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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 78 Number 28

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

NOVEMBER 15 2023

## 40 YEARS FOR TRINITY SCHOOL



PHOTO BY KEITH BENMAN/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

**Trinity Catholic principals past and present prepare to cut the birthday cake at the school's 40th anniversary celebration in Massena in late October. Principals are, from left, Kathleen Behrens; Joan Rufa; Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ; and Marianne Jadlos (current principal). Read the full story on Page 4.**

## MISSION OF HOPE MARKS MILESTONE



Bishop Terry R. LaValley blesses the newly named Sister Debbie Blow OP Operations Center and Warehouse in Peru as Sister Debbie, North Country Mission of Hope (MOH) executive director emerita, struggles to hold back tears. "She's a very determined woman," the bishop said of the Dominican Sister of Hope, "very spirit-filled, very courageous." And MOH, he said, "makes us all proud." MOH recently celebrated its 25th anniversary.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## Pope: Secular world is invitation to share Gospel

By Matthew Santucci  
Catholic News Agency

In his ongoing catechetical series on apostolic zeal, Pope Francis drew upon the example of Venerable Madeleine Delbr el as a testament to conversion and service in a secularized world.

The pope's Nov. 8 general audience opened with the "similes of salt and light" passage from the Gospel of St. Matthew, in which Christ tells a crowd: "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt has lost its taste, how shall its flavor be restored? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trodden underfoot."

The pope drew upon the example of Delbr el as a testament

to this evangelical imperative. Delbr el lived her life on the margins with the poor, exemplifying the imperative of announcing the Gospel.

Born in 1904 in France, Delbr el was a writer, poet, essayist, social worker and mystic.

Growing up in a nonreligious household, Delbr el passed her adolescence as an agnostic, but struck "by the witness of some friends," she went on "in search of God, giving voice to a profound thirst that she felt within, and came to learn that the 'emptiness that cried out her anguish in her' was God who sought her," the pope said.

She later moved with family to the peripheries of Paris. It was there, against the backdrop of

the French worker's movement and an entrenched Communist Party, where she encountered the poor and developed a social consciousness.

Amid the social turbulence following the end of the First World War and her father's own frail health, she had an intense conversion in 1924 and her life assumed a new meaning.

She dedicated herself to a life of prayer. While she had wanted to enter the Carmelites, her father's health precluded her from doing so. Instead, she dedicated herself to meeting "street people," and her evangelizing mission thus was centered on the care of the urban poor and socially marginalized, especially in secularized spaces.

The pope noted Debr el is an example of evangelization as a reciprocal process where "by evangelizing one is evangelized."

"Looking at this witness of the Gospel, we too learn that in every personal or social situation or circumstance of our life, the Lord is present and calls to us to inhabit our own time, to share our life with others, to mingle with the joys and sorrows of the world," the pope said.

This is a powerful witness and moment of dialogue where in "secularized environments" the "contact with nonbelievers prompts the believer to a continual revision of his or her way of believing and rediscovering faith in its essentiality."

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# Found on Facebook Marketplace

"How did you get that thing in the back of a Hyundai Elantra?"

That was the first question I asked my husband as I looked over my most recent Facebook Marketplace/online garage sale purchase. I bought a school audio visual cart - the kind of metal stand made to hold a giant, box-style television on top and a VCR or similar device below and be wheeled from classroom to classroom.

It turns out, my husband had to drive 30 minutes on a cold evening with

the hatch of his car open. Even then, the cart barely fit in his small car.

"That thing is way bigger than I thought," I said, laughing.

**Darcy L.  
Fargo**

This cart is massive. I'm six feet tall, and the top shelf is just below my shoulders. The bottom platform is big enough that I can (and did) fit my whole body on it.

While it will be perfect for its intended use as a stand for 3D printers and, my vinyl/paper-cutting machine, and my filament and vinyl stash, the photos in-

cluded in the online listing didn't give me any indication of scale, and it didn't occur to me to ask. Similar carts were used in our classrooms when I was in grade school, and I thought I roughly remembered their size. Boy, was I wrong!

I thought about my awesomely huge AV cart as I was reflecting on a recent conversation with a friend about grace.

I'll be honest: Grace isn't something I think about often. After this conversation, I was thinking about grace.

Google defined grace as (one of several definitions), "the free and unmerited favor of God, as

manifested in the salvation of sinners and the bestowal of blessings."

It occurred to me that we're sometimes blessed to get glimpses of and to recognize God's grace active in our lives. I can think of countless times in my life when the fruit of a particular grace took a long time to be revealed. I'm sure there are countless times I've had no idea God's grace was even active in my life, but it was and is.

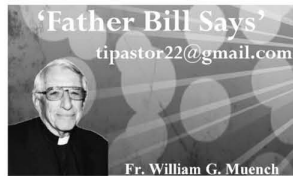
God's blessings, his mercy, his goodness and his gifts are far bigger and better than we could ever imagine.

That thing is way bigger than I thought.

## Birthday prayers and reflections

Recently, I celebrated my birthday. The family decided to give me a party. It was a good time. Family and friends joined together for a pleasant afternoon. I must tell you that afterwards I stopped at church for a short visit, a visit that lasted much longer than originally intended. I prayed lot of prayers of gratitude to the Lord for all the wonderful people in my life. Then I began to think about growing older. This developed into quite a meditation.

First, my thoughts turned to God. It was a time to be grateful for God's love throughout my life and priesthood. God the Father has been my protector, constantly showing me the way. Jesus has been and continues to be my friend, walking with me and guiding me. The Holy Spirit has filled my priesthood with wisdom, giving me the right words to write and to speak and giving me



many surprises from the Lord each day.

As a priest, looking back, I have had many great assignments. I thought of these with gratitude that night. I have been blessed to work and pray with dedicated families and persons in those parishes. I thank God for placing so many wonderful people in my life and ministry. There is so many great memories.

As I continued to pray, I began thanking God for the many priest friends who showed me the way to be a good priest. As I grow older, many of these priest friends are now with the Lord at the heavenly banquet. There were so many of them with whom I traveled and skied; they certain-

ly helped me to be a real person. They brought adventure into my life. They were my companions in life - true gifts to me.

As you can see, this got to be a busy evening. I went on to thank God for calling me to be a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. I had assumed that I would become a priest in my own home diocese. For various reasons, that was all changed, and I became a priest of the North Country. I like to refer to it as God's country. I found happiness in ministry to the parishes of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Aging brings health concerns, so I continued to thank God for all the great people that have taken care of me - the doctors and nurses who have kept me active and busy. So, I thanked God for giving me the ability to continue to celebrate Holy Mass. And that the North Country Catholic allows me to continue writing.

So, this became a busy

meditation. I decided to add one more important thing: Looking over my whole life, I know that God has watched over me bringing his love, his forgiveness, his correction to me when I have failed. Repentance has been a most important part of my life, as I have had to seek the Lord's forgiveness for sins, mistakes, failures. God's love has shown me the way to conversion - repeatedly. I trusted God and knew that he would show me the right and proper way to live well, guiding me to be a good priest.

So, my birthday this year became a unique opportunity for me to turn in prayer and gratitude to my Lord and Savior. This has been an important opportunity to share all of this with you. I thank God and pray often that he will remain close to me. I turn to you all that you will put me into your prayers, as I will continue to pray for you all.



NOVEMBER 15, 2023

# Celebrating Mission of Hope anniversary

By Shan Moore  
Contributing Writer

It was Eliza Hoenig Nielsen's 17th birthday, and a Nicaraguan child shyly presented her with a gift - a well-worn doll that the North Country Mission of Hope (MOH) volunteer knew must have been the girl's own treasured toy.

"There were tears galore," remembered Father John R. Yonkovic, pastor of St. Agnes Parish in Lake Placid, who has never forgotten that birthday party. "Those are the kinds of moments that happened (on mission). When you taste it and experience it, that's what changes you."

Eliza was a German exchange student when she joined that MOH trip to Nicaragua - and still has that doll - and was among many volunteers, past and present, who relived their experiences at a recent event marking MOH's 25th anniversary at its headquarters in the Town of Peru.

It was as much a family reunion as a celebration, with MOH supporters coming from several states, including nuns from Dominican Sisters of Hope in New England to honor MOH Executive Director Emeritas Sister Debbie Blow, whose devoted leadership was feted that day, too.

"The pulse of the whole gathering is who we are as a mission," said MOH Treasurer Kathy Eppler.

