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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 80 Number 30

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

NOVEMBER 26, 2025

FOLLOWING THE MUSIC



PHOTO PROVIDED

A small group of youth and young adults from the Diocese of Ogdensburg traveled to Maine to see musician Eli Gable, pictured center wearing a hat, the singer/songwriter behind the 2025 Camp Guggenheim theme song, "Take the Reins." Full story, Page 3.

No North Country Catholic next week

To allow our staff, columnists and reporters an opportunity to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no *North Country Catholic* published next week.

The next edition will be dated December 10.

*We wish our readers a happy
and blessed Thanksgiving!*

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Every year, the Diocesan Fiscal Office provides us with a detailed statement of the financial condition of our local Church. In this week's issue of the *North Country Catholic*, we offer for your review the audited Financial Statement of the Diocese of Ogdensburg for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Once again, this annual report tells the story of many individuals and families who support so generously the assistance and ministries provided by our Diocese.

The giving reflected in this statement speaks loudly of the depth of faith and generosity of heart of so many people throughout the North Country and beyond.

FULL STORY, PAGE 6

Pope Leo XIV calls for ecological conversion

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

At his Nov. 19 general audience, Pope Leo XIV urged Catholics to "connect faith with reality," saying that the death and resurrection of Christ form the foundation of an integral ecology and the Christian call to care for creation.

"The death and resurrection of Jesus, therefore, are the foundation of a spirituality of integral ecology, without which the words of faith remain unconnected to reality and the words of science remain outside the heart," he said.

Continuing his catechesis on the Resurrection and challenges of the contemporary world,

the pope rooted his reflection in the Gospel of John, which recounts that Mary Magdalene did not immediately recognize the risen Christ at the empty tomb, mistaking him for the gardener. That detail, he said, highlights the continuous "turning" of conversion.

"The fact that Mary turned that Easter morning is a sign of this: Only through conversion upon conversion do we pass from this valley of tears to the new Jerusalem," he said.

Cultivating and caring for the garden, the pope added, is the original task brought to fulfillment by Jesus. "His last word on the cross — 'It is finished' — invites each one to rediscover that same task, our task." If the

human person is not a caretaker of the garden, he warned, "he becomes its destroyer," citing *Laudato Si'* on the need for a contemplative gaze upon creation.

The pope said Christian hope responds to ecological and social challenges, recognizing the Crucified One as the seed "placed in the garden" to rise and bear abundant fruit. Many people today, he observed "have heard the cry of the poor and of the earth, allowing their hearts to be touched."

"These challenges cannot be faced alone," he said, adding that tears "are a gift of life when they purify our eyes and free our sight. Paradise is not lost, but found."

Appeal for the 'survival and

continuity' of contemplative life During the same audience, Pope Leo issued a strong appeal for concrete Church-wide support for communities of contemplative life, calling their mission "silent, fruitful, and irreplaceable."

He recalled that on Nov. 21, the memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Italy will celebrate "Pro Orantibus" Day dedicated to those who consecrate their lives to prayer.

He urged Catholics not to let contemplative men and women lack "the concrete solidarity and effective help of the ecclesial community to ensure the survival and continuity of their silent, fruitful, and irreplaceable apostolate."

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLICPO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
USPS 0039-3400**Bishop Terry****R. LaValley**
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Communications Director

Publish
45 issues
per year:Weekly except
skipping every
other week be-
ginning July through August
and skipping one week in
December by theDiocese of Ogdensburg.
622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.**Editorial Office:**622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.**Telephone:**

(315) 608-7556

E-mail:news@northcountry
catholic.org**Entered at the****Post Office:**Ogdensburg, NY
13669 and additional mailing
offices as
Periodical Postage.**Subscription:****For one year:**In-Diocese Rate: \$27
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30Matters for publication
should be addressed to
PO Box 326Ogdensburg, NY 13669
and should be received by
Wednesday prior to
publication. Paper is
printed each Friday;
dateline is Wednesday.Member, Catholic
Press Association.**POSTMASTER:**Send address changes to
North Country Catholic,
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY
13669-0326

'Turkey bacon is fraud'

Calling "turkey bacon" by that name is an affront to real bacon.

As part of my ongoing efforts to eat better and exercise, I decided to prepare enough breakfast wraps to last me a few days. Normally, I make breakfast wraps with just egg, spinach and cheese, but looking to add a bit more protein and a bit more flavor to breakfast, I grabbed a package of turkey bacon the last time I was at the grocery store.

"I'll try anything once," I thought.

After cooking a batch of eggs and steaming a bunch

of spinach, I started frying my turkey bacon, and I assembled my breakfast wraps.

**Darcy L. Fargo**

I ate the first wrap the next morning.

I'm sure there are people who love turkey bacon. I am not among them.

If you asked me to describe it, I would say "thin strips of bacon bologna intended for frying." It was missing everything that makes bacon bacon - the smokey, salty flavor and crispy texture.

"I think I dislike it even more because they call it 'bacon.' If they presented it as what it really is, it would be fine," I told a friend.

"Turkey bacon is fraud."

While my turkey bacon rant was meant to be more entertaining than complaining, it got me thinking about authenticity - presenting ourselves as we really are.

I think we all sometimes present ourselves as something we're not. We present ourselves as confident when we're really scared. We present ourselves as excited to attend an event that we're really attending out of a sense of obligation...

It occurred to me that I sometimes do it in my prayer life, too.

I'll pray for some intention, and I'll pray "but not my will be done, God. Let your will be done."

I don't really mean that. I want my will to be done. It's almost like there's part of my brain that says, "if you present it in a way that makes you seem super pious and like you've surrendered it to God, maybe God will do what you want."

So, I present myself to God as pious as though He doesn't know I'm really a manipulative jerk.

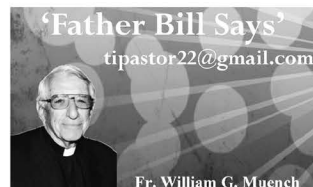
That's been my focus of the week - presenting myself to God as I really am in prayer, asking for what I want to ask for and saying to God what I feel like I need to say. God knows my heart. I don't need to pretend to be something I'm not.

I'll leave the pretending to the "turkey bacon."

A powerful example of Christian charity

Thanksgiving - I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for taking the time to read "my stuff." I want you to know that you are special to me. I think of you each time I begin to write. I promise to remember you all each time I celebrate Mass.

Recently, I joined a parish group on a trip to New York City. We visited the usual sights - even went to see the Rockettes this time. However, I was truly impressed when we visited the shrine honoring St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, remembered as Mother Cabrini. Just this week, the bishops of New York State including our Bishop LaValley, published an important letter of concern about the treatment of immigrants. I hope you had the opportunity to read this letter in last week's issue of the North Country Catholic. The bishops dedicated this effort to the work and ministry of Mother Cabrini among the immigrants of New York City.

**Fr. William G. Muench**

Today, I want to share with you some of the stories of Mother Cabrini that I learned when I visited that shrine on Washington Heights. Mother Cabrini was born in Lombardy, Italy, in 1850. Even as a child, she felt called to be a missionary. She had a special devotion to St. Francis Xavier, who was a missionary to China. Mother Cabrini was the foundress of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus - formed to serve the poor and to proclaim the Gospel.

It was a pope, Pope Leo XIII, who redirected her and her sisters to go to the United States. There was a large number of Italian immigrants there - the pope believed the sisters would make a difference in the

life of those immigrants. So, Mother Cabrini arrived in New York City in 1889. She spoke little English and she ran into much resistance from clergy and officials. But she persevered and became a profound influence on the life of that immigrant community.

Mother Cabrini founded school and orphanages for immigrant children - vulnerable, uneducated, and abandoned. She established a hospital in New York City, as immigrants were frequently denied care in public institutions. Mother Cabrini was a champion of the marginalized, especially the Italian laborers who faced harsh prejudice. She also traveled through this country as well as South America continuing her ministry and building schools and orphanages.

For Mother Cabrini, caring for these immigrants was not merely social service; this was an act of reparation, mercy and evangelization. She believed

that God opens door when human beings close them. Mother Cabrini founded 67 institutions (schools, hospitals and orphanages). She became a naturalized citizen in 1909. She is the first American citizen to be canonized a saint - declared such by Pope Pius XII in 1946.

Now the bishops of New York State have chosen Mother Cabrini to their model of all that the Catholic Church must be willing to do caring and accepting immigrants and helping them and their needs.

Our bishops wrote this: "When our nation considers again the plight of the immigrant, we recall the Christian charity, as lived so powerfully by Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, Mother Cabrini - demanding us to welcome the stranger and treat every individual with respect and dignity."

I hope you will take the time to go back to last week's paper to read the New York State Bishop's statement.

Experiencing camp song in concert

Local group sees singer, songwriter Eli Gable in concert

By Erin Savarie
Contributing Writer

Each year at Camp Guggenheim, the staff come together to pick a theme song that the campers learn and sing each week throughout the summer. The theme song for Camp Guggenheim this past year was chosen as "Take The Reins" by rising Christian artist Eli Gable. The song focuses on the importance of surrender and trusting in God.

Following the closure of the camp season, Gable found a video via the Diocese of Ogdensburg youth Instagram from Camp Guggenheim of the campers and staff belting out his song together. He then remixed the video with a response, speaking about how meaningful it was to him and how it encouraged him as a Christian artist.

"That's what it's about," explained Gable. "It's the fact that God is using this music to connect people to Himself, and to help them feel seen. On my better days, I'm able to understand that the Creator of the universe, the One who existed for an eternity before time began, has better ideas and higher goals than I do for myself. On my lesser days, I need a video like that one to remind me what

it's all about."

Around a month later, a small group of enthusiastic campers, along with a dedicated staff member from the previous camp season organized a special trip to Portland, Maine, to see Gable in concert.

"I was really excited to get to see Rend Collective and Eli Gable," said Katie Samperi, a counselor from the 2025 camp season. "It was a really great experience. I went to see Eli Gable open but loved the Rend Collection portion, too. The first song of the night, Eli Gable started to play 'Take the Reins.' He opened the concert with that song. The whole night was a beautiful night of worship, and it started off with 'Take the Reins.' It was as if he was letting God take control of the concert and all the worship happening there. It was a good way to dedicate the night to God."

Samperi said the version performed was slightly different than the one regularly played at camp.

"I always love hearing songs live," she said. "It adds a level of emotion and depth. The ver-

sion of the song he performed was different from what we listened to all summer. I loved it!"

After the show, the campers and staff had the opportunity to attend a meet-and-greet session with Gable.

As a token of appreciation, the group presented Gable with several unique pieces of camp merchandise from the camp's store - including t-shirts, hats, stickers, and even a small poster of the image of Jesus affiliated with camp, known as "Guggy Jesus" - each representing a piece of the camp's identity. Gable seemed genuinely touched by the gifts and camp stories, taking time to pose for photos.

The meeting left a lasting impression on both the campers and Gable, further strengthening the special bond formed through faith, music and community.

"So many people were there to worship," Samperi concluded. "It was awesome."

Editor Darcy Fargo contributed to this report.



Christian singer/songwriter Eli Gable reacts to a video of teens at Camp Guggenheim singing along with his song, 'Take the Reins' in an Instagram reel. The song was the 2025 Camp Guggenheim theme song.



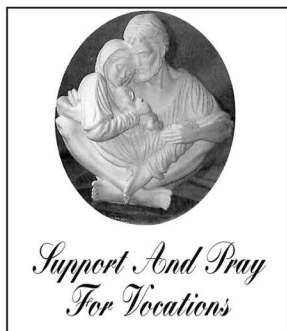
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A KNIGHT'S REFLECTION

Captain of my soul

Years ago, a genealogy search revealed a 17th-century family ancestor was a river pilot who guided merchant ships along the treacherous waters of the St. Lawrence near Beauport, Quebec.

My ancestor navigated perilous rapids, shifting shoals and powerful tides to safely guide people – and cargo – into port. The Christian may encounter turbulent spiritual challenges – such as periods of doubt, feelings of fear or struggles with faith – that are opportunities to guide us to God. The river metaphor may be familiar – or even cliché – but it captures the essence of our spiritual journey. Just as my ancestor learned to read the signs of a perilous river, Christians must learn to discern and

navigate the obstacles that threaten their spiritual growth.

A river pilot's role is to temporarily board the ship to provide navigation through a specific, difficult waterway, while the captain retains overall authority of the vessel. Cora Evans, a 20th century Catholic mystic who the Vatican has titled a "Servant of God," wrote about her visions of Jesus' life received during her spiritual ecstasies. At times, she witnessed Jesus as the captain of a majestic ship recalling, "its towering height was like a cathedral . . . the banners were billowing high and fringed – such

a pageant!" The reality is that Jesus is our captain, who has overall authority of our lives, and we are the river pilots to whom He gives temporary custody of our earthly souls.

A captain expects a river pilot to share in the vigilant care needed to guide the ship to its final destination. In the same way, Jesus asks us to develop spiritual disciplines

to avoid the world's "treacherous waters" – the temptations that can lead us astray – as we navigate our life. Of course, we do nothing on our own for "with regard to God, there is no strict right to any merit on the part of man. Between God and us there is an immeasurable inequality, for we have received everything from him, our Creator" (CCC 2007). What we receive is God's unmerited grace – an invitation – that will bring us to Him. Invitation accepted – hopefully – we can receive the Holy Spirit's guidance to develop a personal relationship with the Father and the Son. In the 17th century, an apprentice river pilot worked directly with a master pilot or experienced local guide to become proficient. Similarly, we work with the Holy Spirit to practice self-denial and self-discipline (asceticism) to increase our faith through prayer, the sacraments and study of the Church's doctrine.

"Prayer," said St. John Vianney, "is the inner bath of love into which the soul plunges itself." Prayer should not be

too rigid or lacking in personal connection. St. Thérèse of Lisieux, "The Little Flower," said, "For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy." In prayer, the Holy Spirit intercedes to properly guide, and connect, our intentions back to the Heavenly throne. Since God is omniscient, we can meet Him in prayer anywhere at any time. We strive, like St. Thérèse, to pray with "a simple look turned toward heaven," seeking a childlike communion with our creator. A good prayer life will provide inner peace, guide our decisions, and strengthen our relationship with God.

If prayer nourishes the invisible soul, then the sacraments are the visible gifts that work to impart God's grace to humanity. The word "sacraments" refers to "efficacious (effective) signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us" (CCC 1131). We participate in the sacraments – a tremendous gift of grace unto themselves – to receive tangible spiritual healing, nourishment, and the strength to continue the journey (to Him). We participate in the sacraments – especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation – because in these gifts God shares His holiness which, in turn, can make us holier.

We do not need to be theologians to be good Christians but having a basic understanding of Holy Scripture and Catholic doctrine can provide valuable guid-

ance to a searching – and thirsting – soul. If we pray to nourish the invisible soul, partake in the visible sacraments to receive God's invisible grace, then we study "the Word" and Catholic doctrine to reinforce it all. Holy Scripture – the inspired word of God – helps us to understand the historical events and teachings that are the foundation of our faith. The Catechism of the Catholic Church is a summary of Catholic doctrine on faith and morals. Together, these spiritual resources work to build our faith foundation, illuminate direction, and keep us on the path.

