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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 78 Number 24

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

OCTOBER 18, 2023

Sister Eileen Murray celebrates 100 years

A sister of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, Sister Eileen Murray, an Ogdensburg native, celebrated her 100th birthday Oct. 4.

Sister Eileen currently resides at St. Joseph's Manor, a long-term care facility in Meadowbrook, Pennsylvania, outside of Philadelphia.

Sister Eileen reflects on her decades of service in ministry to orphans, elementary school children, high school students and the elderly while living her vocation.

FULL STORY, PAGE 16

HONORED FOR SERVICE



PHOTO BY

Pictured following Mass at St. Joseph's Church in Olmstedville are Grace Savarie (center) flanked by Betty LeMay and Diane McNally who were her catechetical teachers and mentors. In front of them is current altar server Temperance Cronk-Baker. In the back are Father Philip Allen, and St. Mary's parishioner David Harrington. Savarie, a long-time altar server, was recently honored with a scholarship. See the full story on Page 5.

FORMING NEW DEACONS



Deacon Lee Trudeau, who serves at St. Augustine's Church in North Bangor and St. Mary's Church in Brushton, has been named associate director of Deacon Formation for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Deacon Trudeau will work with Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin, director of Deacon Formation.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope highlights example of forgiveness

By Matthew Santucci
Catholic News Agency

In his first general audience since the start of the Synod on Synodality, Pope Francis resumed his ongoing catechesis on the theme of apostolic zeal, this time focusing on the story of the Sudanese-Italian saint Josephine Bakhita, which he described as "an existential parable of forgiveness."

Born in 1869 in the region of Darfur, Josephine was sold into slavery as a young girl. She was traded between different owners and endured incredible hardship, being forcibly converted to Islam and subjected to scarification, a process by

which the skin is intentionally cut, or branded, to make a set pattern.

In 1883 she was sold to Italian Vice Consul Callisto Legnani. In 1884, following the political instability that had engulfed Khartoum, they fled Sudan to Italy. She was subsequently passed to Augusto Micheli, a friend of Legnani. She first encountered Catholicism when she was entrusted to the care of Canossian Sisters in Venice.

While Micheli tried to force her back to Sudan with him, she refused. Her case went before the Italian court, which ultimately ruled her slavery was null, given Britain had outlawed slavery before she was sold and

it was never legal in Italy. On Jan. 9, 1890, as a free woman, she converted to Catholicism, and in 1896, made her final vows with the Canossian Sisters. Bakhita was canonized on Oct. 1, 2000, by Pope John Paul II and is the patron saint of Sudan and human trafficking survivors.

It was the sisters' example of kindness and charity that so profoundly touched Bakhita, ultimately leading to her conversion, and was the catalyst for her religious vocation but also instilled in her the evangelical imperative of forgiveness.

She famously said: "If I were to meet those who kidnapped me, and even those who tortured

me, I would kneel and kiss their hands. For, if these things had not happened, I would not have been a Christian and a religious today."

"What is the secret of St. Bakhita?" the pope asked, adding: "The vocation of the oppressed is that of freeing themselves and their oppressors, becoming restorers of humanity. Only in the weakness of the oppressed can the force of God's love, which frees both, be revealed."

The pope went on to say that "to pity means both to suffer with the victims of the great inhumanity in the world and also to pity those who commit errors and injustices, not justifying, but humanizing."

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It means something different

"I love you."
"That was one of those, wasn't it?"

That exchange happens nearly every time my twin sister, Deanna, and I talk.

"Love" is a big word. It has a lot of meanings. I love my twin sister, and I love chocolate. While my love for chocolate is pretty big, it pales in comparison to the love I have for my sister. I "love" both, but the feeling isn't the same.

When my sister asked if my expression of love was "one of those," though, she was asking about a specific type of "I love you." She was referring to what I call the

"you're ridiculous I love you."

I adore silliness, fun word play, unexpected phrases and those times when people point out the general absurdity of some life moments. Luckily for me, I'm surrounded by people who add those bits of joy to my life. I don't recall how or when it started, but it became im-

portant to me to tell the people who throw those moments of happiness into the world that I appreciate them and their humor.

So, when one of my family members or friends says or does something I

find humorous, I very often follow it with, "I love you," sometimes said as I shake my head or laugh. Most of the people in my life have caught on to what it means and why I say it. Some now use the "you're ridiculous I love you" on me and on the people in their lives. It's just another form of love, and it's spreading.

I was thinking about the way people love as I considered this World Mission Sunday, to be celebrated Oct. 22.

I've been blessed to meet and interview individuals and families involved in mission work. While the families and individuals are all very different and serve the Lord in different types of missions and in differ-

ent places, I noticed one thing they have in common: they all share this profound love of Jesus and His people, especially those in most need.

They work to share that love by sharing education, health care, skills and talents, prayers, funds and support, leaving their homes, workplaces, schools and communities behind to do it. They sacrifice out of love. They give out of love.

This World Mission Sunday is a good opportunity to share our love with those serving the missions and with the people they serve. Please pray for them. Please consider supporting them as they share Christ with others.

There's nothing ridiculous about that.

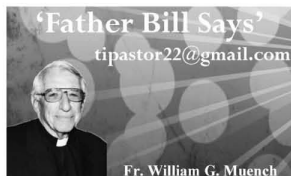


Darcy L. Fargo

Celebrating the Feast of St. John XXIII

Today I would like to call your attention to this past week, when our Catholic Church celebrated the Feast Day in honor of Pope St. John XXIII. I am certain that you remember that Pope St. John XXIII is a favorite saint of mine. I believe that Pope St. John XXIII is truly a gift to our Catholic Church.

Pope St. John called the Second Vatican Council. He announced to us all that it was time to call upon the Holy Spirit to renew and bring new life to our Church. He said at that time that it was time to throw open the windows of the Church and allow the Holy Spirit to transform all of us. Pope St. John died before the end of the Council, but his spirit and enthusiasm ensured the completion and success of it.



Fr. William G. Muench

Personally, Pope St. John XXIII had a profound effect on me and my priesthood. He was elected pope at the time that I was still in my last years in the seminary. So, I was ordained before the Council even began. In my first years as a priest, I celebrated Mass in Latin. When the Council's renewal and reforms were finally in place, my priesthood and ministry were transformed profoundly. It was truly like beginning as a priest all over. For me, this was a joyful and happy time. There were so many new and wonderful opportunities. One example was the cel-

ebration of Mass was all was now in English. I was thrilled that the congregation could now participate more completely. We were truly united, priest and people.

The spirit of Pope St. John brought a newness to our Church, a new enthusiasm. This week, I was so pleased to celebrate Mass in remembrance of Pope St. John. I prayed that through his intercession, his wisdom would continue to enlighten our Church and bring strength and spirit to us all. I truly love the Pope St. John's story. Many considered him a poor choice to be Pope, however he proved to bring to our Church the renewal that it needed.

So, my prayer on his Feast Day this year is a prayer of gratitude. I thank God for Pope St.

John XXIII and for all that the Second Vatican Council accomplished for our Catholic Church. I thank God each time I notice the deep and fuller participation that we now have in Mass. It has been a time of profound holiness for all Catholics.

I close with the prayer from the liturgy on this Feast of Pope St. John XXIII: "Almighty, ever living God who chose Pope St. John XXIII to preside over your whole people and benefit them by word and example, keep safe, we pray, by his intercession, the Shepherds of your Church along with the flock entrusted to their care and direct them in the way of eternal salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Deacon Trudeau to aid in Deacon Formation

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

When Bishop Terry R. LaValley sought to appoint an associate director of Deacon Formation, Deacon Lee Trudeau said he didn't consider applying.

"It's nothing I would've applied for if I hadn't been encouraged to do so," said Deacon Trudeau, who serves in St. Augustine's Church in North Bangor and St. Mary's Church in Brushton. "I haven't been a deacon that long. I thought I was too green for this. When I was encouraged to apply, I thought, 'they must need a certain number of applicants. They'll pick someone else.'"

But Bishop Terry R. LaValley recently appointed Deacon Trudeau to fill the spot. He'll assist Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin, director of Deacon Formation and episcopal vicar for Education and the New Evangelization, in "coordinating and supervising all aspects of the formation program for students preparing for the Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese of Ogdensburg," the job description for the role states.

While the associate director role has existed for years, the position was vacant until Deacon Trudeau's appointment. It has historically served as a means of succession planning.

"When I was previously director of Deacon Formation, Deacon John White was appointed associate director and eventually took my place as the director," Msgr. Aucoin said.