## Team effort

Hurricane Mitch's fury devastated Nicaragua in 1998, prompting Sister Debbie, then Seton's campus minister, along with longtime friend Eve McGill and Nicaraguan native Yamilette Flores, to found North Country



**North Mission of Hope (MOH) Executive Director Deacon James Carlin (left) visits with Leadership Team member Jeremy Eppler and Marilyn Patnode during MOH's anniversary celebration. "Relationships," Deacon Carlin said in his remarks that day, "are at the heart of the mission."**

Mission of Hope.

Sister Debbie retired last year, and her successor, Deacon James Carlin, surprised her by unveiling a new sign on the building, proclaiming it the "Sr. Debbie Blow, OP Operations Center and Warehouse."

"This is not what I did," the Dominican Sister of Hope told those gathered. "You can have a dream, you can believe in hope, you can believe in justice and relationships. But if you don't have people who believe in it with you, who are willing to toil every day, who are willing to give of themselves ... it stays a dream."

## Challenges

She recalled the challenges of the early years in Nicaragua, when the roads were barely passable, the only connection to the outside world was a single payphone, when it was a struggle to get much-needed medications and supplies into the country ...

"We were bold, and we were courageous," she said. "From day one, ... we welcomed all people - we believed that we needed to be a micro-

cosm of what the human family was all about."

Mission of Hope puts donations, grants and money brought in by fundraisers into programs addressing a spectrum of needs - in education, health care, community and ecological sustainability.

The mission started by assisting one school in Nicaragua; now, more than 20 benefit from its meal program, and student sponsorship tops 700.

MOH provides assistance to four orphanages, a disability center, hospitals, community centers, women's shelters, rehab facilities and more. In 2010, MOH opened NiCasa, its own compound, which houses the medical clinic and other services, thanks to a donation from the George and Shirley Moore Foundation.

## Empowerment

"From the beginning, it was about empowerment," Sister Debbie said of the mission's aims. "We do nothing right if we don't empower the people to make decisions for themselves."

MOH established a sewing co-op so women could earn a living making school uniforms. It involved locals, including women, in building home shelters. It began a program of planting the fast-growing and multi-use moringa tree, community and school gardens, among many other practices targeting sustainability and empowerment. A board of local membership in Nicaragua was established to give the people a voice in MOH decision making.

That focus on empowerment paid off in a big way when, in 2018, mission trips were halted due to political unrest in the Central American country. Programs there continue with operations, including vital medical clinics and meal programs, handled on the ground by Administrator Mauricio Flores and Assistant Administrator Magaly Velasquez.

MOH continues to meet North Country needs as well and give assistance around the world, including in Ukraine.

## So blessed

And from the start, there was a mutually beneficial focus - the many participating students would work to improve the lives of the poor, while that experience would open the hearts of the young people and awaken them to realities of those without the advantages they themselves had.

It did, indeed, accomplish that, said Abigail (St. Louis) Turner, who was 16 the first time she went on mission, in 2014.

"I saw how blessed we are," she said, holding her 14-month-old son,

Dawson. "It opened my eyes to see what I could do to fix things."

She joined MOH's Student Leadership board that year and now serves on the Leadership Team.

A nurse, she knows her mission experience "really drove home the idea" of a career in health care.

"So many people went into nursing and social work," said Eve McGill. "It changed lives."

## Giving back

The first time Sharalyn Nachbauer's daughter Olivia went on mission, she didn't want to return home.

"There's still too much to do," Sharalyn remembered Olivia saying.

Now 25, Olivia is an environmental engineer.

"Her love is water filtration," said Sharalyn, who is MOH Leadership Team president. On mission, "she realized how much it changed people's lives."

Also at the celebration was Kathy Eppler's son Jeremy, whose mission experience led him to serve with both Americorps and the Peace Corps. He now works for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency, presently administering a grant in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He also serves on the MOH Leadership Team.

"There are so many stories like his with kids that went on to join organizations like the Peace Corps and careers, like medical, to give back," his mother said. "One of the greatest things the mission (and Sister Debbie) has done is to create a ripple effect."

"So many have been made more aware of the need, of different cultures, and chosen paths to try to make a difference."

# 'Alive and well': Trinity celebrates 40 years

By Keith Benman  
Contributing Writer

The Trinity Catholic School community celebrated its 40-year history of Catholic education, and all that is yet to come, at a lively celebration on October 22.

"We look forward to the next 40 years at Trinity Catholic School with confidence and great resolve," said Bishop Terry R. LaValley in his homily at an anniversary Mass celebrated at Sacred Heart Church. "We continue to invite and encourage parents to enroll their children in our remarkable, inspiring school and join the Trinity Catholic family."

The Mass featured generations of Trinity Catholic students and teachers participating in readings and choirs. The seven priests who concelebrated the mass all helped guide Catholic education in Massena at various times over the years - that includes Bishop LaValley, who served in Massena in the late 1980s and early 90s.

"When I left here, back in 1992, I remember referring to Trinity Catholic as truly a gem, a treasure of this community," Bishop LaValley said.

After Mass the party continued at the Trinity school cafeteria with students and parents serving lunch and birthday cake to nearly 300, along with big helpings of reminiscences.

The school was formed out of the merger of St. Joseph's, St. Mary's and Sacred Heart schools. Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, a Sister of St. Joseph and a former principal at Trinity Catholic, told about the caravan of cars bringing students from St. Joseph's to Trinity so they could get an advance look at their new school before the change was made.

"I can't forget that journey," Sister Eamon said in her speech. "And you continue to build a strong Catholic envi-

## MEMORIES & TRADITIONS

Sisters, principals and priests who led, taught or ministered over the years at Trinity Catholic attended the school's 40th birthday bash.

### Principals at the celebration

Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ  
Joan Rufa  
Kathleen Behrens  
Joyce Giroux  
Marianne Jadlos (current principal)  
Dan Case (former Sacred Heart principal)

### Sisters of St. Joseph at Trinity school's 40th birthday celebration:

Sister Diane Marie Ulsamer, SSJ  
Sister Mary Gregory Munger, SSJ  
Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ (current superintendent diocesan schools)

### Priests who concelebrated Trinity school's 40th anniversary Mass:

Father Jack Downs  
Father Andrew Amyot  
Father Pat Ratigan  
Bishop Terry L. LaValley  
Msgr. Robert AuCoin (diocesan episcopal vicar for education)  
Father Leagon Carlin (current parochial vicar St. Peter's parish)  
Father Mark Reilly (current pastor St. Peter's parish)

ronment here."

Sitting in the audience, Gladys Cameron's reminiscences went back even further. She went to Sacred Heart Catholic school in the early 1940s.

She said being taught by the sisters, back then it was the Servants of Mary, made all the difference.

"Being taught by the sisters, they were good teachers," she said. "We just enjoyed it so much."

Trinity Catholic's history was displayed in news clipping and memorabilia as people entered the cafeteria. Trinity Catholic students darted among the tables with serving carts passing out juice boxes, water and cleaning up. There were a lot of hugs exchanged



PHOTOS BY KEITH BENMAN/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

(Above) Sacred Heart Pastor Father Mark Reilly leads 300 people in prayer at Trinity Catholic School's 40th anniversary celebration Sunday in Massena. (Below) Trinity Catholic students Aubrey Slate, front, and Mary Leggue, back, pass out the juice drinks at Trinity Catholic's 40th anniversary birthday bash in Massena on October 22.



as people recognized teachers, principals and priests from the past. Organizers said priests who could not attend because of their Sunday duties sent notes, emails and texts with their blessings, congratulations and good wishes.

Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, a Sister of St. Joseph and diocesan superintendent of schools, was last to speak

before the birthday cake was cut. She told her audience there are more memories still to be made at Trinity Catholic.

"We need to keep our eyes on the future," she said. "On this anniversary we think not just about 40 years, we think about 45 years, and we think about 50 years. ... Shout it loud and clear, Trinity Catholic is alive and well."



# Laudato Si' & Laudate Deum: A call to action

By the Diocese of Ogdensburg  
Laudato Si' Committee

In the face of a growing climate crisis, Pope Francis has issued two groundbreaking encyclicals, *Laudato Si'* (2015) and *Laudate Deum* (2023), calling for urgent action to protect our common home. These encyclicals, addressed to all people of good will, offer a profound and comprehensive vision for addressing climate change from a moral and spiritual perspective.

## Laudato Si':

### A call to integral ecology

*Laudato Si'*, meaning "Praise be to You," (quoting St. Francis' Canticle of the Creatures) is Pope Francis' first encyclical, released in 2015. It is a landmark document that addresses the interconnectedness of all creation and the urgent need to protect our planet from environmental degradation. The encyclical is divided into six chapters, covering topics such as pollution, climate change, water scarcity, biodiversity loss and the unsustainable use of resources.

