

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Sixty-five
years
of ministry | Page 9

Parish
celebrates
150 years | Page 12

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 79 Number 22

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

WE APPRECIATE & THANK OUR PRIESTS



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg gathered at St. Mary's Cathedral during Lent for the annual Chrism Mass. In this annual Priest Appreciation edition, we honor and celebrate our priests.

REFLECTING ON NEW MINISTRY



The two newest priests of the diocese, Father Carter G. Pierce and Father Douglas A. Schirmer, reflect on their new ministry since their ordination in May.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

Pope: Church is 'more alive' outside Europe

By Courtney Mares
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis said the Catholic Church is "more alive" outside of Europe as he reflected back on his recent apostolic journey to Southeast Asia.

"A first reflection that comes spontaneously after this trip is that in thinking about the Church we are still too Eurocentric, or, as they say, 'Western,'" the pope said in St. Peter's Square on Sept. 18.

"But in reality, the Church is much bigger, much bigger than Rome and Europe ... and may I say much more alive in these countries," he added.

In his first general audience

since returning from the longest international trip of his pontificate, the pope expressed gratitude to God for his experiences in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, East Timor, and Singapore Sept. 2-13.

"I thank the Lord who allowed me to do as an elderly pope what I would have liked to do as a young Jesuit," Francis said.

The pope, who turns 88 in December, expressed his enthusiasm for the "missionary, outgoing Church" he encountered on his visit to the four island nations in Asia and Oceania.

In Indonesia, where only 3% of the Muslim-majority country's population is Catholic, Pope Francis said that he encountered

"a lively, dynamic Church, capable of living and transmitting the Gospel."

The pope recalled his visit to the grounds of the Istiglal Mosque, the largest mosque in Southeast Asia, where he signed a joint declaration with Grand Imam Nasaruddin Umar condemning religious-based violence and promoting harmony.

"There, I saw that fraternity is the future, it is the answer to anti-civilization, to the diabolical plots of hatred, war, and also sectarianism," he said.

Pope Francis said the missionaries and catechists were the "protagonists" of his visit to Papua New Guinea, where the pope was welcomed by the

beating drums of some of the country's Indigenous tribes who have accepted the Catholic faith.

"I rejoiced to be able to stay a while with the missionaries and catechists of today; and I was moved to listen to the young people's songs and music: In them, I saw a new future, without tribal violence, without dependency, without economic or ideological colonialism; a future of fraternity and care for the wondrous natural environment," Francis said.

Pope Francis said that he experienced the "air of springtime" in East Timor, a small Catholic country that gained its independence from Indonesia in 2002.

NORTH
COUNTRY
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Celebrating the gift

While my son, Jake, gave me money to buy the gift, I was so proud of him for coming up with the idea, I gave him his money back.

Several years ago, our beloved Pittsburgh Steelers opened the season against Bishop Terry R. LaValley's favorite football team, the New York Giants. Several weeks ahead of that game, Jake developed an idea for a gift related to that game. It hinged the Steelers winning the game, and win they did.

Jake sent his gift with me as I headed to the chancery on Monday, the day after the game.

Shortly after I arrived at the office, Bishop LaValley opened a neatly packaged box to find a "Terrible Towel," a gold-colored

Darcy L.
Fargo

towel about the size of a dish towel that is waved in the air by nearly every member of the Steeler Nation at games, along with a note that said, "Dear Bishop LaValley, I thought you'd need something to dry your tears."

While I delighted in his football joke gift for a few reasons, one of the biggest reasons was because I'm grateful a few priests of our diocese and our bishop have engaged with Jake about the things

he loves, and he feels comfortable joking around with them as a result.

By connecting with my son, these representatives of our Lord show Jake that you can love Jesus, serve him as he calls you and still be a guy who enjoys football and the joking that goes with it. I think it's one of the reasons my son is open to discerning where God calls him, even if that's to the priesthood.

And it's one of the many ways our priests share themselves and their love of Christ with us.

While not every priest loves football, they all have ways they connect with the people of God. Some share their education and personal faith in faith formation programs. Others

roll up their sleeves and help out one of our many outreach centers. Others share Christ and themselves at prisons, hospitals, nursing homes, in the diocesan offices... I could list ways our priests help all day, and I'd still miss a few.

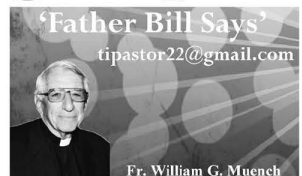
We appreciate them and thank them for our priests and thank them for their roles in our lives and for bringing us God's sacraments and God himself in the Eucharist. While many priests are thanked in the pages of this edition, some aren't. People miss deadlines. People forget. Life gets in the way. Those priests are still loved and appreciated.

Because our priests are also gifts.

Joining in priest appreciation

Priest's Appreciation Issue - today I am going to join in this issue's theme. So, I begin by offering to God my appreciation for our bishop and all the priests of our diocese, the Diocese of Ogdensburg. These wonderful priests of our diocese have been a part of my ministry all my years and have been an important part of all that I do as a priest. I truly appreciate them all, faithful priests with whom I continue to associate even in retirement. They have brought real joy to my priesthood. They are truly my brothers.

So, let me begin today by expressing to God my appreciation for our bishop, Bishop Terry LaValley. I have gotten to know Bishop LaValley rather well. He grew up here in the North Country. He was ordained a priest for our diocese, and he was chosen to our bishop. I have had the opportunity of working with him as a priest, and he has continued to be a fine



'Father Bill Says'

tipastor22@gmail.com

Fr. William G. Muench

leader for our diocese. I must say that I continue to be impressed with how well Bishop LaValley has led the people and priests of our diocese.

Next, I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude for all those priests of our diocese who now have gone to the Lord. I remember well so many of them and all the good things they accomplished as priests and pastors. I truly thank God for their presence in my life.

One story here: I remember one special priest, a friend and counselor who is now with the Lord. He was also a skiing companion. I always appreciated his help, his ideas, his guidance, and I remember well how much I learned from him, usually while

riding up the ski chair lift.

Next, I want to offer my appreciation to God for the active priests and pastors of the parishes in our diocese now. I am totally impressed with how many of them have taken on the responsibility and challenges of multiple parishes - two or three or even more. These pastors are accomplishing so much - so many great things. So, I do appreciate them all. God is using them in such a special way.

We need more, so I know that you will join me in praying for an increase in vocations and for more good priests dedicated to the Lord. I am confident God will send them. So, today, I will offer to God my appreciation for the priests of the future and pray that God will send them soon. The Catholic Church needs them.

Next, I want to send my appreciation to God for the presence and the priestly ministry of the many international priests, minister-

ing in our diocese. These priests from other lands bring a strong faith and message in their ministry and love of God. These priests are a gift to our diocese; they are dedicated to bringing the people of our diocese of Jesus.

I truly like this effort to recognize our bishop and priests, and our appreciation to God for them all. I know that I have benefited so much by the times when people expressed their appreciation for me as a pastor. So, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to express your appreciation to your pastor. It does make a difference. This expression helps your pastor to recognize that there are many who walk with him and join in making the parish a holy and dedicated people, people who want to make the parish a community united in love. Promise your prayers and sacrifices to the priests who are an important part of your life.

WE APPRECIATE & THANK OUR PRIESTS



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Bishop Terry R. LaValley, priests of the diocese and visiting priests gather around the altar at St. Mary's Cathedral during the ordination of Father Carter G. Pierce and Father Douglas A. Schirmer earlier this year.

Serving God and his people

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ
Diocesan Vocations coordinator

"You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizekek." – Hebrews 7:17.

These words are used in the ordination ceremony of men to priesthood. Jesus Christ is the perfect priest who offered sacrifice upon the Cross.

Every priest who is ordained becomes the "persona Christi," the mediator between God and His people as he offers sacrifice upon the altar.

We remember Bishop Terry R. LaValley and all the priests of our diocese on this special day celebrating Priesthood Sunday, September 29. They are men filled with faith, joy, hope and love as they steadfastly and perseveringly serve God and the people of God, guiding them to bring the face of Jesus Christ.

Our priests nurture the faith of their people in countless ways, celebrating the Eucharist, bringing the sacramental life to those who are sick, homebound, dying and to prisoners. They

are the face of Christ who radiate His presence in every situation – easy or difficult – in order to save souls.

Our priests ask the difficult, challenging question, "Who is Jesus for you?" "What place does He occupy in your life?" "How do you encounter Christ in your home, workplace, parish?"

As each priest offers sacrifice upon the altar, he prays that all our lives be transformed into Christ in the celebration of the Eucharist, the Bread of Life who alone has the words of eternal life.

Let us honor our priests by thanking them individually with

an offering of prayer, a "Thank You," a gift of support and kindness. Let us pray for more faithful priests, for our seminarians who continue to discern their vocation to priesthood, and to the many priests who have gone before us that have served in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.



***May God,
who founded the church and
guides her still, protect you
constantly with his grace,
that you may faithfully
discharge the duties of the
Priesthood.***

From the final blessing at ordination

To our Brother Priests,

Happy Priesthood Sunday!

From the Deacons and spouses of the

Diocese of Ogdensburg.



We thank you for inspiring us to be the
Face of Christ to the People of God.

Your faithful ministry is appreciated.

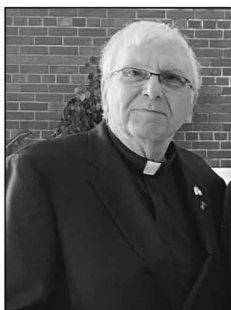
From,

The Office of Vocations & Seminarians

We appreciate & thank our priests

*God Bless and
thank you to all
Priests.*

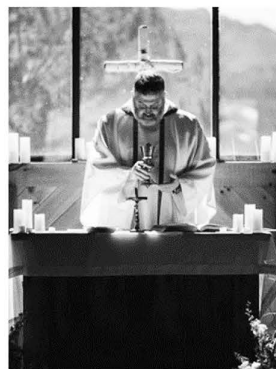
~Dishaw Family



Fr. Patrick Ratigan,
*Thank you for being a
First Rate Shepherd,
Spiritual Director,
Mentor and Friend.*

*Love and Prayers,
Jimmy and Robin*

We extend our deepest gratitude to our beloved pastor,
Father Martin Cline.



