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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 79 Number 42

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEBRUARY 26, 2025

Follow me: Pray for patience this Lent

*Bishop Terry R. LaValley
shares his reflections as
we approach Lent.*

This Lent, let us learn to pray fervently for the grace of patience. Patience and hope must be our constant companions that guide our steps towards the goal of a closer relationship with the Lord. It is that intimate relationship with Jesus that energizes our efforts to become more patient in living the journey of hope enroute to the joy of heaven.

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KNIGHTS HIT MILESTONE



PHOTO BY JOHN RYAN

Arlen Favero, the charitable gifts coordinator for the Knights of Columbus Plattsburgh Council #255, says the council has distributed \$1 million to local charities since 2007. See the full story on Page 4.

FROM BAGS TO BENCH



Students at Augustinian Academy in Carthage display bags of plastic the school collected for recycling. If the school can collect 1,000 pounds, it will receive a bench. The project has been recognized by the Green Apple Project.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

Vatican shares ailing pope's catechesis

By Kristina Millare
Catholic News Agency

As Pope Francis continues to undergo complex medical treatment for bilateral pneumonia and a respiratory infection at Rome's Gemelli Hospital, the Vatican on Wednesday released the Holy Father's prepared jubilee catechesis on "Jesus Christ our hope."

Reflecting on the visit of the Magi to the child Jesus, recorded exclusively in the Gospel of St. Matthew, the 88-year-old pope encouraged Christians to follow in the footsteps of these wise "pilgrims of hope" who set out on a journey from their home-

lands in search of God.

"The Magi were considered to be representatives both of the primordial races, generated by the three sons of Noah, and of the three continents known in antiquity, Asia, Africa, and Europe, as well as the three phases of human life: youth, maturity, and old age," the pope explained in his Feb. 19 catechesis.

"They are men who do not stay still but, like the great chosen ones of biblical history, feel the need to move, to go forth. They are men who are able to look beyond themselves, who know how to look upward," he said.

Despite difficulties experienced in the journey of faith,

the Holy Father said God speaks to people through "creation and the prophetic word."

"The sight of the star inspires an irrepressible joy in those men, because the Holy Spirit, who stirs the heart of whoever sincerely seeks God, also fills it with joy," he shared.

Through ancient Scripture, the Magi were able to identify the birthplace of the "newborn King of the Jews" and "become the first believers among the pagans" in Jesus Christ as the savior of the world.

"They see 'a humble little body that the Word has assumed; but the glory of divinity is not hidden from them. They see an

infant child; but they worship God,'" the pope said, referencing ancient author Chromatius of Aquileia.

In his prepared text, the pope added: "The Gospels therefore tell us clearly that the poor and the foreigners are among the first to meet the God made child."

The Holy Father concluded his written reflection on the Magi by asking people to offer the child Jesus "the most beautiful gifts" of our faith and love.

"Let us learn to adore God in his smallness, in his kingship that does not crush but rather sets us free and enables us to serve with dignity," he said.

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Playing the name game

"What's your name?"

I picked the habit up from a dear friend. Whenever we went out for a meal together, my friend would ask the server his or her name.

After I heard it a few times, I started doing it, too.

I never asked my friend why she does it, but I suspect we do it for similar reasons: It honors the server's humanity.

I worked for nearly five years as a server. It can sometimes feel a bit dehumanizing. I remember many occasions when someone snapped

their fingers to call me to their table. It always made me feel like a dog responding to a whistle. Someone

calling me to their table with "Hey, Darce" doesn't feel that way. It feels human.

Years removed from saying, "how would you like those eggs," I sometimes fall into the trap of viewing servers only in a transactional way; it's all about me and what they do

or don't do for me. There's little or no regard to the fact that the server is a person, made in the image

and likeness of God, with their own struggles and strengths.

I find I'm much less likely to feel that way or treat a server that way if I ask his or her name, and I use that name. I think it's easier to think of "the waitress" as a commodity. It's hard to think of "Emma" or "Heidi" or "Ethan" as a commodity.

This practice has been on my mind a lot lately, and I usually take that as a sign God wants me to spend some time praying on it and reflecting on it. I think God wanted me to realize that it's been easy for me to apply my "what's your name" practice with servers, because I can identify

with them. I was one.

I don't always extend it to people in other service jobs, though.

I get impatient when I don't think the cashier is moving fast enough. I get snippy when the young pharmacy technician tells me there's an issue with one of my prescriptions. The same three guys pump my gas regularly at a full-service station in my area, and I don't know a single one of their names.

I think God's telling me to take some time this Lent to honor the humanity of people I don't always treat as such.

It's time to learn some more names.



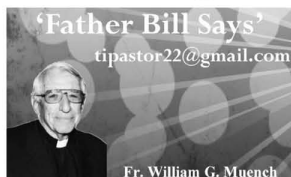
**Darcy L.
Fargo**

Celebrating a birthday, Lent

Today, I would like to begin by wishing a Happy Birthday to Sister Mary Camillus O'Keefe on the occasion of her 100th birthday. As you know, Sister Camillus is a Religious Sister of Mercy. She has been stationed for many years at the Uihlein Mercy Center in Lake Placid. I spent a week at the Center - on retreat with the Sisters - a short time ago. Sister Camillus impressed me as an enthusiastic and dedicated religious sister. Happy birthday, Sister.

Now, I want to remind you that soon it will be Lent. The Church will again be celebrating this important and sacred time of our Church year. We will again be challenged to this time of renewal and conversion for those 40 days - a time to unite ourselves ever closer to the Lord with prayer, fasting and good works.

I want to encourage you to begin your Lent by dedicating your prayer and fasting to a special intention. I believe that this is an important practice. It



might well be for an intention for your own self or possibly an intention for someone you know who you would like to focus your prayers and good works. Or there may be concerns in your heart for some concern you have for this world of ours or for this country of ours. I know that this will change your own attitude and readiness - dedicating yourself to something special for this time of Lent.

Each year as we anticipate Lent, the first thing that comes to mind is Ash Wednesday and the ashes. On Ash Wednesday, we allow ourselves to be marked; we have determined to make these 40 days a special time, and we are ready to do something for Lent. On this Ash Wednesday, we are reminded just who we are

as we receive the ashes: "Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return."

And why do we do this? For Lent we must keep our attention on the goal: I want to prepare myself to again walk with Jesus through Holy Week. I want to prepare myself to again join Jesus and the apostles as they join together at the Last Supper. I want to again stand at the foot of the cross of Jesus on Good Friday. I want to again run with Peter and John to the empty tomb of Jesus.

I encourage you to find your own personal way through Lent. There are many books on Lent, many suggestions for making resolutions for Lent, but always find your own way, your own practices for Lent that make you comfortable - your way of finding God. Find your road for conversion.

I do want to tell you that I found true peace with the Lord through such an extended period of spiritual renewal for Lent. I know that I want to find

the way to a new life; I know there are many opportunities for finding the road to conversion and sainthood.

