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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 78 Number 30

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

DECEMBER 6, 2023

RITE OF CANDIDACY



PHOTOS BY MARY JO ROCKER AND MOUNT ST. MARY'S SEMINARY

(Above) Tyler Fitzgerald received the Rite of Candidacy on November 25 at St. John the Baptist Church, Madrid. The celebrant was Bishop Terry R. LaValley. (Right) Michael Lennox received the Rite of Candidacy on November 17 in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Pictured with Lennox are Bishop Manuel A. Cruz, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Newark and Msgr. Andrew R. Baker, seminary rector. The rite is an opportunity for a seminarian to express publicly his intention to receive the sacrament of Holy Orders as a deacon and later as a priest.



LESSONS & CAROLS



Musicians from Plattsburgh and surrounding communities gather at St. John's Church in the city to rehearse for the Festival of Lessons and Carols, to be held Dec. 17 at the church. The festival includes both scripture and musical offerings.
FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope: Tech focus dehumanizes society

By Matthew Santucci
Catholic News Agency

Still recovering from the flu and a respiratory tract infection, Pope Francis attended his weekly general audience Wednesday but his reflection was read for him by a Vatican official.

The pope, who needed to have an aide read his Angelus reflection on Sunday as well, sat on stage in front of the crowd throughout the one-hour public audience, which included a circus performance.

In his prepared remarks, read by Monsignor Filippo Ciampantelli of the Holy See's Secretariat of State, Pope Francis warned of the dangers of refashioning society on the basis of a technocratic and materialistic "vision of life

that discards those who do not produce and struggles to look beyond the immanent."

This point was reinforced by referring to the biblical story of the Tower of Babel, which is a lesson about man's "sacrificing all individuality to the efficiency of the collective."

One unique feature today, however, is that "we could even say that we find ourselves in the first civilization in history that globally seeks to organize a human society without the presence of God, concentrated in huge cities that remain horizontal despite their vertiginous skyscrapers," the pope observed.

In this search for "the efficiency of the collective" there is instead a desire "that absorbs the uniqueness of each into a bubble

of uniformity."

But these tendencies "are dangerous, alienating, destructive ambitions" specifically in the context of the present moment as this "cohesion, instead of fraternity and peace, is often based on ambition, nationalism, homologation, and techno-economic structures that inculcate the persuasion that God is insignificant and useless: not so much because one seeks more knowledge, but above all for the sake of more power."

Cognizant of these challenges, Pope Francis suggested that *Evangeliium Gaudium*, his 2013 apostolic exhortation on the proclamation of the Gospel in today's world, offers a potential antidote to this now ubiquitous tendency, saying there must

be "an evangelization capable of shedding light on these new ways of relating to God, to others, and to the world around us, and inspiring essential values. It must reach the places where new narratives and paradigms are being formed, bringing the word of Jesus to the inmost soul of our cities."

Pope Francis noted that the proclamation of the Gospel is not merely an abstract project, nor is it just a "repetition of an acquired style, but testimony that the Gospel is alive today here for us." Instead, it is built upon dialogue that requires "frequenting the spaces where one suffers, works, studies, and reflects, inhabiting the crossroads where human beings share what has meaning for their lives."

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He's not done with me yet

"Young me would hate old me."

That realization struck me as I was chatting with my son, Jake, who is 16. I was trying to explain why I thought something he wanted to do was a bad idea.

I refer to my teens and early 20s as my "rebel without a clue years." While I always performed well in school and successfully maintained employment, it's fair to say I was also a bit wild. I had purple hair and facial piercings. I was known for having

fun, going to parties, attending protests, organizing events, leading crazy adventures and being able to talk my way out of whatever trouble I got myself into. I loved to challenge authority, and I did it whenever an opportunity presented itself.

**Darcy L. Fargo**

Now, I frequently enforce rules and see the value and importance of them. I'm more strategic and less impulsive. I consider and weigh risks much more than I used to.

Young me would certainly hate old me. I'm

now the kind of person young me would likely write scathing editorials about in the student newspaper, accusing me of killing some sort of creativity or freedom.

While I laughed at the idea of young me disliking old me, it also made me grateful to God for giving us these different seasons in our lives, these opportunities to experience life in so many different ways and to see it from so many varying perspectives.

As I think back, I'm glad God changed a lot of who I was in those years. But I also see how my "rebel without a clue years" were part of God's plan, and

how they help me serve and glorify God now. Through my experiences in that part of my life, God gave me boldness, a love of the written word, the ability to find fun and joy in the everyday, a desire for community and to be surrounded by the amazing people God has made in His image...

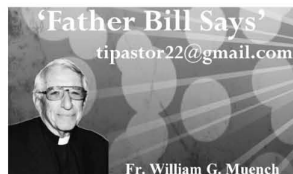
God willing, as I'm looking back in another 20 years, I'll see what foundation God is building upon in this season of my life, and I'll see how he's continued to better equip me to glorify Him and grow my relationship with Him.

Old me loves what God is doing with young me.

Time with St. John the Baptist

Today, as I often do at the beginning of Advent, I would like to write a bit about St. John the Baptist. St. John is a central person of our Advent. I am certain that you know St. John the Baptist's story. Today I would like to share with you why I truly love St. John the Baptist. I wish I loved Jesus with the fervor of St. John the Baptist; I wish that I could preach as well as St. John the Baptist; I wish that I was as bold a missionary as St. John the Baptist.

The Gospels teach that St. John the Baptist discovered his vocation in a desert retreat, his sacred place. Personally, I have had many sacred places, places where I could pray in a special way. Right now, I think of that log chapel at Madonna House. In addition, I remember several parish churches and other such places near various as-

**Fr. William G. Muench**

signments. They were good places for prayer and meditation. Like St. John the Baptist, these sacred places were where I made many important decisions. I thank God for putting such sacred places in my life.

I know that St. John the Baptist was a powerful preacher. He led many people to conversion and a new life. I believe it was that they realized how much John loved Jesus. His love for Jesus was evident to all who listened to him. John the Baptist taught me that I would be a better preacher when I developed a real love for the Lord Jesus. Prayer is very important for me to

become a good preacher. I must take the time to walk in peace with the Lord Jesus.

I have visited the shore of the River Jordan, where they believed St. John preached and baptized. I discovered that it is a sacred place. St. John had a clever idea when he baptized as a sign of repentance and conversion. When a person came to listen to him and were converted by his messages. St. John wanted them to never forget their change of heart at that time. So, he walked each person into the river and baptized them. I have never forgotten my visit to that place on the shore of the River Jordan. For me, that visit was a transformation - a powerful moment I will not forget.

So, I continue to have a real devotion to St. John the Baptist. Each year at Advent time I continue to

place St. John the Baptist in a special place in my prayer and in my memory. I speak often about him and his challenge for each of us to prepare myself and others for the coming of Christ's birthday on Christmas. I think often of St. John's line, speaking of Jesus, "He must increase, I must decrease."

During Advent, our Church is counter cultural. While there are so many Christmas things to do at home - the decorating, the shopping, the sending of cards (all such good and enjoyable Christmas things to do - I love them all), Our churches becomes a bit barren - deserts - with no decorations, no flowers, purple vestments. The Church becomes that special place for prayer and spiritual preparation of the Birth of Jesus, for Christmas.

Festival of Lessons and Carols planned

By Mary Beth Bracy,
Consecrated Virgin
Contributing Writer

Around 30 faithful from throughout the North Country will participate in an English tradition that has also become tradition in Plattsburgh when they perform in the Festival of Lessons and Carols on December 17 at 6 p.m. at St. John's Church in Plattsburgh.

