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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 80 Number 4

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 16, 2025

AT THE CHRISM MASS



PHOTO BY DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg gathered at the annual Chrism Mass on April 10 at St. Mary's Cathedral. Read Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily from the Mass on page 3. See additional photos on pages 8 & 9.

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE



A secretary in Assisi, Italy, shows a binder of requests for relics of Carlo Acutis. Father Michael Marzan, parochial vicar at St. Mary's Cathedral Parish in Ogdensburg, sought a relic of Acutis for veneration at the upcoming Highway to Heaven event on April 26.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

Pope: 'Logic of merit' does not gain us heaven

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

Pope Francis on April 9 highlighted the need to overcome the "logic of merit" to be a committed follower of Jesus Christ and to trust more in God's gratuitous love.

Continuing his jubilee catechesis series "Jesus Christ Our Hope" on the life of Jesus, the pope wrote a reflection on Chapter 10 of St. Mark's Gospel when Christ encounters a rich young man with a "fine resume" of good deeds.

"He is a man who has observed the commandments ever since his youth but who,

despite this, has not yet found the meaning of his life," the Holy Father wrote in his April 9 catechesis.

"Perhaps he is one who has not yet truly made up his mind, despite his appearance as a committed person," he continued.

Commenting that "eternal life" is not "obtained by right" or "through meticulous observance of commitments," the 88-year-old pope emphasized that a loving relationship with God and with others is key for a happy and fulfilling life on earth and also in heaven.

"Indeed, beyond the things we do, our sacrifices and suc-

cesses, what truly counts in order to be happy is what we carry in our heart," the Holy Father said.

In his catechesis, the pope invited his readers to consider God's love as a gift he desires to share with others and not merely as a reward he grants to those who carry out good works.

"Jesus' love is gratuitous: exactly the opposite of the logic of merit that has beset this person," he said. "We are truly happy when we realize we are loved in this way, freely, by grace."

"This also applies to the relationships between us: as long

as we try to buy love or beg for affection, those relationships will never make us feel happy," he added.

To make "our hearts freer" to accept the proposal of Jesus to follow him, the Holy Father said it is necessary to take a look inside our hearts and give our wounds and weaknesses to the God who wants to heal us.

"Perhaps today, precisely because we live in a culture of self-sufficiency and individualism, we find ourselves more unhappy because we no longer hear our name spoken by someone who loves us freely," the pope shared in his catechesis.

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We'll keep the change

"You going to work for the diocese changed both of our lives."

My son, Jake, shared that reflection with me over dinner recently.

I didn't have to ask what he meant.

If I didn't work for the diocese and wasn't so familiar with the people involved, I'm not sure I would've felt comfortable sending 12-year-old Jake, a kid who didn't advocate for himself well, to Camp Gugenheim.

Jake found a home at camp. That experience gave him the confidence to participate in other youth ministry programs

- youth rally, Diocesan Youth Council, leadership weekends. He's made friends through camp and those programs.

**Darcy L.
Fargo**

He's developed the advocacy skills he lacked at age 12. He's grown in his love of Christ. He's found opportunities to develop his writing and photography skills (he's written an article and submitted photos for this paper, and that gave him the experience and confidence to submit articles and photos to our local secular newspaper).

And he sees where it changed my life, too. Since taking this job back in 2018, I've become much

more comfortable talking about Jesus and talking about my faith. Because I write this column, I'm always on the lookout for where God is working in my life, and I see God in the world more than I ever have before. I've made friends who support and love when I'm struggling and who give me the gift of sharing their struggles with me and allowing me to support and love them. Every day, I'm excited to go work in a place where I am loved and valued not for what I contribute but because I'm a beloved child of God, complete with talents, experience, creativity, struggles and sinfulness.

It really changed everything, and we're grateful

to God for that.

It's fitting that I've had Jake's comment on my mind this week. The events we commemorate and celebrate this week changed everything for us.

We celebrate and remember the gift of the Eucharist, the call to service, the suffering our Lord endured on our behalf and the time in the tomb. Then, the biggest celebration of all, we celebrate the resurrection and our Lord defeating sin and death to bring us all life eternal.

We, the staff and contributors of the North Country Catholic, wish you all a blessed and happy Holy Week and Easter.

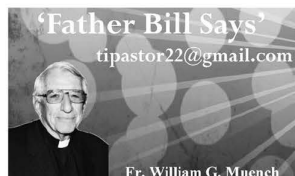
It changed everything for us, and we're grateful to God for that.

On the road to Emmaus

The Resurrection of Jesus, Easter Sunday, is new life for us all. Each of the Gospel writers give us resurrection stories of Jesus. For us, the resurrection of Jesus brings us joy, peace and new life. The resurrection of Jesus is transformative for us all, for our whole world.

I love the Emmaus story on the day of the Lord's resurrection. I suspect this is a favorite for many of you. I love the Emmaus story because I see myself so clearly in it. I have made certain that this will be the Gospel reading at my funeral. Today, I would like you to join me as we remember this story. You can find it in Luke's Gospel, Chapter 24.

On the day of Jesus' Resurrection, two followers of the Lord were returning home from Jerusalem to their home in Emmaus, seven miles away. I like to believe that they were a married couple. We are told the man's name, Cleopas. They are discussing all that happened in Jeru-



salem that very day.

Then we are told that someone comes along and joins them. It is Jesus. However, they do not recognize that this is Jesus. He asks them what they were discussing. They are surprised. "You must be the only visitor to Jerusalem who doesn't know what happened in these days."

This man, Cleopas, then gives a witness to his faith as he describes what has happened to Jesus. They still do not realize this is Jesus. He says, "Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people." He tells of Jesus' sufferings and crucifixion. He goes on to mention his hopes. "We were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Isra-

el." He says that this very day they have been told that some of their group went to the tomb and had a vision of angels, but Jesus was not found there.

Then Jesus - they still do not recognize him - speaks to them. "Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory." Then we are told that Jesus shows them, beginning with Moses and all the prophets, what referred to the Messiah in all the Scriptures. Each time I read this story I imagine how wonderful that moment must have been. Can you imagine a Bible class with the Lord?

Finally, they arrive at Emmaus. Jesus, who they still do not recognize, prepares to go on. The couple urge him to stay a while with them. Then we are told they gather at the table. Jesus, then, takes some bread, says the blessing, breaks it and gives it to them. At that moment, we are told, their eyes were opened, and

they recognized that this man who accompanied them and taught them Scripture was truly a resurrected Jesus. They had experienced the Lord Jesus now very much alive. They had shared Eucharist with him.

It is important that we realize that this is our story each time we come together as the people of God to celebrate Mass. We begin with the Liturgy of the Word. We read Scripture and then, with the help of the Lord, we try to understand the message for us. We are walking with Jesus on the road to Emmaus. Then we go to the altar with Jesus as the Emmaus couple did at their home. Jesus is present with us as our priest consecrates the bread and wine to the Body and Blood of Jesus. The Lord is truly present with us. In Holy Communion, we receive Our Savior as our strength, our guide, our Lord. We are transformed just as if we were there on the road to Emmaus.

FOLLOW ME

Chrism Mass: Prayer Over the Offerings

Editor's Note: The following is Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily from the Chrism Mass, celebrated April 10 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

May the power of this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray, mercifully wipe away what is old in us and increase in us grace of salvation and newness of life. Through Christ our Lord. It seems to me that this Prayer Over the Offerings that I will soon address to our Lord offers a helpful recipe for hope this Jubilee Year.

Know and believe that through the power of this Mass, the Lord is going to do some pretty heavy lifting, if we let Him. For instance, we pray that God will ***mercifully wipe away what's old in us.*** We know the things that we hang on to, the habit-forming behaviors that keep us somewhat comfortable and even unchallenged. Anything that makes me declare "my way not yours, Lord," smacks of what's old in us. Spiritual growth, a closer relationship with Jesus risks being stifled when the "old" in us goes unchallenged and always has its way. This can evolve into a stale spirituality where I turn to Jesus Christ to be a cheerleader for "my" concept of Church and my image of what God should look like.

