

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Funeral celebrated for
Sister Anne
Hogan, SSJ | Page 4

Discussions
with those
discerning | Page 5

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HOLY YEAR CROSS



The diocesan cross for the Jubilee Year 2025 recently left its home at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Constable to begin a journey across the diocese before taking its place at St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg, for the Holy Year. Parishioners and local residents gathered to pray before the cross was sent on its journey. Pictured are (front row) Jane Venette, Kathleen and Joe Nichols, Pat Monica, Barbara Breen, Carol Durant, Beverly Sprague, Peggy Lester (back row) Dale and Ann Selkirk, Father John Looby, Father Amruta Kumar Pasala, pastor of The Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River, St. Mary's of the Fort in Fort Covington, and the Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay, Ernie Premo, Brian Cartier and Jim Premo. Read the full story on Page 3.

PREPARING FOR JUBILEE 2025



Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year of Hope from December 29, 2024, to December 28, 2025. It will be inaugurated in our diocese by Bishop Terry R. LaValley at 11 a.m. Mass on December 29 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. "Since the year 1300 AD, the Roman Catholic Church has identified certain years as a 'Jubilee' or 'Holy Year,'" said Father Garry Giroux, chair of the diocesan Holy Year committee. "A Holy Year, or a jubilee, is a year of forgiveness of sins and the punishment due to sin; it is a year of reconciliation between or among adversaries. A Holy Year is a time of conversion and entering more deeply into one's relationship with Christ Jesus and the Church."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope: Preaching must rely on Holy Spirit

By Kristina Millare
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis during his general audience at St. Peter's Square on Wednesday said all evangelizing activity depends on the Holy Spirit and not on "pastoral initiatives promoted by us."

Continuing his catechetical series on "The Spirit and the Bride," the Holy Father spoke about evangelization and the role of preaching in the Catholic Church.

Stressing the importance of prayer, the pope said all Christians should ask for God's intercession in the work of evangelization as it "does not depend

on us but on the coming of the Holy Spirit."

"The Holy Spirit comes to those who pray because the heavenly Father — it is written — 'give[s] the Holy Spirit to those who ask him' (cf. Lk 11:13)," the pope told pilgrims in St. Peter's Square. "Especially if we ask him in order to proclaim the Gospel of his Son!"

Pointing to the example of Jesus at the beginning of his public ministry, the Holy Father said it is necessary to imitate his example and prayer: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor" (cf. Lk 4:18).

"Preaching with the anointing of the Holy Spirit means transmitting, together with the ideas and the doctrine, the life, and conviction of our faith," he continued.

Emphasizing the need to prioritize prayer over "persuasive words of wisdom," the Holy Father also told his listeners to be wary of the desire to "preach ourselves" instead of Jesus Christ.

"Not wanting to preach oneself also implies not always giving priority to pastoral initiatives promoted by us and linked to our own name," he said.

Pope Francis also shared

practical advice for preachers to "never go over 10 minutes" at the risk of their listeners losing interest in a sermon.

"Preachers must preach an idea, a feeling, and a call to action. Beyond eight minutes the preaching starts to fade, it is not understood," Pope Francis said to applause from some pilgrims.

In his final greetings to international pilgrims on Wednesday, the pope imparted his special Advent blessings. He encouraged the crowds to prepare well for the upcoming solemnity of the Immaculate Conception to be celebrated on Dec. 9 this year.

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It means something different

It's one of our rules when we go on vacations or "adventures," as we like to call them.

On every trip we take and at every football game we attend, the Fargo buy or find a Christmas ornament or something that can be turned into a Christmas ornament.

There are ornaments representing the professional football stadiums or teams in 10 different cities (we put the ornaments representing teams we don't like toward the back). There's an ornament with Santa standing on the moon from the time I went to Kennedy Space Center in Florida with my friend, Alexis. There's a shiny ornament

featuring an exterior view of the U.S. Capitol. There's an ornament version of Alcatraz on our tree, as well.

Of course, we also have all the ornaments made by my son, Jake, over the years - all the ones with crooked, glued-on decorations - as well as a few made by nieces and nephews. We have a few other ornaments that are sentimental for other reasons, mostly because of who gave them to us.

We've been collecting these ornaments for over a decade, and every ornament on the tree represents a time, a person or a place - something we want to remember, and every year, decorating the tree is a trip

Darcy L.
Fargo

down memory lane.

As we decorated the tree this year, handling some of these ornaments for the eighth, ninth or tenth time, it struck me how my reaction to those memories has changed over the years. In some cases, ornaments that once represented very happy times now give me a tinge of sadness as I think about people who were with me during those times but who are no longer here to make more memories. While I always loved the ornaments made in pre-school or kindergarten classes, they warm my heart more now than they did when I received them, as now they remind me how far removed Jake is from that young man who had profound speech delays and other deficits related to his autism and how

much he has progressed. The ornaments and the stories are the same, but how I feel about them is different.

I sometimes fall into the trap of tuning out the scripture readings at Mass. "I've heard it all before," I think.

But that was old me who heard it. God keeps working on me and in me. I'm not who I was the last time these readings were read at Mass. If I made a conscious effort to take them in carefully, if I take some time to hang them on my tree, so to speak, they may mean something different than they did before. God certainly speaks to us through his sacred word.

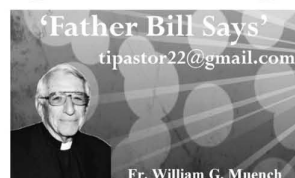
I'm trying to make it a rule to pay better attention and see what adventures God takes me on.

Journeying through Advent with Jesus

I love Advent, these weeks of spiritual preparation for our celebration of the Lord's birth. In addition, this is the beginning of the next liturgical year. The Catholic Church in its liturgy gives us each day the opportunity to walk with Jesus - his birth, his life, his death, his resurrection and Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit to the apostles. So, we, Catholics, now begin again our liturgical journey - a new opportunity to walk with the Lord.

Of course, you and I have been here before. Now, some of you may say I know the whole story, should I bother again? Today, I want to take this opportunity to convince you that each liturgical year is an important, a unique, and a perfect way to discover so more about Jesus than ever before. This perfect journey with Jesus leads to real happiness.

I truly believe that as we start again Jesus' story in



this next liturgical year, we will learn so much more about our Lord Jesus. And I further believe that as we walk this journey with the Lord, we will learn so more about ourselves. And we will establish a closer relationship with the Lord Jesus.

Each year during Advent, I want to convince my congregation to participate more completely with the Lord's story. I encourage regular Scripture reading. I tell them to keep the Bible handy. Reading the day's Scriptures, especially the Gospel from each day's daily Mass, to keep with the Lord on each day's journey. I tell everyone to make your Bible well worn, even well wrinkled from use.

Then, it dawned on me.

There is an "app." In fact, there are many "apps" right there on our phones, and there are many sites with the daily Scriptures. I notice that whenever many people stop to pause during the day, the first thing they do is pull out their phone and check something or other online. So, having a Scripture app well marked becomes a perfect place to turn to for a brief Scripture reading. What a great unique opportunity to participate in the Lord's story right there on the cell phone.

Today, I have another request for keeping yourself close to the Lord on this journey. I suggest prayer but a prayer of silence. Find a time, a regular time, even just five minutes, for quiet silence. I believe that taking some time for silence gives God a good opportunity to reach us and touch our hearts and lives. This is such a busy, noisy world, and we all have so much stuff to be thinking

about. We need some silence; we need some quiet time - no words, not even any prayers, just silence. Let Jesus come and be part of our silence. I believe the Lord understands. The challenge is for us to listen. God always has something to bring to us.

I believe that God has a plan for each of us each day. We have nothing to worry about. We can accomplish it all. Jesus will be there to walk with us. We must pray that we will be constantly aware when the Lord reaches out to us. So, pray often with the readiness and confidence that you are willing to accept the Lord's guidance, the Lord's challenges for each day. It can be something simple or it may be something great, an opportunity to transform a friend, a loved one, drawing them closer to God in a special way. When you pray with faith and solid confidence, the Lord will become a wonderful part of your life.

Diocese prepares for Jubilee Year of Hope

By Mary Beth Bracy, consecrated virgin
Contributing Writer

It'll be a year of hope.

Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year of Hope from December 29, 2024, to December 28, 2025. It will be inaugurated in our diocese by Bishop Terry R. LaValley at 11 a.m. Mass on December 29 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

The Church is offering numerous reasons for our hope (1 Peter 3:15) during this grace-filled year including plentiful opportunities to obtain plenary indulgences throughout the diocese at designated pilgrimage sites and beyond.

Father Garry B. Giroux, judicial vicar of the Tribunal Office of Canonical Affairs and pastor of St. Mary's, Waddington, and St. John the Baptist, Madrid, is "quarterbacking" the Diocese of Ogdensburg initiatives for the Holy Year, "with a wonderful committee." He shared why it's crucial for North Country Catholics to participate.

"Nobody needs to have an explanation of despair, but we do need to rediscover hope," said Father Giroux. "A Jubilee, a Holy Year, is above all about Christ the Lord, who brings life and grace to all humanity. Pope Francis has chosen as the theme for Holy Year 2025, 'Pilgrims of Hope.'"

Father Giroux explained the history and significance of Jubilee years.

"Since the year 1300 AD, the Roman Catholic Church has identified certain years as a 'Jubilee' or 'Holy Year,'" he said. "A Holy Year, or a jubilee, is a year of forgiveness of sins and the punishment due to sin; it is a year of reconciliation between or among adversaries. A Holy Year is a time of conversion and entering more deeply into one's relationship with Christ Jesus and the Church. A Holy Year or Jubilee focuses our attention on solidarity with the needy and

powerless; it is a special time for the works of justice and peacebuilding.

"Bishops and pastors are asked to reinforce with their people the concept of pilgrimage with its historic and symbolic significance of the ongoing need for conversion and reconciliation. People who cannot leave their residence due to illness or other constraints, can make a spiritual pilgrimage."

Father Giroux offered several practical ideas for Catholics to fruitfully take part in the Jubilee Year.

"Visiting the sick [in real time or virtually], feeding the hungry, clothing the naked or welcoming a stranger - such as, migrants - is, in a sense, making a pilgrimage to Christ who is present in them," Father Giroux said. "The faithful are encouraged to embrace initiatives that put into practice, in a concrete and generous way, the spirit of penance which is, in a sense, the soul of the Holy Year, such as abstaining from meat on Fridays or limiting one's use of social media," Father Giroux noted.

Additionally, he continued, "Holy Year 2025 invites us to support works of a religious or social nature, especially in the defense and protection of human life in all its stages."

Of particular interest are the many and varied opportunities to receive plenary indulgences for oneself or loved ones who have died.

"One of the significant aspects of a Holy Year is the granting of a plenary indulgence," Father Giroux said. "A plenary indulgence is defined in the Catechism of the Catholic Church [1471] as a 'remission, before God, of the temporal punishment due to sins.' An indulgence is an action of the Church which, as Christ's minister of reconciliation, bestows, from the inexhaustible merits of Christ and all the saints, a release from any temporal punishment due

Jubilee cross journeys around the diocese

The diocesan cross for the Jubilee Year 2025 is journeying around the diocese before spending a year at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg as part of the Holy Year celebration.

The cross began its journey at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Constable, the cross' normal home. From Constable, the cross traveled to St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh for the weekend of December 7 and 8. The cross will next travel to St. Alphonsus Church in Tupper Lake, December 14 and 15, and later to Holy Family Church in Watertown the weekend of December 21 and 22.

Local Knights of Columbus are transporting the cross between locations.

The six-foot wooden cross was carved by the uncle of Father Tony Pease for St. Bridget's Church in Trout River, a small hamlet north of Constable, when Father Fredrick Shue was pastor.

It is on loan to the Diocese from St. Francis of Assisi Church in Constable for the Jubilee year thanks to the generosity of Father Amruta



The diocesan cross for the Jubilee Year 2025 sits in St. Francis of Assisi Church, Constable, before it began its journey around the diocese and to the cathedral. Kumar Pasala.

Father Shue was pastor between 1950-54, making the cross at least 70 years old.

to sin. An indulgence can be applied either to oneself or to the souls of the deceased, but it cannot be applied to other living persons."

There are several ways the faithful in our diocese may receive a plenary indulgence. "The plenary indulgence can be obtained by traveling to one of the pilgrimage sites designated by Bishop LaValley for the Holy Year between December 29, 2024, and December 28, 2025," said Father Giroux. "While visiting one of these pilgrimage sites one must pray the Lord's Prayer and recite the Creed. Within less than 20 days of the pil-

grimage visit, one must go to confession and receive the Eucharist and pray for the intentions of the pope."

"The churches and shrines, designated as pilgrimage sites by Bishop LaValley, where one can obtain a plenary indulgence are: St. Mary Cathedral, Ogdensburg, St. Mary's, Canton, St. Mary's, Clayton, Holy Family, Watertown, St. Stephen's, Croghan, St. Alphonsus, Tupper Lake, St. Bartholomew, Old Forge, and St. Mary's, Ticonderoga, St. Peter's, Plattsburgh, Mother Cabrini Shrine at St. Patrick's Oratory, West Peru, and Notre

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Year of hope

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Dame of Malone."

Those who cannot visit one of the pilgrimage sites aren't left out, though.

"The church, in her wisdom, understands not all are able to travel," Father Giroux added. "If one is ill and unable to travel to one of the pilgrimage sites, they can still receive the indulgence if they go to confession, receive the Eucharist and pray for the intentions of the Holy Father. Those who are homebound should contact their pastor if they wish to receive an indulgence."

During this Holy Year, the Vatican is offering extra opportunities for the faithful to obtain indulgences. Angelo Cardinal De Donatis wrote, "Despite the rule that only one plenary indulgence can be obtained per day (cf. *Enchiridion Indulgentiarum*, IV ed., norm. 18, § 1), the faithful who have carried out an act of charity on behalf of the souls in Purgatory, if they receive Holy Communion a second time that day, can obtain the plenary indulgence twice on the same day, applicable only to the deceased (this must take place within a Eucharistic celebration; see can. 917 and the Pontifical Commission for the authentic interpretation of the CIC, *Responsa ad dubia*, 1, 11 July 1984).

Moreover, Bishop LaValley will be issuing a

pastoral letter on Lived Hope in the 21st Century.

Special catechesis on hope will be further offered in Catholic schools and Faith Formation programs for both youth and adults.

There will also be a series of homilies on sacraments of initiation and penance, and opportunities for parish missions on hope.

As with the Year of Faith, there will be a special diocesan event this summer, "The Look and Sound of Hope: Celebration of Hope in Music and Art." An added feature will be offered, enthused Father Giroux, to make the theme tangible.

"In some situations, in terms of people who are on the autism spectrum, sound can be a problem, but tangible can be an important thing," he said. "We are expanding to help those who may not have been included in 2013."

At the deanery level, the bishop will preside and preach at special Holy Year Masses, and solemn Eucharistic Adoration will be held.

Bishop LaValley will also visit nursing homes and correctional facilities throughout the diocese, as a special outreach to those who are ill or are restricted in their ability to travel.

Additional information about the Jubilee and related celebrations will be released as it becomes available.

More information may be found at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/jubilee-2025>

Funeral Mass celebrated for Sister Anne Hogan, SSJ

A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Anne Hogan, a Sister of St. Joseph, was celebrated at St. Anthony's Church, Watertown on Dec. 3. Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated the Mass and Rev. Ray Diesbourg, MSC, served as the homilist.

Sister Anne died on November 28, 2024 at Summit Village, Watertown at the age of 91.

She was born on August 30, 1933, in Chateaugay, the daughter of Robert Hogan and Anna Tacy.

Sister Anne was a graduate of St. Joseph's Academy, Malone. After graduation, she attended the College of St. Rose in Albany, New York, for courses in Social Services from 1952-54. She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph on September 8, 1954. She received the Habit on April 17, 1955, and made Final Profession on August 28, 1960. She received her bachelor's degree from the New York State University of Potsdam, her master's degree from Boston College and did post-graduate work in Social Services at the University of Duna, India, Chulalong Karn, Thailand and the University of Wisconsin. She received her certificate of Theology from Providence College, Rhode Island, and took music courses from Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam.

