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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 79 Number 21

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

MARRIAGE JUBILEE



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE

Married couples from around the diocese gathered at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sept. 8 for the annual Marriage Jubilee Mass, celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley. The couples honored are listed on Page 3. Additional photos can be found on Page 8.

LEARNING AS A FAITH FAMILY



St. Augustine's Church in North Bangor and St. Mary's Church in Brushton recently held their first Faith Family Summer Camp, a summer program for both adults and children. This year's camp focused on the Mass.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

Pope in Singapore: Follow St. Francis Xavier

By Hannah Brockhaus
Catholic News Agency

At Mass with approximately 50,000 Catholics in Singapore on Thursday, Pope Francis recalled the example of the great missionary to Asia, St. Francis Xavier, who responded with enthusiasm to the call to spread God's love.

The pontiff celebrated Mass in the Singapore National Stadium on the last full day of his trip to four countries in Southeast Asia and Oceania Sept. 2-13.

The enthusiastic crowd ranged from young babies to the elderly. Among the mostly Singaporean attendees there were also migrant workers from Malaysia,

Vietnamese Catholics, and a delegation from Hong Kong led by Cardinal Stephen Chow.

The Catholic Church in Singapore traces its roots to the first missionaries who, together with St. Francis Xavier, arrived in Malaysia in the 16th century. Singapore lies at the tip of Malaysia, an island separated only by a narrow strait.

In his homily, Pope Francis called St. Francis Xavier "a saint dear to this land, who found hospitality here many times during his missionary journeys," including in July 1552, a few months before his death.

The pope quoted from a letter the saint wrote to St. Ignatius of Loyola and his first compan-

ions, saying he wanted to go to all the universities in order to cry out "like a madman ... [to] those with more learning than charity" so that they might feel compelled to become missionaries for the love of their brothers and sisters, and to "cry out with all their heart: 'Lord, I am here! What do you want me to do?'"

Recalling the day's memorial of the Most Holy Name of Mary, the pontiff said: "We too could make these words our own, following [St. Francis Xavier's] and Mary's example: 'Lord, here I am; what do you want me to do?' so that they may accompany us not only in these days but always, as a constant commitment to listening and responding readi-

ly to the invitations to love and live justly that continue to come to us today from the infinite love of God."

Francis added that Mary "has given hope to so many people by her support and presence, which she continues to do!"

"On how many lips has her name appeared, and continues to appear, in moments of joy and sorrow!" the pope said. "This is because in her we see the Father's love manifested in one of the most beautiful and fulsome of ways, for in her we see the tenderness of a mother, who understands and forgives everything and who never abandons us. This is why we turn to her!"

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That's a lot of love

When he said it, I was overcome by a wave of fear.

It was high school earth science. I happened to be in a class with my twin sister, Deanna, and some of our best friends. We all sat in the same row in a classroom with rows of connected tables instead of individual desks. It was like we were all seated on one side of a long table.

Our row had been passing around a note during class. I started the note, but nearly everyone in the row had added something

to it, each of us laughing as we read it and added to it. The note included unkind comments, including some about our teacher. I had written probably the worst comment.

**Darcy L.
Fargo**

So, when the teacher called us out for laughing in class and asked to see the paper we were passing around, I was scared. I think we all were. We didn't want to get caught with that note.

In a move no one anticipated, Deanna grabbed the note off table and shoved it in her mouth.

Somehow, she was able to force herself to swallow it. She ate every shred of the piece of loose-leaf paper that contained our unkind scribbles.

I remember feeling simultaneously impressed, relieved, grateful and entertained.

When someone talks about sacrificial love, I always think of Deanna eating that note.

Deanna did something that had to be uncomfortable and that put her at risk of getting in trouble to save the rest of us, especially me. She loved us enough to sacrifice herself for us.

Deanner (that's what I

usually call her) eating that note came up in conversation recently. It occurred to me how blessed I am to have people who love me that much, people who sacrifice for me.

Then I think of our Lord, who made an even bigger sacrifice and went through far more than discomfort, suffering death on a cross to give us the ultimate protection and gift and saved us from sin and death.

I think it's easy to forget that sometimes. It's easy to forget how loved we are, by both our God and the people he sends to us.

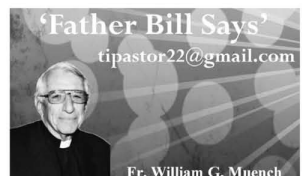
And sometimes it's gratitude that overcomes me.

'Why do we do Church activities?'

September is a time for beginnings. Schools and colleges are beginning a new semester. Teachers and Professors are challenging a new class of students. I remember as a teacher, the first task in September was learning names and developing a learning community.

September is a busy month in every Catholic parish also. September means forming this school year's religious education programs, forming new groups for the sacramental programs and also developing one of my favorite programs, the RCIA group - that is those who will be investigating the Catholic Church, considering joining the Church.

Yet, there are some things that remain the same in the parish - that is finding Jesus and understanding Jesus' message that he left for people of all time. Every day, every year, we must answer the same questions: why do we do Church activities? Why do we gather each Sunday as a parish for Mass? The answer is the same every time, and yet every week we must repeat it, hoping



everyone keeps it in mind. That answer is that we are called to become holy, to learn to live well in holiness so that we will become saints.

The Second Vatican Council - that important moment in our history as a Church - often emphasized the call of holiness. I want to remind you today of one of the Council's documents, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium). The first four chapters of that document reminds us of the foundation of the Church: first the Mystery of the Church, then the formation of the people of God, then the hierarchy of the Church, then the laity of the Church. The fathers of the Council then describe why the Church - so the fifth Chapter - is the call to Holiness.

The Church, the people of God, pray and work together to lead all of us to

become God's holy people. Our vocation is as the people of God to lead that glorious life, an experience for each one of us in becoming a saint. The Church leads us, guides us, challenges us to transform our lives and to unite ourselves with our God becoming a holy people. The Council writes: "Therefore, all in the Church, whether they belong to the hierarchy or cared by it, are called to holiness, according to the apostle, 'For this is the Lord of God, your sanctification.'"

Being holy is living in union with God, in relationship with our Savior, transforming ourselves and our lives becoming a holy person. Our Church leads us through so many magnificent gifts for each and all of us. We are called to find God's presence in our life through the Church's sacraments. These sacraments truly transform us. This is the Lord's challenge for us: "You, therefore, must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matt 5:48)

Our sacraments are truly gifts - gifts to us all on this road to holiness, especial-

ly through the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Each Sunday, when we gather as Church to celebrate Mass, we are raised to a new and stronger holiness. We are allowed to develop a new and better relationship with God which develops the fullness of our holiness. I believe that each of us, Catholics, gathered around the altar of our Lord to participate at Mass are transformed. Each and every time, we are continually formed in becoming saints. Each time we leave Mass, we are ready to live in love - loving God with our entire being and loving our neighbor as ourselves. We must be holier people. We have sent a special time with Our Lord and God. We have received Holy Communion. We are ready to lie in the Lord's holiness and make our world a better place.

There is a fellow who often comes to confession to me, and he always begins in the same way: "Well, Father, I am no saint." I am certain that each time I say the same thing: "Well, you better get busy; this is why we are down here."

You are called!

Couples honored at Marriage Jubilee Mass

Editor's note: The following married couples were honored at the annual Marriage Jubilee Mass. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on Sept. 8 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. Couples are listed under the number of years they've been married. Pictures from the Mass can be found on Page 8.

