

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

World tour includes
cathedral organ
concert | Page 6

College of Cardinals
asks for prayers for
conclave | Page 10

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 80 Number 7

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MAY 7, 2025

Catholic Charities builds on over a century of service

Now under new leadership, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg is continuing to build on its 106 years of being “a beacon of hope in difficult times.”

The new executive director, Father Scott R. Seymour, took the helm of the Agency in January.

“We have new leadership, and we continue to move forward working with our compassionate and experienced staff and working with our partner agencies. We want to be a beacon of hope in difficult times for the people of the North Country,” said Father Seymour.

“Since his ordination in 1999, Father Scott has consistently demonstrated deep faith, interpersonal and leadership skills, empathy, and compassion,” wrote Bishop Terry R. LaValley. “Skills and virtues that embody the mission of Catholic Charities. He brings the gifts of faith, love, humor, and peace, to those around him.”

FULL STORY ON PAGE 5; BISHOP'S LETTER ON PAGE 8

ON THE HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN



PHOTO BY DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Bishop Terry R. LaValley prays before Jesus in the Holy Eucharist at the Highway to Heaven event held April 26 in Lake Placid. Read the story on Page 3 and see additional photos on Page 16.

May: The month dedicated to Virgin Mary

ACI Prensa

The Catholic Church dedicates the entire month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of God and spiritual mother of all.

In the plan of salvation, the Blessed Virgin Mary holds a special place. By virtue of her role to be the mother of the Son of God by divine election, she was conceived immaculately — i.e., without the stain of original sin — and by fidelity to her son has been crowned queen of heaven and earth.

Everything Mary said and did leads to Christ. Who knows a child better than a mother?

And what good and loving child does not know his or her mother and love her with all of his or her heart?

Mary knew and loved Jesus like no one else on earth — and she loves each of her children, human beings, with similar affection and tenderness.

The Church, in its wisdom, asks its children to be especially devoted to Mother Mary during the month of May and to be particularly grateful for all of her care.

Mary, the most humble of all women, is a model for everyone, today, in the here and now. She is a model in a particular way

for every woman, as expressed by Pope Francis:

“There is only one model for you, Mary: the woman of fidelity, the one who did not understand what was happening to her but obeyed. The one who, as soon as she knew what her cousin needed took off [to help her], the Virgin of Promptness. The one who escaped as a refugee in a foreign country to save the life of her son,” Pope Francis said during an April 2014 message to 20,000 young people gathered in Buenos Aires, Argentina, for a regional youth day.

Years later, during an Aug. 24,

2021, catechesis, Pope Francis called Mary “the first disciple of Jesus” and reminded us that “Mary is there, praying for us, praying for those who do not pray. Why? Because she is our mother.”

The Virgin, through Jesus, has brought heaven closer to us and her life is the best proof that it is possible to reach it. Pope Francis said it best: “She shows us that heaven is within reach, if we too do not give in to sin, we praise God with humility, and we serve others with generosity” (Pope Francis, Angelus address on the solemnity of the Assumption, Aug. 15, 2022).

NORTH
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'Just another Catholic program'

"There's an app for that."

Apple popularized that phrase in 2009, using it in commercials promoting the company's newest phone and the numerous applications - software programs - available for those who purchased the device.

The commercial features a close-up shot of a smartphone screen and the hands holding and operating it. A

finger swipes from right to left on the phone's screen showing page after page of images represent-

ing various apps.

"If you want to check snow conditions on the mountain, there's an app for that," the commercial says, as the phone user in the video taps on an image, opening an app that offers snow reports. "If you want to check how many calories are in your lunch, there's an app for that. And if you want to check where exactly you parked the car, there's an app for



**Darcy L.
Fargo**

that." Last year, I joined a friend for a Lenten program using

Catholic prayer app. I enjoyed it. While I thought it was a good addition to my Lent, and I still frequently reference a quote from it, I didn't find the experience life changing. I've participated in lots of Catholic programming. It felt like just another Catholic program.

When that same friend asked me if I wanted to join this year's Lenten program on Hallow, I expected a repeat of last year - nice program, nothing transformative.

I think God laughs when I assume I know how He'll work in my life.

Through that app, its Lenten program and now

the Easter program that has followed, God has drawn me closer to Himself. God used the app to focus my attention on fasting, something I was basically doing at bare minimum levels prior. Through the prayer and meditations delivered to me by that app, God has also shown me at least glimpses of light and healing in areas of my life where I previously saw only darkness and pain.

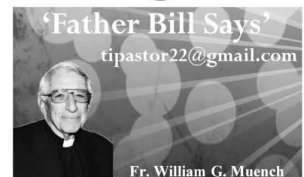
God took something I thought of as insignificant, mundane or "just another," and He transformed it into the transformative.

Apparently, there's an app for that.

Waiting for a new pope

Each time our Catholic Church elects a new pope, I see it as another new beginning. As I am awaiting the beginning of this conclave, I begin to wonder, will this new Holy Father have any surprises for us. I remember many surprises when I think of Pope Francis. That first evening when he was introduced to that large crowd in St. Peter's Square and to the rest of us, I was surprised when he began chatting with us. I remember that he first asked us all to offer a prayer for him. St. Peter's became very silent - a prayerful silence. I know that I, watching this at home, offered a prayer for him at that time.

I know that I am often surprised by the name that a new pope chooses for to be his as pope. I have discovered that does tell us about the new pope. Pope Francis surprised me when he chose to be called Francis. I know that he was placing his papacy under the patronage of St. Francis of Assisi. I



Fr. William G. Muench

realized that this meant a dedication to a simple life, a caring spirit for the poor and the needy, a concern for the environment - all like St. Francis. Pope Francis certainly carried this out so well.

I find it interesting that this election of our new pope is happening during the Easter liturgical season. Have you noticed that during the Easter Season, the first reading at Mass each day is from the Acts of the Apostles. The Acts of the Apostles was written by the same St. Luke, who wrote one of the Gospels. This Book of the Acts of the Apostles describes the beginning of the first Christian Community. After the Pentecost, the apostles began to form our new Church, bringing the message of Jesus to all

would listen. They challenged those first Christians to live a new life - a life of love, accepting the dedication to follow the Lord Jesus.

As you read the Acts of the Apostles, and you should read it now during these weeks of the Easter Season, you will notice how challenging and even difficult it was for the Apostles to form a unified Church. I truly realized that only through the power of the Holy Spirit could those early disciples bring hope and unity to the people that they might boldly form the Catholic Church. The miracle is that our Catholic Church continues strong and alive until today - as we now await a new conclave.

Let me mention here another time of newness for me, personally: when I was a young priest. I want you to understand how profoundly my priesthood was transformed for the better by the Second Vatican Council. I continue to pray in gratitude to

Pope John XXIII; he was the pope who surprised us all when he brought together all the bishops of our Church from all over the world. This Council brought a new start for me and for my Church. I was truly formed anew by that Council. That Council prepared me to become a proper pastor and helped me to realize that my task as a priest and pastor was first and foremost to bring Jesus and his message to my world. My priesthood became all about my union with Jesus. This was my challenge as a disciple of the Lord Jesus. I developed a new vision through this Council.

So, now we must pray for these cardinal electors. They have a task from us all to choose a good, wise, and holy new pope. This begins a new time for our Catholic Church. We need a new Holy Father that will be the best for our time. May the Holy Spirit guide our Catholic Church as we welcome our new Holy Father.

Diocese goes on the 'Highway to Heaven'

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

Though the skies were gray, the light of Christ shined brightly in Lake Placid on April 26, as people from around the diocese gathered at St. Agnes Church and School for the Highway to Heaven event, part of the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope.