For me, I am convinced that I need to find time for silence - for silent prayer, a time to allow the Holy Spirit to become more active in my life. Silence helps me find the calmness and peace to pray in the presence of the Lord during Lent. When I open my mind and heart, I know that I will give God the opportunity to find me and to be with me.

Let me offer one other prayer that empowers me for Lent that is good for me. That is the Stations of the Cross. I know there are books and prayers for this devotion. However, for me I find a more meaningful closeness with the Lord Jesus by being silent, walking from one station to the next, stopping for a moment to silently looking at each station. So, I go in this fashion through the 14 stations to Calvary and then on to the tomb of Jesus.

FOLLOW ME

Pray for patience this Lent

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

This Jubilee Year, Pope Francis invites you and me to make this Lent our personal journey of hope. He asks us to "pray frequently for the grace of patience, which is both the daughter of hope and at the same time its firm foundation." To hope is to wait for something that has already been given to us: salvation in the infinite love of God, the love that gives flavor to our life and that constitutes the cornerstone on which the world remains standing, despite all the significant challenges ahead caused by our sinfulness. (cf. *Spes non Confundit*)

To hope is to wait. But I find

it difficult to wait for anything. I get antsy when I'm running late, especially when I find myself behind a pokey driver on the road ahead. Perhaps you find it difficult to wait, too. Maybe your spouse is always making you wait. You lose patience with him.

Maybe a loved one suffers from addictions or mental disease and you're losing your patience coping with the difficult behavioral traits. The lines are long at her office and the next doctor's appointment is months away. Sometimes you just want to cancel everything. You're sick of waiting. Or maybe you're losing patience with God who doesn't answer a longstanding prayer. We are just plain tired of waiting. Pa-

tience is in very short supply.

This virtue of patience is closely linked to hope. In our fast-paced world, we are used to wanting everything now. Patience has been put to flight by frenetic haste. This leads to anxiety and even gratuitous violence, resulting in more unhappiness. St. Paul often speaks of patience in the context of our need for perseverance and confident trust in God's promises. Patience, one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, sustains our hope and strengthens it as a virtue and a way of life.

This Lent, let us learn to pray fervently for the grace of patience. Patience and hope must be our constant companions that guide our steps to-

wards the goal of a closer relationship with the Lord. It is that intimate relationship with Jesus that energizes our efforts to become more patient in living the journey of hope enroute to the joy of heaven.

May your journey through Lent 2025 find you savoring the flavor of God's endless love as you encounter the Lord of all hopefulness in the daily challenge to live the virtue of patience.

In Christ our Hope,

+ Terry R. LaValley

Most Reverend
Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

Regulations for Lent 2025

March 5, 2025, is Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of the season of Lent.

THE CALL TO DO PENANCE

All of Christ's faithful are obliged by divine law, each in his or her own way, to do penance. However, so that all may be united in a certain common practice of penance, days of penance are prescribed. On these days Christ's faithful are to devote themselves in a special manner to prayer, to engage in works of piety and charity, and to deny themselves, by fulfilling more faithfully their obligations and especially by observing the laws of fast and abstinence. The season of Lent is observed as a time of penance for the universal Church. Thus, during these 40 days individuals are encouraged to attend daily Mass, set aside increased time for personal prayer and the study of scripture, give alms

to the poor, perform voluntary acts of mortification, as well as show special solicitude for the sick, the discouraged, and the lonely. Likewise, parishes are encouraged to arrange for periods of Eucharistic Adoration and traditional devotions such as making the Way of the Cross and reciting of the Rosary (cf. cc. 1249-1250; USCCB, Complimentary Norms).

Ash Wednesday, which solemnly opens the season of Lent, and Good Friday, on which Christ suffered in the flesh and died for our sins, are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence from meat for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence from meat. The law of fasting is binding on Catholics from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted by long tradition to eat not more than one full meal, as well as two light meals that together are

not equal to a full meal. The law of abstinence from meat is binding upon Catholics from age 14 onwards. Even those who by reason of age are not bound by these laws are to be taught the true meaning of penance (cf. cc. 1251-1252).

The ancient Paschal Fast should also be kept sacred. It is celebrated everywhere on Good Friday and, when appropriate, may be prolonged throughout Holy Saturday as a way of coming, with spirit uplifted, to the joys of the Lord's resurrection (cf. Roman Missal-The Sacred Paschal Triduum, 1).

EASTER DUTY

Once admitted to the blessed Eucharist, each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year, and to fulfill this precept during the Easter season (cf. c. 920). In 2025, Paschal time extends from March 9 (First Sunday of Lent) until June 15 (Trinity Sun-

day).

Each of Christ's faithful who have reached the age of reason is

bound to faithfully confess at least once each year all grave sins, in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

Eternal Father,
we lift up to you these
and all the priests of the world.
Sanctify them.
Heal and guide them.
Mold them into the likeness and
holiness of your Son, Jesus,
the Eternal High Priest.
May their lives be pleasing to
you. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen

(With ecclesiastical approval)

Mass
Rosary
Fasting
Day Offering
Eucharistic Adoration
Offering of Sufferings
Divine Mercy Chaplet

Or whatever the Lord
inspires you to offer Him

March



St. Joseph

DIOCESE OF
OGDENSBURG, NY

2025

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Knights hit million dollar giving milestone

By Mary Beth Bracy,
consecrated virgin
Contributing Writer

Since Blessed Michael McGivney began the Knights of Columbus in 1882, it has shined as a beacon of hope for those in need. On January 15, the Knights of Columbus Monsignor Morris L. Dwyer Council #255 continued this mission of mercy at their annual grant award dinner in the Emmaus Room at St. Peter's in Plattsburgh.

This year marked a special milestone: since 2007, the Knights have given over one-million dollars in charitable contributions, mostly to local organizations.

Each year, the Knights offer the meal and present grant recipients with their checks. Representatives give brief descriptions of their organizations and missions. All the Knights attend wearing their sashes and assist in handing out the donations. They believe the dinner is a special way to say thank you, as opposed to simply sending notes in the mail.

Arlen Favero, the charitable gifts coordinator for the Knights of Columbus, has been a knight for 41 years and oversees the philanthropic efforts.

"I've been doing this for 18 years, and I've been through all the offices, district deputy, treasurer. I ran our building on Boynton Avenue for three years when we had it... We do our meetings at Saint Peter's now and it gives us a lot more money to give to the Church."

Favero recalled the legacy of so many knights who helped promote the Faith and keep their mission alive, from assisting with the recording a Rosary CD to serving in the honor guard to attending daily Mass and Eucha-



PHOTO BY JOHN RYAN

On January 15, Plattsburgh Council #255 gave out \$95,000 to charities around the North Country! More than 40 Knights of Columbus who helped participate in fundraisers, Bingo, and many other events, also helped hand out checks to recipients. Over 50 non-profit organizations and programs were given donations. The Knights said they're grateful for the community's support as they raised funds for the donations.

ristic Adoration at Holy Cross Parish.

This year the Knights of Columbus donated \$95,164.37 to five different groups. The primary recipients of their generosity include Holy Cross Parish and Seton Catholic School. They also gave donations to the Mission of Hope, including their special collection for Hurricane Helene Relief.

