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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 79 Number 13

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JUNE 26, 2024

## 100 YEARS IN THE MAKING

A crane from Luck Brothers Inc. hosts a 14-foot steeple with an 8-foot cross to its spot on top of the bell tower at St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid. The pointed steeple, constructed by JFP Enterprises Inc. and placed on June 17, was part of the original blueprints for the church but was removed from the construction due to cost constraints. Almost exactly 100 years after ground was broken for the church's construction, the plans are now completed. See the full story on Page 3



## COMPASSIONATE COMPANIONS



"In my role, I've seen firsthand the challenges that many seniors face, from loneliness and isolation to difficulties with daily tasks," said Father Christopher J. Looby, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga and Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Schroon Lake, on Wednesday, June 12. On that day, Mercy Care of the Adirondacks hosted a luncheon at the K of C to introduce Southern Adirondack Compassionate Companions to interested members of the community.

Photo and story courtesy of Shaundra Bartlett Yaw of Sun Community News

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## Pope Francis: Learn some Psalms by heart

By Hannah Brockhaus  
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis said there are Psalms to fit any need and that they should be learned by heart and repeated often.

"It is necessary to make the Psalms our prayer," the pope said at his general audience in an overcast but hot and muggy St. Peter's Square on June 19.

Continuing his series of catechesis on the Holy Spirit and the Church, he explained that the Psalms "are the songs that the Spirit himself has placed on the lips of the Bride, his Church."

"If there are Psalms, or just verses, that speak to our heart,

it is good to repeat them and pray them during the day. The Psalms are prayers 'for all seasons'; there is no state of mind or need that does not find in them the best words to be transformed into prayer," he said.

Speaking to a crowd of Catholics and tourists, he pointed out specific Psalms that could be helpful to pray in different circumstances, such as Psalm 50 for when one is feeling bad for having sinned.

He also recommended Psalm 51 for when one is feeling oppressed by remorse or guilt for being a sinner. "We can repeat with David: 'Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy stead-

fast love,'" he said.

"If we want to express a strong personal bond with love, let us say: 'O God, thou art my God I seek thee, my soul thirsts for thee; my flesh faints for thee, as in a dry and weary land where no water is,' Psalm 63," he continued.

"And if fear and anguish assail us, those wonderful words of Psalm 23 come to our rescue: 'The Lord is my shepherd ... Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil.'"

The pontiff told listeners that there are many Psalms that can help them in their day-to-day lives. He added that the Psalms

do not lose their effectiveness by being repeated many times, unlike other prayers.

"Form the habit of praying with the Psalms. I assure you that you will be happy in the end," Francis said.

He drew attention to another beautiful aspect of praying with the Psalms: the fact that they help one avoid reducing prayer to just a series of requests to the Lord — "give me, give us..."

"The Psalms help us open ourselves to a prayer that is less focused on ourselves: a prayer of praise, of blessing, of thanksgiving; and they also help us give voice to all creation, involving it in our praise," he said.

NORTH  
COUNTRY  
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USPS 0039-3400**Bishop Terry  
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# I love it anyway

It was structurally sound, but it had surface rust on parts of it, and the hand grips were blackened with grime.

It was exactly the walker I wanted.

Why did I want a rusty, dirty walker? Because I wanted something I could paint, and I knew there was a good chance I'd mess up the paint job. I didn't want to ruin a walker that was in perfect or even good condition.

I'm awful at painting, especially spray painting. I can think of exactly two

projects I've previously tried to spray paint, and both projects ended with me frustrated by drip marks my sub-par painting skills left on inside corners. Both times, I walked away angry. With both of those projects, I eventually removed all the paint I had applied and asked someone else - someone good with a spray can - to paint the projects for me.

I've been trying to get better at accepting imperfections and failures. With that in mind, I brought

home the rusty walker, purchased a beautiful purple paint, did some cleaning, sanding and prep work, and I started painting.

While I made reasonable efforts to fix my mistakes, and there were many, I also tried to be ok with imperfections - including drip marks on inside corners. I didn't get any better at avoiding those.

Each time I walk past that now-purple walker, I notice the imperfections. Despite them, I love the purple walker. I keep thinking about how it started - rusty, damaged and unwanted. Is it perfect

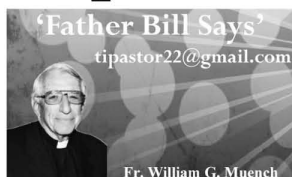
now? Absolutely not. I love it anyway, and I'm glad I worked to improve it.

While I'll never be able to fully understand God, I think he sees me the same way. With his grace and his help, I keep trying to get rid of some of my rust and grime - my sinfulness and the lesser parts of my personality. I still have plenty of imperfections and flaws ("plenty" is probably an understatement), but I'm confident God loves me - loves all of us - despite the imperfections and takes joy in every improvement he's helped make.

We're exactly what he wanted.

**Darcy L.  
Fargo**

## 'A perfect delight'



plan, I just find some empty spaces around the yard - spread the seeds - then nature takes over - and up come the unique blossoms.

I discovered the North Country as a young kid. I was a Boy Scout, and we hiked and camped in the Adirondacks. Then I became a priest and was assigned to the Diocese of Ogdensburg. I was able to continue to enjoy the beauty of the Adirondacks always nearby. After all these years, I have continued to love the beauty of the mountains and have continued to wander through the Adirondacks. God has been very good to me.

Early on, my priest friends introduced me to downhill skiing. I was able to enjoy the mountains skiing with my friends. I must admit to you that I really enjoyed skiing - especially

in the Adirondacks. What a glorious way to enjoy the mountains - skiing in the Adirondacks and spending time with my friends. Thank you, God.

This diocese is such a great place. As a priest and a pastor, I have lived in such beautiful places. Many of my parishes were right on gorgeous lakes. I remember them all - Lake Ontario, Lake Champlain, Lake George, Chateaugay Lake, Lake Brantingham, Saranac Lake, Lake Placid - I am certain there were many others.

And, oh yes, there were rivers, too. As a seminarian, I studied on the shores of the St. Lawrence River. Then, as a priest, I served near that magnificent river. Over the years I have played golf near all sorts of water ways of this diocese. In fact, I know well that I have lost many golf balls in the rivers, the lakes, the creeks, the ponds of the North Country, and I have enjoyed every minute of it.

So, you see, for all these years of my priesthood, I have been rather blessed the Diocese of Ogdens-

burg has been my home. I know almost every inch of it. I have loved every year of my priestly ministry up here with all of you folks. This has been my vocation. The Lord called me to become a priest but even more to be a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Recently, a friend gave me a book that he discovered written by Father John Talbot Smith. It was written a long time ago - like the early 1900s - about the early history of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. I simply love his description of our diocese: "At all seasons of the year the natural beauties of the territory are more varied and striking than pen can describe. The mountain lakes and charming rivers, the wilderness, the mountains, the cultivated valleys and pretty towns, the soft colors of spring, the repose of summer, the gorgeousness of autumn, the stormy glories of winter, and above all the clear, beautiful, sparkling atmosphere make the region a perfect delight to those who live among them."



# Steeple project was 100 years in the making

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

On June 17, a project 100 years in the making was completed at St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid.

That day, the bell tower at the church was capped with a 14-foot peak and an 8-foot Celtic cross.

"The original architecture plans of D.D. Kieff of Watertown, NY, were scaled back because of cost," wrote Father John R. Yonkovig, pastor of St. Agnes Church, in a statement. "The blueprints of the original steeple had a traditional peaked roof pointing to the heavens. This feature, along with others, was eliminated to cut costs."

Instead, the bell tower was originally completed with a flat roof, which Father Yonkovig said has been a source of leaks and water issues for years.

The flat roof was also the source of questions for years, the pastor said.

"A few people did ask why we had a flat roof," Father Yonkovig said. "It never looked right to them. I came across the old blueprints when I was cleaning out a closet. When we renovated the interior of the church in 2013, the contractor was asking about the old blueprints, and I went looking for them."

The ground was broken and excavating work began to construct the church on June 2, 1924, 100 years and a couple of weeks before the steeple and cross were installed.

The new steeple top



(Left) Parishioners say St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid 'finally looks finished' after the installation of a 14-foot steeple topped with an 8-foot Celtic cross. (Right) The structure was constructed in the church parking lot and then hoisted into place by a 180-foot crane.



was built by JFP Enterprises, Inc. of Plattsburgh. The company used the original 1924 plans to guide the construction process.

Weighing in at eight tons, the structure was lifted and placed by a 180-foot crane owned and operated by Luck Brothers Inc., "to the applause and cheers of many parishioners and school children," Father Yonkovig said.

Since the installation, Father Yonkovig said he's been amazed at how many people echo the same comment: "It finally looks finished. It looks like it has always been there."

"It's a testimony to the integrity of the original design of the architecture," he said.

The steeple construction and installation

were made possible by the diocesan Capital Campaign.

"The 2018 Capital Campaign of the Diocese was designed to update and strengthen the parish buildings for the next generation," Father Yonkovig said. "The steeple improvement is the last of the projects from this campaign at St. Agnes."

Father Yonkovig said he hopes the completed project - the completed church - will inspire Lake Placid residents and visitors.

"It is now the highest part in the village," he told WPTZ news, the NBC affiliate for the eastern part of the diocese. "I think from the lake and anywhere else, one will see that cross and, hopefully, their spirits will be lifted up."

**YOUTH SERVER  
APPRECIATION DAY!  
CAMP GUGGENHEIM  
MONDAY, AUG 12, 2024  
10AM - 3 PM**



**Youth Altar Servers,  
Lectors, Greeters, Choir  
and Faith Formation  
Assistants are invited with  
your family!**

**MASS WITH  
BISHOP LAVALLEY!**

**GAMES,  
FOOD, FUN,  
AWARDS!**



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Questions: Call Anita Soltero, Youth Director  
518-310-3669 or [asoltero@rcdony.org](mailto:asoltero@rcdony.org)

*Sponsored by the Vocations and  
Youth Department, Diocese of Ogdensburg*

# Church community 'to support our older adults'

*Editor's note: The following article was written for and first published by Sun Community News, a product of Denton Publications, Inc. It is reprinted here with permission.*

**By Shaundra Bartlett Yaw**  
Sun Community News

For many of the North Country's elderly in the North Country, the Golden Years are not so golden—it is a time when they are faced with a growing epidemic.

