AT FAMILY CAMP

Father Matthew Conger celebrates Mass along the Lower Saranac Lake at Camp Guggenheim as part of the 2023 season of Family Camp.

PHOTO BY DAYNA LEADER

No NCC next week

There will be no North Country Catholic the week of Sept. 6. The next edition will be dated Sept. 13.

After that edition, we will resume our regular schedule of weekly publication.

New principal, assistant at St. Agnes

When students, staff and teachers at St. Agnes School in Lake Placid return to class, they'll have a new principal and assistant principal leading the school.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope: Eucharist can fill ‘wounds and voids’

By Courtney Mares
Catholic News Agency

Jesus’ healing presence in the Eucharist can “fill with tenderness” the voids and wounds produced by sin in individual lives and in society, Pope Francis said on Friday.

In a meeting at the Vatican with a pilgrimage group led by the Sister Disciples of Jesus in the Eucharist on Aug. 25, the pope noted that in the eyes of the world, it might appear “absurd” to begin confronting societal problems by prayers on one’s knees in “adoration and reparation,” but that it is always effective.

Pope Francis pointed out that the story behind the founding of the sisters’ religious order and the revival it sparked gives witness to this reality. The Sister Disciples of Jesus in the Eucharist were founded in one of the poorest dioceses in southern Italy by Servant of God Bishop Raffaello Delle Nocche in the wake of World War I and the devastating Spanish flu pandemic.

The sisters were to be “poor servants of a poor people.” Pope Francis explained: “At the center of their lives was the Eucharist, a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity,’ as the Second Vatican Council teaches us (Sacrosanctum Concilium, 47).”

“Love, unity, and charity. What does this mean? To adore, to serve, and to repair, that is, to fill with tenderness ... to fill with tenderness the wounds and voids produced by sin in man and society, beginning by kneeling before Jesus in the Consecrated Host, and remaining there for a long time,” he said.

Bishop Nocche recommended that the sisters remain in prayer before the Eucharist “even when we seem to feel nothing, in quiet and trusting abandonment, because ‘Magister adest,’ (‘the Master is here’ (Jn. 11:28).”

“By the world’s standards this strategy of action seemed absurd: in the face of immense needs and with almost no resources available, what sense could there be in telling the sisters to get down on their knees for ‘adoration and reparation’? Yet, as always, the way of faith and self-offering worked in this case too,” Pope Francis said.

“The prayers of those courageous women indeed generated a contagious force, which soon led them to undertake and promote works of material, cultural, and spiritual redemption far exceeding all expectations.”
**Through XYZ and ABC**

“Life should slow down, and I should have more free time after (X, Y and Z).”

I’ve said it. I’ve said it a lot, in fact.

But we all know how it goes. After X, Y, and Z comes A, B, and C. In more commitments, life issues, medical appointments/procedures, projects to work on. . . It’s just this time of life, I think.

On Friday morning, the day I file the NCC pages to be printed or “put the paper to bed” in newspaper speak, I was playing the last couple of weeks over in my head trying to see where God was working in my life as I tried to write this column.

The last handful of weeks have been super busy—working on projects, dealing with life, family and health issues, traveling, preparing to send my son back to school. . . As I looked through all that trying to find where God was working in my life, it occurred to me: I haven’t made very much time and space for God lately.

After I realized it, I saw even more evidence confirming it. I certainly didn’t have God’s peace in my heart in that moment.

I took a pause for a few minutes. I tried to pray to God that He’d help me surrender some of my worries, my stress and my commitments to Him, but I struggled to pray that genuinely. I don’t like surrendering. So, I asked to God make me the kind of person who actually wants to surrender. It’s the best I can do right now.

And I was reminded that I need to focus again on building even tiny pauses into my day; times to just be with God for a couple of minutes.

Even when life doesn’t slow down, maybe especially when life feels crazy and chaotic, I’m called to slow down, if even for a minute or two, to find free time and freedom in our Lord.

**Transformed by the Eucharist**

Today, I would like to write to you again about the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. I want to continue to encourage you to continue to develop a deeper appreciation of and love for the Holy Eucharist as dedicated Catholics. Won’t you join me in developing a proper love and devotion for the Holy Eucharist?

Speaking for myself, I truly love the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. I love every opportunity I have for celebrating Mass. I pray often that the Lord helps me to find ways to bring others to a deep respect and love for the Holy Eucharist. This sacrament is transformative for all of us as Catholics.

I believe the Mass is one of God’s greatest gifts to His Church and to each of us, the people of God. This sacrament of the Holy Eucharist is the heart and soul of the life of our Catholic Church. Personally, I have great gratitude to my God for choosing me to be a priest and to celebrate the Holy Mass; I am allowed to bring the Lord Jesus in Holy Communion, Body and Blood, and physically. Each time we receive Holy Communion we are transformed. We truly become a new person, and we do it repeatedly. This sacrament is a source of new life and strength for each of us. This sacrament is not meant to be some sort of reward for the disciples of Jesus. This Holy Eucharist brings us to God’s help and support, strengthening us as disciples of the Lord and filling our lives with the love and peace of Our God. In the Eucharist, we are empowered to make this world a better place.

Each Mass is a constant source of power to make us new and alive—dedicated in every way to the Lord Jesus Christ and united in every way to the Lord. Each time we leave the church after celebrating Mass, we are a new and different person. We have spent time with the Lord; we have received Holy Communion. Of course, we must be different. Our time with the Lord is transformative. We must be more dedicated, more active, more enthusiastic as we prepare to live this day alive in our Catholic faith.

So, I want to encourage you to allow this magnificent sacrament of the Holy Eucharist to be a part of all you are and do. Let the Lord come alive in you, transforming all you do by the grace of the Holy Eucharist.

Personally, I know I expect so much from the Lord each time I celebrate Mass. So, I take the time to prepare well for the time when I go to the altar for Mass. I want to make this spiritual experience to be truly profitable for my own spiritual life and for those in the congregation. I want us all to become new each time we receive the Blessed Eucharist in Holy Communion.

I pray that you will make the Holy Eucharist an important part of your spiritual life. This is truly the prayer of our Catholic Church. I believe that this is truly the way in which Our Lord will make each parish strong and active, united with the Lord and with each other, and bringing new love and peace to each of our communities.
New principal, assistant principal at St. Agnes

Katie Turner, principal

As students, teachers, staff and administrators around the diocese and state prepare for the start of the 2023-24 school year, St. Agnes School in Lake Placid is preparing for the new year with new leadership.

After eight years in various roles at the school, Katie Turner will serve as the principal.

Turner, who earned both her bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in elementary education with a focus on literacy and training as a reading specialist, has previously served as an art and science teacher, after-school and summer program director and family support coordinator at the school.

