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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 79 Number 37

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JANUARY 22, 2025

Follow Me: Changing hearts and minds

Bishop Terry R. LaValley discusses the need to change hearts and minds about the value and worth of all human life in anticipation of the annual Respect Life Collection, to be held the weekend of Jan. 25-26.

On Halloween, youngsters come to our homes clad in all sorts of creative costumes looking for treats. Once they have received their goods, should they forget, their parents often ask them the question: “**What do you say?**” and they respond: “**Thank you!**” I couldn’t help but think that these words seem to have been forgotten by many of us today. I am reminded that the psalmist cries out: *For it was you who created my being, knit me together in my mother’s womb. I thank you for the wonder of my being, for the wonders of all your creation.* (Psalm 139: 13-14)

We have, in so many ways, forgotten how to say ‘thank you’ because, perhaps, we no longer consider human life to be a *wonder-filled* gift. If I don’t embrace human life as a gift, then I need not treat it with any special respect, let alone a sense of gratitude. The body becomes merely an object that I can do with as I please. The philosophy that results: “My life is my life – period. I am not beholden to anyone for it. It’s my right to do with it as I see fit.”

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

WELCOMED INTO THE CHURCH



Three young members of a family were baptized at Immaculate Conception Church in Keeseville on Dec. 8, Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The sacrament was celebrated in Spanish. Learn more on Page 4. Members of the family are pictured with Father Clement Rimonds, HGN, pastor, Deacon John Lucero, who celebrated the baptism, and supporters from the church community.

Pope calls for end to child labor, exploitation

By Kristina Millare
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis on Jan. 15 called for a global commitment to eradicate child labor, saying injustices committed against “the invisible little ones” are a gross violation against God’s commandments.

The Holy Father told groups of pilgrims attending his Jan. 15 general audience that they should be aware that millions of children — “the most beloved of the Father” — are trafficked for organ harvesting, to become child brides, or are forced to work as slaves, drug dealers, prostitutes, and for the porn industry.

“This is very bitter in our societies,” he told pilgrims gathered inside the Vatican’s Paul VI Audience Hall. “Unfortunately, there are many ways in which children are abused and mistreated.”

“Child abuse, of whatever nature, is a despicable and heinous act,” he continued. “It is not simply a blight on society. No, it is a crime!”

During the address, the pope decried the widening social divide that has left many children even more vulnerable to exploitation.

“Widespread poverty, the shortage of social support tools for families, the increased marginality in recent years along

with unemployment and job insecurity are factors that burden the youngest with the highest price to pay,” he lamented.

To eliminate the reality of forced child labor, the pope said it is “necessary to awaken the consciences” of individuals, institutions, and nations to work in solidarity to protect vulnerable boys and girls.

“When we purchase products that involve child labor — how can we eat and dress, knowing that behind that food and those garments there are exploited children who work instead of going to school?” the Holy Father asked.

“Awareness of what we purchase is a first act in order not

to be complicit,” he emphasized.

Praising the wisdom of countries and international organizations that have enacted policies to protect children’s rights, the pope stressed that they must “shift their investments to companies that do not use or permit child labor.”

The Holy Father also implored journalists to raise awareness of the issue and to help find solutions: “Don’t be scared, criticize these things!”

Asking for the intercession of St. Teresa of Calcutta, the pope prayed that the “mother to the most disadvantaged and forgotten boys and girls” will help all those committed to denouncing child labor.

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My fate was sealed

"I'm scheduled to go on retreat in a couple of weeks, but I think I'm going to back out."

I said that to my son, Jake, as we drove home from Potsdam, about 35 minutes from our home, where we had eaten dinner after attending a Saturday vigil Mass not far from that community.

While I booked the retreat nearly three months before, this was the first time I had mentioned the retreat to him. In fact, I mentioned it to a couple of people when I first booked it, but I hadn't really spoken

about it sense. Why?

It was mostly because I was leaving open the option to back out, and even though I'm a big chicken sometimes, I don't want other people to know that.

**Darcy L.
Fargo**

I gave Jake my litany of excuses: It's too close to Christmas and our Texas trip; I shouldn't be taking a trip right now. Winter in the

northeast can mean dicey road conditions, and it's a long drive. I had commitments at home. And, I admitted, I wasn't sure how I felt about going on a silent retreat.

His response sealed my fate. It was something to the effect of:

"I'm glad I have a mom who wants to do stuff like this. I'm glad you're taking care of your spiritual needs and taking time to spend with Jesus."

I was going on retreat.

Now, still processing the experience and continuing to experience graces and gifts from it, I agree with Jake, and I'm glad he has a mom who wants to do stuff like this.

The retreat was peaceful, prayerful and restful. It was a gift and a blessing to have an opportunity to just sit with Jesus silently and openly.

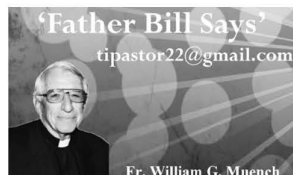
There were also mo-

ments of distraction, as were there moments of Jesus disrupting my peace by drawing my attention to those areas of my life where I could serve him better and calling me to action in those areas. There were lots of both of those. But even those distractions and disruptions came with absolute love for me where I am now.

I've spent a lot of time tending to my physical and mental health lately, but I had been giving less attention to my spiritual health. Jake reminded me how important it is to feed my relationship with Jesus.

I'm glad he didn't let me back out.

We are a family



their homes. I find it rather heartbreaking. While I do not know anyone out there, I am certainly praying for them all. I pray that God gives them the faith and courage to deal with this tragedy. They are my companions in this country, on this planet.

Our celebration of the Mass is a perfect time for bringing our intentions to the Lord. Just before the Eucharist, the Mass pauses for us all to call to mind our intentions. This is the Prayer of the Faithful. We turn to the Lord with our needs and intentions, our hopes and dreams. We offer our prayers for our community and country, in fact, our whole world. We may not know anyone involved in a tragedy, but we are all People of God

on this planet.