Pope Francis emphasizes that climate change is a real and present threat caused primarily by human activity. He argues that the effects of climate change are already being felt around the world, disproportionately impacting the poorest and most vulnerable communities.

The encyclical calls for a radical transformation of our relationship with the environment. Pope Francis proposes an "integral ecology" that recognizes the interconnectedness of all creation and the need to protect the environment for the sake of both human well-being and the preservation of God's creation.

## Laudate Deum:

### A call for urgent action

In 2023, Pope Francis released a follow-up Apostolic Exhortation, *Laudate Deum*, meaning "Praise God." This Exhortation calls the faithful to urgent action in addressing climate change as it builds on the themes of *Laudato Si'*.

**LET US ACT  
TOGETHER FOR OUR COMMON HOME**

**U.S. CATHOLICS TAKE "MY LAUDATE DEUM ACTION PLEDGE"**

**PERSONAL AND FAMILY CHANGES**  
Eat less meat, waste less, use less fossil fuels, pray more.

**ADVOCATE FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGES**  
Urge U.S. & global leaders toward better climate policies, debt forgiveness, less fossil fuels.

**WORK TO MOVE OUR CHURCH**  
Talk to our priests, organize church actions.

**THE CULTURAL SHIFT THAT IS NEEDED**  
Starts with us, in our hearts & actions, with spirituality & care for the life and dignity of all.

**"PRAISE GOD ... FOR WHEN HUMAN BEINGS CLAIM TO TAKE GOD'S PLACE, THEY BECOME THEIR OWN WORST ENEMIES."**

**Sign the pledge at [bit.ly/LDActionPledge](https://bit.ly/LDActionPledge)**

Pope Francis expresses deep concern about the lack of progress in addressing climate change since the release of *Laudato Si'* eight years ago. He argues that the world is on a "dangerous trajectory" and that we face a "real risk" of reaching irreversible tipping points.

*Laudate Deum* reiterates and strengthens the call for integral ecology and emphasizes the need for a global collective response to climate change. Pope Francis urges individuals, governments, businesses and religious institutions to take concrete action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote renewable energy and protect the environment.

### A skeptical audience

Some individuals may be skeptical of the message of *Laudato Si'* and *Laudate Deum*, questioning the role of religion in addressing climate change. However, it is important to recognize that these encyclicals are not just about the environment; they are about the moral and ethical dimensions of our relationship with Earth and all the creatures with which we share this unique and beautiful planet.

Pope Francis argues climate change is a moral issue because it is a threat to the lives and livelihoods of the poorest and most vulnerable communities. He also argues that it is an eth-

ical issue because it is a consequence of our own destructive actions.

Both documents offer a powerful message of hope and transformation. Pope Francis reminds us that none of us is alone in facing this challenge. He calls on us to recognize our interdependence with all creation and to work together to build a more just and sustainable future for all.

*Laudato Si'* and *Laudate Deum* are essential documents for everyone seeking to understand the moral and ethical dimensions of climate change. They offer a powerful call to action for every person and every institution to take concrete steps to protect our common home.

These are not just about the environment; they are about our relationship with God, with each other and with the planet we share. They offer a vision of a more just and sustainable future, one that is rooted in respect for the dignity of all creation.

### Some practical responses

Often, we think that the problem is just too big and that there is nothing we, as individuals, can do. But there are some practical steps each of us can take:

#### First - Pray.

God created this world and created you. He created this world to be lived in. There is

enough for all if we just learn how to live in harmony with God, each other, and the rest of creation.

#### Second - Read the documents.

Both are available online on the Vatican website. Simply search for the two titles: *Laudato Si'* and *Laudate Deum*. There are also some additional resources that you might find helpful:

- *Laudato Si'* Action Platform: <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>

- Catholic Climate Covenant: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/>

#### Third - Get involved.

You can get involved with local groups such as the inter-faith Faith and Ecology Groups (contact Sister Bethany Fitzgerald at [srbethssj@gmail.com](mailto:srbethssj@gmail.com)) or start a group at your parish to read the documents together and see what you might be able to accomplish locally.

*Fourth - Start making small changes that are good for the environment and good for your budget:*

- Switch to energy efficient appliances and light bulbs.
- Drive less.
- Conserve water and electricity (fix leaky faucets, turn off lights and chargers, insulate your home).
- Eat less meat.
- Buy local as much as possible, buy from local farmers' markets
- Avoid plastic, especially single use plastic (carry your own silverware, avoid plastic packaging)
- Advocate for less plastic packaging)
- Reuse and recycle all you can.
- Support sustainable businesses.

- Invest in renewable energy sources (for example, sign up for community solar as part of your electricity)
- Plant trees

These all may seem like little things that would not make much of a difference, but if enough people participate, change is possible. Our future and the future of our children depend on our actions now!

# The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg

## Building A Bridge For The Future



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## 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



## ***Endowments Established in the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, New York, Inc.***

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**Society of the Sisters of St. Joseph Endowment** – Corporate purposes  
**Society of the Propagation of the Faith Endowment** – Corporate purposes  
**St. Joseph's Home Foundation Endowment** – Corporate purposes  
**Catherine Aurelia Endowment** – Bishop's Charities and Religious Works  
**Reverend Anthony A. Milia Endowment** – Support of the Diocesan Archives  
**Building For Tomorrow Endowment** – Operating expenses of the Catholic Community of Alexandria  
**Education of Seminarians Endowment** – Funding to the annual operating budget  
**Faylene LeRoux Endowment** – Support of Catholic Education  
**Formation For Ministry Endowment** – Parish financial assistance and annual operating budget  
**Guggenheim/Hughes Endowment** – Support of capital needs of Guggenheim Center  
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**St. Mary's Cathedral Endowment** – Support of general operations  
**Joseph & Joyce Sylvester Endowment** – General operating needs of St. Anthony's, Watertown  
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**Spratt Memorial Endowment** – Support capital needs  
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**Lawrence R. Robinson Trust Mass Endowment** – Masses at St. Andrew's Church, Sackets Harbor  
**St. Augustine's Church Endowment** – General purposes of St. Augustine's at Peru.  
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**Deacon Adam Crowe Scholarship Endowment** – Education of Seminarians  
**William Cornish Endowment** – St. Henry's Church, EWTN, Diocese  
**Donald J. Grant Endowment** – General purposes of RC Community of Brownville & Dexter  
**St. Lawrence Church Endowment** – General purposes of St. Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls  
**St. Patrick's Church Shamrock Endowment** – General purposes of St. Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls  
**Queen of Heaven Church** – General purposes of Queen of Heaven Church  
**Church of St. Patrick/Stumpf Family** – Catholic Education  
**ME Walton Good Samaritan Endowment** – Needs of parishioners at St. Cyril's and St. Francis Xavier  
**Special Care of Priests Endowment** – Funding for annual operating budget  
**Alice Austin Mass Endowment** – Masses at Queen of Heaven Church, Henderson  
**St. Francis of Assisi Endowment** – 50% Diocese, 50% Covenant House  
**William L. Patnode Endowment** – Education of Seminarians  
**Gertrude J. Tyo Endowment** – Education of Seminarians  
**Chapin, McCarthy, LaBelle Families Endowment** – General purposes St. Augustine (North Bangor)  
**Chapin, McCarthy Families Endowment** – General purposes St. Martin de Porras, Peru (Missionary Projects)  
**St. Patrick's & Mother Cabrini's Shrine of Peru, NY Endowment** – General purpose of Shrine  
**Thomas and Ann Fiacco Endowment** – General purposes Trinity Catholic School, Massena, NY  
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**Bishop Brzana Chapter Vocations** – emergency medical/dental assistance to active Seminarians  
**Brian E. McManus & Alison E. McManus Endowed Scholarship Fund in Memory of Dorothy W. McManus** – Tuition assistance for students of financial need at St. Agnes Catholic School  
**Halsey J. Seguin Memorial Scholarship Fund** - to benefit poor students of St. Bernard's Catholic School as they see fit  
**Education of Seminarians/St. Joseph's Home Endowment** – Education of Seminarians & St. Joseph's Nursing Home Foundation general purposes  
**Leonard J. Furnia Endowment Fund** – Support of Education of Priests & Seminarians  
**Saint Ignatius Special Needs Endowment Fund** – special need grants for extra ordinary, emergency, one-time situations  
**Francis & Constance Kehoe Memorial Endowment Fund** – Education of Seminarians and Graduate Studies for Clergy of the Diocese of Ogdensburg  
**The Leary Family Endowment Fund** – General purposes Trinity Catholic School, Massena NY, and St. Peter's Parish, Massena NY  
**The Lamb Trust Fund (St. Agnes School)** – annual scholarship or scholarships for St. Agnes Catholic School students or such other purposes as the school to determine.