"As a charitable organization, we're supposed to be the right hand of the Church, so we try to help out as much as we can with the churches," said Favero.

As part of their witness to the sanctity of life, the Knights have given donations for pro-life Masses for several years, and they've given funds to organizations like Birthright, Heart Well Homestead, Catholic Charities, Champlain Valley Right to Life and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. They also assist St. Joseph's Community Outreach Center, Plattsburgh Interfaith Food Shelf, Thanksgiving Turkey Baskets, and Coats for Kids.

The Knights give gen-

erously to the Bishop's Fund and Bishop's Burse, as well as for priests' chasubles and deacons' dalmatics. They also assist with donations to St. Anne's Shrine in Isle la Motte, Camp Guggenheim, Children's Miracle Network, Camp Ta-Kum-Tah (in South Hero, Vermont, for kids who have cancer and their families), Hope Lodge (in Burlington, a place that cancer patients' families can stay free of charge; a lot of Knights have family members themselves who have stayed at the facility), and Honor Flight. Additionally, the Knights donate to five local fire departments - departments in communities where Knights live - to help children with fire prevention in schools.

The Knight noted that Council #255 doesn't work alone in its efforts to raise funds to use in its support of Church and community.

"Our Lady of Victory Council helps a lot too," he said. "Like they did the fish dinners. Both councils work together on that. Our members who

worked at bingo and pull tabs are really the ones responsible for this (the raising of all the funds). We couldn't do this without them."

Kevin Goddeau has been the organization's treasurer for 18 years.

"Kevin works hard," Favero noted. "He's in charge of the bingo."

The knights have other supporters making their efforts possible, too.

"Most of the men that join the Knights are a little bit older," Favero said. "I was fortunate. I had a good wife, and she always encouraged me to help. Without the help of the women, we couldn't do this. Kevin Goddeau's wife bakes something for all the workers every week for bingo. Cookies or cupcakes, she always has something. She doesn't have to do it but, boy, she does."

Some of the activities that the Knights volunteer for are working at the Parish Festival to sell the pull tabs and to cook fried bread dough.

"Over the last 15 years, we had money from bingo and the pull tabs to

give away at the end of year," Favero said. "We did real good last year."

And the Knights' help in other ways, as well.

"We do a lot of good works," Mr. Favero related. "When Our Lady of Victory was closing the school, we got a crew to help the nuns move."

In 1997, Knights of Columbus Council #255 celebrated their 100th anniversary, and Favero was grand knight at that time.

"Steve Forgette, one of the members who passed away this year, helped me put on a beautiful anniversary," he recalled. "People said we couldn't afford the commemoration book for the celebration. I said it could be done with ads. We had enough money left over to build the garage and pavilion (in the field behind St. Peter's)."

Flipping the pages of that commemoration book, looking at so many familiar faces who have passed away, Favero reflected, "We do memorials for our people that died. I think we've had 15 people that passed away this year."

Favero, who was part of the honor guard for years and took his fourth degree under Bishop Paul S. Loverde, said he hopes to continue serving with the organization that serves the community and Church so well.

"We've always done this and for myself it's just something I enjoy doing. We started this a long, long time ago. I pray to the Lord that I can still be doing this," said Favero, who recently turned 90. "I've got a lot to be thankful for. I had the best wife a man could ask for."

With the Knights legacy of service and charity, they plan to continue to bless the North Country with their outreach of hope for years to come.

From bags to bench: Augustinian recycles

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

A recycling project underway at Augustinian Academy in Carthage is helping the planet while also potentially benefiting the school.

Augustinian Academy has been collecting plastics that typically aren't recyclable on behalf of NexTrex, a composite decking and material manufacturer.

"A lot of these plastics, we didn't know they weren't recyclable to begin with," said Augustinian Academy Principal Sister Suanne Johnson, a Sister of St. Joseph. "It's the shrink wrap plastic, plastic grocery bags, bread bags, sandwich bags, that plastic they wrap pallets or packages in, bags from pellets or peat moss. It's plastic that usually gets thrown away. It has to be clean, though. If we collect 1,000 pounds of it, they will send us a bench."

Augustinian Academy was introduced to the program by one of the Faith & Ecology Groups in the diocese.

"One of the Faith & Ecology members lives in Adams, and one of the civic organizations in Adams was collecting these plastics, and they had asked the parish to contribute," said Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, a Sister of St. Joseph and Faith & Ecology Group member. "He asked Faith & Ecology to start

saving plastic for them. We began to think about the fact that it would be a great initiative for a parish or school or religious education program."

Sister Suanne said she initially wasn't sure the school would be able to collect 1,000 pounds.

"I thought we'd never make it," she said. "They gave us a year. Our year ends in April. We're at 861 pounds now."

Some of the plastic was collected directly by students, but the project was also supported by the community.

"We've had plastic come in from the church community, from area businesses," said Sister Suanne. "It's spread through word of mouth and from the kids. One of our custodians also works at another school, Black

River. They've been sending over plastic."

"It's had a ripple effect," Sister Bethany said. "It makes more people aware that these plastics can be recycled, and it gets more people involved."

Once the plastic is collected, it's taken to collection points - Price Chopper stores and Hannaford stores are participants.

"We put it in plastic bags, it gets weighed, and we take a picture," said Sister Suanne. "We send the weight and picture to NexTrex, and Price Chopper takes the plastic. It's a lot easier than we thought it would be. Anyone could do it!"

Once they hit the 1,000-pound mark and receive their new bench, Sister Suanne said Augustinian Academy may use it with a new pre-k playground.

CORRECTION

Three Sisters of Mercy remaining in diocese

As a result of a miscommunication, it was incorrectly stated in the Feb. 19 edition that all Sisters of Mercy are leaving the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Only the two sisters residing in the convent at Elderwood at Uihlein are leaving the diocese.

Sister Brian Marie LaTour will remain in Plattsburgh, Sister Janet Peters will remain in Watertown, and Sister Mary Audrey Hallahan will remain at Elderwood at Uihlein.

We apologize for this error.

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Participate in the Green Apple Project

Augustinian Academy's participation in the plastics recycling program earned them recognition in the Green Apple Recognition Project.

Sponsored by the Diocese of Ogdensburg Laudato Si Committee and the Diocese of Syracuse Education Office, the Green Apple Recognition Project, "invites you to help young people to wonder at the marvels of creation and to share what activities they are doing 'to cultivate and take care of God's precious creation.'"

"Any activities - large or small - that help to raise awareness of God's amazing Creation and projects that show ways of caring for our planet are eligible for this Recognition Project," notes a program description developed by organizers. "Your submission could be a prayer, poem, poster, art or music as well as activities illustrating care for God's earth, such as tree planting, indoor or outdoor activities, butterfly gardens, composting, etc. Be creative!"

The recognition is open to any individual, family, class, school, youth group, confirmation program, parish or organization.

To register for the recognition, contact Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, a Sister of St. Joseph and Laudato Si Committee member, at srbethssj@gmail.com. While the deadline is April 25, organizers say it's helpful if they know of an individual's or entity's participation by March 31.

