Follow Me:
Supporting the missions

In his letter regarding the annual collection for the Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg (MPDO), Bishop Terry R. LaValley explains how funds from this year’s special collection will be used to aid the Diocese of Latakia in Syria.

“Located on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, Latakia is home to the oldest Christian settlements on earth. Our ‘Solidarity in Faith’ endeavor will provide concrete ways for the faithful of our diocese to learn about Latakia while supporting their relief programs.”

Pope: ‘Do we allow ourselves to be amazed?’

By Rachel Thomas
Catholic News Agency

The residents of three rich cities in the time of Jesus were incapable of marveling at his works and message, Pope Francis noted, seeing in their example a warning for the faithful of today.

Before praying the midday Angelus with a large crowd in St. Peter’s Square on this very warm Sunday, the pope considered Jesus’ “very beautiful prayer” addressed to the Father and recounted in the Mass of today: “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children.”

The pope reflected on two questions about Jesus’ prayer: What are these “things” and who were they hidden from?

To answer the first question, the pope noted that just before this passage Jesus recalled some of his works, including healings.

“The message, then, is clear. Let us not forget this,” Pope Francis said. “God reveals himself by liberating and healing the human person, with a gratuitous love that saves. This is why Jesus thanks his Father, because his greatness consists in his love and he never works outside of love.”

Those who pretend to be great cannot understand these things, the pope warned. “In this regard, Jesus names the inhabitants of three rich cities of his times - Chorazin, Bethsaida, Capernaum - where he had accomplished many healings but whose inhabitants remained indifferent to his preaching. For them, his miracles were only spectacular events, useful for making news and to incite gossip. Once passing interest in them was over, they archived them, maybe in order to occupy themselves in other novelties of the moment. They did not know how to welcome the great things of God.”

Those who miss God’s message because they are “full of themselves” are contrasted with the “little children.”

Jesus praises the Father for “the simple people whose hearts are free from presumption and self-love. The little ones are those who, like children, feel their need and are not self-sufficient. They are open to God and allow themselves to be amazed at his works. They know how to read the signs, to marvel at the miracles of his love!”
Weather or not

If you don’t like the weather, wait five minutes.” I’ve said that more times than I can count. It’s an exaggeration, of course, but I think we all know the weather can change quickly. In recent memory, we’ve had weeks in which we went from wearing coats to wearing short sleeves and back to wearing coats in the span of a few days.

I’ve been thinking about weather a lot lately. Last week, it was raining lightly as I commuted through one of the villages on my route to work. As I was exiting that village, I could see a wall of driving rain coming down a few hundred yards ahead of me. It was such a clearly defined wall, I was able to perfectly time the move to increase the speed of my windshield wipers with my arrival at that spot - the point where I drove through the wall of water. We’ve experienced moments at home in which it was raining in the front yard but not in the back.

I see the news coverage of communities not far from where I live dealing with floods and washed out roads. Then, as you move west in the diocese, farmers’ corn and grass both show patchy brown spots caused by a lack of rain.

It seems simple, but thinking of all this crazy weather reminded me that what God gives to one may be different than what He gives to another, and He has purpose in giving all of it.

It can be hard to wrap my head around that. I don’t understand why some towns have had a decent amount of rain, while other places have too much or too little. I don’t understand why one person may be cured of cancer or addiction or whatever other battle it may be, and other people die from their afflictions. I don’t understand why some people seem to be blessed with good fortune after good fortune while other people seem to have bad luck or no luck at all. There are lots of things I don’t understand.

But I understand God is good. I understand He has a plan and purpose. I understand that, but I struggle with my lack of understanding.

I don’t always like it, but I’m trying to wait and trust.

A message to young people

Each week, as I begin to write this column, I think of you, my readers. However, today, I am thinking in a special way of our young people. I want to share so much with them. I believe that our Catholic Church needs these young people to be involved in their parishes. So, here is what I want to share with them:

I believe that you, young people, are truly hungering - hungering for a meaningful life. I am constantly amazed, even impressed, at the unique talents I have encountered in today’s young people. My hope is that you, young people, will allow God to be an important part of your lives. I believe the Catholic Church has so much to offer you.

Jesus came to this world with a message for young and old. His greatest gift for all of us - then and now - is to teach us that God is our Father. Each time we begin prayer, we start our prayers with the Sign of the Cross and say, “In the name of the Father.” We proclaim our faith in God, the Father. I believe that you, young people, want a God that is truly your Father - the God that Jesus taught us, a loving, forgiving Father and a Father who wants to be a part of all that we are and do. Sadly, I think that too many people think of God as a spy who punishes. Jesus says, “Not true.”

Our Lord spent his whole mission on earth leading us to realize that God is Our Father.

Finding God as our Father, I want to encourage you, young people, to find this loving presence of our Father through prayer, but especially through the prayer of silence. No words - just silence. I know this will allow the Holy Spirit to come into our hearts and lead us closer into a deep relationship with God, Our Father. Our world can be too noisy, sometimes even our services are too noisy. I believe that a time of silence each day is most important, the best way to lead us to God, Our Father.

Also, my hope is that you young people will find a deep involvement in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. It was back in second grade that you received your First Holy Communion. Now, I pray you continue to find the power and support that the presence of the Lord brings to us all in the reception of the Holy Eucharist. I believe from my own experience that the Lord’s Eucharist leads and guides us all to be disciples of the Lord. God wants to be with us - united with us in a sacramental way, walking with us and leading us to the happiness of a good life.

