Center – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer is looking for many Volunteer "House Sitters."

Time: The responsibility is to arrive by 10 a.m. on your chosen day(s) and remain on premises until 4 p.m. to welcome visitors.

Features: Lunch and snack items on hand along with tea, coffee, soda, and bottled water. Training will be provided on the history of the House of Prayer, its mission, and the various ways to carry out this gentle ministry of hospitality for those seeking time in a home of Mary to listen to our Lord, browse in the library, or visit the "Gift Shop". Flexible schedule (and hours) are fine.

Contact: If interested in volunteer-

ing for one day a month, or week, or more, please call Sarah Anderson at 518-534-9976.

ESSEX

FRUITFUL INVITATION

Ticonderoga – Do you have friends or loved ones you wish were more drawn to the life of faith? There is no more compelling case for the gospel than the beauty of a soul joyfully living out the life of grace. Special presentation to be held to show how we can become more spiritually attractive to others.

Date: Sept. 12

Time: 6:45 p.m. to 8

Place: St. Mary's Church

Speaker: Joshua Danis, national rector of Alpha Catholic Context

Features: Join Joshua Danis, author of "Living the Fruit of the Spirit," as we explore how we can each participate with the Holy Spirit to become more spiritually attractive to others. Full of laughter and stories, we will unpack how the fruits of the spirit can enable us to draw people toward a life-changing encounter with Christ Jesus.

Contact: For more information or to register go to: www.route74catholics.org

FRANKLIN

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 anti-

Place: St. Ann's Church

Features: Prayer after Mass, Night Prayer, Prayer for All Souls and the Holy Souls, Novena in Honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, The Reparation Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary with private meditation on the 15 Mysteries of the Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament reposed in the Tabernacle, and Prayers for the Holy Father and his intentions.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – The Indian River Knights of Columbus 7471 will be having a spaghetti and meatball dinner.

Date: Sept. 10

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$8; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free; Sauce, \$6 per quart

HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY

Houseville – Adoration with the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be observed the first Sunday of the month.

Date: Oct. 2

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

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

MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

Date: Sept. 11 (Second Sunday of each month)

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

Place: Father Amyot Parish Center

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

Contact: For more information con-

tact Grand Knight Gil Gonthier 315-212-5166.

SUMMER RAFFLE

Gouverneur – St. James School is having a summer raffle.

Date: Drawing will be Sept. 11 at Chicken BBQ

Cost: Only 350 tickets will be sold, \$100 each

Features: Grand prize, \$10,000; second prize, \$5,000; third prize, \$2,500; fourth prize, \$1,500; fifth prize, \$500. All tickets will remain in the drum for every eligible prize. Per NYS Tax Law, required withholding & tax documents will be completed upon payment of prize monies. Need NOT be present to win.

Contact: Tickets are available by calling the church office at 315-287-0114

ALPHA

Massena – You're invited to ALPHA.

Date: Tuesday starting Sept. 13

Time: 6 p.m. to 8

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Features: Free of charge and including a delicious meal. Childcare will be provided as well.

Contact: Parish Office at 315-769-2469 or web site at massenacatholics.com

THE CHOSEN MINI SERIES

Massena – Join us in watching The Chosen Season 1 & 2!

Schedule: Season 1 meets Wednesdays starting Sept. 14 at 2 p.m. and Season 2 meets Mondays starting Sept. 12th at 6 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Features: YOU are invited to get together weekly and view and discuss 8 episodes of this acclaimed min-series.

Contact: Visit our website at www.massenacatholics.com or call the Parish office @315-769-2469 to register and for more info.

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

Ogdensburg – The Legion of Mary will pray the rosary with devotions for First Saturday.

Date: Oct. 1

Time: 8 a.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

Features: Rosary with devotions

ROSARY DEVOTION

Massena – Sacred Heart Church to have

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Around the diocese

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first Saturday Rosary Devotion.

Date: Oct. 1

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.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

SSJ LAY ASSOCIATE PROGRAM

The Sisters of St. Joseph will be having a meeting for those who are interested in learning about their Lay Associate Program.