Instead of enjoying retirement bliss and basking in the glow of children and grandchildren, there is an ever-growing population of senior citizens that as they reach the final lap of life, are left alone, isolated, with empty days and nights haunting their existences. They suffer in mind, body, and spirit, tortured by memories both good and bad and living as prisoners within their own homes.

It is a grim reality, but one that St. Mary's Catholic Church and Schroon's Our Lady of Lourdes will be tackling head on. In their newest mission, the parishes will be joining forces with Mercy Care for the Adirondacks and introducing the Southern Adirondack Compassionate Companions to their communities.

"In my role, I've seen firsthand the challenges that many seniors face, from loneliness and isolation to difficulties with daily tasks," said Father Chris Looby of St. Mary's. "This program is going to be a great thing for our community because it addresses a growing need to sup-

## Training sessions planned

Friendship Volunteer training sessions will be held at St. Mary's Church, 64 Amherst Avenue, Ticonderoga, on Sept. 17 and Nov. 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Catered lunch will be provided. Registration is now open. Please call 518-547-0782, or email [compassionate-care83@gmail.com](mailto:compassionate-care83@gmail.com) to reserve your spot.

port our older adults as they age in place."

According to Donna Beal, Executive Director at Mercy Care (which is funded solely by charitable contributions and private foundations), the program will address the needs of the community's elderly by enhancing their lives by responding through direct service, including consultation, advice, or referral. Volunteer services may be offered in collaboration with family members and in partnership with community organizations, social service agencies, health-care providers, and faith communities.

Southern Adirondack Compassionate Companions welcomes volunteers and car receivers of all faiths, and no faith. They will offer spiritual care in accordance with each individual's personal desires, values, and faith in collaboration with the care receiver's faith community, if they so choose. There will be no income requirements and services will be provided at no charge, freely given by kind and compassionate volunteers. These volunteers

continuously remain surprised at how even the most innocuous of exchanges can have a significant impact on an elderly person. There are friendly home visits, crafts or gardening, assistance with meal preparation, friendly phone conversations, recreational games, shopping assistance, running errands, and transportation to appointments and events. Public transportation is practically barren in the North Country, and this act alone is a God-send to so many of the elderly.

Beal said the Surgeon General of USA issued an op ed recently, reporting loneliness is more than just a sad feeling; when people are socially disconnected their risk of anxiety and depression increases, so does their risk of heart disease by 29 percent, dementia by 50 percent, and stroke by 32 percent. The increased risk of premature death associated with social disconnection is comparable to smoking daily and may be even greater than the risks associated with obesity."

Clearly, Homo sapiens

are not meant to be cut off from society. In the primitive days of man when humans existed and flourished with tribes, the elderly were part of the family until their bodies returned to the earth. Millennia later, human nature has not changed. People still need other people for a myriad of reasons, the root being genuine connection. Volunteers will be able to provide not only companionship, but offer a lifeline to a forgotten someone who has slipped through the cracks of society due to the unfair circle of life.

"In a survey by AARP Foundation, those who have low income are especially vulnerable," Beal said, adding that seniors with an annual income of less than \$25,000 reported being lonely.

According to the New York State Office for the Aging, by 2040 in the Adirondack North Country region the only population growth projected is in the category of people over the age of 60. The need for Mercy Care's services will grow, and so will the need for caring, empathetic residents to offer their kindness and time, if only a few hours a week.

"By recruiting and training Friendship Volunteers, we can provide essential companionship and assistance, helping our older neighbors maintain their independence and quality of life," Looby said. "This program embodies the spirit of compassion and community that we strive to foster, making a real difference in the lives of those we serve."

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST

## REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

Eternal Father,  
we lift up to you these  
and all the priests of the world.  
Sanctify them.  
Heal and guide them.  
Mold them into the likeness and  
holiness of your Son, Jesus,  
the Eternal High Priest.  
May their lives be pleasing to  
you. In Jesus' name we pray.  
Amen

(With ecclesiastical approval)

Mass  
Rosary  
Fasting  
Day Offering  
Eucharistic Adoration  
Offering of Sufferings  
Divine Mercy Chaplet

Or whatever the Lord  
inspires you to offer Him

**July**




**Precious Blood**

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY	1 REV. JOHN R. YONKOVIG	2 REV. PHILIP T. ALLEN	3 REV. ANDREW J. AMYOT	4 REV. MEDENEL ANGRAND	5 REV. PIERRE AUBIN, MSC
6 MSGR. ROBERT H. AUCOIN	7 OUR PASTOR	8 REV. SCOTT A. BELINA	9 REV. CORNELLE EKILA BOYEYE, MSC	10 REV. TIMOTHY J. CANAANI	11 REV. LEAGON JAMES CARLIN	12 REV. CHRISTOPHER C. CARRARA
13 REV. GERALD A. CERANK	14 POPE FRANCIS	15 TOJO CHACKO, HCN	16 REV. DANIEL L. CHAPIN	17 REV. MARTIN E. CLINE	18 REV. DOUGLAS G. COMSTOCK	19 REV. MATTHEW S. CONGER
20 REV. THEODORE A. CROSBY	21 DECEASED PRIESTS	22 PEDRO EDGARDO DE LA ROSA	23 REV. DOUGLAS A. DECKER	24 REV. ROBERT L. DECKER	25 REV. DAVID DELUCA, MSC	26 REV. GARVIN J. DEMARAIS
27 REV. RICHARD D. DEMERS	28 REV. JOHN M. DEMO	29 REV. RAYMOND DIESBOURG, MSC	30 REV. JOHN L. DOWNS	31	<p><i>For more copies contact:</i> Diocese of Ogdensburg PO Box 369 Ogdensburg, NY 13669</p>	

A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated.  
The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by:  Diocese of Ogdensburg, Vocations Society, [www.mvocation.net](http://www.mvocation.net)

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UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT, NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re: The Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, New York, Debtor. Case No. 20-30663 Chapter 11

PUBLICATION NOTICE OF HEARING TO CONSIDER CONFIRMATION OF THE JOINT CHAPTER 11 PLAN OF REORGANIZATION FOR THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE, NEW YORK AND RELATED MATTERS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. On April 16, 2024, The Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, New York ("Diocese") filed a disclosure statement (the "Disclosure Statement") and a joint chapter 11 plan of reorganization with the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the "Joint Plan"). The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of New York (the "Bankruptcy Court") entered an order approving the Disclosure Statement on April 3, 2024 (the "Disclosure Statement Order"). A hearing to consider confirmation of the Joint Plan (the "Confirmation Hearing") is scheduled to commence on **September 16, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. (prevailing Eastern Time)**, or as soon thereafter as counsel may appear and be heard, before the Honorable Wendy A. Kinsella, Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of New York, or such other judge as may be sitting in her stead in the James M. Hanley U.S. Courthouse and Federal Building, 100 South Clinton Street, Syracuse, NY 13261.

2. The Confirmation Hearing may be adjourned or continued without further notice except as announced in open court or filed on the Court's docket. The Joint Plan may be modified, if necessary, prior to, during, or as a result of the Confirmation Hearing, without further notice to creditors or other parties in interest, unless such notice is required by the Bankruptcy Code, Bankruptcy Rules, or other applicable law.

3. Pursuant to the Disclosure Statement Order, the deadline for submitting a Ballot voting to accept or reject the Joint Plan is **July 1, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time)** (the "**Vote Deadline**"). In order for your vote to be counted, your Ballot must be completed and returned in accordance with the instructions provided on the Ballot so that it is received by the Vote Deadline.

4. The Joint Plan provides for the reorganization of the Diocese's financial affairs and for distributions to creditors from the Diocese's assets. The Joint Plan also provides for a Trust to make distributions to holders of Abuse Claims against the Diocese and the Parishes, schools, and Other Catholic Organizations who are Participating Parties under the Joint Plan. If the Joint Plan is confirmed, the Trust will be funded by contributions from the Diocese, the Participating Parties and Settling Insurers, and certain claims against Non-Settling Insurers will be assigned to the Trust. The confirmation and effectiveness of the Joint Plan are subject to material conditions precedent, some of which may not be satisfied.

5. The Joint Plan contemplates releases and injunctions in furtherance of the Joint Plan, including a Channelling Injunction that permanently channels all Abuse Claims against the Diocese and the Participating Parties to the Trust. A list of the Participating Parties is set forth on **Exhibit A** attached hereto. The Joint Plan further proposes a Supplemental Settling Insurer Injunction that permanently enjoins the assertion of any Claims against the Settling Insurers or the Settling Insurer Policies (including, among other things, Insurance Claims, Abuse Claims, and Extra-Contractual Claims). There are no Settling Insurers at this time. The Joint Plan also includes a full release of the Released Parties and their respective property, from among other things, any and all Claims relating to the Diocese, the Participating Parties, the Estate, and the conduct of the Diocese's and the Protected Parties' businesses. For the specific terms and conditions of all the releases and injunctions in the Joint Plan, and the precise scope of the Claims to be channeled and/or enjoined, please review the Joint Plan in its entirety, available at <https://case.stretto.com/dioceseofsyracuse>.

6. Any objections or responses to the Joint Plan must conform to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure and the Local Bankruptcy Rules for the Northern District of New York and be filed with the Court and served upon the following parties no later than August 21, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. (E): (i) counsel to the Diocese, Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC, One Lincoln Center, Syracuse, NY 13202, Attn: Stephen A. Donato, Charles J. Sullivan, and Grayson T. Walter, (ii) the Office of the United States Trustee for the Northern District of New York, 10 Broad Street, Room 105, Utica, NY 13501, Attn: Erin Champion, (iii) counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, Stinson LLP, Attn: Robert T. Kugler & Edwin H. Caldle, 50 South Sixth Street, Suite 2600, Minneapolis, MN 55402, and (iv) those persons who have formally appeared and requested service in this case pursuant to Rule 2002 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure.

