

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Updates to priest,
deacon assignment
changes | Page 5

NY on the brink of
allowing assisted
suicide | Page 12

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 80 Number 13

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JUNE 18, 2025

LIFESAVING LESSON



PHOTO BY KEITH BENMAN/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Darcy Fargo talks about overdose prevention to an audience of concerned Catholics and others recently at St. Mary's Thrift Store, in Canton. Fargo directs a new opioid overdose prevention ministry for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Full story on Page 3.

No NCC next week

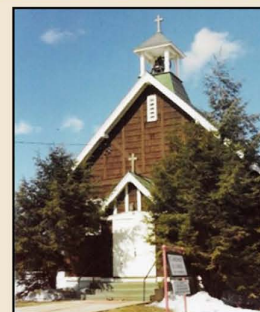
The *North Country Catholic* is now on summer schedule. There will be no newspaper next week. The next edition will be dated July 2.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



St. James Major Roman Catholic Church will commemorate 100 years of prayer and service to the communities of Lake Pleasant, Morehouse, Piseco and Speculator with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley and picnic on June 29. The current church building is pictured above, and the photo at right shows the church in 1925.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4



Pope: 'There is no cry that God does not hear'

By Victoria Cardiel
Catholic News Agency

Pope Leo XIV reflected on Christian hope — one of the three theological virtues, along with faith and charity — during his general audience on Wednesday.

"There is no cry that God does not hear, even when we are unaware that we are addressing him," the pope said, illustrating this idea with the story of Bartimaeus, described in the Gospel of Mark as a blind beggar who encountered Jesus as he was

leaving Jericho.

Pope Leo explained that this story helps us understand that "we must never abandon hope, even when we feel lost."

The Holy Father today spoke on the healings performed by Jesus and invited Catholics to bring before the heart of Christ their "most wounded or fragile parts" or those areas of life where they "feel paralyzed or stuck."

"Let us ask the Lord with trust to hear our cry and heal us!" the pope said.

Pope Leo focused on the atti-

tude of Jesus, who does not immediately approach Bartimaeus but instead asks him what he wants. "It is not obvious that we truly want to be healed of our illnesses — sometimes we prefer to remain as we are so as not to take on new responsibilities," he said.

"It may seem strange that, faced with a blind man, Jesus does not immediately approach him. But if we think about it, this is how he helps reactivate Bartimaeus' life: He prompts him to rise and entrusts him with the ability to walk," the pope added.

Indeed, the pope said that Bartimaeus does not only wish to see again — he also "wants to regain his dignity."

"To look upward, one must lift one's head. Sometimes people feel stuck because life has humiliated them, and they simply want to regain their worth," the Holy Father said.

For this reason, he called on the faithful to do everything they can to obtain what they seek, "even when others scold you, humiliate you, or tell you to give up. If you truly desire it, keep crying out!" he said.

NORTH
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Bishop Terry**R. LaValley**

President

Rev. Joseph A. Morgan

Vice President

James D. Crowley

Secretary-Treasurer

Darcy L. Fargo

Editor &

Communications Director



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Without conditions or qualifications

"My twin sister has a useful job. She's a nurse. She saves lives. Me? I talk and write a lot."

I say versions of that regularly. I know I said a version of it just a couple weeks ago while I was training a group of people in Canton to administer naloxone (Narcan) to reverse opioid overdoses (read about that training session on page 3).

This week, just eight days after I shared that sentiment during the Canton training, I learned that an individual who attended an earlier training session used naloxone

- naloxone I had handed out - to save the life of a loved one.



Darcy L. Fargo

I would love it more than anything if no human ever overdosed again. That's not our current reality, though, so I'm grateful there are ways to keep someone alive when it does happen. It's almost overwhelming for me to consider I played a small role in that. I guess I have a useful job, too.

Let's be honest: people have mixed feelings about harm reduction as it relates to drug use. I understand that. It's a complicated issue.

I also understand that we, as followers of Christ and His Church, believe in the dignity of - and work to protect - all life, from conception to natural death. That can be challenging. I certainly struggle to see the dignity of at least a few people I can think of (God and I working on that).

I also understand that Jesus commanded us to "love one another" and "heal the sick." He didn't put conditions or qualifications on those instructions. He didn't say, "love one another but only if the others demonstrate love for themselves" or "heal the sick but only those who are sick in ways you find acceptable."

