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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 79 Number 36

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JANUARY 15, 2025

INSTALLED AS ACOLYTES



Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided at the installation as Acolyte of six candidates for permanent deacon at Wadhams Hall, Ogdensburg, on Jan. 3. The candidates had previously received installation as readers. Both installations precede ordination as deacons. Ordination is scheduled for August 9, 2025 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. Pictured with Bishop LaValley are (left to right) James B. Kavanaugh, St. Mary's Clayton, James P. Law, St. Bernard's Saranac Lake, Nicholas A Tsibulsky, St. Peter's Massena, Bishop LaValley, Garry H. Stevens, St. James Carthage, Francis E. Szerzenie, St. James Major Lake Pleasant, and Gordon J. Burdo, Jr., St. Augustine's Peru.

TRIVIA WINNERS



Clare Murdock (far right), president of the Ogdensburg Vocation Committee, gives the \$600 Trivia Night grand prize to 'Canton Lords a Leaping,' a team comprised of (from left) Philip Shatraw, a member of the DOVS, Sarah McIntosh, administrative assistant at St. Mary's, Canton, Paul Schrems, pastoral associate for Administration at St. Mary's, Canton, and his wife, Melissane, a professor at St. Lawrence University, and Father Bryan Stitt, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Canton. The trivia night raised \$2,800 to aid seminarians.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope highlights 'scourge of child labor'

By Kristina Millare
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis used his first general audience of the year to address the scourge of exploitation and violence against children, urging Christians worldwide not to remain indifferent to their pain and suffering.

Putting a spotlight on the "scourge of child labor," the Holy Father lamented that there are "too many children forced to work" who are unable to smile, dream, or nurture their talents.

"In every part of the globe, there are children who are exploited by an economy that does not respect life, an econo-

my that, in so doing, consumes our greatest store of hope and love," he said on Jan. 8.

Speaking to hundreds of international pilgrims gathered inside the Paul VI Hall in Vatican City, the pope said society – especially Christians "who recognize themselves as children of God" – must not turn a blind eye to the plight of vulnerable children.

"[Christians] cannot accept that our little sisters and brothers, instead of being loved and protected, are robbed of their childhood, of their dreams, victims of exploitation and marginalization," he said.

In spite of great technological advancements, the Holy Father

said, such progress has often disregarded the dignity of children, "who are a gift from God," and failed to address their current and future needs.

"Today we want to turn our gaze toward Mars or toward virtual worlds, but we struggle to look in the eye a child who has been left at the margins and who is exploited or abused," he said. "The century that generates artificial intelligence and plans multiplanetary existences has not yet reckoned with the scourge of humiliated, exploited, mortally wounded childhood."

Before extending his greetings to pilgrim groups from around the world, the pope

prayed: "Let us ask the Lord to open our minds and hearts to care and tenderness, and for every boy and every girl in the world to be able to grow in age, wisdom, and grace, receiving and giving love."

At the end of the pope's general audience, 50 members of CirCAfrica, a circus company on tour in Rome, performed a short extract from their show for the pope and pilgrims inside the Paul VI Hall.

Praising circus artists' mission of "doing good and making us laugh," the Holy Father thanked the dancers, acrobats, and jugglers from various African nations for making him and others "laugh like children."

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It can be both

"It's the hardest part of what I do, but it may also be the best part of what I do."

I said something like that to someone I consider a trusted adviser as she asked me about writing this column.

The very next day, it was both.

In the morning, a reader called to chat with me about something I wrote. It was a lovely conversation, and it makes me smile any time I get to have a conversation about loving Jesus. Those moments are the best! They are blessings!

Four hours later, I was staring at a blank page

with no column idea. After almost two hours of writing a few sentences and then deleting a few sentences, I was getting frustrated.

Darcy L.
Fargo

"Doing this is so hard," I thought.

While I sometimes find that duality - that burden/blessing aspect - maddening, this week, I actually found it helpful.

I'm going this weekend on a silent retreat. People have used a lot of adjectives to describe me over the course of my life, but not one person has ever used "silent." I'm never quiet. I love good conversations! I love music and media. I even talk

to myself or make little sound effects while I read or write. I intentionally spend short times in silence, but I don't like it, and I'm not good at it.

I'm nervous about this retreat, scared really. I'm convinced silence is going to be difficult for me, and I fear how I'll handle that.

My bigger fear, though, is in knowing that God tends to call me to hard things when I spend a lot of time listening to Him. In that silence, God would have lots of room to call me to forgive someone I'm struggling to forgive; to let go of anger I sometimes cling to like my life depends on it; to make a bold change in myself or in my life; or to try a new way of serving Him...

Part of my fear is thinking I don't have the capacity right now to take on any challenging thing God might put on my heart in the silence.

All of these fears were kicking around my head as I sat in front of the blank screen where my column is supposed to be.

That's when God made me think about the duality in my column, about how a multitude of blessings have come with and because of something I find so hard.

I think God wanted to remind me that if He calls me to do something I find hard, He'll bless me with everything I need to do it. He'll be everything I need to do it.

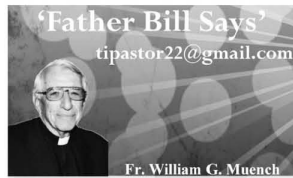
And that's the best part.

Seeing the face of God

Psalm 42: My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life; when can I enter and see the face of God.

Back on the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, I had an inspiration. I began to think of the intense experience of an epiphany as seeing the face of God. On the Feast of the Epiphany, the Church celebrated the journey of the magi. As they were searching for the newborn Jesus, they truly found the face of God. That Epiphany celebrates the Lord's love, mercy, and truth as the Lord Jesus came into our world. We find this love, mercy and truth when we look upon the face of God.

I believe that you and I, in fact, all people, experience epiphanies, intense experiences. In prayer, we seek God's presence with us. We can say that we are seeking to look upon the face of God. These epiphanies are gifts from our



God. I hope you remember and are always aware of these experiences in your life. I hope that you can say that you have seen the face of God. When we have such experiences, we talk about them all often - they are so meaningful that we want everyone to hear about them.

I know that I have told you about the most important epiphany in my life. It was that time when Susan and Paul invited me to accompany them at the time of the birth of their second child. I will never forget that day. I tell the story often. I remember so well that it was an evening filled with love. I know I recognized the presence of God every moment. Today I know

that there is no other image for that evening for me; it was as if I was looking on the face of God. The whole experience was so overwhelming, what I would call transforming. It was the most exciting day of my life.

Now I encourage you to remember all those kinds of epiphanies in your life. I believe that they happen to each of us each day of our lives. Truly! And each time it is like looking on the face of God. I often stop at the parish school to visit the children. I always think of it as looking on the face of God. I am thinking now of the times when I am celebrating Mass and am distracted by the child in the front pew. Again it is a moment looking upon the face of God. So, each day has its powerful epiphanies. At the end of the day, it is a great moment to look back over the day and consider, how often did I look upon the face of God.

Let me extend this image. Each time we stop to pray, or each time with gather with others to pray, it is a time when we look upon the face of God. It is a time that transforms our prayers. At Mass, we begin our prayer by remembering to look on the face of God. Each time, we go to the altar, priest and people, for Eucharist, there is no better image than looking upon the face of God. Each time we receive Holy Communion, we are united with Our Savior. Again, I think of it as looking on the face of God. The Lord wants to be with us, to lead and guide us, to help us lead others to look upon the face of God.

The "face of God" is a rich image for the presence of God. We should think of the face of God as inspiring hope and a call to holiness, guiding us to deeper intimacy with God and a compassionate love for others.



(left) Sister Bernadette Marie Collins, SSJ, Keegan Robinson, seminarian, Father Garry Giroux, pastor of St. Mary's in Waddington and St. John the Baptist in Madrid and diocesan judicial vicar for the Tribunal and Office of Canonical Affairs, Kevin McCullough, seminarian, and Tyler Fitzgerald, seminarian, participated in the Trivia Night held Jan. 3 in Ogdensburg. (Right) Megan Pierce, Kelvin Pierce, Father Leagon Carlin and Father Carter Pierce formed a team for the event.