"Highway to Heaven was truly a taste of paradise," said Mary Beth Bracy, one of the event's organizers. "How powerful to see dozens of clergy and consecrated, and hundreds of laity - including many young people and families - who traveled from across the diocese to worship, adore, and consecrate themselves to Jesus in the Eucharistic! Everyone expressed their thankfulness for the consecration of the diocese to the Holy Eucharist and the opportunity to spend time with Jesus in adoration and go to confession, and their awe at the Eucharistic Miracles, and joy in visiting and praying with other faithful, listening to inspiring talks, viewing the diocesan display of sacred vessels and vestments, and venerating the relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis and Saint Therese of Lisieux.

"It's going so well," said Father Bryan Stitt, diocesan director of Worship and one of the event's organizers. "Three times during the course of the day, (organizing committee member) Kathy Racette whispered this to me. We knew we had wonderful stuff to share, but how would it come together? Who would come? And how would they respond? We're



Bishop Terry R. LaValley delivers his homily during the Highway to Heaven Eucharistic event, part of the 2025 Year of Hope celebration. During the April 26 event, Bishop LaValley consecrated the diocese to the Eucharist. See additional photos on Page 16.

all questions that were looming. But over and over again, she was right - it all went so well!"

St. Agnes Church offered Morning Prayer and Mass prior to the 9 a.m. start of Highway to Heaven. Then, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Blessed Sacrament was exposed for adoration in the church, confessions were offered, Blessed Carlo Acutis' "Miracles of the Eucharist" exhibit was on display, and movies on Carlo Acutis and Eucharistic miracles were playing.

Father Stitt said turnout surpassed his expectations.

"Knowing that our diocese is so large, and then it's not easy to get into the mountains on a Saturday morning, we expected a crowd of maybe 50 people for the optional morning Mass. We had almost three times that. And they just kept coming! In the end, I think we had over 350 people

in attendance. It is said that 'the Church is one starving person telling another starving person where he found bread.' Hundreds of people got to experience that in Lake Placid last week."

"People placed hundreds of intentions at the feet of our Eucharistic Lord," added Bracy. "You could sense their hunger for the Bread of Life and the tremendous peace, happiness, and healing they experienced - myself included - in encountering Jesus. Above all, it was truly a historic moment of hope for our diocese. We are eternally grateful for Bishop LaValley in leading us in the Consecration to the Holy Eucharist, and believe that Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament will work wonders among us. People expressed their desire for more Adoration throughout the diocese and similar events."

Father Stitt noted the

event was rooted in the National Eucharistic Congress held last year.

"The core group of people who put on the event had found the Bread of Angels at the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis last summer," he said. "They shared that Living Bread in such a beautiful way with the North Country on Saturday. Carlo Acutis and Pope Francis surely would've been proud."

"We're in debt to the whole team for all their work," Father Stitt continued. "Mary Beth Bracy, Carolyn Pierce, Ken and Kathy Racette and Amy Schirmer met almost every day for a couple months to make this happen. Karen O'Brien and Deacon Bill O'Brien - no relation - were a big support at the beginning and end of planning. On top of that, there were countless volunteers who served as greeters, servers, and a

dozen college students that helped with set up and take down. Father John Yonkovig, pastor at St. Agnes Church, and Katie Turner, the school principal, and all the staff at Saint Agnes were incredibly hospitable. We couldn't have done it without them, rolling out the red carpet for us."

FATHER CROSBY GAVE KEYNOTE ADDRESS

At 11 a.m., Father Theodore A. Crosby, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Chazy and St. Joseph's Church in West Chazy, gave the keynote talk.

Father Crosby talked about how Carlo Acutis was "an ordinary boy," but he also attended Mass and prayed the Rosary daily, and he loved Eucharistic adoration.

"We might ask ourselves, 'where did he get all this?' He got it because he traveled what he called the highway to heaven," Father Crosby said. "What is the highway to heaven? As an '80s kid, for me, Highway to Heaven was the show with Michael Landon. Remember the show Highway to Heaven? He played an angel who went around helping people. But, as we know, the real highway to heaven is not a mere angel. It's God himself - Jesus himself - really and truly present, body and blood, soul and divinity, in the Blessed Sacrament."

Father Crosby then asked those gathered in the nearly full church, "how do you and I access the Holy Eucharist?"

"What's the on-ramp to the Blessed Sacrament? It's Mary," he said. "Mary is the on-ramp to the Blessed Sacrament. Sim-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Highway to Heaven: Bishop led consecration

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ply because Mary is the mother of the Blessed Sacrament. She's the mother of the Holy Eucharist. Now, you might say, rightfully so, that Mary didn't give us the Holy Eucharist. Jesus gave us the Eucharist at the last supper. That's absolutely correct. But remember that the Eucharist is Jesus. Jesus, as I mentioned a moment ago, body, blood soul and divinity. Jesus had to have a mother. So does the Eucharist. A symbol does not need a mother, but the real presence of Jesus, God made man, the son of God, the son of Mary, in the Holy Eucharist does need a mother."

Father Crosby said Mary brings us closer to Christ in the Eucharist.

"Mary is the 'woman of the Eucharist' as Pope John Paul II called her," he said. "She always wants to bring us closer to him. And what Mary does is help us to draw closer to Jesus, lead us along the highway, you might say, the highway to heaven. Mary helps us to receive the gift which is the Holy Eucharist."

Before consecrating the diocese to the Eucharist, Bishop Terry R. LaValley noted that the Highway to Heaven event was being held the same day as the funeral of Pope Francis, who "has shown us and preached to us about paying attention to the Jesus Christ in others."

"And I think of both occasions where I come up short, and I think of occasions when I've seen (Pope Francis) be Eucharist to those he encountered," Bishop LaValley said.

BISHOP LAVALLEY GAVE HOMILY ON EUCHARISTIC CHRIST IN OTHERS

Bishop LaValley recounted the Holy Father's visit to the United States in 2015.

"The very first event was Midday Prayer in Washington, DC," Bishop LaValley recalled. "He seemed to focus in that Midday Prayer over and over encouraging the bishops, 'brothers, tell your priests to care for the poor. My initial reaction was, 'there's a whole lot of other

Text of the consecration to the Eucharist

Lord Jesus Christ, Bread of Life, True God, and True Man, The Alpha and the Omega, Truly Present – Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity – in the Blessed Sacrament, I consecrate myself to You today without reservation.

Here I am Lord, I come to do Your will. Come and dwell within me. Heal my body, focus my mind, transform my heart, and nourish my soul, so that I may represent You faithfully in the many situations and circumstances of my daily life.

Lord Jesus Christ, truly present in the Eucharist, I consecrate myself to You today without reservation. I hold nothing back. I surrender completely and absolutely to Your goodness. I know the plans You have for me: Plans for prosperity and well-being, plans for good and not evil, plans that give me hope and a future.

Lord Jesus Christ, truly present in the Eucharist, I consecrate myself to You today without reservation. I surrender my whole being to Your care. I surrender my life, my plans, and my very self to You. I place all that I am at Your feet. I place all that I have at Your feet. Take what You want to take and give what You want to give.

Lord Jesus Christ, truly present in the Eucharist, I consecrate myself to You today without reservation. Transform me. Trans-

form my life. I trust in the eternal genius of Your ways. I make myself 100 percent available to You. Lead me, encourage me, challenge me. Show me how I can collaborate with You, and I will do what You ask with a joyful heart.

Lord Jesus Christ, truly present in the Eucharist, I consecrate myself to You today without reservation. Grant me the grace, wisdom and courage, to live justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with You, my God, all the days of my life.

Angels and saints, lead me in the ways of the pilgrim, so that one day I too may share in Heaven. With His blessing and by His grace, bestow upon me Your humility, generosity, and devotion, and I implore You to carry this prayer to our Eucharistic Lord.