It's hard stuff.

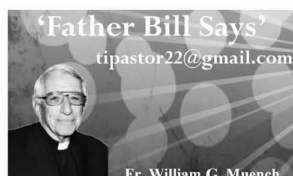
Regardless of whether an individual is an addict using street drugs, a correctional officer exposed to opioids in the course of his or her work or someone's grandmother who makes a simple medication error, each person who suffers an opioid overdose is someone's mother, father, daughter, son, cousin, friend..., and each person is a beloved child of God, made in His image and likeness and deserving of love.

Sometimes "love one another" and "heal the sick" involves loving people and helping people until they can be open to letting God love and help them, and until they can love and help themselves.

That's a useful job.

Meeting our friend in the Eucharist

Our Catholic Church dedicates a special Sunday Feast Day in honor and celebration of the Holy Eucharist - the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, known to many as Corpus Christi. We, Catholics, believe that each time we celebrate Mass, the Lord, Jesus, is truly present in the consecrated bread and wine that is offered. Each time we receive Holy Communion, Jesus truly comes to us, uniting with each of us. We believe Jesus is truly present in the Holy Eucharist, body and blood, soul and divinity. I know from the day of my first Mass, celebrating each Holy Mass was to be to most profound moment of my ministry as a priest. Jesus unites with me, putting a new life into my faith in God. Jesus makes me aware of God's great love for me and all who join me at each Mass. I remain



deeply grateful to God who chose me.

Today, I want to share with you something special about my relationship with Jesus. I know Jesus comes to me in each Eucharist as my friend, my best friend. This transforms each and every reception of Holy Communion for me. Jesus wants to be with me as my friend.

In John 15, Jesus is speaking to his apostles at the Last Supper. His final message to them and his message for all time to us. In this message, Jesus says: "This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down

one's life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants... I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from My Father."

I have noticed that many saints, spiritual writers and other writers often write about friendship as important to life. St. Thomas Aquinas writes this, "There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship." I think immediately of my friendship with Jesus.

I have come across this in the writings of St. Augustine: "In this world, two things are essential - life and friendships." He encourages us to recognize how important, even essential; our friends are. Today and every day, I must take the time to recognize that my friendship

with Jesus is essential. I encourage you to allow Jesus to be close to you, to be your friend. Each time you pray, don't just say words. Open your heart to your friend, Jesus. We should always find this close relationship with our friend, Jesus.

St. Augustine writes in "The City of God," "friendship is a sacred bond. It is meant to reflect the communion of souls that we hope to enjoy eternally with God. Friendships grounded in Christ are not merely comfort for life's journey; friendships are a glimpse of Heaven."

So, Holy Communion is not an empty ritual; Jesus wants to unite himself with each of us, his friends.

Here is a clever idea from C. S. Lewis: "Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another, 'What? You, too?' I thought I was the only one."

Pro-life overdose prevention ministry begins

By Keith Benman
Contributing Writer

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has a new ministry that has already helped save a life and may help others turn their lives around.

Darcy Fargo, founder of the diocese's opioid overdose prevention ministry, says it's one more way the Church is putting its pro-life beliefs into practice.

"As Catholics we believe in the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death," Fargo said. "And there's nothing natural about an opioid overdose death."

For more than a month, Fargo has been conducting opioid overdose prevention training in Catholic settings around the diocese. She is a familiar face to area Catholics, as she is also the director of communications for the diocese and editor of the North Country Catholic. The training teaches people how to administer naloxone – better known by its brand name, Narcan.

Naloxone can revive someone whose respiratory system has shut down due to an opioid overdose. So far, 135 people have attended training sessions put on by the diocese's new ministry.

During the training, use of naloxone nasal spray pumps is demonstrated. Once the session is done, attendees are given the chance to enroll as naloxone-trained opioid overdose responders. More than 120 kits containing the naloxone spray pumps have been handed out free.

An individual who attended one of the trainings later reported using naloxone obtained



PHOTO BY KEITH BENMAN/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

A naloxone nasal pump is shown during an opioid overdose prevention training held recently at St. Mary's Thrift Store, in Canton. The new ministry is being undertaken in line with the Catholic Church's belief in the sanctity of all life.

through the diocese to reverse an overdose suffered by an immediate family member.

