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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 79 Number 24

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

OCTOBER 9, 2024

## BLUE MASS COLOR GUARD



PHOTO BY DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

**Representatives of local law enforcement, EMS, fire services, corrections and communications serve as color guard during the annual diocesan Blue Mass celebrated Sept. 29 at St. Mary's Church in Canton. Full story on Page 3. Additional Photos on Page 12.**

## YOUTH IN SERVICE



Father Raymond J. Moreau, Deacon Phil Regan, Religious Education Director Majella LaRock, front left, and former Religious Education Director Chris Leahy, in back, get together with the youth crew that assists at Sunday Masses at St. Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls. St. Patrick's has a large group of youth – more than 20 – who serve as altar servers, ushers, greeters, lectors and choir members every Sunday at Mass.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

# Pope opens synod, warns against 'agendas'

By Courtney Mares  
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis opened the second assembly of the Synod on Synodality on Wednesday with a Mass concelebrated by over 400 priests, bishops, and cardinals in St. Peter's Square in which he warned synod delegates against imposing their own "agendas" during the nearly monthlong discussions.

"Let us be careful not to see our contributions as points to defend at all costs or agendas to be imposed," the pope said in his homily on Oct. 2.

"Otherwise we will end up locking ourselves into dialogues among the deaf, where participants seek to advance their own causes or agendas

without listening to others and, above all, without listening to the voice of the Lord," he added.

The second session of the 16th Ordinary Synod of Bishops, running from Oct. 2-27, marks a critical phase in the Church's global synodal process that began three years ago.

Building off of the discussions in the October 2023 synod assembly, the 368 voting delegates in this year's session are expected to produce a final report to advise Pope Francis on how to enhance the "communion, participation, and mission" of the Catholic Church.

With some of the most controversial issues off of the agenda for the synod assembly, discussions are expected to fo-

cus on concrete proposals for instituting a listening and accompaniment ministry, greater lay involvement in parish economics and finances, and more powerful parish councils and bishops' conferences.

The synod's opening Mass began at 9:30 a.m. under partly cloudy skies with a procession that included 76 cardinals, 320 bishops, hundreds of priests, and lay synod delegates. The pope presided over the Mass on the feast of the Guardian Angels, emphasizing the importance of listening and harmony in his homily.

"Ours is not a parliamentary assembly but rather a place of listening in communion," Francis said.

"It is not about majorities

and minorities ... What is important, what is fundamental, is harmony, the harmony that only the Holy Spirit can achieve," he added. "The Holy Spirit is the master of harmony and is capable of creating one voice among so many different voices."

The assembly format mirrors that of the previous year, with daily prayers, theological reflections, and small-group discussions organized by language. However some of the more controversial subjects discussed at last year's assembly, including women deacons and "synodal" formation for future priests, have been delegated to the competency of 15 study groups formed starting late last year.

NORTH  
COUNTRY  
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# It's who I am

"You're the fish tank TV lady!" said the woman at the antique store.

I laughed.

"That's a little weird, but I've been called worse."

I purchased an old, round-screen 1950s television in a wooden frame at this antique store in 2022. When I purchased the television, this same woman was working at the cash register. At that time, she said, "my sister always wanted to turn that

into an aquarium."

"That's exactly what I'm planning to do with it," I replied.

**Darcy L. Fargo**

She asked me to send pictures of my finished project if I was able to pull it off. Less than a week after I purchased it, I sent pictures of my completed project - my 1950s television with a 10-gallon aquarium and a fish in it - to the store via social media message.

I've done a lot of fun and

interesting projects over the years, but that fish tank is my favorite by a mile. I had always wanted to turn an old TV into a fish tank, but I had never imagined finding such a perfect television for the purpose. I love my TV fish tank!

I was tickled by the idea that this woman remembers me because of my favorite project, this quirky use of an old, outdated item. To her, I'm "the fish tank TV lady," and I dig it.

Then, it hit me: What else am I known for?

It's weird to think of how people might describe me,

but I wonder how many people one would have to ask before anyone would say, "she's the lady who loves Jesus." Would anyone say it? Am I showing other my love of Christ as I make my way through the world?

I've been spending a fair amount of time lately praying about just that - about how I can best reflect Christ in the world. Do I have any wonderful answers? Nope. Not yet.

But I'm glad God put it on my heart.

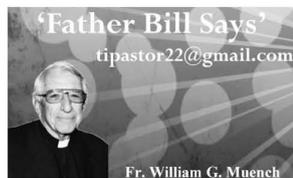
And I'm glad he reminded me who I really should be.

## Making Mass better, holier

I have noticed several articles written lately in Catholic magazines concerned with making our Catholic liturgy better, holier. The question is rather interesting. Now I want you to know that I am not a liturgist. I have not gone into advanced studies for theology or the study of the liturgy of our Catholic Church. My ideas are particularly my own.

I have found one thing that helps in making my celebration of the Mass much better. I like to encourage those who are participating at this Mass with me to try to remember to pray for each other - for each person there with them at Mass. I know that each person at Mass comes with many intentions for which they are praying, for their own needs and for their loved ones, but I ask them to look around and remember in their prayers all who are there joining with them at this Mass. It makes us a community of love.

Each time I go to the altar as the priest celebrant for Mass and look out at the

**Fr. William G. Muench**

congregation, I know that I must include all of them in my intentions as we pray together at this Mass. Over the years, I have discovered that there is one or maybe many more who are with us who have serious concerns and needs. I must remember them even though I'm not exactly certain who they are. My prayer and my hope is that God finds them and brings his love and guidance to them in a special way.

I believe that each Mass I celebrate should and must unite us all - especially those present - in a special relationship with our God. We should become united in prayer for each other. Who knows why each one of us decided to participate in this Mass on this day, but the Lord brings us together, and we must unite ourselves in a special way in

prayer. Each Eucharist offers our gratitude to our God. As we pray together at Mass, we are offering our thanksgiving to the Lord for his constant help and guidance.

I believe that this makes our Mass so much holier, as all present are joined in prayer for each other and for each person's intentions. These days, there is one other factor I should include. There are many who will be watching this Mass on livestream at home. They should be included in the prayers and intentions of this Mass as well as we can. In fact, we should be praying for all the people of our parish. I believe that this unites all together in this Mass; this Mass becomes a wonderful joining of the people of the parish with all those present at the Mass, calling God's love and peace upon us all.

One more thing for now: I always like to encourage at every Sunday Mass the importance of the saying together of the Creed. This prayer is also a moment of continuing dedication to our Catholic faith, to all

that the Church believes. Saying the Creed, we announce to God, to ourselves, to all who are listening that we promise in faith to Our God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - that we are prepared, empowered by the Holy Eucharist, to live better, dedicated to making our world a better place and ready to make our parish more alive in the Lord Jesus.

