

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Synod
on Synodality:
FAQ | Page 10

'Mother Teresa & Me' to
play in
Watertown | Page 13

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 78 Number 20

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

'Out of this world' vacation Bible school in Plattsburgh

Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh hosted a truly heavenly Vacation Bible School from August 7 to the 11 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Desiree M. Kirk, director of Religious Education, received a Catholic VBS program book and chose the STELLAR option from Concordia.

Several teachers helped make VBS a success, including Sister Jackie Selappan, A Sister of the Cross of Chavanod, Melita Mercier, and Brenda Smith. The program also had six team leaders from area high schools volunteer.

FULL STORY, PAGE 6

MARRIAGE JUBILEE



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Roger and Polly Michael of St. Raphael's Church in Heuvelton celebrated their 25 years of marriage at the diocesan Marriage Jubilee Mass on Sept. 10. See the full story on Page 3.

A FAMILIAR FACE



Marianne Jadlo, who previously served as principal in two diocesan Catholic schools, has assumed the role at Trinity Catholic School in Massena, bringing with her years of experience and a love of Catholic education.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

Pope Francis highlights life of service

By Matthew Santucci
Catholic News Agency

During his Sept. 13 general audience, Pope Francis presented the life of Blessed José Gregorio Hernández Cisneros as an example of the Gospel in action and service to the greater good.

The general audience was the latest installment of the pope's ongoing series on apostolic zeal, which is an opportunity for the faithful to "meet passionate witnesses to the proclamation of the Gospel," individuals who embodied "the will and also the inner passion to carry the Gospel forward," according to the pope.

Wednesday's catechism focused on the Venezuelan Hernández, the "people's doctor," and was the 20th installment in the series, which opened Jan. 11 with the life of the Apostle Matthew.

Hernández was born Oct. 26, 1864, in Trujillo state, Venezuela. Though he wanted to pursue the priesthood, he was unable to due to ill health. Nevertheless, his faith was at the center of his life; he was a daily communicant, had a rich prayer life, and was a Third Order Franciscan layman.

After completing his studies in Caracas, he went to Paris, where he took advanced course-

work in bacteriology. Hernández was, the Holy Father said, "a doctor close to the weak." He was someone who often gave medical assistance to the poor and needy, often without asking for any compensation. Instead of the "wealth of money he preferred that of the Gospel," the pope remarked. This life of service was predicated upon charity and mercy and underscored by his willingness to listen to the will of God.

The Holy Father said this zeal derived from "a certainty and a strength. The certainty was the grace of God." Hernández died in 1919 at the age of 54 after being struck by a car on his way

to deliver medicine to a sick patient. He died "while carrying out a work of mercy," Pope Francis noted. Following his death, Hernández went on to gain a massive following in Venezuela and throughout Latin America.

Hernández was the first Venezuelan layperson to be beatified. On the eve of his beatification in 2021, Pope Francis in a video released by the Vatican said: "He is a model of holiness committed to the defense of life, in the challenges of history and, in particular, as a paradigm of service to his neighbor, like a good Samaritan, without excluding anyone. He is a man of universal service."

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLICPO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
USPS 0039-3400**Bishop Terry****R. LaValley**

President

Rev. Joseph A. Morgan

Vice President

James d. Crowley

Secretary-Treasurer

Darcy L. Fargo

Editor &

Communications Director

Publish
45 issues
per year.
Weekly except
skipping every
other week be-ginning July through August
and skipping one week in
December by theDiocese of Ogdensburg,
622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.**Editorial Office:**622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.**Telephone:**

(315) 608-7556

E-mail:news@northcountry
catholic.org**Entered at the****Post Office:**Ogdensburg, NY
13669 and additional mailing
offices as
Periodical Postage.**Subscription:****For one year:**In-Diocese Rate: \$27
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30Matters for publication
should be addressed to
PO Box 326Ogdensburg, NY 13669
and should be received by
Wednesday prior to
publication. Paper is
printed each Friday;
deadline is Wednesday.
Member, Catholic
Press Association.**POSTMASTER:**Send address changes to
North Country Catholic,
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY
13669-0326

We have the best news

When I described it to a friend, I said, "it was like Jesus had a press conference."

It happened at least a couple years ago during Lent. While it was common for me to sign up for a time spot at adoration at St. Peter's Parish in Massena, I don't think I was originally scheduled to be there. I was either filling in for someone else or just stopped in to spend time with Jesus.

I noticed it almost immediately after genuflecting and finding a seat: While there were only a handful of us there, three of us were credentialed members of the media. I

was there spending time with Jesus along with Bob Beckstead, a longtime reporter for the Courier-Observer in Massena/Watertown Daily Times/NNY360, and Keith Benman, then a reporter for WWNY TV in Watertown and now a contributor to this newspaper.

**Darcy L. Fargo**

I immediately thought of Jesus having a press conference, and it took effort not to laugh out loud during adoration.

While it was a great reminder that God has an awesome sense of humor, it was also one of the most memorable adoration experiences I've

ever had.

I experienced a profound feeling of oneness. While we have plenty of differences, Bob, Keith and I shared a lot in common. We shared a love of telling stories. We shared a love of the news industry (even though we can point to many flaws within it). We shared our love of the written word. I shared experiences, now fond memories, with both of them at various times in my career.

And there we were, people who love the written word, sharing time with the Word made Flesh, sharing our love of Jesus.

The time "Jesus had a press conference" oddly came up twice in conversations in the last few weeks, so it's been on my

mind and on my heart.

It dawned on me recently that we're all called to be the media at Jesus' press conference. If you reduce it to the basics, the media is responsible for telling the who, what, where, when, why and how of an event or happening.

Isn't that what we're called to do as Christians?

We're called to share the what, where, when, why, how and, most importantly, the who of our faith. We're called to share the story of Jesus and the story of our relationships with him. And why wouldn't we want to share those stories? We have the best news!

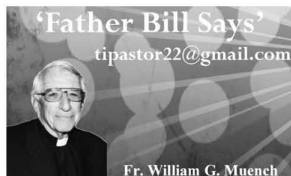
Welcome to the press conference.

A good, even extraordinary, disciple

A saint is an ordinary person who does little things extraordinarily well.

Jesus began his ministry by choosing ordinary people as disciples. They were not accomplished scripture scholars, or such. The very first to be called were the three fishermen: Peter, James, John. They were friends of Jesus they had probably knew his teachings and plans. Now Jesus calls them to reach out to others they could easily said that they were not prepared. They were just ordinary people. However, we know now that the influence of Jesus transformed them. They became extraordinary apostles - a foundation for our church.

We also read in the gospels that one night

**Fr. William G. Muench**

during his early ministry. Jesus spent the night in prayer. The next day, the Lord gathered his disciples and chose 12 to be his apostles. They were to work closely with Jesus to spread the to spread the word. In every case they were ordinary followers of the Lord Jesus. With the power of the Lord and the Holy Spirit, they became the extra ordinary foundation of our Catholic Church.

God still calls many to follow Jesus as Christians today. We, Christians, are called to bring faith to others - all of us ordinary

Christians. Through baptism, we are called to dedicate our lives, to live well as disciples of the Lord. Through the Holy Eucharist, we receive the support to become extraordinary disciples of Jesus. Our vocation as Catholics is to transfer my world to Jesus, to make what is ordinary extraordinary for Jesus

Let's talk about priests. I can tell you my seminary friends and classmates were very ordinary people. Many of us, including myself, had many concerns about our worthiness to be Catholic priests. We were too ordinary. I can tell you I found wisdom and understanding as I meditated on the original apostles, read the lives of the saints and talked to priest, friends and teachers, who showed me that

the Lord transformed so many into the kind of extraordinary priest that he needed. Every priest must find the help and power of the Holy Spirit to become transformed by the love of our God and become good, even extraordinary, disciples of the Lord.

The Lord continues to make our Catholic Church truly the people of God, leading all of us to the love, and the following of the Lord Jesus. However, our Catholic Church needs us all to be followers of the Lord Jesus.

Many think of themselves as just being ordinary Catholics.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, we will all find the wisdom and understanding to be good, even extraordinary, disciples of the Lord.

