Pope tells ‘keyboard warriors’ to share Gospel

(CNA) - Pope Francis has told "keyboard warriors" to put aside online polemics and get out from behind their desks to proclaim the Gospel.

Speaking in St. Peter’s Square on April 12, the pope urged Christians to go out and "get moving" to share the good news of the Gospel with the world.

"One does not proclaim the Gospel standing still, locked in an office, at one's desk or at one's computer, engaging in polemics like 'keyboard warriors' and replacing the creativity of proclamation with copy-and-paste ideas taken from here and there," Pope Francis said.

"The Gospel is proclaimed by moving, by walking, by going."

In his Wednesday audience, the pope warned that it is possible to have "misdirected zeal" that is "doggedly persistent in the observance of purely human and obsolete norms for the Christian community."

"We cannot ignore the solicitude with which some devote themselves to the wrong pursuits even within the Christian community itself; one can boast of a false evangelical zeal while actually pursuing vainglory or one’s own convictions," he said.

As part of the pope’s cycle of catechesis on “passion for evangelization,” Francis offered a reflection on two lines from St. Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians: “Therefore, put on the armor of God, that you may be able to resist on the evil day and, having done everything, to hold your ground. So stand fast with your loins girded in truth, clothed with righteousness as a breastplate, and your feet shod in readiness for the gospel of peace.”

Pope Francis noted that St. Paul connects zeal for the Gospel with footwear “because one who goes to proclaim must move, must walk.”

“Evangelical zeal is the support on which proclamation is based, and heralds are somewhat like the feet of the body of Christ that is the Church,” he said.

At the end of the audience, Pope Francis marked the 60th anniversary of the publication of St. John XXIII's encyclical Pacem in Terris, calling the document a “true blessing” for the world when it was published in 1963 amid the tensions of the Cold War.
On my heart, in my head

You, the readers of the North Country Catholic, helped God put it on my heart and mind, but I don’t know where to take it.

Over the five years I’ve been in this role, I’ve heard from dozens and dozens of you who identify with something I’ve written in this space. It took me a while, but I identified a trend. You tend to write to me when I talk about my struggles, whether it be with praying, surrendering my will, talking to others about faith...

It made me think about the fact that we don’t have a lot of opportunities to acknowledge and share our struggles of faith. We don’t often have room to acknowledge and share our imperfections.

I know I often look at other people around me in my parish, at the chancery and all over the diocese, and I think “that person is so holy. I’ll never be like that!”

Hearing from all of you (many of whom I would place in that “so holy” category), has helped me get to a point where I now follow that thought with, “I bet that person has struggles, too. (He/she) probably has some of the struggles I have.”

All those people who have written to me and told me they identify with something I’ve written make me feel a bit better about where I am on my journey. It makes me feel like I’m not alone.

I’m blessed to have a circle of friends with whom I can talk about my struggles of faith. I firmly believe, they’re gifts from God. They help me to stay hopeful, and they help me travel this journey to Jesus.

But I keep praying to determine what I’m supposed to do with this realization. While I don’t have a path forward yet, I thank you for helping God put it on my mind and heart.

We’re there in the Easter Scriptures

The Easter Season. We, Catholics, celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus for more than one day. Rather, it is an extended time of 40 days. This Easter Season leads us to the Pentecost, when we will remember the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles, the beginning of the building of our Holy Catholic Church.

The Easter Season is the time for the reading of the resurrection stories from the Gospels. There are many. These stories are familiar to you all. They are truly impressive and transforming Scriptures.

Today, I want to encourage you to realize that these stories are about us; we must find ourselves in each story. In this way, we will realize our relationship with the Lord Jesus. Let me share with you a few examples.

Do you remember the story when Mary Magdalene discovered that the tomb was empty. She rushed to tell Peter and John. They ran to the tomb to see for themselves. Can you begin to imagine just how spectacular that moment was for Jesus? 

Jesus simply speaks her name, Mary, and she realizes that it is him. I believe that the Lord comes to stand with us often. However, we like Mary do not recognize that is Jesus. Yet, at the end of the day, I believe when we look back over our day, we will remember times when it was the presence of the Lord touching our lives. And when we are truly perceptive, we will remember the Lord speaking to us.

There is also the story in Luke’s Gospel concerning two disciples (I am certain that they were a married couple) who are heading home to Emmaus from Jerusalem after witnessing the crucifixion of Jesus. We are told that Jesus came along and walked with them, but they did not recognize that it was him. They discuss the events of the Lord’s passion and death. Jesus, who is still a stranger to them, describes for them from the Scriptures that the Messiah must suffer to bring redemption to us all. They would finally recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

How often does the Lord meet us and walk with us. So many times, yet we do not recognize that it is the Lord, as he leads us, teaches us, guides, forgives and makes his love alive for us. Like those two disciples we will often recognize the presence of Our Lord in our participation in the Holy Eucharist. Each time we receive Holy Communion, I know Jesus comes to be with us in a loving relationship.