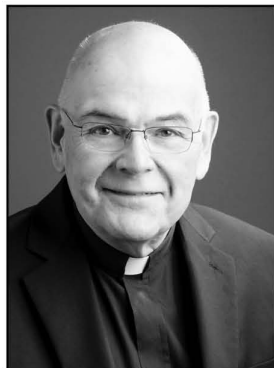


Deacon Lee Trudeau

"In Deacon White's time, Deacon John Drollette was appointed associate director and became director after Deacon White. Even in earlier times there were associate directors who eventually became directors."

The role will provide on-the-job training to Deacon Trudeau, who is already quite familiar with the formation program.

"Deacon Trudeau has been a deacon for several years," Msgr. Aucoin said. "He is familiar with the program and its organization from having participated. As associate director he will study and learn the details in designing and implementing a Deacon Formation Program. There is *The National Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States of America* created and published by the United States Conferences of Catholic Bishops. There is a similar document for priests. The directory enumerates the basic norms for deacons' formation programs. It is up to each diocese to create its own version for the implementation



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

of these norms."

"The associate director learns from the director and from his own study and research the best ways to implement the Directory for the participants in the Diocese of Ogdensburg."

Deacon Trudeau will assist in the academic and spiritual formation of deacon formation participants, participate in evaluations, assist in developing programming and policies, prepare participants for the rites of Candidacy, Lector and Acolyte and eventually ordination and assist in monitoring participants' coursework.

Ordained in 2021, Deacon Trudeau is no stranger to formation programs and classrooms.

"Deacon Trudeau brings his many talents to the program," said Msgr. Aucoin. "In addition to being a deacon, he had an extensive successful career in education, both in the classroom and in administration, he has participated in various ministry programs in his own parish along with leadership roles in his parish."

"I went to SUNY Pots-

dam, and I started as an English teacher," Deacon Trudeau explained. "I went to seminary for a couple years, and then I decided I wanted to get married. I became a special education teacher. I started in 1988, and I taught for 32 years between the BOCES and Malone Central School District. It was toward the end of my teaching career that I started studying for the permanent diaconate. I retired from teaching the year before ordination. That same year, I became (director of Religious Education) for our parishes."

Deacon Trudeau and his wife, Lisa, have two sons.

"The first thing I did was talk to Lisa about it," Deacon Trudeau said. "She said, 'I think you'd be good at it, and I think you ought to do it.'"

Deacon Trudeau said he's enjoyed getting more familiar with the formation portion of the diaconate as he's started in the new role.

"Everything is very well organized," he said. "I like that. I like to be very organized, even if I'm not always that way."

While working in this formation role, Deacon Trudeau also continues to focus on his formation as a relatively new deacon.

"I'm working on a

certificate in Spiritual Direction at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania," he said. "Hopefully I'll be able to use the skills I'm picking up there working with the (Deacon Formation participants)."

He also looks forward to getting to know program participants current and future.

"It's easy to get isolated," he said. "I've lived here most of my life and taught in Malone. (Attending a recent formation weekend with program participants), I met people from all over the diocese. It's great to make connections. I think I'll really enjoy that part of it."

The current class in formation includes six men. Plans are underway to recruit an additional class, Deacon Trudeau noted.

"When I went through the program, we ran one class at a time," he said. "The goal is to run two classes at the same time. We could conceivably have one group starting out while another is finishing. That would be something new. It might be an adjustment at first, but once we get it going, I don't think it'll be too bad."

For more information about the formation program, visit <https://www.rcdony.org/vocations/permanent-deacon.html>.

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www.northcountrycatholic.org

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- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more

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WE SHARE THE BURDEN

Supporting healthy marriages, families

By **Stephen Tartaglia**

Diocesan Family Life director

People want to be happy more than anything else. We pursue happiness throughout our entire lives. Sometimes young people go down roads that offer pleasures but not real happiness and are left disappointed and unfulfilled. It makes sense to figure out as early as we can what is most effective in helping us to be happy.

Sociologist Bradford Wilcox makes the connection between marriage and happiness for Americans. His research shows that both

men and women who are married are almost twice as likely to report that they are happy than their peers who are unmarried, and that the number one predictor of happiness is being in a good marriage. On the other hand, those that aren't marrying are struggling with issues of loneliness and meaninglessness and experience much less happiness, no matter how much money, free time, traveling, education or sexual activity they have. Wilcox says that young adults are having a hard time finding partners that are worthy or interest-

ed in being married or simply a good fit for them.

Additionally, intact marriages bring a variety of measurable benefits to the couple themselves and to their children. They experience a greater level of economic prosperity. They have less truancy from work and school. They live longer and experience better physical and emotional health. Their children achieve better grades in school. They commit fewer crimes and have greater levels of civic participation in their communities.

The big challenge is to help young people enter relationships that will lead to good marriages, to support them as their families grow, and to help them as they face challenges that threaten the sanctity of marriage and family life. This, of course, is exactly what the Family Life Office does. Programs that the Family Life Office provides include, but are not limited to: The Dating Project, Pre Cana, Family Guggenheim, Surviving Divorce, Life-Giving Wounds Retreat, Marriage Jubilee, and Loving Authentically.

The Dating Project teaches parents and teens about how to avoid the cultural pressure to engage in "hooking up," that is, having one-night stands, and instead, to practice dating properly. Pre Cana is a marriage preparation course that is offered while a couple is engaged to help them understand what the Sacrament of Matrimony is, to help them

discern if they are truly being called to this Sacrament, and to prepare for a healthy and good marriage if they are.

Family Guggenheim is a retreat offered three times each year for the entire family at Camp Guggenheim on Lower Saranac Lake. The two sessions held in late August begin Thursday afternoon and end on Sunday afternoon. The third session, held on the weekend preceding the Columbus Day holiday, is shorter, starting Friday evening and ending Sunday afternoon. Families spend time praying and playing together and practicing skills that enable families to thrive and grow in holiness.

Surviving Divorce is a 12-week support group that helps people who are going through a separation or divorce to stay connected to the Church and to deal with the painful and complex thoughts and emotions that are entailed in their situation. Life-Giving Wounds is a retreat for adults who, at one point or another in their life, experienced the separation or divorce of their parents. They carry wounds with them that, unless addressed, stay with them for the rest of their lives, causing many to reject the faith, leave the Church, and not get married. Those that do get married have a significantly greater likelihood of having a divorce themselves. The retreat, offered annually, is very successful in addressing these wounds and gives the participants the opportunity to be-

gin healing.

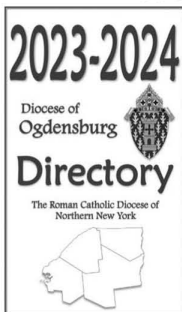
The Marriage Jubilee, is an annual gathering of married couples, no matter how long or short they have been married, to celebrate their commitment within a mass celebrated by Bishop LaValley. Couples renew their marriage vows, and have their rings blessed. The Mass is followed by a reception in which the couples receive a certificate, signed by Bishop LaValley, acknowledging their years of marriage.

The Loving Authentically program is a two-part presentation which teaches people about the connection between sex, happiness, and Catholic teaching, explaining why the Church teaches what it does in the area of sexuality. The first part is a showing of the video *Unprotected: A Pope, The Pill, and the Perils of Sexual Chaos*, with a talk and discussion led by Diocesan Natural Family Planning Directors, Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli. This is followed by two talks on achieving happiness in relationships by Catholic Theologian, Dr. Maura Hearden Fehlner. The presentation is for everyone, although most appropriate for those 13 years and older. Lunch is provided and it is free admission.

The ministry of the Family Life Office, including all of these valuable programs, is made possible by contributions made to the Bishops Fund. Thank you so much for your generosity. Your contributions are making a world of difference!

Diocesan Directories

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The Official 2023-2024
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Diocese of Ogdensburg
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Server recognized with scholarship award

By David McNally

St. Joseph's Church, Olmstedville

At the conclusion of a recent celebration of Mass at St. Joseph's Church in Olmstedville, altar server Grace Savarie was recognized by Father Philip Allen and David Harrington, a parishioner of St. Mary's Church in Indian Lake where Father Allen is also pastor.

Harrington presented Grace with a scholarship award from the Martha Lavergne Memorial Scholarship Fund, which is given to a college-bound faithful Catholic student who is active in his or her church and community. Grace, who is attending Magdalen College of Liberal Arts in New Hampshire, has been an altar server at St. Joseph's for many years.

The Martha Lavergne Scholarship is offered in memory of a longtime St. Mary's parishioner who passed away in 2008. Lavergne was active in the Indian Lake community in numerous organizations and at St. Mary's where, she was a member of S.M.I.L.E. (St. Mary's Indian Lake Energizers), a lector and a Eucharistic minister.

In addition to an award from St. Mary's Martha Lavergne Memorial Scholarship Fund, Father Allen also presented Grace a check on behalf of Grace's home parish of St. Joseph's.

