

# IGNITE 2023: Lessons beyond carpentry

**Cardinal Dolan says St. Joseph taught Jesus ‘work, work, work,’ but also the value of silence and the need to obey the Father**

**By Tom Maguire**  
Associate editor

The Cardinal recollected, instructed and joked, but singing was out.

“The last guy that spoke sang, didn’t he,” Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan said. “Well, I’m not singing, OK? Because I gave up beer for Lent; I need a couple if I start to sing. So don’t expect me to break into song, all right?”

Hundreds of men attended the IGNITE 2023 Catholic Men’s Conference, sponsored by the Diocese of Syracuse, on the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25, at the SRC Arena and Events Center at Onondaga Community College. “Empowered” was the slogan for a “day that empowers us and sends us back into the world at full force,” Bishop Douglas J. Lucia said in his written welcome.

“I learned a lot about decency, and devotion, and goodness and virtue from my dad,” who died at 51, said the 73-year-old Cardinal Dolan. “And here’s my proposition to you this afternoon. I propose that Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, I propose to you that Jesus learned a lot from his earthly father, St. Joseph.”

Matthew 7:21 says, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.”

“I would propose to you guys,” Cardinal Dolan said, “that our Lord had his foster father in mind when he said that.”

Matthew 1:20-21 says: “Behold, the angel of



**Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan speaks at the IGNITE 2023 Catholic Men’s Conference. He says, “I propose that Jesus learned a lot from his earthly father, St. Joseph.” (Sun photo | Chuck Wainwright)**

the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus.’”

## **Obeying the angel**

St. Joseph did exactly as the angel had told him, “doing the will of God, not just talking about it,” the Cardinal said.

Here is another thing the Cardinal said Jesus would have learned from his foster father, St.

Joseph: “Joseph was a man of silence.” The Cardinal said a little fella asked Padre Pio: What language does God speak? What language does God understand? “And Padre Pio said, ‘Son, the language God understands best is silence.’”

Cardinal Dolan cited Lesson 3: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me” (John 14:1). As a boy growing up, the Cardinal said, would not Jesus have been “made aware of his foster father’s courage and trust in the face of immense adversity?”

When the young Jesus was lost in the temple,

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# The road to healing



## Project Rachel offers comfort and grace to post-abortive women

**By Eileen Javis**  
Staff writer

*“O LORD, my God, I cried out to you for help and you healed me” (Psalm 30:3).*

Lucienne Henneberry was a volunteer at a pregnancy center and now is a team member for Project Rachel — a ministry offered in the Diocese of Syracuse that provides spiritual and emotional healing to women who have had an abortion. Henneberry said she walked into a retreat behind a woman so broken with guilt and shame, she was being helped in by a friend. “I thought,” said Henneberry, “that God doesn’t want this terrible pain for her. In that moment, it occurred to me that if God didn’t want that pain for her, then he didn’t want it for me.” Henneberry, who had an abortion years ago, attended a ministry similar to Project Rachel. “My healing started the moment I walked through the doors,” she said. Henneberry said being a team member of the Project Rachel ministry has been a gift. She is grateful to be able to share her own experience with others to lessen their suffering. “I listen to their stories — these women who are secretaries, teachers, businesswomen, wives and mothers. I talk to them about the mercy of Jesus Christ and remind them of his love.”

“I couldn’t forgive myself,” added Ann, another woman struggling with a

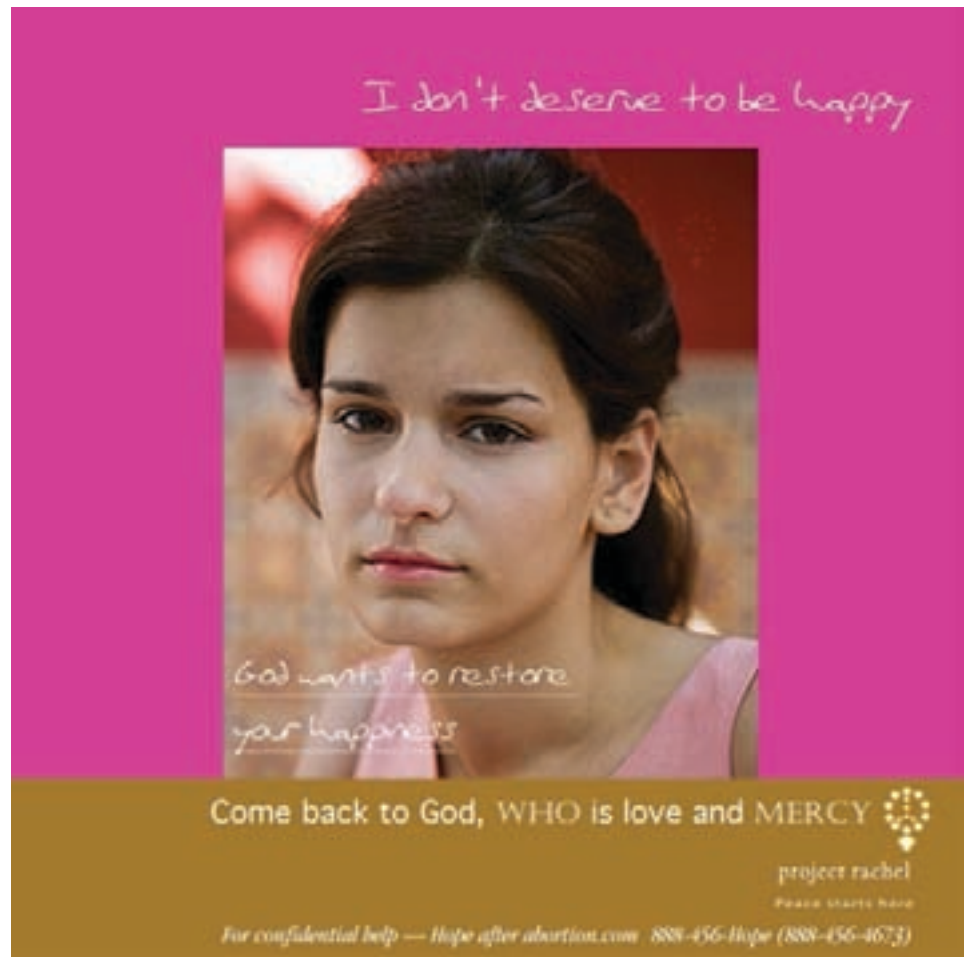
decision she made long ago. “I needed to experience Jesus’ divine mercy.” Ann thought she had put her abortion behind her. She went to college, met a wonderful man, got married and raised a family. “We had good jobs, a nice home, nice cars and went on vacations. We were healthy, and I told myself I was happy,” she said. “But unbeknownst to me, my abortion had planted a seed of self-loathing.”

Ann suffered from depression and anxiety. She tried everything to lessen her pain. She read self-help books, sought counseling, took anti-depressants and anti-anxiety medications and at times, secretly drank alone. “Guilt and shame are toxic, affecting us most when we don’t acknowledge them,” said Ann. “I was living in denial and my abortion was eating away at my soul. It seemed no one could help me.”

Both these women are grateful they explored the Project Rachel Ministry and its Day of Hope and Healing. The program, led by priests, mental health professionals, and caring and compassionate team members, is strictly confidential.

Beth, who learned about the program in her church bulletin, said the retreat offered a safe, confidential environment where she could share her story and the sadness she lived with for the choice she made. “I believed I was beyond hope,” said Beth. “I questioned how God could forgive me.” Beth said spending time with Jesus in Eucharistic adoration, going to confession, attending Mass and taking advantage of the counseling and group discussions were instrumental in her healing. She now knows that she is a beloved child of God who has forgiven her. And she has forgiven herself.