So, I can choose to live in a self-preservation mode of surviving, determined to protect my ego, my way of living, my philosophy of life. Or I may be haunted by past hurts that I have suffered and vowed never to suffer again. Such a self-centered way of go-

ing through life makes no room for vulnerability. If I am unwilling to be vulnerable, real hope is not reachable. A certain self-satisfaction can move me to the couch potato posture as I become a cynical naysayer without any real active engagement in the faith life of my parish. My pastoral leadership may be tailored to a rigid, take it or leave it mentality. So, at this Chrism Mass, let us ask the Lord to ***mercifully wipe away what is old in us.***

We pray that God ***increase in us the grace of salvation.*** My sisters and brothers, grace does not come cheaply. It comes by way of the Cross. I must make room for Christ: "He must increase. I must decrease." Do I really believe that it is in giving-self-giving—that we receive? Today's Second Reading from the Book of Revelation reminds us that "***Jesus Christ who loves us has freed us from our sins by His Blood.***" If I want to know the cost of the grace of everlasting life, the grace of salvation, I should spend some time gazing at the crucified Jesus hanging on the Cross. And so, I ask: How easy is it for me to give freely of myself to others?

Thirdly, our prayer asks the Lord for ***newness of life.*** Is it true that the heartlands of Christianity are tired of their faith, bored by their history and culture, and no longer wish to know faith in Jesus Christ? Is our Church a spent force today? My sisters and brothers, the love with which God has loved us is so great that it can always sustain us in find-



PHOTO BY DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Bishop Terry R. LaValley delivers his homily at the Chrism Mass, celebrated April 10 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

ing new ways to touch the hearts of women and men today.

For the times we let past hurts, paralyzing fear of what tomorrow may bring, or just plain hardened hearts prevent us from paying attention to others and being a sign of genuine hope for others, we seek forgiveness and an even closer relationship with Jesus. Jesus is the Way to the Father, who waits with open arms to welcome us home because He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Our hope is in the new heavens and new earth that the Lord has promised those who would be faithful. Through our baptism, we became a new creation, a child of God, adopted in Christ Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Baptism makes all the difference in the present world and in the world to come.

With the blessings and

consecration of the oils at this Chrism Mass, we are reminded that we are the aroma of Christ. This means that the stench of despair, of spiritual decay, of greed and hatred, all the powers that ultimately destroy life, are confronted by the new power of Jesus' life, the Risen Christ, Who is the fragrance of new life. Resolve to give no time, give no space, give no attention to those naysayers whose cynicism, pessimism and faithlessness immobilizes and seeks to rob us of our hope. Hope never stands still but advances, in all humility, looking forward to a ***newness in life.***

We will walk the journey of life with our heads held high, focused on our Savior because we are Christ-led and Christ-fed and so hope-filled. We have hope because God walks with us. God does not leave us to fend for ourselves. God

came into the world and gives us the strength to walk with Him in Jesus. For a Christian, to hope means the certainty of being on a journey with Christ moving toward the Father who awaits us. Again, hope never stands still.

The fragrance of the sacred oils is a good reminder of our vocation to be a pleasing fragrance of Christ for all whom we encounter. We will not be a perpetrator of gloom and doom in our broken world, but a herald of what the Lord has done for us and our claim to the gift of heaven. As Isaiah proclaimed, the Lord gives oil of gladness, a glorious mantle instead of a listless spirit. And so, we'll pray in our Prayer after Communion to "***...become the pleasing fragrance of Christ.***"

"Dear Jesus, help me to spread your fragrance wherever I go. Flood my soul with your spirit and life. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a radiance of yours. Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact may feel your presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me, but only You, Jesus. Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as you shine, so to shine as to be a light to others; the light, O Jesus will be all from you; none of it will be mine; it will be you, shining on others through me."

May the power of this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray, mercifully wipe away what is old in us and increase in us grace of salvation and newness of life through Christ our Lord. Amen

Bishop's Easter letter: Hope in the Resurrection

Dear Sisters and
Brothers in Christ:

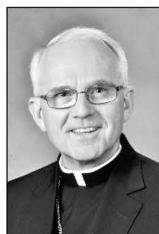
The tomb was empty. The news is literally earth-shattering! The implications are mind-blowing! Jesus Christ has risen from the dead! He who once lived among us, suffered the agony of the cross, and died, is dead no more. Alleluia! Yes, Alleluia!

The Resurrection is not just a belief that we pull out at Easter or a comforting doctrine we console ourselves with at a time of death. It is a whole way of life that begins with our baptism and is sustained by our gathering in faith with the risen Christ as a Eucharistic people. It is a way of life in which we try to keep ourselves aware of His Presence in us in all we say and do throughout the week.

With the resurrection of Jesus, the Lord draws all of us after Him into the new light of the resurrection as He conquers all darkness. God rose from the dead so that our lives would be undying. That's why we remain hope-filled through the joys and sorrows of daily living. This Jubilee Year of Hope is so timely as we struggle through so many challenges in our world today.

Mary Magdalene shares this good news with Jesus' closest friends. Her profession of faith has become our commitment of life. Especially during this Jubilee Year of Hope, we seek a renewed determination

to share the news that Mary Magdalene first witnessed. What we believe and our witness to that belief hinges on the great Easter Mystery we celebrate this day. Today we rededicate ourselves to living the Easter faith in union with our Risen Lord so we may one day come to share fully in His Risen life.



**Bishop Terry
R. LaValley**

Today, our nation and our Church thirst for Resurrection evidence in you and in me. I pray that we may more fully live our baptismal promises: Lord, gift me with the courage, the love and the energy of Mary Magdalene, who was the first witness to

others of your resurrection. Never let fear of ridicule or rejection, a lukewarm faith or laziness stop me from living openly and sharing warmly the Good News that Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for me, rose from the dead.

Rejoice in the hope and peace that our Risen Savior has won for us. A blessed Easter to you and your family! "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!" After all, we are Christ-led, Christ-fed and Hope-filled!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

**Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg**

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Mary Miller Dalton

November 17, 1952 - March 28, 2025



Lisbon: Mary Miller Dalton, age 72, passed away on Friday, March 28, 2025. Born on November 17, 1952, in Massena, New York, she was a beloved daughter of the late Orin and Pauline (Landon) Miller. Mary spent much of her life in the close-knit community of Lisbon, New York, where she touched many lives with her kindness and wisdom.

On September 8, 1973, Mary married Paul Dalton, with whom she shared over fifty years of love, partnership, and memories. Their union was a testament to their unwavering devotion to each other. Together, they raised two children, their son Scott, born in 1977, and daughter Melinda (Akins), born in 1979. To Mary the joy of nurturing and guiding her children was one of life's greatest gifts. She often said that they "were her greatest blessings." Later in life, she found immense joy in being a grandmother to Luke and Anna Dalton, whose laughter and light filled her heart with warmth. She cherished every moment of their growth and took delight in their journeys through life.

A lifelong learner, Mary held education in the highest regard. She graduated from Holy Family School in Massena in 1970, followed by an Associate's Degree from Mater Dei College in Ogdensburg, New York, in 1972. She continued her studies at Potsdam State, earning a Bachelor's Degree in 1975. After taking time to focus on her family, she returned to her academic pursuits and earned a Master's Degree in Counseling from St. Lawrence University in 1996. For twelve years she worked at Catholic Charities, where she developed a deep connection with her clients, offering them guidance and support.

Additionally, Mary maintained a private counseling practice for seven years from the comfort of her home, further extending her compassionate reach.

Mary's warmth, intelligence, and loving spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew her. She lived a life grounded in faith, family, and service to others, leaving behind a legacy of kindness, education, and care.