"We've only been offering this training for a little over a month, and it's already helped save a life," Fargo said. "To me, learning to administer naloxone is like learning to perform CPR – most of us will never use it, but when you run into a situation where it's needed, it can save lives."

The training also features a question-and-answer session.

"I think the discussions during that portion of the training have been, in some cases, just as valuable as the training," Fargo said. "It's an opportunity for people to express any reservations they have and to talk about addiction and harm reduction."

Fargo realizes there is still skepticism in society about the use of naloxone, as many addicts rescued by it go back to using drugs despite having been at the edge of

death.

One of those people spoke to about 15 concerned Catholics and others at one of the recent training sessions, which was held at the St. Mary's Thrift Store, in Canton.

Randy, age 37, overdosed after taking drugs at home a few years ago. Because an overdose can occur up to three hours after ingestion of opioids, he made his way to a nearby Dollar General Store before his breathing stopped, and he collapsed. When he came to, the paramedic told him they had administered Narcan. Randy knew it had saved his life, but he still went back to using drugs later that day.

But he believes he also went through what he describes as a "religious or spiritual experience" while laying at the edge of death on the floor of the Dollar General that day. That experience eventually led him to seek treatment.

"What I found was

Learn to save lives

To arrange for opioid overdose prevention training for your parish, organization or ministry, contact Darcy Fargo at dfargo@rcdony.org or at 315-393-2920.

that alcohol and drugs were not my problem. I was my problem," Randy said. "My thinking, my thoughts were my problem."

He believes those thoughts had their origin in what he describes as a "rough childhood."

"I grew up thinking I was not worthy of anything... of life, of chances, at being anybody in life," he said. "I thought I was just meant to grow up to suffer and toil away in the forever realm of eternal damnation, honestly."

Randy had been in treatment several times before, but this time it worked. He turned his life around. He credits that turnaround to a more spiritual outlook on life. And he gives credit to all the people who have extended a helping hand throughout his recovery from drug addiction.

"As iron sharpens iron, one man sharpens another," he said quoting the Book of Proverbs.

Fargo is hoping testimony like Randy's can change people's minds and encourage as many as possible to get opioid overdose prevention training. More training could have helped prevent some of the more than 48,000 opioid overdose deaths that occurred in the United States last year.

Fargo reminded listeners at the St. Mary's Thrift Store not all those suffering overdoses are addicts. In local prisons,

guards and staff have been exposed to synthetic opioids, including fentanyl. Fentanyl is the most prevalent opioid sold illegally on the streets today. And other drugs are often laced with fentanyl, including marijuana.

Fargo also tells of her sister's experience as a nurse. Her sister has administered naloxone to eight different people. Three of them she describes as "little old ladies" who simply overdosed on their prescriptions.

"People can't say: 'I'm not hanging out with addicts. I'm not going to see someone overdose,'" Fargo said. "People are exposed unintentionally. People use medications incorrectly. And it can take a while for an overdose to start, so someone could use opioids, show up at a food pantry and go into an overdose there."

In the training sessions it's emphasized that New York public health law protects people administering naloxone from liability. And there are additional protections for those calling for emergency medical aid for drug overdoses under New York's 911 Good Samaritan Law. New York law also requires insurers to cover naloxone kits sold at drug stores with at most only a small co-pay.



*Support And Pray
For Vocations*

St. James Major celebrates 100 years

St. James Major Roman Catholic Church will commemorate 100 years of prayer and service to the communities of Lake Pleasant, Morehouse, Piseco and Speculator on June 29. The Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg, will celebrate a Mass of the Holy Spirit at 8 a.m..

A picnic will be held at the Speculator Pavilion at noon.

Friends and residents of the community are welcome.

THE APOSTLE, ST. JAMES MAJOR (THE GREAT)

St. James was the son of Zebedee and the brother of St. John the

Apostle. James, who was taller, is called Major or Great to distinguish him from James the Less who was shorter in stature. St. James Major was present at the Transfiguration, the Agony in the Garden and most of the miracles performed by Christ. James was martyred by Herod Agrippa in 42 AD.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE CHURCH IN HAMILTON COUNTY

Andrew Morehouse founded a settlement in southern Hamilton County in the 1830s. Morehouse invited French immigrants from New York City to join the communi-

ty. The first Catholic church in the Great South Woods of the Adirondacks was built by French Catholics lead by Joseph Pellitier in about 1844 in the Town of Morehouse. The first pastor was Father John Herbst, an immigrant from Holland. After a heated dispute between the pastor and the parishioners, the wooden church was abandoned and decayed into the ground.