**United States Bankruptcy Court
for the District of Vermont
In re Roman Catholic Diocese
of Burlington, Vermont, Case No. 24-10205-HZC**

Claims Notice for Survivors of Sexual Abuse and Others With Claims Against the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington, Vermont

If you were sexually abused by any person connected with the Diocese, a Catholic parish, or Catholic school within the geographic area of the Diocese, or have any claim against the Diocese, you must file a claim by **April 4, 2025**.

For more diocesan information: visit vermontcatholic.org

**For the bankruptcy docket: visit
<https://case.stretto.com/dioceesofburlington>**

**For U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Vermont
information: visit vtb.uscourts.gov**

For advice about your rights: contact an attorney



Environmental Stewardship

No plastics in heaven

Much can be learned by listening to stories of people who have died and passed to the other side or reading about their after-death experiences. Everyone who has crossed over emphasizes the overwhelming feeling of unconditional love, and most cite the extreme richness of the vegetation, the attractive scents from the flowers and the incredible beauty of the soil, rocks and water. In the countless descriptions of heaven, no one has ever mentioned encountering a plastic bottle, a candy bar wrapper or a piece of cellophane.

It seems as though God keeps these ubiquitous earth-based materials from ever becoming objects in His realm. And because we strive to imitate Our Lord, we likewise should attempt to maintain the areas for which we are responsible free of plastics.

Attempting to create and keep a living space devoid of these compounds is a challenge. Refraining from purchasing plastics and preventing them from escaping our control is a formidable task, as these materials are so commonly used. Plastic food containers are probably the easiest to identify and separate into recycle bin or trash, depending on their recycling number. Plastic wrappings that hold together rolls of paper towels or loaves of bread may also be recycled in some communities, but it requires taking them to collection sites.

Reducing, recycling and disposing of trash plastics takes time and effort, however nothing of great value comes easy. Work is always needed to create even a small fraction of the beauty and charm of heaven into your home and yard. Picking up trash, especially plastics, can go a long way toward improving the quality of your living space. And it is also essential to positively interact with your neighbors and passersby, as shining your inner light to those that you encounter is a vital component of any inhabitant of heaven.

Funeral Mass celebrated for Ursuline Sister Teresa Byrne

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sister Teresa Byrne, an Ursuline sister, on Feb. 21 in the Ursuline Province Center's chapel in New Rochelle, New York. Burial followed in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, New Rochelle.

Sister Teresa died

peacefully on February 14, 2025, at Andrus on Hudson, Hastings on Hudson, New York.

Sister Teresa was born in Milford, Massachusetts, to Loretta and William Byrne in 1931. After earning a bachelor's degree from the College of New Rochelle and a master's degree from the Catholic University of America, Sister Teresa began a 15-year ministry in education as a teacher and/or principal at the Bethesda Ursuline Academy, St. Angela's, the Ursuline School, and Our Lady of Mercy, and as Education Director for the Province.



Sister Teresa Byrne, OSU

In the mid-1970s, Sister Teresa served as superior of St. Teresa's and St. Angela's convents and was lat-

er elected provincial of the Eastern Province. She spent 20 years in New York State's "North Country" and was one of the remaining sisters at the Malone, New York, Convent when it closed in 2016. While in the North Country, Sister Teresa was a pastoral associate at St. Michael's, All Saints, and St. Patrick's Churches. In addition, she served as coordinator of the Malone and Witherbee Ursuline Associates, and as the Community Coordinator for Com-Links, the Community Action Agency of Franklin County.

Sister Teresa has provided leadership to the Ursuline Community, and to numerous boards, including the College of New Rochelle and Angela House. She served the Diocese of Ogdensburg as a member of Catholic Charities, the Oneness in Peace Center, the Formation for Ministry Board, and the North Franklin Ministerial Association.

Rest in Peace

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

Feb. 26 — Rev. Francis X. LaChance, 1916; John F. Wiley, 1984

Feb. 27 — Rev. Ferdinand Grenier, O.M.I., 1872

Feb. 28 — Rev. J. H. Tabaret, O.M.I., 1886; Rev. Emile Peuffier, 1910

March 1 — Rev. Louis B. Demers, 1888; Msgr. Alexander P. Landry, 1955; Most Rev. Stanislaus J. Brazana, 1997

March 2 — Rev. Edward A. Dailley, O.S.A., 1901; Msgr. John J. Bent, 1949; Rev. Joseph E. Tessier, O.M.I., 1952; Rev. Raymond J. Wertman, 2021

March 3 — Rev. Francis McCranor, O.S.A., 1914; Rev. John G. Fitzgerald, 1925; Rev. Cyril Stevens, 1963; Deacon David N. Hennigan, 2009

March 4 — Rev. Jeremiah S. O'Brien, 1899; Rev. Thomas D. Hurley, 1934

Bishop's Public Schedule

Feb. 26 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

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

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

March 1 — 10:30 a.m. — Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting at St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake followed by Lunch

March 2 — 8 a.m. — Mass for Special Religious Education Students at St. Anthony's Church in Watertown

March 3 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 4 — Noon — Diocesan Staff Mardi Gras Luncheon in the Brzana Conference Room

March 5 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

To Report Abuse

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

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

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled Protecting God's Children training sessions. This required training addresses child abuse, the methods and means by which abusers commit abuse, and the five steps to prevent abuse from occurring and stop it from continuing. Pre-registration is encouraged at www.virtus.org. Upcoming sessions:

Feb. 25 — 5:30 p.m. — St. Peter's Parish, Massena

Feb. 26 — 5:30 p.m. — Immaculate Heart Central, Watertown



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For Vocations*

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www.northcountrycatholic.org

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- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more

Find us on Facebook!



Catholic Charities across country cuts funding, staff amid funding freeze

By Madalaine Elhabbal
Catholic News Agency

Local Catholic Charities agencies across the country are being forced to lay off staff and weigh shutting down programs in the wake of the Trump administration's 90-day federal funding freeze.

Upon taking office last month, President Donald Trump issued directives that, among other measures, paused grants to organizations that aid migrants and refugees.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), on Feb. 18 filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration over what the bishops say is an unlawful suspension of funding for refugee programs in the United States, many of which are run by Catholic Charities.

Last week Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Santa Rosa, California, became one of the first local agencies to comment publicly on the impact of the Trump administration's funding freeze on its services for legal immigrants, noting that funding for its citizenship classes had been cut off.

Jennielynn Holmes, a spokesperson for Catholic Charities Santa Rosa, told CNA that on Feb. 4, the agency received a four-sentence email from the Grants Branch Chief of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Mary Jane Sommerville, informing them their funding had been revoked.

According to Holmes, the freeze suspended nearly \$500,000 in expected reimbursements from the federal government. The move, she said, was "unprecedented."

"We've never had this happen before in any funding stream, but definitely not mid-contract year," she said.

The email, reviewed by CNA, states: "Pursuant to the Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem's memorandum dated Jan. 28, 2025, and effective immediately, your grant from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is frozen."

"We recognize this will have an impact on your organization. We are unable to provide a timeline on this freeze," the email added.