Schedule: Sept. 11, SSJ Motherhouse, 1425 Washington Street; Sept. 17 at St. Patrick's Church, Colton; Sept. 18 at the Newman Center, Plattsburgh

Features: Associates meet once a month to learn about the spirituality and history of the Sisters, pray together, and discuss ways to deepen one's spiritual life. This group is open to men and women.

Contact: If you are interested and wish to attend the initial meeting, please call (315) 782-3460 and leave your name with the receptionist or contact contact Sister Kathleen DeBoalt skmdeb@yahoo.com (Watertown area) or Sister Bethany Fitzgerald srbethssj@gmail.com (Colton and Plattsburgh areas)

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 one 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. 2 at rcdony.org/family-life/jubileereg. For more information please contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org.

LOVING AUTHENTICALLY

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

Schedule: 5 different times and locations to attend. Sept. 10, 2022 at St. Anthony's Watertown; Nov. 19, 2022 at St. Mary's Massena; Feb. 12, 2023 at Newman Center, Plattsburgh; April 22, 2023 at St. Bernard's Saranac Lake; May 20, 2023 at St. Mary's Ticonderoga.

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Features: Program will be a showing of "Unprotected: A Pope, the Pill, and the Perils of Sexual Chaos." With Q & A led by Natural Family Planning Directors, Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli and Catholic Theologian, Maura Hearden Fehlner, Ph.D

Contact: to register go www.rcdony.org/lovingauthentically. For more information contact Stephen Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org

ANNULMENT PROCESS WORKSHOPS

The Diocesan Tribunal will offer five regional workshops on the annulment process to provide both information and an opportunity to ask questions.

Schedule: Sept. 12 at Holy Name Parish, AuSable Forks & St. James Parish, Carthage; Sept. 14 at St. Patrick's Parish, Chateaugay; Sept. 19 at St. Henry's Parish, Long Lake & St. Mary's Parish, Canton

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Features: Not all marriages make it "...until death do us part." Often, following a civil decree of divorce many Catholics desire to marry again. If their first wedding was celebrated according to the norms of the Church, then unless an annulment of that first union is granted, Catholics are not free to celebrate a subsequent marriage in the Church. The annulment process is a careful examination of the situations of both former spouses leading up to and following the celebration of the wedding. The purpose of this careful examination is to determine if there was anything present, both before and at the time of the wedding which could have invalidated the bond of marriage. If this is found to be the case, then an annulment is granted.

No Registration is required and there is no charge.

BLUE MASS

Clayton - Bishop Terry R. LaValley cordially invites all Police, Corrections, Fire and EMS Personnel to the Diocese of Ogdensburg Blue Mass.

Date: Sept. 25

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: The entire Northern New York Community is invited to join in prayer for the safety and well being of all first responders and public safety personnel.

Contact: For more information contact Father Chris Carrara, 315-605-1039, ccarrara@rcdony.org

YOUTH LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Saranac Lake - Youth Leadership retreat to be held for teens in grades 9 to 12.

Date: Sept. 30 check in at 6 p.m. to Oct. 2 at 10 a.m.

Place: Guggenheim Center

Cost: \$95, includes dorm and meals.

Features: During this overnight youth retreat we invite high school age teens an opportunity to learn skills for Christian leadership and ministry in a series of workshops and practical applications. The following skill points will be covered: Christian leadership, communication, group dynamics, decision making and planning.

Contact: To register go to rcdony.org/leadership or contact Jeanne Grizzuto - jgrizzuto@rcdony.org - 315-393-2920 ext. 1413 with any questions.

FALL RETREAT FOR ADULTS

Saranac Lake - Fall retreat for adults to be held. Come away and rest awhile with the Lord amid the beauties of Fall in the Adirondack Mountains.

Date: Sept. 30 to Oct. 2

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

Theme: "Meeting God in the Mountains and Valleys of Life."

Speaker: Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ, Faith Formation Educator; Father Paul Kelly will be celebrant for Mass on Saturday afternoon.

Cost: Suggested offering is \$150

Contact: For more information contact 315-212-6592 or srbethssj@gmail.com

LIFECCHAIN

The 35th year of the National Lifecchain to be held.