Easter: our crucified Jesus is raised from the dead. And we are there.
Remembering Msgr. Lawrence M. Deno

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

“He was a very gracious individual. He carried himself with a lot of dignity, and he imparted that in the people with whom he had relationships. He was very respectful of people’s dignity. He really tried to honor people.”

Father Thomas E. Kornmeyer described his friend, Msgr. Lawrence M. Deno, with those words.

Msgr. Deno died April 9 in Plattsburgh at the age of 90, after nearly 64 years of service as a priest.

Father Kornmeyer said he became friends with Msgr. Deno when the former was a student at Wadham’s Hall Semin­ary College and the latter was an instructor at the seminary.

“I never had a class with him, but over time, we developed a friendship,” Father Kornmeyer said. “He was always available when I was a student there. He did a lot of spiritual direction.”

Both Father Kornmeyer and Father Bill Muench, a seminary classmate of Msgr. Deno, remember their friend as being quiet and humble.

“He had quite the academic pedigree,” said Father Kornmeyer, noting Father Deno had, in addition to his seminary studies, a masters in mathematics from St. Michael’s College in Vermont and a doctorate in educational administration from Notre Dame University. “He never wore that on his sleeve. He wasn’t that kind of person.”

“He was a very quiet person,” Father Muench added. “Our first years at Wadham’s Hall, we were young – very young. It was an interesting adventure getting to know each other. We grew up in different parts of the world. Obviously, he was a good student. We got to know each other through academics and discussions. He wasn’t really into sports or anything like that.”

Father Muench said he and Msgr. Deno “saw a lot of each other” in their early studies.

“We had classes together, but we also spent a lot of time sharing with each other about exactly what we were getting into,” he said. “Later, when we were all finishing major seminary and getting ready for ordination, (Father) Joe Sestito and I were in Baltimore. We picked up (Msgr.) Larry Deno and (another classmate) at Mount St. Mary’s and drove to Ogdensburg for the ordination. I guess you could say we journeyed to ordination together in a couple ways.”

Father Muench said he and Father Deno later worked together a bit when Father Muench was a teacher and when he served in parishes with Father Deno. “At that time, Msgr. Deno was superintendent of schools in the diocese.

“He was certainly good for the (diocesan school) system,” Father Muench said. “He did a good job watching over the schools, and we had a lot of them in those days.”

Father Kornmeyer said his friend was also a good priest.

“(Msgr. Deno) was close to Christ and always demonstrated that in his ministry and in his work,” he said. “Whether he was counseling somebody or celebrating Mass or helping someone, he was always in person and truly cared for people. He presented Christ. He really helped people grow spiritually. That’s what I saw in him; that’s what I observed. He had tremendous respect for everyone. I never heard him judge anyone. He took people where they were and made them better.”

“He was a great guy, a good priest and a hard worker for Catholic schools,” Father Muench said. “He was good with people, but he was a quiet man.”

A complete obituary can be found in the box on this page.

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Mass of Christian Burial celebrated April 14

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated for Msgr. Lawrence M. Deno at 11 a.m. on April 14, 2023, at St. Joseph’s Church in West Chazy. Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated the Mass, and Rev. Thomas E. Kornmeyer served as homilist. Burial was in Saint Joseph’s Cemetery in West Chazy.

Msgr. Deno died April 9, 2023, in Plattsburgh, at the age of 90.

Born in Plattsburgh on Sept. 21, 1932, he was the son of Maxime and Mary Elise (Martin) Deno.

He grew up in a French-speaking family on a farm in West Chazy. He graduated from Mount Assumption Institute in Plattsburgh and began studies for the priesthood at Wadham’s Hall Seminary in Ogdensburg, where he obtained a bachelor’s degree in philosophy. After receiving a master’s degree in theology at Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., he was ordained a priest in St. Mary’s Cathedral on May 16, 1959, by Bishop James J. Navagh.

He later received a master’s degree in mathematics from St. Michael’s College in Winooski, Vt., and a doctorate in educational administration at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Ind. He was state certified to serve as both a math teacher and a school administrator.

In his early years as a priest, Msgr. Deno served as parochial vicar in Clayton, Massena, Morrisonville, Tupper Lake and at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg. He later served as pastor in Hammond and Cadyville, retiring in 2017. In his retirement, Msgr. Deno

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
Dr. Celine Paquette honored at St. Mary’s Church in Champlain

Bishop Terry R. LaValley presented the Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams Award for Distinguished Service to Dr. Celine Paquette during Mass at St. Mary’s Church in Champlain on April 15.

In bestowing the Award on Dr. Celine Paquette, Bishop LaValley noted both the quality and the length of her service to the Church.

“Celine has given service to our local church for decades, serving her parish as a member of the Education Council of St. Mary’s Academy, member of the St. Mary’s Bazaar Committee and volunteer in many parish ministries,” said Bishop LaValley. “She wrote a history of St. Mary’s Parish for the celebration of its 150th anniversary in 2010. She has served as a historian for the Town of Champlain. She has served on the Diocesan Investment Advisory Committee for over two decades, serving as committee chairperson for the majority of those years. That is quite a record of service!”

