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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 80 Number 1

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 26, 2025

## SPEAKING WITHOUT WORDS IN NEW DEAF MINISTRY



PHOTO BY KEITH BENMAN

Laurie Cosgrove, in front, and Jessica Brooks, in back, pray together in American Sign Language (ASL) at Mass at Notre Dame Church in Malone, on March 8. Brooks is the staff interpreter and coordinator for the diocese's new Deaf Ministry. Led by Chaplain Father Fernando Solomon, parochial vicar at St. Peter's Parish in Massena, the new ministry hopes to make Mass, the sacraments and faith formation accessible to individuals who communicate using ASL.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## RETIRING FROM DIOCESAN ROLES



NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC FILE PHOTOS

(Left) Sister Bernadette Marie Collins, SSJ, diocesan Episcopal Delegate for Religious, and Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ, diocesan Vocations Coordinator, will retire from their diocesan roles in the summer, and the two roles will be combined. Read the stories on Page 4.

## Pope: Fear can be overcome with Jesus

By Kristina Millare  
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis on Wednesday said doubts and uncertainties are not a reason to fear for those who seek Jesus' guidance throughout life's journey.

In his prepared March 19 catechesis on "Jesus Our Hope," published amid his lengthy stay in the hospital, the Holy Father reflected on Nicodemus' encounter with the Son of God in St. John's Gospel.

"Nicodemus goes to Jesus at night: It is an unusual time for a meeting," the pope shared. "He is a man who finds himself in

the darkness of doubt, in that darkness that we experience when we no longer understand what is happening in our lives and do not see clearly the way forward."

Before turning to Jesus for answers, Nicodemus sensed "that something no longer works in his life," the pope explained in his catechesis.

"He feels the need to change, but he does not know where to begin," he continued. "This happens to all of us in some phases of life."

Emphasizing the need not to be closed in on ourselves and to accept change, the 88-year-old

pontiff said Nicodemus is an example of a man who accepted the light of faith and was "reborn."

"Changes sometimes frighten us," the Holy Father said. "On the one hand they attract us, at times we desire them, but on the other we would prefer to remain in comfort."

By choosing to embrace change and overcome inflexible habits and ways of thinking, the pope said people are able "to find a new way to love" others.

"The Spirit encourages us to face these fears," he added.

Though Nicodemus was "a teacher of Israel," the pope not-

ed that he needed to trust Jesus' authority and deepen his knowledge of Scripture.

"Nicodemus is able to do it: In the end he will be among those who go to Pilate to ask for the body of Jesus (cf. Jn 19:39)!" he said.

"Nicodemus has finally come to the light, he is reborn, and he no longer needs to stay in the night," he continued.

Praying for all people to have the ability to face their fears and doubts and be free, the pope concluded: "In him we find the hope to face the changes in our lives and be born again."

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# Different but the same

While I've always liked her, I've always felt like we had almost nothing in common.

I honestly couldn't tell you how I first met her, but I feel like I've known Mary Beth most of the time I've worked here.

We both love writing and the written word, and we both love Jesus. For the most part, I thought that was where our similarities ended.

I'm loud, excitable and impulsive, while Mary Beth is quiet, calm and deliberate. I spent my

childhood on a farm in northern Franklin County, and she spent hers in Plattsburgh. She grew

**Darcy L.  
Fargo**

up attending daily Mass. I grew up goofing off with my sisters while we were supposed to be at Mass and then heading home when we saw the stream of cars leaving St. Joseph's Church in Bombay. We are very different!

On Thursday evening, I arrived home rather late to find what appeared to be a card on my desk. The card had Mary Beth's return ad-

dress label. My birthday was a couple of months ago. I haven't done anything worthy of a thank you card or a congratulatory card. I'm not sick. I had no idea why I was getting a card from Mary Beth.

I opened the card to see a floral card cover. The cover had a yellow sticky note attached to it. The note indicated Mary Beth had recently found the card, but she had written the note and intended to send it as I was recovering from my last surgery.

My last surgery was seven months ago.

It made me laugh out loud. She took the time to

write out a beautiful note, and she forgot to send it. That is 100 percent something I would do. It was another similarity!

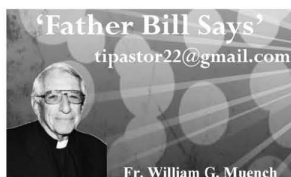
That card and the attached note made me realize how Mary Beth and I are actually the same in big ways. I'd like to think we're both good but flawed and broken people trying to love God and be loved by Him, and to follow Him where He leads us, hopefully to eternal life. And we get to help each other in the process (though I think she helps me far more than I help her).

I think a lot of us have that in common.

## A Lenten transfiguration

It's still Lent. The middle of Lent can be a time when we sort of forget or get busy with other things and leave out our Lenten promises. Our will power gets weak. This is a time for a rededication – sort of a Lenten renewal. We do have a couple of weeks left in our Lenten journey; we still have time to get prepared for Holy Week.

Recently, on a Lenten Sunday, I know you remember, the Gospel reading was about the Transfiguration of the Lord Jesus. Jesus took Peter, James and John up Mount Tabor. At the top, there was a magnificent miracle – Jesus is changed before their very eyes. It was like a powerful light showed through the Lord's body, a sort of divine glow. The apostles recognized the power of the Lord. Many explain this as an effort by Jesus to strengthen their faith. Jesus seemed to be worried that his apostles would not remain strong and faithful as Jesus would be facing his



Passion and crucifixion. Jesus wanted them to remain confident during that crucial time.

I believe the Lord continues to reach out to us in the same way to keep us strong in our faith and active in our Christian life. He reaches out to us in this time of Lent. I think of so many examples! First, there is our participation together at the celebration of Mass. It can be like a transfiguration of the Lord. Jesus comes to us and is truly present in his glory. We will experience his power, we should recognize his love for us, and we are called to continue to meet the challenges of being a Christian. During Lent, the Mass always challenges us to turn to the Lord in a special way through

prayer and mortification. This is our path to sainthood.