IF THE JOINT PLAN IS CONFIRMED AND THE EFFECTIVE DATE OCCURS, ALL HOLDERS OF CLAIMS AGAINST THE DIOCESE (INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, HOLDERS OF CLAIMS WHO DO NOT VOTE TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE JOINT PLAN OR WHO ARE NOT ENTITLED TO VOTE) WILL BE BOUND BY THE TERMS OF THE JOINT PLAN AND THE TRANSACTIONS DESCRIBED THEREIN. **IF YOU HOLD CLAIMS AGAINST THE DIOCESE, THE PARISHES, SCHOOLS AND OTHER CATHOLIC ORGANIZATIONS COMPRISING THE PARTICIPATING PARTIES, OR THE SETTLING INSURERS, YOUR RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED BY THE JOINT PLAN AND THE TRANSACTIONS DESCRIBED THEREIN. THEREFORE, YOU SHOULD READ THE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT, JOINT PLAN, AND RELATED MATERIALS CAREFULLY AND DISCUSS THEM WITH YOUR ATTORNEY. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE AN ATTORNEY, YOU MAY WISH TO CONSULT ONE.**

Copies of the Disclosure Statement, the Joint Plan, and other related documents are available at <https://case.stretto.com/dioceseofsyracuse> or by calling 855.329.4244.

Dated: May 9, 2024, Syracuse, New York, **BOND, SCHOENECK & KING, PLLC**, By: */s/ Stephen A. Donato*, Stephen A. Donato, Charles J. Sullivan, Grayson T. Walter, Office and Post Office Address: 110 West Fayette Street, One Lincoln Center, Syracuse, New York 13202-1355, Telephone: (315) 218-8000, Facsimile: (315) 218-8100, Email: [donato@bsk.com](mailto:donato@bsk.com), [sullivan@bsk.com](mailto:sullivan@bsk.com), [walterg@bsk.com](mailto:walterg@bsk.com), *Counsel to The Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, New York*

Dated: May 9, 2024, Syracuse, New York, **STINSON LLP**, By: */s/ Robert T. Kugler*, Robert T. Kugler (admitted pro hac vice), Edwin H. Caldle (admitted pro hac vice), 50 South Sixth Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402, Telephone: (612) 335-1500, Facsimile: (612) 335-1657, Email: [robert.kugler@stinson.com](mailto:robert.kugler@stinson.com), [ed.caldle@stinson.com](mailto:ed.caldle@stinson.com), *Counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors*