Celine is also a member of the Diocesan Bishop’s Heritage Circle.

The Bishop Wadhams Award presented to Dr. Celine Paquette is signed by Bishop LaValley and reads as follows:

“Dr. Celine Paquette has graciously served St. Mary’s Parish in Champlain, her community and our diocese. Celine has been a great support to the pastors of St. Mary’s Parish and to the Daughters of Charity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Celine was committed to St. Mary’s Academy and served many years on the Education Council of the Academy. Celine served on the annual St. Mary’s Parish bazaar and participated in many parish ministries and activities. Celine served her community as county legislator, SUNY trustee, and vice-chair of the board of the Samuel de Champlain History Center. She served on the Board of Trustees for St. Michael’s College in Colchester, VT, and Commissioner on the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Celine was a member of the Diocesan Investment Advisory Committee for over two decades, serving as chair for most of that time. Celine is also a member of the Diocesan Bishop’s Heritage Circle. Celine’s generosity with her time, talent and treasure has benefited her parish and our diocese in many ways. This student of history has used her time, talents and treasure to build a brighter future for us as the People of God.

“In recognition of her outstanding service to the Diocese of Ogdensburg and the local parish, this award is bestowed as a sign of our deep gratitude and respect. In witness whereof, I have signed this award and placed upon it the seal of the Diocese of Ogdensburg for the celebration of its 150th anniversary in 2010 in Champlain, her community and our diocese in many ways. This student of history has used her time, talents and treasure to build a brighter future for us as the People of God.”

The Bishop Wadhams Award was instituted by Bishop Paul Loverde, the eleventh Bishop of Ogdensburg, in 1996, to recognize exceptional service to the Diocese of Ogdensburg by people of the North Country.

Recipients of the Award include Reverend Monsignor Richard Slepkka, Reverend Monsignor Lawrence M. Deno, Mrs. Mary Lou Kilian, Reverend Monsignor Robert Giroux, Dr. Gerald Irwin, Sister Kathryn Healy, Dr. A. B. DeGrandpre, Mr. Clyde A. Lewis, Sr., and Mrs. Thomas Sanders, Sister Donna Franklin, Dr. Gerald LaValley, Dr. and Mrs. Joseph DeGraaf, Mrs. Patricia Fassett, Mr. Pat Fontana, Sr., Deacon and Mrs. Gary Frank, Mrs. Connie Hatch-Young, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Demarco, Ms. Michelle Watkins, Mrs. Linda Young, Mr. Michael Bresnan, Jr., Mr. James Brady, Mrs. Jane Boyea, and Mr. Bruce Bomhard.

Msgr. Lawrence M. Deno

Continued from Page 3

lived in Sacred Heart rectory in Chazy, where he continued to minister and serve.

He was named a Prelate of Honor with the title Monsignor in 1989.

In addition to serving as a parochial vicar and pastor, Msgr. Deno taught mathematics at Holy Ghost Academy in Tupper Lake from 1961 to 1966. In 1966, he was named diocesan Assistant Superintendent of Schools, a role he held until 1971, when he was named diocesan superintendent of schools. He served in that capacity until 1996.

In 1971, he began teaching at Wadhams Hall Seminary College. He remained in that role until 1996. He served as chair of the Social Science Teaching department at the seminary college for nearly two decades. He also served as a professor at Mater Dei College in Ogdensburg from 1975 to 1981.

In addition to his parents, Msgr. Deno is predeceased by his brother, George. Survivors include a sister-in-law, Carolyn Deno; nephews, Jerry Deno (Lisa) and Jeffrey Deno (Tammy); along with eight great-nieces and nephews and twelve great-great-nieces and nephews.

The family extends a special gratitude to those who helped Msgr. The parishioners of St. James Church in Cadyville, who welcomed him and made his last assignment as pastor a special time. Sacred Heart Church in Chazy gave him welcome in his retirement home. CSR, Jenn, Brenda and Kathy from The Orchards at Meadowbrook for treating him like family. Finally gratitude to the amazing staff on K7 of Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital who cared for him in his last days.

A priest to the core, Msgr. Deno was also truly a family man. Even early in his priesthood, it was a family highlight when he returned home to West Chazy. The family always loved the slide shows from previous visits or places he had been. He was proud of his heritage and upbringing. He looked forward to spending time with the younger generations. A favorite outing included visiting someone’s home for a meal. He loved to learn and teach. Msgr. Deno was blessed to have a full life doing the things he cherished most.

Arrangements are through Brown Funeral Home.
Five keys to monitoring kids online

Editor’s Note: April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The following article about abuse prevention is copyrighted property of National Catholic Services, LLC. It is reprinted here with permission.

By Caitlin Bootsma
National Catholic Services/VIRTUS

Technology is here to stay. Not only is it here to stay, it’s everywhere! Televisions, mobile phones, iPads, interactive video games, smart watches, you name it and it’s hooked up online.