I believe that there are many other ways that the Lord makes himself present to strengthen our faith and to stay active. Again, like transfigurations, the Lord constantly encourages us to stay close to our God, especially during this time of Lent. It is so important that we are always aware of the Lord's loving presence. Today, I think of the many people who enter our lives, the unexpected visitors, family or friends, and how often they make Jesus present to us. I have noticed this myself, the day is changed or a moment is brightened by a visitor, often an unexpected visitor. It is truly a blessing that brings the presence of God to me. I am changed, and it is a gift from the Lord. In many ways, this is truly a transfiguration for me.

When I mention this, I immediately think of a child. A child can truly

bring the Lord's presence to us. A few moments with a child can be a real transfiguration of the Lord. Even just the smile of a child can be a transforming moment. Ask any grandparent. The Lord's power comes to challenge us to be a better person.

Just one more example: the Sacrament of Penance, confession, brings the presence of the Lord to our lives in a perfect way. God wants to be part of our confession, coming with forgiveness, coming to challenge us to change what must be changed. Only the Lord can do that for us in this wonderful sacrament. Confession is a powerful part of our Lenten journey.

I believe that every confession should begin with a log and loving prayer to the Lord in gratitude for God's constant forgiveness. Allowing the presence of God to be with us as we confess our sinfulness, as we seek forgiveness, is truly a transfiguration.



# Diocese starts deaf ministry

By Keith Benman  
Contributing Writer

There is a unique and quiet expressiveness to the prayers of Jessica Brooks and Laurie Cosgrove at the 4 p.m. Saturday Mass at Notre Dame Church, part of St. André Bessette Parish in Malone.

Side-by-side in a pew near the front, their hands dance before them in a rapid series of elegant gestures as they recite the Apostle's Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and others in silence.

The two are saying the prayers in American Sign Language. Both are fluent. Brooks has a college degree in the language. For Cosgrove, it's a primary way she can communicate — both with those who are deaf, like her, as well as those who can hear but know the language, like Brooks.

"It's just helping her out in the best way I can, and helping her participate in the Mass more than she was able to in the past," said Brooks of their signing together at the Saturday evening Mass week after week.

Brooks' and Cosgrove's silent sharing of Mass responses and prayers is something Catholics in the Ogdensburg Diocese will see more of in the future. The diocese is launching a Deaf Ministry to reach out to Catholics throughout the diocese for whom deafness may be an impediment to fully sharing in the Faith.

"The use of sign language will help to bring the two worlds, the deaf world and the hearing world, together and make them one in the sight of God," said Father Fernando Solomon, Jr.

Father Solomon, who is also fluent in American Sign Language, is the chaplain for the new ministry. Brooks is serving as staff interpreter and coordinator. The two met when Father Solomon was serving as parochial vicar at St. André Bessette Parish in Malone. In addition to doing American Sign Language interpreting in the pews, the two have signed from the altar at Notre Dame Church at some Masses. Father Solomon now serves as parochial vicar at St. Peter's Parish, in Massena.

Diocesan surveys and outreach have identified communities where there are deaf Catholics desiring to be more included in the Mass and other activities. They include Malone, Watertown, Massena, Plattsburgh and Brushton.

As part of the Deaf Ministry, American Sign Language interpreters will be made available for Masses, weddings, baptisms, funerals and other rites when requested. Bible study classes, instruction in American Sign Language, and fellowship opportunities will also be offered.

Father Solomon said in essence the use of sign language makes the word of God visible for those not able to physically hear it. It makes the spoken word of God more concrete. For him, it recalls the words of the Gospel of John 1:14: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

When they first started signing from the Altar at Notre Dame, Father Solomon and Brooks were both concerned it might be distracting for those who can hear. That fear was quickly dispelled.

## Bishop LaValley: 'We journey together'

Bishop Terry R. LaValley wrote to pastors introducing them to the Deaf Ministry. He said the ministry is a response to Pope Francis' call to be Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee year.

"The Jubilee logo, with its four figures representing all of humanity from the four corners of the earth, reminds us that as pilgrim people, we journey together, united as the Body of Christ, toward Jesus and the eternal life He won for us," Bishop LaValley wrote.

"We understand that there are members of the Body of Christ, people joining us as pilgrims on the journey, who experience their pilgrimages in different ways, whether it be communicating in different languages, moving with different levels of mobility or praying and worshipping with the need for adaptations or accommodations. As a unified Body of Christ, we are called to bring Christ, His Church and His sacraments to those fellow pilgrims."

"People have come up to me and told me how much they love it," Brooks said.

An opening Mass for the Deaf Ministry is planned for this spring. It will include Bishop

Terry R. LaValley. Priests and others in deaf ministry at other parishes will also be invited.






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# Two sisters to retire, roles to be combined

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

With the retirement of two Sisters of St. Joseph fast approaching, a new face will aid the diocesan Vocations Office and religious communities.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley has announced that effective July 1, Sister Mary Eamon Lyng will retire from her position as diocesan Vocations Coordinator, and Sister Bernadette Marie Collins will retire from her position as Episcopal Delegate for Religious. Garry Stevens, currently studying for the diaconate, will assume both roles on that date.

## SISTER BERNADETTE MARIE COLLINS, SSJ

Sister Bernadette has been serving as the Episcopal Delegate for Religious for seven years.

"My role is to be a liaison between the bishop and the religious communities serving in our diocese," she said. "It's really about helping when needed especially with the sisters from other countries. It's helping with the immigration process and helping the sisters to understand our culture when they get here."

Sister Bernadette said she first arrived in Ogdensburg after she had completed a term as major superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Watertown.

"I needed something to do," she said. "Father Joe (Morgan) and Father Kevin (O'Brien) approached me and asked if I wanted to work here. I always wanted to come to Ogdensburg. I love the river."

Sister Bernadette worked for approximately a year in parish ministry at St. Mary's Cathedral Parish before accepting the diocesan role. She said she's enjoyed the opportunities serving as Episcopal Delegate afforded her.

"I've enjoyed working with the sisters," she said. "I've enjoyed getting to know them."

Sister said she also enjoyed working for the diocese.

"I'm going to miss the people a lot," Sister Bernadette said. "It's a great place to work.

I'll be glad to have more time, though, and I can't keep up like I used to."

She also loved her boss.