Celebrating marriage at jubilee Mass

On Sept. 10, Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated the Marriage Jubilee Mass with around 90 couples at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

The following couples were honored and received certificates (names appear as submitted by the couples):

ST. CECILIA'S CHURCH, ADAMS
Victor and Rosemary Kirsch, 19 years
Tracey and Nancy Cheever, 50 years
Catholic Community of Alexandria
Mr. and Mrs. George and
Jill Snediker, 54 years
Michael and Diane Ferrucci, 30 years
Dawn & Joel Walentuk, 40 years

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, BLACK RIVER
William and Amy Flynn, 50 years

**ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH,
BRASHER FALLS**
Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Marilyn
Lane, 67 years

**THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY OF BROWNVILLE AND
DEXTER**
Christopher & Julie Lapointe,
32 years

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, BRUSHTON
Richard & Susanne Arens, 53 years

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, CANTON
Mr. and Mrs. Brian and Barbara Lee,
54 years
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen and Christina
Tartaglia, 21 years

**ST. JAMES MINOR CHURCH,
CARTHAGE**

Daniel and Janet Zehr, 52 years
Donald and Barb Kohler, 46 years
Garry & Rosalie Stevens, 44 years
Ryan and Beverly Santamour,
20 years
Mr. and Mrs Gibbs, 27 years

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, CHAMPLAIN

Jerry & Liz Boire, 68 years
William & Veronica LaBombard,
66 years
Richard & Pauline Cooke, 62 years
John & Mary Zurlo, 47 years
John and Janice Dawson, 55 years
Sam and Allisn Blain, 50 years

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, CLAYTON
Deacon Gary and Gayle Frank,
54 years

Maria & Richard Schueler, 51 years
JB and Wanda Kavanaugh, 46 years

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, COLTON

Roy and Sharon Sharp, 60 years
Becky and George Trejos, 50 years
Jerry & Carol Sharp, 50 years

ST. STEPHENS CHURCH, CROGHAN

Patricia & Edgar Fitzgerald, 64 years
James A. and Karen M. Hoch,
50 years
Kevin and Kathleen Homan, 46 years
Lori & Nick Hanno, 37 years
Deacon and Mrs. Peter Wooschlager,
35 years

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, EVANS MILLS

Francis & Sandra Veivia, 63 years
Charles & Monica Lynch, 50 years
Dennis & Kareta Olshfski , 35 years
John & Lorna Delles, 18 years

**ST. MARY'S OF THE FORT CHURCH,
FORT COVINGTON**

Craig & Vicky Jock, 40 years

**ST. FRANCIS SOLANUS CHURCH,
HARRISVILLE**

David and Kathleen Manchester,
55 years

**ST. RAPHAEL'S CHURCH,
HEUVELTON**

Mr. and Mrs. Larry and Theresa
Crowe, 47 years
Roger and Polly Michael, 25 years

**ST. ANTHONY'S OF PADUA PARISH,
INLET**

Michael and Mary Ellen Guerra,
63 years

**ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
OF KEESEVILLE**

Kevin and Cheryl Pray, 51 years

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, LYONS FALLS

Deacon James and Christine Chaufy,
22 years

**ST. ANDRÉ BESSETTE PARISH,
MALONE**

Clarice and Glenn Champagne,
60 years
Mr. and Mrs. John and Diane Fleury,
55 years

ST. PETER'S PARISH, MASSENA

Richard & Debra Fisher, 17 days
James and Judith Kelley, 63 years
Katherine and Andrew Hart, 60 years
Cathy & James Vaughn, 31 years
Gerald & Doreen Johnson, 54 years

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrates the diocesan Marriage Jubilee Mass on Sept. 10.

WIN

A 2023 Subaru Forester*



*Or \$20,000 Cash

Drawing Sunday, October 8, 2023

Tickets \$20 each or 6 for \$100

Your support of our annual car raffle helps make possible a wonderful school year for St. Agnes students! Thank you!

SAINT AGNES SCHOOL

Tickets available by phone: (518) 523-3771

To order tickets by mail, please complete form and enclose with your check made payable to:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Tickets _____ Amount of check \$ _____

Winner need not be present to win.

ST. AGNES CHURCH
169 Hillcrest Ave.
Lake Placid, NY 12946

Marriage jubilee

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Mr. and Mrs. Charles
and Janet Burns,
46 years

**LITTLE FLOWER,
MOBILE, ALABAMA**
Mr. and Mrs. Marvie
Weaver, 27 years

**PARISH OF THE VISI-
TATION,
NORFOLK**
Eric and Joanne Molnar,
36 years

**ST. AUGUSTINE'S
CHURCH,
NORTH BANGOR**
Karl and Theresa
Reome, 50 years

**ST. ANDREW'S
CHURCH,
NORWOOD**
Deacon Philip and Mrs.
Linda Regan,
55 years

**ST. MARY'S CATHE-
DRAL PARISH**
Mr. and Mrs. Ned and
Helen Hackett,
71 years
Mr. and Mrs. Dick and
Cindy Williams,
54 years
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas
and Barbara Sherry,
50 years
John and Loretta
Neumann, 48 years
Barbara and Kurt Gould,
40 years

Steven & Patricia
Conger, 40 years
Deacon Mark and
Mrs. Vicky Lalonde,
35 years
Michael and Karen
Denoncourt,
26 years
Michael and Angela
Morley, 43 years
William and Janet Leary,
54 years
Mr. and Mrs. Michael
Peo, 33 years

**ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH,
OLMSTEDVILLE**
John and Laura Mae
West, 41 years

SEE MORE

Additional photos of the
Marriage Jubilee Mass can
be found on Pages 8 & 9

**HOLY CROSS PARISH,
PLATTSBURGH**
Paul & Christine Boyea,
50 years
William & Maryanne
Ellsworth, 40 years
Glenn and Suzanne]
DeForge, 50 years

**ST. MARY'S CHURCH,
POTSDAM**
Mr. & Mrs. Elbridge E.
and Joan P. Randall,
61 years

**ST. PATRICK'S
CHURCH,
ROUSES POINT**
Norman & Kathleen
Bechard, 70 years
Bernard & Eve Duffy,
64 years
Donald & Ann Keddy,
57 years
Sarkis & Carol Hand,
50 years
Tom & Elaine Laundrie,
39 years
Paul & Susan Duffy,
27 years

**ST. BERNARD'S
CHURCH,
SARANAC LAKE**
Jimmy and Robin Law,
13 years

**OUR LADY OF
LOURDES CHURCH,
SCHROON LAKE**
Kerrie & Bill Krah,

35 years
**ST. HUBERT'S
CHURCH, STAR LAKE**
Bernard & Blanch
Siskavich, 50 years

**ST. MARY'S CHURCH,
WADDINGTON**
Paul and Mary Dalton,
50 years

**BLESSED SACRAMENT
PARISH,
WATERTOWN**
Rocco and Sharon
Crescenzi, 60 years
Guy and Linda
Javarone, 48 years
Patrick and Judy
Pearson, 57 years
Bruce & Patricia Lynch,
55 years
Deacon Kevin and
Kathy Mastellon,
52 years

Gerald and Kristine
Koepsell, 40 years
Tony and Teri Futia
Marra, 15 years
Kenneth and Linda
Schwarz, 7 years
Bruce and Patti Widrick,
40 years

**OUR LADY OF THE
SACRED HEART,
WATERTOWN**
Edward and Theresa
Queal, 30 years

**ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH,
WEST CHAZY**
Mr. & Mrs. Alex
Bechard, Jr., 50 years

October is Respect Life Month

We are inviting
you to consider
sponsorship of
an
advertisement
with the
USCCB theme

“Radical
Solidarity”



to appear in our October 25th
issue of the

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

For \$25 your name will appear as a
supporter of human life from conception
through natural death. Your donation helps to
support the material printed in the NCC.

Must be returned to the NCC by
Oct. 16, 2023

Call our office at 315-608-7556 to donate with
your Credit Card or fill out the form below:

YES! I/We would like to support a Respect
Life Page in the *North Country Catholic*.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Name as it will appear in the ad (please print):

Mail Checks payable to: *North Country Catholic*
PO Box 106, Canajoharie, NY 13317

BARSTOW

AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION BUICK PONTIAC GMC SUBARU
WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE

“Family owned dealership serving the
North Country for over 56 years!”

