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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 79 Number 29

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

NOVEMBER 13, 2024

Foundation Re- port 2024

Bishop Terry R. LaValley presents the 2024 Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg report.

"It was almost ten years ago the Diocese of Ogdensburg established our Diocesan Priorities of Creating a Culture of Vocations, Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Live and Building Parishes with Living Stones. Today, we continue our focus on these priorities and vision with the mindset of passing on our living faith to future generations, building vibrant Parishes and Catholic communities, and strengthening our relationship with Christ.

FULL STORY, PAGE 6

KNIGHTS AID FOOD PANTRIES



Father John Cosmic Council #291, Knights of Columbus in Carthage continues supporting local food pantries through funds raised from their participation in the Charitable and Benevolent Program. Past Grand Knight Jim Gratch presents VEM Food Pantry Coordinator Jody Mono with support for VEM. A donation was also presented to St. James Food Pantry.

INSPIRED TO MISSION



Father Amruta Kumar Pasala, pastor of the Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay, the Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River, and St. Mary's of the Fort Church, was first introduced to God's love by a missionary and is now on mission himself, sharing God's love with the people of his parishes.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope Francis urges prayer for flood victims

By Kristina Millare
Catholic News Agency

Opening his Wednesday general audience in St. Peter's Square with a prayer to Our Lady of the Forsaken (Virgen de los Desamparados), the patroness of Valencia, Spain, Pope Francis asked people to pray for the victims of flash floods in Spain.

"I wished to greet the Virgen de los Desamparados," the pope told the crowds of pilgrims at the Vatican after placing a white rose before her statue. "Today, in a special way, let us pray for Valencia and for the other areas of Spain that are suffering because of the water," the Holy Father said.

More than 200 people have been confirmed dead in Valencia since heavy rains hit the eastern province of Spain last week. An additional 90 people were reported missing after severe floods swept through the city, destroying homes and personal property, businesses, roads, and other public infrastructure.

Following his prayer to the Virgin Mary for the people of Spain, the pope continued his catechesis on the Holy Spirit and the Church, focusing on the theme of Christian prayer: "We pray to receive the Holy Spirit, and we receive the Holy Spirit in order to truly pray; that is, as children of God, not as slaves."

Asking his listeners to reflect

on St. Paul's letter to the Romans, which highlighted the need to learn from the Holy Spirit to "pray as we ought," the Holy Father emphasized that prayer should not come from a place of fear and punishment but from the freedom and spontaneity of a child who trusts in God.

"Each one of us have little ones - children [who are either] nephews, nieces, or [sons and daughters] of friends - and they always receive good things from us," he said. "And as [God] the father, will he not give good things to us?"

According to the Holy Father, the only "power" people have with God is prayer, as "he does not resist prayers." He said it is

the Holy Spirit who teaches the Church and each Christian how to pray.

"He testifies to us that we are children of God and puts on our lips the cry 'Abba, Father!'" the pope said. "It is God who prays within us."

"True prayer," according to the Holy Father, is when one allows the Holy Spirit to come to the aid of our weakness and intercede for us "according to God's will."

"Jesus says first seek the kingdom of God and all these things will be given you besides," the pope said. "Instead, we seek something above and beyond - namely our own interests - and we completely forget to ask for the kingdom of God."

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As heard on the radio

"He's trying to play hero ball," the radio analyst said.

The NFL Network analyst was describing a rookie quarterback, Caleb Williams, who has had a somewhat rocky start to his professional football career despite being taken first in the annual draft - the event during which college players are selected by professional teams - and being touted as a promising young quarterback.

**Darcy L. Fargo**

"He puts so much pressure on himself to carry the team, he sometimes makes bad decisions and puts the ball in danger," the analyst continues. "He's trying to do too much."

The description struck me. I turned off my radio for a few minutes.

"Me, too, Caleb Williams," I thought. "Me, too."

I don't play "hero ball" in the literal sense. While I played powder puff football - women's club football

- in college, my days of contact sports are over. But I "play hero ball" with my life all the time.

I put a lot of pressure on myself. I stress out about things over which I have no control. I try my best to exert my control over situations and push for the outcomes I want. If things don't go my way, I don't react very well. I get mad. I get depressed. I feel like a failure.

That's a lot to put on myself.

Playing "hero ball" with my life, I'm not giving God what He wants and needs most from me - my

will.

I'm painfully attached to my will. I struggle to surrender my will and my circumstances to God, even those things I know are outside of my control.

But God's not done giving me reminders and helping me get there. He gives me people who remind me to surrender situations and circumstances to God. He gives me opportunity after opportunity to practice. God even reminds me through radio football commentary.

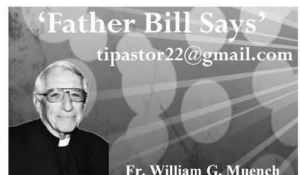
He wants me to let Him be the hero.

'Let us again consider the Beatitudes'

Today, I would like to talk with you about November. I love November. I was born in November. I love the Feast Days that begin the month, All Saints and All Souls - such great celebrations. By the way, I like Thanksgiving, too. And, finally, I like the beginning of basketball season.

In our Catholic Church's Liturgical year, November becomes a transitional month. November brings us to the end of the present liturgical year. Then November prepares us for the beginning of the next new liturgical year - time for Advent. Liturgically we again begin the story of Jesus. Advent leads us to Christmas.

November is a perfect opportunity for us to determine our progress during the past year on the road to sainthood. Am I ready to declare to myself and to God that I truly want to be a saint? Has this past liturgical year enriched my relationship with Jesus? Do I walk closer with Jesus? Do I truly realize how

**Fr. William G. Muench**

much God loves me? Can I say that I am a more loving disciple of Jesus as I approach the new liturgical year?

Each year at the All Saints Day celebration, the Gospel reading is the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus teaches us the Beatitudes. I believe that Jesus knew that this was the perfect way to proclaim his message - these powerful Beatitudes. I hope you had the time to read the Beatitudes (Matthew 5) at home on All Saints Day. These Beatitudes are a magnificent way to help us determine whether we have grown closer to Jesus. The Beatitudes help us to decide if we now are living as Jesus taught us. Let us again consider the Beatitudes.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit." Blessed means

happy. Am I happier because I have learned to be poor like Jesus? Am I blessed because I am more detached from "stuff," freed from "greed." Am I no longer poor because I now know Jesus as well as I should.

"Blessed are they who mourn." This is the time to remember how many I have lost this year - the loved ones who are now with the Lord. The loss of loved ones transforms my life in so many ways. One of the ways I am now a different person as I begin a new liturgical year is that so many family and friends have gone to the Lord. I miss them so. My relationship with the Lord has changed so much because they are not close to me. I must now find Jesus in a new way.

"Blessed are the meek." Has this past year helped me to discover humility as Jesus lived it? Have I now found the joy of imitating Jesus - especially the humility of the Lord? Like Jesus, am I now able to bring others closer to God?

"Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness." Does Jesus know that I truly want to be a saint? Do I boldly want to walk with Jesus, live and love like the Lord?

"Blessed are the merciful." Am I truly a merciful person? Am I forgiving, especially of those who have hurt me? I know I will be blessed only when I am loving and forgiving like the Lord. Do I realize that only living as a loving, merciful disciple of the Lord will I become like Jesus?