So much more to say - we are constantly considering better ways for Holy Communion. I can imagine taking more time so that each person could take a moment - standing before the priest, the Eucharistic Minister - to say a prayer of welcome as they are about to receive the Eucharistic Lord. I know we must encourage this for all coming forward in the line for Communion.

Mass is such a powerful prayer. If we pray the Mass sharing in the love of the Lord, we will leave each and every Mass a different person, a transformed person, ready to live this day with family and community as we as we can.

# Emergency services honored at Blue Mass

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

The street in front of St. Mary's Church in Canton was full of law enforcement and emergency response vehicles on Sunday, Sept. 29, but there was no emergency. It was the celebration of the annual diocesan Blue Mass.

The Blue Mass is the Church's way to offer thanksgiving to God for the dedication and sacrifices made by the men and women of fire, EMS, corrections, law enforcement and communications.

"Thank you for being here; thank you for coming together to celebrate our faith in a special way to honor you, our personnel who are so involved, so important, so instrumental in promoting and ensuring the common good," said Bishop Terry R. LaValley at the opening of the Mass. "And to all those family members who sacrifice so much because spouse, mom or dad works so hard, so diligently for the common good. There's no better way to give thanks than Eucharist, thanksgiving."

The Mass begins with the posting of the colors accompanied by bagpipes. Representatives of regional law enforcement and emergency responders processed in with flags representing their various agencies and posted the flags on either side of the church.

A memorial wreath was then presented by Officer James Gibson of the Canton Police Department in remembrance of all emergency responders who lost lives in the line of duty.

A bell was tolled by Rev. Samuel Lundy,



PHOTO BY DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

**Representatives from law enforcement and emergency services wait in line to receive Communion at the annual diocesan Blue Mass held at St. Mary's in Canton on Sept. 29. Additional photos are on Page 12.**

chaplain of Jefferson County Fire.

"Prior to modern communications in the Fire Service, a bell would ring at the beginning and end of a shift and to alert firefighters of an emergency," the worship aid for the event indicated. "After the call, when the emergency was over, the bell would again ring sounding the end of the emergency and the return to quarters. At firefighters' funerals, the tolling of the bell marks the end of a firefighter's life and the prayer that she or he has returned home safely to God. The bell tolls at Mass today in remembrance of all those who have lost their lives as Police, Fire Corrections and Emergency Medical Services. The bell is struck in five volleys, four times each."

Representatives of area law enforcement agencies, Captain Mark Fenton of the New York State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Chief Mark Kearns of the Ogdensburg Police Department, served as lectors for the Mass, and Deacon William Johnston, a chaplain for New York State Department of Corrections

and Community Supervision, proclaimed the Gospel. Offertory gifts were brought forward by Sgt. Gabriel Ward of New York State Police and his family.

In his homily, Bishop LaValley told a story about three trees - an oak, a maple and an elm - arguing over who gives God the most glory through its beauty.

"Finally, God, who had made all three trees, spoke up," Bishop LaValley said. "Can't I work my wonders through all of you trees as I choose? If I had worked the same way in all of you, none of you would be as beautiful as you are. Your beauty lies in being different from each other."

Bishop LaValley noted that like the trees, "we are quite unafraid to declare our neighbors are not really giving glory to God because they're not acting as we think they should."

"For many, life is all and only about me," he said. "Joshua thought like that in our first reading. He didn't want to believe that God could work in Eldad and Medad, the two Israelites left behind and in the camp but not left out

when it came to glorifying God. In that Gospel, the disciples of Jesus thought like that too. In that Gospel story, they didn't want to believe God could work through someone didn't have their own seal of approval. They gave quite a fuss about that stranger who was casting out spirits in the name of Jesus. Both Joshua and the disciples of Jesus were guilty of throwing roadblocks in the path of God as God made the divine glory known among his people. We're guilty of doing the same when we insist God can act only in ways God has revealed to us."

Bishop LaValley noted that neither Joshua nor the disciples were praised for their mindset.

"We can't expect to receive any reward for it, either," he said. "But Jesus does tell us that those who give even a drink of water to his disciples will receive a reward. How do we give each other that drink of water? I can't help but think of the many instances - and we see only the ones covered by the media - where you, in so many different ways and on so many different occasions, sometimes even in harms way, are offering a drink of water to someone in need."

Like those trees who are so different, Bishop LaValley noted that God works in each of us differently.

"God made us to be different but still accomplishing his good purposes in all of us," Bishop LaValley said. "That means each of us gives glory to God as God works in us. The beautifully colored oak, maple and elm trees are all part of God's won-

derful master plan for creation. That doesn't mean we compromise our Gospel values, the truths of our faith. It doesn't mean we're free to be and to do whatever we want, never mind the common good. Again, we are gathered in this sacred space of St. Mary's this afternoon to worship our God, and to honor you, our public safety personnel and your families who sacrifice much for that common good in offering that drink of water to another."

Bishop LaValley thanked the emergency responders and their families for their ministries, their service and their sacrifices.

"Know of our prayers for your safety, for your good health and for your ministry," he said.

Blue Mass Committee Chair Father Christopher C. Carrara said this was the diocese's seventh Blue Mass.

"This is one of the best turnouts we've had," he said.

Father Carrara thanked those responsible for the celebration.

"Thank you, Bishop LaValley, for your ongoing support of our first responders, particularly for establishing and maintaining this Blue Mass," he said. "And the members of the diocesan Blue Mass committee - names are in the program. The success of this celebration is certainly attributable to a great extent to the support of local individuals and agencies. Members of the local planning group are extremely generous in their support, enthusiasm and promotion of the event."

Video of the Mass can be found on the diocesan YouTube channel.



PHOTOS BY KEITH BENMAN/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

(Left) Father Raymond J. Moreau exchanges a word with Easton Smith as he and other young people present him with the offertory gifts at Sunday Mass at St. Patrick's Church, in Brasher Falls. (Right) Altar server Thomas Liberty leads the recessional procession at Sunday Mass at St. Patrick's Church followed by Father Moreau.

## Making Mass a joy at St. Patrick's

### Kids step up to serve in Brasher Falls

By Keith Benman  
Contributing Writer

Four youngsters were all business as they pulled on their white albs in a hallway behind the altar at St. Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls.

They expertly wrapped knotted white cinctures around their waists. Then they hustled off to grab the processional cross and candles before heading off to the church entrance.

And those four were not the only young people assisting at a Sunday Mass in late September at St. Patrick's. A youth lector did the second reading. An eighth grader served as a greeter and usher. A girl in just third grade sang in the choir, and youngsters also brought up the gifts.