Mary, Mother of Jesus, teach my soul how to receive your Son in the Eucharist; and how to represent Him in this world. Teach me the surrender and sacrifice that were necessary to make the Eucharist possible in this broken world. Intercede for me and obtain the grace necessary to allow your Son's teachings to penetrate the darkest, coldest, hardest parts of my heart, so that by receiving Him in the Eucharist, my heart may become ever more like his Eucharistic Heart.

Amen.

things,' but his focus was on ministry to the poor, seeing the Jesus in others."

Later in that trip, Pope Francis traveled to New York City, where he attended Vespers at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

"The place was packed, as you can imagine," Bishop LaValley said. "The New York State bishops came parading in – in all of our colorful splendor. We were on (one) side of the sanctuary. The cardinal and pope came around. The first thing out of his mouth was not about what was happens here, but it was about what had happened clear across the world earlier that day, when Muslims were on their holy pilgrimage and 600 men and women were killed in

a crushing stampede. He asked us to take a minute to silently pray – pray for people we never met, people who were not believers as we are believers. He was attentive to what was happening in the lives of people so far away."

After Vespers, the state bishops gathered around the altar rail. It was to be our bishop's first time meeting the Holy Father.

"I had a front-row seat," Bishop LaValley said. "We prayed. He came back around. It was like we didn't exist. In front of the pew on the other side was a young woman in a wheelchair. It was like there was nobody else in that room. He made a beeline for her."

Later, dignitaries – bishops, cardinals and elected officials – attended a dinner and waited for the pope to arrive.

"He was nowhere to be found," Bishop LaValley said. "While the 'real important' people were gathered around, he was off in a cloistered monastery having a simple supper with women who live vows of poverty, chastity and obedience."

Bishop LaValley also recalled a time when, while jogging on lunch hour, he saw a ladder on the sidewalk in front of him, and a woman stood nearby. When he arrived on the scene, the woman told the bishop her waterbed "sprung a leak."

"I said, 'oh. Have a good day,'" Bishop LaValley recalled. "I never thought to ask if she needed anything. It never dawned on me to ask, 'is there anything I can do?' I was so busy with what I had to do, go home and take a shower and get ready for the next appointment, and I missed an opportunity to see Jesus in another and to extend a helping hand to the Eucharistic Christ in another. I failed that day as your bishop. I wasn't paying attention."

Bishop LaValley said he thought it was fitting to celebrate and honor the Eucharist on the day of the Holy Father's funeral.

"I just think the day we celebrate his funeral is perhaps the best occasion, before the exposed Blessed Sacrament, the Holy Eucharist, for us to rededicate ourselves to such attentiveness and to such loving hearts," he said. "There's so much hurting, so much pain in our world today, and so many of us, like me, are about our own business – got to do this, got to do that – that we don't have time to pay attention. What tremendous opportunities are missed when we focus on me."

After his homily, Bishop LaValley led a Eucharistic procession through the church and consecrated the diocese to the Eucharist.

Catholic Charities: 106 years of service

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

"We're here to serve, and we will be here for years to come."

**— Father Scott Seymour,
Catholic Charities executive director**

Now under new leadership, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg is continuing to build on its 106 years of being "a beacon of hope in difficult times."

The new executive director, Father Scott R. Seymour, took the helm of the Agency in January.

"We're here to serve, and we will be here for years to come," said Father Seymour. "We have new leadership, and we continue to move forward working with our compassionate and experienced staff and working with our partner agencies. We want to be a beacon of hope in difficult times for the people of the North Country."

In his role, Father Seymour will be responsible for overseeing the agency's programs and staff across multiple counties, identifying sources of funding and resources to meet local service needs, continuing and cultivating relationships with partner agencies and ensuring Catholic Charities stays committed to and consistent with the agency's mission and Catholic values.

While the methods of service delivery and the programs offered has changed over the years, Father Seymour said Catholic Charities' mission has always remained the same.

"We're doing great things all in the name of Jesus, and we're doing it with great love," he said.

Catholic Charities

currently maintains five offices across the Diocese of Ogdensburg, serving Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence counties and the northern portions of Hamilton and Herkimer counties. Currently, Catholic Charities offices and/or services are open in Malone, Ogdensburg, Plattsburgh, Tupper Lake, Watertown and Port Henry.

"Case management continues to be available across all locations," said Catholic Charities Administrative Assistant Joelle Lamica. "With that service, an individual comes into one of our offices to talk, and they tell us what their needs are. Sometimes, all they want or need is someone to listen and guide, but there are often additional unmet needs. We assess the needs and make referrals to entities that can help or, we try to figure out how we can meet the need with our resources in collaboration with our partners."

Lamica said Catholic Charities' employees have extensive experience navigating services that are available across the eight-county region covered by the diocese.

All the agency's locations also offer emergency food bags and baby supplies, informal counseling and donat-

ed clothing and household items.

"We have people with 30 years of experience," she said. "They have extensive knowledge, and people are comfortable working with them."

Catholic Charities is also the E-EMDT hub in Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties access.

"It's an elder abuse program," said Father Seymour. "It's for circumstances where they're taken advantage of or scammed or abused in other ways. We work with them to try to improve their situation and get back what they lost."

Referrals to that program are made through law enforcement, financial institutions, attorneys, human services agencies and/or medical professionals. E-EMDT does not offer direct service or self-referral.

Additionally, Catholic Charities, working with AmeriCorps Seniors, continues to run its Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) in Essex and Franklin Counties.

That program connects individuals ages

55 and over connect with meaningful volunteer activities.

The Foster Grandparent program also continues to serve the North Country and is coordinated through the Catholic Charities Tupper Lake office.

That program, also run in conjunction with AmeriCorps Seniors, connects volunteers ages 55 and over with children who need support, mentorship and friendship.

"(Volunteers) 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 description says.

In Ogdensburg, Catholic Charities continues to offer Seaway House Club, which is designed to "promote recovery, and assist individuals in developing or re-establishing a sense of

self-esteem and group affiliation. Based on the Fountain House Model of Psychosocial Rehabilitation, our services cater to the ever-changing needs of our participants."

Father Seymour said Catholic Charities will continue to evaluate the needs of the North Country and evolve to meet them whenever possible.

"We see a lot of need," he said. "While it doesn't look like it did even just a few years ago, Catholic Charities continues to work to meet those needs as Christ called us to do. More than ever, we rely on the support of our North Country neighbors as we work to meet those needs."

Catholic Charities will soon begin its annual Mother's Day appeal, a fundraiser that enables the agency to continue serving.

To learn more about Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, visit cathcharities.org.

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

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- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more



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World tour includes local organ performance

He's played in venues all over the world, and he's going to be performing in St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

Dr. Michael Szostak, a native of Warsaw, Poland, will give an organ recital in the cathedral, a Year of Hope pilgrimage site, at 7 p.m. on May 22.

Cathedral Music Director Christine Bookman said the cathedral organ has earned a reputation as being a quality concert instrument and draws musicians like Szostak.

According to his biography, Dr. Szostak started studying the organ at age 17. He graduated from the Józef Elsner Public School of Music in his home city of Warsaw. He also studied organ performance as part of an internship

at the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Milan, Italy. He's also completed a number of organ master classes.

In 2019, he obtained a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in the field of Instrumental Studies in the discipline Organ Performance.

"I am an international concert organist, and I have the pleasure of performing regular solo recitals in countries of Europe, North America, South America, Asia, and Africa," Dr. Szostak wrote in his biography, listing Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Kazakhstan, Lat-

via, Lithuania, Monaco, Nigeria, Panama, Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine, Vatican, and the USA as performance locations.

Since 2010, he has held positions in music ministry in Church of Our Lady of Lourdes in Warsaw and Shrine of the Virgin Mary in Lichen Stry, where he played the largest organ in Poland.