As the master and commander of our souls, Jesus takes full responsibility for our safety and well-being as we navigate through life. He operates on the principle of "command by exception," offering direction while overseeing our journey, yet allowing us to act on our own free will. With Jesus as our captain, we can trust in his guidance while confidently making choices that lead us safely home.

Mike Langlois is the grand knight of St. Augustine Knights of Columbus Council 7273 in Peru, New York. He is also the Upstate Conference coordinator for evangelization and faith formation for the New York State Knights of Columbus, which encompasses the Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Ogdensburg dioceses.

K of C councils interested in starting a Cor program or submitting column ideas can contact Mike Langlois at milana67@aol.com.



Mike Langlois

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

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

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

December



Divine Infancy

DECEMBER

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	BISHOP 1 TERRY R. 2 LAVALLEY	REV. 3 CARTER 4 G. PIERCE	MSGR. 5 LEWARD 6 J. POISSANT	REV. 7 SONY G. 8 PULICKAL	REV. 9 PATRICK A. 10 RATIGANY	REV. 11 WILLIAM 12 G. REAMER
REV. 13 MARK R. 14 REILLY	OUR 15 PASTOR 16 REV. 17 NICHOLAS 18 J. REVILLA	REV. 19 CLEMENT 20 RIMONDS, 21 HGN	REV. 22 DONALD A. 23 ROBINSON	REV. 24 STEPHEN 25 ROCKER	REV. 26 DOUGLAS A. 27 SCHIRMAER	
REV. 28 JAMES W. 29 SEYMOUR	POPE 30 LEO XIV 31 REV. 32 SCOTT R. 33 SEYMOUR	REV. 34 TODD E. 35 THIBAUT	REV. 36 ALAN D. 37 SHNOB	REV. 38 F. JAMES 39 SHURKLEF	FERNANDO 40 V. SOLOMON 41 JR	REV. 42 BRYAN D. 43 STITT
REV. 44 JAMES V. 45 TEIL	DECEASED 46 PRIESTS 47 REV. 48 TODD E. 49 THIBAUT	REV. 50 SEVERINUS 51 TORWOE	REV. 52 HOWARD J. 53 VENETTE	REV. 54 DANE 55 WESTOFF	REV. 56 JOHN R. 57 YONKOVIG	
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The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by:  Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society www.mgvocation.net

CALLED TO SERVE

Why do we do that? Part 3

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal sets the dos and don'ts of the way Mass is required to be offered. One section of the GIRM is about the bells at Mass.

"A little before the consecration, if appropriate, a minister rings a small bell as a signal to the faithful. The minister also rings the small bell at each elevation by the priest, according to local custom."

That leaves a whole lot of room for interpretation. It is the foundation for the argument against ringing a bell(s) at all. Some celebrants use the "if appropriate" phrase to justify their belief that bell ringing distracts from the sacred elevations of the Body and Blood of Christ. Most celebrants though are OK with bell ringing at the *epiclesis* and at the elevations.

Epiclesis means "call upon" in English. The Greek word is used to describe a gesture by the celebrant just before the Consecration of the bread and wine. The Altar Server usually rings the bell once at the *epiclesis*.

I was taught that the server rings the bell at the *epiclesis* to remind everyone at Mass know something important is about to happen.

Back pre-Vatican II, when all Masses were in Latin, it was used to get attention. I can recall everyone standing, ushers and other folks who could not find a seat kneeling when the bell was rung.

Today, the deacon assisting at the Altar kneels at the *epiclesis*.

The bells are rung three times as the celebrant displays the Host. Then the server rings the bells

three times again when the Chalice is displayed.

When Father genuflects after the Chalice display, everyone who was standing before the *epiclesis* can rise.

Bells, if done appropriately, add to the solemnity of that moment in the Mass.

I was guilty of nearly breaking that solemnity when I was serving one day. I was in high school and my friend, Brian, and I were serving at Mass held in the

school auditorium.

We had 10 or so Masses on Sunday in my Queens, New York, parish. The last Mass was at 12:15 p.m. Sacred Heart had four priests. Mass times were staggered to allow attendance in Church, or the school auditorium, or the school gymnasium.

I had the position of

bell ringer at this particular Mass.

I fainted just before the *epiclesis*. My limp body was on top of the bells. Undaunted by this latest change in plans, Brian pulled the bell out from under me and dutifully rang them at the appropriate time.

A couple of ushers carried me into the "sacristy" and revived me. I was back serving before Communion distribution was complete. It made for a good "I remember when" story.

It also demonstrated how important bell ring-

ing at Mass was... and is.

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown.

He is the Director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Rest in Peace

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

Nov. 27 – Rev. Joseph Cole, 1929; Rev. Maurice O'Neil, 1999

Nov. 28 – Rev. Edward Gabriel Brice, 1929; Rev. Real Labrie, O.M.I., 1978

Nov. 29 – Rev. John F. Meaney, O.S.A., 1942; Msgr. Michael Kelly, 1957; Rev. Peter A. Ward, 1984

Nov. 30 – Dcn. Elliott A. Shaw, 2022

Dec. 1 – Rev. Charles Goulet, 1913; Rev. George J. Bouchard, 1967

Dec. 2 – Rev. Charles Desrosiers, 1944; Rev. Joseph A. R. Cote, 1969; Rev. Joseph Fortier, M.S.C., 1970

Dec. 3 – Rev. Michael O'Neill, 1899; Msgr. Walter Funcke, 1958

Dec. 4 – Msgr. James Mackey, 1883; Rev. Alexis D. Medeville, O.M.I., 1884; Rev. Albert Chevalier, O.M.I., 1948; Msgr. Joseph Patrick Heslin, 1962; Rev. Charles A. Flaherty, 1974

Dec. 5 – Rev. Michael Hallahan, 1891; Most Rev. Edgar P. Wadhams, D.D., 1891

Dec. 6 – Rev. Edward F. O'Brien, 1936

Dec. 7 – Rev. Robert O. Lamitie, 2021; Msgr. Paul E. Whitmore, 2023

Dec. 8 – Rev. Patrick J. McGuinness, 1931; Msgr. Cornelius J. Crowley, 1946; Rev. John Leo Hammill, 1949; Rev. John Harvey, 1961

Dec. 9 – Rev. George Marion, O.M.I., 1927; Rev. Edwin Hanlon McCarthy, 1950; Rev. Arthur LaVigne, 1956

Environmental Stewardship

Give thanks always

On Thanksgiving we typically think of friends, family and the individuals who have helped us in some way, along with the events and situations that have enhanced our lives.

All objects, organisms and components of the world are vital to the health and well-being of all other entities of the system. We have been told by the mystics and great spiritual masters throughout the ages that God views His creations with the same unconditional love and respect. Because His love is infinite, His interest and concern for a blade of grass or drop of water is the same as for a mature redwood or a galaxy.

This Thanksgiving, let us give thanks for simply being a part of creation governed by the dictates of a benevolent being who fashioned a mammoth, multidimensional tapestry of life of which we are an integral part. We must also realize that the One that sustains this elaborate system continually bestows blessings on us, of which nearly all go totally unnoticed.

Along with sitting around a table with loved ones this weekend, it is also good to spend time outdoors to share feelings of gratitude and "good will" with as many of God's creations as possible. Thanksgiving is the time when our prayers should acknowledge our total dependence on God for creating us, sustaining us and loving us more than we could ever imagine. This realization inevitably brings great joy to our hearts and should be shared with everyone and everything around us. So, don't be afraid to talk to the trees or let your inner happiness radiate outward to everything that is close by.

We must also realize that God has our best interest at heart. Even though we may have experienced tragedies during the year, these are all a part of our life's plan, just as a mosquito's presence is a necessary part of the summer. Regardless of what you faced during the year or what type of people you encountered, give thanks for all of them.



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

Bishop's Public Schedule

Nov. 26 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Nov. 29 – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Nov. 30 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Dec. 3 – 9:30 a.m. – Diocesan Department Head Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

Noon – Lunch followed by the Diocesan Staff Advent Day of Reflection at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

4:30 p.m. – St. Lawrence Deanery Clergy Penance Service followed by dinner at St. Mary's Cathedral (Brzana Hall)

Dec. 6 – 7 a.m. – Mass at Wadhams Hall Chapel in Ogdensburg

10:30 a.m. – Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting followed by Lunch at Bishop's Residence

Dec. 9 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

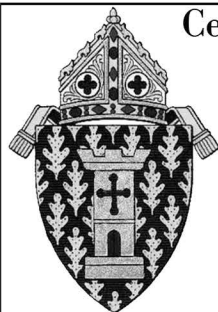
Protecting God's Children

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, 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.Report-BishopAbuse.org



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Most Rev. Terry LaValley, Bishop of the Diocese

Rev. Kevin J. O'Brien

Moderator of the Curia/Episcopal Vicar for
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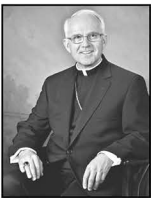
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A Message from
Bishop Terry LaValley

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Every year, the Diocesan Fiscal Office provides us with a detailed statement of the financial condition of our local Church. In this week's issue of the North Country Catholic, we offer for your review the audited Financial Statement of the Diocese of Ogdensburg for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.



Once again, this annual report tells the story of many individuals and families who support so generously the assistance and ministries provided by our Diocese. The giving reflected in this statement speaks loudly of the depth of faith and generosity of heart of so many people throughout the North Country and beyond.

You know that I am blessed with expert assistance from our Diocesan Fiscal Officer, Mark Mashaw, and his exceptionally capable staff in the management of the Church's financial affairs. They carefully safeguard all that has been entrusted to our Diocese. The professionalism and wisdom of the Fiscal Office team has been invaluable as we navigate through Chapter 11 reorganization. Their support and hard work have enabled us to continue our mission to the people of the North Country, while seeking to resolve the lawsuits that we face. The Fiscal Office provides prompt, professional support to our parishes and related institutions, enabling us to be good stewards of the gifts with which we have been entrusted. In addition to the staff of the Diocesan Fiscal Office, I also wish to thank the members of the Diocesan Finance Council and the Diocesan Investment Advisory Committee for their invaluable counsel throughout the year.

Please don't hesitate to contact Mr. Mashaw at the Fiscal Office, should you have specific questions about this report. God bless you and your loved ones for such faithful stewardship and prayerful support!

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Terry R. LaValley

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

DIOCESAN FISCAL OFFICER REVIEWS HIGHLIGHTS
OF THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

The Diocesan Fiscal Office is pleased to present the audited financial statements for the Central Administrative Offices of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg as of June 30, 2025, as audited by the certified public accounting firm of Pinto, Mucenski, Hooper, Van House & Co., Certified Public Accountants, P.C.

The audited statements include the central diocesan offices and programs but do not include parishes, Catholic Charities, schools, cemeteries, institutions, and the Lay Employees' Retirement Trust. The report presented is in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and the norms of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 INCLUDE:

- The independent auditors issued an unmodified opinion for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. This is the 29th consecutive year that the diocese received an unqualified/unmodified opinion expressed by its auditors.
- The independent auditor's report includes a "Substantial Doubt about the Organization's Ability to Continue as a Going Concern" paragraph. This paragraph is in relation to material claims associated with the Child Victims Act and the uncertainty of the future outcome of these claims. Further detail can be found in Note 3 of the financial statements.
- Investments, including investment balances classified as cash and cash equivalents, account for 87% and 85% of total diocesan assets for the years ending June 30, 2025 and 2024, respectively. Investment purposes are as follows:

	6/30/2025	6/30/2024
Amounts owed to investors in the Diocesan Trust Fund	\$27,619,128	\$26,420,097
Amounts owed to investors in the Deposit & Loan Fund	\$9,054,617	\$9,496,808
Reserves for Charitable Gift Annuities	\$1,744,718	\$1,616,872
Endowment Deposits and Earnings	\$4,428,485	\$4,279,396
Reserves for Priests' Retirement	\$8,297,974	\$8,440,586
Collateral required by the New York State Workers' Compensation Board	\$2,532,148	\$2,397,877
Other Purposes	\$1,725,830	\$2,182,866
	\$55,402,900	\$54,834,502

Further information regarding investments can be found in the financial statement notes.

- As reported in the Statement of Financial Position, the central office share of the Lay Employees' Retirement Trust's accrued pension obligation as of June 30, 2025 and 2024, is \$1,179,063 and \$1,040,257, respectively; and is based on independent actuarial valuations.

- Net assets decreased by \$651,770 and \$2,575,357 for the years ending June 30, 2025 and 2024, respectively. Total net assets of the diocese on June 30, 2025 and 2024 were \$20,256,276 and \$20,908,046, respectively.
- Revenues, gains, and other support reported on the Statement of Activities are classified as being either without donor restrictions or with donor restrictions.
- Total revenues, gains and other support were \$11,018,447 and \$11,421,291 for the years ending June 30, 2025 and 2024, respectively; a decrease of \$402,844. The decrease is primarily due to an increase in net realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments of \$358,075 and a decrease in grants of \$894,896.
- Total expenses were \$11,531,411 and \$13,647,183 for the years ending June 30, 2025 and 2024, respectively; a decrease of \$2,115,772. The decrease is primarily due to a decrease in Diocesan Administration costs of \$990,547 and a decrease of \$915,862 in Catholic Schools expenses resulting from reduced grant funding.
- The Schedules of Functional Expenses provides an analysis of diocesan expenses by natural classification (salaries, benefits, grants, etc.) under various categories of expense that includes pastoral, religious personnel development, education, social services, diocesan administration, and auxiliary services.
- The Statement of Cash Flows provides a reconciliation of the change in net assets with the change in cash and cash equivalents. Activities are classified as operating, investing, or financing in nature.
- The notes to the financial statements provide additional information and are an integral part of the financial statements. They should be read in conjunction with the statements to obtain a thorough understanding of the statements.
- The Schedules of Program and Other Expenses provides further details regarding diocesan expenses by department.

The audited financial statements are presented in their entirety to provide a complete accounting of the financial condition of the diocese and the results of its operations.

The Diocesan Fiscal Office is available to answer questions regarding the audited financial statements for 2024-25. Please feel free to call the fiscal office at 315-393-2920 or visit the fiscal office in the Spratt Memorial Building at 604 Washington Street in Ogdensburg during normal office hours.

Mark T. Mashaw

Mark T. Mashaw
Diocesan Fiscal Officer

Central Administrative Offices of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg (Debtor in Possession) Financial Statements Years Ended June 30, 2025 and 2024



Pinto·Mucenski·Hooper
Van House & Co.
Certified Public Accountants, P.C.

