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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 80 Number 9

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MAY 21, 2025

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



PHOTO BY DARCY FARGO/EDITOR

Father John L. 'Jack' Downs, Father Raymond J. Moreau and Father Bill F. (Guy) Edwards were honored at an anniversary Mass celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on May 12. Father Downs celebrated 70 years of priesthood, while Father Moreau and Father Edwards celebrated 40 years.

THREE GENERATIONS OF HIKING, SWIMMING & PRAISING



Amanda Conklin, right, hugs her sister, Erin, in the Camp Guggenheim 'hug line' at the end of a camp week when Erin was a camper and Conklin was a counselor. When Conklin's daughter, Emma, goes to camp this year, she'll be the third generation of her family to attend.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope Leo expected to live in papal apartment

By Hannah Brockhaus
Catholic News Agency

Pope Leo XIV is expected to move into the official papal residence, an apartment on the top floor of the Apostolic Palace, departing from the living arrangements used by Pope Francis for 12 years.

The papal apartment, which is a series of rooms wrapping around the Vatican's Sixtus V Courtyard, was the traditional home of pontiffs for over a century before Pope Francis eschewed those living quarters for a suite in the Vatican's guesthouse, the Casa Santa Marta.

Pope Francis explained his

decision as "a need to live my life with others" in a 2013 interview. The late pope said the papal apartment is "old, tastefully decorated and large, but not luxurious."

Francis' choice of living space was commonly interpreted as a sign of his simplicity and rejection of papal pomp, though U.S. Jesuit Father James Martin said Leo's expected move into the papal apartment was a prudent decision.

Martin called it understandable that Leo might move back into the Apostolic Palace, given the busy and crowded nature of the Vatican guesthouse compared with the privacy of the papal apartment.

"Leo's move should not be taken as a sign either of a critique of Pope Francis (whom he has praised repeatedly and whose legacy he formally told the cardinals he wishes to continue) or as him not living 'simply,'" the author wrote on X.

Pope Francis lived in a second-floor bedroom with a sitting room attached but would go frequently to the Apostolic Palace for meetings and audiences. Toward the end of his pontificate, he would also receive visitors in various meeting rooms of the guesthouse.

According to people who have been there, the Santa Marta guesthouse posed sig-

nificant security challenges, and when the pope made it his official residence after his 2013 election, a section of the second floor was closed to guests for security.

The quarters in the Apostolic Palace include a chapel, bedroom and bathroom, papal study, office for the pope's secretary, a living room, dining room, kitchen, and library for meetings.

Since John Paul II's pontificate, which ended in illness, the apartment has also included an outfitted medical suite that was later expanded to include dental equipment. There is also a roof garden and rooms for housekeeping staff.

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Either and neither

"Can I ask you a Catholic question?"

Because I work for the Church, it's not uncommon for someone to start a conversation or message exchange with some version of that phrase. When I saw that text in the preview of a message sent to me by a friend via social media, I got kind of excited.

"Absolutely," I replied.

"What you think of the new pope?" he asked. "I have a few friends who are upset with his politics, but I don't think they're Catholic. You're Catholic. What

do you think?"

The question made me laugh.

"I don't know what your friends are upset about, so I can't speak to any specific issue, but if people are upset with Pope Leo's politics, he's likely being Catholic," I responded. "Based on the way our political system works now, being Catholic means you don't fall in line completely with either political party.

We're a little of column A and a little of column B, and at the same time we sometimes disagree with column A, and we

sometimes disagree with column B. The term 'Catholic' comes from a Greek word that means 'universal.' I guess you could say we're universal in that we land in both political parties and simultaneously disagree with both political parties."

My friend said he thought my answer made sense. I was glad he asked. In a world that seems so divided by political leanings, I sometimes forget that Catholics don't fit neatly into any camp.

Most of us pick a side of the political spectrum. We're liberal or conservative, Republicans or Democrats. While I try to resist it, I sometimes fall into the habit of vilifying

people who didn't choose "my side."

In essence, I'm getting angry with people who don't pick "my side" even though I don't always pick "my side." This seems kind of absurd.

It feels appropriate that the Holy Spirit would get me reflecting on that absurdity because of a conversation about Pope Leo XIV. The new holy father's motto is "In Illo uno unum," "In the One, we are one."

We're called to be one, the Body of Christ. We can't be a unified body if we're too busy being mad at each other.

I'll try to keep that in mind moving forward. Even without being asked.

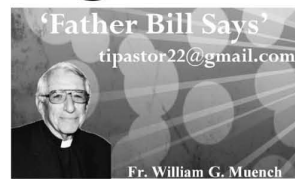


**Darcy L.
Fargo**

Learning about our new pope

I was in a grocery store when my phone started to buzz - white smoke. So, I hurried to pay for my goods and get out of the store. I drove home, probably with a little extra speed. I did know that it would take a while before the balcony scene began. The new pope had to change his vestments. Then he would have to meet with all the cardinals - now as the newly elected pope. Later I learned he took some time to write the message that he would give as his inaugural address.

I was truly impressed by the crowd that packed into St. Peter's Square. I know that once the word got out that the smoke was white, that the cardinals had elected a pope, many people in the area headed to St. Peter's. I also imagined that many of the students in the nearby seminaries ducked out of class and headed for St. Peter's. This new pope would



be the pope when they would be ordained.

I got home in plenty of time. In fact, I had plenty of time to grab some lunch while waited to discover who will be our new pope.

I must admit that I was anxious. It just has to be one of the good guys. It took some time and then the curtain was opened. And when the cardinal deacon announced the name, I was totally surprised.

A Cardinal born in Chicago, Illinois, Robert Francis Prevost, an Augustinian priest, was now our pope - Pope Leo XIV. He had been a missionary - a priest and then a bishop - who ministered in Peru. I loved it. This is rather special for the Dio-

cese of Ogdensburg. Several of our priests have spent time as missionaries in Peru. Our parish, St. Martin de Porres in Molendo, is in the south of Peru. Pope Leo's diocese in Peru was in the north of the country.

Pope Leo is an Augustinian priest. That is his congregation. Here in our diocese, the Augustinian priests served as pastors at St. James Church, Carthage. Now, there are no more Augustinian priests there. The parish school is still named Augustinian Academy. I remember well several of the Augustinian priests who served there during the years.

Since Pope Leo's election, I have tried to investigate what I could about him, and I must say I am constantly impressed. In his inaugural talk from St. Peter's balcony, he emphasized a call for peace I this world of ours. He called for an end to violence.

Pope Leo celebrated his

first Mass as the Pope on the day after his election with all the cardinals of the Church. I am certain that he knew his first homily would be carefully analyzed by these cardinals and by all the rest of us. I found it interesting that he spoke the first few paragraphs in English. He chose to say in English, the Psalm response of the Mass - "I will sing a new song to the Lord, because he has done marvels." Also in English, he spoke of the Catholic Church "as a community of friends of Jesus, as believers to announce the good news, to announce the Gospel." I was pleased that he spoke of us Catholics as "friends of Jesus."

