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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 80 Number 12

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JUNE 11, 2025

## TALKING ABOUT TRAFFICKING



A project team comprised of (from left) Father Jerome Pastores, pastor of St. Regis Mission Church, Felicitas Brugo Onetti from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Father Mike Carson from USCCB, Dr. Rose-Alma 'Dolly' McDonald, indigenous advisor, and Bishop Terry LaValley held a listening session on indigenous human trafficking on May 22. The full story is on Page 3

## 60 YEARS A SISTER



The Sisters of Charity of St. Louis recently celebrated Sister Louella Pelletier, pictured center front, who celebrates her 60th Jubilee this year. Private Mass was celebrated by Father William Reamer at Clinton County Nursing Home for Sister Pelletier, who was joined by three sisters of the order from Canada and three from Plattsburgh. Cake and decorations were provided by the nursing home. Pictured with Sister Louella are (front row, from left) Sister Nicole Lebel, delegated general councilor of the Canada-USA Zone, Sister Claire Michel Fortier, (back row) Sister Bernadette Ducharme, Sister Yvette Plessis, 60th Jubilarian from Calgary, and Sister Lorraine Boutet, general treasurer.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## Pope at general audience: 'Our life is worthy'

By Victoria Cardiel  
Catholic News Agency

Pope Leo XIV held the third general audience of his pontificate on Wednesday, telling the faithful that even when we feel useless and inadequate, "the Lord reminds us that our life is worthy."

"Even when it seems we are able to do little in life, it is always worthwhile. There is always the possibility to find meaning, because God loves our life," Leo said in a sunny St. Peter's Square on June 4, four days before the one-month mark of his pontificate.

In his catechesis, the pope reflected on the parable of the

vineyard workers, recounted in the Gospel of Matthew. Leo affirmed that, like the owner of the vineyard, Jesus "does not establish rankings, he gives all of himself to those who open their hearts to him."

This parable "is a story that fosters our hope," the pontiff said. "Indeed, at times we have the impression that we cannot find meaning for our lives: We feel useless, inadequate, just like the laborers who wait in the marketplace, waiting for someone to hire them to work."

Just like the laborers waiting in the market for work, the pope argued, sometimes we are waiting a long time to be acknowledged or appreciated,

and we may end up "selling ourselves to the first bidder" in the marketplace, where affection and dignity are bought and sold in an attempt to make a profit.

The tireless landowner in the parable goes out over and over again to seek laborers for his fields, even late into the day, when the remaining workers had probably given up all hope, Leo said. "That day had come to nothing. Nevertheless, someone still believed in them."

The behavior of the owner of the vineyard is also unusual in other ways, he noted, including that he "comes out in person in search of his laborers. Evidently, he wants to establish a per-

sonal relationship with them."

Then, "for the owner of the vineyard, that is, for God, it is just that each person has what he needs to live. He called the laborers personally, he knows their dignity, and on the basis of this, he wants to pay them, and he gives all of them one denarius," even those who only worked the last hour of the day, Pope Leo emphasized.

According to the pontiff, the laborers who had spent all day working were disappointed, because "they cannot see the beauty of the gesture of the landowner, who was not unjust but simply generous; who looked not only at merit but also at need."



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## The struggle is real

"If you struggle with some of the teachings of the Church, why are you Catholic?" my friend asked, playfully. "Or does that just make you a bad Catholic?"

"Lots of things make me a bad Catholic," I responded. "And I could be wrong, but I honestly don't think the fact that I struggle with a couple Church teachings is one of them. But I'm Catholic because the struggles are my problem, they're not the Church's problem, and I'm not going to throw the whole thing away - sacraments

and fullness of truth - because of one or two issues that are small in the grand scheme of things."



**Darcy L. Fargo**

Yes, I struggle with some of the teachings of the Catholic Church, and that fact comes up far more frequently than I'd like it to in conversations, especially with my friends who don't share our faith.

I'm certainly not proud of the fact that there are certain Church teachings that I can't wrap my head around or that I struggle to accept, though based on conversations I've had, I get the distinct impres-

sion I'm not the only Catholic who struggles with at least one or two of our Church's teachings.

While my friend started the conversation playfully, sort of picking on me, my answer surprised her, and the tone of the conversation changed. She asked for further explanation.

I'm no expert in theology, ethics or anything even remotely related, but to me the key distinction is that "I struggle" in the present tense. It's ongoing. I don't dig in my heels and say, "sorry, Church I believe is founded and sustained by Jesus himself, I'm right and you're wrong."

Instead, I try to continue learning about those

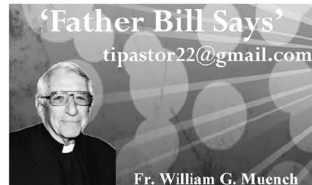
teachings, I try to continue praying with and about those teachings, and I continue struggling with those teachings.

Let's be honest here, God knows exactly who I am. He knows I am strong willed and more than a little stubborn. He knows I'm painfully attached to my own will. He can surely handle me saying, "I don't know about this. That's a hard one."

When I acknowledge those struggles and talk about them, the conversations sometimes reveal insights that make the struggles easier or bring me closer to full acceptance of truth.

They make me a better Catholic.

## A month of feasts



Each Sunday during this month of June, our Catholic Church celebrates a major liturgical feast day. We, Catholics, will be recognizing important beliefs of our faith - the teachings of Jesus - each Sunday. These feast days will draw us ever closer to our faith in the Lord Jesus. We will celebrate the Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit to the apostles and now to us; we will celebrate a feast honoring our God, the Feast of the Holy Trinity; there is also a feast day celebrating the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, the Feast of the Body and Blood of Jesus; and this year, we will honor two of our greatest saints on a Sunday, the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul.

To prepare us properly to celebrate the feast days of this month, the month began by focusing our attention on the Gospel reading of Jesus' High Priestly Prayer. This is the 17th Chapter of the Gos-

pel of St. John. You will probably remember this. I do encourage you to read John 17 during this month. It truly sets a tone for all the celebrations of the month. In his Priestly Prayer, Jesus is praying for us, today's Catholics. In this prayer, Jesus also prays for himself - that he will be strong in meeting the sufferings of his Passion and Death. He then prays for his apostles - he knows that they will need faith and guidance - as they bring his message to this world.

Then Jesus prays for us. He prays for all those who will discover and believe in his message and teachings throughout all ages. This means Jesus was praying for you and me at the Last

Supper. Jesus prays that we will all - the people of all time - come to know God, the God who loves us first. That all of us, you and me, will become loving people - loving in our faith of our God, loving each other, loving all others in our world.

Jesus prays in this prayer that all his followers of all time will be united to him, our Lord and God, and united to each other. Jesus prays "that they may be one as we, Father, are one." Jesus prays that we, as followers of God, will be the People of God - united as a family with our God, united in our love for our Savior, Jesus Christ. As the family of God, we will make our world a better place - a Church, people united together, that will bring Christ's love to all that we meet.