For more information, visit our Website
at: www.barstowmotors.com

MARKET ST., POTSDAM, NY • (315) 265-8800

New to Trinity, experienced in Catholic schools

By Keith Benman
Contributing Writer

Trinity Catholic School in Massena has a new principal, but she's not new to the school or Catholic education in the diocese.

Hired in June, new principal Marianne Jadlos has been a teacher at Trinity Catholic for the past four years. Before coming to the Massena elementary school, she was principal for four years at Holy Family, in Malone, and for five years at St. Mary's, in Canton.

"I'm a passionate Catholic school advocate," she said on a recent afternoon at Trinity Catholic. "Children need to learn about God. And parents need schools that will help their children learn about God and the Catholic Church."

Jadlos is taking on the principal's job at Trinity Catholic following the retirement of Joyce Giroux, who was principal for five years.

Trinity Catholic School enrolls 106 students in pre-kindergarten through 6th grade. It is one of seven diocesan Catholic elementary schools in the diocese and one of only two in St. Lawrence County.

Strengthening academics and getting the word out about the school's mission and offerings are Jadlos' top goals.

"I would like to highlight the school so people realize what a treasure it is here in Massena," she said. "I would like people to get excited about the Catholic faith and that starts with the kids."

This year, Trinity

Catholic will be celebrating its 40th anniversary as Trinity Catholic. The school was formed in 1983 out of the consolidation of other Catholic schools. There will be a birthday bash October 15th, which will include a Mass at Sacred Heart Church celebrated by Bishop Terry LaValley and a barbecue afterwards. Former faculty and students are being invited. That will include sisters and priests who taught there.

Other events like the annual "Day of Giving" in November and the annual Gala in the spring will also continue. Those two events are key fundraisers for the school.

The biggest challenge for the school remains enrollment, Jadlos said.

"Enrollment is a necessity," she said. "We need children in the school, and we need Catholic parents to put their children in the school."

Having said that, she notes some non-Catholic parents enroll their children in the school and they are always welcome.

Tuition often seems like a barrier for many parents, but Jadlos points out the diocese and other groups administer scholarships which can defray the cost.

Basically, Jadlos says she just wants more people to experience



PHOTO BY KEITH BENMAN/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

New Trinity Catholic principal Marianne Jadlos, left, and second-grade teacher Lorelee Marsh, right, discuss the new school year in Marsh's classroom.

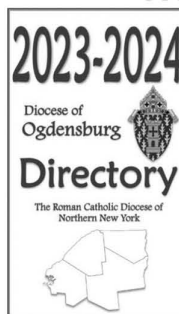
the religious education she and her family have enjoyed.

Jadlos went to first through 12th grades in Catholic schools in the Rochester area. Her husband, Greg, went to St. Mary's school in Potsdam. Two of her children graduated from St. Mary's Potsdam and the other two from St. Mary's Canton.

Her firm belief in Catholic education stems from her own days as a student, particularly in high school.

"I loved those high school years," she said. "I liked the small classes. I liked the teachers. I liked the going to Mass. I told my parents I was very grateful they sent me to Catholic schools."

Diocesan Directories now available!



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

2023-2024 Directories now available!
Online at www.northcountrycatholic.org
for faster delivery or fill out form below
(Please cut out and send entire ad)



Make checks payable to
North Country Catholic
PO Box 106
Canajoharie, NY 13317

\$15.00
each

(Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery when mailing in form)

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ for _____ directories

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

- Read local stories and commentaries
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more



Find us on Facebook!

An 'Out of this World' vacation Bible School

By Mary Beth Bracy, consecrated virgin
Contributing Writer

Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh hosted a truly heavenly Vacation Bible School from August 7 to the 11 from 9 a.m. to noon. Desiree M. Kirk, director of Religious Education, received a Catholic VBS program book and chose the STELLAR option from Concordia.

"The space theme caught my eye with how many inventions and wonderful stories they included," she said.

Several teachers helped make VBS a success, including Sister Jackie Sellappan, A Sister of the Cross of Chavanod, Melita Mercier, and Brenda Smith. The program also had six team leaders from area high schools volunteer.

"We had a wonderful crew of helpers and leaders from all over the area, including Seton students from Peru, Chazy, and Morrisonville areas," she said. "Students and parents were so excited to come daily that they begged for a second week and asked if we could even run the same VBS for adults."

The daily program was filled with activities and adventures, Kirk recounted.

"We had Bible Adventures, Galaxy Snacks, Sing and Blast Off, and morning skits with our own Mickey Wey, who was a lost astronaut on the moon with a passion for Twinkies. He helped us 'Shine Jesus' Light,' which was our daily theme. The music, movies, and crafts really inspired the kids into a galactic adventure that led to an out of this world journey. Our Kid Vid Cinema al-



Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh hosted a space-themed Vacation Bible School. The program was so well received, parents asked if it could be replicated for adults.

lowed the six groups of students to learn how real life kids 'shined Jesus's light' in their lives when things were tough. They even learned about the Ukraine. The outdoor games brought laughter, and the highlights from our Imagination Station were not to be topped. Kids learned about the moon, launched rockets, made comets, and more."

Students were not only able to learn about the relationship between faith and science but experience it firsthand.

"Our favorite moment was when we were blessed with real astronaut outfits from one of our parishioners who shared them with us and allowed the children to get dressed up in them," Kirk said. "It was amazing; even the teen leaders had a blast."

The priests serving in and around the parish joined in the fun, too.

"Our priests came and hung out to enjoy snack time. It was an amazing blessing this year. I am so grateful for all the hard work and dedication we had from the Station Leaders," she added.

Kirk explained how VBS was setup.

"Each station connected the two elements of faith and space," she said. "There was a theme each day and it was repeated throughout the areas. The children actually got to participate in making a video with action pictures to help retell the story in their own way. It was the highlight of the program. Each group was asked to do actions - for example of the first day how the star shined Jesus' light over Bethlehem at the birth of Jesus so all could come see. So, the kids were stars and parts of the nativity story to show how we shine Jesus' light."

Children benefited from several faith and life lessons during the week as well.

"Day one we learned about when life feels dark... 'Shine Jesus' light," Kirk said. "So was the star on the blessed birth of Jesus," Kirk elaborated. "In the Imagination Station, we know that the star of Bethlehem shined and sparkled in the night sky for all to see. We did experiments with water and light and make sparkling stars shine in the night like that. In the Bible Adventures they learned the

story from the point of view of the animals and how to find the light in their lives."

"In KidVid we saw real stories by kids their age who encountered dark and bad things (in this case a child who caught Covid and the isolation, what it made him feel like) and how he was able to shine Jesus' light," she described. "Games were able to reinforce the story of the nativity. The kids learned songs about the light of God. And we did crafts about the star being bright still in our church and what a Paschal Candle is and means. The snack was about the Galaxy and fun things like star bars. This is how we did each day."

The vacation program also included lots of hands-on activities.

"The other themes were.... When people don't get along: Shine Jesus' light. Our astronaut Mickey Wey learned how to get along with people who are mean," Kirk explained. "The students learned about the story of Zacchaeus. We did cosmic races - more science and more games and videos."

Additional highlights reflected the mysteries

of our faith and the universe as well.

"When good things happen: Shine Jesus' light. We learned about how to be thankful for the good in our lives - how God shines his light in us, (like in) the story of Jesus in Jerusalem for Palm Sunday," Kirk said. "(Participants) built live rockets that shine light to the sky."

Children explored answers to important questions, Kirk noted. "When people are sad: Shine Jesus' light. We learned about how the crucifixion of Jesus impacted Mary and all of us. Where was the light that day how do we find it?"

On the last day the children learned how to reach out to others. "When people need help: Shine Jesus' light. We learned how Philip taught the Ethiopians how to understand Jesus' word - how to carry into the world all we have learned and how to keep shining Jesus' light in our everyday lives."

The program was very warmly received.

"For the first time we had a lot of requests from the parents to do a grown up version of the same VBS for them," Kirk said. "They were loving so much all the different things the kids came home with and all the fun they had with space suits from NASA and all the joy they saw in their kids. Even the group leaders were having such a great time. The hours passed quickly, and this seems to be a very impactful program. I am so proud of all who participated and made this VBS magical. We are a blessed parish. We hope to keep the fire going as we enter our Faith formation program."