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the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg
Ogdensburg, New York

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Central Administrative Offices of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statements of financial position as of June 30, 2025 and 2024, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Central Administrative Offices of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg as of June 30, 2025 and 2024, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Central Administrative Offices of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Substantial Doubt about the Organization's Ability to Continue as a Going Concern

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared assuming the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg will continue as a going concern. As discussed in Note 3 to the financial statements, the Diocese has been the subject of material claims associated with the Child Victims Act. As a result of the significant number and dollar value of claims, the Diocese believes that these conditions raise substantial doubt about its ability to continue as a going concern. Management's evaluation of the events and conditions and management's plans regarding those matters are also described in Note 3. The financial statements do not include any adjustments that might result from the outcome of this uncertainty. Our opinion is not modified with respect to that matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Central Administrative Offices of

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Central Administrative Offices of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Central Administrative Offices of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Report on Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The schedules on Pages 32 and 33 are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Pinto Mucenski Hooper Van House & Co.
Certified Public Accountants, P.C.

November 17, 2025

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Page 2

Diocesan Fiscal Office Staff *Serving the fiscal needs of the Diocese of Ogdensburg*



Karen Ruddy
Diocesan
Accountant



Heather Ladouceur
Fiscal Office
Assistant



Mark Mashaw
Diocesan Fiscal
Officer



Amanda Frary
Diocesan Coordinator
of Parish Audits and
Financial Support
Services



Peggy Garrison
Senior Diocesan
Accountant



Kim Snover
Director Human
Resources

Central Administrative Offices of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg

(Debtor in Possession)

Statements of Financial Position
June 30, 2025 and 2024

	6/30/2025	6/30/2024
ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 2,688,382	\$ 3,978,458
Accounts Receivable	1,384,857	1,276,570
Accrued Interest Receivable	141,572	152,516
Inventories	674	5,105
Prepaid Expenses	322,987	393,764
Investments at Fair Value	54,229,261	53,543,749
Other Investments	784,079	602,916
Loans Receivable - Ministry - Net of Loan Loss Reserve	48,503	50,909
Loans Receivable - Parishes and Affiliates - Net of Loan Loss Reserve	1,851,983	2,125,059
Land, Building, and Equipment - Net of Accumulated Depreciation	2,103,075	2,206,865
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 63,555,373	\$ 64,335,911
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,507,253	\$ 1,898,427
Accrued Compensation	121,782	163,844
Collections Payable	221,017	200,558
Accrued Interest Payable	4,133	4,401
Deferred Revenue	419,654	465,433
Due to Catholic Charities	437,119	858,000
Reserve for Insurance Claims	882,215	1,096,076
Deposits Payable	9,054,617	9,496,808
Diocesan Trust Fund	27,667,029	26,460,829
Endowment Fund	1,000,010	966,147
Charitable Gift Annuities Payable	791,839	763,786
Disaster Relief Funds Collected	13,366	13,299
Accrued Pension Obligation	1,179,063	1,040,257
Total Liabilities	43,299,097	43,427,865
NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restriction	4,781,962	5,044,761
With Donor Restriction	15,474,314	15,863,285
Total Net Assets	20,256,276	20,908,046
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 63,555,373	\$ 64,335,911

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Pinto, Mucenski, Hooper, Van House & Co.*Certified Public Accountants, P.C.*

Central Administrative Offices of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg
(Debtor in Possession)

Statement of Activities
For the year ended
June 30, 2025

Statement of Activities
For the year ended
June 30, 2024

	Without Donor Restriction	With Donor Restriction	2025 Totals
REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT			
Diocesan Assessments	\$ 1,807,744	\$ 67,669	\$ 1,875,413
Contributions	1,647,480	443,380	2,090,860
Bequests	4,086	182,912	186,998
Contributed Services	100,094	-	100,094
Investment Income (Net)	476,106	532,067	1,008,173
Net Realized and Unrealized Gains and (Losses) on Investments	738,834	797,647	1,536,481
Grants	17,195	50,389	67,584
Management Fees	646,053	-	646,053
Other Revenue	406,726	-	406,726
Protected Self-Insurance Plan Revenue	2,734,919	-	2,734,919
Auxiliary Services	407,355	15,516	422,871
Gain or (Loss) on Disposal of Assets	-	-	-
Change in the Value of Charitable Gift Annuity	-	(57,725)	(57,725)
Net Assets Released from Restrictions			
Satisfaction of Program Restrictions	2,420,826	(2,420,826)	-
Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support	11,407,418	(388,971)	11,018,447
EXPENSES			
Pastoral	560,182	-	560,182
Religious Personnel Development	2,391,606	-	2,391,606
Education	1,425,053	-	1,425,053
Social Services	290,858	-	290,858
Diocesan Administration	4,153,794	-	4,153,794
Auxiliary Services	2,709,918	-	2,709,918
Total Expenses	11,531,411	-	11,531,411
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(123,993)	(388,971)	(512,964)
CHANGE IN FUNDED STATUS OF EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN	(138,806)	-	(138,806)
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	5,044,761	15,863,285	20,908,046
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 4,781,962	\$ 15,474,314	\$ 20,256,276

	Without Donor Restriction	With Donor Restriction	2024 Totals
REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT			
Diocesan Assessments	\$ 1,854,312	\$ 67,507	\$ 1,921,819
Contributions	1,723,483	636,119	2,359,602
Bequests	22,400	-	22,400
Contributed Services	99,603	-	99,603
Investment Income (Net)	569,982	510,073	1,080,055
Net Realized and Unrealized Gains and (Losses) on Investments	514,029	664,377	1,178,406
Grants	18,288	944,192	962,480
Management Fees	641,688	-	641,688
Other Revenue	344,964	1,500	346,464
Protected Self-Insurance Plan Revenue	2,445,163	-	2,445,163
Auxiliary Services	397,723	10,235	407,958
Gain or (Loss) on Disposal of Assets	-	-	-
Change in the Value of Charitable Gift Annuity	-	(44,347)	(44,347)
Net Assets Released from Restrictions			
Satisfaction of Program Restrictions	3,432,008	(3,432,008)	-
Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support	12,063,643	(642,352)	11,421,291
EXPENSES			
Pastoral	463,056	-	463,056
Religious Personnel Development	2,779,259	-	2,779,259
Education	2,349,903	-	2,349,903
Social Services	258,408	-	258,408
Diocesan Administration	5,148,831	-	5,148,831
Auxiliary Services	2,647,726	-	2,647,726
Total Expenses	13,647,183	-	13,647,183
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(1,583,540)	(642,352)	(2,225,892)
CHANGE IN FUNDED STATUS OF EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN	(349,465)	-	(349,465)
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	6,977,766	16,505,637	23,483,403
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 5,044,761	\$ 15,863,285	\$ 20,908,046

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Pinto, Mucenski, Hooper, Van House & Co.
Certified Public Accountants, P.C.

Members of the Diocesan Finance Council

Bishop Terry R. LaValley
Rev. Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin
Rev. Christopher C. Carrara, V.F.
Rev. Joseph A. Morgan
Rev. Kevin J. O'Brien

Deacon James Crowley
Deacon Kevin T. Mastellon
Ms. Barbara Criss
Mr. John Knox
Mr. Matthew P. Hurteau

Central Administrative Offices of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg
(Debtor in Possession)

Statement of Functional Expenses For the year ended June 30, 2025

	Pastoral	Religious Personnel Development	Education	Social Services	Diocesan Administration	Auxiliary Services	2025 Totals
Salaries	\$ 184,637	\$ 188,512	\$ 391,525	\$ 99,368	\$ 1,205,153	\$ 328,549	\$ 2,397,744
Payroll Taxes and Employee Benefits	66,342	141,156	72,583	14,940	344,311	92,667	731,999
Total Salaries and Related Expenditures	250,979	329,668	464,108	114,308	1,549,464	421,216	3,129,743
Grants	193,922	50,808	877,318	108,402	302,720	-	1,533,170
Priests' Retirement and Health Insurance	-	1,244,779	-	-	-	-	1,244,779
Professional Services	34,471	44,879	8,762	4,901	1,791,201	85,528	1,969,742
Insurance	18,838	3,500	1,000	100	36,597	1,866,482	1,926,517
Insurance Claims	-	-	-	-	-	141,836	141,836
Travel and Mileage	3,738	5,691	6,337	3,975	13,456	111	33,308
Postage, Printing, and Photocopying	1,479	473	181	180	21,162	2,642	26,117
Utilities	11,726	-	-	-	32,908	-	44,634
Telephone and Fax	1,599	1,821	4,319	2,999	13,996	792	25,526
Repairs and Maintenance	20,352	4,829	1,718	243	37,090	422	64,654
Rentals and Leases	9,663	38,782	10,600	22,400	-	-	81,445
Office Supplies	389	228	2,351	53	32,616	384	36,021
Advertising	-	150	243	245	9,537	166	10,341
Dues and Memberships	2,005	2,749	2,532	200	41,056	712	49,254
Meetings and Conferences	1,989	3,193	921	2,136	15,684	982	24,905
Awards and Gifts	-	433	781	2,000	8,568	-	11,782
Books, Periodicals and Subscriptions	1,717	13,895	1,416	27	2,321	753	20,129
Residence and Building Supplies	1,479	111	-	308	2,985	-	4,883
Workshops	2,024	54,660	33,741	1,230	7,610	-	99,265
License Fees and Immigration Fees	859	28,797	-	-	33,618	-	63,274
Special Care of Priests	-	172,970	-	-	-	-	172,970
Program Supplies	2,953	6,006	8,725	27,151	37,789	69,715	152,339
Bad Debt Expenses/Forgiveness of Debt	-	(2,406)	-	-	-	(73,000)	(75,406)
Depreciation and Amortization	-	-	-	-	163,416	-	163,416
Interest and Dividends	-	-	-	-	-	191,177	191,177
Tuition and Lodging	-	385,590	-	-	-	-	385,590
Total Expenditures	\$ 560,182	\$ 2,391,606	\$ 1,425,053	\$ 290,858	\$ 4,153,794	\$ 2,709,918	\$ 11,531,411

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Statement of Functional Expenses For the year ended June 30, 2024

	Pastoral	Religious Personnel Development	Education	Social Services	Diocesan Administration	Auxiliary Services	2024 Totals
Salaries	\$ 182,387	\$ 120,109	\$ 681,051	\$ 85,783	\$ 1,232,806	\$ 319,281	\$ 2,621,417
Payroll Taxes and Employee Benefits	63,614	121,664	112,394	16,076	335,514	84,613	733,875
Total Salaries and Related Expenditures	246,001	241,773	793,445	101,859	1,568,320	403,894	3,355,292
Grants	130,727	40,836	1,431,274	107,665	157,331	-	1,867,833
Priests' Retirement and Health Insurance	-	1,220,576	-	-	-	-	1,220,576
Professional Services	24,774	28,818	18,748	4,075	2,900,652	135,705	3,112,772
Insurance	15,240	3,167	1,000	100	34,295	1,541,442	1,595,244
Insurance Claims	-	-	-	-	-	416,462	416,462
Travel and Mileage	4,623	34,183	9,293	456	10,410	(44)	58,921
Postage, Printing, and Photocopying	1,844	543	421	143	24,013	2,737	29,701
Utilities	5,908	-	-	-	28,763	-	34,671
Telephone and Fax	1,949	1,884	9,610	1,873	12,671	792	28,779
Repairs and Maintenance	10,549	1,958	1,253	226	30,830	1,546	46,362
Rentals and Leases	868	14,998	8,892	21,108	-	-	45,866
Office Supplies	1,198	1,126	1,283	1,573	73,507	1,160	79,847
Advertising	303	170	505	-	5,726	50	6,754
Dues and Memberships	1,289	6,404	2,524	200	41,421	636	52,474
Meetings and Conferences	2,853	4,249	6,175	-	14,734	2,022	30,033
Awards and Gifts	-	990	1,245	215	6,705	-	9,155
Books, Periodicals and Subscriptions	418	12,837	33,297	27	2,791	600	49,970
Residence and Building Supplies	5,246	-	278	3,220	5,139	-	13,883
Workshops	3,050	22,408	21,382	3,397	7,960	-	58,197
License Fees and Immigration Fees	859	23,172	-	-	31,649	-	55,680
Special Care of Priests	-	69,662	-	-	-	-	69,662
Program Supplies	5,357	3,144	9,278	12,271	33,493	61,159	124,702
Bad Debt Expenses/Forgiveness of Debt	-	697,318	-	-	-	(110,000)	587,318
Depreciation and Amortization	-	-	-	-	158,421	-	158,421
Interest and Dividends	-	-	-	-	-	189,565	189,565
Tuition and Lodging	-	349,043	-	-	-	-	349,043
Total Expenditures	\$ 463,056	\$ 2,779,259	\$ 2,349,903	\$ 258,408	\$ 5,148,831	\$ 2,647,726	\$ 13,647,183

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Central Administrative Offices of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg
(Debtor in Possession)

Statements of Cash Flows
For the years ended
June 30, 2025 and 2024

	6/30/2025	6/30/2024
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Change in Net Assets	\$ (512,964)	\$ (2,225,892)
ADJUSTMENTS TO RECONCILE CHANGES IN NET ASSETS		
TO NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Depreciation	163,416	158,421
Net Realized and Unrealized (Gains) Losses on Investments	(1,536,481)	(1,178,406)
Change in the Value of Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)	57,725	47,599
Decrease (Increase) In:		
Accounts, Grants, and Loans Receivable	(105,881)	3,695
Accrued Interest Receivable	10,944	(14,785)
Inventories	4,431	(664)
Prepaid Expenses	70,777	(54,757)
Increase (Decrease) In:		
Accounts Payable	(391,174)	1,316,449
Accrued Compensation	(42,062)	2,870
Accrued Interest Payable	(268)	(2,509)
Due to Catholic Charities	(420,881)	-
Deferred Revenue	(45,779)	(916,517)
Reserve for Insurance Claims	(213,861)	67,097
Other Liabilities	20,526	(39,369)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	(2,941,532)	(2,836,768)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of Furnishings and Equipment	(59,626)	(58,230)
Net Change In:		
Investments	669,806	4,531,666
Loans Receivable - Parishes and Affiliates	273,076	231,698
Deposits Payable	(442,191)	(798,179)
Diocesan Trust Fund	1,206,200	1,254,068
Endowment Fund	33,863	30,639
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Investing Activities	1,681,128	5,191,662
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from New Annuities	56,107	-
Annuity Payments and Payoffs	(85,779)	(101,923)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Financing Activities	(29,672)	(101,923)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(1,290,076)	2,252,971
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - Beginning of Year	3,978,458	1,725,487
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - END OF YEAR	\$ 2,688,382	\$ 3,978,458

SUPPLEMENTAL CASH FLOW DISCLOSURES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2025 AND 2024

Cash Paid During the Year for Interest	\$ 60,335	\$ 64,717
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Schedules of Program and Other
Expenses For the years ended
June 30, 2025 and 2024

	6/30/2025	6/30/2024
PASTORAL		
Respect Life	\$ 10,517	\$ 15,164
Pastoral Grants	55,918	60,981
Tribunal	57,882	61,024
Evangelization	96,870	93,753
Formation for Ministry	45,216	29,134
Department of Worship	31,165	34,946
Indian Apostolate	8,008	10,000
Missionary Projects of the Diocese	179,965	106,433
Guggenheim Center	73,865	51,055
Other Pastoral	776	566
Total Pastoral Expenses	560,182	463,056
RELIGIOUS PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT		
Priest and Pastoral Personnel	97,631	33,378
Vicar for Religious	25,951	32,914
Vocations	55,429	60,510
Education of Priests and Seminarians	614,492	1,228,614
Care of Clergy	1,478,249	1,359,020
Council of Priests	-	1,721
Permanent Diaconate Formation Program / Ordained Deacons	119,854	63,102
Total Religious Personnel Development Expenses	2,391,606	2,779,259
EDUCATION		
Education Grants	247,400	247,000
Catholic Schools	841,120	1,756,982
Communications	19,532	18,494
Christian Formation	112,302	120,035
Family Life/Natural Family Planning	108,132	110,624
Campus Ministry	96,567	96,768
Total Education Expenses	1,425,053	2,349,903
SOCIAL SERVICES		
Social Service Grants and Donations	108,202	107,665
Catholic Youth Ministry	182,656	150,743
Total Social Services Expenses	290,858	258,408
DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATION		
Diocesan Administration	2,573,454	3,564,001
Solidarity in Faith	80,000	80,000
Bishop's Residence	54,485	81,365
Planning	8,013	8,518
Development Office	336,126	336,340
Diocesan Fiscal Office	373,984	371,734
Catholic Charities Fiscal Office	103,426	101,226
Parish Services	120,034	108,364
Safe Environment	110,138	113,461
Information Technology	300,848	281,197
Human Resources	92,471	102,385
Archives	815	240
Total Diocesan Administration Expenses	4,153,794	5,148,831
AUXILIARY SERVICES		
Protected Self-Insurance Program	2,130,369	2,179,492
Disability Insurance	87,396	71,672
Unemployment Insurance	62,213	17,862
North Country Catholic	179,656	168,479
Diocesan Loan Fund	(1,585)	(34,071)
Endowment Fund	130,841	124,848
Charitable Gift Annuity Program	210	161
Wadhams Hall	120,818	119,283
Total Auxiliary Services Expenses	2,709,918	2,647,726
TOTAL	\$ 11,531,411	\$ 13,647,183

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Pinto, Mucenski, Hooper,
Van House & Co.
Certified Public Accountants, P.C.