Your dedication and
compassionate service has
profoundly enriched our parish
and our community.

Thank you for all you do —
our hearts overflow with
appreciation and thanks to
God for you!

**Catholic Daughters
Court 787 St. Bernard's
Saranac Lake**

Father Chris,

We appreciate
your service.

~ From the
Our Lady of Grace
Family.



**Congratulations Fr. Chris Looby,
on your new assignment,
"The Roman Catholic Community of
St. Alexander & St. Joseph".
You're an outstanding pastor!**



God Bless,
Deacon Bernie Slate

...and then there were 3



Rev. John Demo



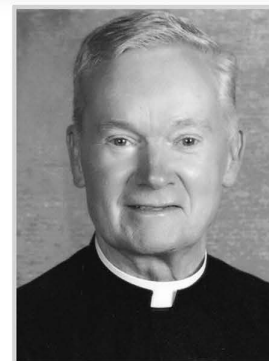
Rev. Matt Conger



Rev. Jaya Kumar Francis

How blessed are we!

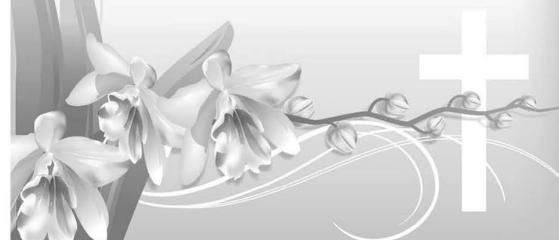
~St. Anthony's Divine Mercy Group



Father Donald Robinson

We have deep appreciation
for your countless hours of
labor and for your faithful
dedicated service to God.

St. Andrew and
Immaculate Conception
Altar and Rosary Society



WE APPRECIATE & THANK OUR PRIESTS

New priests reflect on early ministry

A time of blessings for Fr. Carter Pierce

Amanda Conklin
Contributing Writer

Though he has only been an ordained priest for four months, Father Carter G. Pierce is already diving headfirst into his vocation and, though one of our youngest priests in the diocese at 26, he's rapidly gaining experience.

There are growing pains as a young priest, but it has many advantages too.

"People notice how young you are, and they are curious," he said. "It is a sign of contradiction but in a positive light. It opens doors to preach the gospel to people who might not have had ears to hear otherwise."

Father Pierce has already been getting the feel for parish life, being stationed in Morrisonville, Peru, and Cadyville, but has also had the opportunity to visit some of the former parishes where he was stationed during summers in seminary and as a deacon.

One of his favorite parts of life as a priest has been his deep experience while giving blessings.

"I want to share the grace that I've received" he said. "Through first blessings I was able to see the power of God working through me. People became a mirror to me of what had transpired through me."

Father Pierce recently visited a very large parish where he had once been assigned during his time in seminary at Mount Saint Mary's in Maryland. The young priest was able to celebrate Masses and offer blessings in between Masses.

"I did nothing else but celebrate Mass and give first blessings up until the next Mass began," he said. "I went for seven hours straight. It was epic! Hundreds of people received blessings that day."

Father Pierce didn't always think he'd be a priest. In fact, he shared that two-thirds of his seminary class ended up discerning out, and he always figured he might be one of those statistics.

"I did not expect that I was going to stay, I thought I was one of the ones who would leave. I'm so happy He broke through my deafness. I'm joy-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

It's about 'radical availability' for Fr. Douglas Schirmer

Mary Beth Bracy, Consecrated virgin
Contributing Writer

"It's a shock not being in seminary anymore . . . this is the big league, I am actually doing this," said Father Douglas A. Schirmer, a new parochial vicar at Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh, who discussed some of the many responsibilities of new priests from administering the sacraments to counseling — and not just as a practice exercise.

"The duties become more intuitive," he said. "It comes to you, through the Holy Spirit and practice. It starts to become habitual to minister to people, the newness wears off, I feel comfortable engaging with people at that level. After the first month, [you say] 'oh wait, I am a priest.'"


Following his first three months of priesthood, Father Schirmer said that there are several things to become familiar with from living arrangements to collaborating with other priests and religious. Above all, there is the powerful reality of spiritual fatherhood.

"Every time I'm approached for confession or counsel, there is a soul who is hurt," said Father Schirmer. "I am not Father Doug, I am Jesus. That's very palpable for me in Confession."

The role has also involved some adjustment. "When I was really sick a few weeks ago, dozens of people were checking on me all day long, and it initially grated on me," he said. "Monsignor [Dennis J.] Duprey said, 'I am only going to tell you this once. You are a priest which means you are a public person. It's not a bad thing, that can be good.' There are people that really care about me."

Father Schirmer's days are full. "I typically wake up early in the morning at 5:30 or 6 a.m. and try to do mental prayer," he said. "I have coffee and journal. By

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Many thanks and appreciation to:


Fr. Clyde Lewis
Fr. Nick Revilla
Fr. Alan Shnob

for all you have done and continue to do for our parishes.

The parishioners of
St. Mary's, Champlain
&
St. Patrick's, Rouses Point

Thank you for your loving service to the Church.

May God bless you abundantly in your priestly ministry.



May 25, 2024

May 4, 1985 - 39th Ann.

October 10, 1987 - 37th Ann.

May 12, 2001 - 23rd Ann.

May 22, 1965 - 59th Ann.

June 27, 1970 - 54th Ann.

December 19, 1969 - 55th Ann.

From all your staff and parishioners at St. Alexander, St. Augustine, and St. James.

Thank you for your leadership, your faithfulness and your heart.

May God Bless you!

Fr. Jay Seymour

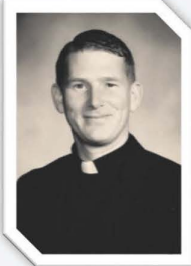
Many thanks for blessing and making our marriage possible.

~Jean Swain- Rivers

**Fr. Joe,**

Time spent together on Mondays and Wednesdays is greatly cherished. Thank you.

*The Coffee Group
St. Patrick's Church, Colton*



Fr. Frank Natale



Fr. Joseph Kanimea



Fr. Jaya Kumar Francis

***We are truly blessed and grateful
for the grace of your ministry
to our parishes!***

***May God shower you
with blessings!***

***The Parishioners of
St. Mary's, Evans Mills & St. Paul's, Black River
and Knights of Columbus Council 7471***

A time of blessings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

ful and peaceful as a priest although I never would have envisioned this for myself. Life with God is an adventure."

Father Pierce offered some beautiful advice for other young men who may be discerning the priesthood themselves:

"The call the Lord gives is always in the form of an invitation and not a summons," he said. "He wants us to live in freedom. Discernment is meant to be a meeting of two hearts. It's not just about what the Lord wants for us without any consideration of how that corresponds to the desires of our hearts. At the same time, the Lord is the one who knows us best having created us, he knows us better than we know ourselves. You can trust him and ask him to reveal you to yourself. Offer yourself to God. Don't hold back and put conditions on Him in your discernment. He may not lead where you expect, he may just want you to make that self-offering."

During this election year, there has been a lot of talk about separation of church and state. Father Pierce explained that many misunderstand the concept and think the intent was to protect the state from the Church. It was intended to be the opposite. Father Pierce said he believes the biggest thing we need to improve as a Church is our evangelization efforts. "There is this strong sense of separation of church and state in our country," he said. "More and more, people are asking us to keep our faith to ourselves. If you



Father Carter G. Pierce

hear that enough you're going to start doing it, it's just natural. But we have the saving truth. We have to share that."

We evangelize best when we live what we believe. This is what Father Pierce shared when asked what it means to be Catholic.

"Catholicism is a sacramental faith so we cannot discount the importance of our identity in the Church through the sacraments," he said. "At the same time, living Catholicism faithfully is a matter of receiving all the gifts that God wants to give and then offering everything back in a posture of self-offering. I'm thinking specifically of the Eucharist. It's a gift that no other Christians get to enjoy. And the love of God we receive in the Eucharist is to then be shared - to God and neighbor. All of us as Catholics are called to work on humility too. We are called to embrace things that we don't always understand fully.

It's not an opt-in, choose your own package, kind of faith, like pay per view. We embrace it all. We make this submission, trusting in the Lord's guidance and the Holy Spirit's presence beyond our own understanding and inclinations. There are things in our faith that I wrestle with, things I don't fully understand. Adopting a posture of humility in that is important."

Throughout his vocational journey, Father Pierce has tried to make sure his Catholic faith has been the foundation of everything, as that is what being Catholic truly means. "It's not meant to be a part of our life," he said. "It's meant to be the core, the foundation from where everything else stems. It informs every part of our life. It's not even the most important part, for then it's still just a part. It is meant to animate every part of our lives, to influence the way we think and act."

'Radical availability'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

9 or 9:30 a.m. I'm in the office, unless I have an appointment. By 10 a.m. all of my plans derail. People talk to you, there is a project. The office closes at 4 p.m. and the priests usually eat together at 5 p.m. Then I have time to prep my homily for the next day or call a buddy. There are also appointments or impromptu meetings. The idea of radical availability — there may be a homeless person I need to talk to or dry stuff. There are funerals, people who need to talk about family issues, confessions. I also pray the Liturgy of the Hours during the day, then Vespers and Night Prayer."

Father Schirmer, along with other parochial vicars in the area, have also been visiting the local school, Seton Catholic.

"I have been visiting Seton with Father Carter [G. Pierce] and Father Jude [Nnadibuagha]," he said. "We are hoping to get over there pretty regularly."

In addition to helping at the school, Father Schirmer said he's been able to accompany others.

"The life of faith is messy and it works best when we can tackle it together," he added. "As a baby priest, I get to see the mess of someone's life... Pope Francis said that Jesus meets us in the mess of daily life. There is effort on our part but most of the heavy lifting is done through the grace of God. I talk to people in wretched situations who trust in God's goodness, even if they are broken and alone. That they want to talk to priests it is a mind-blowing honor for



Father Douglas A. Schirmer

me."