3 years

Tristen and Ondraya Walker

4 years

Freddy and Allison Moreno

10 years

Andrew and Corrine Willis

14 years

Robin and Jimmy Law

19 years

Debra and Michael Durham
Robert and Marilyn Wilson
John and Lorna Delles

20 years

Regent and Carol Hart
Victor and Rosemary Lalone-Kirsch

21 years

Ryan and Beverly Santamour

23 years

Eric and Wendy Bliven
Deacon James and Christine Chaufy

24 years

Deacon Neil and Dee Fuller

26 years

Roger and Polly Michael

27 years

Leo and Karen Ackey
Mike and Karen Denoncourt

30 years

Diane and Mike Ferrucci

31 years

Deacon James and Beth Carlin

33 years

Julie and Christopher Lapointe

34 years

Scott and Holly Thornhill

35 years

Duane and Laurean Pelkey
Deacon Robert and Melissa Uttendorfsky
Deacon Bryan and Johnna Bashaw

36 years

Deacon Peter and Kathy Wooschlager

43 years

Jack and Jennifer Lucia

45 years

Charlie and Joanie Childs
Mark and Jill Josephs

46 years

John and Jane Pinkerton
Garry and Rosalie Stevens

47 years

Thomas and Elizabeth Humberstone
JB and Wanda Kavanaugh

47 years

Kevin and Kathleen Homan
Barb and Don Kohler

48 years

Theresa and Larry Crowe

50 years

John and Kathleen Ames
Michael and Catherine Deline
Bill and Bernadette Kirchgessner
Ronald and Jacqueline Lee
Steve and Mary Sovie
John and Linda St. Joseph
David and Linda Frary

51 years

Gerald and Margaret Ernenwein

52 years

Maria and Richard Schueler
Marc and Debra Baker

53 years

Deacon Philip and Lorraine Giardino

54 years

Richard and Susanne Arens
Deacon Kevin and Kathy Mastellon
Deacon Joseph and Beryl Szwed

55 years

Robert and Nancy Brothers
William and Janet Leary
Kenneth and Kathleen Racette
George and Jill Snediker
Josef and Barbara TeRiele
Richard and Cynthia Wilson
Deacon Gary and Gayle Frank
Tom and Linda Macaulay

56 years

Bruce and Patricia Lynch

57 years

Gerald and Lorraine Williams

58 years

John and Cynthia Pate
Patrick and Judith Pearson

60 years

David and Ellen Bush
Michael and Penny Clark
Edward and Ann Gebeault
Al and Judith Maloney
Robert and Carol Morgan
Joseph and Elizabeth Franche

62 years

Leonard and Bernice Montroy

64 years

Francis and Sandra Veivia

65 years

Glenn and Marilyn Culbertson
Don and Barb La Flame
Stan and Pat Luce

66 years

Hector and Joanne Foisy
Neil and Jeanne LaBrake

67 years

Elwood and Norma Small
Norman and Kathryn Votraw

70 years

Lawrence and Mary Wiley

72 years

Helen and Ned Hackett



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Supporting the 2024 Bishop Fund Insert

Audit: Diocese is compliant with Charter

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

After both an onsite audit and data collection were completed, the Diocese of Ogdensburg was found, yet again, to be in compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

"We have an onsite audit every three years," said John Morrison, Safe Environment Office and Charter Compliance coordinator. "The onsite audit was June 5 to 7. It was earlier than the last two cycles. We're typically audited in the fall. As a result, the audit year wasn't completed. We just submitted the data collection - the other part of the audit."

Morrison noted that the diocese was found to be in compliance and no recommendations for program changes were made.

"(Auditors) typically offer a management letter with recommendations to update the policy or procedures," Morrison said. "This time, the auditor said he didn't think it was necessary and that he didn't think they could add anything of substance to our policy and procedures. That's unusual. That's not to say our program is perfect; there's always room for improvement, but by and large, we comply with the Charter

and certainly consider Safe Environment policies as we're setting up or running programs. It's an important thing to get ingrained, and I feel like we've largely done that here."

Morrison noted that the onsite audit involved a large number of diocesan, parish and school representatives.

"The first day, the auditor conducts interviews with diocesan personnel who have contact or involvement with children or whose role is included in the Safe Environment Policy," he said. "They also conduct extensive interviews with the chair of the diocesan Review Board, as well as five members of the Review Board. The review board is a critical piece of our program, since they review any and all allegations and make recommendations to the bishop. The auditors want to make sure everyone knows their role as outlined in the policy."

On the second day, the auditors go out into the diocese to review school and parish records.

"This year, they elected to go to Trinity Catholic School and the parishes in Norfolk, Canton and Morristown," Morrison said. "I can't say enough about how well everyone did. They did not hesitate in giving answers. They gave good, clear answers. It was clear what we're saying

in the policy is what we're doing in the field."

The third day of the audit is for records review and wrapping up, Morrison said.

"They make sure our records are well maintained," he said. "They make sure we have background checks on file for all the people we say we do. They want to make sure we have good records of all trainings conducted. They also do an exit interview with Bishop (Terry R. LaValley)."

Morrison said he is grateful to all the stakeholders who help ensure the diocese is doing all it can to protect youth and others from abuse.

"I can't thank the pastors, principals, employees and volunteers enough," he said. "They're the backbone of our compliance."

While the diocese was found to be in compliance with the charter and existing Safe Environment Policies, Morrison noted more work will be done on the policies in the future.

"Our policy is due to be reviewed and, if necessary, revised every five years," he said. "The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has a subcommittee that's been working on revisions to the Charter. Those revisions will be presented to the U.S. bishops at one of their upcoming assemblies. It

could be in November of this year, or it could be next year. Once those revisions occur, we'll take a close look at them and see what we need to change to ensure our policy aligns with those revisions. If that hasn't been done by November of 2025, I'll make a recommendation to the Review Board that we wait until those revisions are made to review our policy, unless they see some need for immediate change."

Morrison said he feels the continuous work to monitor and improve Safe Environment policies and the Charter is a testament to the Church's commitment to preventing and responding to abuse.

"We've made huge progress since the implementation of the Charter," he said. "Are we to the point where there are zero allegations in the U.S.? No. And one allegation is too many. But we've made substantial progress, and we've continued to move in the right direction and worked to not fall into the trap of complacency. Our program continues to be preeminent in terms of what other organizations are doing around the nation."

For more information about the diocesan Safe Environment Office and policies, visit <https://www.rcdony.org/safe-environment.html>.



Father Scott R. Seymour

Priest to be grand marshal for Applefest parade

On Saturday, September 21 at 11 a.m., Father Scott R. Seymour will be grand marshal of the 46th Annual St. Augustine's Applefest Parade.

Ordained in 1999, Father Seymour has served in various parishes throughout the diocese, most notably at St. Alexander's Church in Morrisonville, St. Augustine's Church in Peru, and St. James

Church in Cadyville, where he spent the last 14 years before recently being assigned to St. André Bessette Parish in Malone.

A native of West Chazy, Father Seymour's dedication to his parishioners and community has made him an influential figure in both spiritual and local life. Known for his compassion, warmth, and sense of humor, he

has supported his parish's outreach efforts, including the St. Joseph's Outreach Center in Treadwell Mills.

Father Seymour is also known for his love of music.

Father Seymour is honored to serve as the Grand Marshal of the Peru Applefest Parade, celebrating a vibrant community that he has lovingly served for many years.

A faith summer camp for all ages

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

Instead of a traditional Vacation Bible School, summer faith formation was a family affair for St. Augustine's Church in North Bangor and St. Mary's Church in Brushton.

This year, the churches launched Faith Family Summer Camp, a program that included parishioners of all ages.

"We had done an adult education program for Lent and Easter using Bishop (Robert) Barron's 'Catholicism' series," said Father Kris C. Lauzon, pastor of the two churches. "In the discussions after, I had a couple people say, 'I enjoyed the program, but I didn't understand a lot of it.'"

Father Lauzon said he received that feedback after the episode of the series that focuses on the Mass.

"I thought we needed to do something to explain it more fully," he said. "And if the adults don't have an understanding of what happens at Mass, the kids don't have it either. We used the term 'Faith Family Summer Camp' because we wanted it to be open to everyone. We didn't want people to think they weren't included because they don't have young kids. Our faith family is every age."