See Auditor's Report

Central Administrative Offices of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg
(Debtor in Possession)
Notes to the Financial Statements - June 30, 2025

NOTE 1 - ORGANIZATION
The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, New York (the Diocese) was incorporated in 1945 to oversee the theological and financial affairs of the parishes and missions within the northern counties of New York State. The accompanying financial statements include the assets, liabilities, net assets and financial activities of the offices and departments directly under the control of the Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg.

The accompanying financial statements do not include the assets, liabilities, net assets, and financial activities of certain entities which operate within the Diocese such as Catholic Charities, parishes, schools, cemeteries, etc. Each is an operating entity distinct from the Diocesan administrative offices.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES
A summary of the significant accounting policies consistently applied in the preparation of the accompanying financial statements are as follows:

Basis of Accounting
The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Recently Adopted Accounting Guidance
The Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 326, *Financial Instruments – Credit Losses*, which requires certain financial assets to be measured at amortized cost net of an allowance for estimated credit losses. This standard replaced the incurred loss methodology with an expected loss methodology that is referred to as the current expected credit loss (“CECL”) methodology. The estimated credit loss is required to be based on historical information, current conditions, and forecasts that could impact the collectability of the amounts. Under the standard, disclosures are required to provide users of the financial statements with useful information in analyzing an entity’s exposure to credit risk and measurement of credit losses.

Effective July 1, 2023, the Diocese adopted ASC Topic 326 using the modified retrospective approach for all financial assets measured at amortized cost. The impact of the adoption was not considered material to the financial statements. Results for reporting periods beginning after July 1, 2023, are presented under CECL.

Use of Estimates
The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Financial Statement Presentation
The Diocese classifies its operations into the following two net asset categories:

Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions: Net assets not subject to donor-imposed stipulations.

Net Assets With Donor Restrictions: Net assets whose use is limited by donor-imposed time and/or purpose restrictions.

Revenues are reported as increases in net assets without donor restrictions unless use of the related assets is limited by donor-imposed restrictions. Expenses are reported as decreases in net assets without donor restrictions. When restrictions expire, net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Contributions and Bequests
Contributions are generally available for use unless specifically restricted by the donor. Pledges not received at year end are deemed uncollectible and are not reflected in these financial statements.

Other contributions of cash and other assets are reported as donor restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the Statements of Activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Endowment contributions and investments are classified as net assets with donor restrictions. Investment earnings available for distribution are recorded in net assets with donor restrictions until used for their designated purpose.

The Board of Trustees of the Diocese have interpreted the current state law as requiring the preservation of the original gift as of the gift date of the donor as restricted endowment funds, absent donor stipulations to the contrary. As a result of this interpretation, the Diocese classifies the original value of the gift donated to net assets with donor restriction endowments and the original value of subsequent gifts to the restricted endowment. The donor restricted endowment fund earnings are classified in net assets with donor restrictions, until those amounts are appropriated for expenditure by the Diocese.

Bequests are recorded as revenue at the time an unassailable right to the gift has been established and the proceeds are measurable.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Allowance for Doubtful Accounts
Management reviews the status of accounts receivable due from parishes, related entities, and others. If an account is determined to be uncollectible, it is written off. Therefore, all accounts in this category of receivable as outlined in Note 5 are considered to be fully collectible.

Loan Loss Reserve
Management also reviews the outstanding loans receivable. As a result of this review, a Loan Loss Reserve has been set up for loans whose repayments are doubtful (See Note 6 and 13).

Investments
Marketable securities are recorded at their fair value as outlined in Note 7. Certain other investments with no readily available fair value are carried at cost as outlined in Note 8.

The Diocese invests in various types of marketable securities. These securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rates, market conditions and credit risks. Due to these risks, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in values could occur in the near term and such changes could materially affect the market values reported in the accompanying financial statements.

Inventories
Inventories are stated at cost. Inventories consist of religious books, publications, and camp promotional items related to the work of the Catholic Church.

Land, Buildings, and Equipment
Land, buildings, and equipment acquired before June 30, 1977 are reflected at their appraisal value as of June 30, 1977. All acquisitions subsequent to that date are reflected at cost.

Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets as follows:

• Land Improvements	10 years
• Buildings and Improvements	10 – 40 years
• Furnishings and Equipment	5 – 15 years

Insurance Claims Reserve
The Diocese and participating entities are self-insured for certain risks associated with their operations. These self-insured programs are as follows:

- General Insurance - This program includes property and auto physical damage, general liability, cybersecurity, workers’ compensation, and sexual misconduct.
- New York State Disability Insurance and Paid Family Leave
- New York State Unemployment Insurance

Each of the participating entities are assessed their portion of the estimated expense of these programs. The accompanying financial statements reflect claims currently payable and an estimated amount for incurred but not reported claims.

Contributed Services
The contributed services of clergy and religious who work for the Diocese have been recognized in the accompanying financial statements. The computation of the value of these services represents the difference between the compensation paid to religious personnel and the comparable compensation which would have been paid to lay persons if lay persons were to occupy these positions. No computation is made for positions which can be held only by religious personnel. For the years ending June 30, 2025 and 2024, the recognized value of these services was \$ 100,094 and \$ 99,603, respectively.

Income Taxes
The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg qualifies as a tax exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and, therefore, has no provision for federal income taxes. The Diocese is also classified by the Internal Revenue Service as an entity that is not a private foundation. Similar tax exempt status has been obtained under New York State tax laws.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to evaluate all significant tax positions. Management believes their tax positions are appropriate based on current facts and circumstances. As of June 30, 2025, the Diocese does not believe that it has taken any positions that would require the recording of any tax liability or tax asset.

Cash and Cash Equivalents
For cash flow reporting purposes, the Diocese considers all highly liquid unrestricted investments available for current use with an initial maturity of three months or less to be a cash equivalent.

Central Administrative Offices of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg
(Debtor in Possession)
Notes to the Financial Statements - June 30, 2025

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Functional Allocation of Expenses

The cost of providing programs and services is summarized on a functional basis in the statement of functional expenses. Expenses directly supporting programs run or administered by the Diocese are allocated directly to program expenses. Costs common to multiple functions have been allocated among various functions benefited using a reasonable allocation method based on the total expenses of the program and administration costs.

Subsequent Events

The Diocese has evaluated subsequent events through November 17, 2025, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

NOTE 3 - GOING CONCERN UNCERTAINTY

On February 14, 2019, New York State signed into law the Child Victims Act (CVA). This legislation provided for the following:

- Extended New York State’s statute of limitations for child abuse claims;
- Allowed for criminal charges against abusers of children until their victims turn 28 years of age, vs. the previous law which provided that right up to age 23;
- Allowed for civil actions against abusers, and institutions where they were abused, until their victims turn 55; and
- Opened a two-year window beginning on August 14, 2019, permitting any victim of child abuse to take civil action, regardless of when the abuse occurred. This window was extended to August 14, 2021.

As a result of the passage of the CVA, through the date of this report, the Diocese has been notified or become aware of a significant number of abuse related claims for alleged inappropriate conduct. The aggregate liability for damages from these claims and lawsuits are expected to be material, although presently not determinable. During the timeframe of the alleged abuses, the Diocese had a combination of commercial insurance coverage and self-insurance programs. At present, the Diocese is not certain as to the amount of commercial coverage available to assist it in meeting its ultimate obligations for these matters.

In response to the magnitude of both the number of claims and lawsuits and alleged damages, on July 17, 2023, the Diocese filed a voluntary petition for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code and was authorized to continue managing and operating as a debtor in possession subject to the control and supervision of the Bankruptcy Court. The Diocese believes that this filing best allows the Diocese to manage the claims adjudication process in an orderly manner as well as to ensure the equitable treatment of all claimants. The Diocese believes that this process will result in the eventual settlement of the claims and ultimately in the Diocese’s ability to conduct ongoing business operations consistent with recent historical practices.

The ability of the Diocese to remain as a going concern and meet its obligations as they become due is dependent on the outcome of the reorganization case. These factors create substantial doubt about the Diocese’s ability to continue as a going concern for the year following the date the financial statements are available to be issued. The financial statements do not include any adjustments that might be necessary if the Diocese is unable to continue as a going concern.

NOTE 4 - LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL ASSETS

The following reflects the Diocese’s financial assets as of the balance sheet date, reduced by amounts not available for general use within one year of the balance sheet date.

	6/30/2025	6/30/2024
Cash and Cash Equivalents.....	\$ 2,688,382	\$ 3,978,458
Less Cash Designated for Specific Programs	(1,234,702)	(1,295,345)
Unrestricted Cash and Cash Equivalents.....	1,453,680	2,683,113
Accounts and Interest Receivable.....	1,526,429	1,429,086
Short-term Loans Receivable:		
Ministry	4,909	4,812
Parish and Affiliates.....	356,588	394,146
	\$ 3,341,606	\$ 4,511,157

The Diocese structures its financial assets to be available as its general expenditures, liabilities and other obligations come due.

In addition, as more fully described in Note 10, the Diocese has a letter of credit in the amount of \$ 1,950,707, which could be drawn upon in the event of unanticipated liquidity needed to pay claims in the self-insured New York State worker’s compensation program.

NOTE 5 - ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Accounts receivable for the years ending June 30, 2025 and 2024 consists of the following:

	6/30/2025	6/30/2024
North Country Catholic	\$ 4,205	\$ 2,837
Excess Insurance Carriers.....	319,266	258,519
Due from Parishes and Other Diocesan Entities:		
Protected Self-Insurance Premiums	506,601	303,305
Health Insurance Premiums	56,972	24,528
Health Reimbursement Account	38,980	-
Parish Assessments	136,810	102,717
Other	322,023	584,664
Total	\$ 1,384,857	\$ 1,276,570

NOTE 6 - LOANS RECEIVABLE – MINISTRY

The Diocese provides financial assistance as needed to students attending Seminary College. Students receiving financial assistance sign a note guaranteeing repayment to the Diocese of one-half of the amount loaned. If a student leaves during the course of seminary study the student is responsible for repayment to the Diocese of the total amount of financial assistance. The indebtedness is payable over 15 years at 2% interest, and the minimum monthly payment is \$ 100. If a student proceeds to theological studies, the terms of the Diocese’s Major Seminary Tuition Policy will govern repayment of this indebtedness by the student.

The Diocese pays tuition, room, and board not covered by other sources for its students in an approved program for pre-theology or in theological studies. At time of payment, the seminarian signs a note guaranteeing repayment of the total amount paid for his theological education. The indebtedness shall be paid over 15 years at 2% interest, and the minimum monthly payment is \$ 100.

If a seminarian transfers to another diocese or religious community, then the Diocese of Ogdensburg shall request of the diocese or community the seminarian is joining reimbursement of the total amount paid by the Diocese for his theological education.

If a student is ordained a priest, the indebtedness shall be repaid over 20 years at 2% interest. The priest shall make monthly payments of \$ 100 on the first day of each month beginning January 1 following ordination. A balloon payment of the balance of principal and interest as of the last month of the repayment term shall be made by the priest. Priests may apply to the Diocese for assistance with or relief from payments on the promissory notes. The Diocese may grant assistance in the form of a gift, extension of the loan, reduction of interest rate, or forgiveness of all or part of the debt.

Loans receivable from ordained priests were written off in 2022-23 and loans receivable from seminarians were written off in 2023-24 since it is the current administration’s policy to grant forgiveness on an annual basis.

The diocese is currently receiving quarterly payments from another diocese for one priest. This is the only loan recorded on these financial statements.



Pinto·Mucenski·Hooper
Van House & Co.
Certified Public Accountants, P.C.

Central Administrative Offices of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg
(Debtor in Possession)*Notes to the Financial Statements - June 30, 2025***NOTE 6 - LOANS RECEIVABLE – MINISTRY (Continued)**

The loans receivable at June 30, 2025 and 2024 was \$ 97,006 and \$ 101,818, respectively.
The loan loss reserve at June 30, 2025 and 2024 was \$ 48,503 and \$ 50,909, respectively.

