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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 79 Number 31

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

NOVEMBER 27, 2024

CHRISTMAS CARD CONTEST WINNERS



Ella Fitzgerald, a fourth-grade student at St. Bernard's School in Saranac Lake, drew one of five contest-winning images that will be featured on Christmas cards sent by Bishop Terry R. LaValley this year. See more of the card images and learn more about the contest on Page 3.

No NCC next week

To allow our staff and contributors the opportunity to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no *North Country Catholic* next week (dated Dec. 4). Our next edition will be dated Dec. 11.

WITH JESUS AND SONG



PHOTO BY SARAH MCINTOSH

St. Mary's Church in Canton recently hosted "Pumpkins and Praise," with students from area colleges. The event included Adoration and praise and worship music. Parishes around the North Country have been incorporating that contemporary music into Adoration opportunities.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope reads student's testimony of faith

By Kristina Millare
Catholic News Agency

To mark 1,000 days since the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war, Pope Francis shared the "testimony of faith" of a Ukrainian student at his general audience on Wednesday, underscoring the power of faith, love, and hope amid the tragedy of violence.

In a letter to the Holy Father, the student, whose name was not announced, expressed the desire for the pope and all pilgrims at the Wednesday audi-

ence to know of the faith — and not just the sufferings — of the people of Ukraine.

"I thank God because, through this pain, I am learning greater love. Pain is not only a road to anger and despair; if based on faith, it is a good teacher of love," the student wrote.

Describing the horrors of war that killed family members and thousands of other men, women, and children, the student said that if one suffers because of pain it "means that you love."

"When you speak of our pain, when you remember our thou-

sand days of suffering, speak of our thousand days of love, too, because only love, faith, and hope give a real meaning to our wounds," the letter to the Holy Father read.

Visibly moved by the letter and the pope's gesture to share the testimony of faith with hundreds of pilgrims in St. Peter's Square, Olena Zelenska, wife of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine, met and personally greeted the pope at the conclusion of the audience.

Speaking about the beauty of different personal and com-

munal charisms found in the Church, Pope Francis stressed that Catholics need to "immediately dispel" the misunderstanding of identifying these "jewels" of the Holy Spirit as "spectacular and extraordinary gifts and capabilities."

"Instead they are ordinary gifts that assume extraordinary value if inspired by the Holy Spirit and embodied with love in the situations of life," he told those gathered in St. Peter's Square.

"Such an interpretation of the charism is important," the pope said.

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Enjoying the moments

They call them "altered moments."

I first saw them on social media. I saw a few before I figured out what they were.

Altered moments start out as "Precious Moments" figurines, small porcelain depictions of children with signature tear-shaped eyes. Then, artists take the figurines and, as the name suggests, alter them.

Usually inspired by characters from film, television or literature, artists add clay, cut off

pieces, repaint and turn the figurines into entirely new figurines. I've seen little porcelain children modified into Harry Potter or Ralphie from "A Christmas Story," complete with the pink bunny-eared suit.

**Darcy L. Fargo**

Artists share their works in online communities and sell them.

The altered moments boggle my mind sometimes.

When I look at a Precious Moments figurine, I see what it is - a cute, fragile collectible. I don't look at a small porcelain figure

of a girl in a bonnet with a puppy and think, "gee, that would make a great Cruella De Vil."

My brain doesn't work like that.

Scrolling through a social media group devoted to the hobby, seeing the amazing creativity and the humor in some of the pieces, I noticed how much joy I was taking from this hobby I didn't even know existed a few weeks ago.

It's such a blessing that God made people with brains who work like that - brains that work differently from mine.

People seem to give differences a lot of power

these days. A lot of people seem eager to label anyone who acts differently, believes differently, votes differently - does anything differently from them at all - as bad.

I do it sometimes, too.

I feel like God is calling me to work on that. He's calling me to look for where the differences are blessings.

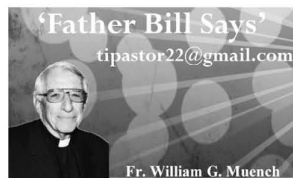
That would alter a lot of moments.

We, the staff and contributors to the North Country Catholic, wish you all a happy Thanksgiving. We thank God for you, this family of faith we have here in our diocese.

'Gratitude leads to happiness'

When I think of gratitude, the first one I turn to is Brother David Steindl-Rast, a Benedictine monk. He writes and speaks often the message of the importance of gratitude for our spiritual life. Brother David tells us that gratitude is the key to a meaningful life. Brother David goes on to emphasize that happiness does not lead to gratitude; rather, gratitude leads to happiness. Brother David continues, "Gratitude fosters a sense of interconnectedness and a deeper awareness of life's abundance, encouraging us to live with openness, compassion, and joy."

Each time you and I join to offer Holy Mass, we are at a celebration of gratitude. At Mass, we are uniting ourselves in gratitude with the first apostles at Jesus' Last Supper. Jesus asks us, "Do this in memory of me." At each Mass, we remember in prayer and in gratitude all that Jesus did for us. In Holy Communion, we are so thankful that Jesus comes to be with us, to walk with

**Fr. William G. Muench**

us, to guide us this day. The Lord unites us with each other at this Mass in such a unique way. We must be so grateful that the Lord will be with us on each challenge we will meet on this day. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for your Eucharistic presence.

Here I would like to mention to you the importance of making a prayer of gratitude, as preparation for the reception of the sacrament of penance, for confession. We should take the time to remember how great God has been to us, personally. This will help us to realize just who we are. I must recognize that I am a loved person, a blessed person, that God cares about me, that God forgives my sins. So, as I consider my failings and sins; I do so in the presence of this loving, car-

ing God, who loves me so much. I should recognize how much I need to repent; I must make a serious effort for conversion. I can be a better person. God knows me and wants me to become a better person.

Let me finish today with my prayer of gratitude for Thanksgiving Day. I want to again thank God for choosing me to be a priest and giving me all these years for ministry. I thank God for putting me in the right places - I have been blessed with such great assignments. In addition, I thank God for making me a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. I have found happiness as a priest of the North Country.

Let me go on: I am truly thankful for the many people who have been part of my life and have supported me. I thank God for my parents and for my family. They all supported me as I worked through my vocation. I am truly grateful for the many bishops and priests of my diocese who made my life a pathway to

peace, hope, happiness. I pray for so many wonderful priests who were my friends and are now with the Lord. I constantly remember how much their support and help has transformed my ministry over the years.

As a priest and pastor, my ministry has been blessed and helped by the many families who became part of my parish life - wonderful families, active families, families that became my family. I continue to be grateful for them all. These families have transformed me; they have filled my life with happiness. For all of them I am truly grateful.

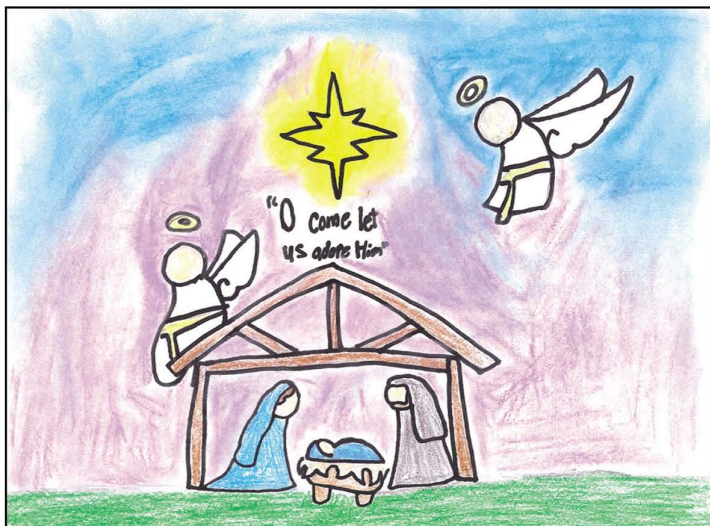
Finally, I remember many individuals who have been part of the parishes and programs that I have been involved in. They have each in their own way brought a unique peace and happiness to all that we accomplished. So, today I thank God for all the many gifts and blessings that have been mine. Lord, watch over all those who have watch over me.