The following are five starting points for guiding kids to use the internet and technology safely and well. Each family may come up with their own limits around technology use, but every family should think through how they want to approach these areas of monitoring online activity.

Use Protective Software: One of the most foundational things you can do to manage what your kids access online is accountability and filter software on all of your online devices. Systems like Covenant Eyes, Bark Home Web Filter, Circle, and options on your router or with your internet provider can help you not only limit what sites and apps kids access and when, but also allow you to see their online activity.

Share Passwords and “Friend” or follow Your Kids’ Accounts: Many parents establish some ground rules when their kids are old enough to have their own email and social media accounts. These rules may include friending or following them so that you see what’s happening on their pages and/or sharing passwords—though it’s important to know that many platforms allow them to block some people from seeing everything. Other rules can include only connecting with people they know in real life and not sharing any personal information such as address, phone number, email, or banking information. You can go through their accounts with them to ensure they are as safe as possible.

Discuss Photo/Video Sharing: Photo/video sharing should only be done with people they know in real life. Let them know any images they choose to share remain online permanently, and that once they share a photo or video, they can’t get it back. If anyone ever asks them to send photos or videos of a sexual nature, they should immediately inform a safe adult.

Keep Online Activity Visible: Consider only having your kids use technology in public spaces in the house. This can help reinforce the message that they should not be accessing anything inappropriate and also make it easy for them to talk to you if they encounter anything questionable. Another option to consider is to remove access to electronic devices during bedtime hours. However, keep in mind that children may take electronic devices with them, or may use technology in places apart from your home, which means that regular conversations are important.

Regularly Talk about Online Activity: It can be easy for adults and kids to become isolated in their online activity; it can easily become their own world, separate from the family. Make technology use part of your dinner table conversation — did they hear from any friends today? Read an interesting article? See something new they want to watch? Like any other area of their lives, technology is a sphere where you can provide invaluable guidance and feedback.

As we know from our own lives as adults, the internet has a lot to offer. It also has a number of risks, including safety, online addictions and more. We have the opportunity to help guide our kids how to use the internet safely and well!
It’s a ritual, not a habit

When the scoutmaster raised his arm and held up three fingers, the entire scout troop fell into silence and gave their attention to the scoutmaster. It was what we did. It was a learned response.

In the uniformed services a leader will bark, “Aaa-ten-tion!” and get the same response.

All Sister had to do when I was in grammar school was look at us and we became little angels.

A programmed and expected response, like those above, is a little different from a habit. A habit can be good or bad.

Maybe you always put your right sock on before your left, or you smoke or drink too much even though you know you should not, or you double cluck before throwing a ball from second to first. We are creatures of habit.

Creatures of habit is a cliché that means we do the same thing in the same way all the time. The apparent reason. Like using the same pew every Sunday.

I had a guy tell me one recent Sunday that he would be early for Holy Thursday Mass because he was sure one “visitor” would take “my spot in my pew” if he didn’t camp in the location early. I never checked to see if he followed through.

Back in grammar school again, (we did not change classrooms, or teachers for that matter, all day long) we used to sit at the same assigned desk for the year. We did have one Sister who used to make us change seats every week or so. That was to cut down on the note passing etc. That particular nun was the exception, not the rule.

We all “sitting in the same place every class during the two years of Lay Ministry Formation and then in the same spot for all three years of Deacon Formation. It was a habit.

All of this, learned responses and habits, came to me as I was setting up for the Easter Vigil service. Some of what we would do that evening was a learned response. Certainly prayers come to mind. We would hopefully sit where we usually did. A habit that is hard to break.

But tonight, at the Easter Vigil we would take part in a ritual. A ritual is “a religious ceremony consisting of a series of actions performed according to a prescribed order,” the dictionary tells us.

This ritual, the Easter Vigil ritual, was extra special. According to the rite “after the service of light and the Exsulit, the Easter Proclamation (part one of the ritual), Holy Church meditates on the wonders the Lord God has done for his people from the beginning, trusting in his word and promise (the second part, that is, the Liturgy of the Word) until, as day approaches, with new members reborn in Baptism (the third part), the Church is called to the table the Lord has prepared for his people, the memorial of his Death and Resurrection until he comes again (the fourth part).”

This is one ritual that should become a habit for every Catholic.

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown. He is the Director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.
Biden administration to appeal to Supreme Court over abortion pills

By Peter Pinedo
Catholic News Agency

The Biden administration plans to issue an emergency appeal to the Supreme Court after a federal appeals court allowed a Texas judge’s ruling to severely restrict abortion pill access.

The appeals court Wednesday night temporarily suspended the judge’s ruling to invalidate the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s approval of the abortion pill mifepristone. The decision will, however, leave in place restrictions that will severely limit the abortion drug’s distribution.

The three-judge panel from the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in Louisiana granted a partial stay of Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk’s Friday ruling. It also reinstated mifepristone restrictions lifted by the FDA after 2016.