Future maturities of the loans receivable are as follows:

June 30,	
2026	\$ 4,909
2027	5,009
2028	5,110
2029	5,213
2030	5,319
Thereafter	71,446
	<u>\$ 97,006</u>

NOTE 7 - INVESTMENTS

Investments carried at fair value at June 30, 2025 and 2024 consist of the following:

	Cost	Fair Value (Carrying Amount)
June 30, 2025		
U.S. Government and Agency Obligations	\$ 10,036,624	\$ 9,866,971
Municipal Obligations	420,224	366,731
Corporate Obligations	1,477,321	1,468,719
Fixed Income Bond Funds	14,294,379	13,386,202
Stocks	16,857,674	19,799,417
Equity Funds	7,855,155	9,267,720
Real Estate Investment Funds	146,409	73,501
Total	<u>\$ 51,087,786</u>	<u>\$ 54,229,261</u>

Investment income consists of the following

Interest and Dividends	\$ 1,148,680
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	956,309
Realized Gain (Loss) on Investments	580,172
Total Investment Income	2,685,161
Investment Fees	(140,507)
Net Investment Income	<u>\$ 2,544,654</u>

	Cost	Fair Value (Carrying Amount)
June 30, 2024		
U.S. Government and Agency Obligations	\$ 12,037,277	\$ 11,394,260
Municipal Obligations	626,084	549,156
Corporate Obligations	1,779,849	1,705,532
Fixed Income Bond Funds	12,936,998	11,782,489
Stocks	13,574,557	16,301,273
Equity Funds	9,654,210	10,550,414
Real Estate Investment Funds	1,302,037	1,260,625
Total	<u>\$ 51,911,012</u>	<u>\$ 53,543,749</u>

Investment income consists of the following

Interest and Dividends	\$ 1,229,835
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	803,148
Realized Gain (Loss) on Investments	375,258
Total Investment Income	2,408,241
Investment Fees	(149,780)
Net Investment Income	<u>\$ 2,258,461</u>

NOTE 8 - OTHER INVESTMENTS

At June 30, 2025 and 2024, other investments consisted of the following:

	6/30/2025	6/30/2024
The National Catholic Risk Retention Group (at cost)	\$ 132,248	\$ 132,248
The Bishop's Plan Insurance Company	651,831	470,668
Total	<u>\$ 784,079</u>	<u>\$ 602,916</u>

NOTE 9 - LAND, BUILDINGS, AND EQUIPMENT

Land, buildings, and equipment as of June 30, 2025 and 2024 consist of the following:

	6/30/2025	6/30/2024
Land and Improvements	\$ 957,034	\$ 957,034
Buildings and Improvements	3,148,304	3,123,277
Furnishings and Equipment	541,520	506,921
	4,646,858	4,587,232
Accumulated Depreciation	(2,543,783)	(2,380,367)
Land, Buildings, and Equipment - Net	<u>\$ 2,103,075</u>	<u>\$ 2,206,865</u>

Depreciation charged to operations for the years ended June 30, 2025 and 2024 was \$ 163,416 and \$ 158,421, respectively.

NOTE 10 - GENERAL INSURANCE PLAN

The Insurance Department of the Diocese manages a protected self-insurance program in conjunction with Arthur J. Gallagher and Co. and Gallagher Bassett Services, Inc. on behalf of the Diocese, parishes and other related entities of the Diocese. The protected self-insurance program consists of a combination of self-insurance retentions, participation in liability risk retention groups with other Dioceses, and the purchase of excess insurance coverage above the self-insured levels. Excess insurance coverage is provided by the purchase of various policies carried through Arthur J. Gallagher and Co.

The schedules below summarize the benefit structure for each line of coverage for the years ended June 30, 2025 and 2024.

	Self-Insured Retention	Maximum Coverage
Coverage 2024 - 2025		
All Risk, Property, Equipment, and Auto Physical Damage	\$ 250,000	\$ 100,000,000
Boiler and Machinery	2,500	50,000,000
General Liability, Auto Liability, Directors and Officers Liability	250,000	9,000,000
Workers' Compensation	200,000	Statutory
Sexual Misconduct	250,000	2,000,000
Coverage 2023 - 2024		
All Risk, Property, Equipment, and Auto Physical Damage	\$ 250,000	\$ 100,000,000
Boiler and Machinery	2,500	50,000,000
General Liability, Auto Liability, Directors and Officers Liability	250,000	9,000,000
Workers' Compensation	200,000	Statutory
Sexual Misconduct	250,000	2,000,000

The Diocese has an accrued liability which is the difference between the maximum estimated claims less payments made against the open claims and an actuarially determined amount for claims incurred but not reported. For fiscal years ended June 30, 2025 and 2024, this accrued liability amounted to \$ 882,215 and \$ 1,096,076, respectively.

The Diocese has in place a letter of credit in the amount of \$ 1,950,707 as of June 30, 2025, and June 30, 2024, respectively. This letter of credit is required by the New York State Workers' Compensation Board, since the Diocese maintains a self-insured workers' compensation program. The letter of credit cannot be used for any other purpose. There was no outstanding balance on this letter of credit at June 30, 2025 and 2024. The current letter of credit expires in November of 2025. The Diocese has pledged cash and securities with a fair market value of \$ 2,532,148 as collateral on this letter of credit.

Diocesan entities are billed premiums to defray the cost of the protected self-insurance program. A summary of the insurance activities for the years ended June 30, 2025 and 2024 follows:

	2025	2024
For the Years Ended June 30,		
Premium Revenue	\$ 2,734,919	\$ 2,445,163
Investment Earnings	237,744	122,941
Total Revenues	2,972,663	2,568,104
Net Claims and Reserve Expense	39,684	377,366
Administrative Costs	247,377	289,349
Departmental Grants	561,053	114,351
Commercial Insurance Premiums	1,843,308	1,512,777
Total Expenses	2,691,422	2,293,843
Net Insurance Activity	281,241	274,261
Net Assets – Beginning of Year	1,919,993	1,645,732
Net Assets – End of Year	<u>\$ 2,201,234</u>	<u>\$ 1,919,993</u>

Central Administrative Offices of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg
(Debtor in Possession)
Notes to the Financial Statements - June 30, 2025

NOTE 11 - NEW YORK STATE DISABILITY INSURANCE
The Diocese has a self-insurance program for New York State disability benefits which is administered by Association Plan Administrators, Inc. This program covers the employees of the Diocese, parishes, and other related entities of the Diocese.

NOTE 12 - NEW YORK STATE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
The Diocese has a self-insurance program for New York State unemployment insurance benefits. The Diocese assumes the responsibility for reimbursing the State of New York for unemployment insurance benefits paid by the State to former employees of the Diocese, parishes, and other related entities.

NOTE 13 - DIOCESAN DEPOSIT AND LOAN FUND
Loans Receivable
The Diocesan Deposit and Loan Fund holds deposits from the Diocese, parishes, and other related entities that in turn are loaned or become available for loan to parishes and other related entities. As of June 30, 2025 and 2024, the loans receivable outstanding totaled \$ 2,258,983 and \$ 2,605,059, respectively. The loan loss reserve at June 30, 2025 and 2024 was \$ 407,000 and \$ 480,000, respectively.

The Diocese's policy is to loan funds for a period of ten years with interest and principal payable quarterly, or in the case of autos five years, unless other terms are agreed upon. The interest rate charged was 4% for the years ended June 30, 2025 and 2024, unless agreed upon otherwise. Interest received on outstanding loans amounted to \$ 82,863 and \$ 89,495 for the years ended June 30, 2025 and 2024, respectively.

Future maturities of the loans receivable are as follows:

June 30,	
2026.....	\$ 356,588
2027.....	223,077
2028.....	165,984
2029.....	146,544
2030.....	116,439
Thereafter.....	<u>1,250,351</u>
	<u>\$ 2,258,983</u>

Deposits Payable
Deposits payable are due to the Diocese, parishes, and other related entities on demand. As of June 30, 2025 and 2024 these deposits payable totaled \$ 9,054,617 and \$ 9,496,808, respectively. Interest on deposits was paid at 1.5% for the years ended June 30, 2025 and 2024 and amounted to \$ 60,335 and \$ 64,717, respectively.

NOTE 14 - DIOCESAN TRUST FUND
The Diocesan Trust Fund is a mutual fund operated by the Diocese for the investment of endowment and other similar long-term investments of parishes and related entities. The fund is designed to pay quarterly dividends and to grow the principal to offset inflation. As of June 30, 2025 and 2024, the Diocesan Trust Fund balance was \$ 27,667,029 and \$ 26,460,829, respectively.

Total dividends paid from the Diocesan Trust Fund for the years ended June 30, 2025 and 2024 were \$ 875,000, respectively, for each year.

The value per share is determined quarterly based upon the number of shares outstanding in the fund and the market value of the fund at the end of the quarter. As of June 30, 2025 and 2024, the value per share was \$ 46.460 and \$ 44.277, respectively. The original per share value in 1977 was \$ 10 per share.

NOTE 15 - CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY PAYABLE
A Charitable Gift Annuity is a contract between the donor and the Diocese. The beneficiaries of the Charitable Gift Annuity program can be designated by the donor to benefit the Diocese, parishes, or other related entities of the Diocese. In exchange for an irrevocable gift of cash, securities, or other assets, the Diocese agrees to pay the annuitants a fixed sum each year for life. The annuity payments are guaranteed by the general resources of the Diocese.

The Diocese was granted a permit by the State of New York Insurance Department to operate a Charitable Gift Annuity program. This permit authorizes the Diocese to receive gifts of money conditioned upon, or in return for, its agreement to pay an annuity to the donor, or his/her nominee, and to make and carry out such annuity agreements within New York State as specified in Section 1110 of the New York State Insurance Law. In accordance with New York State law, the Diocese maintains assets of at least 126.5% and reserves of at least 105% of the annuity payable. The Diocese uses the United States Internal Revenue Service's discount rate and mortality table 80 CNSMT to compute the annuity payable. In addition, the Diocese has been granted approval by the State of Florida to operate a Charitable Gift Annuity program.

NOTE 16 - PRIESTS' RETIREMENT PLAN
The Diocese has a non-qualified retirement plan which covers all eligible Diocesan priests. During the years ended June 30, 2025 and 2024 the Plan paid retirement benefits and the total cost of health insurance premiums for the retired priests.

The Plan assesses the Diocese and its parishes and other related entities to fund the Plan. Other financial support includes donor-designated contributions and bequests, Christmas collections, and investment income on accumulated funds.

The assets and liabilities of the fund at June 30, 2025 and 2024 are as follows:

	2025	2024
Cash and Cash Equivalents.....	\$ 344,733	\$ 218,707
Investments at Fair Value	7,953,241	8,221,878
Accounts Receivable	13,808	7,749
Accrued Investment Income	11,722	14,551
Due from (to) Operating Fund	<u>(258,818)</u>	<u>(258,818)</u>
Total Assets.....	<u>\$ 8,064,686</u>	<u>\$ 8,204,067</u>

Investments with readily determinable market values at June 30, 2025 and 2024 consist of the following:

	Cost	Fair Value (Carrying Amount)
June 30, 2025		
U.S. Government and Agency Obligations	\$ 1,158,380	\$ 1,078,196
Municipal Obligations.....	70,256	58,422
Corporate Obligations	456,425	451,457
Fixed Income Bond Funds	1,751,933	1,641,189
Stocks	1,356,647	1,636,920
Equity Funds	2,599,993	3,065,441
Real Estate Investment Funds	<u>43,061</u>	<u>21,616</u>
Total	<u>\$ 7,436,695</u>	<u>\$ 7,953,241</u>

Investment income consists of the following:	
Interest and Dividends	\$ 235,517
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	353,912
Realized Gain (Loss) on Investments	<u>245,521</u>
Total Investment Income.....	834,950
Investment Fees	<u>(28,352)</u>
Net Investment Income	<u>\$ 806,598</u>

	Cost	Fair Value (Carrying Amount)
June 30, 2024		
U.S. Government and Agency Obligations	\$ 1,543,296	\$ 1,387,933
Municipal Obligations.....	121,116	106,371
Corporate Obligations	588,227	564,224
Fixed Income Bond Funds	1,463,153	1,317,742
Stocks	1,257,868	1,567,269
Equity Funds	2,895,166	3,103,247
Real Estate Investment Funds	<u>190,834</u>	<u>175,092</u>
Total	<u>\$ 8,059,660</u>	<u>\$ 8,221,878</u>

Investment income consists of the following:	
Interest and Dividends	\$ 232,510
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	430,442
Realized Gain (Loss) on Investments	<u>63,558</u>
Total Investment Income.....	726,510
Investment Fees	<u>(30,821)</u>
Net Investment Income	<u>\$ 695,689</u>

Central Administrative Offices of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg
(Debtor in Possession)
Notes to the Financial Statements - June 30, 2025

NOTE 17 - FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

The fair value measurement accounting literature establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). The three levels of fair value hierarchy are described below:

- (a) **Level 1:** Quoted prices in active markets that are accessible at the measurement date for identical assets and liabilities. Level 1 includes fixed income and equity securities that are traded in an active exchange market, as well as U.S. Treasury securities.
- (b) **Level 2:** Inputs, other than quoted prices in active markets, that are observable either directly or indirectly and fair value is determined through the use of models or other valuation methodologies. This category generally includes certain U.S. Government and agency obligations, fixed income securities and alternative investments.
- (c) **Level 3:** Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the asset or liabilities. Level 3 assets and liabilities include financial instruments whose value is determined using pricing models, discounted cash flow methodologies, or similar techniques, as well as instruments for which the determination of fair value requires significant management judgment or estimation. This category generally includes private debt and equity instruments and alternative investments.

The following tables present the Diocese’s investments at June 30, 2025 and 2024, that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis. Investments are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurements:

	Total 2025	Quoted prices in markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Significant other observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant other unobservable inputs (Level 3)
U.S. Government and Agency Obligations	\$ 9,866,971	\$ 9,866,971	\$ -	\$ -
Municipal Obligations	366,731	-	366,731	-
Corporate Obligations	1,468,719	-	1,468,719	-
Bond Funds	13,386,202	13,386,202	-	-
Stocks	19,799,417	19,799,417	-	-
Equity Funds	9,267,720	9,267,720	-	-
The Investment Fund For Foundations - Real Opportunity Fund	73,501	-	-	73,501
The National Catholic Risk Retention Group	132,248	-	-	132,248
The Bishop’s Plan Insurance Company	651,831	-	-	651,831
	<u>\$ 55,013,340</u>	<u>\$ 52,320,310</u>	<u>\$ 1,835,450</u>	<u>\$ 857,580</u>

NOTE 17 - FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (Continued)

The table below presents additional information about assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis by reliance on Level 3 inputs to determine fair value:

	Real Opportunity Fund	National Catholic Risk Retention	Bishop’s Plan Insurance Company	Total
Balance at June 30, 2024	\$ 83,152	\$ 132,248	\$ 470,668	\$ 686,068
Purchases	-	-	-	-
Fees	(3,327)	-	-	(3,327)
Sales	-	-	-	-
Unrealized Gains (Losses)	(6,324)	-	-	(6,324)
Increase (Decrease) in Member’s Surplus	-	-	181,163	181,163
Balance at June 30, 2025	<u>\$ 73,501</u>	<u>\$ 132,248</u>	<u>\$ 651,831</u>	<u>\$ 857,580</u>
	Total 2024	Quoted prices in markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Significant other observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant other unobservable inputs (Level 3)
U.S. Government and Agency Obligations	\$ 11,394,260	\$ 11,394,260	\$ -	\$ -
Municipal Obligations	549,156	-	549,156	-
Corporate Obligations	1,705,532	-	1,705,532	-
Bond Funds	11,782,489	11,782,489	-	-
Stocks	16,301,273	16,301,273	-	-
Equity Funds	10,550,414	10,550,414	-	-
Real Estate Investment Funds	1,177,473	1,177,473	-	-
The Investment Fund For Foundations - Real Opportunity Fund	83,152	-	-	83,152
The National Catholic Risk Retention Group	132,248	-	-	132,248
The Bishop’s Plan Insurance Company	470,668	-	-	470,668
	<u>\$ 54,146,665</u>	<u>\$ 51,205,909</u>	<u>\$ 2,254,688</u>	<u>\$ 686,068</u>

The table below presents additional information about assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis by reliance on Level 3 inputs to determine fair value:

	Real Opportunity Fund	National Catholic Risk Retention	Bishop’s Plan Insurance Company	Total
Balance at June 30, 2023	\$ 102,182	\$ 132,248	\$ 389,818	\$ 624,248
Purchases	-	-	-	-
Fees	(4,372)	-	-	(4,372)
Sales	-	-	-	-
Unrealized Gains (Losses)	(14,658)	-	-	(14,658)
Increase (Decrease) in Member’s Surplus	-	-	80,850	80,850
Balance at June 30, 2024	<u>\$ 83,152</u>	<u>\$ 132,248</u>	<u>\$ 470,668</u>	<u>\$ 686,068</u>

Level 3 investments are non-traditional investments which are not listed on national exchanges or over the counter markets, and quoted market prices are not available. The fair values of these investments are measured based on a review of all available information provided by fund managers, general partners or the management of the respective investment. These fair value estimates are evaluated on a regular basis and are susceptible to revisions as more information becomes available. Because of these factors, it is reasonably possible that the estimated fair values of these investments may change materially in the near term.