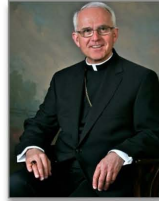




# Passing Our Living Faith to Future Generations

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Over the past 35 years since being ordained to the Priesthood back in 1988 and the Holy Father selecting me to be your Bishop in 2010, I have witnessed and been inspired by the tremendous commitment of the faith-filled people in the Diocese of Ogdensburg to stay united and continue Christ's mission of helping our fellow brothers and sisters in the Church of the North Country.



From one generation to the next, the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg have generously supported one another as we continue to build up the Body of Christ here in the North Country. With much trust and firm faith, our local parishes are growing in vibrancy and vitality. Now more than ever, in these challenging times, we need to look ahead to ensure that the mission of the Church continues to be Christ-led, Christ-fed, and Hope-filled. We are called to: protect the vulnerable, promote human dignity, celebrate the Sacraments, defend the poor, seek justice, and participate in worship with our parish family.

In 2007, in order to "Build a Bridge for the Future" and continue a strong sense of commitment, the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg was established with the purpose of preparing the Diocese to meet these needs of tomorrow. Since that time, 55 permanently restricted Endowments have been established.

These endowment gifts are a perpetual source of revenue for the Diocese, Parishes, Schools, Ministries, Nursing Home, and Missionary Projects of the Diocese. I am extremely appreciative and grateful to those who have contributed to the Foundation and have invested in our Catholic community's future.

As I present you this 2022-23 Annual Report, please take a moment to review the Endowments as well as our mission statement, what a Catholic Foundation truly is and how it works along with methods of giving.

The Foundation is an instrument for you to make a legacy for the next generation and for generations to come. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to consider developing an estate plan for the benefit of your loved ones and those close to your heart.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Board of Directors for their willingness to serve, provide guidance, ensure legal ethical integrity and for their wise stewardship in overseeing the investments and dividends of its funds.

Wishing God's blessing to you and your loved ones, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley  
Bishop of Ogdensburg

## The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg Statements of Financial Position June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2022

	6/30/2023	6/30/2022
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 339,047	\$ 302,792
Accrued Interest	11,310	9,480
Investments at Fair Value	7,312,007	7,077,443
Charitable Gift Annuities	1,852	1,852
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 7,664,216</b>	<b>\$ 7,391,567</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
	\$ -	\$ -
<b>NET ASSETS (DEFICIT)</b>		
Without Donor Restrictions	(119,361)	(139,514)
With Donor Restrictions	7,783,577	7,531,081
Total Net Assets	7,664,216	7,391,567
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 7,664,216</b>	<b>\$ 7,391,567</b>

\*\*The Foundation's IRS Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt Form Tax, is available for inspection upon request\*\*

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of The Foundation is to pass our living faith to future generations by financially supporting the charitable, spiritual, educational and temporal works of the Catholic Community of the Diocese of Ogdensburg by accepting donations or endowment funds from donors and the administration of these funds.

In fulfilling its mission, The Foundation will:

- Provide estate planning and charitable giving information and assistance.
- Provide gifting vehicles in which the Church or related entities are the designated beneficiary.
- Provide responsible and financial management and distribution of earnings that further the mission of the Catholic Church.

Catholics are called by God to protect human life, to promote dignity, to defend those who are poor, to strengthen the Church and to seek the common good. The Foundation exists to help Catholics live out this sacred mission of the Church, through the wise stewardship and thoughtful sharing of their financial resources.

The Foundation will provide permanent endowments and memorial funds for donors who want to give lasting support to parishes, schools, religious and social service ministries in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

## Board of Directors

**Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley**  
Bishop of Ogdensburg  
President

**Reverend Joseph A. Morgan**  
Vicar General  
Vice President

**Mr. Mark Mashaw**  
Diocesan Fiscal Officer  
Treasurer

**Sister Mary Eamon**  
Lyng, SSJ  
Ogdensburg, NY

**Reverend Kevin**  
McEwan  
Pastor

**Mr. Thomas Hannan**  
Ogdensburg, NY

**Deacon Mark Webster**  
West Chazy, NY



# Passing Our Living Faith to Future Generations



2023 Camp Guggenheim Staff

## Endowment Beneficiaries Can Include

- The Diocese of Ogdensburg
- The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg
- Your Parish or Catholic School
- The Education of Priests & Seminarians
- The Priests Retirement Fund
- The Priests Disability Fund
- The Bishop's Fund
- Any Ministry or Program of the Diocese
- Catholic Charities
- Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg
- St. Joseph's Nursing Home
- Any Diocesan institution of your choice

## PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

We recognize and understand as a Catholic Foundation entirely separate from the Diocese but in all ways accountable to both the Diocese and our donors, we are sustained by public trust and laws that confer upon us a special responsibility to society and the Roman Catholic Church. We further acknowledge that this responsibility can be met by full, open and public disclosure of all our affairs.

## HOW THE FOUNDATION WORKS

The Foundation solicits and receives planned gifts to benefit the people and communities of the Diocese as designated by donors. Prudent financial management of the funds is entrusted to the Board of Directors comprised of distinguished Church, business and civic leaders. A professional staff administers the day to day operation of The Foundation and oversees the distribution of annual earnings from the funds. Assets are managed by investment professionals.

## Methods of Giving

Type of Gift	Form of Gift	Benefit to Church	Benefit to You
<b>Outright Gift</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cash</li> <li>• Stocks/securities</li> <li>• Real estate</li> <li>• Insurance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perpetual income</li> <li>• Interest income used by The Foundation, parishes, schools and organizations in diocese</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income tax deduction</li> <li>• No capital gains tax on Appreciated gifts</li> </ul>
<b>Wills &amp; Bequests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cash</li> <li>• Real estate</li> <li>• Personal property</li> <li>• Percentage of estate</li> <li>• Remainder of estate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bequest will be held in perpetuity and invested to fund The Foundation needs as designated by the donor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible estate tax deduction</li> <li>• Opportunity to make perpetual gifts</li> </ul>
<b>Charitable Gift Annuities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cash</li> <li>• Stocks/securities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upon the death of the donor or last surviving annuitant remaining assets generate interest income for The Foundation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible estate tax deduction</li> <li>• Opportunity to make perpetual gifts</li> </ul>
<b>Insurance Policies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name The Foundation as policy owner and/or beneficiary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Foundation receives full face value of policy upon death of the donor, or may receive current surrender value prior to donor's death</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to make substantial future gift to The Foundation at current manageable cost</li> <li>• Income tax deduction for value of the policy when transferred</li> <li>• Premium payments may be deducted as gifts</li> </ul>
<b>Real Estate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home</li> <li>• Land</li> <li>• Vacation Home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Foundation receives the proceeds from the sale of the property at your death or sooner if so desired by the Donor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be given with life use</li> <li>• Can be given without incurring tax on the appreciation</li> </ul>
<b>Charitable Remainder Trusts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cash</li> <li>• Stocks/securities</li> <li>• Real estate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Foundation receives substantial future gifts to support the work of The Foundation and the charities named by the donor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variable or fixed income</li> <li>• Option to defer income</li> <li>• Income tax deduction</li> <li>• Reduction of estate taxes</li> <li>• No capital gains tax on appreciated gift (or deferred in some instances)</li> </ul>
<b>Retirement Plan/IRA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name The Foundation as beneficiary of death benefit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant gift upon death of donor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to make a major gift</li> <li>• Estate and income tax savings</li> </ul>
<b>Endowment Fund</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any of the above types of gifts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The final beneficiary(ies) will have a perpetual source of revenue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making a lasting gift that is a permanent legacy of your faith</li> </ul>

**TO CONTACT THE DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURGFUNDATION OFFICE**  
 622 Washington St., Ogdensburg  
 Or Call: Scott Lalone Executive Director 315-393-2920 (x1330)

## Environmental Stewardship

## Winter is coming

As autumn begins to transition into early winter, the occasional spells of weather warm enough to open windows vanishes, and the preparations for heating your home should be nearly finished.

Placing a plastic covering over windows can be one of the best ways to help improve the energy efficiency of your house. There are several brands of these products that are very thin and highly transparent pieces of plastic which can be taped to a window frame to reduce heat loss. Older windows especially benefit from such a covering, as over decades, small cracks tend to develop on the frame which allow for drafts to enter the home. By attempting to seal the plastic around the window, it is hoped to eliminate air leaks caused by any imperfection in the window. Additionally, by trapping a layer of dead or undisturbed air between the window and the plastic, another thermal barrier is formed in front of the glass. This barrier improves the insulating effect of this plastic seal.