Calling hours for Mary were held at the Phillips Memorial Home in Waddington located at 28 Clinton Street on Friday, April 11, 2025, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. A Mass of Christian Burial was at 11:00 am on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at St. Mary's Church with Rev. Garry Giroux and Rev. J. Seymour co-officiating. Burial to take place in the parish cemetery at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in Mary's name to the Dialysis Unit of Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center; 214 King St, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 or to the Muscular Dystrophy Association; 6315 Fly Road, Suite 102, East Syracuse, NY, 13057

Family and friends are encouraged to share memorial trees, photos, memories and condolences online by visiting, www.PhillipsMemorial.com

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

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APRIL 16, 2025

Mission impossible: A relic of Carlo Acutis

By Mary Beth Bracy,
consecrated virgin
Contributing Writer

On his recent European pilgrimage to celebrate his 25th priestly anniversary, Father Michael Marzan was offered a special mission, if he chose to accept it. On March 27, Father Marzan received a message from Father Bryan D. Stitt, asking if he could travel to Assisi to obtain a relic of the soon-to-be St. Carlo Acutis for veneration at the April 26 "Highway to Heaven" event in Lake Placid.

Father Marzan was vacationing with the priests he was ordained with and pondered what to do.

"How could I obtain it (the relic) because I was in the middle of my vacation in Spain? It was the last week of my vacation," he said, describing his thoughts at the time. "Did I need to sacrifice the rest of my time and turn back to Rome? Who are the people that were going to help me to facilitate the process? For me it was a really difficult and decisive mission to do."

"During our Mass in the Sagrada Familia Church in Barcelona (in the crypt) an inspiration came to me telling me to go for that mission, although it was difficult to leave the group and go back to Rome," continued Father Marzan. "An inner voice kept telling me in my conscience to help to find the relic of Carlo Acutis in Assisi. I wanted to be of help for the good of the people and the diocese. I believe that God put me in this situation for this purpose."



PHOTO COURTESY OF FATHER MICHAEL MARZAN

Father Michael Marzan in front of soon-to-be St. Carlo Acutis' body in Assisi. Acutis will be canonized on April 27 during the Jubilee for Adolescents.

Many people in the North Country and worldwide feel connected to Acutis and are eager to venerate his relics to ask for his intercession for their needs and those of their loved ones.

Father Marzan said the trip to Assisi was an experience he won't forget.

"From Spain I went to Switzerland," he said. "It took six or eight hours to go back to Italy by train. There were a lot of transfers from one train. You have to be quick and walk fast. On the following day, I went to Assisi. I took the train and the bus to go to Assisi. Since it was Sunday, there was no one in the office, so I needed to stay and go the next day. I called a Filipina friend and she helped introduce me to a Benedictine Filipina nun who welcomed me to stay overnight in their monastery. The room that I used is the room that the Cardinal who is in charge of the canonization of saints stayed in, and also Cardinal Tagle used that room. So, there was a

different kind of feeling."

Initially, the attempt to obtain the relic wasn't successful.

"The next day, I asked sister to help me talk to the secretary (in charge of distributing Acutis' relics)," Father Marzan said. "The secretary was very accommodating and kind. She could speak English. I told the secretary that the request from the bishop had been sent to her email. They were not able to read the request. When she opened the email, they had run out of the availability of the (first class) relics. She promised to place our diocese on the waiting list, so as soon as the relic is available they will let us know."

Due to Acutis' immense popularity, there is an overwhelming demand for his relics, Father Marzan learned.

Despite this obstacle, Father Marzan's adventure was successful.

"We did not leave empty handed," he said. "There was a great sense of blessedness despite the difficulties. There was hope and assurance

Venerate the relic

Please visit <https://www.rcdny.org/jubileeh2h> for more information on Carlo Acutis and the schedule for the April 26 "Highway to Heaven" celebration in Lake Placid, where his relics will be available for veneration.

In addition, the Miracles of the World exhibit Acutis developed will be on display; Bishop Terry R. LaValley will lead the diocese in a consecration to the Holy Eucharist; Father Theodore Crosby will give a talk; there will be all-day adoration and confession, opportunities for service, movies and fellowship.

There is no charge to attend.

Come for part of the day or stay the whole day!

that they are giving the first class relic for the diocese."

Amazingly, the secretary provided Father Marzan with second class relics of Acutis for veneration at the Highway to Heaven event. They are pieces of clothing Acutis wore.

"It was my first time at Santa Maria Maggiore where Carlo Acutis body is venerated," Father Marzan said. "I was grateful to preside over the celebration of the Mass there with my nine other classmates celebrating. Other pilgrims (a bus of 54) were there (with us). There was a feeling of awe and amazement to see Carlo's body, wearing jeans and sneakers and the Rosary in his hand. Being able to touch the tomb was very different and special to pay respect and honor in his presence."

Although Acutis' body is not incorrupt, it is fully integral and pre-

served in a glass case for veneration.

"There are different types of relics of the saints," Father Marzan related. "The first type is of the body parts of the saint like bones, blood, or hair. The second class type are items that belonged to or are used by the saints. The third class are objects that have been touched to the first and the second class relics."

Father Marzan said he feels Acutis's "life resonates with young people."

"He died at the age of 15 in 2006. He placed the Eucharist at the heart of his life and faith from a young age. He really loved to attend Mass and receive Communion, seeing it as spiritual nourishment and the way to encounter Jesus. He said, 'The Holy Eucharist is my highway to Heaven.' This quote means that (the Eucharist) is the way to reach Heaven."

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APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Being trauma informed

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What does it mean to be “trauma-informed?” A daunting question in many respects, but one people are asking themselves as awareness of and encounters with people living with trauma increases in our daily lives. It is also, in some ways, a deceptively simple question.

To be a trauma-informed (or trauma-sensitive) person means that you cultivate an awareness that trauma is a far more common experience than we would like to imagine and one that can take many forms in a person’s life, including but by no means limited to child sexual abuse or other types of abuse, genocide, combat experience in war and domestic violence.

Further, it means that you recognize that trauma can have profound and lasting effects on those impacted-effects that are normal, predictable reactions to the traumatic experience. It means you understand certain things. Such as, sometimes, the ways in which a person, who is living with trauma, is coping with that experience, may impact their comfort in interacting with others, and can significantly impact their faith and belief in God. Importantly, to be trauma-informed does NOT mean you are a trained professional with responsibility to address all the needs and issues that may arise.

Trauma, by its very nature, threatens the very foundations of our lives. Child sexual abuse, commonly categorized as a “betrayal” trauma, violates the child’s growing understanding of the world, their safety in it, and their capacity to trust others. This is frequently because most abuse is perpetrated by someone known and trusted by the child. Depending on who the perpetrator is/was and how those who care for the child protected and responded

to the child, child sexual abuse threatens the child’s most basic sense of safety in this world. It also threatens their confidence that people can be trusted.

The subsequent feeling of profound vulnerability may not be restricted to the setting or context in which the abuse occurred but may extend throughout the child’s world and into all their relationships. Trauma survivors commonly experience a profound loss of this essential feeling of safety, and that loss can persist for years, even for a lifetime. Hence, to be trauma informed/trauma-sensitive, means that you are intentional in striving to foster a sense of safety in your interactions with others, regardless of whether you know of a person’s history with trauma or not.

On a practical level, what does being trauma-informed look like? How might you strive to manifest trauma-sensitivity in your everyday interactions, with family, coworkers, or friends? Here are some suggestions:

- You are mindful of how you speak to others-you recognize that certain topics may be sensitive and possibly trigger a trauma memory, so you speak with care about such things that may pop up in a news cycle or simply in conversation.

- You are mindful of making light of or joking about certain topics. Perhaps both the topic and the vocabulary you use may be disrespectful and even cause further trauma. A common example could be an off-hand comment about survivors, who are suing an institution for abuse damages. Insensitive comments characterize survivors as exploitive and seeking an easy way to get money from “deep pockets.”