This means that the abortion pill mifepristone remains legal for the time being, and pharmacies such as CVS and Walgreens can continue to dispense prescriptions.

The drug will no longer be permitted to be distributed via mail, however. Instead, an in-person doctor visit to prescribe and dispense the drug is required.

Additionally, mifepristone’s use will be limited to the first seven weeks of pregnancy, instead of 10, and a follow-up doctor’s visit to check for complications is required after a chemical abortion.

On Thursday morning, the Biden administration announced it intends to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court.

“The Justice Department strongly disagrees with the 5th Circuit’s decision in Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine v. FDA to deny in part our request for a stay pending appeal,” Attorney General Merrick Garland said. “We will be seeking emergency relief from the Supreme Court to defend the FDA’s scientific judgment and protect Americans’ access to safe and effective reproductive care.”

Unless the Supreme Court rules otherwise, these restrictions will take effect Saturday.

Mifepristone is the first drug used in what is commonly a two-step regimen for a chemical abortion. The pill works to kill an unborn baby by cutting off the nutrients necessary for it to continue developing.

Given that chemical abortions now account for over half of all U.S. abortions, this ruling carries significant implications for the entire country, including states where abortion remains legally protected.

Erin Hawley, senior counsel at Alliance Defending Freedom, the firm representing the pro-life groups in this case, responded to the 5th Circuit’s ruling, saying: “The 5th Circuit’s decision is a significant victory for the doctors we represent, women’s health, and every American who deserves an accountable federal government acting within the bounds of the law.”

“The FDA put politics ahead of the health of women and girls when it impermissibly failed to study how dangerous the chemical abortion drug regimen is and when it unlawfully removed every meaningful safeguard that it previously implemented,” Hawley said. “The FDA should have to answer for the damage it has done to the rule of law and the harm it has caused to countless women and girls.”

Speaking to reporters from Dublin while on a presidential visit to Ireland, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre responded: “We are going to continue to fight in the courts, we believe the law is on our side, and we will prevail.”

The full 5th Circuit will review the case and will issue a final ruling unless one of the groups involved appeals directly to the Supreme Court.

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ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

COFFEE AND CATHOLICISM

Wells - Please join us at our Coffee and Catholicism program, where we will enjoy brunch as we view and discuss Word on Fire's Catholicism series.

Date: Every Saturday (except for Holy Saturday), beginning March 4 and ending May 13
Time: 9 a.m. to 10
Place: St. Ann’s rectory
Features: We will enjoy brunch as we view and discuss Word on Fire’s Catholicism series. We will have toys and books set up for little ones.
Contact: For more information, please call 757-817-4700.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

ADORATION

Plattsburgh – Adoration to be held weekly.

Date: Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays
Time: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Place: St. John’s in the Holy Family Basement
Features: Come to an out of the way place and rest awhile in Jesus’ Presence. Experience His healing power, grace, love and mercy for yourselves and loved ones. Pray for the sick, suffering, vocations, our priests, country and peace in the world.
Contact: For more information, to become a substitute or to sign up for an hour, please contact 518-563-3773.

DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR

St. Regis Falls – All are invited to the monthly first Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour for Vocations.

Date: First Saturday of the Month
Time: Following the 4:30 anticipated Mass
Place: St. Ann’s Church

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

PRE-SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Watertown – St. John Bosco Preschool program to have open enrollment.

Features: Must be 4 by Dec. 1
Contact: For more information visit www.jhschool.org or call 315-788-4670 ext. 1

SPRING FLING

Watertown – Immaculate Heart Central will be having a Kentucky Derby theme Spring Fling.

Date: April 29
Time: 6 p.m.
Place: Faichney Business Complex
Cost: $60
Features: Food will be savory. There will be a cash bar by Timewarp and music by Oceans Below.
Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

ST. LAWRENCE

HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY

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

Date: May 7
Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass
Place: St. Hedwig’s Church
Contact: 315-348-6260

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

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

Date: May 13
Time: 4 p.m. to 7
Place: St. Mary’s Parish Center
Cost: Adults, $9; Seniors, $6; Children 12 and under, $5; under 5, Free; Quart of sauce, $6
Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

MEAL DELIVERY DRIVERS NEEDED

The St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging is seeking drivers for home delivered meals in Brasher Falls, DeKalb, Canton, Gouverneur, Morristown, Ogdensburg, Potterdam and Star Lake.

Features: These drivers deliver hot, nutritious meals to older adults. Many are homebound and receive a lunchtime meal Monday through Friday. A critical component of this program is the daily wellness check that is provided by this service. Drivers receive a mileage reimbursement. Typical deliveries take place between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Routes can be between one hour and two hours. You can volunteer for one day a week or several. Any help is greatly appreciated.
Contact: If you are interested please contact Danielle Durant at 315-386-4730.

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

ADORATION

Norwood – St. Andrew’s Church to offer Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday.

Date: After 8:30 a.m. Mass until Noon
Features: Sign up is not needed.

BINGO

Canton – Bingo to be held.