Kitty Spinelli is the founder of Joseph’s House, an organization that provides a safe home and family environment for mothers and babies who are experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. She heard about Project Rachel through her association with Lisa Hall, the director of the



diocesan Family/Respect Life Office. As a team member in the program, Spinelli knows first-hand the trauma experienced by women who have had an abortion. “I honestly thought for several years that I was healed from the mistakes of my younger years that resulted in two abortions,” she said.

Spinelli attended the Day of Hope and Healing in 2017. “As the day unfolded, I was immersed in the care of the women and priests working in this ministry,” she said. “I was warmed to the depths of my heart.” Spinelli said that she learned that healing comes in increments and God sent very special people to help her by offering love, hope, understanding and compassion.

While she is more at peace, Spinelli said the wounds of the past can be exposed in unexpected ways. “Each time I see my grandchildren, an ache penetrates my heart as I wonder how many more grandchildren I would have if I had chosen life for my babies,” she said. “Those questions and so many

others are the reason the Project Rachel ministry is an important component in the healing that is so desperately needed for those traumatized by abortion.”

Hall said those who attend experience a deep sense of peace and love. “To experience the freedom of forgiveness, to mourn over their lost motherhood, and to express their profound sorrow to God brings a peace that surpasses understanding,” she said.

The Project Rachel Ministry serves Onondaga, Oneida, Oswego, Cortland, Broome and Chenango counties. The Day of Hope and Healing is offered several times a year. The next one is scheduled for April 29. Call 855-364-0076 or email [hopeandhealing@syrdio.org](mailto:hopeandhealing@syrdio.org) for additional information or to register.

*Editor’s note: The names of some women mentioned in this article have been changed to protect their privacy.*



# Ministry of Presence: Faithful Witness

*Editor's note: This is Bishop Lucia's homily from the Chrism Mass celebrated on Tuesday, April 4, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The Mass is held annually on Tuesday of Holy Week. Sacramental oils for use in parishes for the coming year are blessed and priests of the diocese renew their vows during the liturgy.*

*"Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth" (Rv.1:5).*

Dear sisters and brothers, in an Easter letter many centuries ago, St. Athanasius, bishop and doctor of the Church, wrote:

"Brethren, how fine a thing it is to move from festival to festival, from prayer to prayer, from holy day to holy day. The time is now at hand when we enter on a new beginning: the proclamation of the blessed Passover, in which the Lord was sacrificed. We feed as on the food of life, we constantly refresh our souls with his precious blood, as from a fountain. Yet we are always thirsting, burning to be satisfied. But he himself is present for those who thirst and in his goodness invites them to the feast day. Our Savior repeats his words: 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.'"

At this, our annual Holy Week gathering of the Diocese of Syracuse, I would like to focus our attention on the ministry of presence — "But he himself is present for those who thirst and in his goodness invites them to the feast day." How present are you and I, brothers

and sisters, to those searching for Christ in our local churches — is our own goodness an invitation for another to approach the wellspring of the Church's life and Sacraments?

I have been pondering this question after two experiences within hours of each other last week. The first was in a meeting where I heard a person say to me that for the last two-and-a-half years they have felt in a safe place in this Church of Syracuse. I am grateful that such security can be found in our parish families.

The second encounter was in the course of a pastoral visit where I had a moment of private prayer with a few people. In that moment, I heard one young person in our group say aloud, "I wish I was loved and wanted by the Catholic Church — I want so much to be part of my Church, but I am not wanted."

The reason for that statement was the person was on their own journey with gender identity and felt that, although loved by Jesus, the Church only looked upon the person as damaged goods to be returned. In truth, because it was only a moment and because of its placement in a larger setting, I don't know the rest of this person's story. I do know that after those moments of private prayer the group gathered in a circle to recite the Lord's Prayer. At that moment, all I could think of was what would Jesus do — what could I do to help cast away such darkness and give some healing balm. As the circle formed, I made sure that there was no barrier between myself and the young adult who had shared

their concern. Even if for a moment, I wanted this child of God to know that they were not abandoned!

In the days since these encounters, in my thoughts and prayers, I have returned to these two moments and the challenge they are to me to grow in Christ. More than ever today, I ask myself: "How well am I living as a living icon of Christ — Servant, Priest, and Shepherd?"

Pope Benedict XVI, in an ordination homily as Archbishop of Munich, said: "Making ... Jesus Christ present means representing and accomplishing the mission of his love in the Church. That is why the first and foremost duty imposed on you is to carry on the signs of the love of Jesus Christ."

My dear collaborators in pastoral ministry, certainly, in our parishes, to carry on the signs of the love of Jesus Christ is to be found in the smile and welcome of our open door — even though the pandemic, societal ills and Chapter 11 might tempt us to just keep it shut. Accompanying this openness is the ready availability of the Sacraments of the Church — the outward signs of God's grace in today's world — especially in the celebration of daily Mass, the frequent availability of the Sacrament of Penance, and our outreach to those who cannot come to our door for one reason or another — the homebound, the ill and the marginalized.

As St. Athanasius wrote in the same Easter letter previously cited: "This feast guides us through the trials that meet us in this world. God now gives us the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



**Carrying the light of Christ**  
Bishop Douglas J. Lucia

## Bishop Douglas J. Lucia's schedule for the weeks of April 13 - April 26

**April 14th:** Mass for Holy Family School, Norwich, 10:00 am

**April 15th:** Confirmation Mass at Christ Our Hope, Boonville, 4:00 pm

**April 16th:** Mass at St. Margaret, Homer, 10:30 am

Holy Hour for Divine Mercy Sunday at Divine Mercy Parish, Central Square, 2:30 pm

**April 18th:** Fisherman's Club at Christ the King Retreat House, Syracuse, 6:30 pm

**April 19th:** Confirmation Mass at St. Francis Xavier, Marcellus, 6:30 pm

**April 22nd:** Mass & Diocesan Pastoral Council at Holy Cross, DeWitt, 9:00 am

Confirmation Mass at St. Charles, Syracuse, 5:15 pm

**April 23rd:** Mass at St. Margaret, Mattydale, 9:15 am

Mass at Catholic Center at Syracuse University, 10:30 am

Mass at Hendrick's Chapel at Syracuse University, 1:00 pm

**April 26th:** Confirmation Mass at Christ the Good Shepherd, Oswego, 7:00 pm

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**BISHOP LUCIA, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3**

joy of salvation that shines out from this feast, as he brings us together to form one assembly ...” These words direct us to one of the chief acts of this liturgy, the blessing of the Oil of Catechumens and of the Oil of the Sick, along with the consecration of Sacred Chrism. As I was contemplating this part of the Chrism Mass, all I could think of was the woman who knelt at Jesus’ feet to offer hospitality where it had been previously denied. How she who was scorned herself washed Jesus’ feet, dried them with her hair, and anointed them with such tenderness and care. In that instance ... what healing balm! Not only for Jesus, but for one who knew she struggled with sin in her life.

Sisters and brothers, the Chrism Mass is a reminder to this local Church of our oneness in Christ through Baptism and the strengthening power of Christ in our lives symbolized in the anointings we receive in our lifetime. Even more, in the blessed and consecrated oils, we carry forth to our parishes and to all the corners of this diocese — you and I are reminded of the mission that is the heart of the Church we profess to be members of — “to live on in Christ’s love!” Recalling Jesus’ own words to his disciples after the washing of the feet: “I have left you a model, as I have done, so you must do” (Jn 13:15)!

As I contemplate the mission Jesus leaves to his disciples, I recall the words of one my favorite African-American spirituals, “There is a Balm in Gilead.”

Before we have the renewal of Priestly Commitment and the Blessing and Consecration of the Holy Oils, I invite us to listen to the words of this hymn as our own commission to be Christ’s healing balm in our Church and world today:

“There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;  
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin sick soul.  
Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work’s in vain,  
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.  
There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;  
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin sick soul.