Sister Anne taught in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Ogdensburg: St. Joseph's, Dannemora, St. James, Gouverneur and St. Mary's, Fort Covington. As Chair



Sister Anne Hogan, SSJ

of the Department of Social Work and Social Sciences, Sister Anne taught social science courses at Mater Dei College, Ogdensburg, courses at the Mohawk Reservation Center, Ogdensburg, as well as social justice courses for the Formation For Ministry program. She was involved in parish ministry at St. Joseph's Parish, Massena, and did social work as a pastoral administrator in the Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska, for seven years. She served as pastoral minister in the three parishes of the Catholic Community of Cape Vincent, Rosiere and Chaumont. She became actively involved in the interfaith community of Chaumont. Sister Anne retired to the Motherhouse in 2015.

Sister Anne made the statement that when she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph, she entered for a grand adventure. That she did,

as she traveled worldwide with her faith, joy, energy and social work skills to India with Mother Teresa's sisters, to Alaska, and to the many communities in the United States. She loved music and played the piano well, entertaining the sisters as well as the residents at Samaritan Keep Home. She organized the Parkinson's Support Group and loved to visit them after her retirement. She was named Woman of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce of Chaumont.

Her favorite hobbies were music, travel and caring for cats.

She is also survived by cousins and many friends.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters of St. Joseph, 866 Arsenal Street, Watertown, NY 13601. Online condolences to her family may be posted at www.cummingsfuneral.com.

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Discussions with those discerning

Vocation events included
dinner, Holy Hour



Father Matthew S. Conger, associate Vocations director, talks to young men and their families about the priesthood at an Andrew Dinner held Nov. 17 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ
Diocesan Vocations Coordinator

The Vocation Office recently sponsored the St. Andrew Dinners in Ogdensburg and Plattsburgh. The purpose of the St. Andrew Dinners is to encourage parish priests to invite individuals they think might have the qualities needed to be a good priest to an evening with Bishop Terry R. LaValley beginning with a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament, followed by dinner and sharing of priests' vocation stories.

These dinners give the bishop the opportunity to interact with those who are thinking about the possibility that they may be called priesthood. The events, held annually, give such young men the opportunity to meet other individuals who are considering this vocation.

Some of the young men attend the event with a parent or parents.

In addition to hearing vocation stories, parents of seminarians are invited to share their experience of what it means to have a son in the seminary and priesthood.

Dinners were held in Ogdensburg at St. Mary's Brzana Hall and Deacon Winter's Chapel on November 17, and in Plattsburgh at St. Peter's Emmaus Hall and St. Peter's Chapel on November 24.

There were 10 young men were at the Ogdensburg session, while six young men attend the Plattsburgh site along with some of the parents of these men.

At the Ogdensburg dinner, Father Joseph Morgan and Father Matthew Conger talked about their call to priesthood, and in Plattsburgh, Msgr. Dennis Duprey and Father Carter Pierce shared their vocation stories.

Mrs. Amy Schirmer, Ogdensburg, and Deacon James and Beth Carlin, Plattsburgh, were able to share their experiences of their sons in the seminary and now their parishes as they are now newly ordained priests serving in the diocese. Father Christopher Carrara, Vocation Director was emcee and Father Matthew Conger, Assistant Director for Vocations, read the Gospel and gave the homily during Holy Hour.

Let us pray for more young men to consider the call to priesthood to serve in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Reflections of a mother

Editor's note: The following text is from the Andrew Dinner presentation given by Amy Schirmer, mother of Father Douglas A. Schirmer.

I stand before you having been for 8 years the mother of a seminarian, and for almost 6 months the mother of a priest. My son, Douglas, is a priest in Plattsburgh, and I've been asked to give a very brief personal perspective on what this is like!

From the standpoint of predictable timelines and events, it's easy to see seminary as a college experience. It follows the school year and provides learning and friendships that shape the future of our children. The similarities continue, but in a different way. College is often a place where young people meet their future spouse, or at the very least they form an idea of the kind of spouse they would like to have. Seminary prepares young men to be wholly given to one relationship. That of the Church. They will be expected to love her, serve her, and even lay down their lives for her regardless of what kind of mood she's in!

Without hesitation I can tell you that Douglas would have made a wonderful husband and a loving papa. I remember painting the top part of a built-in cupboard. I was going to leave the underside, because who would ever see it? And then, I pictured Douglas' children toddling about. THEY would see it. And

so, I painted the hidden part of the cabinet in anticipation of little upturned faces waiting for grandma to get them a glass of milk or a plate for their cookies. I even anticipated painting animals on that hidden canvas...elephants and giraffe that only tiny people could see when they lifted their eyes.

We have this space inside of us ready for more: More children, then grandchildren. It's a God-given space...and mustn't remain empty. Most people, in the course time, find that space filled with the next generation in the family bloodline, and what a generous gift and plan this is of our good God.

But what to do with that space when your son is discerning a call to the priesthood? First, we must give them their own space to discern. Our good bishop is choosing the very best institutions in which our seminarians can prayerfully discern the path God has for them. Spiritual formation and direction are tailored to each man. If Douglas had been courting a young lady, my hope is that I would have been present for him if he had questions or wanted advice. But I also hope I would have given him the space to begin a life that necessarily would put me outside an inner circle. The circle of husband and wife belongs to two people before their God. As Douglas progressed through the formation process, I realized that, even

though he wasn't getting married, He would still need to "leave his mother and cleave to his calling."

As I reflected on Douglas approaching the role of standing *in persona Christi*, I wondered how I could stand *in persona Maria*. Not everyone will love my son's priesthood. Will I be able to remain quiet and strong at the foot of that particular cross? People who love him might tend to drain him. Will I be able to stand outside that circle and support him but also love those whose needs are so great? Just as the priesthood points to a heavenly reality, I believe that the parents of priests participate, to some extent, in that same reality. How could I find a way to "paint the underside of a built-in cabinet" so that even the littlest would know that they were being thought of, even delighted in?

The only way to do this is to pray. In fact, I would say, to maintain a rigorous prayer life. If we don't know what that means, we have the rest of our lives to learn and to love the beauty, heartache and triumph of an active interior life. Most assuredly our sons would be happy to assist us in this goal!

Can we commit to this the way we would to actual grandchildren? We can try! There may come a day when I'm actually getting milk and cookies for one of Douglas' spiritual children. How many grandchildren will I have? It could be thousands!

Environmental Stewardship

A new Catholic Imperative
Part 2

This week, let's take another look at this new Catholic Imperative. How do we continue to be good stewards in this changing world? What new challenge does the imperative of Scripture place on us as we respond to the command to be caretakers of this magnificent planet?

Last week we looked at some of the power we now have to change the face of the earth. This power can be used for positive actions to meet needs, but we also know that some of these practices have devastating impacts on the earth and those who inhabit it. This reality challenges us to look for better ways to meet our needs that are less detrimental to life on the planet.

Our Creator gifted us with both the intelligence and the spiritual desire to respond to this challenge. In nearly a century ago the Jesuit, Teilhard de Chardin, a Jesuit priest paleologist, envisioned the universe as an evolving entity rather than a static one.

In recent years, Passionist priest Father Thomas Berry, a cultural historian, teamed up with Brian Swimm, a cosmologist, to take Chardin's thoughts and apply them to the 21st century. In a time of change and chaos, we tend to ask deep questions about who we are, what is our role in this time of change. Along with many other scientists and spiritual thinkers, they see that this time can be a great opportunity to find better ways of living in harmony in the world.

Father Berry saw our work today was to carry out the transition from a period of human devastation of the Earth to a period when humans would be present to the planet in a mutually beneficial manner.

This may seem like a tall order! In his book, *The Great Work*, Berry speaks of the history of how we arrived here, and ways we and our institutions can address this challenge. In what ways are you participating in this Great Work?

Making centerpieces and friends

On November 20, Raquette River Brewing was bursting with conversation, smiles and holiday joy as Mercy Care Friendship Volunteers and Elder Friends gathered to create holiday centerpieces and enjoy refreshments.

Mercy Care's mission is to enhance in every dimension the fullness of life of elders living in our community. Lexi Bevilacqua, Mercy Care's Program Director remarked, "The Holiday Workshop at Raquette River Brewing has become a favorite tradition among our volunteers and Elder Friends, and for good reason - the space is beautiful, the staff is amazing, and we get to enjoy each other's company, tap into our creativity and spread some holiday cheer".