The site of the church and the adjacent cemetery is located south of Route 8 on the western edge of the Town of Morehouse.

The towns of Lake Pleasant, Morehouse, Arietta and Wells were home to many Catholics with a strong desire to attend Mass. In the late 1800s, visiting priests celebrated mass in various private homes. Father M. K. Merns of St. Johnsville reported celebrating mass at the home of Charlie Hayden in Piseco in February 1888.

In 1911, the Franciscan Friars were invited to serve the Catholic communities by Bishop Henry Gabriels. Priests from the Order of Friars Minor Conventual (OFMC) traveled from New York City and Albany. They included Father Brady, Father Cahill and Father Fitzgerald. Catholics often gathered to hear Mass at the home of Eli Kenell near Avery's Pond. Masses were also

celebrated at Riley's Tavern and at the home of Henry Rogers in Piseco. In winter, Masses were celebrated in the Hamilton County Court House in Lake Pleasant.

THE FOUNDING OF ST. JAMES MAJOR CHURCH

Edgar and Margaret Call owned a 50-acre plot of land at Pine Point on Sacandaga Lake. In the 1900s, the Calls owned a store and restaurant opposite the Court House in Lake Pleasant. Edgar died in 1922. Margaret operated the store until 1936. In 1925, Margaret Call deeded land to St. James Major parish to build a Catholic church adjacent to the Methodist church, south of the Lake Pleasant golf course.

Construction of the church was started in 1925 under the supervision of Father Adelbert Debelt, OFMC, pastor of St. Ann's Church in Wells. The church was dedicated by Bishop Joseph Conroy.

The dedication speech for the church was given by Father Bernard Frank.

The church in Lake Pleasant was a mission church of Northville and was under the Diocese of Albany, from 1924 to 1926. The church was a mission of Wells under the Diocese of Ogdensburg from 1927 through 1958. St. James Major was staffed by Franciscan friars (OFMC) from the Immaculate Conception Province, Rensselaer, from 1926 through 1958.

ST. JAMES MAJOR RECTORY

In 1929, a camp locat-

ed at 2781 State Route 8, Speculator was donated to the parish to be a rectory and residence for the pastor.

On January 1, 1959, St. James Major, Lake Pleasant was incorporated as a new parish of the Diocese of Ogdensburg by Bishop James J. Navagh. Father Anthony Billy was appointed pastor.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

St. James Major Parish Council was formed in 1974 under the leadership of Fran Gramlich. The council's first effort was to plan the Golden Jubilee. St. James Major Church celebrated its golden jubilee on June 8, 1975.

Bishop Stanislaus Brzana and pastor Father Jude Schmieder concelebrated Sunday Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Also concelebrating were Father Rock Hoffman, former pastor of St. James, and Father Bartholomew Gaske, pastor of St. Ann's in Wells.

RENOVATION AND EXPANSION

In 1983, the church exchanged land with the Lake Pleasant Golf Course to allow for expansion of the church and the construction of a parking area along Route 8. The church was renovated and expanded in 1991 under the direction of pastor, Father Ralph White, OFMC. This was done to accommodate the large number of Catholics visiting the area in the summer. Most of the work was done with volunteer labor by parishioners and non-Catholic neighbors.



State Street • Carthage

June 26th, 27th & 28th

Thursday and Friday 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Saturday 12:00 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Games of Chance

*Black Jack *Big Six Wheel *Pull Tabs

RAFFLE - Prizes: 2 First - \$500 * Sellers of 1st

Prizes: \$50 each * 10 Second Prizes - \$100 each

\$1 per Ticket • 6 for \$5 • 12 for \$10 • 18 for \$15

\$\$\$ Drawing Saturday June 28th \$\$\$

Entertainment:

Reptiles Forever,

Forest City Farms Petting Zoo,

DJ's, and much more!

Ontario Amusement Rides

Every day wrist bands will be available for just \$20 for 4 hours of unlimited rides!