I am certain that we are going to find our new pope a powerful and exceptional holy father. The Holy Spirit has never failed us. However, we must pray for him as he settles into his place as our holy father.

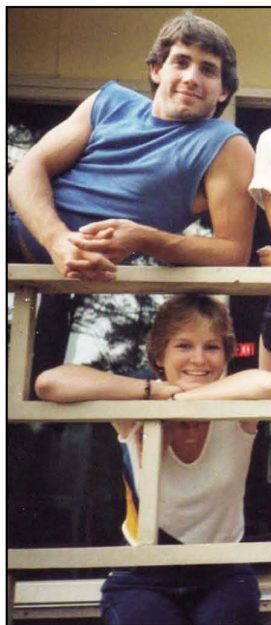
Three generations hike, swim and praise

By Amanda Conklin
Contributing Writer

As I poured my morning coffee a sleepy smile crept onto my face as my oldest paraded my youngest via piggy back around the room singing the Guggenheim song. "G-U-GGEN HUH! H-E-I-M GUGGENHEIM GUGGENHEIM!"

This summer's 2025 camp season will be my eldest's first year as a camper, and she is counting down the days until she can attend. She has been yearning to attend camp since she was old enough to say "Guggy." Camp Guggenheim holds all the nostalgic memories a summer camp normally holds, but for our family it's in an even bigger way. My mom attended Camp Guggenheim as a camper for several years. My parents met on Camp Guggenheim Staff in the Summer of 1983 and fell in love. They got married in 1986. After I was born, I was baptized at Guggenheim. I often played on the shore of Lower Saranac Lake at Guggenheim from a very early age as my parents offered to take the Summer Camp counselors on boat rides to relax on their Saturday's off. I attended camp as a camper and then served on staff for four years including as the program director and director of Teen Vision. My husband and I had our rehearsal dinner on the grounds of Camp Guggenheim. I can't believe I have a child old enough to attend as a camper.

I am also waiting with hopeful anticipation for my daughter to attend her first week of camp. She has recently had a hard time fitting in with her peers at school and



(Above left) John and Colleen Miner met while on staff at Camp Guggenheim in 1983. (Above middle) The couple's daughter, Amanda (Miner) Conklin was a Guggenheim camper and counselor. Conklin's daughter, Emma, pictured on the camp raft with her cousins, will be a first-time camper this summer.



has been on the receiving end of some bullying. She is at the age where cliques are starting to form, and though she is the sweetest child I've ever met and is incredibly social, she feels left out quite often. It seems history is repeating itself as I also was bullied and struggled to fit in at her age. I assured her she will meet life-long friends at Camp Guggenheim this summer, just as I did. There is something truly sacramental about entering those gates on Forrest Home Road that somehow erases social and economic status. Even the most homesick, quiet camper on Sunday somehow integrates wonderfully and by Friday closing Mass is part of the Guggenheim family. Even the most popular kid at school sets that trophy down for a week of Camp Guggenheim. It is some

wonderful combination of attentive counselors, mountain air and Holy Spirit that allows a tiny piece of heaven on earth to settle on the grounds of our home on the water.

Most summer camps are a great atmosphere for memories to be made, but Camp Guggenheim has an added element that makes it well worth the money. It isn't just camp fires, goofy songs, and team building activities. There is real, authentic depth in the Catholic faith that is the life-changing piece that sets Guggenheim apart from other woodsy summer camps. Though I attended Catholic School through sixth grade and had wonderful parents who raised me in the faith, it was at Camp Guggenheim where I first experienced praying the Divine Office as a counselor. I had my first



Register for Camp Guggenheim

Registration for Camp Guggenheim is still open.

- 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 is \$425, and scholarships are available. To register go to: www.rcdony.org/youth/camp. To inquire about financial aid please email Jeannie Grizzuto at jgrizzuto@rcdony.org.

moving experience with Eucharistic Adoration at camp. I felt comfortable enough to ask the hard questions about the faith of the counselors and chaplains at Theology on Tap there. I found peers and mentors who shared my deep faith, not as a side interest, but as the foundation of their lives. It is where I met most of my close, lifelong friends. There have been many birthdays, weddings, baptisms and even funerals with large Guggenheim contingents. There is something about the mountain backdrop and the mixed aroma of pine and sunscreen that opens a heart to Christ

working on a soul. The number of marriages, priestly vocations, and religious vocations I've witnessed come from time at Camp Guggenheim is inspiring. I strongly encourage anyone who has a child they love between the ages of 11 and 18 to send them to Camp Guggenheim this summer. It will be a strange new "Guggy-first" attending closing Mass as the parent of a camper, but I can't wait to see the joy on my tween's face as she sings the camp song while holding the hands of her new friends and to be greeted with the sounds and smells of home once again.

Team effort revives Constableville rectory

By Michelle Beagle
Contributing Writer

In the southern part of the diocese, in the charming village of Constableville, is St. Mary's Catholic Church. The parish dates to 1845. The church sits proudly on the corner of John and Main Street in the village. Directly behind the church is the rectory.

Upon the retirement of Pastor Father Lawrence E. Marullo, Father Daniel L. Chapin was appointed pastor in Port Leyden, Constableville, West Leyden and Lyons Falls.

At the time of his arrival, Father Chapin was staying at the rectory with St. Martin's Church in Port Leyden. Constableville is a more centralized location as Father Chapin travels to St. Mary's Nativity Church in West Leyden and St. John's Church in Lyons Falls. Unfortunately, the rectory in Constableville was outdated and in need of rehabilitation. Consequently, a major renovation started on August 24, 2023.

"With the retirement of Father Marullo, the rectory of the church was emptied, and it was discovered that it needed updating and repair," said Jeanette Carpenter, a member of the Altar and Rosary Society and parish trustee. "The rectory had not been upgraded in years and years. We decided to form the St. Mary's House Parish committee to help get the project started."

When the project first started, those involved were surprised at the scope of the needed work.

"When we went in to start, we had no idea what we were going to find," said Carpenter. "It was beyond what we originally thought. The carpet throughout the house



Photos by Jeanette Carpenter and Deborah Earl

(Left) The kitchen in the rectory in Constableville prior to renovation and (right) after renovation.

was removed. The guest room along with the kitchen was taken down to the studs. The guest room was insulated. New kitchen cupboards were installed along with new flooring in the kitchen. The electricity throughout the whole house was checked and upgraded as needed. New showers were installed in the bathrooms. The rooms had new sheetrock placed and repainted with calming colors. Father Chapin chose a simple chair for his bedroom. The window of his private room overlooks the whole landscape - the church, parish hall and parish grounds. Everything had to be washed and cleaned."