In response, Father Lauzon proposed the Faith Family Summer Camp, a program for youth and adults. The camp took place August 12-16 at St. Augustine's Church and parish center. The program averaged 60 participants - 30 youth and 30 adults - each day.

"Monday through Friday, we met at 5:30," Father Lauzon explained.



Youth from St. Mary's Church in Brushton and St. Augustine's Church in North Bangor make s'mores for their parents and other adults participating in Faith Family Summer Camp.

"The adults met in one space, the church, and the kids met in the parish center. Both groups participated in presentations focused on the same part of the Mass every night, but the presentations were delivered by different speakers and in different ways. The kid also did some sort of project or craft. At the end, we'd all get together and have dinner."

For example, on the day the presentations focused on the procession and recessional, the students learned about the importance of processions in general.

"When the presentations were finished, the kids processed to the church with banners they made to pick up the adults, and then they processed back to the parish center for a meal," Father Lauzon said.

When the session focused on "the sense of not being dismissed but sent forth from Mass," Father Lauzon said the youth prepared bags to package Meals on Wheels meals and then served dinner to the adults in

attendance.

"The last day, a family donated pizza for the meals," he said. "The kids served the pizza. And they did s'mores. The kids would ask people how they liked their s'mores and then they'd make and serve them."

The event was held with the assistance of a group of around a dozen volunteers, including presenters, cooks and supervisory volunteers.

"The presenters said they learned a lot about their topics while preparing to present," Father Lauzon said. "Especially if they were presenting to adults, they often did a lot of research. We also brought in some guest presenters. We thought it was good for the groups, especially the adults, to hear from someone other than me. Deacon (Brian) Dwyer came and talked to the adults about reception of Communion, and I talked to the kids for that one."

Father Lauzon said organizers were initially a bit apprehensive about the idea for the program.

"Some thought a week

was too long, and people weren't sure what we were going to do," he said. "When people started seeing how it came together, people became more confident with the idea. By the end of the program, people were asking if we're going to do it again next year."

Father Lauzon said the two churches do, in fact, hope to hold the event again.

"We really got the sense that people enjoyed themselves," he said. "Port of the key was that it wasn't long. It was just five days, and just an hour of presentation. A lot of traditional Bible camps are held from 9 (a.m.) to 12 (p.m.). A lot of parents can't come during those times. So having it in the evening made it so more people could participate, and we provided dinner, so there was no worry about having to plan dinner around it."

In the future, Father Lauzon said he'd be open to having representatives of other parishes attend if they want to see how the camp is run.

"We couldn't deal with, say, a group of 20 from a parish, but we could host a group of two or three who may want to replicate the program in their parishes," he said.



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Potsdam - Market Street. at Main Street at 1:30 p.m.

Saranac Lake - Bandshell Park at River Street at 2:30 p.m.

***Watertown** - Public Square from Noon to 3 p.m.
(please note this location will be held on Oct. 5)

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Mass of Christian Burial celebrated for Sister Mary Alisette, longtime educator

A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Mary Alisette, 92, a Felician Sister for 75 years, was celebrated on Sept. 11, 2024, in the Felician Sisters Convent Chapel.

Interment followed in St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Cheektowaga.

Sister Mary Alisette died in Buffalo General Hospital, Buffalo, New York, on September 8, 2024.

Formerly Eugenia Skotnicki, she was born on October 11, 1931, in Buffalo, the daughter of Helen (nee Kordasiewicz) and Stanley Skotnicki, and was a member of St. Florian Parish.

She entered the Buffalo Province of the Felician Sisters on July 16, 1949, and professed perpetual vows on August 13, 1957. After graduating from Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy, Buffalo, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Medaille (Mount St. Joseph) College, Buffalo, a Master of Science in Education from State University of NY at Potsdam, and a Master of Pastoral Studies from Loyola University of Chicago, Illinois.

Sister Mary Alisette began her ministry as a Felician Sister in 1951 as a kindergarten teacher at St. Stanislaus Kostka School, Niagara Falls, New York. She served the Diocese of Buffalo for 19 years, first as a teacher in area elementary schools at various levels and then as principal at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament School, Depew, and Fredonia Catholic School, Fredonia.

In the Diocese of Og-



Sister Mary Alisette

densburg, Sister Alisette taught Grade 6 for four years at St. Peter School, Lowville, and served as a principal at St. Mary School, Canton, for three years.

She also served as principal in the Diocese of Syracuse at Sacred Heart School, Syracuse for four years.

Sister Alisette, herself a life-long learner, was a gifted educator and wise administrator. She took advantage of every opportunity to extend her knowledge, including additional courses at State University of NY at Plattsburg, and leadership courses at St. Joseph College, West Hartford, CT.

All her studies found their way into her teaching methods and her professionalism as a principal. Her open and friendly manner added to her effectiveness in all her ministries.

Always deeply involved in all aspects of Felician community life, Sister Alisette was engaged in leadership roles from 1980 to 1989 serving first as a provincial councilor and secretary and then as provincial vicar of the former Immaculate Heart of Mary

Province. During these years, she also ministered as director of Formation.

Leaving the field of education in 1990, Sister Alisette's deep love of God and enthusiastic commitment to the Church led to parish ministry. She served as a pastoral associate at St. Michael Parish, Lackawanna, and then at St. George Parish, West Falls. She also ministered at Blessed Sacrament Parish, Kenmore, in the Parish Outreach Program.

After 19 years of fruitful parish ministry, Sister Alisette "reinvented" herself once again, as she shared her compassionate love and vibrant spirit with the sisters receiving health services at Immaculate Heart of Mary Convent. She was part of the pastoral care team and later, also served as activity director.

Her total availability to the sisters in her care genuinely reflected the charisma and heart of Blessed Mary Angela.

Sister Alisette was the loving sister of the late Stanley Skotnicki and Theresa Dybas. She is survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Memorials may be made to Felician Sisters, 600 Doat Street Cheektowaga, New York 14211.

Please share a picture in our online Photo Album or a favorite memory in our Guest Book here on Sister Alisette's Tribute page at <https://www.pietzak.com/obituary/sister-mary-alisette-skotnicki-cssf>.

OBITUARIES

Au Sable Forks — Theresa (Garso) 76; McCaffrey, Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 28, 2024 at Holy Name Church.

Brownville — Annette M. (Roshia) West, 57; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 12, 2024 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Brownville Cemetery.

Chazy — Pauline (Dupuis) Mitchell, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 13, 2024 at Sacred Heart Church.

Elizabethtown — Nancy (Gilligan) Doyle, 88; Mass of Christian Burial at a St. Elizabeth's Church at a later date; burial in parish cemetery.

Evans Mills — Evelyn Maloy Brand, 92; Funeral Services Sept. 12, 2024 at Frederick Bros. Funeral Home; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Antwerp.

Keeseville — Gerald Laundree, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 13, 2024 at St. John the Baptist Church.

Massena — Maria (Breda) Creazzo, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 19, 2024 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville — Jack Harrsch, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 11, 2024 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Bruce J. Robinson, 78; Graveside Services Sept. 13, 2024 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Potsdam — Barbara (Wade) Whalen, 98; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 2, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake — Alice "Fuzzy" (Wallace) Scollin, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 16, 2024 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Ticonderoga — Anthony R. Macey, 84; Memorial Mass Sept. 11, 2024 at St. Mary's Church.

Tupper Lake — Donald P. LaBarge, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 13, 2024 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Tupper Lake — Lucille (Chaisson) Levesque, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 16, 2024 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

Tupper Lake — Ellen Nadia Aseel Maroun, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 9, 2024 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Watertown — Leon L. France Jr., 62; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 14, 2024 at St. Patrick's Church.

Watertown — Mary E. (Dowdell) Lanfear, 101; Graveside Services

Sept. 17, 2024 at Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Eunice A. (Phillips) Weaver, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 12, 2024 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Mausoleum.

West Chazy — Geraldine H. (Premore) Buckley, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 13, 2024 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, Plattsburgh.