Here I would like to add one more thing to the spirituality of the Blessed Eucharist. I have come to discover that praying in the presence of the Blessed Eucharist - placed for adoration in the monstrance on the altar - fills our hearts with the reality of God’s love for us. This is the powerful gift of the presence of Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist, especially for you, young people. The Lord truly present in the Blessed Eucharist wants to be with you in love.

There is so much more that your Church, your parish, has for you. I hope you are searching. This can make a difference for you as you continue to meet the challenges of the burdens of life. There are so many, I know. There are the daily burdens that can lead to stress, to disappointments, to sadness. God our Father gives us the help and power to deal with the burdens of life so that we find happiness with Our God. Won’t you take a moment now to pray the Our Father.
Grant to aid in steeple repairs

The Québec government will contribute $115,000 to the steeple renovation of the St. Regis Mission Church.

Quebec’s Minister Responsible for First Nations and Inuit Relations Ian Lafrenière made the announcement on June 19 at a Press Conference at the St. Regis Mission Church.

The funding will come from the community infrastructure section of the Indigenous Initiatives Fund IV, a financial assistance program for Indigenous communities in Québec. The renovation will focus on certain structures of the church, especially the stone walls and wood finish elements on the façade and the steeple that have been tested by the passage of time.

The government funding represents half the total cost of the project. The St. Regis Mission Church will cover the remaining amount. The St. Regis Mission, which manages the site and organizes religious activities in the church, will supervise the work. Most of the workers hired for the project are members of the community of Akwesasne.

Built in 1795, the St. Regis Mission Church is one of the oldest buildings in the region. It has considerable historical value in view of its ancestral character, archaeological potential, and deep-seated ties with the development of the community of Akwesasne, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Communications note.

“NIAWEN:KOWA (thank you) to everyone involved in this undertaking especially MCA Grand Chief Abram Benedict, the Chief’s of the MCA and Québec Minister Ian Lafrenière,” St. Regis Mission said in a release. “Also, to the Diocese of Valleyfield Church Restoration Committee, Bishop Noel Simard, Father Jerome Pastores, the Mission Communications and Liaison Ministry, the Mission Finance and Parish Councils, as well as the many parishioners who contributed to our Steeple Repair Project Fund. God’s Bless to everyone!

Work is being performed by Cleroux Renovation Ltee, a highly respected expert in the field of Church restoration, roof and steeple repair, masonry repair and sealing. They are located in Casselman, Ontario, Canada. The company started work on Phase II of the Steeple project on June 19.

The company has a long standing relationship with the St. Regis Mission Church.

Supporting the missions, the Diocese of Latakia

Dear Friends in Christ,

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

The parishioners of Saint Lawrence and Jefferson-Lewis Deaneries will be given an opportunity to support our missionaries during the weekend Masses of July 29 and 30. This year, our focus continues to be the Diocese of Latakia in Syria where our twinning initiative continues.

Located on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, Latakia is home to the oldest Christian settlements on earth. Our “Solidarity in Faith” endeavor will provide concrete ways for the faithful of our diocese to learn about Latakia while supporting their relief programs. Due to a large influx of refugees, relief efforts have had to expand, increasing the need for donations.

Your sacrifices will help fund their marriage preparation and faith formation programs and help assist with humanitarian efforts and rebuilding after the devastating earthquake earlier this year.

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

The money raised in the MPDO collection contributed to a $25,000 donation to Latakia, Syria and a $10,000 donation to Ukraine in 2021, and a $5,000 donation to Latakia, Syria in 2022.

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

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

The churches of St. Mary’s in Constableville, St. John’s in Lyons Falls, St. Martin’s in Port Leyden, and St. Mary’s Nativity in West Leyden would like to thank

Rev. Father Lawrence E. Marullo

for the years of shepherding the parishioners: Constableville for 21 years, West Leyden for 19 years, and Lyons Falls & Port Leyden for 12 years.

We are grateful for his commitment and dedication to the parishes.

Congratulations on a much-deserved retirement.
May God Bless you in your future endeavors.
A House of Prayer

Halfway between Malone and Plattsburgh, on Route 190, sits Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer, “a place people come to hear God.”

Sarah Anderson, president of the house’s board of directors, explained that Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer offers a library and reading room, a prayer chapel containing Jesus in the Eucharist, a large open area for Mass and gatherings, and areas for rest and prayer both inside and outside.

“It’s a place that grows on you,” Anderson said. “It’s grown on everyone who walks in. It’s something special.”

Right now, because of volunteer limitations, visitors must make appointments to enter the house. The facility is also available for retreats and events.

“We can work with the hosts to ensure all of the needs are met,” Anderson said. “We have a kitchen here, and we have a great group of volunteers.”

On August 5, the House of Prayer will celebrate its annual Foundation Day (see the box included with this story). This year’s event will coincide with First Saturday Devotions, which are observed monthly at the house.

The house is also looking for volunteers to increase open hours and availability. For more information, contact Anderson at 518-534-9976.