Grace, the daughter of St. Joseph parishioners Tom and Amanda Savarie, is also a recipient of a Mater Dei scholarship given to parishioners of the Diocese of Ogdensburg

who are studying at a Catholic institution.

Rest in Peace

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

Oct. 18 – Edwin A. Kennedy, 1990; Deacon Chester Lloyd Price, 1991

Oct. 20 – Rev. Walter Plaisance, O.M.I., 1918; Msgr. Stephen J. Wojciechowski, 1978

Oct. 21 – Rev. Peter LaFort, 1939; Msgr. Robert A. Farmer, 1979

Oct. 22 – Rev. Thomas McNally, 1883; Rev. George J. Savage, 1918; Rev. Michael A. Jarecki, 2012

Oct. 23 – Rev. Discorides Forget, O.M.I., 1916

Oct. 24 – Rev. John P. O'Rourke, 1918; Deacon Frederick J. Madler, 2018

What is a Foster Grandparent?

Foster Grandparents are role models, mentors, and friends to children with exceptional needs. The program provides a way for volunteers age 55 and over to stay active by serving children and youth in their communities. They are placed in a classroom setting with a child or children who are in need of emotional support, development of basic learning skills, friendship, companionship, encouragement, individual attention, and unhurried help. The program currently has 40 volunteers and serves more than 100 kids per year.

The Foster Grandparent Program is hosted by the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and supported by AmeriCorps Seniors, a federally funded agency responsible for building volunteer based programs for over 50 years and counting.



Am I Qualified to be a Foster Grandparent?

All you need to join is the ability to give the kind of comfort and love that sets a child on the path toward a successful future. If you're 55 or older and want to share your experience and compassion, you have what it takes to be a Foster Grandparent.

You'll also receive a small bi-weekly, non-taxable stipend that cannot be held against any current benefits you may already have as well as paid mileage for your travel. Additionally, you receive paid holidays, vacations, sick and personal leave.



Sometimes when you get to be my age, you wake up and say what good am I and along came the Foster Grandparent Program that keeps me going!

Ray Foote
age 83
Foster
Grandparent

Want more info about how to get started?

Contact Melissa Howard,
Volunteer Coordinator

PHONE:
(518)359-7688

EMAIL:
mhoward@cathcharities.org

80 Park Street, Suite 2
PO Box 701
Tupper Lake, NY 12986

Bishop's Public Schedule

Oct. 18 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch

Oct. 19 – 10:15 a.m. – Mass with the Students at St. James School in Gouverneur followed by Classroom Visits

Oct. 20-22 – New York State Eucharistic Congress at Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine in Auriesville

Oct. 23 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Oct. 24 – 10:30 a.m. – Diocesan Finance Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch

Oct. 25 – 5 p.m. – Mass at St. Peter's Parish (at St. Mary's Church) with the Essex, Franklin and St. Lawrence County Commissioned Lay Ministers followed by dinner at St. Mary's Social Hall in Massena

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration is required. Preregister at www.virtus.org. Upcoming sessions: **Oct. 25** – Noon – St. Peter's Parish, Massena

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terrianne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-358-3145, Ext. 7179 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rcdony.org Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340.

If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at 800-276-1562 or www.ReportBishopAbuse.org

Environmental Stewardship

What can I do?

In the chaos, conflict and violence in our world today, we may feel helpless to do anything about it. We may ask: what are the causes of all this upheaval, anger and stress all around us and, in some moments, even within ourselves?

In the video "THE LETTER," Pope Francis speaks to six frontline climate leaders from each continent and major world religion about the need to work together on the climate crisis. He reflected on the Biblical tower of Babel (Gen 11:1-9). When humanity tries to reach to heaven while ignoring our relationships with each other, creation and the Creator, we wind up unifying languages and constructing skyscrapers, but we "destroy community" and "mortify cultural wealth." When people lose connection with their Source and seek their own success, they no longer speak the same language nor hear the voice of the Lord in their midst.

As we look at the world, our nation and our Church, we witness the lack of real communication. Imagine what could happen if we could learn to work together. What an incredible world we would build, where all were welcome and had a safe and healthy place to dwell. What would happen if we began to look at our life situations where we find communication difficult? What would a first step look like? Would it be to find a common ground? Can we listen without thinking about our next response? When we do this, we may experience a greater openness from the other for us to express our view that may differ. The goal is not to change or convince the other but to recognize that there may be more than approach to the the same situation. Jesus, our model and guide, often spoke with people who had different views on how to please God. After sharing our perspective with another, together we can choose the way that will best serve the Gospel mission of love.



Diocese of Ogdensburg Mission Office 2022 Annual Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On October 22, as we observe World Mission Sunday, we stand in solidarity with the Missions of the Church in this annual worldwide Eucharistic celebration.

Pope Francis chose "Hearts on fire, feet on the move" as this year's theme. The Holy Father invites us to kindle the fire of Christ's love in our hearts and to actively share this warmth with the world around us. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we go forth and bring the Good News to all corners of the world.

Founded by French laywoman Blessed Pauline Jaricot in 1822, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith is an essential source of aid for the Church's missionary work. **In the United States, we benefited from these donations: up until 1908, we received close to 7 million dollars, the equivalent of over 250 million today.** The dioceses in our country considered mission territories have continued to receive subsidies. **Fairbanks, Alaska, was the last of those dioceses and received its final subsidy payment this year!**

The World Mission Sunday collection assists the Holy Father meet his Papal obligation to build up the Church in over 1,100 dioceses and territories that are too young and/or too poor to sustain themselves. Offerings support the formation of seminarians and religious men and women, assist in the construction of schools and orphanages and enables missionaries to build churches in remote and resource-limited areas, and to meet essential works to proclaim the Gospel and celebrate the Sacraments.

Embodying this year's theme, I urge you to keep your hearts aflame and your feet moving this World Mission Sunday. Your prayers are invaluable, and your financial support provides life-giving aid to our sisters and brothers in the world's most vulnerable communities.



World Mission Sunday 2023

October 22nd

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Terry R. LaValley

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

Pray and give generously October 22, 2023



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Email: amichael@rcdony.org

Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

Please remember The Society for the Propagation of the Faith when writing or changing your will.

'No one knows what lies ahead'

"No one knows what lies ahead, and unfortunately there are no signs that what started yesterday may end soon." Father Gabriel Romanelli, pastor of Gaza's Catholic parish dedicated to the Holy Family, describes the overwhelming feelings of uncertainty burdened with sad forebodings prevailing in the local population after the massive attack launched by Hamas militiamen against Israel.

Weighing above all is the memory of what has happened in the past in other phases of the conflict. "For situations much less serious than the current one," recalls the Argentine priest, a member of the Institute of the Incarnate Word, "very long wars started here previously.



**The Pontifical Mission Societies of the
Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.**

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296
mbrett@rcdony.org

And now in the face of all this, I am constantly reminded of Pope Pius XII's appeal before the outbreak of World War II: nothing is lost with peace, everything can be lost with war. These are words also repeated by St. John Paul II." For Father Gabriel now, one can only "pray and hope that the war will end as soon as possible, to make it less difficult for the wounds to heal and then work for the justice and peace that so many Israelis and Palestinians desire within their hearts."

The attack on Israeli territory began at dawn on Saturday, October 7. Thousands of rockets from Gaza toward Israeli territory fell on areas in the border of Gaza's Strip and on Tel Aviv and Ashkelon. Raids by Hamas militiamen reached Israeli colonies closest to the Strip and captured prisoners. Marine craft and paramotors (paragliders equipped with engines) were used in the raid. The Palestinian action was dubbed the "Flood for Jerusalem" and the Israeli operation

"Swords of Iron."

The Israeli response took the form of air raids and shelling on the Gaza Strip. The tragic death toll continues to rise. One day into the attack, and according to figures reported by official sources on both sides, the number of dead is at least 800. Meanwhile, Israeli army spokesmen said they have evacuated Israeli civilians from settlements in the belt around the Gaza Strip in preparation for military operations to be conducted against Hamas militiamen barricaded inside. The Israeli army has not yet begun operations to penetrate the Gaza territory, which many analysts have foreshadowed as a future move by the Jewish state's armed forces.

On the morning of today, Sunday, Oct. 8, Pope Francis also expressed "apprehension and sorrow" over what is happening in the Holy Land, "where violence has erupted even more ferociously, causing hundreds of deaths and injuries. "After the Angelus, addressing the multitude gathered in St. Peter's Square, the Pope expressed closeness to the families of the victims, praying for them "and for them and for all those who are living hours of terror and anguish. War," the Pope continued, "is a defeat: every war is a defeat! Let us pray for peace in Israel and Palestine!"