The answer is: Trivia night for vocations

While the "Canton Lords a Leaping" took top honors in the Jan. 3 Trivia Night for vocations, seminarians of the diocese will be the ultimate winners.

The Trivia Night, staged by the Vocations Committee for St. Mary's Cathedral Parish, St. Raphael's in Heuvelton and Saints Philip and James in Lisbon, raised funds to help seminarians with incidental expenses as they continue their formation toward the priesthood for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Seventeen teams, each comprised of four to six participants, competed in the event, held at the Martin Fieldhouse (formerly the Knights of Columbus building) in Ogdensburg. The teams competed to get the most correct answers through 10 categories, each including five questions.

The Vocations Committee was thankful for



A large crowd filled Martin Fieldhouse, formerly the Knights of Columbus, in Ogdensburg for the Trivia Night on Jan. 3.

the support received.

"The Knights of Columbus were a gracious host and support as always," said Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, a Sister of St. Joseph and member of the Vocations Committee. "There were many business donors, local donations, and people from the parishes in Ogdensburg, Heuvelton, Lisbon, Canton, Potsdam, and local people from Ogdens-

burg who attended the evening. They not only had fun and laughter but also raised \$2,800 to help the seminarians with incidental expenses as they continue their formation towards priesthood for

the Diocese of Ogdensburg."

Serving the churches

in Ogdensburg, Heuvelton and Lisbon, the Vocation Committee includes Reverend Michael Marzan, Clare Murdock, Larry Crowe, Theresa Crowe, Deacon James Crowley, Rita Crowley, Lil Dailey, Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ, Deacon Roderic Roca, Judy Sholette, Mary Sovie, Jesse Sovie.

The entire committee sought donations, helped with the set up and the execution of the evening. Deacon Jim Crowley, Rita Crowley and Sister Mary Eamon chaired the Trivia Night and developed the questions.



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Preparing for ordination, advancing in studies

By Kevin Mastellon
North Country Catholic

Michelet Boncoeur is from Haiti. Haiti is the third largest country in the Caribbean, and with an estimated population of 11.4 million, is the most populous Caribbean country. The capital and largest city is Port-au-Prince.

According to recent news reports, "insecurity in Haiti is rising again, forcing embassies and UN agencies to evacuate the capital amid gang-fueled violence."

Boncoeur's mother, Paulimene, and older brother, Luckson, live in a rural village about an hour from Port-au-Prince.

The current Diocese of Ogdensburg seminarian worries for his family and friends.

Boncoeur has not returned to his home since 2019, but he hopes that peace will return to the island nation. He would like to visit family and his home country soon.

Meanwhile, the 29-year-old is preparing for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Maryland. He just completed a master's degree in Liturgy. The next step could come this May, if God is willing, and Boncoeur is called to orders by Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

When not in school, Boncoeur lives with Father John Demo, the Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Watertown and the Blessed Sacrament Parochial Vicar, Father Matthew Conger.

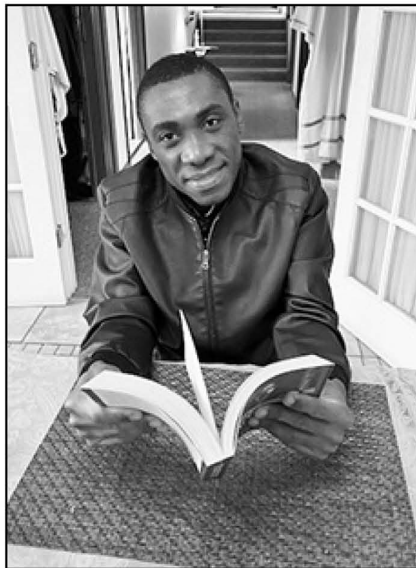
Boncoeur and seminarians Tyler Fitzgerald and Dennis Ombongi are eligible for ordination to the diaconate this year. Fitzgerald and Ombongi are both studying at St. Vincent's Seminary in Pennsylvania. The three men intend to transition to the priesthood and serve in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

"I am open to work wherever the bishop sends me," Boncoeur told the North Country Catholic. "I will go where I am sent and needed."

Boncoeur has always felt his service to God was as a religious. "The process of discernment is hard," he told us.

He started with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) while in Haiti. After a while, he discerned the MSC, and he was not a good fit.

The vocation call was still active



Michelet Boncoeur

though, and he joined the Society of the Divine Word (SVD), another missionary order. He was in vows to the SVD for three years. His relationship with SVD brought him to the United States and a friendship with Medenel Angrad, a fellow seminarian at the time in Iowa.

Boncoeur had to learn English as a second language. His native tongue is Haitian Creole. French is the official language of the Country, but only about five percent of the people speak or write in French.

Boncoeur was then sent to Mississippi for a pastoral experience. It was while there, during a retreat, that the future missionary discerned that he did not feel called to the work of the Society and reached out to his friend from Iowa, now a priest in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Now Father Angrad, the pastor in Ticonderoga, introduced Boncoeur to Ogdensburg diocesan officials and eventually to Bishop LaValley.

While preparing for ordination, Boncoeur earned a Master of Theology Degree from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, Illinois.

This has been a long discernment for Michelet Boncoeur, but it is one he relishes. He believes his "call" is to work among the people in a diocese. He believes his home now is in this diocese.

KNIGHTS IN ACTION



PHOTO BY SCOTT NILES

The Knights of Columbus Sarto Council 1059 had the honor of presenting roses and a box of chocolates (wrapped in the funnies) to widows of past Knights. Each year the tradition is carried out to remind them they are still part of our Sarto Council family. Sheila Harrington (husband Eric) receives the gift of Rose and box of Chocolates from Deputy Grand Knight Scott E. Niles.



PHOTO BY CHRIS CHAMBERS, MANAGER OF CORPORATE GIVING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER FOR THE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The Knights of Columbus Sarto Council 1059 made a \$500 donation to the Canton College Foundation Linda Fay Endowment. Presenting was Grand Knight Corey Swinwood to Geoffrey WannerWoude, the foundation's senior director of Development.

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

Getting 'death with dignity' right

Nurses and doctors can encounter distressing images as death unfolds for their patients. Those approaching death may make odd bodily movements, give off stench or emit strange groans. Perhaps they are facing metastasizing cancer that leads to a courageous fight, with recurrent episodes of pain, suffering, and sadness, followed by humble submission, and eventually giving way to a lifeless corpse, mouth agape, with flies buzzing round.

Where, one can ask, is the dignity in this manner of dying?

Indeed, the physical aspects of dying and death can be very challenging, as we face the prospect of losing control of our bowels and bladder, our mind and autonomy.

Margaux Killackey sums it up this way in an essay: "All flesh will harden and turn to dust. If we judge from appearances, this is an ugly picture."

But she goes on to offer a key insight, namely, that by "looking beyond the physical aesthetics, we can find not only a life well-lived, but a death well-died."

So what does a "death well-died" look like?

One might anticipate it would arise organically out of a "life well-lived," and that both of these would involve our continued and strengthened connectedness to others, including family, friends and God. A good death will typically be a com-

munal event.

Mother Teresa once lamented how "we have forgotten that we belong to each other." To die surrounded by the care and support of others is to transcend our decaying bodily existence as we are sustained in a kind of wholeness through the experience of being loved. When it comes to what a "death with dignity" should look like, Mother Teresa best described it this way: "Death with dignity is to die with grace, in the knowledge that [you] are loved."

Today, as efforts continue apace to legalize physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia, flawed notions of "death with dignity" continue to enter and subvert our discussions.

One group in Britain pushing for assisted suicide and euthanasia calls itself the "Campaign for Dignity in Dying." But suicide is never dignified, no matter how much we repackage it by passing laws that grant doctors and nurses immunity from prosecution as they dole out death in place of healing.

These legislative maneuvers provide professional and legal cover for patient abandonment. Physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia are quicker, easier and cheaper than remaining vigilant at the bedside, holding a sick person's hand, and

accompanying him or her through the twists and turns of their final journey home.

Canadian euthanasia data from Québec for 2022-2023 indicate that 70 percent of those choosing euthanasia listed "loss of dignity" as one of the motivations.

We are being cajoled as a society into believing the contradiction that "death with dignity" means killing ourselves, or letting someone else kill us.