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:

Sept. 24 — 5:30 p.m. — St. James School, Gouverneur
Oct. 7 — 1 p.m. — Diocesan offices, Ogdensburg

To Report Abuse

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

Sept. 18 — 10:30 a.m. — Investment Advisory Committee Meeting followed by Lunch at Bishop's Residence

Sept. 19 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Sept. 20 — 8:15 a.m. — Opening School Year Mass at St. Catherine of Siena Academy in Canton

Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Sept. 21 — 10:30 a.m. — Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting - Location TBD

Sept. 22 — 9:30 a.m. — Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

Sept. 23 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Sept. 24-26 — New York State Catholic Conference Board of Bishops Meeting in Douglaston

Rest in Peace

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

Sept. 18 — Rev. Charles E. Campeau, 1952

Sept. 19 — Rev. Clement J. Dwyer, O.S.A., 1956; Rev. Francis C. McMahon, 1975

Sept. 20 — Msgr. Edmund J. Brown, 1954; Rev. Donald Gallagher, 1959; Rev. Edward J. Wright, 1993; Msgr. Floyd J. Brown, 1994

Sept. 21 — Rev. M. Stanton, 1908; Rev. M. J. Geraghty, O.S.A., 1914; Rev. Michael J. Brown, 1917; Rev. Wilbert LeBeau, 1953

Sept. 22 — Rev. John McDermott, 1870; Rev. Pierre L'Esperance, M.S.C., 1942; Msgr. John Michael Hogan, 1951

Sept. 23 — Rev. P. Phillips, 1872; Rev. Marcel Dupont, M.S.C., 1982

Sept. 24 — Rev. John Talbot Smith, 1923; Rev. Leo Staves, O.M.I., 1994; Rev. Jude Belisle, 1994; Deacon Reginald F. Merrill, 2005

Environmental Stewardship

A creative alternative

As we continue to celebrate Season of Creation with others around the world, we are encouraged to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion and commitment. At their September meeting, the Diocesan Faith and Ecology Group based in Lake Clear focused on this year's theme "To Hope and Act with Creation."

As we become more aware of the damage that we, humans, often unintentionally have inflicted upon the planet, we can become very discouraged, throw up our hands and decide there is nothing I can do!

However, Pope Francis remind us in his Message for World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, there is ALWAYS hope. God has given us hands, minds and hearts to act with love. With God's wisdom we can bring about change even through the small actions.

Members of the group shared the small acts that they are doing. They included: using cloth napkins, cleaning with cloth instead of paper towels, eating farm to table whenever possible, shopping farmers' markets, limiting meat intake. Some grow tomatoes and make sauce, garden without pesticides, save rainwater to water plants and take short showers. Other practices included cooking "from scratch," avoiding processed, packaged food as much as possible; eating veggies and fruits in season that reduces pollution from transportation; composting food waste; and using environmentally friendly products. One person's everyday motto is: recycle, reuse and reduce and repurpose.

These small steps may seem like a drop in the bucket, but drops add up. Consider having a conversation with family and/or friends on what simple actions you can do to give back to the earth in gratitude for all that God has given us.

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MARRIAGE JUBILEE MASS

CELEBRATING MARRIAGE

On Sept. 8, Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated the annual Marriage Jubilee Mass, praying with and for married couples around the diocese and honoring them for their commitment to each other and the sacrament of marriage.

Photos by Jesse Sovie



The cross bearer leads the recessional at the conclusion of the Marriage Jubilee Mass on Sept. 8.



Beth Carlin, wife of Deacon James Carlin and mother of Father Leagon Carlin, serves as a lector during the Mass.



Priests and deacons from the region joined Bishop Terry R. LaValley in the celebration of the Mass.



(Left) Helen and Ned Hackett of St. Mary's Cathedral Parish celebrated 72 years of marriage at the Jubilee Mass. (Center) Bishop Terry R. LaValley delivers his homily. (Right) Family Life Director Stephen Tartaglia welcomes the celebrating couples to the Mass.

Catholic comedian to host Al Smith dinner

By Tyler Arnold
Catholic News Agency

Six-time Grammy-nominated Catholic comedian Jim Gaffigan will host the 2024 Al Smith Dinner on Oct. 17, an annual event organized by the Archdiocese of New York that the two major presidential candidates - former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris - are expected to attend.

Gaffigan posted a copy of an invitation on X that lists Trump and Harris as guests along with the stand-up comedian listed as master of ceremonies. In his post, Gaffigan joked that he was unfamiliar with the names of the two presidential candidates.

"I'm so honored to be MC-ing this year's Al Smith Memorial Dinner on Oct. 17," Gaffigan said. "Too bad I don't recognize those two names in the middle of the invitation. Anyone ever heard of them?"

The Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation

Dinner, first held in 1945, is organized to raise money for charitable causes in the archdiocese. In 2023, the archdiocese raised \$7.1 million for people in need. The black-tie affair is named after the first Catholic to be nominated for president by a major party - four-term New York Gov. Al Smith, who was the Democratic Party's 1928 presidential nominee.

Gaffigan, who has acted in dozens of movies and has performed numerous stand-up comedy specials, has been a staunch critic of Trump.

Gaffigan frequently references his Catholic faith in his stand-up comedy. For example, in the 2018 comedy special "Noble Ape," he discusses saints and patronage.

"Of course, I'm talking about Catholic saints because I'm Catholic," he says in the special. "I'm not a good Catholic. Like if there was a test for Catholics, I would fail. But then again, most Catholics would fail,

which is probably why there's not a test."

In September 2015, Gaffigan performed at the Festival of Families in Philadelphia, which was attended by Pope Francis during his papal visit to the United States. In June of this year, he met the pontiff at the Vatican with 100 other comedians, including Stephen Colbert and Chris Rock.

At The New Yorker Festival in 2015, Gaffigan spoke about a "fear of being associated with being Catholic" in the entertainment industry.

"I'm Catholic," he said. "98% of my friends are atheist or agnostic. I was an atheist until I met my wife. I was raised Catholic."

Gaffigan has deviated



Deacon Emeritus Kenneth Seymour and Deacon Emeritus Ronald Pominville

Happy 25th Anniversary of Ordination to the Diaconate - September 9, 1999.

Thank you for your kindness, generosity, and pastoral care. We are so grateful to you and your spouses for the years of dedicated spiritual ministry to the parishes and communities in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

from Church teaching on at least one issue by promoting homosexual pride and civil marriages.

The comedian ventured into political discourse during the 2020 presidential election to criticize Trump. He Tweeted that Trump is "a traitor and a con man who doesn't care about you" and called him "a liar and a criminal" in August 2020. Gaffigan also alleged that "Trump is not pro-life and obviously not Christian or a

decent person" when a Twitter user asked Gaffigan whether he was still pro-life.

Both Trump and then-candidate Joe Biden attended the 2020 Al Smith Dinner, which was held a little more than a month before the election. Trump and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton both attended in 2016. At both events, following tradition, the two candidates delivered humorous remarks, skewering themselves and each other.

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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pew poll: Slim majority of Catholics plan to vote for Trump

A new poll by Pew Research Center shows a slim majority of U.S. Catholics intending to cast their ballot for former president Donald Trump in November, with Trump and Democratic candidate Vice President Kamala Harris in a dead heat among the entire electorate as the election contest enters its final weeks. The poll, released Monday, found that "U.S. religious groups that traditionally have leaned Republican are backing former president Donald Trump by wide margins," while groups that have historically backed Democrats "are mostly supporting Vice President Kamala Harris." Among Catholics, 52% said they were backing Trump in the race, compared with 47% who said they favored Harris. Trump's support rose to 61% among white Catholics, while Harris commanded a sizable 65% share of Hispanic Catholics. An earlier Pew survey from February found that 42% of Catholics held a favorable view of Trump, compared with 57% with an unfavorable view. In contrast to Pew's findings this week, an EWTN News/RealClear Opinion Research survey released last week found Harris leading Trump among Catholic voters overall, with 50% of respondents backing Harris and 42% backing Trump.