Drawing by Ruthie Joyner, grade 1, St. Bernard's School



Drawing by Emilia Gradis, grade 7, Seton Catholic



Drawing by Minerva Herina, grade 5, Immaculate Heart Central



Drawing by Mary Curtis, grade 9, Immaculate Heart Central

Students create Christmas card cover art

The Diocese of Ogdensburg held a Christmas Card Art Contest for Bishop Terry R. LaValley's 2024 Christmas card for any student in grades K-12 affiliated with a Catholic school or attending a parish faith formation program in the diocese.

The theme was *O Come Let Us Adore Him*.

The diocese received numerous beautiful entries. The entries were selected by grade levels: Grades 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 and 9-12.

Each of the artwork selected per grade levels happened to be by a student in our Catholic Schools.

Bishop LaValley called the schools on November 19 and announced to the student

that their artwork was selected for his 2024 Christmas card.

The following student's artwork was selected for Bishop LaValley's Christmas cards: (1) Ruthie Joyner, a first grader at St. Bernard's School in Saranac Lake, the daughter of Meg and Jackson Joyner; (2) Ella Fitzgerald, a fourth grader at St. Bernard's School in Saranac Lake,

the daughter of Danielle and Brian Fitzgerald; (3) Minerva Herina, a fifth grader at Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown, the daughter of Abisatou and Joshua Herina; (4) Emilia Gradis, a seventh grader at Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh, the niece of Indira Gradys DE Eppler and Jeremy Eppler; and (5) Mary Curtis, a ninth grader

from Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown, the daughter of Ann Marie and Logan Curtis. Bishop LaValley invited the students and their families to noon Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral followed by lunch at his residence on December 10.

Each student's name will be on the back of cards featuring the image she created.

Spending time with Jesus and in song

By Mary Beth Bracy, consecrated virgin
Contributing Writer

Parishes throughout the North Country are offering opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration with praise and worship music, whether as special events or on a regular basis. Attendants have shared the overwhelming joy and peace they find in the Real Presence of our Lord. Faithful from children to young adults to senior citizens are coming out to give thanks to God and experience His healing love anew.

Sarah McIntosh, administrative assistant at St. Mary's in Canton, said the parish recently held "Our annual 'Pumpkins & Praise' event [that] we host for our college students during the month of October. That includes a Holy Hour with praise and worship music which is typically led by either some of our students or alumni."

Praise and worship typically includes more contemporary worship songs, often performed with guitar and other instruments accompanying the singers.

A Praise and Adoration Holy Hour was also held on November 4 at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh. One of the organizers, Riley McQuade, spoke about her faith journey.

"I was first exposed to praise and worship when I attended the college retreat at Camp Guggenheim in 2023," she said. "Experiencing praise and worship for the first time is something I will never forget. Having all of the college students singing and worshipping Jesus [truly present in the Holy Eucharist, exposed in the monstrance] was such a beautiful and moving thing to experience. As someone who prays through music, I knew if I was able to have more opportunities to participate in praise and worship I would take it."

McQuade was moved to bring this experience to the faithful in Plattsburgh.

"A few months after that I spoke to our Newman Association board and our advisor to see if we could do some praise



On November 4, more than 30 faithful gathered for Eucharistic Adoration with praise and worship music at St. Peter's Church Chapel in Plattsburgh. Father Douglas A. Schirmer exposed the Blessed Sacrament, heard confessions and offered Benediction. Music was led by Nate Pultorak, who played the dulcimer and led singing, along with singers Riley Gully and Abigail Turner. Pultorak also offered prayer for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life in our diocese. The next praise and worship Adoration will be held on December 2 at 6 p.m. at St. Peter's Church Chapel in Plattsburgh.

and worship sessions," she said. "We had done a few and I fell more and more in love especially when it was done in front of the Blessed Sacrament. I have a few friends in the diocese who would do praise and worship in their parishes and any chance I got I would go to them. As I was attending regular adoration at Holy Cross Parish I felt more and more called to speak with our music director and pastor about starting praise and worship here. We were given the greenlight to do it on the first Monday of every month and I was so excited. We rehearsed and prepared and eventually the day was upon us. We ended up having 34 people come which was incredibly moving to see so many people show up to spend an hour and worship Jesus. Afterwards many people spoke about how impactful it was for them. They said they had such a great experience and were looking forward to the next time. I was overjoyed to have shared something that was so impactful in my life with members of my parish."

Abigail Turner also helped lead the music for the Praise

and Worship Adoration at St. Peter's.

"I was first introduced to praise and worship adoration when I was 12, when I went to Guggenheim for the first time," she said. "When I turned 18, I had the opportunity to be on staff at Guggenheim which is where I met Nate Pultorak. He ended up moving to Plattsburgh where our friendship was able to thrive through our joint love of the faith. We both enjoy music so we started dabbling in doing evenings around the area offering praise and worship adoration with the help of some of the local pastors. We started doing occasional evenings of adoration at St. Alexander's in Morrisonville and St. Peter's in Plattsburgh, along with a monthly adoration schedule in Malone. Nate, an occasional guest, and I were really excited about how beautifully the music ministry we were doing was growing."

"Unfortunately just as everything was looking the most promising, COVID hit full force and everything came to a standstill," Turner added. "Finally COVID was settling down and

then life for me took a bit of a different direction. I married my now husband in 2021 and we found out we were expecting soon after. Life became complicated and despite the effort to try and get back into praise and worship regularly, unfortunately it wasn't falling into habit like it had before. Recently, Riley and Nate were able to establish a schedule with St. Peter's in Plattsburgh, the first Monday of the month. Now, it's really encouraging that there will be three of us regularly making praise and worship adoration available on a regular basis."

The organizers hope to increase the opportunities for Praise and Worship Adoration in the future. "The goal is to expand the availability of this ministry through including other parishes. It would be wonderful to start back with St. Alexander's again, however we haven't done any specific planning or coordinating to make it happen yet," noted Turner. "The last time that Riley, Nate, and I had spoken we had discussed the desire to have praise and worship scheduled every other week, rotating between two different parishes to provide easier access for parishioners. That's the hope, but we'll see how the Lord directs us. My husband, Josh Turner always tells me how it's like a breath of fresh air going to praise and worship. He says that it's so peaceful and relaxing it refreshes him. I've had quite a few people come up to me and comment similar sentiments."

Madonna Champagne of Malone leads the music for the praise and worship Adoration in the Malone area.

"Praise and worship offers a special opportunity where not only do we have the opportunity to sit before our Lord in the Eucharist, which always changes us regardless of if we feel it or not, but also where we are able to praise him through song," she said.

Champagne explained what inspired her to become involved in praise and worship

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Praise & worship Adoration

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Adoration.

"The first time I experienced praise and worship was in high school, the Izzo's from Lake Placid came and I remember thinking 'Wow, I want to do that someday!'" she said. "Soon after, opportunities presented themselves for me to help lead praise and worship and I have continued ever since. Part of why it is so special to me is because of the peace present like no other with our Lord in the Eucharist. The other aspect of my love for praise and worship specifically is because of the deep love for singing that God placed in me. It is hard to describe how much singing moves me, perhaps it is best to describe by saying it gives me a surreal joy that makes me feel fully myself. When I first asked to lead praise and worship in Malone after moving back home from Buffalo, I didn't know if anyone would come but really knew my heart needed it. It gives me energy to be a better teacher, friend, daughter and person in general!"

"Praise and Worship in Malone is on Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m. I love to offer it every week but because of concerts (due to being a music teacher) the current dates are found in our bulletin [at <https://standres.org/>]," Champagne continued. "After the holidays it should resume every week, with dates in the bulletin if there are any we can't offer. During the longer days of light, we hold it a little later from 7 to 8 p.m., any changes can be found in the bulletin as well."

The response of the faithful is encouraging.

"A lot of people who I have spoken with from different praise and worship experiences have commented on the peace it gives them and how it is the break in their week that they really need - me too," said Champagne. "Something else people have shared that I also find true, is how the songs remind us of the truth of God's relentless love for us! Some praise and worship music is repetitive and others more text dense, both allowing us to sing and meditate on God's vast love. The transcendence of music paired with good texts and adoration provide a beautiful experience that can guide us closer to God. When I lead praise and worship, I try to choose classic hymns that everyone can sing along with and songs that have beautiful texts that people can learn through experiencing praise and worship. There are worship aids with the lyrics and divine praises on them for the conclusion of adoration and to help people who want to participate during adoration."