"I think what was most alarming to us was who these services were for," Holmes said. "These services were not for individuals who were undocumented. These were for individuals who are legally here [who] did everything right in a very broken immigration system."

"They did everything right," she continued, "and now, in an indirect way, they are being targeted through this loss of funding."

Catholic Charities in Santa Rosa's immigration center provides citizenship classes and naturalization legal services to aid legal migrants through the process of becoming U.S. citizens. The center has

nine Board of Immigration Appeals accredited staff, according to Holmes, who also said there are about 20-30 people enrolled in citizenship classes and several hundred more who are working through various stages of the naturalization process.

Holmes told CNA the agency has no plans to stop providing its services, despite the funding freeze.

Santa Rosa is currently working to apply for funding through the state of California.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN SYRACUSE

According to a local report, a local Catholic Charities in Syracuse, New York, recently slashed 51 jobs from its refugee resettlement program after the Trump administration blocked \$1.7 million in government grants it was set to receive this year.

The Onondaga County Catholic Charities refugee program specifically assists migrants when they first arrive in the U.S., providing grants for food and housing, as well as job assistance in their first 90 days state-side.

"Catholic Charities provides support for refugees the moment they arrive in Syracuse, connecting refugees to education, housing, jobs, English language class, health care, and more," the program website states. "Programs for children and youth help young refugees acclimate and find success."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Archbishop denounces alarmism around pope's health

While acknowledging that concern about Pope Francis' health is understandable, Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Academy for Life, called the narrative that fuels speculation about the seriousness of his condition and the pre-conclave atmosphere "morbid." Speaking with ACI Prensa, CNA's Spanish-language news partner, the bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Terni-Narni-Amelia in Italy said it is "right to be concerned" about the health of the Holy Father, who at 88 is suffering from bilateral pneumonia and has been hospitalized in the Gemelli Hospital in Rome since Feb. 14. However, he pointed out that this concern "must be kept within limits," and he regretted that a lot of speculation about his health has created a "morbid atmosphere." "The situation is certainly delicate and the pope has kept on working, unfortunately, from a certain point of view," the prelate said before emphasizing that the pontiff "is recovering and will return to the Vatican in a few weeks."

Priest murdered amid Myanmar civil war

Father Donald Martin Ye Naing Win, a 44-year-old diocesan priest of the Archdiocese of Mandalay in Myanmar, was killed Feb. 14 in the midst of the civil war that has plunged the Asian country into a serious humanitarian and human rights crisis. According to the Vatican agency Fides, the priest's body was found by some members of the faithful around 6 a.m. local time, "mutilated and disfigured with stab wounds," on the grounds of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, where the priest worked as a parish priest. The church where he served is in the village of Kan Gyi Taw in the territory of the Shwe Bo district belonging to the Sagaing region. This area, Fides noted, is one of the areas where fighting is frequent between the militiamen of the People's Defense Forces and the army of the junta that overthrew the government. "May the blood and sacrifices of countless innocent people, together with that of Father Donald Martin, serve as an offering to end the violence that is raging throughout the country," the Myanmar bishops' conference said in a statement.

Kennedy issues HHS guidance: 'There are only two sexes'

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) stated Wednesday that "there are only two sexes, female and male," defining sex as "unchangeable and determined by objective biology." The announcement comes in the wake of President Donald Trump's Executive Order 14168, which affirms the biological reality of sex, as well as Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s confirmation last week as secretary of the HHS. There are only two sexes, female and male, because there are only two types of gametes," the Feb. 19 HHS statement read. "An individual human is either female or male based on whether the person is of the sex characterized by a reproductive system with the biological function of producing eggs (ova) or sperm." Affirming the existence of biological sex is essential for protecting women's spaces and for the government as a whole, the HHS noted.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

LENTEN PODCAST

Join Father Chris Looby for a special Lenten podcast series titled From Sorrow to Hope.

Date: The series will begin on March 10 and conclude on March 14.

Features: This five-part series will focus on the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary and reflect on how Christ's Passion leads us to the ultimate hope of the Resurrection. Each episode will include scripture, prayer, and reflections to guide listeners in deepening their faith during this sacred season. New episodes will be available daily on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Amazon Music/Podcasts. Join Father Looby as we walk the Lenten journey together from the sorrow of the cross to the joy of new life in Christ.

Contact: For more info visit <https://sites.google.com/view/from-sorrow-to-hope>

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

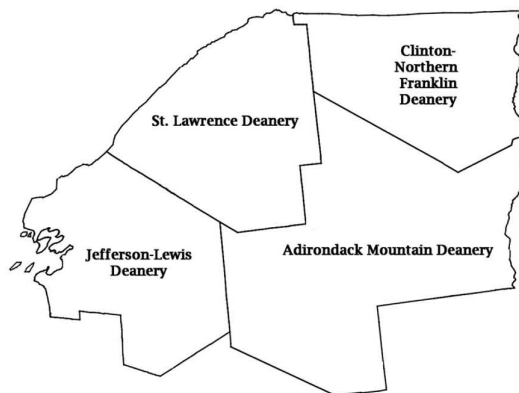
SPIRITUAL CARE COMPANION TRAINING

Lake Placid — Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is holding training for its new Spiritual Care Companion Volunteer Program.

Date: March 19

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

Features: Mercy Care is launching its new Spiritual Care Companion Volunteer Program in collaboration with Jane Stratton, parish nurse educator, and Christine Voce, St. Agnes Church outreach coordinator. A Mercy Care Spiritual Care Companion Volunteer will receive training to accompany an elder on their spiritual journey through loss, grief, spiritual or physical distress, transitions in living circumstances, joys or blessings in their life. The Spiritual Care Companion Volunteer serves as a caring presence and compassionate listener to issues of concern to the elder by being fully present in mind, heart, and soul to the elder's experience of loneliness, pain, struggle, or joy in telling their story. Lunch will be



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,

Ogdensburg, NY 13669

e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

provided.

Cost: There is no cost, but registration is required.

Contact: To register, please visit Mercy Care's website by clicking on this link <https://www.adkmercy.org/event/spiritual-volunteer-training-march19/> or contact Lexi Bevilacqua, Mercy Care's Program and Mission Integration Director, at abevilacqua@adkmercy.org or call Lexi for more information at 518-523-5446.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

LENTEN FISH FRIES

AuSable Forks — Come join the AuSable Forks Knights for the best fried fish in the North Country.

Date: March 7, 21 and April 4

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30

Place: Holy Name Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$15, Children under 12, \$10

Features: Take-outs Available.

"PANCAKE PLUS" BREAKFAST

Peru — St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus will serve a "Pancakes Plus" Breakfast.

Date: March 9

Time: 8:30 a.m. to noon

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 5 to 11, \$5; Children under 5, Free; Take-outs, \$10

Menu: Pancakes, Waffles,

French Toast, Fruit Sauce, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Bacon, Home Fries, Real Maple Syrup, Coffee, Orange Juice, and Milk.

CHICKEN AND BISCUIT DINNER

North Bangor — The parishes of St. Augustine's and St. Mary's are hosting a Chicken and Biscuit Dinner.