The new priest is hoping to continue to grow his ministry.

"I'd really like to push harder for community building activities," he said. "Young adult groups, OCIA, Newman Center, building a men's group, continuing ed (for example, on the book *Time for God*, by Father Jacques Philippe, which provides an introduction to prayer)."

In his free time, Father Schirmer has a few hobbies.

"I'm in the middle of designing a table-top game for priests and like to read and write, philosophy, theology, good classic novels. Now I'm reading 'Father Brown Mysteries,' next I'm going to read Tolkien's 'Unfinished Tales.' For writing I do journaling and short stories on the priesthood. Also, I'm working on an Arthurian morality play legend about virtues and vices."

Additionally, Father Schirmer has a strong

devotion to praying the Rosary. "That exercise and Father [Joseph W.] Giroux's example are what brought me to seminary." Sometimes Father Schirmer spends an hour reflecting on the Rosary meditations during his walk from Mass to work.

"No matter what kind of day you are having, pray a Rosary and everything will be fine," he said. "Our Lady wears combat boots."

Father Schirmer looks to share that love of our Blessed Mother and the Rosary with others.

"Father Jude and I are doing an event for the memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary, a history of the feast and spirituality of the Rosary on October 7 [at 6 p.m.]," he said. "It will be held at Our Lady of Victory [in Plattsburgh]," which was the original name of the feast.

More details may be found in the Holy Cross bulletin at [https://holy-](https://holy-crosspb.org/)

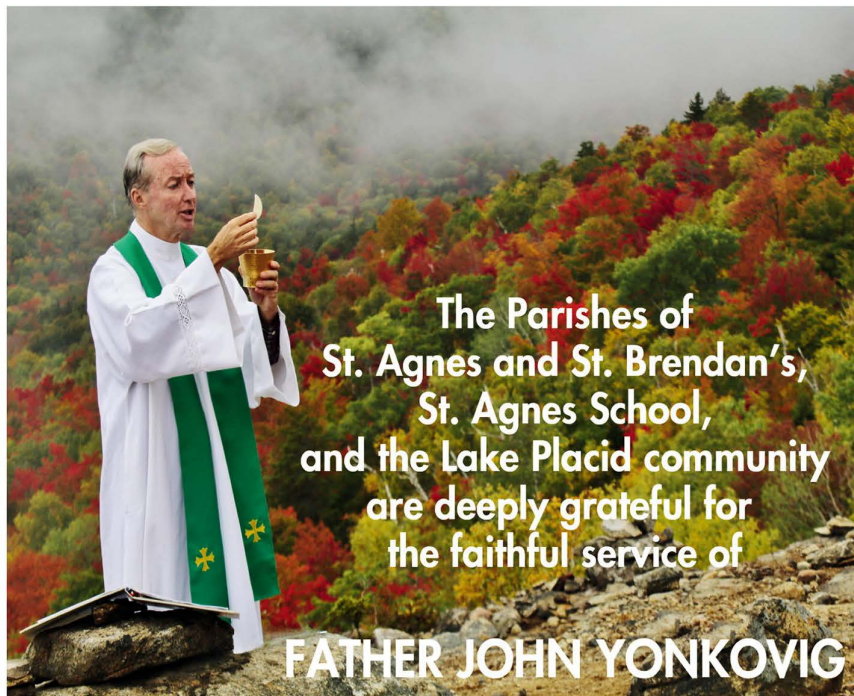
[crosspb.org/](https://holy-crosspb.org/)

As he continues in his ministry, Father Schirmer said he does so with gratitude.

"If you would have told me when I was 15 or even 10 years ago that I would be a Catholic priest, I would have laughed," he said. "It's the most amazing thing; I can't think of doing something else. Our Lord has a way of enticing us toward the thing that we are supposed to do. I want to add how grateful I am to the people of the diocese, to the bishop and parishioners here. Seminary was easily the best eight years of life. I had questions about what the priesthood would look like, but it is easy to love what I do."

Father Schirmer offered advice for those discerning vocations.

"Don't be afraid to spend time in prayer with the Eucharist and talk to a priest you trust," he said.



The Parishes of
St. Agnes and St. Brendan's,
St. Agnes School,
and the Lake Placid community
are deeply grateful for
the faithful service of

FATHER JOHN YONKOVIG

Thank you Fr. Robert L. Decker



*for your generous and dedicated service
to the people of St. Cecilia's Parish in Adams and
Queen of Heaven Parish in Henderson.*

*The Ladies of St. Cecilia's
Knights of Columbus
Queen of Heaven Church*

Father Arthur J. LaBaff & Father Douglas G. Comstock

*The Catholic Community of Alexandria & St. Mary's in Clayton
are so blessed in having you as our pastors!*

Deacon Neil & Dee Fuller, Deacon Gary & Gayle Frank,
Deacon Bernie Slate, Deacon Joel & Dawn Walentuk,
and your parishioners,
St. Cyril's Church, Alexandria Bay
St. Francis Xavier Church, Redwood
St. Mary's Church, Clayton



Fr. Muench: A book with a lot of chapters

Editor's Note: Earlier this year, when the Jubilee Mass was celebrated, two priests, Father William G. "Bill" Muench and Father Phillip T. Allen, were missed. Both celebrated 65 years of priesthood this year. Father Allen did not wish to be interviewed for this article.

By Darcy Fargo
Editor



Father William G. "Bill" Muench

"There have been so many chapters in my life," said Father William G. "Bill" Muench. "There's been a lot of change."

A native of Syracuse, Father Muench said he attended Catholic grade school and public high school.

When his mother died when he was only 10, Father Bill said it was a priest who delivered the news to him.

Later, it was a religious sister who got him thinking about the priesthood and religious life.

"In high school, we had release time," he said. "One of the sisters - I didn't realize she was so important at the time - got me reading Thomas Merton. When I was a senior in high school, we had to do a major paper. I wrote about Trappist Monks. I was so deep into it, I talked my father into taking me to visit the (Trappist) monastery in Piffard."

When he started considering the priesthood, a series of events led him to the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

"I had classmates from Peru, New York," he said. "I had no idea where that was. I had classmates from Plattsburgh. I didn't know where that was, either."

Father Muench said he enjoyed his time in seminary, first at Wadhams Hall and later at St. Mary's Seminary in Balti-

more.

"Our program at Wadhams Hall, there were maybe 50 of us there, we had a powerful public speaking program," he said. "Most of us were just out of high school. Father Bailey, Father Joseph Bailey, he was also the first pastor I worked with, did the program. By the time we got into parish work, we were very used to talking in front of people. Looking back, my time in seminary was very happy."

After Father Muench was ordained on May 16, 1959, by Bishop James J. Navagh, those next chapters of his life saw him growing in his ministry and in familiarity with the diocese.

"I was ordained in 1959, and from 1962 to '75, I was a high school teacher," he said. "I taught religion and chemistry and physics. I coached basketball. When I run into my former students, they're all grandparents now."

While a teacher, he served as a parochial vicar in Gouverneur, Massena (St. Mary's), Brasher Falls, Chateaugay, Brownville, Watertown (St. Patrick's) and at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. He was named pastor in Sackets Harbor in 1970.

Father Muench said he really enjoyed his time as a teacher and learning to work in parishes.

"That was a happy time," he said. "I enjoyed every moment of it. When I was pastor of St. Andrew's in Sackets Harbor, I was teaching at IHC (Immaculate Heart Central). We had a lot of kids at the parish, and I had a different group of kids at the school. One year, the football championship was between Sackets Harbor and IHC."

When his teaching career ended, Father Muench said he was a bit sad about it at first.

"I missed it for a while," he said. "Then I really got into parish work, and I enjoyed that, too. I enjoyed all of my parish assignments, and I loved the people I met everywhere I went, but as a rule, the last parish you were in always stands out. For me, that's St. Mary's in Ticonderoga."

In addition to his parish work, he also worked in campus ministry in the 1980s at SUNY Plattsburgh, and he spent a few years at the diocese's Peruvian Apostolate in Mollendo, Peru.

He retired first in 2011, but then came out of retirement to serve for a period of time in Saranac Lake when St. Bernard's pastor at the time, Father Mark Reilly, was serving the United States mili-

tary. It was around that time that he began writing for the North Country Catholic.

"Back in my days in education, I had written some about sports," he said. "That was an on and off kind of thing. When I was in Saranac Lake in 2012, (then NCC editor) Mary Lou Killian stopped in and asked to take me out to lunch. She asked me to start writing. Then, I had a little space. It kept moving and moving. From that, it got to be regular, and now I have a pretty good sized space."

Father Muench said he's enjoyed the variety he's experienced within his ministry.

"I've probably done all the things I wanted to do," he said. "I've done teaching, parish work, worked with people, worked with families."

Father Muench said a lot has changed over those years.

"The biggest change was the (Second Vatican) Council," he said. "Those first years we were out of the seminary, we were in the old style - Mass in Latin, our backs to the people. Then along came the Council. It was startling, really. It changed who we were and what we were about."

He's noticed yet another

change as he moves through his retirement.

"The hardest thing about retirement is that all your friends leave you," he said. "One thing that was a big part of the last 20 to 30 years was that I traveled a lot with the same guys, (Msgr. Peter) Riani, (Father Richard) Sturtz, Father (Francis "Vinny") Flynn. Father Flynn is the only one still alive. We went on some really neat trips over the years. China was wonderful. Tanzania was neat. We did a couple river boat tours - I remember seeing Budapest."

Father Muench noted that he and Father Phillip Allen are the only remaining members of their seminary class.

"We're all that's left," he said.

Now retired in Syracuse to be closer to family, Father Muench continues to aid at the parish where he resides, Holy Family Church. He regularly celebrates one weekend Mass and "a couple week-day Masses."

"They've been really good to me here," he said.



Father Robert Decker

Thank you for all you have done for us!

~Julius and Beverly Walla



*Support And Pray
For Vocations*

**Fr. Raymond
Diesbourg,**
**Thank you for all you
do for our parish.
God Bless You.**

~All Saints Altar & Rosary
Society



The parishioners of
Our Lady of Grace
Parish in Morristown,
Hammond and Rossie
are grateful to
Fr. Christopher Carrara
for his dedicated
ministry.