Social engagement events provide an opportunity to connect with



Mercy Care Friendship Volunteers along with their Elder Friends gathered at Raquette River Brewing in Tupper Lake to create Holiday Centerpieces.

each other and the community. These connections help ease the isolation and loneliness many people experience. The impact of these events is best illustrated in a quote from a Mercy Care Elder Friend after the Holiday Workshop who said "It is wonderful to feel a part of something".

Mercy Care is experiencing many new requests from elders who need friends and informal supports to age in place more successfully. Mercy Care serves any older adult in need within our capacity.

Mercy Care receives requests for a Friendship Volunteer from elders,

their families or friends.

Mercy Care's next Friendship Volunteer Training will be held January 15 in Tupper Lake. To register, please visit Mercy Care's website at www.adkmercy.org or contact Lexi Bevilacqua, program director, at abevilacqua@adkmercy.org or call 518-523-5446.

Protecting God's Children

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

Dec. 13 – 9:30 a.m. – St. André Bessette Parish, Malone

To Report Abuse

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

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

Bishop's Public Schedule

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

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

4:30 p.m. – St. Lawrence Deanery Clergy Penance Service followed by Dinner at St. Mary's Cathedral (Brzana Hall)

Dec. 15 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

1 p.m. – Reception for the Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the First Mass Celebrated in St. Patrick's Church in Chateaugay

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

2:30 p.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting in the Spratt Conference Room followed by Dinner at Bishop's Residence

Dec. 18 – 5 p.m. – Evening Prayer and Christmas Dinner with Our Seminarians and their Parents at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

Rest in Peace

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

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

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

Dec. 13 – Rev. Joseph Louis Levesque, 1939

Dec. 14 – Rev. P.M. O'Shea, O.S.A., 1942; Rev. Paul Beyette, 2016

Dec. 15 – Rev. Leon Pierre Co-chard, 1915; Deacon Joseph H. Gilbert II, 2010

Dec. 16 – Rev. J. F. McGowen, O.S.A., 1935; Rev. Frederick Cummings Horton, 1975

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- View diocesan events and much more



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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 online book sellers

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

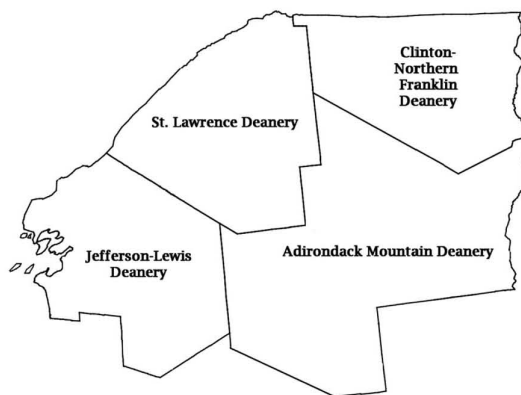
ADORATION

Wells — Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to be held.

Date: The Third Sunday of the Month.

Time: After Sunday Mass

Place: St. Ann's



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North County 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.

Features: A beautiful and blessed half hour.

ADORATION

Lake Placid — Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held Tuesday.

Time: 1 p.m. to 5:20 followed by Mass

Place: St. Agnes Church

Features: Come rest in the presence of Jesus. Experience his mercy, love, healing, and peace.

Contact: To sign up as a sub or for a weekly hour, call 518-523-2220. Sign-up is not necessary to attend.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

HOT DINNERS

Malone — St. Andre Bessette Parish to offer free community hot dinners.

Date: Every Wednesday

Time: 4 p.m. to 5

Place: St. Andre Outreach Center

Features: Food is prepared by the BOCES Culinary Arts Students. Eat in only.

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 Garrant: 518-578-8377

DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR

St. Regis Falls — All are invited to the monthly first Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour for Vocations. **Date:** First Saturday of the Month **Time:** Following the 4:30 anticipated Mass

Place: St. Ann's Church

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

ADORATION

Plattsburgh — Adoration to be held weekly.

Date: Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

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

Place: St. John's in the Holy Family Basement

Features: Come to an out of the way place and rest awhile in Jesus' Presence. Experience His healing power, grace, love and mercy for yourselves and loved ones. Pray for the sick, suffering, vocations, our priests, country and peace in the world.

Contact: For more information, to become a substitute or to sign up for an hour, please contact 518-563-3773.

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

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 Barbershop 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 bench, and a wooden wall quilt. These will be raffled as a first,



Share Christmas greetings with priests of our diocese

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

Rev. Philip T. Allen
St. Mary's Church
PO Box 332
Indian Lake, NY 12842

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

Rev. Medenel Angrand
St. Mary's Church
22 Father Jogues Place
Ticonderoga, NY 12883

Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin
324 Pratt Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. Scott A. Belina
Immaculate Conception
Church
PO Box 99
Brownville, NY 13615

**Rev. Corneille Boyeye
MSC**
Missionaries of the
Sacred Heart
668 Thompson Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. Timothy G. Canaan
669 W. Oakland Park Blvd
Unit B 117
Wilton Manors, FL 33311

Rev. Leagon J. Carlin
St. Mary's Cathedral
415 Hamilton Street
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

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

Rev. Tojo Chacko HGN
St. Edmund's Church
5526 State Route 11
Ellenburg Center,
NY 12934

Rev. Daniel L. Chapin
St. Martin's Church
PO Box 431
Port Leyden, NY 13433

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

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

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

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

**Rev. Pedro Edgardo N.
de la Rosa**
007 Tibgao, Canaman
Camarines Sur 4402
Philippines

Rev. Douglas A. Decker
St. Peter's Church
5457 Shady Avenue
Lowville, NY 13367

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

Rev. David DeLuca MSC
Missionaries of the
Sacred Heart
668 Thompson Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. Garvin J. Demarais
PO Box 1741
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Rev. Richard D. Demers
1148 Yockey Road
Mitchell, IN 47446

Rev. John M. Demo
St. Patrick's Church
123 S. Massey Street
Watertown, NY 13601

**Rev. Raymond Diesbourg
MSC**
St. Vincent of Paul Church
PO Box 288
Cape Vincent, NY 13618

Rev. John L. Downs
11 Hepburn Street
Norfolk, NY 13667

Msgr. Dennis J. Duprey VF
St. Augustine's Church
3035 Main Street
Peru, NY 12972

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

Rev. Alfred H. Fish
St. Ann's Church
PO Box 288
St. Regis Falls, NY 12980

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

**Rev. Jaya Kumar Francis
MSC**
Missionaries of the
Sacred Heart
668 Thompson Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. J. Michael Gaffney
Holy Family Church
129 Winthrop Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. Garry B. Giroux
St. Mary's Church
PO Box 187
Waddington, NY 13694

Rev. Joseph W. Giroux
St. Patrick's Church
PO Box 315
Colton, NY 13625

Rev. L. William Gordon
PO Box 159
Morrisonville, NY 12962

Rev. Lukas H. Gruber
St. Mary's Parish
PO Box 329
Massena, NY 13662

Rev. Albert J. Hauser
St. Patrick's Church
12 St. Patrick Place
Port Henry, NY 12974

Rev. Peter G. Helfrich
34 Milrace Drive
Rochester, NY 14445

Rev. Michael J. Jablonski
Church of the Assumption
78 Clinton Street
Redford, NY 12978

Rev. Joseph Kanimea MSC
Missionaries of the
Sacred Heart
668 Thompson Street
Watertown, NY 13601

**Rev. Jose John
Kaniyankunnel HGN**
St. Andre Bessette Parish
PO Box 547
Malone, NY 12953


Rev. Paul J. Kelly
18 Adams Lane
Newcomb, NY 12852

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

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

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

Rev. Donald F. Kramberg
1875 Jenkintown Road F102
Jenkintown, PA 19046





Share Christmas greetings with priests of our diocese

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

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

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

Rev. Christopher J. Looby
St. Alexander's Church
PO Box 159
Morrisonville, NY 12962

Rev. John J. Looby
PO Box 78
Constable, NY 12926

Rev. Shane M. Lynch
Diocese of Ogdensburg
PO Box 369
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Rev. Donald J. Manfred
St. Stephen's Church
PO Box 38
Croghan, NY 13327