In all, about 10 youngsters were assisting at the Mass at the small parish in the hamlet of Brasher Falls. Nearly twice that number make up the entire youth corps that fulfill various roles at Sunday liturgies. And still more from religious education classes can be called upon to bring up the offertory gifts.

It wasn't always that way at St. Patrick's.

"We started with a small trickle," said Majella LaRock, St. Patrick's director of religious education. "Someone got brave enough to read. Someone got brave enough to serve on the altar... And they stay interested because they like the recognition they get from the Church community."

LaRock's own son, Fisher, affirmed it can be nerve-racking when you first take the leap. He's a youth reader.

"It was really weird at first looking down at everybody instead of looking up at the altar," he said. "I was really nervous the first time. And then it kind of wasn't a big deal being in front of everyone."

Including youngsters in Sunday Mass has been a goal realized at the church for the past few years. It is happening at a time when increasingly busy schedules for young people and their parents make it difficult for many parishes to even include a couple altar servers at each Mass. And organizers at St. Patrick's say there are other contemporary factors



PHOTOS BY KEITH BENMAN/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Choir member Isabelle Simonds soaks up the applause after Sunday Mass at St. Patrick's Church, in Brasher Falls.

that can make it difficult.

"I'm of the last generation that we come to Mass because our parents went to Mass and just everyone went to Mass," said former religious education director Chris Leahy. "Our kids have a choice. And we have to be realistic about

that."

Organizers staying flexible and working around things like youth sports schedules is key, Leahy said. Parents also play a big role in that. Lots of emails and texts get exchanged in that process. But it seems it's worth the work.

# Monument honors residential school survivors

By Victor Martin  
St. Regis Mission Church

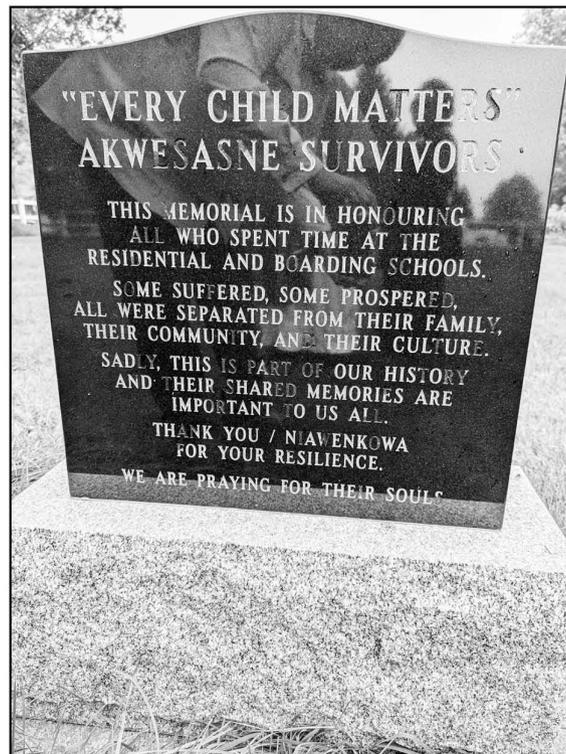
On September 29, after the regular Sunday morning liturgy, parishioners gathered outside the St. Regis Mission Church to dedicate a monument to residential school survivors.

The monument reads: *"Every child matters Akwesasne Survivors This memorial is in honoring all who spent time at the residential boarding schools. Some suffered, some prospered. All were separated from their families, their community, and their culture. Sadly, this is part of our history and their shared memories are important to us all.*

*Thank You / Nia Wen Kowa for your resilience. We are praying for your souls."*

## RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS: AN OVERVIEW

The Indian Residential School System was a government funded network of boarding schools administered primarily by Christian religious orders. The school system was created to isolate indigenous children from the influence of their own culture and religion in order to assimilate them into the dominant Euro - Canadian and American culture. Over the course of the system's 100-year existence, around 300,000. Children were placed in residential schools nationally. According to Dr. Preston McBride, Ph.D., "The schools were militarized sites for corporal punishment that involved substandard housing, physical and sexual abuse, and recurring epidemics that swept through school populations of unvaccinated children. Epi-



(Left) Msgr. John R. Murphy, assisted by Caroline Peters, reads the blessing over the new monument (right) dedicated to residential school survivors on Sept. 29 at St. Regis Mission Church on the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation.

demics of smallpox, tuberculosis, diphtheria, and pneumonia were common. Underfunded, schools frequently ran out of money. Thus, they were unable to properly clothe the students. Students were faced with poor diets, poorly heated rooms, and primitive, if any health care. In most cases they did not have the funds to pay doctors and other health care professionals. Terminally ill students were frequently sent home to enable school officials to under report the actual number of student deaths at each school. Superintendents at each school chronically under reported the number of deaths... Overcrowding was a common practice."

The legacy of the system has been linked an increased prevalence of post traumatic stress, alcoholism, substance



Parishioners of St. Regis Mission Church attend the monument dedication after Mass on Sept. 29.

abuse, suicide and intergenerational trauma which persist within indigenous communities today.

More recently, politicians and religious communities have begun to recognize and issue apologies for their re-

spective roles in the residential school system. In 2022 Pope Francis made a penitential pilgrimage to Canada to apologize for the role played by the Catholic Church. In July 2022, Pope Francis reiterated the apologies of the

Catholic Church for its role, also acknowledging the system as genocide.

In the United States, legislation titled, The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Boarding School Policies Act waits to be voted on and passed by Congress.

**Environmental Stewardship****It's either/or**

Have you ever gone out for an ice cream cone and been offered only a choice of vanilla or chocolate? Or have you ever shopped for cereal in the grocery store and found only two kinds of cereal to choose from? On the contrary, companies seem to offer more choices than there is time to evaluate.

Yet when we approach aspects of life itself, it seems we often approach it as an either/or choice, as though there is life in only one area of life that matters. As we begin celebrating Respect Life Month, we are encouraged to ponder the words of Jesus. . . . "I came so that they might have life." (John 10:10.) What a powerful and hope-filled message that seems to be inclusive of all life! It does not appear to be a question of human life OR the natural world. Rather He came to give life to all of creation.

Recently, we celebrated the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. His loving care and respect extended not only his human sisters and brothers but to the whole of creation reflected so beautifully in his *Canticle to the Sun*, where he called all other aspects of creation his "sisters and brothers."

Respect life seems to present us with two challenges: first, to a vision of life that includes both human and all other life God has created. . . to replace an "either/or" perspective an inclusive one of "both/and." Second, we're challenged to increase our attitude of respect. The word comes from the Latin words "spectare" that means "to look" and "re," as in "again." In other words, it calls us "to look again."