- You consider the circumstances and the ways in which you touch others, knowing that even the most innocent well-intentioned “pat on the back” may be an unwelcome touch for someone whose body has been violated.



- If you are in a position of power or influence, you reflect on how you lead, with intentional thought toward how direct you are or how you exert authority over others, with respect, rather than impunity.

- You recognize that trauma is not something you “just get over,” but it is something you get through. So, you strive to be patient and supportive knowing that the significant losses of safety and trust are not easily restored. In fact, for someone who has lost those senses or had them violated, their very survival can feel at risk in even the simplest interactions with others.

Conversely, even the most well-intentioned person can be trauma-insensitive. Comments such as “oh, but that was so long ago-you’re an adult now” or “my child would never be in a situation where they could be abused” or “why can’t you just forgive and move on” inflict harm by dishonoring the profound and lasting impact of a betrayal trauma on the survivor’s capacity to trust. As trust is at the core of all healthy, healing relationships, comments such as these signal danger to the survivor, who yearns for safety and may already struggle to trust others.

What should you do, to be trauma-sensitive, if an adult discloses their trauma history to you?

When it comes to hearing disclosures of abuse from children, we must remain calm and actively listen to them. Then we must report what was disclosed

to us to the appropriate child protection agency or local law enforcement, per our diocesan and state requirements. Know that, particularly for adults:

- You are ministering in a trauma-sensitive way by **listening, attentively** and without judgment or a rush to fix for adult survivors.

- You are ministering in a trauma-sensitive way by **holding space** for the person living with trauma to catch their breath, regroup, pause and center themselves. You are ministering in a trauma-sensitive way when you assist the person living with trauma to carry their sacred story forward as appropriate, whether that is by making a report to civil authorities, and/or our Church, or disclosing to someone in their family or circle of friends.

- Sensitivity to trauma and its impacts also means that you understand that each survivor is unique, even those who have experienced the “same” type of trauma.

- Survivors will not always behave the way you might expect them to behave, and that is OK.

- Survivors can and do heal and thrive.

If you are in a position or profession that requires an additional response, first be present then demonstrate your trustworthiness by following through.

Survivors can and do heal and thrive, and you can contribute to this healing. Being a safe adult doesn’t extend just to how we interact with children-it also impacts how we journey with survivors along the way. Respectfully asking what you can do to be supportive and follow through demonstrates your trustworthiness and helps to fulfill our responsibility to serve one another. When we prioritize safety for everyone, and let survivors take the lead in what does, or does not, help them to feel safe, we are contributing to an environment of hope and healing.

CALL TO SERVE Nice start!

In my humble opinion, it was the best paper I had ever written. The paper was offered in a class during my formation as a deacon. The title escapes me some 20-plus years later, but I can easily recall two important points about it.

First, I argued in the paper, quite convincingly I thought, that the birth of Jesus Christ, the nativity, had to be THE most important event in the life of Jesus Christ since nothing that happened later would have been possible without his birth as a human first.

I spent a considerable amount of time researching the paper and was confident Father Ed Sheedy, my instructor, would find the thesis commendable and reward me with an "A".

Second, Father Sheedy did not mark my paper with scribbled notes, cross-outs, question marks in the margin and other things I was used to from him and other instructors. Instead, he wrote a single phrase at the top of the cover sheet. "Nice start!"

It would be an understatement to say I was surprised. Crushed might be a better word. I liked Father Sheedy a lot and eventually took his comment to heart. Father died a few weeks ago, and I immediately thought of that paper.

He did give the paper an "A" for originality, but I have given his comment a great deal of thought since first reading it.

He could have meant "nice start" to a plausible argument for the position I was taking, but the case needed some additional research and convincing statements.

Today, I do not think he meant that at all. Now I believe "nice start" was Father telling me Jesus' birth we celebrate at Christmas was just the beginning of his life on earth and the ultimate reason for his presence among us. He came to earth to save us, to offer the possibility of eternal life in the presence of God.

That is what we celebrate this Holy Week.

From Jesus' triumphant entrance to Jerusalem to his suffering, death, resurrection and ascension to the Father, we will spend this week and all of Easter time thinking about, and praying about, the sacrifice Jesus made for us.

A couple of years ago I had the privilege with other pilgrims to walk and pray the Via Dolorosa. It is the traditional route in the Old City of Jerusalem believed to be the path Jesus walked to his crucifixion, marked by 14 Stations of the Cross.

Following the Stations of the Cross in our parish churches today takes on a whole new meaning for me because of that experience in Jerusalem. The Via Dolorosa ends at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, traditionally believed to encompass the sites of Jesus Christ's crucifixion, burial, and resurrection.

It was at the tomb of Jesus that I understood Father Sheedy's note about my Incarnation paper. "Nice start!"

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



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

Protecting God's Children

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

Bishop's Public Schedule

- April 16** – 10 a.m. – Mass Celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope at the United Helpers Canton Nursing Home in Canton
April 17 – 9 a.m. – Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral
 7 p.m. – Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. Mary's Cathedral
April 18 – 9 a.m. – Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral
 3 p.m. – Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord at St. Mary's Cathedral followed by Confessions
April 19 – 9 a.m. – Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral
 8 p.m. – Easter Vigil at St. Mary's Cathedral
April 20 – 8 a.m. – Easter Sunday Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
April 21 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
April 22 – 11:45 a.m. – Mass Celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope at Elderwood of Uihlein in Lake Placid
April 23 – 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, Terrienne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrienneyanulavich@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

Rest in Peace

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

- April 16** – Deacon Vernon J. Chamberlain, 1993
April 17 – Rev. Peter J. Devlin, 1915; Rev. Vernon L. Doe, 1975; Rev. C. Albert Richardson, 1988; Msgr. Joseph G. Bailey, 2000
April 19 – Rev. William S. Kelly, 1908; Rev. Edward C. Laramée, 1932; Rev. William P. Fraser, 1961
April 20 – Rev. James Igo, 2007
April 21 – Msgr. Michael E. Fogarty, 1936
April 22 – Rev. Daniel M. Sullivan, 1933

Environmental Stewardship

Acting like Veronica

In the Stations of the Cross, we are introduced to a courageous woman named Veronica who performs a simple act of kindness toward Jesus as he carries His cross. There were many passersby on the route to Calvary, yet only Veronica intervened to show Our Lord mercy.

There are various factors that come into play when deciding to get involved in a situation to render help or show solidarity with someone.

As we travel through our communities and recreational areas, we are often confronted with discarded wrappers, beverage containers, papers and trash. In our germ-conscious society we are led to believe it would be best for our health to just ignore such items and let someone with plastic gloves handle it. Many of these items are made from materials that do not biodegrade or decompose quickly. If left on the ground, they break apart only physically and create a small spot of soil that could harm living organisms that reside there for many years to come.

Each person has to decide whether to get involved. The health and wellbeing of our planet and the lives it supports is deteriorating. Veronica probably understood that she was powerless to prevent what was going to happen to Jesus, but she wanted to show solidarity and provide Him a gesture of kindness. Similarly, we do not have the power to stop climate change and the exploitation of natural resources. However, we do have the power to reduce our carbon footprints by a measureable amount, avoid the use of plastics as much as possible, and limit our use of fresh water. We can also perform acts of kindness toward strangers, and ourselves as well, for we are all part of the interconnected web of life.

By Tom Kalinowski
St. Bernard's Parish, Saranac Lake

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AT THE CHRISM MASS

Photos by Jesse Sovie & Darcy Fargo



(Bottom left) John Morrison reads the First Reading. (Top left) Priests of the diocese, including, from left, Msgr. Dennis J. Duprey, Father Donald A. Robinson, Father Mark R. Reilly, Father Christopher C. Carrara and Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin join Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrating the Mass. (Top right) Deacon Brian Dwyer proclaims the Gospel. (Bottom right) Students from Catholic Schools and catechetical programs, deacons, deacon candidates and Knights of Columbus from around the diocese attended and served at the Mass.