The committee also ensured the space was appropriately furnished and decorated.

"The guest room had two twin beds placed," Carpenter said. "Unique lamps for the living room were found that have an angel in the base that works as a nightlight. When completed, the very last thing to be done was to place the picture

of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane over the hutch in the dining room along with a wood carving of the Last Supper hung in the kitchen.

Work progressed in stages as funding allowed and as supply orders arrived.

"As money was always a concern, we monitored the project closely, with a complete shutdown in March of 2024 due to lack of funds," said Deborah Earl, parish council member and newly appointed trustee.

Carpenter noted that the renovation was a team effort. She stated that one day she got a call and was told, "The crew is coming tomorrow to rip out the kitchen cabinets."

Janette went to the rectory to remove items from the cupboards and had about 10 totes filled. She said she thought, "What can I do? I cannot get this all done by myself."

Her husband, John, took the totes to the garage.

"I then asked if peo-

ple would just come and take a tote home to clean items and return," she said. "They stepped up and did."

While the scope of the project was an initial surprise, there were other surprises along the way.

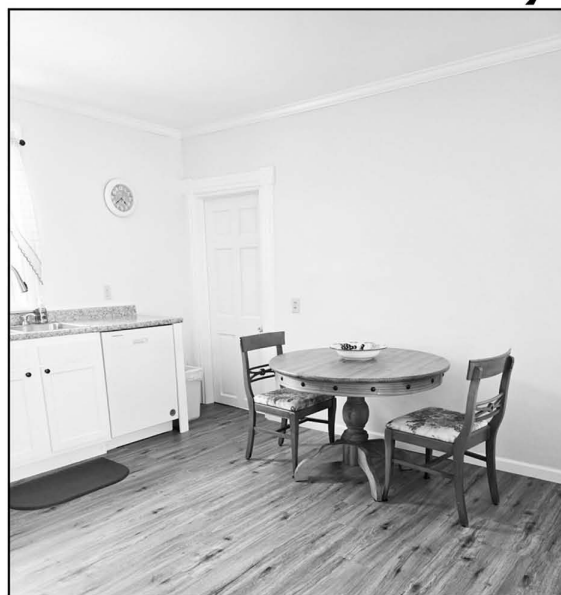
"The greatest moment came when we started to tear up the carpeting and found the most beautiful hardwood floors throughout the whole house including the upstairs," Earl said. "The project was lengthy, but rewarding, as we went from room to room to restore the house into a beautiful home. Each committee member brought much talent, time, and expertise to the project. Upon completion, I felt pride in helping host the open house and finally bringing the project to a close when we turned the keys over to Father Chapin."

An open house was held February 2, a year and a half after the project's start date. During that year and a half, there were many meetings, trips to stores to acquire curtains, bedding, select-

ing paint colors, fixtures, shower units, flooring, kitchen cupboards, appliances, etc.

Upon presenting the keys to Father Daniel Chapin, Deborah Earl concluded, "At this time we present you the keys to your comfy, beautiful, fully restored home. Enjoy your time there and find peace in knowing that it was created with love and care by your church family. May God Bless you and keep you in his care."

The project would not have been possible without George and Terry Cataldo, longtime parishioners, who bequeathed a significant amount of money to St. Mary's. George passed away at age 90, and his wife Theresa "Terry" Zimmer Evans Cataldo passed away at the age of 91. Gerald "Bub" Morczek passed away on January 14, 2024, at age 72, and money was donated in his memory. Other donations came from an anonymous donor and from the Altar and Rosary Society.



Sister James Marie Kelly, SSJ, died on May 12

Sister James Marie Kelly, a Sister of St. Joseph, died May 12, 2025 at the Summit Village in Watertown at the age of 89.

Born Eileen Theresa Kelly on June 4, 1935, in Ogdensburg, she was the daughter of Edgar Joseph and Alida Doe Kelly.

She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph September 8, 1953, and received the habit on April 25, 1954. Sister James Marie made final profession on August 29, 1959.

In July of 2024, she celebrated her 70th Jubilee.

Sister James Marie was a graduate of Immaculate Heart Academy, Class of 1953. She received her bachelor's degree in elementary education from SUNY Potsdam.

She later pursued her master's degree in secondary math from SUNY Plattsburgh. Sister was the recipient of the NSF summer grant to the University of Pittsburgh and Marquette University.

Sister James Marie has taught in many schools in the Diocese of Ogdensburg including St. Patrick's in Watertown, St. Mary's in Massena, St. Patrick's in Port Henry, Augustinian Academy in Carthage (where she was principal), Holy Family in Massena, St. Mary's in Ticonderoga (where she was principal), Mater Dei College in Ogdensburg, and Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown. In 2005, she was named Teacher of the Year in the Diocese of Ogdensburg Catholic School System.

Sister James Marie is survived by many nieces and nephews, including Eileen Decent of Watertown, Jack Donoghue of Syracuse, Michael Donoghue of South Carolina, Patrick Donoghue of Fayetteville, Nancy Lavery of Watertown, Deanna Cole of Watertown, Kevin Kelly of Massena, Brian Kelly of Watertown, Sally Cadigan of Sedona, Arizona, Jerry Beattie of Lake Tahoe; and a sister-in-law, Caroline Kelly of Watertown; as well as several great nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents, she is predeceased by her sisters Kathleen Beattie and Jean Donoghue, her brother Donald Louis Kelly, and a nephew Jay Beattie.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Holy Family Church, Watertown, on May 15. Bishop Terry LaValley celebrated the Mass, and Msgr. Robert Aucoin was homilist. Memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters of St. Joseph, 866 Arsenal Street, Watertown, NY 13601.

Online condolences to her family may be posted at www.cummingsfuneral.com.

Funeral Mass for Sr. John Helen Main is Saturday

Sister John Helen Main, a Grey Nun of the Sacred Heart, 86, died on Sunday, May 11, 2025, in the sixty-ninth year of her religious life.

Kathryn Anna Main was born June 15, 1938, in Ogdensburg, the daughter of John J. and Helen (Barr) Main. She attended Bishop Conroy School and graduated from St. Mary's Academy in 1956, entering the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart that same year. She earned a bachelor's degree in education (1967) from D'Youville College, Buffalo, and received a master's degree in elementary education (1977) from SUNY Potsdam.