"Our bishop is great to work with," she said. "We have the best bishop!"

In retirement, Sister Bernadette said she looks forward to spending more time in that ministry she dreaded for so long, parish ministry.

"For years, I said I never wanted to be in parish ministry," she said, laughing. "I lived with Sister Maureen (Sweeney) when she was in a parish. She worked every weekend. Parish ministers never have time off. There's no Christmas vacation to look forward to like I had when I was a principal. I didn't want that! But I enjoy it - even with the weekend work. It's a privilege to bring Communion to people, and I like visiting with them. That's probably the best part."

Sister Bernadette said her major role in ministering to those she visits is "just listening."

"Some of these people don't have anybody else," she said. "We just sit and talk and pray. I always say to Father Joe (Morgan), 'I can't do (the home visits) as fast as you.' Father Joe can't stay and visit long. He doesn't have time. I have the time, and I'm about to have more."

## SISTER MARY EAMON LYNG, SSJ

"When I left (Sisters of St. Joseph) leadership in Watertown, never in my wildest dreams did I think I would ever be considered for the Vocations Office," said Sister Eamon. "Working here has been a privilege, but I think it's healthy when there's new life that can come in and bring a new dimension to the ministry of the Church. It's time for them to have someone younger who can reach young people and help them to find life in Christ and a relationship with him."

Sister Eamon said she's been blessed to work in the diocesan role.

"It's been an absolute privilege working in the diocesan

## Deacon candidate to fill both jobs

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

Following God's call to serve as a deacon put Garry Stevens in a position to receive a different kind of call, one that would result in him being named the new diocesan Vocations Coordinator and Episcopal Delegate for Religious.

"I received a phone call from (Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and Vocations Director) Father (Chris) Carrara," said Stevens, who is in formation to become a deacon with the class scheduled for ordination in August. "He explained to me that Sister (Mary) Eamon (Lyng) and Sister Bernadette (Marie Collins) were going to retire this year. He said they were combining the two jobs, and he asked if I was interested. We met. He explained the roles and responsibilities of the two positions, and I agreed to take the job. It's nothing I pursued. Father Carrara and instructors from the diaconate program thought I would be a good fit."

Stevens will assume the combined role effective July 1. He said he views the role as "a challenge."

"It's vital that we recruit men to the priesthood and diaconate, and that we recruit men and women to consecrated life," he said. "I look forward to visiting other parishes and speaking with vocation committees."

Stevens, who resides in Castorland and attends St. James Minor Church in Carthage, said he's been active in ministry in some capacity most of his life.

"We lived in northern New York when we first got married," he said. "I worked for the paper mill in Deferiet. We moved to Texas, and I was involved in forming and establishing a new Catholic parish in Lufkin, Texas. I served as sacristan, Eucharistic minister, lector and part of the OCIA, RCIA at the time. My wife and I were also involved in Pre-Cana."

After 42 years in the paper industry, Stevens retired in 2018. Retiring gave him the time he needed to follow God's call to the diaconate.

"After we established St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Lufkin, Texas, I started my diaconate training," he said. "Then the mill failed, and I lost my job, and we moved to Louisiana. There was no diaconate training in the diocese or parish there. When I moved back to New York, I took a job in sales in the pulp and paper industry. I felt that renewed calling, and I felt I needed to pursue it. I retired early, I got ahold of Father Carrara, and I registered for the diaconate program."

Stevens said he looks forward to working with Sister Eamon and Sister Bernadette through the transition.

"I've talked to Sister Eamon at length," he said. "We'll all have a lot of conversations as we move through the transition, and I'll get a better understanding of what's going on in both roles."

He's also looking forward to getting to know the diocese.

"With the role of Vocations Coordinator and the role of Episcopal Delegate, I'll be able to travel to different areas of the diocese and learn about them," he said.

Stevens has been married to his wife, Rosie, for 46 years. The couple has two adult children, Bethany and Zachary, and four grandchildren between the ages of 4 and 19.



# Two sisters to retire

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

offices, especially in the Vocations Office when vocations are a priority for our bishop and our diocese," said Sister Eamon. "I'd like to express deep, deep gratitude to Bishop LaValley and Father Chris Carrara. It's also been a privilege working as part of a family, the diocesan family. I will deeply miss working here. There's no better place to work. My hope, my dream is to volunteer to help support that family, the diocesan family in the future."

Sister Eamon said she's enjoyed the people she worked with outside the diocesan offices, as well.

"It was a privilege to work with parishes to help them build vocations teams or vocations committees," she said. "We continue to encourage building a team or committee because out of that, the parish can focus on holding Holy Hours, especially during Lent."

She said she's also enjoyed working with schools, catechetical programs and youth and family ministries.

"It's a privilege talking to the young people about vocations - priesthood, consecrated life, single life, marriage," she said. "It's been good to talk about the importance of family. Vocations come out of the family."

Sister Eamon said she was excited to be part of bringing back the An-

drew Dinners, opportunities for young men to gather with Bishop LaValley, seminarians and priests of the diocese to learn about the priesthood and discernment.

"I think that's been very fruitful," she said. "It's an outreach to encourage young men to at least discern where God is calling them. The next part of that is encouraging a women's discernment group, which we're beginning."

She also enjoyed working with the seminarians as they prepare to enter seminary and while at seminary.

"I loved working with them," she said.

Sister Eamon said her diocesan role also gave her opportunities to grow.

"I've learned so much working in the diocesan offices," she said. "Whether it was in education, evangelization or vocations, I learned. I also learned working with the other departments, especially (diocesan Information Technology Coordinator) Ian (Fawcett) and IT. I've learned to be better at using technology because of the skills of the people here and how we work together."

While she's retiring from her diocesan role, Sister Eamon plans to continue serving God and his people here in the North Country.

"I plan to continue working with the Deacon Formation Program,"

she said. "I enjoy that very much. I'm hoping to still have the energy and mind to continue to teach in that program for a while. Having a relationship with these deacons has been a real gift of joy. I teach Scripture. I have a master's (degree)

in Scripture from Providence College."

Sister Eamon also hopes to volunteer and serve more in the Ogdensburg community.

"I'm hoping to be able to volunteer with the parish and with Our Lady's Outreach," she said.