Thurs: 5pm-9pm, Fri: 5pm-9pm, Sat: 12pm-4pm & 5pm-9pm

FOOD

Italian ~ American ~ Polish

•Beer & Wine Tent •Bob's Burgers •Ice Cream •Clams •Salt Potatoes •Fried Dough



Updates made to priest, deacon assignments

Since the original list of priest assignment changes was published, changes have been made. The following is the current complete list of assignment changes.

• **Father Douglas A. Decker**, pastor of the Catholic Community of St. Peter and St. Mary and St. Hedwig in Lowville, retires.

• **Father Robert L. Decker**, pastor of St. Cecilia's Church in Adams and Queen of Heaven Church in Henderson, retires.

• **Father Donald A. Robinson**, VF, pastor of The Roman Catholic Community of Brownville and Dexter and St. Andrew's Church in Sackets Harbor, retires. He will continue serving as dean of the Jefferson-Lewis Deanery.

• **Father Sony G. Plickal**, pastor of St. James Major Church in Lake Pleasant and St. Ann's Church in Wells, becomes pastor of the Catholic Community of St. Peter and St. Mary and St. Hedwig in Lowville, effective July 2, 2025.

• **Father James V. Teti**, pastor of St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Tupper Lake, St. Henry's Church in Long Lake, and St. Therese Church in Newcomb, becomes pastor of St. James Major Church in Lake Pleasant and St. Ann's Church in Wells, effective July 2, 2025.

• **Father Albert J. Hauser**, pastor of the Catholic Community of Moriah in Port Henry and Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Crown Point, becomes Senior Parochial Vicar of The Roman Catholic Community of Brown-

ville and Dexter in Brownville, St. Andrew's Church in Sackets Harbor, St. Cecilia's Church in Adams, and Queen of Heaven Church in Henderson, effective July 2, 2025.

• **Father Joseph W. Giroux**, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Potsdam and St. Patrick's Church in Colton, becomes pastor of the Catholic Community of Moriah in Port Henry, St. Elizabeth Church in Elizabethtown and St. Philip of Neri Church in Westport, effective July 1, 2025.

• **Father Severinus Torwoe**, administrator of Holy Angels Church in Altona and St. Ann's Church in Mooers Forks, becomes pastor of St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Tupper Lake, St. Henry's Church in Long Lake, and St. Therese Church in Newcomb, effective July 2, 2025.

• **Father Bryan D. Stitt**, pastor of The Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary's in Canton, will assume additional duties as pastor of St. Mary's Church in Potsdam and St. Patrick's Church in Colton, effective July 2, 2025.

• **Father Shane M. Lynch**, currently studying Canon Law, will become pastor of The Roman Catholic Community of Brownville and Dexter in Brownville, St. Andrew's Church in Sackets Harbor, St. Cecilia's Church in Adams, and Queen of Heaven Church in Henderson, effective July 2, 2025.

• **Father Medenel Angrand**, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga and Our Lady of Lourdes Church in

Schroon Lake, will assume additional duties as pastor of the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Crown Point, effective July 1, 2025.

• **Father Clement Rmonds**, HGN, pastor of the Catholic Community of Holy Name and St. Mathew in Au Sable Forks, The Roman Catholic Community of Keeseville and St. Margaret's Church in Wilmington, will assume additional duties as pastor of The Catholic Community of St. Philip of Jesus and St. Joseph in Willsboro, effective July 1, 2025.

• **Father Matthew S. Conger**, parochial vicar of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Watertown, will become parochial vicar of St. André Bessette Parish in Malone. He will remain diocesan associate director of Vocations, effective July 2, 2025.

• **Father Jude Nnadib-uagha**, parochial vicar of Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh, will become parochial vicar of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Watertown, effective July 2, 2025.

• **Father Jose Kanyiankunnel John**, HGN, parochial vicar at St. André Bessette Parish in Malone, will become parochial vicar of Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh, effective July 2, 2025.

• **Father Scott A. Belina**, parochial vicar in The Roman Catholic Community of Brownville and Dexter, St. Andrew's Church in Sackets Harbor, St. Cecilia's Church in Adams, and Queen of Heaven Church in Henderson, will become parochial vicar of St. Mary's Church in Potsdam, St. Patrick's Church in Colton and

The Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary's in Canton, effective July 2, 2025.

• **Deacon Paul White** in addition to The Catholic Community of Moriah in Port Henry will be assigned to St. Elizabeth Church in Elizabethtown and St. Philip Neri Church in Westport. Deacon White is no longer assigned to the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Crown Point, effective July 1, 2025.