At Mass, I frequently like to remind the folks that we all remember to join in prayer to all here present - our family and the Lord's family, that we

pray together, but we also pray for each other, that we see each other, that we join together. I know that there will always be many there present who desperately need our prayers.

Our Catholic Church is so unique. We are a diverse group - each with our own unique gifts. Jesus chose us. Although we are different, we must be united with the same goal of mutual love. We must be open to each other, and we must welcome each other in love. We are the Body of Christ - alive in the love of God, united as we bring Christ's love to our world.

We will succeed when we are united. Selfishness is always a blight on our community. A spirit of love for each other should always be evident in our Christian community. We must spread our Christian love to all that we meet - a powerful sign of our love for Jesus. We must be recognized as a caring people.



# Listening session focuses on trafficking

On May 22, representatives of Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, law enforcement, human services organizations and governmental agencies gathered along with Bishop Terry R. LaValley, representatives of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the Sisters of St. Joseph for Indigenous Human Trafficking Listening Sessions.

"We had 30 participants that represented local leadership - two Chiefs from the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, (Department of) Homeland Security, St. Regis Mohawk Police, (Canada Border Services Agency), the Three Sisters, & Seven Dancers Program, North Country Catholic Charities, the North Country Human Trafficking Task Force, Migrant Workers Program, NYS Assistant Attorney General's Office, St. Regis Mission Church, U.S. (Customs and Border Protection), Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Wellness Program and the Diocese of Ogdensburg Sisters of St. Joseph and Bishop LaValley," said Dr. RJ "Dolly" McDonald, local indigenous advisor to the USCCB and facilitator of the session. "The USCCB representatives were Father Michael Carson from the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity - Native American Subcommittee and Ms. Felicitas Brugo Onetti of USCCB Migration and Refugee Services."

The event was intended to "raise awareness on indigenous human trafficking and its intersection with related forms of violence to help offset some of the risk factors confronting Native American



Participants of the Indigenous Human Trafficking Listening Session held May 22 in Akwesasne include, (front row, from left), Patrick Dussault, Herbie Herne (middle row), Felicitas Frugo Onetti, Amie Barnes, Joyce Muchan, Dr. RJ 'Dolly' McDonald, (back row) Father Jerome Pastores, Chief Lisa Francis Benedict, Lisa Zeran, Chief Cindy Francis Mitchell, Hattie Taylor, Father Scott Seymour, Diane Noisieux, Bishop Terry R. LaValley, William LaPage, Shelly Jacobs, Susan Griskonis, Matt Rourke, Father Michael Carson, Colin McNamara, Hawi Thompson, John Bay, Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, and Julia Kaplan Toce

and Indigenous people," according to an event description.

"The listening session will connect with advocates of indigenous anti-human trafficking initiatives and uplift individual leaders to help educate, protect, promote and integrate preventive and educational efforts, and facilitating ongoing dialogue with Catholic churches, schools and local non-profits to spread awareness on the issue of trafficking within native and indigenous communities and help to institutionalize efforts to combat this violence which affects all of us."

After opening prayer and greetings, the event opened

with a presentation on "The Role of the Church in Combating Human Trafficking," given by Brugo Onetti. The presentation discussed Catholic social teaching on human trafficking, the history of anti-trafficking programs within the Church, discussion of current USCCB anti-trafficking programs and discussion of why indigenous populations are susceptible to trafficking and who the most vulnerable in the population.

The presentation showed discrimination, psychological and health vulnerabilities - low self-esteem, histories of abuse or neglect, mental health issues and risky behaviors, legal and immigration status and lack of protection

systems as factors that make victims vulnerable.

The presentation, facilitated by Dr. McDonald, was followed by small group discussions and discussions of further actions that could be taken to address indigenous human trafficking.

"The biggest outcome of the session was that the participants had never participated in a session as equals with clergy," said Dr. McDonald. "Almost every one stated they saw the Church demystified for them and that for some of them it changed their lives forever."

Dr. McDonald indicated a full report of the session would be compiled later this month.

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The former St. Augustine's School in Peru is now to be used as the North Country Community Disaster hub.

## Church, partners create disaster response hub

St. Augustine's Church in Peru is proud to announce the formation of the North Country Community Disaster Hub, a new regional initiative to provide coordinated response, training and relief services in the event of natural disasters or community-wide emergencies.

The Hub will be located in the former St. Augustine's School, now functioning as the parish center, directly across the street from the church. The facility will serve as a multi-purpose emergency response site, offering space for shelter, resource distribution, volunteer training, and collaborative planning with community partners throughout Clinton, Essex, and Franklin Counties.

"Our parish center has always been a place of service," said Father Christopher Looby, pastor of St. Augustine's. "Now it will also become a place of readiness and hope - ready to serve our neighbors in times of crisis."

The North Country Community Disaster Hub is being developed in partnership with St. Joseph's Outreach Center, The United Way, the American Red Cross, local Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) networks, county emergency services and a growing number of nonprofit and faith-based partners. Planned upgrades to the facility include accessible showers, laundry facilities, and a generator system to ensure resilience during power outages.

In addition to infrastructure improvements, the Hub will host training events for shelter volunteers, trauma and crisis responders, and agency personnel preparing for possible Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) activations during large-scale emergencies.

The creation of the Disaster Hub reflects a growing commitment across the North Country to prepare collaboratively for future challenges—including storms, flooding, and prolonged outages—while building stronger bonds between service agencies, faith communities, and volunteers.

Further announcements, including upcoming training opportunities and community events, will be made in the coming weeks.

## Sister celebrates 60 years

Sister Louella Pelletier, of the Sisters of Charity of St. Louis, is celebrating her Diamond Jubilee, 60 years in religious life.

Sister Louella, who took the religious name Sister Arthur Jean, a combination of her father and mother's names, pronounced first vows in Cheshire, Connecticut, in 1965. Shortly after, she began teaching junior high students at Saint Joseph School in Brookfield Center, Connecticut.

From 1966 to 1970, before pronouncing perpetual vows, Sister Louella taught in Oakville, Connecticut. She later continued teaching at Notre Dame School in Plattsburgh.

During this period, Sister Louella also took courses to obtain her bachelor's degree from

the University of Ottawa, Ontario. She was awarded the degree in 1972. Always in the teaching field, she then served at Mary Magdalen School in Oakville, Connecticut, starting in 1974. Following that, from 1979 to 1987, she served as principal while teaching part-time at Notre Dame School, Plattsburgh.

During this period, Sister Louella also worked to complete a master's degree in education, graduating in 1983 from the State University of New York in Plattsburgh.

In 1987-88, the sister benefitted from a year of renewal at the Galilee Institute in Arnprior, Ontario. This place gathered religious as well as lay people working in parishes and desiring to acquire spiritual enrichment. Following this year, Sister Louella

served the parish school in Plattsburgh, where she taught English and helped students who were having difficulty.

Then, from 1989 to 1992, Sister Louella taught religion as a catechist at Saint-Edward's in Clifton Park while acting as local superior.