If you cannot preach like Peter,  
if you cannot pray like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus and say, ‘He died for all.’  
There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;  
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin sick soul.

Don’t ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend;  
And if you lack for knowledge,  
He’ll never refuse to lend.  
There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;  
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin sick soul.”



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with Rev. Charles Vavonese  
A Formation for Ministry Workshop

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**Christ the King Church, Liverpool**

- Learn methods to support and minister to individuals and families coping with serious illness, end of life moral and medical issues, grieving and loss.
- Learn about Project Compassion, a new initiative to create resources to support Pastoral Care ministries.

*Father Vavonese serves patients as the palliative care Chaplain for St. Joseph's Health and is co-founder of Project Compassion*

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Office of Adult and Ministerial Formation





The official newspaper of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, N.Y., serving Catholics of Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga and Oswego Counties.



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The Catholic Sun is published by the Syracuse Catholic Press Association, Inc. (Periodicals postage and fees paid Syracuse, N.Y.), 26 Thursdays during the year, every other week. Subscriptions are \$26 annually and \$31 outside of the diocese. Single copies are \$1. Sun back issues, kept for one year, are available in limited quantities.

Subscribers: Please send new addresses with an address label from previous issue to the address above to ensure continued delivery of The Catholic Sun.

Space reservations: Advertising copy is due noon Tuesday, nine days before Thursday publication.

Printed at Sun Community News & Printing Elizabethtown, NY

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:  
240 East Onondaga St., Syracuse, N.Y. 13202

Vol 140; No. 08; ISSN# 0744267X;  
UPS 833 860



**'IGNITE,' CONTINUED FROM COVER**

Cardinal Dolan said, “imagine the stress and anxiety that Joseph had. ... And yet he [Jesus] saw in his foster father a remarkable serenity and trust in God’s providence.”

Cardinal Dolan’s Lesson 4 of Jesus’ instruction by Joseph was evident in the miracle at Nain, when Luke 7:11-17 says Jesus “was moved with pity” for the mother of a dead man, and so he touched the coffin and the dead man sat up and began to speak. Jesus would have seen his foster father lovingly caring for his mother, Mary. And he would know that the day would come when he would look from his cross on Calvary and see his sorrowful mother, Cardinal Dolan said. He asked the audience if they have a tender, loving loyalty to Mary in their home — “is she ever a jewel in the Catholic crown of devotion.”

“Fifth lesson. Mmm,” Cardinal Dolan said. “The value of work, work, work. Joseph was a carpenter. ... He was a worker. Jesus ... would have grown up in a workshop, he would have seen his father immersed in his trade, in his work, and he would have admired the beauty of Joseph’s creative work. John Paul II tells us that work is God’s continual re-creation of the world. And we are his agents in doing that. ... Jesus would have seen the fruits of his father’s labor.”

**'Are you afraid?'**

Lesson 6: “The patron saint of a happy death; you knew Joseph was that, right? Why?”

“Well, we don’t know much about it, but we figure when Joseph died, guess who was there with him: Jesus and Mary, and boy, you couldn’t get a happier death.”

“Brothers,” the Cardinal continued, “Are you afraid? Are you afraid to think of your death? Don’t be. ... You old-timers like me will remember, why did God make you? God made me to know him, to love him and to serve him in this life and — da-dahh! — to be happy with him forever in the next.”

When he arrived at St. Patrick’s

Cathedral to be the Archbishop of New York, Cardinal Dolan had his predecessor, Cardinal Edward Egan, show him the crypt below the main altar.

“Cardinal Egan says to me, ‘There’s the spot where I’ll be buried.’ And he looks at me and he says, ‘There’s the two where you’ll be buried [laughter from the crowd]; I thought Oh my lord, he’s already criticizing me for the weight.”

“But to be mindful, brothers, of our death, now, and at the hour of our death. Not morbid at all. The final reparation, the final release.”

After a standing ovation, the Cardinal headed to catch a plane for “a big Mass tonight” in northern Manhattan for the persecuted church in Nigeria.

The speaker who did sing, with intensity and without a stated beer requirement, was the towering Michael McGlinn, who was an offensive lineman at the University of Notre Dame. He would interrupt his talk to sit down and play the keyboard while singing in a high register. The IGNITE booklet says McGlinn is an international award-winning filmmaker and founder of Sistine Films and Face of Mercy. In 2020, he launched AdoreHimDaily.tv, a website and app that features short films, podcasts and materials to help families to seek holiness through Eucharistic Adoration. McGlinn and his wife, Beth, are raising their family in Kansas City, Mo. He said he is “not a caveman, you know, I’ll clean stuff up.”

A “frequent adorer of our Lord,” McGlinn said the Lord “loves to see his mother honored.” He goes to Holy Hour, he said, because he is fighting for his children and his wife and his parents, and he is also making reparation for himself. In fact, he began to experience benefits



Speaker Gus Lloyd says, “We need champions, we need mighty men of God to stand up for our faith.” (Sun photo | Tom Maguire)



Speaker Michael McGlinn is committed to Eucharistic Adoration. (Sun photo | Tom Maguire)

as he adored; it was radically changing his life.

**A tip on Adoration**

In a Q & A session moderated by the MC, Father Joseph O’Connor, someone asked how we make time for Adoration.

Making time for Eucharistic Adoration is very simple, McGlinn said: Take five, 10 or 15 minutes after Mass to stick around and pray.

The day’s third speaker was fast-talking Gus Lloyd, whose bio says he has been in Catholic radio for over 30 years. Lloyd, who grew up in Ohio, hosts “Seize the Day,” the morning talk radio show on Sirius XM’s “The Catholic Channel.” He and his wife, Michelle, regularly lead pilgrimages to the Holy Land, Europe and other destinations. Gus has authored six books and he writes a daily 60-second reflection at [www.GusLloyd.com](http://www.GusLloyd.com).

“I think I can speak with pretty good authority here,” he told the conference, “when I say, Men, if you’re married, your wife wants you to be a hero. She wants you to be the champion. She wants you to be the spiritual head of your household.”

God wants us to sow grace in the world, and let God do what he wants with it, Lloyd said. He told the men to thank everyone who has sowed the seed

of grace in their life, and to look at every interaction with another person as an opportunity to plant a seed of grace.

Their final homework assignment that he gave the men is to pray with their bride, preferably while holding hands, for 60 seconds: “That’s it. One minute a day.”

Attendee Angelo Puccia, who goes to St. Lucy Church in Syracuse, described the conference as “very powerful, very powerful.”

“I need the day to take a break to empower my faith and to be with other gentlemen,” said attendee Patrick Powers, from St. Agatha Church in Canastota.

Deacon William Matts, of St. Anthony’s and St. Joseph’s in Endicott, said the IGNITE conference is a great opportunity “to meet other men who are in love with Jesus as well. So I’ve looked forward to this day for a while.”

Seminarian Joseph Ryan, who is in his pastoral year of formation, said it was “amazing to see all these committed men of all ages ... really just sharing our faith and able to reflect and come together for confession, for fraternity and really just a great time. So I really hope the energy and the spirituality here can go back to the parishes and ignite a love of Christ all around our diocese.”

## Local foundress of Lourdes Volunteers launches book, 'Everyday Miracles'

**By James Mostrom**  
Contributing writer

**M**arlene Watkins, author and foundress of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, presented her new book, "Everyday Miracles of Lourdes: Twenty Extraordinary Experiences Along the Way to the Grotto," on March 26 at St. Joseph's Church in Camillus.

This was her first stop on a North American book tour after officially launching the book in France on Feb. 11, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Since then, she has been hosting book signings in that country, the United Kingdom and Ireland before returning to the United States. Father Robert P. Hyde Jr., pastor of St. Joseph's and spiritual director of Lourdes Volunteers, introduced the author and Barry Vaughn, president of the organization, who interviewed Watkins.