EXHIBIT A - List of Participating Parties

Parishes

**Parish Corporation Name, City - Zip:** St. Agnes Church of Afton, NY, Afton, NY 13730; St. John the Evangelist, Bainbridge, NY 13733; St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church, Baldwinsville, NY, Baldwinsville, NY 13027; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church of the Town of Clay, NY, Baldwinsville, NY 13027; St. Marys Church of Baldwinsville, NY, Baldwinsville, NY 13027; Church of St. Francis of Assisi (Renamed)-Inc as St. Catherine of Siena, Binghamton, NY 13901; St. Mary of the Assumption (combined with St. Mary's Church), Binghamton, NY 13901; St. Paul's Church, Binghamton, NY, Binghamton, NY 13901; St. Christopher Roman Catholic Church [Town of Chenango, Broome County], Binghamton, NY 13901; St. Andrew's Church of Binghamton, Binghamton, NY 13903; The Church of Saints John & Andrew, Binghamton, NY 13903; Church of St. Stanislaus Kostka, Binghamton NY (merged into St. Ann), Binghamton, NY 13905; Church of the Holy Trinity, Binghamton, NY 13905; Ss Cyril & Methodius Slovak Roman Catholic Church of Binghamton, NY, Binghamton, NY 13905; St. Joseph's Lithuanian Roman Catholic Church of Binghamton NY (merged in St. Ann), Binghamton, NY 13905; St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Binghamton, NY, Binghamton, NY 13905; St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Binghamton, NY 13905; St. Catherine of Siena Roman Catholic Church, Binghamton, 13901; St. John the Evangelist Church, Binghamton, 13903; St. Ann Catholic Church (renamed church of the Holy Trinity), Binghamton 13905; St. Joseph's Church, Boonville, NY, Boonville, NY 13309; St. Agnes Church, Brewerton, NY 13029; Church of St. Francis of Assisi of Bridgeport, NY, Bridgeport, NY 13030; St. John's Church Society, Camden, NY 13316; St. Joseph's Church of Camillus, NY, Camillus, NY 13031; St. Agatha's Church, Canastota, NY 13032; St. James Church, Cazenovia, NY, Cazenovia, NY 13035; Divine Mercy Parish Roman Catholic Church, Central Square, NY 13036; Saint Michael's Roman Catholic Church, Central Square, NY 13036; St. Anthony of Padua's Church of Willowvale and Chadwicks, Chadwicks, NY 13319; St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church of Chadwicks, New York, Chadwicks, NY 13319; St. Rita's Roman Catholic Church, Chenango Forks, NY 13746; St. Patrick's Church, Chittenango NY, Chittenango, NY 13037; The Church of the Sacred Heart, Cicero, NY 13039; Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church of Cincinnati, NY, Cincinnati, NY 13040; St. Patrick's Church, Clayville, NY 13322; St. Mary's Church, Cleveland, NY, Cleveland, NY 13042; St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Clinton, Clinton, NY 13323; The Church of Annunciation, Clinton, NY 13323; St. Bernadette's Church, Constantia, NY, Constantia, NY 13044; St. Anthony's Church, Cortland, NY 13045; St. Mary's Church of Cortland, Cortland, NY 13045; St. Joseph's Church, Deposit, NY, Deposit, NY 13754; Saint Lawrence Church of DeRuyter, NY, DeRuyter, NY; Holy Cross Church, DeWitt, NY, DeWitt, NY 13214; St. Francis Church of Durhamville, NY, Durhamville, NY 13054; St. Matthew's Church, E. Syracuse, NY 13057; Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Endicott, NY, Endicott, NY 13760; St. Ambrose, Endicott, NY; St. Anthony of Padua Church, Endicott, NY 13760; St. Casimir Roman Catholic (Polish) Church of Endicott, Endicott, NY 13760; St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Endicott, NY, Endicott, NY 13760; Church of Christ The King, Endwell, NY, Endwell, NY 13760; Church of the Holy Family, Endwell, NY 13760; Our Lady of Angels Church of Endwell, NY, Endwell, NY 13760; St. Paul's Mission (mission of I.C. Pompei) Unincorporated, closed, Fabius; The Church of the Immaculate Conception Fayetteville, NY, Fayetteville, NY 13066; St. Mary's Church, Florence, Oneida Co., Florence, NY; St. Patrick Mission, Forestport, NY; St. Patrick's Church of Forestport, Forestport, NY 13338; Church of the Holy Trinity, Fulton, NY 13069; Church of the Immaculate Conception of Fulton, NY, Fulton, NY 13069; St. Michael's Roman Catholic Polish Church, Fulton, NY 13069; The Holy Family Church of Fulton, Fulton, NY 13069; Church of the Immaculate Conception, Greene, NY 13778; St. Mary's Church Hamilton, Madison Co., NY, Hamilton, NY 13346; St. John Chrysostom Mission [served area near Forestport], Hawkinsville, NY; St. Ann Church of Hinchley, NY, Hinchley, NY 13352; The Church of St. Leo & St. Ann, Holland Patent, NY 13354; St. Margaret's Catholic Church, Homer, NY 13077; St. Mary's Devotional Chapel (never inc), Irish Ridge; St. Mary's Church, Jamesville, NY, Jamesville, NY 13078; St. James Roman Catholic Church Lestershire, NY, Johnson City, NY 13790; The Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Johnson City, NY 13790; St. Patrick's Church, Jordan, NY, Jordan, NY 13080; St. Mary's Church, Kirkwood, Kirkwood, NY 13795; Church of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Lacona [Pulaski, NY 13142]; St. Joseph's Church, LaFayette, NY 13084; St. Joseph's Church, Lee Center, NY 13363; Our Lady of the Valley [Mission], Leonardsville, NY 13364; St. Francis of Assisi Mission as The Trustees of St. Mary's Church of West Monroe, Little France, NY; Epiphany Church - merged IHM SJW, Liverpool NY 13088; St. Joseph the Worker Liverpool, Onondaga Co., Liverpool, NY 13088; Church of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Liverpool, NY 13088; Christ the King Church, Liverpool, NY 13090; Pope John XXIII Roman Catholic Church, Liverpool, NY 13090; St. John Roman Catholic Church of Clay, NY, Liverpool, NY 13090; St. Joseph Church, Louisville, NY; Most Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church of Maine, NY, Maine, NY 13802; St. Ann's Church, Manlius, NY 13104; St. Stephen's Church, Marathon, NY 13803; St. Francis Xavier's Church, Marcellus, NY 13108; Holy Name Society, Mattdale, NY; St. Margaret's Church, Mattdale, NY 13211; St. Joseph's Church of McGraw, NY- originally titled to St. Mary-Corland, McGraw, NY; St. Anne, Mother of Mary Roman Catholic Church Mexico, NY, Mexico, NY 13114; St. Mary, Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church of Mexico, Mexico, NY 13114; Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Minetto; St. Mary's Church of Minoa, NY, Minoa, NY 13116; St. Joan of Arc Church of Morrisville, NY, Morrisville, NY 13408; Church of the St. Therese the Little Flower of Jesus, Munnsville, NY 13409; St. Rose of Lima Church, N. Syracuse, NY 13212; Church of St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus, New Berlin, NY 13411; Church of Our Lady of the Rosary, New Hartford, NY, New Hartford, NY 13413; St. Thomas Roman Catholic Church, New Hartford, NY 13413; St. John the Evangelist Church, New Hartford, NY 13413; Holy Cross Church, New London; St. Mary's Church of Our Lady of Czestochowa, New York Mills, NY 13417; The Church of the Sacred Heart and St. Mary, New York Mills, NY St. Mary's, New York Mills, NY 13417; St. John's Church [The original church was SS. Peter & Paul -1843], North Bay, NY; St. Mary's Church, North Brookfield, NY; St. Bartholomew's Italian Catholic Church of Norwich, NY, Norwich, NY 13815; St. Paul's Church of Norwich, Norwich, NY 13815; St. Joseph's German Catholic Church of Oneida, Oneida, NY 13421; St. Patrick's Church of Oneida, NY, Oneida, NY 13421; St. Joseph's Church, Oriskany Falls, Oriskany Falls, NY 13425; Church of St. Stephen, Protomartyr, Oriskany, NY 13424; St. Joseph Mission, Oswego; Christ the Good Shepherd, Oswego, NY; Church of Saint Louis, Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126; St. Joseph's Church, Oswego, NY 13126; St. Mary's Church of Oswego, NY, Oswego, NY 13126; St. Paul's Church, Oswego, NY, Oswego, NY 13126; St. Peter's Church, Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126; St. Stephen Roman Catholic Church, Oswego, NY 13126; The Church of Saint John the Evangelist, Oswego, NY, Oswego, NY 13126; Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Hannibal, NY, Oswego, NY 13126; St. Patrick's Church of Otisco, NY, Otisco, NY 13159; Church of St. Mary of the Snows, Otter Lake, NY 13338; St. Joseph's Church, Oxford, NY 13830; St. Anne's Church of Parish, NY, Parish, NY 13131; St. Stephen's Church, Phoenix, NY 13135; Church of the Immaculate Conc. Pompey Hill, NY, Pompey, NY 13138; Christ Our Light Parish, Pulaski, NY 13142; St. John the Evangelist Church Pulaski, Pulaski, NY 13142; St. Paul's Mission (mission of I.C. Pompei)Unincorporated, closed, Redfield; St. Marys-St. Peters Church, Rome; Church of St. John the Baptist, Rome, NY 13440; St. Peter's Church, Rome, Rome, NY 13440; St. Paul's Church, Rome, NY, Rome, NY 13440; The Church of the Transfiguration of the Lord of Rome, NY, Rome, NY 13440; St. Mary's Church, Rome, NY, Rome, NY 13442; St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Sanitaria Springs NY, Sanitaria Springs, 13833; Sacred Heart Church of Town of Scriba, Oswego, Scriba, NY 13126; St. Malachy's Church Sherburn, Chenango Co., Sherburne, NY 13460; St. Helena's, Sherrill, NY 13461; St. Bridget Roman Catholic Church of Skaneateles Falls, NY, Skaneateles Falls, NY, St. Mary of the Lake Roman Catholic Church, Skaneateles, NY, Skaneateles, NY 13152; St. Bridge's Church -[First a Mission of Oxford, then Cortland, then Truxton], Solon, NY; St. Cecilia's Church, Solvay, NY, Solvay, NY 13209; St. Marianne Cope Church, Solvay, NY 13209; Corpus Christi Church of S. Onondaga County of Onondaga, State of NY, Syracuse, NY 13159; The Church of Our Lady of Pompei, Syracuse NY 13208; St. Michaels Church, Syracuse NY 13215; Our Lady of Hope, Syracuse, NY; St. Peter's Church of Split Rock, Syracuse, NY; St. Joseph (German) Church [FAD 1882], Syracuse, NY; St. John's Church, Syracuse, NY, Syracuse, NY 13202; St. Mary's Church, Syracuse, NY d/b/a The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Syracuse, NY 13202; Holy Trinity Church, Syracuse, Syracuse, NY 13203; St. Peter's Italian Church, Syracuse, Syracuse, NY 13203; St. Vincent DePaul's Church, Syracuse, NY 13203; Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Syracuse, NY, Syracuse, NY 13204; St. Lucy's Church of Syracuse, NY, Syracuse, NY 13204; St. Patrick's Church, Geddes, Syracuse, NY 13204; St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church, Syracuse, NY 13204; St. Brigid & St. Joseph Church of Syracuse, Syracuse, NY 13204; Church of St. Anthony of Padua, Syracuse, NY 13205; St. James' Church, Syracuse, NY, Syracuse, NY 13205; Blessed Sacrament Church, Eastwood, NY, Syracuse, NY 13206; Transfiguration Roman Catholic Church, Syracuse, NY 13206; The Church of the Most Holy Rosary, Syracuse, NY 13207; Our Lady of Lourdes Church Syracuse, NY, Syracuse, NY 13207; Church of Our Lady of Pompei-St. Peters Church [ OLOP name changed at merger], Syracuse, NY 13208; Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Syracuse, NY 13208; The Church of St. John the Baptist, Syracuse, NY 13208; Church of St. Daniel, Syracuse, NY, Syracuse, NY 13208; Church of Our Lady of Peace [ merged into St. Cecilia's Solvay as St. Marianne Cope], Syracuse, NY 13209; All Saints Church, Syracuse, NY [new name for St. Therese at merger with Ot. Solace], Syracuse, NY 13210; Church of St. Andrew the Apostle of Syracuse, NY, Syracuse, NY 13210; Church of St. Therese The Little Flower of Jesus, Syracuse, Syracuse, NY 13210; St. Michael's & St. Peter Church, Onondaga Hill, Syracuse, NY 13215; Church of the Holy Family, Syracuse, NY 13219; St. Ann's Church Syracuse, NY [name changed to St. Charles-St. Ann], Syracuse, NY 13219; The Church of St. Charles, Syracuse, Syracuse, NY 13219; The Church of Our Lady of Solace [merged into St. Therese to become All Saints], Syracuse, NY 13224; St. Anne -Glenmore [never inc], Taberg, NY 13471; St. Patrick's Church, Taberg, NY, Taberg, NY 13471; St. Patrick's Church, Truxton, 13158; St. Leo's Church, Tully, NY, Tully, NY 13159; St. Anthony of Padua Church, Utica NY 13501; Church of St. Francis de Sales, Utica, NY, Utica, NY 13501; Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Utica, NY 13501; St. John's Church and Roman Catholic Society in the City of Utica, Utica, NY 13501; St. Maria di Monte Carmelo, Utica, NY 13501; St. Mary Mt. Carmel- Blessed Sacrament Church, Utica, NY 13501; St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic Church, Utica, NY 13501; St. Mary's Church Utica (South St.), Utica, NY 13501; St. Agnes Church, Utica, NY 13501; Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Utica, NY 13502; Church of The Sacred Heart, Utica, NY 13502; Holy Trinity Church of Utica, NY, Utica, NY 13502; Mary, Mother of Our Savior Church - new name for OLL, Utica, NY 13502; St. George Roman Catholic Church, Utica, NY 13502; St. Joseph and St. Patrick Church of Utica, Utica, NY 13502; St. Mark's Roman Catholic Church, Utica, NY, Utica, NY 13502; St. Peter's Church, Utica [predecessor St. Peters... Cong. Of Deerfield], Utica, NY 13502; St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church, Utica, NY, Utica, NY 13504; The Church of the Holy Family [merger of the Church of St. Catherine-Vernon & St. Agnes-Vernon Center], Vernon, NY 13476; St. Mary's of the Lake, Sylvan Beach, NY, Verona Beach, NY 13162; The Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Verona, NY 13478; St. Vincent de Paul Church, Vestal, NY 13850; St. Vincent DePaul-Blessed Sacrament Church, Vestal, NY 13850; Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Vestal, NY Vestal, NY 13851; The Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Warners, NY 13164; St. Bernard's Catholic Church of Waterville, Oneida Co., Waterville, NY 13480; St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church, Whitesboro, NY, Whitesboro, NY 13492; St. Paul's Church - St. Anne's-St. Stephen's, Whitesboro, Whitesboro, NY 13492; The Catholic Community of St. Stephen-St. Patrick [merged into St. Patrick-Whitney Pt., Whitney Point, 13862; St. Patrick's Church Williamstown [originally a mission of Parish, later Camden], Williamstown, NY 13493; Church of Our Lady of Lourdes of Windsor, NY, Windsor, NY 13865

Schools

**Name, Location:** All Saints Catholic School, Endicott; Bishop Cunningham High School, Oswego; Bishop Grimes Jr./Sr. High School, East Syracuse; Bishop Ludden Jr./Sr. High School, Syracuse; Cathedral Academy at Pompei, Syracuse; Catholic Schools of Broome County, Binghamton; Holy Family, Norwich; Notre Dame Elementary School, Utica; Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High, Utica; Oswego Catholic High School, Oswego; Rome Catholic School, Rome; Seton Catholic Academy, Binghamton; Seton Catholic High School, Endicott; Trinity Catholic School, Oswego; Utica Catholic Academy, Utica

**Other Catholic Entities:** Associated Catholic Charities for Community Development at Broome Co., Inc.; Brady Faith Center; Brady Faith Center; Brady Farm; Brady Market; Camp Nazareth; Catholic Cemeteries of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, Inc.; Catholic Charities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse; Christopher Community, Inc.; Encompass Health Home, LLC; Heritage Campaign, Inc.; Jail Ministry of Onondaga County, Inc.; Joseph and Elaine Scuderi Foundation, Inc.; Joseph T. O'Keefe Corporation; Lourdes Camp; Newman Foundation of Binghamton; Newman Foundation of Cortland; Project Joseph; Propagation of Faith; Spiritual Renewal Center; St. Thomas More Catholic Campus Ministry; The Clerical Fund of the Roman Catholic Church of Syracuse; The Diocese of Syracuse Lay Pension Plan; The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, Inc.; The Guardian Angel Society; The Robert L. McDevitt K.S.G., K.C.H.S. and Catherine H. McDevitt L.C.H.S. Fund of St. James Church of Lestershire, NY; The Robert L. McDevitt K.S.G., K.C.H.S. and Catherine H. McDevitt L.C.H.S. Fund of St. Patrick's Church of Binghamton, NY; The Robert L. McDevitt K.S.G., K.C.H.S. and Catherine H. McDevitt L.C.H.S. Fund of St. Thomas Aquinas Church; The Robert L. McDevitt, K.S.G.K.C.H.S. and Catherine H. McDevitt, L.C.H.S. Foundation Inc.; The St. Thomas Aquinas Fund, Inc.; The Syracuse Catholic Press Association, Inc.; The Syracuse Diocesan Investment Fund; The Syracuse House of Retreats

## Environmental Stewardship

## Miracles

Individuals who spend time in nature often realize miracles come in two forms: those that happen as an event and those that occur as a process over time. Too often, people think of miracles as only the former, as these were the miracles for which Jesus is known. In such cases, there was an immediate breaking of physical law, such as when our Lord changed water into wine or raised a friend from the dead.