Each day we are called to "look again," even in the most unlikely and inconvenient places to see the goodness, truth and beauty of God and be amazed at it. Then, pray for the wisdom and courage to act and speak with respect for the protection all life, not with an 'either/or' but a 'both/and' response.

**Bishop's Public Schedule**

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

**Oct. 10** – 11 a.m. – Council of Priests Meeting - Location TBD

**Oct. 11** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Oct. 12** – 11 a.m. – Mass for Family Camp at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake

4 p.m. – Mass for the Knight of the Year Council 1141 at St. Peter's Church (at Sacred Heart Church) in Massena followed by dinner at St. Mary's Hall

**Oct. 13** – 9 a.m. – Mass at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg for the Women's Healing Retreat

**Oct. 14** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Oct. 15** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

3:30 p.m. – Mass at Altona Correctional Facility in Altona

**Oct. 16** – 5 p.m. – Mass at the Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond (Church of the Visitation) in Norfolk with the Adirondack, Franklin and St. Lawrence County Commissioned Lay Ministers followed by dinner at the Father Andrew Amyot Parish Center

**Oct. 17** – 7 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Oct. 18** – 7 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Oct. 19** – 7 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Oct. 20** – 7 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Oct. 21** – 7 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Oct. 22** – 7 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Oct. 23** – 7 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Oct. 24** – 7 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Oct. 25** – 7 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Oct. 26** – 7 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Oct. 27** – 7 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Oct. 28** – 7 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Oct. 29** – 7 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Oct. 30** – 7 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Oct. 31** – 7 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Nov. 1** – 7 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Nov. 2** – 7 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Nov. 3** – 7 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Nov. 4** – 7 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Nov. 5** – 7 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Protecting God's Children**

**The Diocese of Ogdensburg**

has scheduled Protecting God's Children training sessions. This required training addresses child abuse, the methods and means by which abusers commit abuse, and the five steps to prevent abuse from occurring and stop it from continuing. Pre-registration is encouraged at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org). Upcoming sessions:

**Oct. 20** – 1 p.m. – Diocesan Eastern Regional Center, 4917 S. Catherine Street, Plattsburgh

**Oct. 21** – 1 p.m. – Diocesan Eastern Regional Center, 4917 S. Catherine Street, Plattsburgh

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**Nov. 6** – 1 p.m. – Diocesan Eastern Regional Center, 4917 S. Catherine Street, Plattsburgh

**Nov. 7** – 1 p.m. – Diocesan Eastern Regional Center, 4917 S. Catherine Street, Plattsburgh

**Nov. 8** – 1 p.m. – Diocesan Eastern Regional Center, 4917 S. Catherine Street, Plattsburgh

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**Nov. 18** – 1 p.m. – Diocesan Eastern Regional Center, 4917 S. Catherine Street, Plattsburgh

**Nov. 19** – 1 p.m. – Diocesan Eastern Regional Center, 4917 S. Catherine Street, Plattsburgh

**Rest in Peace**

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

**Oct. 9** – Rev. William Joseph Normandeau, 1892; Rev. Francis Xavier Chagnon, 1911; Most Rev. Leo R. Smith, 1963

**Oct. 10** – Robert Duford, 1949; Rev. J. A. Sirois, O.M.I., 1950

**Oct. 11** – Rev. William Burns, 1837

**Oct. 12** – Rev. Francis Xavier Pelletier, 1881; Rev. P. Joseph Mullins, O.S.A., 1960

**Oct. 13** – Rev. Francis X. Campbell, O.S.A., 1984

**Oct. 14** – Rev. James Alexander Hagarty, 1903; Deacon Frederic A. Brousseau, 2019

**Oct. 15** – Rev. James Haffey, 1918; Rev. Mark Collins Liebler, 1975; Rev. Robert Fleig, S.J., 1986; Most Rev. Thomas Andrew Donnellan, 1987

**Oct. 16** – Rev. James Haffey, 1918; Rev. Mark Collins Liebler, 1975; Rev. Robert Fleig, S.J., 1986; Most Rev. Thomas Andrew Donnellan, 1987

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**Oct. 19** – Rev. James Haffey, 1918; Rev. Mark Collins Liebler, 1975; Rev. Robert Fleig, S.J., 1986; Most Rev. Thomas Andrew Donnellan, 1987

**Oct. 20** – Rev. James Haffey, 1918; Rev. Mark Collins Liebler, 1975; Rev. Robert Fleig, S.J., 1986; Most Rev. Thomas Andrew Donnellan, 1987

**Oct. 21** – Rev. James Haffey, 1918; Rev. Mark Collins Liebler, 1975; Rev. Robert Fleig, S.J., 1986; Most Rev. Thomas Andrew Donnellan, 1987

**Oct. 22** – Rev. James Haffey, 1918; Rev. Mark Collins Liebler, 1975; Rev. Robert Fleig, S.J., 1986; Most Rev. Thomas Andrew Donnellan, 1987

**Oct. 23** – Rev. James Haffey, 1918; Rev. Mark Collins Liebler, 1975; Rev. Robert Fleig, S.J., 1986; Most Rev. Thomas Andrew Donnellan, 1987

**Oct. 24** – Rev. James Haffey, 1918; Rev. Mark Collins Liebler, 1975; Rev. Robert Fleig, S.J., 1986; Most Rev. Thomas Andrew Donnellan, 1987

**Oct. 25** – Rev. James Haffey, 1918; Rev. Mark Collins Liebler, 1975; Rev. Robert Fleig, S.J., 1986; Most Rev. Thomas Andrew Donnellan, 1987

**Oct. 26** – Rev. James Haffey, 1918; Rev. Mark Collins Liebler, 1975; Rev. Robert Fleig, S.J., 1986; Most Rev. Thomas Andrew Donnellan, 1987



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OCTOBER 9, 2024

# Pope: Church needs ways for bishops to be 'synodal'

By Hannah Brockhaus  
Catholic News Agency

At the first meeting of the full assembly of the Synod on Synodality on Wednesday, Pope Francis said a bishop's ministry should include cooperation with laypeople and that the synod will need to identify "differing forms" of the exercise of this ministry.

That bishops, laymen and laywomen, priests, and religious are all synod delegates was an intentional choice, the pontiff said in the Vatican's Paul VI Hall on Oct. 2, and it "expresses a way of exercising the episcopal ministry consistent with the living tradition of the Church and with the teaching of the Second Vatican Council."

"Never can a bishop, or any other Christian, think of himself 'without others,'" he continued. "Just as no one is saved alone, the proclamation of salvation needs everyone and requires that everyone be heard."

"Differing forms of a 'collegial' and 'synodal' exercise of the episcopal ministry" in dioceses and in the universal Church, Francis said, "will need to be identified in due course, always respecting the deposit of faith and the living tradition, and always responding to what the Spirit asks of the Churches at this particular time and in the different contexts in which they live."