Sister's ministry as teacher began at St. Norbert in Paoli, Pennsylvania, for a year and then moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where she taught at for six years. For the next 45 years, she was missioned in her home state of New York in various locations and educational ministries. Her ministry in the Diocese of Ogdensburg spanned several decades. She taught in Potsdam at St. Mary's School (1962-67 and 1980-81) and was director of the Potsdam/Akwesasne Talent Search from 1989-91. From 1971-1980, she taught at Bishop Conroy/Ogdensburg Catholic Central School; she was an Instructor at Mater Dei College in remedial/developmental education for three years. For 20 years, from 1992-2012 she was a pre-GED Teacher at the Ogdensburg Correctional Facility. Simultaneously, from 2000 to 2005, she served as director of



Sister John Helen Main, GNSH

the Peer Tutor program at Ogdensburg Free Academy. In December 2012, she moved to the Motherhouse in Yardley, Pennsylvania, then later to a Grey Nun community in the greater Philadelphia area, serving her senior sisters through visits and phone calls until shortly before her death.

She is predeceased by

her parents and brother, Paul J. Main. In addition to her religious congregation, she is survived by her twin brother, Kermit A. Main, and several nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 24 in the Redeemer Sisters' Chapel, 521 Moredon Road, Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania. Sharing of memories will be at 10 a.m., and the Funeral Mass will follow at 10:30 a.m. Burial will be in Resurrection Cemetery, Bensalem, Pennsylvania. Memorial donations may be made to the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, 928 Jaymor Rd., Suite C-120, Southampton, PA 18966 or at www.greynun.org Arrangements by Beck Givnish Funeral Homes.

FORMATION FOR MINISTRY

Is God calling you to do more in your church?

Enrollment open for 2025-2027 cycle

- Two-year program
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Contact Formation for Ministry Director,
Cathy Russell at crussell@rcdony.org
- Application deadline is July 15.

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Diocese of Ogdensburg



Environmental Stewardship**Laudato Si - Chapter 2**

It is in the 2nd Chapter of Laudato Si that Pope Francis begins to skillfully weave together spirituality and science, producing a telling picture of what is occurring on our planet.

Relying on numerous quotes from the Bible, teachings from previous popes, theologians and church scholars, the Holy Father presents a moral and religious case for protecting the world and its inhabitants. These references indicate that our life's concerns, actions and works should be based on improving "...our relationship with God, our neighbors and the earth itself."

Interspersed with the religious teachings, Pope Francis cites scientific studies that examine and detail the decline of ecosystems over the past 150 years or so. Before the Industrial Revolution, harmony existed in nature, in the seasons and in the climate allowing life to flourish. However, unsustainable practices of modern society are upsetting the sensitive balances throughout natural systems around the world. This is wreaking havoc with the lives of billions of people in underdeveloped regions of the world.

The pope ends this chapter by noting Jesus "...lived in full harmony with creation." (LS98) To get closer to Jesus, St. Francis of Assisi adopted a similar lifestyle and used only resources necessary for survival and nothing more.

We have repeatedly been reminded to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength" and show the same love for our neighbors, but we are seldom reminded of our responsibility to love the earth and her creatures. Jesus preached about the birds of the air, the flowers of the field and the creatures of the sea. Everything in nature has been fashioned by God and has intrinsic value to those who love Him. Since we are all so interconnected, the damage we inflict upon nature will eventually come back to harm us, especially our children and grandchildren, in years to come.

Bishop's Public Schedule

May 19-21 – Presbyteral Assembly at the Cambria Hotel Lake Placid in Lake Placid

May 24 – 11 a.m. – Ordination to the Diaconate of Mr. Michelet Boncoeur, Mr. Tyler Martin Fitzgerald and Mr. Dennis Mamwacha Ombongi at St. Peter's Parish in Massena (at Sacred Heart Church)

May 25 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

May 27 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

1:30 p.m. – Mount St. Mary's Board Meeting via Zoom

May 28 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Protecting God's Children**The Diocese of Ogdensburg**

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

To Report Abuse

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

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

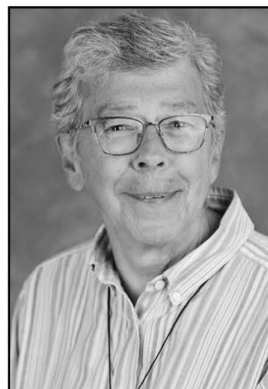
Sr. Anna Dumas, Malone native, dies May 11

Sister Anna (Annie) Dumas, a member of the Ursuline Community, passed away peacefully on May 11, 2025, at Calvary Hospital, Bronx, after living courageously with cancer for many

years. She was 77.

Born April 11, 1948, in Malone, she was the daughter of Ruth and Kenneth Dumas, who predeceased her.

Sister Ann is a graduate of NY State University, Plattsburgh. She taught for many years in Maryland, New York, and Vermont. In 2005, she entered the



Sister Anna Dumas

Ursulines. Her ministry included Serviam Academy, Wilmington, Delaware, interprovincial service in George-

town, Guyana, and The Ursuline School, New Rochelle. Sister Ann is lovingly remembered for her service as a chaplain for Ursuline's girls' basketball teams over the years. She also volunteered her services at The Food Bank of Delaware, the New Rochelle Public Library, and to her Ursuline Sisters in the 1338 Community.

She is survived by her siblings, Shirley, Gary, Donald, Thomas, Marie, Connie, Mary, and Pauline, along with their extended family and her Ursuline Sisters.

Sister Ann had donated her body to medical science.

A Memorial Mass will be held on May 30 at 10:30 a.m. at the Ursuline Province Center Chapel, 1338 North Ave., New Rochelle.

Burial will be in the family plot in Malone at a later date.

Memorial Mass will be lived streamed at <https://www.facebook.com/share/1EodGB-AsvL/>

Rest in Peace

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

May 21 – Msgr. John Pendergast, 1998; Rev. Leo A. Wiley, 2024

May 22 – Msgr. Claudius Gobet, 1961

May 23 – Deacon Richard A. Menke, 2003; Msgr. Harry K. Snow, 2021

May 24 – Rev. Francois X. Therien, O.M.I., 1902; Rev. Antoine A. Amyot, 1927; Rev. Julien Racette, O.M.I., 1937; Rev. Joseph O. Levesque, 1938; Msgr. George L. Murray, 1942

May 25 – Rev. J. Hector Mignerone, 1958; Deacon Gerald Gilner, 2023

May 26 – Rev. Thomas J. Kelleher, 1889; Rev. Steven H. Gratto, 2012

May 27 – Rev. J. Rosario Jalbert, O.M.I., 1938; Msgr. Wilfred Allen Nugent, 1991; Rev. Andrew R. Mulvaney, 2013

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

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Pope Leo embraces elements of Francis' vision

By Tyler Arnold
Catholic News Agency

Prior to his elevation to the papacy, Pope Leo XIV stayed out of the spotlight on certain reforms backed by his predecessor but maintained a close relationship with Pope Francis and support for pro-life values, the dignity of migrants, care for the environment, and a more synodal Catholic Church.