From 1992 to 2007, she continued as volunteer in link with the University of Plattsburgh. At the end of the year in 2007, she became a resident of the Clinton County nursing home, where she always tries to bring encouragement to the residents.

"My great friend, Sister Louise Marceau, says of me that I have always been a happy, jovial sister who always likes to help and that it is a great pleasure for me to do so," Sister Louella said.

## CONGRATULATIONS,

*Father Ted*

*on the 25th Anniversary  
of your Ordination to the  
Priesthood.*

*Abundant blessings to you  
for continued  
good health and service.*



*We Love You!*

*The Parishioners of Sacred Heart, Chazy*



## A GROWING VOICE

# God has a plan, even if it's hard to see

God has a plan. I can't count how many times I've heard that phrase without truly listening. A couple weeks ago now, I lost a friend to suicide. Maybe that's a dark opening. I didn't know them very well or for very long, but it rattled me.

Here's where I connect it to that first sentence. I was so surprised and upset that I sent a message to my cousin to inform him of what happened, and he called me later that night. He had been driving and pulled over when he received my message. Apparently, not five minutes after reading my text, someone approached his car to



Erin  
Savarie

ask if he was alright. It turned out that this person was an active member of a parish in the area where my cousin lives, and he had lost his own son only a few weeks earlier.

In that moment, both my cousin and this man were in a difficult place, and they were able to support each other. Through their connection, the man helped bring my cousin closer to God. I'm not saying this makes losing my friend any easier, but I believe it wasn't a coincidence, and I truly think there's always a reason for everything that happens, even if it's hard to see at the time.

## A time to fast: Prepare to receive Holy Communion

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

**Father, I heard someone talking about fasting before Mass recently. I thought the Church did away with that years ago. Can you explain?**

Great question. Thanks for asking. Why would we fast from the goods of the earth if they are in fact "good"? Because there is something better. Each Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, the Church asks us to fast by eating less than two full meals.



### FROM WONDERING TO WONDER IN WORSHIP

With Father Bryan Stitt, Diocesan Director of Worship

We also fast for at least an hour before receiving Holy Communion. This is such a simple request that sometimes we're tempted to not take it seriously. But fasting is important.

Here's why: Fasting is allowing us to hunger for something more. To give up something delicious or appealing is good in that it makes room in our lives for something even better—God. If you're like me, you're aware that after feasting, things don't fit the way they are supposed to. But the benefit of fasting is much more than just making us feel better in our own skin. It strengthens our minds, our spirits, and our souls. If we cannot say no to that which is appealing, we are enslaved to them. We want to live freely as God's sons and daughters, so we fast.

So fasting isn't just about limiting what we eat—though it is that. It's also drink, social media, music, noise, video games, and shopping. Not giving into every urge is to make room for God.

## Congratulations Fr. Michael Marzan



**On celebrating 25 years  
in the Priesthood.**

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## Environmental Stewardship

**Laudato Si - Chapter three**

In the first chapter of his encyclical, *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis presents an overview of environmental issues, and he explains in Chapter two why these issues need to be corrected immediately. In Chapter three, he examines the causes for this crisis and looks at the role human behavior and technology have played in creating these ecological and social issues.

He begins with an explanation of the term “technocratic paradigm” which he uses throughout the encyclical. Advances in technology over the past two centuries have completely transformed the way humans live. Because our rapidly evolving technology has been responsible for “improving the quality of human life (LS 103) and has “given us tremendous power,” (LS 104) we have come to view technological advances as good and rarely question their assimilation into our daily lives.

Because many people now crave the easiest way possible to perform even the simplest tasks, regardless of collateral damage, many people seem to believe we can continue down this path since technology seems to provide solutions to problems.

As the chapter progresses, the pope cites some of the many issues caused by reliance on technology. For example, we are exploiting natural resources of the planet at an unprecedented rate to acquire the raw materials to manufacture products on which our society has become reliant. The holy father also examines the impact that the infusion of advanced technology into manufacturing has on the work force. Jobs are lost to machines, and there are seldom any plans to assist the displaced workers. The pope observes that there is “environmental degradation, anxiety, a loss of purpose of life and of community living.” (LS 110)

He ends the chapter by looking at moral, spiritual and social issues surrounding the expansion of biotechnology, a field delving deeply into the modification of the very fabric of life itself.

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**June 11** – 9:45 a.m. – 1 p.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch

2 p.m. – Mass Celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope at the Massena Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Massena

6 p.m. – Annual Banquet for the Staff of Our Lady of Outreach Ministry at Martin Field Club

**June 12** – 9:30 a.m. – Diocesan Department Head Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg followed by Lunch

**June 13** – 8:15 a.m. – Closing School Year Mass of St. Catherine of Siena Academy at St. Mary's Church in Canton

**June 14** – 4 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Regis Mission in Hogsburg

**June 16-20** – United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Plenary Assembly in San Diego, California

## Protecting God's Children

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

**June 25** – 5 p.m. – St. Peter's Parish, Massena

**July 1** – 2 p.m. – Camp Guggenheim, Saranac Lake

## Rest in Peace

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

**June 11** – Rev. Lawrence K. Brady, 1993

**June 12** – Rev. Eugene A. Kelly, 2001; Rev. Francis J. Coryer, 2012

**June 14** – Rev. Hermidas Mayer, 1927; Rev. Thomas A. Kiley, O.S.A., 1954; Rev. William J. Deacy, O.S.A., 1960; Rev. Arthur Desrosiers, 1963; Msgr. Walter T. Cleary, 1968

**June 15** – Rev. Francis C. A. Cornish, 1960

**June 16** – Rev. James L. Meehan, 2004; Deacon John Dwyer, 2007

**June 17** – Rev. Thomas J. Thottumkal, 1992

## 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](mailto:terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com); Phone: 518-569-0612; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; [ccarrara@rcdony.org](mailto: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](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org)

# Victim group hopes to force insurers to pay NY abuse claims

By Daniel Payne

Catholic News Agency

A victim advocacy group launched an ad campaign urging New York Gov. Kathy Hochul to force insurance companies to pay millions of dollars in abuse claims, slamming the governor for allegedly “stand[ing] with her big insurance buddies” instead of abuse victims.

The Coalition for Just and Compassionate Compensation, which started in 2023 to pressure insurance companies to pay abuse claims under the state's Child Victims Act, began running ads in upstate New York markets this week.

“Who turns their back on over 14,000 survivors of child sex abuse? Gov. Kathy Hochul,” an ad states, claiming the Democratic governor “stands with her big insurance buddies [who are] denying responsibility while donating to her campaign.”

The ad features headlines from news stories of abuse scandals, including one that references the Diocese of Buffalo, which earlier this year said it would pay out a massive \$150 million sum as part of a settlement with victims of clergy sexual abuse there.

“Call [Hochul's] office. Demand she enforce the law. Make big insurance pay, not the survivors they failed,” the advertisement says.