Submitted by Sarah Anderson
Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer

“For some time, slowly, Our Lord has been building in hearts and minds of people here, as elsewhere in the Church, the desire to form Christian Community for the purpose of prayer and spiritual renewal, as well as a sense of mission i.e. service to others in a very simple, direct way. With the Rising of Jesus in our hearts through contacts with Madonna House, Combermere, Ont. and with the developments of Cursillo, Marriage Encounter and more recently the Charismatic Renewal in our areas, these desires or movements of God’s Love in us has led to a definite out-growth of what we call Our Lady of the Adirondacks.”

Thus begins what Father Joseph P. Trombly calls a “sketchy history of who we are and what God seems to be doing with this small band of people, who He has called together for the purpose of operating a House of Prayer in our Diocese.”

The article was written shortly after the incorporation as an Apostolic Lay Association, permission granted for such by Bishop Stanislaus J. Branza on August 24, 1976 following the departure of Madonna House staff back home to Combermere, Ont. The Madonna House staff had been operating the House of Prayer for three years, since the fall of 1973, and their departure left Father Trombly writing, “Humbly we stand together before the Father and listen for His will – what to do next, always in obedience of love for His Church.”

This is a question that has been asked many times in the history of this little hidden treasure of the North Country. Over the past five decades, there has been an ebb and flow of intense activity, punctuated by times of uncertainty as residential staff and volunteers come and go, as dynamic programs in the Church wax and wane and rejuvenate yet again, and as one generation gives over to the next.

Isn’t that life...just plain, wonderful, awesome, ordinary life?

Periods of stability interrupted by change when questions of “What next, Lord?” arise.

Our Lord’s love and presence do not change, however.

As Father Joe wrote “the value of prayer and contemplation is NOT an ‘additive’, but the very heart of our lived faith and conversion and the source of our success as witnesses in God’s Kingdom whether be priest, religious or lay members of the Church. These houses [of prayer] are to teach us that we MUST WASTE TIME with God if we are to do His SERVICE well in any form.” (Emphasis from Father Trombly).

Yes! We thank God for this little House of Prayer in our midst where the hectic pace of this world just falls away in His Presence.

Here we are in the Summer of 2023, Father Joseph has long been with His Lord and Savior as are many who worked diligently with him, and we are still humbly asking, “What Next, Lord?” while trusting that it is He who will send the necessary people to guide its efforts to be a resource for the entire diocese to use to listen and “do whatever He tells you.” We persevere in prayer, and we dream that someday a small lay or religious community or volunteer house director will take up residence if approved by Bishop LaValley and the House’s Board of Directors.

These were the perennial dreams of Father Trombly and the other original workers as well, which were answered in due course with the right people for the right time. Meanwhile volunteers are always welcome and can be flexibly used depending upon the wishes, time, and talent.

We work so that Our Lady of the Adirondacks remains a House of Prayer which “extends hospitality to all in the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ as shown to us by our Blessed Mother Mary.” The House continues to accommodate small day groups for retreats and meetings and can host overnight stays for up to seven persons. It houses a rich spiritual library, a small and large chapel, pretty grounds, and a deeply restful environment. Please call 518-534-9976 for more information. For more information, contact Sarah Anderson at 518-534-9976.
First Communion in Constableville

By Michelle B. Beagle
Contributing Writer

Sunday, June 4, was a day of celebration as two young Catholics made their First Holy Communion at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Constableville.

There was sunshine and a nice breeze as the faithful gathered to share in the blessed moment.

The children prepared for the sacrament with their teacher, Jacquelyn Beagle.

Avery Morczek, daughter of Stanley and Valerie Morczek, along with Clement Genther, son of Joseph and Buffy Genther, celebrated their First Holy Communion.

Avery stated, “I received God today with communion. I feel excited because it’s the first time - a lovely day.”

Clement stated, “God is feeding his people, and without God, there is no life. I feel happy today.”
Environmental Stewardship

Dark night for the planet

Several recent reports have made it apparent that attempts to slow global warming are failing. A report on global deforestation indicates that the agreements to reduce the harvesting of tropical forests are not being honored. Additionally, global fossil fuel consumption continues to rise rather than decrease as had been planned, adding to planetary warming. Data released by scientific research organizations is verifying that atmospheric carbon dioxide levels continue to rise at an alarming pace, global temperatures are setting new records and the heat being held in the oceans continues to build.

The planet is set to experience a dark night as conditions deteriorate, which can easily lead to feelings of despair, hopelessness and depression for those who care for God’s creation. However, we must never abandon our efforts to improve our environment.

Picking up a bottle from the ground, replacing an incandescent bulb with an LED bulb, walking a half mile to complete errands rather than taking the car, recycling a small glass jar, taking shorter showers... may all seem to have a negligible impact on the global crisis. Remember that regardless of how small your actions may seem, the Divine Creator is well aware of each and every thing that we do and always notes how we treat His creations.

We must never stop working for a healthier environment despite the “writing on the wall.” The time we commit and the energy we expend to improve life on earth is never wasted. At Gethsemane Jesus was well aware of what was soon to come and willingly accepted the will of His Father. We must also be willing to accept what is to come, and continue to remain faithful to our mission to help to all of creation despite the severity of the storms around us. We must always place our trust in God.