Leo, formerly Cardinal Robert Prevost, was appointed as bishop of Chiclayo, Peru, in 2015 and took on major leadership roles in the Vatican from 2023 through 2025: prefect for the Dicastery for Bishops, where he provided guidance on appointing bishops and cardinals; and president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, where he oversaw the Vatican's relations with the Church in the region.

In the past, Leo has been critical of gender ideology, much like Francis. On issues related to homosexuality and same-sex blessings, Leo's tone was very critical before his appointment as a cardinal but has since appeared to soften.

Joe Heschmeyer, an apologist at Catholic Answers, told CNA that Leo's "liturgical motto stresses the need for our unity in Christ, so I have a strong hunch that one of the goals of his pontificate will be to restore more of a sense of unity and order to the Church."

"One of the things that seems immediately clear about the new Roman pontiff is that he speaks clearly and gently," he said. "Those are both crucial right now."

CULTURE OF LIFE

Similar to Francis, Leo has been a consistent advocate for a culture of life. He has spoken out against abortion, euthanasia, and the death penalty.

Leo became involved in the pro-life movement before joining the priesthood and was active in "Villanovans for Life," the pro-life club at Villanova University, and has attended pro-life marches. He has also publicly spoken on the issue, including in social media posts.

In 2015, while attending the

March for Life in Chiclayo, the now-pontiff posted on X that people must "defend human life at all times." He also re-shared several articles on X, including articles from CNA, about the sanctity of human life and opposition to abortion.

During a 2022 interview with La Republica, then-Bishop Prevost said that being pro-life for the entirety of life means that "the death penalty is inadmissible" and that seeking "blood for blood" is not the proper answer when trying to bring about justice.

GENDER IDEOLOGY & SAME-SEX BLESSINGS

Prior to his pontificate, Leo spoke out about gender ideology and homosexuality.

While bishop of Chiclayo, the now-pontiff condemned the promotion of gender ideology in the public education system in Peru, according to the national Peruvian newspaper *Diario Correo*.

"It seeks to create genders that don't exist, since God created men and women, and trying to confuse the ideas of nature will only harm families and individuals," then-Bishop Prevost said in 2016, according to the article.

"This campaign, apparently, is going to create a lot of confusion and do a lot of harm. We mustn't confuse the importance of family and marriage with what others want to create, as if it were a right to do something that isn't," he said.

Leo further criticized the negative media portrayal of members of the clergy who support "the traditional definition of marriage" in the same interview. He criticized the positive portrayal of "alternative families comprised of same-sex partners and their adopted children." He spoke about the need for the Church to learn how to evangelize in this environment.

However, after he became a cardinal in 2023, he told Catholic News Service: "Pope Francis has made it very clear that he doesn't want people to be excluded simply on the basis of choices that they make, whether it be lifestyle, work, way to

dress, or whatever." He noted that "doctrine hasn't changed... but we are looking to be more welcoming."

After the Vatican authorized certain nonliturgical blessings of same-sex couples through the declaration *Fiducia Supplicans*, then-Cardinal Prevost said: "Each episcopal conference needs to have a certain authority" in determining how to implement the document, according to CBCP News. Prevost noted some African bishops believed "our cultural situation is such that the application of this document is just not going to work."

CONTINUITY WITH FRANCIS: SYNODALITY, IMMIGRATION, ENVIRONMENT

Leo promoted the Church's Synod on Synodality in a 2023 interview with Vatican News. The synod brings bishops, priests, and laypeople together for conversations about how to approach certain issues in the Church.

"I truly believe that the Holy Spirit is very present in the Church at this time and is pushing us towards a renewal, and therefore we are called to the great responsibility of living what I call a new attitude," then-Cardinal Prevost said. "It is not just a process, it is not just changing some ways of doing things, maybe holding more meetings before making a decision."

On social media, Leo was outspoken in support of migrants and shared posts that criticized President Donald Trump's immigration policy. Three of his five posts on X this year were criticizing those policies, including one post sharing an *America Magazine* article on Francis' response to Vice President JD Vance on a Catholic approach to immigration.

Leo also served on the board of directors for Caritas Peru from 2022-2024, which provides humanitarian assistance to migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. It established a shelter for Venezuelan migrants in 2019.

However, in a homily given in the Chicago area last August, then-Cardinal Prevost also ac-

knowledge certain problems that come from mass migration. He spoke about a large number of migrants in the small Italian town of Lampedusa, calling it "a huge problem," and added: "It's a problem worldwide, not only in this country."

"There's got to be a way to both solve the problem but also to treat people with respect," he said, adding that everyone is given "the gift of being created in the image and likeness of God."

As a cardinal, Prevost also spoke about environmental concerns, stressing a need to move "from words to actions," according to a Vatican News article at the time. He said that "dominion over nature" should not become "tyrannical" but must be a "relationship of reciprocity" with the environment.

Speaking to CNA, Heschmeyer said: "On issues like caring for the environment and immigrants, I think we can expect Pope Leo to sound a lot like Pope Francis (and the Catechism of the Catholic Church)."

UNCERTAINTIES REMAIN

The Holy Father may need to navigate other subjects that he has not publicly weighed in on at this time, including Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, which opened the door to Communion for Catholics who have been divorced and remarried in limited circumstances.

Additionally, Leo will be tasked with managing his predecessor's *motu proprio* *Traditionis Custodes*, which restricts access to the Traditional Latin Mass.

"While there have been some rumors that he celebrates the Latin Mass, they remain just that right now: rumors," Heschmeyer said when asked whether there have been any indications on how Leo might handle those restrictions moving forward.

"What is clear is that he seems to have a traditional sensibility in terms of liturgy and vestments, and his Latin (as seen in his blessing from the balcony of St. Peter's and in his first Mass as pope) seems crisp and clear," he added.

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

5K RUN, WALK ROLL OR STROLL

Saranac Lake - It's time to run, walk, roll, or stroll your way through the 2025 Black Fly 5K, all while supporting the tuition assistance program at St. Bernard's School!

Date: June 7

Time: Check in begins at 12 p.m., race begins at 1 p.m.

Place: Dewey Mountain Recreation Center

Cost: Adult, \$27.50; Student \$22.20; Families of four or more receive a \$10 discount with our special Family Rate.

Features: Whether you're a competitive runner chasing a personal best or a family looking for a fun afternoon outdoors, everyone is welcome. We're excited to offer a 1K Student Fun Run — perfect for younger participants who want to join the excitement without the full 5K

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

SPRING STUDY SERIES

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

Date: May 30 to June 27

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8

Features: Video presentations and discussion encourage participants to enter a fuller understanding of God's astounding love and forgiveness available to every person. 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.