“St. Agnes has held a special place in my heart since I moved to Lake Placid, and I look forward to another amazing school year.”

Vanessa Pillen, assistant principal

Pillen has experience in a variety of roles in both public and private schools, including time as a director of special education and, most recently, a third-grade teacher.

Couples invited to jubilee

Married couples and their families, are invited to the Diocese of Ogdensburg’s Marriage Jubilee Celebration on September 10 at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley will preside at the event and celebrate the 2:30 pm Mass.

All married couples are invited to attend the Marriage Jubilee Mass. There is no charge. Couples registered before September 1, will receive a certificate from the Family Life Office and the St. Lawrence Society of Deacons, co-sponsors of the Marriage Jubilee.

Registration is available online at https://www.rcdony.org/family-life/jubileeereg.html. If you are unable to access the website, contact the Family Life Office at 315-393-2920 or reach out to your pastor or a deacon in your parish.

A reception will follow the Mass in Brzana Hall at the cathedral. Certificates will be distributed at that time.
Camp Guggenheim season comes to close

Camp keeps family connected to diocese

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

Currently residents of Baltic, Connecticut, Paul and Veronica Martin first met because of their connections to the Diocese of Ogdensburg and its mission in Mollendo, Peru. The couple's two children, Paul Jr. and Valerie, have continued that connection with the diocese by attending Camp Guggenheim.

Paul Martin was introduced to his now-wife in May of 2003, when Sister Mary Ellen Brett, a Sister of St. Joseph, introduced Paul to Veronica at a party celebrating the 40th anniversary of the founding of St. Martin de Porras Parish, the parish served by priests from the Diocese of Ogdensburg in the diocese's former mission in Peru.

“Veronica asked me if Paul was a priest,” Sister Mary Ellen Brett wrote of the incident years later. “I said, ‘no,’ and introduced Veronica and Paul. I was part of the conversation for a while, and then they danced the night away. Veronica and Paul corresponded, and Paul made trips to Mollendo to visit Veronica. On May 3, 2008, they were engaged. Marriage followed.”

The Martins have two children, Valerie, age 13, and Paul Jr., age 12. Both of the Martin youth attended week 5 at the camp, one of the 4 weeks of sessions for youth ages 12 to 15.

Valerie attended Camp Guggenheim for the second time. Paul Jr. was a first-time camper.

The two traveled six hours with their family to Saranac Lake for the Camp Guggenheim experience.

“I have a whole bunch of friends here now,” said Valerie, explaining why she wanted to return for a second year at the diocesan youth camp. "And it’s a lot of fun."

Valerie said she's stayed in contact with some of her camp friends throughout the year via text messaging and social media.

Paul Jr. said he was excited to attend after hearing about his sister's experience and enjoyed his time at camp.

“I’m making friends,” he said. “And I liked the volleyball tournament. I play a lot of sports.”

During the week the Martins were at camp, the chaplain was Father Stephen Rocker. Father Rocker, who served at the diocesan mission in Mollendo, Peru, was the officiant at Paul and Veronica Martin's wedding.

The two said they appreciated visiting and having a connection to this diocese that is so connected to their family.

“It’s definitely special,” Valerie said.

It was another summer giving youth from around the diocese and beyond a chance to “hike, swim and praise” at Camp Guggenheim.

This year, camp kicked off with a new format for week one, three mini sessions for youth ages 11 to 13 to try out the sleep-away camp experience. If they enjoyed their mini-camp experience, the 12- and 13-year-old participants could then return for a full week of camp during weeks two through five, which were open to youth ages 12-15.

Week six is for campers ages 16 to 18.

Marissa Davison, who lives in Chazy, 13, of Lyon Mountain, was attending camp for the second time.

“I like coming here with my friends, and I like meeting new people,” she said. “Last year, I came with someone I knew. This year, she and I went different weeks. A different friend came this week. It’s a whole new group of people. That’s my favorite part: meeting and interacting with new people.”

The teen said she also enjoys the athletic opportunities at Camp Guggenheim, especially volleyball and swimming. Mostly, though, she enjoys the atmosphere.

“It’s inclusive,” Wojtaszek said. “Everyone joins in, and no one is left out. And it’s fun.”

During the week, campers rotate through a variety of morning activities, including liturgy, waterfront, project adventure and arts and crafts. Camp evenings feature special events like camp games, bonfires, a dance and a reconciliation service.

For more information, visit https://www.rcdo­ny.org/youth/camp.
Celebrating the Season of Creation

By Sister Bethany FitzGerald
Faith & Ecology

Each year, the Christian family unites to celebrate the Season of Creation from Sept. 1 to Oct. 4, a worldwide opportunity to pray and act to protect our common home. This season was first celebrated in 1989 and is encouraged by Pope Francis. As followers of Christ, we share a call to care for creation. We are part of all that God has made. Our wellbeing is interwoven with the wellbeing of the Earth.

We rejoice in this opportunity to safeguard our common home and all beings who share it. “The Season of Creation is a reminder... that God is Creator, and we humans, along with other animals and plants, are creatures. It is a reminder that we need to take care of one another as God our Creator takes care of us.”

This year’s theme for the Season is “Let justice and peace flow,” taken from the Book of Amos 5:24. It provides us with an opportunity to pray, reflect and act together as the People of God for our common home. Like tributaries joining forces to become a mighty river, the ecumenical family comes together to care for our common home with a spirit of justice and peace.

As a world community, the imminent need is to protect our earth through just and sustainable action to keep our global brothers and sisters safe and secure as we plan for a sustainable future for our children. The term “sustainable” refers to a substance, resource, or practice which is ongoing “forever” in terms of best practices in ecology and our earth. We can site many examples of how our use of resources may have been positive in the short term but after decades, the practices are no longer sustainable. Practices must change for the system to survive and thrive. We cannot expect to see changes in our resource availability, air quality, water quality or even land availability to become evident immediately, but we do have a responsibility to assess our own practices. These steady minor changes in our lifestyles may cause minor inconveniences, but if we all seek to practice conservation, we hope to see a change in attitude and in quality of life on earth.

It is no longer enough only to “reduce, reuse, recycle.” We must learn the deep concerns emerging as our earth experiences changes which currently outpace our ability to cope without lifestyle changes. This includes our consumption and shopping practices and it certainly requires our responsibility to be informed ecologically and politically.

This season of celebration is a time to become more informed and make small lifestyle changes, that with a unified effort, will make a difference for us and our future families.

Not everything has an easy answer or an instant fix. One may smile when observing solar and wind farms in operation. Even if they do require an openness to something new, these mechanisms provide a more sustainable alternative to fossil fuels that continues to warm our planet. Omitting a plastic bag in the produce aisle and replacing it with a reusable mesh bag may make a very small difference, but many small differences can help. Some plastic are necessary and helpful, but we can become more creative in discovering ways of replacing single-use plastics with reusable alternatives.