If some insist that they want access to physician-assisted

suicide or euthanasia, this should remind us how much they need our care, support and love. It should also serve to remind us of how fearful they may be at the prospect of their illness and sufferings and of the loneliness that may accompany it.

This should prompt us to redouble our efforts at providing not only tailored treatments and appropriate pain management, but also compassion, companionship, and faithful accompaniment.

When Mother Teresa began her ministry in Calcutta, she would take a wheelbarrow and walk around the city to pick up individuals who were destitute and dying alone in the gutter. She would bring them back to her Home for the Dying.

There she and her sisters would care for

them, pray with them and remain in their presence until they passed on. Mother Teresa would offer them the chance to receive a gift - what she termed a "special ticket of Saint Peter" - the Sacrament of Baptism.

No one, she said, ever declined the gift. Although their human frame was wasting away as death approached, and even though flies may have buzzed nearby, these dying individuals were able to surrender their life surrounded by love, warmth, and care, both human and divine, and experience, most assuredly, a blessed and dignified death - a "death well-died."

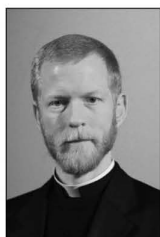
A 2024 Vatican document entitled *Infinite Dignity* reminds us of the important point, often overlooked in these discussions, that suffering "does not cause the sick to lose their dignity, which is intrinsically and inalienably their own. Instead, suffering can become an opportunity to

strengthen the bonds of mutual belonging."

The acceptance of the twin evils of physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia, far from promoting or supporting our core human dignity, constitutes a broadside attack against it.

Both threaten those who are sick and vulnerable with systematic abandonment, not only by denying the basic protections to which they are entitled as members of the human family, but also by taking away the dignified care and loving human accompaniment due them in the final stages of their journey.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as Senior Ethicist at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org and www.fathertad.com.



Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D.

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Environmental Stewardship

What's your experience?

How does winter rate on your list of favorite seasons? A few of you may have it at the top of that list, but for most it is likely at near the bottom. When there is snow in the forecast, the weather channels often present it as something to fear and dread with lots of anxiety about traveling in it, removing it and navigating through in it.

Granted these are challenges winter snow and ice present to us. But is this the only perspective on winter weather? In Daniel's Canticle, Daniel sees it quite differently. He prays: "Frost and chill, bless the Lord. Ice and snow, bless the Lord. Praise and exalt him above all forever." (Dn. 3:69-70) This no doubt is not OUR first reaction when we witness it. However, while not denying the real challenges winter holds, Daniel seems to recognize the beauty of God revealed in this precise aspect along with all of His creation.

When you go outside necessarily, instead of merely braving against it, why not take a moment to breathe in the clear fresh air? If able, why not dress warmly and go walking, snowshoeing or skiing? Being outside in the beauty of a sunny winter day is not only good for our bodies, but it can be a good remedy to clear our "monkey minds" that are often bogged down by worry and anxieties. In the stillness we may be more aware of God's presence in the tiniest snowflake or the tracks of a furry winter neighbor. The bare branches of trees, stripped of the essentials, remind us to reflect on what is essential in our lives.

*Some see winter as a time of rest and deepening. Whether we experience this season from outdoors or from the warmth of our homes, winter days and starry nights bring the still time for us to connect us with our origins and the origins of all that is and consider what is meaningful and what is not. *Source Foundations for Global Communication

Bishop's Public Schedule

Jan. 13-17 — New York State Bishops' Retreat at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat and Spirituality Center in Venice, Florida

Jan. 18 — 4 p.m. — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 19 — 8 a.m. — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

11 a.m. — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 20 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 21 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 22 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Protecting God's Children

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

To Report Abuse

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

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

OBITUARIES

Alexandria Bay — Joanne M. (Hurteau) Fitch, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 11, 2025 at St. Cyril's Church; burial in Barnes Settlement Cemetery.

Altona — Irene Evelyn Young, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 9, 2025 at Holy Angels Church.

Cape Vincent — R. Dennis Faulkham, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 7, 2025 at St. Vincent de Paul Church; burial in St. Vincent of Paul Cemetery.

Carthage — Rosemary A. (Muncil) Brennan, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 8, 2025 at St. James Church.

Carthage — Helen P. (Siedlecki) Pirol, 91; Funeral Services Jan. 10, 2025 at Bezanilla-McGraw Funeral Home; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Rest in Peace

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

Jan. 15 — Msgr. James Joseph Lacey, 1942

Jan. 16 — Msgr. James Alexander Fix, 1969; Rev. Herbert Skurski, O.F.M. Conv., 1996

Jan. 17 — Rev. Francis A. Menard, 2009

Jan. 18 — Rev. Hugh Shields, 1881; Rev. Telesphore Campeau, 1935; Rev. Paul Martin Hagan, 1980

Jan. 19 — Rev. Arthur P. Condon, 1966; Rev. Aloysius R. Isele, 1974

Jan. 20 — Rev. William D. O'Byrne, 1928; Rev. Joseph Erhard, O.M.I., 1936; Rev. Victor Viaud, O.M.I., 1937; Rev. Joseph Pontur, 1940

Jan. 21 — Rev. Albert W. Giroux, 1991; Rev. Adam Zajdel, O.F.M. Conv., 1997; Rev. Patrick C. Callaghan, O.F.M., 2001

Carthage — Jasmine J. Solomon, 99; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 28, 2024 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Champlain — David W. Valenze, 82; Services to be held in May 2025.

Chateaugay — Nancy Ann (Tavernier) Carey, 84; Mass of Christian Burial in spring at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. George's Cemetery.

Dannemora — Joan (Carron) Rowson, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 10, 2025 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Ellenburg — Donald Bombard, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 13, 2025 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Hogansburg — Theodore Louise Francis Jr., 63; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 11, 2025 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery, Kanatakon.

Hogansburg — Allen P. "Saga" Mitchell, 53; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 15, 2025 at St. Regis Church.

Hopkinton — Raymond Joseph McDonald, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 10, 2025 at Holy Cross Church; burial in Hopkinton-Ft. Jackson Cemetery.

Lowville — John W. "Jack" Matulewicz, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 9, 2025 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, New Bremen.

Massena — Elizabeth Ann "Betty" (Raymo) Sweeney, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 7, 2025 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Peru — Helen Charlotte (Fish) Turner, 102; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 17, 2025 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery, Lenox, MA

Port Henry — Kenneth J. Bobbie, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 18, 2025 at St. Patrick's Church.

Theresa — Joanne Marie Kampnich, 55; Funeral Services Jan. 6, 2025 at Frederick Bros. Funeral Home.

Watertown — M. Shirley (Greenwood) Jobson, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 7, 2025 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

West Chazy — Norman E. Peryer, Jr., 91; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 10, 2025 at St. Joseph's Church.

Winthrop — Agnes (Pogorzelski) Guile, 100; Funeral Services Jan. 10, 2025 at the Hammill Funeral Home; burial in Brookdale Cemetery.

Correction

In last week's edition, Jasmine Solomon's age was incorrectly listed in her obituary notice. It is corrected in this week's Obituaries. We apologize for this error.

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Pope appoints woman to head Vatican dicastery

By Hannah Brockhaus

Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis has named for the first time a woman, Sister Simona Brambilla, to head a dicastery of the Roman Curia, continuing to add to the number of women in leadership roles at the Vatican, a hallmark of his pontificate.

The 59-year-old Brambilla, a member and former superior general of the Consolata Missionary Sisters, has been secretary of the Vatican department for religious and consecrated life since October 2023.

Pope Francis appointed the Italian sister prefect of the department on Monday. She will lead the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life together with Cardinal Ángel Fernández Artime, who was named pro-prefect on Jan. 6.

A Spaniard, the 64-year-old Fernández concluded a decade as rector major of the Salesians last year. The appointment of an ordained bishop as pro-prefect of the same dicastery was necessary because Church law calls for ordination in order to carry out certain governing powers.

Brambilla, who trained as a nurse before entering religious life, was a missionary in Mozambique in the late 1990s. She then returned to Italy, where, with her advanced degree in psychology, she taught at the Pontifical Gregorian University in its Institute of Psychology. She was head

of the institute of Consolata Missionary Sisters from 2011 until May 2023.