The choir is directed by Holy Cross' organist Nate Pultorak, who will also play a carol on the dulcimer. This Advent tradition is free and open to the public.

It features Advent and Christmas carols and Scripture readings.

"Lessons and Carols has its roots in the English Choral Tradition," said Pultorak. "It first came out in 1917 at King's College in Cambridge. After the Second World War, the dean of the college wanted to have something uplifting and hopeful to prepare people's hearts for Christmas."

Father Kevin McEwan approached Pultorak with the idea of having the Lessons and Carols after experiencing the tradition in a previous assignment. Father McEwan thought it would be a good way to encourage the community to come together during Advent.

"Although it was initially mainly Catholic, I talked with some of the singers from Champlain Valley Voices, and there was a pretty big ecumenical response as well," said Pultorak.

Choir members are from local parishes and as far away as Westport.

"There are nine Scripture readings coupled with nine carols that go through salvation history: the fall of man, prophets, and things they said about Jesus' coming," Pultorak explained. "Then, it jumps into the Gospels, where it starts off with the Announcement and all the Scripture readings with the Birth of Jesus. There is a good variety. Some of the carols are very standard - 'Once in Royal David's City' and it finishes off with 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing.' In the structure, we also



PHOTO BY MARY BETH BRACY/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

The choir performing in the Festival of Lessons and Carols on December 17 in Plattsburgh includes both new and returning singers in the choir of around 30.

get lesser known carols to our local ears. It includes 'In the Bleak Midwinter,' though over in England they know it paired with a different tune."

Riley McQuade, a graduate student at State University of New York at Plattsburgh is a member of the choir.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to be in a choir of very talented individuals," she said. "I've been a singer since I was six and decided to stay in the area to have more opportunities to sing."

As a special feature, Pultorak will play "Silent Night" on the dulcimer.

"It was not originally composed with the organ in mind but the guitar," Pultorak said. "Father Lukas Gruber, who is singing in the choir with us, was able to find some very early notation of what the guitar part was like. I'll be playing the guitar part on my dulcimer. It will give us a closer taste to what it could actually be like. Ironically, the composer's name was Franz Xavier Gruber."

"It is a great group of people singing," added Roland Brouillard, choir member from St. Patrick's in Rouses Point.

Chris Giroux, a long-time member of the Holy Cross choir and frequent cantor, added, "I joined because I like to sing and I like being with people."

"I sang at Lake Placid and the 150th anniversary of our di-

ocese in Ogdensburg. I enjoy singing a lot. It's an enjoyable group. I also sing with Champlain Valley Voices," said Rob Goddeau of St. Augustine's in Peru. "Nate put it out there to come down."

The carols contain a lot of meaning, Pultorak explained.

"The 'Sans Day Carol,' a Cornish carol, is named after a Saints' town," he said. "It talks about different aspects of Jesus' birth as it relates to the Holly Plant. So, for instance, the first verse speaks of the white holly berry and how Mary wrapped Jesus in silk. It was chosen to symbolize Jesus' purity even though He wasn't literally wrapped in silk. Another verse talks about the black holly berry and pairs it with the prophecy that Jesus would die on the Cross for us."

"Also included is my absolute favorite Christmas Carol which is 'O Come All Ye Faithful,'" Pultorak continued. "Traditionally there is this arrangement that many people are familiar with written by David Wilcox. In the last verse we have 'Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning.' In the middle there is a climax of chords: 'Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!' It is jarring but absolutely beautiful; it helps symbolize how the Word made flesh changes everything - we now have hope, we know that salvation is here. The effect and the joy of the singing just multiplies."

Pultorak said local musicians were eager to participate in the event.

"A number of people are excited to sing as a part of this because they saw a different festival in the area," he said. "In the past few years we haven't been able to have one in the area. So, when they heard we were having it, they were very excited about it."

The performance will include both new and returning singers.

"It is my first time to sing Lessons and Carols at St. John's. It includes wonderful teaching songs and organ playing. The members are very friendly and welcoming to new people in the choir. They are wonderful singers and I love to sing with them," said Diana Lawrence.

"Some of the songs are very difficult (to sing). I've been in the choir for ten years or so. They are wonderful songs. I look forward to hearing it," Jim Guinness of Holy Cross Parish added. "A lot of our choir also sings at St. Peter's and St. John's. We would welcome more choir members."

Both Lawrence and Guinness sing in the Cumberland Bay Barbershop Chorus and Sweet Adelines. Several members of the choir also sing in the Barber-shop Chorus, including Chris Giroux, Victor Ludewig, Richard Munn, and Terry Norcross.

"There is a lot of talent in the North Country," Guinness said. "Some of that kind of talent is right here in this group. Members have starred in Community Theater productions and play in groups like the Gibson Brothers. When you get a chance to come to something like this that's free, come - you'll enjoy it."

"It is a nice service to come and remember what the season is all about - see the gift God has given us. A lot of talent is up here and we're just a small part," added Lawrence.

"On the ecumenical side of things, King's College is largely Anglican. Over the years the Catholics have seen the beauty of what they do with Lessons and Carols, and we've taken it up ourselves as well," reflected Pultorak.



This drawing by a Trinity Catholic School student was chosen as a winner in the annual Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) Christmas art contest.

Trinity student wins Christmas art contest

Each year, the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) holds a National Christmas Artwork Contest to design the official National Christmas card of the Pontifical Mission Societies.

Twenty-two winners plus two grand prize winners are selected from this national competition, and one of the winners for 2022-23 is from Trinity Catholic School in Massena.

We congratulate our student (who has chosen to remain anonymous) for being selected from the countless entries sent in from all the diocese and archdiocese around the country. This artwork was submitted by Miss McKenna O'Neill, 2022-2023 TCS art teacher.

All winners receive a commemorative plaque. Their designs are also on display at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, where a mass will be celebrated for them on December 1st, 2023.

For more information on this contest, visit: <https://fwdioc.org/mca-national-christmas-artwork-contest>



Catechists and catechetical leaders from around the diocese participate in a scavenger hunt, "Hunting For The Treasures of The Church," held by catechists and youth from Church of the Visitation Church in Norfolk.

Catechists hunt for the treasures of the Church in LEAD workshop

By Catherine Russell

Assistant Director of Faith Formation, Western Region

Catechists and parish catechetical leaders from around the diocese recently gathered for a LEAD event at the Father Amyot Parish Center in Norfolk.

The event, titled *Hunting For The Treasures of The Church*, featured a treasure hunt planned by Carol Gonthier and her team of catechists and students from the Church of The Visitation in Norfolk. The purpose of the activity was to engage the whole family in learning about the many items and practices of the Catholic church.

Each team was given a list of "treasures" to find. Once found, the team reads about the item. It is hoped questions will be asked and a discussion happens to enrich the knowledge of those attending so they can better understand what each item represents. Some items included in the scavenger hunt include the vestments a priest wears at Mass, including the alb, chasuble, cincture. Other items included the linens used at Mass: corporal, purificator, the altar cloths.



Students from Church of the Visitation in Norfolk demonstrate a scavenger hunt based on items found in a church.

Attendees thought of many ways to be flexible in the use of the activity, breaking it down into small segments according to a theme. For example, a theme might be to do the actions of the priest and the congregation at Mass and why each is done.

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The ‘voice of faith’ is present at COP28

**By the Diocese of Ogdensburg
Laudato Si’ Committee**

The United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP) 28 Meeting in Dubai is currently being held to discuss climate issues.