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

World Mission Sunday is Oct. 22

**"Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke
to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?" – Luke 24:13**

Pope Francis invites us to set our hearts ablaze with faith and put our faith into action,
serving God's mission with joy, enthusiasm, and tireless dedication.

This year's World Mission Sunday theme is "Hearts on fire, feet on the move."

"Hearts on Fire"

As Christians, we're called to kindle the fire of Christ's love in our hearts. Our burning faith fuels our actions, inspiring us to serve others in our daily lives.

"Feet on the Move"

Pope Francis encourages us to not only feel the faith but to act on it. It's our mission to move, serve, and spread the Good News, bringing God's love and peace to all His children.



The Pontifical Mission Societies
in the Diocese of Ogdensburg,
Inc., thanks our generous
donors who participate in
collections, appeals and bestow
unsolicited gifts to the Missions.
God bless you!

Mission Support

Mission Sunday	\$ 56,288.42
Legacies	\$ 0.00
Perpetual Memberships	\$ 400.00
Unrestricted Gifts(Monthly Donations)	\$ 655.00
Lenten Appeal	\$ 5,999.00
Christmas Appeal	\$ 3,590.00

The Special Funds

Missionary Project of the Diocese of Ogdensburg	\$32,987.12
Missionary Cooperation Plan	\$53,056.68
Mass Offerings	\$15,949.00

Each year, about one half of the parishes
take up the **Missionary Projects of the
Diocese of Ogdensburg (MPDO)**
Collection, while the other half takes up the
Missionary Cooperation Appeal, in the
following year the collections are reversed.

St. Peter Apostle Appeal

\$4,715 was given by our people to the
Society of St. Peter the Apostle to educate
native priests and novices for mission areas.

2022 Financial Statement

Total Revenue:	\$169,597.00
Total Operating Expenses:	\$51,437.00

Notice

This report covers the fiscal year of
Jan. 1, 2022 to Dec. 31, 2022; with the
exception of the Missionary Childhood,
which covers September 1, 2022 through
August 31, 2023 and MPDO which is
September 2022 - August 2023



"Children Helping Children"

All funds raised are directed towards self-
help programs involving the building of
schools, the provision of health and nutrition
programs and medications, school fees, and
teaching and learning resources.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL GIFTS TO THE MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

September 1, 2022- August 31, 2023 (School Year)

CARTHAGE - Augustinian Academy	\$387.77
GOVERNEUR - St. James School	\$541.60
MASSENA - Trinity Catholic School	\$200.00
SARANAC LAKE - St. Bernard's School	\$80.00
TICONDEROGA - St. Mary's School	\$800.00
* TOTALS	\$2009.37

** Totals do not reflect donations received after August 2023 or
donations forwarded directly to the National Office.*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM GIFTS TO THE MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023 (School Year)

Parish	Totals
St. Andrew's Church, Sackets Harbor	\$92.15
The of the Immaculate Conception, Brownville	\$156.33
St. Peter's Church, Lowville	\$274.04
St. Stephen's Church, Croghan	\$244.91
St. James Church, Carthage	\$76.80
St. Mary's Church, Copenhagen	\$100.00
Individual Donations	\$750.00
* TOTALS	\$1694.23

** These totals do not reflect those donations that were mailed directly to
National Office in NYC by individual Parish Religious Education Programs.*

Missionary Childhood Association Funds for School Year 2022-2023

School Totals	\$ 2,009.37
Religious Education and Individual Totals	\$ 1,694.23
MCA TOTALS	\$ 3,703.60



The Pontifical Mission
Societies of the Diocese
of Ogdensburg, Inc.
Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ,
Diocesan Director

Alexis Michael,
Secretary/Bookkeeper

PO Box 369
Ogdensburg, New York 13669

Visit Our Updated Mission
Office Website:

www.rcdony.org/mission

Thank
you



2022 Annual Report of Donations to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Parish	Mission Sunday (Jan. - Dec. 22)	Missionary Cooperation Plan (July 2022 - June 2023)	Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg (MPDO) (September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023)
Adams	\$1,353.00	\$1,665.00	
Henderson		\$1,843.05	
Alexandria Bay	\$8.00	\$1,264.00	
Altona			
AuSable Forks/Black Brook	\$1,224.00		\$666.00
Wilmington			
Brasher Falls	\$1,429.00		\$642.50
Brownville-Dexter	\$3,222.00	\$3,226.12	
Sackets Harbor			
Brushton	\$419.00		\$343.00
North Bangor - RCC of St. Augustine	\$541.00		\$322.00
Cadyville			\$640.00
Canton	\$954.00	\$2,144.00	
Cape Vincent /Chaumont/Rosiere	\$210.00	\$6,861.00	
Carhage	\$3,038.87	\$1,756.00	\$120.00
Copenhagen	\$265.00	\$516.00	
Champlain	\$520.00		\$52.00
Chateaugay	\$581.00		\$685.00
Burke			
Chazy			\$211.00
Clayton	\$2,820.30	\$2,848.75	
Colton	\$675.00	\$1,093.00	
Constable/Westville	\$490.00		\$412.00
Constableville		\$605.00	\$382.00
West Leyden			\$230.00
Harrisville	\$169.00	\$273.00	\$172.00
Croghan	\$2,831.00	\$1,428.00	
Dannemora			
Redford	\$681.00	\$583.00	\$720.00
Elizabethtown			\$323.00
Westport			
Ellenburg- SB & SE	\$1,568.00		
Evans Mills	\$362.00	\$589.00	
Fort Covington	\$455.00		\$458.00
Black River	\$414.00	\$654.00	
Hogansburg - SP			
Gouverneur		\$1,250.00	
Edwards	\$219.00		
Heuvelton	\$508.00	\$498.00	
Lisbon		\$290.00	
Indian Lake	\$150.00		\$1,336.00
Keeseville Community	\$707.00		\$471.00
Lake Placid	\$75.00		\$2,421.50

Parish	Mission Sunday (Jan. - Dec. 22)	Missionary Cooperation Plan (July 2022 - June 2023)	Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg (MPDO) (September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023)
Keene			\$5.00
Lake Pleasant, Speculator	\$1,005.00		\$531.00
Wells			\$311.00
Lowville	\$1,984.55	\$2,880.08	\$2,131.00
Lyon Mt-Ellenburg Center			
Malone – St. André Bessette			\$2,337.00
Massena – St. Peter's Parish	\$2,000.00	\$4,217.00	\$1,672.00
Mooers Forks	\$636.00	\$10.00	\$661.00
Morrisonville	\$908.00		\$747.00
Morristown	\$1,027.00	\$2,190.80	
Newcomb	\$405.00		\$169.00
Long Lake	\$425.00		\$181.00
Norfolk	\$1,936.00		\$654.00
Norwood			\$296.00
Ogdensburg – SM/ND	\$2,964.00	\$3,130.00	
Old Forge	\$767.10		\$1,258.00
Inlet, Raquette Lake	\$365.00		\$215.00
Peru	\$430.00		\$100.00
Plattsburgh	\$4,515.00		\$5,197.12
Catholic Community of Moriah	\$600.00		\$522.00
Crown Point	\$289.60		\$392.00
Port Leyden	\$296.00	\$444.50	\$273.00
Lyons Falls			\$289.00
Potsdam		\$1,327.00	
Rouses Point	\$810.00		
Saranac Lake	\$1,355.00		\$1,584.00
Schroon Lake	\$1,292.00		
Olmstedville			\$224.00
Star Lake	\$466.00	\$2,618.00	
St. Regis Falls	\$279.00		\$288.00
Hopkinton	\$250.00		\$100.00
Ticonderoga	\$1,645.00		\$1,060.00
Tupper Lake	\$1,712.00		\$856.00
Waddington	\$1,150.00	\$1,315.00	
Madrid			
Watertown – SP		\$740.00	
Watertown – SH	\$612.00	\$721.00	
Watertown – SA		\$1,398.21	
Watertown – HF		\$2,678.17	
West Chazy			
Willsboro/Essex			\$327.00
Individual Donations	\$275.00		
TOTALS	\$56,288.42	\$53,056.68	\$32,987.12

Mission Sunday and Mission Coop Appeal 2022 collections are calculated using the dates of our Fiscal Year (Jan. – Dec. 2022)

Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Appeal 2022 is calculated using the dates of July 2022- June 2023. These totals do not reflect any 2022 late payments that were received in the Mission Office. It is also possible that some amounts represent combined totals amongst parish groupings.

“Were not our hearts burning within us?” (Luke 24:13-35)



Witness to Africa...

...Where 19,000 young men are preparing for the priesthood.



Witness to Asia...

...Where six million children receive an education from Religious Sisters in more than 15,000 Church-run elementary schools.



Witness to Latin America ...

