

**St. Ann's
6th Annual
FESTIVAL of CARS**

Car Show
Sunday, June 2, 2024
11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Craft Fair, Theme Baskets,
Food & Entertainment

St. Ann's Grounds
24 Town Hall Road
Mooers Forks, NY

TOP 40 PICKS
AND
SPECIAL AWARDS
AT 3 PM

KIDS POWER
WHEELS SHOW
ENTRY FEE \$10

NOT WHEEL
RACERS
KIDS & ADULTS

For more info or to pre-register your vehicle call:
(518) 236-5632 or (518) 236-7200 or (518) 565-6754

Vehicle Pre-Register
\$15 or \$20 Day of Show
between 11 am & 1 pm

Craft Table \$20

Hot Wheels
Entry Fee
Kids \$5
Adults \$10
(includes car)

Hamburgers, Hot
Dogs, Cheeseburgers,
Sausage, Slaw Dogs,
French Fries, Poutine,
Drinks

4 DIOCESAN LIFE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC MAY 15, 2024

Immigration change sends foreign priests home

By Dorcy Fargo

Changes in immigration categories related to foreign-born priests and religious and a related processing backlog have lengthened the process for obtaining green cards or visas, and the delay is forcing some of those individuals to return to their home countries for a year.

Father Christopher L. Carrara, diocesan vicar for clergy, says the issue was created when a large group of individuals was added to the same immigration category as the priests and religious.

"The problem, as I understand it, is that there are a limited group of visas available," he said. "Religious workers from all denominations fit into one category. With all the immigration issues happening, unaccompanied minors have been added to that category. So now there's a huge group of needy kids stuck in the same category as religious workers, and now they're all competing for the same visas. It's a no-win situation."

Because of the huge influx of applicants in the category, visas have taken significantly longer to process, if they're moving at all. As a result, visas expire before

Further actions are taken, forcing the individuals caught in the backlog to return to his or her country of origin for a year.

"USCCB (The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) is actively working on this topic with the Biden administration," Father Carrara said. "The administration has said they plan to address that (one-year) period of time and shorten it for religious workers. The challenge is that it won't happen quickly, likely not before the next election."

Father Carrara noted USCCB has moved an action alert on the matter, urging Catholics to contact their U.S. representatives and senators urging them to adopt the Protect Vulnerable

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Action Center has a form to make it easy to contact federal officials, urging them to address issues immigrants, separate from religious workers/religious based visas. Again that form at <https://www.usccb.org/advocacy/immigration/religious-based-visas>

After looking into the matter, Piusat said it was determined "that every diocese in the state is dealing with it in some way."

In our diocese, Father Pedro Edgardo "Jay" de la Rosa, pastor at Holy Angels Church in Altona and St. Ann's Church in Mooers Forks, is caught in the visa delay, and he'll be required to return to the Philippines on June 12.

While, originally from the Philippines, Father de la Rosa has been incardinated and is a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

"It's hard for me," Father de la Rosa said. "When I go home, I'm no longer incardinated in the archdiocese there. Unlike other priests from the archdiocese who are also going home, they already know where to go. For me, who is not incardinated, I don't have that."

Father de la Rosa said he's in communication with the archdiocese where he's from, and he's hoping to be able to celebrate Masses and assist there during his year away from the North Country.

Beyond living his vocation, Father de la Rosa said he also has to work out day-to-day concerns.

"When I was incardinated here, I sold my car in the Philippines," he said. "When I went home to visit last September, I was able to

borrow a car. Right now, I don't see being able to borrow a car for a year. These are the things I'm thinking about right now."

Of Father de la Rosa's immediate family, only his brother remains in the Philippines. The majority of his family lives in North America.

While he will remain the pastor of St. Ann's and Holy Angels churches, a temporary administrator will be appointed, as well.

"Right now, I'm the pastor," he said. "When I go home, I'm still the pastor. I won't be there physically, but I plan to stay connected to the parish with the day-to-day activities. I will not interfere, but I want to know what's happening, so I won't be a complete stranger when I come back."