"Blessed are the peacemakers." Do I realize that only living in peace will I learn and live with God's love and joy? Do others see that I walk with Jesus, that I strive to bring peace to myself and to others like Jesus?

There it is, folks, the Lord's Beatitudes, the perfect signposts on the road to sanctity. Why have we never memorized them? Have you heard the call of the Lord that he first proclaimed at the Sermon on the Mount? Do you want to be a saint?

Father Lewis: 'I would be a priest again'

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

"In every place he served, he preached the word, broke the bread, and made present among us the gift of Jesus the Lord," Father Joseph A. Morgan said of his friend, Father Clyde A. Lewis, in his homily at Father Lewis' funeral. "Our eyes were opened, our hearts burned, because we knew here was a faithful priest of God who wanted nothing more than that we journey with him every step to the kingdom. That's what it's all about. When you get right down to it, walking the way to the kingdom."

Father Lewis died Oct. 31 at University of Vermont Health Network Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital in Plattsburgh.

Father L. William Gordon said he and Father Lewis became friends as children at St. John's Academy when both were in second grade.

"From second grade, through our ordinations and up to today, we've known one another and always been friends," Father Gordon said. "We went to Wadhams Hall together in 1957."

Father Gordon noted that the pair shared many good times and more than a few antics.

"After the end of our second year (at Wadhams Hall), we were farmed out to other seminaries," Father Gordon said. "I was sent to Baltimore. He was sent to St. Bonaventure and Christ the King. We would write letters back and forth. They read the 'seminarians' incom-



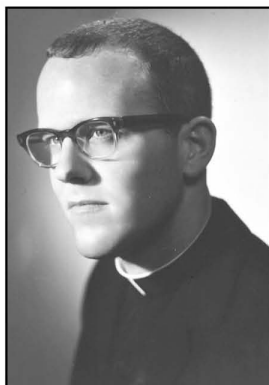
Father Clyde A. Lewis (left) in 2019 and (right) in 1978.

ing) mail at Bonaventure. I wrote him a letter once and addressed it to, 'Dear Clyde and whoever else is reading this.' The dean of discipline called him in and told him he could never communicate with me again."

The order didn't put a damper on their friendship, though. While they were geographically separated at various points in their ministries, they remained close.

"We were always contacting one another," Father Gordon said. "When he was pastor at Holy Family in Watertown, I was in Chazy. He called me, 'guess what? I'm going to be your neighbor.' He was going to Rouses Point. His dad was a very serious man. He thought Clyde was being demoted going from Holy Family to Rouses Point. It was difficult to explain to him how wonderful it was to leave such a busy, huge parish and be a parish priest a little easier. And we were together again. He was right next door."

While he appreciated slowing down a little, Father Gordon said Father Lewis resisted



stepping away from active ministry.

"I was always encouraging him, 'please retire,'" Father Gordon said. "He'd scream and yell at me, swear at me. He'd say, 'no! I'm going to die with my boots on.' He remained in ministry until August, when he got quite ill."

Father Gordon described his friend as "a very spiritual man."

"He kept a lot of that to himself," he said. "We would have little talks once in a while. Three days before he left Meadowbrook for the hospital, he said to me, 'we haven't talked about God lately.' He'd always say, 'if I had it to do all over again, I would be a priest again.' I would say, 'I would, too.' He certainly went through lots of difficulties and tough times, but he'd still do it again. I think that came across to his people."

Father Gordon said the loss of his friend is a loss to the diocese.

"Everybody in the diocese loved (Father) Clyde Lewis," he said. "He had all kinds of jobs over the years. He had a list of things he did. He was just super. He was a priest's priest."

He loved the clergy, and he was always so good to the priests. Years ago, Msgr. Pierce was in an assisted living, nursing home type facility in Peru. (Father Lewis) found him there and said, 'you're not going to live here anymore.' He brought him to live at the rectory. He was always looking out for others."

Father Gordon noted that Father Lewis' funeral was held in the church constructed under Father Lewis' supervision, St. Augustine's in Peru.

"He decided when he built the church in Peru that he'd be buried there and his funeral would be there," he said. "His mom and dad are buried there, as well. Their funerals were at St. Augustine's. It was home."

Father Morgan referenced that love of St. Augustine's in his homily.

"As I mentioned, this is the house that Clyde built, and he took great pride in this church," Father Morgan said. "He studied all those liturgical documents, consulted with so many worship people and councils, and formulated a vision for what this church could be. He wanted it to be here for generations as a re-

minder that God dwells in our midst. I remember one time, Emery, the custodian, was cleaning while a group of kids were visiting. They saw him and asked, 'Is that God?' Father Clyde said, 'Oh yeah, that's him all right. He likes a tidy house.' When the church was finished, and Bishop Brzana came for its dedication, Father Clyde was a bit nervous about the cost overruns. But on that sunny day in August 1982, even Bishop Brzana was won over. He said, 'You have built a gem of a church.' So, all was well, even with the unexpected debt. But more important than a building, he was building the body of Christ, the community. He loved the people entrusted to his care. Near the end, he especially appreciated his friends who took care of him, not as staff, but as family. He grew teary-eyed, saying, 'I don't have a staff. I've got a family.' And so you were and are to him."

Father Gordon noted that Father Lewis' longtime parish secretary, Jo-Anne Ryan, and her husband, Steve, aided Father Lewis as his body failed in recent years.

"He was loved," Father Gordon said.

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VOCATION AWARENESS

Inspired to mission, sharing God's love

Editor's note: Due to space constraints two stories from last week's Vocations Awareness Week edition were moved to this week's publication. The following is the first of those stories.

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

Father Amruta Kumar Pasala, pastor of the Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay, the Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River, and St. Mary's of the Fort Church, said he's seen the goodness of God throughout his life, and he feels blessed to share that with the people of the North Country.

"I always speak about what God has done in my life," he said, smiling. "It's the only thing I can say."

Father Pasala, from the Diocese of Cuddapah, India, said his early faith was inspired by a priest-who was in India as a missionary.

"I didn't understand anything growing up," Father Pasala began. "I realized there was a priest from Scotland, Father Francis Crumblish with Mill Hill Missionaries. Priests who did not know the language came to our place, and they would learn the language and begin to serve our people. (Father Crumblish) started a mission from scratch. He had nothing, had to buy the land - 60 acres of land. It was a cent for an acre. He would get around by bicycle. To buy the land, he had to sacrifice his bicycle. What a sacrifice that was for a priest who was not born in our place. He came all the way from Scotland and sacrificed his bicycle to buy land to



Father Amruta Kumar Pasala, second from left, was installed as pastor of the Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay, the Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River, and St. Mary's of the Fort Church in Mass celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley in early September.

establish a parish."

Through the generosity of the local people and the efforts of that priest, Father Pasala said a parish was born, and that parish eventually became the center of the Diocese of Cuddapah.

Father Pasala said he was inspired by Father Crumblish's trust in God and his willingness to sacrifice.

"His faith and his vision for the diocese were so immeasurable," he said. "He said, 'someday, there will be priests from this place, religious sisters.' Over 50 years, there have been 25 priests, 25 religious and one bishop from that parish. It's the fruit of that man who sacrificed for our betterment."