The book is a collection of 20 stories of miraculous physical, spiritual and emotional healings of pilgrims to Lourdes. All the people highlighted in the book are associated with the Lourdes Volunteers either as a patient or volunteer.



**Father Robert Hyde, spiritual director of Lourdes Volunteers, introduces author Marlene Watkins and Barry Vaughn, president of Lourdes Volunteers. (Sun photo | James Mostrom)**

However, their stories are all different. The individuals come from different backgrounds, with different histories and needs. But their stories are all "beautiful facets of a ... jewel in the crown of all the miracles ... at Lourdes," according to Watkins. "Each is unique and profound." They have "their own brilliance and depth and shine."

Watkins was quick to add that the individuals are "amazing people in their own way, but all ordinary people; regular people like you and me; like the

communion of saints." They never anticipated their miracles, which makes the healings all the more extraordinary. The author also pointed out that each person mirrors the deep humility and gratitude of St. Bernadette.

It is with the same humility that they offer their stories so others can understand the special graces of Lourdes.

Watkins' own story of miraculous healing from agoraphobia and trauma is in the book as well, although she was initially reluctant to include it. "The book is not about me," she said. Fortunately, her priest "guilted" her into including it, and it sets the stage for all the other remarkable stories that follow. Although she denies being a real author, it is apparent in the writing that Watkins has the gift of the

"Irish storyteller."

Based in Syracuse, Lourdes Volunteers coordinates pilgrimages of patients and volunteers from across North America to Lourdes for service and healing. Established in 2002 after Watkins' own miraculous healing, it has organized over 230 guided volunteer and special-needs pilgrimages for over 6,700 pilgrims in its 20 years of service. It has more pilgrimages planned for April, June and October of this year. During COVID, when travel was restricted, it had the privilege of providing its Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience under the grace of a special plenary indulgence from Pope Francis to broadcast to the faithful over EWTN. The Lourdes Volunteers also has a ministry of providing Lourdes water to those who request it. More information on the organization may be found at [lourdesvolunteers.org](http://lourdesvolunteers.org) or by calling 315-476-0026.

The book "Everyday Miracles of Lourdes" is published by EWTN Publishing and may be purchased online at [EWTNRC.com](http://EWTNRC.com), [SophiaInstitute.com](http://SophiaInstitute.com) or through Amazon and Barnes & Noble. It carries an imprimatur from Bishop Douglas J. Lucia.

## Centennial Rosary Garden planned for St. Patrick's School in Oneida

**By Bobbie Testa Powers**  
Contributing writer

**T**o help commemorate 100 years of Catholic education at St. Patrick's Elementary School in Oneida, the school is planning a Centennial Rosary Garden.

Organizers are seeking to raise about \$20,000 for the garden and for school scholarships. Donations are being accepted. Donors and their loved ones will be recognized in a commemorative display case as part of the garden, which will be situated by the south school wall facing East Walnut Street.

St. Patrick's Church is one of six churches of the Spirit of Hope Catholic Community that was formed in 2020. Father Christopher Ballard is the pastor for Spirit of Hope with Father Nathan

Brooks serving as parochial vicar. "Now having been in the Oneida area for two years," Father Ballard said, "it seems like I have met so many people from many generations who have attended and benefited from St. Patrick's School. It is deeply rooted in this community. We are committed to continuing that legacy so that St. Patrick's School can be a nurturing, vibrant community for generations to come."

The aim is to finish the project before the next school year. St. Patrick's School students will be able to stand around the Centennial Rosary Garden path with their teacher and learn their rosary in front of a statue of Mary.

### Designed by alumnus

The garden was designed by landscape designer and St. Patrick's alumnus



**In 2022, St. Patrick's School in Oneida had all the window trim redone in green to brighten up the whole look of the school. A school sign was installed and the sidewalks were replaced. (Photo courtesy Bobbie Testa Powers)**

Nathan Miller, Class 2012, co-owner of Chittenango Landscape Inc. A bench has already been graciously donated by Nathan in memory of Father Richard Kapral, who was pastor of St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's from 2008 to 2020. Two urns will be placed on either side of the

Blessed Virgin Mary statue. The left urn was also donated by Nathan in memory of Msgr. Matthew Luczycki, senior priest in residence from 1990 to 2013 at St. Joseph's. (Nathan was trained as an altar server under Father Luczycki and served



# Chrism Mass message is one of welcoming and outreach



Bishop Douglas J. Lucia pours balsam into olive oil, the mixture to be consecrated as Sacred Chrism during the liturgy.

## Priests renew their vows during annual Holy Week liturgy

By **Dc. Tom Cuskey**  
Editor

**P**riests from parishes, schools and institutions throughout the Diocese of Syracuse gathered along with deacons, religious and the laity to witness the blessing of holy oils during the Chrism Mass. On Tuesday of Holy Week each year, the Chrism Mass is celebrated at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Oils that are prepared and blessed are distributed to churches and parishes where they are used in celebration of the sacraments throughout the coming year.

“How present are you and I, brothers and sisters, to those searching for Christ in our local churches?” was the question Bishop Douglas J. Lucia posed to those in attendance, adding that “the ministry of presence” would be the focus of his homily. Bishop urged the priests to be sure their parishes “carry on the signs of the love of Jesus Christ ... found in the smile and welcome of our open door.”

Bishop added that “accompanying this openness is the ready availability of the sacraments of the Church — the outward signs of God’s grace in today’s world.”

The oils blessed during the Mass included the Oil of the Sick which is used in anointing those seeking healing, and the Oil of Catechumens which is used to anoint those entering the Church through the sacrament of Baptism.

Sacred Chrism is the third holy oil prepared and consecrated during the Mass. Throughout the Church year, the Sacred Chrism is used to represent our new life in Christ through the Holy Spirit, that the faithful receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders are set apart and anointed to do God’s work.

Sacred Chrism is also used to anoint the altar and walls of a church building.

More than 80 priests of the diocese attended the Mass to receive the oils for their parishes but also to renew their priestly vows together as a community.

You can watch the Chrism Mass on the Syracuse Diocese YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOaW0H2jQnc>



The Chrism Mass is celebrated annually on the Tuesday of Holy Week. (Sun photos | Chuck Wainwright)

## Divine Mercy Devotions at Divine Mercy Parish

592 South Main Street, Central Square, New York 13036

### The Feast

Obtain the extraordinary graces that Jesus revealed to Saint Faustina would be given to those who received Holy Communion worthily on Divine Mercy Sunday by making a good confession beforehand: Complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.

**Sunday, April 16th**

3:00 PM in the church

*with Bishop Lucia*

Exposition | Adoration

Sung Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Adoration | Benediction

Veneration of a relic of Saint Faustina

*Reception to follow*

***All are welcome!***



# CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION: Living Laudato Si'



**Connecting our Lenten sacrifices to Jesus' call to feed the hungry; this Earth Day, really listen to God's message of creation**

**By Geraldine Wagner**  
Contributing writer

*"The earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor"* (LS, 2).

Pope Francis says in his 2015 encyclical, "Laudato Si'," that grounded in faith, "truly, much can be done" (LS, 180) about the environmental calamity in which we find ourselves.

Looking at the troubled world around me, where people and the environment suffer in tandem, I was recently motivated to join the Laudato Si' Movement's Animators online course. "Animators" are individuals, often Catholics, who engage in dialogue and action on the current environmental crisis. We educate and enable people who then inspire others through our worldwide work called "contemplation," contemplation and action merged. Encouraged to re-energize ourselves through prayer and meditation, we create projects that "animate" (involve or influence) as few as five people at a time. We do what we can and build on small successes.