Rev. Lawrence E. Marullo
PO Box 428
Constableville, NY 13325

Rev. Michael H. Marzan
St. Mary's Cathedral
415 Hamilton Street
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

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

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

Rev. Gilbert B. Menard
Victory Place
4907 S. Catherine St. Apt. 211
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Rev. Raymond J. Moreau
St. Andrew's Church
2 Park Avenue
Norwood, NY 13668

Rev. Joseph A. Morgan VG
St. Mary's Cathedral
125 Ford Avenue
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Rev. William G. Muench
Holy Family Church Rectory
127 Chapel Drive
Syracuse, NY 13219

Msgr. John R. Murphy
1046 Oswegatchie Trail Road
Star Lake, NY 13690

Rev. Steven M. Murray
6813 Porcher Drive Unit 2
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572

Rev. Frank T. Natale MSC
Our Lady of the
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320 West Lynde Street
Watertown, NY 13601

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Holy Cross Parish
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Plattsburgh, NY 12901

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PO Box 377
Heuvelton, NY 13654

Rev. John Kennedy Ojuok
St. Peter's Church
5457 Shady Avenue
Lowville, NY 13367

Rev. Amruta Kumar Pasala
St. Francis of Assisi Church
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Constable, NY 12926

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

Rev. Terrence R. Patterson
18 Flow Drive
Potsdam, NY 13676

Rev. Carter G. Pierce
St. Alexander's Church
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Morrisonville, NY 12962

Msgr. Leeward J. Poissant
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Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Rev. Sony G. Pulickal
PO Box 214
Speculator, NY 12164

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

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32-2 Iowa Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12903

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Massena, NY 13662

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Rouses Point, NY 12979

Rev. Clement Rimonds HGN
CC of Holy Name and
St. Matthew
PO Box 719
Au Sable Forks, NY 12912

Rev. Donald A. Robinson VF
Immaculate Conception
Church
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Brownville, NY 13615

Rev. Stephen T. Rocker
PO Box 729
Henniker, NH 03242

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7 Margaret Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Rev. James W. Seymour
St. James Church
164 East Main Street
Gouverneur, NY 13642

Rev. Scott R. Seymour
St. Andre Bessette Parish
PO Box 547
Malone, NY 12953

Rev. Alan D. Shnob
St. Mary's Church
PO Box 368
Champlain, NY 12919

Rev. F. James Shurtleff
St. Mary's Cathedral
415 Hamilton Street
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Rev. Fernando V. Solomon Jr.
St. Peter's Parish
PO Box 32
Malone, NY 12953

Rev. Bryan D. Stitt
St. Mary's Church
68 Court Street
Canton, NY 13617

Rev. James V. Teti
St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of
Jesus Parish
40 Marion Street
Tupper Lake, NY 12986

Rev. Todd E. Thibault
St. James Minor Church
327 West Street
Carthage, NY 13619

Rev. Justin Thomas HGN
St. Elizabeth's Church
PO Box 368
Elizabethtown, NY 12932

Rev. Severinus Torwoe
St. Ann's Church
24 Town Hall Road
Mooers Forks, NY 12959

Rev. Howard J. Venette
PO Box 418
Dannemora, NY 12929

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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7
second and third prize raffle with the drawing taking place after 4 p.m. Mass on Dec. 21.

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: Jan. 5

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Evans Mills - The Indian River Council 7471 Knights of Columbus will 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

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.

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 (Ss. 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 vocation-sarenotrivial@rcdony.org

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

Date: Jan. 4

Time: 8 a.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

Features: Rosary with devo-

tions

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY DEVOTION

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

Date: Jan. 4

Time: 3:15 p.m.

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

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

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

Date: Jan. 4

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

Date: Jan. 12 (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.

ADORATION

Ogdensburg - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to be held

every Wednesday.

Time: 3 p.m. to 6

Place: The Deacon Winter Chapel at St. Mary's Cathedral, enter through the glass doors on the Green Street side.

Features: A sign up book will be at the podiums at the front entrances of St. Mary's Cathedral and Notre Dame Church, however you may attend adoration without signing up.

HOLY HOUR

Canton - Holy Hour for Vocations to be held.

Date: Every Tuesday

Time: 4:10 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: Holy hour followed by Mass at 5:15 p.m. and confessions at 5:45 p.m.

ROSARY FOR LIFE

Canton - Rosary for life to be held.

Date: Every Sunday

Time: 4:25 p.m. preceding the 5 p.m. evening Mass

Place: St. Mary's Church

ADORATION

Norwood - St. Andrew's Church to offer Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday.

Time: After 8:30 a.m. Mass until Noon

Features: Sign up is not needed.

MEAL DELIVERY DRIVERS NEEDED

The St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging is seeking drivers for home delivered meals in Brasher Falls, DeKalb, Canton, Gouverneur, Morristown, Ogdensburg, Potsdam and Star Lake.

Features: These drivers deliver hot, nutritious meals to older adults. Many are homebound and receive a lunchtime meal Monday through Friday. A critical component of this program is the daily wellness check that is provided by this service. Drivers receive a mileage reimbursement. Typical deliveries take place between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Routes can be between one hour and two hours. You can volunteer for

one day a week or several. Any help is greatly appreciated.

Contact: If you are interested please contact Danielle Durant at 315-386-4730.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

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



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21 new cardinals reflect Church's unity amid geographic expansion

By Kristina Millare
Catholic News Agency

The 21 new cardinals to be created by Pope Francis at the Dec. 7 consistory reflect the pontiff's vision for a missionary Church that reaches out to the world's peripheries.

Following the 10th consistory of his pontificate, Pope Francis will have effectively cemented the expansive geographical diversity of the College of Cardinals as well as chosen approximately 60% of all its members and almost 80% of the cardinals who will choose his successor in a future conclave.

While the College of Cardinals will still largely be European — with a high proportion who are either representing Italian churches or are of Italian origin — after the Dec. 7 consistory more than 90 countries will be represented in the college responsible for advising the pope in the care of the universal Church.

The December consistory will also see the College of Cardinals expand to a total of 253 members. Though the vast majority of cardinals are usually secular clergy, this year's consistory will bring the number of cardinals belonging to religious congregations and institutes to 68.

The continued expansion of the college beyond traditionally Catholic Europe is also evident in the selection of cardinals belonging to missionary congregations in countries where

Catholics are a minority.

Both Cardinals-elect Archbishop Tarcisio Isao Kikuchi, SVD, of Tokyo and Archbishop Ladislav Nemet, SVD, of Belgrade-Smederevo, Serbia, belong to the Society of the Divine Word religious congregation and represent the Church in countries where the Catholic population is at 5% and below.

According to Canon 349 of the Code of Canon Law, cardinals hold the duty to act collegially in choosing a pope's successor should a conclave be convoked. However, not all cardinals hold the right to cast a vote in a conclave.

More than half of the college after the consistory is set to be "cardinal electors." These cardinals are below the age of 80 and therefore eligible to vote for a new pope.

Among the 140 cardinals with voting rights, the highest representation by country is Italy with 17 cardinal-electors, followed by the U.S. with 10 cardinal-electors, and then Spain with six cardinal-electors.

The college's remaining 113 "cardinal non-electors" are 80 years old and older. While they are eligible to participate in the meetings leading up to the start of a conclave, they do not have voting rights and so will not participate in the conclave itself.

Both the eldest and youngest College of Cardinals members will be created at the Dec. 7 consistory.

At 99, Italian Cardinal-elect Angelo Acer-

bi, the prelate emeritus of the Knights of Malta, will become the oldest member of the college. Having served the Catholic Church as a bishop for 50 years, he also has 40 years of experience working in the Holy See's diplomatic corps.

Between 1974 and 2001, he served as nuncio to New Zealand, Colombia, Hungary, Moldova, and the Netherlands.

Bishop Mykola Bychok of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Eparchy of Sts. Peter and Paul in Melbourne, Australia, will become the youngest cardinal at age 44. His elevation as cardinal will bring the total number of cardinals from the vast Oceania region to four.

In an Oct. 6 letter welcoming the new cardinals to the "Roman clergy," Pope Francis said membership to the College of Cardinals "is an expression of the Church's unity and of the bond that unites all the Churches with this Church of Rome."