Central Administrative Offices of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg (Debtor in Possession)

Notes to the Financial Statements - June 30, 2025

NOTE 18 - NET ASSETS AND ENDOWMENTS

Net assets without donor restrictions at June 30, 2025 and 2024 are as follows:

	6/30/2025	6/30/2024
Operating Funds.....	\$ 61,509	\$ 286,886
Board Designated:		
Capital Improvements.....	65,917	65,917
Charitable Needs of the Diocese	391,118	291,958
Catholic Education	4,088	4,088
Bishop's Discretionary	10,477	10,477
St. Joseph's Emergency Fund.....	31,416	31,416
St. Paul's.....	21,312	21,312
Bishop's Retirement	651,195	623,378
Bishop's Contingency.....	130,000	130,000
Bishop's Heritage Circle	47,653	40,758
Priests' Graduate Studies	59,739	54,513
Protected Self-Insurance.....	2,201,234	1,919,993
Unemployment	336,423	362,023
Disability	279,310	284,418
LEAD	-	998
Good Samaritan Fund - Housing	-	9,000
Clergy Education	5,000	5,000
World Youth Day	2,281	2,281
Special Care of Priests	-	38,219
Celebrate Christ	3,002	3,002
Priests Disability.....	374,253	374,253
North Country Catholic	26,550	26,550
Catholic School Financial Support	25,658	21,830
Catholic School Curriculum	22,847	13,380
Youth Ministry	2,242	2,242
Vocations (Youth)	2,249	2,249
Evangelization	4,905	4,905
Youth Adult Ministry	660	660
Solidarity (Diocese of Latakia, Syria)	20,924	75,555
Contributions to Foundation	-	337,500
	<u>\$ 4,781,962</u>	<u>\$ 5,044,761</u>

NOTE 18 - NET ASSETS AND ENDOWMENTS (Continued)

Net assets with donor restrictions at June 30, 2025 and 2024 are as follows:

	6/30/2025	6/30/2024
Annuity Funds.....	\$ 124,269	\$ 124,269
Charitable Gift Annuities.....	420,118	323,675
Annie Peck.....	12,933	12,933
Indian.....	116	116
Missionary Projects	37,563	217,395
Priests' Disability	14,179	14,179
Bourdon Estate	55,461	55,186
Priests' Retirement	8,064,686	8,204,067
K of C Foundation Fellowship	131,325	125,715
Communications	30,036	17,308
Mallette Scholarship.....	21,279	20,640
Catholic Campaign for Human Development	27,374	20,950
Education of Seminarians	1,478,019	1,563,463
Mear Scholarship Endowment.....	134,879	130,312
Education Grants	5,849	5,820
Rachael's Vineyard.....	4,654	4,631
Spratt Memorial	27,189	40,533
Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund.....	8,441	7,599
Formation for Ministry	55,294	49,758
Vocation	2,688	2,674
Foundation Support for Education.....	75,965	75,300
Special Care of Priests.....	308,988	267,830
Continuing Formation of Priests.....	410	408
NYS Paid Family Leave	75,723	142,848
K of C Foundation Fellowship.....	88,525	85,527
Reverend O.L. Bentley Fund.....	52,146	50,380
Kelly-Rivette Trust Fund.....	24,361	23,536
Annie Peck Fund	22,131	21,382
Mallette Catholic School Endowment Fund.....	699,516	675,828
Youth Sports Camp Endowment Fund.....	118,375	114,366
Weidner Memorial Endowment	1,695,960	1,638,530
Halsey Sequin Fund.....	9,298	8,984
Rev. John Fallon Fund.....	119,432	115,387
Steinbrickner Estate.....	9,101	8,793
Marullo Mass Fund.....	7,209	6,965
St. Thomas More Endowment	98,593	95,254
Support from Capital Campaign		
Guggenheim	90,909	125,017
St. Mary's Cathedral	63,674	209,854
Benefits for Retired Priests	912,242	913,433
Education of Seminarians	345,404	342,440
	<u>\$ 15,474,314</u>	<u>\$ 15,863,285</u>

NOTE 18 - NET ASSETS AND ENDOWMENTS (Continued)

The Diocese endowments consist of seven individual funds established for a variety of purposes. The endowments are restricted by the donor. As required by generally accepted accounting principles, net assets associated with endowment funds, including funds designated by the Board of Trustees to function as endowments, are classified and reported basically on the existence or absence of donor imposed restrictions.

Interpretation of Relevant Law

The New York Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (NYPMIFA) is New York State's version of the Uniform Management of Institutional Funds Act and governs the management and investment of funds held by not-for-profit corporations and other institutions.

Under the law, institutions are allowed to spend endowment funds below their original historic dollar value without government approval or attorney general review if the institution's Board concludes that such spending is prudent.

The Act also provides that each person responsible for managing and investing an institution's fund does so in good faith and with the care that an ordinarily prudent person would exercise under similar circumstances. The Act sets forth basic requirements for establishing the standard of prudence, including a requirement that an institution make a reasonable effort to verify facts relevant to the management and investment of the fund.

In deciding whether to appropriate from an endowment fund, the institution must act in good faith and must consider, if relevant, the following factors:

1. The duration and preservation of the endowment fund;
2. The purpose of the institution and the endowment fund;
3. General economic conditions;
4. Possible effect of inflation or deflation;
5. The expected total return from income and the appreciation of investments;
6. Other resources of the institution;
7. Where appropriate and circumstances would otherwise warrant, alternatives to expenditure of the endowment fund, giving due consideration to the effect that such alternatives may have on the institution; and
8. The investment policy of the institution.

Changes in endowment net assets for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2025 and 2024 are as follows:

With Donor Restriction:

Endowment Net Assets,	
June 30, 2023.....	\$ 2,527,645
Investment Return:	
Interest and Dividends.....	76,402
Realized and Unrealized Gain (Losses)	84,174
Contributions.....	-
Appropriations for Expenditure.....	(76,402)
Endowment Net Assets,	
June 30, 2024	2,611,819
Investment Return:	
Interest and Dividends.....	81,058
Realized and Unrealized Gain (Losses)	135,503
Contributions.....	-
Appropriations for Expenditure.....	(81,058)
Endowment Net Assets,	
June 30, 2025	<u>\$ 2,747,322</u>

Return Objectives and Risk Parameters

The Diocese has adopted an investment policy for endowment assets that will attempt to provide a predictable stream of funding to the beneficiaries supported by the various endowments, while seeking to maintain the purchasing power of the endowment assets, including those assets of donor restricted funds that the Diocese must hold in perpetuity or for a donor specified period. The Diocese utilizes the results of the MSCI USA Index, MSCI ACWXU Index, and Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index to evaluate performance. The Diocese expects its endowment funds over time to provide a total rate of return equal to or exceeding any approved distribution rate. Actual returns in any given year may vary from this amount.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

LIVE EVENT WITH POPE LEO

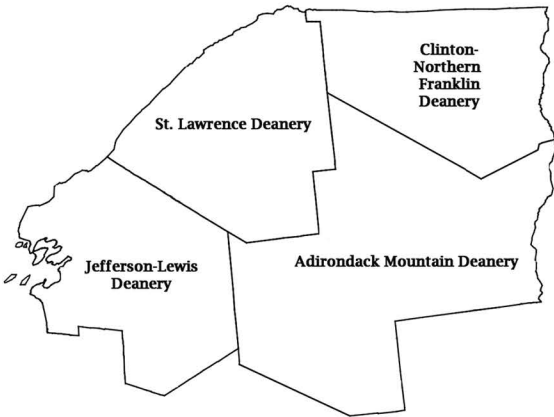
This November, our young people are being invited into something truly special. For the first time, Pope Leo XIV will engage in a live digital dialogue with young people in the United States. This moment will take place during the 2025 National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), and we want every young person in our diocese to have the opportunity to be part of it, whether individually or as a parish community.

Date: Nov. 21

Time: 10:15 a.m.

Place: Online

Features: Live broadcast of the Papal Dialogue, the ability to download the broadcast for future use, and follow up resources for schools, youth ministries and families. Can't join live? A same-day recording will be available to



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese." Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:
North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
e-mail news@northcountycatholic.org.
Items must be received in the NCC office by the Wednesday before publication.

all who register, making it easy for any parish or family to participate on their own schedule.

Contact: We encourage your

parish and/or families to register for FREE (<https://ncyc.us/ncyc-digital-experience-a-journey-with-pope-leo-xiv/>) or Patrick

Looby at plooby@rcdony.org

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

SOAKING PRAYERS SESSIONS

Plattsburgh - Soaking prayer Sessions to be held the first Monday of each month.

Date: Dec. 1

Time: 1 p.m. to 3 and 6 p.m. to 8

Place: Newman Center

Features: Praise and worship followed by soaking prayer. Led by Eve McGill, Living Waters Ministry. All are welcome.

Contact: evemcgill@charter.net 518-645-2648

FIRST FRIDAY

Champlain - St. Mary's to have Mass, Exposition and Benediction every first Friday of the month.

Date: Dec. 5

Schedule: 9 a.m. Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. 11 a.m. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Altona - St. Ann's and Holy Angels Catholic Parishes to have a Christmas Festival.

Date: Dec. 14

Schedule: Bake Sale, Craft Fair, Gift Basket Raffle, Food and Refreshments at the Hall from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Concert and Life Nativity at the church from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Place: Holy Angels Hall and Church

Contact: For more information call 518-236-5632

CELEBRATION OF LIFE PLANNING

Ellenburg Center - The Bereavement and Community Support Committee of Saint Bernard's and Saint Edmund's Parishes invites the public to a "Celebration of Life Planning Expo."

Date: Jan. 17 (if inclement weather, it will be Jan. 24)

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NOTE 18 - NET ASSETS AND ENDOWMENTS (Continued)

Strategies Employed for Achieving Objectives

To satisfy its long-term rate of return objective, the Diocese relies on a total return strategy in which investment returns are achieved through both capital appreciation (realized and unrealized) and current yield (interest and dividends). The Diocese targets a diversified assets allocation that places a greater emphasis on equity based investments to achieve its long-term objectives within prudent risk constraints.

According to its distribution policy, the Diocese may make quarterly distributions from the total growth of each endowment in an amount up to 5% on an annualized basis of the fair market value of the total assets of that endowment at the beginning of each quarter. In no event shall the quarterly distribution exceed 5% on an annualized basis of the total growth of the fair market value of the total assets in that endowment at the beginning of the quarter. The Board of Directors shall review this limit on an annual basis.

NOTE 19 - COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Commitments

On April 6, 2017, the Diocese of Ogdensburg announced a "twinning relationship" with the Diocese of Latakia, located in Syria. This relationship, named Solidarity in Faith, is established to allow the Diocese to be a source of Christian gladness and hope to this Middle East diocese whose Christian faithful face tremendous challenges in the practice of their faith. War has wreaked havoc in the region. In addition to normal pastoral activities, the Diocese of Latakia must minister to thousands of displaced Syrians who seek safe refuge within its borders.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg will encourage missionary animation highlighting the needs of the faithful in Latakia through presentations in our local Catholic schools, religious education programs, adult faith formation programs, and parishes. Such presentation shall share with our faithful information about the challenges facing the faithful of Latakia, their efforts in dealing with these challenges, and promote spiritual and financial support for the Diocese of Latakia.

One component of the Solidarity in Faith initiative is a charitable financial commitment by the Diocese of Ogdensburg to the Diocese of Latakia. Initial funding of designated net assets set aside by the diocese came from unrestricted bequests and contributions dedicated for program support. In 2017-18, the diocese announced a formal policy for support of the Diocese of Latakia in its Solidarity in Faith program. Included in this policy is a contingent commitment to contribute \$ 20,000 each calendar quarter over the next four years to the Diocese of Latakia. Additional contributions may be considered depending on the needs of the Diocese of Latakia and the funding available by the diocese for such support. The Diocese of Ogdensburg has designated 10% of unrestricted bequests or testamentary substitutes to provide this support. Additional appeals for charitable contributions may be made by the Diocese of Latakia as part of the Diocese of Ogdensburg's Mission Co-op Program. On November 12, 2021, this policy was extended and the contingent commitment for the next two years was a quarterly contribution of at least \$ 15,000. This amount was increased to the original quarterly contribution amount of \$ 20,000 in the 2022-23 fiscal year. This policy will be reviewed every two years.

NOTE 20 - CONCENTRATIONS OF CREDIT RISK

The Diocese maintains cash deposits in bank accounts which may at times exceed the F.D.I.C. limit. The Diocese has not experienced any losses on such accounts and believes it is not exposed to any significant credit risks on these cash and cash equivalents.

NOTE 21 - RECLASSIFICATIONS

Certain reclassifications have been made to the prior year financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with the current year presentation. These reclassifications have no effect on the change in net assets.



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Time: 10 a.m.**Place:** St. Edmund's Parish Hall**Features:** This free community event will provide helpful resources for families wishing to prepare for their end-of-life needs—spiritually, practically, and with peace of mind.**Contact:** For more information, contact Mary Ellen Tomo at (518) 569-4447**HOT DINNERS**

Malone — St. André Bessette Parish to offer free community hot dinners.

Date: Every Wednesday**Time:** 4 p.m. to 5**Place:** St. André Outreach Center**Features:** Food is prepared by the BOCES Culinary Arts Students. Eat in only.**JEFFERSON-LEWIS****POLISH CHRISTMAS WAFFER**

Houseville — The Polish Christmas Wafer or OPLATEK is available.

Cost: \$3 per package of 4 sheets, plus shipping and handling**Features:** The Christmas wafer or OPLATEK, is part of a Polish, Lithuanian and Slovak custom that is observed during the vigil of Christmas (Wigilia.) After the first star is visible, family and friends gather around the dinner table to break and share the OPLATEK which symbolizes the presence of Christ, the Newborn Child. The OPLATEK is sent and shared with family and friends all over the world as a symbol of love, unity and forgiveness.**Contact:** To order please call 315-348-6260 and leave your name and phone number.**CHRISTMAS TABLE**

Clayton — Enjoy over 50 delicious dishes from appetizers to desserts.