Thank you,
**Fr. Mickey Demo, Fr. Matt Conger,
& Fr. Jaya Kumar Francis**
for all you do for us!



We are truly blessed by your joyful ministry and so very grateful for your leadership.

*From the People of
Blessed Sacrament Parish
St. Patrick's, St. Anthony's & Holy Family,
Watertown*



St. Stephen's Parish wishes to show its appreciation of Father Donald Manfred. He shepherds his flock with great humor, compassion and understanding of our human flaws.

Thank You, Father Don!



**Father
Don Manfred,**

*Thanks for all you
do!*

~Proulx Farmer



Father Philip Allen,

Hiker, Farmer, but
best of all our priest!

Parishioners of
St. Joseph's Church
Olmstedville.



Father Bryan Stitt,

We appreciate all you do for St. Mary's Parish.

~ William & Carol O'Horo



Msgr. Paul Whitmore,

In loving memory -
Thank you for your spiritual
guidance & bringing us together!



Love, Deacon Jim & Chris



**Thank you
for
everything
you do for us.**

**Father Jay,
you are a
blessing.**

**St. Hubert's
Parish**

Fr. Clement,

You've been with us for 15 months now
and your parish family from
Immaculate Conception and St. John's
feels as though they have known you
for a lifetime. You make everyone
comfortable and very at ease. Your
smile is infectious and your "weekly
recipes" are an added bonus. You are
definitely one in a million! Thank you
for being you.

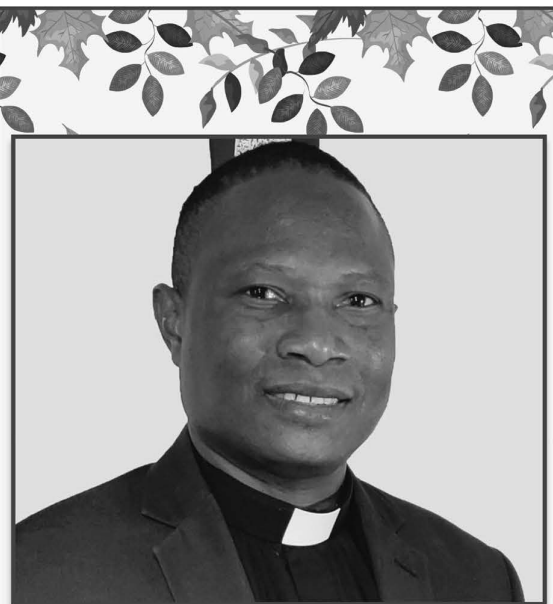
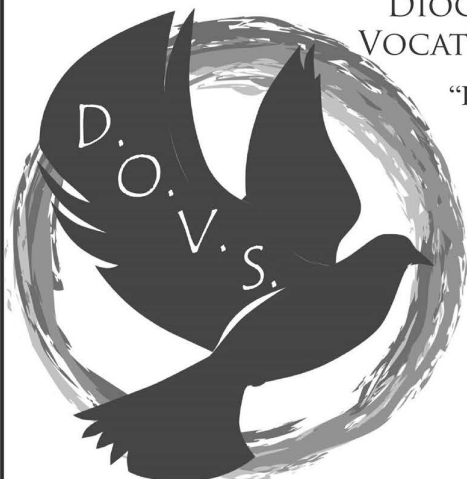
*From the
Keeseville Altar Rosary Society
Keeseville Knights of Columbus*



DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
VOCATIONS SOCIETY (D.O.V.S.)

"It was not you who chose me,
but I who chose you"
John 15:16

Thank you to
**Fr. Christopher Carrara,
Fr. Matt Conger
and all of our priests for
answering their call to
the priesthood.**



St. Mary's Church of Ticonderoga
welcomes

Rev. Medenel Angrand

to our parish.
We are happy and blessed
to call you our Pastor!

Parish launches campaign, celebrates 150 years

In August of 1873 Father James O'Driscoll arranged to purchase, for \$1,400, a wooden structure on Park Street in Gouverneur. The building was a former Methodist church and then a public hall known as the Opera House. After purchase it was used for Catholic services on Sundays and rented out during the week for public use. On September 22, 1874, the church was dedicated by Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams to serve as a Mass station of the parish in Canton. Those attending the dedication were charged 50 cents for admission to help pay for needed repairs. The church on Park Street did not last how-

ever, as on January 13, 1875, it was completely destroyed by fire.

Following the fire, the parishioners rallied and, after purchasing a lot on the west side of North Gordon Street, they had a new church built within six months. On November 2, 1875, even before the building was ready for use, the church was incorporated as a mission church of Canton where Father James O'Driscoll was pastor. On November 25, 1875, on Thanksgiving Day, the new church was dedicated by Bishop Wadhams who stayed afterwards to enjoy an oyster dinner with the people of the parish. The total cost of the new church

was \$4,000 and it served the needs of the people of St. James Parish for 50 years.

CURRENT CHURCH

Growing from a parish of 40 families in 1875 to a parish of 140 families in 1905, it became obvious that a larger church was needed. With that in mind, under the pastoral leadership of Father Michael Gallivan, pastor from 1896-1936, fundraising began spearheaded by the Promoters of the Sacred Heart. This was a group of about 20 women who began long years of suppers, dances and special events. Penny suppers were popular, as were pedro parties held in homes. Special envelopes went into every home to be filled at a rate of ten cents a week. Special objectives were set up, with one group of young ladies putting on a dance to pay for the first Station of the Cross. They raised \$44, which was \$2 over the necessary amount, but that \$2 was donated, too. The whole parish was involved, offering labor, donations and participating in the social events.

After 20 years of pa-

Capital campaign looks to build on 150-year foundation

St. James Church in Gouverneur has kicked off its three-year parish capital campaign, "Building On Our 150-Year Foundation."

Members of the parish Campaign Committee have been doing some home visits, and there have also been talks at church and at other gatherings for information sharing.

Parishioners have spoken at Masses about the campaign on the weekends of July 27-28 and again on August 3-4. The "Commitment Weekend" was August 10-11 at which time Father Jay Seymour will ask for pledges to be made.

The reason for the campaign is to address the structural needs of an aging church.

A great deal of work is needed to repair stone and mortar as a way of preventing water infiltration which is causing damage to the interior church walls. The campaign is a means of raising money to preserve a beautiful house of worship whose cornerstone was set in 1924.

The hope and goal is to see that St. James Church will stand for another 100 years.

To learn more, visit <https://oswegatchieatholics.org/capitalcampaign>.

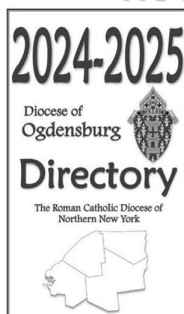
tient fundraising by parishioners and under Father Gallivan's guidance, an imposing structure of Gouverneur marble was soon raised on the corner of Main and South Gordon Streets. The estimated cost of building the church was about \$100,000 with over half being raised beforehand and the rest coming

shortly afterwards with subsequent donations and fundraisers.

The cornerstone of the current church bears the date 1924. On September 28, 2024, St. James will celebrate our 150 year heritage of faith as a parish and the 100 year construction of our beautiful marble church with Mass.

This will be an occasion to honor all dedicated parishioners and others who continue to sacrifice to preserve our faith and our place of worship.

Diocesan Directories now available!



The Official 2024-2025 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.

2024-2025 Directories now available!
Online at www.northcountrycatholic.org
for faster delivery or fill out form below
(Please cut out and send entire ad)



Make checks payable to
North Country Catholic
PO Box 106
Canajoharie, NY 13317

\$15.00 each

(Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery when mailing in form)

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for _____ directories

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

FR. KEVIN O'BRIEN

Your parishioners of
St. Raphael's and Ss. Philip and James
appreciate all you do for us.
Thank you.



Thank you, Father Todd Thibault,
for being a beacon of light and hope for our Council,
our Parishes, and Augustinian Academy.
Your commitment to serving God and
our community inspires us all.
May God continue to bless you in your ministry.



With heartfelt appreciation,
Knights of Columbus Father John Cosmic Council 291
Carthage, NY

**In appreciation for
all our priests.
Especially
Fr. Martin Cline &
Fr. Paul Kelly**

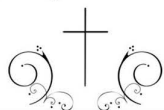
~Elaine Sater



Fr. Cline

In recognition of
priest appreciation.

~Jimmy and Robin



Thank you Father Jay for leading us at St. James School.
We are so grateful for you and your faithfulness!
Love, The Faculty and Students of St. James School



Msgr. Murphy,

Thank you for your dedication and
support to our parishes.

St. James Church, Sacred Heart Church
and St. Hubert's Church

Thank you for your priestly
ministry Father Scott Seymour.

You are a
blessing!

We are so blessed to have you as priests at
St. Peter's Parish in Massena. We appreciate all
that you do for our parish and our community!

Thank you for your vocations and God bless you,

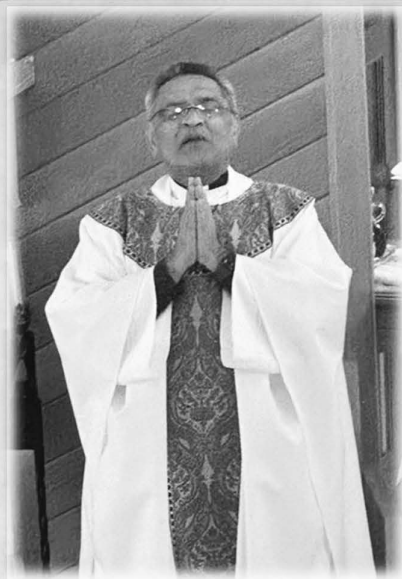
Fr Mark Reilly, Fr. Shane Lynch and
Fr. Lukas Gruber.



Fr. Moreau

We appreciate all you do
for our parish Fr. Ray.