Brambilla joins several other religious and non-religious laywomen appointed by Pope Francis to important posts in the Vatican, including Franciscan Sister Raffaella Petrini, the first woman to hold the second-ranking post in the government of the Vatican City State.

Other high-ranking women at the Holy See are Sister Alessandra Smerilli, secretary of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development; Sister Nathalie Becquart, an undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops; and laywomen Gabriella Gambino and Linda Ghisoni, undersecretaries of the Dicastery for the Laity, the Family, and Life.

A number of women are also secretaries of some of the Roman Curia's commissions and councils.

Last month, Pope Francis also named Brambilla a member of the 16th Ordinary Council of the General Secretariat of the Synod alongside Argentinian laywoman María Lía Zervino.

They are the only women and non-bishops on the 17-member council.

In the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, Brambilla and Fernández will be assisted by two undersecretaries, Father Aitor Jiménez Echave, CMF, and Sister Carmen Ros Nortes, NSC.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

More than 500,000 people pass through Holy Doors

More than half a million people have passed through the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica, two weeks after its Christmas Eve opening. Pope Francis, the first "pilgrim of hope" to cross the Holy Door's threshold, inaugurated the 2025 Jubilee Year by opening the papal basilica's door on Dec. 24, 2024. Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization Archbishop Rino Fisichella said the great number of pilgrims marks "a very significant beginning" for the Catholic Church's holy year, which will conclude on Jan. 6, 2026. "Hundreds of groups of faithful have already made their pilgrimage," Fisichella said in a Jan. 7 media statement released by the Dicastery for Evangelization. "The dicastery is working tirelessly to ensure that pilgrims receive a welcome and an experience that lives up to their expectations," he added. Holy See and Italian authorities are collaborating to welcome an estimated 30 million people expected to come to Rome throughout the jubilee year.

Los Angeles Archdiocese responds to deadly wildfires

Archdiocesan officials and local Church leaders in Los Angeles are working to shelter and assist victims of the ongoing wildfires there as the blaze consumes entire neighborhoods and lays waste to significant portions of the suburban area. The fires began on Tuesday, Jan. 7, and quickly spread via dry conditions and hurricane-force Santa Ana winds blowing in from the east. As of Thursday morning multiple fires were raging unchecked across thousands of acres as firefighters worked to get the blazes under control. One of the fires has destroyed Corpus Christi Catholic Church and has forced the closure of 65 Catholic schools, according to archdiocesan officials. Numerous other churches in the area have also been destroyed. Los Angeles Archbishop José Gomez in a social media post urged the faithful to "keep praying for all those suffering" in the wildfires. "My heart goes out to our neighbors who have lost their homes and livelihoods," the prelate said. "Let's pray for them and let's pray for our firefighters and first responders. May God keep all of our brothers and sisters safe and bring [an] end to these fires!"

Cardinal Dolan to lead prayer at Trump's inauguration

Cardinal Timothy Dolan will lead the opening prayer for President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration on Jan. 20. Dolan, the archbishop of New York, announced he would take part in the inaugural ceremonies during an interview with the local news channel WPIX on Dec. 24. Dolan also said the opening prayer during Trump's 2017 inauguration following his 2016 presidential victory. "The president was kind enough to ask me to do the opening prayer," Dolan told WPIX. "He had asked me to do the one in 2016 too, so [when] he asked me this time, I said, 'Well I did it eight years ago; I hope this one works.'" Dolan said in the interview he had discussed matters of faith with Trump, a nondenominational Christian. The cardinal has said in the past that the former president "takes his Christian faith seriously."

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Warm up with a subscription to the North Country Catholic and find out what is happening with the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

FRIENDSHIP GROUP MEETING

You are invited to our next Friendship Group Meeting, Become Your Best Self: Build a Closer Relationship with God and Others.

Date: Jan. 23

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Zoom

Features: Imagine the best conversation you've ever had - one that set your heart on fire, challenged your thinking, brought you closer to God and inspired you to act. Such interactions rise to the level of the sacred. Using Scripture, real-world examples, key scientific studies, and stories from his own formation, Dr. Reed provides insights on how you can use sacred conversations to become your best self and build closer relationships with others and the Lord. At this meeting, we will discuss chapters 1 - 3.

Contact: To sign-up for the Friendship Group, receive the meeting link and discussion questions, go to <https://mailchi.mp/sophiaiinstitute/friendship-groups> Questions? Contact Mary Beth Bracy at mbracy@sophiaiinstitute.com

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

HOT DINNERS

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

Date: Every Wednesday

Time: 4 p.m. to 5

Place: St. Andre Outreach Center

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

SACRED HEART FRATERNITY

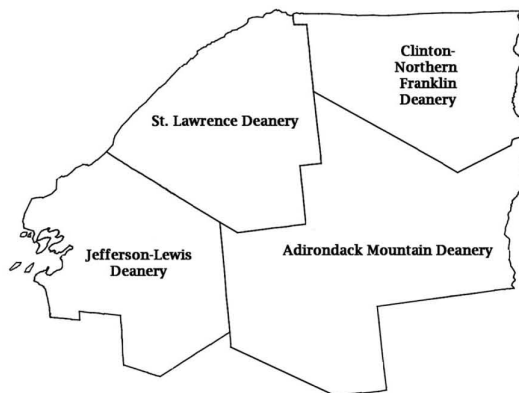
Plattsburgh - Come join our Franciscan Secular order, the Sacred Heart Fraternity.

Date: Second Sunday of the month

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Place: St. John the Baptist basement

Features: All men and women, single or married, who want to live as St. Francis and live "Gospel



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.

to Life and Life to Gospel" can become part of the Secular Franciscan Order. Join us for prayer, fellowship, and formation. In addition, we do a retreat once a year and support in some capacity an organization that helps people like a soup kitchen.

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

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

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

Date: Jan. 11, Feb. 8

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

RESPECT LIFE PRAYER GATHERING

Watertown - Lifelight of Watertown will be having a Respect Life Prayer Gathering.

Date: Jan. 13

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: Public Square, downtown Watertown

Features: Pray for a renewed respect for all human life-par-

ticularly those most vulnerable. Refreshments will follow at St. Patrick's Church. In the event of inclement weather, the vigil will be held at St. Patrick's Church.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Watertown - St. Anthony's Altar and Rosary Society is sponsoring a spaghetti dinner.

Date: Jan. 30

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: Downstairs in St. Anthony's church in Msgr. Sechi Hall

Cost: Adult, \$10; Child, \$7

Features: Take-outs available, please bring your own container.

Contact: For more information contact the Parish Center at 315-782-1190

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: Feb. 2

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

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

Date: Feb. 9

Time: 8 a.m. to noon

Place: St. James Community Room

Cost: Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$7; Children under 10, \$4; Family of 4, \$27

Menu: Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes, French Toast, Ham, Sausage, Baked Goods, Juice, and Coffee

Contact: For more information call 315-493-3224

ST. LAWRENCE

MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

Date: Jan. 12 (Second Sunday of each month)

Time: 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Place: Father Amyot Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$10; under 12, \$5; under 5, Free; Omelets, add \$3; Take-outs available

Contact: For more information contact Grand Knight Gil Gonthier 315-212-5166.

THE RESCUE PROJECT

Massena - Join us as we experience the gospel surrounded by light food, conversation and prayer.

Date: Tuesdays starting Jan. 21

Time: 6 p.m. to 8

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall and via Zoom

Features: Facilitated by Fr. John Riccardo, the Rescue Project seeks to proclaim the gospel in a compelling and attractive way over 8 weeks in a small group format.

Contact: For more information or to register, contact the parish office or visit our website at www.massena.catholics.com.

ST. JAMES GALA

Gouverneur - Save the date for St. James Gala Denim and Diamonds.

Date: Feb. 8

Time: Starts at 5:45 p.m.

Place: St. James School

Features: Blue jeans and bling, something for everyone.