South Carolina could execute an inmate every 35 days

The South Carolina Department of Corrections could potentially execute one death row inmate every 35 days — or every five weeks — as the state resumes executions on Sept. 20 after a 13-year pause in carrying out the death penalty. A recent South Carolina Supreme Court order decided that a five-week interval between executions was "reasonable" and "warranted" but left open the possibility of carrying out the death penalty more frequently if circumstances warrant it. The ruling came after death row inmates requested a 13-week interval between executions and state Attorney General Alan Wilson asked the court to permit at least one execution per month. With the court's decision in effect, the state could potentially execute 10 or 11 people within a calendar year. In recent decades, the frequency of executions has declined throughout the country and some states have ended the use of the death penalty altogether. There are more than 30 people on death row in South Carolina. Freddie Owens, who was convicted of murder, is scheduled to be executed on Sept. 20. The state Supreme Court announced its plans to schedule the execution of at least five other death row inmates following Owens' execution.

1,600 children receive first Communion at Intl. Eucharistic Congress

By **Diego Lopez Marina**
Catholic News Agency

In an atmosphere of celebration, joy, and devotion, some 25,000 people, including 1,600 children in white robes and traditional costumes who received their first Communion, participated Sunday in the opening Mass of the 2024 International Eucharistic Congress in Quito, Ecuador.

From the early hours of the morning of Sept. 8, a multitude of faithful began to congregate on the esplanade of Bicentennial Park in Quito accompanied by archbishops, priests, men and women religious, seminarians, deacons, and altar servers, among others. In total, 54 delegations from different countries participated.

Shortly after 10 a.m. local time, the Mass began on a huge stage featuring an image of the Virgin of El Quinche adorned with dozens of red and yellow flowers. The Mass was celebrated by the archbishop of Quito and primate of Ecuador, Alfredo José Espinoza Mateus, who during his homily told the children that this was "a day of celebration, a great day in their lives."

"This memory will remain engraved in your hearts for life and you will be able to say with certainty that you are the 'Eucharistic missionaries' of our Church in Quito and grow knowing that you are called to build fraternity, starting in your own families," said the prelate, alluding to the theme of the congress: "Fraternity to Heal the World."

Espinoza told the children that "today we celebrate that Jesus, your best friend and that of all, is present in the Bread of Life."

"Open your hearts, dear children, to receive him with joy, so that the encounter with him in the Eucharist that you are going to receive for the first time will lead you to know how to share, to dream, to be grateful, to trust and honor others," he continued.

He also shared a message sent by Pope Francis to the children: "Making your first Communion means wanting to be closer to Jesus every day, to grow in friendship with him and that

others can also enjoy the joy that he wants to give us. The Lord needs you to be able to work the miracle, that your joy may reach many of your family members and friends."

Finally, referring to the passage from the Gospel according to St. Mark (7:31-37), he invited the community to ask the Lord "to do in our lives the same miracle that he did with the deaf man who could barely speak."

"May our hearts always be open, but above all, our ears, to hear the cry of pain of the whole world, the cry of those who suffer and the cry of the poor, and may we, from the Eucharist, be authentic 'missionaries of fraternity' to heal and to work the miracle of all being one," he concluded.

Speaking with ACI Prensa, CNA's Spanish-language news partner, Bishop Andrew Cozzens of the Diocese of Crookston, Minnesota, former president of the board of the National Eucharistic Congress in the U.S., said the open-air Mass on Sunday deeply moved him, since he also found the love of Jesus in his first Communion.

"The way the archbishop explained the importance of first Communion was very beautiful, because it is fundamental for all of us. It's important that we remember the importance of our first Communion and the privilege of being in union with Jesus," he said.

Cozzens clearly remembers when he first received Christ, recalling how the priest at his school taught him to kneel, to genuflect, and explained to him how to reverence the presence of Jesus. "I felt in my heart the desire to receive him."

When he received Jesus in his first Communion, he felt a very strong peace, despite being so young. "That presence can deepen throughout our lives," he said.

After Mass, Emilio Osorio, a child who received his first Communion, shared with ACI Prensa that he felt very happy to have Jesus in his heart: "This way I can unite myself more with him and speak with him in prayer."

Emilio's mother, Gabriela, said that as a family, they were very "happy to share this moment."

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Pope praises Singapore's spirt

By Kristina Millare
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis on Sept. 12 praised Singapore for its "shining example" in building a united country based on harmony and cooperation but highlighted risks rapid progress could have on the family, human relationships, and the weakest members of society.

A day after landing in the wealthy Southeast Asian city-state, also known as "Lion City," the Holy Father met with President Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Prime Minister Lawrence Wong in separate meetings at Parliament House.

The pope expressed his admiration for the dedication of the country's past and present leaders to build unity amid a diversity of ethnicities, religions, and cultures.

"Like the star that guided the Magi, so let the light of wisdom always guide Singapore in building a united society capable of conveying hope," the pope wrote in Singapore's honor book in Parliament House.

In a speech addressed to civil leaders and the diplomatic corp at the National University of Singapore (NUS), the pope said the county is a clear testimony of human ingenuity and entrepreneurial dynamism.

The Holy Father expressed hope that the nation with the motto "Majulah Singapura" ("Onward Singapore") will not forget the poor, elderly, and migrant workers.

"I would like to highlight the risk entailed in focusing solely on pragmatism or placing merit above all things, namely the unintended consequence of justifying the exclusion of those on the margins from benefiting from progress," the pope said.

"I recognize and commend the various policies and initiatives put in place to support the most vulnerable, and I hope that special attention will be paid to the poor and the elderly - whose labors have laid the foundations for the Singapore we see today - as well as to protecting the dignity of migrant workers," the pope said. "These workers contribute a great deal to society and should be guaranteed a fair wage."

In light of Singapore's rapidly-aging population and low fertility rates, the pope emphasized his concern for family life and the need for genuine human relationships.

"The sophisticated technologies of the digital age and rapid developments in the use of artificial intelligence must not lead us to forget about the essential need to cultivate real and concrete human relationships," he said to those gathered in the university theater.

"We see that the foundations on which families are built are being challenged by current social conditions and run the risk of being weakened," he said. "Families must be allowed to transmit the values that give meaning and shape to life and to teach young people how to form solid and healthy relationships."

Franciscan University launches DC mission hub

By Kate Quinones
Catholic News Agency

Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio is set to launch a Washington, D.C., program for its students, including residential and learning facilities, the university announced last week.

The Ward and Kathy Fitzgerald Franciscan University Homeland Mission (FUHM) is part of the university's new "Encounter" initiative, designed to extend Franciscan University's mission and impact beyond its campus in Steubenville, Ohio. It is designed to equip students for "advancing the great global missionary cause of positively impacting the principles and policies guiding the United States government."

The university has purchased a \$3 million property on Massachusetts Avenue in the District of Columbia for the program thanks to a \$10 million gift from Ward and Kathy Fitzgerald. Their donation helps fund the Outreach and Evangelization component of the university's ongoing \$110 million Rebuild My Church Capital Campaign.

"The Franciscan charism of ongoing conversion, which invites everyone to continually and humbly draw closer to Christ, will be key to carrying out this mission," said university president Father Dave Pivonka, TOR, in a Sept. 3 press release.

"The Franciscan University Homeland Mission will invite others to deeper conversion through three pillars grounded in the university's mission: Evangelization and Joyful Presence, Intellectual and Personal Formation, and

Support for Human Dignity," Pivonka said.

FUHM's operation will be headed by Stephen Catanzarite, executive director of Encounter, along with the political science department and other Franciscan departments and partners.

The program is intended to bring Gospel values as well as Catholic social teaching "to bear on the political and social atmosphere of Washington, D.C.," the press release said. "This engagement will not only bring the Church's witness to the legislative and political process, but it will also serve to draw more people to Christ and his Church."