Bishop’s Public Schedule

July 19 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
July 20 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop’s Residence followed by Lunch
July 21 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
July 22 – 10:30 a.m. – Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting at St. John’s Parish Center in Moirstown
4:30 p.m. – Mass at St. Ann’s Church in St. Regis Falls
July 23 – 11 a.m. – Mass at the Church of the Holy Cross in Hopkinton
July 24 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
4:30 p.m. – Mass for Youth Camp at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake
July 25 – 5 p.m. – Opening Prayer at the 75th Anniversary of the Clinton County Fair

Rest in Peace

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

July 25 – Rev. Simon Wallace, M.S.C., 1941

Protecting God’s Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God’s Children for Adults. Pre-registration is required. Preregister at www.virtus.org. Upcoming sessions:
July 20 – 1:15 p.m. – Diocesan offices, Ogdensburg
August 31 – 2 p.m. – St. Agnes School, Lake Placid

Kidnapings lead to hope in Nigeria

The scourge of kidnapings in Nigeria does not stop, but there are also cases that are resolved positively with the intervention of the police or that show that there are forms of solidarity that go beyond religious divisions, for example, a Catholic priest kidnapped and freed by the police, or a group of Baptist Christians released thanks to a ransom paid by the Muslim community.

In the first case, Father Anthony Adikwu of the Diocese of Otukpo, kidnapped on June 15 by gunmen in the Ohimini Local Government Area of Benue State (northeast Nigeria), was released June 21, thanks to the intervention of the police.

Officers from the Operation Zenda unit managed to locate the priest and free him. Father Adikwu was taken at around 7 p.m. on June 15 by a squad of armed men who broke into the parish church of St. Margaret in Ajegbe parish. Meanwhile, on June 17, the last 16 hostages who had been taken during the service on Sunday, May 7, at Bege Baptist Church, Madala, in Chikun parish, Kaduna state, northern Nigeria, were also rescued. Some had managed to escape and returned home leaving the remaining 16 in the hands of the bandits.

Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in Kaduna State, Rev. John Joseph Hayab, told journalists in Kaduna that they were full of gratitude to the Muslim community in the area, who assisted before the captives regained freedom.

According to him, “the Muslim community where the worshippers were abducted contributed money and bought a motorcycle as part of ransom required for the release of their Christian brothers and sisters in captivity.” “This goes to show good, caring and sincere neighbors that practically showed concern to the plight of their brothers and sisters that were abducted and their sincere wish that they return home to live together with them in peace and harmony.”

“The exemplary life shown by the Muslim community in Madala should be emulated by all in other parts of the state for a united and peaceful coexistence that is needed for the overall development of the state,” he said.

“Nigerians from all walks of life should be their brothers keepers in order to eliminate all forms of insecurity in every part of the country,” he concluded.

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

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terrianne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrick, NY 11555; terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-651-2267; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy, ccarrara@rcdony.org Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340. If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at 800-276-1562 or www.ReportBishopAbuse.org.

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House votes to end military spending on abortion travel, transgender surgeries

By Peter Pinedo
Catholic News Agency

The U.S. House of Representatives passed two amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) Thursday evening mandating the military stop its programs paying for abortion travel and transgender surgeries for service members.

Under a policy laid out by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, the military has been granting paid leave and subsidizing service members’ travel to obtain abortions. Transgender and gender-identity treatments and surgeries also have been subsidized by the military under the Biden administration.

Two amendments passed by the House Thursday evening would undo those military policies.

The amendment overturning the military’s abortion program, filed by Republican Rep. Ronny Jackson of Texas, passed in a 221-213 vote. The amendment passed in an almost party-line vote, with two Republicans voting against it and one Democrat voting in favor.

The amendment ending the military’s transgender surgeries program was filed by Republican Rep. Matt Rosendale of Montana and passed in a 221-211 vote. One Republican voted against this amendment and one Democrat voted in favor.

The NDAA is an annual must-pass spending package that sets the military’s budget for the next fiscal year. Both the House and Senate advance their own versions of the package, which must be reconciled with each other and then signed by the president.

California legislators advance bill on trafficking

By Daniel Payne
Catholic News Agency

California Democrat­ic legislators on Thurs­day hastily voted an anti-child-trafficking bill through a key committee after significant backlash to their initial scuttling of the measure.

Legislators on the state Assembly’s Public Safety Committee had earlier this week voted down Senate Bill 14, which would elevate child trauma­fficking to a “serious felony” in the state. The committee is made up of six Democrats and two Republicans.

Committee Chair Mem­ber Reginald Jones-Saw­yer said in a statement earlier this week that the committee was unwilling to “build on a deeply flawed sentencing system that unfairly punishes disadvantaged communi­ties.”

But the decision to vote the measure down led to bipartisan backlash, with spectators openly criti­cizing the committee after the vote, Republican politicians slamming the Democratic members for the decision, and Democratic Gov. Gavin News­som vowing to help get the bill passed.

Thursday evening, the Public Safety Committee voted to pass the bill, with the measure receiving near-unanimous ap­proval.

Elisa Arcidiacono, the chief of staff for Assembly member and Public Safety Committee vice chairman Tom Lackey, told CNA that following the bill’s initial failure, assembly Republicans spearheaded a procedural motion “to pull the bill from the Public Safety Committee and bring it to the Assembly floor for a vote by the full body.”

“Rather than approving this motion,” Assembly Democrats introduced their own motion to in­stead hold an emergency Public Safety Committee hearing following the floor session,” Arcidi­acono said. “That motion was passed with 43 votes and several abstentions.”