In the words of Champagne, "Praise and worship is an amazing reminder that God is always with us, He loves us so deeply and we can always come home to Him."

Rest in Peace

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

Nov. 27 – Rev. Joseph Cole, 1929; Rev. Maurice O'Neil, 1999
Nov. 28 – Rev. Edward Gabriel Brice, 1929; Rev. Real Labrie, O.M.I., 1978

Nov. 29 – Rev. John F. Meaney, O.S.A., 1942; Msgr. Michael Kelly, 1957; Rev. Peter A. Ward, 1984

Nov. 30 – Dcn. Elliott A. Shaw, 2022

Dec. 1 – Rev. Charles Goulet, 1913; Rev. George J. Bouchard, 1967

Dec. 2 – Rev. Charles Desrosiers, 1944; Rev. Joseph A. R. Cote, 1969; Rev. Joseph Fortier, M.S.C., 1970

Dec. 3 – Rev. Michael O'Neill, 1899; Msgr. Walter Funcke, 1958

Dec. 4 – Msgr. James Mackey, 1883; Rev. Alexis D. Medeville, O.M.I., 1884; Rev. Albert Chevalier, O.M.I., 1948; Msgr. Joseph Patrick Heslin, 1962; Rev. Charles A. Flaherty, 1974

Dec. 5 – Rev. Michael Hallahan, 1891; Most Rev. Edgar P. Wadhams, D.D., 1891

Dec. 6 – Rev. Edward F. O'Brien, 1936

Dec. 7 – Rev. Robert O. Lamitie, 2021; Msgr. Paul E. Whitmore, 2023

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

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

Dec. 10 – Rev. James Hogan, 1882

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

Bishop's Public Schedule

Noc. 27 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Nov. 30 – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Dec. 1 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Dec. 4 – 9:30 a.m. – Diocesan Department Head Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

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

Dec. 5 – 10:15 a.m. – Mass with the Students at St. James School in Gouverneur followed by Classroom Visits

Dec. 6 – 6:30 p.m. – Deacon Candidates Class on Canon Law at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

Dec. 7 – 10:30 a.m. – Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch

4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Dec. 8 – 9:30 a.m. – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

Dec. 10 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

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

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terriane Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianeyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-358-3145, Ext. 7179 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rcdony.org Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340.

If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at 800-276-1562 or www.ReportBishopAbuse.org

Environmental Stewardship

New Catholic imperative

Taking care of God's magnificent creation is not new. In the first chapters in Genesis, we have been given the charge to have dominion over all the earth. What is new is the context of today's world that we live in.

This imperative to be caretakers of earth has often been misinterpreted to mean domination rather than dominion. If we make this mistake, then we think that everything exists just for us to use without an acknowledgement that all creatures that came forth from the hand of God are sacred, too. As humans, not only are we are interconnected with all creatures, but we are a part of them, made from the elements of the same earth.

So, what is the new Catholic imperative? Perhaps the challenge is not new but the world we live in challenges us in a different way. Jesus tells us, if we have faith, we can move mountains. However, today we see mountains being moved not by faith but by heavy equipment. Mountaintop coal mining removes the tops of mountains and affects the eco-systems of the whole area. Coal is a fossil fuel that emits carbon and contributes to the warming of the planet. Fracking for natural gas uses chemicals, water and sand injected at a high pressure to open and widen cracks below the surface of the Earth. While contaminating billions of gallons of water and creating toxic waste that needs to be dumped, it causes negative effects on air quality and other health issues.

In earlier times, we, humans, didn't have the equipment or power to actually change the face of the earth. Today our plans can actually affect the qualities of the soil, air, water and other species. But what can we do?

As we prepare for Advent, consider some ways to celebrate Christmas that will gift our children with a healthier earth. Be creative!

VIRTUAL EVENTS

**BOOK CLUB:
DIVINE RENOVATION**

Following up on the Divine Renovation Unlocked event last August, the Office of Evangelization will offer another opportunity to read and discuss the book *Divine Renovation: Bringing Your Parish from Maintenance to Mission* by Father James Mallon.

Date: 9 sessions starting Fri. Dec. 6

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: We will meet virtually via Microsoft TEAMS (similar to Zoom).

Features: We will read and discuss the book's 7 chapters in 9 sessions (one chapter per session, except for chapter 5 which we will break up in 3 parts.) The book can be purchased online from Amazon or second hand from AbeBooks or other second hand online book sellers (be sure to check the condition of second hand book).

Contact: For more information, contact Marika Donders mdonders@rcdony.org. To register for the book club: www.rcdony.org/dr

ONLINE AUCTION

Saranac Lake — St. Bernard's School to have an "Under the Tree Online Auction."

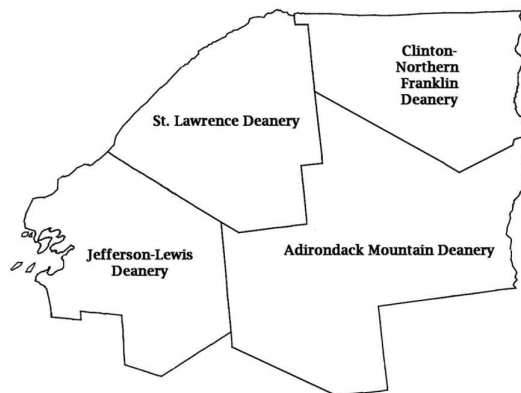
Date: Dec. 6-15

Place: www.32auctions.com/UnderTheTree2024

Features: Bid on an incredible selection of items donated by local businesses including: Unique experiences, Beautiful artwork, Sports memorabilia, Quality furniture, Home goods, and so much more! Every bid supports tuition assistance and essential services for the students and families in our school community. Don't miss this chance to shop with purpose and make a difference.

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
AND CRAFT FAIR**

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



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese."

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,

Ogdensburg, NY 13669

e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

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**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

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA

North Bangor — A Christmas Tea will be held.

Date: Dec. 1

Time: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Hall

Features: There will be A cake Walk, Chinese auction, Lottery tree and many more events. Soup & Sandwiches will be available for purchase. Please come and enjoy the afternoon events.

Contact: For more information call Jennette Perry 518-483-6708.

CRAFT FAIR

Peru — St. Augustine's to have their fall into winter craft fair.

Date: Dec. 7

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

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Contact: For more information call Judy Ackey 518-561-5039

ADVENT FAMILY MOVIE

Ellenburg Center - You are warmly invited to a stress-free Advent Family Afternoon of Relaxation featuring the lovely 2006 film *The Nativity Story*.

Date: Dec. 8

Time: 3 p.m. to 5:30

Place: Our Lady of the Adirondack's House of Prayer

Features: enjoy a beloved family movie with friends, refreshments, old-fashioned fun, peace and good will!

Contact: For more information call Sarah Anderson at 518-534-9976

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Morrisonville — St. Alexander's Church in Morrisonville will be hosting the 2nd Annual Clinton-Franklin Deanery Festival of Lessons and Carols.

Date: Dec. 8

Time: 3 p.m.

Features: The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a beloved tradition dating back over 100 years at King's College, Cambridge. It combines the timeless beauty of Christmas carols with Scripture

readings that summarize Salvation History. This event will feature a choir of over 30 voices comprised of talented individuals from area churches, coming together to prepare for Christmas through the beauty of music. There is no cost to attend, and all are welcome. Donations are accepted. Mark your calendars, and join us for this joyful and prayerful time.

Contact: For more information, contact the St. Alexander's Parish Office at (518) 561-5039

**MINI-CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATION**

Chateaugay — In celebration of St. Patrick's 100th anniversary, a mini-Christmas celebration will be held.

Date: Dec. 15

Time: 1 p.m. to 3

Place: St. Patrick's Parish Center

JUBILEE MASS

Chateaugay — St. Patrick's Church in Chateaugay will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the first public Mass celebrated in the new St. Patrick's Church in 1924.