He also looks forward to staying in contact with his parishioners.

"They're not just parishioners," he said. "To me, they are family."

Father de la Rosa said it's not just his parishioners he'll miss.

"To part of the presbyterate of the Diocese of Ogdensburg," he said. "The priests are brothers to me. They tell me, it's only a year. I hope it'll pass quickly. Am I excited and happy to go home? Of course I'm happy going home. My friends and former parishioners will be happy to have me, but it's also hard because this is home, too."

Unless the situation changes, Father de la Rosa will be out of the country until June 13, 2025.

"I ask the people here to pray for me while I'm home," he said. "And I will pray for all of you."

Please contact the website below to help bring Father Jay home sooner!!!!

The Most Holy Trinity

May 25-26, 2024

Sat. 4:00PM (SA) + Beatrice LaValley by The Family of Arthur & Irene Brassard
Sun. 8:00AM(SA) + Mark Dragoon by Gaylord & Carol Guay
Sun.10:00AM(HA) + Owen Lafountain by The Knights of Columbus

Thank you Father Schnob!!

For last weekend & everyone welcome him today at 4:00pm mass.
You are appreciated.

May 27-31, 2024

Mon. 8:00AM (SA) + Deceased Members of St Ann's & St Joe's
5:00 PM (HA) + Deceased Members of Holy Angels & St Louis
Tues. 8:00AM(HA) + Betty & Earl Morrow By the Morrow Family
Wed. 6:00 PM(HA) No Services
Thurs 8:00AM(SA) + Larry Gadway By Mary Lou Gadway
Fri. 8:00AM(HA) + Francis Maynard Lashway by Yvonne Caska & Stella Mitchell

June 1-2, 2024

Sat. 4:00 PM(SA) + Leonard Bulriss by Gerald& Lorraine Castine & Family
Sun.8:00 AM (SA) + Eric & Jason Coker by Barbara Primeau
Sun.10:00AM(HA) + Trevor Blondo by Gary & Betty Dragoon

Giving Report Regular

St Ann's: \$ 3543.00
Holy Angels: \$ 2480.00

Sanctuary Candles

(SA) Special Intention by Marilyn & Gary Provoncha
(SA) Francis "Fritz" Rabideau by Darwn & Mary Myatt
(HA) Nora Myatt by Darwn & Mary Myatt

In Prayer

We keep in prayer for the sick and infirm of our parishes. We pray and work for peace in our homes and our world; for unity among all Christians; the victims of oppression, prejudice, violence or hate; for a greater respect for all human life, from conception to natural death; and for all the faithful departed.

**Orientation/
Refresher**

FOR

**Lectors
&
Eucharistic Ministers**

May 30, 2024
5:30-7:00 PM
St Ann's Hall, Mooers Forks, NY
with
Fr. Scott Seymour

Calling prospective lectors and eucharistic ministers! Please come to the orientation to find out if these special ministries are for you. Current members are asked to come for a refresher.
518-236-5632

Office closure

The office will be closed on Monday May 27, 2024 in observance of Memorial Day

Memorial Day May 27th

St Ann's Cemetery - Mass 8:00 am & Blessings after mass
St. Joseph's Cemetery - Prayers & Blessing following St Ann's prayers

Holy Angels Cemetery - Mass at 5:00 pm Blessing after mass
St. Louis of France Cemetery - Prayers and blessing following Holy Angel's prayers

Father Jay's 20th Anniversary

A roast pork dinner to honor Father Jay's 20th Anniversary will be held at Holy Angels Hall on June 9th at 12 noon
Reservations are REQUIRED
Please call Jeanette Labarge at 518-236-7271 or Marilyn Willette at 518-569-7048 or the parish office at 518-236-5632

Clearance Items Available

Sunday May 26th 11am to 1 pm at Holy Angels Church Hall
Donations encouraged

<http://www.votervoice.net/Shares/BAAAAA2kAC4DaAaOK2d7FBA>