There are three questions to consider regarding this Conference: First, why is this meeting so important at this moment in history? Second, why is the voice of the faith communities present at this conference? Lastly, what can I do to support the efforts of world leaders as they make decisions about responding to the climate crisis?

Addressing that first question, about COP: Representatives from 197 countries have met annually since 1995, when the United Nations initiated the first COP, held in Berlin, Germany, to discuss climate issues. Over time, Conferences of the Parties have made considerable progress in getting numerous countries involved in addressing climate change.

At the 21st COP in Paris in 2015, for example, 196 countries (including the U.S.) adopted The Paris Agreement, a legally binding international treaty on climate change. Its goal is to hold the increase in global average temperature to less than 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C by the end of this century.

Addressing that second question regarding

Voice of faith communities: For the first time ever the Faith Pavilion will be present at COP 28.

Catholics and other religious leaders are a central hub for faith and interfaith engagement towards effective and ambitious climate action.

It recognizes the vital need for collaboration with leaders, politicians, non-governmental organizations, businesses, women, youth, and civil society representatives. The Faith Pavilion aims to serve as a platform and coordination hub to catalyze more ambitious, effective, holistic and just climate action.

The Faith Pavilion encourages faith-based organizations (FBOs) to engage with country delegates and increase their capacity to advocate for human and nature-centered negotiation outcomes at COP28 and beyond. Pope Francis was scheduled to speak on December 3 until he had to cancel his plans due to health issues.

The Holy See’s Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin will head the Vatican’s delegation to the COP28 climate conference in place of Pope Francis, who continues to recover from an acute bronchial infection.

The presence of the Vatican delegation and Faith Pavilion brings a moral and ethical perspective to the discussions.

In light of Catholic social teachings, Pope Francis stated in his encyclical, *Laudato Si’*:

On Care for Our Common Home, released in 2015, “There is reason to hope that humanity at the dawn of the twenty-first century will be remembered for having generously shouldered its grave responsibilities.” (LS #5)

The purpose of *Laudato Si’* was to establish a logical and spiritual basis for motivating human societies to transform so that we can live in partnership with God’s creation. This encyclical was released just before the COP15 when the Paris Agreement was signed by 197 countries including the U.S.

In his apostolic exhortation, *Laudate Deum* (“Praise God”) released in October 2023, Pope Francis makes direct reference to the COP28 process saying “Despite the many negotiations and agreements, global emissions continue to increase. ... We must move beyond the mentality of appearing to be concerned but not having the courage needed to produce substantial changes.”

He continued: “If there is sincere interest in making COP28 a historic event that honours and ennobles us as human beings, then one can only hope for binding forms of energy transition that meet three conditions: that they be efficient, obligatory, and readily monitored. This, in order to achieve the beginning of a new process marked by three requirements: that it be drastic, intense, and count on the commitment of all.” [59]

Addressing the third question, “so, what can I do as a Catholic?": *Laudate Deum* is a call for action, by all of us, for the benefit of all of us.

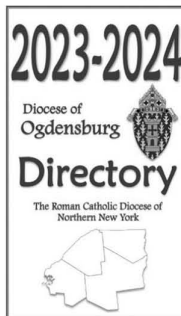
As Pope Francis says “I cannot fail in this regard to remind the Catholic faithful of the motivations born of their faith. I encourage my brothers and sisters of other religions to do the same, since we know that authentic faith not only gives strength to the human heart, but also transforms life, transfigures our goals and sheds light on our relationship to others and with

creation as a whole.” [61]

To learn more about COP28 and resources of prayer and actions, like the COP28 Petition, see *Laudato Si’* Movement COP28 and YouTube “The Faith Voice at COP28.”

Our Diocese of Ogdensburg has a *Laudato Si’* committee; if you feel inspired and motivated to follow Pope Francis’s call to action, please contact Marika Donders, 315-393-2920 or at info@rcdony.org. The committee will work to get you and/or your parish started in following Pope Francis’ call to action.

Diocesan Directories now available!



The Official 2023-2024 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.

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Environmental Stewardship**Acting like Mary**

After saying yes to Archangel Gabriel, Mary surely focused time and energy on providing the best possible prenatal care to the new life that was developing within her womb. She probably sought the counsel of her mom, as well as help from Gabriel and the Holy Spirit through prayer, as to how best to address the needs of the unborn child. From that time on, Mary blossomed in the wisdom of nurturing all life and continues to be a source of great help to anyone willing to ask her for assistance.

While Mary is our spiritual mother, the earth serves as our mother, providing the many items needed. Fresh air, clean water, healthy food and playgrounds beyond description are all given to us by the earth through the gracious actions of God.

Advent is the time of preparation for the birth of Jesus. Like Mary, we should try to improve the chances that any developing fetus is as healthy and happy as possible. In addition, our attention should also be focused on assisting the earth in caring for those countless numbers of organisms yet to be. God has fashioned an incredibly complex tapestry of life.

Picking up trash along the roadside, recycling glass and plastic containers, or trying to frequently save on electricity and hot water are all actions that have a positive impact on helping developing organisms on earth.

Humans are quite unique creatures as we have a spiritual mother, Mary, a mother to address our basic organic needs, the planet itself; and our biological mothers, who provides the gifts of love, joy, care, and a sense of family to the newborn. Let us not forget the sacrifices that each of our mothers made to ensure a period of healthy growth in the womb; and let us not forget to help with efforts to sustain as much life as possible. Have a blessed Advent.

By Tom Kalinowski
St. Bernard's Parish

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: **Dec. 14** – 6 p.m. – St. James Minor Church, Carthage

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

Bishop's Public Schedule

Dec. 6 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Dec. 8 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Dec. 9 – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Dec. 10 – 9 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Church in Clayton

Dec. 11 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Dec. 12 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

5 p.m. – St. Mary's Cathedral Staff Christmas Party in Brzana Hall

Dec. 13 – 9:30 a.m. – Diocesan Department Head Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

Noon – Lunch followed by Advent Day of Reflection for all Diocesan Staff at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

With many thanks

**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

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg for Giving Tuesday! We are very thankful for your generous gifts and prayers for the missions. Together we were able to raise \$260 to support the physical and spiritual needs of the children in mission territories around the world! If anyone missed the opportunity to donate or would like to donate at a later time, our diocesan office is always accepting donations for our general MCA collection. Please read on to hear the story of a school in Mongolia run by the Daughters

Rest in Peace

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

Dec. 6 – Rev. Edward F. O'Brien, 1936

Dec. 7 – Rev. Robert O. Lamitie, 2021

Dec. 8 – Rev. Patrick J. McGuinness, 1931; Msgr. Cornelius J. Crowley, 1946; Rev. John Leo Hammill, 1949; Rev. John Harvey, 1961

Dec. 9 – Rev. George Marion, O.M.I., 1927; Rev. Edwin Hanlon McCarthy, 1950; Rev. Arthur LaVigne, 1956

Dec. 10 – Rev. James Hogan, 1882

Dec. 11 – Rev. George Montreuil, 1914; Rev. Edward Tetrault, 1952; Msgr. George Henry Brisson, P.A., 1969

Dec. 12 – Rev. Victor Dugas, 1843; Msgr. Albert J. Farrell, 1967; Rev. Julian P. O'Brien, 1988; Deacon Floyd J. Barton, 1999

of Mary Help of Christians.

This year, 30 children are attending the "St. Paul" school, run by the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians in the Mongolian village of Zuummod, capital of the province of Tov. The school is a significant presence where most of the children come from families whose daily life is marked by strong social difficulties.

In Zuummod, work is a mirage. There are very few stable employment opportunities. Families live on subsidies that the government distributes each month to support children from 0 to 18 years old.