I have an image that I like to use for this Prayer of the Faithful. I encourage people at Mass to spiritually bring their intentions to the altar of the Lord, placing them there for the time of the Eucharist. As we celebrate the Eucharist, our intentions are blessed by the Lord, it is a sacred place on the altar near the Body and Blood of the Savior, and our promises and dedications for each day are blessed by the Lord.

Let me add here that it is important for us to add to our intentions at Mass and participate in the Mass - a prayer for each person who is participating at Mass with us. This congregation at Mass is meant to be joined as a family. We are brought together in a family as we are united in our participation at Mass. It might well be true that some of those participating with us may not have need for our prayers. But,

who knows, I believe that there is often someone with us on this day who desperately has real need and longs for the prayers of others.

I want to share with you an example in our liturgy. During the Penitential Rite at the beginning of Mass, the beginning of the Confiteor starts in this way: "I confess to Almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters that I have greatly sinned." At that moment we welcome others worshipping with us into our confidence. "I have greatly sinned." And all those others there are willing to admit to me that they are sinners. And as we go on in that prayer, we ask them all to pray for each other.

I like to encourage people to look around as they begin to participate in Mass. These are the ones I must be willing to pray for, and these are the ones who will be praying for me at this Mass.

FOLLOW ME

Changing hearts and minds

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

On Halloween, youngsters come to our homes clad in all sorts of creative costumes looking for treats. Once they have received their goods, should they forget, their parents often ask them the question: "What do you say?" and they respond: "Thank you!" I couldn't help but think that these words seem to have been forgotten by many of us today. I am reminded that the psalmist cries out: *For it was you who created my being, knit me together in my mother's womb. I thank you for the wonder of my being, for the wonders of all your creation.* (Psalm 139: 13-14)

We have, in so many ways, forgotten how to say 'thank you' because, perhaps, we no longer consider human life to be a *wonder-filled* gift. If I don't embrace human life as a gift, then I need not treat it with any special respect, let alone a sense of gratitude. The body becomes merely an object that I can do with as I please. The philosophy that results: "My life is my life - period.

I am not beholden to anyone for it. It's my right to do with it as I see fit."

Just a few verses further on, we hear the psalmist say: *O search me, God, and know my heart. O test me and know my thoughts. See that I follow not the wrong path and lead me in the path of life eternal.* The psalmist knows that he doesn't have all the answers, but seeks the Lord's constant guidance so that the wrong way is never taken. Sometimes we think we know better. The guidance and direction offered by God's laws are ignored, even ridiculed.

For many, the teachings of Christ are unknown or irrelevant. A tragic result: the spread of the Culture of Death. Today, in too many ways, we find ourselves deeply imbedded in the Culture of Death where the very fabric of our family is coming unwoven. Issues of life mean everything to the family. If human life has no value, the family suf-

fers immeasurably.

So, what do we do? Throw in the towel? Ours is an urgent moral challenge. We have been changed by our culture too much, and we have changed it not enough. We must be about the business of informing and forming our consciences based on the Gospel and Church teaching. It's not a question of when the Church will "get with it" and change. It's a question of when our culture will "get with it" and change, particularly when it comes to attitudes that continue to feed our culture of death and the destruction of the family.

The Church of the North Country continues to accept our responsibility to promote a Culture of Life in a resistant society. For the last several years, here in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, a special *Respect Life Collection* is taken up to support our diocesan Respect Life efforts. Colleen and John Miner, from our dioc-

esan Respect Office, faithfully coordinate the steps we need to take in promoting and protecting the dignity and worth of every human life.

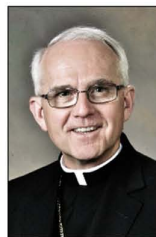
As we begin this New Year, the Jubilee of Hope, I ask you to please consider supporting the efforts our diocese makes in promoting the Culture of Life. These include, most recently, helping five Gabriel Projects. Needed help was offered to Heart Well Homestead, Plattsburgh Pregnancy Center, *Walking with Moms in Need*, *Birthright*, *Liferight*, Light of Truth Radio and the diocesan Natural Family Planning and Family Life Office efforts.

Thank you for your prayers and generous support of the 2025 Respect Life Collection and for all your efforts to build a Culture of Life by changing hearts and minds.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Terry R. LaValley

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg



Bishop Terry
R. LaValley

Support the **Respect Life Collection** of the **Diocese of Ogdensburg**
in our parishes the weekend of **January 25 & 26**



Proceeds will be distributed through grants
to various North Country parishes, organizations,
and programs for the support of a variety of respect life initiatives.

Thank you for your generosity toward this most special need.

Please continue to pray that all will recognize,
honor and protect the precious gift of life.

www.rcdony.org/pro-life

A triple baptism in Spanish

Gesture of kindness welcomes family to parish

A few months ago, it was a typical summer afternoon in Keeseville when a young mom, Karla, and her three children attended St. John the Baptist Church in Keeseville.

Father Clement Rimonds, HGN, was the celebrant at Mass that day, and Deacon John Lucero assisted.

After Mass, as people began to file out of church, it happened that Deacon Lucero was the first person to greet the mom and her family.

He heard Karla speaking to her teenage daughter, young son and infant daughter in Spanish.

Since Deacon Lucero wanted to make the family feel welcomed,

he began speaking to the mom and greeting the young boy in Spanish.

Karla was surprised to meet someone in Keeseville who spoke fluent Spanish.

At that time, Deacon Lucero did not know that the family, originally from Ecuador, had just moved from Massachusetts and was now living in Keeseville.