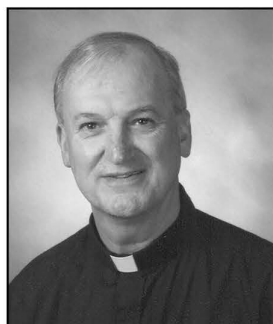
St. Patrick's Altar and
Rosary Society



In Appreciation of
Father Sony Pulickal

From the parishioners of
St. Ann's Church and
St. James Major Church

Thank you for all that you do.



Fr. Chapin

Thank you for
being a priest!

St. John's, Lyons Falls
St. Martin's, Port Leyden
St. Mary's, Constableville
St. Mary's Nativity,
West Leyden

Our Gratitude



Father Amruta Kumar Pasala

&

Fr. John Looby

St. Mary's of the Fort,
Catholic Community of Constable,
Westville & Trout River,
Catholic Community of Burke & Chateaugay,
wish to extend a sincere thank you for
your faithful service and commitment to
our parishes. Your kind words, wise
counsel and unwavering spirit have been
an immense source of strength for all of
us here. May God continue to bestow
many blessings upon you both.

Environmental Stewardship

Autumn As Teacher

In the Book of Ecclesiastes 3:1-2, we read "There is a time for everything, a season for every kind of activity under the heaven."

We are now in the Season of Creation, which continues until the Feast of St. Francis on October 4.

This week, we celebrated fall equinox and entered into the season of autumn. It is a time of harvest, a time to gather the fruits of the summer, a time for thanksgiving and celebration. It is also a time to reflect – to bring into awareness the dependency we have upon the earth with its processes and diversity. The spirit of this season calls us to think about what it might teach us about our season of personal spiritual growth.

In the words of Edward Hayes taken from Prayers of a Planetary Pilgrim (p.259), let us pray:

An Autumn Prayer

*O sacred season of Autumn, be my teacher, for I wish to learn the virtue of contentment.
As I gaze upon your full-colored beauty, I sense all about you at-homeness with your amber riches.
I live in a society that is ever-restless, always eager for more mountains to climb, seeking happiness through more and more possessions.
As a child of my culture, I am seldom truly at peace with what I have.
Teach me to take stock of what I have given and received and may I know that it's enough, that my striving can cease in the abundance of God's grace.
May I know that like you I am rich beyond measure. As you O Autumn take pleasure in your great bounty, let me also take delight in the abundance of the simple things in life which are the true source of joy. With the golden glow of peaceful contentment may I truly appreciate this autumn day. AMEN*

Bishop's Public Schedule

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

Sept. 27 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathdral

Sept. 28 – 4 p.m. – Mass and Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of St. James Church in Gouverneur followed by a Reception at the Gouverneur Community Center

Sept. 29 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

2:30 p.m. – Diocesan Blue Mass at St. Mary's Church in Canton
Oct. 1 – 9 a.m. – Mass at the Cape Vincent Correctional Facility in Cape Vicnent

Oct. 2 – Meeting of The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, New York, Inc. followed by Lunch at Bishop's Residence

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. 26 – 5:45 p.m. – Eastern Regional Center, Plattsburgh

Oct. 7 – 1 p.m. – Diocesan offices, Ogdensburg

Rest in Peace

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

Sept. 25 – Rev. Frederick P. Shue, 1989

Sept. 26 – Rev. Francis Van Compenhandt, 1880; Rev. Stephen Royet, M.S.C., 1933; Rev. Michael F. Gallivan, 1939; Rev. Joseph Ludger Desjardins, 1941; Rev. Earl Mayo, 1994; Msgr. Francis A. White, 2007

Sept. 29 – Rev. Patrick O. Thompson, 1955

Sept. 30 – Most Rev. Bryan J. McEntegart, 1968

Oct. 1 – Rev. Hermenegilde Brisson, 1954

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; terriannyanulavich@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

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

- Read local stories and commentaries
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more



Find us on Facebook!



OBITUARIES

Canton – Dorothy Jean (Holmes) Grandaw, 90; Graveside Services Sept. 18, 2024 at St. Mary's Cemetery.

Clayton – M. Therese (O'Riley) Scully, 87; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at a later date.

Colton – Bernice (Gotham) Thomas, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 23, 2024 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Keeseville – Jennie P. (Robare) Hanson, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 24, 2024 at St. John's Church; burial in Port Douglas Cemetery.

Lake Placid – Donald Gage Scammell Jr., 86; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 19, 2024 at St. Agnes Church.

Moers – Orville James Pratt, 85; Funeral Services Sept. 18, 2024 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Ann E. (Baker) McRoberts, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 21, 2024 at St. Mary's

Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Theresa "Gloria" (McKee) Mills, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 20, 2024 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Ogdensburg – Adrian John Vielhauer, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 17, 2024 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Peru – James W. Allen, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 23, 2024 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Floyd LaValley, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 19 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Plattsburgh Mausoleum.

Plattsburgh – Barry M. St. Louis, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 16, 2024 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Divine Mercy Cemetery.

Potsdam – Frank A. Revetta, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 21, 2024 at St. Mary's Church.

Tupper Lake – Rosemarie B. (Gearwar) Lang, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 21, 2024 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.



Father Jay,

you're a true blessing to our parishes. Thanks for all you do to make our parishes the encouraging and faith-building place it is.

St. James Church
Sacred Heart Church
St. Hubert's Church



Father Don,

We appreciate your service.

~Your Church Family of
St. Francis Solanus Church



Catholic universities among schools with links to abortion industry

Daniel Payne
Catholic News Agency

A study by the pro-life group Students for Life of America (SFLA) has identified dozens of U.S. Christian colleges and universities, including multiple Catholic institutions, maintaining "some type of relationship" with the abortion industry, including the abortion giant Planned Parenthood.

SFLA's Demetree Institute for Pro-Life Advancement said in its 2024 Christian Schools Project report that of the 732 Christian schools it investigated, more than 80 were found to have some sort of connection with Planned Parenthood or another abortion provider.

Those connections included "an internship opportunity that recommended or credited work at Planned Parenthood or another local abortion vendor" as well as linking to Planned Parenthood as a "health resource," a "class resource," or a "volunteer opportunity."

The report counted each factor as an "infraction," assigning grades to the schools based on the number of infractions given to each one. Nearly 30%, or 24, received a "F" rating with four

or more infractions, while 15 schools received a "D" rating for three infractions, 20 received "C" for two infractions, and 24 received a "B" grade for one infraction.

Schools were awarded an "A" grade if they had no infractions, while institutions received an A+ rating if they also offered proof of "a relationship with a local, life-affirming pregnancy help center."

Three Catholic institutions – Boston College, Santa Clara University in California, and St. Elizabeth University in New Jersey – received "F" ratings in the report. St. John Fisher University in New York and University of Detroit Mercy in Michigan, meanwhile, received "D" ratings.

Among the infractions identified by the report include University of Detroit Mercy listing Planned Parenthood as among "research guides" for students studying "women's and gender studies."

Overall, 17 Catholic institutions were found to have some connection with Planned Parenthood or to otherwise abortion resources.

None of the Catholic schools on the list responded to queries from CNA.

Cardinal: Pope's visit revived faith' in Singapore

By Andrés Henríquez
Catholic News Agency

"I believe his visit has revived the faith of our people. His visit has caused many of our Catholics to work together," said Cardinal William Goh, archbishop of Singapore, in an interview with Vatican News about Pope Francis' recent visit to the country.

"It's a very rare occasion when all Catholics come together to work side by side. All of them have been very enthusiastic and have felt that it is a great privilege to be part of this entire organizing committee, to

plan and work for the success of the papal visit," he added.

For the cardinal, the papal trip will inspire the intention to "build ourselves as one Church," to unite around the figure of the bishop of Rome, and to further promote the message of the Gospel among those who need it most.

It is precisely the quest to bring the good news to all humanity that prompted the pope to visit Asia, Goh explained. An effort to make the Catholic Church "truly a sacrament of the mercy and compassion of Jesus to-

ward others."

"I think that these types of messages, such as reaching out to the marginalized, to the poor, to those who suffer, to the vulnerable, and respecting other religions, the dignity of life, the protection of the family, and young people, respecting young people and encouraging young people to be bold, without forgetting the elderly either, all these messages that the Holy Father constantly speaks about resonate throughout the world, even for us Singaporeans," the cardinal reflected.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Flooding in Central Europe damages famous monasteries

Severe flooding has ravaged large parts of Central Europe, claiming at least 20 lives as numerous Church institutions have suffered significant damage. Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria, and Romania have been particularly hard hit. In Austria, the Cistercian Abbey of Heiligenkreuz in the Vienna Woods, one of the world's oldest continuously occupied Cistercian monasteries, was severely affected earlier this week. The stream on the monastery grounds burst its banks, flooding large parts of the area. The Leopoldinum seminary, located on the same grounds and known for its role in priestly formation, also suffered massive damage. In Poland, the historic Franciscan monastery in Kłodzko was severely affected. The church interior and the entire ground floor of the baroque building were flooded.

Archdiocese offers \$62 million to abuse survivors

The Archdiocese of New Orleans has proposed a bankruptcy settlement as part of its plan for addressing sexual abuse by clergy, offering a \$62.5 million payout to victims of abuse even as the victims themselves are demanding hundreds of millions more. The archdiocese's Chapter 11 plan of reorganization, filed last week in U.S. bankruptcy court, proposes a \$50 million cash transfer from the archdiocese to a settlement trust, along with a \$12.5 million payment from affiliated "non-debtor Catholic entities," mostly parishes within the archdiocese itself. In a statement announcing the plan, Archbishop Gregory Aymond said the archdiocese's "main priorities are to assist the abuse survivors on a path towards healing that includes fair and equitable compensation for them" while "creating a more financially sustainable archdiocesan ministry for the future." Acknowledging that there is "still much work to do," Aymond said the proposal will nevertheless "allow us to move forward and begin to bring conclusion to these proceedings." The archdiocesan proposal is considerably less than the roughly \$1 billion proposed by survivors of clergy abuse, the vast majority of which would be paid by insurers.