...Where catechists travel to remote areas to bring the Good News of God's great love to families.



Witness to the Pacific Islands...

...Where 3,5000 religious bring the Lord's mercy and peace to those in need.



Witness to Europe....

...Where new churches are being built to welcome faith communities, renewed after years of persecution.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Report: Synod on Synodality records aren't secure

(CNA) – Reports on the private deliberations of participants at the Synod on Synodality are accessible via an unsecured server, The Pillar news outlet reported Friday. The records, which the Pillar found to be openly available to anyone with the correct web address without any need of a password, include rosters of the Synod's working groups and the "table" reports they filed at the conclusion of the synod's first round of discussions. On Friday afternoon, Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said he was checking into the report. The Pillar said it is not publishing the group assignments or the reports "following Pope Francis' request for 'a certain restraint' in press coverage of the synodal process." But its report is a major embarrassment for the Vatican and an extraordinary breach of the wall of secrecy the Synod's managers have sought to impose since the monthlong assembly got underway Oct. 4. Among other things, the report raises the question of who else has been spying on the Synod's supposedly confidential deliberations all along.

HHS imposes trans pronoun mandate on employees

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services imposed a transgender pronoun mandate on its employees this week with new guidance that instructs employees to affirm any co-worker's self-proclaimed gender identity and preferred pronouns. "All employees should be addressed [by] the names and pronouns they use to describe themselves," an HHS email sent to employees and shared with CNA read. The mandate is part of the department's new Gender Identity and Non-Discrimination Guidance, which was established to outline "employee rights and protections related to gender identity," according to the email. In an unlisted YouTube video linked in the email, HHS Deputy Secretary Andrea Palm said the policy ensures "our colleagues are able to show up every day as their whole selves." Even though Palm briefly mentioned religion, neither the email nor the video made any mention of accommodating or exempting employees who have religious objections to transgender ideology from the policy.

Caritas Jerusalem suspends activities in Gaza

Alistair Dutton, secretary general of Caritas, said in an Oct. 9 Facebook post that he is "deeply concerned" about the ongoing war in Gaza and Israel and announced that the organization has been forced to "suspend its activities" for security reasons but "has prepared an emergency plan to offer assistance as soon as the situation allows. We pray for peace and urge both sides to uphold international humanitarian law." A statement from Caritas Jerusalem shared the same day by Dutton noted that in Gaza more than 123,000 people have been displaced due to the ongoing conflict, according to updated data from the United Nations. He also noted that "the situation is critical for civilians on both sides."

Administration announces plan to evacuate U.S. citizens from Israel

By Peter Pinedo
Catholic News Agency

John Kirby, a White House National Security Council spokesman, announced during a Thursday press conference that beginning Friday the U.S. government will begin evacuating U.S. citizens from Israel through charter flights.

"Beginning tomorrow," Kirby said, "the United States government will provide charter flights to provide transportation from Israel ... to assist U.S. citizens who have, for whatever reason, not been able to provide commercial transit out of the country."

Kirby said that the administration is still working through the details of arrangement but that the flights out of Israel will take Americans to Europe. He added that the administration is "exploring other options to expand the capacity of doing this. Including exploring whether it's possible to help Americans leave by land and by sea."

According to Kirby, the administration is aware of American citizens' "demand" for assistance in getting out of the country and is "going to try the best we can to meet it."

This comes as many airlines have canceled flights to and from Israel, and several Republicans and Democrats in Congress strongly

urged President Joe Biden to immediately evacuate all Americans in the war-torn country.

Bipartisan lawmakers urge Biden to evacuate Americans in Israel

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle had urged the Biden administration to immediately evacuate U.S. citizens from Israel.

Rep. Chris Smith, R-New Jersey, said on Tuesday that he has received "many reports from constituents who are U.S. citizens currently in Israel" who "seek to return to the United States as soon as possible but are unable to do so."

"I urged the Biden administration to stop wasting time and immediately secure the evacuation of U.S. citizens who are stranded in Israel," Smith said in a statement.

A bipartisan group of representatives also called on the State Department in a letter Tuesday to help bring those trapped back to the U.S.

Rep. Nikki Budzinski, D-Illinois, was among the 12 signers of the letter urging the Biden administration to "use all resources at its disposal, including charter flights, to help those Americans that remain in Israel and wish to return to the United States."

She posted on X that her office is "in touch with constituents in Israel and we're doing all we can to get them

home safely."

My office is in touch with constituents in Israel and we're doing all we can to get them home safely.

While some airlines are still operating flights out of Israel, U.S. air carriers have ceased service to the country until at least the end of the month, according to Politico.

Smith noted that "many other countries," including Poland, Romania, and Mexico, have already successfully evacuated "thousands of their own citizens."

"The Biden administration must act swiftly to catch up for lost time and work around the clock to bring these Americans home," Smith said in his statement. "The dangers they face are so grave, and the responsibility of the U.S. government for their safety so paramount, that their evacuation must be secured now."

It is uncertain how many Americans are currently in Israel, but the death toll of U.S. citizens in the country continues to rise.

Kirby said the American death toll in Israel has risen to 27.

"I think we all need to steel ourselves for the very real possibility that these numbers will keep increasing and that we find out that in fact more Americans are part of the hostage pool," Kirby said.

Death toll climbs after Hamas attack in Israel

By Peter Pinedo
Catholic News Agency

Over 1,200 Israelis and 22 Americans have been confirmed killed while thousands more are wounded in the wake of Hamas' large-scale surprise attack on Israel on Saturday, according to updated numbers from Israeli and U.S. authorities.

Hamas has continued to launch thousands of missiles at Israel's major cities of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv in the last several days.

President Joe Biden in an address Tuesday called the attack a moment of "pure unadulterated evil" unleashed by Hamas, who he said exists to "kill Jews."

The Israeli Embassy to the U.S. said on Wednesday that over 1,200 were killed and more than 3,000 injured as a result of the attack.

Tal Heinrich, a spokesperson for the Israeli prime minister's office, said on Wednesday that beheaded babies were found in the Israeli town of Kfar Azza.

Additionally, there are currently 535 injured persons in hospitals while 2,901 injured victims have been evacuated to hospitals since Saturday, according to the Israeli Ministry of Health.

Besides the killed and injured, the BBC reported that as many as 150 Israeli hostages were taken by Hamas, according to the Israeli government.

Israelis were not the only ones impacted by the attacks. In addition to the 22 Americans killed, citizens from countries across the world including the U.K., Germany, and Thailand are among the casualties, according to Israeli authorities.

Additionally, approximately 17 Americans are missing, possibly killed or kidnapped, according to a Wednesday statement by White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre.

Hamas is a radical Islamic group that runs the Gaza Strip, an enclave of majority Muslim Palestinians in the southwestern corner of Israel. The group carried out Saturday's invasion of Israel as an act of vengeance for what they call Israel's aggression in the region.

The scale of the casualties and victims, which includes women, children, and the elderly, makes this one of the largest terrorist attacks since 9/11.

"This was an act of sheer evil," President Joe Biden said on Tuesday. "The brutality of Hamas, in its bloodthirsti-

ness, brings to mind the worst rampages of ISIS. This is terrorism. But sadly, for the Jewish people, it's not new. This attack has brought to the surface painful memories and scars left by a millennia of antisemitism and genocide of the Jewish people. So, in this moment we must be crystal clear, we stand with Israel."

In response, Israel, after declaring war on Hamas, is bombarding the Gaza Strip and has begun a full mobilization of the Israeli Defense Force (IDF).

According to IDF spokesman Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, Israeli troops have regained control of the towns and border regions captured by Hamas and have repaired the breaches in the border fence around Gaza.

Conricus said that 300,000 Israeli infantry, armor, and artillery soldiers are "now close to the Gaza strip to execute the mission that they have been given ... to make sure that Hamas at the end of this war won't have any military capabilities by which they can threaten or kill Israeli civilians."

Israel has also sustained rocket and ground attacks from Hezbollah at its northern border with Lebanon and from within Syria at its northeastern border, according to Conricus.

"In southern Lebanon, Hezbollah has already fired anti-tank missiles and rockets at our positions and soldiers, fortunately without any significant casualties," he said, adding that "there has already been an attempt by Islamic jihad terrorists to infiltrate into Israel."

Conricus said: "That attempt was successfully thwarted by the IDF" but "at the cost of the life of a senior officer and two additional soldiers."

"Rockets were fired from Syria into Israel," he added. "We do not yet know if these rockets were fired by the Syrian armed forces, by any of the many Iranian militias, ... or Hezbollah."

The U.S., meanwhile, has promised to send military equipment and supplies to support Israel. According to the IDF, the first shipment of U.S. equipment landed in Israel's Nevatim Air Force Base in southern Israel on Wednesday.