"And I continue to be involved with the Sisters of St. Joseph Associates and in different ministries within the community. I'll still be active in ministry. I'm also looking forward to having a little more time for personal prayer."

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

## NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER FOR THE DIOCESE OF OGDENBURG

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# Canadian bishops condemn plan to end charitable status

By Quinton Amundson  
Catholic News Agency

Canada's Finance Department has avoided providing a clear answer to a written appeal from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) urging the federal government not to adopt budget recommendations that would strip charitable status from "anti-abortion" and "advancement of religion" nonprofit organizations.

A statement provided to The Catholic Register in Canada on March 13 by the department's media relations officer, Marie-France Faucher, did not reference the CCCB or its specific concerns surrounding recommendations 429 and 430 of the pre-budget consultations in advance of the 2025 budget.

In her email response, Faucher said "the government of Canada recognizes the vital role charities play in delivering essential services to those in need" and provided general information about how an organization may apply for charitable registration under the Income Tax Act.

Her only comment about the next budget was that the Finance Department "continues to explore ways to ensure the tax system remains fair and effective in supporting Canadians and the organizations that serve them."

The CCCB's permanent council sent its March 10 letter to then-Finance Minister Dominic LeBlanc and a follow-up letter on March 18 to François-Philippe Champagne, who was appointed finance minister on March 14 by newly minted Prime Minister Mark Carney.

The CCCB said a clear-

er stance on the concerns is required soon, highlighting in its letters that "40% of all charitable organizations in Canada are faith-based."

The bishops said depriving these organizations of charitable status "would decrease donations, causing their revenue to dwindle, thus crippling their ability to inspire, operate, and maintain essential social services that benefit the wider community."

Among the 14 signatories are conference president Bishop William McGrattan of Calgary, vice president Bishop Pierre Goudreault of Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière, Cardinals Francis Leo of Toronto and Gerald Lacroix of Quebec, and Montreal Archbishop Christian Lépine.

Campaign Life Coalition (CLC) applauded the permanent council's letter.

"Thank God the Canadian bishops have joined in this fight to save Christian Canada," said CLC national president Jeff Gunnarson. "Canada, as our charter states, is founded upon principles that recognize the supremacy of God. The government is attacking the very foundation of our country with these proposals. United together we will stave off this governmental assault on our nation and our treasured faith."

Chalice, a Canadian Catholic international child sponsorship charity headquartered in Bedford, Nova Scotia, is one of the nonprofits registered with the Canada Revenue Agency that would be targeted by recommendation 430.

Chalice founder and president Father Patrick Cosgrove said in an

email the recommendation "reveals a negative bias against religion that is not supported by the evidence that active faith and the practice of religion have a measurably positive impact on society and the individual."

Cosgrove, whose 29-year-old organization operates 52 sites in 14 different countries, said a 2018 study released by the Christian research organization Barna found Christians are more likely than others to donate clothing or furniture, provide food, and volunteer to serve in the community.

Pregnancy Care Canada executive director Dr. Laura Lewis sent a letter to LeBlanc on March 6 noting that recommendation 429 "does not define the scope of this proposal," leaving it unclear how an organization will be classified as "anti-abortion." She added that the mission of Pregnancy Care Canada and 81 affiliated centers is to offer alternatives to abortion.

"The free support available at local pregnancy care centers is crucial to providing a national safety net for women looking for support for an unexpected pregnancy," Lewis said.

She also suggested that recommendation 429 is a way to implement a pledge in the Liberals' 2021 election platform to "no longer provide charitable status to anti-abortion organizations that provide dishonest counseling to women about their rights and about the options provided to them at all stages of pregnancy."

*This story was first published by The Catholic Register and is reprinted with permission.*

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Archbishop seeks aid: 'Blood flows every day in Haiti'

The archbishop of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Max Leroy Mésidor, asked the international community for help to save the lives of Haitians in the face of the wave of violence that continues to affect the Caribbean country. "Please do not delay, because we are on the brink of disaster," pleaded Mésidor, president of the Haitian Bishops' Conference. The archbishop also described the Kenyan-led, U.N.-approved police support mission that sought to pacify the country, especially Port-au-Prince, which is almost entirely controlled by organized crime gangs, as "a great disappointment." The U.N. noted that the violence in Haiti is unprecedented and that each figure released constitutes "a new record." Mésidor said he believes that "more personnel" and "more adequate equipment" are needed along with "a clear security plan" and "continued commitment" from decision-makers for the mission to be truly successful.

## King Charles III plans state visit to Vatican, meet Pope Francis

King Charles III and Queen Camilla of the United Kingdom will make a state visit to the Holy See next month, with plans to hold an audience with Pope Francis on April 8. The English royalty will be in Italy from April 7–10, with the first part of the visit being focused on the Vatican and participation in the Catholic Church's 2025 Jubilee Year, according to a program released by Buckingham Palace on Tuesday. The Vatican has not commented on a potential meeting between King Charles and Pope Francis, whose schedule has been suspended while he is recovering from double pneumonia in Gemelli Hospital. Medical staff have declined to give any estimates on a date for the pontiff's potential discharge, with his stay now having extended over one month. In addition to their expected meeting with Pope Francis, the king and queen will attend an ecumenical service on the theme of "Care for Creation" in the Sistine Chapel, Buckingham Palace said March 18.

## Catholic priest in Gaza reports explosion near parish

Father Gabriel Romanelli, the pastor of Holy Family Parish in Gaza, reported that following the breakdown of the truce between Israel and Hamas, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have launched new attacks very close to his parish. The priest told Vatican News the bombings occurred just 300 or 400 meters (about 985 to 1,300 feet) from the church, awakening the faithful and causing a growing sense of insecurity throughout the community. "The bombings woke us up; they were very close. Fortunately, no shrapnel [hit us] and we're fine, but throughout the Strip there is already talk of more than 350 dead and more than a thousand injured," Romanelli said. At the outset of the war, the building, the only Catholic church in the Gaza Strip, was converted into an improvised shelter where 500 people now live. Most are Orthodox Christians, Protestants, and Catholics, but it is also shelter for more than 50 Muslim children with disabilities and their families.

## ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

## EUCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR

Ticonderoga — St. Mary's Church will be holding a Eucharistic Holy Hour for Vocations.

**Date:** April 3

**Time:** 5 p.m.

**Features:** St. Mary's Church has been designated a pilgrimage location for the Jubilee. All are welcome to attend this Holy Hour as a Pilgrim of Hope.

## CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

## FISH FRY

Plattsburgh — Holy Cross to have Fish Fry's during Lent.

**Date:** Starting March 7

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

**Place:** Holy Cross Parish Center

**Cost:** \$15 dine in

**Menu:** Haddock, fries, mac & cheese, coleslaw, roll with butter, beverage & dessert.

**Contact:** For more information call the parish office at 518-563-0730

## LENTEN FISH FRIES

AuSable Forks — Come join the Au Sable Forks Knights fried fish..

**Date:** 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.

## PANKCAKE PLUS

Peru — Peru Knights of Columbus will serve a "Pancakes Plus" Breakfast.

**Date:** April 6

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**Place:** St. Augustine's Parish Center

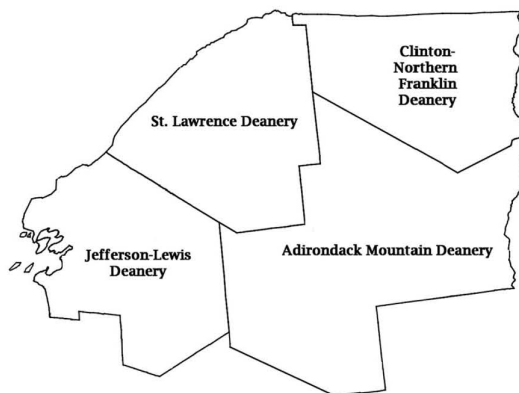
**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Children 5 to 11, \$5; under 5, Free; Take-outs, \$10

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

## JEFFERSON-LEWIS

## FRANCISCAN RETREAT

Watertown — The St. Joseph of



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](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org).

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

Cupertino Fraternity will be hosting a prayerful and spiritual Franciscan Retreat.

**Date:** March 23

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Place:** St. Patrick's Church

**Features:** Guest Speaker will be Sr. Pat Larkin, OFS — Regional Spiritual Assistant at the Kateri Tekakwitha Region OFS. Refreshments will be served following the meeting. All are welcome!

**Contact:** Any questions for more information, contact Marcia Rittenhouse: 315-788-7573

## SPAGHETTI DINNER

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

**Date:** March 27

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 7

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

**Cost:** Adult, \$12; Child, \$8

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

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

## HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY

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

**Date:** April 6

**Time:** Following 11 a.m. Mass

**Place:** St. Hedwig's Church

**Contact:** 315-348-6260

## SPAGHETTI &amp; MEATBALL DINNER

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

**Date:** April 12

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 7

**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center

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

**Contact:** For more information call 315-629-4678

## 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:** April 13

**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

## PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Clayton — All are invited to come to St. Mary's Church for Exposition, Adoration, Morning Prayer, and the Rosary. Opportunity for Confession is also available.

**Date:** Each Saturday through April 12

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Features:** In addition to our own intentions, we will pray for Seminarian Tyler Fitzgerald who will be ordained to the Diaconate this May.

**Contact:** For more information contact the parish office at 315-686-3398.

## SSJ LENTEN RETREAT

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

**Date:** April 13

**Time:** 2 p.m. to 4

**Place:** St. Anthony's Church

**Features:** Join us for an afternoon of prayer 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](mailto:smelyngssj@yahoo.com) or Sister Bethany Fitzgerald [srbethssj@gmail.com](mailto: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

## 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 confessors will be made available closer to the date at [cantoncatholics.com](http://cantoncatholics.com)

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

## ACIES

Ogdensburg — The Legion of Mary will present the ACIES ceremony.

**Date:** March 30

**Time:** After the 11 a.m. Mass

**Place:** St. Mary's Cathedral

**Features:** Catholics are invited to renew their devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. ACIES means ARMY DRESSED IN BATTLE OF ARRAY in Latin and demonstrates the Legion mission to unite with the Blessed Virgin and stand against evil. Prayers, music and hymns in the sanctuary will be followed by refreshments. Anyone who loves our Blessed Mother is invited to attend.

## PARISH MISSION

Waddington and Madrid — You are invited to a Parish Mission with Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

**Schedule:** March 31 at St. John's in Madrid; April 1 and 2 St. Mary's in Waddington

**Time:** 5:30 p.m.

**Features:** Bishop LaValley will lead the Mission. During the days of the Mission, Bishop LaValley will preach on the call every Catholic receives to be a Pilgrim of Hope, a Sign of Hope. April 1 will include the opportunity to go to confession.

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC CONSECRATION

Bishop LaValley is inviting the Diocese and beyond to prepare for the Eucharistic Consecration on April 26 by reflecting on the book *33 Days to Eucharistic Glory*. Many parishes are making copies of this



# Film on Carlo Acutis to run April 27-29

By Francesca Pollio Fenton  
Catholic News Agency

"Carlo Acutis: Roadmap to Reality," the highly anticipated documentary on the life of the soon-to-be saint, will be released in theaters nationwide for a limited time from April 27-29. The release date coincides with Pope Francis' canonization of Carlo Acutis, the Catholic Church's first millennial saint, on April 27.

Castletown Media, in association with Catholic filmmaker Jim Wahlberg, made the announcement on Feb. 12.

Castletown Media is producing the film and Fathom Events will distribute it. The two media companies recently experienced success with another joint film project, "Jesus Thirsts: The Miracle of the Eucharist," which became Fathom Events' highest-grossing documentary of 2024.

"Roadmap to Reality" explores the life of Acutis and the lessons he offers young people regarding the challenges of the digital world. The documentary blends live

action, animation, and documentary-style interviews with Acutis' family, friends, tech experts, and scholars to tackle urgent questions about artificial intelligence and the technological world we live in.

The film also follows the journey of a group of high school students who embark on a two-week pilgrimage from North Dakota to Italy to visit Acutis' tomb. One of the requirements for the pilgrimage was for the young people to disengage from technology and leave their phones at home.