Date: April 17 and 24
Time: Card sales start at 5:30 p.m., Games start at 7 p.m.
Place: Knights of Columbus Hall.
Features: Bonus games are rising higher.

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

Date: May 3
Time: 8 a.m.
Place: Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg
Features: Rosary with devotions

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY DEVOTION

Massena - Sacred Heart Church to have first Saturday Rosary Devotion.

Date: May 3
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.

MEN’S PRAYER GROUP

Massena – First Saturday of the month, men’s prayer group to meet for Mass and Adoration.

Date: May 3
Time: 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Place: St. Mary’s Church
Features: Coffee and donuts after service in the parish center
Contact: Bob Brothers at 315-842-2886

MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
Join us for a viewing and discussions covering topics such as forgiveness, money issues, and the effects of divorce. This program is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later. It will help them find answers to their questions, restore their hope, and begin authentic healing.

Contact: Register online at www.rcdony.org/survivingdivorce. For more information contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org.

THE LETTER
Join us for a viewing and discussion of The Letter, A Message for our Earth. The Letter is a documentary about how spiritual values can be a source of action on the ecological crisis.

Schedule: May 20: Brushton St. Mary’s Parish Center
Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Features: The Letter follows six invited leaders from around the world who were invited to the Vatican by Pope Francis to speak about the effects of climate on their communities. We will screen the 80-minute movie in three segments interspersed with discussion. Simple lunch and refreshments included.

ORDINATION TO THE ORDER OF THE PRIESTHOOD AND DEACON
Through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, the Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg, will ordain to the Order of Priesthood Deacon Lukas Hermann Gruber and to the Order of Deacon Mr. Carter Gabriel Pierce and Mr. Douglas Alexander Schimmer.

Date: May 27
Time: 11 a.m.
Place: St. Mary’s Cathedral
Features: A reception will immediately follow the Liturgy downstairs in the Brazna Hall. The Ordination Mass may be viewed at www.rcdony.org/ordination. The Ordination Mass program will be available at the same link shortly before the Liturgy.

RACHEL’S VINEYARD
Saranac Lake – Rachel’s Vineyard After Abortion Healing Retreat to be held.

Date: May 26 to 28, Memorial Day Weekend
Place: Guggenheim Lodge
Features: If you or a friend are hurting after abortion loss, please consider attending a Rachel’s Vineyard healing retreat. You aren’t alone, help is available.

Contact: Registration is online at www.rcdony.org/pro-life or by contacting the Respect life office at cmiller@rcdony.org. A list of retreat locations outside of our diocese is available at: www.rachelsvineyard.org.

GUGGENHEIM SUMMER CAMP
2023 registration is open. New this year is a mini session for youth 11-13 years old along with the annual sleepaway camp weeks for ages 11 to 18.

Dates: The season starts July 5th and ends Aug. 11th.
Cost: Mini session is $200 and the weeklong session is $425 per camper. Meals and accommodations are included in the registration fee.
Features: There are so many fun things to do at camp! Like arts and crafts, Project Adventure, Liturgy, rappelling, hiking, basketball, or soccer. Guggenheim has its very own beach where you can swim, tool around on our watercrafts and play watersports. Evenings at camp are packed with fun activities like bonfire time, a dance, outdoor movies, and camp-wide games. Summer Camp Guggenheim is a fun place where you can make great friends. escape the craziness of the world, and just chill with cool people like you.

Contact: For more information and to register, go to www.rcdony.org/youth/camp or call, Jeannie Grizotto at 315-393-2290 ext. 1413

LIFE GIVING WOUNDS RETREAT
Ogdensburg – Retreat for adults whose parents separated or divorced and also for those who grew up in single-parent families.

Date: Aug. 11-13
Place: Wadhams Hall
Cost: $200 for a shared room or $250 for a single room.
Features: Financial assistance available. Do not let cost prevent you from experiencing healing you deserve.

Contact: For more information or to register for the retreat, please contact Steve Tartaglia at startaglia@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920.

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM
Saranac Lake – Family Guggenheim registration is open.

Schedule: Aug. 17-20; Aug. 24-27; Oct. 6-8
Features: Family Guggenheim welcomes families of all dimensions to come enjoy a special weekend in the beauty of the Adirondacks. Expect fun family workshops and activities that will have you working, laughing and praying together. Celebrate Christ’s presence in your lives!

Contact: For more information and to register, go to www.rcdony.org/family-life/fg.html or contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920, startaglia@rcdony.org.

PILGRIMAGES
RHINE RIVER CRUISE
Join Father John Yonkovig of Lake Placid on the Rhine River with Viking Cruises from Amsterdam, Holland to Basel, Switzerland in the spring of 2024.

Date: May 30 – June 6, 2024
Contact: For information call Deb Rothermel at 800-223-3884 or BTAGROUPS@gmail.com

PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINES OF FRANCE
An eleven-day pilgrimage of shrines of France hosted by Father Andrew Amyot.