Contact: For more information

visit the school's website for Gala Registration

<https://stjamesk-6.org/> or email Bridgette LaPierre at advancement@stjamesk-6.org

DIOCESAN EVENTS

SURVIVING DIVORCE

Canton - If you or someone you know is separated or divorced and looking for hope and healing, please consider joining us for the Surviving Divorce Program. We are now accepting registrations for sessions held at the Canton location.

Cost: \$25

Features: The sessions will begin the last week in January or as soon as we receive registrations from sufficient participants. Days and times will vary by the scheduling needs of the participants. The facilitator will contact participants to set the dates and times of the meetings.

Contact: For more information or help with registering, please contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920.

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

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

Place: St. Mary's Church, Canton

Dates: Jan. 25, March 22, May 3,

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

Features: Lunch will be provided at each of the church locations.

Contact: Registration required, please go to www.rcdony.org/priesthooddiscernment. For more information, contact Father Howard Venette - hvenette@rcdony.org.

Football players share love of God

By Joe Bukuras

Catholic News Agency

In the midst of fierce competition during the college football playoffs, a number of team leaders have made it clear that the glory of a national championship comes only second to their relationship with Jesus Christ.

"First and foremost I've got to thank my lord and savior Jesus Christ for giving me this opportunity to be on this stage, here in the Rose Bowl," Ohio State University quarterback Will Howard told the media after the team's stunning upset win against No. 1 University of Oregon on Jan. 1.

"A younger me would be in awe right now," the graduate student said. "And I just got to take it all in and enjoy this with my boys and we got two more so we're not done yet."

The playoffs, which changed from a four-team to a 12-team bracket this year, run from Dec. 20 to Jan. 20.

After defeating the University of Georgia on Jan. 2, Notre Dame's quarterback Riley Leonard said: "First and foremost I want to thank my lord and savior Jesus Christ."

"Without him, I wouldn't be here, and we wouldn't be here as a whole group," the senior told the media after the quarterfinal game.

Leonard called the fans "in-

credible," adding that the team has more work to do to prepare for its semifinal matchup against Pennsylvania State University.

Leonard was asked about his team's tough loss to unranked Northern Illinois University earlier in the season and Notre Dame's subsequent undefeated run. At the time of the loss to Northern Illinois, Notre Dame was ranked No. 5.

"When you trust in the Lord, anything can happen," he said. "This team fought every single week. That was the lowest of the low. But we had to trust beyond knowing. And we trusted this group and trusted our fans. Week in and week out we fought and it's finally paying off."

"Jesus bless," he said.

In a Jan. 1 postgame press conference, Texas quarterback Quinn Ewers was asked about his "clutch" performance that led to the team's 39-31 double-overtime win against Arizona State University. Ewers threw two touchdown passes in overtime that ended in two 25-plus-yard touchdowns, which sealed the quarterfinal win for Texas.

"How do you stay so calm?" a reporter asked the junior quarterback.

"I think that we all stay calm," he continued. "And for all of us to stay calm it kind of starts with me. And I just try to be that calm within the storm for all the guys. And I think that

my relationship with Jesus has helped me in that specific way of knowing that no matter what happens, that he's going to be there for me. He's still going to love me."

Senior defensive back Jahdae Barron was asked by a reporter about his thoughts on Ewers' performance.

Barron spoke of a culture-building activity that the team did prior to the game where they wrote on cards.

Barron said he wrote that "Quinn is going to play fast and the reason he's going to play fast is because of God the creator. He's going to give all his worries, everything he has and doubt, and he's just going to give it to [God], and it's just going to allow him to play free."

"And I think that's what Quinn did," Barron said. "When our backs were against the wall, he just kept fighting. He made some big-time plays in those three throws."

Following Boise State University's 31-14 quarterfinal loss to Penn State on Dec. 31, Boise State head coach Spencer Danielson said: "No matter what, win, lose, or draw, I'm going to always give Jesus the glory."

"I'm so blessed to be the head coach here. And we do serve a champion. And I do know God never says 'oops,'" he added at a postgame press conference with some of the players and media.

"As hard as tonight is as a

competitor and as a coach, I do believe we learn and grow from everything. And the best is still to come for our team, for these players, our seniors," he said.

"I told every single one of them in the locker room that. God has an amazing plan for your life. Never settle for less than that," he said.

Senior defensive end Ahmed Hassanein from Cairo, Egypt, said at the press conference: "First I want to start off and say all glory to Jesus Christ. He is the true champion."

Turning to his coach, Hassanein said: "Coach D., you changed my life."

"You changed my life. I did not know God until I got to Boise State. And I serve a true champion. Jesus Christ is the only true God. He died and rose from the dead three days later. That's the champion that I serve. Thank you Coach D. Like seriously, you changed my life," he said.

Junior running back Ashton Jeanty, who fell just 27 yards short of breaking the NCAA all-time single-season rushing record, said: "First of all, all glory to God for bringing us this far, for helping us restore the order this year. We couldn't have done it without him. Keeping God first is what got us here."

"But this season has been a blessing," he added. "God's favor has been upon me and all my teammates all year. And I'm just thankful."

Rosary podcast hits No. 1 on Apple charts

By Francesca Pollio Fenton

Catholic News Agency

Ascension's latest podcast, "The Rosary in a Year," topped the Apple Podcast charts after its release on Jan. 1. The latest "In a Year" podcast landed ahead of other popular podcasts including "The Joe Rogan Experience," "Dateline," and "The Daily."

This is Ascension's third podcast to reach the No. 1 spot on the Apple charts. The Catholic publisher and digital content

producer first topped the charts in 2021 with its breakout podcast "The Bible in a Year" with Father Mike Schmitz. This was followed by "The Catechism in a Year," also hosted by Schmitz, in 2023.

Hosted by Father Mark-Mary Ames of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, "The Rosary in a Year" podcast consists of daily 15-minute episodes that guide listeners through a deeper encounter with all the elements of the rosary.

In an interview with CNA, Ames said he hopes these phases will help to build "the muscle of prayer."

"I think there's a reason the rosary is so popular across demographics, across centuries, [and it's] because it is really in many ways a great unmatched means of prayer," he said.

The podcast aims to serve as a form of accompaniment and guidance by taking listeners through six phases of deepening their under-

standing of the rosary. These include looking at what it means to pray in general and focusing on the actual prayers of the rosary and what they mean. The longest phase will be diving deeper into the mysteries of the rosary, practicing "lectio divina" and "visio divina," reflections from the saints, and finally praying the rosary.

Ames said he hopes those who listen to the podcast will "grow in their life of prayer and that particularly they fall

in love, maybe for the first time, maybe again, with prayer and with the Lord and with Our Lady and with the rosary because they experience the rosary as this privileged doorway in which they get to encounter the Lord."



SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

'Enhancing the life of humanity'

Red, white, rosé, Californian, Argentinian, New York State, merlot, chardonnay, zinfandel, pinot noir, pinot grigio, cabernet this and sauvignon that. Even though these wines are not the same, nevertheless, they are all wine. Some we like; some we dislike. Some are robust; others are weak. Some we like to remember; others we forget.



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

Looking at today's Gospel passage, we may get caught up in the miracle performed by Jesus, as indeed we should. But, John, the author, does not talk about a miracle. Rather, he says that Jesus performed a sign that I will explain in a moment.

Think about the wine itself. The wine steward

believes that the wedding planners made a mistake. They served the cheap wine first and kept the good wine until later. Custom was, and perhaps still is, you serve the good stuff first, then, when people don't really care anymore, out comes the cheap stuff.

So, what is this business about a sign rather than just another miracle? Well, a sign points to something we need to know. Until GPS, we needed road signs to point us in the right direction. Even with GPS, we feel quite reassured when the metallic voice of some anonymous lady announces a change in direction matched by the physical sign visible along the road.

January 19

**Second Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

READINGS

Isaiah 62:1-5

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

John 2:1-11

John is referring to a sign of excellence. In the story, we go from cheap wine to excellent wine, and we go from no wine to an overabundance of wine.

Jesus does not deal with the cheap. Jesus wants only what is best. He himself is the best of humanity. He provides us with the best of gifts including God's mercy and his own body and blood in the Eucharist.