Date: March 9

Time: Noon to 3 p.m.

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Cost: \$15

Menu: Chicken and biscuits, gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing, vegetable, cranberry and a dessert.

CORNEBEEF DINNER

Fort Covington — The parish of St. Mary's of the Fort is hosting a Corned Beef Dinner.

Date: March 16

Time: 11:00 a.m. until sold out

Place: Fort Covington Adult Center, 2526 Chateaugay St

Cost: per meal - \$15. Take-out only.

Menu: Corned Beef, Cabbage,

Potatoes, Carrots & Dessert

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

CHICKEN AND BISCUIT DINNER

Lyons Falls — St. John's Church will be having a drive thru Chicken and Biscuit Dinner.

Date: Feb. 25

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$12

Menu: Chicken and home-made biscuits, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable and dessert.

Contact: To pre-order please call 315-348-8945 or 315-348-8577. Deliveries are available also! Please order early!

HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY

Houseville — Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament and the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be observed.

Date: March 2

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

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

Date: March 8

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

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

Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

SSJ LENTEN RETREAT

Watertown — Register for the Sisters of St. Joseph Lenten Retreat.

Date: April 13

Time: 2 p.m. to 4

Place: St. Anthony's Church

Features: Join us as we reflect on our call to be "Witnesses of Hope" Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ, Diocesan Director of Catholic Education. There will also be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, time for personal prayer and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Contact: register by emailing Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, smelyngssj@yahoo.com or Sister Bethany Fitzgerald srbethssj@gmail.com.

ST. LAWRENCE

FISH FRY

Gouverneur — Every Friday during

Lent St. James School will have a Fish Fry.

Date: March 7 and every Friday through Lent.

Time: 4:30 p.m. until gone

Cost: \$15, Eat in or take-out

Features: Dinner includes fried fish, choice of macaroni and cheese or french fries, cole slaw, dinner roll, beverage and your choice of dessert.

Contact: Gouverneur area delivery available. Call 315-287-0130

MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

Date: March 9

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.

ALPHA

Massena — You are invited to Alpha.

Date: March 25

Time: 6 p.m. to 8:30

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Features: Join us for a free meal and great conversations as we explore life and faith.

Contact: For more information contact the Parish office 315-769-2469 or www.massenacatholics.com

LENTEN DAY OF MERCY

Canton — St. Mary's Church will be hosting a Lenten Day of Mercy.

Date: March 26

Time: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Features: Confessions will be heard in the Divine Mercy Chapel. A schedule of confessions will be made available closer to the date at cantoncatholics.com

Contact: For more information email cantonsec@rcdony.org or (315)386-2543

Series on King David coming to Prime

By Francesca Pollio Fenton
Catholic News Agency

A new series telling the story of King David, one of the best-known kings of Israel, will be released on Prime Video on Feb. 27. "House of David" depicts David's rise from shepherd boy to king after King Saul falls victim to his own pride and the prophet Samuel has no choice but to anoint a new king.

The new historical drama series was created by Jon Erwin, known for films like "Jesus Revolution," "I Still Believe," and "I Can Only Imagine." He also served as a writer and director alongside Jon Gunn, who directed "The Case for Christ" and "Ordinary Angels." "House of David" is Erwin's latest project produced by his independent studio, The Wonder Project, which caters to faith-based and values-oriented audiences.

"House of David," for me,

began when I was 16 years old and I went to Israel with my dad," Erwin told CNA in an interview. "He bought me my first camera with money he did not have and it was probably the greatest gift I've ever received. And we went to Israel to film this documentary visiting some of the holy sites called 'In the Steps of Jesus.'"

While visiting the tomb of David, Erwin shared that he was left thinking: "What kind of life do you have to live that your words echo through the centuries?"

"Ever since then I've wanted to tell the story. So, every film I've been involved with or had a privilege of being a part of, it's all about trying to gain the skills necessary to eventually tell the story of David," he said. "I'm grateful to have any role in bringing this story to the screen let alone creating it."

Erwin emphasized the importance of remaining true to

Scripture in the retelling of the story of David and shared that at the foundation is "to love the material."

"I truly, authentically love the story of David, the Psalms of David, the Bible itself; it's a huge and fundamental part of my life and always has been," he explained.

In addition to his authentic connection to and love of the story, Erwin turned to both Christian and Jewish scholars for input and guidance and to fill in gaps not provided in Scripture.

"I do remind people this is not Scripture," Erwin said. "This is not the source material. This is a love letter to the source material. This is a television show, but I hope that it points people to the source material and I hope people take the same journey that I did ... I have not read the Psalms this much. Talk about some beautiful, meaningful, poetic, hon-

est words that really will bring great comfort to you no matter what you're going through!"

Michael Iskander, the actor portraying David, echoed Erwin's sentiments regarding the importance of Scripture while portraying this famous figure.

"Keeping in mind the reverence for Scripture and what he means biblically, I found myself reading the Psalms and the book of Samuel constantly just to be reminded of the true character of David and his heart and truly trying to find his heart in every single moment," he told CNA.

Iskander emphasized the importance of "focusing on the reverence for Scripture" in approaching his portrayal of David.

"The Psalms of David are really powerful, and I hope people read them more and with new insight the way I have while making the series," Erwin concluded.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

DIOCESAN EVENTS

WOMENS DISCERNMENT

Canton - Come and join Bishop LaValley and the Campus Ministers to learn more about "The Call to Holiness and Mission"

Date: March 22

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: It is a call to "Let Go, Let God" fill our lives with His love, joy, peace. Any young woman 18-30 years old are welcome to attend. Holy Hour and Luncheon after presentation. Sponsored by the Vocation Office.

Contact: If you are interested in attending, register at <https://www.rcdony.org/womensluncheon>.

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

Are you a single Catholic man,

of high school age or older, who is hearing the Lord's call to the Priesthood? You are invited to join fellow discerners and Father Howard Venette for the following gatherings.

Place: St. Mary's Church, Canton

Dates: March 22, May 3,

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

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

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

SURVIVING DIVORCE

Watertown - If you or someone you know is separated or divorced and looking for hope and healing, please consider joining us for the

Surviving Divorce Program. We are now accepting registrations for sessions held at the Watertown location.

Date: Tuesdays starting March 18

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: In school behind St. Anthony's Church

Cost: \$25

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

ENGAGING FAMILIES

Massena - Spring LEAD event to be held for Parishioners already engaged in or who would like to be trained in how to engage families, how to engage in adult faith formation and the OCIA process.

Date: April 5

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

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Contact: Register at www.rcdony.org/leadevent. For more information contact Cathy Russell at 315-393-2920 or crussell@rcdony.org

CHRISM MASS

Ogdensburg - All the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are invited to join Bishop LaValley in the annual Renewal of Priestly Commitment, the Blessing of the Holy Oils, and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism for use in all the churches of our Diocese.

Date: April 10

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: This ritual symbolizes that we are one family in Christ. All are welcome to attend. Those unable to participate in person may view the Mass via livestream at <https://www.rcdony.org/livemass>.