After he felt God urging him to the priesthood, completed his studies and was ordained, Father Pasala said he spent 10 years growing in his ministry before asking to go on mission like Father Crumblish.

"First, I was asked if I was interested in going to Spain," he said. "I went for three months to Mar-

bella, which translates to 'by the side of the sea.' I learned to celebrate Mass in Spanish, and I learned to read and write (in Spanish). I had hoped to be there for 10 years or more, but it didn't work out. After three months, I came back (to India)."

He then asked his bishop if he could pursue mission work in the United States.

"In 2017, on the thirtieth of May, I landed in Alaska," Father Pasala said. "It was not so much a cultural shock as a weather shock. For six months, you don't see the sun, then the opposite. And it was 14.5 hours difference from India."

Father Pasala said ministry in Alaska was challenging, with weather and geography limiting his access to some of the faithful. After two years there, he returned to India to aid his mother, who had contracted COVID and suffered a prolonged illness.

Once his mother recovered, he applied to come to the Diocese of Ogdensburg, which he had heard

of through a friend.

"So far, so good," he said of his experience here in the North Country so far. "It's better than Alaska. Winter is not as bad as in Alaska. The communities here are amazing! There are some little things I think need to be changed. I come here (St. Francis of Assisi Church, Constable) every evening - some time to pray, time to spend time with the Lord and bring it to Him. If I do it on my own, I make a mess. I ask, 'give me the wisdom to lead these people in the right way, not getting into division, making unity among three churches.'"

Father Pasala says he also tries to share Christ with his communities.

"My charism is taken from Galatians 2:20," he said. "It is no longer I who live, but Jesus Christ who lives in me.' We all need to take time to say that. Every thought, word, deed, we should want to become like Christ. Some days, I can say that like St. Paul. Some days - fail, fail, fail, and I don't know that

I can say that. It always takes time."

In trying to live that, Father Pasala said it's important to him to get to know the people of the parishes he serves.

"Everybody is important to me," he said. "From the smallest child and infant to the oldest and homebound. Everyone is important to me, and I'm trying to learn names. I'm very bad at it. The church is not always receiving, like money. We also give."

Father Pasala said he's grateful for the warm reception he's received from Bishop Terry R. LaValley, from his fellow priests and from the communities he serves.

He also said he's glad he's able to serve here in the North Country while continuing to serve his neighbors back home in India.

"I was born on the feast day of St. Monica," he explained. "She's closely attached to St. Ambrose of Milan. Through his preaching and teaching, God changed St. Augustine. I started the St. Ambrose Charitable Trust for nomadics, widows and orphans - ACT NOW. A tenth of my salary goes to that purpose - to feed those people and help them."

Father Pasala said he prays he can continue to lean on God as he leads his faith communities moving forward.

"If I'm not doing the work of God with all my heart, my mind and my soul, I don't think those endeavors will be blessed," he said. "The bishop invited me here. I pray, 'Lord, help me. Help me to help the people I can through my ministry. Everything is God. I have no regrets and no future plans.'"

VOCATION AWARENESS

Showing God's love as a single person

Editor's note: Due to space constraints two stories from last week's Vocations Awareness Week edition were moved to this week's publication. The following is the second of those stories.

By Andrew Lauria
Contributing Writer

I recently lost a friend of mine who died from a severe brain seizure in his sleep. I have been processing this grief while the deadline for this article has been slowly approaching. I had written two other pieces for this column and upon review, immediately deleted them. What I was thinking I wanted to say and what was happening in my life were two very different things. I am writing today about vocation from my perspective of a single man who died young. Out of respect for his family, I will call him Max.

Max and I had known each other for several years, originally meeting in a Catholic young adult community. He was in his early thirties, single, wore mostly t-shirts and jeans, had a very acute sense of humor, was close to his family, and lived a life serving everyone around him. He worked in IT, and I still have no precise idea what he did specifically. From what I understand, he was one of "those people" who could fix technology problems, and he did this with great success. If he were here right now, he'd probably claim only the t-shirt and jeans part of my description of him.

While he embraced his common exterior, the most defining feature of Max was interior, in his ability to receive people. When you were with him, he was with you fully in the moment, actively listening, asking questions and always affirming. He was very intelligent, and his humor tracked the same. He had a deep, well cultivated interior life and so he was spiritually in tune with people as well. Max had an uncommon disposition in that he would simply be with you. It wasn't so much that he had a presence about him, but rather, that he was aware of your presence and the presence of God. Max was deeply reverent and of supreme service. Generosity of spirit was his hallmark.

I had been thinking for a few weeks that I had to write about an epiphany regarding vocational insight. I then realized that my friend Max demonstrated so much of what a single person can show of God's love in our world. In processing my friendship with him I realize that he left me so many reminders of the ways I can love everyday. I have to laugh at myself for how quickly I forget the basics.

Pray. Be kind to others. Help whoever needs it and in whatever way I can. Pray. Trust in God. Enjoy the little gifts God gives me. Pray. Celebrate the wins with those I love. Support people, especially in the tiny ways nobody will ever see and in ways that don't really feel important to me; those are the ones that change lives. Pray.

Visit the graves of those who have gone before. Take care of those who are sick. Never keep a good joke to myself. Being joyful is a choice, not the result of doing things right, so I choose joy. Pray. Remember that Jesus had a dozen people over for dinner once and He's God so be grateful if at least four come to my place. Laugh. Pray. Remember that I am the joy of God and He delights in me, especially when I forget where the car is parked at the airport. Keep clicking the alarm button, St. Anthony's got this one.

Our vocation as Catholic Christians is to love everyone in front of us and we do that by simply following Christ. Last I checked there's still a list of ten things we shouldn't do and an entire book about what we should do. When we do these things, we become even more alive, more in love, more like God.

My friend Max was alive every day of his life. He was alive because he gave, he laughed, he supported everyone around him. He lived out generosity and he lived out receptivity.

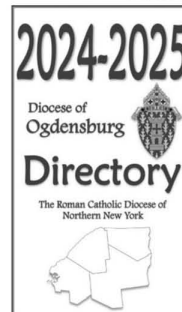
He was deeply kind, and he chose these behaviors again and again. I am grateful he was my friend and that God showed me part of Himself through Max.

I had pondered throwing my computer in the pool at one point because I couldn't get my thoughts out properly for this article. I'm glad I didn't. But if I did, I'm sure Max would have still fixed my computer.



Andrew Lauria

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information about
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Building A Bridge For The Future



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2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

BUILDING A BRIDGE FOR THE FUTURE

Passing our living faith to future generations

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

It was almost ten years ago the Diocese of Ogdensburg established our Diocesan Priorities of Creating a Culture of Vocations, Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Live and Building Parishes with Living Stones. Today, we continue our focus on these priorities and vision with the mindset of passing on our living faith to future generations, building vibrant Parishes and Catholic communities, and strengthening our relationship with Christ.

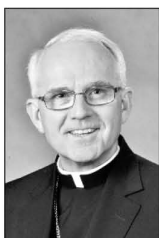
As a family of faith, the people of the Diocese of

Ogdensburg generously support one another from one generation to the next. God calls us to protect and promote the dignity of human life, to defend those who are poor, to strengthen the Church and seek the common good.