Since Karla speaks mostly Spanish, she explained to the deacon that she would like to have her toddler daughter baptized as soon as possible.

While working with Father Clement, Deacon Lucero and a couple of other parishioners befriended Karla



Three young members of the same family, originally from Ecuador, were welcomed into God's family in a baptism celebrated in Spanish at Immaculate Conception Church, Keeseville, on the Feast of Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8.

and her family.

Karla has other family members, including a brother, also living in the same apartment complex.

In October, as a date for the baptism was being discussed, someone mentioned that the Feast of The Immaculate Conception was coming up in early December.

Karla was told that there is also The Immaculate Conception Church in Keeseville

located about a mile away. Karla was very happy because she told us her home church in Ecuador was named Our Lady of Fatima, so there was a spiritual and Marian connection for her and her daughter.

Since Karla mentioned her daughter's baptism to her brother, who has two young sons of his own, the family decided to have all three children baptized together - a triple

baptism on the Feast of The Immaculate Conception in Immaculate Conception Church.

So, on December 8, the actual Feast of The Immaculate Conception, with Father Rimonds in attendance, Deacon Lucero conferred the Rites of Baptism in Spanish for three children.

No one is aware of another similar baptism having been celebrated before in our church or parish, but it's a great reminder that these families who traveled from so far away is now part of a greater family here in Keeseville.

We are all God's children, no matter how far we travel or where we come from and now, our parish family is a little bigger, and it all started with a simple gesture of kindness.

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Funeral Mass celebrated for Felician Sister Mary Virgilyn Grabowski

A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Mary Virgilyn Grabowski, CSSF, was celebrated on Jan. 15 in the chapel of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Convent, Cheektowaga.

A teacher and a Felician sister for 63 years, Sister Mary Virgilyn died Jan. 11 in Immaculate Heart of Mary Convent, Cheektowaga.

She was 81.

Born Carol Ann Grabowski in Erie, Pennsylvania, she the daughter of Stanley and Victoria Krauza Grabowski. She came to Buffalo in 1957 and was a graduate of Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy.

She entered the Buffalo Province of the Felician Sisters in June 1961 and professed perpetual vows on Aug. 3, 1969. An aunt and three cousins also were Felician sisters.

she earned an Associate of Applied Science degree from Villa Maria College of Buffalo, and a Bachelor of Science in Education from Medaille (Mount St. Joseph) College, Buffalo.

Sister Virgilyn began her ministry as a Felician Sister in 1964 as a primary grade teacher at St. Stanislaus School, Buffalo.

She served the Diocese of Buffalo as an educator for 17 years, first at the primary level and then as a teaching principal at Holy Spirit School, North Collins.



Sister Mary Virgilyn Grabowski, CSSF

She also ministered in the Diocese of Ogdensburg as a religious education teacher and librarian at St. Peter School, Lowville.

As a primary grade teacher, Sister Virgilyn was gentle and solicitous for the total well-being of her students.

As principal, she promoted a caring, student-centered atmosphere.

Sister Virgilyn served in key internal ministries at Immaculate Heart of Mary Convent. She had a sharp memory and loved being around people and talking with them on a personal level.

Appropriately, she served at the center of community life as a receptionist at the convent office and gift shop for nearly 25 years.

She also ministered as a medical driver for the sisters receiving health

care and was available to provide any other transportation needs of the sisters.

"Whatever the task, it was carried out with care and accuracy," Sister Mary Michaelanne Galas, CSSF, wrote following her death. "Her willingness to step into any position where help was needed defined her ministries."

Deep gratitude marked Sister Virgilyn's reflection on the 50th anniversary of her life as a Felician Sister. Her vocation was a gift, and being able to faithfully live out that vocation daily was an even greater gift. Every milestone in religious life, her sisters in the community, her family, and the many friends who supported her were among her most cherished blessings and memories.

Sister Mary Virgilyn is survived by her sister, Rosemarie Miller. She was predeceased by her parents Stanley and Victoria (Krauza) Grabowski, her aunt, Sister M. Rachel Krauza, CSSF, and her cousins Sister M. Evantia Piorkowski, Sister M. Doloria Piorkowski, and Sister M. Xavier Golba, all of the Felician Order.

Interment was in St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Cheektowaga.

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

Do I need to attend Adoration?



FROM WONDERING TO WONDER IN WORSHIP

With Father Bryan Stitt, Diocesan Director of Worship

Editor's Note: In celebration of the Eucharistic Revival, Father Bryan D. Stitt, director of Worship for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, will answer questions about worship, the Eucharist and related topics. To submit a question, email bstitt@rcdonny.org.

Someone recently asked me: If I go to Mass, do I need to attend Adoration too? Could you please explain what Eucharistic Adoration is, the reasons we adore our Lord, and the benefits we receive?

Great question. Thanks for asking. While there is no obligation to attend solemn exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, I'd suggest an answer from an unlikely source: the Fiddler on the Roof. Tevye asks his wife of a quarter century, "Golde, do you love me?" Golde's response? "For 25 years I've washed your clothes, cooked your meals, cleaned your house, given you children, milked your cow, after 25 years why talk about love right now?"

If you know the musical, you know how the scene ends. After going back and forth, they realize that all that they have been doing together is not actually love itself, but outward signs that point to an inner reality. That inner reality is love. And as the scene ends, there is a carefree and playful moment between the two. They spend a moment with each other. They are not "doing" anything. But in that is a great sign of the inner reality called love.

Holy Mass on Sunday is the best thing we can do as Catholics. We call it the Source and Summit of the Christian life. It fulfills the obligation to worship, and it allows us to participate in the representation of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We hear the Word proclaimed and get to receive His Body and Blood. Worshiping the Lord in Holy Mass is what we do. Like all the essentials of domestic life, we can't live without it.

Adoration on the other hand doesn't "check the box." It doesn't fulfill any obligations. There are less norms and structures.