We should resemble that fine wine. You see Jesus took water and made the water into something unimaginable. So too, through the water of bap-

tism Jesus takes a mere human, made in the image and likeness of God, and transforms that person into something even more wonderful - a child of God, a brother or sister of Jesus Christ.

Look again at the second reading in which Paul enumerates divine gifts given to humans, to people. The composite image that we can create from all of this is Jesus' great desire to improve the human condition, to lift people from where they are to a higher level. Certainly, Jesus tended to basic human needs, but he also wanted people to go beyond these needs and experience their great dignity, what we can easily call their Christian dignity, their call to holiness. Perhaps, the classic example of a call to greater dignity is the story of Mary Magdalene, the great sinner

who became the great saint, a story that has been multiplied over the years by many others, perhaps including ourselves.

The Gospel miracles reveal Jesus' great power, a sign targeted at enhancing the life of humanity. So, too, in our own world, with so much power and potential at our disposal, we should be concerned about enhancing the life of humanity, not degrading or destroying it. We must never forget our call to greatness no matter how appealing other avenues may appear.

Jesus, through baptism and the many other sacraments, gives us great dignity. Just as changing water into wine is a sign of Christ's power, so may we in our lives become great signs of the dignity of the Christian life, great signs of Jesus working in and through us.

CALLED TO SERVE

The Fifth Commandment

You shall not kill.

God was direct with that commandment, number five.

The Catholic Church in the Catechism says in paragraph 2258:

"God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can under any circumstances claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being."

But we do. In a variety of ways, we do.

The Church spends a dozen pages in the Catechism explaining the various human offenses that would qualify as violations of the Fifth Commandment.

Gordon Burdo, a deacon candidate in for-

mation from Peru, New York, called the umbrella issue the "sanctity of life" in a practice homily during class recently. Burdo correctly lumped "war, abortion, the deaths of the countless homeless and starving world-wide" among the "bad things" people do that we can speak out about.

I would add homicide and the death penalty to Gordy's list. The Church cites them and adds euthanasia and suicide. Then the Church adds a section on Respect for the Dignity of Persons and a section on Respect for the Dead.

All fit under the simple commandment, "You shall not kill."

January 22 is the anniversary of the United States Supreme Court finding in 1973 in *Roe v. Wade* that the Constitution of the United States protected a right to have an abortion. Today "all dioceses of the United States observe a day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion."

Fifty years after *Roe v. Wade*, the justices of the Supreme Court reversed the ruling. *Dobbs v. Jack-*

son *Women's Health Organization* returned decisions about abortion to the individual States.

Since *Dobbs*, states can set their own abortion policies, and 12 states have banned abortion. Other states have adopted varying regulations based on their legislative interpretation of pregnancy viability.



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

Abortion is legal in New York State. In November 2024, voters approved an amendment to the New York State Constitution that protects abortion rights and access to reproductive healthcare. That law

took effect January 1, 2025.

The bishops of the United States have said, "Given the *scientific* fact that a human life begins at conception, the only moral norm needed to understand the Church's opposition to abortion is the principle that *each and every human life has inherent dignity, and thus must be treated with the respect due to a human person.*"

In other words, you shall not kill.

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

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT, NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. On November 27, 2024, The Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, New York ("Diocese") filed a disclosure statement (the "Disclosure Statement") and a joint chapter 11 plan of reorganization with the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the "Joint Plan"). The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of New York (the "Bankruptcy Court") entered an order approving the Disclosure Statement on December 23, 2024 (the "Disclosure Statement Order"). A hearing to consider confirmation of the Joint Plan (the "Confirmation Hearing") is scheduled to commence on **April 28, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. (prevailing Eastern Time)**, or as soon thereafter as counsel may appear and be heard, before the Honorable Wendy A. Kinsella, Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of New York, or such other judge as may be sitting in her stead in the James M. Hanley U.S. Courthouse and Federal Building, 100 South Clinton Street, Syracuse, NY 13261.

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

3. Pursuant to the Disclosure Statement Order, the deadline for submitting a Ballot voting to accept or reject the Joint Plan is **February 28, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time)** (the "Vote Deadline"). In order for your vote to be counted, your Ballot must be completed and returned in accordance with the instructions provided on the Ballot so that it is received by the Vote Deadline.

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

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

6. Any objections or responses to the Joint Plan must conform to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure and the Local Bankruptcy Rules for the Northern District of New York and be filed with the Court and served upon the following parties no later than **April 15, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. (ET)**: (i) counsel to the Diocese, Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC, One Lincoln Center, Syracuse, NY 13202, Attn: Stephen A. Donato, Charles J. Sullivan, and Grayson T. Walter, (ii) the Office of the United States Trustee for the Northern District of New York, 10 Broad Street, Room 105, Utica, NY 13501, Attn: Erin Champion, (iii) counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, Stinson LLP, Attn: Robert T. Kugler & Edwin H. Caldie, 50 South Sixth Street, Suite 2600, Minneapolis, MN 55402, and (iv) those persons who have formally appeared and requested service in this case pursuant to Rule 2002 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure.

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

Copies of the Disclosure Statement, the Joint Plan, and other related documents are available at <https://case.stretto.com/diocesesofsyracuse> or by calling 855.299.4244.

Dated: December 23, 2024, Syracuse, New York, **BOND, SCHOENECK & KING, PLLC**, By: */s/ Stephen A. Donato*, Stephen A. Donato, Charles J. Sullivan, Grayson T. Walter, Office and Post Office Address: 110 West Fayette Street, One Lincoln Center, Syracuse, New York 13202-1355, Telephone: (315) 218-8000, Facsimile: (315) 218-8100, Email: donatos@bsk.com, sullivan@bsk.com, walter@bsk.com, *Counsel to The Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, New York*

Dated: December 23, 2024, Syracuse, New York, **STINSON LLP**, By: */s/ Robert T. Kugler*, Robert T. Kugler (*admitted pro hac vice*), Edwin H. Caldie (*admitted pro hac vice*), 50 South Sixth Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402, Telephone: (612) 335-1500, Facsimile: (612) 335-1657, Email: robert.kugler@stinson.com, ed.caldie@stinson.com, *Counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors*

EXHIBIT A - List of Participating Parties

Parishes

Parish Corporation Name, City - Zip: St. Agnes Mission, Altyn, NY 13730; St. John the Evangelist, Bainbridge, NY 13733; St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church, Baldwinsville, NY 13027; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church of the Town of Clay, NY, Baldwinsville, NY 13027; St. Marys Church of Baldwinsville, NY, Baldwinsville, NY 13027; St. Francis of Assisi a/k/a St. Catherine of Siena a/k/a St. Christopher and St. Rita, Binghamton, NY 13901; *St. Christopher Roman Catholic Church [Town of Chenango, Broome County], Binghamton, NY 13901; St. Catherine of Siena Roman Catholic Church, Binghamton, NY 13901; St. Mary of the Assumption (combined with St. Mary's Church), Binghamton, NY 13901; St. Paul's Church, Binghamton, NY, Binghamton, NY 13901; St. Andrew's Church of Binghamton, Binghamton, NY 13903; The Church of Saints John & Andrew, Binghamton, NY 13903; St. John the Evangelist Church, Binghamton, NY 13903; Church of the Holy Trinity, Binghamton, NY 13905; Holy Trinity a/k/a St. Ann a/k/a St. Joseph and St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, Binghamton, NY 13905; St. Joseph's Lithuanian Roman Catholic Church of Binghamton NY (merged in St. Ann), Binghamton, NY 13905; St. Ann Catholic Church (renamed church of the Holy Trinity), Binghamton 13905; Ss Cyril & Methodius Slovak Roman Catholic Church of Binghamton, NY, Binghamton, NY 13905; St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Binghamton, NY, Binghamton, NY 13905; St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Binghamton, NY 13905; Christ Our Hope a/k/a St. Joseph a/k/a St. Patrick Mission a/k/a St. Mary of The Snows Oratory, Boonville, NY 13309; St. Agnes Church, Brewerton, NY 13029; Church of St. Francis of Assisi of Bridgeport, NY, Bridgeport, NY 13030; St. John the Evangelist a/k/a St. Mary Devotional Chapel and St. Paul (Redfield), Camden, NY 13316; St. Joseph's Church of Camillus, NY, Camillus, NY 13031; St. Agatha's Church, Canastota, NY 13032; St. James, Cazenovia, NY 13035; Divine Mercy Parish Roman Catholic Church, Central Square, NY 13036; *Saint Michael's Roman Catholic Church, Central Square, NY 13036; St. Anthony of Padua's Church of Willowvale and Chadwicks, Chadwicks, NY 13319; St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church of Chadwicks, New York, Chadwicks, NY 13319; St. Rita's Roman Catholic Church, Chenango Forks, NY 13746; St. Patrick, Chittenango, NY 13037; Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church of Cincinnati, NY, Cincinnati, NY 13040; The Church of the Sacred Heart, Cicero, NY 13039; St. Patrick's Church, Clayville, NY 13322; St. Mary of The Assumption a/k/a St. Mary's Oratory, Cleveland, NY 13042; St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Clinton, Clinton, NY 13323; The Church of Annunciation, Clinton, NY 13323; Mission of St. Bernadette, Constantia, NY 13044; St. Anthony of Padua, Cortland, NY 13045; St. Mary's Church of Cortland, Cortland, NY 13045; St. Joseph's Church, Deposit, NY, Deposit, NY 13754; St. Lawrence Mission, DeRuyter, NY, Holy Cross Church, DeWitt, NY, DeWitt, NY 13214; St. Francis Church of Durhamville, NY, Durhamville, NY 13054; St. Matthew's Church, E. Syracuse, NY 13057; Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Endicott, NY, Endicott, NY 13760; St. Ambrose, Endicott, NY 13760; St. Anthony of Padua Church, Endicott, NY 13760; St. Casimir Roman Catholic (Polish) Church of Endicott, Endicott, NY 13760; St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church,**