Suggested reading programs:
- Read Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home by Pope Francis. Available on-line through United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) website
- See The Season of Creation Guide for a 6-minute video for more ways to celebrate
- Attend area viewing and discussion of The Letter: A Message for our Earth as part of our Diocesan Celebration of the Season of Creation. The film will show in three locations. It is available on YouTube by searching “Environmental Crisis: Frontline Leaders.”

Five ideas on how you can care for our Common Home now:
1) Leave the ice and plastic straw out of your drink and forgo the lid!
- Straws, even when properly disposed of, often blow into waterways and end up in the ocean.
- The same is true of plastic lids.
- The energy required to turn 1 liter (1kg) of water at 0°C to ice at 0°C is equivalent to lifting it 21 miles.
- Drink liquids that are refrigerated so don’t need ice... ice reduces the liquid served to you.
2) Avoid single-use plastic
- Carry reusable (wood or metal) cutlery to avoid disposable plastic.
- Buy milk in completely cardboard cartons or resealable glass.
- Get natural fiber clothing (cotton, wool, silk); none of the “polys” can be recycled!
- Plastic fibers are released every time poly- whatever clothing is washed; micro-plastics are found everywhere on Earth, even in Antarctic, deep sea trenches!
- If something you want is in plastic wrap, think about not buying it to help reduce demand.
3) “Fast” from driving one day a week
- In 2020, US had 330 million people, 25% claimed to be Catholic in Gallup poll (Wikipedia). If all 83 million Catholics reduced driving by 1/7 in 2020, it would have reduced the U.S. CO2 emissions from cars by almost 25 million tons. (Cars emit 681 million Tons of CO2 / year)
4) Reduce the size of your mowed lawn and replace a part of it with wildflowers.
- 800 million gallons of gasoline used annually in the U.S. for lawn care and maintenance. 17 million additional gallons spilled in the process. 26.7 million tons of pollutants! (Princeton University Study, May 2020)
- Check out Vermont Wildflower Farm Seed Company for seeds suitable for our bio-region and how to create a wildflower area.
5) Improve home insulation, weather stripping and seek a greener furnace (or add a heat pump).
- Heat pumps use outside air to heat the home and can also cool your home!!

Reconciling God, Creation and Humanity

We are mostly likely all familiar with an examination of conscience; but are you familiar with the Eco-Examen? This practice, rooted in Ignatian spirituality, is a tool for reconciling God, creation and humanity. It asks us to reflect on our personal relationship with creation, and to acknowledge and mend our ways and to promote ecological justice by standing in solidarity with those most impacted by environmental harm. The six steps are:

1) I give thanks to God for creation and for being wonderfully made. Where did I feel God’s presence in creation today?
2) I ask for the grace to see creation as God does-in all its splendor and suffering. Do I see the beauty of creation and hear the cries of the earth and the poor, and what do I do?
3) I ask for the grace to look closely to see how my life choices impact creation and the poor and vulnerable. What challenges or joys do I experience as I recall my care for creation? How can I turn away from a throwaway culture and instead stand in solidarity with creation and the poor?
4) I ask for the grace of conversion to wards ecological justice and reconciliation. Where have I fallen short in caring for creation and my sisters and brothers?
5) I ask for the grace to reconcile my relationship with God, creation and humanity, and to stand in solidarity through my actions. How can I repair my relationship with creation?
6) I offer a closing prayer for the earth and the vulnerable in our society.
Funeral Mass celebrated for Daphne ‘Betty’ Steele

A Funeral Mass was celebrated for Daphne M. (Betty) Steele, 98, a lifelong resident of Heuvelton and Ogdensburg, on Aug. 21 at St. Mary’s Cathedral, with Father Joseph Morgan celebrating. Burial was in Hillcrest Cemetery.

Ms. Steele passed away Friday, August 18, 2023. Born February 15, 1925, to the late Ralph and Mary Steele, Heuvelton, she was known to everyone as Betty.

As a North Country photographer, she was the recipient of the Ogdensburg Historic Commission’s Elizabeth Baxter Award in 2018 for her lifetime of documenting the city and region. Betty photographed presidents, British royalty, politicians and celebrities. Earlier in her career, she worked with the Watertown Times and the Ogdensburg Journal. She owned her own studio, “Steele Photography” on Black Lake Road. She captured the history of people in the North Country, photographing weddings, family gatherings and portraits. She won numerous state and national awards for her work.

Betty, for many years has covered the special events at St. Mary’s Cathedral, and her work regularly appeared in the North Country Catholic. Since her retirement, friends and family have enjoyed Betty’s Facebook postings of historical photos featuring St. Lawrence Seaway development and Ogdensburg in the 50s, 60s and 70s. Betty loved and developed her photography skills since she was a teenager, progressing from a box Brownie camera to becoming a certified professional photographer using high tech digital equipment.

Betty is preceded in death by her brother, Alvin Steele and sister, Marjorie B Larsen. She is survived by nieces: Cathy (Fred) Piper, Pennsylvania, Ellen Prandi, Florida, Susan (Jerome) Pastwick, Oregon, and nephew John (Vivian) Larsen, Idaho.

“Aunt Betty” was a strong independent woman, loved and admired by her family. She will be missed.

Special Thanks to Betty’s niece Cathy and Fred Piper for always being by her side and longtime friend, Yvonne Lesperance. Thanks also for the support and care given by friends and neighbors during these later years.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Betty’s memory to the Ogdensburg Catholic Charities, 214 Caroline Street, Ogdensburg, NY 13669.

Online condolences may be made at www.frarystfuneralhome.com.
What about synthetic embryos?

Embryonic stem cells have held out a certain appeal and promise because they are remarkably flexible. Researchers can make various cell types out of them, whether nerve cells or pancreatic islet cells, and these could, in theory, be used to treat diseases like Parkinson’s or diabetes. These morally-problematic cells, obtained by destroying human embryos, are, however, limited in their degree of flexibility, lacking the ability to “rewind” and make an entire embryo.

Until now. Recent reports suggest it may now be possible to generate “synthetic embryos” from embryonic stem cells through various manipulations, including genetic reprogramming steps and mixing various cell types together, without the need for sperm and egg. Researchers claim that synthetic embryos could be used to help them unlock the mysteries of very early human development, and address early pregnancy loss.

When a researcher from Cambridge University and another in Israel recently announced that they had been able to produce such an “embryo model,” a longstanding “line in the biological sand” appears to have been crossed, along with some important ethical lines as well.