Reminder: All must register for Eucharistic Congress

Thousands of Catholics from across the state will gather at the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs in Auriesville, NY on the weekend of October 20-22 for the New York State Eucharistic Congress. This congress, organized by the eight dioceses in New York, is part of the three-year Eucharistic Revival sponsored by the bishops of the United States.

The Congress will feature Mass, talks in both English and Spanish by nationally known Catholic speakers, music, Eucharistic Adoration, and opportunities for fellowship and socializing. It will begin at 6 p.m. on Oct. 20 and conclude at noon on Oct. 22. Attendance at the Congress is free, but registration is required at www.ny-seucharisticcongress.org.

Bishop Edward Scharfenberger, Bishop of the Diocese of Albany where the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs is located, said, "Think of the Eucharistic Congress as a personal invitation from the Holy Spirit to a mini-retreat, a springboard for your own reflection on the Eucharistic presence of Jesus in your life and in His mystical body, the Church, of which you are a beloved member."

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, said "Our Lord loves us so much that He chooses to remain with us in the Holy Eucharist. I pray that through this

Eucharistic Congress, many will come to better know, love, and serve Him, by strengthening our love and faith in this wonderful gift of His real presence."

Among the featured speakers at the Congress will be Bishop Joseph Es-paillat, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of New York, Patrick Kelly, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, famed youth minister Mari Pablo, and Sirius XM Radio host Katie Pre-jean McGrady. A full list of speakers and topics can be found at www.nyseucharisticcongress.org/speakers.

The two highpoints of the Congress promise to be the celebration of Mass on Saturday, October 21 at 11 a.m. by Bishop Terry LaValley of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, and on Sunday, October 22, at 11:00 a.m. by Bishop Scharfenberger of Albany, which will mark the end of the Congress.

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:
Sept. 25 – 3 p.m. – Immaculate Heart Central, Watertown
Sept. 26 – 5:30 p.m. – St. James School, Gouverneur
Oct. 5 – 6 p.m. – St. Peter's Church, Lowville
Oct. 12 – 1 p.m. – Diocesan offices, Ogdensburg

Bishop's Public Schedule

Sept. 20-21 – New York State Catholic Conference Board of Bishops Meeting in New York City
Sept. 22 – 9:30 a.m. – Mass at Seton Catholic School in Plattsburgh
Sept. 23 – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
Sept. 24 – 10:30 a.m. – Installation Mass of Reverend Clement Rimonds, HGN as Pastor of the Catholic Community of Holy Name and St. Matthew in Au Sable Forks, The Roman Catholic Community of Keeseville in Keeseville and St. Margaret's Church in Wilmington (at the Church of the Holy Name in Au Sable Forks)
 2:30 p.m. – Blue Mass at The Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph (at St. Alexander's Church) in Morrisonville
Sept. 25 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
Sept. 26 – 1:30 p.m. – Mount St. Mary's Seminary Board of Trustees Zoom Meeting
 6 p.m. – Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Foundation Dinner at the Hilton Garden Inn in Watertown
Sept. 27 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
 4:30 p.m. – Prayer and Dinner at the Deacon's Retreat at Wadhams Hall

Rest in Peace

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

Sept. 20 – Msgr. Edmund J. Brown, 1954; Rev. Donald Gallagher, 1959; Rev. Edward J. Wright, 1993; Msgr. Floyd J. Brown, 1994
Sept. 21 – Rev. M. Stanton, 1908; Rev. M. J. Geraghty, O.S.A., 1914; Rev. Michael J. Brown, 1917; Rev. Wilbert LeBeau, 1953
Sept. 22 – Rev. John McDermott, 1870; Rev. Pierre L'Esperance, M.S.C., 1942; Msgr. John Michael Hogan, 1951
Sept. 23 – Rev. P. Phillips, 1872; Rev. Marcel Dupont, M.S.C., 1982
Sept. 24 – Rev. John Talbot Smith, 1923; Rev. Leo Staves, O.M.I., 1994; Rev. Jude Belisle, 1994; Deacon Reginald F. Merrill, 2005
Sept. 25 – Rev. Frederick P. Shue, 1989
Sept. 26 – Rev. Francis Van Compenhandt, 1880; Rev. Stephen Royet, M.S.C., 1933; Rev. Michael F. Gallivan, 1939; Rev. Joseph Ludger Desjardins, 1941; Rev. Earl Mayo, 1994; Msgr. Francis A. White, 2007

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terrianne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-358-3145, Ext. 7179 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rcdony.org Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340.
If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at 800-276-1562 or www.ReportBishopAbuse.org

Environmental Stewardship

The time is now. Celebrate!

As the North Country transitions from summer into autumn, venture outside and observe and embrace many of the daily miracles of nature that are present all around us. This includes listening to the sound of crickets, the squawking of the blue jay. Savoring the subtle fragrances unique to this time of year, especially when the air is calm and damp, can lift the soul. Also, taking delight in the variety of colors of our deciduous trees and in the flowers that blossom around the first frost is a part of this season of creation celebration.

St. Francis loved to spend time in nature. He occasionally preached about the Creator's love for all forms of life. It was said by some of his companions that he exhibited a radiant aura when immersed in nature, and the plants and animals nearby could sense his love for them. Many mystics familiar with St. Francis have noted that he became a conduit for Divine light and love, as can anyone that turns himself completely over to the will of the Creator and basks in the beauty of the natural world.

Society's actions over the past century and a half have injured the land, impacted the existence of countless forms of life and damaged the naturally established patterns of weather worldwide. Just as if a close friend or relative were sick or injured, we would try to visit them, spend time with them. In a similar way, we must try to visit nature and, like St. Francis, attempt to radiate as deep a feeling of compassion, peace and love toward everything there. It is said that animals and plants can sense when there is nothing to fear. You might be surprised at how some creatures respond to a person in such a tranquil, open-hearted state of prayerful bliss. (373)

By Tom Kalinowski
St. Bernard's Church

MARRIAGE JUBILEE

PHOTOS BY JESSE SOVIE



(Above) Deacon Peter Wooschlager proclaimed the Gospel at the annual diocesan Marriage Jubilee Mass on Sept. 10 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. (Below) Couples from around the diocese gathered for the celebration of the Mass.



(Above) Around 90 couples were honored for their commitment to their vocations at the 2023 Marriage Jubilee Mass celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sept. 10. (Below) Beth Carlin of Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh served as one of the lectors at the Marriage Jubilee Mass. (Right) Stephen Tartaglia, diocesan director of Family Life, addresses the couples gathered for the Mass.





Bishop Terry R. LaValley was joined by Father Matthew S. Conger, Father Leagon J. Carlin, Father Christopher C. Carrara, Father Joseph A. Morgan and Father F. James Shurtleff in celebrating the Marriage Jubilee Mass and was aided by Deacon Peter J. Wooschlager and Deacon Mark Lalonde. (Bottom left) Steven & Patricia Conger of Ogdensburg celebrated 40 years of marriage, and (bottom right) Edward and Theresa Queal of Watertown celebrated 30 years of marriage.



CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Justice Dept. asks court to overturn abortion pill restrictions

President Joe Biden's Department of Justice is asking the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn an appellate court ruling that ordered the Food and Drug Administration to put up safeguards that would regulate the use of an abortion pill. The DOJ filed the appeal on Friday to prevent limits on the abortion pill mifepristone. The drug has FDA approval to kill a preborn child up to the 10th week of pregnancy. It is commonly taken with another pill, misoprostol. Although the pill has been on the market since 2000, an August ruling from the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals found that the Food and Drug Administration's deregulation of mifepristone in 2016 and later years did not follow legally required safety protocols. With this ruling, the court ordered the FDA to return to the rules that were in effect prior to 2016 to ensure the drug is administered safely. Under post-2016 rules, doctors are allowed to prescribe the abortion-inducing drug remotely through televisits and women are allowed to receive the drug through the mail. If the appellate court ruling goes into effect, both of these practices would be blocked.