Date: Dec. 24

Time: 4 p.m.

Features: Bishop LaValley will preside over the Jubilee Mass.

SACRED HEART FRATERNITY

Plattsburgh — Come join our Franciscan Secular order, the Sacred Heart Fraternity.

Date: Second Sunday of the month

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Place: St. John the Baptist basement

Features: All men and women, single or married, who want to live as St. Francis and live "Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel" can become part of the Secular Franciscan Order. Join us for prayer, fellowship, and formation. In addition, we do a retreat once a year and support in some capacity an organization that helps people like a soup kitchen.

Contact: For more information call David Garratt: 518-578-8377

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

POLISH CHRISTMAS WAFER

Houseville — The Polish Christmas wafer or Oplatek is available from St. Hedwig's Church.

Cost: \$3 per package plus postage.

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

Contact: 315-348-6260

HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY

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

Date: Dec. 1

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

**SPAGHETTI &
MEATBALL DINNER**

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

Date: Dec. 7

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

**CHRISTMAS
COMMUNITY TABLE**

Clayton — Stop into St. Mary's Parish Center for the Christmas Community Table.

Date: Dec. 7

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

Cost: \$10 at the door

Features: Enjoy over 50 delicious dishes — everything from

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

appetizers to desserts. Part of the Christmas in Clayton weekend with many venues in the village hosting events. Also stay for the Christmas parade Saturday at 6 p.m.

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

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Carthage — Pancake Breakfast to be held in support of Augustinian Academy, sponsored by the Carthage K of C Father John Cosmic #291 and Ave Maria Circle.

Date: Dec. 8

Time: 8 a.m. to noon

Place: St. James Community Room

Cost: Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$7; Children under 10, \$4; Family of 4, \$27
Menu: Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes, French Toast, Ham, Sausage, Baked Goods, Juice, and Coffee

Contact: For more information call 315-493-3224

SACRED CHRISTMAS SONGS

Clayton — All are invited to St. Mary's Church for our annual Festival of Sacred Christmas Songs.

Date: Dec. 15

Time: 5 p.m.

Features: performances by St. Mary's Choir, St. Cyril's Choir, St. Mary's Youth Choir, and members of Turning Point Men's Barber-shop Chorus. Donations are welcome, but not necessary to attend.

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

ADVENT RETREAT

Watertown — Join us for our annual Advent Retreat with an afternoon of prayer as we reflect on the "Psalms: A Way of Prayer — Be Still and Know that I am God."

Date: Dec. 15

Time: 2 p.m. to 4

Place: Blessed Sacrament Education Center (former St. Patrick's School)

Features: There will be time for personal prayer, and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Contact: To register, contact Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, 315-405-4058 or Sister Mary Eamon Lyng 315-393-6511.

RAFFLE

West Leyden — Tickets for a raffle at St. Mary's Nativity are now on sale.

Cost: \$5 a piece or 5 for \$20. They can be purchased after the 4 p.m. Mass, by calling the Parish office at 315-348-6104, online at <https://catholicparishesofslc.weebly.com/tithely-giving.html> or from any parish council member.

Features: During this past Lent, West Leyden native and parish council member Jeff Nellenback built a rustic sofa table, a bulky bench, and a wooden wall quilt. These will be raffled as a first, second and third prize raffle with the drawing taking place after 4 p.m. Mass on Dec. 21.

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

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

Date: Jan. 11

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

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

Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

ST. LAWRENCE

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

Date: Dec. 7

Time: 8 a.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

Features: Rosary with devotions

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY DEVOTION

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

Date: Dec. 7

Time: 3:15 p.m.

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

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

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

Date: Dec. 7

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

SOLEMN VESPERS

Massena — Sacred Heart Church will be celebrating 100 years with Solemn Vespers followed by a Wine and Cheese Reception.

Date: Dec. 8

Time: 3 p.m.

Features: Vespers will be held at Sacred Heart Church with the reception to follow at the Trinity Building. Displays from the past 100 years will be shown.

Contact: For more information call St. Peter's Parish at 315-769-2469.

ORGAN RECITAL

Massena — To help celebrate Sacred Heart Church 100 year anniversary, an organ recital will be held.

Date: Dec. 22

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

Contact: For more information call St. Peter's Parish at 315-769-2469.

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 unprecedented 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 billob315@gmail.com or (315) 528-0461

TRIVIA NIGHT

Ogdensburg — The Vocations Committee for the Catholic Churches of Ogdensburg (St. Mary's Cathedral and Notre Dame), Heuvelton (St. Raphael's) and Lisbon (St. Philip and James) is planning a Trivia Night.

Date: Jan. 3

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

Place: Martin Field House (Knights of Columbus)

Cost: \$20 per person and receive a free mulligan (answer).

Features: All funds raised will be donated to the Diocese of Ogdensburg to help offset the miscellaneous college costs for the seminarians. Join us for a night of fun and friendly competition in a contest of general knowledge across a variety of topics! Teams of up to 6 will compete for the bragging rights and the Grand Prize. All players are eligible for door prizes!

Contact: Register your team by Dec. 1. More rules and registration at www.saintmaryscathedral.net/trivia or by emailing vocationsarenotrivial@rcdony.org

MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

Date: Dec. 8 (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.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

Discernment is a call, listen with others. It 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? You are invited to join fellow discerners and Father Howard Venette for the following gatherings.

Place: St. Mary's Church, Canton

Dates: 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.

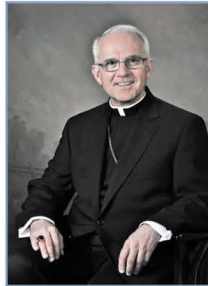
For more information **contact:** Father Howard Venette — hvenette@rcdony.org

FOSTER GRANDPARENT

FGP is a local program that shows you how you can apply the skills and wisdom you have acquired throughout your life to make a difference in the lives of others. Get involved in the community and build relationships to last a lifetime. All you need to join is the ability to give the kind of comfort and love that sets a child on the path toward a successful future. If you're 55 or older and want to share your experience and compassion, you have what it takes to be a Foster Grandparent. You'll also receive a small bi-weekly, non-taxable stipend that cannot be held against any current benefits you may already have as well as paid mileage for your travel. Additionally, you receive paid holidays, vacations, sick and personal leave. 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

Retirement Collection for Religious



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Soon the parishes in our Diocese will conduct the annual appeal for the *Retirement Fund for Religious*. This annual collection benefits some 25,000 elderly sisters, brothers and religious order priests nationwide.

As Christians, we are called to “serve the Lord with gladness” (Ps 100:2). Our elderly consecrated religious offer an inspiring example of what it means to answer this call. During their years of active ministry, they worked tirelessly to build Catholic schools and hospitals, promote social justice, and embrace the neediest among us. In retirement, many continue in volunteer ministry, and all pray for the needs of our Church and world. Energized by love, their service, past and present, is marked by joy and a deep desire to do the will of God.

We are so indebted to many consecrated religious. Many religious men and women have served and continue to serve the people of God here in the North Country as teachers, health care providers, pastoral associates, administrators, pastors and parochial vicars. Recently, we welcomed the Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Church from Ghana to our diocese.

We are so indebted to these consecrated religious. We have the opportunity to express our appreciation by supporting the annual collection for the *Retirement Fund for Religious*. The fact that these religious worked for little or no financial compensation in years past, means that they are now struggling to meet the costs of caring for retired and infirmed members. The proceeds from this collection offer some financial support for their communities in caring for older members. In addition, it helps to ensure that younger members can continue the good works of their elders.

Thank you for your generous support of this appeal. We continue to thank God for the presence of the consecrated religious among us. We pray for them and for an increase in their number. Know that they are praying for us!