We really listen to God's message of creation, acknowledging in small weekly worldwide meetings how we



have fallen short in our own lives, recommitting ourselves to practicing new ways of living simply. We listen to the cry of the poor, those affected most by climate change, who flee from parched lands that no longer produce or from wars over few resources. As Laudato Si' "Animators," we understand that ecological, cultural and social issues are forever interconnected. As Catholics, we commit to the protection of all human life, from womb to tomb, from species to species. We cultivate a "culture of care" for one another, ourselves and for all the living creatures that share a common home with us. Let them live and let them live well for the Common Good!

But is there any Common Good on a polluted planet? How can we help those in need when we can't offer them a livable world? If we want to serve the world's Church, we now must recognize how much caring for God's home — our home — means to us and to others. Some of us practice a reserved "ecological spirituality" of reflection and prayer, and others practice an energetic activism necessary to address the urgent climate crisis. LSM Animators do both.

An honest, rigorous look at the science of climate change can be terrifying

and disheartening as we confront the inequality, violence and lack of democracy in our world. But knowledge and faith doesn't necessarily lead to despair. Steadily, with support from every corner of the earth, we encounter the hope and determination of Christian activists. We must talk to one another, pray together and be open to dialogue. Most of all, we make small changes in our own lives. As Francis says in Laudato Si', "Everything is connected" (LS, 70). We serve the Church and each other by recognizing how much value there is in caring for God's creation in our faith tradition. Francis calls on all people to do their part in their homes and parishes. Here are some options:

This Earth Day, April 22, 2023, take the Laudato Si' pledge for yourself and your family. There is a nobility in living simply, so that others may simply live. <https://livelaudatosi.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/LSPledge-10ways->

FAMILIES.pdf

Christ the King Retreat House in Syracuse is offering "Celebrating Creation in all its Glory," an opportunity to explore eco-spirituality with Sr. Linda Neil, CSJ, 9-3 April 22. <http://ctkretreat.com>.

"The Letter Film: A Message for Our Earth," will be shown at 2 p.m. April 15 at the Liverpool Library, <https://lpl.libcal.com/event/10316120>; at 7 p.m. April 26, Film Screening – The Letter: A Message for Our Earth – ArtRage Gallery. The approximately 90-minute film showing will be followed by time for dialog, discussion and calls to action. John Przepiora and Scott Kushner, members of GreeningUSA's Board of Directors, along with Theresa May, associate director of the diocesan Office for Child & Family Catechesis, will be on hand to facilitate both discussions.

*Wishing you  
a blessed  
Easter season  
From the  
Bishop Ludden  
Jr-Sr High School  
Community*





# Catholic Charities brings needed services to Oneida and Madison counties



*Editor's note: During Catholic Charities' centennial celebration this year, the Catholic Sun will be featuring each of the six areas that together make up the diocesan organization leading up to the official celebration this fall.*

**By Fran Perritano**  
Contributing writer

When Jack Callaghan joined Catholic Charities of Oneida / Madison County in the mid-1990s, he was awestruck by the work being accomplished by the caring people in the organization.

"I started with the agency in 1994 working as a residence counselor in a program for young adults with significant mental health needs," he said. "I was immediately struck by how compassionate and committed the staff were to the residents in the programs. Staff were genuinely committed to the mission and not just with us for a paycheck."

He was so impressed that 33 years later he's still there — and now is in his second year as executive director.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Syracuse is celebrating its centennial. In addition to Oneida-Madison counties, it also serves the counties of Broome, Cortland, Chenango, Onondaga and Oswego.

Callaghan said his agency has been a leader in providing behavioral health housing services for adults with mental health and addiction issues.

"We currently operate a total of 300 beds in both community residence and supported apartment settings, and serve a significant population of homeless individuals," he said. "We offer a variety of community assistance programs in Oneida and Madison counties with an emergency food pantry in Rome that provides services for half the city. Lastly, we offer youth services in the form of summer camping opportunities at Camp Nazareth and a winter CYO Basketball League."

Callaghan said the Oneida-Madison branch employs about 125, including residential support staff and seasonal staff who work at Camp Nazareth and in the CYO basketball program.

The agency also provides monthly social recreation and transportation assistance for adults with disabilities, individual and family counseling in its Madison County office in Oneida, and Health Home Care Management Services for adults who need help navigating the healthcare services system.

Callaghan said volunteers play a major role with the work the agency offers.

"Catholic Charities has been blessed over the years by the generosity of individuals and community groups who have supported our mission through fundraising events and direct support delivering services to the individuals and families whom we serve," he said. "This past year we were fortunate to have volunteers from both Notre Dame High School and Utica University volunteer their time with beautification projects at our community residence. A major goal for the agency moving forward is to develop a more formalized volunteer program with a large pool of committed volunteers who can share their individual gifts and talents with our clients and maximize our community impact."

Callaghan and the organization are not sitting on their laurels, and plan to



**Volunteers and staff serve meals and host a food pantry in Rome that serves half the city. (Submitted photo)**

accomplish more in the coming years.

"I would like to dramatically increase the impact of our community services programs, particularly in Madison County, by developing relationships with people of goodwill who believe in and support our mission," he said. "I would like to develop and nurture a workplace culture that is supportive and enriching for staff so that they can build meaningful relationships with the people we serve and have a truly meaningful impact on helping them lead more fulfilling lives. And I would like to build closer relationships with the parishes in our Catholic family so we can share resources and support each other. I would also like to find ways to better support people who live in more rural areas of our community and seniors who often struggle with economic insecurity, transportation challenges and isolation."

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# Pro-life advocates conclude Lenten campaign, plan to carry on

By James Mostrom  
and Tom Maguire

Syracuse 40 Days for Life marked the end of its 29th campaign of prayer, fasting, peaceful vigil and community outreach on Palm Sunday. It held a prayer service on the sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood on East Genesee Street.

Shannon Guy, RN, and Jeanie Owens, organizers of the local campaign, gave a wrap-up of the national results: 331 babies and their mothers saved from the trauma of abortion (over 23,000 babies since the start of the 40 days for Life campaigns), 247 abortion workers having quit, and 136 abortion centers closed. In Syracuse, during this campaign, two women visited New Hope Family Service's mobile ultrasound unit, parked across from Planned Parenthood, to receive care. Other babies saved due to women canceling their appointments in response to the presence of sidewalk counselors and prayer warriors can be known only to God. Owens noted that when people are outside an abortion facility quietly praying, it is not business as usual inside. The no-show rate for appointments can climb as high as 75%.

"Continue to bless this [pro-life] effort," prayed attendee Father Thomas Ward, administrator of St. Daniel Church in Syracuse, "continue to bless the people that bear witness to the dignity of life." Also attending was Msgr. Eugene Yennock, 97, who sang. He also prayed that "this awful scourge [of abortion] will pass."

Organizer Guy noted that since the overturning of Roe v. Wade by the Supreme Court last year, there has been an increase in heckling and confrontations with aggressive individuals. "Jeanie and I felt really called at the beginning of this campaign to focus on getting more men out to the sidewalk," she told the gathering of

about 30 people on Palm Sunday. "We've had some hecklers out here. ...

But when a man was out here on the sidewalk, we noticed, these individuals have walked by but they would not approach us."

## A call for men to help

She added that God "wants more men to come out to the sidewalk ... in persona Christi, and he wants that to be what they [inside Planned Parenthood] see when they look out. They see a man out here standing in protection of the women and the children in our community."

Two women in attendance said aggressors have taken and thrown their pro-life signs. Veronique Bennett, of Onondaga Hill, said that one day a menacing man, perhaps in his 40s, "came on the sidewalk. Immediately he grabbed the two signs that I planted in the snow, and he threw them in the air." His words were "very evil," she said, and he used a lot of f-words. The man told her she had no right to be there. She replied, "I'm here by divine right." Organizer Guy showed up shortly afterward and they called the police.

"She wanted to do something more during the 40 Days for Life campaign," Veronique's husband, Tim Bennett, said, "so that's why she came and I said it's OK as long as there's other people that are there."