Additionally, the U.S. sent the USS Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group, which includes a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier with eight squadrons of attack and support aircraft and several guided missile cruisers, to the eastern Mediterranean Sea, not far from Israel.

Synod asks members to foster communion with marginalized

Catholic News Agency

Synod on Synodality leaders invited participants to greater communion with Jesus and with others, including those who may rub them the wrong way, as they started a new discussion topic on Monday.

"All are invited to be part of the Church," Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich said at the start of the Oct. 9 general congregation. He cited Pope Francis' comments at World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal, in August, that the Church is for "todos" ("everyone").

Though he was slated to attend the synod's morning session, Pope Francis pulled out at the last minute due to "unforeseen commitments," Vatican News reported.

"In deep communion with His Father through the Holy Spirit, Jesus extended this communion to all the sinners," Hollerich said in his remarks. "Are we ready to do the same? Are we ready to do this with groups that might irritate us because their way of being might seem to threaten our identity?"

Failing to do so, he added, "will make us look like an identitarian club."

As relator general, the Luxembourg cardinal addresses participants at the beginning of each new discussion module. Oct. 9-12 the synod will focus on section B1 of the *Instrumentum Laboris*, or guiding document.

Section B1 of the *Instrumentum Laboris* asks people to reflect on "the concrete daily life of Christian communities" and "the question of whether there are limits to our willingness to welcome people and groups, how to engage in dialogue with cultures and religions without compromising our identity, and our determination to be the voice of those on the margins and reaffirm that no one should be left behind."

Specific topics for discernment cover the greater inclusion of people with disabilities, the divorced and remarried, LGBTQ+ Catholics, refugees and migrants, and homeless people.

Synod participants are also invited to reflect on interfaith and intercultural dialogue, justice and charity, relations between Eastern and Latin Catholics, and ecumenism.

Hollerich said he was told that discussion of section B1 would be the time during the synod when "tensions will rise."

"We are not afraid of tensions," the cardinal said. "Tensions are part of the process, as long as we consider ourselves to be sisters and brothers walking together."

Anna Rowlands, a professor of Catholic social thought and practice at Durham University in Durham, England, also presented on communion, opening with a reference to a question posed to the assembly by Father Timothy Radcliffe, OP: "Can we find the courage to encounter reality, as it really is?"

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

Plattsburgh - Are you a single Catholic man who is hearing the Lord's call to the Priesthood? Consider joining others who are listening and seeking to respond.

Date: Oct. 29, Nov. 12, Dec. 3

Time: 4 p.m. to 5

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: High school age men and older are invited to gather with Father Howard Venette to discuss this vocation. Virtual participation may also be available for those unable to attend in person.

Contact: Please email Father Venette at info@rcdony.org

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Plattsburgh - Holy Cross Parish will be offering extended Eucharistic Adoration.

Date: Oct. 20, 21 and 22

Time: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. except during Mass

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: This will take place the same weekend as the Eucharistic Congress in Auriesville, NY so that we can unite in adoring the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist exposed in the monstrance. Jesus is inviting you to spend a special hour with Him. More information and sign-up sheets are located at the entrance of St. Peter's Church. Help ignite the Eucharistic Revival by giving him the gift of your presence at Adoration. Invite a friend and share your faith in the Real Presence with others.

HALLOWEEN PARTY

Lyon Mountain - Halloween Party to be held.

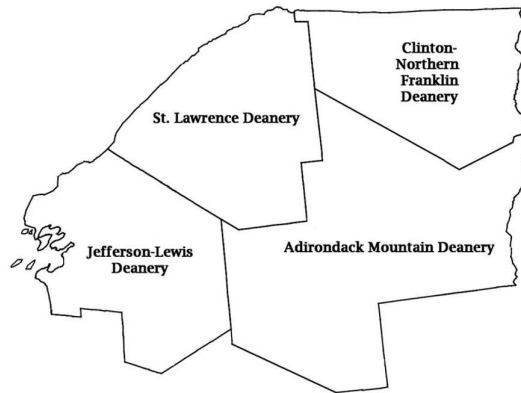
Date: Oct. 21

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Lyon Mountain American Legion

Cost: \$6 per person or \$10 per couple

Features: Costume Contest - 3 prizes of \$100 (funny, scary, most original). Buffet - \$10 per person. Friction Band from 8 p.m. to 10. 50/50. DD's get free soda or water.



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese".

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

Items must be received in the NCC office by the Wednesday before publication.

HARVEST DINNER

Brushton - St. Mary's Church to have their Annual Turkey Harvest Dinner.

Date: Oct. 22

Time: 11 a.m. until gone

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$15; Children 6-12, \$10; under 5, Free

Features: Dinner is open to the public and includes roast turkey, mashed potatoes, squash, stuffing, cabbage salad, cranberry sauce, rolls and dessert. 50/50 raffle day of dinner. Take-outs available.

Contact: call 518 529 6580 if you wish to place an order.

HEALING MISSION

West Chazy - St. Joseph's Church will be hold a Healing Mission conducted by Paul Rymniak.

Date: Oct. 30, 31 and Nov. 1

Time: 7 p.m. each evening

Features: Confession will be available. All are welcome. Healing is not just for the Physically Impaired. Mental and Emotional stress can take a heavier toll on our lives. Come and experience the Lord and what He can do for you. Come and enjoy Jesus by Worshiping Him. Come and see what Our Lord has for you. Come and be healed.

Contact: For more information, call 518-493-4521 or email westchazypa@rcny.org

HOLIDAY FAIR

Brushton - St. Augustine and St. Mary's to have their 2nd Annual Holiday Fair.

Date: Nov. 4

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

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Features: A large selection of vendors will be present selling gifts, decor, baked goods, homemade donuts. A chance auction and much more. Adirondack BBQ will be there for breakfast and lunch. A great chance to do some Christmas shopping.

Contact: For more information contact Dianne Russell 518-529-7474 or Gayla Lapage 518-483-5014

HARVEST DINNER

Plattsburgh - Holy Cross Parish to have a Harvest Dinner.

Date: Nov. 5

Time: 12 p.m. to 4

Place: Holy Cross Parish Center (4917 S. Catherine St.)

Cost: \$15

Features: Turkey dinner with all the trimming. Dine in or take-out available.

Contact: For more information call 518-563-0730

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

THEME BASKET RAFFLE

Houseville - St. Hedwig's Society

will have its Annual Theme Basket Raffle.

Date: Oct. 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.

HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY

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

Date: Nov. 5

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

ST. LAWRENCE

CATHOLIC PARENTING

Potsdam - A series of workshops from the Franciscan University Catechetical Institute to be held on Catholic Parenting.

Date: First Sunday of the month from Oct. to April

Place: St. Mary's Rectory, second floor

Features: Attend all or only those that interest you. Child care can be provided. Event is free.

Contact: For more information contact Mike Neaton at 315-335-6302 or Liz Tarbox at formationstp@gmail.com

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Star Lake - St. Hubert's Church to have a Holiday Bazaar.

Date: Nov. 4

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

Features: Handcrafted items, gift baskets, silent auctions, raffle, wine tasting booth, and gingerbread house contest.

PARISH BAZAAR

Massena - St. Peter's Parish to have a bazaar.

Date: Nov. 11

Time: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Features: Win \$2500 in Big Money Raffle. Come enjoy some delicious fried bread dough as well as other great food from the concession all day! Ticket Central, Turkey Raffles, Pull Tabs, 50/50, Skilo, Quilt Raffle, Country Store, Cake Walk, Children's Games and Activities and religious Items. Free admission.

Contact: For more information call St Peter's Parish Office 315-769-2469

MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

Date: Nov. 12 (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 Gonther 315-212-5166.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

ANDREWS 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 Andrew Dinner sponsored by the Vocation Office. Parents are welcome to attend.

Dates: Jefferson-Lewis Deanery, Oct. 29 at St. James Parish Hall, Carthage

Time: The program begins at 5 pm followed by Holy Hour and dinner with Bishop Terry R. LaValley, and area pastors and priests.

Contact: If you are interested in attending, speak to your pastor and register at <https://www.rcdony.org/andrewdinner>.

Catholic gym trains 'warriors' against evil

By Francesca Pollio Fenton
Catholic News Agency

In 2020, after the COVID-19 pandemic and a storm wreaked damage on his town of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Joe Enabnit opened St. Michael Barbell Club in what he calls "a leap of faith."

The gym's mission is "to make strength training accessible and compatible with Catholic life, to spread the practice of strength training as a means of spiritual growth," all while integrating fitness and prayer life and offering the work done in the gym up to God.

Enabnit, an experienced fitness coach, spoke with CNA about how the gym runs, how faith is incorporated into its mission, and what he hopes his members are taking away from being a part of this community.