"Programs and events at the FUHM will challenge students to work and witness ongoing, systematic change in federal government, placing the sacred human dignity of all people at the center of the work."

Ward Fitzgerald is the CEO of international real estate private equity firm fund investment group EQT Exeter. The Fitzgeralds are members of the Trustees to the Papal Foundation.

"We have been provided great Providence to be able to be vessels of the Holy Spirit by participating with such a worthy university and its students, faculty, and administration," Kathy Fitzgerald said in a statement. "We are too well mindful that nothing we have created or hold is our own but graces and gifts from Our Lord to do his work."

Student rotations at the new center in Washington, D.C., are set to begin this fall on a limited basis and expand in spring 2025.



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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

Our faith in action

A very interesting first reading in this Sunday's liturgy from the book of Wisdom, with words such as "let us beset the just one..." "Let us see whether his words be true," "Let us put the just one to the test." People were challenging God's messenger because they did not like the message. Then, in the Gospel, we hear Jesus speak about the Son of Man being killed. Again, the people did not like the message, so they kill the messenger.

In many parts of the world, Christians are being condemned and killed because their detractors do not like the Christian message, so they kill the Christians. We who live in the peaceful, at least seemingly peaceful, North Country may easily forget about those atrocious situa-

tions because of where we are. But remember, even in our own country Catholics were once considered second-class citizens unable to advance in society just because they were Catholic, just another form of persecution. Again, you may say, "That was then. This is now."

Well, in society today we experience a newer form of persecution. So many people have rejected the idea that there are objective truth and morality but have readily accepted the idea that truth and morality are whatever we want them to be. Some actively work to remove any semblance of God or the divine from the public arena. Children, through no fault of their own are being raised in a world devoid of God.

Thus, the family and

Sept. 22

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

James 3:6-4:3

Mark 9:30-37

the Church are needed more than ever. The Church and the family have become the only places where God can have a meaningful role in those lives.

The Church, that is, our parishes, wants to make sure that the children receive formation in their faith. Parishes and Catholic schools supplement and guide the formation taking place in the homes. In the homes parents can freely speak about Jesus, about the Church, about the saints, about what is right and wrong, about the importance of being free from sin and receiving the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist. Religious images

and practices can adorn the home. Parents should realize that their children will hear those messages only at home and in church. In fact, outside of the home and church, the opposite message may be encouraged and lived.

Last weekend was Catechetical Sunday. On that weekend we remembered the role of the those who teach in our Catholic schools and faith formation programs as well as the importance of these programs. The faith formation of our children should occupy a prime place in our parishes because the Church can grow and flourish only if the members, including our children, grow and flourish.

Here in the North Country, we are also actively involved with the Bishop's Fund. The Bishop's Fund is not just a collection of money. Rather the various ministries of the Bishop's Fund fuel the Church of

the North Country. Our donations to the Bishop's Fund aid parish faith formation activities, youth ministry programs and Catholic schools; they prepare the priests, deacons, and commissioned lay ministers who will lead our parishes. Support of the Bishop's Fund will extend the Church's outreach efforts through the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund. The theme of the Bishop's Fund, Living Stories of Our Faith, expresses well the work done within our parishes with the support of the Bishop's Fund ministries.

All of us can support in some way the Bishop's Fund. The size of the gift is important but equally important is the participation of all. So, please give to the Bishop's Fund. Your financial and prayer support helps to keep the message of faith alive in the North Country. Please join with me in being a living story of our faith in action!



Msgr. Robert
H. Aucoin

CALLED TO SERVE

Another AI installment

Greetings friends. You probably know that I spent a major part of my business world life in broadcasting, radio and TV.

Fewer of you know that my collegiate studies were in a discipline called computer science.

How I got from one field to another is a story for another day. Suffice it to say, it was God's will. Deacons are chosen by God from all sorts of experiences.

I mention the computer background to suggest that I am not opposed to artificial intelligence. My education in the field causes me to be more than casually interested

in the developing software. AI as it is called, has a lot of potential for society.

AI raises ethical issues too, issues that the wise and learned will think about and debate. Things like, will computers take over the world? And there will be growing pains.

For example, Kathy and I were driving to Lake Placid recently for a workshop. The gas gauge was telling me it was time to fill-up, so I stopped at a Mobil station along the way.

I will admit I generally use a Sunoco card, but Mobil is my back-up.

Mobil recently sent me a brand-new Smart Card+,

whatever that means. The pump rejected the card. I tried the old Mobil card. The pump blew that one off too.

I eventually pumped gas using my debit card.

Instead of fuming and making it the topic of conversation for the next few days, I wrote the experience off and decided to do some research when I got home.

Once home, I checked my Mobil account online to make sure I had not missed a payment.

The balance is zero.

I hit the chat button on the website. Here comes the AI story.

It was obvious I was not going to "chat" with a human being.

I was directed to use three to five words to describe my issue. The Mobil AI developers apparently subscribe to the "keep it simple, stupid" doctrine.

I entered "Mobil card denied at pump."

AI told me the usual problem with denial is a delinquent account.

I responded, "my balance is \$0.00."

AI said, "I do not understand the problem."

I said, "Goodbye."

Then AI asked if the problem was resolved.

I said, "No"

AI said, "Thank you. This will help me to learn to make future responses better."

Needless to say, I was comforted by that response. When I have a free half an hour, I will call the 800 number and talk to a new machine. Perhaps their AI is a bit more advanced.

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



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

VIRTUAL EVENTS

FRIENDSHIP GROUP MEETING

You are invited to our next Friendship Group Meeting.

Date: Sept. 26

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Zoom

Features: Father Jonas Verdeflor, OMV will share with us about Ignatian meditation. We will discuss the introduction and first chapter of the book "Beloved Lover" by Father Gregory Cleveland, OMV. While a great read for priests and seminarians, lay men and women can gain insight into the life and spirituality of the priest and be inspired to live their own priesthood of the faithful more fervently.

Contact: To order the book, please visit omvusa.org and enter SUMMER24 at the checkout to receive 10% off. If you haven't signed up for the Friendship Groups, here is the link: <https://mailchi.mp/sophia institute/friendship-groups>. Questions? Please contact Mary Beth Bracy at mbracy@sophia institute.com

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Lake Placid – Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is recruiting new volunteers to help neighbors age in place more successfully.

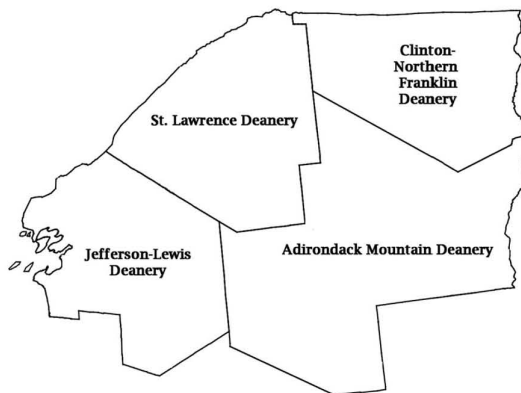
Date: Sept. 24

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

Place: High Peaks Church

Features: Volunteers will learn about offering friendship and assistance to elders in sessions on healthy aging, spirituality and aging, community resources for elders, how to recognize scams aimed at older adults, understanding the types and signs of dementia, and the effects of isolation and loneliness on the aging population. Mercy Care Friendship Volunteers provide informal supports such as assistance with grocery shopping, transportation to medical appointments or social outings, or visiting with an elder in their home. Lunch is provided.

Contact: To register, visit Mercy Care's website at www.adkmercy.org.



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

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

org or contact Lexi Bevilacqua, Mercy Care's Program Director, at abevilacqua@adkmercy.org or call Lexi for more information at 518-523-5446.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

OUR LADY OF THE ADIRONDACKS EVENTS

Ellenburg Center - We are pleased to announce the House of Prayer is open during the summer and fall seasons for the following regular activities. All are welcome!