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

Special Collection in your parish the weekend of Dec. 7th & 8th

- ♦ Religious communities are financially responsible for the support and care of all members. Income, earnings, and expenses are managed separately from the parish and diocesan structures of the Catholic Church.
- ♦ By 2027, retired religious are projected to outnumber wage-earners by more than three to one.
- ♦ The funding shortage is compounded by rising healthcare costs and decreased income. And, as more religious reach retirement age and leave compensated ministry, income will further decline while care needs increase.
- ♦ There are 25,000 religious past age 70 living in the United States. In 2023, the average annual cost for their care was almost \$60,000 per person.
- ♦ During the early and mid-twentieth centuries, the Catholic Church in the United States experienced a surge in vocations to religious life, with numbers peaking in the mid-1960s. Care for elderly members was provided largely by younger ones. Over time, however, the number of vocations decreased while lifespans increased. The result is far fewer younger members available to support the retirement and eldercare needs of senior members. Currently, 71 percent of the religious communities providing data to the NRRO have a median age of 70 or older.

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

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

Orders Serving in the Diocese

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



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

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

***Religious of
the Diocese of Ogdensburg***

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

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

RETIREMENT COLLECTION FOR RELIGIOUS

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

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Arizona Catholic church fire being investigated as arson

Police in Arizona are investigating an October parish fire as an act of arson, with authorities seeking help identifying a suspect in the blaze amid warnings from federal law enforcement over increased arson activity against houses of worship. Fire officials at the time indicated that the incident was not initially considered an act of arson. But Casa Grande police said over the weekend that a suspect was being sought in connection with the fire. The Casa Grande Police Department said in a Facebook post on Saturday that the fire at St. Anthony of Padua "was purposely set" and that investigators need "help identifying [the] suspect." The police have "been working closely with the Casa Grande Fire Department and the ATF [Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives] to complete this investigation," the post said. The investigation comes after the ATF earlier this month urged houses of worship to exercise "increased vigilance" and adopt new security measures amid a series of recent arson incidents against churches in the Northeast.

U.S. cardinal appointed to overhaul Vatican pension fund

The Vatican has updated the liturgical book regulating the funeral rite of popes, simplifying some of the rituals at Pope Francis' request. The second edition of the *Ordo Exsequiarum Romani Pontificis* ("Order of Funerals for Roman Pontiffs") is a revision of the version published in 2000 and used for the funerals of Pope John Paul II in 2005 and Pope Benedict XVI in 2023. Among the changes in the new edition, according to Vatican News, is the elimination of the use of three coffins of cypress, lead, and oak, and the possibility for a deceased pope to be buried outside of the Vatican basilica. Another change is that the public viewing before the funeral will take place with the remains already in a simple, wooden coffin, not on a raised bier, as was previously done. "The renewed rite also needed to emphasize even more that the funeral of the Roman pontiff is that of a pastor and disciple of Christ and not of a powerful person of this world," the master of papal ceremonies, Archbishop Diego Ravelli, told Vatican News.

Senate majority leader Thune is 'unwavering defender of life'

A pro-life advocacy group is lauding the GOP's recent election of Sen. John Thune of South Dakota as Republican majority leader to replace Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell. Thune holds an "A+" rating from pro-life advocacy group Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America. He won the Senate leadership by four votes against Texas Sen. John Cornyn. Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America President Marjorie Dannenfelser called the senator "an unwavering defender of life" in a statement Wednesday. Dannenfelser cited Thune's introduction of the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, designed to ensure quality medical care for any babies who are born alive during botched abortions. In a June interview, Thune told EWTN that "at an early age, I made a profession of faith in Christ, and that's been the foundation for pretty much everything I do."

Pope taps U.S. cardinal to overhaul pension fund

By Hannah Brockhaus
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis has appointed U.S. Cardinal Kevin Farrell to oversee "new and unavoidable" reform to the Vatican's pension system as it faces a "serious prospective imbalance" that means changes can no longer be postponed.

In a Nov. 21 letter to cardinals, dicastery prefects, and managers in the Roman Curia, the pope underlined the gravity of the unsustainability of the Vatican's pension fund and noted the solution will require difficult decisions, "special sensitivity, generosity, and willingness to sacrifice on the part of everyone."

To address the challenges, the pontiff said he had taken an "essential step" by naming Farrell "sole administrator" of the fund.

Farrell, 77, is prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for Laity, the Family, and Life as well as camerlengo of the Holy Roman Church and president of the Pontifical Commission for Confidential Matters.

The Irish-born cardinal, who was bishop of Dallas for nine years before his transfer to Rome, has also been chair of the Pontifical Committee for Investments since 2022.

In his roles in the confidential matters commission, Farrell is responsible for authorizing the confidentiality of economic actions of the Roman Curia, if needed "for the greater good of the Church," according to the apostolic constitution *Praedicate Evangelium*.

Farrell also oversees the Roman Curia's investments, ensuring they are in line with the social doctrine of the Church — a role he was named to after the Holy See came under scrutiny for certain investments, including the purchase of a luxury building in London, which lost the Vatican hundreds of thousands of euros and ended in a criminal trial.

Pope Francis said in his Nov. 21 letter that the pension fund is one of the central pieces of Vatican financial reform, a key part of the pope's project since his election in 2013.

"Different studies have been carried out from which it has been derived that the current pension management, taking into account the available assets, generates an important deficit," the pontiff wrote on Thursday.

"Unfortunately, the figure that now emerges, at the conclusion of the latest in-depth analyses carried out by independent experts, indicates a serious prospective imbalance in the fund, the size of which tends to expand over time in the absence of intervention," he continued.

He added that "in concrete terms," the Vatican cannot "guarantee in the medium term the fulfillment of the pension obligation for future generations."

While the pope thanked those who have tried to address the pension fund's problems until now, he said it is imperative that the Vatican move into a new phase "with promptness and unity of vision so that the necessary actions are expeditiously implemented," and he asked for everyone's support, cooperation, and prayers.



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Trump picks several Catholics for cabinet

By Tyler Arnold
Catholic News Agency

President-elect Donald Trump has chosen several Catholics to serve in his Cabinet and other parts of his administration, including environmental lawyer Robert F. Kennedy Jr., three-term Sen. Marco Rubio, Rep. Elise Stefanik, and, in an announcement Monday evening, former Rep. Sean Duffy.

The 45th and soon-to-be 47th president made more than a dozen announcements within 10 days of his electoral victory over Vice President Kamala Harris. Many of his Cabinet nominees and other administration official picks have yet to be announced.

Among the Catholics Trump has chosen for his Cabinet are Kennedy, who was nominated to be the secretary of Health and Human Services; Rubio as secretary of state; Stefanik as ambassador to the United Nations; John Ratcliffe, nominated as director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA); and Duffy for secretary of transportation.

These positions require Senate confirmation.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Kennedy, an environmental lawyer and the son of former Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and nephew of President John F. Kennedy, was nominated by Trump to lead the Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees 10 agencies, including the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"For too long, Americans have been crushed by the industrial food complex and drug companies who have engaged in deception, misinformation, and disinformation when it comes to public health," Trump said in his announcement. "... HHS will play a big role in helping ensure that everybody will be protected from harmful chemicals, pollutants, pesticides, pharmaceutical products, and food additives that have contributed to the overwhelming health crisis in the country."

A lifelong Democrat before launching an independent bid

for president of the United States during the 2024 election, Kennedy dropped out of the race in August and endorsed Trump after the former president promised him a health-related role. He is Catholic and credits "a profound spiritual enlightenment" for his recovery from drug addiction in his early adulthood. However, he deviates from Church teaching on life by supporting legal abortions.

Kennedy has been critical of the childhood vaccine schedule. Kennedy has said he would not "take vaccines away from anybody" as secretary of Health and Human Services but that he would promote more inquiry into side effects. He has long been critical of large pharmaceutical companies influencing regulations and the impact that processed food has on the nation's health.

Marco Rubio

Trump nominated Rubio, a one-time rival for the presidency, to serve as secretary of state.

"Marco is a highly respected leader and a very powerful voice for freedom," a statement from the Trump transition team read. "He will be a strong advocate for our nation, a true friend to our allies, and a fearless warrior who will never back down to our adversaries."

Rubio has served as a senator from Florida since 2011 and was previously in the Florida House of Representatives. His parents immigrated to the United States from Cuba. He was raised in the Catholic faith at an early age, but his family began attending a Mormon church during his childhood before returning to Catholicism. Although the senator is Catholic, he sometimes attends a Baptist church with his wife.