In 2007, in order to "Build a Bridge to the Future" and continue a strong sense of commitment to our Catholic faith, the Foundation was established with the purpose of preparing the Diocese to meet the needs of tomorrow, connecting the strong faith of today

with generations that will follow us.

Since its establishment, fifty-six (56) endowments have been created in the Foundation. These are listed in this 2023-2024 Annual Report as well as the names of the beneficiaries. Parishioners, families, and organizations continue



Bishop Terry R. LaValley

to make planned gifts to the Foundation as a means of support for our parishes, Catholic schools, and other ministries of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Please take

a moment to review the report and learn more about the Foundation's mission and how it functions.

I am extremely grateful to all who have had the foresight in establishing and contributing generously to the Foundation. These gifts are an ongoing source of revenue for future works of the Church. If you have not already, I encourage you to consider developing an estate plan for the benefit of your loved ones. The Foundation is also a valuable means for you to begin to leave a legacy for the next generations.

I would also like to

take this opportunity to thank Mr. Scott Lalone, Executive Director of the Development Office, our current and past Board of Directors of the Foundation, for their wise stewardship in overseeing the investments and dividends of its funds.

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

Gratefully yours
in Christ,

Most Reverend
Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg *Passing Our Living Faith to Future Generations*

MISSION STATEMENT

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

In fulfilling its mission, The Foundation will:

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

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

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

HOW THE FOUNDATION WORKS

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

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

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

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- Reverend Kevin McEwan, Pastor
- Mr. Thomas Hannan, Ogdensburg, NY
- Deacon Mark Webster, West Chazy, NY



The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg *Passing Our Living Faith to Future Generations*



Methods of Giving

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

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

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg Statements of Financial Position June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2023

	6/30/2024	6/30/2023
ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 277,029	\$ 339,047
Accrued Interest	11,454	11,310
Investments at Fair Value	7,644,436	7,312,007
Charitable Gift Annuities	1,852	1,852
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 7,934,771	\$ 7,664,216
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES	\$ -	\$ -
NET ASSETS (DEFICIT)		
Without Donor Restrictions	(129,944)	(119,361)
With Donor Restrictions	8,064,715	7,783,577
Total Net Assets	7,934,771	7,664,216
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 7,934,771	\$ 7,664,216

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



Seminarians of the Diocese

Endowment Beneficiaries Can Include

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

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

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

VIRTUAL EVENTS

FRIENDSHIP GROUP MEETING
You are invited to our next Friendship Group Meeting.**Date:** Nov. 21**Time:** 7 p.m.**Place:** Zoom

Features: Father Jonas Verdeflor, OMV will continue to guide us in Ignatian meditation and how to pray with the Scriptures. We will discuss chapters 8-14 of the book "Beloved Lover" by Father Gregory Cleveland, OMV and reflect on the beauty of God's love in the Song of Songs.

Contact: To order the book, please visit omvusa.org and enter SUMMER24 at the checkout to receive 10% off.

To sign-up for the Friendship Group, receive the meeting link and discussion questions, go to <https://mailchi.mp/sophiainstitute/friendship-groups> Questions? Contact Mary Beth Bracy at mbracy@sophiainstitute.com

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AND CRAFT FAIR

Lake Placid — St. Agnes School to have a Christmas Bazaar and Craft Fair.

Date: Dec. 7**Time:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Features: Vendor space is available. A wonderful event to get you in the Spirit of Christmas.

Contact: For more information call 518-523-3771

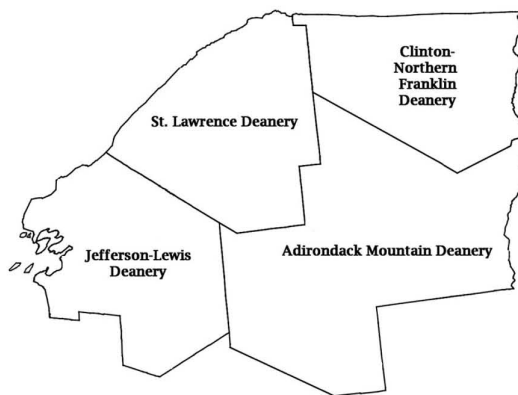
CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

COMPASSIONATE COMPANIONS TRAINING

Ticonderoga — Southern Adirondack Compassionate Companions, a faith-based Age-friendly Communities Initiative, is recruiting new volunteers and has scheduled a Companion Volunteer Training Program.

Date: Nov. 14**Time:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Features: We are inviting new volunteers from Ticonderoga, Schroon Lake, Crown Point, and surrounding communities in southern Essex County to pioneer



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.

this new Age-friendly Communities Initiative based on the successful model of Mercy Care for the Adirondacks in the Tri-Lakes region of the Adirondacks. Compassionate Companions volunteers will help their elder neighbors stay connected to their communities and help make their lives easier and happier. Volunteers of all faiths or no faith are encouraged and invited to participate. A complimentary lunch will be provided.

Contact: Registration is required. To register for the training, please contact Pam Arzberger, Southern Adirondack Compassionate Companions Program Coordinator, or visit route74catholics.org. For more information, email Pam at compassionatecare83@gmail.com or call 518-547-0782.

CRAFT FAIR

Morrisonville — St. Alexander's Church to have a craft fair.

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

Contact: For more information call Tina Packwood at 518-561-5039

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills — The Indian River

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

Date: Nov. 9**Time:** 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center
Cost: Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$8; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free

Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Constableville — St. Mary's Youth Group with the Faith Formation classes will be hosting a sit down pancake breakfast.

Date: Nov. 10**Time:** 8 a.m. to noon

Place: St. Mary's Church hall
Cost: Adults, \$9; Children under 12, \$4.50

Menu: Pancakes, scrambled eggs, ham and home fries

Features: Profits will be used for St. Mary's Faith Formation and family activities such as Karate & Family Fun Nights. These activities are open to all families not just those who attend Mass in Constableville.

Contact: If you have questions, please call our Parish Office at 315-348-6104

SPAGHETTI DINNER

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

Date: Nov. 12**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 6**Place:** St. John's Church

Cost: \$12

Menu: Spaghetti with Dino's Meat Market sausage and meatballs, homemade sauce, tossed salad, Italian bread and dessert.

Features: The dinner proceeds will go to the Salvation Army Red Kettle Fund to start out the upcoming Christmas season. The proceeds stay in Southern Lewis County to help many needy families.

Contact: To pre-order, call 315-348-8945 or 315-348-8577.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Watertown — The St. Athony Altar and Rosary Society will have a spaghetti dinner.

Date: Nov. 21**Time:** 4 p.m. to 7**Place:** Msgr. Sechi Hall

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children, \$7

Features: Take-outs available, please bring your own containers.

Contact: For more information call the parish center at 315-782-1190

ST. LAWRENCE

HARVEST DINNER

Gouverneur — St. James School to have a Harvest Dinner.

Date: Nov. 7**Time:** 4:30 p.m. until sold out

Cost: \$15

Menu: Turkey dinner with all the fixings, mashed potatoes, dressing, vegetable, roll and dessert. Eat in or take out.

FALL BAZAAR

Massena — Annual Fall Bazaar to be held.