Additionally, the documentary features Acutis' family and friends sharing their firsthand experiences of Acutis and his impact on their lives, in addition to well-known voices in the Catholic Church and technology experts who offer a model for young people to engage in the digital world.

"Fathom Entertainment is very pleased to join forces once again with Tim, Jim, and the passionate team at Castletown Media to bring this heartfelt and uplifting documentary

## Film showing locally

"Carlo Acutis: Road map to Reality" will play at theaters in both Watertown and Plattsburgh.

### Regal Salmon Run, Watertown:

April 27 at 4 p.m. and 11:35 p.m.; April 28 at 7 p.m.; and April 29 at 7 p.m.

### Regal Champlain Center, Plattsburgh

April 27 at 4 p.m.; April 28 at 7 p.m.; April 29 at 7 p.m.

film to the big screen," said Ray Nutt, chief executive officer at Fathom Entertainment, in a press release. "This captivating real-life, modern-day story is sure to resonate with audiences of all faiths and backgrounds, leaving a lasting impact and inspiring countless hearts."

"One of the themes in the film is that he [Acutis] was online to lead people offline. He was online to lead people back to the Eucharist, back to real encounters," Tim Moriarty, director of the new Acutis film and founder of Castletown Me-

dia, told CNA.

Moriarty believes that a film about this young soon-to-be saint is needed because "Carlo's life provides a road map away from the distractions of the virtual world to the real world, especially through his devotion to the Eucharist — his 'highway to heaven.'"

Moriarty called the release of the documentary "providential."

On Nov. 20, 2024, Pope Francis announced the canonization date of Blessed Carlo Acutis, which will take place during the Church's Jubilee of Teenagers. Acutis' canonization Mass is expected to take place on Sunday, April 27, at 10:30 a.m. local time in St. Peter's Square, according to the Diocese of Assisi.

Acutis, an Italian computer-coding teenager who died of cancer in 2006, is known for his great devotion to the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Born in 1991, he was the first millennial to be beatified by the Catholic Church and will now be the first millennial to be canonized.

## Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

book available.

**Date:** The countdown to the Consecration begins on March 24

**Features:** Several parishes across the diocese will be holding small group discussions on the book. If you have questions about starting a small group, please contact Deacon Bill O'Brien at billob315@gmail.com or (315) 528-0461.

**Contact:** For more information about The Holy Eucharist: "Highway to Hope" event on April 26 in Lake Placid, where Bishop LaValley will lead the diocesan Consecration to the Eucharist, visit <https://www.rcdony.org/jubileeh2h>. Contact for More Information: Mary Beth Bracy at marybethbracy@gmail.com.

### 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](http://www.rcdony.org/leadevent). For more

information contact Cathy Russell at 315-393-2920 or [crussell@rcdony.org](mailto: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>.

### JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE EVENT

Lake Placid — "The Eucharist is my highway to heaven." In honor of Carlo Acutis, the soon-to-be canonized teenager of Italy, the Diocese of Ogdensburg is hosting a day of Miracles, Prayer, and Hope. His devotion to the Eucharist led him to create a website to track Eucharistic Miracles. We can now take part in his handiwork.

**Date:** April 26

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

**Place:** St. Agnes Church and School

**Features:** You are invited to pray with our Eucharistic Lord, explore an exhibit of Eucharistic miracles, and join Bishop LaValley for a special Holy Hour of Hope, including a procession with Jesus among the faithful and consecration of the Diocese of Ogdensburg to the Eucharist. There will also be opportunities to attend Mass, inspiring talks, Adoration and confession. This event is for whole families and includes an interactive exhibit, prayer, fellowship, and an opportunity to serve.

**Contact:** The event schedule, prayer resources, bulletin blurbs, and more information may be found on the Jubilee page of the Diocesan website at <https://www.rcdony.org/jubileeh2h>.

### 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](http://www.rcdony.org/ffmretreat)



## SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

## A dramatic return

Are you into drama? Ever been called a drama queen? Perhaps you have characterized a situation by saying there is way too much drama. I know I have.

Well, our scripture readings, especially the Gospel, are filled with drama. A loving father, a degenerate son who squanders his fortune and joins the church of the degenerate, and a jealous brother who no longer has room in his heart for his sinful, yet penitent brother. Sounds like an episode from Dr. Phil.

Well, definitely, the family plays a big role in this Gospel passage. As you so well know, especially as children grow older, the home is a place

for coming and going. Sometimes, we are quite happy when the children leave and go on their own, but likewise, we are elated when they return to share once again in the joy of a family home. If we tried to capture in just a few words the theme of this passage, we could say: "There is no place like home."

But where is home? Well, there are many answers. Home is where the heart is. Home is where we make it. Home is at a particular address. However, the Gospel clearly affirms that home is with the father.

You see, the son had left home physically, but he remained within the father's thoughts and

March 30

Fourth Sunday of Lent

READINGS

Joshua 5:9a, 10-12

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

prayers. The father kept looking for him for two reasons: he wanted him back, and, perhaps, he knew deep down that the son would return.

Can you see where I am going with this? In our spiritual journey, we may sometimes get distracted and look elsewhere. Like the prodigal son, perhaps things outside of our home, our Church, may seem appealing. So, we say to our father, our God, well, I'm taking my inheritance so that I can see what it's like elsewhere. So, we leave home.

But our God is like the

father in the Gospel. He waits because he wants us back in our true home. Even though the human heart is difficult to understand, the divine heart, the heart of the Father, our God, does not give up on us.

In the Gospel story the son finally comes to his senses and returns to the father, filled with penitence, filled with sorrow and remorse, but the father only wants to welcome him home. So, too, with us, the father wants us home with him, he welcomes us back.

But what about the other son, the one who does not welcome his brother home? Even though he had stayed with the father, even though he appeared faithful and resolute, his refusal to acknowledge his brother's return demonstrates

a spirit totally contrary to that of the father.

The son who remained home really did not understand the nature of his home. So, too, the Church, like the home in the Gospel, is a place for welcome, reconciliation, conversion, sanctification, forgiveness and, above all, sanctification. The prodigal son recognized his home as a well-spring of goodness. So, too, our Church, as well as our homes should radiate forgiveness, acceptance and reconciliation.