While the effectiveness of such window coverings is considered to be only marginal in most regions of the country where the outside air temperature does not drop much below freezing during winter, they have been shown to be quite useful in places where very cold air can settle over the region for long periods of time. When outside air temperature is below zero, this added layer of protection against the cold has been shown to be well worth both the money in purchasing this product and the time and effort in correctly installing it.

Calcing around doors, installing weather stripping and using spray foam to close gaps, especially in older buildings, are important chores to reduce your demand for heating fuel. Gasoline for your car and heating fuel are prime contributors to your carbon footprint, and anything that can be done to decrease consumption of these fuels benefits our environment.

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**Nov. 13-16** – United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Plenary Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland

**Nov. 17** – 5:30 p.m. – Fort de la Presentation Annual Dinner and Award Ceremony Celebrating the 275th Anniversary of Abbe Francoise Picquet choosing the Confluence of the St. Lawrence and Oswegatchie Rivers as the Site of Fort de la Presentation

**Nov. 18** – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Nov. 19** – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Nov. 20** – 9 a.m. – Mass at Bare Hill Correctional Facility in Malone

**Nov. 21** – 10:30 a.m. – Council of Priests Meeting at St. Peter's Parish (Sacred Heart Church) in Massena

**Nov. 22** – 9 a.m. – Mass at Cape Vincent Correctional Facility in Cape Vincent

## Rest in Peace

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

**Nov. 15** – Rev. Medard Zywicki, M.S.C., 1980

**Nov. 16** – Rev. Alexis Trudeau, O.M.I., 1885; Rev. Martin C. Mullen, 1904; Rev. John Henry O'Rourke, 1930; Rev. George C. Egan, O.S.A., 1957; Rev. John H. McCloskey, O.S.A., 1957; Rev. J. Lee Snow, 2003; Rev. George F. Sykes, 2007; Rev. Roland G. Gonyo, 2011

**Nov. 17** – Rev. Edward V. Murphy, 1907; Rev. George D. Boucher, 1954; Rev. Romuald A. Wolski, O.F.M. Conv., 1976

**Nov. 18** – Rev. Edward J. Shea, O.S.A., 1931

**Nov. 19** – Rev. Msgr. Joseph G. Aubin, 2022

**Nov. 20** – Rev. Robert Joseph Booth, 1939

**Nov. 21** – Msgr. Joseph L. Tierney, 1968

## OBITUARIES

**Dannemora** – Ann M. (Matroni) Witkiewicz, 80; Mass of Christian Burial at St. Joseph's Church at a later date.

**Fort Covington** – Elizabeth E. "Betty" (Adams) Clary, 97; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 6, 2023 at St. Mary's of the Fort; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

**Lowville** – Charles P. O'Brien, 62; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 18, 2023 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

**Madrid** – Elaine M. (Trombley)

## To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terriane Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianeyanulavich@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](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org)

Tyndall, 65; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 8, 2023 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Malone** – Sheila A. (Lincoln) Dupuis, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 10, 2023 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Malone** – Katherine A. Stone, 97; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 9, 2023 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Massena** – Janice C. (Amo) Archambault, 83; Graveside services in spring at Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** – John Ashley Heagle, 74; Services to be held at a later date.

**Massena** – Wayne E. Lashomb, 93; Mass of Christian burial in spring/summer of 2024; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Moers** – Roland J. Davison, 69;

## Protecting God's Children

**The Diocese of Ogdensburg** has scheduled sessions of Protecting God's Children for Adults. Register at [virtus.org](http://virtus.org). Upcoming sessions: **Nov. 15** – 6:30 p.m. – St. Mary's Church, Canton **Dec. 5** – 1 p.m. – Diocesan offices, Ogdensburg

Funeral Services Nov. 10, 2023 at Hamilton Funeral Home.

**Ogdensburg** – Jo-Ann C. (Lachine) Deloney, 85; Funeral Services Nov. 9, 2023 at Oswegatchie Mausoleum.

**Ogdensburg** – Tammy M. (Bodwell) Tynon, 61; Graveside services Nov. 6, 2023 at St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Robert D. Miner, 83; Funeral Services Nov. 11, 2023 at the Brown Funeral Home; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery, Morrisonville.

**Plattsburgh** – Thomas H. Murnane, 93; Mass of Christian burial Nov. 8, 2023 at St. John the Baptist Church.

**Port Henry** – Kenneth Lloyd Anderson, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 11, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Saranac Lake** – Barbara A. Brearton, 85; Mass of Christian Burial at St. Bernard's Church; burial in North Elba Cemetery, Lake Placid.

**Saranac Lake** – L.A. "Tony" Waickman, MD; Private services to be held.

**Saranac Lake** – Richard J. Wright, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 9, 2023 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in Union Cemetery, Vermontville.



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NOVEMBER 15, 2023

# Survey: Young priests are more 'conservative'

By Jonah McKeown  
Catholic News Agency

New analysis of a study that claims to be the largest national survey of Catholic priests conducted in more than 50 years has found that priests describing themselves as "progressive" are practically "extinct" among U.S. seminary graduates.

Conducted by The Catholic Project, a research group at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., the newest release focuses on polarization, generational dynamics, and the ongoing impact of the sexual abuse crisis.

Part 1 of the survey, released last October, found that despite relatively high levels of personal well-being and fulfillment among priests as a whole, a significant percentage of priests have issues with burnout, distrust in their bishop, and fears of being falsely accused of misconduct.

The new report highlights "several themes which have emerged from closer analysis of the quantitative data, as well as careful study of the qualitative data collected from the one-on-one interviews with priests." The study used survey responses from 3,516 priests across 191 dioceses and eparchies in the United States.

Of note, the researchers assert that self-described "liberal" or "progressive" priests have all but disappeared from the youngest cohorts of priests and that priests describing themselves as "conservative/orthodox" reached more than 80% among those ordained after 2020.

The new analysis also found that diocesan size has an effect on how much a priest trusts his bishop, with priests in smaller dioceses being

more likely than priests in larger dioceses to trust their prelate. Priests who consider themselves to be in the same ideological camp as their bishop - whether politically or theologically - also tend to trust him more.

The report says it shows a "significant divide" between the political and theological self-identification of older priests vs. younger priests.

"Simply put, the portion of new priests who see themselves as politically 'liberal' or theologically 'progressive' has been steadily declining since the Second Vatican Council and has now all but vanished," the report asserts.

"More than half of the priests who were ordained since 2010 see themselves on the conservative side of the scale. No surveyed priests who were ordained after 2020 described themselves as 'very progressive.'"

The researchers said a full 85% of the youngest cohort describes itself as "conservative/orthodox" or "very conservative/orthodox" theologically, with only 14% describing themselves as "middle-of-the-road."

The report also says that nearly 70% of priests ordained in the mid-to late 1960s describe themselves as somewhat or very "progressive." By 2020, fewer than 5% of priests describe themselves that way.

The Second Vatican Council and the 2002 revelations about the sexual abuse crisis were watershed moments, the researchers said, with the data showing that priests largely began to see themselves as more "progressive" after Vatican II and more "conservative" after 2002.

The Catholic Project's findings comport with other surveys of U.S.

priests in recent years, one of which in 2021 noted an increasing perception of "more theologically conservative or orthodox" young priests as compared with their older counterparts.

Father Carter Griffin, rector of St. John Paul II Seminary in Washington, D.C., said most young men coming to his seminary are looking to be "part of the solution ...

they want to make themselves available for the needs of the Church."

He also cautioned that young men describing themselves as "orthodox" do not necessarily have a preference for "traditionalist" practices. Rather, he said, young men entering the seminary today are looking to become a part of something bigger than themselves, he said, preaching the Gospel and

servicing the poor in total fidelity to the Church.

"Nobody wants to give their life for a question mark ... I think the ones who are going to come forward who are open to the idea of entering the priesthood are going to be the ones who are most intent on ensuring that they are Catholic and that they're on board with everything," Griffin said.



## BUILDING Our Mission to the Missions

**T**he Black and Indian Mission Collection (BIMC) exists to help diocesan communities to build up the Church and preach the Gospel of Jesus among the African American, Native American, and Alaska Native people of God.

Every year, it is the amazing generosity of Catholic faithful, just like you, who enable the Black and Indian Mission Office to support the following important priorities:

### Enlivening Parish Life & Catechesis

Grant funds from the BIMC support parish-based catechetical programs, which form and train catechists who form children to be disciples of Jesus in the world and who put bibles and catechisms in kids' hands so they can learn the ways of the Lord and take their place around his altar.