Date: Nov. 9**Time:** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.**Place:** St. Mary's Social Hall

Contact: For more information contact to parish office at 315-769-2469

MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

Date: Nov. 10 (Second Sunday

of each month)

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

Place: Father Amyot Parish Center

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

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

EUCCHARISTIC CONSECRATION

Ogdensburg — 33 DAYS TO EUCCHARISTIC GLORY: 8 Week Book Study to be held.

Date: Nov. 11 — Dec. 30

(Monday's)

Time: 9:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.

Place: Bishop Brzana Hall, St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory is the first ever Eucharistic Consecration. This spiritual resource presents profound truths, astonishing historical facts, powerful practical examples, a daily virtue to adopt, extraordinary prayers, and inspiring stories—all in an easy-to-follow daily format. This extraordinary spiritual guide will forever change the way you spend time with Jesus in the Eucharist.

Contact: For more information Email, Text or call Deacon Bill O'Brien at billlob315@gmail.com or (315) 528-0461

FALL FESTIVAL

Waddington — St. Mary's to have a Fall Festival.

Date: Nov. 23**Time:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center

Features: The Festival includes crafters and vendors, a silent auction, and bake sale. Lunch will be available. Free Admission.

Contact: For more information contact the parish at waddingtonsec@rcdony.org.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

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

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10
Vocation Office. Parents are welcome to attend.

Schedule: St. Lawrence Sunday, Nov. 17 Brzana Hall, Ogdensburg; Clinton-Northern Franklin Sunday, Nov. 24 Emmaus Room, Plattsburgh

Time: The program begins at 5 p.m. 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>.

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

Discernment is a call, listen with others. Are you a single Catholic man, of high school age or older, who is hearing the Lord's call to the Priesthood? You are invited to join fellow discerners and Father Howard Venette for the following gatherings.

Place: St. Mary's Church, Canton
Dates: Nov. 23; 2025: Jan. 25, March 22, May 3,

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

Features: Lunch will be provided at each of the church locations.

Contact: Registration required, please go to www.rcdony.org/priesthooddiscernment. For more information **contact:** Father Howard Venette – hvenette@rcdony.org

FOSTER GRANDPARENT

FGP is a local program that applies skills and wisdom you have acquired to make a difference in the lives of others. 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. Opportunities available in Franklin, Essex, Clinton, St. Lawrence and Jefferson County.

Contact: Melissa Howard, Volunteer Coordinator at (518) 359-7688 or E-mail: mhoward@cathcharities.org

Rest in Peace

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

Nov. 13 – Rev. S. Alphonse Vollmer, 1931; Rev. Victor Van den Hende, 1939; Most Rev. Francis J. Monaghan, 1942

Nov. 14 – Msgr. Edward Joseph Pierce, 1980

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

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

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

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

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

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Precious Blood Monastery

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315-788-1669
www.sisterspreciousblood.org

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Bishop's Public Schedule

Nov. 11-14 – United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Plenary Assembly in Baltimore, Maryland

Nov. 15 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Nov. 17 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Nov. 18 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Nov. 19 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch

Nov. 20 – 10 a.m. – Lay Employees' Retirement Plan Committee Meeting at Bishop's Residence

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

is able to schedule sessions of the training, Protecting God's Children for Adults. 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. To arrange for training, call 315-393-2920 or email jgrizzuto@rcdony.org

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terrienne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrienneyanulavich@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

When trees say nothing

While many of us may remember Thomas Merton's work "Seven Story Mountain" and numerous other writings, we may not be familiar with one collection published to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of his birth. This collection, "When the Trees Say Nothing," edited by Kathleen Deignan, sheds new light on Merton by focusing on a neglected theme of his writing: the natural world as a manifestation of the divine.

Drawing from Merton's voluminous writing on nature that include chapters on the four elements, the seasons, the earth and its creatures, and the sun, moon and stars, this collection provides brief passages from his diverse works that reveal the presence of God in creation.

The title itself may prompt some reflections. Trees do not say anything, yet their nature speaks volumes to us about the cycle of life. They manifest insights into the cycle of the paschal mystery rooted in the natural world.

As we watch their beautiful leaves fall to the ground, we are reminded that no matter how lovely some things are, there is a time to let go for something else to grow. Leaves fall and nurture the soil for the coming year and protect roots from winter cold. While from all appearance trees seem to be dead in winter; biologists assure us they are deepening their roots and preparing to bring forth new life. Without words, they reveal to us that we too need to lie fallow, to rest and allow the Lord to nurture us in quiet times – times when it seems like nothing is happening. Yet from spending quiet moments with the Lord, we may be moved to do the simple actions with love. You know, simple acts like using alternatives for single-use plastics, composting, turning off unneeded lights... done with love can speak volumes to others who witness our action without us saying a word.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Convent founded by Mother Teresa burned in Haiti

In an escalation of violence, an armed Haitian gang has looted and burned down a Missionaries of Charity convent, which had been founded by Mother Teresa herself in 1979. According to a report by Zenit news, the devastating attack took place on the night of Oct. 26. The group of attackers was led by one of Haiti's most infamous gang leaders — ex-police officer Jimmy Chérizier, also known as “Barbeque.” Chérizier heads up the Revolutionary Forces of the G9 Family and Allies, a coalition of nine gangs based in the capital city, Port-au-Prince. He has been a principal agitator in efforts to topple the remnants of Haiti's government. Chérizier and his men looted the convent and its adjacent aid dispensary before leaving the property in flames. None of the nuns were injured, as police had asked them to vacate the property a month before the attack, according to a Vatican report. The Missionaries of Charity has provided free medical care to vulnerable members of the surrounding community since its establishment, serving approximately 1,500 inpatients and 30,000 outpatients per year.

Vatican opens visitor center for St. Peter's Basilica

The Vatican last week opened a center to welcome pilgrims and tourists before they visit St. Peter's Basilica. The space, which was inaugurated Oct. 31, is intended to provide practical, artistic, and spiritual information to visitors of the Vatican basilica — especially during moments of higher than usual influx, as expected during the 2025 Jubilee Year. Pope Francis said in a recent meeting with priests who hear confessions at St. Peter's Basilica that the church has over 40,000 visitors a day. The welcome center will also offer support for visitors with physical disabilities and sell official St. Peter's Basilica-branded objects. The “Official Area,” as the Vatican is calling the center, is located about a five-minute walk from St. Peter's Square at the far end of the main thoroughfare leading to the basilica — at the address Via della Conciliazione 3a. The Vatican has partnered with two Italian organizations, the nonprofit BeHuman and the for-profit company Civita Mostre e Musei, to create the welcome center, which will also have priests, religious, and laypeople available for spiritual discussions, “listening, and empathy,” a press release said.

Pope offers Mass for cardinals, bishops who died over last year

Pope Francis celebrated a Mass for deceased cardinals and bishops in St. Peter's Basilica on Nov. 4, saying they were “shepherds and models for the Lord's flock” who loved the Church in their own way. Seven Catholic cardinals and 123 Catholic bishops died within the last 12 months. “Our remembrance becomes a prayer of intercession for our dear brothers, elect members of the people of God. They were baptized into the death of Christ in order to rise with him,” the pope said in his homily at the Mass. It is the pope's custom to offer a Mass in November for the prelates who passed away during the past year.