As we continue our Lenten journey towards Easter, we pray for two things: that those who have strayed, including ourselves, may find their Church to be a place of welcome and reconciliation, and that more and more will return to their Heavenly Father.



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

## CALLED TO SERVE

## Sometimes we let our minds wander

It was a bright, sunny, and a tad chilly morning. The kind of day that makes you smile, thank God for his goodness and let your mind wander.

Mind wandering is not a particularly good thing to do while driving.

Calm down. This is not an accident story.

I was driving to a meeting recently and got behind a couple of trucks. They were the box truck variety. The lettering on the trucks, Up N' Go Moving and Storage, told me what kind of commerce they were in.

The company name

is clever, I thought. The destination also crossed my mind.

Then I happened to notice the contact phone number on the trucks, and I realized the area code indicated this is a New York City number. That stimulated even more thinking.

Could the trucks be bringing someone from NYC to our area? Maybe it is soldier's family relocating to Fort Drum? No, they missed that turn. We are headed for St. Lawrence County.

Maybe an officer relocating to a Correctional Facility. Not a good time to do that, I reasoned.

A dozen other possibilities flashed through my mind.

Then I realized we were driving through a variety of speed zones

and my car miraculously kept pace with the trucks whatever the speed.

Mine is not one of those vehicles that adjusts speed to the object in front of it. My mind was ordering the car to speed up or slow down as appropriate even though I was doing all the mental gyrations I just told you about.

Amazing! I focused on driving and the road until my mind started to equate that experience with the ongoing challenge of focusing while I pray. And off I went again.

Our minds are constantly in competition for control. The slightest thought or external

movement can lead our thinking in another direction.

Some people say they prefer to pray in the morning when they are alert and sharp. Others pray at night, before bed, when they have the opportunity to examine their day and ask for God's mercy on those thoughts or deeds during the day that are contrary to His way.

Others do both and perhaps pray more often.

Our prayers are almost always in competition with other stuff. Important things like the kids' after school schedule, or our own plans for the day, or how our favorite

sports team du jour is doing.

Some folks count on their angels to finish prayers. I get concerned that I am using the correct prayers of the day during the Liturgy of the Hours, but I subscribe to a wonderful saying recited by one of my mentors, "prayer said is prayer heard."

Ultimately, prayer is a conversation with God, and while angels may play a role, we should focus on our relationship with God and our own efforts in prayer.

And pay attention to the truck in front of you.



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

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*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

# Building the church

This is the final part of our series covering the lives of those living in the slums of Argentina. 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. Padre Federico Aquino, the diocesan director in Formosa, is working hard to find financial support for the Father Jose Gabriel Brochero Parish, named after Argentina's most recent saint, a priest who traveled the country on top of a mule he called Malacara (roughly translated to long face), opening mission stations, churches and schools.

The parish, which is currently little more than a shed, is being built out of the sheer willpower of a group of women who live in the newest neighborhood of Formosa, on the outskirts of the city and miles away from the nearest parish. After moving to the neighborhood, they secured a plot of land, built the shed with a cross atop the roof, and, in months, found themselves overcome by the number of people coming to pray. It's been three years since they opened the chapel, and they now have a full-time priest, have acquired the neighboring plot of land, and are planning on building a church for around 300 people. These plans, however, are already too small. Despite the lack of shade to protect people from the 95-degree heat, some 700 people attend each of the three Masses on Sundays according to the local priest.

This growth is partially attributed to the fact that since 2021, World Mission Sunday - to be marked October 19 this year - has had its principal celebration here, and not in the Cathedral: "We gather here to pray, share, and then go visit each of the homes and the families in this neighborhood. It is an enriching experience to go and encounter the people bringing the Gospel to those open to receiving it. It has also been an experience to strengthen our faith as missionaries, and of convincing ourselves that the only path to live our faith is the mission."

The Church in Argentina faces significant challenges, from financial hardships to social issues. However, its unwavering commitment to its mission - sharing the Gospel with all - continues to bring hope and support to those in need. As we reflect on the powerful stories and tireless efforts of the Church and its missionaries, we are reminded of our call to support and pray for these vital missions. Together, we can help ensure that the invitation to the banquet is extended to everyone, especially those most in need.

## OBITUARIES

**AuSable Forks** — Karin Maria (Bombard) Forgatch, 65; Mass of Christian Burial March 21, 2025 at Holy name Church.

**Gouverneur** — Rena C. (Pistolessi) Griebisch, 95; Mass of Christian Burial March 24, 2025 at St. James Church.

**Lake Placid** — David Thomas Sears, 56; Funeral Services March 26, 2025 at M.B. Clark, Inc.; burial in North Elba Cemetery.

**Malone** — Karen R. (Henderson) Patnode, 84; Graveside services June 6, 2025 at St. Joseph's Cemetery.

**Massena** — Edward B. Moerlins, 39; Funeral Services March 17, 2025 at Donaldson Funeral home; burial in Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery, Schuylerville.

**Massena** — Elwood V. Small, 88; Private services held; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Peru** — Gerald Alan Piller, 83; Mass of Christian Burial March 17, 2025 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Dannemora.

**Plattsburgh** — Arthur "Butch" J. Bourdeau, 90; Mass of Christian Burial March 24, 2025 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Columbarium.

**Plattsburgh** — Muriel Henrietta (Lancto) Bouyea, 93; Mass of

Christian Burial March 20, 2025 at St. Peter's Church.

**Plattsburgh** — Rudolph "Rudy" C. Brouwer, 68; Mass of Christian Burial March 18, 2025 at Our Lady of Victory Church.

**Plattsburgh** — William Merritt Rathbun Cogan, 91; Services in the spring.

**Plattsburgh** — Horace J. Locklin, 97; Funeral Services March 22, 2025 at R.W. Walker Funeral Home Chapel; burial in Riverside Cemetery.

**St. Regis Falls** — Norman P. Lara-

may, 89; Funeral Services March 19, 2025 at the Flint Funeral Home, Moria.