Often it's simply us staring at Jesus as He seems to simply stare at us (to borrow an oft quoted line from St. John Vianney).

Adoration reminds me so much of the end of the scene from the Fiddler on the Roof. It gives me the chance to answer the question of the Lord, "Do you love Me?"

What's more, in His presence with me, I get to know His answer to me.

And just like Tevye and Golde harmonize at the end of the scene: "After 25 years, it's good to know."

Environmental Stewardship

How can I make a difference?

We are aware that each of us is called in the Book of Genesis to be good stewards of God's creation, but how can we do this in our busy, and often hectic day?

Here a few suggestions:

1. Become more aware of our connectedness. Care for one another and creation includes understanding that "everything is connected" (no. 91) and that the economy, politics, community involvement and technology all affect the future of the planet and humankind.

2. Changes to lifestyle and consumption habits can make a big difference. For example, get a reusable water bottle, walk, bike or take public transportation, recycle, compost food waste and buy energy efficient appliances.

3. Make changes institutionally at your parish, school or workplace. For example, start recycling and composting, use washable dinnerware, share electronically instead of printing, do an energy audit and install solar panels.

4. Support local efforts to solve environmental problems. Community groups around the country are working to make changes in their communities and states that can make a big difference. Find out what is going on locally and get involved.

Prayer: *Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love, teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you. Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made. Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is. God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. Praise be to you! Amen.*

Bishop's Public Schedule

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

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

Jan. 24 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 25 — 4 p.m. — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 26 — 8 a.m. — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 27 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 28 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 30 — 9:45 a.m. — Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch

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:

Jan. 22 — 5 p.m. — Immaculate Heart Central School, Watertown

To Report Abuse

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

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

OBITUARIES

Brownville — Wayne M. Roshia Sr., 84; Mass of Christian Burial May 2, 2025 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Brownville Cemetery.

Brownville — Donna M. (Daniels) Warren, 78; Graveside Services in spring at Brownville Cemetery.

Hopkinton — Linda M. (Judware) Dissottle, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 17, 2025 at Church of the Holy Cross; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

Lake Placid — Everest Goddeau, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 13, 2025 at St. Agnes Church.

Lake Placid — Marilyn Theresa Smith Lilly, 85; Memorial Mass Jan. 11, 2025 at St. Agnes Church.

Lake Placid — Thomas Joseph McConnell, 90; Mass of Christian

Rest in Peace

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

Jan. 22 — Rev. James Edward Joy, 1950

Jan. 23 — Rev. Jeremiah C. Manning, 1909

Jan. 24 — Rev. Joseph N. Beaudry, 1897; Rev. M. A. Ryan, O.S.A., 1924

Jan. 25 — Rev. Eugene Gauvin, O.M.I., 1890

Jan. 26 — Rev. Antoine Paillier, O.M.I., 1916; Rev. Henry Thameling, O.F.M.Conv., 1929; Rev. Leon Lamothe, O.M.I., 1937; Rev. Daniel E. Cahill, 1945; Rev. John Emmett Weir, 1990; Rev. Earl W. Nichols, 2002

Jan. 27 — Rev. Emile H. Mission, O.S.A., 1973; Rev. Mr. Adam S. Crowe, 2009

Jan. 28 — Rev. James A. McKenna, 1895; Deacon Richard E. Winter, 2004

Burial Jan. 17, 2025 at St. Agnes Church.

Lake Placid — Dr. David George Welch, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 16, 2025 at St. Agnes Church.

Lowville — Robert P. Antonius, 85; Private Services.

Lyon Mountain — Jeannette M. (LaPoint) DuBrey, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 14, 2025 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in at the Town of Ellenburg Mausoleum.

Malone — Elizabeth Mabel "Betty" (Shane) Danielak, 92; Funeral Services Jan. 3, 2025 at Frary Funeral home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Fort Covington.

Massena — Martin B. Fayette, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 16, 2025 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Norwood — Beverly A. (Hosmer) Fefee, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 14, 2025 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Bayside Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Joseph Michael Basta, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 16, 2025 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Mahlon "Jake" A. Bouche Jr., 74; Funeral Services Jan. 17, 2025 at Frary Funeral

Home.

Ogdensburg — Elaine A. (Aubrey) Hollis, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 18, 2025 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Richard Theron Fisher, 86; Mass of Christian Burial May 16, 2025 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Rona "Roni" (Lesperance) LaComb, 84; Memorial Mass Feb. 3, 2025 at Notre Dame Church; Burial at the Oswegatchie Mausoleum.

Peru — Lloyd Joseph Brockney, 78; Funeral Services Jan. 11, 2025 at Hamilton Funeral Home.

Peru — Tony Edward Rock, 54; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 18, 2025 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Bruce C. Danille, 86; Funeral Services Jan. 14, 2025 at the Brown Funeral Home.

Saranac Lake — Charles Robert Pandolph, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 17, 2025 at St. Bernard's Church.

Tupper Lake — Joan Elizabeth Reandeau, 87; Funeral Services Jan. 10, 2025 at Frary Funeral Home; burial at St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

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Catholic medical group sues Biden administration over ER abortion rule

By Daniel Payne
Catholic News Agency

A Catholic medical group has filed suit against the Biden administration over the government's attempt to force emergency room doctors to perform abortions under a 40-year-old federal law.

The Catholic Medical Association (CMA), a professional guild that promotes and advocates Catholic ethics in the medical industry, filed the lawsuit on Friday in U.S. district court. The legal group Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) is representing the CMA.

In the lawsuit, CMA argues that the federal government acted unlawfully when in July 2022 it directed that hospitals and emergency rooms would be required to perform abortions under the 1986 Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA).

That law requires that hospitals provide stabilizing treatment in emergency rooms for any patients who show up. It was originally enacted to ensure that hospitals would not turn away patients who could not afford to pay for medical treatments.