"There are, among adults, those who abuse alcohol using the money intended for their children. In some cases, they lack the necessary things, even the ability to wash themselves," Sister Hanako Kojima Teresia, director of the school who this year received support from the Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood, told Fides.

The children arrive in the morning, have breakfast and begin their school and play activities. The day continues with lunch and, for some, after school, which is also open to the children of the village who do not attend school. The after-school program also helps children to do some ex-

tracurricular activities.

"We are inspired by Don Bosco's 'Preventive System,' educating boys and girls to become honest citizens," said the director. According to St. John Bosco, boys and girls immersed in contexts of social and family difficulties can grow in a healthy way thanks to the closeness and support of affectionate guides and educators, who know how to guide them in their choices, giving concrete faith to the reasonableness of virtuous behaviors, rather than focusing on "repressive" punishments and practices against those who break the rules.

The daily accompaniment of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians becomes even more silent and prayerful when there are situations of serious psychological and emotional deprivation. Sister Hanako Kojima Teresia recalls the case of a girl with an alcoholic father who, despite suffering all the negative consequences of a complex and difficult situation at that age, tried to maintain a protective attitude towards her parent. "Before this - concludes the nun - I was deeply moved and I prayed for her and for her future."

Article from FIDES missionary news service of the Pontifical Mission Societies

Some pro-life lawmakers urge new approach

By Tyler Arnold
Catholic News Agency

Amid electoral struggles since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, some pro-life lawmakers are considering changing how they approach the issue of abortion - but many of them are still divided on what the best strategy is.

This November, the pro-life movement suffered a string of losses in an election cycle that was heavily focused on abortion policy: They lost a referendum fight in Ohio by a 13-point margin, Kentucky voters opted for a pro-abortion Democrat in the gubernatorial race by a 5-point margin, and Democrats narrowly defeated Republicans to control both chambers of the Virginia General Assembly.

Some pro-life lawmakers are trying to moderate their position on abortion in response to these results, but others are doubling down on their pro-life stances.

A moderate shift on abortion for some politicians

"We can't save lives if we can't win elections," Rep. Nancy Mace, R-South Carolina, told CNA.

"If pro-life Republicans want to actually save lives, they have to learn to read the room," Mace said. "We need to listen to women. *Roe's* repeal changed the playing field and the conversation, and too many are stuck in the policies and arguments of the past."

Mace, who has urged Republicans to moderate their positions on abortion, has criticized pro-life bills that do not include exceptions for rape and incest and bills that establish reporting requirements for rape victims who seek an abortion. She testified against a near-total abortion ban in South Carolina because of the lack of exceptions in the initial proposal.

"We need to talk about common-sense abortion restrictions, but the conversation doesn't end there," Mace added. "We need to discuss access to prenatal care, adoption services, counseling for women considering abortion, and other resources like my bill to establish *life.gov*, which gives women access to information that encourages them to choose life."

Similar electoral concerns are also being expressed within the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus. Rep. Andy

Harris, R-Maryland, who co-chairs the caucus, told CNA that Republicans should shift their focus away from federal policies and "stop talking about any kind of regulation at the federal level and [instead] leave it to see what states do."

Harris, who is Catholic, said that most voters are more concerned about "the economy," "personal security," and "international issues" than they are about abortion right now and that Republicans should not "make [abortion] a focus" on the campaign trail. He said: "There is a middle ground and I think we should seek the middle ground," arguing that most Americans "don't believe that abortion should be legal throughout pregnancy, especially through the third trimester."

"We're not for complete bans on abortion," Harris added. "We're for reasonable regulation, consistent with the majority of Americans."

Harris, as Mace did, noted that pro-life lawmakers need to emphasize that the movement is "not only for the babies but for the women as well." He also referenced the work of pro-life pregnancy centers, saying that many women in a crisis pregnancy "need help and they don't always need abortion."

This approach has also permeated the Republican presidential primary battle, with former President Donald Trump sidestepping many abortion-related questions and refusing to commit to a ban on abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy. Trump is the current frontrunner by a large margin.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis initially dodged the question as well but ultimately said he would support a 15-week ban. Former Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley has said she would also support the ban but has emphasized that it would not be her focus and is unlikely to pass. Entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy has said he would not sign a 15-week ban and said it is a state issue.

Other pro-life lawmakers intend to double down

Despite the concerns from some of his colleagues, Rep. Chris Smith, R-New Jersey, told CNA that the pro-life position is "not only the right issue, but it's also a winning issue," urging other Republicans to "in no way be discouraged" and instead "redouble our efforts."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope Francis says he has 'very acute infectious bronchitis'

(CNA) — Pope Francis told health care professionals on Thursday that he has "very acute infectious bronchitis" and was advised not to travel to Dubai to avoid the extreme change in temperature. The pope, who will turn 87 on Dec. 17, quipped, "As you can see, I am alive," as he met participants in a health care ethics seminar in a morning audience at the Vatican. "Thank God it wasn't pneumonia. It is a very acute, infectious bronchitis. I do not have a fever anymore, but am still on antibiotics and such," Pope Francis said on Nov. 30. Despite feeling under the weather, the pope maintained a very full schedule on Thursday with nine official meetings scheduled for the morning, including an audience with the International Theological Commission, bishops from Canada, and German Bishop Heiner Wilmer of Hildesheim.

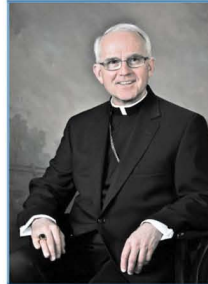
Pope confirms he is taking away cardinal's apartment, salary

(CNA) — Pope Francis reportedly has confirmed that he plans to take away Cardinal Raymond Burke's Vatican apartment and salary but denied that he referred to the American prelate as his "enemy," according to a web post by papal biographer Austen Ivereigh. The pope reportedly announced at a meeting of Vatican heads on Nov. 20 that he intended to take action against Burke, who has publicly criticized some papal initiatives, according to the Italian Catholic news blog *La Nuova Bussola Quotidiana*, which first reported the news on Nov. 27. The Associated Press later confirmed the report based on conversations with two anonymous sources. The *Wall Street Journal* reported Wednesday that Burke said he has not been informed of the pope's intention to take away his apartment and salary. "People can draw their own conclusions about why the Holy Father told this to Austen Ivereigh and not the person concerned," Burke said. He told the outlet he intends to stay in Rome even if he is forced to find somewhere else to live.

DOJ supports church told by town to limit meals to homeless

(CNA) — The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) this month signaled its support for an Oregon Episcopal church in a legal dispute over a homeless meals program that the church has run for years. St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Brookings, Oregon, has for years regularly provided meals for homeless people in the area up to six days per week, but the city in 2021 ordered that it could only do so up to two days per week. The church subsequently sued the city over the order. This week, the Department of Justice filed a statement in support of the church. The DOJ said in a press release that the city's new ordinance might run afoul of the federal Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act. That law, according to the DOJ, "protect[s] individuals, houses of worship, and other religious institutions from discrimination in zoning and landmarking laws." The city enacted an ordinance "that prohibits the church from serving free meals to persons in need more than two days per week, subject to a discretionary permit," the DOJ said.

Retirement Collection for Religious



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

I am writing to tell you about the upcoming 2023 collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. This annual appeal assists nearly 25,000 elderly sisters, brothers and religious order priests nationwide. I am grateful for the significant influence that women and men religious, both past and present, have had on my own spiritual journey. I deeply appreciate their invaluable contributions to our diocese and the wider community. Perhaps you too have been touched by the kindness and guidance of a religious who made a positive difference in your life.