The consistory for the creation of the new cardinals will take place in the Papal Chapel of St. Peter's Basilica on Saturday afternoon.



*Support And Pray
For Vocations*

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Notre Dame in Paris reopens on Dec. 8

The reopening of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, five years after the fire that devastated its roof and spires and made it unusable, is "a renaissance," Paris Archbishop Laurent Ulrich told CNA. The Paris cathedral reopened on Dec. 8, but the celebrations for the cathedral's return to worship will last until Pentecost next year. The restorations have produced a cathedral with brighter walls but intact in its original structure. In the rooster at the top of the spire, the relics of the saints of Paris — St. Louis, St. Genevieve, and a piece of Jesus' crown of thorns — which were miraculously saved from the fire — are displayed. Notre Dame is not yet be fully accessible. But the reopening is a sign that France is coming to life again. Over the last century, the cathedral has become a symbol of national unity. At the inaugural Mass on Dec. 8, the new high altar designed by Guillaume Badet was consecrated.

Judge: County can't exclude churches from grant program

Two churches in New Jersey have won a victory against county officials who were excluding them from a historic preservation grant program, a ruling that comes after a key Catholic religious liberty clinic backed their lawsuit. First Liberty Institute, a Texas-based religious liberty legal group, said in a Monday press release that the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey issued a preliminary injunction against Morris County ordering officials to allow two churches to participate in the county's Historic Preservation Trust Fund. In her ruling this week, District Judge Evelyn Padin said the case "illustrates the inherent tension" between the First Amendment's guarantee of religious freedom and its barring of government endorsement of religion. The court determined that a "likely free exercise clause violation" stemmed from the county's policy. The injunction does not order the churches to receive county funding but rather to make them eligible for it.

Mercedes-Benz presents Pope Francis new 'popemobile'

Pope Francis was handed the key to a new Mercedes-Benz "popemobile" on Wednesday by the CEO of the German luxury car brand. Ola Källenius, the CEO of Mercedes-Benz, presented the pope with a white and chrome key fob inside a white box after showing off the new open-air vehicle in a parking lot inside Vatican City on Dec. 4. The modified G-Wagon features a rotating heated seat and a heated hand rail to keep the pope warm while greeting pilgrims during winter rides around St. Peter's Square. The fully electric, white SUV is emblazoned with Francis' coat of arms, has black detailing, and has chrome rims. Two small Holy See flags wave from the front hood. The license plate of the papal ride is "SCV 1," which is the Italian acronym for Vatican City State. Mercedes-Benz has provided vehicles for the Vatican for 94 years. During the last 45 years, the pope has used "popemobiles" based on the Mercedes-Benz G-Class.

Rite readies Holy Door for jubilee opening

By Almudena Martínez-Bordiú
Catholic News Agency

On the evening Dec. 2, the rite of "recognitio" (Latin for "verification") took place in St. Peter's Basilica. This is a traditional ceremony to verify and ascertain that the Holy Door, closed during the last holy year, is intact, sealed, and ready to be reopened at the beginning of the new Jubilee 2025.

The pilgrimage to the Holy Doors is a central act of the jubilee. Passing through them during the holy year symbolizes entry into a new life in Christ and the beginning of a journey of conversion.

The ceremony began with a prayer led by the archpriest of the basilica, Cardinal Mauro Gambetti. Then the "sapiettrini," employees of the Fabric of St. Peter's who are responsible for the oversight and maintenance of the Vatican basilica, tore down the wall that seals the Holy Door inside the church.

Once the wall protecting the Holy Door was demolished, the workers removed a metal box

that had been kept inside it since the closing of the Jubilee of Mercy on Nov. 20, 2016.

The box contains the key with which the Holy Father will open the Holy Door on the evening of Dec. 24. It also contains the handles, the parchment of the act certifying its closure, four golden bricks, and some medals, including those of the pontificates of Francis, Benedict XVI, and St. John Paul II.

Gambetti was in charge of leading a procession, with the singing of the litanies of the saints, from the Holy Door to the Altar of Confession, where he paused for a moment in prayer.

The participants in the rite then proceeded to the Chapter House, where the metal box removed from the Holy Door was opened. Present were Archbishop Rino Fisichella, pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, and Archbishop Diego Ravelli, master of pontifical liturgical celebrations, who received the documents and objects of the recognitio, which will be given to Pope Francis.

On Tuesday afternoon, the

same ceremony took place for the Holy Door of St. John Lateran basilica. On Dec. 5 the rite of recognitio will take place in St. Paul Outside the Walls basilica and on Dec. 6 in St. Mary Major Basilica.

A ceremony full of meaning

The jubilee year, one of the most anticipated and important events of the Catholic Church, is marked by different solemn ceremonies with centuries of tradition.

In 1499, Pope Alexander VI wanted to define the ceremonial norms of the jubilee. He entrusted this task to the then-master of ceremonies, Johannes Bruckard, who established different rites that continue to be celebrated today, although with some variations.

From the Jubilee of 1500 until the Jubilee of 1975, it was the pope who began the construction of the wall that enclosed the Holy Door. With a hammer, made of gold and later of silver, he would symbolically strike the wall three times. Later, the masons would take charge of demolishing it completely.

The wall was usually covered

in turn by a simple wooden door, which was removed and replaced at the beginning and end of each holy year. However, on Dec. 24, 1949, it was replaced by a bronze door blessed by Pope Pius XII.

In 1975, the rite of closing the Holy Door was modified, as the trowel and bricks were no longer used, and the panels of the bronze door were simply closed, giving greater prominence to the door than to the wall.

That same year, the tradition of including a metal chest inside the wall began, since previously symbolic elements such as golden bricks were inserted with the mortar with which the wall was rebuilt.

For the Jubilee of 1983, John Paul II did not use the hammer during the opening of the Holy Door.

During the jubilees of the 20th century, each of the steps that make up the rite of recognitio were consolidated. These include the demolition of the wall, the recovery of the symbolic objects, and the solemn procession with liturgical chants.

Bill defining 'male' and 'female' introduced

By Tyler Arnold
Catholic News Agency

Several Republican lawmakers introduced legislation to clarify that the terms "male," "female," and "sex," among others, refer to the biological distinctions between men and women when those words are used in laws.

The Defining Male and Female Act of 2024, introduced by Sen. Roger Marshall from Kansas, aims to prevent government officials and courts from reinterpreting those terms through the lens of gender ideology by identifying men and women based on self-identification instead of biological distinctions.

Marshall said in a statement that he "didn't think we would need legislation to tell us that there are only two sexes, male and female, but here we are."

According to a news release, the legislation would restore the legal right to reserve girls' and women's sports and scholarships for biological girls and women. The news release also states that the bill would restore the sex separation of restrooms, locker rooms, dorm rooms, prisons, and shelters for victims of sexual assault.

"As a physician who has delivered over 5,000 babies, I can confidently say that politicizing children's gender to use

them as pawns in their radical woke agenda is not only wrong, it is extremely dangerous," Marshall said. "We must codify the legal definition of sex to be based on science rather than feelings. With our legislation, we can fight back against the Biden-Harris administration's assault on our children."

Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, said in a statement that "men and women have biological differences that must be recognized." He added that "women and girls deserve to feel safe and respected in all spaces, public and private."

The legislation is designed to unwind policies that were enacted during the administration of

President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris.

Under the current administration, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reinterpreted the Affordable Care Act's prohibition on "sex" discrimination to include any discrimination on the basis of so-called "gender identity." The rule was blocked by a judge but would have forced health care providers and insurers to cover transgender drugs and surgeries for both adults and minors.

The administration also revised Title IX regulations to redefine sex discrimination to include any discrimination based on gender identity. This could have

forced publicly funded schools and colleges to allow biological men in women's locker rooms, dormitories, and athletic competitions. However, its enforcement is limited after multiple courts blocked implementation.

"Since taking office in 2021, the Biden-Harris administration has embarked on a radical transgender agenda, preying on vulnerable youth and endangering women and girls in sports and locker rooms," Rep. Mary Miller, R-Illinois, said in a statement.

"This agenda was soundly rejected by the American people on Nov. 5, and we now have a clear mandate to stop this insanity," Miller said.