These events go against our understanding of how the universe works. Yet while the hand of God can work swiftly to break physical law, He can also bend and alter these principles over a much longer period of time to produce situations that inspire the same sense of awe and amazement.

A clump of weeds sprouting from a crack in a walkway, pushing its fragile body between slabs of concrete, is miraculous. As is a bumble bee taking flight when the principles of aerodynamics indicate such a robust bug with short stubby wings could never propel itself into the air. The monarch butterfly migrates to Mexico and back to the same region the following year. It takes numerous generations to accomplish this migratory feat. It's beyond understanding how an insect can communicate location information to its unborn offspring.

The more scientists research nature, the more it's apparent that miracles occur everywhere, yet at a slow, deliberate pace. Too often, our actions interfere with unseen miracles. It has been said that the best way to live is by having as small an impact on the environment as possible. Live simply, tread lightly and always attempt to notice the miracles that are developing all around you. They are signs that Our Lord loves deeply everything He has made.

By Tom Kalinowski,  
St. Bernard's Parish,  
Saranac Lake

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**June 26** — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral  
**June 27** — 10:30 a.m. — Diocesan Finance Council Meeting followed by Lunch at Bishop's Residence  
**June 28** — 10 a.m. — Gathering of the Diocesan Prison Chaplains at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch  
**June 29** — 4 p.m. — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral  
**June 30** — 10:30 a.m. — Mass Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood for Reverend Raymond Diesbourg, MSC at The Roman Community of Cape Vincent, Rosiere and Chaumont in Cape Vincent followed by a Luncheon at the Cape Vincent Recreation Park Building  
**July 1** — 12:30 p.m. — Mass at the Upstate Correctional Facility in Malone  
**July 2** — 4:30 p.m. — Mass for Youth Camp at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake  
**July 3** — 9:45 a.m. — Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch

## Rest in Peace

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

**June 26** — Rev. Charles F. Turgeon, 1888; Rev. Jean Baptiste Frigon, O.M.I., 1930; Rev. Arthur St. Cyr, O.M.I., 1957  
**June 27** — Rev. Auguste A. Brunet, O.M.I., 1866; Rev. Francis X. Charbonneau, 1928  
**June 28** — Rev. John J. Regnery, O.S.A., 1954  
**June 29** — Rev. Pierre Huet de la Valiniere, 1806; Rev. Adonat L. Dufresne, 1940; Rev. Gilbert J. Faucher, 1981; Deacon Francis E. LeRoux, 1996  
**June 30** — Rev. George F. Maroun, 2016  
**July 1** — Rev. Norbert Callahan, M.S.C., 1909; Rev. William A. O'Connor, 1922; Rev. P. Leon Legault, 1991  
**July 2** — Rev. Richard A. Gleason, O.S.A., 1939; Rev. Denis F. Finnegan, 1951; Msgr. John A. Stone, 1964; Msgr. Francis J. Connors, 1977; Rev. George A. Lemieux, 1993; Rev. John M. Crable, 2012; Deacon Francis F. Bateman, 2019  
**July 3** — Rev. E. Leonard Murphy, 1954; Rev. Peter M. Berg, 2022

## Protecting God's Children

**The Diocese of Ogdensburg** is able to schedule sessions of the training, Protecting God's Children for Adults. This required training addresses child abuse, the methods and means by which abusers commit abuse, and the five steps to prevent abuse from occurring and stop it from continuing. To arrange for training, call 315-393-2920 or email jgrizzuto@rcdony.org

## To Report Abuse

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

## Meet this year's camp staff

Bethany Vaisey  
Counselor

**Age:** 20

**Hometown:** Colton

**Parish:** St. Patrick's Church

**What are your hobbies/talents/interests?**

I have a strong passion for being outdoors and enjoying nature. Some of my favorite activities include camping, hiking with friends, and exploring natural environments. I also love doing art and am studying it in a few forms historically.

**Why did you want to work at Camp Guggenheim?**

I wanted to work at Camp Guggenheim because I love the camp. The atmosphere and environment of the camp are healing, it's an amazing opportunity to connect with nature and God. Additionally, I am passionate about working with kids and fostering both their faith in God and my own. The camp allows me to combine my love for nature, art, and spirituality in a meaningful and fulfilling way.

Christian Gratto  
Counselor

**Age:** 19

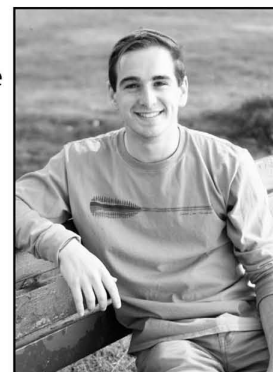
**Hometown:** Schroon Lake

**Parish:** St. Alexander's, Morrisonville

**What are your hobbies/talents/interests?**

I am currently studying Television Production at Ithaca College. I love the outdoors, canoeing, hiking, biking, photography, videography, campfires, Camp Guggenheim, and Jesus! **Why did you want to work at Camp Guggenheim?**

I have been attending camp since 2016 and can't wait to be on staff this summer! Camp has given me so many great memories throughout the past eight years and I can't wait to continue the amazing legacy this summer! Hike, Swim, Praise, 2024! I can't wait to see you there!



**It's not too late to register for camp!**  
**For more information, or to register, visit**  
**[rcdony.org/youth/camp](http://rcdony.org/youth/camp)**

Look for more staff profiles in future editions



# Bishops issue plea for peace ahead of elections

By Gigi Duncan  
Catholic News Agency

A leading U.S. bishop issued a statement June 19 urging Christians “and people of goodwill” to abstain from political violence and resolve differences through dialogue and the voting process.

In the statement titled “Pursue What Leads to Peace: A Christian Response to Rising Threats of Political and Ideological Violence,” Archbishop Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia warned that violent behavior is “seen by many as an acceptable means for carrying out political or ideological disputes.”

Gudziak, who serves as chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) committee on domestic justice and human development, wrote:

“We pray and urge all Christians and people of goodwill: Abstain from political violence of any kind! Instead, ‘pursue what leads to peace and building up one another’ (Rom 14:19) through dialogue, seeking justice.”

Describing the political climate today, Gudziak wrote that “political speech is often full of insults, fear, anger, and anxiety. Sadly, racism, religious discrimination, and xenophobia are on the rise. People in public office

are receiving more death threats than ever before, some of which turn into physical attacks.”

The document references an Axios poll from earlier this year, which showed that 49% of Americans expect there will be violence in response to the results of future presidential elections.

He called on Christians to address others “with the God-given human dignity” of each person when engaging in political discussions.

“It is hypocritical for a Christian to ‘bless the Lord and Father,’” the document continues, “and then turn around and ‘curse human beings who are made in the likeness and image of God’ (Jas 3:9).”

“Between violence and indifference, persistent and humble dialogue is the necessary path to peace,” the statement said.

The statement’s release comes during a tense presidential election year, fewer than five months until the rematch between President Joe Biden and Donald Trump.

“Let us pray, then, that by turning away from violence, away from anger, away from demeaning others who are made in the likeness and image of God, we may work for peace through dialogue and justice,” the statement concludes.

## Former nuncio to undergo Church trial for schism

By AC Wimmer  
Catholic News Agency

Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò on Thursday claimed that the Vatican’s Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith has initiated proceedings against him over the alleged crime of schism.

Citing a document he published on his website and posted on social media, the former papal nuncio to the United States wrote that he was summoned to Rome on June 20 to face an extrajudicial penal process

for the charges.

“I have been summoned to the Palace of the Holy Office on June 20, in person or represented by a canon lawyer,” the prelate wrote on X. “I assume that the sentence has already been prepared, given that it is an extrajudicial process.”

The specific charges outlined against Viganò involve making public statements that allegedly deny the fundamental elements necessary to maintain communion with the Catholic

Church. This includes denying the legitimacy of Pope Francis as the rightful pontiff and outright rejection of the doctrines established during the Second Vatican Council.

Viganò, who served as apostolic nuncio in Washington, D.C., from 2011 to 2016, commented he regarded the accusations against him “as an honor.”

Vatican News reported that the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith has not commented on the alleged proceedings.

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Family sues over religious exemption for euthanasia

The parents of a terminally ill woman who was transferred to another facility to be euthanized after St. Paul’s Hospital in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, refused to allow the procedure on its premises are suing the provincial government and Providence Health Care, the Catholic health care provider that operates St. Paul’s Hospital. The couple’s lawsuit says their daughter’s Charter of Rights and Freedoms were violated by the British Columbia government’s religious exemption to the provincial medical assistance in dying (MAID) policy. The lawsuit filed in British Columbia’s Supreme Court on June 17 wants the province to remove the religious exemption. Providence spokesperson Shaf Hussain said in a statement that the court filing is being reviewed. “Providence is committed to providing compassionate care to all patients and residents,” he said. Health Minister Adrian Dix issued a statement saying he respects all parties’ perspectives but can’t comment on the matter while it is before the courts.

## Judge blocks Biden gender identity rule in six states

A federal judge on June 17 temporarily blocked a new Biden Title IX rule in six states that included “gender identity” in Title IX’s long-standing protection against discrimination by sex. “There are two sexes: male and female,” began Chief Judge Danny Reeves of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky in his opinion. In his ruling, Reeves said the rule was an attempt to “dramatically alter the purpose” of the law, which was originally set to protect women’s equal opportunity to education. The U.S. Department of Education issued new regulations in April that redefined long-standing federal sex discrimination policy under federal Title IX provisions. The new rules redefined “sex discrimination” under Title IX to include protections for “gender identity.” Title IX rules apply to any educational institutions that accept federal money. Reeves halted the enforcement of Biden’s changes to Title IX in Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia, explaining Title IX was set to enable women to receive equal educational opportunities.