He's also completed master's and doctoral studies in management and marketing.

Dr. Szostak is currently on tour and has performed or is scheduled to perform across the United States, Canada, Mexico, Norway, the United Kingdom, Slovakia, Estonia, France, Ireland, Belgium and Ukraine.

To learn more about the organist, visit michaelszostak.org.



Dr. Michael Szostak

Day of Prayer for vocations

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ
Diocesan Vocations Coordinator

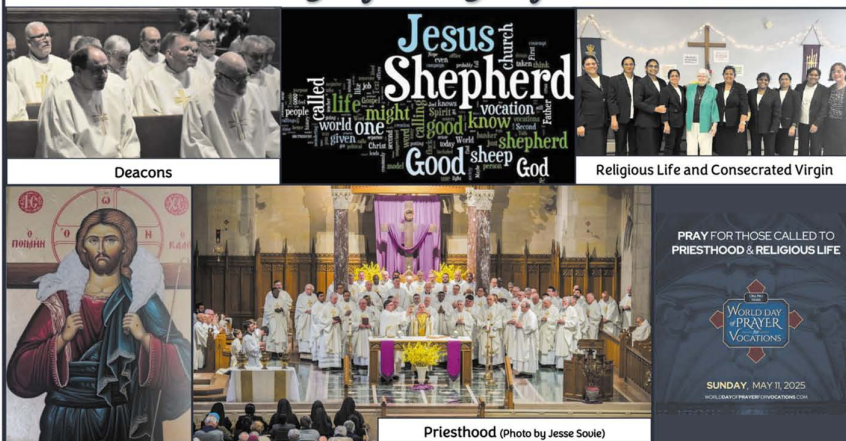
On Good Shepherd Sunday, May 11, the Church celebrates the 62nd Anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pope Francis' message to young people was sent to the world before his death into eternal life as he extended "a joyful and encouraging invitation to become pilgrims of hope by generously offering your lives as a gift."

The purpose of this Day of Prayer for Vocations is to "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). Pope Francis was very concerned for the many young people who felt dismayed as they looked into the future. He wanted young people to know they are loved, called and sent to be pilgrims of hope. Pope Francis called upon all the People of God, especially to our priests and consecrated men and women, to be signs of hope walking with our young people and to helping them discern to what vocation God was calling them as a way of love and life for the life of the Church. This journey of love develops within the family, the parish community and the Christian community.

Let us make an extra effort to pray for more vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Pray the rosary, attend a Holy Hour in your parish for vocations, attend Mass and offer your prayers for vocations from your parish.

We are especially grateful for our Bishop Terry R. LaValley, priests, deacons and consecrated men and women who are serving in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations



PLEASE PRAY THAT YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN HEAR AND RESPOND TO THE LORD'S CALL TO THE PRIESTHOOD, DIACONATE, RELIGIOUS LIFE AND CONSECRATED LIFE WITHIN OUR DIOCESE!

**VOCATION OFFICE
DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG**



CALL TO SERVE Habemus Papam!

Well, not yet.

The announcement by Cardinal Dominique Mamberti, the Cardinal Proto-Deacon, will precede the appearance of the man selected to be the next leader of the universal Catholic Church and bishop of Rome for the future.

The successor to Peter as the man in charge is not a ceremonial job. I asked Google to define the job of Pope, and its search engine returned this definition.

"The pope, as the bishop of Rome, is the head of the Holy See, the Roman Catholic Church's central government, which in turn is assisted by the various departments of the Roman Curia. The pope thus makes decisions on issues of faith and morality for Catholics throughout the world, a population of about 1.3 billion."

For the record, I think the last sentence is not quite right. I would say, "the pope also speaks infallibly on issues of faith and morals for Catholics throughout the world, a population of about 1.3 billion."

I'll leave the word-smithing to others. It is a big job. The man who says "yes" to the cardinals who have selected him should realize that. I would not blame an individual for saying "No, thanks" to the offer.

But we believe the eventual approval by at least two-thirds of the voting red hats was inspired, so it would be difficult to say "no thanks" to God.

Ahead of the first vote on May 7 by the Cardinals of the Church, locked in the Sistine

Chapel in Rome, the men have been involved in prayer, together and in private, and in meetings called the general congregation to prepare them for the vote to determine who the next pope will be. In the last few conclaves, the Cardinals have not chosen a pope on the first vote. That first vote will happen this year on May 7.

On succeeding days, the cardinals will vote four times each day until two-thirds of them choose the same man.

White smoke will appear over the Vatican as the ballots are burned. We have a pope.

Maybe the decision will be made on May 7. Maybe it will come later.

Regardless of when, experts in such matters will have opinions about the man chosen and how the cardinals reached that decision. We will learn much about the new pope's general inspiration for his new office by the name he chooses. In that name the pope sends a message that will follow the lead of a previous pope or a saint.

It is time to pray for the cardinals making the choice and for the next successor to Peter.

"May the Holy Spirit strengthen the Pope and the entire Church in their mission to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth. And may we, as faithful Catholics, live this reality with fidelity, courage, and love."

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



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

Rest in Peace

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

May 7 – Deacon Thomas R. Finnegan, 1996; Rev. John Cosmic, 2017

May 8 – Msgr. Harold J. Martin, 1958

May 9 – Rev. William J. McCormick, O.S.A., 1935; Msgr. Clarence M. Devan, 2001

May 10 – Deacon Edward L. Mazuchowski, 2019

May 11 – Deacon Richard D. Hart, 2007

May 13 – Rev. Ladislaus J. Stasz, 1971; Rev. Edward E. Papp, 2016

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, Terriane Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianeyanulavich@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

Bishop's Public Schedule

May 7 – Deacon Assembly at the Cambria Hotel Lake Placid in Lake Placid

6:30 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake along with St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid, St. Brendan's Church in Keene and St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Tupper Lake

May 8 – Noon – Bishop's Heritage Circle and Memorare Legacy Society Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral followed by Lunch at St. Mary's Cathedral

May 9 – 7 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Joseph's Church in West Chazy along with Sacred Heart Church in Chazy, St. Patrick's Church in Rouses Point and St. Mary's Church in Champlain

May 10 – 10 a.m. – Ministry to Young Adults - Location TBD

May 11 – 9:30 a.m. – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

2 p.m. – Mass Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood for Reverend John L. Downs and the 40th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood for Reverend Raymond J. Moreau and Reverend Bill Edwards at St. Andrew's Church in Norwood

May 12 – 1 p.m. – Mass Celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope at Elderwood in Ticonderoga

May 13 – 10 a.m. – Mass Celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope at the Samaritan Keep Home in Watertown

6 p.m. – Confirmation at the Catholic Community of St. Augustine in North Bangor along with St. Mary's Church in Brushton and St. Andre Bessette Roman Catholic Parish in Malone

May 14 – 11 a.m. – Priest Personnel Board Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch

6:30 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Stephen's Church in Croghan along with St. Francis Solanus Church in Harrisville and St. James Minor Church in Carthage

Environmental Stewardship

Looking again at Laudato Si

Throughout this spring, we reflect on Pope Francis' wisdom, understanding and insight regarding care for creation. By reviewing his encyclical, *Laudato Si*, we focus attention again on some of the ideas and concepts the Holy Father directed to everyone on the planet.

In the Introduction, Pope Francis expressed his belief that earth is more than just a cosmic mass of lifeless rocks, minerals and compounds. Rather, he emphasized that the planet is our home and "... our very bodies are made up of her elements. ..." We are reminded of this every year on Ash Wednesday when we are told that we are earthen dust and to the earth we shall return.