At least two notable ethical concerns arise in the wake of this new technology: First, the use of unethically-derived cell types in biomedical research, especially human embryonic stem cells, still remains a major concern. Second, if scientists are able to successfully produce a living human embryo by this technology, this would clearly raise additional serious ethical objections.

New human beings are entitled to the respect of entering the world only through the marital embrace. Any time we create living human embryos by other approaches, whether by cloning, by IVF, by synthetic embryo construction, or by other novel methods, we cross a key moral line.

The big question hanging over this research is: Are these so-called “synthetic embryos” really living human embryos? If they are, we have walked right into the ethical landmine of creating human beings solely to be exploited for research or experimental purposes. If they are not, can that line be crossed through additional steps to make them authentic human embryos?

Scientists are likely to continue to improve their techniques so as to generate better embryo stand-ins, enabling them to study in ever greater detail the way that early human development unfolds.

As the Director of the Anscombe Bioethics Centre, David Albert Jones, sums it up: “A synthetic embryo is not a model of an embryo, it is an attempt to make an embryo. If this attempt is successful, scientifically, then it will be wrong ethically, but if it is not successful scientifically then it will not be able to tell us much about normal human development.”

The lab from Cambridge concluded that the structures it made were not real embryos. Alfonso Martinez Arias, a developmental biologist at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona, Spain agreed, describing them as “masses of cells separated into compartments, but no embryo-like organization.” He suggested that the cell manipulation “confuses what the cells do” so that a real embryo is not produced.

The research team based at the Weizmann Institute in Israel, however, produced extremely realistic synthetic embryo models that grew for up to two weeks. They exhibited characteristics quite similar to regular embryos, as developmental biologist Jesse Veenovliet of the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics pointed out: “The similarity to the natural embryo is remarkable, almost uncanny.” If it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck then, as they say, might it really be a duck?

Some claim that if synthetic embryos were implanted, they would fail to initiate a pregnancy, and this proves they aren’t real embryos. But women’s pregnancies sometimes fail through miscarriages not because their child was “not an embryo,” but because their child was affected by a genetic or developmental defect.

Could these newly-produced synthetic embryos be real embryos that have a defect thanks to the various laboratory manipulations they have undergone? It seems unsafe to start from the assumption that they are “synthetic” and hence “not-true-embryos,” given the challenging task of distinguishing a “non-embryo” from an “embryo with a defect.”

By employing terms like “embryo structures,” “synthetic embryos,” “stem cell embryo models,” or even “stem embryos,” researchers may be seeking to go around ethics by relying on euphemism.

Even though sperm and egg are not directly employed to make synthetic embryos, this also does not rule out the possibility that these entities could be genuine embryos. In human cloning, for example, no sperm is needed to make real cloned human embryos. Dolly the sheep arose from a real sheep embryo, even though no sperm was involved. Over time scientists are coming up with more technologically advanced ways of creating organisms, including human organisms, apart from the usual approach that relies directly on sperm and egg.

Ethically speaking, a great deal is at stake in these kinds of synthetic embryo experiments that threaten to manipulate and destroy human life. These developmental studies ought to be carried out by studying animal models, carefully avoiding the use of human embryonic stem cells and the production of human embryos.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River and serves as the Director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See ncbcenter.org and fathertad.com.
The Bishop's Fund Appeal provides financial assistance to the vital ministries of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The following ministries are supported:

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Ways to Give

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

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

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

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

Gifts of Securities: Federal tax laws offer special incentives for gifts of non-cash property especially that which has increased in value since it was acquired. Please contact the Bishop's Fund Office at 315-393-2920 for transfer instructions.

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

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

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

Alexandria Bay – Jean (Carley) Elkin, 100; Memorial Services Aug. 20, 2023 at the Costello Funeral Home.

Au Sable Forks – Gary E. Frenia, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 16, 2023 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Brownville – Anne M. (St. Croix) Richie, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 25, 2023 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Dexter Cemetery.

Brushton – Margaret “Peggy” (Van Slyke) Mayer, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 18, 2023 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Joseph’s Cemetery, Bombay.

Canton – Patricia M. (Graveline) Morgan, 86; Memorial Mass Sept. 8, 2023 at St. Mary’s Church.

Cadyville – Oscar G. Rabideau, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 18, 2023 at St. James Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Chateaugay – Irene F. (Lawrence) McKee, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 16, 2023 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in St. George’s Cemetery, Burke.

Copenhagen – Irvine J. “Dutch” Buchal, 93; Funeral Services Aug. 18, 2023 at Iseneker Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.


25, 2023 at St. Regis Church.


Lyon Mountain – Isabelle “Theresa” (Ducharme) Wilson, 97; Graveside Services Aug. 26, 2023 at St. Bernard’s Cemetery.


Ogdensburg – Barbara A. (Jeanneau) Ashley, 83; Funeral Services Aug. 17, 2023 at Frary Funeral Home.

Ogdensburg – Joan M. (Hall) Brossot, 80; Funeral Services Aug. 14, 2023 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home.

Ogdensburg – Howard W. Quinn, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 18, 2023 at St. Mary’s Cathedral.

Ogdensburg – Linda A. (Bogart) Trimm, 57; Funeral Services Aug. 15, 2023 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in the White Church Cemetery, Lisbon.

Peru – Clara (Pelkey) Bruce, 91; Funeral Services Aug. 16, 2023 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine’s Cemetery.

Peru – Charles A. Nocher, 75; Mass of Christian Burial at St. Augustine’s Church.


Plattsburgh – Michael J. Whalen, 79; Funeral Services Aug. 16, 2023 at the Brown Funeral Home.


Sackets Harbor – Sally Ann (Branant) Farmer, 87; Graveside Services Sept. 6, 2023 at Sackets Harbor Military Cemetery.


St. Regis Falls – Helen C. (Goodrow) Chambers, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 23, 2023 at St. Ann’s Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery, North Lawrence.

Tupper Lake – Herman Charland, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 28, 2023 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Tupper Lake – Tai Adam McLear, 24; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 17, 2023 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Watertown – Linda F. (DiMinico) Gouverneur, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 18, 2023 at St. Anthony’s Church; burial in Dexter Cemetery.

Watertown – Agnes (Morgia) Natali, 100; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 21, 2023 at St. Anthony’s Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Lawrence Thomas Rose, 57; Memorial Services Aug. 26, 2023 at St. Patrick’s Church.