"As secretary of state, I will work every day to carry out [Trump's] foreign policy agenda," Rubio said in a statement after the announcement. "Under the leadership of President Trump, we will deliver peace through strength and always put the interests of Americans and America above all else."

Rubio has historically supported a hawkish foreign policy, which is at times at odds with

Trump's campaign rhetoric that is skeptical of American involvement in foreign wars. In recent years, however, he has moved closer to Trump's view on foreign policy. He was initially in favor of the United States providing aid to Ukraine but voted against the most recent aid bill.

Elise Stefanik

The president-elect nominated Stefanik to serve as the United States ambassador to the United Nations, which primarily represents American interests in the international organization.

"[Stefanik] was the first member of Congress to endorse me and has always been a staunch advocate," Trump said in a statement. "... [She] led the charge against antisemitism on college campuses. She will be an incredible ambassador to the United Nations, delivering peace through strength and America First national security policies."

Stefanik is the chair of the House Republican Conference, which makes her the fourth-ranking Republican in the chamber. She will be replaced by Rep. Lisa McClain in this role. Stefanik is a strong and vocal supporter of Israeli military action in the Palestinian Gaza Strip and southern Lebanon. She is Catholic and is opposed to abortion but supports same-sex marriage.

"The work ahead is immense as we see antisemitism skyrocketing coupled with four years of catastrophically weak U.S. leadership that significantly weakened our national security and diminished our standing in the eyes of both allies and adversaries," Stefanik said in a statement.

"I stand ready to advance President Donald J. Trump's restoration of America First peace through strength leadership on the world stage on Day 1 at the United Nations," she said.

Stefanik, like Rubio, has historically been more hawkish on foreign policy but has moved closer to Trump's views of late. She initially backed American aid to Ukraine but later opposed it.

John Ratcliffe

Ratcliffe, who briefly served as the director of national in-

telligence during Trump's first term and is a former congressman, will head the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

"From exposing fake Russian collusion to be a Clinton campaign operation to catching the FBI's abuse of civil liberties at the FISA court, John Ratcliffe has always been a warrior for truth and honesty with the American public," Trump said in a statement. "When 51 intelligence officials were lying about Hunter Biden's laptop, there was one, John Ratcliffe, telling the truth to the American people."

Like Rubio and Stefanik, Ratcliffe has also been historically hawkish. He has been strongly critical of Chinese officials and Iran. He has criticized the Biden administration for not providing more intelligence and military aid to Israel.

Sean Duffy

Trump nominated Duffy, who served as a U.S. congressman from Wisconsin from 2011 through 2019, to lead the Department of Transportation. The department oversees 13 agencies, which includes the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Federal Highway Administration (FHA), and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

"[Duffy] will prioritize excellence, competence, competitiveness, and beauty when rebuilding America's highways, tunnels, bridges, and airports," Trump said in his announcement. "He will ensure our ports and dams serve our economy without compromising our national security, and he will make our skies safe again by eliminating DEI for pilots and air traffic controllers."

While serving in Congress, Duffy introduced a bill to expand the president's powers to enact tariffs and co-sponsored legislation to construct the St. Croix Crossing, a bridge that connects Minnesota and Wisconsin over the Mississippi River. He is also a Catholic and a father of nine children.

Duffy resigned from Congress in 2019 to help care for his daughter who was born with a heart condition. He later became the co-host of "The Bottom Line" on Fox Business.

2025 canonization set for young Catholics

By Courtney Mares
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis announced Wednesday, Nov. 21, that Blessed Carlo Acutis and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, two young Catholics beloved for their vibrant faith and witness to holiness, will be canonized during two major jubilee celebrations dedicated to young people.

The surprise announcement came at the conclusion of the pope's weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square as Francis celebrated World Children's Day.

Vatican spokesman Matteo Brunetti later confirmed that Acutis' canonization will occur during the Church's Jubilee of Teenagers taking place April 25-27, 2025, and Frassati's canonization will take place during the Jubilee of Youth from July 28-Aug. 3, 2025.

According to the Diocese of Assisi, Acutis' canonization Mass is expected to take place on Sunday, April 27, at 10:30 a.m. local time in St. Peter's Square.

Both soon-to-be saints are beloved by many Catholic young people for their enthusiastic pursuit of holiness.

The two canonizations are expected to bring many young people to the Eternal City in 2025 for the Catholic Church's Jubilee of Hope.

Carlo Acutis: the first millennial saint

Acutis, an Italian computer-coding teenager who died of cancer in 2006, is known for his great devotion to the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

Born in 1991, Acutis is the first millennial to be beatified by the Catholic Church. Shortly after his first Communion at the age of 7, Acutis told his mother: "To always be united to Jesus: This is my life plan."

To accomplish this, Acutis sought to attend daily Mass as often as he could at the parish



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

On Nov. 20, Pope Francis announced Blessed Carlo Acutis (left) and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati (right) would be canonized in 2025.

church across the street from his elementary school in Milan.

Acutis called the Eucharist "my highway to heaven," and he did all in his power to make this presence known.

His witness inspired his own parents to return to practicing the Catholic faith and his Hindu au pair to convert and be baptized.

Acutis was a tech-savvy kid who loved computers, animals, and video games.

His spiritual director has recalled that Acutis was convinced that the evidence of Eucharistic miracles could be persuasive in helping people to realize that Jesus is present at every Mass.

Over the course of two and a half years, Acutis worked with his family to put together an exhibition on Eucharistic miracles that premiered in 2005 during the Year of the Eucharist proclaimed by Pope John Paul II and has since gone on to be displayed at thousands of parishes on five continents.

Many of Acutis' classmates, friends, and family members have testified how he brought them closer to God.

Acutis was a very open person and was not shy about speaking with his classmates

and anyone he met about the things he loved: the Mass, the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, and heaven.

He is remembered for saying: "People who place themselves before the sun get a tan; people who place themselves before the Eucharist become saints."

Acutis died at the age of 15 in 2006, shortly after being diagnosed with leukemia. Before he died, Acutis told his mother: "I offer all of my suffering to the Lord for the pope and for the Church in order not to go to purgatory but to go straight to heaven."

Thousands of people visited Acutis' tomb in Assisi following his beatification in the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi on Oct. 10, 2020.

Since his beatification, Catholic schools from the Australian outback to England have been named after Acutis, as well as countless ministries and parish initiatives.

Pope Francis encouraged young people to imitate Acutis in prioritizing "the great gift of the Eucharist" in his message for the upcoming diocesan World Youth Days.

Pier Giorgio Frassati: 'To the heights' of holiness

Frassati, who died at the age

of 24 in 1925, is also beloved by many today for his enthusiastic witness to holiness that reaches "to the heights."

The young man from the northern Italian city of Turin was an avid mountaineer and Third Order Dominican known for his charitable outreach.

Born on Holy Saturday, April 6, 1901, Frassati was the son of the founder and director of the Italian newspaper La Stampa.

At the age of 17, he joined the St. Vincent de Paul Society and dedicated much of his spare time to taking care of the poor, the homeless, and the sick as well as demobilized servicemen returning from World War I.

Frassati was also involved in the Apostleship of Prayer and Catholic Action. He obtained permission to receive daily Communion.

On a photograph of what would be his last climb, Frassati wrote the phrase "Verso L'Alto," which means "to the heights."

This phrase has become a motto for Catholics inspired by Frassati to strive for the summit of eternal life with Christ.

Frassati died of polio on July 4, 1925. His doctors later speculated that the young man had caught polio while serving the sick.

John Paul II, who beatified Frassati in 1990, called him a "man of the eight beatitudes," describing him as "entirely immersed in the mystery of God and totally dedicated to the constant service of his neighbor."

The Vatican has yet to announce the recognition of the second miracle attributed to Frassati, which made his canonization possible.

The confirmation of the miracle from the Vatican, along with the announcement of the specific date of Frassati's canonization Mass, are expected in the future.

New book shares interviews with pope

By Kate Quiñones
Catholic News Agency

The author of a new book based on interviews with Pope Francis discussed the Holy Father's views on Christian hope, migration, and the Israel-Hamas conflict in an interview with "EWTN News Nightly" on Tuesday.