Australia to host International Eucharistic Congress in 2028

The 53rd International Eucharistic Congress in Quito, Ecuador, wrapped up on Sunday with the announcement that Sydney will host the next International Eucharistic Congress in 2028. The announcement was made by Cardinal Baltazar Porras, archbishop emeritus of Caracas, Venezuela, and pontifical legate to this year's International Eucharistic Congress. s part of the closing Mass in Quito, presided over by Porras, the prelate declared: "In the name and by mandate of Pope Francis, he announces to you that the 54th International Eucharistic Congress will take place in the city of Sydney" in 2028. Sydney was the site of the 29th International Eucharistic Congress in 1928. In a video shown at the event, Archbishop Anthony Fisher of Sydney said he was "delighted to invite you all to our port city in 2028 ... 100 years after Sydney hosted this great event."

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 what Ignatian meditation is, how to pray in this life-changing way with the Scriptures and guide us toward a greater love of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. We will discuss the introduction and first chapter of the book "Beloved Lover" by Father Gregory Cleveland, OMV.

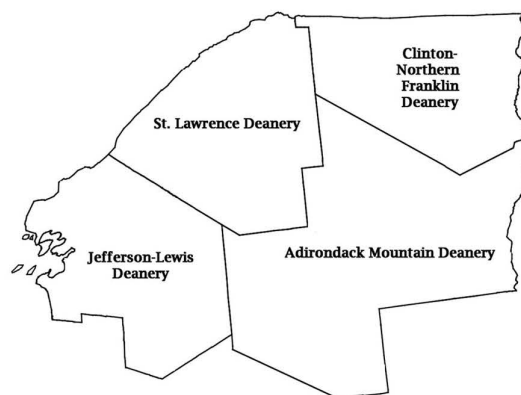
Contact: To order the book, please visit omvusa.org and enter SUMMER24 at the checkout to receive 10% off. If you haven't signed up for the Friendship Groups, here is the link: <https://mailchi.mp/sophiaiainstitute/friendship-groups>. Questions? Contact Mary Beth Bracy at mbracy@sophiaiainstitute.com

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN**UPDATED 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 Thursday of each month House open 10-2 Eve McGill and Lucy Wood will facilitate Praise & Worship 10:15-10:45, Recitation of the Holy Rosary 11-11:30, Group Sharing/Discussion 11:30-11:45, Lunch break 11:45-12:15 (please bring a bagged lunch) light refreshments provided, Soaking Prayer 12:30-1:30. 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



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,

Ogdensburg, NY 13669

e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

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.

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 Oct. 1 at 3 p.m. 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)

COMPASSIONATE COMPANION TRAINING

Plattsburgh - Compassionate Companions of Clinton County to have a Volunteer training.

Date: Oct. 9

Time: 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Place: St. Joseph's Community Outreach Center

Features: Compassionate Companion Trained Volunteers are generous and kind people carrying out errands of mercy to help their neighbors age in place more successfully by providing their gifts of companionship and friendship, easing isolation and loneliness by establishing and strengthening meaningful social relationships between older adults and their family, friends and volunteers, encouraging and enabling participation in the life of their communities.

Contact: To learn more or to register for the training please contact Starr at 518-825-0697 or Starr@stalexanders.org

HARVEST DINNER

West Chazy - St. Joseph's Church will hold its 49th Annual Harvest Dinner.

Date: Oct. 13

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

Place: St. Joseph's Parish

Center

Cost: Adults, \$15.00 each, Children 6-12 \$8.50, Children 5 and under FREE; Take-outs available \$15 each.

Features: Roast Turkey with all the trimmings, Homemade Pies, Big Ticket Raffle, Country Store and much more.

Contact: For information, please call St. Joseph's Parish Office at 518-493-4521.

HARVEST DINNER

AuSable Forks - The Annual Knights of Columbus Harvest Dinner to be held.

Date: Oct. 27

Time: 1 p.m. to 5

Place: Holy Name Parish

Cost: \$15

Features: Ham, scalloped potatoes, candied yams, glazed carrots, corn bread and dessert, Take-outs available.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS**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

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

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

Date: Oct. 12

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$8; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free

Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

HARVEST DINNER

Constableville - St. Mary's Altar Rosary will hosting their Annual Harvest Dinner.

Date: Oct. 13

Time: 10:30 a.m. until gone

Place: Drive Thru St. Mary's

Cost: \$15 per dinner.

CLMA ANNUAL DINNER

Clayton - The CLMA of Jefferson and Lewis Deanery will have their annual dinner.

Date: Oct. 16

Schedule: Welcoming Remarks 5:15 p.m. - Mass at 5:30 p.m., Dinner; Immediately Following & Concluding with the Program "Breathing Life Into Your Parish"

Place: St. Mary's Church

Cost: \$12 per person if attending dinner, no charge if registering for the program only.

Contact: Register at <https://www.rcdny.org/clm-event>

RUMMAGE SALE

Evans Mills - St. Mary's Church to have a rummage sale.

Date: Oct. 18 & 19

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center**Features:** Items for sale include vinyl records, snow board, modern spinning wheel, toys, seasonal decorations, glassware, dishes & much more.**Contact:** For more information call 315-629-4678**BASKET RAFFLE**

Houseville - St. Hedwig's Society will hold its Annual Theme Basket Raffles to benefit St. Hedwig's Church repairs and restoration.

Date: Tickets sold after the 11 a.m. Mass on Oct. 13, 20 and 27th. Drawing held Oct. 27 at 1 p.m..**Features:** No tickets will be sold during Mass. A kielbasa luncheon and bake sale will also be featured on Oct. 27. Donations of theme baskets and baked goods are needed and appreciated.**Contact:** Elaine 315-4865532, Lydia 315 348-7006 or Mary Ann 315-348-6260 for information or donations.**ST. LAWRENCE****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.**FALL BAZAAR**

Norfolk - Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond to have a Rummage sale, Cabbage Rolls and Bazaar.

Schedule: Oct. 3, in tents on parish center side yard, rummage sale; Oct. 4, Food Sale, Country Store, Candy Sale, Christmas Table, Hand Made Crafts and Religious Items; Oct. 4 & 5, Cabbage roll sale**Time:** Oct. 3-4, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Oct. 5, Morning till Noon**Place:** Fr. Amyot Parish Center**Cost:** Cabbage rolls are \$4 each**Contact:** Pre-order Cabbage Rolls by calling 315-384-4242 by Sept. 27.**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 with a celebration of Mass and presentation 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.**Contact:** Register here: <https://www.rcdony.org/clm-event>**FALL BAZAAR**

Massena - Annual Fall Bazaar to be held.

Date: Nov. 9**Time:** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.**Place:** St. Mary's Social Hall**Contact:** For more information contact to parish office at 315-769-2469**MEAL DRIVERS NEEDED**

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

Features: These drivers deliver hot, nutritious meals to older adults. Many are homebound and receive a lunchtime meal Monday through Friday. A critical component of this program is the daily wellness check that is provided by this service. Drivers receive a mileage reimbursement. Typical deliveries take place between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Routes can be between one hour and two hours. You can volunteer for one day a week or several. Any help is greatly appreciated.**Contact:** If you are interested please contact Danielle Durant at 315-386-4730.**DIOCESAN EVENTS****PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT**

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 Jan. 25, 2025**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**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 at info@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920.**LIFECHAIN**

Lifechain to be held at various locations across the diocese. Join in the annual peaceful, prayerful, public pro-life witness to the sanctity of life.

Schedule: Oct. 6 - Massena, Main Street & Rt 37 at 2:30 p.m.; Plattsburgh, Smithfield Blvd at 1 p.m.; Potsdam, Market Street at Main street at 1 p.m.; Saranac Lake, Bandshell Park at River Street at 2:30 p.m.; Oct. 5 - Watertown at Public Square, Noon to 3 p.m.**Features:** Rain or shine. Signs will be provided.**Contact:** For more information about Lifechain in your area visit www.lifechain.org.**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/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 both in the Catholic schools and public schools. 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.**GIFTED DISCIPLE**

Brushton - This all-day Charism workshop facilitated by Marika Donders from the Office of New Evangelization helps you begin to identify your gifts.

Date: Oct. 19**Time:** 9:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center**Features:** Before the workshop, participants are asked to go online to answer a set of multiple-choice questions. If you need assistance online, please contact Sally White at (518) 483-8370. In the morning, participants learn what charisms are, and each participant receives information about their potential gifts that can be explored further. The session after lunch explores ways to use your gifts to serve others. Discerning your charisms makes it easier to see how you may be asked to answer God's call to discipleship.**Contact:** Registration required: <https://forms.office.com/r/Rfyd-plTyQM> by Oct. 4



Father Joe,
Thank you for tending your flock
willingly, eagerly and by example.

~Ted & Debbie Hintopoulos

Father Clyde!

Thank you for your years of service to
St. Patrick's, St. Mary's and St. Joseph's
Churches. Best Wishes for good health in
your retirement.
Go Fighting Irish!

***In abundance of
appreciation to***



Father Alan Shnob

A man of deep faith and a friend of
our family for many years.

Thank you for your spiritual
guidance.

Scott & Doreen Wilson
Louisville, NY

***We appreciate
& thank our priests***

**Father Douglas Decker
&
Father John Ojuok**



We appreciate your spiritual
strengthening of our invigorating faith,
our empowering hope, and enriching love
of the Holy Trinity and Our Blessed
Mother Mary. We cannot thank you
enough for your dedicated Ministry and
service to us.

Also, thank you for your Military Service.

~St. Peter's Altar and Rosary Society, Lowville



Spread the Good News

Aunt Mary was one of my maternal grandmother's sisters. There were six Noonan sisters and one brother. Mary became a nun. She joined the Sisters of St. Joseph on Long Island. Their motherhouse is in Brentwood on Long Island. Mary took the name Amata when she professed her vows. Amata, in Latin, means beloved.

I can recall making the trip to Brentwood for Sister Amata Marie's funeral. The sisters were all hospitable and friendly. The sisters, living in community, were happy and welcoming.

Over the years, I have been lucky enough to visit a few convents or motherhouses, sisters living in community. The sisters were all like those I met in Brentwood.

Anytime you put a group of individuals together in community,

there are bound to be little idiosyncrasies or habits that grate on one or more of the others.

I recall witnessing that once in the monastery of some cloistered sisters.