CAR SHOW

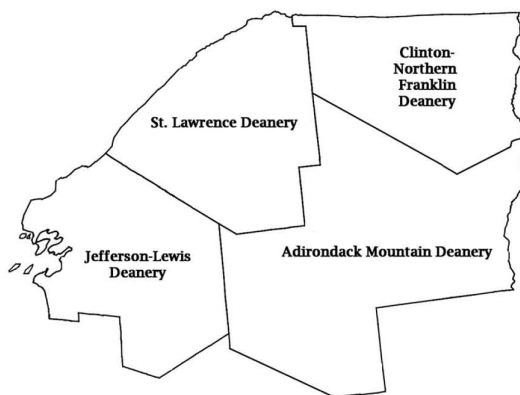
Moers Forks — St. Ann's to have their 7th Annual Car Show.

Date: June 1

Time: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: St. Ann's Grounds

Features: Kids Power Wheels Show (Entry Fee \$10); Hot Wheel Races for Kids (\$5) and Adults



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.

(\$10), cost includes car; Vehicle Pre-Register for \$15 or \$20 for the day of the show between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Set up a craft table for \$20. Top 40 picks and special awards will be at 3 p.m. There will be a Craft Fair, Theme Baskets, food and entertainment.

Contact: For more info or to pre-register your vehicle call 518-236-5632 or 518-236-7200 or 518-565-6754

FIRST FRIDAY

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

Date: June 6

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

CONCERT

Peru — Mission of Hope Fundraising Concert featuring Towne Meeting.

Date: June 8

Time: 7 p.m. to 9

Place: St. Augustine's Church

Features: Admission by Donation. Towne Meeting is known for their powerful vocal harmonies and engaging performances. Oriented in folk, their music branches into many other genres, from Americana to acoustic rock. All proceeds benefit North Coun-

try Mission of Hope.

CHARISMATIC MASS

Malone — Join us in this Jubilee Year of Hope for a Charismatic Mass.

Date: June 8

Time: 2 p.m.; praise and worship Prelude beginning at 1:45 p.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church

SOAKING PRAYER SESSIONS

Ellenburg Center — Soaking Prayers Sessions to be held every third Thursday of the month.

Date: June 19, July 17, Aug. 21

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Place: Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer

Features: Sessions are offered by Eve McGill, Living Waters Ministry. Soaking Prayer is surrendering yourself to the Holy Spirit and being immersed in receiving an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. A short introduction is given followed by a 30-minute praise and worship segment. The remainder of the time is spent listening to the direction of the Holy Spirit through Scripture readings and being open to receive healing. Includes praise and worship, soaking prayer, witness/group sharing, lunch (bring your own bagged lunch), and recitation of the Rosary.

Contact: evemcgill16@charter.net or call 518-645-2648

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

DRIVE THRU DINNER

Lyons Falls — St. John's church to have their next drive thru dinner.

Date: May 20

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$12

Menu: Spaghetti with sausage and meatballs, tossed salad, Italian bread, and dessert.

Features: We are going to work with our local meat market in Port Leyden for the meat for this dinner. That being Hartley's Meat Market. Let's support our local church and our new business!

Contact: Remember, deliveries are available. To reserve your dinner, call 315-348-8945 or 315-348-8577 as soon as possible.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

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

Date: May 22

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

RUMMAGE SALE

Evans Mills — St. Mary's is holding their annual Rummage Sale.

Date: May 23 and 24

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

Place: Parish Center

Contact: 315-629-4678 or evansmillssec@rcdony.org

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: June 1

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

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: June 8

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

HEALING MASS

Clayton — Come to St. Mary's Church in Clayton for our Annual Healing Mass. St. Mary's is designated as a Pilgrimage Site for the Jubilee Year of Hope, receive the Jubilee plenary indulgence through pilgrimage and prayer.

Date: June 14

Time: 11 a.m.

Features: The Sacrament of the Sick will be offered during Mass and after Mass, Prayer Teams for individual needs, and a reception in the Parish Center.

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

107th MT. CARMEL FEST

Watertown — St. Anthony's Church to have their 107th Mt. Carmel Fest.

Schedule: Grounds open Fri.

June 27, 5 p.m. to 10, BINGO at 7 p.m.; Sat. June 28, Grounds open 1 p.m. to 10; Sun. June 29, grounds open 1 p.m. to 10; Live Entertainment, 6 p.m. to 9, religious procession at 5 p.m. and giant fireworks at 9:30 p.m.

Features: Italian Food specialties, Rides, games and raffles. Free admission and parking. This is a cash only event.

ST. LAWRENCE

ACIES

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

Date: June 1

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Instagram account created for Pope Leo

By Eduardo Berdejo
Catholic News Agency

The Vatican announced that Pope Leo XIV has decided to "maintain an active presence on social media through official papal accounts" on X @Pontifex and Instagram, creating a new one for the latter platform.

In a statement May 13, the Dicastery for Communication said "Leo XIV inherits the X @Pontifex accounts used by Pope Francis and previously by Benedict XVI," and a new account has also been opened on

Instagram.

"On Instagram, the new pope's account is called @Pontifex - Pope Leo XIV, and is the only official account of the Holy Father on this platform in continuity with Pope Francis' account, @Franciscus," the dicastery noted, adding that the content published by Pope Francis on X "will soon be archived in the appropriate section of the Holy See's institutional website," Vatican.va.

It also added that "the content published on the @Franciscus account will continue to be accessible as an 'Ad Memoriam' commemorative archive."

The Vatican noted that "the presence of the popes on social media began on Dec. 12, 2012, when Pope Benedict XVI launched the @Pontifex account on what was then Twitter."

The account, which is published in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, French, German, Polish, Arabic, and Latin, "has a total of 52 million followers."

The dicastery highlighted Pope Francis' activity on social media, with "a total of approximately 50,000 posts published on the nine @Pontifex accounts and on @Franciscus."

"In this way, he has accompanied us almost every day of his pontificate with brief evangelical messages or exhortations for peace, social justice, and care for creation; and he has achieved great engagement, especially in difficult times (in 2020, a year of exceptional numbers due to the pandemic, his messages were viewed 27 billion times)," the dicastery stated.

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

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

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. Anyone who loves our Blessed Mother is invited to attend.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

ORDINATION TO THE ORDER OF THE DIACONATE

Massena - Through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, the Most Bishop Terry R. LaValley will Ordain to the Order of Deacon Mr. Michelet Boncoeur, Mr. Tyler Martin Fitzgerald and Mr. Dennis Mamwaha Ombongi. You are cordially invited to join in the Ordination Liturgy.

Date: May 24

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

Features: A Reception will immediately follow the Liturgy at Trinity Catholic School, 188 Main Street, Massena, NY 13662. The Ordination Mass may be viewed at www.rcdony.org/ordination. The Ordination Mass program

will be available at the same link shortly before the Liturgy.

ORGAN RECITAL & PILGRIMAGE

Ogdensburg - Make your pilgrimage to St. Mary's Cathedral and hear some wonderful music from Dr. Michal Szostak, International Concert Organist, Improviser, and Researcher.