“The bill was then taken up in an emergency hear­ing [Thursday] morning in the Assembly Public Safety Committee,” she said. “There was no dis­cussion or debate on the bill; it was vote-only.”

The measure subsequ­ently passed the com­mittee with six members voting in favor and two members abstaining.

“The bill will now move to the Assembly Appropriations Committee and then to the floor,” Arcidi­acono said.

FDA approves non-prescription oral contraceptive

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Thursday announced the approval of the first nonprescription oral contraceptive, called “Opill.” The drug’s approval is likely to lead to increased use of contra­ception, a practice that is directly contradictory to Catholic moral teaching.

Though more than 100 countries have approved over-the-counter birth control, according to the Free the Pill Coalition, Opill is the first oral contraceptive to receive FDA approval for use in the U.S. without a prescription. This means that Opill will be available to all ages, available at retail drug stores, without the consultation or guidance of a doctor.

Paragraph 2370 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church unequivocally condemns the use of contraceptives to prevent pregnancy as a grave moral evil. According to Church teaching, “every action, which, whether in anticipation of the conjugal act, or in its accomplishment, or in the development of its natural consequences, proposes, whether as an end or as a means, to render procreation impossible” is “intrinsically evil.”

Opill is a single pill used daily to prevent pregnancy. It is produced by Perrigo, an American Irish-registered pharmaceutical company headquartered in Dublin. According to Perrigo, Opill is a progesteron-only contraceptive. Progestin is a synthetic drug that mimics progesterone, the hormone that normally works after conception to thicken the uterine lining to create a good environment for a fertilized egg to implant.

U.S. bishops call for release of Nicaraguan Bishop Álvarez

Following failed negotiations with the regime of Nicaraguan dictator Daniel Ortega to free persecuted Bishop Rolando José Álvarez Lagos, the U.S. bishops have called for the imprisoned prelate’s release. Álvarez, who in February was sentenced to 26 years in prison after declining exile to the United States, was convicted of treason, undermining national integrity, and spreading false news. “We received news last week of yet another breakdown in negotiations to free Bishop Rolando Álvarez of Matagalpa, Nicaragua — unjustly sentenced to 26 years in prison and stripped of his citizenship in February,” Bishop David Malloy of Rockford, Illinois, said in his capacity as chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on International Justice and Peace. “I particularly commend the recent Inter-American Court of Human Rights’ ruling mandating the immediate release of Bishop Álvarez. The consensus from the international community is clear: The continued incarceration of Bishop Álvarez is unjust and must end as soon as possible.” The Inter-American Court of Human Rights is an international court under the Organization of American States formed in accordance with the human rights treaty the American Convention on Human Rights. The court said that Álvarez is in a “situation of extreme vulnerability” and called on Nicaragua to release him in addition to taking any measures to preserve his life and dignity. Accused of being a “traitor to the homeland,” the bishop was sentenced on Feb. 10 along with 222 other political prisoners, which included priests and seminarians, ACI Prensa reported.
**VIRTUAL EVENT**

**FRIENDSHIP GROUPS**

You are invited to take part in a Friendship Group that will provide you with dynamic reading and personalized formation to grow in holiness with others online.

*Date:* July 20
*Time:* 7 p.m.
*Place:* Zoom

**Features:** Father Nathan Marzoni, OMV will talk with us about the book Beholding Beauty, Mary and the Song of Songs, by Father Greg Cleveland, OMV and answer your questions. Please feel free to read the book at your own pace. As Father Cleveland explains in the introduction, it may be used as a retreat and one chapter can be pondered over the course of a week. For the purpose of our discussion, Father Marzoni will focus on chapters 1, 4, 5, 13, and 14.

**Contact:** To sign up, visit: https://mailchi.mp/sophiainstitute/friendship-groups or order the book visit https://pauline-store.com/. If you type in the discount code Behold23, you will receive FREE SHIPPING for any order over $25. For more information, please contact Mary Beth Brady at mbrcy@sophiainstitute.com

**GIGANTIC YARD SALE**

Brushton - St. Mary’s to have a gigantic yard sale.

*Date:* July 21, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and July 22, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Features:** Nice variety of items, good prices, delicious homemade baked goods – jam, baked beans, breads, cookies, pies. Have lunch, famous Michigans and Jason Poirier’s Adirondack Bar-B-Q Truck.

**HEALING MASS**

Dannemora – St. Joseph’s Church to have a Healing Mass.

*Date:* July 25
*Time:* 6 p.m.

**Features:** Father Mike Jablonski will be presiding. Come celebrate with us the healing presence of God in Holy Eucharist at the sacrifice of the Mass. Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the sick. Prayer teams will be available after Mass for those who desire Private Prayer. “All things are possible with God.”

**Contact:** For more information please contact the parish office at 518-293-5168 or Alice Mattoon at 518-420-5931.

**FOUNDATION DAY**

Ellenburg – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer warmly invites you to their Annual Foundation Day with the theme “In Him, You are Also Being Built Together.”

*Date:* Aug. 5
*Schedule:* The day begins early at 8 a.m. with First Saturday Devotions, followed by Welcome and Music at 9 a.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. Guest speaker, Darcy Fargo, Editor of the North Country Catholic, will present at 9:30 a.m. and the Celebration of Saturday Morning Mass begins at 10:30 a.m. with Rev. Terry LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg. All are invited to a delicious luncheon following the Mass.