Since the founding of our Diocese, many consecrated women and men have served the people of God in the North Country. Dominican Sisters of Hope, Ursuline Sisters, Sisters of St. Joseph, Atonement Sisters, Sisters of the Precious Blood Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Atonement Friars, to mention just a few.

We are called to recognize that many of our senior vowed religious have dedicated their lives to service, usually receiving little pay in return. Consequently, their religious communities face a shortage of retirement savings. Compounding this challenge are rising health-care costs and decreased income. Religious communities find it increasingly difficult to meet the day-to-day needs of aging members, including their medical expenses, nursing assistance and other necessities.

Your generous donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious provide vital financial support, enabling religious communities to care for their aging members. I know you are frequently asked to support many worthy causes. I invite you to contribute whatever you can toward this year's collection.

In addition to your financial contribution, please keep all our women and men religious in your prayers. May God's abundant blessings be upon you and your loved ones.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

Special Collection in your parish the weekend of Dec. 9th & 10th

- ◆ Religious communities are financially responsible for the support and care of all members. Income, earnings, and expenses are managed separately from the parish and diocesan structures of the Catholic Church.
- ◆ By 2027, retired religious are projected to outnumber wage-earners by more than three to one.
- ◆ The funding shortage is compounded by rising healthcare costs and decreased income. And, as more religious reach retirement age and leave compensated ministry, income will further decline while care needs increase.
- ◆ There are 25,000 religious past age 70 living in the United States. In 2023, the average annual cost for their care was almost \$60,000 per person.
- ◆ During the early and mid-twentieth centuries, the Catholic Church in the United States experienced a surge in vocations to religious life, with numbers peaking in the mid-1960s. Care for elderly members was provided largely by younger ones. Over time, however, the number of vocations decreased while lifespans increased. The result is far fewer younger members available to support the retirement and eldercare needs of senior members. Currently, 81 percent of the religious communities providing data to the NRRO have a median age of 70 or older.

**COMFORTING • NURTURING • TEACHING • NURSING
• SHARING • LOVING • CARING**

*“Let us put the Lord back in the center and press forward with joy”.
(Pope Francis)*

Orders Serving in the Diocese

- Daughters of Charity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Dominican Sisters of Hope
- Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
- Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood
- Sisters of Charity of St. Louis
- Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod
- Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
- Sisters of St. Joseph



Please give to those who have given and are giving a lifetime.

We are grateful for all the support you have given us throughout the years.

Religious of the Diocese of Ogdensburg

You can express your gratitude for all the religious have done and will continue to do by giving to your parishes annual collection.

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make your tax-deductible check payable to your parish. Write *Retirement Fund for Religious* on the memo line and give it to your parish collection or send your donation directly to:

RETIREMENT COLLECTION FOR RELIGIOUS

**P.O. Box 106
Canajoharie, NY 13317**



Share Christmas greetings with priests of our diocese

Bishop Terry R. LaValley
Diocese of Ogdensburg
PO Box 369
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Rev. Philip T. Allen
St. Mary's and St. Paul's Parish
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Indian Lake, NY 12842

Rev. Andrew J. Amyot
PO Box 637
Norfolk, NY 13667

Rev. Medenel Angrand
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and Trout River
PO Box 78
Constable, NY 12926

Rev. Pierre Aubin MSC
PO Box 100
Chaumont, NY 13622

Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin
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415 Hamilton Street
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

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Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. Corneille Boyeye MSC
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Sacred Heart
668 Thompson Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. Timothy G. Canaan
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Unit B117
Wilton Manors, FL 33311

Rev. Leagon J. Carlin
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PO Box 329
Massena, NY 13662

Rev. Christopher C. Carrara
Our Lady of Grace
PO Box 216
Morristown, NY 13664

Rev. Gerald A. Cerank
Sarasota Health and Rehab
1524 S. East Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34239

Rev. Tojo Chacko HGN
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5526 State Route 11
Ellenburg Center, NY 12934

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PO Box 382
Constableville, NY 13325

Rev. Martin E. Cline
St. Bernard's Church
27 St. Bernard Street
Saranac Lake, NY 12983

Rev. Douglas G. Comstock
The CC of Alexandria
17 Rock Street
Alexandria Bay, NY 13607

Rev. Matthew S. Conger
St. Patrick's Church
123 S. Massey Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. Normand C. Cote
Plattsburgh Rehabilitation &
Nursing Center
8 Bushey Blvd
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Rev. Theodore A. Crosby
St. Joseph's Church
PO Box 224
West Chazy, NY 12992

**Rev. Pedro Edgardo
de la Rosa**
St. Ann's Church
24 Town Hall Road
Mooers Forks, NY 12959

Rev. Douglas A. Decker
CC of St. Peter and St. Mary
and St. Hedwig
5457 Shady Avenue
Lowville, NY 13367

Rev. Robert L. Decker
St. Cecilia's Church
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Adams, NY 13605

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Watertown, NY 13601

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Plattsburgh, NY 12901

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1148 Yockey Road
Mitchell, IN 47446

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123 S. Massey Street
Watertown, NY 13601

**Rev. Raymond Diesbourg
MSC**
The RCC of Cape Vincent,
Rosiere and Chaumont
PO Box 288
Cape Vincent, NY 13618

Rev. John L. Downs
PO Box 646
Norfolk, NY 13667

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3035 Main Street
Peru, NY 12972

Rev. Guy F. Edwards
77 Maryland Road
Plattsburgh, NY 12903

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St. Ann's Church
PO Box 288
St. Regis Falls, NY 12980

Rev. Francis J. Flynn
St. Augustine's Church
3035 Main Street
Peru, NY 12972

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MSC**
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Watertown, NY 13601

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PO Box 187
Waddington, NY 13694

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PO Box 315
Colton, NY 13625

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PO Box 159
Morrisonville, NY 12962

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St. Joseph
PO Box 159
Morrisonville, NY 12962

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The CC of Moriah
12 St. Patrick Place
Port Henry, NY 12974

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34 Milrace Drive
Rochester, NY 14445

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Church of the Assumption
78 Clinton Street
Redford, NY 12978

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Watertown, NY 13601


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Elderwood of Uihlen
185 Old Military Rd
Lake Placid, NY 12946

Rev. Paul J. Kelly
PO Box 303
Keene, NY 12942

Rev. John P. Kennehan
St. Joseph's Home
950 Linden Street
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Rev. Thomas Kornmeyer
St. Bartholomew's Church
PO Box 236
Old Forge, NY 13420

Rev. Steve Kovacevich
PO Box 1522
Lake Placid, NY 12946





Share Christmas greetings with priests of our diocese

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1875 Jenkintown Road F102
Jenkintown, PA 19046

Rev. Arthur J. LaBaff VF
St. Mary's Church
521 James Street
Clayton, NY 13624

Rev. Alan J. Lamica
P.O. Box 38
North Bangor, NY 12966

Rev. Kris C. Lauzon
St. Mary's Church
1347 State Route 11
Brushton, NY 12916

Rev. Clyde A. Lewis
St. Patrick's Church
PO Box 217
Rouses Point, NY 12979

Rev. Christopher J. Looby
St. Mary's Church
22 Father Jogues Place
Ticonderoga, NY 12883

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PO Box 78
Constable, NY 12926

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PO Box 329
Massena, NY 13662

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St. Stephen's Church
PO Box 38
Croghan, NY 13327

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PO Box 428
Constableville, NY 13325

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Holy Cross Parish
7 Margaret Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Msgr. C. John McAvoy
c/o CJ Farrara
46 Constable Street
Malone, NY 12953