Schedule: Wed., Open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with Dan Hobbs, Volunteer; 2nd Thurs., Open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with Volunteers Eve McGill and Lucy Wood facilitating Recitation of Rosary at 11 a.m. and Soaking Prayer from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. (Please bring a bag lunch. Light refreshments provided.); Fri., Open Noon to 4 p.m. with Volunteer, Cheryl LaGree, leading Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 p.m. followed by Recitation of the Rosary; First Sat. Devotions to the Immaculate Heart of Mary beginning at 8 a.m. with Deacon Ken Lushia; Second Mon., 6 p.m. Mass followed by Board Meeting.

Features: All are welcome to attend. Is the Lord calling YOU to become involved? Come and see the House of Prayer, a quiet, simple treasure of the North Country. Are you thinking of a private/group (7

max) overnight retreat or a day meeting (20-30 max)? Call Sarah at 518-534-9976 for more information.

APPLEFEST

Peru – The 46th Annual St. Augustine Applefest to be held.

Date: Sept. 21

Place: St. Augustine's Church

Schedule: 10:30 a.m., Giant Craft Fair, Food Booths, Kids Activities; 11 a.m., Parade, Live Music, Chicken BBQ, Games, Bounce House, Train Ride, Raffles. Grand Raffle Drawing at 4 p.m.

TURKEY DINNER

Chazy – Sacred Heart Parish is having their Harvest Dinner.

Date: Sept. 22

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$15; Children 6-12, \$8

Menu: Roast turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, corn rutabaga, rolls and butter, beverage, apple or pumpkin pie.

Features: Visit our Sinners' Den Pantry for "sinfully" delicious goodies. Raffle with great prizes. Please join us! We are handicapped accessible.

Contact: For more information, 518-846-7650 or Chazypa@rcdo-ny.org

HARVEST DINNER

Chateaugay – St. Patrick's Church will have their 42nd Annual Yankee Pot Roast Dinner.

Date: Oct. 6

Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (or until all have been served), Dine in or take out

Place: St. Patrick's Hall

Cost: \$15

Features: We will also be having our annual Harvest Dinner Raffle. Prize raffle tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 the drawings will take place at the end of the dinner. You need not be present to win! Ticket stubs and money should be returned before Sunday, October 1st, 3:00 PM. Drop tickets in the collection basket, at the Rectory Office or bring them to get your takeout. Additional tickets are available at the Rectory Office for pick up or we can mail them to you.

Contact: Dinner orders can be made by calling Monique Dwyer (518-651-0144) or Parish Office (518-497-6673)

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

SILENT AUCTION AND BBQ

Watertown – Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church is having their Annual Silent Auction and Pulled Pork BBQ Dinner.

Date: Sept. 21

Time: Doors open at 3 p.m. for raffle items and dinner will be served starting at 5 p.m.

Features: Silent Auction items to bid on, large raffle items, 50/50 raffle and much more. Pre-sale tickets will be available the weekend of Sept. 14th & 15th after all Masses.

Contact: For further information, please contact the office at 315-782-1474.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Watertown – St. Anthony's Altar and Rosary Society is sponsoring a Spaghetti Supper.

Date: Sept. 26

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall downstairs at St. Anthony's Church

Cost: Adults, \$10; Child, \$8

Features: Take-outs available,

please bring your own containers

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

HARVEST FEST

Port Leyden – St. Martin's will be hosting their Harvest Fest.

Date: Sept. 27

Time: 5 p.m. to 9

Place: Port Leyden Community Fire Hall

Cost: \$5 per person (cover charge for band)

Features: Patti Stanford Band will be playing 6 p.m. to 9. Food and Drinks available for extra costs. Food to include German Brats, Hot Dogs, Sauerkraut, German Potato Salad, Pretzel Bites & Fried Dough. Drinks featuring Woodland Farm Brewery, Hubert House Taproom and Roads End Orchards.

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: Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 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 price of \$100 each

Features: Grand Prize, \$10,000; 2nd Prize, \$5000; 3rd Prize, \$2500; 4th Prize, \$1500, 5th Prize, \$500. 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. Per NYS Tax Law, required withholding & tax documents will be completed upon payment of prize monies. Need NOT be present to win.

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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

ST. JAMES 150TH

Gouverneur - Commemorating 150 yrs of our parish and 100 yrs of our church with a dinner celebration.

Date: Sept. 28

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: Casablanca Restaurant

Cost: \$10 per person

Contact: Please RSVP to St. James Parish Office at 315-287-0114. You can pay at the office or on our website www.oswegatchi-catholics.org.

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

Date: Oct. 5

Time: 8 a.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

Features: Rosary with devotions

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

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

Date: Oct. 5

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: Oct. 5

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

SLFA CLM ANNUAL DINNER

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

Date: Oct. 16

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

Place: Fr. Andrew Amyot Parish Center

Cost: \$20 per person

Features: Join us for an evening of prayer and reflection with a celebration of Mass and presen-

tation entitled: Pope Francis "Year of Prayer" the Lord's Prayer, with guest speaker The Most Reverend Terry LaValley, Bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Also speaking will be Hattie Taylor, Campus minister for St. Mary's church in Potsdam and St. Patrick's church in Colton.

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

DIOCESAN EVENTS**SSJ LAY ASSOCIATE PROGRAM**

The Sisters of St. Joseph invite you to a one of their informational meetings if you are interested in learning about their Lay Associate Program.

Schedule: Sept. 22 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown from 2 p.m. to 4.

Features: Associates meet once a month to learn about the spirituality, the charism and mission and history of the Sisters of St. Joseph, pray together, and discuss ways to deepen one's spiritual life. This group is open to men and women.

Contact: If you are interested, please contact Sister Mary Eamon (smelyngssj@yahoo.com) or Sister Bethany srbethssj@gmail.com or call 315-782-3460.

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

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

Schedule: St. Bernard's Church, Saranac Lake Nov. 23

St. Mary's Church, Canton Sept. 21

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 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

HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP**WEEKEND**

Saranac Lake - High School students in grades 9-12 are invited for an action-packed weekend of fun, friends, skill building workshops and moving prayer experiences.

Date: Sept. 20-22

Place: Camp Guggenheim

Cost: \$95

Contact: Register at rcdony.org/leadership before Sept. 18th to secure your spot! Contact Anita Soltero at asoltero@rcdony.org with questions or call 315-393-2920.

BLUE MASS

Canton - Bishop Terry R. LaValley will celebrate the annual Blue Mass.

Date: Sept. 29

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: The Blue Mass is the Church's way to offer thanksgiving to God for the dedication and sacrifices made by the men and women of Fire, EMS, Corrections, Law Enforcement, and Communications. First Responders, their families, and all the faithful are invited to attend this Sunday celebration. Uniforms are encouraged but not required.

Contact: Questions can be addressed to Father Chris Carrara, Blue Mass Committee Chair at info@rcdony.org or by phone at 315-393-2920.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREATS

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

Date: Clinton-Northern Franklin & Adirondack Deaneries, Oct. 4 at Holy Cross Parish Center, Plattsburgh; Jefferson-Lewis & Adirondack Deaneries, Oct. 9 at IHC Jr/

The Miraculous Prayer

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

High School, Watertown; and St. Lawrence & Clinton-Northern Franklin Deaneries, Oct. 16 on at St. Mary's Social Hall, Massena.

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

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

Contact: Your pastor, Catholic school principal, or Religious Education Coordinator for a registration form. Registration forms due by Sept. 30

FALL LEAD WORKSHOP

Lake Placid - Fall LEAD Workshop to be held with the theme "Moving the Needle on Family Faith Formation" for all Pastors, Catechetical Leaders, Catechists, Sacramental Prep Catechists, Youth Ministers and Families are invited to attend.