Date: Dec. 6**Time:** 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center**Cost:** \$10**Features:** Part of the Christmas in Clayton weekend with many venues in the village hosting events and shopping. Also stay for

the Christmas parade Saturday at 6 p.m.

Contact: St. Mary's parish office Email: claytonsec@rcdony.org Phone Number: 315-686-3398**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: Dec. 7**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: Dec. 13**Time:** 4 p.m. to 7**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center**Cost:** Adults, \$12; Seniors, \$10; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free**Contact:** For more information call 315-629-4678**ADVENT RETREAT**

Watertown — The Sisters of St. Joseph invite you to an Advent Retreat.

Date: Dec. 14**Time:** 2 p.m. to 4**Place:** Sacred Heart Church**Features:** The theme of the Retreat is "Living the Eucharist Today." Our speaker will be Sister Shirley Anne Brown, Major Superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Come and bring a friend where we continue to pray for peace in our trouble world. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Refreshments in Dostie Hall.**Contact:** To register, please contact Sister Bethany Fitzgerald (srbethssj@gmail.com) or 315-212-6592 or Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, (smelyngssj@yahoo.com) or 315-767-5680.**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Clayton — Join us in scripture and song as St. Mary's Choir and Youth

Choir, St. Cyril's Choir, and Turning Point Men's Barbershop Chorus collaborate to present a concert of sacred Christmas music.

Date: Dec. 14**Time:** 4 p.m.**Place:** St. Mary's Church**Features:** Donations are welcome. Reception to follow in the parish hall.**Contact:** For more information please call the parish office: 315-686-3398**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: Dec. 14**Time:** 8 a.m. to noon**Place:** St. James Community Room**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Seniors, \$8; Children under 10, \$5; Family of 4, \$30**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: Dec. 14**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 Gonther 315-212-5166.**RAFFLE**

Potsdam — The Potsdam Knights of Columbus Council 340 will be having a raffle.

Date: Dec. 17**Time:** 7 p.m. (winners need not be present)**Cost:** \$5 a ticket or 5 for \$20**Features:** First Prize, Cutco Knife; Second Prize, Syracuse Mets

Family Fun Pack; Third Prize, Stay and Play at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino; Thirty or more additional prizes.

Contact: For more information contact Grand Knight Michael Lahendro at mlanhendro@hotmail.com or joecatholictebo@gmail.com**TRIVIA NIGHT**

Ogdensburg — The Vocations Committee for the Catholic Churches of Ogdensburg, Heuvelton and Lisbon is planning a Trivia Night.

Date: Jan. 2**Time:** Doors open at 6 p.m., trivia starts at 7 p.m.**Place:** Martin Fieldhouse**Features:** All funds raised will be donated to the Diocese of Ogdensburg to help offset costs for the seminarians. Join us for a night of fun and friendly competition in a contest of general knowledge across a variety of topics! Teams of up to 6 will compete for bragging rights and the Grand Prize. All players are eligible for door prizes! Mulligans will be sold at the door.**Contact:** More rules and registration at www.ogdensburgcatholics.net/trivia or email vocation-sarenotttrivial@rcdony.org**DIOCESAN EVENTS****CALLED BY NAME**

The Diocese of Ogdensburg invites high school-aged young men and women to an evening of prayer, reflection, and conversation about God's call. These events help young people explore vocations to the priesthood, consecrated religious life, or the diaconate.

Schedule: Norfolk, Nov. 30**Time:** 3:45 p.m. to 7**Features:** Each evening includes prayer, talks, small-group discussion, and dinner. Parents are welcome to attend and support their children's discernment journey. Note: Only the Nov. 30 event includes a breakout session for young women interested in the consecrated religious life.**Contact:** Register at: <https://www.rcdony.org/andrewdinners>**LIVING WITH HOPE**

Saranac Lake — The Respect Life Office will be having a discussion about NYS Physician Assisted Suicide Bill and Canada's MAID.

Date: Nov. 29**Time:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**Place:** St. Bernard's Church**Cost:** \$10 donation requested**Features:** The theme will be "Dying with Christ, Living with Hope." When we make a commitment to die with Christ, we can truly live with hope. Discussions feature theologians and health-care professionals giving perspectives on suffering, grief, dying and our Christian duty to care. **Contact:** Registration: <https://www.rcdony.org/livingwithhope> Questions contact Colleen Miner at cminer@rcdony.org**HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN**

Ogdensburg — Save the Date! Highway to Heaven: The Journey Continues! Featuring Father Jonathan Meyer, popular YouTube sensation and National Preacher of the Eucharistic Revival. Join Bishop LaValley for Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, sacred music, and more. Additional details coming soon!

Date: May 16**Place:** St. Mary's Cathedral**Contact:** Mary Beth Bracy at marybethbracy@gmail.com for more information.**NEIGHBORING DIOCESES****ADVENT DAY RETREAT**

Canandaigua — Advent Retreat: "Blessed are they that Hope in the Lord: Advent Meditations on the Virtue of Hope" to be held.

Date: Dec. 13**Time:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**Place:** Notre Dame Retreat House**Cost:** \$60**Features:** As we approach the conclusion of the Holy Year of Hope and prepare for the great Feast of the Nativity, spend a day meditating on this most important spiritual virtue — Hope.**Contact:** For more information email Nancy Lynch at info@notredameretreat.org or visit www.notredameretreat.org

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Bishop grants Mass dispensation amid migrant crackdown

Bishop Michael T. Martin of the Diocese of Charlotte issued a Mass dispensation for any person who fears he or she may be subject to deportation and called for a day of prayer and fasting for migrants as immigration enforcement ramps up throughout North Carolina. The bishop published the statement on Nov. 18 telling those “who are afraid to come to church” out of fear they could be deported “are not obligated to attend Mass.” These conditions, he said, are “circumstances beyond your control.” Martin said the Church has always taught that the normal Sunday Mass obligation does not apply when a person cannot attend due to situations he or she does not control. “I encourage you to take consolation in Jesus’ refrain when the disciples were in the boat being swamped by stormy seas: ‘Do not be afraid!’ (Mt 14:27),” Martin added. “Your brothers and sisters are praying with you, and on your behalf, to God who desires our citizenship together in heaven and longs to see us live in harmony with each other on earth.” The diocesan statement comes after the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) launched Operation Charlotte’s Web late last week, which escalated immigration enforcement in North Carolina.

Synod on Synodality reports show continued study on women

Reports from the Synod on Synodality published this week reveal that expert groups continue to discuss women’s participation in the Church but not the specific question of a possible female diaconate, which has been turned over to a newly-revived 2020 commission. The reports also show that a new group on the liturgy, requested by Pope Leo XIV, is not addressing the Vatican’s controversial restrictions on the Traditional Latin Mass. According to a report published Nov. 17, during the second session of the Synod on Synodality in October 2024, Pope Francis “reactivated the work” of a papal commission on the female diaconate first created in 2020. “All synodal contributions related to this subject have been forwarded to that commission for its consideration,” a one-page report from a study group on Church ministries says. The interim report on the group’s progress, published ahead of full reports, which are due at the end of the year, was signed by Father Armando Matteo, secretary of the doctrinal section of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, which is overseeing the highly-watched expert panel.

Suit seeks access to ICE facilities for Communion

By Steven Harras
Catholic News Agency

A coalition of Catholic faith leaders filed suit Nov. 19 to seek access to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facility in Broadview, Illinois, where clergy have been denied entry to distribute Communion.

The complaint alleged that ICE’s refusal to allow clergy to pray with detainees or offer Communion violates the First Amendment, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, and the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act. Catholic spiritual leaders attempted to bring Communion to detainees at the ICE facility Nov. 1 after making formal requests to the Department of Homeland Security and ICE, and officials denied entry.

“Despite the long history of religious access to the Broadview detention center established through the persistence and perseverance of the late Sister JoAnn Persch, RSM, and Sister Pat Murphy, RSM, recent months have brought shifting, contradictory, and often opaque communication from DHS and ICE officials. Faced with this lack of honesty and transparency, we were left with no choice but to file this lawsuit,” said Michael N. Okilczyc-Cruz, executive director of the Coalition for Spiritual and Public Leadership, in a statement.

Asked Nov. 17 whether it would take a judge’s order to get Communion to detainees at the Broadview facility, Nate Madden, DHS principal deputy assistant secretary for communications, told CNA: “I will not engage in hypotheticals about Broadview’s policies.” He suggested faith leaders contact ICE for entry.

“What we say is that all religious leaders and religious people who want to come and take pastoral care, and they want to take Communion or Bible studies or anything like that, to come into our detention facilities, they can reach out to ICE,” Madden said.

In another case, a Chicago-based federal judge postponed a hearing scheduled for Nov. 19 to assess whether ICE had improved living conditions for migrants detained at the suburban Broadview facility.

As reports of the number of people held at the facility sharply dropped this month, Judge Robert W. Gettleman of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois said he would conduct a hearing on conditions at the fa-

cility in December.

Earlier this month, Gettleman issued a temporary restraining order directing DHS and ICE to improve living conditions at Broadview. Detainees alleged they were being held for several days in squalid conditions, with clogged, overflowing toilets, poor-quality food, inadequate sleeping arrangements, and a lack of access to basic hygiene supplies. On Nov. 5, Gettleman — appointed to the bench in 1994 by President Bill Clinton — ordered that all detainees be provided with soap, towels, toilet paper, oral hygiene products (including toothbrushes and toothpaste), and menstrual products.

His Nov. 5 order further specified: “Defendants shall provide each detainee with at least three full meals per day that meet the U.S. recommended dietary allowance ... Defendants shall provide each detainee with a bottle of potable water with each meal and bottled water upon request free of charge.” The court also directed that paperwork provided to detainees “should include an accompanying Spanish translation.”

DHS Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs Tricia McLaughlin responded to the lawsuit by noting that Broadview is technically a “field office,” not a “detention facility.” She said religious organizations are welcome to provide services to detainees in ICE detention facilities.

In a significant development for the plaintiffs, Gettleman this week granted the detainees’ request to proceed as a class action. The decision could allow the named plaintiffs to represent not only themselves but also potentially hundreds of current and future migrants processed at Broadview.

On Nov. 13, the ACLU of Illinois — one of the legal groups representing the detainees alongside the MacArthur Justice Center and the Chicago office of Eimer Stahl — said they had completed an inspection of the Broadview facility.


“We are grateful that the court gave us an opportunity to inspect the Broadview facility,” the group said. “We remain committed to ensuring that any detainees at Broadview are treated with dignity, have access to counsel, and are provided due process.”

Gettleman did not address detainee complaints concerning a lack of religious accommodations at Broadview, including the ability to receive holy Communion. The lawsuit alleges that detainees have been unconstitutionally denied access to clergy and faith leaders.

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Scorsese series on saints running on Fox

By Francesca Pollio Fenton
Catholic News Agency

The second season of Martin Scorsese's docudrama series "The Saints" premiered on Fox Nation on Nov. 16. The series highlights the extraordinary lives of men and women who embodied their faith and became saints in the Catholic Church. The new season includes episodes on St. Patrick, St. Peter, St. Thomas Becket, and St. Carlo Acutis.

Created by Matti Leshem and developed by Scorsese, himself a Catholic, the show's new episodes will be released weekly from Nov. 16 to Dec. 7. The first season included episodes on St. Mary Magdalene, St. Moses the Black, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Joan of Arc, St. John the Baptist, and St. Sebastian.

Leshem, who co-founded a production company focused on Jewish history and Judeo-Christian dialogue, spoke to CNA in an interview about the inspiration behind the series and how his own Jewish faith has been impacted by diving into the lives of Catholic saints.

The filmmaker shared that he was introduced to the lives of the saints from a young age and was "really moved by them."

From the ages of 10 to 15 Leshem attended a Catholic school in Copenhagen that was run by Assumptionist nuns. Despite his father being an Israeli ambassador and having a Jewish school available to them, his father



PHOTO COURTESY OF FOX NATION

St. Patrick as depicted in Martin Scorsese's "The Saints."

"prized education over all things ... and he sent me to a Catholic school because that was the best school."

"I was really exposed to all those stories and I was really taken with it ... And I think in adulthood, as I kind of became a filmmaker and told different stories, I thought these are incredible stories of humanity, the story of the saints, and what is it like to be someone who's actually willing, in many cases, to die for the thing you believe in," he said.

He added: "I also felt that there was a strong need at this moment, especially, to tell stories about faith. And that really is where the inspiration came from."

Leshem explained that he believes a series like this is needed right now because "social media has really fragmented society in every way — spiritually, politically, I think especially for young people — I think we're kind of

suffering a spiritual crisis."

"It's really been a struggle for young people who are constantly being faced with the comparative ego on social media and this is a time for people to go inwards and to try to find their faith, and the great monotheistic faith traditions are really the thing that we've always gone back to time and time again," he shared.

One saint who will be featured in the second season who Leshem believes is a relatable figure for many today is St. Carlo Acutis — the first millennial saint who was canonized on Sept. 7.

"I think what's beautiful about Carlo is that he was a regular teenager in some ways, but he also had this deep, spiritual connection from a very early age. He knew that his relationship with Christ was very special," Leshem shared.

The filmmaker re-

called going to Assisi to visit the body of Acutis at the Sanctuary of the Renunciation and witnessing hundreds upon hundreds of schoolchildren lined up to see the beloved saint.

"It was an incredible experience to see that," he added. "So, we wanted to tell the story of a relevant, modern saint. And I do think that Carlo is a really good example of that resurgence of faith that I hope that we're seeing."

In regard to how his Jewish faith has been impacted by delving into the life of Catholics saints, Leshem said: "I feel privileged to be having the most important conversation I think there is to have every single day because I work in the world of saints."

"I revere the saints and I understand their holiness," he added.

He pointed out that "a lot of our saints are Jews" — referencing Sts. Peter and Paul, for example — and with

this in mind he tries "to bring a kind of authenticity from my own tradition around that."

"For me, I'm very comfortable living in a world where I understand the covenant of Judaism and I understand the expression of Christ's message. It just all feels like a continuum," he said.

As for what he hopes viewers will take away from the series, Leshem said: "I want believers to be reignited in their faith and I want every atheist that watches the series to be interested and to kind of lean towards the ability — everybody needs to believe in something. I think it's really hard to be a believer, but I think it's much harder to be an atheist. And so I am hoping that our series inspires everyone wherever they are on the spectrum of belief."

Editor's notes: Due to the content and context of the saints' stories, including graphic violence and gory details of war, the series is recommended for an adult audience. Additionally, each episode ends with a short discussion between three panelists: Jesuit priest Father James Martin, author and poet Mary Karr, and author and senior fellow at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs Paul Elie.



SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

'Climb the Lord's mountain'

Looking at today's first reading, thoughts of the Adirondacks can come to mind right away especially when reading: "Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in his paths."

You have probably been to the tops of different mountains by hiking or driving or a lift. Maybe you have done the High Peaks, the 46 challenges of the Adirondacks. Looking at the world from the top of a mountain, we get a very different perspective. Our horizons change. The world looks different. We even feel majestic. After all, don't we say: "I am at the top of the world."