(Below) Lay people, those in consecrated life, deacons and priests gather at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg for the Chrism Mass on April 9. (Left) Cathedral organist Christine Bookman accompanies the choir. (Above) Bishop Terry R. LaValley greets people who attended the Mass. (Top right) Dayna Leader reads the Second Reading. (Middle right) Bishop Terry R. LaValley breathes upon the Chrism oil as a visible sign of the Holy Spirit coming down on it. (Bottom right) Deacons from around the diocese exchange the sign of peace.



CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Gaza parish priest calls for peace, says territory is 'a prison'

The pastor of the only Catholic parish in Gaza is urging world leaders to seek peace, saying that Gaza has "become a cage" amid the ongoing war there. Father Gabriel Romanelli is the pastor of Holy Family Parish in Gaza, which has become a refuge for the Christian minority in war-torn Gaza. The parish complex was converted into an improvised shelter at the beginning of the war between the terrorist group Hamas and Israel, which began nearly a year and a half ago when Hamas launched an invasion of Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing more than 1,200 Israeli men, women, and children and taking 251 hostages. Fifty-nine of the hostages are still in captivity, 35 of whom Israel believes are dead. Pope Francis has made frequent calls to the Catholic parish in Gaza since Oct. 9, 2023, even maintaining the calls while in critical condition in the hospital. Romanelli said the parish was doing "well" but urged world leaders to seek peace.

Prosecutor: Gunman shot Kansas priest 'with premeditation'

The accused killer of a Kansas Catholic priest shot the clergyman last week "intentionally" and with "premeditation," a prosecutor has said. Gary Hermesch was taken into custody last week at the Nemaha County Jail and charged with first-degree murder in the shooting of Father Arul Carasala, the Nemaha County Sheriff's Office said. Father Carasala was shot at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Seneca on April 3. The priest later died from his injuries at Nemaha Valley Community Hospital. Nemaha County Attorney Brad Lippert's office said in a press release that the murder was planned beforehand. Hermesch is being held on a \$1 million bond at the county jail. The motive of the shooting remains unclear, though local news outlet KSNT reported Hermesch had written letters to the local paper that contained both political and religious remarks. "[M]aybe if we just follow Donald Trump's example we'll 'make the Church great again,'" Hermesch reportedly wrote in one letter in which he also alleged that "the faith" is "not being taught."

Vatican watchdog reports decrease in suspicious activities

The Vatican's financial authority reported a drop in suspicious activity reports in 2024, attributing the decline to "progressive refinement" in the selection process rather than diminished vigilance, according to its annual report. The Supervisory and Financial Information Authority (ASIF), the Vatican's financial watchdog, received 79 suspicious activity reports in 2024, compared with 123 in 2023, representing a roughly 36% decrease. "In this context, a numerical reduction is a piece of positive news as it represents an increase in quality and not a reduction in attention by reporting entities," states the report released April 9. Despite fewer reports, ASIF transmitted 11 reports to the Office of the Promoter of Justice (the Vatican's prosecutor) in 2024 – the same number as in 2023 – suggesting greater precision in identifying potentially criminal financial activity.

Bishops back bipartisan effort to keep foreign religious workers in U.S.

By Daniel Payne

Catholic News Agency

Multiple U.S. bishops are hailing a proposed bipartisan effort to keep religious workers – including Catholic priests – in the United States by extending their special visas instead of sending them to their home countries for extended lengths of time.

Catholic advocates have been warning for months of a looming crisis in which many U.S.-based priests will be forced to leave their ministries and return to their home countries, after which they would be subject to lengthy wait times before coming back.

A 2023 change to U.S. visa rules created a backlog of visa applicants that has threatened to prevent priests from obtaining a green card before their initial religious worker visa expires.

The backlog was created when the State Department and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) increased the number of immigrants from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras who are applying for EB-4 visas, the special visa category used by religious workers.

Church officials have warned that the backlog could lead to significant priest shortages in the country, with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops stating that, due to the rule change, immigrants on temporary five-year R-1 visas could be forced to return home and wait many more years for a permanent EB-4 visa.

'Critically needed' visa reform

On Tuesday a group of U.S. senators including Virginia Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine and Maine Republican Sen. Susan Collins introduced the Religious Workforce Protection Act, which would allow R-1 immigrants to "stay in the U.S. while waiting for permanent residency," according to a press release from Kaine's office.

The proposed bill, which is just three pages long, would offer a "targeted fix" to the looming R-1 crisis "by granting the DHS secretary the authority to extend temporary R-1 nonimmigrant status for religious workers past five years until they receive a decision on their permanent

residence application."

The measure was hailed by multiple U.S. bishops, including El Paso, Texas, Bishop Mark Seitz, the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' migration committee.

"We applaud this bipartisan effort, which recognizes the importance of foreign-born religious workers in communities across our nation," Seitz said in a press statement. "Without them, many Americans would be left without the essential religious and social services they provide."

Bishop Barry Knestout of Richmond, Virginia, said the Richmond Diocese has "relied on missionary priests from around the world" since its founding in 1820.

"The loss of a trusted clergy member due to impractical immigration-related restrictions, compounded by significant visa backlogs, deeply impact[s] our parishioners' free exercise of religious life," Knestout said, hailing the proposed legislation's help in "easing the burden on our parishioners, our churches, and the entire Diocese of Richmond."

Columbus, Ohio, Bishop Earl Fernandes and Portland, Maine, Bishop James Ruggieri similarly praised the legislation. Ruggieri called the measure "critically needed" while Fernandes said it will allow "many of our religious priests and sisters to continue to serve the people of God and our local communities through their ministry."

A similar measure was introduced on Tuesday in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In November 2024, Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome Listecki joined multiple dioceses in asking the federal government to address the EB-4 backlog.

In 2023, meanwhile, the USCCB's migration committee joined an interfaith letter warning the government of the "increased hardship in staffing houses of worship, community centers, schools, charitable works, and other sites" stemming from the rule change.

The letter asked the government to "do everything within your power to preserve meaningful access" for religious workers seeking visas.

APRIL 16, 2025

VIRTUAL EVENTS

FRIENDSHIP GROUP MEETING

You are invited to our next Friendship Group meeting.

Date: April 24

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Zoom

Features: The book "Consuming Love" invites you to experience afresh the intensity of the intimacy Christ offers us in the Eucharist. Author Father Gregory Cleveland, OMCV, opens new horizons in our understanding of the Eucharist and offers a language of love to express our relationship with Jesus as a divine romance.

Contact: The book may be ordered at omvusa.org. To sign-up for the Friendship Group, receive the meeting link and discussion questions, go to <https://mailchi.mp/sophia institute/friendship-groups>. Questions? Contact Mary Beth Bracy at mbracy@sophia institute.com

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

FISH FRY

Plattsburgh — Holy Cross to have Fish Fries during Lent.

Date: Fridays through Lent

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

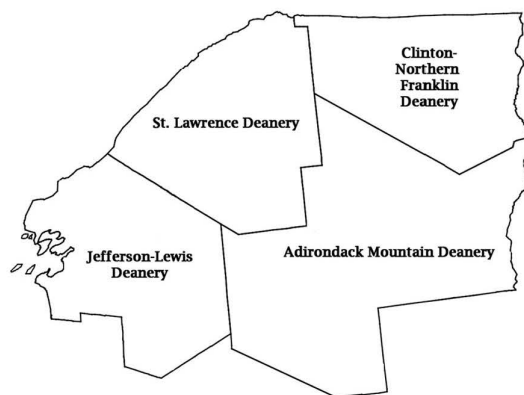
SPRING STUDY SERIES

Ellenburg Center — Join Our Lady of the Adirondacks for 9 sessions using Fr. Michael Gaitley's Guidebook "Divine Mercy in the Second Greatest Story Ever Told."