Passed in 2019, New York's Child Victims Act extended the statute of limitations involving child sex abuse cases so that victims can file civil lawsuits against both abusers and institutions until the victims themselves are 55 years old.

It is not just victim advocates who have called for insurers to pay abuse claims in both New York and elsewhere.

New York archbishop Cardinal Timothy Dolan last year said the archdiocese was launching a lawsuit against its longtime insurer in response to an alleged attempt by the company “to evade their legal and moral contractual obligation” to pay out financial claims to sex abuse victims.

The Archdiocese of Baltimore similarly sued numerous insurers last year over their alleged failure to pay for abuse claims stretching back several decades.

And earlier this year the Diocese of Trenton, New Jersey, sued its insurance provider over allegations that the company was refusing to pay out sexual abuse claims under that state's own Child Victims Act.

Neither the New York victims' group nor the governor's office responded to requests for comment on the campaign.



# New York Archdiocese taps parishioners to spot future priests

By Fiona Murphy  
Catholic News Agency

In the Archdiocese of New York, where ordinations to the priesthood have sharply declined in recent decades, a new initiative is seeking to rekindle vocations. Launched this spring, "Called By Name" is the archdiocese's latest attempt to spark interest in the priesthood.

"Only two men applied to seminary last year to be diocesan priests," Father George Sears, director of vocations for the archdiocese, told CNA. "As far as I know, that's the lowest number that I've ever seen."

During Mass on Good Shepherd Sunday last month, parishioners across the city were invited to fill out pamphlets or scan a QR code to nominate young men they believe might be called to the priesthood.

According to Sears, since May 11 more than 260 names have been submitted. Each nominee will receive a personal letter from Cardinal Timothy Dolan inviting him to dinner in August.

Within the Archdiocese of New York, the number of priests has fallen by more than half since 1970, according to data published by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University.

Fewer men are entering the seminary and many parishes now rely on one priest to serve communities once staffed by two or more. In the past 50 years, many parishes in New York have been forced to merge or close, leaving communities without a resident pastor.

Sears said he speculates that the reason for a waning interest in joining the priesthood is layered. "There's a greater fear of making a long-term commitment," he said. "Also the idea, somehow that fulfillment comes from a certain checklist, like, my life is fulfilled if I have the right career as opposed to happiness coming from a relationship based in love."

He pointed to other factors including a growing secularism in society, the migration of Catholic families from the Northeast to other regions of the country, and the lingering impact of the Church's sexual abuse crisis.

"We're still very much suffering from

the results of the sexual abuse scandal," Sears said. "I think we're still in the shadow of that."

Daniel Ogulnick, a Catholic man in his early 20s and a native New Yorker, first heard about the archdiocese's initiative on Good Shepherd Sunday while sitting in the pews of St. Joseph's Church in Manhattan. For him, "Called By Name" may not go far enough.

"The same way that God calls us as individuals, maybe the Church should approach it through parish priests really getting to know the young men in their parish and thinking about each one's unique talents and gifts," Ogulnick said. He said he believes a more personal approach may be more effective, especially for men like him who are actively discerning a vocation.

Sears doesn't disagree, but he stressed the limits of the current situation in the diocese. "When we're in a 'vocations crisis' ... you're spread thinner," he said, adding that "Called By Name" can help priests foster relationships with young men discerning the priesthood whom they might not otherwise reach.

"The hope is that the priests who are involved in this can say to everyone, 'Hey, come ... join us. Come and pray with us a little bit. Meet some other men who are also curious,'" Sears said.

At St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, the final step of formation for men preparing to become diocesan priests in the Archdiocese of New York and the only major seminary still operating in the state, 18 men are currently enrolled, though not all are studying for diocesan priesthood.

Bishop James Massa, who serves as the rector of St. Joseph, said that despite historically low enrollment numbers, the young men currently in seminary are distinctly committed.

"The fact of the matter is that most men who enter stay and get ordained," Massa said. "You walk into this seminary and many others, and you hear joy and laughter. It's a sign of vitality."

Massa said he believes that in today's climate, a smaller, more intentional seminary environment allows for stronger formation. With St. Joseph's expecting around 60 seminarians this fall, the demand for individualized attention is already considerable.

## CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

### CMS ends requirement for ER docs to perform abortions

The Trump administration on Tuesday nixed a Biden-era requirement that forced emergency room doctors to perform abortions. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), a branch of the Department of Health and Human Services, announced on June 3 that it would rescind the July 2022 guidelines issued under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA). That law, originally passed in 1986, was designed to prevent "patient dumping" by requiring Medicare-participating hospitals to provide stabilizing treatment to patients who can't pay for treatment rather than transferring them. The Biden administration expanded the requirements in the wake of the repeal of *Roe v. Wade*, requiring hospitals to perform abortions as "stabilizing treatment" in emergency situations. The government will "continue to enforce" EMTALA "including for identified emergency medical conditions that place the health of a pregnant woman or her unborn child in serious jeopardy," CMS said this week.

### FDA to conduct abortion pill review

A top official at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) confirmed on Monday that the organization will conduct a review of the abortion drug mifepristone following several recent studies challenging the safety of the drug. FDA Commissioner Marty Makary said he is "committed" to conducting the review in a June 2 letter addressed to Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley, who has been an outspoken advocate for reviewing abortion pill safety regulations. "As with all drugs, FDA continues to closely monitor the post-marketing safety data on mifepristone for the medical termination of early pregnancy," Makary wrote. Makary noted that he is "committed to conducting a review of mifepristone and working with the professional career scientists at the agency who review this data." The letter follows a pledge by U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert Kennedy Jr., who said in a hearing last month that he had instructed Makary to do a "complete review" of the abortion pill following a report showing that more than 1 in 10 women experience adverse side effects from chemical abortions.

### Pope Leo has phone call with Russian president Putin

Pope Leo XIV spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin in a phone call Wednesday afternoon. "The pope made an appeal for Russia to take a gesture that would favor peace, emphasizing the importance of dialogue to create positive contacts between the parties and seek solutions to the conflict," Holy See Press Office Director Matteo Bruni said in a statement. Bruni told members of the press that the Holy Father appealed to the Russian leader about the humanitarian situation in Ukraine and advocated for the facilitation of aid into affected areas. The two leaders also discussed Cardinal Matteo Maria Zuppi's efforts to facilitate prisoner exchanges.



## VIRTUAL EVENTS

## FRIENDSHIP GROUP MEETING

You are invited to our next Friendship Group Meeting, Jesus waits for you!

**Date:** June 26

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** Zoom

**Features:** In the book, "The Hidden Power of Silence" in the Mass, Father Boniface Hicks, O.S.B., reveals how you can actively listen and open yourself to receive God's love for you in the Mass. Father Bill Neubecker, OMV, will lead discussion and answer your questions. We will discuss the introduction and first two chapters at this meeting.