Date: November 6-16, 2023
Features: Visits to Lourdes, Nevers, Tours, the Loire Valley, Chartres, Mont. St. Michel, Bayeux, Normandy, Caen, Lisieux and Paris.

Cost: $3,979 from Montreal (includes tour price, taxes and airline surcharges)

Contact: Father Andrew Amyot at 315-384-4242 or framyt2@gmail.com

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Time with the resurrected Christ

The bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is one of the best-attested events in history. If we can believe anything at all in history, we can confidently believe that Jesus Christ was seen alive in the flesh by a large number of eye-witnesses. This happened at different times and in different places over a 40-day period. These are established facts and have withstood attacks by many critics throughout the centuries.

Our first reading today is the word-for-word speech of Peter in the streets of Jerusalem to an astonished crowd of onlookers. At first, they think that the apostles must be drunk - then, after hearing the words of Peter, they are distressed and fearful, crying out for mercy at their culpable crime - crucifying the Lord of Life. Most amazingly of all, 5,000 persons were baptized that same day, the day of Pentecost. What a stupendous beginning for the Church!

Going back in time to the very day that Jesus rose from the tomb, the Gospel delights us with the amazing story of the Road to Emmaus. When you think of what actually happened - Jesus celebrates the Mass with the Liturgy of the Word. He then joins it with the Liturgy of the Eucharist at the Inn.

Let's take a look: These two disciples were getting out of Jerusalem, totally dejected, walking along with their heads down, gloomily talking about their broken hopes in Jesus. A stranger joins them, asking them what their conversation was about. When they tell him the news, he professes ignorance, then points out how all of this was predicted in the Hebrew Scriptures. Fascinated, they invite the stranger to join them for supper at an Inn, since it is now nearly sundown. He agrees, and surprises them by taking the bread and wine into his hands, and quietly says the same words He had uttered just a few days before: "This is my Body... This is my Blood..." They look at one another, and recognize Him in the breaking of the Bread! Then He disappears!

Imagine many people’s surprise, then, to discover that the image of the "Flag of Vatican City" displayed on Wikipedia has been wrong several times over the years, most recently from 2017 to 2022. (It was also wrong from 2006-2007.)

What is "wrong" about these flags, you might ask? It’s a small detail in the grand scheme of things but easy to spot once you know about it. The erroneous Wikipedia file includes a red disk at the bottom of the papal tiara as well as a different shade of yellow on portions of the coat of arms.

The anonymous Wikipedia editor who changed the look of the flag in 2017 wrote he or she did so for "color correction," noting that the Vatican’s coat of arms includes the red at the bottom of the tiara. The only problem? The Vatican’s official flag design renders the coat of arms differently, with the circular bottom of the tiara in white.

The image was reverted to the correct one in 2022, but the damage was done. An internet search turns up dozens of Vatican flags for sale that clearly used the incorrect image from Wikipedia. The incorrect flag has even made its way into emojis. This situation gained attention last month after a Reddit user posted about it.

Father William Becker, pastor at St. Columbanus Parish in Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, read the Reddit post with interest. Becker, a self-described "flag guy," has studied the Vatican flag for years and even wrote a book about it. He has fond memories of raising the yellow and white colors over his alma mater, North American College in Rome.

One might imagine that the precise design specifications of the Vatican flag would be laid out for anyone to access, like they are for the flag of the United States, for example. But they aren’t. The best the Vatican provides is a web page with a verbal description and history of the flag, along with a low-resolution image of a square version.
Violence, hope in Myanmar

“Christ is risen, and we are working to remove the sepulchral stones that threaten to bury our hopes. We strive for justice, peace and the healing of our war-wounded land. We trust in God that, with his help, a new era of peace and prosperity may return to Myanmar,” Father Dominic Jyo Du, parish priest of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in the Archdiocese of Mandalay, told Fides News Services.

The priest tells Fides about Easter and talks about the situation in the diocesan territory: “In Mandalay, we celebrated Easter with the churches always full of faithful. There was an atmosphere of great fear and tension, but the situation was calm. In other areas of the diocesan territory, however, there is suffering and continued death. We prayed intensely for people in distress, tribulation displacement. We are close to the institute and displaced and, as a local community, we continue to organize works of charity, thanks to the coordination of the diocese. We lived Easter between fear and hope.”

On April 11, 80 civilians, including children, were killed following a morning air raid conducted by the Myanmar Army in Kantbalu municipality. According to local sources, the army wanted to target people who had gathered with some representatives of the “National Unity Government” (NUG, the democratic government in exile) that the ruling military junta has designated a “terrorist organization.” A fighter plane and military helicopter targeted approximately 150 people, killing women, children and elderly people who had also gathered to celebrate the beginning of Thingyan, the traditional Burmese New Year. A second attack, with the killing of other civilians, occurred in the evening of the same day. The NUG condemned “the heinous act by the army, another example of the indiscriminate use of violence against innocent civilians, which constitutes a war crime.”