**Star Lake** — Laura R. (Schaybel) McKenney, 71; Funeral Services March 15, 2026 at French Funeral Home; burial in Cranberry Lake Cemetery.

**Watertown** — Kathleen A. Burns, 69; Mass of Christian Burial March 21, 2025 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Wilmington** — Ralph Anthony Cioffi, 95; Mass of Christian Burial March 29, 2025 at St. Margaret's Church.

### 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](http://vermontcatholic.org)

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

For U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Vermont  
information: visit [vtb.uscourts.gov](http://vtb.uscourts.gov)

For advice about your rights: contact an attorney

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

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# Two healing retreats planned in May

The Diocese of Ogdensburg is offering healing retreats in May for both those who have had abortions and for adult children of divorce or separation.

## ADULT CHILDREN OF DIVORCE OR SEPARATION

Life Giving Wounds Retreat will be held May 16 to 18 at the Good News Center in Utica. A joint

project of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and the Diocese of Syracuse, the retreat invites individuals who are adult children of divorced or separated parents to "come for a greater understanding of the wounds left by your parents' divorce or separation, for advice concerning love and trust of others, and for an experience of

Christ and community that will lead to deeper self-understanding and healing."

Cost is \$100 for a shared room, \$150 for a single room. Scholarships are available.

To register, go to <https://LGWsy.eventbrite.com>. If you have any questions, please direct them to Erin Miller at [syrodio.org or 315-472-6754 opt. 1 or Steve Tartaglia at \[startaglia@rcdony.org\]\(mailto:startaglia@rcdony.org\) or 315-393-2920](mailto:emiller@</a></p>
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## POST-ABORTION HEALING


Rachel's Vineyard, an after-abortion healing retreat, will be held at the Lodge at Camp Guggenheim from May 23 to 25.

"If you are suffering

after an abortion, you're not alone," the retreat description states. "Join others on a weekend retreat of hope and healing."

The cost for the retreat is \$150.

For more information, call Colleen at 518-524-0774 or email [cminer@rcdony.org](mailto:cminer@rcdony.org). Register online at [rcdony.org/pro-life/rv-retreat](http://rcdony.org/pro-life/rv-retreat).



SUPPORT THE WORKS OF THE  
HOLY FATHER THROUGH THE

## Peter's Pence Collection

*Be a sign of*  
**mercy.**

Starting with the first disciples of Jesus and his Apostles and continuing today, Christians have given of their resources to support the Church's mission of preaching the Gospel and providing for the needs of the poor. As the Church has grown and spread across the world, Christians have long expressed their unity with the Holy Father and their commitment to his mission of mercy through an annual contribution called Peter's Pence.

Today, Catholics who contribute to the Peter's Pence Collection continue this legacy of church unity and care for the poor. Their gifts to the Holy Father are "concrete signs of hope" to Pope Francis and fulfill the two aims of Peter's Pence as set by the Holy See: "(1) To support the Holy Father's mission, which extends throughout the entire world, from the proclamation of the Gospel to the promotion of integral human development, education, peace, and brotherhood among peoples; thanks also to the many activities of service carried out by the dicasteries, bodies and organs of the Holy See that assist him every day; and (2) To support the numerous charitable works in aid of people and families in difficulty, populations afflicted by natural disasters and wars, or who are in need of humanitarian assistance or support for development."

For more information on Peter's Pence, please visit the Vatican's Peter's Pence website:

[www.obolodisaniestro.va/en.html](http://www.obolodisaniestro.va/en.html) (English) or [www.obolodisaniestro.va/es.html](http://www.obolodisaniestro.va/es.html) (español).

"Let us hasten to pursue paths of peace and fraternity. Let us rejoice at the concrete signs of hope that reach us from so many countries."—Pope Francis, "Urbi et Orbi" Message, April 9, 2023

### A Tradition of Support for the Holy Father

Support for such papal efforts is rooted in the scriptural message exhorting us to take care of the poor, and it expresses unity with the Holy Father in two ways: through the ongoing activities of the Holy See and through the charitable works of the Holy Father on behalf of those most in need.

### How You Can Help

#### PRAY

Pray for the Holy Father, for those he serves in compassion, and for the ongoing activities of the Holy See, all of which benefit from the Peter's Pence Collection.

#### SHARE

Share this bulletin insert with anyone who might be interested.

#### GIVE

Give generously to this collection as a sign of mercy to those who suffer around the globe and of your support for the ongoing work of the Holy See. By doing so, you help build up the Church so that it can minister to all for generations to come.



Peter's Pence Collection | Office of National Collections | [www.usccb.org/nationalcollections](http://www.usccb.org/nationalcollections)  
3211 Fourth Street NE | Washington, DC 20017-1194 | (202) 541-3346 | Fax (202) 541-3460  
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**Special Collection to be held with CRS March 29 & 30**  
**Combined Collection**

## Host in the chalice



### FROM WONDERING TO WONDER IN WORSHIP

With Father Bryan Stitt, Diocesan Director of Worship

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

**I was sitting up front this week and noticed something you put a piece of the Host in the chalice. Why did you do that?**

Great question. Thanks for asking. What happens when body and blood are separated? Death. But Jesus' presence on the Altar is not the presence of death but of Life Itself! By placing the particle of the Host in the chalice, we are reminded of Jesus' resurrection. Jesus poured out his blood for us on the cross (separation/death). But three days later He rose from the dead body and soul (union/Life)! Each Mass re-presents Jesus' death and resurrection! There is also a historical reason for this practice. In the early days of the

Church, a piece of the Consecrated Host from the Bishop's Mass would be brought to all the other churches where the Bishop's priests were offering Mass. To show the unity of the Church, the particle would be placed in the chalice. While we no longer worry about those logistics today, the symbol is still very significant. None of us is a Christian on our own. We are united in the One Sacrifice of Christ—the Great High Priest. Finally, I'll share with you my own personal reflection. At the last Supper, Jesus told St. John that He would be betrayed by the disciple who dips the morsel in the chalice with Him. Shortly afterwards, Judas does so. Every time I sin, I betray my Lord. I know I need His mercy, and I reflect on my similarities to Judas as I say, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof." All the more I know I need Jesus' mercy and so we say together, "but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."