Catholic voters favor Trump over Harris

By Tyler Arnold
Catholic News Agency

The Catholic vote on Tuesday broke for former President Donald Trump by a large margin nationwide and within swing states in the 2024 presidential election, according to exit polls published by the Washington Post, the Associated Press, and NBC News.

According to the Washington Post's exit poll, Trump won the national Catholic vote by a 15-point margin: 56% to 41%. This shows a much larger victory for Trump among Catholic voters than the Post's 2020 exit polls, which showed Trump with only a five-point lead above President Joe Biden, 52% to 47%.

The shift represents a 10-point swing in favor of Trump from 2020 to 2024.

The Washington Post poll also found that 69% of voters who believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases voted for Harris, but Trump managed to win 28% of voters who held the same view.

Trump also won 90% of voters who believe abortion should be illegal in all or most cases and Harris won 9% of voters who held that view.

An exit poll from the Associated Press VoteCast showed Trump leading among Catholic voters but by a smaller seven-point margin than the Post's poll. According to the poll, Trump won the Catholic vote with about 52%

compared with Harris' 45%.

However, the poll also found that 46% of Catholic voters trusted Harris more on abortion policy, while only 36% trusted Trump more on that issue. About 10% trusted neither and 6% trusted both.

According to the poll, 61% of Catholic voters said abortion should be legal in all or most cases and only 38% said it should be illegal in all or most cases. It found that Catholic voters were evenly split on the question of whether abortion should be illegal after 15 weeks of pregnancy, with 49% favoring such a law and 49% opposing it.

The poll found that Catholic voters trusted Trump more than Harris on immigration by a massive 25-point margin, 57% to 32%. It also found that Catholics trusted Trump more on the economy by a 19-point margin, 55% to 36%.

According to the poll, 59% of Catholics were concerned that Harris was too extreme and 58% felt the same way about Trump. About 73% of Catholic voters said they were primarily voting to support their candidate, but 27% of Catholic voters said they were primarily voting to oppose the other candidate.

This shows Trump heavily outperforming earlier polls of Catholics. A poll conducted by Pew in September only showed the former president with a five-point lead over the

vice president, beating her 52% compared with 47%.

Catholic voters in 10 key swing states polled by NBC voted for Trump by a 15-point margin, with 56% of the vote going to the former president and only 41% going to Vice President Kamala Harris.

Trump's lead was slightly larger among white Catholic voters with 60% supporting the former president and 37% backing Harris.

According to the poll, Catholics accounted for 22% of the voters in those states and white Catholics accounted for 15% of the voters.

The states included in the NBC poll were Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin.

Both Trump and his running mate, Ohio Sen. JD Vance, courted the Catholic vote heavily in the last few weeks of the election. In late October, Trump called Harris “destructive to Christianity” and said Catholics are “treated worse than anybody.” In that same week, Vance published an op-ed in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, accusing Harris of “prejudice against Catholics.”

Donald Trump on Wednesday won his reelection bid for president, defeating Democratic opponent Vice President Kamala Harris and becoming the first president in nearly 130 years to secure a nonconsecutive White House victory.

Jubilee's anime-style mascot goes viral

By Tyler Arnold
Catholic News Agency

The Vatican introduced an anime-style mascot named Luce to represent Catholic pilgrims in the 2025 Jubilee year on Monday, Oct. 28 - and within a week, the character has already become a viral internet sensation.

In less than seven days, hundreds of memes and fan art renditions of Luce (pronounced Lu-Chay) popped up on social media websites such as Facebook, X, Reddit, and TikTok and have been circulating the platforms.

The character has become particularly popular with Catholic meme accounts and groups but also has a presence in non-Catholic spaces, such as with amateur anime artists, Protestant meme accounts, and some secular and political meme accounts. It has also inspired Halloween costumes and the creation of a cryptocurrency called Luce Token, which has a market capitalization that has surpassed \$50 million.

Luce, which is Italian for "light," is a blue-haired mascot who wears a rosary around her neck and a yellow raincoat that is meant to symbolize journeying through life's storms and reflect the color of the Vatican flag. She wears green muddy boots that represent a long and difficult journey and carries a staff meant to symbolize the pilgrimage toward eternity.

The Vatican's Dicastery for Evangelization commissioned the creation of the character, which was designed by Italian artist Simone Legno, who owns the company tokidoki, which creates products with Japanese-inspired designs. Archbishop Rino Fisichella, the Vatican's chief organizer for the



SIMONE LEGNO/TOKIDOKI/VATICAN MEDIA

The Vatican on Oct. 28, 2024, unveiled the official mascot for the Catholic Church's 2025 Jubilee Year: "Luce," which is Italian for "light."

Jubilee, unveiled the mascot during a news conference.

Many of the Luce-inspired memes invoke Christian messages of prayer and warding off the devil. One popular meme, which parodies a famous scene from "The Shining," shows Luce use her staff to break a hole into a wooden door and stick her face through the hole as the devil cowers in the corner. Some others depict Luce kneeling in prayer.

Several Luce memes spreading around the internet also invoke pro-life messages, such as one that depicts Luce saving a baby from a Planned Parenthood abortion facility. Some memes have put Luce side by side with Crusaders.

Father Matthew P. Schneider, I.C., a Catholic priest with a large social media following, has embraced the mascot, creating threads on X with more than 70 of his favorite fan art renditions

of Luce. Some of the amateur artists are Catholic, but dozens of amateur anime artists who normally produce secular art have also jumped on the trend.

"I like Luce, the mascot for the holy year 2025," Schneider said on X. "The images seem like a good Christian adaptation of modern culture or inculturation."

Thomas Graf, the social media manager for Catholic Answers, wrote in an article on Thursday that he worried at first that the character would be a failed attempt to "try to make Church cool and relevant." However, he notes it was ultimately embraced by some Catholics within all age groups.

"Luce is undeniably adorable," Graf wrote. "Maybe you disagree, but I have to hand it to the creators: They nailed the look of childlike faith and innocence. And the pilgrimage symbols embedded in her character - muddy boots, Cami-

no de Santiago shells in her eyes, pilgrim's cross, and World Mission rosary - are subtle. Nothing evokes the overbearing 'Jesus is COOL, kids!!' lunkheadedness of, say, VBS mascots."

Christians who are not Catholic have also jumped on the Luce thread to create their own versions of the character.

One post in the Anglicanism subreddit developed an Anglican version of Luce with symbolism that represents their own denomination. Lutherans on Facebook and X have done the same, making Lutheran versions of Luce and claiming she converted - prompting strong responses from Catholics reclaiming the character. Some Orthodox Christians have made similar posts.

"Been seeing a ton of 'I'm not Catholic, but Luce is so cute' posts - THIS IS HOW WE WIN," one Twitter user said.

In spite of the Luce success on social media, not

all Catholics are fans of the character.

Traditionalist Catholic theologian Peter Kwasniewski wrote on X that "even if Luce is not 'evil,' the fact that she's kitschy, cutesy, cringey, merch, and childish is already offensive to the religion of the Logos."

Kwasniewski also criticized Legno, the artist who designed the character, calling him "a moral degenerate." Legno's company tokidoki has promoted homosexual pride and has partnered with one company to produce sex toys.