**Contact:** To order the book, please visit [sophiainstitute.com](http://sophiainstitute.com) and enter Friendship25 at the checkout to receive a 25% off discount. To sign-up for the Friendship Group, receive the meeting link and discussion questions, go to <https://mailchi.mp/sophiainstitute/friendship-groups> Questions? Contact Mary Beth Bracy at [mbracy@sophiainstitute.com](mailto:mbracy@sophiainstitute.com)

## BROWN BAG SERIES

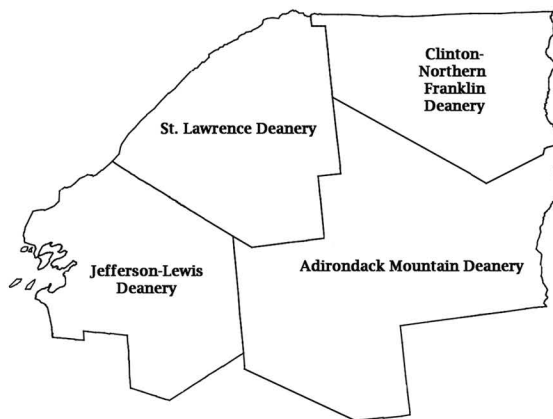
Join us for a new Brown Bag Virtual Series, "Where the World Meets the Church: A Way to Engage and Evangelize," in 4 Sessions. Father John Riccardo speaks on the HOME as the place where the world meets the Church. We will meet via TEAMS to discuss the hour-long talk by breaking it up into 4 sessions.

**Schedule:** There are 2 options, Mondays Noon to 1 p.m. June 30, July 7, July 14, July 21 or Thursdays 7 p.m. to 8 July 3, July 10, July 17, July 24.

**Place:** Virtual via TEAMS

**Features:** Session 1: The Need for Engagement; Session 2: A Call to Action; Session 3: A Change of Mindset; Session 4: Some Practical Ideas

**Contact:** If you have any questions, contact Marika at [mdonders@rcdony.org](mailto:mdonders@rcdony.org)



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@northcountycatholic.org](mailto:news@northcountycatholic.org).

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

## ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

## SUMMER RAFFLE

Old Forge/Inlet – St. Anthony's & St. Bartholomew's to have their Annual Summer Raffle.

**Cost:** Tickets are \$100 each, only 500 will be sold.

**Features:** Grand prize \$12,000, second prize \$4,000, third prize \$2,000, fourth prize \$1,000, fifth Prize \$500. Five Early Bird Drawings for \$100 each on July 6; five Early Bird Drawings for \$10 each on August 31, Grand Prize Drawing on October 12. You do not need to be present to win.

**Contact:** For more information call the Parish Office at (315)369-3554

## CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

## 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 in a relaxed atmosphere and being immersed in receiving an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. A short introduction is given about the flow of the session

followed by a 30-minute praise and worship segment to invoke the Holy Spirit. The remainder of the time is spent listening to the direction of the Holy Spirit and being open to receive healing at any level: emotional, psychological, physical, spiritual, and generational. Includes praise and worship, soaking prayer, witness/group sharing, lunch (bring your own bagged lunch), and recitation of the Rosary.

**Contact:** [evemcgill16@charter.net](mailto:evemcgill16@charter.net) or call 518-645-2648

## JEFFERSON-LEWIS

## 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.

**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 MOUNT CARMEL FEST

Watertown – St. Anthony's Church to have their 107th Mount 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 29th 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.

## SAINT JAMES FAIR

Carthage – St. James to have their 51st Annual Fair.

**Schedule:** June 26, 5 p.m. to 9 – 5-6 p.m. DJ Johnny Spezzano Streaming live music from the border 106.7 with their mobile Station Vehicle; 6-9 p.m. DJ Tom Ellis with Zapet Vibrations DJ service; Forest City Farm's petting zoo; Ontario Amusement Rides; Unlimited rides from 5-9 p.m. with purchase of \$20 Wrist Band; June 27, 5-9 p.m. – J & K Karaoke & Entertainment, Reptiles Forever, West Carthage Fire Prevention Trailer, Ontario Amusement Rides, Unlimited rides from 5-9 p.m. with purchase of \$20 Wrist Band; June 28, Noon to 9 p.m. 12-4 p.m. DJ Joe Ablan with Off the Record Entertainment, Carthage Fire Department Engine Tours, Reptiles Forever, West Carthage Fire Prevention Trailer, Ontario Amusement Rides, Unlimited rides from 12-4 p.m. or from 5-9 p.m. with purchase of \$20 Wrist

Band

**Features:** All of the days will have Specialty foods, Ice Cream booth, Children's games, Gambling, Wine & Beer Tent, Pull tabs and Jewelry booth. In addition to wrist bands which include unlimited rides for the designated 4 hours, individual ride tickets will also be available. Entry is FREE

## ST. LAWRENCE

## ST. JAMES SUMMER RAFFLE

Gouverneur – St. James School to have their summer raffle, grand prize \$10,000.

**Date:** Drawing is Sept. 7 at 12:30 p.m.

**Cost:** Tickets are \$100 each, only 350 will be sold.

**Features:** Grand prize: \$10,000; second prize: \$5,000; third prize: \$2,500; fourth prize: \$1,500; fifth prize: \$500. Plus five Early Bird drawings for \$100 each, will be drawn June 29! All tickets will remain "in the drum" and be eligible for EVERY prize drawing!! Winner need not be present to win. NYS Tax documentation required.

**Contact:** Tickets will be available after Masses & from Gouverneur school office 315-287-0130 or St. James Parish office 315-287-0114.

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## DOVS RAFFLE

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society (DOVS) is having its only fundraiser, a raffle.

**Date:** Tickets on sale June 1 and drawing date is July 9

**Cost:** Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20

**Features:** First prize is \$500, second is a quilt, third is a bird-house with stand, fourth is \$100 in gift cards (\$50 Stewart's, \$25 Visa Gift Card and \$25 WalMart).

**Contact:** Connie Randall at 315-783-0574 or email [connierandall47@yahoo.com](mailto:connierandall47@yahoo.com)

## PILGRIMAGE TO ST. ANNE'S SHRINE

Isle LaMotte, VT - Knights of Columbus Councils from throughout



# Film highlights priest who survived shooting

By Francesca Pollio Fenton  
Catholic News Agency

Father Bob Bedard, a priest in the Diocese of Ottawa in Canada, was teaching his Grade 13 religion class on Oct. 27, 1975, when a lone gunman — another Grade 13 student — entered the classroom and opened fire.

Students began to throw themselves onto the floor in order to hide. Bedard immediately jumped in front of the students and began to shield them with his body. After about 10 seconds of shooting, the gunman backed out of the classroom and went back into the hallway where he took his own life. Six students were injured and one student, whom Bedard was unable to shield, was fatally shot.