The Synod on Synodality reflects this "inclusive understanding" of a bishop's ministry, the pope underlined, adding that bishops and laypeople must learn how to better cooperate in the Church going forward.

Pope Francis in his speech addressed the more than 400 participants in the second session of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of Bishops on the first day of the Oct. 2-27 Vatican gathering on synodality. The 2024 meeting has 368 voting members (delegates), 272 of whom are bishops and 96 of whom are not bishops. Among the 96 non-bishops, about half are women.

The first general gathering, or "congregation," as it is called, was dedicated to opening greetings by Pope Francis and Cardinal Carlos Aguiar Retes as well as introductory speeches from synod leaders Cardinal Mario Grech and Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, SJ.

During the three-and-a-half-hour meeting, delegates also watched informational videos about the synod including videos presenting the 10 theological study groups and a canonical

commission formed by Pope Francis.

In his remarks, the pontiff assured that the presence of non-bishop delegates at a Synod of Bishops does not diminish or put limitations on the authority of individual bishops and the college of bishops. "Rather, it points to the form that the exercise of episcopal authority is called to take in a Church that is conscious of being essentially relational and therefore synodal," he said.

"Harmony is essential," Francis emphasized, noting that there are two dangers to avoid: the danger of becoming too abstract and the danger of "pitting the hierarchy against the lay faithful."

The October 2024 gathering is the last part of the discernment phase of the synodal process begun in 2011.

Recalling the focus of the monthlong meeting, which is to reflect on how to be a Church in mission, the pope added that the Church also needs to ponder how to be more merciful.

He also recommended synod delegates read Dante Alighieri's sonnet "Vita Nuova" to meditate on the virtue of humility.

"We cannot be humble apart from love," he said. "Christians ought to be like those women described by Dante Alighieri in one of his sonnets. They are women who grieve the loss of their friend Beatrice's father: 'You who bear humble semblance, with eyes downcast, showing sorrow.'"

"I encourage you to meditate on this fine spiritual text and to realize that the Church - 'semper reformanda' - cannot pursue her journey and let herself be renewed without the Holy Spirit and his surprises without letting herself be shaped by the hands of God the Creator, his son, Jesus Christ, and his Holy Spirit," Francis continued.

On Oct. 1, the eve of the synod, a two-day retreat for synod participants at the Vatican concluded with a penitential liturgy in St. Peter's Basilica.

At the prayer service, which more than 500 people attended, cardinals, bishops, religious, and laypeople shared testimonies and asked forgiveness on behalf of the Church for sins, including the sin of abuse or sins committed in war.

Pope Francis in his reflection said the Church must first acknowledge its sins and ask for forgiveness before it can be credible in carrying out the mission Jesus Christ entrusted to it.

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Diocese of Burlington files for Chapter 11 reorganization

The Diocese of Burlington filed for bankruptcy on Monday in an attempt to adequately resolve its fourth and largest wave of sex abuse lawsuits filed against it since the clergy sex scandal broke in 2002. "While my heart is heavy with the decision to file Chapter 11 bankruptcy, such weight pales in comparison to the pain suffered by victims of abuse," Bishop John McDermott said in a video statement released on Oct. 2 in which he addressed the decision to file and apologized to victims of clergy abuse. "This chapter in the Church's history is horrific, and the harm it has caused, immeasurable," he said. "I know that the decision to file for reorganization may be challenging or even triggering for some survivors. For that and for every aspect of dealing with the crimes of these clergy, I sincerely apologize." The diocese currently faces 31 lawsuits - with allegations dating back as far as the 1950s - after the state Legislature repealed the statute of limitations on filing civil claims in 2019 and 2021. Previously, the diocese had spent approximately \$2 million to settle its first nine cases in 2003. In 2010, it paid over \$20 million to resolve 29 more cases and settled 11 cases for \$6.75 million in 2013, according to the affidavit. To resolve these cases, the diocese utilized its unrestricted funds and liquidated most of its assets, including its 32-acre Burlington Chancellery on Lake Champlain for \$10 million in 2010 and its 26-acre Camp Holy Cross in Colchester for \$4 million in 2012.

## NC chancellor discusses Hurricane Helene disaster

Monsignor Patrick Winslow, the vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina - an area heavily impacted by the recent Hurricane Helene - said in an interview with "EWTN News Nightly" on Tuesday that the storm's impact has been "extremely difficult" throughout the state. Hurricane Helene passed through multiple southeastern states during its trek through the U.S. last week. The storm killed more than 160 people, with hundreds more reported missing. The Category 4 storm further left millions of people stranded without electricity and hundreds of thousands in flooded areas. The power outages are still affecting hundreds of thousands of people in North and South Carolina and Georgia as of Wednesday morning. "For us, the impacted area includes 44 churches," Winslow told "EWTN News Nightly." The area includes "more than half the counties that constitute western North Carolina, the Diocese of Charlotte - and that's an enormous amount of territory." Since the storm passed on Friday, Winslow said they have been able to make more contact with people and get more resources out. "We've been communicating ever since the storm passed us in the hours of noon, 1 o'clock on Friday, making some contact with some people who have been reflecting on how tragic and how difficult circumstances are," he said. "From that moment on, we've been mobilizing, getting our resources out to those people who need basic things: diapers, baby food, water, things of that nature."

## CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

**COMPASSIONATE COMPANION TRAINING**

Plattsburgh – Compassionate Companions of Clinton County to have a Volunteer training.

**Date:** Oct. 9

**Time:** 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Place:** St. Joseph's Community Outreach Center

**Features:** Compassionate Companion Trained Volunteers carry out errands of mercy to help their neighbors age in place more successfully by providing their gifts of companionship and friendship, easing loneliness by establishing and strengthening meaningful social relationships between older adults and their family, friends and volunteers, encouraging and enabling participation in the life of their communities.

**Contact:** To learn more or to register for the training please contact Starr at 518-825-0697 or Starr@stalexanders.org

**PANCAKE PLUS BREAKFAST**

Peru – The Peru Knights will be having pancake breakfast.

**Date:** Oct. 13

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to noon

**Place:** St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus.

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Children 5 to 11, \$5; Children under 5, Free; Take-outs, \$10

**Menu:** Pancakes, French toast, strawberry sauce, sausage, bacon, scrambled eggs, hash browns, coffee, juice and milk.

**HARVEST DINNER**

Altona – Harvest dinner to be held to help heat the churches.