Edward Feser, a Catholic philosopher and professor at Pasadena City College, also criticized the character on X: "Infantilizing the young with a dumbed down version of Catholicism does them a disservice."

Some traditionalist-minded Catholics, such as The Daily Wire host Michael Knowles, have been supportive of Luce.

"I attend the Traditional Latin Mass," Knowles wrote on X. "I wear bowties. I read old books. I smoke cigars. I'm married with three kids under 4. I'm what they call a 'trad.' And I stan [am a fan of] Luce."

The Vatican intends to move forward with the mascot. Luce made an appearance at the Lucca Comics and Games convention in Tuscany, Italy, Nov. 2 and 3, and will also appear at the Expo 2025 in Osaka, Japan, next year.



SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

Considering the end

The end is coming! The world as we know it will be gone! The signs are all around us. Be careful! Doom and gloom constitute the two operative words when we hear or speak about the end of time. Listen to the Gospel's language: The sun will be darkened; the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky; the powers in the heavens will be shaken. The descriptions go on. Death, the end, can be waiting when we least expect it.

However, even though we see and read about these events, even though we mourn with those who mourn, and even though our prayers are with those who are suffering so much, nevertheless, it's not personal. It's not one of us. Ultimately,

we should focus most on our death; the stark reality that we will die.

Admittedly, we do not like speaking or even listening about the topic. However, no one escapes death.

Focus on your funeral. Today's tendency promotes people to expedite everything as soon as possible. People bypass wakes, bypass prayers, bypass burials, and even bypass the funerals themselves.

Why are wakes important? Friends and relatives of the survivors want share in the lives of the survivors. They want the opportunity to express to the living their prayers and solidarity with those who were the closest to the deceased person. They want the opportunity to say: "I am with you." A wake invites



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

November 17

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Daniel 12:1-3

Hebrews 10:11-14, 18

Mark 13:24-32

others into your life and allows them to share in your grief. Likewise, the wake gives people a final opportunity to say good-bye to the deceased.

A funeral Mass celebrates in prayer the person's relationship with God and the fulfillment with God of that person's life on earth. A life spent in regular on-going prayer should end with the greatest of prayers, the Eucharist. In the funeral Mass, the Christian community celebrates a life lived in union with God.

The burial brings the last earthly contact between the living and the deceased. Our go-

ing back to the earth reminds us clearly of the fragility of our lives. In saying farewell to our beloved, we pray that the deceased find union with God in heaven and that we all share in that destiny.

Some of us may say, especially as we get older, something like: "I don't want people to fuss over me." Well, people do want to fuss over you. You formed part of their lives. You worked with them; you raised them up; you helped them; you nurtured them. Give them the opportunity to say goodbye in a fitting and dignified manner.

Unfortunately, today, many people who have the responsibility of burying their parents and grandparents have lost contact with the Church, the local Catholic community. Their lack of comfort with religion should never be imposed on the

deceased person who loved and served God. While you still live, you should make it clear and in writing that, as you lived with the Lord while on earth, you wish to die with the Lord on your journey to heaven.

These comments apply whether you choose traditional ground burial or cremation. The final disposition of our remains must respect the human person and the religious ties that were so important in that person's life.

We say and we believe that we are temples of the Holy Spirit. When we celebrate the Eucharist we are reminded about our mortality. Let us pray that we can face death with the same joy, peace, and religious fervor as we face life each day. As temples of the Holy Spirit, may we live and die in union with our God.

OBITUARIES

Brasher Falls — Rayona (Eldridge) Thompson, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 7, 2024 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Winthrop Cemetery.

Canton — Saverio "Sam" Sergi, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Cape Vincent — Jeanne K. Thompson, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 13, 2024 at St. Vincent of Paul Church.

Constableville — Cynthia Ann (Felshaw) Moxley, 73; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 8, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Dannemora — Rosemond "Sorelle" (Lowe) Bouyea, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 8, 2024 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Dannemora — Janet Uhler, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 6, 2024 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Keeseville — Janet Wilthia (Roy) DeGroat, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 8, 2024 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in Evergreen Cemetery.

Lake Placid — William Jay Wylie-Mott, 60; Graveside Services Oct. 25, 2024 at North Elba Cemetery.

Lowville — Erma (Ellis) André, 93; Graveside Services at Brantingham Cemetery.

Lowville — Ray Edward Rhubar, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2024 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Brantingham Cemetery.

Lowville — Sharon Mumford Bolliver Wolf, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 16, 2024 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Malone — Janet Kay (LaPoint) Gagnier, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 9, 2024 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Brainardsville Cemetery.

Malone — Martin V.C. Wright, 63; Funeral Services Nov. 7, 2024 at the Bruso-Desnoyers Funeral Home.

Morrisonville — Joyce (Everleth) Trombley, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 8, 2024 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in Rand Hill Rd Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Richard D. Brennan, 86; Funeral Services Nov. 8, 2024 at the Fray Funeral Home.

Ogdensburg — William E. Payne, 71; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 25, 2024 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Marguerite Eva-

riste, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 2, 2024 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Schroon Lake — John Cain, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 8, 2024 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

Ticonderoga — Mary Jane Lester Maher, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 7, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Crown Point.

Watertown — Ida (Westcott) Robinson, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 7, 2024 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in North Watertown Cemetery.



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Pope reminds us to pray

This week Pope Francis gave a general audience on the importance of prayer. Let us all pray for our country, our world, and our fellow human beings as we enter into the holiday season.

In Christian prayer, Pope Francis emphasizes, "the Holy Spirit is both the subject and object of Christian prayer. That is, He is the One who gives prayer, and He is the One who is given by prayer."

"First of all," continued the pope, "we must pray to receive the Holy Spirit." The New Testament says the Holy Spirit "always descends during prayer." This ... is the only "power" we have over the Spirit of God. He does not resist prayer. We pray, and He comes." And the Church, the pope noted, "follows this example faithfully: she always has the imploration 'Come! Come!' on her lips, especially at Mass." But there is another aspect "which is the most important and encouraging for us: the Holy Spirit is He who gives us the true prayer... It is true that we do not know how to pray, we must learn it every day." Pope Francis sums up the reason for this weakness with a Latin proverb that expresses it with a single word used in three different ways: as an adjective, as a noun and as an adverb: "We human beings, according to that saying, 'mali, mala, male petimus,' which means, being bad (mali), we ask for the wrong things (mala) and in the wrong way (male)."

And the Holy Spirit not only comes to the aid of our weakness, but "He does something more important still: He testifies to us that we are children of God and puts on our lips the cry: 'Abba! Father!' Christian prayer is not man at one end of the telephone, speaking to God on the other; no, it is God who prays in us! We pray to God through God."

In prayer, the Holy Spirit reveals himself as advocate and defender, the pope said. "He does not accuse us before the Father, but defends us. Yes, He defends us. He convinces us of the fact that we are sinners, but He does so in order to make us able to savor the joy of the Father's mercy."

"The Holy Spirit intercedes," said Pope Francis, "and He also teaches us how to intercede, in turn, for our brothers and sisters; He teaches us the prayer of intercession. This prayer is particularly pleasing to God, because it is the most gratuitous and altruistic."