Bedard survived the shooting and went on to become the founder of the religious order Companions of the Cross in 1985. He began hosting a weekly, evangelistic, Catholic television broadcast called "Food for Life" in 1992 alongside Father Roger Vandenakker. In 2009, Bedard's health began to decline and he was diagnosed with Miller Fisher Syndrome, a rare autoimmune neurological disorder, and dementia. On Oct. 6, 2011, Bedard died peacefully surrounded by members of his community.

The story of this beloved and heroic priest is now being told in a new documentary, scheduled to be released June 8. The film, "Permission: Fr. Bob Bedard's Vision for the Church," directed and produced by Kevin Dunn, looks at the life and ministry of Bedard.

The new film delves into Bedard's humble beginnings as a child growing up in Ottawa, Canada's capital city, his calling to the priesthood, his time spent as a high school teacher, and his creation of the Companions of the Cross, which currently has 59 members including priests and seminarians. The film features interviews with Bedard's past students, fellow priests from his order, close friends, and colleagues.

CNA spoke with Dunn about what inspired him to make the documentary.

Dunn grew up hearing Bedard's name due to his mother's involvement in the charismatic movement. However, it wasn't until later in life when Dunn was asked to help with a mini documentary for the Companions of the Cross that he was left inspired by Bedard's story.

While doing research and interviewing individuals for the mini documentary, "everybody spoke about this passion for this priest who changed their

lives," Dunn told CNA in an interview. "And not just in a small way, but we're talking about people who went into ministry, people who went into priesthood, people who changed their lives, turned their lives around from addiction. The stories are endless, and it just blew me away."

"I thought, 'Here's a hero of the Church that has not been celebrated,'" he added.

Dunn said the school shooting Bedard lived through and how he dealt with it further inspired him to make the film.

"That for me in the story of his life was a pivotal moment that really could have taken him in a very different direction, but instead he called upon the Lord, called upon the Holy Spirit," Dunn said. "So, when I read about those accounts of that horrific time in his life and how it kind of catapulted and strengthened his faith, I think for me that was a real poignant moment of his life and one that will speak to me especially as a father with six children."

Dunn said Bedard lived his life by a simple motto: "Give God permission." It's these words that Dunn has also chosen to live his life by.

"He's taught me in my work and my life as a filmmaker, as a family man, as a speaker

on Church issues to continually give God permission," he shared. "That it is not my will, or my work for that matter, that really matters in the long run. It's allowing God permission to work in my life wherever he takes me."

"It's calling on the Lord daily and saying, 'Where do you want me to go?' and he just keeps saying, 'Just do the next great thing and give me permission, and I'm going to put you in places where you would never have dreamed of.' That's what he has done and continues to do and glory be to God for all that."

As for his hopes for the film, Dunn said: "I hope people walk away feeling that the Church does have hope" and "I really pray that through watching this film, we can encourage prophets of hope to rise all over the world through the remembrance and the memory of Father Bob at his life and through the work of the Companions."

"All we have to do is give God permission and when we do, all of a sudden despair turns to hope, and hope is active, and we can create this explosively alive Church."

"Permission: Fr. Bob Bedard's Vision for the Church" will be available to watch on June 8 for free directly on the film's website, [permissionthefilm.com](http://permissionthefilm.com).

## Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

the Diocese of Ogdensburg will participate in their 77th annual pilgrimage to St. Anne's Shrine.

**Date:** July 13

**Schedule:** Bishop Terry A. La-Valley will celebrate Mass at 12:15 p.m. Following Mass, the Peru K of C Council will serve a luncheon on the Shrine's grounds.

**Contact:** For more information, please call Pilgrimage Coordinator Gordon Burdo at 518-563-2796

### CAMP GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake — Camp Guggenheim registration is now open.

**Dates:** Session 1 - (11-14 yrs old) - July 6 to July 11; Session 2 - (12-15 yrs old) - July 13 to July 18;

Session 3 - (12-15 yrs old) - July 20 to July 25; Session 4 - (12-15 yrs old) - July 27 to Aug. 1; Session 5 - (16-18 yrs old) - Aug. 3 to Aug. 8

**Cost:** \$425, scholarships are available

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

**Contact:** To register go to: [www.rcdony.org/youth/camp](http://www.rcdony.org/youth/camp) To inquire about financial aid please email Jeannie Grizzuto at [jgrizzuto@rcdony.org](mailto:jgrizzuto@rcdony.org)

### FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake — Registration for Family Guggenheim is now open.

**Date:** Session 1: Aug. 14-17 (waiting list); Session 2: Aug. 21-24; Session 3: Oct. 10-12

**Features:** 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.

**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](mailto:startaglia@rcdony.org).

### AFTERNOON OF MUSIC & ART

Saranac Lake - 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.

### 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>

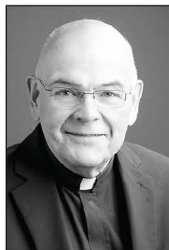




## SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

**'Take a look at the Trinity'**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We say those words often; we learn how to make the Sign of the Cross when we say those words; we sometimes say those words, while making the Sign of the Cross, to which we add holy water that was likewise blessed in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



**Msgr. Robert  
H. Aucoin**

On Trinity Sunday we pause to reflect on our God who, in Scripture, revealed himself as a Trinity of persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As a matter of fact, we believe that there is one God, but three persons

in that one God. Admittedly, this is a concept that is very hard to grasp, a challenge to grab onto. However, the inability of our minds to fully understand and appreciate what has been revealed and demonstrated in Scripture does not make the truth any less real.

St. Ignatius explained the Trinity as three notes making just one sound. A theologian compared the Trinity to water that exists in three forms: a gas, i.e. steam, a solid, i.e. ice, and as liquid. All three are the same: water.

Even with these explanations, the mystery

**June 15**

**The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity**

**READINGS**

Proverbs 8:22-31

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

continues. Even with the explanations and references in Scripture, we still grapple about the Trinity. Why is it that way? Could God have done something different? Couldn't God have made it simpler for us? Those are interesting questions but without answers. However, couldn't we probe the same questions about the moon, the human person, the world in general?

Take a look at the Trinity as a mystery

that can affect our spiritual lives and our relationship with God.

The Father is exactly that. God, as a parent, who creates and watches over us, our origin and guide, our source of life and love, the love that unites us to him and allows us to love others.

Jesus, the Son, is like our brother. He is God who took on our human nature to save us. As a man, Jesus is God with us, understanding us, showing us how to live.

The Holy Spirit, with his many gifts, leads us to a deeper appreciation of the life that God has given us, who helps us appreciate who God truly is for us. The Holy Spirit is our constant companion refreshing us with those multiple

gifts that he brings.

In our world we are beset with many struggles, with ups and downs. Thankfully, we have a Father to whom we can turn in our need. In a society that sometimes focuses on the needs of the individual and perhaps self-centeredness, we hear the Son say: "My commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you." In a world with conflicting values, voices, and ideas, we need guidance that can come only from God, the Holy Spirit.