### Empowering Evangelizers

BIMC grant funds support African American and Native American ministries to sponsor events and formation that encourage living the Christian life in culturally appropriate ways. The religious sisters shown here, serve Native American Catholic communities across the United States.



### Helping Educators Reach Kids

With your contribution to the BIMC, you will help support the placement of good teachers to educate African American and Native American children. In 2022, your generous donations reached over 5,000 students in more than 400 schools and parishes across the United States.



### Encouraging Vocations

The church needs men and women to answer the call to the consecrated life and offer their witness as radical disciples of Jesus Christ. We need priests in order to have the Eucharist! Supporting the BIMC enables us to help encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life in African American and Native American communities across the country.



**BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION COLLECTION**  
[www.blackandindianmission.org](http://www.blackandindianmission.org)



96200400

**Special Collection to be held with Catholic Campaign for Human Development Nov. 18-19, 2023**  
**Combined Collection**

## VIRTUAL EVENTS

**ZOOM PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT**

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

**Dates:** Nov. 12, Dec. 3, Jan. 28

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 5

**Place:** Zoom

**Features:** High school age men and older are invited to join fellow discerners and Father Howard Venette to discuss this vocation.

**Contact:** You must register in order to attend, please go to [www.rcdony.org/priesthooddiscernment](http://www.rcdony.org/priesthooddiscernment)

**FRIENDSHIP GROUPS**

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

**Date:** Nov. 16

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** Zoom

Features Father Mike Warren, OMV will talk with us about the book "Praying with St. Augustine" by Sara Park McLaughlin and answer your questions. In this treasure trove, you will find select prayers from his works – some of the most potent prayers ever composed. St. Augustine taught that prayer makes you ready to receive God's blessings. As you pray with St. Augustine, be prepared to be blessed!

**Contact:** To sign up, visit: <https://mailchi.mp/sophia institute/friendship-groups>. The book is on sale at [www.sophia institute.com](http://www.sophia institute.com). For more information, please contact Mary Beth Bracy at [mbracy@sophia institute.com](mailto:mbracy@sophia institute.com)

## ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

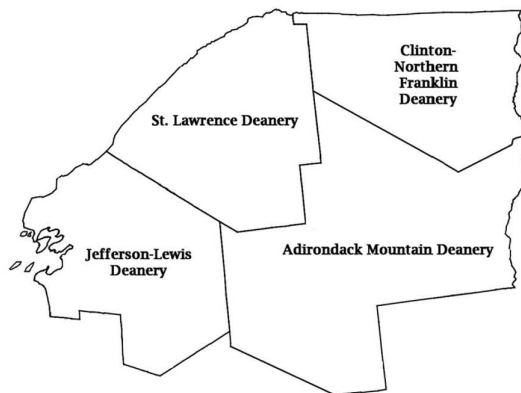
**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

Lake Placid – St. Agnes School to have their Annual Christmas Bazaar and Craft Fair.

**Date:** Dec. 2

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Features:** Our annual Christmas Bazaar is a great way to kick



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](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org).

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

off the Christmas season. You can get trees, wreaths, poinsettias, toys, gifts, crafts, baked goods, raffle items, silent auction items and so much more. Vendor space is available.

**Contact:** For more information please call 518-523-371 or email [info@stagnesp.org](mailto:info@stagnesp.org).

## CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

**SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER**

Lyon Mountain – Spaghetti and meatball dinner to be held.

**Date:** Nov. 18

**Time:** 3 p.m. to 6

**Place:** Lyon Mountain American Legion

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Children under 12, \$10

**Features:** Dine in or take out

**Contact:** 518-735-9998

**MICHIGAN DINNER**

Peru – St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 7273 is serving a take-out-only michigan dinner.

**Date:** Nov. 18

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 6

**Place:** St. Augustine's Parish Center

**Cost:** Two Michigan's, \$10; One Michigan, \$7 (also includes baked beans, chips, drinks and dessert)

**Features:** Proceeds will help the knights donate to local organizations and charitable programs.

## JEFFERSON-LEWIS

**DRIVE THRU SPAGHETTI DINNER**

Lyons Falls – There will be a drive thru spaghetti dinner held.

**Date:** Nov. 14

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 6

**Place:** St. John's Church

**Cost:** \$11

**Features:** Dinners consist of spaghetti, meatballs and sausage, tossed salad, Italian bread, and dessert. This dinner is for the upcoming Salvation Army Kettle Campaign for this year. The monies stay in Lewis County! Proceeds totally go to the Salvation Army.

**Contact:** The day of the dinner please call the church hall at 315-348-6599. Deliveries are available! Any questions, contact Christine Chaufy at 315-766-6897.

**FALL DANCE**

Glenfield – Fall dance to be held.

**Date:** Nov. 18

**Time:** 7 p.m. to 10

**Place:** The Fire Hall

**Cost:** \$5

**Features:** Music featuring the Patti Stanford Band. There will be basket raffles, chance raffles and much more! Proceeds to St. John's and St. Martins Catholic Church, Lyons falls and Port Leyden.

**FALL FUNDRAISER**

Copenhagen – St. Mary's Church to have their Fall Fundraiser Raffle.

**Date:** Drawing to be held Nov. 19

**Cost:** Tickets are \$10 each or 6 for \$50

**Features:** Prizes to be won are one \$500 Cash, Quilt (\$300 Value), Afghan (\$100 Value), Gift Card Tree (\$400 Value), Bird House (\$250 Value), Folding Picnic Table (\$100 Value), Lottery Tree (\$100 Value), Bear Carving Table (\$250 Value), Fire Pit (\$200 Value), \$250 Gift Certificate Lucky Leaf Beef, Hand Carved Welcome Sign, (\$100 Value), Fall Basket (\$100 Value), Christmas Basket (\$100 Value). Must be 18 years or older to purchase.

**Contact:** For tickets make checks payable to St. Mary's Church and mail to: Mary Jane Fleming, PO Box 103, Copenhagen, NY 13626 or Marcia Mundy, PO Box 303, Copenhagen, NY 13626

**CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY TABLE**

Clayton – Stop into St. Mary's Parish center for the Christmas Community Table.

**Date:** Dec. 2

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Cost:** \$10

**Features:** Enjoy over 50 delicious dishes – everything from appetizers to desserts. Part of the Christmas in Clayton weekend with many venues in the village hosting events.

**Contact:** For more information, contact St. Mary's parish office at 315-686-3398.

**HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY**

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

**Date:** Dec. 3

**Time:** Following 11 a.m. Mass

**Place:** St. Hedwig's Church

**Contact:** 315-348-6260

**SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER**

Evans Mills – The Indian River

Council 7471 Knights of Columbus will be having a spaghetti & meatball dinner.

**Date:** Dec. 9

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 7

**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center

**Cost:** Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$8; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free

**Contact:** For more information call 315-629-4678

## 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](mailto:formationstp@gmail.com)

**FISH FRY**

Ogdensburg – Fish Fry Dinners are back at the Knights of Columbus.

**Date:** Nov. 17

**Cost:** Single Serve, \$13; All you can eat, \$16

**Features:** Dinner choices include fried haddock, mac and cheese, french fries, chicken nuggets, baked haddock (30 minutes), coleslaw, baked potato and roll.

**MONTHLY BRUNCH**

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

**Date:** Dec. 10 (Second Sunday of each month)

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

**Place:** Father Amyot Parish Center

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

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



# Pope Francis to release autobiography

By Courtney Mares  
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis will publish an autobiography next year in which he recounts memories of historical events from the outbreak of World War II to the collapse of the Twin Towers on Sept. 11, 2001.

HarperCollins Publishers announced Tuesday that it will publish the pope's book, "Life, My Story Through History," in the spring of 2024 in the U.S., Europe, and Latin America.

"In this book we tell a story, the story of my life, through the most important and dramatic events that humanity has experienced over the past 80 years," Pope Francis said in a statement released by the

publisher on Nov. 7.

"This book was written so that people, especially younger people, can listen to the voice of an elderly person and reflect on what our planet has experienced, so as not to repeat the mistakes of the past."

The book was co-written by Vatican journalist Fabio Marchese Ragona, who interviewed Pope Francis for Italian television specials in 2021 and 2022 and recently published a book in Italian about exorcists featuring anecdotes from the pope.

According to HarperCollins, the book will feature the pope's recollections of the start of World War II, the Nazi campaign to exterminate the Jews, the atomic bombing of

Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the collapse of the Twin Towers, the great economic recession of 2008, the resignation of Benedict XVI, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Born in 1936 in Argentina, Pope Francis was only 2 years old when Nazi Germany invaded Poland, launching World War II, and 8 years old when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The Jesuit archbishop of Buenos Aires was made a cardinal by Pope John Paul II in February 2001, just months before the Sept. 11 attacks, and served as president of the Argentine bishops' conference in 2008. He was 76 years old when he was elected pope following the historic resignation

of Benedict XVI.