Date: April 25 to May 16 and resuming May 30 to June 27

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8

Features: Video presentations of the material and discussion encourage participants to enter a fuller understanding of God's astounding love and forgiveness available to every person. What hope and joy this brings, allowing us to trust our God absolutely in



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.

all circumstances and to become merciful ourselves in response to difficult challenges. Light refreshments included. While donations are always appreciated, all materials for this series are free.

Contact: Sarah Anderson at 518-534-9976 to register for classes.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Plattsburgh — Chaplet of Divine Mercy Sunday to be held.

Date: April 27

Place: St. Peter's Church

Schedule: 2 p.m. Exposition begins, Divine Mercy Chaplet will be sung, 3 p.m. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Contact: For more information call 518-563-0730

FIRST FRIDAY

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

Date: May 2

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

SETON GALA

Plattsburgh — Join us for the 3rd annual Gala for Seton Catholic with the theme "Run for the Roses".

Date: May 3

Time: 5 p.m.

Place: West Side Ballroom

Cost: \$80 per person

Features: Dinner, Dancing, Live Auctions, Experience made baskets/Mystery items for Concerts and Baseball team tickets. So much more as the school host a Fund a Need event for the Drama and Arts Departments. Come dressed in your best Derby Attire.

Contact: Please contact Sue Pellerin for more information at spellerin@setonknights.org

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Plattsburgh — Heartwell Homestead's 2nd Annual Golf Tournament to be held.

Date: Aug. 22

Place: The Barracks Golf Course

Contact: For more information and details go to <https://www.HeartWellHomestead.org>

SAVE THE DATE

Plattsburgh — Eastern Region Commissioned Lay Minsters are invited to celebrate with Bishop Terry LaValley a 2025 Year of Hope Pilgrimage.

Place: St. Peter's Church

Date: Sept. 14

Time: 2 p.m.

Contact: For more information call 518-563-0730 or e-mail PlattsburghSEC@rcdony.org

HOT DINNERS

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

Date: Every Wednesday

Time: 4 p.m. to 5

Place: St. André Outreach Center

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

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

Watertown — 9 Day Novena to begin Good Friday by praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Date: April 18

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Patrick's Church

Features: Brief background of Divine Mercy Sunday and then the praying of the Chaplet in the church. The Chaplet is prayed everyday at home for the following 8 days until the Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration on April 27.

Contact: For more information call Judy Boulton 315-783-7349 or Kim Tyler at 315-486-4542 www.thedivinemercy.org

SPAGHETTI DINNER

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

Date: April 24

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

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Houseville — The Feast of the Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated with celebrants Fr. Douglas Decker and Fr. John Ojuok as homilist.

Date: April 27

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Schedule: The Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament will take place at 2 p.m., followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 3 p.m. Adoration will con-

tinue at 3 p.m., followed by the Homily, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Benediction, the Blessing of Holy Cards and Petitions, and Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image. The program concludes with a reception in the church hall.

Contact: Call 315-348-6260 for more information.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Watertown — Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated.

Date: April 27

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Patrick's Church

Features: According to the Divine Mercy message from Jesus to Saint Faustina, to fittingly observe the Feast, always be merciful to others, go to confession during Lent and receive communion on the Feast of Mercy. Publicly celebrate the Feast of Mercy. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, brief confessions, and a procession. Please note that the celebration is not a mass.

Contact: For more info on how to prepare call Judy Boulton 315-783-7349 or Kim Tyler 315-486-4542 www.thedivine-mercy.org

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

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

Date: May 3

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

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: May 4

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Contact: 315-348-6260**LIVING STONES EVENT FOR CLM**

Watertown — The Commissioned Lay Ministry Association of the Jefferson-Lewis Deanery presents Living Stones: "Jubilee Year-Rediscover Hope."

Date: May 8

Schedule: Welcoming remarks, 5:15 p.m.; Mass at 5:30, dinner immediately following and concluding with the program.

Cost: \$10 per person if attending dinner, no charge if only coming to the program.

Features: The program will be led by Fr. Garry Giroux with his presentation "As we await the Blessed Hope."

Contact: Register at: www.rcdony.org/clm-event

ST. LAWRENCE**FISH FRY**

Gouverneur — Every Friday during Lent St. James School will have a Fish Fry.

Date: Fridays in 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

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

Date: May 3**Time:** 8 a.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

Features: Rosary with devotions

ACIES

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

Date: June 1**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 will be followed by refreshments.

DIOCESAN EVENTS**HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN:****HOLY 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 with Catholics from around our diocese, explore an exhibit of Eucharistic miracles, and join Bishop LaValley for a Holy Hour of Hope, including a procession and consecration of the diocese to the Eucharist. There will also be opportunities for attending Holy Mass, talks, adoration and confession.

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>.

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

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

Place: St. Mary's Church, Canton

Date: 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

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

SURVIVING DIVORCE

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

Date: Beginning May 13 on Tuesdays

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: St. John XXIII Newman Center

Cost: \$25 to cover material costs.

Contact: To register go to <https://www.rcdony.org/survivingdivorce> For more information or help with registering, please contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 startaglia@rcdony.org.

LIFE-GIVING WOUNDS RETREAT

Utica — Healing retreat for adult children of divorce or separation.

Date: May 16-18**Place:** Good News Center

Cost: \$100-\$150 per person (shared or single rooms) Scholarships are available.

Features: 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. The retreat is cosponsored by the Dioceses of Ogdensburg and Syracuse.

Contact: To register, please go to <https://LGWsy.eventbrite.com>. If you have any questions, please direct them to Erin Miller at emiller@syrodio.org or 315-472-6754 opt. 1 or Steve Tartaglia at startaglia@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Saranac Lake — After-Abortion Healing retreat to be held.

Date: May 23-25**Place:** Guggenheim Lodge

Features: If you are suffering after an abortion, you're not alone. Join others on a weekend retreat of hope and healing.

Contact: For more information call Colleen 518-524-0774, email cmminer@rcdony.org or register online: rcdony.org/pro-life/rv-retreat

CAMP GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake — Camp Guggenheim registration is now open.

Dates: Session 1 - (11-14 yrs old) - July 6 to July 11; Session 2 - (12-15 yrs old) - July 13 to July 18; Session 3 - (12-15 yrs old) - July 20 to July 25; Session 4 - (12-15 yrs old) - July 27 to Aug. 1; Session 5 - (16-18 yrs old) - Aug. 3 to Aug. 8

Cost: \$425, scholarships are available

Features: Don't miss this opportunity to grow in your faith while enjoying a full camp experience in beautiful Saranac Lake!

Contact: To register go to: www.rcdony.org/youth/camp To inquire about financial aid please email Jeannie Grizzuto at jgrizzuto@rcdony.org

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake — Registration for Family Guggenheim is now open.

Date: Session 1: Aug. 14-17; Session 2: Aug. 21-24; Session 3:

Oct. 10-12

Features: Family Guggenheim welcomes families to come enjoy a special weekend in the beauty of the Adirondacks. Expect fun family workshops and activities, as well as liturgy and prayer services. Take time for paddle boat rides, beach volleyball and hiking. You are never too young or too old to enjoy being family at Camp Guggenheim!

Contact: Registration is open now at <https://www.rcdony.org/fg> Financial assistance is available. For more information, contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org.

AFTERNOON OF MUSIC & ART

Saranac Lake — Recognizing sacred music's ability to foster Hope and desiring an opportunity for musicians throughout the diocese to come together for a communal expression of hope and prayer, the Diocese of Ogdensburg will host an arts festival, "The Look, Feel, & Sound of Hope."

Date: Aug. 24**Time:** 3 p.m. to 5**Place:** St. Bernard's Church

Features: The event is part of the diocese's 2025 Jubilee Year Celebration and aims to bring a greater share of hope and prayer to our lives, our communities and our world. Artists and musicians, stay tuned for details how to participate in this festival. Entry details and registration will be available soon

WOMENS HEALING RETREAT

Ogdensburg — The Our Lady of the Rosary Healing Retreat Committee is offering a Women's Healing Retreat with the theme "From Eve to Mary, A Journey of Hope and Healing."