Watertown – Leigh Ann (Taylor) Steinbarger, 56; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 12, 2023 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

San Francisco Archdiocese files for Chapter 11 reorganization
San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone on Monday announced that the archdiocese would be submitting a Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing, a development the prelate had earlier warned might come about as a result of numerous abuse filings against the bishopric. Cordileone earlier in August had warned that the filing was “very likely” in response to the “more than 500 civil lawsuits” alleging clerical sexual abuse filed against the archdiocese. A Chapter 11 filing, the archbishop said at the time, would allow the archdiocese to deal with those cases “collectively rather than one at a time,” resulting in both a “faster resolution” of the crisis as well as “fair compensation” for the victims. “We believe the bankruptcy process is the best way to provide a compassionate and equitable solution for survivors of abuse,” the archbishop said, “while ensuring that we continue the vital ministries to the faithful and to the communities that rely on our services and charity.”

Bishops ask SCOTUS to uphold gun ban in domestic violence cases

By Kevin J. Jones
Catholic News Agency

The U.S. Supreme Court should uphold a federal law that allows people under domestic restraining orders to be banned from carrying firearms, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has said in an amicus brief in a pending case.

“As the Church teaches, and this nation’s historical traditions demonstrate, the right to bear arms is not an unqualified license that must leave vulnerable family members to live in fear,” said the bishops’ amicus, or “friend of the court” brief. “Abused victims are precisely the people whom a just government is tasked with protecting. The Second Amendment does not stand as a barrier to their safety.”

The Supreme Court will hear the case U.S. v. Rahimi in its upcoming session in response to a lower court decision.

In May, a three-judge panel of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals sided with Zackey Rahimi, a Texas drug dealer with a violent history. The lower court vacated his conviction for illegal gun possession while under a domestic violence restraining order, Reuters reported. The court said the 1994 federal law Rahimi violated was not consistent with the Second Amendment and American traditions of law. People who are under domestic violence restraining orders do not lose their constitutional right to own firearms, according to the ruling.

The appellate court ruling was based on a new standard set in the June 2022 Supreme Court decision New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen, which said the U.S. Constitution protects an individual’s right to carry a handgun for self-defense outside the home. That ruling means that lower courts need to consider whether firearm regulations are consistent with the Second Amendment text and with U.S. history and tradition, according to Bloomberg News.

The U.S. bishops’ amicus brief stated that the bishops have an interest in U.S. v. Rahimi because they think it is particularly important to advance “the protection of the dignity and well-being of vulnerable and disadvantaged persons who live under threat of violence.”

According to the brief, the law in question does not violate the precedent of the Supreme Court’s Bruen decision. The bishops’ brief said the federal law assumed that “uniquely dangerous individuals can lose their right to keep and bear arms” and added that this is a constitutional assumption. The brief argued Congress has “legitimate authority to disarm those who have demonstrated – to the satisfaction of a judicial fact-finder – that they pose a unique danger to those close to them and to the common good.”

Restrictions on firearms “must be consistent with the nation’s historical tradition of such regulations” and this “requires continuity of principles,” the brief said, summarizing the court precedent. The brief includes a consideration of how to engage with tradition, citing examples of Catholic history and the ideas of the development of Christian doctrine put forward by thinkers such as St. John Henry Cardinal Newman.

Regarding the American legal tradition of gun regulation, the brief said the Supreme Court “should clarify that the tradition as a whole is the point of comparison, not individual historical laws considered in a vacuum.”

The bishops’ brief objected that the Fifth Circuit’s decision wrongly interpreted tradition and history, and wrongly focused on contexts in which there was no support for legal intervention against domestic violence. Domestic violence victims have a claim on the state for protection, and their cause is not truly separate from protecting the social order against violent individuals.

The brief argued the Fifth Circuit ruling failed to recognize the early American traditions of protecting wives from domestic abuse and failed to engage with the centuries of development in protections for violence victims.

“Society developed a greater appreciation of the danger posed by intimate partner abusers and linking the once-‘private’ acts to public safety risks,” the brief said.

The Fifth Circuit ruling cited various reasons it is unconstitutional to disarm those accused of domestic violence. Surety laws, in which an accused person is allowed to post a bond, did not traditionally interfere with the accused’s right to carry weapons, according to the lower court. Laws against dangerous persons historically aimed to preserve the political and social order, not to protect an identified person against “domestic gun abuse.”

Pope Francis is writing second environmental document
Pope Francis announced during an audience with lawyers Monday that he is writing a second part to his 2015 environmental encyclical Laudato Si’. The pope said with this new writing he is updating Laudato Si’ with regard to the recent environmental crises.

Francis’ pontificate thus far. Laudato Si’ was published in 2015. Pope Francis’ pontificate thus far. Laudato Si’ was published in 2015.

Cardinal Dolan celebrates Mass at historic Irish ‘Mass rock’
Irish-American Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York celebrated Mass at a “Mass rock” in Killarney, County Kerry, Ireland, during a pilgrimage with roughly 40 people from the Archdiocese of New York on Aug. 21. Dolan shared in a video that he has had the honor of celebrating Mass in several special places such as St. Peter’s Basilica, Lourdes, and the Holy Land, but this location is particularly meaningful. “I don’t know if anything is more meaningful than having Mass on a rock in the middle of the woods, hidden away, and recalling those brave Irish people who, because they were persecuted for their faith, at the threat of their lives, would sneak out into the woods when the priests would come, with sentinels watching for the British troops, and come to hold Mass and holy Communion here,” he said.
LIVING STONES, A CALL TO SERVICE
Plattsburgh - Members of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Living Stones Committee will be updating on the work of the committee and plans for the future of our diocese.

Date: Oct. 4
Time: 6 p.m., Mass; 7 p.m., Program; 8 p.m., Fellowship
Place: St. Peter’s Church
Cost: $5 per person for refreshments would be most appreciated.
Contact: RSVP to Mary Skillan at mskillan30@gmail.com

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

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE FOUNDATION COURSE
Plattsburgh - Using the Westberg Institute for Faith Community Nursing curriculum, this course is open to RN’s or other persons interested in health ministry in their church or community.

Schedule: Oct. 12 and Nov. 9 at St. Joseph’s Community Outreach Center; Oct. 19, 26 and Nov. 2 will be virtual via Zoom (All 5 sessions are required)

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Features: Faith Community Nurses (Parish Nurses) provide health education and counseling, serve as patient advocates and connect patients to resources in the community. They care for the whole person - body, mind and spirit - with a particular focus on the spiritual. Mercy Care’s Faith Community Nurse Program is a volunteer program. Nurses may choose the number of hours they are able to give.

Contact: For more information, contact Lei Bevilacqua at abevilacqua@adkmerry.org or 518-523-5446

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

HOoly 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: Sept. 3
Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass
Place: St. Hedwig’s Church
Contact: 315-348-6260

FRANCISCAN MINI RETREAT
Watertown – The Secular Franciscan Fraternity invites you to join them for a time of scripture, prayer and fellowship followed by refreshments.

Date: Sept. 17
Time: 2 p.m. to 4
Place: St. Patrick’s Church

THEME BASKET RAFFLE
Houseville – St. Hedwig’s Society will have their Annual Theme Basket Raffle.