The law itself "does not mandate, direct, approve, or even suggest the provision of any specific treatment," CMA's lawsuit argues. It further "says nothing about abortion and does not guarantee access to abortion."

The government's directive "threatens to second-guess the medical judgment or moral or religious beliefs of a hospital or physician," the suit argues.

The filing points out that every state allows abortion to save the life of a mother, and further that no states prohibit miscarriage care or treatments of ectopic pregnancies. Catholic medical directives, meanwhile, forbid "direct abortions."

The filing says the EMTALA rule violates both federal law and constitutional religious freedom rules.

Matt Bowman, a senior lawyer with ADF, argued in announcing the suit

that the federal government has "no business compelling doctors or hospitals to end unborn lives, especially when the law they are citing grants them no such authority."

"Emergency room physicians can and do treat life-threatening conditions such as ectopic pregnancies," Bowman said. "And every state allows doctors to do whatever is necessary to preserve the life of a mother."

Various court rulings leave status of federal law uncertain

Challenges to the government's EMTALA rule have played out in several federal courts over the past few years.

In January of last year the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit ruled that emergency room doctors were not required to perform abortions under the federal medical law. In October the U.S. Supreme Court denied the Biden administration's appeal on that ruling.

In June, meanwhile, the Supreme Court directed that hospitals in Idaho would be required to at least temporarily perform abortions under EMTALA despite the state's broad abortion ban.

Bowman told CNA that the various court rulings "can appear to be confusing."

CMA brought the suit, he noted, because earlier rulings from various courts have not resolved the dispute at the national level, leaving many medical officials open to being forced to perform abortions under the federal law.

"At the end of the day, the Supreme Court has not ruled on what we call the merits of this question," he said. "They have not made the ultimate decision. Everything they do short of that leaves that question open."

On Day 1 of the Trump administration, "the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services could take this mandate away," he pointed out.

"But until they do, we're going to do everything we can in court to protect our clients' rights to not perform abortions," he added.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Cuba releases 533 prisoners through pope's mediation

The Cuban government announced the release of 533 prisoners through the mediation of Pope Francis "in the spirit of the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025." "President [Miguel] Díaz-Canel sent a letter to the supreme pontiff in which, in the spirit of the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025 declared by His Holiness and which has just begun, he communicated the decision to benefit by granting freedom to 553 people sanctioned in due process for various crimes established by law ... [These people] will receive their respective benefits gradually," the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement dated Jan. 14. Cuba's statement refers to Pope Francis' call to release prisoners during the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope, which began on Dec. 24, 2024, at the Vatican. In the bull *Spes Non Confundit*, with which he convoked the jubilee year, the pope proposed that "governments undertake initiatives aimed at restoring hope, forms of amnesty or pardon meant to help individuals regain confidence in themselves and in society."

AG nominee vows to end 'weaponization' against Catholics

President-elect Donald Trump's presumptive nominee to serve as attorney general, Pam Bondi, at her Senate confirmation hearing on Wednesday vowed to stop government "weaponization" against Catholics, pro-life activists, and concerned parents. During her Jan. 15 hearing in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Bondi — the former attorney general of Florida — referred to the Richmond FBI memo that targeted Catholics as the "ultimate weaponization" of government. The January 2023 memo detailed an investigation into what it called "radical-traditionalist" Catholics and potential ties to "the far-right white nationalist movement." It discussed an opportunity for "trip wire or source development" within parishes that offer the Latin Mass and within Catholic online communities the agency considered "radical-traditionalist." "This should not be happening in the United States of America, and [we should] work together on it," Bondi said.

Vatican employees with 3 or more children to get bonus

At Pope Francis' request, the Vatican will now pay a monthly bonus of 300 euros (about \$309) per family to employees of the city-state who have three or more children, giving credibility to his frequent warnings about countries' low fertility rates. A Jan. 15 press release from the Vatican Governorate called the child bonus the pope's "personal initiative" and said that Francis "supports large families and offers them financial assistance." The economic measure applies only to employees working for the Governorate of the Vatican City State, who will receive the monthly payment until the offspring's 18th birthday or 24th birthday if enrolled in university studies. Francis has also determined that the city-state's three days of paid parental leave for new fathers — whether through birth, adoption, or fostering — be extended to five days. The changes went into effect Jan. 1.

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 and brought you closer to God. Such interactions rise to the level of the sacred. Using Scripture, real-world examples, scientific studies and stories from his formation, Dr. Reed provides advice on how you can use sacred conversations to become your best self and build closer relationships with others and with the Lord. At this meeting, we will discuss chapters 1-3.

Contact: To sign-up for the Friendship Group, go to <https://mailchi.mp/sophia institute/friendship-groups> Questions? Contact Mary Beth Bracy at mbracy@sophia institute.com.

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

ADORATION

Wells — Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to be held.

Date: The Third Sunday of the Month.

Time: After Sunday Mass

Place: St. Ann's

Features: A beautiful and blessed half hour.

ADORATION

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

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

Place: St. Agnes Church

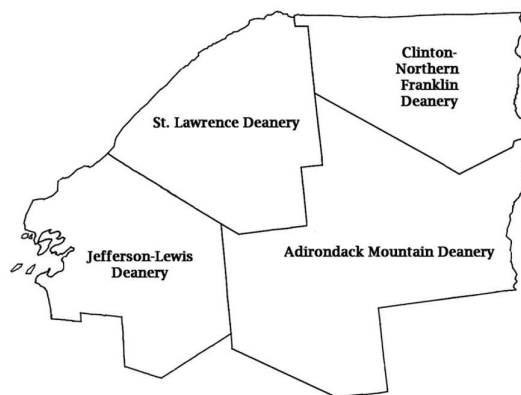
Features: Come rest in the presence of Jesus.