Citing Saint Francis of Assisi, who referred to the planet as "our sister, Mother Earth who sustains us and governs us..." the pope emphasized that "... we have a moral responsibility to care for this mother who is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor."

Pope Francis was hopeful that if everyone works together to address the problems that cause degradation of the earth, we can slowly restore the health and well-being of the planet. A primary belief of our faith is that Our Lord is always present and lends assistance whenever two or more are gathered in His name or where there is compassion and empathy for another.

The pope notes that indifference, denial and obstructionist attitudes are difficult to overcome, and people are generally resistant to lifestyle changes, especially if those changes attacks their throwaway mentality or consumer-driven existence.

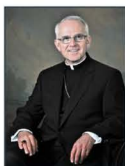
Some scientists say it's too late to return to a stable planetary system. However, we know it is never too late when God is included. Communal prayers, projects and changed hearts can lead to miraculous results.

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



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I have appointed Father Scott Seymour to the position of Interim Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Since his ordination in 1999, Father Scott has consistently demonstrated deep faith, interpersonal and leadership skills, empathy, and compassion. Skills and virtues that embody the mission of Catholic Charities. He brings the gifts of faith, love, humor, and peace, to those around him. These natural abilities have greatly benefited the many parishes, programs, and communities to which he has faithfully served.



Father Scott is responsible for the oversight of staff and the administration of several programs/grants across our many counties; identifying new resources to meet service needs; building and renewing community partnerships and fulfilling the core mission of Catholic Charities.

This year's message reminds us that Catholic Charities is "*A Beacon of Hope In Difficult Times.*" Catholic Charities has been present and serving the communities throughout our Diocese for over 100 years. *Your* support is what helps us lift others. *Your* generosity has weathered times of hardship, and times of prosperity. We, and the communities we serve, thank you. Thank you for helping us place clothes and blankets upon those naked and cold. Thank you for helping us feed empty stomachs and give rides to medical appointments for those isolated and without transportation. Thank you for extending a smile, a listening ear and providing words of encouragement and kindness to those who are lost and in need. Whether you are donating for the first time, or the hundredth time - *Thank You and God Bless! Your generosity makes a difference in the lives of others.*

These words were taken from our Mother's Day Appeal of May of 1979 and still ring true today: "Those we assist are often most vulnerable to increased costs, but our contributors and supporters are also hurt by inflation. Despite this, there is a willingness to give generously because people care about the needs and burdens of others. This gives us confidence that the Mother's Day Appeal will be successful this year and that Catholic Charities will receive the funds it needs to carry on its work of service." (*North Country Catholic*)

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, we are reminded that we are all pilgrims on a journey, and we don't journey alone. Catholic Charities is there to share the journey and be a beacon of light and hope to our North Country neighbors. With your help and generous support and that of your parishioners, together we can be that Beacon of Hope for our brothers and sisters in difficult times.

With much gratitude for your generosity, I am

Gratefully yours in Christ,

† Terry R. LaValley

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

If you have any questions or are seeking information regarding current available programs or services, please contact your local office.

Franklin County & Director's Office

Fr. Scott Seymour

St. Andre's Outreach - Malone - 518-651-2945

St. Lawrence County
Seaway House
Ogdensburg
315-393-2255

Office - Ogdensburg
315-229-2086

Jefferson County
Critical Needs
Watertown
315-788-4330
315-229-2086

Essex County
Americorps Seniors RSVP
& Foster Grandparent
Program - Port Henry
518-546-3565

Clinton County
Americorps Seniors RSVP
& Foster Grandparent
Program NYS E-MDT
Plattsburgh
518-566-0944

**Franklin & Hamilton
Counties**
Americorps Seniors RSVP
& Foster Grandparent
Program
(Franklin County)
Tupper Lake
518-359-7688

Compassion ~ Justice ~ Dignity ~ Love

A BEACON OF
Hope
IN DIFFICULT TIMES

2025 Catholic Charities
Mother's Day Appeal

WWW.CATHCHARITIES.ORG



**Catholic
Charities**
Diocese of Ogdensburg

Serving the counties of: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton-Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence

The 2025 Catholic Charities Mother's Day Appeal will be held on the Weekend of May 11. Your past support of the Mother's Day Appeal has helped us in your name to respond to critical needs and to be a shining light and a beacon of hope to the most vulnerable members of our North-Country communities. May is the month of renewal and under the new and faithful leadership of Father Scott Seymour, Catholic Charities is renewing its 106-year commitment despite these challenging times. Your financial support during this Mother's Day Appeal will have a long and lasting impact and make a significant difference on the work ahead. In this Jubilee Year of Hope, we are reminded that we are all pilgrims on a journey, and we do not journey alone. Catholic Charities is there to share the journey. Your generous support of this year's Mother's Day Appeal will help us to be that beacon of light and hope for others throughout our Diocese.

Here's how Catholic Charities is serving people in need right now:

- Providing food, clothing, and furniture to working families and homeless folks.
- Supporting struggling young parents to reunite with their children.
- Offering important legal advocacy for older adults and elders.
- Informally counseling new young moms, socially isolated seniors, and lonely disabled residents living in the community.
- Working with community partners in critical financial assistance requests and financial literacy for low-income, working families.

Here's how Catholic Charities volunteers are improving lives every day:

- Driving veterans and seniors to essential doctors' offices and medical treatments throughout the Diocese and even to Burlington, VT.
- Bringing homebound and alone seniors and low-income veterans to grocery stores or grocery shopping for disabled folks and blind or wheelchair bound folks.
- Delivering emergency food relief through food pantries and home food delivery.
- Assisting vulnerable older adults in their homes with bill paying, budgeting, and money management, monitoring and helping report fraud and senior scams.
- Volunteers support Baby World Ministry by providing children's clothing, diapers, formula, and a compassionate ear to the struggles of young moms.

**If you would like to make a gift you can scan the code to the left to make your gift today,
visit our website or mail in the form below with your gift to:
Catholic Charities, PO Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669**

Please use my gift to support the Catholic Charities Mother's Day Appeal.

☐ \$25.00 ☐ \$50.00 ☐ \$75.00 ☐ \$100.00 ☐ Other \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Contact Number: _____

You can pay by Check or Credit Card

☐ Check is enclosed made payable to Catholic Charities

☐ Please process my Credit Card information below

Please charge my credit card for my gift of \$ _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Credit Card No. _____

Signature _____

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

New Orleans Archdiocese ordered to defend bankruptcy case

The Archdiocese of New Orleans has been ordered to appear in federal court to defend ongoing proceedings in its years-old bankruptcy case, with a federal judge citing no resolution after years of proceedings and millions in expenditures. Under financial pressure from clerical abuse litigation compounded by the coronavirus pandemic, the archdiocese announced in May 2020 that its administrative offices were filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Yet U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Meredith Grabill said in an order this week that after “five years and millions of dollars expended, no coalition of parties has proposed a confirmable plan” to help the diocese compensate abuse victims both monetarily and with “nonmonetary remedies in the form of disclosure, transparency, and lasting institutional protocols.” The judge directed the archdiocese to appear in the New Orleans court on June 26 to argue “why this case should not be dismissed for cause, including the inability to effectuate a plan of reorganization.

Study: 11% suffer ‘serious adverse events’ from abortion pill

A first-of-its-kind study that delves into public health insurance records found that more than 1 in 10 women who take the abortion pill mifepristone to complete a chemical abortion will suffer a serious health complication during the process. The study of 865,727 patients between 2017 and 2023, which was published by the Ethics and Public Policy Center (EPPC) on April 28, discovered that 10.93% of women suffer at least one “serious adverse event” within 45 days of taking mifepristone for an abortion. “This isn’t idle speculation; this is based on the largest data set that we know of,” Ryan T. Anderson, the president of EPPC and one of the study’s authors, told EWTN. More than 4.7% were forced to visit an emergency room related to the abortion, more than 3.3% suffered hemorrhaging, and more than 1.3% got an infection. Thousands were hospitalized, more than 1,000 needed blood transfusions, and hundreds suffered from sepsis. Nearly 2,000 had a different life-threatening adverse event.