Date: Oct. 8, 15, 22 after the celebration of the 11 a.m. Mass. No tickets sold during Mass.
Cost: $1 per ticket or $5 for 6 tickets
Place: St. Hedwig’s Church
Features: Theme baskets will be on display. Final drawing will be on Oct. 22 at 1 p.m. A bake sale and limited kielbasa sandwich luncheon will also be featured on this day. Proceeds will support church restoration and community outreach.

Contact: For questions or donations of theme baskets or bake sale items please contact Elaine 315-486-5532, Mary Ann 315-348-6260 or Lydia 315-348-7006.
Our Parish High School Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

**DIOCESAN EVENTS**

### SURVIVING DIVORCE

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

**Date:** 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 annullment and remarriage. This program is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling 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.

### MARRIAGE JUBILEE

We invite all families to join us at the annual Marriage Jubilee.

**Date:** Sept. 10

**Time:** 2:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Cathedral

**Features:** Bishop Tartaglia will be presiding. Whether you have been married for less than 1 year or over 50 years, we want to acknowledge your commitment and celebrate with you. Married couples that wish to receive a certificate signed by Bishop Tartaglia and have their names appear in the program should register no later than Sept. 1 at https://www.rcdony.org/family-life/jubileeereg.html. There will be a gathering with refreshments after the Mass.

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

### RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Saranac Lake - If you (or a friend) are suffering after an abortion, you’re not alone. Consider participating in Rachel’s Vineyard After Abortion Healing Retreat.

**Date:** Sept. 15-17

**Place:** Gugenheim Lodge

**Contact:** For more information, contact the Respect Life office. Registration is online at www.rcdony.org/pro-life. If you'd like to attend a retreat in another location visit www.rachelssvineyard.org for a list of locations. Don’t suffer alone. Help is available.

### SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH LAY ASSOCIATE PROGRAM

The Sisters of St. Joseph invite those who are interested in learning about their Lay Associate Program.

**Date:** Sept. 16, 2 p.m. to 4 at St. Patrick’s Parish Center, Plattsburgh; Sept. 17, 2:30 p.m. to 4 at St. John XXIII Newman Center, Plattsburgh.

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

**Contact:** If you are interested, please contact Sister Mary Eamon (smelyngssj@yahoo.com) or Sister Bethany sbethhss@gmail.com or call 315-782-3460.

### CHRIST IS HERE WORKSHOP

The Department of Education for the Diocese of Ogdensburg will be presenting Christ is Here: Come Encounter Him, a workshop on how to see Christ in the world, Christ Is Here is an opportunity to understand how Christ draws us to Him through all things in this world!

**Date:** Sept. 16

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

**Locations:** St. Andre’s Outreach Center, Malone; Parish Center, Adams; Parish Center, Croggan; Parish Center, Redford; Brazna Hall, St. Mary’s Cathedral, Ogdensburg

**Features:** Bishop Tartaglia will celebrate the annual Blue Mass. The Blue Mass is the Church’s way to offer thanksgiving to God for the dedication and sacrifices made by the men and women of Fire, EMS, Corrections, Law Enforcement, and Communications. First Responders, their families, and all the faithful are invited to attend the celebration. Uniforms are encouraged but not required.

**Contact:** Questions can be addressed to Father Chris Carrara, Blue Mass Committee Chair at info@rcdony.org or by phone at 315-393-2920.

### WOMEN'S HEALING RETREAT

Ogdensburg – Our Lady of the Rosary Healing Retreat for Women to be held.

**Date:** Oct. 5-8

**Place:** Wadham’s Hall

**Cost:** $275 per person, $100 Deposit

**Features:** Retreat for women 18 years or older. Registrations begin July 1, 2023

**Contact:** For more information call Kathleen Nichols 518-651-6895 or go to https://www.rcdony.org/womens.html and send to Wadham’s hall.

### ANDREW DINNERS

Come and join Bishop LaValley to learn more about being a priest. Any man of high school age and above is welcome to attend the annual Blue Mass, which is sponsored by the Vocation Office. Parents are welcome to attend.

**Dates:** Clinton-Northern Franklin Deanery, Oct. 1 at St. Alexander’s Parish Center, Morrisonville; Adirondack Mountain Deanery, Oct. 8 at Holy Ghost Parish Center, Tupper Lake; St. Lawrence Deanery, Oct. 15 at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, Tupper Lake.

**Contact:** Steve Perry at 315-273-4205 or by phone at 315-293-9420.

### FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake – Family Guggenheim registration is open.

**Schedule:** 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, info@rcdony.org.

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**MEN’S PRAYER GROUP**

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

**Date:** Sept. 2

**Time:** 8 a.m.

**Place:** St. John’s Church

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**MONTHLY BRUNCH**

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

**Date:** Sept. 10 (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 Gonzalez at 315-212-5166.

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**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.
Rescuing lost, neglected Catholic books

By Zelda Caldwell
Catholic News Agency

John Emmet Clarke, the 31-year-old editor-in-chief of the Catholic publishing house Cluny Media based in Providence, Rhode Island, is on a mission to rescue lost and forgotten Catholic books.

Unlike other publishers who publish the works of living authors, Cluny deals mostly with the dead - writers whose books have been out of print for decades and can only be found in used bookstores, if at all.

The company looks for “simply good books that are hard to find, too expensive, or just plain forgettable now. We're looking to recover lost works. Do you know why ‘Art and Scholasticism’ has never been republished in a quality edition? He said, ‘I think it’s because no one knows who Maritain’s estate is, and so no one’s really touched it.’ So that became one of our first works. We identified the rights holder and republished the book, and republished it,” Clarke said.

They acquired their second book in a similar way: Myles Connolly’s 1928 novel “Mr. Blue,” about a modern-day St. Francis who gives up a life of riches in New York City to live a life of poverty and serenity. But no one’s really touched it. So that became one of our first works. We identified the rights holder, licensed the book, and republished it,” Clarke said.

A cradle Catholic, Clarke attributes his taste for old books to his upbringing. His mother used the “great books” program as part of her home schooling curriculum.

Clarke says he’s also proud to be bringing back to life the novels of Helen C. White, a long-time professor of English at the University of Wisconsin who wrote historical fiction in the 1930s.

“Sometimes it takes years to acquire the rights to a book. Such was the case with ‘All in the Family,’ a 1966 novel about a Kennedy-esque Boston family by the Pulitzer Prize-winning author Edwin O’Connor, best known for his novel ‘The Last Hurrah.’