Date: May 22

Time: 7 p.m.

Features: Dr. Szostak will improvise on pieces by Bach, Buxtehude, Beethoven, Strauss, and Lefebure-Wély while incorporating requests from the audience of hymns that provide a sense of hope. This concert is free and open to the public.

Contact: For more information call Christine Bookman at 315-393-3930 or ogdensburgmusic@rcdony.org

HEALING RETREAT

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

DOMESTIC MISSION OPPORTUNITY

The North Country Mission of Hope is offering a domestic mission opportunity for anyone 14 years and older.

Date: Aug. 9 - 15

Place: The mission will take place in the Appalachian Region of Southeast Kentucky.

Contact: Please contact Deacon James Carlin for more information, costs and an application. The deadline for application is May 30.

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 that will have you working and laughing together. Celebrate Christ's presence in your lives through liturgy and special prayer



services. Take time for great outdoor activities like 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>



*Support And Pray
For Vocations*



SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

Did you keep that promise?

Promises made, promises broken. "I promise that I will never do that again." You may have said that to your parents, to your spouse, to your friend. We often make promises. We often break promises or even forget promises. Cynically Napoleon once said: "The best way to keep one's word is never to give it." Even Shirley MacLean weighed



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

in on the notion of promises when she said: "It is useless to hold a person to anything he says when he is in love, drunk or running for office."

Nevertheless, promises are a part of our lives. Promises move us forward. We expect others to keep their promises even if, perhaps, we may fail in our promises to

others.

In today's Gospel, Jesus is making promises to his disciples: he will be with them always, he will send the Holy Spirit, he will give peace. We expect those promises to be fulfilled in us.

In fact, they have been fulfilled. The scriptures are filled with stories of God fulfilling his promises to hu-

manity even back to the days of Abraham and Moses. God sent his Son. Jesus remains with us in the Eucharist. We have gifts of the Holy Spirit given to us at confirmation. Even in the early Church, as we read in the first reading, the apostles consulted the Holy Spirit to resolve issues of belief and practice.

May 25

Sixth Sunday of Easter

READINGS

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29
Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23
John 14:23-29

But what about our promises to God. Remember a few weeks ago, we stood in church on Easter and renewed our baptismal promises. We declared that we would reject Satan and all his empty promises. We declared that we would reject the devil so that we would not be mastered by sin. We declared that we wanted to live in the freedom of God's children.

But, how long did it take after those promises were made before we took out our anger on someone. Or perhaps we told a so-called white

lie that was really a basic lie. Perhaps we were disgruntled, annoyed, self-righteous or even proud even before we left the parking lot after Easter Sunday Mass. How long did it take before our Easter promises transformed into a forgotten historical moment?

At that same time on Easter we recommitted ourselves to our faith. We expressed our belief in God, we acknowledged our need for God, we avowed our belief in the resurrection from the dead, the forgiveness of sins, and life everlasting. But, in professing our faith, did we later pretend that God wasn't part of our lives, or that his Church really doesn't know what she is talking about or that God is so forgiving that he won't hold me accountable for the gift

of life that he has given me?

Has our fidelity to God matched God's fidelity to us? How faithful have we been in our promises to him. Keeping God ever present in our lives will direct us to ongoing fidelity to God. There is a prayer attributed to St. Patrick called the Breastplate of St. Patrick. It is too long to quote in its entirety, but a few of the lines read as follows: I arise today through a mighty strength; I arise today through the strength of Christ's birth with his Baptism; I arise today in the obedience of the angels; I arise today in the strength of heaven; I arise today through God's wisdom to guide me; Christ with me, before me, behind me and in me.

God has been faithful to us; now we must be faithful to our God.

CALLED TO SERVE

Timing is everything

"There are no coincidences."

Mark Harmon, as the character Leroy Jethro Gibbs in the television show NCIS, tells his fellow investigators that regularly.

I believe things do not happen spontaneously, without connection or explanation. I subscribe to the Holy Spirit concept. Let me cite an example.

We chaired the just concluded deacon assembly in Lake Placid. I wrote about it in the last edition of the North Country Catholic. It was a wonderful three days, filled with learning experiences and renewed friendships.

Kathy and I have tradi-

tionally stayed at the Assembly venue one more night. The extra time gives us an opportunity to wind down from the frenetic pace of the weeks preceding the annual assembly and the actual days of the event.

That meant we were driving back to Watertown on Thursday, May 8. The only commitment either of us had scheduled was in the evening so we were in no rush.

The plan we devised Wednesday night at dinner was to sleep-in, check-out wasn't until 11 a.m. at the Cambria Hotel, have a leisurely lunch in the village and head home.

That plan disappeared Thursday morning.

We were out of bed early, almost everything was packed in the car, so we decided to hit the road earlier than expected.

It was still a peaceful drive to Watertown. The distance is about 125 miles, roughly two and a half hours. We stopped in Saranac Lake for a donut. Make it three hours.

As we pulled into our driveway around 1 p.m., Kathy volunteered to text our daughter to let her know we were back safely.

Ticia responded, "white smoke. Get in the

house and turn the TV on."

We scurried to the house and sat mesmerized as the senior cardinal deacon, Dominique Mamberti, announced

"we have a pope!" Habemus papam.

Shortly after that announcement, Leo XIV appeared on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica and said, "Peace be with all of you!"

The new pope was born in Chicago and educated at Villanova University.

He thanked his fellow cardinals for selecting him, thanked the people of his former diocese in

Peru, and ended his remarks with a prayer.

Hours later I finally unpacked the car. Kathy and I felt blessed to be able to witness this historic moment. I could not help but wonder at the coincidence of our arriving home in time to watch the drama unfold.

We might have missed it, and the hours of "expert" commentary that followed, had we stuck with the plan devised the night before. There are no coincidences.

Thank you, Holy Spirit.

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



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

Evangelization in Thailand

Sister Elizabete Ferreira de Souza, a Brazilian Xaverian missionary, has been working with the Missionary Childhood and Adolescence (IAM) for 13 years, starting shortly after her arrival in Thailand, and she recounts her constant amazement at seeing how every day in a predominantly Buddhist country, it is children who carry on the work of evangelization through the IAM.

IAM has been present in Thailand since 1990 and has developed mainly in Catholic schools (in Bangkok it is present in about 35 schools), although in recent years, it has taken root in various parish communities, for example in Tharai and also in Chiang Rai. Despite language and cultural barriers, Buddhist children are missionaries here. It is

a mystery how this is possible, and it is both a gift and a grace to be able to witness what is happening.

"Here, the Holy Spirit truly blows where He wills; what I am doing here in Thailand is a great gift from God," continues Sister Elizabete. "I try not to disturb the Lord's work because He wants to be known and recognized. We see this with our own eyes day after day: these children not only evangelize other children, but they also evangelize me."