Date: Oct. 2

Schedule: Potsdam across from Roxy Theatre, 2 p.m. to 3; Plattsburgh at Smithfield Blvd, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30; Saranac Lake at Bandshell Park along River Street, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30

Features: Life Chains form nationwide to make a public, prayerful, peaceful stand for life. We stand for life rain or shine. Signs provided. Bring a friend.

Contact: More information and a listing of all locations at www.lifecchain.org

WOMEN'S HEALING RETREAT

The St. Andre Bessette Sisters of Malone is sponsoring a Healing Retreat for 30 women of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Date: Oct. 6 to Oct. 9

Place: Wadhams Hall, Ogdensburg

Cost: \$250 per person and includes accommodations and all meals.

Features: Women must be age 18 or older to attend. The purpose of the Healing Retreat is to 'make more room within, for God', allowing His love and mercy to heal as He desires. Bishop LaValley, Father Bryan Stitt, Sister Kelly and Sister Grace Capuchin Sister of Nazareth, and Dave McClow will be presiding and presenting. All are welcome to join the SABS in praying the 54 Day Rosary Novena beginning August 15 ending on October 7 - Feast Day of Our Lady of the Rosary, for the healing of all those who attend as well as for each and every person who offered prayers, time, treasure and talent for this very blessed event.

Contact: For more information and registration visit the Diocese of Ogdensburg website at www.rcdony.org

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake - Online registration is now open for Family Guggenheim.

Date: Session 3 Oct. 7-9

Place: Guggenheim

Cost: Visit rcdony.org/family-life/fg for more information

Features: Family Guggenheim welcomes families of all dimensions to come enjoy a weekend in 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 and prayer. Take time for 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

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

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

Schedule: Oct. 7 at Our Lady of Victory Center, Plattsburgh for the Clinton, Essex, Adirondack Deaneries; Nov. 4 at Immaculate Heart Central School, Watertown for Jefferson, Lewis, Hamilton-Herkimer Deaneries; Nov. 18 at St. Mary's Social Hall, Massena for the St. Lawrence and Franklin Deaneries

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

Features: The purpose of a Middle School Retreat is to guide young women and men to prayerfully consider what God's plan is for their lives. This invitation is open to students in Grades 6-8 both in the Catholic and public schools. This is a Retreat Day and is considered a legal excused absence.

Contact: Your pastor, Catholic school principal, or Religious Education Coordinator for a registration form.

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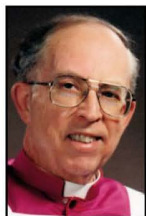
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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Focusing on God's mercy

The readings this week are all about God's tremendous mercy toward those who have deeply offended Him.

In the first reading from Exodus, God is ready to destroy those who have turned to other gods. Only with the intervention of Moses does he relent, showing incredible leniency.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

In the letter of St. Paul to Timothy, Paul confesses his arrogant persecution of the new Christians. We know from other readings how Jesus intervened directly into his plans to execute Jesus' followers: Paul's conversion into the great apostle to the gentiles. What a difference that made in his preaching of the Gospel to thou-

September 11

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14

Timothy 1:12-17

Luke:15:1-32

sands who might never have heard the Good News.

The Gospel parable of the prodigal son (sometimes called the prodigal father) is the greatest teaching on God's boundless mercy in all of Scrip-

ture. When the son comes crawling back, the father treats him as though he had never sinned. Of course, this infuriates the elder son who has never disobeyed.

Many times, we know how easy it is to be judgmental and critical of God's mercy. We cry out that they don't deserve it. Well, do we deserve God's mercy for the countless times God has forgiven our many sins? Sometimes theologians will

proclaim the greater the sin, the greater the forgiveness of God. We are reminded of Francis Thompson's poem, "The Hound of Heaven." God truly pursues us with his love and forgiveness.

If we are seriously determined to be more Christ-like, then we will show equal mercy to those who offend us. As the Our Father states, "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

CALLED TO SERVE

Whatever happened to manners?

My internal manners meter pinned the other day. A meter pins when whatever it is measuring overloads. Some of you already know what a meter measures.

Imagine you are measuring various displays of manners by one person to another, and we will be on the same train track.