Aggressors have also thrown sidewalk advocate Marilyn Duffy's signs. Duffy, the bookkeeper for Birthright of Onondaga County, said that one time she was in front of Planned Parenthood with Jeanie Owens and somebody came



Father Thomas I. Ward prays at the closing ceremony for the Lenten campaign of 40 Days for Life – Syracuse on Palm Sunday in front of Planned Parenthood. (Sun photo | Tom Maguire)

by and "grabbed the things like our bags right off of our shoulders and threw 'em down." But they are persistent. Owens observed Duffy "becoming a human snowman one day out here. ... It just kept loading on her."

Guy said Planned Parenthood has expanded "services" to include prescribing puberty blockers and other drugs to teens and pre-teens, so counselors need to be prepared to address the hazards of this "therapy" with the younger set. "It's not just that they're going after the child in the

womb," she said. "They're also going after our preteens and our teenagers now with their transgender hormone therapy, and their teachings that are getting into our schools and confusing our children. So there's no stop to this. ... Satan's always trying to take more. ... We're also now paying more attention to all the teenagers that are coming here. And



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we're going to be trying to reach out to them more and more."

### Abortion pill reversal protocol

Organizer Owens also mentioned the increased prevalence of medication abortions and the risks involved. But fortunately, there is now a way to reverse the effects of those medications in women who regret that choice. New Hope Family Services offers an abortion pill reversal protocol, which, if started soon enough can reverse the effects of the medication and preserve the pregnancy. It can be up to 67% effective. Owens said, "Abortion pill reversal ... is possible. ... We've had successes here right in Syracuse."

Shannon Guy noted: "We do have a couple of women you should be continuing to pray for that have gone through the progesterone treatments, and we're praying that the baby and the mama are healthy." Owens added that "they're followed at New Hope and with a wonderful physician. So keep spreading the word about [the reversal protocol], because the abortion pill is the way they are going more and more."

One problem Guy pointed out was that with the FDA lifting restrictions on the abortion-inducing medications earlier this year, that has placed many more patients at risk of serious harm or even death. "They took all of the safeguards away on January 3rd ... So now a woman does not need to have a sonogram; she does not need to confirm the gestational age of the child in her womb and she doesn't need to even have a doctor involved, which is so dangerous ... Now it's being dispensed by a pharmacist and a lot of times through the mail. ... Women will get this pill in the mail and they'll sit and wait and think about it. And then they're taking this pill weeks after they get it in the mail." Taking these medications later in pregnancy increases the risks to the mother of severe bleeding or infection. And if the pregnancy is ectopic (not in

the uterus), failure to recognize this can lead to the death of the mother.

### 'All these women at risk'

Guy added, "There's not a full disclosure as to how dangerous this pill is. And they're being told it's like a Tylenol. ... And the very fact that they're not even confirming with an ultrasound if it's an intrauterine pregnancy." She said, "They're putting all these women at risk. ... This is not even being described to these women." She called on the counselors and advocates to pray about this and to tell other people why this is dangerous and to work to get these medications regulated again. "The sad fact," she said, is there will be a wave of "women that die over this."

Finally, Jeanie Owens reminded the participants about what is called Day 41. The fight for life goes on, and she encouraged sidewalk counselors and pro-life advocates and prayer warriors to continue showing up to offer counsel and prayers for the workers and patients at Planned Parenthood, until the day it becomes a Haven for Life.

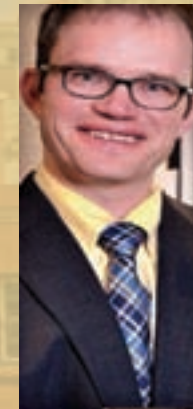
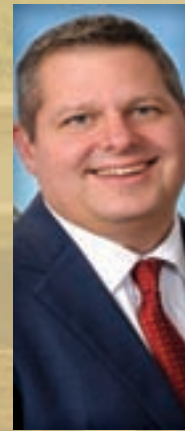
The next 40 Days for Life campaign is scheduled for September. More information about reversing a medication abortion is available at [abortionpillreversal.com](http://abortionpillreversal.com).

Owens and Guy offer training for sidewalk counseling and advocacy through a program developed by Sidewalk Advocates for Life, [sidewalkadvocates.org](http://sidewalkadvocates.org).



Veronique Bennett, of Onondaga Hill, one of the sidewalk advocates for life, displays a sign.

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# Soup kitchen volunteer honored as Woman of Distinction for Social Justice

**By Robert Stronach, OFS**  
Contributing writer & photographer

**UTICA** — Nancy Doolen Robert grew up in Utica, where she graduated from St. Francis de Sales High School. She went on to Le Moyne College in Syracuse before heading to the North Country to pursue a career and raise a family.

After retiring as director of the St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging, Nancy relocated to Forestport with her husband, closer to her hometown. And she found herself asking what she should do now.

“I was lost for a period of time,” she told 400 attendees at the Mohawk Valley YWCA’s Women of Distinction luncheon on March 30, where she was receiving the Y’s Social Justice Award.

“But in 2017 I found Mother Marianne’s West Side Soup Kitchen to be the perfect fit for me.”

Despite her apprehension, as she had never been in a soup kitchen, her concern was quickly eased as she became “the coffee lady during mealtime.”

After a year of getting to know the hungry and the homeless, Nancy decided she wanted to do more. With the support of then kitchen director Ed Morgan, Nancy and her sister Pat McCraith started a “basic cost-free clothing shop” in the basement. Mary Gearhart, owner of Queen’s Closet in Yorkville, “donated clothing items for us to get started.”

By November 2018 they relocated to a large classroom on the second floor (as the soup kitchen is located in the former St. Joseph’s School at St. Joseph & St. Patrick Parish).

“In no time,” she noted, “volunteers came on board and merchandise now included donations of clothing, bedding, towels, toiletries, footwear, coats, bikes, games, books, jewelry and non-prescription medications.” They also turned a second classroom into a supply room. And they began calling the ministry “Mother Marianne’s West Side Boutique.”

Today the boutique boasts 18 volunteers, “also known as personal shoppers to help our guests locate items they need.” Plus, a hairdresser provides monthly haircuts, a musician provides entertainment during mealtime, an interpreter assists with Spanish-speaking guests, and a nurse oversees monthly health screenings (which have been able to refer guests with high blood pressure for immediate medical care).

“We help over 250 people monthly, including the homeless, working poor, refugees, families in shelters and many others,” she said. “We also have partnered with many local agencies. No one is charged; everyone is treated with kindness, dignity, respect and compassion.”

She thinks the ministry at Mother Marianne’s kitchen and boutique “exemplifies the best work of social justice.”

She recounted a recent encounter with two women in need of coats, boots and gloves. Nancy knelt down to help one woman try on boots. But the woman stopped for a moment, lifted Nancy’s head and said: “Thank you for treating me like a human being.”

“I’ll never forget that,” Nancy said. “That’s what social justice is all about.”



Nancy Robert at the YWCA event with her brother, Terrance Doolen, and sisters, Pat McCraith (left) and Phyllis Rood.

 A poster for "Formation for Ministry/Deacon Formation 2023 Information Sessions". At the top, there are three images: a group of people in a church, a green and white shield logo, and a group of people in white robes. The text on the poster lists four sessions:
 

- April 16, 2023 - 1:00PM - 3:30PM at Blessed Sacrament/St. Vincent DePaul, Binghamton
- June 4, 2023 - 1:00PM - 3:30PM at St. Anthony/St. Agnes, Utica
- August 13, 2023 - 1:00PM - 3:30PM at Immaculate Conception, Fayetteville
- October 1, 2023 - 1:00PM - 3:30PM at Holy Trinity, Fulton

 A QR code is located below the sessions. At the bottom, it says "Register at QR code above, at [formationforministrysyr.org](http://formationforministrysyr.org) or (315) 470-1491". There is also a logo for "Annual HOPE Appeal" and a note: "In person sessions include FFM and Deacon Formation. FFM is a pre-requisite for the Permanent Diaconate."