Rev. Kevin D. McEwan
Holy Cross Parish
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Plattsburgh, NY 12901

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St. Raymond
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Norfolk, NY 13667

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Ogdensburg, NY 13669

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Holy Family Church Rectory
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Syracuse, NY 13219

Msgr. John R. Murphy
1046 Oswegatchie Trail Road
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St. Andre Bessette Parish
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Malone, NY 12953

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Our Lady of the
Sacred Heart Church
320 West Lynde Street
Watertown, NY 13601

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St. Mary's Cathedral
415 Hamilton Street
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Rev. Kevin J. O'Brien
St. Raphael's Church
PO Box 377
Heuvelton, NY 13654

Rev. John Kennedy Ojuok
Holy Cross Parish
7 Margaret Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Rev. Jerome Pastores
Kateri Hall
PO Box 429
Hogansburg, NY 13655

Rev. Terrence Patterson
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Potsdam, NY 13676

Msgr. Leeward J. Poissant
16 Glen Drive Apt. 4
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Rev. Sony G. Pulickal
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Speculator, NY 12164

Rev. Patrick A. Ratigan
PO Box 436
Hannawa Falls, NY 13647

Rev. William G. Reamer
32-2 Iowa Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12903

Rev. Mark R. Reilly VF
St. Peter's Parish
PO Box 329
Massena, NY 13662

Rev. Nicholas J. Revilla
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CC of Holy Name and
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RCC of Brownville and Dexter
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Brownville, NY 13615

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Magdalen College of the
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Warner, NH 03278

Rev. Joseph N. Sestito
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Rome, NY 13440

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Tupper Lake, NY 12986

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Elizabethtown, NY 12932

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and St. Hedwig
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Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. Leo A. Wiley
1425 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. John R. Yonkovig VF
St. Agnes Church
169 Hillcrest Avenue
Lake Placid, NY 12946

VIRTUAL EVENTS

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.

Date: Jan. 28, Feb. 11, Feb. 25

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

ONLINE AUCTION

Saranac Lake – Support St. Bernard's School by bidding at the Under the Tree Online Auction.

Date: Bidding between Dec. 3 to Dec. 10

Place: <https://www.32auctions.com/UnderTheTree23>

Features: The Under the Tree Auction is a way for you to support St. Bernard's School AND get Christmas shopping done! Proceeds go toward the school.

Contact: Call the school office with questions 518-891-2830

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

CHRISTMAS GALA

Minerva – St. Joseph Catholic Laity for Community Outreach presents a North Country Christmas Gala.

Date: Dec. 9

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Town of Minerva Community Building

Cost: \$25 per person or \$45 per couple, Prime Rib Dinner, hors d'oeuvres, dessert, punch

Features: 50/50 Raffle and Chinese Auction.

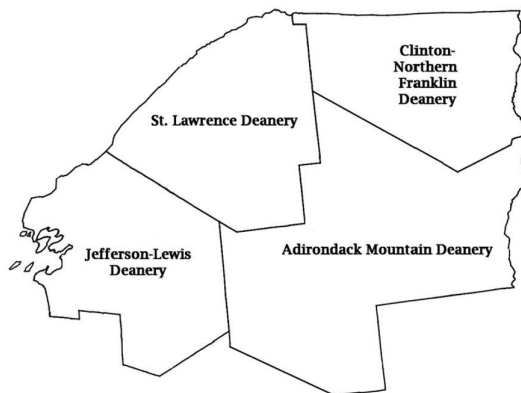
Contact: Call or text 518, 605, 6857 to reserve your tickets.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Altona – Christmas Festival to be held.

Date: Dec. 10



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.

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Place: Holy Angels Hall

Features: Craft Fair, Bake Sale, Gift Basket Raffle, Live Nativity, Christmas Concert, Food and Refreshments for sale.

Contact: For more info., please call 518-236-5632

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Plattsburgh – Holy Cross Parish is thrilled to announce its Festival of Lessons and Carols. It combines the timeless beauty of Christmas carols with Scripture readings that summarize Salvation History.

Date: Dec. 17

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: St. John's Church

Features: This event will feature a choir comprised of talented individuals from area churches, coming together to prepare for Christmas through the beauty of music. There is no cost to attend, and all are welcome. Donations are accepted. Join us for this joyful and prayerful time.

Contact: For more information, contact the Holy Cross Parish Office at 518-563-0730

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

POLISH CHRISTMAS WAFER

Houseville - The Polish Christmas Wafer or OPLATEK is available.

Cost: \$3 per package plus

shipping and handling

Features: The Christmas wafer or POLATEK, is part of a Polish, Lithuanian and Slovak custom that is observed during the Vigil of Christmas (Wigilia.) After the first star is visible, family and friends gather around the dinner table to share the OPLATEK which symbolizes the presence of Christ, the Newborn Child. The OPLATEK is sent and shared with family and friends all over the world as a symbol of love, unity and forgiveness.

Contact: To order please call 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

ADVENT RETREAT

Watertown – The Sisters of St. Joseph to have their Annual Advent Retreat.

Date: Dec. 10

Time: 2 p.m. to 4

Place: SSJ Motherhouse

Features: Join us for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a reflection given by Deacon James Crowley on Mary, Mother of the Incarnate Word, time for personal prayer, and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Items made by the Sisters of St. Joseph and Associates (bakery/sweet treats: stitch-in-time items, creative crafts, and a "This and That" table) will be available for purchase on this retreat day. As in previous years, all money received will be given to the Victim's Assistance Center as our Advent gift for their needs.

Contact: 315-782-3460

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Clayton – St. Mary's Church presents, "A Festival of Sacred Christmas Song".

Date: Dec. 10

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Features: Performances by St. Mary's and St. Cyril's choirs, St. Mary's Youth Choir, Turning Point Men's Barbershop Chorus, Michele Bariteau on flute, and Dan Hammond on percussions. Join us for a concert of beautiful and uplifting Christmas music. A reception will follow. This is a free concert, though a free-will offering is welcomed.

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

ADVENT PARISH MISSION CANCELED

The Advent Parish Mission that was to be held at Immaculate Conception in Brownville and St. Andrew's Church has been canceled.

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: Jan. 7

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

ST. LAWRENCE

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

Canton – The Knights of Columbus will have a Cornhole Tournament.

Date: Dec. 8

Time: Doors open at 6 p.m., starts at 7 p.m.

Place: K of C Hall, 30 Miner Street

Cost: \$10 per team

Features: There will be 20 teams with single elimination. First prize, \$100; Second Prize, \$50; Third Prize, \$25. Bring your own bags. Snack bar available, no alcohol allowed.

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 2 alcoholic beverages (beer or wine), 2 Slices of 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

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

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

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

Ogdensburg – The Legion of Mary

YouTube removes popular Catholic channel

By Peter Pinedo
Catholic News Agency

A popular Catholic YouTube channel run by a religious community known as the "Home of the Mother" was removed by YouTube on Nov. 3 for allegedly violating the platform's policies on spam, deceptive practices, and scams.

The channel titled "HM Television (English)" was best known for its hugely popular documentary "All or Nothing."

The film tells the story of Sister Clare Crockett, a young Irish nun who gave up an acting career to enter religious life and was killed in an earthquake while serving in Ecuador in 2016. The documentary had millions of views before being removed along with the rest of the channel's videos.

Sister Kristen Gardner, a member of the Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother and author of a book about the life of Sister Clare Crockett, told CNA on Wednesday that the sisters were especially saddened by the documentary being removed. Despite the religious community appealing the decision, Gardner said that the channel "remains deleted."