Date: Oct. 12

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

Place: St. Agnes School

Cost: \$25

Speaker: Dr. Kathie Amidei

Features: In this workshop you will learn: Why Family engagement is essential; Strategies and models you can implement; Practical ways to encourage families; How to coach and accompany parents.; Please bring a bag lunch.

Contact: For more information contact Cathy Russell at crussell@rcdony.org. To register go to www.rcdony.org/needle


FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake - Family Guggenheim to be held with the theme "Trailblazers for Jesus".

Date: Oct. 11-13

Features: Yee Haw! 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.




MONASTERY CARD SHOP

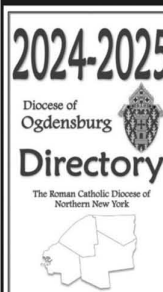
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mbrett@rcdony.org

Thank you for helping!

Thanks to the generosity of the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg during this and previous years' Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg appeals, we were able to make an additional donation this summer to each partner of the Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg (MPDO) appeal. These organizations include the North Country Mission of Hope, The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod, Lenity Project, Sisters Mary Mother of the Church, Heralds of Good News and the Diocese of Djibouti in Africa. Please continue reading to learn how some of these organizations used the money to assist their ongoing mission relief efforts.

North Country Mission of Hope used the money to help those affected by the dire economic and political situation in Nicaragua. Their work especially focuses on feeding and educating children.

The Sisters of Mary Mother of the Church will use the money for their mission in Ghana, Africa.

The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart used the money to support their mission work and major seminaries in the Congo/Cameroun and Fiji. These seminaries have very little money and supplies.

The Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers divided the money into thirds. A third went to Peru to help support AIDS patients and prisoners with HIV. A third went to Thailand and Myanmar to spiritually support and feed refugees fleeing the coup de eta. In one case they were able to help a young boy receive medical care after a bomb landed on his village. Because of the money received, he was able to have his leg repaired and is now able to walk with the help of a walker. The final third was sent to Tanzania for youth education on the dangers of misusing drugs and alcohol, along with pastoral care and general education.

The Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod used the money to fund their work assisting victims of human trafficking.

Finally, the Lenity Project utilized the money to fund their relief efforts in Ecuador. There they provide the 80+ families in their program with food, medical care, educational opportunities, and literacy. This assistance is invaluable in a country torn apart by poverty, unemployment, and gangs.

All organizations have expressed their gratitude for the money and all that it has allowed them to do in their ministries. The speed with which they were able to put the gift to use shows the immediate, evident needs of those supported by MPDO. They thank you and we thank you for your ongoing financial and prayerful support of the mission church.

Diocese of Buffalo announces final list of mergers, closures

By Daniel Payne
Catholic News Agency

The Diocese of Buffalo, New York, this week revealed the final list of parish closures and mergers it will undertake in order to address years of shrinking budgets and declining church attendance.

Buffalo Bishop Michael Fisher had announced in May that an estimated 34% of the diocese's parishes would be merged in a process of "rightsizing and reshaping."

The bishop said the mergers - part of the diocesan "Road to Renewal" program - were necessitated by a shortage of priests, declining Mass attendance, aging congregations, and financial difficulties brought on by clergy abuse lawsuits.

In a press release this week, the diocese said it would see "a total of 118 worship sites remain open" following the merger review.

"The diocese currently has a total of 196 worship sites that include 160 parishes and 36 secondary worship sites," the release said. "Going forward the diocese will see 79 parishes and 39 secondary worship sites remain after the merger/closure process."

The diocese said in its news release that it had met with its vicariates throughout August and considered several dozen "counter proposals" to its initial merger plan. Those suggestions "resulted in changes to 26 of the 36 families of parishes' initial recommendations."

Fisher in his release said the Buffalo Diocese is facing "harsh realities" including "a decline in Church attendance, the decline of those pursuing a life in ordained ministry, [and] the rise of secularism and shift away from the parish as the defining center of Catholic identity."

The bishop also cited "the horrendous toll that the sexual abuse scandal by clergy and others has inflicted on parish life and the personal faith of so many; most especially on those who have been forever harmed in body, mind, and spirit."

The Road to Renewal initiative "has been about reinvigorating Catholic

faith, more fully optimizing parish and diocesan resources, and increasing the impact of our varied ministries among the countless who benefit from them across western New York," the bishop said.

"The ultimate goal is for all parish families to be and remain vibrant communities of faith, focused on their evangelizing mission and serving the abundant need all around us."

Father Bryan Zielenieski, the diocesan vicar for renewal and development who is also leading the Road to Renewal program, said the high number of changes to the initial recommendations "reveals the true openness and collaboration in our effort to craft a diocesan roadmap for the foreseeable future."

The Buffalo Diocese isn't the only U.S. bishopric undertaking major closure and merger plans to address dwindling Church resources and attendance.

The Archdiocese of Baltimore announced its own merger plan for the city of Baltimore earlier this year, while the Archdiocese of St. Louis has been undergoing a similar process, as has the Archdiocese of Seattle.

Local activists and Catholics have been working recently to save some religious sites in Buffalo, meanwhile, as the merger plan has progressed.

The historic St. Casimir Parish in Buffalo has been struggling to stay open while facing tens of thousands of dollars in bills that threaten to close the nearly-century-old structure. Parishioners and advocates have been working to raise funds to keep the parish open.

The organization Preservation Buffalo Niagara, meanwhile, announced earlier this year that it was launching a "Save Our Sacred Sites" campaign, one aimed at "funding and submitting local landmark applications for churches within the city of Buffalo" that it said are at risk of closure by the Diocese of Buffalo.

Members of the Buffalo Preservation Board voted last week to designate several local parishes as city landmarks. Those designations are currently before the Buffalo City Council.

BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL

Working to build a culture of life

By Colleen Miner
Respect Life Co-Director

October is Respect Life month. This year, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops chose the theme: "I came so that they might have life." (John 10:10) Pastors received information from the USCCB to help Catholics understand and value the importance of protecting human life.

We are called to educate others in our daily lives whether it's by standing up for life during Lifechain Sunday, October 6, (lifechain.org), volunteering at a parish Gabriel Project or distributing information at a local prolife fair booth. This is a crucial time to learn and share because of the upcoming election.

New York State has introduced a dangerous referendum

that will be on the general election ballot November 5. Voters will be asked to approve or reject the so-called "Equal Rights Amendment" to the New York State Constitution. This is a misleading name. The Coalition to Protect Kids, which was formed to oppose the amendment, refers to it more appropriately as "The Parent Replacement Act."

The New York State Catholic Conference, which represents the Bishops of New York State in public policy matters, strongly opposes the referendum for important reasons. First, it would enshrine a fundamental right to abortion on demand in the state Constitution. While the initial practical impact of this likely would be minimal because the state legislature already has embedded this right in statute, by adding

it to the state Constitution, it would make it nearly impossible to enact any pro-life laws.

Second, because the language of the ERA amendment bars discrimination based either on "age" or "gender identity" or "gender expression," it could open the door to a judicial interpretation barring parents from having any say in medical interventions of their minor children regarding "gender transition" and would impact youth sports, locker rooms, bathrooms. Boys could be allowed to play girls' sports and locker rooms, and bathrooms could become shared spaces for both sexes.

This state constitutional amendment provides minor children with the fundamental right to abortion, chemical and late-term, as well as the fundamental right to engage

in transgender medical interventions. The ERA empowers Courts to either uphold laws that ignore parental notice or consent or to invalidate laws that require parental notice or consent for both life-ending or life-altering procedures. The ERA erodes protections for churches and other religious institutions to teach beliefs that run contrary to these newly created fundamental rights.

Please vote "no" to this harmful referendum and educate others about the dangers. More resources are available at protectkidsny.com.

The Respect Life Office is supported by the Bishops Fund. Thank you to all who donate to aid this ministry. And thank you to the many volunteers who work every day to build a culture of life.

LIVING STORIES OF OUR FAITH



2024
BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL



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