Date: Oct. 9 - 12**Place:** Wadhams Hall

Cost: \$275 includes accommodations and meals

Features: Presenters will be Father Michael Jablonski and Father Douglas Schirmer

Contact: to register and for more information go to <https://www.rcdony.org/ourlady>

Movie depicts saint through modern drama

By Francesca Pollio Fenton
Catholic News Agency

A fourth-century monk who became a revered saint in both the east and west will be the subject of a new film told through the lens of a modern-day gangland drama.

"Moses the Black" is scheduled to start production later this year, according to Simeon Faith, an equity film fund managed by Simeon Entertainment that focuses on financing and producing faith-based films with worldwide studio-level distribution. The announcement was made March 13 that Omar Epps, Chukwudi Iwuj, and rappers Wiz Khalifa and Quavo will star in the film.

According to legend, St. Moses – an Ethiopian who lived in Egypt in the late 300s – was enslaved as a youth by a government official who dismissed him for theft and suspected murder. Moses then joined a band of robbers and became their leader. Eventually, after committing many crimes and moral atrocities, he hid himself in a monastery near Alexandria but became so inspired by the lives of the monks that he gave up his way of life and joined a monastic community himself. He was killed, along with some brother monks, around the year 400.

The new film about his life will take place in modern-day Chicago and will depict his real-life conversion from thief and gang leader to humble monk and model of repentance. His story will be told through the eyes of a modern-day gangster confronting his own path to redemption.

Executive producers of the film include Epps, Khalifa, and Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson and was written by Yelena Popovic, best known for her film "Man of God." Popovic is also serving as the director of the film and producer alongside her husband, Alexandros Poter.

In an interview with CNA, Popovic shared the inspiration behind the film and why she felt it was necessary to tell the story in this modern way.

When speaking about what inspired a film about St. Moses the Black, Popovic said she felt "moved by his story of repentance" and was "fascinated" by his story.

She explained that she first began to write the script for the film right before filming her movie "Man of God," which tells the story of St. Nectarios of Aegina. However, she was experiencing writer's block and felt it was best to put "Moses the Black" to the side until she finished filming "Man of

God." Soon after, she realized that "Moses the Black" needed to be told in a different way.

"That's when I had this epiphany about telling his story through the eyes of a modern-day gangster in Chicago and I felt that that was probably the best way to do justice to the story of St. Moses the Black and his incredible repentance and life that he had," she said.

The writer also emphasized the importance of making the film relatable and spoke to many individuals who lived lives of crime and experienced powerful stories of conversion and repentance. She highlighted the story of one man she met in Pittsburgh who lived a life of crime and now puts his life on the line every day as he helps young people get out of gangs.

"I knew that when I decided to make the story through the eyes of the person in Chicago who lives in the world of crime, I knew that I had to really speak to people on the ground," she explained. "And first of all, I asked people if they thought that the story would help their community – this was the key – and everyone was very much for it. So that gave me hope and courage to do something like that."

"And then thanks to my

brothers and sisters in Christ in the inner city of Chicago," she continued, "I was able to write a story that's very real and that speaks to people for real, not just a story that mimics the story of St. Moses, but it has the reality in it because it's the only way that people will be able to relate to the character, if they can see themselves in it."

When speaking to the actors taking part in the movie, Popovic expressed how they felt that the screenplay "spoke to people."

"This is why I believe that 50 and Wiz, and a lot of people that would like to see the communities doing better and they would like to see this world being a better place, they realize that the only way that we can have an impact is if we speak the language of the people," she said.

Popovic said she hopes the new film will remind people of Jesus' great mercy.

"We have to really understand that he is the Savior, he forgives sins – there is no human being that cannot come to him and change with his help," she said. "So I'm trying to give hope to people – this is ultimately the message of the Gospel. Jesus said I came to call sinners to repentance, not the righteous ones."

St. Peter's Basilica to exhibit Veronica's Veil

By Victoria Cardiel
Catholic News Agency

On Sunday, April 6, the fifth Sunday of Lent, St. Peter's Basilica will display the revered "Veronica's Veil," a cloth that, according to tradition, was used to wipe the face of Jesus on his way to Calvary, renewing a very ancient tradition of the Catholic Church.

At 6 p.m. local time, while the litanies are being intoned, the faithful will walk through the naves of the basilica, entering through the Holy Door. From the Veronica loggia, the relic, also

known as the Holy Face, will be displayed in an extraordinary liturgy.

Afterward, the archpriest of St. Peter's Basilica, Cardinal Mauro Gambetti, is scheduled to celebrate a Mass with the canons participating.

But what exactly is this relic, and why has it attracted more and more people for centuries?

The relic is referenced in the sixth station of the Way of the Cross, where a woman named Veronica wipes the face of Jesus with a cloth as he carries the cross to Calvary.

According to tradition, this cloth bears the true image of Christ's face.

The woman who wiped Jesus' face is commonly known as Veronica, derived from the Latin "vera icona," meaning "true icon." It is believed that Christ's image was imprinted on the veil on his way to the cross. The cloth itself is also named Veronica.

Along with a relic of the cross and the relic of the lance of St. Longinus, the Veil of Veronica occupies a place of great importance within St. Peter's Basilica. According to tradition, Longi-

nus was the soldier who pierced Christ's side.

The cloth, linen, or veil of Veronica (or simply Veronica) is normally kept in a chapel that lies behind a balcony above a colossal statue of the saint by Francesco Mochi situated in an alcove that is part of one of the piers supporting the dome.

Although the account of Veronica does not appear in the Gospels, she was later associated with the woman with a hemorrhage who was cured by Jesus. The apocryphal book of the Acts of Pilate (sixth century)

also speaks of a woman, known as Veronica, who wiped Christ's face with a veil as he made his way to Calvary.

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



SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

Making Easter come alive

The story of the resurrection is a simple story. In the context of the Jewish Passover, Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples, a meal that commemorates the releasing of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery. During that meal, Jesus takes bread and wine and transforms them into his body and blood and even more remarkably tells his disciples to replicate what he is doing through the ages. Likewise, they are to imitate his life of service of one to another.

That night he is captured. The next day he is crucified. He was accused of being unfaithful to the Jewish laws and traditions, accused of making himself into God, accused of being a rabble rouser. He is cru-

cified for his so-called evil deeds.

A few days later, he rises from the dead, miraculously, while even his closest disciples have a hard time understanding how this could have happened.

The stories of Holy Thursday and Good Friday are all about what Jesus did, said, and suffered. The stories about the resurrection tell what happened to Jesus, but the stories reflect even more the reactions of others to what Jesus did. Even his closest followers are incredulous. They do not know what to say, do or believe.

Mary Magdalene wanted to touch Jesus. Thomas would not believe unless he could touch Jesus. The women were told to hurry



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

April 20

Mass of Easter Day

READINGS

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Colossians 3:1-4

John 20:1-9

and tell the others what happened. The disciples on the road to Emmaus had their eyes opened when they listened to Jesus. This section of the Gospels focuses on reactions to Jesus and his resurrection from the dead.

So, how do we fit into this picture? Society has done an excellent job in secularizing into oblivion the word Easter with bunnies, egg hunts, peeps and solid chocolate rabbits. The next step is obliterating the word, Easter. That eradication process has already begun - many schools and other environments are changing

the word Easter into spring. All of this is just one more nail in Christianity's coffin.

So, just as Jesus rose from his "coffin," we too must make Our Easter come alive not only in our hearts but in our lives. How can we describe the core reality of Easter, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead?

The resurrection is a one-time event meant to spread throughout the whole world. History did not end with the discovery of America. A baby's gift of speech does not stop with the first words uttered.