Again, all of this is a mystery, one which we can grasp every now and then a mystery that we profess: in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

## CALLED TO SERVE

**Even for your funeral, plan ahead**

What is the statement about dying? Something like "the only things that are certain are death and taxes." Ben Franklin is believed to have said those words back when the United States Constitution was approved.

I'll leave taxes to someone else to comment on. I want to deal with death.

It is not that I am ill or have a death preoccupation. Think of me as being a realist.

As Catholic Christians we believe our journey through life in this world is only a portion of our eternal life with God. It is appropriate to depart this life with the blessings of friends and relatives. That's why the Church has provided a continuous, three-part sendoff; the Vigil Ser-

vice, the Funeral Mass, and the Committal service.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) website on the subject begins with a quote from the Funeral Rite:

"At the death of a Christian, whose life of faith was begun in the waters of Baptism and strengthened at the Eucharistic table, the Church intercedes on behalf of the deceased because of its confident belief that death is not the end, nor does it break the bonds forged in life. The Church also ministers to the sorrowing and consoles them in the funeral rites with the comforting Word of God and the Sacrament of the Eucharist."

The site, usccb.org, has a page called "An

Overview of Catholic Funeral Rites." That article provides a great summary of the three parts of the liturgy.

Unfortunately, those family members tasked with planning a funeral for a relative are often not familiar with the deceased's wishes or try to cut corners. A read of the one-page summary on the USCCB page will give you and them a better understanding of our last rites beliefs.

It helps if the person dying has a voice in planning his/her funeral. Make your wishes clear to family and friends and have a will prepared with a copy readily available.

Priests and deacons in this diocese are required to have a funeral plan on file. In the case of deacons, the plan should be shared with his pastor and a copy kept in the deacon's file at the Chancery.



**Deacon  
Kevin Mastellon**

Everyone, not just clergy, is encouraged to think about funeral services. It doesn't hurt to have arrangements made in advance with the funeral director of choice and the cemetery too.

All that pre-planning frees survivors from those tasks and puts things in motion smoothly.

The Catholic Church strongly prefers that the body of the de-

ceased be present at the Funeral Mass. While cremation is permitted, the Church teaches that the body, as a sacred temple, should be given proper reverence. Cremation can follow the Mass with actual interment a few days later.

Death is never an easy topic to discuss, but such discussions are necessary. St. Paul told the Romans, "If we have died with Christ, we believe that we are also to live with him."

That is a future worth looking forward to, but we have a responsibility to take care of our final business on earth too.

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



JUNE 11, 2025

# Pope addresses Pontifical Mission Societies

By Kristina Millare  
Catholic News Agency



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith  
Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296  
info@rcdony.org

Pope Leo XIV delivered an address to the Pontifical Mission Societies on Thursday thanking its members for living the Church's call to evangelize to all nations with a spirit of communion and universality in union with the pope.

Approximately 120 national directors connected to the Vatican's four missionary bodies — the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Society of the Holy Childhood, the Society of St. Peter the Apostle, and the Missionary Union — and 20 members of the Dicastery for Evangelization met with the Holy Father on the first day of their general assembly taking place in Rome from May 22-28.

"As societies committed to sharing in the missionary mandate of the pope and the college of bishops, you are

called to cultivate and further promote within your members the vision of the Church as the communion of believers, enlivened by the Holy Spirit, who enables us to enter into the perfect communion and harmony of the blessed Trinity," the pontiff said to those present at the morning meeting.

"This dimension of our Christian life and mission is close to my heart and is reflected in the words of St. Augustine that I chose for my episcopal service and now for my papal ministry: 'In Illo uno unum' — Christ is our savior and in him we are one, a family of God, beyond the rich variety of our

languages, cultures, and experiences," he added.

Describing apostolic zeal as "more urgent in our own day," Pope Leo said the Gospel message of love, reconciliation, and grace through Jesus Christ is needed in a world "wounded" by war and injustice.

"In this sense, the Church herself, in all her members, is increasingly called to be 'a missionary Church that opens its arms to the world, proclaims the word ... and becomes a leaven of harmony for humanity," he said, echoing words from his homily given during his May 18 inauguration Mass.

Asking his listeners to

be inspired and renewed in their vocation to "be a leaven of missionary zeal within the people of God," the Holy Father reiterated the message of his predecessor to be "missionaries of hope among all peoples," especially in light of the 2025 Jubilee Year.

"In the words of Pope Francis, 'The Lord has overcome the world and its constant conflict "by making peace through the blood of his cross,"' Pope Leo said, citing *Evangelii Gaudium*. "Hence we see the importance of fostering a spirit of missionary discipleship in all the baptized and a sense of the urgency of bringing Christ to all people."

According to Monsignor Roger Landry, head of the Pontifical Mission Societies USA, who was present at the meeting, the Holy Father warmly encouraged national directors to continue to promote World Mission

Sunday, celebrated on the second-to-last Sunday of October, and ensure their outreach programs are driven by a "universality that flows from a sense of communion."

"He doesn't want us to exclude anybody," Landry told CNA on Thursday. "Like Pope Francis before him, he was getting us to focus on the peripheries — those who are not yet close to us and those who are not united with us."

After speaking about the beauty of having representatives from over 120 countries come together "as equals" before the Holy Father at the meeting, Landry said each person present received rosary beads from Pope Leo that were blessed by Pope Francis before he died.

"There was a sense of continuity as he was giving us Pope Francis' rosary beads," he said.

## OBITUARIES

**Brownville** — David A. Lomber, 69; Mass of Christian Burial June 6, 2025 at Immaculate Conception Church.

**Cadyville** — Carol (Geno) Andre, 61; Mass of Christian Burial June 6, 2025 at St. James Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Cadyville** — Charlotte Elizabeth (Clifford) Carter, 79; Mass of Christian Burial June 5, 2025 at St. James Minor Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

**Chateaugay** — James Leander Green, 88; Mass of Christian Burial June 6, 2025 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Eastside Cemetery.

**Copenhagen** — Emily P. (Boulio) Vogt, 87; Graveside services June 4, 2025 at St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Croghan** — Leonard C. Jackson, 83; Mass of Christian Burial June 5, 2025 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

**Fort Covington** — Beulah A. (Deon) Almond, 90; Mass of Christian Burial June 10, 2025 at St. Mary's of the Fort; burial in old St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Harrisville** — Jack E. Ritz, 87; Mass of Christian Burial June 9, 2025 at St. Francis Solanus Church; burial in St. Francis Solanus Cemetery.

**Keeseville** — Matthew A. Cross, 66; Mass of Christian Burial June 7, 2025 at Immaculate Conception Church.

**Malone** — Darlene J. (Feimann) Tredo, 71; Mass of Christian Burial June 6, 2025 at Notre Dame

Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Massena** — Mary Ellen (Godrow) McDonald, 90; Funeral Services July 3, 2025 at Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**North Bangor** — Corey A. Baker, 46; Mass of Christian Burial June 6, 2025 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Peru** — Dorothy Delia (Trost) Sharrow, 92; Mass of Christian Burial June 4, 2025 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** — Shirley (Churchill) Coffey, 95; Mass of Christian Burial June 7, 2025 at St. John's Church; burial in Mount Carmel Cemetery.