**Date:** Oct. 13

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

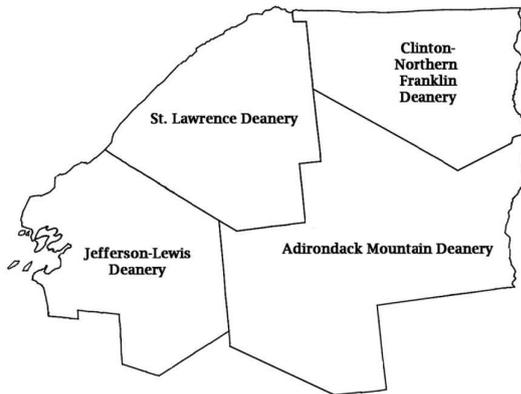
**Place:** Holy Angels Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$15; Children 6 to 12, \$8; Under 5, Free

**Features:** Turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Basket Raffle, Bake Sale and 50/50.

**ROSARY AND MOVIE**

Ellenburg Center - Come and enjoy praying the Rosary and



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@northcountycatholic.org.

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

watching a movie on the miraculous happenings at Fatima.

**Date:** Oct. 13

**Time:** 3 p.m. to 5

**Place:** Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer

**Features:** Cider, donuts, popcorn, and other fall offerings will be served.

**Contact:** Call Sarah at 518-534-9976 or 518-594-3253 for more information.

**HARVEST DINNER**

West Chazy – St. Joseph's Church will hold its 49th Annual Harvest Dinner.

**Date:** Oct. 13

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

**Place:** St. Joseph's Parish

Center

**Cost:** Adults, \$15.00 each, Children 6-12 \$8.50, Children 5 and under FREE; Take-outs available \$15 each.

**Features:** Roast Turkey with all the trimmings, Homemade Pies, Big Ticket Raffle, Country Store and much more.

**Contact:** For information, please call St. Joseph's Parish Office at 518-493-4521.

**CRAFT SHOW**

Mooers Forks – The Ladies of St. Ann will have a Craft Show.

**Date:** Oct. 19

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

**Place:** Mooers Fire Station

**Features:** There will be craft and non-craft vendors, michigans and baked goods for sale, and raffle. Nonperishable items and monetary donations for the Mooers Food Pantry are welcomed.

## JEFFERSON-LEWIS

**HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY**

Houseville – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be observed the first Sunday of the month.

**Date:** Nov. 3, Dec. 1

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

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

**Contact:** 315-348-6260

**SPAGHETTI DINNER**

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

**Date:** Oct. 12

**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

**ROSARY RALLY**

Turin – Lewis County Rosary Rally to be held.

**Date:** Oct. 12

**Time:** Noon

**Place:** Fatima Garden, Spirit-walk, West Main Street

**Features:** The Chapel of Peace will be open for quiet reflection. Enjoy a walk around the Stations of the Cross walkway. The event will be held rain or shine. Bring a lawn chair. Enjoy a glass of cider and snacks after the rosary. Everyone is welcome.

**Contact:** Call (315) 272-6168 for directions or questions.

**HARVEST DINNER**

Constableville – St. Mary's Altar Rosary will hosting its Annual Harvest Dinner.

**Date:** Oct. 13

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. until gone

**Place:** Drive Thru St. Mary's

**Cost:** \$15 per dinner.

**CLMA ANNUAL DINNER**

Clayton – The CLMA of Jefferson and Lewis Deanery will have its annual dinner.

**Date:** Oct. 16

**Schedule:** Welcoming Remarks 5:15 p.m., Mass at 5:30 p.m., dinner immediately following & concluding with the program "Breathing Life Into Your Parish"

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

**Cost:** \$12 per person if attending dinner, no charge if registering for the program only.

**Contact:** Register at <https://www.rcdony.org/clm-event>

**RUMMAGE SALE**

Evans Mills – St. Mary's Church to have a rummage sale.

**Date:** Oct. 18 & 19

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

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

**Features:** Items for sale include vinyl records, snow board, modern spinning wheel, toys, seasonal decorations, glassware, dishes & much more.

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

a masterpiece. This year's Afghan is an 8 x 10 piece featuring a deer against a sunset background. The drawing for it will take place at the conclusion of the annual Chinese auction on Saturday, Nov. 2. The second raffle is the Lenten

## ST. LAWRENCE

**MONTHLY BRUNCH**

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

**Date:** Oct. 13 (Second Sunday of each month)

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

**Place:** Father Amyot Parish Center

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

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

**SLFA CLM ANNUAL DINNER**

Norfolk – The Annual SLFA Deaneries Commissioned Lay Ministers Association presents the CLM Annual Dinner.

**Date:** Oct. 16

**Time:** Mass at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m.

**Place:** Fr. Andrew Amyot Parish Center

**Cost:** \$20 per person

**Features:** Join us for an evening of prayer and reflection with a celebration of Mass and presentation entitled: Pope Francis "Year of Prayer" the Lord's Prayer, with guest speaker The Most Reverend Terry LaValley, Bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Also speaking will be Hattie Taylor, Campus minister for St. Mary's church in Potsdam and St. Patrick's church in Colton.

**Contact:** Register here: <https://www.rcdony.org/clm-event>

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

**MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREATS**

The Vocation Office and the Office of Youth Ministry is sponsoring a Middle School Retreat (Grades 6-8)

**Date:** Clinton-Northern Franklin & Adirondack Deaneries, Oct. 4 at Holy Cross Parish Center, Plattsburgh; Jefferson-Lewis & Adirondack Deaneries, Oct. 9 at IHC Jr/High School, Watertown; and St. Lawrence & Clinton-Northern Franklin Deaneries, Oct. 16 on at St. Mary's Social Hall, Massena.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## GET THE POPCORN

## A life well lived

Haunting and mood-setting music throughout this film helps the viewer experience the movie's competitive action along with the sentiments and struggles experienced by the main characters, Harold Abrahams and Eric Liddell. Both men were famous athletes, but each achieved his fame in different ways.

The film's opening dialogue cites Sirach 44: "Let us praise famous men and our father that begat us" and takes place during a service commemorating in 1978 the recently deceased Harold Abrahams. That event springs the viewers back to 1920s and the 1924 Olympics in Paris during which both men competed in track and field events.

Harold Abrahams, the son of Lithuanian Jews, comes to study law at Cambridge University. His Jewish heritage is occasionally the object of anti-Semitism. Abrahams strives to succeed in all his endeavors. This innate desire to achieve



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

is fueled by this anti-Semitic attitude and by his overall approach to life. Since university and Olympic athletes are classified as amateurs, he encounters opposition from the administrators of Cambridge who oppose Harold's hiring a professional coach to guide his amateur skills. Nevertheless, Harold prevails.

Eric Liddell, a student at Edinburgh, is the son of a Scottish mother and father who have been Christian missionaries in China. Early in life, Eric recognizes his athletic prowess in track and field. At one point in the movie, Eric reflectively states: "God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast. When I run, I give God pleasure!" Eric's motive to succeed is to give God pleasure and glory, not for his own glory.