The pope's book, which is not classified as a memoir, will also touch on current global issues, including abortion, racial discrimination, climate change, atomic weapons, war, and social inequalities.

Pope Francis has authored numerous books, including a book-length interview with a Spanish missionary titled "The Strength of Vocation" in 2018, "Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future" in 2020, and an interview with an Italian psychologist called "Fear as a Gift" in 2023.

The pope's first book, "The Name of God is Mercy: A Conversation with Andrea Tornielli," became a New York Times bestseller in 2016.

## Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

### BINGO

Canton – The Knights of Columbus will be holding BINGO.

**Date:** Nov. 13, 20 and 27

**Time:** Doors open at 4:30 p.m., First call at 7 p.m.

**Place:** 30 Miner Street

**Cost:** Admission is \$5 at the door

### FALL BAZAAR

Waddington – St. Mary's Family Circle Fall Festival and Bazaar to be held.

**Date:** Nov. 18

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

**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center  
Features: There will be a crafters/vendors, silent auction, bake sale, and lunch will be available as well. **Contact:** For more information, contact the parish at 315-388-4466

### ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

**Date:** Dec. 2

**Time:** 8 a.m.

**Place:** Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

**Features:** Rosary with devotions

### FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

Massena – Sacred Heart Church to have first Saturday Rosary Devotion.

**Date:** Dec. 2

**Time:** 3:15 p.m.

**Features:** First Saturday Rosary Devotion to OUR Lady of Fatima. Confessions will be available. Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 p.m.

### MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Massena – Men's prayer group to meet for Mass and Adoration.

**Date:** Dec. 2

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Church

### TRIVIA NIGHT

Canton – St. Mary's to have a Trivia Night for those 21 years and older.

**Date:** Dec. 9

**Time:** Doors open at 5:30 p.m., Trivia starts at 6 p.m.

**Place:** Parish Center

**Cost:** \$20 per person, includes two alcoholic beverages, pizza, popcorn & chips. Non-alcoholic beverages included.

**Features:** Childcare will be provided. Teams of 4-6 Players, Single players welcome and will be placed with a team. Door prizes and grand prize!

**Contact:** Call 315-386-2543 or visit [www.cantoncatholics.com/trivia](http://www.cantoncatholics.com/trivia)

### MEAL DRIVERS NEEDED

The St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging is seeking drivers for home delivered meals in Brasher Falls, DeKalb, Canton, Gouverneur, Morristown, Ogdensburg, Potsdam and Star Lake.

**Features:** These drivers deliver hot, nutritious meals to older adults. Many are homebound and receive a lunchtime meal Monday through Friday. Drivers receive a mileage reimbursement. Deliveries take place between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Routes can be between

one hour and two hours. Volunteer one day a week or several.

**Contact:** Contact Danielle Durant at 315-386-4730.

### HOLY HOUR

Canton – Holy Hour for Vocations to be held.

**Date:** Every Tuesday

**Time:** 4:10 p.m.

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

**Features:** Holy hour followed by Mass at 5:15 p.m. and confessions at 5:45 p.m.

### ROSARY FOR LIFE

Canton – Rosary for life to be held.

**Date:** Every Sunday

**Time:** 4:25 p.m. preceding the 5 p.m. evening Mass

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

### ADORATION

Norwood – St. Andrew's Church to offer Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday.

**Time:** After 8:30 a.m. Mass until Noon

**Features:** Sign up is not needed.

### DIOCESAN EVENTS

### ADVENT MYSTERY PLAYERS

The Advent Mystery Players to perform.

**Schedule:** Nov. 26, 2 p.m. at Summit Village in Watertown; Dec. 3, 6 p.m. at St. Mary's in Potsdam; Dec. 10, 6 p.m. at St. James in Gouverneur; Dec. 17, 7:15 p.m. at Holy Family Church, Watertown.



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## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

## Sharing our talents

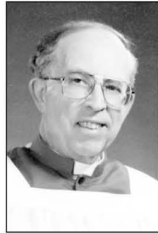
Many of you will remember the song from the musical *Godspell*, "We plough the fields and scatter."

The refrain goes like this: "All good gifts around us, Are sent from heaven above, So thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all His love. I really want to thank you, Lord!"

Stephen Schwartz really "lifted it" from an old German hymn. But

how appropriate for this Sunday's readings, which really warn us to use well the gifts God has given us, for the time is short before God will demand an accounting from us.

In the Gospel story about the king who goes on a long journey, then comes back suddenly, Jesus invites the Apostles to reflect on their own lives in terms of the "talents" they



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

November 19

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Matthew 25:14-30

have each received.

It's clear that he has given them to each in accordance with their own abilities. In the story, two of the servants promptly go out and double their value, while one, out of fear and timidity, just buries his one talent without any

attempt to use it well. The moral is obvious: if we don't use God's gifts and share them, we will be punished at the end of our lives.

Why must we be so industrious and generous with God's gifts? Because, as followers of Jesus, we cannot just live for our own selfish enjoyment, for we are "children of the light" meant to spread the Good News and help others to also live in the light.

It's clear from St. Paul's preaching to the

Thessalonians that no one knows just when the world will end, but the Lord's second coming is inevitable, and it will come suddenly, without warning.

It's a good Sunday to ask ourselves, "If the Lord should come today, how ready am I to 'turn in my chips' and give an accounting of my life? Will the Lord be pleased with how I have increased the gifts of light and grace He has given me? How generous have I been in sharing my light?"

## CALLED TO SERVE

## Happy Thanksgiving

"If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."

I was looking for inspiration for this week's column and this selection from Luke's Gospel appeared as the reading for Mass on the day I am writing.

Perhaps if I keep looking.

It is the day after the annual elections. One not-so-bright result was in Ohio where voters approved a ballot measure to amend the state constitution to establish a right to abortion.

Another downer.

My wife suggested I write about the failure of people to understand the nature of life and the tragedy of abortion.

It was a good suggestion, but my reaction was to stay away from that topic for now.

Perhaps peace among

nations is the way I should go?

Wikipedia, an online encyclopedia, keeps track of on-going disagreements between nations and people. It lists seven major wars in the world today. To qualify for major war status, the "conflict" must have caused 10,000 or more deaths in the current or past year.

The Israel-Hamas war qualifies. So do the Ukrainian-Russian war and wars we hear less about in Myanmar, previously known as Burma, the Mexican drug war, Maghreb, Ethiopia, and

Sudan. Those three on the African continent.

Those are big fights.

There are fifteen lesser wars. That means they have not reached the 10,000-death plateau. A similar body count criteria is used to qualify 22 conflicts as minor and 13 as skirmishes or clashes.



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

Peace in the world has not come in at least 57 cases according to Wikipedia.

I have been in a good mood all day. All these topics are starting to drag me down. They might be having the

same impact on you too, friend.

My gut feeling is to make believe all those things do not exist. "I can't like them," as a friend is known to say.

But they are real. Jesus' admonition in that gospel passage I quoted is on point. We will have to suffer to fully understand God, his mercy, his love.

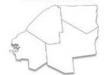
The inspiration for this column came from a note in the Ordo we clergy use in this diocese. The Ordo is the order of prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours and Celebration of the Eucharist for each day. The note is in the directions for the Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, November 19. It suggests we use the days before Thanksgiving in the USA to find ways to be charitable to others, to praise God through acts of penance and to pray for economic justice in the world.

I would add peace. That's what I will write about this week. Happy Thanksgiving.

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## 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

## 'Missionary Seed'

*Holy Childhood Association is the former name of the Missionary Childhood Association and is still used in some countries.*

"Missionary Seed" is the name of the representation of the children of the Missionary Childhood of Slovakia who visited the International Secretariat of the Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood and Fides Agency. The occasion was the initiative "Children meet the Pope," in which the delegation took part on the afternoon of November 6 with the Holy Father, together with 6,000 people of the same age from 84 countries.

Liliana, Paulína, Bianka, Anton, Tomáš, Annamária, Karolína and Matej, who come from the small village of Zazriva and are between 10 and 14 years old, expressed gratitude for the upcoming meeting with Pope Francis.

"It was a great feeling for each of them to know that they will take part in this event," Martin Farbák, who accompanied the group together with Lucia Fedorová, told Fides. "The emotions increased when we got on the plane to travel to Rome, since none of them had ever flown before."