Endicott, NY, Endicott, NY 13760; Church of Christ The King, Endwell, NY, Endwell, NY 13760; Our Lady of Angels Church of Endwell, NY, Endwell, NY 13760; Church of the Holy Family, Endwell, NY 13760; St. Paul's Mission (mission of I.C. Pompey) Unincorporated, closed, Fabius; Immaculate Conception, Fayetteville, NY 13066; St. Mary's Church, Florence, Oneida Co., Florence, NY; St. Patrick Mission, Forestport, NY; St. Patrick's Church of Forestport, Forestport, NY 13338; The Holy Family Church of Fulton, Fulton, NY 13069; St. Michael's Roman Catholic Polish Church, Fulton, NY 13069; Church of the Immaculate Conception of Fulton, NY, Fulton, NY 13069; Church of the Holy Trinity, Fulton, NY 13069; Church of the Immaculate Conception, Greene, NY 13778; St. Mary, Hamilton, NY 13346; Our Lady of The Rosary Church, Hannibal, NY, Oswego, NY 13126; St. John Chrysostom Mission [served area near Forestport], Hawkinsville, NY; St. Ann Church of Hinkley, NY, Hinkley, NY 13352; The Parish Community of St. Leo & St. Ann, Holland Patent, NY 13354; St. Margaret's Catholic Church, Homer, NY 13077; St. Mary's Devotional Chapel [never inc], Irish Ridge; St. Mary's Church, Jamesville, NY, Jamesville, NY 13078; St. James Roman Catholic Church Lestershire, NY, Johnson City, NY 13790; The Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Johnson City, NY 13790; St. Patrick, Jordan, NY 13080; St. Mary's Church, Kirkwood, Kirkwood, NY 13795; Church of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Lacona [Pulaski, NY 13142]; Church of the Nativity at St. Joseph's, LaFayette, NY 13084; St. Joseph's Church, Lee Center, NY 13363; Our Lady of the Valley Mission, Leonardville, NY 13364; St. Francis of Assisi Mission as The Trustees of St. Mary's Church of West Monroe, Little France, NY; Epiphany, Liverpool, NY 13088; Church of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Liverpool, NY 13088; St. Joseph the Worker, Liverpool, Onondaga Co., Liverpool, NY 13088; Christ the King Church, Liverpool, NY, Liverpool, NY 13090; Pope John XXIII Roman Catholic Church, Liverpool, NY 13090; St. John Roman Catholic Church of Clay, NY, Liverpool, NY 13090; Most Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church of Maine, NY, Maine, NY 13802; St. Ann's Church, Manlius, NY 13104; St. Stephen's Church, Marathon, NY 13803; St. Francis Xavier's Church, Marcellus, NY 13108; St. Margaret's Church, Mattydale, NY 13211; St. Joseph's Church of McGraw, NY, originally titled to St. Mary-Corland, McGraw, NY; St. Mary, Star of the Sea, Mexico, NY 13114; St. Anne, Mother of Mary, Mexico, NY 13114; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Minetto; St. Mary of the Assumption, Minoa, NY 13116; St. Joan of Arc Church of Morrisville, NY, Morrisville, NY 13048; St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus, Munnsville, NY 13409; Church of St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus, New Berlin, NY, New Berlin, NY 13411; Church of Our Lady of the Rosary, New Hartford, NY, New Hartford, NY 13413; St. John the Evangelist Church, New Hartford, NY 13413; St. Thomas, New Hartford, NY 13413; Holy Cross Church, New London; Church of the Sacred Heart a/k/a St. Mary Our Lady, New York Mills, NY 13417; St. Mary's Church of Our Lady of Czestochowa, New York Mills, NY 13417; St. John Oratory and Cemetery, North Bay, NY; St. Mary's Mission, North Brookfield, NY; St. Rose of Lima Church, N. Syracuse, NY 13212; St. Paul, Norwich, NY 13815; St. Bartholomew, Norwich, NY 13815; St. Joseph's German Catholic Church of Oneida, Oneida, NY 13421; St. Patrick, Oneida, NY 13421; St. Joseph, Oriskany Falls, NY 13425; Church of St. Stephen, Protomartyr, Oriskany, NY 13424; St. Louis, Oswego, NY 13126; St. Joseph Mission, Oswego, NY; St. Joseph's Church, Oswego, NY 13126; St. John the Evangelist, Oswego, NY 13126; St. Mary of the Assumption, Oswego, NY 13126; St. Paul, Oswego, NY 13126; St. Peter's Church, Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126; St. Stephen Roman Catholic Church, Oswego, NY 13126; St. Patrick's Church of Otisco, NY, Otisco, NY 13159; Church of St. Mary of the Snows, Otter Lake, NY 13338; St. Joseph's Church, Oxford, NY 13830; St. Anne's Church of Parish, NY a/k/a St. Anne Mother of Mary (Mexico), Parish, NY 13131; St. Stephen, Phoenix, NY 13135; Church of the Nativity at Immaculate Conception, Pompey, NY 13138; Christ Our Light a/k/a St. John the Evangelist, Pulaski, NY 13142; St. John the Evangelist Church Pulaski, Pulaski, NY 13142; St. Paul's Mission (mission of I.C. Pompey) Unincorporated, closed, Redfield; St. John the Baptist, Rome, NY 13440; St. Mary's Church, Rome, NY, Rome, NY 13442; St. Paul, Rome, NY 13440; St. Peter's Church, Rome, Rome, NY 13440; Transfiguration, Rome, NY 13440; St. Joseph, Sanitaria Springs, 13833; Sacred Heart Church of Town of Scriba, Oswego, Scriba, NY 13126; St. Malachy, Sherburne, NY 13460; St. Helena, Sherrill, NY 13461; St. Mary of the Lake Roman Catholic Church, Skaneateles, NY, Skaneateles, NY 13152; St. Bridget Roman Catholic Church of Skaneateles Falls, NY, Skaneateles Falls, NY; St. Bridget's Church - First a Mission of Oxford, then Cortland, then Truxton; Solon, NY; St. Peter's Church of Split Rock, Syracuse, NY; St. Cecilia's Church, Solway, NY, Solway, NY 13209; Corpus Christi Church of S. Onondaga County of Onondaga, State of NY, Syracuse, NY 13159; St. Mary's Church, Syracuse, NY d/b/a The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Syracuse, NY 13202; St. John's Church, Syracuse, NY, Syracuse, NY 13202; Holy Trinity Church, Syracuse, Syracuse, NY 13203; St. Peter, Syracuse, NY 13203; St. Vincent DePaul's Church, Syracuse, NY 13203; Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Syracuse, NY, Syracuse, NY 13204; St. Brigid & St. Joseph Church of Syracuse, Syracuse, NY 13204; St. Lucy, Syracuse, NY 13204; St. Patrick's Church, Geddes, Syracuse, NY 13204; St. Stephen, Syracuse, NY 13204; St. Anthony of Padua, Syracuse, NY 13205; Our Lady of Hope I/k/a St. James, Syracuse, NY 13205; Blessed Sacrament Church, Eastwood, NY, Syracuse, NY 13206; Transfiguration Roman Catholic Church, Syracuse, NY 13206; Most Holy Rosary, Syracuse, NY 13207; Our Lady of Lourdes Church Syracuse, NY, Syracuse, NY 13207; Franciscan Church of the Assumption, Syracuse, NY 13208; Church of Our Lady of Pompei - St. Peter, Syracuse, NY 13208; St. Daniel, Syracuse, NY 13208; St. John the Baptist, Syracuse, NY 13208; St. Joseph (German) Church [FAD 1882], Syracuse, NY; Church of Our Lady of Peace [merged into St. Cecilia's Solway as St. Marianne Cope], Syracuse, NY 13209; Church of St. Andrew the Apostle of Syracuse, NY, Syracuse, NY 13210; All Saints Church, Syracuse, NY [new name for St. Therese @ merger with OL Solace], Syracuse, NY 13210; Church of St. Therese The Little Flower of Jesus, Syracuse, Syracuse, NY 13210; St. Michael's & St. Peter Church, Onondaga Hill, Syracuse, NY 13215; Holy Family, Syracuse, NY 13219; St. Ann's Church Syracuse, NY [name changed to St. Charles-St. Ann], Syracuse, NY 13219; St. Charles Borromeo Church, Syracuse, NY 13219; The Church of Our Lady of Solace [merged into St. Therese to become All Saints], Syracuse, NY 13224; St. Anne - Glenmore [never inc], Taberg, NY 13471; St. Patrick's Church Taberg, NY, Taberg, NY 13471; St. Patrick, Truxton, 13158; Church of the Nativity at St. Leo's, Tully, NY 13159; St. Agnes Church, Utica, NY 13503; Historic Old St. John, Utica, NY 13501; St. Francis de Sales, Utica, NY 13501; St. Mary's Church Utica (South St.), Utica, NY 13501; Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Utica, NY 13501; St. Maria di Monte Carmelo, Utica, NY 13501; St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic Church, Utica, NY 13501; Holy Trinity Church of Utica, NY, Utica, NY 13502; Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Utica, NY 13502; Church of The Sacred Heart, Utica, NY 13502; St. Joseph, Utica, NY 13502; St. Patrick Church, Utica, NY 13502; St. George Roman Catholic Church, Utica, NY 13502; St. Mark, Utica, NY 13502; St. Peter, Utica, NY 13502; St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church, Utica, NY, Utica, NY 13504; St. Mary of the Lake Mission, Verona Beach, NY 13162; Holy Family, Vernon, NY 13476; Our Lady of Good Counsel, Verona, NY 13478; Our Lady of Sorrows, Vestal, NY 13851; St. Vincent DePaul-Blessed Sacrament Church, Vestal, NY 13850; Our Lady of Good Counsel, Warners, NY 13164; St. Bernard's Catholic Church of Waterville, Oneida Co., Waterville, NY 13480; St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church, Whitesboro, NY, Whitesboro, NY 13492; St. Paul's Church - St. Anne's-St. Stephen's, Whitesboro, Whitesboro, NY 13492; The Catholic Community of St. Stephen-St. Patrick [merged into St. Patrick-Whitney Pt., Whitney Point, 13862; St. Patrick's Church Williamstown [originally a mission of Parish, later Camden], Williamstown, NY 13493; Church of Our Lady of Lourdes of Windsor, NY, Windsor, NY 13865; Our Lady of Hope, Syracuse, NY; Christ the Good Shepherd, Oswego, NY; St. Marianne Cope Church, Solway, NY 13209; St. Michaels Church, Syracuse NY 13215; St. Anthony of Padua Church, Utica NY 13501; St. John's Church and Roman Catholic Society in the City of Utica a/k/a Historic Old St. John, Utica, NY 13501; St. Mary Mt. Carmel-Blessed Sacrament Church, Utica, NY 13501; Mary, Mother of Our Savior Church - new name for OLL, Utica, NY 13502; St. Vincent de Paul Church, Vestal, NY 13850