Their "new" digs had not been consecrated yet, so reporters were allowed inside the gates. A couple of the sisters were playing checkers. I felt a tug on my jacket and another sister, who was not playing, said of one of the players "watch her, she cheats."

Who cheats at checkers, I wondered?

Many of us have lived in community at one point in our lives or another. It might have been in a small or large family home, a college dorm, a sorority or fraternity house, in a barracks, a rectory, a convent or

even in a jail or prison.

Most of the time, everyone living in the community gets along quite well. That camaraderie is stronger if the folks join together in prayer.

Take away the building, the structure that brought the community under one roof and you are bound to cause some pain, some foreboding about the future.

In my heart I could feel some of that in the Sisters of St. Joseph who attended the final Mass celebrated in the Chapel at the SSJ Motherhouse in Watertown recently.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated the Mass. He spoke in his homily about the opportunities that lie ahead for the sisters and their inclination to do good and to

spread the Gospel wherever they were.

He commissioned the sisters, "Today, in the name of Jesus Christ and as your Bishop, I send you out to 'Circle the City with Love.' May you be an instrument of God's lavish grace to all you meet. This commissioning and sending you forth will strengthen the bonds of love throughout the world."

The sisters who lived in the motherhouse will disperse in groups to live and work from four distinct locations around

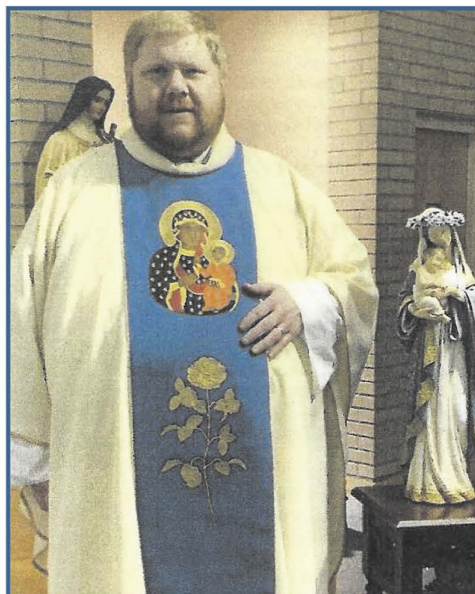
Watertown. The Sisters of St. Joseph superior, Sister Shirley Anne Brown, said "As we journey with Joseph back to our humble beginnings of living in smaller communities, we maintain our commitment to brings God's love to the 'dear neighbor.'"

Those neighbors will be better off having sisters next door.

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



Deacon Kevin Mastellon



Fr. Ted,

Thank you for all you do for the people of our parish as a Pastor and a Friend.

The Parishioners of St. Joseph's, West Chazy

A Tribute to Fr. Ted

As you stand behind the lectern
Reading from God's Word,
We think of all the sermons,
From you that we have heard.

They all bespeak of Mary,
Our Mother from above,
Her Glories, Joys, and Sorrows
And her wondrous luminous love.

You tell us Mary is Our Mother,
She said "YES" to God,
And by her fine example,
In her footsteps we should trod.

When we honor Mary,
We pay tribute to her Son,
Never will she turn away.
To Mary we should run.

You preach about her Rosary,
And the power that lies within,
An effective tool, a mighty weapon,
In our battle to fight sin.

So, Fr. Ted, our shepherd,
God sent you to us here,
Because we need to know
Your message loud and clear.

You are a fine example,
Of how we all should be,
For when we look at you, Fr. Ted,
It is Jesus that we see.

WIN

A 2024 Subaru Forester*

*Or \$20,000 Cash

Drawing Sunday, October 13, 2024

Tickets \$20 each or 6 for \$100

Your support of our annual car raffle helps make possible a wonderful school year for St. Agnes students! Thank you!

SAINT AGNES
SCHOOL

Tickets available by phone: (518) 523-3771

To order tickets by mail, please complete form and enclose with your check made payable to:

ST. AGNES CHURCH
169 Hillcrest Ave.
Lake Placid, NY 12946

Name _____
Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Tickets _____ Amount of check \$ _____

Winner need not be present to win.

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

The cure for envy

Over the past 20 years we have invented many new terms in English. Can I friend you? Did you see my tweet? Wow! I just had a great thought. I'm going to tweet it and maybe even blog about it. All of this, without mentioning LinkedIn, Tumblr, Instagram, Foursquare and Pinterest. Social media hope to bring us together. But, human nature kicks in, and, as social beings, we can even turn social media into something destructive and hurtful. Unfortunately for many, the social media have provided new ways for us to express our weaknesses.

But none of that is new. In the Gospel, as well as in the first reading, the disciples of Jesus and the disciples of Moses complain because others performed good deeds without belonging to the official group. They were not part of the club. How dare they do something good without having the proper license or credentials!

Well, as a matter of fact, these disciples were not so much concerned about being part of the right clique, as they were victims of envy. They were envious of the others who were able to perform wonders in the name of Jesus.

Envy is one of the seven capital sins. Do you remember them? Lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy and the mother of all sin, pride! We forget them some-

times because they can so easily invade life and almost seem normal.

So, envy, a capital sin, as illustrated by the people in today's readings, can make us feel unpleasant because jealousy or envy can eat away at us. In fact, St. Thomas tells us that envy is the only sin that does not give any pleasure. Envy is such a sin because it can lead us to commit harm to others. Even worse, when we are envious or jealous, we are accusing God of not giving us enough blessings rather than recognizing and appreciating the blessings that we do have.

Envy can destroy relationships, can cause wars, can make the envious person miserable, cause one person to destroy another. Sometimes envy can lead one to overextend himself

September 29

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Numbers 11:25-29

James 5:1-6

Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

and to financial disaster because we want to have what someone else has.

So, what is the cure? Certainly prayer, conversation with God, can play a big role in curing our jealousy. First, we need to admit that, at times, we suffer from jealousy; jealous because we do not appreciate what we do have; envious because we want to be number one; jealous because we sometimes see ourselves as superior to others.

We need to pray in gratitude for the blessings that we have received. However, that presupposes that we recognize the blessings in our lives. We can take our blessings for grant-

ed and do not seem them as blessings or worse, believe that we, not God, are responsible for them.

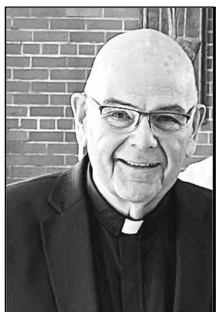
Likewise, a pathway to reduce envy is found with the virtue of humility. Humility forces us to recognize that we are not the center of attention, always be number one, nor do we have to impress others by what we have. Rather, we should be content to impress others by who we are.

Sometimes in our scripture readings we hear words of comfort, words of exhortation, and, like today, words of condemnation and rebuke. If the words of Jesus apply to you, then only you can make a difference.

May we be able to reverse our feelings of envy and jealousy into deeply centered love of God and of others and a recognition of the abundant blessings that God has given us.



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin



Monsignor Aucoin,

With sincere appreciation
and our deepest gratitude.
Thank you for all you
have done.

The Deacon Candidates

Father Philip Allen,

Thank you for your guidance &
friendship. Let us continue our hikes
and enjoy God's creation!



Deacon James & Christine Chaufy



We can't believe
we survived another year with you

Father Garry Giroux!

Here's to more than just a few!

Thanks for all you do!

God Bless
and

AMEN

From the parishioners of
St. John the Baptist, Madrid
and
St. Mary's Church, Waddington

AGs call for health warning on social media

By Jonah McKeown
Catholic News Agency

A bipartisan group of 42 state attorneys general recently called for the U.S. surgeon general to add a health warning to algorithm-driven social media sites, citing the potential psychological harm that such sites can have on children and teenagers.

"As state attorneys general, we sometimes disagree about important issues, but all of us share an abiding concern for the safety of the kids in our jurisdictions - and algorithm-driven social media platforms threaten that safety," the coalition of attorneys general wrote in a Sept. 9 letter to congressional leaders.

The attorneys general cited growing bodies of research that link young people's use of these platforms to psychological harm, including depression, anxiety, and even suicidal thoughts in kids and teens. They also noted how platforms feature "enticing algorithmic recommendations, infinite scrolling, and a constant stream of notifications, which are designed to keep kids relentlessly engaged on the platforms, even at the expense of taking breaks, engaging in other activities, or sleeping."

State attorneys general have taken action in recent years to hold the largest social media platforms accountable. In 2023, the attorneys general of 45 states and the District of Columbia

filed a series of lawsuits against Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, alleging that the company "deployed harmful and manipulative product features designed to push young users' engagement with the Instagram platform to dangerous levels, all while representing to the public that its products are safe."

"[A] surgeon general's warning on social media platforms, though not sufficient to address the full scope of the problem, would be one consequential step toward mitigating the risk of harm to youth. A warning would not only highlight the inherent risks that social media platforms presently pose for young people but also complement other efforts to spur attention, research, and investment into the oversight of social media platforms," the attorneys general wrote.

"This problem will not solve itself and the social media platforms have demonstrated an unwillingness to fix the problem on their own. Therefore, we urge Congress to act by requiring warnings on algorithm-driven social media platforms, as recommended by the surgeon general."

U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy has on several occasions signaled a willingness to highlight the health risks posed by social media, issuing in 2023 a 25-page advisory regarding social media usage evidence for its negative effects.

"Children are exposed to harmful content on social media, ranging from violent and sexual content to bullying and harassment. And for too many children, social media use is compromising their sleep and valuable in-person time with family and friends," Murthy wrote in that advisory.

"We are in the middle of a national youth mental health crisis, and I am concerned that social media is an important driver of that crisis - one that we must urgently address."

In July, the U.S. Senate voted overwhelmingly to advance extensive regulations that its supporters say will protect the safety and privacy of children on the internet. Under the bill, the government would impose a "duty of care" on social media platforms, meaning social media companies could be held legally

liable if they are negligent in their efforts to prevent children from accessing harmful material.

Bullying and harassment, as well as sexual and violent material, are listed as harmful material covered by the legislation, known as the Kids Online Safety Act and the Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act. The legislation would also require platforms to work to prevent children from accessing material that could contribute to anxiety, depression, eating disorders, and various other harm.