"The children and young people from the village of Zazriva are the 114th group of the 'Missionary Seed' initiative of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, which is part of the project we launched on May 22, 2022, and which now number more than 500 missionary groups throughout Slovakia," they explained. Some of the children shared what they would like to say to Pope Francis.

Bianka, for example, wants to help create a better world and solve the environmental crisis, also through information and exchange with other children. Karolína said that they would all try together to do their best to change the state of the planet and are very happy to have been chosen among the 500 missionary groups and to have met Fides Agency editorial team. Annamária added that they continue to pray in a chain with other children for the sick, the poor and all those in need around the world.

"Prayer keeps us all connected," she said.

"The Society of the Holy Childhood has a long history in our country," concluded Farbák. "It existed since the 1930s together with the Pontifical Mission Societies in Slovakia. Unfortunately, the Pontifical Mission Societies had to be closed after 1948 with the beginning of communism in Czechoslovakia. After the 1989 revolution, Cardinal Jozef Tomko, then Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, refounded the Pontifical Mission Societies in Slovakia together with the Society of the Holy Childhood, and we have never stopped since then."

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

## WE SHARE THE BURDEN Supporting vocations

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ  
Diocesan Vocations Coordinator

"Cast your burden on the Lord, and He will sustain you." (Ps. 55:22).

Are not the people of God of the North Country experiencing the burdens of the world these days with problems of the economy, unemployment, health-care costs and housing costs? And yet, have not the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg been blessed with a strong faith community of people in parishes who see the needs of the helpless, the poor, the sick, the marginal, the refugee, the migrant workers, and so on, to help carry and share the many burdens that arise? Over and over, the people of the Diocese have always been there to ... "Share the Burden" by supporting the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal.

The Vocations Office benefits directly from the Bishop's Fund, especially in the formation and education of our seminarians. We are deeply grateful for the generous support to the Bishop's Fund so that the Vocation Office can continue its mission of "promoting the culture of vocations," one of the diocesan goals for the future of the Church.

The Church of Ogdensburg is blessed with the recent ordination of Father Lukas Gruber and Deacons Carter Pierce and Douglas Schirmer. These two deacons will be ordained as priests next year, God willing, and will continue their studies at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Maryland until then. The other five seminarians' formation will be at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio and St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. All of them have expressed their deep gratitude for the support of the Bishop's Fund. Each of them has shared their summer assignment in the parishes and said how these experiences have strengthened their call to priesthood. They depend on the support of your prayer and support of the Bishop's Fund to continue their studies.

Father Christopher Carrara, director of Vocations and Father Matthew Conger, assistant director of Vocations, have revived Andrews' Dinners around the diocese. These were held in Morrisonville, Tupper Lake, Norfolk and Carthage on four Sundays in October, to guide young men, high school age, and beyond to listen to the vocation stories of Bishop Terry R. LaValley and the priests in their area, who shared their experiences of their relationship with

Jesus, their listening to the whisperings of the Holy Spirit, and why they responded to the call of priesthood. They will also share how important daily prayer is to deepen their relationship with Jesus as they continue to guide the people with their burdens that weigh them down as well as the many joys that lift them up. Participants also heard from parents of seminarians.

Father Conger and I traveled to specific areas of the diocese to offer Middle School Retreats and visit the schools and catechetical centers. Our conversation with the students were intended to make them aware that they are called to holiness and to have and to experience a deep relationship with Jesus, and that Jesus wants a deep relationship with each one of them. They were encouraged to hear and to listen attentively how Jesus might be asking them to know, love, and serve God's people as a priest, deacon, consecrated religious, married man and woman or as a single person. To be in relationship with Jesus is to be "the hands and feet of Jesus," that is, to be a Christ-bearer to help carry the burdens of life. A special emphasis was given to experience prayer within the family that nurtures and builds strong family life.

"The family that prays together stays together." It is the deep prayer of family that enables family members, especially youth, to experience and strengthen the bonds of love within the family and with the Lord.

God calls each of us to Himself and to be with Him forever. This is His desire and dream - that we become like Him in a particular path of life toward wholeness and holiness. Each vocation has its own special role to play in the Church, not only to become holy but also to help others on their journeys towards God. The surest way to strengthen vocations is to pray. Each parish is encouraged to have a Holy Hour to pray for vocations, especially to the priesthood, so that priests can provide the sacraments to the People of God and to share the burden by helping them on their way home to God. Many parishes already have Holy Hours. It has been shown that all vocations have been strengthened by providing a Holy Hour, but especially vocations to priesthood.

Jesus desires that we come to Him when we are burdened. He will help us carry the burden. He will also give us the grace to walk with those we minister to and to acknowledge that "We Share the Burden."

# Advent prepares us for Christmas

By Stephen Tartaglia

Diocesan director of Family Life

The other day someone asked me when I thought it was too early to start decorating for Christmas.

My answer, "Any time before December 24th is too early," probably

came as a surprise.

When I got married and started having children, my wife and I decided to celebrate Advent and Christmas very intentionally. It seemed to us that Advent was largely ignored by society and consequently, a great

deal of the value, meaning and importance of Christmas was lost by society.

In a similar way, a great deal of the value, meaning and importance of marriage is also lost by a society in the grips of the sexual revolution and

the "hookup culture." Hooking up is roughly equivalent to the "one-night stand." The term describes the brief sexual interaction be-

tween two people looking for pleasurable experiences with one another with no time spent getting to know one another, no real relationship, no commitment of mind and heart and no self-giving love. It is utilitarian, hedonistic and idola-

trous. the fact that we are encountering Jesus is really missing the point.

Likewise, we are reminded during Advent that Jesus is called "Emmanuel," which means God with us. To celebrate Christmas without giving any thought to the fact that we are celebrating "Christ with us" is really missing the point.



Stephen Tartaglia,  
Diocesan director  
of Family Life

Just as a couple prepares for the celebration of the sac-

rament of matrimony, the Church, the bride of Christ, should observe Advent as a time of preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

Contrast that picture with the man and woman pursuing the sacrament of matrimony. Their mutual attraction has inspired them to spend time together learning about each other more deeply. As their love grows, so does their commitment. They get engaged and have a period of joyful anticipation while they prepare for the time when God will permanently bond them to each other.

As a result of their self-giving love comes the possibility of welcoming new life and the development of a family.

All the sacraments, including matrimony, are encounters with Christ in which we experience Him in concrete ways. Jesus is truly with us in the sacraments, and we need to take time to prepare ourselves for those encounters.

To receive a sacrament without any preparation, without giving any thought to

When we get engaged, we decorate the bride-to-be with the engagement ring, letting the world know she is preparing for marriage. But we don't put on the wedding rings until the day of the wedding.

Metaphorically, Advent is the time for the engagement ring. Christmas is the time for the wedding rings. So, decorate for and observe Advent in preparation for the celebration of Christmas, which begins on December 25th.

This year Advent begins on December 3. Advent is a great way for children to be brought into these beautiful mysteries of our faith in age-appropriate ways. To learn more about how to observe Advent well as a family, go to <https://www.rcdony.org/family-life/advent.html>



## CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT WORKING ON THE MARGINS

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For more than 50 years, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has supported organizations that combat poverty and improve the lives of people in communities across the United States. Not only do CCHD-funded organizations advocate with civic, business, and community religious leaders to improve access to affordable housing, job and educational opportunities, and rights for immigrants—they also respond quickly to urgent needs when communities experience emergencies.

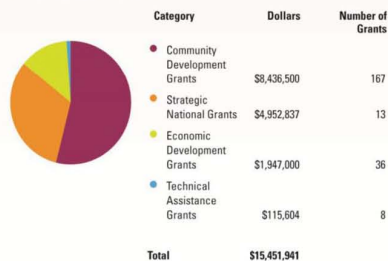
An effective response to natural disasters begins with effective planning before disasters occur. In New Orleans and surrounding areas in southern Louisiana, CCHD is helping Together New Orleans develop a project called Community Lighthouse, which will equip 85 congregations and community organizations with commercial-scale solar power and backup battery storage. This effort will form a network of response centers ready to serve

communities in a hurricane or other natural disaster once the solar power equipment is completely installed. By using solar power and backup batteries, the response centers can continue operating in the event of power loss—but they will also be using clean, renewable energy rather than fossil fuels that contribute to climate change and pollution.

When you support CCHD, you help local communities across the country innovate and work together to solve their own unique challenges. Twenty-five percent of your contribution stays in your diocese to support the organizations addressing your community's needs for housing, jobs, and educational opportunities—and for keeping the lights on during a storm.

To learn more about the collection for the CCHD and the way CCHD upholds the moral and social teachings of the Catholic Church, visit [www.usccb.org/cchd/collection](http://www.usccb.org/cchd/collection).

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