“We tried for at least three or four years investigating, trying to find who in his family or his prior literary agents actually was the decision maker. And finally, I found three people in the state of Connecticut who could possibly be it. And I called their homes. I just looked in the phone book and called and I spoke with [O'Connor's] granddaughter. I explained who I was. She was very taken aback, actually. ‘How did you find me? ’ ‘In the phone book.’”

Those who have read Sigrid Undset’s Nobel Prize-winning trilogy “Krystin Lavransdatter,” which some have called “the greatest Catholic novel ever written, might be thrilled to discover that there are other books of hers to read. Her long out-of-print “The Wild Orchid” and “The Burning Bush” are available in new editions (like all Cluny books, the cover art is designed by Clarke and his mother, Kathleen Clarke).

Clarke says he’s also proud to be bringing back to life the novels of Helen C. White, a long-time professor of English at the University of Wisconsin who wrote historical fiction in the 1930s. Cluny published her novel “A Watch in the Night,” about a Franciscan friar in the 13th century, and plans to publish more of her books in the future.

“She was a runner-up for the Pulitzer for it and almost won the National Book Award. It’s a phenomenal book, and it only ever had one printing despite the fact that it almost won those awards. And same with all her books she’s published by McMillan. I can’t even remember when I first found her name, but that was really amazing to find these historical novels. I haven’t found anything else really like them,” he said.

Among Cluny’s current bestsellers, which are available online and at some independent and university bookstores, is “A Sign of Contradiction,” a book of meditations taken from a Lenten retreat given by Cardinal Karol Wojtyla before he became Pope John Paul II. Also popular: Rumer Godden’s 1969 novel “In the House of Brede”; the English Catholic priest and theologian Ronald Knox’s “The Mass in Slow Motion”; and French Catholic historian Henri Daniel-Rops’ 10-volume history of the Catholic Church, which became something of a surprise hit, Clarke said.

A cradle Catholic, Clarke attributes his taste for old books to his upbringing. His mother used the “great books” program as part of her home schooling curriculum.

Clarke laments that as a society we have lost touch with the past and attributes it in part to a neglect of its literature.

“[If you only read the new stuff without that foundation, I think you just get lost. But I think we see that in our discourse, whether that’s within the Church or within our political order. There’s a lot of talk and a lot of ideas and a lot of remonstrations. But no common foundation because we don’t know our past,” said Clarke, whose own writing can be found on his Substack, “Lord of Indiscipline.”

“We don’t share common books, though we have a common past. So why don’t we access that common past through literature and understand where we came from so we can see where we’re going?”
It’s not always easy

In last week’s readings, Peter was given the keys to the kingdom. In this week’s readings, he nearly gets them taken away! Jesus is so upset with him that he exclaims, “Get thee behind me, Satan!” That’s tough language!

Peter got himself in trouble for strongly protesting Jesus’ prediction of His Passion. In effect, Jesus is telling his disciples, “I never promised you a rose garden!”

If we think Jesus is unfair, His Father had done this before.

Jeremiah, in the first reading, had been made a reluctant prophet. Jeremiah even claims that God duped him into the job. He’s so angry and discouraged at the rough treatment he receives from his own Jewish people that he decides to quit. However, he can’t get rid of the fire in his heart, so he continues to prophesy that Babylon was chosen as God’s instrument for chastising Israel.

September 3

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS
Jeremiah 20:7-9
Romans 12:1-2
Matthew 16:21-27

and they deserved punishment.
Not that the truth makes a prophet’s job any easier!

God has called all of us to discipleship, and we must be prepared for opposition.

It goes against popular thinking and popular belief to be either a prophet or an apostle. How about just a plain, ordinary Christian?

We don’t fare any better.

We get criticized at home, at the office, and even sometimes in Church from more comfortable Church members.

How many times in our lives have we felt that Jesus’ teaching was just too much? We don’t like turning the other cheek or forgiving 70 times seven times. We don’t like being criticized or even ridiculed for standing up for Church teaching on abortion or contraception or stem cell research or the death penalty.

Yet, if we’re loyal and faithful....

St. Paul gives us some very good advice in today’s second reading (You might even mark your bible, even memorize it): “Do not conform ourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind” and “offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.”

Following Christ isn’t for babies. So maybe God or the priest didn’t tell us everything when we started out. But that was a long time ago, and we’ve grown up since then. So, let’s get on with it, and remember, there is a final act called Resurrection.

Marriage: God found it very good

You may have witnessed a renewal of promises by a married couple at Mass on occasion. This beautiful practice is usually reserved for a significant anniversary, 25 or 50 or more years.

I presided at such an event once and said in my reflection that I was not comfortable with the word “renew” when it comes to the promises a couple makes to each other on their wedding day.

We renew a driver’s license or a magazine subscription.

Somehow the word “renew” just doesn’t seem appropriate to promises that are so significant, so compelling to the lives of the man and woman who have committed themselves to each other before God.

But I challenge you to find a word that better defines the act of restating those promises made a while back. Marriage is a wonderful vocation.

Ask any couple married for a significant period and they will tell you it has not been a cake walk. Kathy and I have been working at it for almost 53 years.

Marriage has its challenges, its difficult moments, but they are just that - moments. The promise a couple makes is for a lifetime. Those moments pale over the long haul.

An author on the Catholic Mom website, Jenelle Perego, spoke of marriage when she wrote recently, “I commend you for setting aside your skepticism enough to seek a partner. I commend you for falling in love. I commend you for allowing yourself to become vulnerable and in turn accepting your partner’s vulnerability. These are the building blocks of intimacy. More than anything else, I commend you for trusting God and trusting your future spouse. Your marriage will depend on that continued trust.”

Our diocese will celebrate that trust when Bishop Terry R. LaValley blesses all the married couples when they gather at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg September 10.

The 2:30 p.m. Mass and blessing that day marks the successful completion of a day or many, many years in married life.

The deacon community in the diocese and the Family Life Department cosponsor the event. You can register at www.rcdony.org. Do it today so your anniversary can be memorialized with a certificate.

Here is a prayer that blesses the women and men who have answered the call to a marriage vocation.

“Lord, look with kindness upon them today, and as you have sustained their communion amid joys and struggles, renew their marriage covenant each day, increase their charity, and strengthen in them the bond of peace, that they may forever enjoy your blessing. Through Christ our Lord. Amen!”

Deacon Kevin Mastellon

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

Pakistan is known for its ongoing tensions between the various religious groups present in the area. In recent months, some Christian Pakistanis have been accused of blasphemy and arrested. This has led to acts of violence against Christians living in the region.

Prayer, solidarity with the displaced, demand for justice: this is how the Christian community in Pakistan lives in the days following the events of Aug. 16 in the town of Jaranwala, where a wave of violence - caused by charges of blasphemy against two Christians - destroyed 26 churches, chapels and halls of worship (including three Catholic), 800 houses and left more than three thousand Pakistani citizens of Christian faith homeless. In the Diocese of Faisalabad, which encompasses Jaranwala, Catholic communities have come together to pray in all churches.