Schools

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

Other Catholic Entities

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

Mission Societies unveil new logos

The Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States (TPMS USA), the global network supporting Pope Francis' missionary efforts through prayer and charity, unveiled a new visual identity today.

This milestone marks a renewed commitment to unifying the four Pontifical Mission Societies under a shared purpose: bringing the Gospel to the world.

The announcement coincides with Monsignor Roger J. Landry's officially assuming the role of National Director of TPMS USA. A priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, and most recently Catholic Chaplain at Columbia University, Monsignor Landry brings extensive experience and a dynamic vision to TPMS.

His background in preaching, media, pastoral ministry, youth outreach, and missionary initiatives aligns well with the organization's mission to support the Church's global

al missionary efforts.

Monsignor Landry, who played a pivotal role in guiding the re-branding initiative, remarked, "The Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States seeks to bring Christ our hope to the world today. Our new seal encapsulates better the unity of our global mission and the priority of sharing Christ in communion with the Pope."

"It is an honor to take up this role at such a pivotal moment and to collaborate with the faithful across the United States in advancing the Church's missionary mandate."

The new circular logo, included with our logo on this article, emphasizes unity: unity with Christ on the Cross and in the Eucharist, unity within the universal Church and her missionary efforts, unity with the Holy Father, and unity across the four societies comprising TPMS: the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Mission-



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
info@rcdony.org



The Society for the Propagation of the Faith: Represented by a cross, honoring the emblem used since the society's leadership under Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen (1950–1966), it supports missionaries and evangelization efforts.

ary Childhood Association, the Society of St. Peter the Apostle, and the Pontifical Missionary Union.

The red stars represent the United States' connection to the global mission and honor the sacrifices of mar-



The Missionary Childhood Association: Represented by two children holding hands, it empowers children to help other children in need.

tyrs, many of whom were missionaries who made the ultimate sacrifice as they were spreading the joy of the Gospel.

The initiative also includes updates to the logos of the four individual societies, each steeped in rich symbolism.

Those logos are in-



The Society of St. Peter the Apostle: Represented by the barque of Peter with Christ at the helm, it aids seminarians and novices in mission territories, inspired by Luke 10:1.



The Pontifical Missionary Union: Represented by a man and a woman religious kneeling in prayer with the Rosary, it provides spiritual formation for priests, religious, and laity.

cluded with this article, along with explanations of them.

Supporting effort to boost Child Tax Credit

Following is a statement from Kristen Curran, director of government relations of the New York State Catholic Conference, on Governor Hochul's proposed expansion of the Empire State Tax Credit, which would triple the credit for children under 4 years old, and double the average credit for all families:

"We are delighted that Governor Hochul has made expansion of the Empire State Child Tax

Credit a top priority for this year's budget. For more than 20 years, the New York State Catholic Conference has championed the issue of child tax credits. This initiative is a powerful way to walk with moms in need, support working families, and help lift children out of poverty.

"Governor Hochul's proposal would give important relief to 1.6 million New York families. The expansion

of the credit to up to \$1,000 per child under age 4, and up to \$500 per child from 4 through 16, promises to be an impactful increase. Working class families will be better positioned to navigate the cost-of-living crisis and provide for their children. It is critical that the child tax credit apply to babies, starting at birth. We are glad to see that coverage as part of this proposal.

"Now more than ever,

it is imperative that we address the affordability crisis to help parents as they raise their children. We urge all lawmakers to support this initiative. When we join together to lift up the most vulnerable, we are strengthened as a community and as a state. The Governor can count on the strong support of the New York State Catholic Conference for this pro-family proposal."

The Catholic Con-

ference represents the Bishops of New York State in public policy matters.