NO Archdiocese: Parishes to help pay for abuse settlements

The Archdiocese of New Orleans will ask "parishes, schools, and ministries" for monetary contributions in order to protect their assets during the archdiocese's bankruptcy proceedings, which came about in part because of abuse lawsuits, Archbishop Gregory Aymond announced in a Sept. 8 letter. The New Orleans Archdiocese filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2020. At the time, the archdiocese said the filing would "not affect individual church parishes, their schools, schools run by the various religious orders, or ministries of the Church." "When we filed for Chapter 11 reorganization in 2020, I was advised by legal counsel that the Chapter 11 proceedings would only impact our administrative offices and not the apostolates — parishes, schools, and ministries — of the Archdiocese of New Orleans," Aymond wrote in his recent letter. "Unfortunately, this is no longer the case because of many external factors now facing us including the fact that the law governing the statute of limitations has changed to now permit the filing of past abuse claims in civil court."

Pope asks faithful to 'be close to the people of Morocco'

Pope Francis expressed solidarity with the people of Morocco on Sunday in the wake of that country's devastating earthquake and offered his prayers for material help in response to the tragedy and the charity group pledging to help distribute it. The country was hit by a 6.8-magnitude quake overnight on Friday, with the death toll rapidly climbing to upward of 2,500 fatalities amid major building collapses there. Pope Francis last week had offered "prayerful communion in the face of this natural disaster." In the pope's customary address after his regular Sunday recitation of the Angelus, the Holy Father reiterated his "proximity to the dear people of Morocco" in the wake of the disaster. "I pray for the injured, for those who have lost their lives — so many! — and for their relatives," Francis said.

What you need to know about Synod on Synodality

By Courtney Mares
Catholic News Agency

The first Vatican assembly for the global Synod on Synodality will kick off in October bringing together clerics and laity alike for nearly one month of discussions. Here is what you need to know:

What is the Synod on Synodality?

The Synod on Synodality, initiated by Pope Francis in October 2021, is a multiyear, worldwide undertaking during which Catholics were asked to submit feedback to their local dioceses on the question "What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our 'journeying together?'"

The Catholic Church's massive synodal process has already undergone diocesan, national, and continental stages. It will culminate in two global assemblies at the Vatican. The first will take place Oct. 4-28 and the second in October 2024 to advise the pope on the topic "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission."

What does synodality mean?

Synodality was defined by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith's International Theological Commission in 2018 as "the action of the Spirit in the communion of the Body of Christ and in the missionary journey of the people of God."

The 2021 synod preparatory document described synodality as "the form, the style, and the structure of the Church."

The latest document published by the Vatican adds that synodality can also be understood as something that "does not derive from the enunciation of a principle, a theory, or a formula but develops from a readiness to enter into a dynamic of constructive, respectful, and prayerful speaking, listening, and dialogue."

"At the root of this process is the acceptance, both personal and communal, of something that is both a gift and a challenge: to be a Church of sisters and brothers in Christ who listen to one another and who, in so doing, are gradually transformed by the Spirit," it says.

Pope Francis has said that he envisions the Synod on Synodality as "a journey in accordance with the Spir-

it, not a parliament for demanding rights and claiming needs in accordance with the agenda of the world, nor an occasion for following wherever the wind is blowing, but the opportunity to be docile to the breath of the Holy Spirit."

What are the questions that the Synod on Synodality will try to answer?

There are three overarching questions for the upcoming synod assembly as defined by the 2023 synod assembly's guiding document called the *Instrumentum Laboris*:

How can we be more fully a sign and instrument of union with God and of the unity of all humanity?

How can we better share gifts and tasks in the service of the Gospel?

What processes, structures, and institutions are needed in a missionary synodal Church?

The main objective of the first session in October will be to design a plan of study in a "synodal style" and to indicate who will be involved in those discussions, according to the *Instrumentum Laboris*. Discernment will be "completed" in the 2024 session of the synod.

What are some of the topics that could be addressed in the synod assembly?

The *Instrumentum Laboris* document guiding the discussions at the October synod assembly suggests discernment on questions regarding some hot-button topics, including women deacons, priestly celibacy, and LGBTQ outreach.

The document also highlights a desire for new institutional bodies to allow for greater participation in decision-making by the "people of God." One of the proposed questions for discernment for the synod of bishops asks: "What can we learn about the exercise of authority and responsibility from other Churches and ecclesial communities?"

How does the Synod on Synodality differ from past synods of bishops?

A synod is a meeting of bishops gathered to discuss a topic of theological or pastoral significance in order to prepare a document of advice or counsel to the pope.

For the first time, the Synod of Bishops in 2023 will include voting dele-

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

GOLF SCRAMBLE

Saranac Lake – St. Bernard’s School to have their annual golf tournament.

Date: Sept. 23

Schedule: 9 a.m. Registration; 10 a.m. shot gun start

Place: Saranac Lake Golf Club

Cost: \$50 per golfer; \$25 lunch only

Features: Get ready to tee off and enjoy a day of friendly competition on the greens. A post-tournament lunch will be provided by Blue Line Brewery and Tail of the Pup.

Contact: To register a team or individual player, call or text 518-524-1726 or email principal@st-bernardsschool.org

OUTDOOR MASS

Lake Placid – Outdoor Mass to be held.

Date: Sept. 24

Place: Cobble Lookout. Directions to the trailhead, 3 miles up Rt. 431 from the Wilmington four corners, take the right to Franklin Falls (County Road 72). Go 0.3 miles to a turnout on the right.

Schedule: Leave the church parking lots at 11 a.m., start hiking the trailhead at 11:30 a.m.

Features: It is only one mile with little climbing and a spectacular view. Bring your own lunch.

Contact: For more information, contact the St. Agnes rectory at 518-523-2200 or lakeplacidsec@rcdony.org

FALL RETREAT

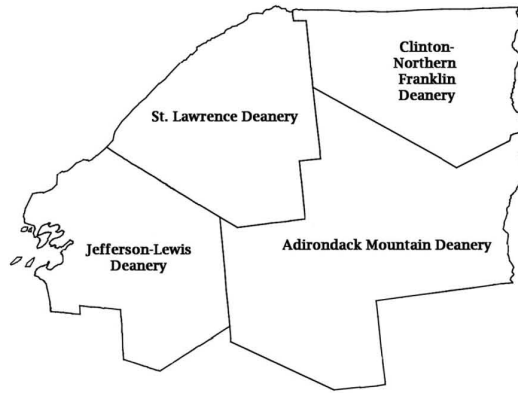
Saranac Lake - You are invited to come away for a day in the Adirondack Mountains to reflect on the Book of Creation and to discover lessons for life as Jesus often did.

Date: Sept. 26 10 a.m. to Sept. 27 10 a.m.

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

Cost: Suggested Offering, \$75

Features: Theme: “Grow Deep Not Just Tall.” Retreat will include opportunities for prayer together, presentations, time for sharing with one another on the Journey



The North County 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.

as well as time for quiet reflection.

Facilitator: Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ, Faith Formation Educator; Father Paul Kelly will celebrate Mass during the retreat.

Contact: For info.: 315-212-6592 or srbethssj@gmail.com

FRIENDSHIP VOLUNTEERS TRAINING

Saranac Lake – Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is recruiting new volunteers for the Friendship Volunteer Training Program.

Date: Oct. 4

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

Features: New Volunteers will join Mercy Care’s more than 100 Friendship Volunteers from Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, Tupper Lake and surrounding areas who are helping their elder neighbors stay connected to their communities and helping to make their lives a little easier and happier.

Contact: To register for the training, please visit Mercy Care’s website at www.adkmercy.org or contact Lexi Bevilacqua, Mercy Care’s Program Director, at abevillacqua@adkmercy.org or call 518-523-5446.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

HARVEST DINNER

Ellenburg - Court Little Rose #1300 Catholic Daughters is holding their annual Harvest Dinner.

Date: Sept. 24

Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Place: St. Edmund’s Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$15; Children 6-12, \$7; 5 and under, Free

Features: Roast beef/Roast pork dinner with all the trimmings. Homemade dessert. Raffle, Bake sale and lottery tree.

Contact: Takeouts available. 518-536-2442

HARVEST DINNER

Chazy – Sacred Heart Church to have a turkey Harvest Dinner.