**Contact:** Please call Sarah Anderson for more information at 518-534-9976.

**FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS**

Ellenburg – Our Lady of the Adirondacks invite you to First Saturday Communal Devotions.

*Date:* Aug. 5
*Time:* 5:30 p.m. to 10
*Place:* Cerow Arena at the Town of Clayton Recreational Park

**Features:** Your $100 ticket is good for dinner for 2 and 2 drinks and enters you in all drawings.

**Contact:** For more information and tickets, contact St. Mary’s parish office at 521 James Street, Clayton or 315-686-3398.

**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:* Aug. 6
*Time:* Following 11 a.m. Mass
*Place:* St. Hedwig’s Church
*Contact:* 315-348-6260

**ST. LAWRENCE**

**ALPHA**

Massena – You are invited to ALPHA.

*Date:* Tuesdays starting Sept. 12
*Time:* 6 p.m. to 8:30
*Place:* St. Mary’s Social Hall

**Features:** Free to all and includes a delicious meal.

**Contact:** Parish office at 315-769-2469 or go to massenacatholics.com for info or to register.

**DO IT YOURSELF RETREAT**

Ogdensburg – 33 DAYS TO MORNING GLORY: A CONSECRATION TO JESUS THROUGH MARY - A Do-It-Yourself Retreat to be held.

*Date:* Thursdays starting July 13 for 5 weeks
*Time:* 4:30 p.m. to 6
*Place:* Bishop Brazana Hall

**Features:** Want to transform your work, your marriage, your family, and your life, but don’t have time? Are you looking for the quickest, surest, and easiest way to holiness, but don’t know where to begin? In our hectic day and time, Pope John Paul II and Blessed Mother Teresa knew that the quickest way to be transformed into a saint is through a relationship with Our Blessed Mother, Mary. We will be offering this do-it-yourself Retreat Series hosted by Father Michael Gaitley of the Marian Helpers. Deacon Bill will be facilitating this Consecration to Jesus through Mary. Books will be provided. We accept any donations to defray cost.

**Contact:** You may sign up by going to the front page of our parish website or at our parish website here: https://ogdensburgcatholics.org/33-days-to-morning-glory OR you may email or call Deacon O’Brien at billob315@gmail.com or 315-528-0461.

**BINGO**

Canton – The Knights of Columbus will be holding BINGO.

*Date:* July 17, 24 and 31
*Time:* Doors open at 4:30 p.m., First call at 7 p.m.
*Place:* 30 Miner Street
*Cost:* Admission is $5 at the door

**Rosary With Devotions**

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

*Date:* Aug. 5
*Time:* 8 a.m.
*Place:* Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

**Features:** Rosary with devotions

**First Saturday Rosary**

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

*Date:* Aug. 5
*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:* Aug. 5
*Time:* 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
*Place:* St. Mary’s Church

**Continued on Page 9**
Anti-trafficking film tops ‘Indiana Jones’

By Peter Pinedo
Catholic News Agency

“Sound of Freedom,” an anti-human-trafficking film made by Catholic filmmakers Eduardo Verastegui and Alejandro Monteverde, had a massively successful opening day in which it reached No. 1 at the box office, beating out Disney’s fifth “Indiana Jones” installment and taking in $14.24 million.

“Sound of Freedom” had an overall production budget of $14.5 million and only played at 2,600 theaters on its July 4 opening day. Meanwhile, Disney’s “Indiana Jones” had a budget of $295 million, played at many more theaters, and brought in $11.69 million on July 4.

Speaking with “EWTN News Nightly”’s Tracy Sabol in a June 30 interview, Verastegui, who produced and acted in “Sound of Freedom,” said the purpose of the film was to raise awareness about the 2 million children exploited every year in the international sex-trafficking trade.

In the film, Jim Caviezel, known for “The Passion of the Christ” and “The Count of Monte Cristo,” plays Homeland Security agent Tim Ballard, who quits his job and puts his life at risk to embark on a dangerous journey through the Colombian jungle to save hundreds of children from sex traffickers.

The film is based on a true story. In 2013, Ballard and several former government operatives left their jobs to found Operation Underground Railroad (O.U.R.), which works around the world and in conjunction with law enforcement to rescue children from slavery and exploitation.

Verastegui, a Mexican-born actor who is best known for faith-based films such as “Bella” and “Little Boy,” explained that he met Ballard and his team, consisting of former Navy SEALs, FBI, and CIA agents, in Los Angeles eight years ago.

“When they explained to me in detail what these children are going through ..., ” Verastegui said, “The pain, the suffering of these children, of course on one hand I was very inspired by their work; on the other hand I was in shock. I was depressed, I couldn’t sleep for many days.”

Ballard told him of how many of the kidnapped children are being “raped 10 to 15 times a day” and that “after many years they open them and sell their organs.”

“He told me the U.S. is the No. 1 consumer of child abuse, No. 1 consumer of child sex. And Mexico is the No. 1 provider,” Verastegui went on. “I was in shock, and I asked him: ‘How come, if the United States is the most powerful country in the world, if you have the money, the intelligence, the technology, the army, the police, everything, how come we don’t finish this problem here?’ And he said: ‘Because it’s not a priority.’”

Ballard told him that even though his group could save thousands of children, something more was needed to help the millions of more children suffering around the world. “I asked myself: ‘What can I do?’” Verastegui said.