## Bishops speak out against worsening violence in Colombia

The bishops of the dioceses located in the Valle del Cauca district of Colombia have demanded that armed groups stop their actions that continue to cause more deaths in the southwestern part of the country and have called on the authorities to “find the solutions” that would bring peace to the country. The prelates issued a statement on June 14 signed by the archbishop of Cali, the bishop of Buenaventura, bishop of Cartago, bishop of Buga; as well as the bishop-elect of Palmira, and the apostolic administrator of the same diocese, Bishop Edgar de Jesús García. In their statement, the prelates decried “the worsening of polarization, threats, harassment, extortion, attacks, murders, and other acts of violence in Valle del Cauca and in a good part of southwestern Colombia, resulting in uncertainty, sadness, pain, and death, creating fear and eroding the hope of citizens.” Given the situation, the prelates strongly reiterated their call to the armed groups “to cease these actions.”

## VIRTUAL EVENTS

## FRIENDSHIP GROUP MEETING

The next Friendship Group meeting will include Father Bill Neubecker, OMV, who will talk with us about the second half of "Finding Peace in the Storm," by Dan Burke. You can still join even if you missed the first half.

**Date:** July 25

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** Zoom

**Features:** Following the death of his spiritual director, St. Alphonsus Liguori penned timeless advice in a letter to one of his spiritual daughters, and it became the famous work titled "Uniformity with God's Will."

Author Dan Burke breaks open St. Alphonsus's eighteenth-century classic for you. He intersperses relevant explanations and insights within the text of this great saint and includes reflection questions for each chapter. A "What Next?" section helps you take practical steps in doing God's will.

**Contact:** To order the book, visit [sophiaiainstitute.com](http://sophiaiainstitute.com) and enter Friendship25 at the check-out to receive a 25% discount. To sign up for the Friendship Groups visit <https://mailchi.mp/sophiaiainstitute/friendship-groups> Questions? Please contact Mary Beth Bracy at [mbracy@sophiaiainstitute.com](mailto:mbracy@sophiaiainstitute.com)

## ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Ticonderoga — Join for a Women's Ministry, a place of fellowship, faith and friendship.

**Date:** Every third Friday of the month.

**Time:** Immediately following the 9 a.m. Mass

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

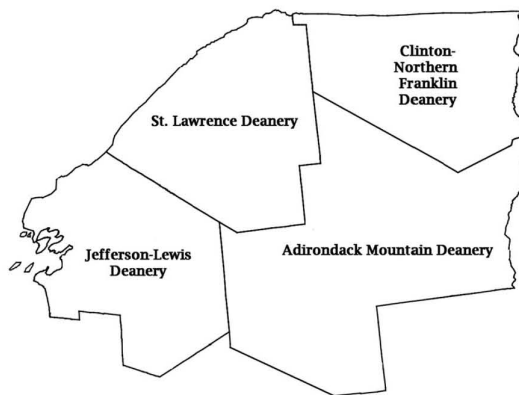
**Features:** Light breakfast will be served. In addition to weekly fellowship, there will be a summer Book Club beginning in June.

## CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

## HOLY CROSS

## SUMMER FESTIVAL

Plattsburgh — Holy Cross Parish to



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,

Ogdensburg, NY 13669

e-mail [news@northcountycatholic.org](mailto:news@northcountycatholic.org).

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

have their summer festival.

**Date:** June 30

**Time:** 12:30 p.m. to 3:30

**Place:** St. Peter's Church grounds

**Features:** Children's games are free. New this year, arts and crafts fair. Festival Food. Big Raffle item, Zero-Turn Mower and Snowblower.

**Contact:** For more information call, 518-563-0730

## GOLF TOURNAMENT

Morrisonville — The 19th Annual St Alexander & St Joseph Golf Classic Tournament will be held,

**Date:** July 12

**Time:** Shotgun start 2 Flights One at 8 a.m. and one at 1:30 p.m. Team choice

**Place:** Harmony Golf Club

**Cost:** 4 Person Scramble, \$65 per person Includes. Green fees, cart, awards & BBQ chicken meal between golf flights.

**Features:** Awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams. Prizes for the longest drives, closest to the pin, closest to the line, skins and putting contests. Chances to win with a Hole in One sponsored by Shumway Insurance.

**Contact:** Register by July 5th by contacting Bob Robare at 518 420-3854 or Jacki Black at the Church office at 518 561-5039.

## INDOOR YARD SALE

Chazy — Sacred Heart Parish will be having their indoor yard sale.

**Date:** July 20

**Time:** 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Features:** We have furniture, appliances, household items, toys, books, games, knick knacks, dishes, collectibles, tools, gardening, holiday, bicycles, and much, much more! We also have concessions.

**Contact:** For more info, contact the rectory 518-846-7650.

## HEARTWELL HOMESTEAD GOLF TOURNAMENT

Plattsburgh — Heart Well Homestead to have their First Annual Gold Tournament.

**Date:** Aug. 23

**Time:** shot gun start at 12:30 p.m.

**Place:** The Barracks Golf Course

**Features:** Help us to establish this much needed home for mothers.

**Contact:** To register your team, sponsor a hole, volunteer or make a donation go to our website: [www.HeartWellHomestead.org/#events](http://www.HeartWellHomestead.org/#events).

## JEFFERSON-LEWIS

## LAWN SOCIAL

Croghan — St. Stephen's to have their annual Lawn Social.

**Date:** June 27

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 8

**Features:** Raffle, Lowville Village Band, Food & Games.

## SPAGHETTI DINNER

Watertown — St. Anthony's Altar and Rosary Society to have a spaghetti dinner.

**Date:** June 27

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 7

**Place:** Down Stairs in Msgr. Sechi Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$10, Child, \$7

**Features:** Take-outs available, bring your own containers

**Contact:** For more information call Penny Clark at 315-783-2780

## MT. CARMEL FEAST

Watertown — The 106th Annual Mt. Carmel Feast to be held.

**Schedule:** June 28, 5 p.m. to 10; June 29 1 p.m. to 10 and June 30, 1 p.m. to 10. Religious Procession at 5 p.m., Fireworks at 9:30 p.m.

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

**Features:** Join us for great Italian food, rides and games. Religious procession and giant fireworks to be held on Sunday.

## 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:** July 7, Aug. 4, Sept. 1

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

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

**Contact:** 315-348-6260

## ST. LAWRENCE

## ST. JAMES RAFFLE

Gouverneur — St. James School to have summer raffle with a chance to win \$10,000. Only 350 tickets will be sold.

**Cost:** Donation of \$100 each

**Features:** Grand Prize, \$10,000; 2nd Prize, \$5000; 3rd Prize, \$2500; 4th Prize, \$1500, 5th Prize, \$500. Plus, there will be 5 early bird drawings for \$100 each on June 30th. Grand Prize drawing will be held Sept. 8 at the chicken bar-b-que being held at the school. All tickets remain in the drum and are eligible for every prize drawing.

**Contact:** Tickets are available by calling the church office at 315-287-0114.

## DAY OF MERCY

Canton — St. Mary's will hold a Day of Mercy.

**Date:** July 3

**Time:** 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**Features:** Confessions will be heard in the Divine Mercy Chapel.

**Contact:** Please visit their website at [www.CantonCatholics.com/events-1](http://www.CantonCatholics.com/events-1) for a schedule of confessions

## CHOSEN 4

Ogdensburg — Come watch season 4 of "The Chosen" is now available on DVD over the summer.

**Date:** Starting Thurs. July 11 until Aug. 29th.

**Place:** Brzana Hall at the Cathedral

**Time:** Two options to watch on Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Features:** Each week we will watch an episode and end with refreshments and discussion.

**Contact:** Sign-up sheets at Notre Dame Church and St. Mary's Cathedral or, you email Deacon Bill O'Brien at [billob315@gmail.com](mailto:billob315@gmail.com) or call him at 315-528-0461. Either way, email or leave a message with your name, which session, morning or evening, you wish to attend and a phone and email for contact information.

## MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

**Date:** July 14 (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.



# Celtics head coach treasures Catholic faith

By Joe Bukuras  
Catholic News Agency

The Boston Celtics clinched their first NBA title since 2008, and their head coach Joe Mazzulla decided what he will do to celebrate even before the team reached the finals.

"If we win the championship this year, we're flying to Jerusalem and we're walking from Jericho to Jerusalem," Mazzulla said in an NBC Sports Boston docuseries released in May.

"And it will be kind of like just our reconnect. But we went last year and we stopped right along this mountain side of the Kidron Valley and you could see a path in between the mountains... [and] during the time, the only way that [Jesus] could have gotten from Jericho to Jerusalem was through this valley. And right there I was like, 'We have to walk that,' he said.

"Most people go to Disney World or whatever but ... I think [the Holy Land is] the most important place to go back and recenter yourself," the 35-year-old said.

A devout Catholic, Mazzulla is in his second season as head coach for the Boston franchise.

Growing up in Rhode Island, he attended the Catholic-affiliated Bishop Hendricken High School, where in 2018 he was inducted into the athletics hall of fame and called "one of the best multi-sport athletes" in school history.

Although he's a recent head-coaching addition to the league, Mazzulla has been catching the attention of basketball fans for taking his team deep into the NBA playoffs two years in a row.

But some who don't follow the sport as closely

still may recognize Mazzulla from a viral November 2022 postgame interview in which he was asked about the presence of Prince William and Princess Kate Middleton at the TD Garden, the Celtics' home court.

The reporter asked Mazzulla: "A non-basketball question: Did you get a chance to meet with the royal family and if not how was it having them there in the building?"

"Jesus, Mary, and Joseph?" Mazzulla responded, with a perplexed look on his face. The reporter responded, chuckling, and clarifying who she was referring to: "The prince and princess of Wales."

"Oh no, I did not," Mazzulla said. "I'm only familiar with one royal family. I don't know too much about that one."

That wasn't the only time Mazzulla offered a candid response about faith to a question from the media.