Date: Sept. 24

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Parish Center

Cost: Adults and all take-outs, \$15; Children 6-12, \$8

Features: Visit our Sinners’ Den Pantry for “sinfully” delicious goodies. Raffle with great prizes.

Contact: For more information, 518-846-7650 or Chazypa@rcdony.org

POT ROAST DINNER

Chateaugay – Take-out Pot Roast dinner to be held.

Date: Oct. 1

Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: St. Patrick’s Church Hall

Cost: \$15 per meal

Menu: Roast Beef, Potatoes, Carrots, Coleslaw, roll and Apple or Pumpkin Pie for dessert.

Contact: Orders can be made

by calling Monique Dwyer, 518-651-0144 or the Parish Office, 518-497-6673.

LIVING STONES, A CALL TO SERVICE

Plattsburgh - Members of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Living Stones Committee will be updating on the work of the committee and plans for the future of our diocese.

Date: Oct. 4

Time: 6 p.m., Mass; 7 p.m., Program; 8 p.m., Fellowship

Place: St. Peter’s Church

Cost: \$5 per person for refreshments would be most appreciated.

Contact: RSVP to Mary Skillan at mskillan30@gmail.com

CHICKEN DINNER

Lyon Mountain – Baked Chicken Dinner to be held.

Date: Oct. 7

Time: 3 p.m. to 6

Place: Lyon Mountain American Legion

Cost: Adults, \$10; Under 10, \$10

Menu: Baked chicken, stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, vegetable and dessert. Dine in or take out.

Contact: 518-735-9998

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

Ellenburg – Our Lady of the Adirondacks invite you to First Saturday Communal Devotions.

Schedule: Oct. 7, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2

Time: 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Features: You are warmly invited to join us as we pray for peace by meeting the conditions of this powerful devotion made in reparation to our Lady’s Immaculate Heart.

Contact: For more information, contact Sarah at 518-534-9976.

WALKING WITH PURPOSE

Plattsburgh – Women’s Ministry to be held offering two new studies.

Date: Begins Oct. 12 and will last for 22 weeks.

Time: 10 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

Place: St. John’s Dwyer/McAvoy

Parish Center

Cost: Suggested donation is \$40

Features: The two studies being offered are “Opening Your Heart” for newcomers and “Touching The Divine” for the 2nd year group.

Contact: For more information contact Janice Tobin at 518-569-5370

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

Plattsburgh - Are you a single Catholic man who is hearing the Lord’s call to the Priesthood?

Consider joining others who are listening and seeking to respond.

Date: Oct. 15 and 29, Nov. 12, Dec. 3

Time: 4 p.m. to 5

Place: St. Peter’s Church

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

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

HOLIDAY FAIR

Brushton – St. Augustine and St. Mary’s to have their 2nd Annual Holiday Fair and looking for vendors.

Date: Nov. 4

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

Place: St. Mary’s Parish Center

Cost: Inside table, \$15; Outdoor table, \$10

Contact: Call Mary at 518-317-0436 to register as soon as possible.

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE FOUNDATION COURSE

Plattsburgh - Using the Westberg Institute for Faith Community Nursing curriculum, this course is open to RNs or other persons interested in health ministry in their church or community.

Schedule: Oct. 12 and Nov. 9 at St. Joseph’s Community Outreach Center; Oct. 19, 26 and Nov. 2 will be virtual via Zoom (All 5 sessions are required)

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Features: Faith Community

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

health education and counseling, serve as patient advocates and connect patients to resources in the community. Mercy Care's Faith Community Nurse Program is a volunteer program. Nurses may choose the number of hours they are able to give.

Contact: For more information, contact Lexi Bevilacqua at abevillacqua@adkmercy.org or 518-523-5446

DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR

St. Regis Falls – All are invited to the monthly first Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour for Vocations.

Date: First Saturday of the Month

Time: Following the 4:30 anticipated Mass

Place: St. Ann's Church

Features: Prayer after Mass, Night Prayer, Prayer for All Souls and the Holy Souls, Novena in Honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, The Reparation Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary with private meditation on the 15 Mysteries of the Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament reposed in the Tabernacle, and Prayers for the Holy Father and his intentions.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

LIVING STONES

Watertown – The CLMA of Jefferson and Lewis Deanery will present "Living Stones: Faith in Motion."

Date: Sept. 21

Time: 5:30 p.m. Mass followed by dinner and then the Presentation

Place: St. Anthony's Church
Cost: \$20

Features: "Living Stones: Faith in Motion" that will inspire increased vibrancy in our parishes. Lori Hanno, Kathy Allan, and Christopher Lapointe, who will discuss how their parishes make people feel welcome and open to our call to become more involved.

Contact: Register for: dinner and the program (\$20 cost) or only the program (no charge) at: www.rcdony.org/clm-event

HARVEST DINNER

Constableville – St. Mary's will be holding a drive thru only harvest dinner.

Date: Oct. 1

Time: 10:30 a.m. until gone

Cost: \$15

Menu: A turkey dinner all homemade with gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing, squash and a roll will be provided.

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: Oct. 7

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

THEME BASKET RAFFLE

Houseville – St. Hedwig's Society will have their Annual Theme Basket Raffle.

Date: Oct. 8, 15, 22 after the celebration of the 11 a.m. Mass. No tickets sold during Mass.

Cost: \$1 per ticket or \$5 for 6 tickets

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Features: Theme baskets will be on display. Final drawing will be on Oct. 22 at 1 p.m. A bake sale and kielbasa sandwich luncheon will also be featured on this day. Proceeds will support church restoration and community outreach.

Contact: For questions or donations of theme baskets or bake sale items please contact Elaine 315-486-5532, Mary Ann 315-348-6260 or Lydia 315-348-7006.

ROSARY RALLY

Turin – Rosary Rally to be held.

Date: Oct. 14

Time: Noon

Place: Spiritwalk Fatima Garden

Features: Come pray the rosary together. Enjoy quiet time at the Chapel of Peace and/or walk the Stations of the Cross. Event goes on rain or shine. Bring a lawn chair.

Contact: For more information call (315) 272-6168

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – The Indian River Council 7471 Knights of Columbus will be having a spaghetti & meatball dinner.

Date: Oct. 14

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

MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

Date: Oct. 8

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.

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

Date: Oct. 7

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: Oct. 7

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: Oct. 7

Time: 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

DIOCESAN EVENTS

HIGHSCHOOL LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

Saranac Lake – Highschool students in grades 9-12 are invited to a leadership weekend.

Date: Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. to Sept. 24 at 1:30 p.m.

Place: Camp Guggenheim

Cost: \$95

Features: Grow your leadership skills, meet great people, make a difference in the world.

Contact: Register by Sept. 18 at: <https://www.rcdony.org/youth.html> Questions contact, Anita Soltero, Youth Director at info@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920

THE LETTER

Join us for a viewing and discussion of The Letter: A Message for our Earth as part of our celebration of the Season of Creation.

Schedule: Sept. 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Mary's Parish Hall in Waddington or Sept. 24 from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at St. Anthony's Church in Watertown or Sept. 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Emmaus Room at St. Peter's in Plattsburgh.

Features: The Letter is a documentary about how spiritual values call us to take action on the ecological crisis. The Letter follows six invited leaders from around the world who were invited to the Vatican by Pope Francis to speak about the effects of climate on their communities. We will screen the movie in three segments interspersed with discussion.

Contact: For more information and to register: <https://www.rcdony.org/theletter>

BLUE MASS

Morrisonville – The Northern NY Community is invited to join in prayer for the safety and well being of all first responders and public safety personnel.

Date: Sept. 24

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place: St. Alexander's Church

Features: Bishop LaValley will

celebrate the annual Blue Mass. Offer thanksgiving to God for the dedication and sacrifices made by the men and women of Fire, EMS, Corrections, Law Enforcement, and Communications. First Responders, their families, and all the faithful are invited to attend the celebration. Uniforms are encouraged but not required.

Contact: Questions can be addressed to Father Chris Carrara, Blue Mass Committee Chair at info@rcdony.org or by phone at 315-393-2920.

WOMENS HEALING RETREAT

Ogdensburg – Our Lady of the Rosary Healing Retreat for Women to be held.