Contact: To sign up as a sub or for a weekly hour, call 518-523-220. Sign-up is not necessary to attend.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

ADORATION

Plattsburgh — Adoration to be



The North County 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.

held weekly.

Date: Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

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

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

Features: Come rest awhile in Jesus' Presence.

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

DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR

St. Regis Falls — All are invited to the monthly first Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour for Vocations.

Date: First Saturday of the Month

Time: Following the 4:30 anticipated Mass

Place: St. Ann's Church

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

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

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

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

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

Date: 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

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

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.

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

Date: Feb. 1

Time: 8 a.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

Features: Rosary with devotions

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

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

Date: Feb. 1

Time: 3:15 p.m.

Features: First Saturday Rosary Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. Confessions will be avail-

able. Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 p.m.

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

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

Date: Feb. 1

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

TRIVIA NIGHT

Canton — St. Mary's Church is hosting a Winter Trivia Night.

Date: Feb. 8

Time: Door open at 5:30 p.m. and trivia starts at 6 p.m.

Cost: \$20 per person includes 2 beverages (beer, wine, soda), 2 slices of pizza, popcorn, and an opportunity to win door prizes.

Features: Ages 21+. Teams of 4-6 players (single players welcome and will be placed with a team). Free childcare.

Contact: Visit cantoncatholics.com/trivia or call the parish office at (315)386-2543 to register your team!

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

MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

Date: Feb. 9 (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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Pope's autobiography 'Hope' now available

By **Almudena Martínez-Bordiú**
Catholic News Agency

"Hope," the autobiography of Pope Francis, hit the shelves of Italian bookstores two days before it's Jan. 16 launch in more than 100 countries.

The book marks the first time a pope has provided a first-person narration of the episodes that have marked his entire life, in this case from his childhood in Argentina in a family of Italian immigrants to becoming the successor of St. Peter.

Published by Random House in its 320-page English edition, the book is the result of six years of work and was written with the collaboration of journalist Carlo Musso, who helped the Holy Father tell his story.

In addition to his memoirs, in the book the pope takes up

issues such as war and peace, immigration, the environmental crisis, social policy, sexuality, and the future of the Catholic Church. All of this under the rubric of hope, a theme that is also being highlighted during the 2025 Jubilee.

In a recent interview, Pope Francis said the book was originally planned to be published following his death. "But since I'm not dying (he laughs), they're afraid that it will lose relevance and they decided to do it now," the Holy Father explained last December in a conversation with Argentine journalist Bernarda Llorente.

The pontiff, according to the excerpts released by the publishing house, begins his memoirs with an episode that marked his destiny: the sinking of the transatlantic ship Prince-

sa Mafalda, known as the "Italian Titanic."

His grandparents, together with his father, Mario, bought tickets to sail on the ship that left Genoa on Oct. 11, 1927, bound for Buenos Aires. However, they ultimately didn't board the vessel because they were unable to sell their belongings in time. "That's why I am here now; you can't imagine how many times I have thanked Divine Providence for it," the pontiff recounts in his autobiography.

He also brings up memories from his childhood at "531 Membrillar Street" in the Flores neighborhood of Buenos Aires, as well as the friendships he forged there, including with a prostitute known as "La Parota," who decided to change her life and leave the streets to care for the elderly.

The Holy Father devotes a large amount of space in his autobiography to reflecting on the value of a sense of humor to deal with sadness and "healthy irony" as a medicine to counter narcissism.

"Irony is medicine, not only to elevate and enlighten others but also for oneself, because self-irony is a powerful tool to overcome the temptation of narcissism. Narcissists continually look in the mirror, they get all primped up, they observe themselves over and over again, but the best advice in front of a mirror is always to laugh at oneself. It will do us good," the pope comments in the book.

This story was first published by ACI Prensa, CNA's Spanish-language news partner. It has been translated and adapted by CNA.

Vatican City enacts artificial intelligence law

By **Courtney Mares**
Catholic News Agency

The Vatican City State's first decree regulating the use of artificial intelligence quietly came into effect this month prohibiting discriminatory uses of AI and establishing a special commission to oversee "experimentation" with the new technology at the Vatican.

The decree titled "Guidelines on Artificial Intelligence" was enacted by the Pontifical Commission of Vatican City State and came into effect on Jan. 1 following a low-profile publication on the Vatican government's website the day before Christmas Eve.

The new regulations set strict prohibitions on uses of AI within Vatican state institutions but do not apply to the entire Roman Curia.

Among the banned practices are employing AI systems that compromise Vatican City security, implementing AI systems that exclude persons with disabilities

from accessing its features, and using AI to draw "anthropological inferences with discriminatory effects on individuals."

The 13-page decree also forbids AI applications that create social inequalities, violate human dignity, or use "subliminal manipulation techniques" that cause physical or psychological harm to people.

Furthermore, any use of AI that conflicts with the mission of the pope, the integrity of the Catholic Church, or the Vatican's institutional activities is prohibited.

In an effort to oversee compliance, the decree establishes a five-member "Commission on Artificial Intelligence," comprising officials from Vatican City's legal, IT, and security departments.

This commission is tasked with monitoring AI activities, preparing implementation laws, issuing biannual reports on AI within Vatican City and areas governed un-

der the Lateran Treaty.

The commission will also evaluate proposals for AI experimentation to ensure alignment with the decree's ethical framework.

The Vatican guidelines draw inspiration from the European Union's AI Regulation, which came into force in August, emphasizing a risk-based approach to AI applications.

While safeguarding existing Vatican laws on data protection and copyright, the decree reinforces principles of transparency, inclusion, and ethical responsibility. It mandates that AI systems prioritize Vatican security, data protection, nondiscrimination, economic sustainability, and care for the environment.