"99% of the children who participate in our activities do not come from Christian families. They are all Buddhists or have their own beliefs deeply rooted in traditional education, but this does not prevent the little ones from wanting to participate in these activities and



The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

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(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296

info@rcdony.org

learn about Jesus. It is almost a miracle for me to see that they want this," says Sister Elizabete. "We call the Christian children 'disciples' of Jesus, while we call the Buddhist children 'friends' of Jesus. They can be friends of Jesus, and Jesus is very happy to have such intelligent and lively friends who are eager to spend time together."

The weekly meetings, often preceded by activities such as sports and music, especially for the older children, are a regular appointment where catechesis is taught through parables, and visiting the

sick becomes a concrete gesture, eagerly awaited and felt by the children but initially viewed with fear by the adults, who sometimes think that the sick are sick because of sins to be atoned for, that they are people to be excluded. Through the activities, broader themes are also proposed (for example, appeals for peace, attention to the environment, which has been the subject of workshops and concrete educational initiatives starting with the encyclical Laudato SI) to ensure that a broader reality is perceived than that of the small

villages where they live.

"We work with families: grandparents, children, those who have social problems, there are all kinds of people, and so we embrace the whole family," says the missionary. "When a child comes regularly to our activities, we visit the family to get to know them and introduce ourselves. Even if they are reserved at first, at some point they begin to trust us. After years of getting to know each other and spending time together, today parents entrust their children to us for a week of summer camp. It is through the (children) that we have slowly (become part of) their families."

*Article from
FIDES missionary news
service of the Pontifical
Mission Societies.*

Cape Vincent – Geraldine (Serbanewicz) Petroff, 87; Mass of Christian Burial May 17, 2025 at St. Vince of Paul Church; burial in St. Vincent of Paul Cemetery.

Champlain – Walter Alfred Laurin, 94; Mass of Christian Burial May 19, 2025 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Coopersville.

Keeseville – Ronald Leland Stanford, 92; Mass of Christian Burial May 30, 2025 at St. John the Baptist Church.

Massena – James F. Bouchard, 87; Mass of Christian Burial May 13, 2025 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Carol R. (Wells) Buckley, 91; Mass of Christian

Burial May 17, 2025 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Edith Ann (Trombly) O'Connell, 97; Mass of Christian Burial May 13, 2025 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Port Henry – Judy Marie (Fleming) Marcotte, 80; Mass of Christian Burial May 24, 2025 at St. Patrick's Church.

Rouses Point – Alfred J. Raymond, Jr., 97; Funeral Services May 16, 2025 at the Ross Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Champlain.

Ticonderoga – Paul D. Burroughs, 87; Memorial Mass May 16, 2025 at St. Mary's Church;

OBITUARIES

burial in Valley View Cemetery.

Mausoleum.

Watertown – Adriana Palumbo Cavallario, 100; Mass of Christian Burial May 12, 2025 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood

Watertown – Cranson W. Gates, 84; Mass of Christian Burial May 22, 2025 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

West Leyden – Sharon M. (Nellenbach) Woodcock, 68; Mass of Christian Burial May 20, 2025 at St. Mary's Nativity.

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STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH AT HOME



Close to 40% of dioceses in the United States and its current and former territories are considered “home mission dioceses,” meaning that local conditions such as small, widely dispersed Catholic populations and economic hardships prevent those dioceses from operating their ministries without outside support. For example, with the smallest Catholic population in the 48 continental United States, spread across 66,800 square miles of mountainous terrain and rugged Oregon desert, the Diocese of Baker is so extensive that many parishes are a

minimum of 50 miles from each other, and only one town has more than one parish.

Support provided to the diocese from the Catholic Home Missions Appeal covered the cost of having a priest in residence for two rural parishes. Without this support, more than 400 parishioners would not be able to receive the sacraments regularly. The work of Catholic Home Missions in the diocese extends beyond such basic support to include its family life enhancement program, which helps parishes overcome the

isolation that families experienced during the pandemic, isolation that has become an ongoing challenge in rural communities.

You can make a positive impact in the lives of Catholics in the Diocese of Baker and other home mission dioceses across the United States and its current and former territories by supporting the Catholic Home Missions Appeal.

For more information about Catholic Home Missions, visit www.usccb.org/home-missions.

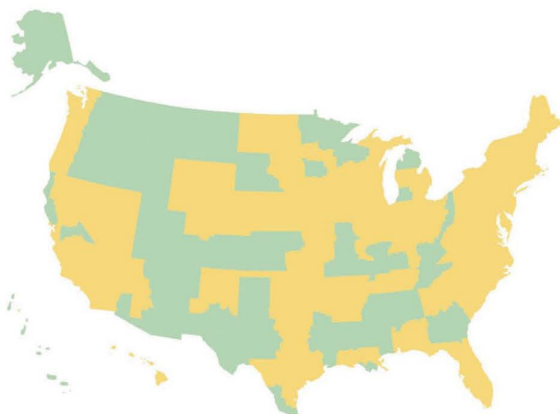
SPECIAL COLLECTION TO BE HELD THE WEEKEND
OF MAY 24 & 25, 2025

What Is a Home Mission Diocese?

Home mission dioceses are those Catholic dioceses in the United States, its territories, and former territories that cannot provide basic pastoral services without outside help. Basic pastoral services include Mass, the sacraments, religious education, and ministry training for priests, deacons, religious sisters, and laypeople. Nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are considered home missions.

WHERE DOES YOUR SUPPORT GO?

 = Home Mission Dioceses



Totals by Program Area

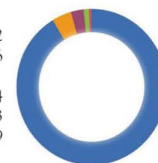
• Diocesan and Parish Assistance	\$2,399,000
• Faith Formation	\$2,030,000
• Priestly and Religious Vocations	\$1,840,000
• Special Grants*	\$995,825
• Cultural Ministries**	\$955,000
• Strengthening Marriage and Family Life	\$125,000
• Life and Dignity of the Human Person***	\$125,000

Total: \$8,469,825

* Special Grants: New Bishop Installation Support: \$90,000, Diocesan Professional Development Opportunities: \$905,825, Total: \$995,825
** Including Hispanic and other ethnic and cultural ministries.
*** Including prison ministries and ministries for persons with disabilities.

• Grants and Donations	\$8,469,892
• Program Costs	\$479,626
• Promotions and Fundraising Expenses	\$375,914
• Administrative Expenses	\$103,543
• Allocations - Internal Grants	\$31,999

Total Expenses: \$9,487,974



CHMA FINANCIALS 2023



CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

OFFICE OF NATIONAL COLLECTIONS

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON, DC 20017-1194

202-541-3400 • FAX 202-541-3460 • WWW.USCCB.ORG/NATIONALCOLLECTIONS