Date: Oct. 5-8

Place: Wadhams Hall

Cost: \$275 per person, \$100 Deposit

Features: Retreat for women 18 years or older. Registrations begin July 1, 2023

Contact: For more information call Kathleen Nichols 518-651-6895 or go to <https://www.rcdony.org/ourlady>. Donations accepted to be payable to OLRHR and sent to Wadhams hall.

ANDREWS DINNERS

Come and join Bishop LaValley to learn more about being a priest. Any man of high school age and above is welcome to attend the Andrew Dinner sponsored by the Vocation Office. Parents are welcome to attend.

Dates: Clinton-Northern Franklin Deanery, Oct. 1 at St. Alexander's Parish Center, Morrisonville; Adirondack Mountain Deanery, Oct. 8 at Holy Ghost Parish Center, Tupper Lake; St. Lawrence Deanery, Oct. 15 at Church of the Visitation Hall, Norfolk; Jefferson-Lewis Deanery, Oct. 29 at St. James Parish Hall, Carthage

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

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

SHOWING OCT. 5 IN WATERTOWN

MOTHER TERESA & ME

Mother Teresa is well known for her love for all people - the poor, the destitute, and the downtrodden.

She was lauded for her home for the sick and dying as well as her care for orphans. The order she founded, "The Missionaries of Charity," was created with the mission to love and care for those persons nobody was prepared or willing to look after.

Mother Teresa's life was a testament to her belief that life - all life from conception to death - is worth preserving and treating with dignity.

A new film, "Mother Teresa & Me," addresses Mother Teresa's heart for others through the eyes of Kavita, a young Englishwoman with Indian roots who, when faced with an unplanned and unwanted pregnancy, flees to Calcutta and is inspired by Mother Teresa's legacy of love for all.

In theaters nationwide for one night only, October 5, the film has already been acclaimed internationally, received the "Best Film Award" at the Mirabile Dictu International Film Festival in Rome, and promises to inspire audiences across the country.

Locally, the film is scheduled to show at Regal Salmon Run Mall in Watertown at 7 p.m. on October 5.

"Mother Teresa's compassion for the less fortunate made a lasting impact on the world," said Jacqueline Fritschi-Cornaz, who plays Mother Teresa in the

film. "Her heart for the 'unwanted' drove her to care for those whom society had discarded and abandoned. Mother Teresa taught the world that there is no such thing as an unwanted person - no matter the circumstance, people deserve dignity, care and respect. 'Mother Teresa & Me' is a look into her struggles and sacrifices for those less fortunate and how her legacy still impacts humanity today."

Directed by Kamal Musale - known for films such as "Curry Western" and "Millions Can Walk" - the film features actresses Banita Sandhu (Kavita), Jacqueline Fritschi-Cornaz (Mother Teresa) and Deepti Naval (Deepali), and was inspired by Fritschi-Cornaz's trip to India and her experience interacting with the poor.

Soon after, visionaries Richard Fritschi and Thierry Cagianut founded The Zariya Foundation to finance the making of this feature film based on the vision and messages of Mother Teresa.

The foundation aims to inspire audiences worldwide with positive values such as compassion, kindness, respect and love.

Learn more and watch the trailer at www.fathomevents.com/events/

Mother-Teresa-and-Me.

Tickets are available at participating theater box offices.

For a complete list of theater locations, visit the Fathom Events website, www.fathomevents.com/events/Mother-Teresa-and-Me.

ents.com/events/Mother-Teresa-and-Me.

"Mother Teresa & Me" is unique as it is entirely financed with donations, and the film's profits will be donated to charitable institu-

tions and foundations that work for the destitute, the sick, the disabled and the abandoned children, supporting them in their education and health care.

Now is the perfect time to volunteer.

With everything that has happened in our community this year, it is more important than ever for volunteers to stand up and support their friends and neighbors. When joining **RSVP**, not only are you helping your community, but you're joining a family who cares as much as you.



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

Upcoming opportunities

There are so many ways you can help your community out that you might not even know about! Here are some examples of what you can do!



Be a Friend

Check on friends, share a meal, help around the house, go for a walk or just stop by to catch up.



Give a Ride

Drive your neighbors to their appointments, to pick up prescriptions or to the store.



Help at School

Volunteer at local elementary schools, tutor students, or be a mentor to those in need.



Give a Meal

Support the local food pantry by shopping, organizing, cooking, or anything else.



Meals On Wheels

Donate your time to your local Meals on Wheels program and prepare or deliver meals.

Not only do you get the benefit of feeling amazing after helping someone, RSVP will help pay some of your mileage (.56 cents/mile) and honor your efforts at a yearly recognition event.

Opportunities available in Franklin and Hamilton County Want more info about how to get started?

Hamilton and Franklin County:

Melissa Howard
518-359-7688

mhoward@cathcharities.org

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

Clinton and Essex County:

Kate Gardner
518-566-0944

kgardner@cathcharities.org



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

'My thoughts are not your thoughts'

How difficult it is to understand today's Gospel! Any self-respecting union would be up in arms at the arbitrary treatment the landowner gave to his workers. "Unfair," we cry at the first hearing. Then, as we simmer down and think, we have to admit that the landowner has a point in his defense. It's his money, and he can do what he wants with it. Actually, the grumbling of those who had worked a full day was their problem.



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

They were envious, and envy is a very human vice. Since it's a parable told by Jesus, the landowner is obviously God, and God always wins. "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways" says the Lord. It's all right there in today's first reading from Isaiah.

Now we really have to face the lesson of the day: if my ways of thinking and judging are truly far from the Lord's way, then I must have some adjusting to do! Perhaps

Sept. 24

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

Isaiah 55:6-9

Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

Matthew 20: 1-16a

I need to work harder in the areas of forgiveness, mercy and generosity, to mention a few.

St. Paul urges the Philippians today to conduct themselves in a way that is "worthy of the gospel of Christ."

If I'm honest, I have to admit that I look for apologies more than I give them out myself. And I use the excuse

that I'm the injured party, so why should I go first! That leads me to harbor grudges, to make mountains out of molehills, and so extend the hurt into months and years, when I could end the whole thing quickly by reconciling immediately. How sad to see a son or a daughter keep their distance from a dying parent, even refusing to attend the funeral! Now, maybe that's an extreme example, but... how many times have I waited to reconcile until it was too late? The pain and stress on both parties is so unnecessary. Both are the losers. To

forgive is to be free, and to free the other person as well. Once we have reconciled with a friend who has offended us or who we have offended, we open the way to form a new and closer relationship. And that could give us joy for years... instead of prolonged stress and unhappiness.

To think as God thinks requires openness and a broad vision, free of self-pity and selfish brooding. It takes a habit of gratitude. It means sitting down and reflecting, "What would God think and do in this situation?" and then, to think and do likewise.

CALLED TO SERVE

An incorrect assumption

There is a misconception about deacons in the Catholic Church I would like to illuminate and debunk.

Regular readers of this column are probably reacting to that opening with, "Uh oh, somebody riled Kevin up. Well, honestly, "yes."

But I am calm now and

can give this misunderstanding a proper explanation.

The statement, made innocently, was "Our priests are so busy, and I thought deacons do not have as much to do so they could help us out."

I have no quarrel with the first part of the comment. Our priests are

busy. It is a 24-7 job. Every man knew that going in, but the job has become busier as their numbers diminish and the responsibility for multiple churches increases. Let's pray for them and pray more men respond to God's call to the ministerial priesthood.

It was the second part of the comment, the assertion that deacons "do not have much to do" that kind of blew my lid. Let me add, it is a comment, perhaps not said quite as directly, that has been uttered before. I get more than a little red in the face each time I hear the fallacy.

Since most folks only see the deacon assisting at a weekend Mass, the assumption is that's what a deacon does. Period. The assumption is wrong.

Deacons are members of the clergy along with priests and bishops. The deacon's ministry has three dimensions: liturgy, word, and service. At the liturgy, he assists the bishop and priests. At the Mass, the deacon proclaims the Gospel, may be invited to preach the homily, and assists at the altar. That is the liturgy and word dimension.