A good portion of the film takes place during the 1924 Summer Olympics in Paris. A conflict arises for Eric when his sprint competition is sched-

uled to take place on a Sunday. He clearly informs the organizers that participating in a race on the Sabbath would violate the Sabbath. Eric's friend, Andrew Lindsay, comes to his rescue and offers to replace Eric in the sprint competition on Sunday if Eric will take Andrew's place in the 400-meter race. Eric achieves success and wins a gold medal.

"Chariots of Fire" parallels these two men. Externally, they seemed very similar; they were outstanding at the Olympics; they were stellar athletes at their respective universities; both were driven towards athletic success. However, their apparent similar lives ended at the competition's finish line.

Harold sought success to achieve glory for his country and for the love of sports. He married an outstanding actress and lived a stellar life according to secular standards. He pursued excellence for the sake of excellence. A broken leg ended his active sports career in 1925, but he continued to work in the sports industry for the rest of his life.

Eric freely spoke about his Christian faith. He compared faith to running a race. Both are hard; both require energy of soul. Eric characterized winning a race in simple terms: when the race is over, it's over. He believed that committing his life to Christ was a different kind of race, one that continued throughout life on earth into eternity. Eric's life focused on Christ. With his wife, they served as missionaries in China following in the footsteps of his mother and father.

You may have already seen "Chariots of Fire." I encourage you to stream it (available on Prime Video), go beyond the athletics, and look for the spiritual message especially in one of the latter scenes when Eric is preaching in Paris and quotes from Isaiah 40: "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." "Chariots of Fire" demonstrates life carried out in the footsteps of Christ.

## Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

**Time:** Each of the Deanery Retreat locations sessions are from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Features:** The purpose of a Middle School Retreat is to guide young women and men to prayerfully consider what God's plan is for their lives. This invitation is open to students in Grades 6-8 both in Catholic and public schools. This is a Retreat Day and is a legal excused absence.

**Contact:** Your pastor, Catholic school principal, or Religious Education Coordinator for a registration form.

### FALL LEAD WORKSHOP

Lake Placid – Fall LEAD Workshop to be held with the theme "Moving the Needle on Family Faith Formation" for all pastors,

catechetical leaders, catechists, youth ministers and families are invited to attend.

**Date:** Oct. 12

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Agnes School

**Cost:** \$25

**Speaker:** Dr. Kathie Amidei

**Features:** Learn why family engagement is essential; strategies and models you can implement; practical ways to encourage families; How to coach and accompany parents. Please bring a bag lunch.

**Contact:** For more information contact Cathy Russell at [rcrdony.org](mailto:rcrdony.org). To register go to [www.rcrdony.org/needle](http://www.rcrdony.org/needle)

### FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake – Family Guggenheim

to be held with the theme "Trailblazers for Jesus".

**Date:** Oct. 11-13

**Features:** Come join us for a rootin' tootin' good time at Family Guggenheim, a place to play and pray together as a family.

**Contact:** For more information and to register, go to <https://www.rcrdony.org/newsevents/family-guggenheim.html>. Questions? Call Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920.

### ANDREW 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.

**Schedule:** Jefferson-Lewis Sunday, Nov. 3 St. Anthony's Sechi Hall, Watertown; St. Lawrence Sunday, Nov. 17 Brzana Hall, Ogdensburg; Clinton-Northern Franklin Sunday, Nov. 24 Emmaus Room, Plattsburgh

**Time:** 5 p.m. followed by Holy Hour and dinner with Bishop Terry R. LaValley and area priests.

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

### PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

Discernment is a journey of faith, traveling with companions. Are you a single Catholic man of high school age or older who is hearing the Lord's call to the priesthood? Join fellow discerners and Father

Howard Venette.

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

**Dates:** Nov. 23

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

**Features:** Lunch will be provided

**Contact:** Registration required, please go to [www.rcrdony.org/priesthooddiscernment](http://www.rcrdony.org/priesthooddiscernment). For more information, contact Father Howard Venette – [hvenette@rcrdony.org](mailto:hvenette@rcrdony.org)



## SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

## Considering prudence

We read in the first reading: "I prayed, and prudence was given me; I pleaded, and the spirit of wisdom came to me." Wisdom and prudence give direction to our lives so that we decide what to do with what we know.

Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas define prudence as right reason in matters of action. Prudence tells us what must be done, when it must be done, and how it must be done. Prudence is practical wisdom.

Wisdom determines truth. The greatest expression of wisdom

recognizes God as supreme good.

These definitions and distinctions may seem somewhat yawn (not awe) inspiring. However, they give us a clue to the depth of today's Gospel in which Jesus invites someone to move from where he is spiritually to the next level.

The young man had observed all the rules, but then asks what he must do to inherit everlasting life. What an interesting question! Don't we presume that if we observe all the rules, then the reward, the payback,

October 13

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Wisdom 7:7-11

Hebrews 4:12-13

Mark 10:17-30

the benefits should kick in, and we are all set to breeze into heaven.

Jesus first told him that life begins by observing the Ten Commandments. Hearing his admission that he has already observed all these commandments, Jesus commends him: "You have done well, but you are still clinging to this world rather than to my world." Jesus clarifies that to

inherit eternal life we must add the next step by freeing ourselves from our worldly attachments. This very spiritual advice is also very practical: you never see a U-Haul attached to a hearse.

So, this is where prudence and wisdom must kick in. We need wisdom to know what should and should not be done. We need prudence to know how to act on our wisdom.

Sounds simple, doesn't it? Well, if it is so simple, why are there so many lapsed, ex, former and/or non-practicing Catholics whose wisdom and prudence seem to disappear in relationship to God and

his Church?

As Catholics, we need to stop being cafeteria Catholics where we pick and choose what we believe and what we will do or not do. That lack of prudence replaces divine wisdom with human wisdom.

The man in the Gospel experienced sadness with Jesus' answer. Let's hope and pray that none of us experience that sadness. Jesus is the source of all joy as he shares his wisdom with us so that we can prudently share that wisdom with others. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. May we wisely understand this statement and prudently live it each day.



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

## CALLED TO SERVE

## Behind the scenes

Did you ever take a moment to think about all the things that happen behind the scenes to put something together? The finished, hopefully polished something, be it live or recorded, took a lot of effort, time and talent to put it all together for our enjoyment or benefit.

The credits that roll at the end of a movie thank every man, woman, child, and creature who contributed to making the final movie one you would give 5 stars. The credits are the names that scroll on the screen so fast you can't read them, the ones most of us never take the time to stay to read. Those credits applaud the people who made the movie happen.

The credits for a weekend Mass at Church

could be just as long.