CLM RETREAT

Ogdensburg - All Commissioned Lay Ministers and Candidates are invited to register for the CLM retreat.

Date: May 2-4

Place: Wadhams Hall

Cost: Single, \$240.00 pp; Double, \$190.00 pp; Suite (double bed), \$220.00 pp; Suite, \$340.00 pp; Commuter, \$100. All costs include all meals.

Speaker: Father Leagon Carlin

Contact: Register at www.rcdony.org/ffmretreat



SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

Considering hypocrisy

Most of us have read some of Mark Twain's works at some point in our lives. He exhibited moments of quick wit even when not writing. One night at a banquet, a businessman, notorious for having attained his wealth by using unsavory practices, squeezing money from clients and tenants in his many sub-standard apartments, also attended. At one point, this gentleman cornered Mark Twain and piously told Mr. Twain that he wanted to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, climb to the top of Mt. Sinai, and read aloud the ten commandments. Mark Twain suggested something even better to the blowhard: "Why don't you stay right here

in Boston and start practicing them."

We do not like hypocrites. Jesus, using the metaphor of a speck in one's eye, strongly speaks against hypocrites. We may quickly want to jump in and say: "Boy, I'm glad I'm not a hypocrite!" Mark Twain easily pierced the evident hypocrisy of this businessman, but what about the subtle hypocrisy that may exist in our own lives?

"Boy, I am so glad that I am not like so-and-so." That's being hypocritical. When you come right down to it, we are quick to set moral standards for others. Sometimes, we spend more time setting moral standards for others, without inspect-



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

March 2

Eighth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Sirach 27:4-7

1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Luke 6:39-45

ing our moral standards.

Jesus attacks in a very special way the religious leaders of the time. Religious leaders promoted certain lifestyles and obligations for others, but they exempted themselves from observing the rules that they imposed on others. For that, Jesus condemned them. They were guilty of hypocrisy. So, too, ourselves, if we impose standards on others but fail to observe those standards for ourselves, we commit hypocrisy.

We can easily fall into the sin of hypocrisy because we look for the

faults in others without looking into our faults. Jesus' metaphor about the speck and the plank illustrates that we cannot tend to the faults of others unless we first recognize and eradicate our own faults.

How do we measure the presence of hypocrisy? Easy. Has anyone ever said to you: "You should talk!" "You should talk" means that hypocrisy has entered your life.

Overcoming our latent and blatant hypocrisy comes from deep introspection into our lives. We need to examine our lives in light of Jesus' teaching as well as the teaching that comes from the first reading. I paraphrase the words of Sirach in the first reading. One's speech, one's words reveal the person's mind. Don't praise anyone until that person has spoken because the

words that come from the mouth reveal the depths of one's heart.

As far as I know, only two antidotes exist for hypocrisy: perfection and honesty. Perfection doesn't exist in this world. So that leaves honesty. Honesty sheds light on the hypocrisy that may loom in the depths of our hearts.

In a few days, we begin the season of Lent, a time associated with giving up. Giving up something we like is good. Spending time examining our souls and looking for hypocrisy could be better because it is harder than just giving up something to eat. Come to think of it - maybe we should do both: give up something for Lent and inspect our souls for any signs of hypocrisy with total honesty. If we don't do that, then the only ones we fool are ourselves.

CALLED TO SERVE

A winter to remember

Where I live, inland from Lake Ontario in Jefferson County, it has been reminiscent of an old-fashioned winter. I envy those of you who can boast a "typical" winter so far.

South of Watertown, from Adams Center to Central Square, Lowville to Barneveld, these last three months have given a snowplow operators a full plate. Even in Watertown, we are learning just how effective and dependable our snow blower is.

The snow just keeps on falling.

Watertown Knights of Columbus Council 259 sponsored an appreciation dinner at the local Italian American Club the other day. It was for

the priests, religious, deacons and their wives in the Jefferson-Lewis Deanery.

Most of the initial conversations I was involved in dealt with snow and snow accumulation.

I was surprised that folks made it to Watertown from places south of us.

Guests who attended from along the St. Lawrence reported snow, even a lot in spurts, but not with the consistency of snowfall this winter from Watertown south.

We expect significant snowfall in the Adirondacks and on the Tug Hill but not in the valleys.

I reminisced with some folks about previous years when the snowbanks from plowing ef-

forts in Watertown were so high we would put flags on our car radio antennae so other drivers would spot us at driveways and occasional intersections.

Now would be the time to resurrect that system, but most cars and trucks these days do not have traditional antennae. We will have to devise another system.

The plowed hills cut down on the available parking places in lots too. Planning boards probably did not consider plowed snow hills in their property footprint configurations.

Local governments,

churches and commercial property owners have snow piles hauled away to be dumped elsewhere, like into a moving river.



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

Under the snow on pavement is ice. The thaw/freeze cycle, if we ever get a thaw, will present that havoc.

There will be the inevitable justifiable complaints that "we" ought to sand the parking lot to avoid injury.

Both the hauling and the sanding are expensive, but safety first.

The "we" I referred to earlier is anyone in a leadership position.

Sometimes "we" has also been called "them" or "they."

"Them" folks from the parishes in this neck-of-the-woods are who the Knights were recognizing at the dinner. Council 259 wanted to show its appreciation for the priests, deacons and religious who teach us and lead us in prayer and are called upon to have the parking lot sanded.

It was a nice time. No speeches, no program to speak of. It was an opportunity to visit and swap snow stories. Thank you, brother Knights.

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



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

Hope & hardship

The Church in Argentina stands as a beacon of hope amidst its people's decades-long economic and social struggles. Across the nation, the Church works to answer the call to "go and invite everyone to the banquet." For the next five weeks, we will be covering the story of Argentina's poor. This article is written by Ines San Martin, the vice president of Marketing and Communications in the Pontifical Mission Societies' national office in New York City. She is a native of Argentina.

Though full of life, the slums of Buenos Aires, where seven percent of the city's population lives, are nobody's idea of a fun place. Inhabitants routinely experience crime and despair from the residue of what the state calls "structural poverty," which stems from decades of corruption and mismanagement.

Yet one word here makes mothers and grandmothers shudder like no other: Paco.

Considered the cheapest illegal drug available in the streets of Buenos Aires, pacó is what remains from the narco-kitchens producing cocaine bound for the United States and European markets. Paco has a militia of young men and women – some as young as 8 – known in the villas miseria (slums of misery) as muertos vivientes (the living dead).

It's a highly addictive mixture of raw cocaine cut with chemicals, glue, crushed glass, and rat poison. It's sold in small transparent bags, and it's sold cheaply, around \$3 for a fix in the slums.

In 2008, when then-Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, now Pope Francis, tasked a parish in one of Buenos Aires's largest slums, Villa 20-21, to open a center for rehabilitation for drug addicts, no one questioned the logic.

Father Carlos "Charly" Olivero, from the parish of Our Lady of Caacupé, recalls the inauguration of the first Hogar de Cristo (Christ Home) rehabilitation center in 2008. Then-Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, now Pope Francis, washed the feet of drug addicts during a Mass, symbolizing the Church's commitment to fighting this scourge.