"The Sister Clare documentary was doing much good," Gardner said, adding that it was "helping to bring many people back to the Catholic faith and also to pull people out of mediocrity in their living out the faith."

The channel was run by the Home of the Mother community's "EUK Mamie Foundation," a multimedia Catholic apostolate centered in Spain, which also produced the documentary.

Gardner said that YouTube, which is owned by Google, didn't give notice or warnings of the channel violating policies before removing it.

"On Nov. 3, we noticed that many of our embedded videos, including the film about Sister Clare Crockett, were displaying an error message," she explained. "We tried to log into the YouTube channel where these videos were located ... and surprisingly the channel was no longer to be found."

She said they did not find the email notification from YouTube until after the channel had already been removed.

EUK Mamie immediately appealed the removal and got a quick response from YouTube.

According to a Nov. 10 EUK Mamie statement, YouTube said:

"After carefully reviewing your channel, we have confirmed that it violates our policy on spam, deceptive practices, and scams."

"We understand that this is not the best of news, but we must ensure that YouTube is a safe place for all users," YouTube went on, adding, "We will not restore your YouTube channel."

Home of the Mother denied that the channel's content violated any YouTube policies.

The community said its channel "has not used its videos to deceive or defraud anyone" and that it is "not even monetized, because HM Television-EUK Mamie never had the intention of obtaining economic benefit but rather to evangelize, entrusting the future of the channel to God's providence."

The community has since created a new English-language YouTube channel titled "HM Television (International)." The channel has 286 subscribers. The community also reposted the documentary on its "Home of the Mother" channel. The video currently has 7,000 views.

Home of the Mother said it was "saddest" to lose the previously posted documentary "because of the many comments of

people sharing their testimonies and stories."

"Daily people sent testimonies, both written and oral, of the great spiritual good received through this documentary," Home of the Mother said. "Conversions, young people who discover or accept their vocation to the consecrated life or to the priesthood, vocations 'saved' in a moment of crisis, graces received, and many lives changed by Sister Clare's witness of conversion and dedication to God."

"This video radiated too much light and the lord of darkness could not bear it," the statement went on. "But perhaps we can get it back if we fight together in defense of religious freedom and freedom of conscience. Remember that apt saying of Edmund Burke: 'The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.'"

"We ask for your help to spread this message and to publicize this denunciation in all the ways and means at your disposal. We also ask for the help of your prayers, so that the Lord may allow us to recover this tool at the service of evangelization."

YouTube has not yet responded to CNA's request for comment.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

will pray the rosary & devotions.

Date: Jan. 6

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: Jan. 6

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 - First Saturday of the month, men's prayer group to meet for Mass and Adoration.

Date: Jan. 6

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

CATHOLIC PARENTING

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

Date: First Sunday of the month

Place: St. Mary's Rectory

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 formation-

stp@gmail.com

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: Dec. 10, 6 p.m. at St. James in Gouverneur; Dec. 17, 7:15 p.m. at Holy Family Church, Watertown.

STATE EVENTS

NEW YORK STATE DISCERNMENT RETREAT
Syracuse - Have you felt the

invitation to follow Jesus Christ as a Catholic priest? The Vocation Directors of NY State are sponsoring the New York State Discernment Retreat.

Date: Jan. 2-4

Place: Christ the King Retreat Center.

Features: Meet seminarians and hear their stories.

Contact: If you are interested, register by Dec. 28 by e-mailing vocations@syrdio.org.



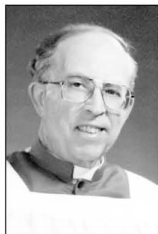
SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Alert and listening

Advent is a time of a time of "stirring up," of rousing all of us to our roots, partly in the spirit of repentance, and even more in a rousing in joy to a world-shaking event. God is coming to earth in human form. He will transform and renew us.

Of course, it happened a few thousand years ago, but it happens again through the power of the Holy Spirit this year too! We must be re-

ally alert and listening so as not to miss our chance for the gifts it brings.



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

In the first reading, God is pictured on His throne, surrounded by the angels. He sends his prophet, Isaiah, with the news: "Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her that...her guilt is expiated." In effect, God says

December 10

Second Sunday of Advent

READINGS

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

that they have suffered enough. "Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low..." Then he tells his messengers to up a high mountain and shout: "Here is your God...Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms, he gathers the lambs...!"

St. Peter, in the second reading, is more urgent: "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar." He echoes John the Baptist in his plea for all people to repent and be cleansed of their sins. Why, so that all will benefit from the redemption promised by the Son who is to be born in Bethlehem is the God-man.

Christ is Himself the Gospel of Mark which tells us how important it is for us to hear the

voice of John crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his path" and "one mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals..."

There is definitely a note of urgency and excitement in Advent. How we all need to really listen God's Word in these fast-moving two weeks until Christmas Day! Spend some special prayer-time every single day as the Holy Spirit works powerfully to bring "Joy to the World."

CALLED TO SERVE

And the color is purple

Did you notice our churches have changed the color scheme to violet, or purple? The change in color, it is called the liturgical color, happened on the first Sunday of Advent, December 3 this year, and will remain the color of the day until Christmas Eve. More on that in a moment.

Advent is also the start of the Liturgical year.

Violet will be the dominant color in this season. The priest and deacon will wear violet vestments. The altar cloth is white but may be accented with pur-

ple. Your church might have banners or other draperies.

Purple is not the color straight through to December 24. White will be the color for the Immaculate Conception and a few other times, red for a martyr, and the ever-popular rose vestment, donned by the celebrant and deacon, if they choose to, on the Third Sunday of Advent.

The Roman Catholic Church pretty much decides what color is appropriate on a given day. When there are choices, the celebrant decides. That is why a

celebrant might choose the readings of the day over the readings for a particular saint on a given day, or vice versa. Most days the priest celebrant does not have a choice.

The vestments are the priest's call but who changes the other appointments? That's what the banners and drapes and other embellishments are called, appointments.

A few churches have a sacristan on staff. The sacristan is the person in charge of the sacristy and its contents, such as the sacred vessels and vestments. The person may either be someone in holy orders or a lay person. The sacristy, incidentally, is the room in a church where the priest prepares for a service, and where vestments and other things used

in worship are kept. Usually, the deacon and altar servers are in the sacristy before Mass with the celebrant.

A sacristan might also be responsible for matching the appointments in the church to the vestment of the day.

Perhaps a sexton is assigned that duty. A sexton is the church custodian charged with keeping the church and parish buildings prepared for meetings and caring for church equipment.

More often than not though, the task falls to the pastor, some volunteer, or a committee of the parish faithful.

This year the church is supposed to magically turn from the somber advent motif of penance, preparation, and sacrifice, purple, to the joyous nativity col-

or of white in a matter of hours. The fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve is shared Sunday, December 24.

Some parishes will put up the Christmas decorations early but will not turn the lights on until the appropriate time, Christmas Eve. Make believe you do not see the creche or other appointments and decorations until then.

We can chat about the other liturgical colors next time. For now, take note of the violet color of Advent. Remember that the color encourages you to prepare for the coming of Christ through penance and sacrifice. We are preparing for the arrival of Jesus on Earth, the real meaning of Christmas.



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown.

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

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OBITUARIES

Brasher Falls – Emma Kellan Irizarry, 12; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 24, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Carthage – Marie (Lewis) Blackwell, 90; Graveside Services Nov. 24, 2023 at St. James Cemetery.

Champlain – Gerald J. Arno, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 2, 2023 at St. Mary's Church.

Champlain – Rita Gloria (Demers) Oliver, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 1, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Plattsburgh Mausoleum.