Published ahead of the 2025 Jubilee Year, "Hope Never Disappoints: Pilgrims Toward a Better World" focuses on the pope's views of contemporary issues ranging from family and new technologies to climate change and peace.

Released on Tuesday in Italy, Spain, and Latin America by Edizioni Piemme Publishers — and at a later date in other languages — the book by journalist Hernán Reyes Alcaide was written for the occasion of the 2025 Jubilee Year, which is scheduled to begin Christmas Eve.

Pope Francis highlighted the issue of migration in the context of other issues, Reyes told EWTN News on Tuesday.

"For Pope Francis, migration is a central issue approached with a fully integrated perspective," Reyes said. "He emphasizes that it is impossible to think about migration without also considering climate change, the current economic system, and its political consequences."

"He insists that addressing migration cannot be done in isolation because the interconnection between these factors is absolute," Reyes continued. "For the pope, migra-



PHOTO COURTESY OF CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY AND "EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY"

The book "Hope Never Disappoints" is based on interviews author Hernán Reyes Alcaide (pictured here) conducted with Pope Francis.

tion serves as a lens through which to view the broader realities of what is happening in the world today."

In an excerpt from the text, previously published by the Italian newspaper La Stampa, Pope Francis emphasizes that it is "absolutely necessary to address the causes that cause migration in the countries of origin." He also affirms that no country can "face this challenge in isolation."

In the book, Pope Francis also highlights the importance of promoting "well-managed" migration, which could help resolve "the serious crisis caused by low birth rates," especially in Europe, as long as the integral development of migrants is guaranteed.

Reyes clarified the pope's perspective on the Israel-Hamas conflict. In a recently released quote from the book, the Holy Father

called for a careful investigation into Gaza, as "according to some experts, what is happening in Gaza has the characteristics of a genocide."

The comment generated swift criticism from Israel's ambassador to the Holy See, who highlighted Israel's "right of self-defense" in response to the "genocidal massacre" by Hamas on Oct. 7, 2023, which was the most deadly mass massacre of Jews since the Holocaust.

A 93-year-old Holocaust survivor also criticized the remark on Monday, saying the Holy Father used the term genocide "too easily."

But Reyes noted that the pope is advocating for an investigation, not making a set judgment.

"The pope isn't taking a stance on whether genocide is happening or not," Reyes said. "Instead, he's emphasizing

the importance of an investigation. He suggests that if there are claims of genocide, a thorough investigation is required to determine whether the conditions for genocide — criteria A, B, C, and D — are met. If these conditions are fulfilled in the current circumstances within that region, it would then require a formal declaration by the international community."

The call for an investigation takes place amid several accusations against Israel. South Africa filed a case against Israel at the International Court of Justice last December for alleged violations of the Genocide Convention, while a Nov. 14 report by the United Nations Special Committee claimed that Israel's actions in Gaza constitute genocide, citing famine in Gaza and civilian casualties.

Critics of the U.N.

have cited the group's Hamas sympathies, noting that a top U.N. humanitarian aid official claimed that Hamas is not a terrorist group. Hamas is known for its long-standing practice of using civilians as human shields. Meanwhile, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Gaza has employed Hamas members, with nine UNRWA employees allegedly participating in the Oct. 7 attack.

In addition to global issues, Pope Francis is also addressing spiritual issues by inviting people to be "pilgrims of hope." As pilgrims, hope is "the anchor and the sail" that guides us toward a more "fraternal future."

"The pope says the key word is hope, which he contrasts not only with despair but also with mere optimism," Reyes said. "Optimism, he explains, can be fleeting — here one moment, gone the next. Hope, especially Christian hope, is different. It's not just a theological virtue but also a mindset rooted in the certainty that something good is coming. At the same time, this hope requires action; it's not passive."

"We are called to work at building hope each day, to make it a reality through our efforts," Reyes concluded.



SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

The beginning of new life

"Someday my prince will come." Both old and young among us can sing those famous words of Snow White.

These dreamy words look to the future when, in the case of Snow White, the prince will come and radically transform her life and her world.

Dreaming of the future. Some people spend so much time dreaming about the future, a future that may or may not happen. Caught up in the future, they forget about the present, the here and the now that needs our attention.

The only time that we have is the "right now." The past is gone and is forever unchangeable.

The future will be. We can prepare for it, help shape it, but ultimately, we are not the masters of the future.

In Advent, we are celebrating time. In the present moment, we recall the history of salvation. We build our earthly existence so that we will be ready for the future whatever that may be.

Our scripture readings abound with references to the future. Isaiah speaks about: "The days are coming.... In those days.... at that time..." Jesus speaks about "the signs that will be in the sun, the moon, and the stars... and the Son of Man coming in a cloud." Doesn't all this sound



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

December 1

First Sunday of Advent

READINGS

Jeremiah 33:14-16

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

like Snow White and her singing about her prince to come? Skeptics might smile at us and, in disgust, ask when and how all this will happen.

Well, Jesus is not Snow White's Prince Charming, but Jesus is the one who came and the one who will come. Jesus is the beginning and the end. The American author Richard Bach wrote this: "What the caterpillar calls the end of the world, the master calls a butterfly."

Advent reminds us

about an event, but more importantly a person whose end meant the beginning of new life for us. Christ's death brought resurrected life to Christ and ultimately to each of us. The exhortations of Jesus about the end of the world may sound frightening, but they remind us that the end of life only brings on new life.

Yes, at Christmas we do celebrate that historical coming of Christ. But each day should be a celebration of Christ's coming into our lives and into our hearts. The coming of Christ happened in history. The coming of Christ needs to be lived each day. Advent reminds us that Christmas can mean a breakdown in faith for those who do

not actively believe in Christ, or Christmas can be a breakthrough in faith for those actively responding to God's ever-present invitation.

Our words of exhortation today come from Jesus in the gospel: "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life." As we prepare to celebrate the great feast of Christmas, we should strive to keep the flame of faith alive in our hearts so that the light of Christ may burn brightly in our world. May the many Christmas lights that light our world in this season remind us clearly that Christ is the light who must ever burn brightly in our lives and in our world.

CALLED TO SERVE

Clearing the table after the feast

We all have chores to do. A friend of mine bemoans the need to clean the bathroom in her home every week. I dislike the task of collecting, sorting and then placing curbside the garbage and recyclables.

These and countless other jobs seem awful, but they must get done. We do them. We are not happy, but we do them.

Many years ago, a man I respected told me we should pay people to perform certain tasks around the home or business rather than do them ourselves. That advice came after I rode a falling extension ladder to the ground. I had the cuts and bruises to

prove it. Fortunately, nothing was broken. I shook for a while, but that too passed.

The moral of that story is that some stuff we do because we can, and other stuff is better left to folks who know what they are doing.

Thanksgiving presents its own chores. The least popular is cleaning up the kitchen after the feast. Kathy and I solved that annual occurrence. We celebrate with family at our daughter's house. We help a little with clean-up, but I have several football and basketball games to watch with other family members. I am able that way to avoid being a nuisance

in the kitchen.

All we would like is a take home care package of leftovers for the "must have" sandwich of turkey, dressing, cranberry etc. later that night or next day. That chore is done.

One chore I enjoy, almost look forward to each week, is purifying the sacred vessels at Mass and helping to clear the altar.

When the distribution of communion is completed, the deacon or priest returns to the altar and collects the fragments, if any remain, and then purifies

the plates and cups.

The vessels might be taken immediately to a side table, called the credence table, for purification. Or the purification might take place at the altar with an altar server carrying the purified vessels to the credence table.

Hosts that are not distributed are placed in a tabernacle. All pieces of Jesus' body that remain are consumed.

All drops of Jesus' blood in the chalice and cups are consumed. The plates and cups are then purified, washed out with water which is

consumed.

It is a time for the ministers and everyone in church who has received to silently pray. I recommend a little prayer like this while you watch the purification: Jesus, there is no greater love than you have already shown in your passion and death and that you continue to show in this awesome gift of the Eucharist.

Thank you for this chore, Jesus.

Happy Thanksgiving!