There is a little bit of English in my lineage, so that may contribute to my obsession with manners. I lay it all off on my parents and grandparents who taught my brother and me to love God and all his

creatures, go to Church and have good manners.

They didn't just teach us that stuff, they practiced it too.

It became second nature to me to do things like hold the door for another person and let that person pass through first, take my hat off indoors, speak when spoken to but only after the other person speaks. Do not interrupt.

Over the years good manners have found a home in other things. I let the vehicle to my right go first at a four way stop. I know that's the law, but it

makes sense to me.

I call an individual by his or her title when in the company of others. I address a doctor as "Doctor" when in the hospital or in his office even though I'm on a first name basis with the doctor.

In church or in the parish office priests are "Father," religious are "Sister" or "Brother," deacons are "Deacon." I've noticed that acknowledgement is true at the chancery, the diocesan offices, even though those folks work with each other every day.

At the supermarket

checkout the other day, I encountered a practice that violated everything Mom and Dad taught me. I was so flabbergasted I couldn't even react. Manners overload!

Kathy was with me at the checkout. The family ahead of us seemed nice enough. Husband, wife, young boy and a little one in a stroller. The boy was hiding behind his mother. Nice.

Suddenly the adult male in front of us spotted an acquaintance of his behind us and shouted "hello" to his long-lost friend.

The hail was returned and soon the two men were engaged in a dialogue through and over us like we didn't exist. My temptation was to let the guy behind us jump ahead of us so these two could have their reunion, but the circumstances prevented that maneuver.

Rather than impose myself in the conversation, I kept my mouth shut. In all

honesty, I was embarrassed.

Embarrassed because these two gents did not know enough to take their conversation elsewhere. Embarrassed because we were caught in the middle. I know how the net feels in a tennis match now. Embarrassed because we were locked in - you know how narrow a

check-out corridor is in the supermarket, so we could not even step aside and let these buddies swap history.

The situation was so bizarre, I didn't even shake my head, which is unusual. I seem to shake my head a lot lately as I watch folks forget what it means to be civil toward each other.

Manners are an element of the "love thy neighbor" part of the Great Commandment.

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



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon



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The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSI, Director
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296
mbrett@rcdony.org

New MCA materials



We at the Mission Office are happy to announce that the National Office has worked together with multiple archdiocesan branches and various designers to make entirely new designs for the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) donation boxes!

These boxes will feature our local office's contact information, along with images of children from around the world who your students are helping with their prayers and donations.

There will also be bookmarks and posters of two different sizes available.



While we are still in the beginning stages of production, the materials are expected to be ready after the new year. We are prayerful that these new materials will help embolden your missionary hearts.

If you are interested in ordering any of the above for your religious education program, please contact our office at amichael@rcdony.org or by phone at 315-393-2920.

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.
<https://www.rcdony.org/mission.html>

OBITUARIES

Croghan – Nina E. (Jackson) Schneeberger, 94; Funeral Services Aug. 30, 2022 at Scanlon Funeral Home; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Ellenburg Center – Peral L. (Senecal) Tourville, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 2, 2022 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in Town of Ellenburg Mausoleum.

Lowville – James E. Heidt, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 30, 2022 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery, Watertown.

Lyons Falls – Kathryn A. (Krug) Marmon, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 1, 2022 at St. John's Church; burial in Wildwood Cemetery.

Lyon Mountain – Gail Wilson, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 3, 2022 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in parish

cemetery.

Malone – Harold Milton Perry, Sr., 83; Funeral Services Sept. 2, 2022 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Fort Covington.

Malone – Richard "Rico" Romero, 63; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 31, 2022 at Notre Dame Church.

Massena – Diane Marie (LeBoeuf) Moquin, 72; Graveside services Sept. 12, 2022 at Calvary Cemetery.

Norfolk – Virginia G. (LaRock) Dominie, 91; Funeral Services Aug. 30, 2022 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Pine Hill Cemetery.

Norfolk – Shirley A. Ryan, 87; Mass of Christian Burial at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Patricia Jean (Powers) Boulia, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 1, 2022 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Plattsburgh – Patricia Verkey, 69; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 30, 2022 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Donald Gardiner Perryman, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 2, 2022 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery, Bloomingdale.