Chasm Falls – Janice M. Johnson, 84; Memorial Mass and burial to be held at a later date.

Colton – Cynthia M. (Caster) Erwin, 69; Funeral Services Nov. 29, 2023 at Buck Funeral Home; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Constable – Joseph Charles LaPrad, 87; Funeral Services Dec. 2, 2023 at Frary Funeral Home.

Constable – Dayton E. Tuper, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 21, 2023 at St. Francis of Assisi Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Bombay.

Croghan – Nancy J. (Edwards) Beyer, 85; Mass of Christian Burial

Nov. 24, 2023 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in West Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Croghan – Mary Cathleen O'Connor, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 4, 2023 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Ellenburg – Veronica Rowe, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 1, 2023 at St. Edmund's Church.

Gouverneur – Catherine A. (House) Benware, 78; Private Services.

Houseville – John J. Domagala, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 25, 2023 at St. Hedwig's Church; burial in Old Glendale Cemetery.

Houseville – Doris June (O'Brien) Morak, 65; Private memorial service to be held; burial in Martinsburg Cemetery.

Lake Placid – Robert T. Peacock, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 27, 2023 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Massena – Madelyn F. Aponte, 60; Graveside Services Nov. 21, 2023 at Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Arlene M. (Jacobs) Bouvier, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 1, 2023 at Church of

the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Theresa P. (LaBier) Higgins, 95; Graveside services Dec. 2, 2023 at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Mooers.

Massena – Dorothy A. (Peets) Jarvis, 79; Private Services; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Martina A. (Bowmans) Kennedy, 89; Private Mass of Christian Burial at St. Mary's Church.

Newcomb – Gerald Goulet; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 25, 2023 at St. Therese Church; burial in St. Therese Cemetery.

Norfolk – Audrey (Monica) Bushey, 90; Graveside Services Dec. 2, 2023 at Visitation Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Richard F. Hawes, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 30, 2023 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Oswegatchie Mausoleum.

Olmstedville – Florencetta "Floss" (Brannon) Savarie, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 1, 2023 at St. Joseph's Church.

Peru – Sandra Lee (Bird) Geppner, 80; Funeral Services Nov. 29, 2023 at the Hamilton

Funeral Home; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, Plattsburgh.

Peru – William D. Miner, 95; Graveside Services in spring at St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Peru – Harriet F. "Nan" (Darling) Riccardelli, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 4, 2023 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Peru – Victor Bernard Sheffield, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 6, 2023 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Shirley Bell, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 30, 2023 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Plattsburgh Community Mausoleum.

Plattsburgh – Clayton Provost, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 1, 2023 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Port Henry – Betty L. (Ploufe) Moore, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 27, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church.

Port Henry – Richard Francis Sherman, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 20, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church.

Rouses Point – Pauline G. Proulx, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Nov.

25, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Coopersville.

Shroon Lake – Cynthia (DeZalia) Wilson, 61; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 27, 2023 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

Soita – Rosemary C. (Reynolds) Ducharme, 95; Funeral Services Dec. 1, 2023 at Townley & Wheeler Funeral Home, Ballston Lake; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Dannemora.

Star Lake – Ethel M. (Pickering) Kinney, 100; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 22, 2023 at St. Hubert Church; burial in St. Michael's Cemetery, Fine.

Tupper Lake – Charles P. Bake, Jr., 93; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 29, 2023 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Watertown – Patricia A. (Burns) DeTraglia, 80; Funeral Services Dec. 2, 2023 at Cummings Funeral Service, Inc.; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Samuel L. Surace, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 25, 2023 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Maureen A. (Mahar) Swartz, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 25, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church.



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(Left) Mercy Care for the Adirondack's Game Day was enjoyed by Mercy Care Friendship Volunteers, Elder Friends, and St. Joe's Veterans and First Responder residents. (Right) Participants test out reimagined multigenerational versions of classic board games Trivial Pursuit, Scrabble and Life.

Mercy Care, St. Joe's team up for Game Day

On November 15, 2023 and held at First Presbyterian Church in Saranac Lake, Mercy Care for the Adirondacks hosted their Friendship Volunteers, Elder Friends, and St. Joe's Veterans and First Responder Residents for lunch and Game Day. Guests tested out new reimagined multigenerational versions of the classic board games Trivial Pursuit, Scrabble, and Life.

The purpose of Mercy Care

Volunteers, Elder Friends, and St. Joe's Veterans and First Responder Residents socializing together was to help ease isolation and loneliness people of all ages are experiencing, especially in the aftermath of COVID-19.

Noting the impact of these events is best illustrated in a quote from a Mercy Care Elder Friend who said, "I had a wonderful experience, meeting new people, sharing a meal, playing

games, and turning strangers into friends! Got me out of my home after being isolated for 6 months!"

Mercy Care's mission is to enhance the fullness of life of Elders living in our community. "Creativity in Aging" events are designed to offer elders the opportunity to stay connected to their community. Mercy Care hosts Creativity in Aging Programs throughout the year in

the Tri-Lakes area.

If you are interested in becoming a Mercy Care Friendship Volunteer or Parish Nurse or if you are an elder and need the services of a Mercy Care Volunteer, please call Mercy Care's Elder Care Manager, Katherine Rhodes at 518-523-5585, contact her by e-mail at krhodes@adkmercy.org, or visit Mercy Care's Website at www.adkmercy.org

Diocese offers \$200 million to abuse victims

By Tina Denny
Catholic News Agency

In what it called its "best and final" offer to survivors of abuse, the Diocese of Rockville Centre in New York on Monday proposed a plan that offers \$200 million to approximately 600 survivors of abuse, the largest-ever settlement offer made in diocesan bankruptcy history.

The new plan includes an immediate cash payout of a minimum of \$100,000 to claimants with a lawsuit and a \$50,000 minimum to claimants without a qualifying lawsuit.

In a statement released

Monday, the Long Island diocese called the plan "the best, most efficient, and most effective means to immediately begin compensating all eligible survivors equitably while allowing the diocese to emerge from bankruptcy and continue its charitable mission."

The settlement offer includes a diocesan contribution of \$50 million as well as a \$150 million contribution from "parishes, co-insured parties, and other Catholic ministries," according to the statement.

"The diocese agrees with Bankruptcy Court Judge Martin Glenn, who is overseeing the

case, that survivors have waited too long for compensation and that any alternative to a global settlement plan creates chaos that puts both survivor compensation and the futures of parishes at risk," the statement continued.

In July, Manhattan-based Glenn, the chief bankruptcy judge for the Southern District of New York, threatened to end bankruptcy proceedings if the diocese and abuse survivors could not reach an agreement, which would then send the cases back to state court for civil trials, Newsday reported at the time.

In its Nov. 27 statement, the diocese said it "has already made it clear that it is at the end of its resources. ... Continuing to prolong the case, or dismissing the case, will ensure that payments to survivors only go down from the current settlement offer contained in the plan."

On Tuesday, however, Glenn said he would not approve a bankruptcy plan without detailed information from the diocese's parishes, as abuse claimants who would vote on the plan need to be able to weigh the value of their claim against the available resources at the parish where their

abuse occurred, Reuters reported Nov. 28.

According to Reuters, James Stang, a representative of the official committee of abuse survivors in the case, said claimants would not vote for the new plan because it would eliminate legal claims against individual parishes.

The Diocese of Rockville Centre filed for bankruptcy in October 2020 after the passage of the Child Victims Act in New York in 2019 allowed for sex abuse lawsuits to be filed in past cases where survivors had not yet taken action, long after the statute of limitations had expired.