AI-generated content within the Vatican must be clearly labeled as "IA" (intelligenza artificiale), ensuring transparency and distinguishing human creativity from machine outputs. The Vatican also retains copyright

over such works.

The decree states that "the use of artificial intelligence must not limit the decision-making power of the subjects responsible for the organization, functioning, and coordination of the personnel of the governorate of the Vatican City State by the administration."

In addition to outlining general principles, the decree provides specific guidelines for sectors such as health care, cultural heritage, judicial activity, and administrative procedures.

In Vatican courts, AI systems may only be used for research, while the decree stipulates that the actual judicial activity of interpreting the law must be reserved for human judges.

Pope Francis' advocacy for ethical AI governance has been a driving force behind these new regulations. The decree reflects Francis' ongoing call for regulations that align with AI ethics, as outlined in the Vatican's "Rome Call for AI Ethics,"

a document calling for transparency, accountability, and social justice in artificial intelligence.

Pope Francis has previously called for an international treaty to regulate AI and urged the G7 summit last year to ban the use of autonomous weapons.

Despite the prohibitions, the guidelines affirm that "science and technology are a product of human creativity understood as a gift from God and have remedied countless evils that afflicted and limited human beings."

Additional Vatican laws implementing the AI regulations and guidelines are expected by the end of 2025.



SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

Where's the enthusiasm?

Have you ever heard of football? That's a really dumb question to ask especially now as we are on the verge of Super Bowl. Coverage of football means tv, food, excitement, friends, gatherings or parties, late-breaking news, blogs, analyses beyond imagination, the odds, and who knows what else. "What are you doing for Super Bowl this year" is asked just like "what are you doing for Christmas?"

In the early 1980s a group of enthusiastic businessmen established the United States Football League. This group tried to tap into USA football hunger and established a league that would play when the NFL was not playing. It had all the right ingredients for success but failed after a few years.

So, why does the NFL continue to flourish while the USFL couldn't get off the ground? Well, simply put, enthusiasm breeds enthusiasm.

By all human measures,

the Church had nothing going for it. Twelve men with a leader who was crucified, died, and was buried. They had no

business plan, no financial backing. The religion made unheard-of demands like loving your neighbor and your enemies, taking care of the sick, worshipping as a community on the Lord's Day with lots of activities that would take up individuals' time, resource-

es, and talent. Because human standards should nix the Church, there must be some element of divine.

How could such an organization last for more than 2,000 years? That's a hard question to answer, but the Super Bowl might provide an answer. Enthusiasm for the activity, seeing value in the product, excitement among the participants, and, most of all, passing on traditions of the game itself. People want to pass their belief and their enthusiasm for football.

Likewise, part of the



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

January 26

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10

1 Corinthians 12:12-30

Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

continuity of the Church can be found in the enthusiasm of its members. Those early disciples were enthusiastic for their leader Jesus, especially after his resurrection proved his divinity. Secondly, their enthusiasm spread the truth, Jesus Christ himself the source of all truth. The early disciples listened to and accepted the apostles' teaching.

Look at today's Gospel and first reading. Ezra and Jesus are both filled with the Spirit. They are both reading the content of their faith from the sacred scrolls. The listeners listened attentively. Ezra's were enthralled because they had not heard these words in many years. Jesus' listeners were likewise enthralled because there was something special about this

man.

So, what does this mean for 2025? Our offering continues to be Jesus Christ with the fullness of his teaching as understood and taught over the centuries. That has not changed. What has changed is our enthusiasm. Just as the US Football League had a similar product, but lacked enthusiasm, so too perhaps our enthusiasm for our faith has waned over the years. True enthusiasm about our faith would lead to vibrant parishes with active participation.

Think back on how your own faith developed. Without a doubt, the devotion and faith of people in your lives rubbed off on you. They were dedicated to their faith, freely spoke about their faith and wanted to make sure that it was transmitted to you. Faith, just like any other value, is transmitted by one generation actively and vigorously passing on that faith to the next generation. Here's a trite comparison, if grandma doesn't pass on the pasta and sauce recipes to her daughter, her grand-

daughter will never know the recipe and perhaps will never know that it even existed. The same applies to faith.

Every time we gather as a body of Catholics, especially at the Eucharist, we have a golden opportunity to investigate how well we are passing on that message.

True, the divinity of the Church has kept the Church going all these years. But God has entrusted that divinity to human beings to be kept burning brightly. This burning may seem to be dwindling, but it is ever-present. We should be intent on making sure that the light of faith is kept alive.

Yes, we may have faith deep down in our hearts, but that faith needs to be spoken both in words and in actions. If the words and actions are missing, then the faith, just like grandma's pasta sauce recipe, will likewise disappear.

May the closing words of today's Gospel "this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing" be fulfilled in each one of our lives.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

315-212-5166.

ADORATION

Ogdensburg — Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to be held every Wednesday.

Time: 3 p.m. to 6

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

Features: Everyone is welcome to spend time with Christ.

HOLY HOUR

Canton — Holy Hour for Vocations to be held.

Date: Every Tuesday

Time: 4:10 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

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

ROSARY FOR LIFE

Canton — Rosary for life to be held.

Date: Every Sunday

Time: 4:25 p.m. preceding the

5 p.m. evening Mass

Place: St. Mary's Church

ADORATION

Norwood — St. Andrew's Church to offer Exposition of the Blessed

Sacrament every Friday.

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

Features: Sign up is not needed.

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 in Canton.

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.rcdny.org/priesthooddiscernment. For more information, contact Father Howard Venette — hvenette@rcdny.org



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

Faithful in Darjeeling

They are the farmers in the plantations that produce one of the most appreciated black teas in the world. In the hilly district of Darjeeling, part of the Indian state of West Bengal, the approximately 40,000 Catholics are mainly Adivasi (indigenous people) who work as pickers and processors of the leaves in the 87 tea gardens spread over an area of 19,000 hectares.