## Pope tells priests: Be agents of harmony, not division

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — Priests “anointed” by the Holy Spirit should be authentic agents of harmony rather than “instruments of division,” Pope Francis said. Celebrating the chrisem Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica April 6, the pope addressed his homily to about 1,800 concelebrating priests in the basilica on what he called “the birthday of the priesthood,” the institution of the Eucharist that is celebrated on Holy Thursday. Building harmony is not only a way of improving the Church or being polite, but “an intrinsic demand of the life of the Spirit, Pope Francis told them. “If others see in us people who are dissatisfied and discontented, who criticize and point fingers, where else will they find harmony?” asked the pope. “How many people fail to approach us, or keep at a distance, because in the Church they feel unwelcomed and unloved, regarded with suspicion and judged? In God’s name, let us be welcoming and forgiving, always,” he said.

## Kansas Legislature approves ‘born alive’ bill with veto-proof majority

**TOPEKA, Kan. (OSV News)** — Kansas lawmakers approved a “born-alive infants protection act” April 4, sending the legislation to Democrat Gov. Laura Kelly’s desk with a veto-proof majority. The bill aims to protect infants born alive, regardless of whether the intent was to abort them, and marks the first abortion-related legislation passed in the state since Kansas voters rejected an effort to strip abortion protections from their state constitution last year. The Kansas House voted 86 to 36 to pass the bill, HB 2313,

which would require physicians to provide medical care to infants born alive as the result of a botched abortion procedure appropriate to their gestational age, and to report data to the state about any such incidents. The Kansas bill also would apply to instances where doctors induce labor to deliver an unborn child that is not expected to survive outside the womb. Kelly previously vetoed a born-alive bill in 2019, but the new born-alive bill passed both the state’s House and Senate with more than the two-thirds majority necessary to override a veto.

## Can Catholic speed dating ministries boost falling marriage vocations?

**ROCHESTER HILLS, Mich. (OSV News)** — Recent studies show that online dating is one of the most popular ways couples meet each other. But some single Catholics are growing disillusioned with the digital world and searching for — or creating — other options. Czeena Devera, co-founder of Hot and Holy, a Michigan-based Catholic singles ministry, told OSV News it can be hard for Catholics to get dates in person. “There are a lot of young-adult events, but you don’t know if the guy you’re talking to is single or not,” Devera said. She and some friends had an idea: What about throwing a speed dating event? They put one together that October, and about 130 people came — well beyond the 50 to 80 they hoped for. Hot and Holy also has hosted mixers and trivia nights for single Catholics, and a volunteer on the team is developing an app to facilitate speed date matching, which they hope to license for others to use by the end of the year. Catholic speed dating ministries in Arizona and Colorado shared similar success stories in matching Catholic

a great and fun way to teach our younger generations how to properly pray the rosary.”

## A place to pray and reflect

Kristin L. Healt, the principal of St. Patrick’s School since 2015, said: “In that time I have wanted to improve the look of the outside of the building to match the



Pope Francis delivers a homily directed at priests during the chrisem Mass on April 6 in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

singles. New Catholic dating ministries come at a time when Catholic marriages have plummeted 69% since 1969, and problems with dating play a significant role. A 2021 survey by the Institute for Family Studies found 58% of people under 55 who desired marriage but were not married said, “It is hard to find the right person to marry.”

## Christians in northern Iraq are proof that resurrection happens every day

**IRBIL (OSV News)** — Hundreds of jubilant worshipers crowded onto the grounds of the Mar Elia Chaldean Catholic Church on Palm Sunday at the start of Holy Week celebrations in this mainly Christian town outside of Irbil, the capital of Iraqi Kurdistan. It marked a stark contrast from only a few years ago, when these same church grounds teamed with vinyl tents to shelter Iraqis Christians who fled for their lives and forced conversion from ISIS militants,

who overran their ancestral Christian lands in Mosul and the Nineveh Plains towns in 2014. “Our work is to support the community and be ready always to shepherd them,” Chaldean Catholic Archbishop Bashar Warda told OSV News at his office in the St. Joseph Cathedral in Ankawa. “They come to the church looking for financial help, medical support, operations, food, support with civil department problems and any social quarrels,” he explained. He points to the establishment of the Catholic University of Erbil with 420 students from diverse backgrounds, Maryamana Hospital in Ankawa, five schools and the Ankawa Humanitarian Committee as “anchor institutions” to support and keep the hope alive, encouraging Iraqis to remain in their homeland, one riven with strife for the past two decades. The institutions also provide needed local employment.

## ROSARY GARDEN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

for Father Kapral for 10 consecutive years at St. Joseph’s parish). The right urn will be donated by Doug Beyel, co-owner of Chittenango Landscape Inc., in memory of his grandmother, Martha Bush.

“Being on elementary school property,” Nathan said, “the rosary patio would be

wonderful things that are going on inside of the school. We are blessed to have the support of Father Chris and Father Brooks so that we could realize our dreams of a capital project that brought much-needed curb appeal to the school.”

Please contact the Central Office at 315-363-3280 or Pat Powers, ppowers@

darcangelo.cpa, to obtain an Order Donation Form or ask any questions. Patrick Powers is the board chairman of the Guardians of St Patrick’s Elementary School Foundation and a trustee for St. Patrick’s Elementary School and trustee for St. Agatha’s Church in Canastota.

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Sat., 8:30 p.m., Channel 98\*

**Binghamton area:**  
Sun., 6 a.m., Channel 12  
(WBNG, Binghamton)

**Utica / Rome area:**  
Sun., 6:00 a.m., Channel 2  
(WKTV, Utica)  
Thu., 6:30 p.m., Channel 99\*

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**Catholic Crossword**

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- ACROSS**
- President Lincoln, informally
  - Hits
  - "God is —" (1 John 4:16)
  - "The hills melted like —" (Psa 97:5)
  - Region
  - One who mimics
  - And so forth (Abbr)
  - " — them in the name of the Father" (Mat 28:19)
  - Hebrew unit of measure
  - "Some — fell by the way..." (Mat 13:4)
  - Moray
  - Fermented honey beverage
  - "I beseech thee, — ..." (2 John 1:5)
  - Female opera singer
  - Crow's cry
  - Summer drink
  - Purple flower
  - Brazilian city, for short
  - The Creator
  - A son of Judah (Num 26:19)
  - Heredity unit
  - Small songbird
  - Dead or Red
  - "Thou art but — man" (Gen 20:3)
  - Hostile military encounter
  - "He hath — the heavens" (Job 26:13)
  - Israeli exile (Ezra 10:34)
  - "Began to — him vehemently" (Luke 11:53)
  - Bell's ring
  - Aries symbol
  - Seth's son (Luke 3:38)
  - Off course
  - Sullivan and Ames
- DOWN**
- Fills with reverence
  - Shower alternative
  - "Solomon — all the kings" (1 Ki 10:23)
  - Infamous tower site (Gen 11:9)
  - Type of exam
  - Energy
  - "Him that — on the throne" (Rev 4:9)
  - Lounged idly
  - Ron Howard role
  - Sell
  - Units of work
  - Father of Jacob and Esau (Gen 25:26)
  - "The — of the house of David" (Isa 22:22)
  - Italian city
  - Design house,

- Picone
- Fall behind
- Fuss
- "Come and —" (John 21:12)
- "Every — which is under heaven" (Col 1:23)
- Levitical city (Jos 21:16)
- " — is me!" (Micah 7:1)
- "I am the —, — change not" (Mal 3:6)
- " — thee behind me, Satan" (Mark 8:33)
- Diminishes
- Forlornly
- Chills and fever
- Mend socks
- Therefore
- "Thou shalt not — false witness"
- " — me, O Lord..." (Psa 5:8)
- Large shade trees
- Health club
- " — down the tree..." (Dan 4:14)