Star Lake – James E. Farnsworth, 77; Funeral Services Sept. 1, 2022 at French Family Funeral Home; burial in St. Hubert's Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Todd Howard Young, 58; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 1, 2022 at St. Alphonsus Church.

DOVS GO ON PILGRIMAGE



PHOTO BY CATHY RUSSELL

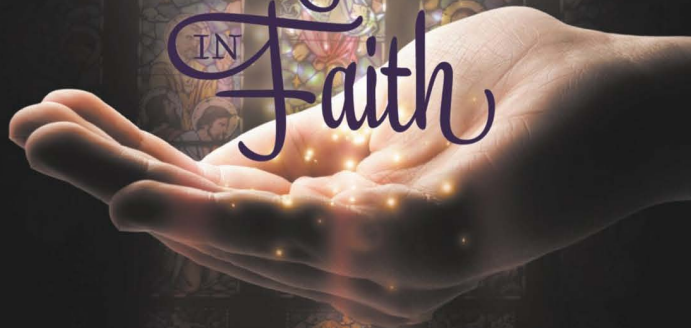
Because of COVID and health concerns, the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society (DOVS) has not been able to have its annual pilgrimage to pray for vocations. Recently, the DOVS decided to visit a local shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes at St. May's Church in Clayton. The afternoon began with the rosary at the shrine and then moved into the church for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and then Mass celebrated by Father Christopher C. Carrara, Vocation director, Father John L. "Jack" Downs, DOVS chaplain and Father Arthur J. LaBaff, sacramental minister and former pastor at St. Mary's in Clayton. The day ended with a dinner at the Seaway Restaurant.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC Diocese of Ogdensburg



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IN
Faith



BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL 2022



For more information and to view the
2022 BISHOP'S FUND video,
please visit www.rcdony.org/bfa.

THE BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL

provides financial assistance to the vital ministries
of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

The following ministries are supported:

- Education of Seminarians
- Family Life Office
- Natural Family Planning Office
- Respect Life Ministry
- Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund
- Formation for Ministry Program
- Office of the New Evangelization
- Continuing Education and Formation of Priests
- Priests' Graduate Studies
- Vocation Office
- Permanent Deacons
- Deacon Formation
- Tuition Assistance Program
- Campus Ministry Program
- Matching Gifts to Catholic Schools
- Department of Faith Formation
- Diocesan Center of Youth Ministry
- Young Adult Ministry
- Guggenheim Center
- Department of Worship

WAYS TO GIVE

Gifts of Cash: Checks should be made payable to the "Bishop's Fund Appeal."

Pledge: A gift to the Bishop's Fund Appeal may be paid in four payments - at the time of the pledge, December, February and April.

Online Giving: The Bishop's Fund Appeal offers the opportunity to make your gift and pledge payments online using a credit card. To donate online, please visit www.rcdony.org/giving/donate-now-bishop-s-fund. If making a pledge, enter your first payment in the "amount" box and in the comments section indicate the total amount you wish to pledge.

Automatic Pledge Payments: To set up automatic credit or debit card pledge payments, please contact the Bishop's Fund Office at 315-393-2920.

Matching Gifts: Many companies endeavor to match the charitable contributions of employees. Please contact your company's Human Resource Department to determine if your company participates in the Matching Gift Program for Catholic Schools.

Gifts of Securities: Federal tax laws offer special incentives for gifts of non-cash property especially that which has increased in value since it

was acquired. Please contact the Bishop's Fund Office at 315-393-2920 for transfer instructions.

Qualified IRA Contributions: For those who are 70 ½ or older, you may wish to consider a tax-free gift directly from your IRA to the Bishop's Fund Appeal. Please contact the Bishop's Fund Office at 315-393-2920 for instructions.

Bequests: When considering gifts to a charity in your Will, please remember the Bishop's Fund Appeal. Gifts can be made in the following manner through your Will: Specific dollar amount; a percentage of your estate or a particular asset such as real estate or other valuables.

Mailing Your Gift:
Please feel free to mail your donation to: The Bishop's Fund Appeal, PO Box 150, Ogdensburg, NY 13669.