GET THE POPCORN

Experience 'Bonhoeffer'

Human beings are very complex creatures. Intellect, will, emotions, knowledge, feelings, ignorance, fear and many more characteristics all play into the life of a person. How many of these aspects of life we can balance at any one time?

In the movie "Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Spy, Assassin" these traits find a home in Dietrich Bonhoeffer along with those with whom he associates and does not associate including the German Nazis and Gestapo. The movie comes from Angel Studios which has produced several outstanding movies in recent years including "The Sound of Freedom," "Sight," and "Homestead" to name a few. Each one of the Angel movies contains themes dear to Christians as well as to people of good will and virtue.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was born on February 4, 1906, and died on April 9, 1945, hanged by German authorities for his anti-government and anti-Hitler behavior. In those 39 years, this German theologian excelled in theology, earning a doctorate

in his own country with further studies at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. At age 25, he was ordained a Lutheran pastor in Germany. Bonhoeffer authored many books and articles. Perhaps his most famous work is *The Cost of Discipleship*.

While studying in New York City, he became involved with the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem and with Pastor Adam Clayton Powell who preached a "Gospel of Social Justice." This experience was the young man's first contact with the issues of social injustice and the plight of minorities. He could not understand why the churches were not able to bring about relief for this lack of basic human justice.

Returning to his homeland, Germany, Bonhoeffer faced a different version of injustice with the Nazis persecuting those they considered inferior, namely Jews, some Catholics, as well as those born with special needs. This twisted mentality resulted in the terrible slaughters of millions of people in that era, victims of

discrimination far greater than the discrimination rampant in the United States.

While many Christians fought against discrimination in America and Germany, Bonhoeffer realized that the Lutheran Church in Germany had aligned itself with the government and did not speak out against the atrocities taking place in their country.

Bonhoeffer rallied some Lutheran clergy and others to join with him in taking action against the government and, of course, against Hitler. They infiltrated the government and designed a plan to assassinate Hitler, a plan which failed. This activity earned him the title Pastor, Spy, and Assassin.

Without a doubt, this movie illustrates the deep level of human emotions active in this struggle. Bonhoeffer's friend and cohort, Martin Niemöller, likewise a Lutheran pastor, preaches a sermon encouraging and rallying listeners to combat the government's total disregard for humanity. To emphasize his point, he says: "First, they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out because I was not a Socialist. Then, they came for the Trade Unionists,

and I did not speak out because I was not a Trade Unionist. Then, they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew. Then, they came for me, and there was no one left to speak for me."

Through all of this activity, we hear and see the actors, but, more than that, we feel their emotions, their outrage, their lack of understanding, their disapproval of the government, and their personal disapproval of their previous lack of action. As a Church, many realized that government and religion had come too close together with government imposing scandalous human behavior.

This movie is a "must see." In his own words, Bonhoeffer teaches that his religion failed to take any action against an evil government. However, his faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ motivated him and others to do what the Church leaders had neglected to do.

Ultimately, the government hanged Bonhoeffer for treasonous activity. However, he died knowing that he was faithful to the teaching that each person is made in the image and likeness of God.

Experience "Bonhoeffer."



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

Advent: Resources to grow in faith

Francesca Pollio Fenton
Catholic News Agency

As we prepare for the birth of Christ during Advent, it can be easy to get lost in the hustle and bustle of the season. But as calendars get filled up and preparations are made, here are four resources to help you get ready to enter into the deeper meaning of Christmas.

Hallow

This year for Advent, take part in Hallow's Advent Pray25 Prayer Challenge beginning on Dec. 2. The prayer challenge includes reading and meditating on "A Severe Mercy" by Sheldon Vanauken alongside

Catholic actor Jonathan Roumie, adventurer and survivalist Bear Grylls, and Sister Agnus Dei of the Sisters of Life. Biblical scholar Jeff Cavins and author Francis Chan will also reflect on Scripture. Plus, Roumie and Father Chrysostom Bear will dive into the book "A Divine Intimacy," a book of Carmelite meditations, alongside Catholic actor Kevin James.

On Saturdays during the Advent prayer challenge, listeners will encounter God's love through music with Gwen Stefani, Lauren Daigle, Matt Maher, and Sarah Kroger.

Ascension

Join Father Mike

Schmitz for Face to Face: Advent with Fr. Mike Schmitz on the Ascension app. Schmitz will take you on a journey through daily video reflections and Scripture passages to discover who God is, who we are, and how we are made worthy to stand in his presence. The theme of the program focuses on the idea of how we would live Advent differently if we knew that Christmas Day was the day we were going to die. One would have to live it with more purpose, intentionality, and grace. Through this Advent program, Schmitz encourages us to live Advent differently and prepares us to meet

God face to face.

Word on Fire

Bishop Robert Barron's "Advent Gospel Reflections" is a devotional booklet that invites readers into the prayerful nature of the season. It features the full Gospel reading for each day of Advent, a daily reflection from Barron, and space for journaling and to answer reflection questions. This book is great for an individual seeking to grow in his or her faith during Advent as well as families or parishes seeking to grow together.

EWTN Religious Catalogue

The EWTN Religious Catalogue offers a variety of Advent devotion-

als including "Advent Reflections: Meditations for a Holy Advent," "Advent with Our Lady of Fatima" by Donna Marie Cooper O'Boyle, and "The Jesse Tree: An Advent Devotion" by Eric and Suzan Sammons. Each of these devotionals offers daily reflections and meditations to help you find peace in Christ amid the hustle and bustle.



SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

Experiencing the joy

The first reading affirms this message: "Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel! Be glad and exult." Soon, at Christmas, we will sing: "Joy to the world. The Lord has come."

Advent is truly a season to prepare for joy, even to express joy. After all, no matter what may be voiced outside of church, we are about to celebrate the birth of our Savior, God become man.

Simon and Garfunkel, The Seekers, The Chad Mitchell Trio, and many others captured this joy when they recorded the African American spiritual about Jesus coming into the world that has these profound but simple words: "Well, you can tell the world about this; you can tell the nations

about that; Tell 'em what the Master has done; tell 'em that the gospel has come; Tell 'em that the victory has been won; he brought joy, joy, joy, joy, joy, joy, joy into my heart!"

We often hear people tell stories about the meaning of Christmas that end up with the phrase: "That's what Christmas is all about." That may be true as long as in some way we recognize that ultimately it is Jesus who

brings joy, joy, joy into our hearts. Any Christmas joy, any holiday cheer, any Christ spirit that is not somehow rooted in the fundamental joy that Christ brings to our lives only imitates joy.

This Sunday is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday because of the



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

December 15

Third Sunday of Advent

READINGS

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:10-18

overriding theme of joy expressed in the readings. There is joy in the prophecy, words of joy from Paul because of the great gift given to us by Jesus.

The joy, rooted in Jesus, finds its fulfillment in the forgiveness of our sins. Certainly, that joy renews itself each time we approach the sacrament of reconciliation. The forgiveness of our sins first began at baptism with the removal of original sin and continues each time we pray, offer good works. And that forgiveness of sin is guaranteed in the sacrament of penance.

Our reasons for joy do not stop at the forgiveness of sins. The Good News of Jesus gives us a different vision of life, our lives whose purposes exceed merely living. We believe in heaven as our ultimate destiny. Our vision tells us that our lives, once begun, continue into eternity.

Our Christian vision of life finds fulfillment in eternal life. But, we are very much grounded here on earth. In our earthly existence, the Good News of Jesus gives us a vision of the human person beyond any other vision. We are called to greatness because of God's love for us. We are called to exercise that greatness even here on earth.

Of course, all of this gets shattered when we hear about tragic events rooted in hatred, bigotry, selfishness and pride. Nothing can explain such

tragedies that affect the core of human life and human potential. The destruction of human life is the exact opposite of Christ's message that should cause joy in our lives. Christ calls us to so much more. That is why we are gifted with life in the first place.

So, we know that our vocation is a call to greatness in Christ. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, the author of life, we pray that we may all recognize the greatness and beauty of the life God has given us and that we may always protect human life, both born and unborn. The joy that we should experience at this time of the year is the joy given to us by God himself in human life, a life that has been exalted and raised up through Jesus Christ. Because of Christ, our joy is not restricted to one day but to life itself.

CALLED TO SERVE

'Write about anything'

This column marks an anniversary, I think.