And before the final blessing, the Pope again invited people to pray for peace: "Let us pray for peace. Let us not forget the tormented Ukraine, which is suffering so much, let us not forget Gaza, Israel" and "Let us not forget Myanmar."

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

CALLED TO SERVE

Irreversible consequences

We were watching a re-run the other night while keeping an eye on election returns. The re-run was more exciting.

In one scene of the dramatization, the central character used his imagination to figure-out how to jump some wires and get a vehicle running.

The fact that he got the front-end loader running was impressive, but it was the look on the character's face that really intrigued me.

The actor had one of those "the light bulb went off in his head" moments that some of us are blessed with from time-to-time. It was fun to watch.

His eyes widened, a small smile appeared on his lips, and he stared at the piece of metal while the viewer watched his brain work towards "this will do it!"

He was successful applying his perceived solution to the problem. Bravo.

Often, in real life, the solution does not work. We fall into the shoulda, coulda, woulda trap of trying to visit an historical event and change the outcome. Spoiler alert....you cannot change what has happened in the past.

Aaron Judge dropped a fly-ball in the fifth inning of game five of the 2024 World Series. We can "what if" forever. He will still drop the ball, and the Dodgers are the baseball champions.

We do not understand how the error hap-

pened. Yankee fans will never forgive the mis-cue.

That is an insignificant event. An error committed against God is another, more important mistake. We call those sins.



**Deacon
Kevin Mastellon**

A theologian wrote in 2012 "In the Catholic tradition, sin is described as a stain or contagion, an interior disposition of selfishness, a disordered heart, a misguided will, an external act that violates a

law or rule, a rejection of God, a power or force of evil, and a kind of social disorder."

Put another way, sin is an offense against God, because it involves a rejection of God's love for us.

There is no shoulda, coulda, woulda possible. We have sinned and there is no reversing that act.

Fortunately, Jesus gave us a path to forgiveness. As Christians, we believe that past sins are forgiven by our merciful God if we are sorry for those sins and share the sins with a priest in confession. We need to examine our individual conscience, determine when and how often we have sinned, and confess those to Him in the sacrament of reconciliation.

There is no time like now as the saying goes. Jesus reminds us of the importance of being in harmony with him when he says in Mark's Gospel this weekend that the end of our journey on earth can happen anytime. "But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

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

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Can Catholics donate their organs?

By Daniel Payne
Catholic News Agency

A recent news report out of Kentucky revealed a slim but pointed risk regarding organ donation, one that underscores a key Church teaching about how the process of gifting one's organs must play out.

Congressional testimony in September revealed a 2021 incident in which a man named TJ Hoover was declared brain dead and a medical team was assembled to harvest his organs. In the operating room, however, Hoover was found to still be alive. Multiple medical officials quit over what they described as a traumatic experience.

"Several of us that were employees needed to go to therapy," one worker told National Public Radio. Government authorities are investigating the incident. **What does the Catholic Church say about organ donation?**

The Catholic Church states that organ donation is an acceptable and even morally laudable practice. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* says organ transplants "are in conformity with the moral law," though only "if the physical and psychological dangers and risks to the donor are proportionate to the good that is sought for the recipient" (No. 2296).

Organ donation after death, meanwhile, "is a noble and meritorious act and is to be encouraged as an expression of generous solidarity." However, the circumstances around organ donation must be in

line with Catholic moral teaching.

Joe Zalot, the director of education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC), told CNA in an interview that St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis have all spoken favorably about organ donation.

Francis has described it as an "expression of universal fraternity that binds all men and women," while John Paul II described organ donation as "a genuine act of love."

Zalot pointed out that there are really two types of organ donations.

"One is with a paired organ, like a kidney," he said. "We have two kidneys. If my brother has kidney failure, and he needs a transplant, and I'm a match, so long as I consent, I can give him my kidney."

The more prominent issue, he said, is the donation of vital organs, which by definition an individual cannot live without.

"The Church is okay with vital organ donation," Zalot said. "But you have to have moral certainty that the person [giving the organs] is actually deceased."

"The Church doesn't say how exactly you do that. It's a medical question," Zalot said. "But you have to have moral certainty that the person has died in order to extract his or her vital organs."

Debate over 'brain death'

A prominent debate among both physicians and moral theologians is the classification of "brain death," a medi-

cal designation that indicates complete loss of brain function, including the involuntary mechanisms by which the brain sustains life.

Brain death is a "very, very hot issue" among Catholic ethicists, Zalot said. New brain death guidelines issued last year by a major neurological society were criticized by more than 150 Catholic ethicists and theologians over concerns that patients might incorrectly be pronounced "brain dead" and subsequently have their organs removed while still alive.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the NCBC, meanwhile, last year criticized a proposed rewriting of the definition of "brain death" by the Uniform Law Commission, arguing that the revision would "replace the standard of whole brain death with one of partial brain death," thus broadening the criteria for organ harvesting.

The suggestion that "partial brain death is sufficient for vital organ retrieval" could dissuade individuals from becoming donors themselves, the groups argued.

The catechism further stipulates that it is "not morally admissible directly to bring about the disabling mutilation or death of a human being" for purposes of organ harvesting, "even in order to delay the death of other persons" (No. 2296).

The Catholic Church has taught for many centuries that the body will ultimately be resurrected in glorified form,

mandating the respectful treatment of human remains after the soul has departed.

"When death occurs, you have the separation of soul and body," Zalot said. "The body dies and the soul lives on. But we have a duty to treat the body with respect."

Considerations in light of the resurrection of the body

One aspect of organ donation rich for theological consideration is how donating one's organs upon death might be considered in light of the Catholic belief of the resurrection of the body.

Father Terrence Ehrman, CSC, a professor of systematic theology at the University of Notre Dame, told CNA the question "points to the great mystery of the Resurrection."

Asked how donating one's organs might be considered in light of the ancient Catholic teaching of bodily resurrection, Ehrman noted that there's "not much in Scripture and tradition about what actually a resurrected body is."

"There's very little we have about what this resurrected existence is like," he admitted. But the Church teaches that "there is this connection with our bodies. They're who we are, they're not just a part of us."

He noted that one's body changes radically over one's lifetime, though one is plainly still inhabiting the same body.

"What makes me the same person today that I was yesterday or

50 years ago?" he said. "I'm the same person. I'm the same identifiable organism. I have the same body in one sense. But it's different in many ways."

"The matter [making up a body] can be very different," he said. But "the Church is clear that we're going to be raised in the same body."

Catholic theologians and philosophers have long debated questions of bodily integrity and continuity, such as if someone is buried at sea and is consumed by a fish, Ehrman noted.

But the "new reality" implied by bodily resurrection suggests that one's unique, personal body will ultimately be made whole in some way, he said.

"I think the same thing applies to questions about organ donation," he said. "Maybe we don't need to think of it in the way that we get the same exact matter back. We rather get the same body back, one that's identifiable as us."

Zalot, meanwhile, said the Church's proscriptions on organ donation are informed by its comprehensive teachings on the dignity of the human person and respect for the human body.

The faithful are still enjoined to respect the body even after organ donations have been performed, Zalot said.

Organ donation is "a great gift," he said. "But after a person is a vital organ donor — once the heart or other organs are removed — the same rule applies, treating the body with respect."