"In the 60 parishes of the diocese of Darjeeling, as well as in Catholic schools, we began reciting the Jubilee prayer six months ago as a spiritual preparation for the Holy Year. Now the joy of these people, very simple and humble, to live the Jubilee with deep devotion and a pilgrimage to the cathedral of the diocese, the Jubilee Church, is palpable," explains to Fides Father C.M. Paul, Salesian of Don Bosco, professor at the Salesian College of Siliguri, and founder and director of a community radio that addresses reaches the inhabitants of rural villages.

"Groups of faithful organize themselves, traveling up to 60 km, to go to church and confess, participate in the Eucharist, pray for the pope, receive the plenary indulgence," he explains. In the diocese, a district of northern Bengal, religious orders such as the Jesuits and the Salesians have historically been present, mainly engaged in education and youth ministry.

The local faithful still remember the arrival of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Her work at the service of the destitute and abandoned elderly is continued today by the Missionary Sisters of Charity: a mission of compassion towards all, at the service of wounded and excluded humanity. Their example is a testimony of faith that draws people to the Gospel of Christ.

The Catholic community of Darjeeling runs colleges, primary and secondary schools, vocational training institutes, several welfare centers, orphanages and kindergartens, homes for the elderly and destitute. The services rendered to humanity have made the Catholic community appreciated by all, in a region where more than 1.5 million inhabitants of different ethnic groups belonging to different religious affiliations live: Hindus, Nepalese, Bengalese, Bhutanese, Sikhs, Tibetans.

"In families, there is often the coexistence of people of different religions, Catholics, Hindus and others. There is an atmosphere of tolerance and mutual goodwill. Our faithful live the Jubilee as a precious opportunity for spiritual renewal, conversion, devotion: the faith of simple people evangelizes us," said the Salesian. *Article from FIDES missionary news service of the Pontifical Mission Societies. Please remember the Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg INC. when writing or changing your will.*

CALLED TO SERVE

Do we bow or genuflect?

Eavesdrop on a conversation as ministers and clergy line up for the opening procession at Mass in a cathedral, I'm thinking St. Mary's in Ogdensburg, and you might hear a deacon ask his deacon partner, or a priest walking at another priest's side, if he will bow or genuflect at the Sanctuary steps.

If one or the other is going to bow, they usually both do.

Bishop LaValley genuflects, so those around him usually do as well.

The reason for bowing instead of genuflecting has to do with rising. The standard line is "it is easy to get down, gravity does the real work. It's getting back up that is a problem."

Altar servers genuflect if they are not carrying anything. If a server is carrying the incense burner (it is called a thurible), the cross or candles, the server usually reverences by a bow of

the head or does nothing and proceeds into the Sanctuary.

Candle bearers find out quickly that genuflecting with a lit candle results in spilled wax. It is hot when it hits your hand. Trust me.



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

At Mass, the deacon kneels from the Epiclesis to after the chalice is raised above the celebrant during the Eucharistic Prayer. The Epiclesis is part of that prayer.

The priest extends his joined hands over the offertory gifts and asks God to send the Holy Spirit to transform the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus.

Many parishes have the altar server ring the bells once at the Epiclesis.

My memory of why we ring the bell once goes back to the Mass in Latin. It served as a "heads-up" that something important was about to happen. The something important

was the consecration of the bread and wine. I remember everything stopped during the consecration. Even babies ceased crying temporarily. Folks standing along the side aisles and in the entryway to church, ushers too, dropped to one knee or both when the bells rang once. This harkens back to the day when seats were a premium at Mass. Ah, sweet memories.

To those of us who did not understand Latin, roughly 99.9% of us at Mass, this attention getter was important. The Mass in our vernacular makes the bell ringing warning less important but parishes stick to the tradition. I, for one, like it.

When should you genuflect or not has been an issue among parishioners and clergy for quite a while in our church. Next time, I'll add to the confusion.

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



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FACES OF FAITH



St. Hubert's Church in Star Lake hosted a reception brunch on October 13 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Deacon Phil Giardino's Diaconate. Approximately 130 people were in attendance, including Deacon Phil's 104-year-old mother. Pictured are (back row, from left) Deacon John Levison, Darryll Cooper, Caleb Cooper, Leo Brooker, Jack Brooker (front row) Msgr. John Murphy, Father Marullo, Father Robert Decker, Deacon Giardino and Father Jay Seymour.



On December 18, as part of their "Pennies from Heaven Program," the Thousand Islands Council #350 of the Knights of Columbus presented \$1,000 checks to each of the Dioceses of Ogdensburg's seminarians at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg. Each summer, the Knights collect money after weekend Masses at St. Mary's Church, Clayton. These funds along with donations from the local Knights and matching funds from Knights of Columbus Supreme headquarters, are used to fund the Pennies from Heaven account. Seminarians are free to use the money to pay for miscellaneous expenses. Pictured are (from left) seminarians Venes Laine, Kevin McCullouch, Michael Lennox, Tyler Fitzgerald, Council #350 Past Grand Knight Bob Heckmann, Michelet Boncoeur, Keegan Robinson, Dennis Ombongi and Bishop Terry R. LaValley.



The St. Mary's Youth Group in Constableville made Christmas cookies to distribute to local nursing homes. Deacon Mike Lieber and his wife supplied the children with ingredients. Not a single batch of cookies were under or over baked. (Above) Clara Gorman and Gracelynn Morczek were good helpers in the kitchen. (Below) Brighton Geiser collects the ingredients she needs for her next batch of cookies.



The Knights of Columbus Sarto Council 1059 made a \$1,000 donation to the Church and Community Program in Canton. Connie Jenkins, director of the Church and Community, accepted the donation.