Following Boston's first win against the Dallas Mavericks in the NBA finals, Mazzulla was asked by a reporter in a press conference about this matchup being the first time since 1975 that two black head coaches have faced off in the championship.

"Given the plight, sometimes, of black coaches in the NBA, do you think this is a significant moment? Do you take pride in this? How do you view this or do you not see it at all?" the reporter asked.

"I wonder how many of those have been Christian coaches?" Mazzulla answered, followed by a long moment of silence. That exchange, too, received heavy media attention.

In the recent NBC docuseries, Mazzulla - who often dons a small gold

cross pinned on his shirt - said he likes to get to the basketball facility around noon and do a "prayer walk," seeming to reference his arrival time and ritual before games.

"I like to do a prayer walk around the court at the Garden. I like to be in the Garden when there's not a lot of people there, just because it's the Garden. So I get there at like 11-12, do a 20-minute walk around the court and just kind of take in how cold it is. I love that, the smell of it, just the banners obviously, taking all that in," he said.

Shown during his "prayer walk," Mazzulla can be seen holding a green and gold wooden rosary.

That rosary was made from the original floor of the now-vanished Boston Garden, Mazzulla said.

"And so it just ties two of the three most important things in my life, [which] is the job that I have for the Celtics, my faith, and the tradition of the Celtics, it's just a really cool gift," he said.

In the docuseries, Mazzulla introduces viewers to his private home chapel in which he said he tries to begin and end his days in.

"So when Camai [his wife] came to look at the place, she walked in this room first and she was like, 'This is the room for the chapel.' So I always made a promise that we were going to have that. So it's important," he said.

"We try to start our day and end our day in here," he added.

The chapel has religious candles, statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary, other icons, an altar, kneelers, a holy water font, rosaries, a bookshelf, and a crucifix.

Mazzulla also pointed

to a photo of him and his childhood priest Father Marcel Taillon at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem.

"He's the guy that blessed the crowd when we were down nine to Minnesota. He's been my priest since I've been in eighth grade, so we've known each other now for almost 20 years," Mazzulla said. Taillon was the former chaplain at Bishop Hendricken High School when Mazzulla attended from 2002 to 2006.

The crowd blessing occurred on Jan. 10 when the Celtics were facing off with the Minnesota Timberwolves in the fourth quarter. The Celtics were down by nine points with just over four minutes left when Taillon, wearing his clerics, was shown on the jumbotron. Taillon began to bless the crowd and the assembly began to cheer.

At that moment, "God's Plan" by the hip-hop artist Drake began to play over the loudspeakers. The Celtics ended the game with a phenomenal comeback, pushing the game into overtime and clinching a win.

When Mazzulla was appointed to the Celtics' head coaching position in 2023, the priest said in a Hendricken press release that "Coach Mazzulla is right for the job, not only because of the Celtics' record but [also] his ability to form the whole person whom he leads."

"His faith life, his family life, and his deep gratitude for all he has received makes his life a response instead of a job."

Mazzulla, who was a star athlete in college, said in the docuseries that when he was younger, his identity was "in being a basketball player."

"All my affirmation and everything I was seeking I put into basketball, I put into being a basketball player. And I lost that identity when I got hurt and missed a season. And then I lost it again when I thought I was going to play overseas and I lost the game of basketball and it made me ask myself like who am I?" he said.

"Like who is Joe Mazzulla the basketball player versus Joe Mazzulla the person. And as I got into coaching I had to reinvent myself because my identity had been in something that is fleeting," he added.

Mazzulla offered similar comments in a pregame interview last year when he was asked how he handles "life-altering world events" while also being a coach and preparing for a game.

"I'm not a basketball coach," he responded. "I'm just a person that shows up to work every day to help people."

Prior to Game 3 of the NBA finals, Mazzulla was asked in a press conference how he leans on his faith when coaching.

Mazzulla said his faith is "the most important thing."

"I think the ability to handle the ebbs and flows, the humility to understand that there's a plan that's much bigger than just who you are individually and have an impact on other people and then using the gifts that God has given you to try to impact those people," he said.



## SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

## Life or death matters

We sometimes read about or perhaps some here may have even experienced what we call a near-death experience. These experiences differ for every person but usually relate to being out of the body or not in the world, speaking or seeing others who have died, or even experiencing Jesus or the saints. Well, I want you to know, that I once had a near-death experience. I definitely did. I rode on the rear seat of a motorcycle at what I thought was a break-neck speed through the streets of Barcelona, Spain. Riding in a car through those streets was bad enough. A motorcycle was something even worse. Amidst several acts of contrition and promises to reform my life



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

many times over, I felt very close to God but was quite relieved when the experienced ended. That was my near-death experience. It was not as spiritual as those you read about but definitely as real.

Likewise, we are fascinated by death. Death remains a mystery that we try to avoid, try to explain, try to minimize. In fact, we don't like speaking about death. When you get to a certain age, the obituary section of the newspaper takes on a new meaning. You know that you have reached that age when you go for the obituaries before the sports section or the comics page.

The Gospel passage relates the story about Jesus bringing back to life the daughter of Jai-

June 30

Thirteenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15

Mark 5:21-43

rus. We see two things at play in this story. First, Jairus faith allows him to believe that Jesus can help his daughter. Even when they reported that the girl had died, Jesus' response, "Do not be afraid; just have faith," reassured Jairus. The second aspect of this story is the closeness of Jesus. That closeness to Jesus brings life.

Sometimes, we blame God for death. In fact, we often blame God for what we cannot control, but we take credit for what we can control. In any case, today's first reading is very clear. We read: God did not make death, nor does he re-

joice in the destruction of the living. That is why any form of murder, abortion, physician assisted suicide is wrong. God is the God of the living. Mankind introduced death into God's plan by sin, sin in any of its forms.

Christ allows us to overcome the effects of sin, especially death. Mankind introduced sin and death. Jesus brought life and freedom from sin. But there is a catch. We have to want life; life both now and into eternity.

The Christian life maps out for us our way to enter into the fullness of life now and into eternity.

Some falsely believe that living a life of faith is equivalent to wishful thinking. Not at all. Living the life of faith, living the Christian life is a daily activity. It starts with Sunday worship during which we hear

God's word and receive Jesus' body and blood as our spiritual food. In the celebration of the Eucharist, we experience and profess our faith in God. In the reception of the Eucharist, we experience the closeness of Christ as did Jairus and his daughter. The rest of the week must be spent living the commandments, doing good, avoiding evil, looking for ways to enhance one's own life and the lives of others, and pepper all of this with time dedicated in prayer to God. Don't let anyone mislead you. The faith life of a Catholic requires worship, action and prayer. If anything is missing, then the picture is incomplete.

The question is a simple one: do we want life or death? The answer is a simple one, too. Let's hope that we all make the right choice.

## CALLED TO SERVE

## Time to hit the road

Happy summer. Officially the summer solstice was at 4:50 pm June 20, 2024. The autumnal equinox, we call that "fall" around these parts, Mister, is at 8:43 a.m. on September 22, 2024.

That means we get roughly 13 weeks of summer if you believe the calendar.

Weather watchers in the North Country measure the annual calendar differently. "We have two seasons in the North Country; one is six weeks of summer. The second season is snow."

I have also heard our

annual seasons described as "hockey season and four weeks to mend season."

My questioning mind wanted to know if there is a difference between "solstice" and "equinox."

I did not have to search the internet for a long time to get the answer. "While the solstices result in a change of the length of night and day, the equinoxes do not. The summer and winter solstices result in the longest and shortest day of the year respectively while the equinoxes result in an equal amount of day-

light and darkness received across the earth."

How about that, trivia fans?

For most of us summer means a change of pace, a change of location. Some of you might have a camp, while others live on their boats. Perhaps you plan a multi-day road trip to an exotic state like New Jersey.

I can recall vacationing on the Jersey shore some summers. We were "out on the Island," that's Long Island not Thousand Is-

lands, other summers.

We always went to weekend Mass.

Catholics must go to Mass every Sunday or to an anticipated Mass on Saturday. Failing to do so for anything but a darn good reason, is a grievous sin. My mother defined "darn good reason" as being hospitalized and even then, you should receive Communion.

Happily, we see a lot of summer vacationers in the churches in our diocese. They are smil-

ing and grateful they were able to attend Mass.

If you are travelling this summer, remember to check out the Mass schedule when you arrive at your weekend destination.

Mass will give you an opportunity to thank God for your safe travel and a relaxing time. It gives you a chance to visit God too. That's always a good thing.

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



Deacon Kevin Mastellon





## 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

# Miracle workers

In the Shire Highlands of southern Malawi in south-eastern Africa, a region known both for lush tea estates and stark poverty, stands a beacon of hope – the Chisombezi School for the Deafblind.

Managed by the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the school is more than an educational institution. It is a sanctuary of love and hope, a place where vulnerable children are given a voice and a family.

At the heart of this institution is Sister Prisca, a young, dynamic nun in her third year as the supervisor.

Despite overwhelming challenges, including the lack of basic amenities like electricity and running water, Sister Prisca's resolve to educate and empower these children is steadfast.

"Our journey is tough, and the resources scarce," Sister Prisca says, "but in each child's smile, we find the strength to continue. Here, we fight not just for education, but for transformation."

Chisombezi School educates around 12 students, each facing unique challenges due to their deaf blindness. The school's rudimentary structure and struggle for basic necessities like food and learning materials depict a stark reality. Yet, the school is much more than a center of learning; it's a home where children find a sense of belonging and love, often missing in their lives.

The school faces heart-wrenching challenges. Some students, living at home, disappear for months, losing much of their educational progress. This reflects the broader struggles of growing up in impoverished communities where isolation and desperation are common.

Yet, hope shines through in the school's ethos, focusing on equality, dignity, and a preferential option for the poor. The school's sign, "Hope for the Future," embodies their core values and vision of creating a self-reliant person with deaf blindness in society.

The school's impact is most evident in the joy and laughter of the children during performances and activities. These moments of happiness underscore the transformative effect of the school, where the children are cherished as individual sons and daughters of God, each loved and celebrated for their individuality.