By my reckoning, this is the start of volume five of *Called To Serve*.

That does not mean I started writing this column five years ago, but it is close.

I reference each column by the *North Country Catholic* publication date and by the number of this particular column from one to fifty-two. Each group of fifty-two becomes a volume.

It sounds complicated, but it really is not.

I blame my obsession with numbering each column on my days working in a library. In the bank library where I started, we used a varia-

tion of the Dewey Decimal System.

The Dewey Decimal System is a library classification system that helps organize books by subject. Melvil Dewey first published the system in the United States in 1876. Dewey was born in Adams Center, New York, in 1851.

Called To Serve resulted from the musings of the publisher of this paper, Bishop Terry LaValley. Bishop commented at several meetings a while back that the *North Country Catholic* should have a column about the deacons of the diocese.

The editor, Darcy Fargo, agreed. How can you

say "no" to the publisher who happens to be bishop?

I volunteered to take a stab at producing a column but not until Darcy said the magic words: "You can write about anything on your mind."

That sealed the deal.

That means you, dear reader, have been subject to this writer's whims, stories, opinions, observations, and an occasional fact or two more than two hundred times.

This column has been a useful tool for educat-

ing folks about deacons, the Mass and Church doctrine. A deacon writes it. Through my tales, I hope to leave you with the opinion that deacons are people too and come from every conceivable background. That is an important vocation piece.



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

Deacons in this diocese have wonderful personal stories of their own journey of faith. A goal for this volume is to highlight some of them.

Another goal is to illuminate the role of the spouse in the deacon's

formation and diaconal life. Did you know that a man cannot be ordained a deacon without his wife's approval?

Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. We rejoice with joyful expectation at the birth of Jesus Christ and the Second Coming. We light the rose-colored candle on our Advent wreaths.

It is also time to label a new folder *Called To Serve*, Volume 5.

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

Thanks and Advent blessings

The November 27 edition of the paper incorrectly listed last year's Giving Tuesday total. The correct total raised in 2023 was \$360.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg for Giving Tuesday! We are very thankful for your generous gifts and prayers for the missions. Together we were able to SURPASS our goal of \$1,000 to raise a total of \$1,025! This money will be sent to Rome where it will then be distributed to the Church's mission dioceses to support the physical and spiritual needs of the children around the world!

Will you bring the light of Christ to people whose world is shrouded in the darkness of war and poverty?

As the Advent season unfolds, we take time to reflect on God's many blessings — including the blessings of friends like you whose kind-



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

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

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ness and compassion supports our global missionary work in the poorest and most remote areas of the globe.

But while you and I prepare to joyfully celebrate the birth of Christ with our loved ones, there are innumerable people around the world who are struggling to survive amidst turbulent and challenging circumstances — including the people of Burkina Faso. This small and impoverished country in West Africa is home to over 20 million people, nearly half of whom are children in desperate need of humanitarian assistance.

Burkina Faso has endured years of political instability

and escalating violence, pushing over 1.2 million people from their homes. Among the displaced are hundreds of thousands of children. They've lost their homes, their ability to attend school, and their very sense of basic physical safety, often being forced into child labor.

One such child is Coulibaly Félicien. He hails from the Diocese of Nouna, where the situation is particularly dire: "One evening, on our way home from school, some armed men stopped us. They told us to tear up our notebooks, then they burned our backpacks and our school as well," Félicien recalls. Forced

to flee his home, Félicien's dreams of continuing his education seemed impossible.

In mission territories such as Nouna, the Church strives to provide children with the basics they need to survive — food, education, and a safe environment — as well as the knowledge that they too are loved by Christ. I hope you will make a gift to sustain this kind of transformational work in Burkina Faso — and all over the world — during this holy season.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for helping us make this a season of true peace, joy, and hope for children who need it the most. May the peace and joy of Christ be with you as we prepare to celebrate birth of our Lord.

Together in His Mission,
Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ
Director



Knights from St. Joseph's/Assumption of Mary Council # 2166 in Dannemora and Redford (pictured above) prepared and hosted a spaghetti meal and silent auction to assist the family of our longtime brother Knight and former Grand Knight Mike Lavigne. Lavigne recently underwent a heart transplant operation in Boston following a lengthy illness. The event raised more than \$15,000 to help the family (pictured right) with medical and travel expenses during his hospital stay and rehabilitation. The St. Joseph's and Assumption of Mary parishioners came out in full force to support and show our appreciation for Mike and Amy in their time of need, just as they have done for others many times before.



OBITUARIES

Brushton — Paula M. (Follett) Niles, 71; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 2, 2024 at St. Mary's Church.

Canton — Steven J. Glasgow, 54; Memorial Services Nov. 26, 2024 at St. Mary's Church.

Canton — Don H. Rasmussen, 80; Private services Nov. 30, 2024.

Carthage — Hudson John Pacella, Infant; Funeral Services Dec. 5, 2024 at Bezanilla=McGraw Funeral Home.

Carthage — Henry S. Watkins, 96; Funeral Services Dec. 6, 2024 at Bezanilla-McGraw Funeral Home; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Chateaugay — James F. McCormick, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 25, 2024 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, QC.

Chazy — Krystol I. (Garrow) Barriere, 59; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 2, 2024 at Sacred Heart Church.

Colton — Carole J. (Aldous) Dominy, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 7, 2024 at St. Patrick's Church.

Croghan — William E. Fuller, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 29, 2024 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in Petries Corners Cemetery.

Ellenburg — Ronald J. Tomo, 69; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 30, 2024 at St. Edmund's Church.

Hammond — J. Michael Martin, 59; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 30, 2024 at St. Peter's Church.

Keeseville — Jean (Devins) Hough, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 7, 2024 at St. John's Church.

Lake Placid — Stephen John Rand, 73; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 26, 2024 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Massena — Walter J. Bogdovitz, 87; Graveside Services Dec. 7, 2024 at Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Daniel R. Truax, 60; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 4, 2024 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville — Arlene M. (Ackey) Defayette, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 29, 2024 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in Plattsburgh Mausoleum.

Morrisonville — Patrick F. O'Brien, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 5, 2024 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Chateaugay.

Norwood — Martha Rebecca (Planty) Cutler, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 27, 2024 at St. Andrews Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Susan N. (Ty) Long, 67; Funeral Services Dec. 7, 2024 at Oswegatchie Mausoleum.

Ogdensburg — Keith L. Shaver, Sr., 76; Funeral Services Dec. 6, 2024 at Frary Funeral home; burial in Oswegatchie Mausoleum.

Peru — Margaret Ann "Meg" (Squires) Duquette, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 4, 2024 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Peru — Louise Noela (Carte) Jozwiak, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 2, 2024 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — William G. Buttery

Jr., 87; Private Services to be held.

Plattsburgh — Maurice "Moss" Harnisch, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 3, 2024 at St. John's Church; burial in Omaha National Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Robert L. LaJoy, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 6, 2024 at St. Peter's Church; burial in the parish columbarium.

Plattsburgh — John F. Nephew, 47; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 3, 2024 at St. Peter's Church.

Plattsburgh — Anias D. "Sam" Thornton, II, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 6, 2024 at St. Peter's Church.

Port Leyden — Douglas A. Bourgeois, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 4, 2024 at St. Martin's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Potsdam — Milton J. Snell, 58; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 4, 2024 at St. Mary's Church.

Sackets Harbor — Richard L. Gorman, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 30, 2024 at St. Andrews Church.

Star Lake — Rita M. (Lashomb) Refici, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 26, 2024 at St. Hubert's Church; burial in Cranberry Lake Cemetery.

Tupper Lake — Jeremy John Boushie, 39; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 7, 2024 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Tupper Lake — Cynthia (Riley) Dukett, 63; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 27, 2024 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

Turin — Theresa Ann (Jackson) Croneiser, 61; Funeral Services Dec. 10, 2024 at Trainor Funeral Home, Inc, Boonville.

Watertown — Donna A. (Emery) Mathar, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 11, 2024 at Our Lady of

FOR THE FEAST



Father Donald A. Robinson, pastor, made it through the snow storm to St. Andrew's Church on Nov. 30 with help from Mike Salaun to celebrate Mass and join a small celebration of the Feast of St. Andrew.



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