Father Dominic Jyo Du concluded: “The Lord is the Prince of Peace. He hears the cry of his people and their suffering. Easter reminds us of God’s mercy for the suffering humanity. At Easter we celebrate the victory of life over death, of hope over despair, of light over darkness. All the stones that oppress our hearts - stones of hatred, revenge, resentment and despair, the boulders of our anxieties, tribulations and fears – we hand over to the power of love of the Risen Lord. He is the only one who can relieve them and overcome them. Today our hope is only the Risen Christ who is always with us, comforts us and gives us new life.”

Article from FIDES missionary news service of the Pontifical Mission Societies.

OBITUARIES

Brasher Falls – Donald LaFave, 84; Mass of Christian Burial April 13, 2023 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Canton – Joseph R. Murdock, 76; Funeral Services April 19, 2023 at Lawrence Funeral Home & Cremation Services; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Clayton – Geraldine A. (Tubolino) Burrows, 88; Mass of Christian Burial April 13, 2023 at St. Mary’s Church.

Clayton – Ann Marie (Nellis) Duffany, 58; Mass of Christian Burial April 14, 2023 at St. Mary’s Church.

Constableville – Rita Walsh Bronson, 89; Mass of Christian burial April 14, 2023 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery.

Croghan – Patricia J. (Davoy) Golden, 88; Mass of Christian Burial April 17, 2023 at St. Stephen’s Church; burial in St. Stephen’s Cemetery.


Gouverneur – Kathleen Mary (Fitzgerald) June, 84; Private Services held.

Louisville – Richard Cameron, 79; Mass of Christian Burial April 15, 2023 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

Lowville – William A. Faye, 60; Mass of Christian Burial April 14, 2023 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in Sands Cemetery, Greig.

Lyon Mountain – Freeman J. Suppley, Jr., 92; Mass of Christian Burial April 13, 2023 at St. Bernard’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Massena – Pauline Jeanne (Gladu) Beaudoin, 87; Mass of Christian Burial April 21, 2023 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Cindy L. (Kellogg) Shirley, 68; Private Services to be held; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Marie Irene (Walker) Montana, 95; Mass of Christian Burial April 13, 2023 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Peru – Sherry E. Dobbs, 85; Mass of Christian Burial April 18, 2023 at St. Augustine’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Janice (Morrison) Clermont, 92; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at a later date.

Plattsburgh – Elizabeth Carol Fitzgerald Diroll, 97; Mass of Christian Burial April 12, 2023 at Our Lady of Victory Church.

Port Henry – Steven “Red” Allen, 72; Mass of Christian Burial April 11, 2023 at St. Patrick’s Church.

Potsdam – Mark L. “Willy” Williams, 73; Mass of Christian Burial April 14, 2023 at St. Mary’s Church.

Saranac Lake – Anne Elizabeth Nels, 48; Mass of Christian Burial April 21, 2023 at St. Bernard’s Church; burial in St. Bernard’s Cemetery.

Watertown – Patricia (Johnson) Atchie, 86; Mass of Christian Burial April 11, 2023 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Louis Richard Doldo, 88; Mass of Christian Burial April 17, 2023 at St. Anthony’s Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

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Undercover agents used to investigate Catholics

(CNA) - A new document revealed that the Richmond Federal Bureau of Investigation used at least one undercover agent to obtain information about traditionalist Catholics, said Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, who chairs the House Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government.

In response to its inquiry, the committee announced it received from the FBI a heavily redacted 18-page document that uncovered limited information about the agency’s efforts to investigate a supposed link between traditionalist Catholics and “the far-right white nationalist movement.”

The committee had requested information following the leak of an internal memo dated Jan. 23 that originated from the FBI’s Richmond division. The memo, which the FBI later retracted, called for such investigations within traditionalist Catholic communities.

Titled “Interest of Racially or Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremists in Radical-Traditionalist Catholic Ideology Almost Certainly Presents New Mitigation Opportunities,” the memo singles out Catholics who are interested in the Traditional Latin Mass as potentially linked to violent extremist groups.

Because much of the information in the memo was redacted, Jordan subpoenaed the FBI for the full documentation along with documentation about activities that would subject religious organizations to FBI investigations.

While the excerpts from the document that were released to the public do not specifically mention an undercover agent, Jordan said they offered proof that such an operation took place.

“We now know the FBI relied on at least one undercover agent to produce its analysis of the purported link,” Jordan said in the letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray that accompanied his subpoena for documents.

Jordan said the document also shows the agency intended to use local religious organizations as “new avenues for tripwire and source development.”

In his letter to Wray, he said that the document reveals instances in which the FBI planned to engage in outreach to “mainline Catholic parishes” and “diocesan leadership” as well as contact the leadership of the Society of St. Pius X, which holds an irregular canonical status within the Catholic Church.

Jordan included this excerpt from the redacted FBI document:

“In addition to [redaction], engage in outreach to the leadership of other [Society of St. Pius X] chapels in the FBI Richmond area of responsibility to sensitize these congregations to the warning signs of radicalization and to enlist their assistance to serve as suspicious activity tripwires.”