Dolan and Barron to serve on religious liberty commission

Two members of the Catholic hierarchy in the United States — Cardinal Timothy Dolan and Bishop Robert Barron — have been tapped to serve on a new presidential commission on religious liberty created by President Donald Trump on Thursday, May 1. Trump signed an executive order creating the Religious Liberty Commission in the White House Rose Garden surrounded by faith leaders from various traditions. The announcement coincided with the country’s National Day of Prayer. “As we bow our heads this beautiful day in the Rose Garden on the National Day of Prayer, we once again entrust our lives, our liberties, our happiness to the Creator who gave them to us and who loves us,” said Trump, a self-described “nondenominational Christian,” before signing the order. The new Religious Liberty Commission is tasked with creating a report on current threats to freedom of religion and strategies to enhance legal protections for those rights.

College of Cardinals asks for prayers for conclave

By Courtney Mares
Catholic News Agency

The College of Cardinals on April 30 called on Catholics around the world to pray for them as they prepare to enter the conclave this week to elect the next pope, acknowledging the “enormity of the task ahead” in choosing the next successor of Peter.

The appeal came as the cardinals concluded their seventh general congregation — the daily meetings leading up to the start of the conclave on May 7.

In a statement released by the Holy See Press Office, the cardinals said they are “conscious of the responsibility to which they are called” and are relying on the prayers of the global Catholic community.

“This is the true force that in the Church promotes the unity of all the members of the one body of Christ,” the statement said, citing 1 Corinthians 12:12. “Faced with the enormity of the task ahead and the urgency of the present time, it is first of all necessary to make ourselves humble instruments of the infinite wisdom and providence of our heavenly Father, in docility to the action of the Holy Spirit.”

The cardinals emphasized the importance of listening to the Holy Spirit in their deliberations and asked that the Blessed Virgin Mary accompany their prayers “with her maternal intercession.”

CARDINAL BECCIU

The cardinals on Wednesday also addressed two procedural matters, including the number of electors and the role of Cardinal Giovanni Angelo Becciu, who on Tuesday renounced his right to vote in the conclave.

Becciu, the former deputy secretary of state, had previously insisted on his right to vote but stepped aside “to contribute to the communion and serenity of the conclave,” according to the Vatican statement.

The college expressed appreciation for his decision and said it hoped “the competent organs of justice will be able to definitively ascertain the facts.”

Becciu resigned his cardinal privileges in 2020 amid accusations of

financial misconduct and was convicted in December 2023 of embezzlement, aggravated fraud, and abuse of office. He has denied all wrongdoing and is appealing his conviction.

MORE THAN 120 CARDINAL ELECTORS

The cardinals also confirmed that Pope Francis had lawfully dispensed with the numerical limit of 120 electors previously established by St. John Paul II’s 1996 apostolic constitution *Universi Dominici Gregis*. While the document’s paragraph 33 capped the number of cardinal electors at 120, paragraph 36 of the constitution affirms that “a cardinal of holy Roman Church who has been created and published before the College of Cardinals thereby has the right to elect the pope.”

The college noted that Pope Francis, in the exercise of his supreme authority, had created more than 120 cardinal electors, and those over the threshold may validly vote. The same precedent was set under Pope John Paul II, who in February 2001 allowed the number of cardinal electors to reach 135.

As of now, 133 cardinal electors — those under the age of 80 — are expected to participate in the conclave. The Vatican confirmed Tuesday that two of the 135 eligible cardinal electors will not attend due to health reasons, though their names were not released at the time.

A TIME OF DISCERNMENT

As the conclave approaches, the cardinals have emphasized that this is a time of grace and discernment for the Church.

“The College of Cardinals gathered in Rome, engaged in the general congregations in preparation for the conclave, wishes to invite the people of God to live this ecclesial moment as an event of grace and spiritual discernment, listening to the will of God,” the statement read.

“Indeed, [the Holy Spirit] is the protagonist of the life of the people of God, the One to whom we must listen, accepting what he is saying to the Church (cf. Rev 3:6).”

The conclave will begin on May 7 in the Sistine Chapel with the cardinals voting in daily ballots until one man receives a two-thirds majority.

What is a conclave? How does it work?

By Jonah McKeown
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis, who died April 21 at age 88, was laid to rest at the Basilica of St. Mary Major following his funeral on April 26.

As the world continues to mourn the late pope during the nine-day period known as “Novendiales” (also rendered “Novemdiales”), preparations are underway for the highly-regulated conclave process, which is the means by which a new pope is elected for the Church.

Here's what you need to know about what will happen next.

WHO CAN TAKE PART?

The task of electing the new pope falls solely upon the members of the College of Cardinals who are younger than age 80 and otherwise eligible or able to participate, of which there are currently 134.

Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, 91, is the current dean of the College of Cardinals, i.e., the most senior member, elected from among the ranks of the cardinal bishops and confirmed by the pope. Normally, it would be Re's job to move the conclave process forward once it gets underway.

Re is too old to take part in the conclave, however, as is his vice dean, Cardinal Leonardo Sandri. So the upcoming conclave will be directed by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the next eligible most senior cardinal bishop and the Vatican's secretary of state.

MAY 7: THE CONCLAVE BEGINS

The conclave system was formalized in 1274, and its procedures are spelled out in great detail in the 1996 apostol-

ic constitution *Universi Dominici Gregis* of Pope John Paul II, which was amended slightly by Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis.

Normally, the day on which the conclave begins is to be the 15th day after the death of a pope, the 16th day of the interregnum (which just means the period between popes). It can begin up to the 20th day “for serious reasons,” or earlier than the 15th day if all the cardinals are present.

The Holy See Press Office announced Monday that the conclave will begin on the morning of May 7, with the Holy Mass for the Election of the Roman Pontiff in St. Peter's Basilica.

That afternoon, the cardinals — only the electors — will make their entrance into the Sistine Chapel, chanting the “Veni Creator Spiritus,” invoking the Holy Spirit's guidance. Once inside, each cardinal will take an oath to observe the procedures, maintain secrecy, and vote freely for the candidate he believes most worthy.

When the last of the cardinal electors has taken the oath, the master of papal liturgical celebrations, Archbishop Diego Ravelli, will give the order “Extra omnes” (“Everyone out”), indicating that all those not taking part in the conclave must leave the Sistine Chapel.

Other than the cardinals, the only people allowed to remain in the chapel are the master of papal liturgical celebrations and a clergy member chosen to preach a meditation to the cardinals. After the meditation is given, he and the master of papal liturgical celebrations will leave the chapel (though the

master of papal liturgical celebrations will need to be readmitted several times during the process, particularly when a vote is about to happen).

The chapel doors will then be closed to the outside world until a new pope is chosen.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The cardinals must swear to absolute secrecy both during and after the conclave process, and great care must be taken to ensure the Sistine Chapel has not been bugged. Whenever they leave the chapel — such as for meals and to sleep — the cardinals are not allowed to discuss anything about what took place in the chapel.

Inside the locked chapel, votes are taken among the cardinals once on the first afternoon session, and twice on each morning and afternoon session for each day of the conclave.

The ballot papers all bear the words “Eligo in summum pontificem” (“I elect as supreme pontiff”), above a space for the cardinals to write a name. During the vote, cardinals individually approach Michelangelo's painting of the Last Judgment, profess an oath in Latin, and drop their ballot into a large urn.