**ANSWERS - MARCH 30TH ISSUE**

	B	I	D		P	A	P	A		D	I	M
Z	O	N	E		A	N	I		K	I	T	E
A	N	T	S		R	Y	E		I	R	E	S
P	E	O	P	L	E		C	I	N	E	M	A
				I	O	N		E	R	G		
S	T	A	T	U	T	E		I	D	O	I	T
A	I	D	E		S	A	T		O	R	C	A
C	L	E	F	T		T	H	U	M	B	E	D
				U	S	E		I	D	O		
F	I	L	L	E	D		C	O	F	F	E	R
O	R	A	L		I	N	K		G	A	V	E
W	A	R	Y		C	E	E		O	D	E	S
L	E	D		S	T	E	T		D	E	N	



## Word of the Lord: Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

*Acts 2:42-47; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31*

This Sunday gives us one of my favorite Gospel readings — a story of doubt that turns into belief, of stubbornness that gives way to assent and conversion. It is perfect for this Sunday of Divine Mercy. Among other things, it shows that Jesus is the Lord of do-overs.

In his generosity and mercy, Jesus offered one of his most troubled and doubt-ridden apostles — someone who even mocked the idea of the miraculous — a second chance.

That apostle, of course, is Thomas, who was absent when Jesus first appeared after the resurrection. The rest of the apostles were understandably stunned — who wouldn't be? — but when Thomas joined them and heard their astounding testimony, their eyewitness account of seeing the Lord, he couldn't believe it. Not one bit. "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side," he said, "I will not believe." He demanded more than something he could see; he needed physical evidence, to touch with his own hands Christ's wounds.

What followed is an iconic moment for Christians, when "Doubting Thomas" became a steadfast believer. He saw, all right, but then he was invited by the one he saw to do what he mockingly considered undoable.

With that, his eyes were opened, his heart changed.

Thomas's quick turnabout serves as a lesson to anyone who dares to doubt, disbelieve or sneer at matters that others accept on faith. It says: The impossible is possible. The faithless can become faithful. Even the unbelieving can believe.

Countless men and women who entered the Church at Easter can attest that, yes, it happens. Two thousand years after Thomas, it continues to happen, in ways that can't be explained. And it happens through the breathtaking gift of God's mercy.

Jesus could have dismissed Thomas's doubt and left him skeptical and scared.

But he didn't. He came back.

Jesus never considers us as undeserving of another chance. The Good Shepherd searches for his lost sheep; the worker of miracles doesn't tire of doing anything he can to help the blind see.

Ours is a God who comes back, again and again, coaxing us to learn, to grow, to love, to believe. He doesn't give up on us easily.

In the case of Thomas, Jesus did more than offer proof. He offered a second chance. He offered another opportunity to accept what seemed unacceptable. That gesture of mercy became an act of transformation — a way of not only helping an unbeliever believe, but of making him realize, profoundly, Christ's real presence in his life and God's transformative love at work in the world.

The lesson of this Gospel is twofold: It teaches us the power of faith, of believing in what we cannot see; but it also illustrates the great breadth of God's mercy, the Lord's willingness to be patient and help us find our way.

How we need to remember that! In moments of despair or disillusion, when we may feel God is distant or indifferent, we need to believe. To trust. To have faith in the seemingly impossible generosity of his love and mercy. We need to hold fast to this enduring truth: Ours is a faith of second chances, of renewal, of forgiveness, of starting over. Easter is a glorious testament to that, reassuring us that even death doesn't have the final word.

The story of Thomas takes that idea even further, to tell us that even lack of faith doesn't have to define us.

The one-two punch of Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday serves to let us know we shouldn't give up on God, because he doesn't give up on us. He keeps coming back.

*Deacon Greg Kandra, writing for OSV News, is an award-winning author and journalist, and creator of "The Deacons Bench" blog. He serves in the Diocese of Brooklyn.*



## Divine Comedy

By Dan Reynolds

If your parish is interested in inviting Deacon Dan to do his "DIVINE COMEDY" presentation, contact him at [divinecomedydan@gmail.com](mailto:divinecomedydan@gmail.com). "Divine Comedy" is full of clean jokes, saintly humorous examples and hysterical religious cartoons. It is about how our faith life is enriched by daily humor. You will learn how God loves you yesterday, today and "ever-laughter."

## Scripture readings

**Thursday, April 13:** 264: Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2, 5-9; Lk 24:35-48

**Friday, April 14:** 265: Acts 4:1-12; Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-27; Jn 21:1-14

**Saturday, April 15:** 266: Acts 4:13-21; Ps 118:1, 14-21; Mk 16:9-15

**Sunday, April 16:** 43: Acts 2:42-47; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

**Monday, April 17:** 267: Acts 4:22-31; Ps 2:1-9; Jn 3:1-8

**Tuesday, April 18:** 268: Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Jn 3:7-15

**Wednesday, April 19:** 269: Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-9; Jn 3:16-21

**Thursday, April 20:** 270: Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20; Jn 3:31-36

**Friday, April 21:** 271: Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15

**Saturday, April 22:** 272: Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; Jn 6:16-21

**Sunday, April 23:** 46: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

**Monday, April 24:** 273: Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; Jn 6:22-29

**Tuesday, April 25:** 555: 1 Pt 5:5-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk 16:15-20

**Wednesday, April 26:** 275: Acts 8:1-8; Ps 66:1-7; Jn 6:35-40

## Necrology

**Msgr. John J. Kennedy:** 13, 1906

**Msgr. Michael J. Steines:** 13, 1948

**Father William C. Stewart:** 14, 1978

**Msgr. John A. Kociela:** 14, 1991

**Father William T. Guckert:** 14, 2013

**Father William J. Bourke:** 15, 1887

**Msgr. William Kelly:** 15, 2012

**Deacon Donald M. McCabe:** 15, 2018

**Msgr. Thomas J. Driscoll:** 16, 1970

**Father Philip J. Lembo:** 16, 2000

**Father Thomas J. Conway:** 17, 1925

**Father John H. McGraw:** 19, 1938

**Father J. Robert Quigley:** 20, 1984

**Father Albin J. Majdanik:** 20, 1997

**Father Lawrence H. Daley:** 21, 1972

**Father Eugene L. Gacek:** 21, 1987

**Father Lawrence A. Bassney:** 21, 1990

**Father Raymond J. McVey:** 21, 1995

**Deacon Leonard Monnat:** 21, 2005

**Father Philip F. Harrick:** 23, 1892

**Father John K. Ryan:** 23, 1967

**Father John E. O'Sullivan:** 24, 1930

**Deacon Wayne Ashe:** 25, 2011

**Father Alfred E. Nortz:** 25, 2017

**Father Vincent Kelly:** 25, 2021

**Father Edward J. Melick:** 26, 1936

**Father Paul J. Keebler:** 26, 2018





## ENTRUSTED TO PROTECT, DEDICATED TO RESTORE

Most Rev. Douglas J. Lucia is proud to announce an independent audit determined the Diocese of Syracuse was once again in compliance with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People's* data collection requirements for the 2021 - 2022 audit period. The Diocese has been in compliance with all audits since 2003.

This achievement validates the unwavering commitment and dedication of our clergy, members of religious orders, diocesan/parish/school/agency employees, and volunteers in protecting God's children. We are indebted to all those in their ministries and roles throughout the Diocese who contribute to safeguarding our most vulnerable.

The audit also reminds us to never tire of protecting our most vulnerable from sexual abuse. The Diocese of Syracuse reiterates its commitment to implementing the strongest safeguards to protect our children, young people, and vulnerable adults from abuse.



OFFICES OF SAFE ENVIRONMENT  
AND VICTIM ASSISTANCE