Enabnit explained that in 2020 he was working at a gym that closed due to the pandemic. Since he had a gym in his basement, he decided to start training people himself. Since all gyms were closed in the area, word quickly spread about what he was doing and his home gym soon became overcrowded.

Then, on Aug. 10, 2020, a "derecho" hit Cedar Rapids, causing catastrophic damage. A derecho is characterized by a widespread, long-lived wind storm, and for the city of Cedar Rapids, it brought 140 mph winds that lasted for more than 45 minutes.

Once the storm passed and people came outside, trees were uprooted, cars and fences were

destroyed, every single traffic signal in the city was damaged, power was out for more than a week, and three people had lost their lives.

That was when Enabnit realized that being physically fit was not only beneficial for one's own health, it could also be used to serve the community.

"Being physically fit meant that all day long, we could help people," he said. "And that was what we did for three weeks after that, day in and day out, six, eight hours, cleaning up people's yards, helping people get their stuff together, taking food and ice to people because there was no electricity for several weeks."

Enabnit continued: "It clicked for me and a lot of guys that there was more to this working out gym thing than just ... a hobby. It wasn't just about looking good, feeling good. It was an opportunity to participate in the ministry of being a member of a community where people can help each other."

On Sept. 29, the feast of the archangels, St. Michael Barbell Club officially opened in a new, rented space. It's an open gym where members pay a monthly membership fee and can work out whenever they like. Enabnit explained that members receive a key so they can let themselves in to work out whenever is best for them. They also use an app to help track their progress and view their workout program. For those in need of a more hands-on approach or support, Enabnit offers personal training as needed.

Members also have their spiritual needs met by praying the rosary and the Angelus together, plus there are several priests who are members of the gym who hear confessions at the gym and give blessings.

"It's not a marketing gimmick. We're all serious about this Catholic stuff," Enabnit said.

The longtime trainer shared how he views the relationship between the spiritual life and the fitness life.

"For some people, maybe they've been addicted to food or they've been addicted to drugs or alcohol and they need to find some sort of outlet for their addictive personality that allows them to respect their body rather than destroy it."

"Or it's something where even though they absolutely hate exercising, they know that it's going to make them a better husband and father, or mom and wife, and it gives them a chance to sort of deny their desire to be lazy and redirect it into something that is bigger than themselves, whether it's just between them and God or between them and their family," he said.

Specifically for the men of the gym, Enabnit emphasizes the idea that it is their "moral obligation" to take care of their bodies and remain physically fit if they are otherwise healthy.

"If you're otherwise a healthy guy, it is a moral obligation because it allows you to do so much more for your family, for your friends, for your community," he said. "And if you allow your

body to waste away unnecessarily, you're making it so that you're not capable and you're not ready when your family needs you, such as when we have a giant storm that destroys the town."

Enabnit added: "You don't have to be a gym addict to maintain a high level of physical readiness. All it takes is a few hours a week of taking care of your body. And if you're not going to do it for yourself, do it for your kids, do it for your wife, do it for your community."

However, he pointed out that people can use strength training in immoral ways and there can be many temptations.

"There are many temptations with strength training, whether it's focusing too much on yourself, too much on your body, whether it's taking drugs to get stronger," he shared. "Or it can be directed toward positive ends, whether it's being useful to your family and your community, or personal growth."

"The spiritual life and the fitness life are very similar to each other. There are many areas of overlap. Just like a prayer life, if you want to be successful with fitness, you have to be consistent."

"You have to sometimes do things you don't want to do, whether it's sticking to a diet or doing a workout when you don't feel like it," Enabnit said. "Or in your prayer life, maybe it's praying a rosary when you're distracted or when you don't feel like it ... And all of these things that we do with the gym, it's like train-

ing for the spiritual life." Enabnit said he believes that "a properly ordered fitness lifestyle is not just compatible with the Catholic faith but can actually help you to grow in your Catholic faith if you direct it toward the proper purposes."

And why is the gym named after St. Michael the Archangel?

In addition to the gym opening on the feast of the archangels, Enabnit believes every Catholic man and woman is called to be "a warrior against the temptations of the evil one."

"I want to emphasize the idea that the spiritual life is an ongoing battle, and it's a battle that we sometimes appear to lose, but that we have to trust that if we keep fighting, we ultimately win," he explained. "And that's kind of the spirit of St. Michael because at the end he casts Satan into hell."

Enabnit hopes that his gym members are "learning useful skills — both for taking care of their bodies as well as the skills that transfer into other areas of life" — and that he can inspire them to step away from the TV screens and constant scrolling on their phones to instead interact with those around them.

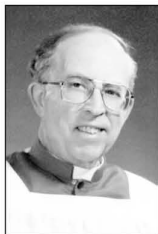
"What greater calling is there for a Christian than to see Christ in the person standing right in front of you?" he asked.



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

What we render to Caesar

To the Herodians in today's Gospel, Caesar was a god. He was considered to be divine. We wonder if they really got Jesus' message that there is only one God of the universe to whom we owe absolute allegiance. He is the one to whom we owe everything - the air we breathe, the life we live, the possessions to which we cling so jealously. And what do we owe to Caesar whose image is on the coin of the realm? Taxes, and the obedience to his laws, provided they are not contrary to the laws of the one great Lawmaker. "I am



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

the Lord thy God... thou shalt not have strange gods before me." Before the face of this Judge, we must one day stand to give an accounting of our stewardship. It might be good for us to sit down today and draw up two lists - one, with all we owe to Caesar (our civil authorities), and another list of all that we owe to God (his laws, his commandments, this earth and all that is in it, our gifts of mind, heart and body). What we write in the first list depends on our definition of patriotism - piety, loyalty, service and sacrifice for the common good. What

October 22

29th Sunday
of Ordinary Time

READINGS

Isaiah 45:1,4-6

Thessalonians 1:1-5b

Matthew 22:15-21

we place in the second column will be determined by the depth of our faith, by our understanding of justice, and by the intensity of our love.

Back in the days of simple TV antennae on rooftops, the clarity of reception all depended on the direction of those spider-arms. Older people (like me) will remember those controls that sat on top of the TV cabinet that were marked N E S & W. Maybe we should have direction

controls for our ears, eyes and hearts, pointing them to the voice of God and his eyes so loving and so concerned for our welfare. Then those other voices tempting us to seek only self, only profit, and only pleasure might be so much less dangerous. "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, but to God, the things that are God's."

We remember and are still stunned at the news of the devastating earthquake in Islamabad and Pakistan. The death toll exceeded 40,000. Again, relief was so very slow in coming. Thousands perished while waiting for equipment to dig them out of the rubble. Thousands of others perished from lack

of medical attention to their horrible bodily injuries.

We need to pray, sacrifice for our brothers and sisters in need. And then, we need to live in a more intense level of gratitude, eagerness to use the time and talents God gives us to grow in knowledge of our God and his purposes for us in this world.

We need to fulfill so carefully this earthly time God gives us live our lives as God would have us live. Pray, study, work, use the opportunities to love and cherish and respect one another, until the day calls us.

Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, but to God, the things that are God's.

CALLED TO SERVE

Same old, same old?

I have been thinking about boredom lately. I am not bored mind you. The notion that some folks might be bored came upon me while listening to a podcast recently.

The host was talking about the challenge for priests, maybe deacons too, who see the same church day after day, the same statues (who is that one again?), the same faces searching for truth in the homily, and the same expressions of faith and hope in the blessings that will come when they receive Communion. It is the same day after day.

It got me wondering if a priest ever gets bored saying Mass.

There are opportunities to mix things up on a given day. Father

might choose to vary the Eucharistic Prayer as a way to keep things fresh. The opening prayer and some other prayers will vary depending on the liturgical celebration. But it is essentially the same every day.

The Mass is the Mass. And we expect father to say Mass every day and two or three times on Sunday.

Every so often, father might take his eye off the ball, allow his mind to wander off the reason he is leading us in prayer. Perhaps he, just for a moment, forgets he was chosen by God to become persona Christi, the person of Christ.

My conclusion? I doubt it happens very often, perhaps not at

all.

Some deacons in the Watertown area have been assisting a particular priest every day because he feels more confident with someone nearby. Monsignor Paul Whitmore has been saying Mass for almost 70 years. He is a joy to be with. All of us deacons agree monsignor is never bored at Mass. In fact, at 94 years, he thanks God for the privilege to say Mass each day, and it shows.

In the Plattsburgh area, several deacons assisted Monsignor Joseph Aubin in his final years. He died last November. Monsignor was

94. The deacons who served him relate the same sentiment about Monsignor Aubin's celebration of Mass. He was grateful for the privilege.