So, we have in the prophet Isaiah a passage about the Lord's mountain. What is so special about this mountain?

Well, let's put this into context. We are reading this passage on the first Sunday of Advent. We will survive Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday. Perhaps we have already heard Elvis sing that it would be a blue Christ-

mas without you as the many merchants count the multiplication of green in their coffers.

So, what is so special about the Lord's mountain? First of all, as with any mountain, it takes effort to get to the top. For this mountain, we want to get to the top because God lives there.

But why should we want to go there? Isaiah tells us quite simply: "that he may instruct us in his ways." What a magnificent image! We go to God's mountain so that God can teach us, give us some of his wisdom.

Let's bring this down to 2025 and 2026. Each time we come to church, we are - figuratively - climbing God's mountain. Just as it takes effort to climb a mountain, so too, it takes effort to go to church. Like going to the top of the mountain to find God's house, so, too, we come to church, God's house, especially with the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

On a mountain top, we see the world differently. So, too, the mere fact of coming into church helps us see the world differently. After all, our churches are decorated. Our church



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

November 30

First Sunday of Advent

READINGS

Isaiah 2:1-5

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:37-44

buildings help us focus on times, people, and situations differently than we might otherwise because we are in God's presence. Our churches are sacred spaces where saints and sinners come into the presence of God.

Remember that the passage from Isaiah did not stop with going into God's house. There is a reason: "that he may instruct us in his ways and we may walk in his paths." Isaiah was exhorting people to go up the mountain of God so that they could hear what God wanted to say to them.

Climbing the mountain, we leave behind the rest of the world so that we can focus on what is on top of the mountain. So, too, in coming to church, we leave behind a world so that we can hear what God has to say to us. If we do not climb the mountain, that is, go into God's presence, where are we going to find God's solutions to our problems? How will we face difficult situations in life if we have not been fortified with God's wisdom?

Sadly, many Catholics do not participate in worship, in the Eucharist that Christ left for us to celebrate, that Christ told us to celebrate. Where do they find wisdom? In themselves? Relying solely on oneself is a scary prospect. In some TV guru? That's not bad in itself, but it is all based

on human wisdom, not divine. In Google? Alexi? Siri? AI? Maybe some look to a bottle or a weed or pills for solutions. Who knows?

Everything around us tells us: "'Tis the season." But 'tis the season for what? If our focus during these weeks is on ourselves, then we are preparing for a secular Christmas. If we wish to prepare to celebrate a religious Christmas, then we must be ready to climb the mountain. In these weeks, we need to put aside all that keeps our focus away from Christ. Paul lists some of them: "orgies, drunkenness, promiscuity, lust, rivalry and jealousy....just to name a few. This Advent is the time to climb the mountain of the Lord.

In the words of Isaiah: "Let us walk in the light of the Lord."

What is a Foster Grandparent?

Foster Grandparents are role models, mentors, and friends to children with exceptional needs. The program provides a way for volunteers age 55 and over to stay active by serving children and youth in their communities. They are placed in a classroom setting with a child or children who are in need of emotional support, development of basic learning skills, friendship, companionship, encouragement, individual attention, and unhurried help. The program currently has 40 volunteers and serves more than 100 kids per year.

The Foster Grandparent Program is hosted by the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and supported by AmeriCorps Seniors, a federally funded agency responsible for building volunteer based programs for over 50 years and counting.



Sometimes when you get to be my age, you wake up and say what good am I and along came the Foster Grandparent Program that keeps me going! "

Ray Foote
age 83
Foster
Grandparent



Am I Qualified to be a Foster Grandparent?

All you need to join is the ability to give the kind of comfort and love that sets a child on the path toward a successful future. If you're 55 or older and want to share your experience and compassion, you have what it takes to be a Foster Grandparent.

You'll also receive a small bi-weekly, non-taxable stipend that cannot be held against any current benefits you may already have as well as paid mileage for your travel. Additionally, you receive paid holidays, vacations, sick and personal leave.



Want more info about how to get started?

Contact Melissa Howard,
Volunteer Coordinator

PHONE:

(518)359-7688

EMAIL:


mhoward@cathcharities.org

80 Park Street, Suite 2
PO Box 701
Tupper Lake, NY 12986

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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

#iGiveCatholic on Dec. 2

The Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg is again participating in the national event #iGiveCatholic! Hosted on December 2, Giving Tuesday, #iGiveCatholic is an online platform that allows donors to give to the organization of their choice.

All money raised by our diocese in this giving event will go on to support the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA).

Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) is a society under the Pontifical Mission Societies that was formed in 1843 by Bishop Forbin-Janson after talking with Blessed Pauline Jaricot. His goal was to work with the poorest of the world's children in the Missions.

Today, MCA continues to follow his vision - "children helping children" - as children pray and sacrifice for their brothers and sisters in need around the world. Each year MCA provides health care, advocacy, and outreach to over 2 million children worldwide.

Throughout the school year, kids in Catholic schools and religious education programs in the Diocese of Ogdensburg raise money for those children in other parts of the world that are less fortunate.



Some activities hosted by students to raise money in the past include penny wars, color runs, bake sales, car washes, and bottle drives.

Join the school kids of the diocese in helping the children around the world that are less fortunate by donating on or in the days leading up to December 2. Donations can be made via the QR code above or at <https://www.igivecatholic.org/organization/diocese-of-ogdensburg-mission-office>. Advanced giving is now open! Afterwards, head over to social media and help spread the word and encourage others to #GivetotheMissions this #GivingTuesday.

Last year together we proudly raised a total of \$1,025! This year, we ask that you help us once again achieve our goal of raising \$1,000 for the children of the missions! We thank you for your donations and prayers as we work to help those less fortunate!

Every little bit helps!

OBITUARIES

Brownville – Clifton Carl Snyder, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 24, 2025 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Brownville Cemetery.

Cape Vincent – Maurice E. Fitzgerald, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 24, 2025 at St. Vincent de Paul Church.

Chaumont – Elizabeth June (Goiser) Emerson, 89; Graveside Services Nov. 22, 2025 at New Cedar Grove Cemetery.

Croghan – Gilbert J. Monnat, 97; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 21, 2025 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Ellenburg – Gerald Joseph Trombley, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 21, 2025 at St. Edmunds Church.

Norwood – Rondey W. McDonald, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 19, 2025 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Chateaugay.

Ogdensburg – Debra A. Dishaw,

70; Funeral Services Nov. 24, 2025 at Frary Funeral Home.

Plattsburgh – William Harney Davey, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 25, 2025 at St. John the Baptist Church.

Plattsburgh – Clement John Jackson, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 24, 2025 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Redford – Brenda S. (Coryer) Strack, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 20, 2025 at Church of the Assumption; burial in parish cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Alexander H. Aubin, 94; Funeral Services Nov. 18, 2025 at Fortune-Keough Funeral Home; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Tracy L. DeFuria-Mauler, 57; Funeral Services Nov. 25, 2025 at Fortune-Keough Funeral Home.

Saranac Lake – Thomas F. Quinn, 64; Mass of Christian Burial Nov.

21, 2025 at St. Bernard's Church.

Schroon Lake – Shirley (Good-speed) Provoncha, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 21, 2025 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church; burial in North Hudson Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Leon A. "Joe" Wells, 82; Graveside services in the spring.

Watertown – Helen (Hermann) Amo, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 21, 2025 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Watertown – Ronald J. Hyde, 79; Funeral Services Nov. 18, 2025 at D.L. Calarco Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Douglas A. Ward, 87; Funeral Services Nov. 21, 2025 at Hart & Bruce Funeral Home; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

West Chazy – Richard LaBombard, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 20, 2025 at St. Joseph's Church.

Advocates seek Cabrini Foundation funds for pensions, abuse victims

By Daniel Payne
Catholic News Agency

Advocates in New York state are petitioning a Catholic foundation there to help fund major pension shortages and church preservation efforts as well as to help support victims of clergy sex abuse.

In a Nov. 13 letter to the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation in New York City, representatives of the

group Save Our Buffalo Churches, sexual abuse victims, and pensioners of the former St. Clare's Hospital asked the foundation to help the three communities with the "profound hardship" they are experiencing.

Numerous parishes in Buffalo have been fighting diocesan-mandated closures and mergers over the past year. Hundreds of former workers of St.

Clare's, meanwhile, saw their pensions reduced or eliminated starting in 2018 due to major shortfalls. The hospital itself closed about a decade before.

Abuse victims, meanwhile, have "been locked in a legal morass, denied the long-term healing resources and institutional acknowledgment of the harm they endured," the letter said.

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Cabrini Foundation funds

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

The foundation arose in 2018 after the Diocese of Brooklyn sold the health insurer Fidelis Care. The organization, whose roughly \$3.2 billion in assets came from that sale, is named after Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, the first American recognized as a saint, who founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The letter noted that Cabrini "devoted her life to the people others overlooked," including immigrants and the poor.

"Guided by that legacy, we ask the foundation to explore

emergency relief, stabilization funds, and community support initiatives" to help fund the three groups.

The letter-writers asked for a meeting with foundation leaders "to explore potential pathways for assistance aligned with both the foundation's mission and the pressing needs of survivors, pensioners, and parish communities."

Mary Pruski, who leads the Save Our Buffalo Churches group, told CNA that advocates in New York City would be following up with the foundation this week.

"This is a complex project and will bring much peace and healing across [New York state]," she said.

Pensioners with St. Clare's Hospital are currently in the midst of a lawsuit brought by New York state against the Diocese of Albany for what the state attorney general's office says was "[failure] to adequately fund, manage, and protect hospital employees' hard-earned pensions."

The prosecutor's office alleges that the diocese "[failed] to take adequate measures" to secure the pension fund, including "failing to make any

annual contributions to the pension for all but two years from 2000 to 2019 and hiding the collapse of the pension plan from former hospital workers who were vested in the plan."

Parishioners in Buffalo, meanwhile, have challenged the diocesan parish merger and closure plan, with advocates securing a reprieve against the diocese at the state Supreme Court in July.

The state high court ultimately tossed the lawsuit out in September, ruling that the court had no jurisdiction over the dispute.



Adoration in the Diocese of Ogdensburg

The following is a list of Adoration hours and sites across the Diocese of Ogdensburg. If your parish offers Eucharistic Adoration or if this information is incorrect email news@rcdony.org

Holy Angels Church, Altona

After 8 a.m. Mass Dedicated to Vocations and the church

St. Patrick's Church, Brasher Falls

Wed. & Fri. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

St. Mary's Church, Brushton

First Wed. 6 p.m. to 7

St. Mary's Church, Canton

Tues. 4:10 p.m. to 5:10
Fri. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ending with Divine Mercy Chaplet

St. Vincent of Paul, Cape Vincent

First Friday of the month

St. James Church, Carthage

Wed., 3 p.m. to 6
Thurs., 10 a.m. to 11
First Friday, 10:15 a.m. to 7 a.m.
Saturday morning

St. Mary's Church, Champlain

First Fri. 9 a.m. Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
11 a.m. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

St. Patrick's Church, Chateaugay

Wed. 5 p.m. to 6, Adoration
First Friday 8:30 a.m., Communion Service followed by Adoration for Vocations

All Saints Church, Chaumont

First Thursday of the month 3 p.m.

Sacred Heart Church, Chazy

At various times as needed, please contact parish 518-846-7650

St. Mary's Church, Clayton

First Fridays after 9 a.m. Mass

St. Francis of Assisi, Constable

Second Fri. of the Month, 5 p.m. to 6

St. Mary's Church, Constableville

First Fridays 6 p.m.

St. Stephen's Church, Croghan

First Friday, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 including prayer for Vocations

St. Joseph's Church, Dannemora

Wed. & Fri. 11 a.m. before noon Mass

St. Elizabeth's Church, Elizabethtown

Fri. after Mass 8:30 a.m. to 9:30

St. Edmund's Church, Ellenburg

Monday after 5:30 p.m. Mass

St. Mary's of the Fort, Fort Covington

Tues. 5 p.m. to 6, Sat. 9 a.m. to 10 except when it's a First Saturday

St. James Church, Gouverneur

9:45 a.m. to 10:45 every second Sunday

St. Hedwig's Church, Houseville

First Sunday following 11 a.m. Mass

Immaculate Conception, Keeseville

Sun, 1 p.m. to 4

St. Agnes Church, Lake Placid

Tues 10 a.m. to 5:20 p.m.
Vocations and Divine Renovation our of our parish are emphasized

St. James Major, Lake Pleasant

7:30 a.m. before 8 a.m. Mass on the First Sunday.

St. Peter's Church, Lowville

First Friday of the month with intention to Vocations

St. Bernard's Church, Lyon Mountain

First Friday of the month after 9 a.m. Mass

St. Peter's Parish, Massena

Held at Sacred Heart Church
Thursday 12:45 p.m. to 1:45
First Friday 2 p.m. to 6

St. Ann's Church, Mooers Forks

after 8 a.m. Mass Dedicated to Vocations and the church

St. Augustine Church, North Bangor

Tues. after 9 a.m. Mass until 10 a.m.

St. Andrew's Church, Norwood

Fri after 8:30 a.m. Mass until noon

St. Mary's Cathedral Parish, Ogdensburg

Entryway for the Deacon Winter Chapel
Thurs. before First Friday from 7 p.m. to 8
Adoration each Wed. 3 p.m. to 6 and Fri. 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

St. Augustine's Church, Peru

Every Friday following 8 a.m. Mass to 7 p.m.

St. John's Church, Plattsburgh

Holy Family Basement
Wed., Thurs., Fri., 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

St. Patrick's Church, Port Henry

Mon. after Mass 8:30 a.m. to 9:30

St. Martin's Church, Port Leyden

Rectory Chapel
Wed. Mornings after Mass for 30 minutes.

St. Mary's Church, Potsdam

Tues. 12:45 p.m. to 4:30
First Friday 8:30 a.m. to 9:30

Church of the Assumption, Redford

Tues. & Thurs. 11 a.m. before noon Mass

St. Ann's Church, St. Regis Falls

Fridays after 8 a.m. Mass until 9 a.m.

St. Andrews Church, Sackets Harbor

Fri. 3:30 p.m. to 4:30

Our Lady of Lourdes, Schroon Lake

Wed. after 9 a.m. Mass

St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Tupper Lake

Monday 7 p.m. to 8

Holy Family Church, Watertown

Monday's following noon Mass

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, Watertown

1 hour prior to Mass, First Friday of the Month

St. Anthony's Church, Watertown

First Sun. of the Month 2 p.m. to 3
Tues. 3 p.m. to 6

St. Patrick's Church, Watertown

Every Thurs. after Noon Mass until 7 p.m.

St. Ann's Church, Wells

Half an hour after Sunday Mass every Third Sunday of the month.

St. Joseph's Church, West Chazy

First Friday after 9 a.m. Mass until 11 a.m.

St. Philip Neri Church, Westport

(Memorial Day - Columbus Day)
Weds. after Mass, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30

St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro

Full Holy Hour on First Fridays (before Mass Winter/after Mass Summer)