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

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, SSJ, Director

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

#iGiveCatholic

The Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg is again participating in the national event #iGiveCatholic! Hosted on December 3, Giving Tuesday, #iGiveCatholic is an online platform that allows donors to give to the organization of their choice.

All money raised by our diocese in this giving event will support the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA).

Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) is a society under the Pontifical Mission Societies that was formed in 1843 by Bishop Forbin-Janson after talking with Blessed Pauline Jaricot. His goal was to work with the poorest of the world's children in the missions. Today, MCA continues to follow his vision - "children helping children" - as children pray and sacrifice for their brothers and sisters in need around the world. Each year MCA provides health care, advocacy, and outreach to over 2 million children worldwide.

Throughout the school year, kids in Catholic schools and religious education programs in the Diocese of Ogdensburg raise money for those children in other parts of the world that are less fortunate. Some activities hosted by students to raise money in the past include penny wars, color runs, bake sales, car washes and bottle drives.

Join the school kids of the diocese in helping the children around the world that are less fortunate by donating via the QR code above or by visiting <https://tpms.igivecatholic.org/organizations/diocese-of-ogdensburg-mission-office> on or in the days leading up to December 3. Advanced giving is now open! Afterwards, head over to social media and help spread the word and encourage others to #GivetotheMissions this #GivingTuesday.

Last year together we proudly raised a total of \$260! This year, we ask that you help us get closer to our goal of raising \$1,000 for the children of the missions!

We thank you for your donations and prayers as we work to help those less fortunate!

Every little bit helps!



OBITUARIES

Adams — James H. Creighton, Sr., 79; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 23, 2024 at St. Cecilia's Church; burial in Ellisburg Cemetery.

Altona — John J. Guerin, 58; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 21, 2024 at Holy Angels Church; burial in the Town of Ellenburg Mausoleum.

Carthage — Debra Weeks Bleakley, 71; Private Services to be held; burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

Clayton — George Albert Hinerth, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 9, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Dannemora — Beverly M. (LaRose) Scholl, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 26, 2024 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Harrisville — Barbara J. (Lewis) Frank, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 25, 2024 at St. Francis Solanus Church; burial in Harrisville Cemetery.

Lisbon — Sandra L. (Bale) Nichols, 70; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 23, 2024 at Ss. Philip and James Church; burial in Flackville Cemetery.

Lowville — Michael Pelo, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 20, 2024 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Martinsburg Cemetery.

Malone — Judy A. (Marshall) Abare, 83; Services to be held at a later date.

Malone — Patricia A. (Ricards) Black, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 23, 2024 at Notre Dame Church.

Malone — Susan M. Tavernia, 78; funeral service Nov. 20 at New Comer Cremations & Funerals in Colonie.

North Bangor — Douglas J. Turner, 71; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 15, 2024 at St. Augustine's Church; burial parish cemetery.

Peru — Colleen Hebert Nagowski, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 20, 2024 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Peru — Pamela Joan "Pammie" Sears, 68; Funeral Services Nov. 15, 2024 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

Peru — Carol Ruth (Tripp) Sorrell, 79; Funeral Services Nov. 23, 2024

at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Thomas Craig Beauharnois, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 20, 2024 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Joseph Swinyer, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 18, 2024 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Tupper Lake — Jean Marylyn Fello, 88; Mass of Christian burial at a later date at St. Alphonsus Church.

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O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name a priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul; take over his entire personality and life.

Replace him with yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always. O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of priests, pray and intercede for (...)

Amen.

December

DECEMBER

DIOCESE OF OGDENBURG, NY		2024		Divine Infancy		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY	2 REV. PETER G. HELFRICH	3 REV. MICHAEL J. JABLONSKI	4 REV. JOSEPH KANIMEA MSC	5 REV. PAUL J. KELLY	6 REV. JOHN P. KENNEHAN	7 REV. THOMAS E. KORNMEYER
8 OUR PASTOR	9 REV. DONALD F. KRAMBERG	10 REV. ARTHUR J. LABAFF	11 REV. ALAN J. LAMICA	12 REV. KRIS C. LAUZON	13 REV. JOSEPH P. LEA	14 REV. CLYDE A. LEWIS
15 POPE FRANCIS	16 REV. CHRISTOPHER J. LOOBY	17 REV. JOHN J. LOOBY	18 REV. SHANE M. LYNCH	19 REV. DONALD J. MANFRED	20 REV. LAWRENCE E. MARULLO	21 REV. MICHAEL H. MARZAN
22 DECEASED PRIESTS	23 MSGR. C. JOHN MCAVOY	24 REV. KEVIN D. MCEWAN	25 REV. GILBERT B. MENARD	26 REV. RAYMOND J. MOREAU	27 REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN	28 REV. WILLIAM G. MUENCH
29 MSGR. JOHN R. MURPHY	30 REV. STEVEN M. MURRAY	31 REV. FRANK NATALE MSC				

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The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by: Diocese of Ogdensburg
Vocations Society www.myrpocanet.net

YOUTH IN SERVICE



St. Mary's Youth Group, Constableville, offered a pancake, scrambled eggs, ham and fried potatoes breakfast at St. Mary's Church's Hall on Nov. 10. The breakfast was a success and the group plans to have one more in December.

Sister Kathryn Healy, a Gray Nun, died Nov. 14

A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Kathryn Healy, a Gray Nun of the Sacred Heart, formerly Sister Catherine Marie, was celebrated Nov. 23 in the Redeemer Sisters' Chapel 521 Moredon Rd, Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania. Burial followed in Resurrection Cemetery, Bensalem, Pennsylvania.

Sister Kathryn, 92, died on November 14, 2024. A native of Buffalo, New York, (St. Mark's Parish), she spent the majority of her years of ministry in her home state.

One of three daughters and a son born to James N. and Kathryn (Laughlin) Healy, Kathryn Veronica Healy entered the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart in 1950 after graduation from Holy Angels Academy the previous year.

After an initial four years in the classroom, two in Lowell, Massachusetts and one year each in Jackson Heights, New York, and Atlanta, Georgia, she began her long and dedicated service in the field of health care.

She received a bachelor's degrees in English and nursing cum laude from D'Youville College,



Sister Kathryn Healy, GNSH

Buffalo, and a master's degree in nursing from Duke University.

With the exception of two years as Infirmary Nurse at the Grey Nuns Motherhouse, her service was centered in the Diocese of Ogdensburg for over 40 years. She was stationed at A.B. Hepburn Hospital where she served as Staff Nurse (1960 to 1963), Head Nurse (1965-66) and Assistant Director of Nursing (1977-84). St. Joseph's Home was her place of service as Administrator (1966-70) and In-Service Education and Clinical Specialist (1976-77). From 1972-75 she was Associate Professor of Nursing at SUNY Canton.

Interest in providing special care to the dying took her to Potsdam in 1984, where she found-

ed and served as executive director of Hospice of St. Lawrence Valley for 10 years.

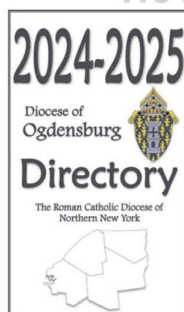
Again moving to serve those most vulnerable, she was chaplain at the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center from 1994 to 2007.

Retiring from this position, she continued to serve as a volunteer until November 2009, when she moved to the Grey Nuns Motherhouse in Yardley, Pennsylvania. There, she volunteered in various types of Intracommunity service until October 2015, when she moved to Holy Redeemer Lafayette.

Sister Kathryn received several awards in her years of health care service, including Canton-Potsdam Hospital Service Award; Woman of the Year, Potsdam Business and Professional Women; Distinguished Service Award from Potsdam College; AAUW "Agent of Change" Award; and, in 1990, the Bertrand H. Snell Award from Clarkson University. She was only the fifth person to receive this latter award created in 1981 given to "individuals of outstanding merit".

Donations in her memory may be made to the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, 928 Jaymor Ave, Suite C-120, Southampton, PA 18966 www.greynun.org or to Hospice of St. Lawrence Valley, 6805 US Hwy 11, Potsdam, NY 13676 www.hospiceslv.org. Arrangements by Beck Givnish Funeral Homes.

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