This is the oath that the cardinals pray as they vote:

“I call as my witness Christ the Lord, who will be my judge, that my vote is given to the one who before God I think should be elected.”

Three randomly designated cardinals, known as scrutineers, then tabulate the results in front of the assembly. First, they count the ballots, and if the number of ballots doesn't match the number of electors, they are burned immediately and

a new vote is taken.

If the number of ballots is correct, the three scrutineers read each ballot, the last of the three reading the name aloud and writing it down. Each elector also writes down the running result on a sheet provided for this purpose. Each ballot, after it is counted, is pierced with a needle and placed on a thread.

Another three randomly selected cardinal electors, the revisers, check the ballot count and the notes of the scrutineers to ensure the tabulation of the ballots was carried out exactly and faithfully.

Three additional cardinal electors are randomly chosen as “infirmarii,” whose job it is to assist any electors who, although within the enclosure of the conclave, are too sick to be present in the Sistine Chapel. The infirmarii take with them a locked box that, having been shown to the other electors to be empty, receives the votes of the infirm. They then return it unopened to the scrutineers.

A Catholic man needs two-thirds of the votes — in the present case, 90 votes — to be elected the next pope. Looking at the record of the last century of conclaves shows that the college elects a new pope, on average, by the afternoon of the third day, after about eight ballots.

THE NEW POPE

When a voting session concludes without a man reaching the required majority, the ballots are burned with wet straw, causing black smoke to emanate from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel. However, if a pope is elected, the ballots are burned with the addition of a chemical agent, producing the famous white

smoke.

Before that happens, however, there is a process that must be followed once a man receives the required number of votes.

After the junior cardinal deacon has readmitted the secretary of the college and the master of papal liturgical ceremonies, the cardinal dean, or the cardinal who is first in order and seniority, goes to the one elected and asks:

“Do you accept your canonical election as supreme pontiff?”

With consent he becomes bishop of Rome and the pope (thus ending the conclave, unless the new pope decides to keep it in session for some reason). The cardinal dean then asks:

“By what name do you wish to be called?”

The master of papal liturgical ceremonies, with the witness of the two masters of ceremonies (who are now summoned), then will draw up a document certifying the consent of the man elected and the name he has chosen.

The new pope spends a few moments in a room off the Sistine Chapel known as the Room of Tears, where he is dressed in papal vestments. Each cardinal then comes forward in turn and makes an act of homage and obedience to the new pope. An act of thanksgiving to God is then made.

The senior cardinal deacon announces from the loggia of St. Peter's to those gathered in St. Peter's Square: “Habemus papam!” (“We have a pope!”) and what name he has taken. The elected pope then comes out to address and bless the city and the world (“urbi et orbi”).

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

BLACK FLY 5K RUN, WALK, ROLL OR STROLL

Saranac Lake - 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: Race begins at 1 p.m.

Place: Dewey Mountain Recreation Center

Cost: Adult, \$27.50; Student \$22.20; Family Discount: Families of four or more receive a \$10 discount with our special Family Rate during registration. Registration Bonus: Participants will receive a custom designed t-shirt by Stacked Graphics, a tin of Bye Bye Blackfly all-natural insect repellent, and a free ice cream cone certificate from Teddy's Ice Cream in Bloomingdale!

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 — one scenic loop on the trails, perfect for younger participants who want to join the excitement without the full 5K distance!

Contact: Sign-Up: <https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/SaranacLake/StBsBlackFly5K>

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

Peru — St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus to have a Mother's Day Breakfast.

Date: May 11

Time: 8:30 a.m. to noon

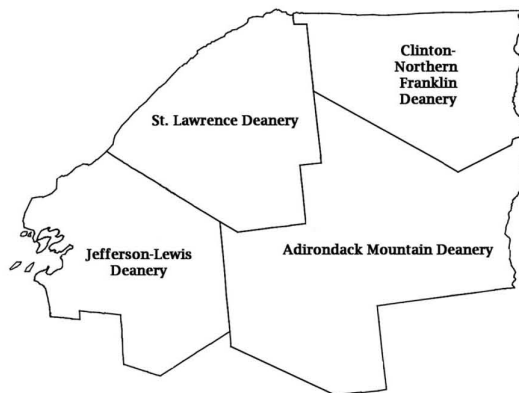
Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

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

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

THE RESCUE PROJECT

Brushton - Have you ever wondered Why there is something



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.

rather than nothing? Why is the world so obviously messed up? What if anything has God done about it? And how should I respond? Join us for a 9-week experience to discover how AWESOME the Good News that is the Gospel really is!

Date: May 14 and continues for 9 weeks

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Hall

Cost: \$10 donation to cover the cost of the books would be greatly appreciated but is not required.

Features: Come and hear the Gospel in a new and compelling way. Each Session consists of a video, a short snack break and small group discussion facilitated by Deacon Lee Trudeau and Marika Donders. Participant guides will be provided.

Contact: For more information contact Marika Donders at mdonders@rcdony.org

CAR SHOW

Mooers 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 (\$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

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

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

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.

ST. LAWRENCE

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

DIOCESAN EVENTS

GUGGENHEIM CLEAN UP WEEKEND

Saranac Lake — Help wanted in cleaning up the Guggenheim Center to get it ready for the summer.

Date: Start at 11 a.m. May 16

and wrap up around 4 p.m. May 17

Features: It takes hours of vacuuming, mopping, dusting, window washing, scrubbing and so on to get The Guggenheim Center ready for summer. Can you share an hour, a day or a couple of days to join us at Guggenheim Clean-Up Weekend?

Contact: Please register to help at <https://forms.office.com/r/PPDMGsTZGJ> For more information contact Deacon Jim Crowley at 315-393-2920 or jcrowley@rcdony.org

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.

Film to feature pope's last in-depth interview

By Francesca Pollio Fenton
Catholic News Agency

Filmmaker Martin Scorsese is producing a feature-length documentary about Pope Francis and the educational movement the late pontiff founded.

"Aldeas, a New Story" will feature conversations between Scorsese and the pope, including what is reportedly Francis' final in-depth on-camera interview for a film.

The documentary will highlight the work of Scholas Occurrentes, the nonprofit Pope Francis created in 2013 that aims to bring about what the pope called a "culture of encounter" through the education system.

Part of the group's work has included filmmaking under the

Aldeas Initiative, which brings together film production with education and community building. The program encourages participants to make scripted short films highlighting their identities and histories.

The documentary will show the short films of participants of the Aldeas Initiative from Italy, Gambia, and Indonesia.

Aldeas Scholas Film and Scorsese's Sikelia Productions announced the documentary on April 30. The two production companies said the film is "a testament to the enduring belief that creativity is not only a means of expression but a path to hope and transformation."

"Now, more than ever, we need to talk to each other [and]

listen to one another cross-culturally," Scorsese said in a statement. "One of the best ways to accomplish this is by sharing the stories of who we are, reflected from our personal lives and experiences. It helps us understand and value how each of us sees the world."

"It was important to Pope Francis for people across the globe to exchange ideas with respect while also preserving their cultural identity, and cinema is the best medium to do that," the filmmaker said.

Before his passing, Pope Francis said Aldeas "is an extremely poetic and very constructive project because it goes to the roots of what human life is, human sociability, human conflicts... the essence of a life's journey."

A release date for the film has not been announced.

After Pope Francis' passing, Scorsese called the Holy Father "a remarkable human being" in a statement shared with ABC News.

"He acknowledged his own failings. He radiated wisdom. He radiated goodness. He had an ironclad commitment to the good. He knew in his soul that ignorance was a terrible plague on humanity. So he never stopped learning," Scorsese said.

He added: "The loss for me runs deep — I was lucky enough to know him, and I will miss his presence and his warmth. The loss for the world is immense. But he left a light behind, and it can never be extinguished."