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

One of the blessings a deacon is given at ordination is the privilege to assist a bishop or priest at the Altar during the celebration of Mass.

The deacon will sense, will know, perhaps before anyone else, whether the celebrant is ill, distracted, or just not with the program for some reason. Something like that happens rarely.

Bottom line, boredom is out of the question when a priest is saying

Mass.

I found this quote online at Catholic Straight Answers and thought it appropriate: "The priest acting in the person of Christ is a minister of the Word of God, a minister of Sacraments, and a steward of the mystery of faith. When we reflect on the office of priest acting in persona Christi, we as a Church step back with a reverential awe. The priest ought to want to offer the Mass, for in so doing he finds his identity, purpose, and strength as priest."

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown.

He is the Director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Space left on bus to Eucharistic Congress

Saint Peter's Church in Massena has arranged for a bus to the Eucharistic Congress for Saturday, October 21.

As of October 12, there are 25 open seats.

Registrations at the Congress have been secured for those empty seats.

If you are interested in attending, the cost is \$30 per seat.

If you have questions or wish to reserve a seat, contact St. Peter's Parish at 315-769-2469 as soon as possible.

Or register at <https://massencatholics.com/eucharisticcongress>

TENTATIVE BUS SCHEDULE

Morning pickup:

- St. Mary's, Massena, 9 Sycamore Ave., 6 a.m.
- St. Mary's, Potsdam, 20 Lawrence Ave., 6:30 a.m.
- St. Mary's, Canton, 68

Court St., 7 a.m.

- St. James, Gouverneur, 164 E. Main St., 7:45 a.m.

Arrival at Auriesville Shrine, 10:30 a.m.

Depart Auriesville Shrine following Vespers, 7:00pm

Rest stop at the Iroquois Travel Plaza, Mile Marker 210 on I-90 Westbound (near Little Falls Exit), 7:30-8:00pm

Drop off:

- St. James, Gouverneur, 10:20 p.m.

- St. Mary's, Canton, 10:50 p.m.

- St. Mary's, Potsdam, 11:10 p.m.

- St. Mary's, Massena, 11:45 p.m.

If there is interest, a pickup/drop off site could be added at St. Peter's Church in Lowville (approximate pickup 8:45 a.m., drop off 9:20 p.m.).

As part of the National Eu-

charistic Revival, the bishops of the State of New York are hosting a state-wide Eucharistic Congress October 20-22, 2023 at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Martyrs in Auriesville, New York.

The New York Eucharistic Congress will take place over 40 hours from Friday night through Mass on Sunday.

As Saturday pilgrims we will be at the largest event day featuring inspiring talks from renowned speakers, Mass celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley, Eucharistic adoration throughout, opportunity for confessions, inspiring music and more.

Partial schedule for our time at the Congress:

- 10:55 a.m. - Video Greetings from Cardinal Timothy Dolan
- 11 a.m. - Mass celebrated by Bishop Terry LaValley

- 12:30 p.m. - Praise and Worship Holy Hour in Coliseum; Lunch Available

- 2:15 p.m. - Return of Monstrance to the 40-Hour Chapel
- 2:30 p.m. - Keynote by Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly, "The Eucharistic Heart of a Father"

- 3:15 p.m. - Instructions for Eucharistic Procession

- 3:25 p.m. - Return of Monstrance to Coliseum

- 3:30 p.m. - Beginning of Eucharistic Procession

- 5 p.m. - Conclusion of Procession in Coliseum; Eucharistic Adoration in Coliseum; Dinner Available

- 6:30 p.m. - Evening Prayer
- 6:45 p.m. - Return of Monstrance to 40-Hour Chapel

For more information on the Congress and to order meals, visit <https://nyseucharisticcongress.org/>

OBITUARIES

Au Sable Forks – Constance Clare (Kemp) Madden, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 7, 2023 at Holy Name Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

Brownville – Patrick E. King, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 5, 2023 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery, Watertown.

Carthage – Marcia (Gray) Blunden, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 5, 2023 at St. James Church.

Champlain – Tammy Rose Sample, 55; Mass of Christian Burial Spring 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Rouses Point.

Chasm Falls – Carl A. Bashaw Sr., 86; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 9, 2023 at St. Helen's Church.

Constable – Thomas R. Breen, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 12, 2023 at St. Francis of Assisi

Church.

Constableville – Sandra Marie (Felshaw) Roberts, 70; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 6, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Rural Cemetery.

Coopersville – Norman Joseph LaRoche, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 7, 2023 at St. Joseph's Church.

Croghan – Elizabeth L. (More) Morrow, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 3, 2023 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Lowville – Sybill Lorraine (Williams) McTarsney, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 6, 2023 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Staten Island.

Lyon Mountain – Theresa A. (Benware) Supley, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 2, 2023 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Malone – Jodi (McCabe) Andrews, 52; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 4, 2023 at Notre Dame Church.

Massena – Donald Charles McDonald, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 5, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Elizabeth "Betty" M. (Hackett) Roberts, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 10, 2023 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in Assumption Cemetery, Redford.

Plattsburgh – James P. Conley, 82; Funeral Services Oct. 6, 2023 at the Heidrick Funeral Home.

Redford – Alice B. Miola, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 11, 2023 at Church of the Assumption.

Rouses Point – Anna Marie (Gadway) Langlois, 40; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 6, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church.

Watertown – Frank D. Giordanelli, 92; Graveside Services Oct. 6, 2023 at Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Pam Maxwell, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 5, 2023 at Holy Family Church.

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Sister Eileen Murray celebrates century mark

Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart

A hundred years. A century of a life well lived. Decades of service in ministry to orphans, elementary school children, high school students and the elderly. Years of fidelity to vows of poverty, obedience and chastity as a woman religious. Compassion for the other, always.

All of these things describe Sister Eileen Murray, a Grey Nun of the Sacred Heart and a native of Ogdensburg, who turned 100 years old on October 4.

Sister Eileen is retired now and resides at St. Joseph's Manor, a long-term care facility in Meadowbrook, Pennsylvania, outside of Philadelphia.

"Well, well," she says. "I am surprised to find myself 100 years old. My life went by so fast!"

She remembers, with humor, her entrance into the Grey Nun community.

"Roseanne Taylor and I were chatting at a hamburger stand in Ogdensburg, discussing possible plans after



Sister Eileen Murray, who recently celebrated her 100th birthday, surrounded by Grey Nuns Sister Pierrette Remillard (Left), Sister Denise Roche, President of the Grey Nuns (center) and Sister Mary Finnick (right).

our graduation. Neither of us were interested in the nursing careers that were being encouraged by the adults in our lives. Roseanne told me that her aunt, a Grey Nun, asked her to 'Come and give us a look,' Sister Eileen said. "The Lord touched us as we ate hamburgers and drank chocolate milk, because we looked and we stayed."

The girls entered the

community in September of 1941, shortly before the start of World War II. It was a time when women had to do the work of men who were at war, and religious congregations were no exception.

"I drove the tractor, painted and did repairs because we didn't have a handy man," Sister Eileen remembers.

Trained as a teacher, her first ministry

assignment was fifth grade at St. Rose of Lima School in Buffalo.

"I was never a great teacher," she said, "but I was always excited about learning so I was an enthusiastic teacher." In later years, she taught science at Christ the King and St. Jude School in Atlanta, "my second home."

From 1945 until 1960, she was missioned to St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg, caring for children who were orphaned or whose parents could not care for them.

"They were marvelous years," she says.

The sisters cared for children from the age of 18 months until they finished high school.

For many of the children, Sister Eileen was the only mother they knew.

Ben Brusco, one of her former charges who still keeps in touch with her, recalls her

comforting presence in the boys' dormitory as they slept.

"I can remember many a night when one of the boys would need help and she was there, calmly and lovingly," he said.

Ministry paths often turn in an opposite direction. Later, from 1986 until her retirement in 2010, Sister Eileen served as pastoral minister to the elderly at St. Jude the Apostle parish in Atlanta.

"Wonderful years, wonderful people," she remembers. "In the South, when you become a friend, you are a friend for life."

It was in Atlanta where Sister Eileen was named Woman of the Year at the Women's Guild Dinner. She was selected from among all honored women from each archdiocesan parish.

"It was quite an honor," she remembers.

On her 100th birthday, there were cupcakes and balloons and many, many cards. There were also many bouquets of flowers, including a bouquet from Bishop Terry R. LaValley of Ogdensburg. Ben Brusco and his wife traveled from Montana to share in the celebration, and Sister Eileen's nephew, Father Steven Murray, celebrated Mass.

"It has been a beautiful life," she mused, "and I have encountered many wonderful people. I feel blessed that God worked through me, in so many different ways. I walked many different paths and God was always by my side."



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