Not far from there, in the slum known as 10-14-17 in the neighborhood Bajo Flores, the Church of Santa María Madre del Pueblo is led by Bishop Pedro Cannavó, appointed parish priest here in 2022. He shares his initial struggles: "During my first 15 days here, I was so overwhelmed that I cried myself to sleep every night." Nevertheless, today he finds strength in the community. "My faith is a gift from the people I serve... If I go to sleep thinking about all that was left undone, I won't sleep. But instead, I remember the blessings of the day that is coming to an end and thank God for all that we were able to accomplish."

OBITUARIES

Alexandria Bay – Susan M. (Walentuk) Merrihew, 70; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 20, 2025 at St. Cyril's Church; burial in St. Cyril's Cemetery.

Champlain – Mary Elizabeth (Ackey) Boire, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 22, 2025 at St. Mary's Church.

Chateaugay – Charles McCormick O'Connor, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 22, 2025 at St. Patrick's Church.

Keene – Jane Reed, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 22, 2025 at St. Brendan's Church; burial in Norton Cemetery.

Lake Placid – Ann T. Moorehead, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 19, 2025 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Lowville – Richard C. Dosztan,

88; Graveside Services in spring at Beaches Bridge Cemetery, Watson.

Massena – Theresa (Batra) Roberts, 95; Mass of Christian Burial at a later date; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Mooers Forks – Frank Boutin, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 24, 2025 at St. Ann's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Mooers Forks – Eldmour W. Manor, 97; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 21, 2025 at St. Ann's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Betty Jean (Corrice) Chambers, 71; Funeral Services Feb. 24, 2025 at Frary Funeral Home.

Plattsburgh – Richard Charles Brandell, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 18, 2025 at St. John's Church.

Plattsburgh – Jane M. (Stone) Defayette, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 19, 2025 at St. John the Baptist Church.

Port Leyden – Debbie L. (Aganier) Fitzgerald, 71; Graveside Services in spring at Calvary Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Catherine Agnes (Kelly) Muir, 101; Mass of Christian Burial at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Paul's Cemetery, Bloomingdale.

Saranac Lake – Agatha Anne Sullivan, 89; Mass of Christian Burial March 8, 2025 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery, Lake Clear.

Star Lake – Thomas G. Caufield, 85; Mass of Christian Burial May 17, 2025 at St. Hubert's Church; burial in St. Hubert's Cemetery.

Lenten regulations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

number and kind, of which after careful examination he or she is aware, and which have not yet been pardoned in the sacrament of Penance. It is recommended to also confess venial sins. This precept has been laid down in light of the previous one, for anyone who is conscious of grave sin may not receive the Body of the Lord without previously having been absolved in sacramental confession (cf. cc. 916, 988-989).

PARTICULAR CELEBRATIONS & OBSERVANCES

The distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday should take place according to the rubrics and in keeping with local custom, that is, by tracing a cross of ashes on the forehead (cf. RM-Ash Wednesday).

Parishes are highly encouraged to offer in-

creased opportunities for sacramental confession in preparation for Easter, whether by communal penance services with individual confessions, Days of Mercy (that is, confessions offered throughout the day), or at weekly times in addition to the regular schedule (such as before or after daily Mass, or in the evening during the week). The priests of neighboring parishes are encouraged to cooperate with one another to make these occasions widely possible.

If Marriage is to be celebrated on a day having a penitential character, especially during Lent, the spouses are to be counseled to take into account the special nature of that day. The celebration of Marriage on Good Friday and Holy Saturday is to be avoided altogether (cf. Order of

Celebrating Matrimony, 32; RM-Good Friday, 1).

The Chrism Mass of the Diocese of Ogdensburg will be celebrated on Thursday, April 10 at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral. All are welcome to attend. Those unable to participate in person may view the Mass via livestream at <https://www.rcdony.org/live-mass>. Further details will be forthcoming.

A Funeral Mass may not be celebrated at any time on Holy Thursday or during the Paschal Triduum. The rite for a Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass may be used, even within the church, although Holy Communion may not be given (cf. GIRM, 380, Order of Christian Funerals, 178; RM-Thursdays of the Lord's Supper, 4; RM-Friday of the Passion of the Lord, 2; RM-Holy Saturday, 3).

SPECIAL COLLECTION ASH WEDNESDAY - MARCH 5, 2025



RESTORE THE CHURCH BUILD THE FUTURE

Decades ago, the bishops of the United States established a program to aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe and help it rebuild after decades of communist oppression. The program is funded by an annual collection taken up in dioceses across the United States. That response continues today, even as the rebuilding Church faces the new challenges of war and the mass migration of refugees.

From the beginning of the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and the subsequent war, the Catholic Church has vigorously responded to the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe by offering shelter, food, medicine, and necessities—as well as spiritual support and comfort—to displaced persons and other war victims. Among those leading this charitable response are the consecrated religious sisters and brothers of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. Whether by providing shelter and basic necessities to internally displaced persons who have fled their homes for safety in other regions of the country, or by helping priests provide pastoral and humanitarian support in areas where the fighting is most heavy, these sisters and brothers have truly showed Christ's mercy to those most in need.

For them, the human suffering of war is compounded by the unique challenges that wartime conditions present for them as consecrated religious. Questions of how religious communities balance ministry to the needy with the sisters and brothers' needs to live their vows of prayer and community under such extraordinary circumstances require thoughtful responses.

Aided by funding from the collection, the Patriarchal Curia of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church gathered sisters, brothers, and their superiors for the spiritual renewal of a pilgrimage as well as formation sessions to address the challenges facing their communities. Your support for the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe is a vital way for you to make a tangible difference in the lives of Catholics in Ukraine and more than 25 other countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

More information about the collection and the range of projects it supports can be found at www.usccb.org/lccee.

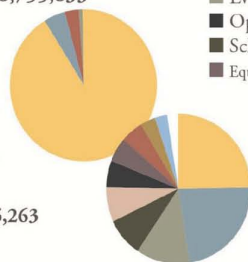
2023 DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS

Total Number of Grants Approved: 329

Total Amount Approved: \$8,755,833

EXPENSES

Grants and Donations	90.60%
Program Costs	5.19%
Promotions and Fundraising Expenses	3.23%
Administrative Expenses	0.97%
Total Expenses	\$9,665,263



PROGRAM AREA	GRANTS	AMOUNT	PERCENT
Construction	60	\$2,201,384	25.14%
Emergency*	7	\$1,890,000	21.59%
Evangelization	82	\$1,346,352	15.38%
Operational Support	31	\$720,215	8.23%
Scholarships	67	\$573,407	6.55%
Equipment/Accommodation Purchase	12	\$473,431	5.41%
Seminary Support	17	\$428,538	4.89%
Social Aid	20	\$383,579	4.38%
Education	11	\$282,916	3.23%
Vehicle Purchase	9	\$235,889	2.69%
Multimedia	13	\$220,122	2.51%

*Includes grants for urgent humanitarian and pastoral responses to the crisis in Ukraine.



Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

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