**Port Henry** — Laura L. (Harris) Venne, 68; Mass of Christian Burial June 7, 2025 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**St. Regis** — Patsy Benedict Neufang, 60; Graveside Services June 4, 2025 at St. Lawrence Cemetery.

**Watertown** — Marjorie J. Dyer, 96; Mass of Christian Burial June

9, 2025 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in North Watertown Cemetery.

**Watertown** — Nancy J. (Green) Hughes, 89; Mass of Christian Burial June 4, 2025 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in North Watertown Cemetery.

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# Knights from diocese plan annual pilgrimage



Knights of Columbus from around the Diocese of Ogdensburg and their families attend a previous pilgrimage. The Knights will trek to St. Anne's Shrine in Isle LaMotte, Vermont, on July 13 for this year's pilgrimage.

By John Ryan  
Knights of Columbus

On Sunday, July 13, Knights of Columbus Councils from throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg will participate in their 77th annual pilgrimage to St. Anne's Shrine in Isle LaMotte, Vermont.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley will celebrate Mass at 12:15 p.m.

Following Mass, the Peru Knights of Columbus Council will serve a luncheon on the shrine's grounds.

Bishop LaValley typically stops by the pic-

nic to speak to everyone and to feast on one of the Peru Council's famous michigans. The pilgrimage is a day for worship, family and fraternity.

The shrine dates to 1666, when the French erected a fort and chapel. Dedicated to St. Anne, the mother of Mary, the chapel was blessed in 1893, and a beautiful statue of St. Anne was erected. Later, in 1893, nearly 2,000 people attended the Shrine's first organized pilgrimage, with several people traveling there by steamboat. To-

day, Knights and their families look forward to the Mass, the beautiful music, the picnic and the friendships made and renewed on Lake Champlain's shores.

The Society of Saint Edmund, the founders of St. Michael's College, has developed and maintained the Shrine for over 100 years. Father Brian Cummings, SSE, is its spiritual director.

For more information, please call Pilgrimage Coordinator Gordon Burdo at 518-563-2796



## Adoration in the Diocese of Ogdensburg

The following is a list of Adoration hours and sites across the Diocese of Ogdensburg. If your parish offers Eucharistic Adoration or if this information is incorrect email [news@rcdony.org](mailto:news@rcdony.org)

### Holy Angels Church, Altona

After 8 a.m. Mass Dedicated to Vocations and the church

**St. Patrick's Church, Brasher Falls**  
Wed. & Fri. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**St. Mary's Church, Canton**  
Tues. 4:10 p.m. to 5:10  
Fri. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ending with Divine Mercy Chaplet

**St. Vincent of Paul, Cape Vincent**  
First Friday of the month

**St. James Church, Carthage**  
Wed., 3 p.m. to 6  
Thurs., 10 a.m. to 11  
First Friday, 10:15 a.m. to 7 a.m. Saturday morning

**St. Patrick's Church, Chateaugay**  
Wed. 5 p.m. to 6, Adoration  
First Friday 8:30 a.m., Communion Service followed by Adoration for Vocations

**All Saints Church, Chaumont**  
First Thursday of the month 3 p.m.

**Sacred Heart Church, Chazy**  
At various times as needed, please contact parish 518-846-7650 for more information

**St. Mary's Church, Clayton**  
First Fridays after 9 a.m. Mass

**St. Francis of Assisi, Constable**  
Second Fri. of the Month, 5 p.m. to 6

**St. Mary's Church, Constableville**  
First Fridays 6 p.m.

**St. Stephen's Church, Croghan**  
First Friday, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 including prayer for Vocations

**St. Joseph's Church, Dannemora**  
Wed. & Fri. 11 a.m. before noon Mass

**St. Elizabeth's Church, Elizabethtown**  
Summer 9 a.m. to 10  
Winter 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**St. Edmund's Church, Ellenburg**  
Monday after 5:30 p.m. Mass

**St. Mary's of the Fort, Fort Covington**  
Tues. 5 p.m. to 6, Sat. 9 a.m. to 10 except when it's a First Saturday

**St. Hedwig's Church, Houseville**  
First Sunday following 11 a.m. Mass

**Immaculate Conception, Keeseville**  
Sun, 1 p.m. to 4

**St. Agnes Church, Lake Placid**  
Tues 10 a.m. to 5:20 p.m.  
Vocations and Divine Renovation our of our parish are emphasized

**St. Peter's Church, Lowville**  
First Friday of the month with intention to Vocations

### St. Bernard's Church, Lyon Mountain

First Friday of the month after 9 a.m. Mass

**St. Peter's Parish, Massena**  
Held at Sacred Heart Church  
Thursday 12:45 p.m. to 1:45  
First Friday 2 p.m. to 6

**St. Ann's Church, Mooers Forks**  
after 8 a.m. Mass Dedicated to Vocations and the church

**St. Augustine Church, North Bangor**  
Thurs. 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**St. Andrew's Church, Norwood**  
Fri after 8:30 a.m. Mass until noon

**St. Mary's Cathedral Parish, Ogdensburg**  
Entryway for the Deacon Winter Chapel  
Thurs. before First Friday from 7 p.m. to 8  
Adoration each Wed. 3 p.m. to 6 and Fri. 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

**St. Augustine's Church, Peru**  
Every Friday following 8 a.m. Mass to 7 p.m.

**St. John's Church, Plattsburgh**  
Holy Family Basement  
Wed., Thurs., Fri., 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**St. Martin's Church, Port Leyden**  
Rectory Chapel  
Wed. Mornings after Mass for 30 minutes

**St. Mary's Church, Potsdam**  
Tues. 12:45 p.m. to 4:30  
First Friday 8:30 a.m. to 9:30

### Church of the Assumption, Redford

Tues. & Thurs. 11 a.m. before noon Mass

**St. Ann's Church, St. Regis Falls**  
First Sat, after 4:30 Ant. Mass

**St. Andrews Church, Sackets Harbor**  
Fri. 3:30 p.m. to 4:30

**St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Tupper Lake**  
Monday 7 p.m. to 8

**Holy Family Church, Watertown**  
Monday's following noon Mass

**Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, Watertown**  
1 hour prior to Mass, First Friday of the Month

**St. Anthony's Church, Watertown**  
First Sun. of the Month 2 p.m. to 3

**St. Patrick's Church, Watertown**  
Every Thurs. after Noon Mass until 7 p.m.

**St. Ann's Church, Wells**  
Half an hour after Sunday Mass every Third Sunday of the month.

**St. Joseph's Church, West Chazy**  
First Friday after 9 a.m. Mass until 11 a.m.

**St. Philip Neri Church, Westport**  
Half Hour every other Fri. (before Mass Winter/after Mass Summer)

**St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro**  
Full Holy Hour on First Fridays (before Mass Winter/after Mass Summer)