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

It is the service dimension that is "behind the scenes." Deacons often minister in hospitals, nursing homes and to the homebound. They often preside at baptisms, committal services and an occasional wedding. They may serve on parish committees at the request of the pastor.

The deacon serves the Church without compensation. He is often em-

ployed full time outside the church, but some have paid jobs for the diocese or a parish. In those cases, they are an employee of the diocese or parish, but their work as a deacon is not compensated.

Ninety-five percent of the deacons in this diocese are married and have children, and in many cases, grandchildren. Their family responsibilities can, and do, sometimes conflict with deacon responsibilities.

They have homes to take care of too in addition to their volunteer work.

Deacons are not looking for things to do but they willingly and happily serve the church and parishes they love.

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown.

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



Happy Anniversary Fr. Patrick Ratigan!

September 24th marks 40 years of sharing
God's love not only with your words
but with your life. Thank you!

Love, Jimmy and Robin



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

New seminarians in Beijing

The formation of new and “passionate workers” for the proclamation of the Gospel, at the service of the future of the Church, which in China continues to walk in the faith of the Apostles, is the mission of the seminarians in mainland China, who are currently celebrating the beginning of the new academic year 2023-24 in various ways.

This year, the seminary, located in the Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Sheshan, welcomed 16 new seminarians and will also offer courses for lay people. In his address, Bishop Joseph Shen Bin of Shanghai encouraged the students and teachers of the seminary, which he called the “window of the diocese,” to “work together to improve teaching and formation activities” so that “all students can share the beautiful tradition of love for the homeland and for the Catholic Church in Shanghai in their studies and in their future life, deepening the excellent traditional Chinese culture and put down firm roots in the fertile soil of faith, so that they will experience three important changes: from aspiring students to scholars, from individuals to fellow human beings and from flocks to shepherds.”

Bishop Joseph Li Shan of Beijing gave the opening address and called for “making the National Seminary the best and highest school of Catholicism in China.” The new rector of the Seminary, Bishop Joseph Guo Jincai of Chengde, emphasized that prayer, care for spiritual life and renewal of administration are the most important points to promote vocations and make the seminary a welcoming home. As a concrete gesture of welcome, the National Seminary offered three days of hospitality to the parents of the new seminarians so they could witness this important new beginning for their sons.

Bishop Anthony Dang Mingyan of Xi’an, capital of Shaanxi Province, and rector of the Shaanxi Philosophical Theological Seminary, presided over the opening of the new academic year on September 7th. In the words of St. Paul, the bishop encouraged the seminarians: “For you should live a life worthy of the Lord and pleasing to him in everything. You shall bear fruit in every kind of good work and grow in the knowledge of God. May he give you much strength in the power of his glory... (cf. Col 1:9-14).”

The bishop personally welcomed the new students by calling them individually by name and naming them as role models to follow the patron saint of the Seminary, Saint Therese of Lisieux, and the great Lazarist missionary Father Frédéric Vincent Lebbe.

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

OBITUARIES

Adams – Frederic K. Spinner, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 13, 2023 at St. Cecilia’s Church; burial in St. Cecilia’s Cemetery.

Brownville – Rene Sabre Mauchin, 59; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 16, 2023 at Immaculate Conception Church.

Henderson – Adeline Elioff Scott, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 15, 2023 at Queen of Heaven Church; burial in St. Cecilia’s Cemetery.

Lowville – Shirley Secor Bush, 98; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 16, 2023 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Massena – Lorraine (Mossow) Miller, 85; Funeral Services Sept. 11, 2023 at the Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morristown – Sandra Mitchell Bondello, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 15, 2023 at St. John the Evangelist Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Norfolk – John W. LaBarge, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 16, 2023 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Peru – Henry C. Schwartz, 83; Funeral Services Sept. 24, 2023 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

Plattsburgh – Marjorie (Beauchemin) Camfield, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 15, 2023 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in Mausoleum, Tom Miller Rd.

Potsdam – Lester E. “Bird” Gale, Jr., 66; Funeral Services Sept. 15, 2023 at Donaldson-Seymour Funeral Home.

Rouses Point – Evelyn Marion (Lavoie) Gonyo, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 14, 2023 at St. Patrick’s Church.

Saranac Lake – Brendan C. McCann, 89; Funeral Services Sept. 11, 2023 at Fortune-Keough Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery, Flushing, NY.

Star Lake – Franklin “Don” Beau-lieu, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 15, 2023 at St. Hubert’s Church; burial in St. Hubert’s Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Rita Agnes (Bigelow) Drake, 87; Services to held at a later date.

MONASTERY CARD SHOP
Cards for All Occasions
Mass Enrollments for your living & deceased loved ones.

Precious Blood Monastery
 OPEN: 9 AM - 5 PM
 SATURDAY 9 AM - 12 PM
 400 PRATT ST., WATERTOWN
 315-788-1669
www.sisterspreciousblood.org

What is a Foster Grandparent?

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

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



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

Roy Foster age 83 Foster Grandparent



Am I Qualified to be a Foster Grandparent?

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

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



Want more info about how to get started?

Contact Melissa Howard,
 Volunteer Coordinator

PHONE:
 (518)359-7688

EMAIL:
mhoward@cathcharities.org

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

Synod on Synodality

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

gates who are not bishops. Nearly a third of the 364 voting delegates were chosen directly by the pope, including laypeople, priests, consecrated women, and deacons. Fifty-four voting members are women.

The October assembly will be held in the Paul VI Hall, instead of the Vatican's New Synod Hall, with delegates sitting at round tables of about 10 people each. The latter part of the October gathering will focus on deciding the Church's next steps and "the necessary in-depth theological and canonical studies in preparation" for a second assembly in October 2024. **What other events are happening leading up to the October Vatican assembly?**

The 2023 Synod on Synodality assembly at the Vatican will begin with a three-day retreat for the Catholic bishops and participants Oct. 1-3 led by Dominican Father Timothy Radcliffe, who has drawn criticism from some for his statements on homosexuality.

Pope Francis has also announced an ecumenical prayer vigil will take place in St. Peter's Square as part of the Synod on Synodality on Sept. 30. The prayer vigil, organized by the Taizé Community, will entrust to God the work of the October synod assembly.

Who has participated in the Synod on Synodality?

The General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops has reported that

the initial diocesan listening phase concluded with the participation of 112 out of 114 of the world's Catholic bishops' conferences.

According to a report from the U.S. bishops' conference, about 700,000 people participated in the diocesan phase of the synod in the U.S. out of 66.8 million Catholics in the country, or about 1%.

Who are the key organizers of the Synod on Synodality?

Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, the 64-year-old archbishop of Luxembourg, is one of the leading organizers of the ongoing Synod on Synodality as the relator general. The Jesuit was recently added to Pope Francis' council of cardinal advisers. Hollerich said in an interview in

March that he believes that a future pope could allow women priests and that he finds "the part of the teaching calling homosexuality 'intrinsically disordered' a bit dubious."

Cardinal Mario Grech, the secretary general for the Synod of Bishops, is the former bishop of Gozo, Malta. He was one of two authors of the Maltese bishops' controversial pastoral guidelines on Amoris Laetitia, which stated that divorced and remarried Catholics, in certain cases and after "honest discernment," could receive Communion. Last year, Grech decried the public criticism of the German "Synodal Way" as "denunciation."

Is there a prayer for the Synod on Synodality?

The vade mecum for

the synod published the following "Prayer for the Synod on Synodality":

"We stand before you, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in your name. With you alone to guide us, make yourself at home in our hearts; teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in you our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of you, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen."

Please use my/our gift to continue the good works of our Church and help support the ministries of the Diocese.

Gift 4 Pledge Payments

- \$1,000
- \$800
- \$400
- \$200
- \$100
- Other _____

- \$250**
- \$200**
- \$100**
- \$50**
- \$25**

Gift/Pledge Total \$ _____
Amount Enclosed \$ _____
Balance \$ _____

OR Please charge my credit card for \$ _____

Card Number: _____ **Exp. Date** ____/____/____

Signature: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Please Print Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Parish: _____ **Parish City/Town:** _____



Visit us on the web at:
www.rcdony.org/bfa

Clip and Mail to:
 The Bishop's Fund Appeal
 PO Box 150
 Ogdensburg, NY 13669