On Aug. 20, a special Day of Prayer announced by the Episcopal Conference of Pakistan, Msgr. Indrias Rehmat, Bishop of Faisalabad, celebrated Mass in the streets of the devastated neighborhood near the rubble of St Paul’s Catholic Church alongside Father Khalid Mukhtar, the neighborhood’s Catholic priest. All the Christian families participated with devotion and emotion, finding consolation in the closeness expressed by all the other faithful and in the approach to the Eucharist. “The Lord is always by our side. He is with us in suffering. His Body and His Blood are a source of strength, patience, hope and bear witness to God’s eternal love for his people. He is in the midst of us today and let us not despair,” the bishop told the faithful, many of whom had lost their homes and personal belongings.

[...] Along with prayer, a joint solidarity effort is underway for displaced families in Jaranwala. Caritas Faisalabad, with a team of volunteers, is distributing food parcels, hygiene kits and cooking utensils to affected families. Religious communities such as the Dominican Sisters of Faisalabad are active preparing and bringing cooked food to the displaced. The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate are working in the area to provide basic necessities such as tents and blankets. An action has also been launched by the Cecil & Iris Chaudhry Foundation led by Catholic Michelle Chaudhry.

There are around 3,000 displaced people, including 200 children. [...]. The police have already arrested more than a hundred suspects who are believed to be frontline looters. Meanwhile, to meet the needs of displaced families, the Punjab provincial government said it had approved compensation of 2 million rupees (6,700 USD) for each of the affected families.”

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

Funeral Mass celebrated for Joseph Denoncourt

A Mass of Christian Burial for Joseph E. Denoncourt, 92, of Ogdensburg was celebrated on Friday, August 11, at St. Mary’s Cathedral with Father Joseph Morgan as celebrant.

Mr. Denoncourt died on Monday morning, August 7, 2023, at St. Joseph’s Nursing Home surrounded by his loving family.

Joseph E. Denoncourt was born on August 7, 1931, in Manchester, New Hampshire. He was the son of the late J. Edward and Rose (Therrien) Denoncourt. He attended Central High School and earned his GED, enlisted in the United States Air Force, and served in the Korean War as a Maintenance Mechanic.

On April 17, 1953 he married Mary Ellen Gaffney at the Sacred Heart Chapel in Ogdensburg. Mrs. Denoncourt died on November 11, 2022.

After Joe’s time in the Air Force, the couple moved back to Ogdensburg in 1955. In 1956, their first child was born. In 1958, Joe built their home at 1210 Jay Street without a power tool. Over the years, Joe worked all sorts of jobs from working at the A & P, remodeling homes and installing new roofs, and digging graves in the St. Lawrence Cemetery on the Grounds of the State Hospital. He worked as a foreman at Diamond National until its closure. After that Joe went to work at the Ogdensburg Housing Authority as clerk of the works until his retirement in 1991.

He enjoyed couples bowling, square dancing, and traveling; Alberta Canada, Branson Missouri, and Florida to name a few. The couple made an annual trip to Hampton Beach, New Hampshire with the children for many years. They enjoyed their boy’s hockey years and their grandchildren’s sporting events.

For many years, Joe proudly maintained a large garden, winning the “Maple City Award” one year.

He was a devout Catholic, a parishioner of St. Mary’s Cathedral, a hardworking member of the St. Vincent De Paul Society, helping the needy for over 25 years, and a proud 4th-degree Knight in the Knights of Columbus.

On July 10, 2022 Joe received the Edgar P. Wadhams Award for Distinguished Service for St. Mary’s Cathedral from Bishop Terry R. LaValley for his years of devoted service.

His greatest joy was spending time with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

He is survived by his children, Myra Pitcher and her husband Curtis, Denise Barse and her husband Fred, Joseph Denoncourt and his wife Jennifer, Michael Denoncourt and his wife Karen, and Danielle Denoncourt; two brothers, Robert (Pauline) Denoncourt and Roger (Jeanine) Denoncourt; his brother-in-law, Merrill Shipman; 20 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He is predeceased by his son, Patrick Denoncourt; granddaughter, Monica Ellen Barse; his grandson, Cory Edward Denoncourt; and his sisters, Irene Shipman and Rose Morris.

Expressions of sympathy may take the form of donations to Our Lady’s Ministry C/O St. Mary’s Rectory 125 Ford Ave. Ogdensburg, NY or to the Ogdensburg Boys and Girls Club 610 Paterson St. Ogdensburg, NY 13669.

Online condolences may be made at www.LaRuePitcher.com

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Bishop Terry R. LaValley will celebrate Mass at Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine in Auriesville on Oct. 21 as part of the New York State Eucharistic Congress.

So far, more than 5,000 are registered to attend. Registration is required for all who plan to attend, including those attending as a group or as volunteers. Register at nysseucharisticcongress.org.

Speakers include:
- Cardinal Timothy Dolan – Welcome and remarks
- Father Dave Dwyer, CSP – “Understanding What We Are Doing: Toward a More Active and Prayerful Participation in the Mass”
- Father Richard Fragomeni, Ph.D. – “Bread of Angels, Gift of Baptism, Promise of Life: The Eucharistic Fulfillment of God’s Desire”
- Tim Glemkowski – “The Need for a Eucharistic Revival”
- Patrick Kelly – “The Eucharistic Heart of a Father”
- Dr. Peter Kreeft – “The Eucharist as the Remedy and Response to Secularism”
- Father Roger Landry – Emcee
- Sister Mary Grace Langrell, SV – “Eucharistic Intimacy: Letting Love Conquer Your Heart”
- Bishop Terry R. LaValley – Saturday Mass homilist
- Lisa Lickona – “My Defense and Shield and Salvation”: The Eucharist in the lives of our American Woman Saints”
- Mother Clare Matthiass, CFR – “The Incredible Gift of Eucharistic Adoration”
- Katy Prejean McGrady – “Fostering Eucharistic Love Within the Family”
- Father Malachy Napier, CFR – “Saint Francis of Assisi and the Furnace of Charity”
- Mari Pablo – “Heart to Heart: Jesus’ Eucharistic Heart and Ours”
- Bishop Edward Scharfenberger – Sunday Mass homilist

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(Above) Father John Yonkovig, pastor of St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid, introduces (below) world renown pianist, Dr. Alexander Tentser. Dr. Tentser played to an exceptionally energetic audience on Aug. 14 at St. Agnes. The concert featured music by Ukrainian composers including Lysenko, Revutsky and Kosenko. The free will offering amounted to $8,141, which will go directly to humanitarian relief efforts in Ukraine.