As a filmmaker and actor, Verastegui said he has “a weapon of mass instruction and inspiration.”

Verastegui felt called to build a movement to end child sex trafficking.

“That’s when I realized I was called to make a movie, but not only a movie, I wanted to dedicate my life, along with Tim and many other soldiers around the world, warriors who are not afraid to fight, to eradicate child trafficking,” Verastegui said.

“We need a movement,” he said. “Why? Because then we can put pressure on government so this issue can become a priority. And when it becomes a priority, then together, society, government, entertainment, news media, we all together, we can end this terrible reality.”

The film was originally produced under 20th Century Fox and finished in 2018, but it was dropped after Disney bought the studio. Only after being acquired by the Christian “Angel Studios,” known for its TV show “The Chosen,” did “Sound of Freedom” finally make it into theaters.

The film has had shocking success and resonated with audiences across the country.

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Around the diocese

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8**

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

**Date:** Aug. 13 (Second Sunday of each month)

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Place:** Father Amyot Parish Center

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

**Contact:** For more information contact Grand Knight Gil Gonthier 315-212-5166.

**DIOCESAN EVENTS**

**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 is available...do not let cost prevent you from experiencing the 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.

**YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT**
Saranac Lake - If you are a young adult between the ages of 18 and 30 something, come away with us on retreat at the Camp Guggenheim Lodge.

**Date:** Aug. 11-13

**Cost:** $30 per person, but don’t let the lack of funds stop you from attending.

**Features:** Come for the entire weekend or Saturday only. Come and enjoy the peace of Saranac Lake, time for prayer, reflection, conversations and silence. Bishop LaValley will celebrate the vigil Mass on Saturday evening and will join us for dinner. Meals will be potluck (we will coordinate with the participants).

**Contact:** Register online at www.rcdony.org/yamretreat For more information contact Marika Donders at mdonders@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920 ext. 1380

**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.

**SURVIVING DIVORCE**
The Family Life Office is offering the Surviving Divorce Program in Plattsburgh.

**Date:** 12 weeks starting Aug. 30

**Place:** St. John the XXIII Newman Center

**Time:** 6 p.m. to 8

**Features:** Surviving Divorce features twelve video presentations that cover topics such as shock and grief, anger and forgiveness, money issues, dealing with children and a former spouse, and annulment and remarriage. 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:** To register, go to https://www.rcdony.org/survivingdivorce. For more information, contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920.
The theme of Scripture readings this Sunday is: “Use power with clemency.” We all have power – power of authority, the power of personality, the power of experience. God has given us wonderful gifts that we must use with gentleness and humility. In the Book of Wisdom, the writer praises God: “But though you are master of might, you judge with clemency.” Our present Holy Father, Pope Francis, is a great example of this. He spent a whole year teaching the world about the mercy of God, and that God expects all of us to imitate his patience and justice. In the Gospel, Jesus uses a parable of the weeds and the wheat. The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep, his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went away.” Then Jesus likens the weeds to evil around us. This evil can prevent the Word of God from growing in our hearts and minds, just as weeds drain energy from the wheat. Add to this our own giving in to evil temptations and sinful actions. Do you remember that wonderful comic strip POGO? One of Pogo’s famous sayings was, “We have met the enemy, and it is us.” By our sin and pride, we join the enemy by planting weeds in God’s garden of grace. And we can then be judgmental and lacking in mercy toward others. Sometimes it’s through bad example, through our failures to instruct our children, when we fail to help our neighbor in need or in distress or when we fail to support Catholic teaching in our conversation or in our actions. We need to look into our hearts to see in what ways we are responsible. What then? We ask the Holy Spirit for the grace to repent, to make a good confession and to change our attitudes. As for the evil around us, be patient.

Notice what advice the farmer in the parable gives his workers? He tells them to let the weeds grow with the wheat. The harvest-time is coming (in other words, the final judgment). Jesus tells us. Work and pray to change hearts. Heavy-handed crusaders sometimes do more harm than good. Use charity, gentleness, good example and prayer. Maybe they will have a change of heart before God has to take action.

**A conversation with mom**

*The Joy Of The Gospel* is an apostolic exhortation written by Pope Francis almost a decade ago. It was his first apostolic exhortation following his election to succeed Pope Benedict XVI as Holy Father in 2013. "Apostolic Exhortations are addresses emphatically urging the faithful to consider a particular spiritual matter or activity, of importance to the Pontiff," says a Boston College article explaining different types of papal documents.

In this case, Pope Francis "reflects on the gap between the life we are living and the life God calls us to live." Francis writes that everything we need to know about the life God calls us to live is found in the Gospel. Jesus has brought the reign of God to our world through his life, death and resurrection from the dead, and it is all chronicled in the Gospel. That’s why the Gospel is called the Good News.

A dozen folks from around the diocese are reading and reflecting together on that writing in what is called a Brown Bag Discussion. Brown Bag is another way of saying lunchtime electronic video chat. Marika Donders, the diocesan director of the Office of the New Evangelization, is facilitating the discussions.

During Brown Bag last week, we discussed the sections dealing with the homily. The homily, according to the Catechism, is "preaching by an ordained minister to explain the scriptures proclaimed in the liturgy and to exhort the people to accept them as the Word of God. All the priests and many deacons in our diocese preach.