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Contact: To register, please go to <https://LGWSyr.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

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.

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 cminer@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.

CAMP GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake — Camp Guggen-

heim 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 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>



SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

Are we committed to the shepherd?

"The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want." Those very familiar words are, I am sure, known to most of us. They form part of our prayer when we are troubled. Those words are the fodder of sympathy cards that we sent to others who feel troubled at the loss of a loved one. Those same words find themselves as parts of our liturgies, again especially in funeral liturgies.

The story is told about two men, a talented actor and an ordinary Joe. They were asked to recite the poem. The actor, a non-believer, did an excellent job reciting the psalm. He pronounced and enunciated each word perfectly, pausing as appropriate, emphasizing as needed, and changing the tone of his voice as necessary. Listeners were spell bound by his recitation and deeply impressed.

The ordinary Joe, a

man of faith, also read the psalm aloud. He stumbled over words, was monotone in his recitation, deadpan

in the delivery. However, the audience was more impressed by this man's delivery. Even the actor congratulated the ordinary Joe for his delivery. Joe had a hard time accepting the praise, but the actor said to

him: "I know the psalm perfectly. However, you know the shepherd. I spoke the words, you spoke from the heart."

Please note that the psalm says: "The Lord is my shepherd." It does not say "The Lord is a shepherd," even though he is a shepherd.

So, it seems that the question for us is how would we recited the psalm - like the actor or like the ordinary Joe.

Jesus clearly presents himself in today's Gospel as the shepherd. What we have in today's Gospel is a snippet

May 11

Fourth Sunday of Easter

READINGS

Acts 13:14,43-52
Revelation 7:9, 14b-17
John 10:27-30

pet of his full teaching on his role as shepherd. However, even though the passage is brief, it remains very powerful.

First of all, Jesus identifies himself as the shepherd, the one cares for the sheep entrusted to him. As shepherd, he is very protective of his sheep, in other words all of us because we are the sheep over whom he watches. Jesus is committed to his role in the relationship between shepherd and sheep. However, a legitimate question would be how committed are we?

Without a doubt, we would all want to belong to this flock of Jesus. How comforting and reassuring it would be to know that we are part of that, so to speak, in-crowd of Jesus and his sheep.

But how can we be sure that we belong?

Well, it seems that there are three requirements to belong. First of all, we need to believe in Jesus as he is not as we make him to be. The only way that we can truly know Jesus is to read his words, read his life, read his teachings, all of which are found in the Gospels. It's quite easy to know Jesus if we describe him as we would like him to be. Our pop descriptions of Jesus may not be the Jesus as revealed in the Gospels. Unfortunately, some of our pop culture descriptions of Jesus focus so much on his humanity that they forget he is divine, that he is God.

A second requirement to be among the sheep is that we listen to the shepherd. Listen means obey. If we make up our own Jesus, the big danger is that we likewise make up what he asks us to do. He does ask a lot but never asks what cannot be done.

The third requirement is to heed his

voice, that is listen and put into practice. When we hear that we think immediately of moral issues and morality is part of it. But even greater than morality is the "attitude" of Christ. Attitude is hard to describe in words, easy to recognize in reality. We all know when someone "cops" attitude. Well, in our life as sheep, we must have the same attitude as Christ towards the world. Morality is only one aspect. The attitude of Christ means practicing virtues of justice, charity, prudence, and the list could go on and on with all attitudes that we can read about as we read the Gospels.

The shepherd has help coming from his sheep dog who knows the mind of the shepherd and directs the sheep in the right direction. In a way, the teaching authority of the Church is like the sheepdog always keeping in touch with the original teachings of Jesus and in touch with tradition in order to steer the flock always in the direction wanted by the shepherd.

We call today Good Shepherd Sunday because of the gospel that we have read. We know that Jesus is our good shepherd.

Let us pray that we can be good, faithful, and loyal sheep listening and heeding the voice of the shepherd.



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

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Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

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info@rcdony.org

Adopt a cardinal: Pray for electors of the next pope

By Kate Quinones
Catholic News Agency

The Pontifical Mission Societies USA is launching a prayer campaign to pray for the cardinals involved in the upcoming conclave as they prepare to elect the next pope.

Monsignor Roger Landry, the national director of the Pontifical Mission Societies USA, encouraged Catholics to pray for the cardinals in a video message from St. Peter's Square on Monday.

The cardinals on Monday determined that the conclave to elect Pope Francis' successor will begin on Wednesday, May 7.

"That's nine days from now," Landry said on April 28. "A perfect time of prayer for the cardinals as they take on their important responsibility before God of responding to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in order to be able to discern who should be the successor of St. Peter and the successor of Pope Francis."

Each person who signs up for the pontifical campaign will be assigned to pray for one of the 135 cardinal electors participating in the upcoming conclave.

The prayer initiative will share the cardinal's name, birthplace, and birthday.

"Please take that cardinal to every one of your prayers because, as each of these cardinals has been saying to us, they are depending on the prayers of the entire Church," Landry said.

Only cardinals under the age of 80 are voting members in the conclave — but Landry noted that "the selection of a pope is not just the act of cardinals under 80."

"It's the act of the entire mystical body of Christ — you and me too," Landry said.

"So please help us help them through joining this prayer campaign," Landry concluded.

The prayer itself is simple: "Heavenly Father, guide the cardinals in wisdom and love as they may lead your Church. May your will be their compass. Amen."

To adopt a cardinal in prayer, go to <https://www.pontificalmissions.org/pray-for-the-next-pope>.

JUBILEE MASS DURING HOLY WEEK



As part of the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope, Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated Mass for Wednesday of Holy Week at the chapel at United Helpers in Canton, known locally as Maplewood along with Father Bryan Stitt, pastor of St. Mary's in Canton.

OBITUARIES

Champlain — Edward Charles Martin, 72; Mass of Christian Burial May 5, 2025 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Constableville — William J. Kraeger, 88; Graveside services April 28, 2025 at St. Mary's Cemetery.

Croghan — Wayne K. Kuhl, 79; Memorial Mass May 2, 2025 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's cemetery.

Indian Lake — Margaret (Farrell) Lofthouse, 85; Mass of Christian Burial May 31, 2025 at St. Mary's Church.

Massena — Shawn Michael Lazore, Sr., 53; Funeral Services April 30, 2025 at the Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Massena — Steven J. Levac, 73; Privates service held.

Morrisonville — Ronald Sickles, 82; Mass of Christian Burial April 30, 2025 at St. Alexander's Church.

Peru — Krisi Ann Shadrick Pottichen, 60; Mass of Christian Burial May 1, 2025 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Peter J. Maynard, 60; Mass of Christian Burial May 30, 2025 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in Town of Plattsburgh Community Mausoleum.

Potsdam — David L. Grant, 49; Mass of Christian Burial April 29, 2025 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Rouses Point — Louise Adele (Dion) Conkrite, 77; Mass of Christian Burial May 1, 2025 at St. Patrick's Church.

Star Lake — Sandra Catherine Tulip, 60; Mass of Christian

Burial May 1, 2025 at St. Hubert's Church; burial in Cranberry Lake Cemetery.

Ticonderoga — Eufemio John Cucci, 92; Graveside services May 2, 2025 at St. Mary's Cemetery.

Tupper Lake — Randy S. Bean, 73; Funeral Services April 29, 2025 at Frary Funeral Home.

Watertown — Daphne R. (Pearce) Corbett, 96; Mass of Christian Burial April 30, 2025 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Lyle C. Gayne, Sr., 86; Mass of Christian Burial May 5, 2025 at Holy Family Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

Watertown — David N. Liscomb, 73; Mass of Christian Burial April 29, 2025 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN

Photos by Darcy Fargo/North Country Catholic