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

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

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



OCTOBER

DIOCESE OF
OGDENSBURG, NY

2024

The Most
Holy Rosary

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 BISHOP TERRY LAVALLEY	2 REV. DONALD A. ROBINSON	3 REV. STEPHEN A. SCHIRMER	4 REV. JAMES W. SEYMOUR	5
6 REV. SCOTT A. SEYMOUR	7 REV. ALAN D. SHNOB	8 OUR PASTOR	9 REV. F. JAMES SHURTLEFF	10 REV. FERNANDO SOLOMON JR	11 REV. BRYAN D. STITT	12 REV. JAMES V. TETI
13 REV. TODD E. THIBAUT	14 REV. JUSTIN THOMAS HGN	15 POPE FRANCIS	16 REV. SEVERINUS A. TORWOE	17 REV. HOWARD J. VENETTE	18 REV. DANE WESTOFF	19 REV. JOHN R. YONKOVIG
20 REV. PHILIP T. ALLEN	21 REV. ANDREW J. AMYOT	22 DECEASED PRIESTS	23 REV. MEDENEL ANGRAND	24 REV. PIERRE AUBIN MSC	25 MSGR. ROBERT H. AUCCOIN	26 REV. SCOTT A. BELINA
27 REV. CORNELL E. BOYEYE MSC	28 REV. TIMOTHY G. CANAAN	29 REV. LEAGON J. CARLIN	30 REV. CHRISTOPHER C. CARRARA	31 REV. GERALD A. CERANK	For more copies contact: Diocese of Ogdensburg PO Box 369 Ogdensburg, NY 13669	

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

Bishop LaValley
Fr. Joseph Morgan
Fr. Michael Marzan
Fr. James Shurtleff
Msgr. Robert Aucoin
Fr. Kevin O'Brien
and

For all Priests who serve in the Diocese

*We are truly blessed and grateful
for your ministry.*

Thank you for all you do for
*St. Mary's Cathedral, Notre Dame Church
and our Diocese.*

Peace Love & Prayers
Deacon Mark & Vicky Lalonde



BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL

Helping college students find, keep faith

By Marika Donders

Director of New Evangelization

You may have heard this story or some variant thereof: A student leaves home for college and enters an unfamiliar environment surrounded by new ideas, peer pressure and inundated by technology. Their faith is swept away.

You rarely hear the other story: A student is invited to dinner at the Newman Center, has a home-cooked meal or a pizza, and finds friendship and a home away from home. Maybe he had faith to begin with. Maybe his family practiced the faith, but he had long ceased to believe. May-

be he had only doubts and questions. But in this community, he finds he isn't ridiculed for asking questions or expressing doubts. Rather he finds that questions and doubts are expected and discussed and, in the process, finds that faith is actually reasonable.

This is the power of Catholic Campus Ministry. It gives students who have faith (or not) a place to belong, be loved and a place to wrestle with questions of identity, the meaning of life and where Jesus fits into all of this.

Catholic Campus Ministry is your Bishop's Fund contribution at work. The Bishop's Fund enables us to

have campus ministers at various colleges around the diocese. As one campus minister shared: We can continue to live out the call to lead Catholic young people into faith-filled college experiences with the generosity of those who donate to this cause. I personally am fortunate to have housing like the Potsdam Rectory in addition to my salary, and the generosity of our parishioners to help the students go on pilgrimages, retreats, and trips. Without the help of the Bishop's Fund, I would not be able to focus on the ministry ahead of us as anxiety-free.

Our Catholic Campus

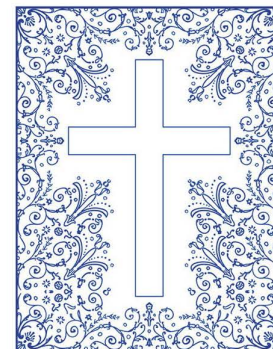
Ministries serve students by accompanying them and providing faith filled opportunities to encounter Christ in the campus ministry community and the local parish. There are annual collegiate retreats at Guggenheim as well as opportunities for students to participate in outreach to their local communities and beyond.

For more information about Catholic Campus Ministry, visit rcdony.org/cm.

Do you have a student attending one of the colleges in our diocese? Be sure to let the campus minister know so that they too can be invited to participate.

Thank you for your

support of the Bishop's Fund.



Father Joe,

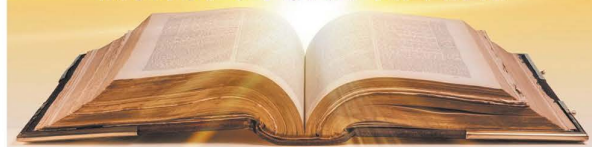
Thank you for all the guidance and support!

~Amanda Ames

LIVING STORIES OF OUR FAITH



2024
BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

Please use my/our gift to continue the good works of our Church and help support the ministries of the Diocese.

Gift

4 Pledge Payments

- ☐ \$1,000 \$250
☐ \$800 \$200
☐ \$400 \$100
☐ \$200 \$50
☐ \$100 \$25

Gift/Pledge Total \$ _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Balance \$ _____

☐ Other _____



OR Please charge my credit card for \$ _____

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Thank you, priests

We begin each day with grateful hearts for all our priests and their continued service to the Church. It is only with their continued hard work and support that we can complete the work we do every day. We are especially grateful for their efforts with this year's MPDO and Missionary COOP appeals.

We would like to specifically thank Bishop Terry R. LaValley, Father Joseph A. Morgan, VG, Father James W. Seymour, Father Daniel L. Chapin, and Father Kevin J. O'Brien for supporting us on our Board of Directors. Both your guidance and the time and effort you put into helping us are invaluable.

The priests in our diocese and diocese around the world work hard every day to live their vocations. We pray for the priests in mission territories working to distribute the sacraments in areas torn by war and violence. We pray for the priests striving to keep their people fed and clothed in the face of poverty and cor-



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

ruption. We pray for priests fighting for the dignity of those who are not granted it by society.

As we come out of MPDO and Missionary COOP and move towards Extraordinary Mission Month, may we keep in mind all those men called to service in the Church with a vocation to the holy priesthood. We are especially grateful for those who spend their lives as missionaries. Because of them, we are able to become more interconnected with the rest of our church family and better live out our vocation of missionary spirit.

We thank all priests in our diocese who served at our former mission parish in Molendo, Peru, for their faith, dedication, and hard work.

We also thank those priests that have come

to us from other countries to share their faith and spirit with the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

As the Holy Father, Pope Francis, once said of priest appreciation, "Challenges exist to be overcome! Let us be realists, but without losing our joy, our boldness and our hope-filled commitment. Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of missionary vigor! ("The Joy of the Gospel").

To be added to our mailing list or to learn more, contact us at amichael@rcdony.org. More information can also be found on our website, www.rcdony.org/mission. As always, please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your will.

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Nuns appeal to SCOTUS over NY mandate

By **Kate Quiñones**
Catholic News Agency

A group of nuns and other religious groups with charitable missions are asking the U.S. Supreme Court to block a New York state mandate that would force them to cover abortions in their employee health insurance plans.

"New York's abortion mandate is so extreme that not even Jesus, Mother Teresa, or Mahatma Gandhi would qualify for an exemption," said Eric Baxter, vice presi-

dent and senior counsel at Becket, the nonprofit religious liberty law firm that is arguing on behalf of the nuns. "The justices should exempt religious organizations once and for all so they can focus on caring for the most vulnerable."

The religious groups challenging the abortion mandate include a group of Carmelite sisters, the First Bible Baptist Church, the Sisterhood of St. Mary, an Anglican Episcopal monastic order of contemplative religious sisters, and

Catholic Charities, which provide adoption and maternity services.

The New York abortion mandate "imposes immense burdens on countless religious entities opposed to abortion as a matter of deep-seated religious conviction," reads the Sept. 18 petition to the Supreme Court.

The petition notes that permitting some religious conduct for preferred subsets of religious groups but forbidding others "is a particularly pernicious form of discrimination under the First Amendment."

The September petition follows a series of legal issues beginning in 2017, when a group of Anglican and Catholic nuns, Catholic dioceses, Christian churches, and other faith-based ministries sued over the mandate, which prohibited insurance policies from excluding coverage for abortions. The lower courts initially

ruled against them, but Supreme Court justices reversed the lower court rulings in 2021 and told them to reconsider in light of *Fulton v. Philadelphia*, which brought up similar free exercise issues. The state courts ruled against the religious organizations again, so the religious groups have returned to the Supreme Court.

"Religious groups in New York should not be required to provide insurance coverage that violates their deeply held religious beliefs," said Noel J. Francisco, partner-in-charge of Jones Day's Washington office, which is also arguing on behalf of the nuns. "We are asking the court to protect religious freedom and make clear that the mandate cannot be applied to this diverse group of religious organizations."

Initially, the proposed abortion mandate allowed all employers with religious objections to

receive an exemption. However, New York redefined the exemption to include only religious groups that primarily teach religion and organizations that primarily serve and hire those who share their faith. Ministries such as the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, which runs a nursing home, do not qualify for the exemption because they serve those in need regardless of religious affiliation.

"It thus places special burdens on religious traditions holding service of others to be a religious command," the lawsuit noted.

In addition to the Carmelite sisters, Lutheran, Episcopalian, and Baptist groups are also "deemed insufficiently religious to qualify for a religious exemption - and so are forced to cover abortions in their employee health plans."

The court will consider whether it will hear the case later this fall.

Dear Father Philip Allen

Thank you for being our spiritual leader, a hardworking farmer, our friend and devoted servant to God.



~The People of St. Mary's and St. Paul's love and appreciate you.



Thank you, Lord for our priests!

Most Reverend Terry LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

Reverend Joseph Morgan
Rector of Saint Mary's Cathedral

Reverend Kevin O'Brien
Pastor of Saint Raphael's Church
& Saints Philip and James Church

Reverend James Shurtleff
Pastor Emeritus of Notre Dame Church

Reverend Michael Marzan
Parochial Vicar of Saint Mary's Cathedral

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