I was particularly drawn to the pope’s reminder that mothers or Church preaches, or should, like a mother teaches her children. Those tender moments of encouragement and correction that mothers are so well known for are filled with love. Every mother has a unique technique, but the motive, to teach the child for his or her own benefit, is the same. The child accepts the wisdom, sometimes grudgingly, because he or she is loved.

Like moms, preachers have talents and styles. No two preachers – priest or deacon – are the same. The preacher’s challenge is to deliver the good news using his talents to the best of his ability.

"Even if the homily at times may seem somewhat tedious," Pope Francis writes, “if this maternal and ecclesial spirit is present, it will always bear fruit, just as the tedious counsels of a mother bear fruit, in due time, in the hearts of her children.”

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

Alexandria Bay — Shirley A. Irwin, 90; Mass of Christian Burial July 24, 2023 at St. Cyril’s Church; burial in Highland Park Cemetery.

Altona — James Lincoln Smith, 80; Mass of Christian Burial July 17, 2023 at Holy Angels Church; burial in Holy Angels Cemetery.

Brownville — Nancy E. (Turcotte) Horet, 87; Funeral Services July 14, 2023 at the Reed & Benoit Funeral Home, Watertown; burial in Brownville Cemetery.

Canton — Joan A. (LaPrade) Burnett, 77; Funeral Services July 8, 2023 at the O’Leary Funeral Home; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery, Brasher Falls.

Canton — Michael J. Cunningham, 62; Funeral Services July 13, 2023 at the Lawrence Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Canton — Joseph M. Makowiec, 96; Mass of Christian Burial July 8, 2023 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Evergreen Cemetery.

Carthage — Joyce Sochia (Malbeuf) Becker, 90; Mass of Christian Burial July 15, 2023 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Carthage — Margaret B. (McCallon) Leach, 93; Mass of Christian Burial July 7, 2023 at St. James Church.


Chateaugay — Mary Jane Delleria, 58; Mass of Christian Burial July 19, 2023 at St. Patrick’s Church.


Constableville — Theresa Zimmer Evans Cataldo, 91; Mass of Christian Burial July 15, 2023 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Constableville — Josephine M. Benedict Kraeger, 95; Mass of Christian Burial July 10, 2023 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery.


Copenhagen — Jessie J. Bourgeois, 41; Private graveside services to be held at Brantingham Cemetery.

Ellenburg — Eunice M. (Nichols) Silver, 89; Mass of Christian Burial July 10, 2023 at St. Edmund’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Gouverneur — Mary Ann Paige, 88; Mass of Christian Burial July 10, 2023 at St. James Church.

Hogansburg — Alice (Sawatski) Cook, 84; Mass of Christian Burial July 12, 2023 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery, St. Regis, QC.


Hopkinton — Anne Regan Fiedler, Mass of Christian Burial July 7, 2023 at Holy Cross Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery, Potsdam.

Lyon Mountain — Brenda L. Owen, 72; Mass of Christian Burial July 5, 2023 at St. Bernard’s Church; burial in St. Bernard’s Cemetery.

Madrid — Clarence A. Cornell, 82; Graveside Services July 6, 2023 at Madrid Cemetery.

Madrid — Joyce M. White, 80; Funeral Services July 10, 2023 at the Phillips Memorial Home; burial in Madrid Cemetery.


Mooers Forks — Freeman A. LaValley, 87; Mass of Christian Burial July 10, 2023 at St. Ann’s Church.

Morrisonville — Arthur V. Carter, 83; Mass of Christian Burial July 10, 2023 at St. Alexander’s Church; burial in Whispering Maples Mausoleum, Plattsburgh.

Ogdensburg — Christopher K. Dodoz, 70; Mass of Christian Burial July 15, 2023 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Oswegatchie Memorial Park.

Ogdensburg — Lisa K. (Thompson) Winter, 60; Mass of Christian Burial July 14, 2023 at St. Mary’s Cathedral; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Peru — Blake K. Ferguson, 9; Funeral Services July 9, 2023 at Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Church of the Assumption Cemetery, Redford.

Peru — Allyson Faye Liberty Nelson, 62; Mass of Christian Burial July 12, 2023 at St. Augustine’s Church.

Plattsburgh — Karen Marie (Boyce) Roberts, 63; Mass of Christian Burial July 12, 2023 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in Divine Mercy Cemetery, Cumberland Head.

Potsdam — Daniel J. Jenack, 72; Mass of Christian Burial July 11, 2023 at St. Mary’s Church.

Saranac Lake — James Hamilton Dalheim, 96; Funeral Services July 5, 2023 at the Fortune Keough Funeral Home; burial in St. John’s Cemetery, Lake Clear.

Tupper Lake — Ruth “Midge” LaBrie, 85; Mass of Christian Burial July 14, 2023 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.


Watertown — Marjorie M. (Gagnier) Chiappone, 88; Mass of Christian Burial July 11, 2023 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

Watertown — Donna M. Leana, 74; Mass of Christian Burial July 17, 2023 at St. Anthony’s Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Gloria Ferne (Wilson) Piazza, 93; Mass of Christian Burial July 12, 2023 at Holy Family Church.

Watertown — Elizabeth “Betty” (Topping) Schatz, 97; Mass of Christian Burial July 8, 2023 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Maple Grove Cemetery, Waterlo.
Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg

• July 29-30, 2023 •

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Our Diocese fulfills missionary hopes every day by supporting:

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