I put together a list of what we call non-liturgical jobs at church as I prepared to write this column. It is a really a misnomer to say they are non-liturgical jobs because they are intrinsic to the prayerful execution of a Mass.

As I thought about all the backstage stuff that goes on, the list kept growing. Some of the jobs, ushers and greeters, come to mind quickly. We mentioned the sexton and all the buildings and grounds people last week. How about the decorators, the people who plan, buy, and place the flowers, wreaths and candles around our churches?

The catechists are important. They instruct our young people during Children's Liturgy and

Youth Formation. We called it released time back in my younger days, CCD later. Adults who want to join our religion hear the Word and instruction from Christian Initiation catechists.

How about the folks that engage in the various worship groups and committees that keep us focused on our real purpose on this journey? Altar and Rosary Societies, Legion of Mary, Women of Grace, Knights of Columbus, and Holy Name to mention a few.

Volunteers in soup kitchens, outreach centers (St. Vincent de Paul type facilities), Walking with Moms in Need and many others all respond

to the needs of our parishioners and our communities. Those folks take the Word of God with them to the world. Those disciples preach the Gospel through their virtuous acts of kindness.

Some committees focus on the social aspects of parish life, dinner committees, Communion breakfasts, festival groups, people who run movie nights for the parish. Even bingo workers are in that mix.

The deacon ends Mass with an admonition. He dismisses the assembly by telling them to leave, this Mass is over, but take what you have learned from Jesus with you and share that good



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

news with everyone you encounter, Next week, or even tomorrow for daily Mass attendees, come back and hear some more of the story. Jesus tells us he will renew and refresh us with his Body, his Blood, soul and divinity.

Armed with his teaching and invigorated by the Eucharist he has shared, we all have the strength and the wisdom to go out to the world again, and again, and again.

Kudos to everyone who is involved. The Sunday celebration is better because of you.

Roll credits!

*Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown. He is the Director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.*



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

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

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

## Unyielding spirit

Imagine going to Mass every Sunday several hours early, to secure space under the shade of a tree to protect yourself from the 90-degree heat and torrential downpours during the rainy season... Close your eyes for a minute, and try to picture yourself, having walked for miles to attend Mass in a parish that your community long outgrew, for a beautiful, hours-long outdoor service, that will begin two hours too late because the priest is delayed.

This is how some 1,500 parishioners live the sacrifice of the Mass in St. Bernadette's Parish in Chitula, on the outskirts of Lilongwe, Malawi.

Three years ago, the community embarked on the construction of a new church building – a structure that would finally be large enough to accommodate the growing congregation. The brick outer walls were raised, standing as a testament to the community's determination and hard work. Yet, as the global financial crisis of 2023 unfolded, bringing with it an alarming 76% inflation rate in just eight months, the cost of materials skyrocketed. The project, once full of promise, came to a sudden halt, leaving the unfinished church exposed to the elements, without a roof or interior. A ghost of what should have been, and a promise of what is yet to come.

In the meantime, a modest brick structure next to the old church serves as the current place of worship; a small shed with three walls is the sanctuary where the sacrifice of the Mass happens, while the rest of the land serves as the nave of the church, with an aisle and arch crafted from tree limbs. The simplicity of this man-made structure belies the vibrant faith of those who gather here.

And that is what's going to happen in St. Bernadette's parish this World Mission Sunday, October 20. People who have no material possessions will give what little they have so that others can share in their biggest wealth: their faith.

Despite the challenges they face – the stalled construction of their new church, the financial hardships, and the simplicity of their current place of worship – their hope remains unshaken. They dream of the day when their parish grounds will flourish with a beautiful church, a thriving school, and a much-needed clinic. It is this unwavering faith and optimism that we carry with us as we continue to support the missions.

Here, it is easy to remember why the Mass is both the sacrificial memorial of the cross and a sacred banquet... Because St. Bernadette's Parish in Chitula is a reminder of the vital importance of our collective mission – to support, to give, and to believe in the transformative power of God's love.

*Article by Ines San Martin and courtesy of the National Pontifical Mission Societies. Please remember the Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg INC. when writing or changing your will.*

## STUDYING AT ST. VINCENT SEMINARY



Seminarians studying at Saint Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, from the Diocese of Ogdensburg for 2024-2025 are pictured with administrators. In the front row, from left, are Father Nathanael Polinski, O.S.B., academic dean; Deacon Lawrence Sutton, Ph.D., director of pre-theologian formation; Father Edward Mazich, O.S.B., rector and director of liturgical formation; Father John Mary Tompkins, O.S.B., vice rector and director of human formation; Father Boniface Hicks, O.S.B., director of spiritual formation; Father Isaac Haywiser, O.S.B., director of strategic initiatives for formation. In the back, from left, are Kevin McCullough, second configuration; Venes Laine, first configuration; Dennis Ombongi, third configuration and Tyler Fitzgerald, third configuration.

## OBITUARIES

**AuSable Forks** – Doris M. (Stanley) Akey, 98; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 9, 2024 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

**Croghan** – Herbert M. Aueter, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 3, 2024 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

**Fort Covington** – Leo Latulipe, 92; Services to be held at a later date.

**Gabriels** – Linda Johnson-Brett; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 4, 2024 at Church of the Assumption.

**Hogansburg** – Doreen F. King, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 30, 2024 at St. Regis Church.

**Long Lake** – Diane Elizabeth Parker, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 7, 2024 at St. Henry's Church; burial in Long Lake Cemetery.

**Malone** – June (Allen) Hosler, 97;

Funeral Services Oct. 1, 2024 at Bruso-Desnoyers Funeral Home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Peru** – Marshall Lee Henry, 86; Funeral Services Oct. 2, 2024 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Jean G. Poutre LT. Col (Retd.), 90; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 6, 2024 at St. John's Church; burial in Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Randolph Center, VT.

**Rouses Point** – Janice M. LaValley, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 3, 2024 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery, Mooers Forks.

**Saranac Lake** – Joan Kaestle Reyell, 68; Private services to be



held.

**Saranac Lake** – Helen (Duprey) Turmel, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 5, 2024 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

**Tupper Lake** – William E. Delair, 97; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 8, 2024 at St. Alphonsus Church.

**Watertown** – Mary (Keegan) Doyle Dermady, 99; Memorial Mass Oct. 4, 2024 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church.

**Watertown** – James M. Lawlor, 78; Services to be held at a later date.

### The Miraculous Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked for many favors. This time I ask you this very special one. Take it Dear Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in our merciful eyes it will become your favor, not mine. Amen KM

# DIOCESAN BLUE MASS

Offering thanksgiving to God for the dedication and sacrifices made by fire fighters, EMS, corrections, law enforcement & communication

Photos by Darcy Fargo/North Country Catholic