The resurrection of Jesus did not stop on that Easter morn. Rather, the resurrection of Jesus brings new life to the world, the hope of everlasting life, the promise of a future

filled with hope. The resurrection of Jesus should invigorate our lives. The growth of our relationship with Jesus should never end with an occasional appearance in church.

The resurrection should enliven our daily activities and be celebrated each Sunday. The resurrection comes alive each time we celebrate a sacrament; the resurrection is fulfilled when we baptize a person. The resurrection is celebrated as we celebrate the Eucharist. And, yes, the resurrection brings life when we bring someone to church for burial.

Christ is risen. There is no need to fear. Christ is risen - Alleluia. Christ is risen - we now have the fullness of life. Christ is risen - live fully our gift of life.

What is a Foster Grandparent?

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

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



Am I Qualified to be a Foster Grandparent?

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

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



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

Ray Foote
age 82
Foster
Grandparent

Want more info about how to get started?

Contact Melissa Howard,
Volunteer Coordinator

PHONE:

(518)359-7688

EMAIL:

mhoward@cathcharities.org

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

April
is Child Abuse
Prevention
Month

What will your
church do?

Blue Sunday
Day of Prayer for
Abused Children is
always on the last
Sunday of April.
April 27, 2025

How to pray for abused children on Blue Sunday

1. Pray they will be rescued.
2. Pray they are placed with caring people.
3. Pray their minds and bodies can heal.
4. Pray they find hope.
5. Pray for those who rescue them.



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

New church in Mae Chaem

Over 1,500 faithful from various villages participated in the inauguration of the new church in the mountainous district of Mae Chaem, Thailand, in the Diocese of Chiang Mai, expressing great joy and gratitude.

According to a statement sent to Fides, the previous church in the village of Pa Fang, located in the youth center, had become too small and inadequate to meet the growing needs of the faithful, especially since many of them moved to the city of Mae Chaem for work, education, or other reasons.

To meet this need, the Thai Province of the Redemptorist Missionaries, who have been working in Mae Chaem for over 25 years, inaugurated the new church at the heart of their mission on April 5.

Strategically located in the heart of Mae Chaem, the new church is intended to be a visible and welcoming presence for all seeking support and a sense of community and faith.

Its establishment is a testament to the vitality of the Church in this mission area and to the commitment of those who support it. As Provincial Father Peter Jittapol Plangklang (C.Ss.R.) reports, this is a milestone that marks not only the growth of the local Catholic community but also a renewed commitment to pastoral care among the region's tribal peoples.

The Redemptorists' long-standing presence has borne rich fruit: The mission now includes three main parishes and over 70 chapels scattered throughout various villages.

The new church symbolizes the mission to proclaim the Good News to the poor and marginalized. It also represents the growing maturity and unity of the Catholic communities among the tribal peoples, whose faith continues to flourish despite geographical, linguistic, and socioeconomic challenges.

The blessing ceremony was presided over by Francis Xavier Vira Arpondratana, Archbishop of Bangkok and former Bishop of Chiang Mai, in the presence of Archbishop Peter Brian Wells, Apostolic Nuncio to Thailand, Father Peter Jittapol Plangklang (C.Ss.R.), Provincial Superior of the Redemptorists in Thailand, as well as other priests, religious, civil leaders, and local authorities.

Article from FIDES missionary news service of the Pontifical Mission Societies. Please remember the Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg INC. when writing or changing your will.

OBITUARIES

AuSable Forks — Nancy Lee (Betters) Bombard, 81; Mass of Christian Burial April 12, 2025 at Holy Name Church.

Brasher Falls — Carol Ann Ploof Healy, 85; Mass of Christian Burial April 11, 2025 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Ann Cemetery, St. Regis Falls.

Brasher Falls — Leona E. (Blair) Oakes, 84; Mass of Christian Burial April 9, 2025 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Carthage — Keith M. (Bisha) Delles, 81; Private services to be held.

Canton — Hannah M. Emhof, 90; Mass of Christian Burial April 12, 2025 at St. Mary's Church.

Champlain — Michael Francis Tacy, 60; Funeral Services April 10, 2025 at St. Mary's Church.

Croghan — Judith A. (Zeher) Scoville, 80; Mass of Christian Burial April 14, 2025 at St. Stephen's Church.

Ellenburg — Loyal McDonald, 88; Funeral Services April 12, 2025 at Rabideau Funeral Home.

Inlet — Sarah E. Frey, 61; Memorial Services May 3, 2025 at St. Anthony's Church.

Lowville — Virginia Margaret (Paragi) DeCarlo, 96; Mass of Christian Burial April 11, 2025 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Massena — Joseph P. Catanzarite, 83; Mass of Christian Burial April 9, 2025 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Mineville — Virginia (Vallegra) Neggia, 94; Mass of Christian Burial May 1, 2025 at All Saints Church; burial in St. Peter and Paul's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Frederick Charles LaFlair, 73; Graveside Services May 23, 2025 at Notre Dame Cemetery.

Peru — Helen E. (Stone) Cook, 87;

Funeral Services April 14, 2025 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Peru — Wanda Ellen Dwyer, 75; Mass of Christian Burial April 11, 2025 at St. Augustine's Church.

Peru — Noreen (Betters) Farquharson, 89; Funeral Service May 8, 2025 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Matthews Cemetery, Black Brook.

Plattsburgh — Clarence "Chuck" Trudeau, 74; Mass of Christian Burial April 8, 2025 at St. Peter's Church.

Redwood — Constance Marie (Amyot) Panunzio, 93; Mass of Christian Burial April 7, 2025 at St. Francis Xavier Church; burial in St.

Francis Xavier Cemetery.

Rouses Point — Allan F. Nautel, 83; Mass of Christian Burial May 3, 2025 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Watertown — James D. Horton, 89; Mass of Christian Burial April 7, 2025 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

West Chazy — Rita (Trombly) Fessette, 98; Mass of Christian Burial April 14, 2025 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

West Chazy — Agnes Florence (Osier) LaPier, 92; Mass of Christian Burial April 11, 2025 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

- Read local stories and commentaries
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more



Find us on Facebook!



FORMATION FOR MINISTRY

Is God calling you to do more in your church?

Enrollment open for 2025-2027 cycle

- Two-year program
- Online courses through Boston College for convenient learning
- In-person workshops
- Interested?
Contact Formation for Ministry Director,
Cathy Russell at crussell@rcdony.org
- Application deadline is July 15.

Your Bishop's Fund at Work for You!



Diocese of Ogdensburg



SPECIAL COLLECTION GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 18, 2025

HOW THE PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION IS USED



What is the Pontifical Good Friday Collection?

**It supports the people of the Holy Land
and the pilgrims that visit.**

At the request of the Holy Father, the Franciscans of the Holy Land promote the Pontifical Good Friday Collection in the United States and other parts of the world. Funds are distributed at the direction of the Vatican's Congregation for the Oriental Churches. A portion of the funds are directly allocated to the educational and ecclesial projects in the Middle East. The rest of the funds collected in the United States and a number of other countries support the ministries and programs entrusted by the Holy See to the Holy Land Franciscans. The Franciscans have served in the Holy Land for 800 years.

**The Pontifical Good Friday Collection
provides, Humanitarian, Liturgical,
Pastoral, Archaeological, Charitable,
Educational services, as well as care for
the Holy Places.**

Serving those in need in the Holy Land

- **250** friars **11** countries
- **65** sanctuaries and **23** parishes
- **6** guest houses for pilgrims
- **30** youth served by Bethlehem Boys' Home
- **63** apartments restored for families in need
- **1,020** employees in Israel and Palestine
- **17** schools with more than **10,000** students
- **509** university scholarships
- **56** Friars preparing for the priesthood
- **700** refugees aided on the island of Rhodes
- **8,000+** Syrian families aided
- **650+** families in Lebanon assisted
- Construction of a Catholic school in Cana

Help us continue to serve!

Commissariat of the Holy Land

1400 Quincy St. NE, Washington, DC 20017

www.MyFranciscan.org/good-Friday