Sister Prisca and the Chisombezi School for the Deafblind are miracle workers. They provide not only education and communication skills to these children but also a sense of dignity and belonging.

"Our goal," Sister Prisca concludes, "is to nurture these children into individuals who can confidently stand in society, not just as equals, but as symbols of hope and perseverance."

*Article by Ines San Martin,  
vice president of Marketing and Communications of  
the Pontifical Mission Societies of the United States.*

# Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

### GUGGENHEIM VOLUNTEERS

Saranac Lake – Summer Camp Guggenheim for an hour, a day or a week, please complete the Volunteer Application on our website: [rcdony.org/youth/camp/](http://rcdony.org/youth/camp/) volunteer-application We'd love to have you.

**Features:** If you would like to volunteer at Summer Camp Guggenheim for an hour, a day or a week, please complete the Volunteer Application on our website: [rcdony.org/youth/camp/](http://rcdony.org/youth/camp/) volunteer-application We'd love to have you.

### CAMP GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake – Registration is still open for Camp Guggenheim.

**Schedule:** Session 2: July 7 to July 12 (12-15 yrs old) \$425; Session 3: July 14 to July 19 (12-15 yrs old) \$425; Session 4: July 21 to July 26 (12-15 yrs old) \$425; Session 5: July 28 to Aug. 2 (12-15 yrs old) \$425; Session 6: Aug. 4 to Aug. 9 (16-18 yrs old) \$425

**Cost:** Session 1, \$200 per camper. Session 2-6, \$425 per camper

**Features:** Located on the shores of lower Saranac Lake, Summer Camp Guggenheim is a great place to make friends, draw closer to Christ and have a whole bunch of fun in a natural setting.

**Contact:** For more information or to register go to [www.rcdony.org/youth/camp](http://www.rcdony.org/youth/camp)

### PILGRIMAGE TO ST. ANNE'S SHRINE

Isle LaMotte, VT - Knights of Columbus Councils from the diocese will participate in their 76th annual pilgrimage to St. Anne's Shrine in Isle LaMotte, VT.

**Date:** July 14

**Time:** Bishop Terry LaValley will celebrate Mass at 12:15 p.m.

**Features:** Following Mass, the Peru K of C Council will serve lunch.

**Contact:** For more information, please call Pilgrimage Coordinator Gordon Burdo at 518-563-2796

### PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

Are you a single Catholic man,

of high school age or older who is hearing the Lord's call to the Priesthood? Join fellow discerners and Father Howard Venette for the following gatherings.

**Schedule:** St. Bernard's Church, Saranac Lake July 27, Nov. 23  
St. Mary's Church, Canton Sept. 21

**Features:** Lunch will be provided.

**Contact:** For more information contact Father Howard Venette at [hvenette@rcdony.org](mailto:hvenette@rcdony.org)

### YOUTH SERVER APPRECIATION DAY

Saranac Lake - Youth altar servers, lectors, greeters, music/choir members, greeters, ushers and faith formation assistants with their families are invited to a Youth Server Appreciation Day.

**Date:** Aug. 12

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Place:** Camp Guggenheim

**Contact:** Registration required by Aug 5th at [rcdony.org/ya](http://rcdony.org/ya). Questions, contact Anita Soltero, Youth Director at [asoltero@rcdony.org](mailto:asoltero@rcdony.org)

### FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake – Family Guggenheim to be held with the theme

"Trailblazers for Jesus"

**Date:** Aug. 22-25 or Oct. 11-13

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

**Contact:** For more information and to register, go to <https://www.rcdony.org/newsevents/family-guggenheim.html>.

Questions? Call Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920.

### DIVINE RENOVATION

Lake Placid – Day long workshop to be held to help "Unlock" your parish and help it to be fully alive and renewed.

**Date:** Aug. 23

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Place:** St. Agnes School

**Features:** Learn the three keys to unlocking your parish; be equipped for mission; connect with a community of learning in parish renewal. This is a project of St. Agnes in Lake Placid, St. Peter's in Massena, and the Diocesan Office of the New Evangelization.

**Contact:** For more information contact the Office of Evangelization at [mdonders@rcdony.org](mailto:mdonders@rcdony.org) or Gin Shaw at [renewal@stagnesp.org](mailto:renewal@stagnesp.org)

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# Funeral Mass celebrated for Joseph E. O'Brien

Surrounded by family, Joseph E. O'Brien, age 97, passed away peacefully on June 15, 2024 in Ocala, FL.

He was born on March 7, 1927 to Mary and Peter O'Brien in Ogdensburg, NY.

Joe graduated from St. Mary's High School in Ogdensburg, earned a business degree at Clarkson College in Potsdam, NY, and served in the US Navy during World War II.

He married Helen Rolfe on February 10, 1948 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. Together they had seven children, Virginia (David) Hoppenworth, Maureen (Kevin) Meade, Margaret J. O'Brien, Father Kevin J. O'Brien, Steven (Patty) O'Brien, Dennis (Theresa) O'Brien, and Edward O'Brien. He has 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his children, and grandchildren, Joe is survived by his sister, Alicia Waldron of Saranac; sisters-in-law, Eleanor Holden of Madeira Beach, Florida, and Eleanora Rolfe of Boca Raton, Florida; and many nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by his wife and parents; brother and sister-in-law, Donald (Kathleen) O'Brien; sister and brother-in-law, Mary (John)

Cook; brother-in-law George Waldron; sisters-in-law Anna Rolfe, Mary (Peter) Heller, Elizabeth (Lewis) Schaeffer; and brothers-in-law, Robert Rolfe and David Holden.

After working in other government positions, he retired from the City of Norwich after 25 years as City Chamberlain. Joe was awarded the Key to the City and made an honorary fireman for his outstanding service.

Joe was an avid reader, a master bridge player, and a music lover. He enjoyed his On Top of the World community, his friends and helpers at Canterfield Assisted Living, and was a faithful member of Queen of Peace Parish for more than 30 years. Visits by his grand dog, Gigi, were often the highlight of his day.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated June 19 at Queen of Peace Catholic Church, Ocala, Florida.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Interfaith Emergency Services/Food Pantry, PO Box 992, Ocala, FL. 34478 or Shalom Park Foundation, 8435 SW 80th St., Suite 2, Ocala, FL. 34481 in his memory.

Arrangements by Hiers-Baxley Funeral Home, Ocala, FL.

# Pro-abortion amendment back on N.Y. ballot

By Tyler Arnold  
Catholic News Agency

A New York court ruled in favor of putting a proposed amendment to enshrine a right to abortion in the state constitution back on the Nov. 5 ballot, but Republicans plan to take the fight to appeal.

The unanimous appellate court decision on June 18 reverses a lower court ruling that removed the proposal from state ballots.

Although the lower court had ruled the state did not follow proper procedure when approving the ballot language, the appellate court found that the lawmakers who challenged the procedure had done so after the statute of limitations passed. For this reason,

the appellate court dismissed the complaint.

Republican opponents of the measure intend to appeal the ruling, according to the Associated Press.

"We continue to believe the Legislature violated the constitution when it adopted the proposal," said David Laska, a party spokesperson, according to the AP report. "We will fight this proposal in the courts and, if necessary, at the ballot box."

Although the proposed "Equal Rights" amendment does not use the word "abortion," it would establish broad rights to "reproductive health care" by prohibiting any discrimination based on "pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive health care and autonomy."

## OBITUARIES

**Adams** — Stephen A. Casion, 73; Mass of Christian Burial June 22, 2024 at St. Cecilia's Church; burial in St. Cecilia's Cemetery.

**Black River** — Josephine T. (Gullo) Cross, 95; Mass of Christian Burial June 22, 2024 at St. Paul's Church.

**Carthage** — Daniel Jones, 70; Mass of Christian Burial June 27, 2024 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

**Chateaugay** — Mary Lou Dwyer, 83; Graveside Services June 22, 2024 at St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Colton** — Lawrence Henry Manor, 91; Mass of Christian Burial June 19, 2024 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery,

Potsdam.

**Croghan** — Ralph "Red" Grimmer, 89; Mass of Christian Burial June 21, 2024 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

**Dannemora** — Ruth (Scheidt) Fitzpatrick, 97; Mass of Christian Burial June 19, 2024 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Lowville** — Richard Edward Doady, 89; Graveside Services June 22, 2024 at Lowville Rural Cemetery.

**Lyon Mountain** — Norman Charland, 64; Mass of Christian Burial June 24, 2024 at St. Bernard's Church.

**Malone** — Stephen Lane, 69; Funeral Services June 29, 2024 at

St. Mary-Murphy-Wilcox Funeral Home.

**Malone** — Patricia Ann South, 74; Mass of Christian Burial June 25, 2024 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Parish cemetery.

**Massena** — Holly A. Gardner, 59; Memorial Mass June 20, 2024 at Sacred Heart Church.

**Massena** — Mary Elizabeth Hamilton, 52; Mass of Christian Burial June 20, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Nevins Cemetery.

**Massena** — Pauline M. (Crump) LaShomb, 97; Mass of Christian Burial June 21, 2024 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Brasher Falls.

**Morrisonville** — Theodore Alwine Sr., 88; Mass of Christian Burial July 1, 2024 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Morristown** — Arthur W. Connor, 89; Graveside Services June 22, 2024 at Sunnyside Cemetery.

**Norfolk** — John H. "Jack" Perry, 82; Mass of Christian Burial June 21, 2024 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** — Shirley Ann (Perras) Abraham, 92; Mass of Christian Burial June 20, 2024 at St. John's Church.

**Plattsburgh** — Lenora B. (Fac-teau) Witt, 81; Mass of Christian Burial June 21, 2024 at St. Peter's

Church.

**Saranac Lake** — Stanley Clark McGrain, 68; Mass of Christian Burial June 21, 2024 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

**Waddington** — Donald R. Parmeter, 76; Graveside Services June 18, 2024 at Union Cemetery.

**Watertown** — Timothy L. Queior, 38; Mass of Christian Burial June 22, 2024 at St. Patrick's Church.

**West Chazy** — Margaret (White) Parkinson, 93; Mass of Christian Burial June 24, 2024 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Peru.