• **Deacon James M. Snell** in addition to The Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary in Canton, will be assigned to St. Mary's Church in Potsdam and St. Patrick's Church in Colton, effective July 2, 2025.

• **Deacon Richard L. Burns** in addition to St. Mary's Church in Potsdam and St. Patrick's

Church in Colton, will be assigned to The Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary in Canton, effective July 2, 2025.

• **Deacon Lawrence R. Ambeau** in addition to St. Cecilia's Church in Adams and Queen of Heaven Church in Henderson will be assigned to The Roman Catholic Community of Brownville and Dexter in Brownville and St. Andrew's Church in Sackets Harbor, effective July 2, 2025.

• **Deacon Gerald F. Bouchard** in addition to The Roman Catholic Community of Brownville and Dexter in Brownville and St. Andrew's Church in Sackets Harbor, will be assigned to St. Cecilia's Church in Adams and Queen of Heaven Church in Henderson, effective July 2, 2025.

REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

Eternal Father,
we lift up to you these
and all the priests of the world.
Sanctify them.
Heal and guide them.
Mold them into the likeness and
holiness of your Son, Jesus,
the Eternal High Priest.
May their lives be pleasing to
you. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen
(With ecclesiastical approval)

Mass
Rosary
Fasting
Day Offering
Eucharistic Adoration
Offering of Sufferings
Divine Mercy Chaplet

Or whatever the Lord
inspires you to offer Him

JULY
2025

DIocese OF
OGDENSBURG, NY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY	1 REV. JAYA KUMAR FRANCIS MSC	2 REV. MICHAEL GAFFNEY	3 REV. GARRY GIROUX	4 REV. JOSEPH GIROUX
6 REV. WILLIAM GORDON	7 REV. LUKAS GRUBER	OUR PASTOR	8 REV. ALBERT J. HAUSER	9 REV. PETER HELFRICH	10 REV. MICHAEL JABLONSKI	11 REV. JOSE KANYIANKUNNEL JOHN HGN
13 REV. JOSEPH KANIMEA MSC	14 REV. PAUL KELLY	15 POPE LEO XIV	16 REV. JOHN KENNEHAN	17 REV. THOMAS KORNMEYER	18 REV. STEVE KOVACEVICH	19 REV. DONALD KRAMBERG
20 REV. ARTHUR LABAFF	21 REV. ALAN LAMICA	22 DECEASED PRIESTS	23 REV. KRIS LAUZON	24 REV. JOSEPH LEA	25 REV. CHRISTOPHER LOOBY	26 REV. JOHN LOOBY
27 SHANE LYNCH	28 REV. JHON MADRID	29 REV. DONALD MANFRED	30 REV. LAWRENCE MARULLO	31 REV. MICHAEL MARZAN	For more copies contact: Diocese of Ogdensburg PO Box 369 Ogdensburg, NY 13669	

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will be appreciated.
The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by:

Diocese of Ogdensburg
Vocations Society
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Environmental Stewardship

Integral ecology

In Chapter 4 of Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudato Si*, he expresses his thoughts on the merging of efforts to protect the natural environment with concerns for human society in "Integral Ecology." He repeatedly stresses "how everything is interconnected."

While many humans value interdependence, Francis emphasizes that all things depend on other elements of creation. Even "time and space are not independent of one another, and not even atoms or subatomic particles can be considered in isolation," he says.

Because "we are part of nature," we must consider environmental issues when addressing human or societal problems. The pope states that "each organism, as a creature of God, is good and admirable in itself; the same is true of the harmonious ensemble of organisms existing in a defined space and functioning as a system."

Yet even when plans are developed by experts to deal with these complex matters and made into government regulations, the pope laments that the "...lack of respect for the law is becoming more common. Laws may be well framed yet remain a dead letter."

The pope addresses the need to protect cultural resources around the planet. "The disappearance of a culture can be just as serious, or even more serious, than the disappearance of a species of plant or animal."

Pope Francis ended this chapter stressing the to be aware of social justice issues that arise when we fail to realize the impact our lifestyle has on the future. It is morally irresponsible to disregard the effects our throw-away culture is creating for our grandchildren and those who will occupy this planet after us. It is vital that we think about the "kind of world that we want to leave to those who come after us." God has placed us to be the stewards to His creations here and we must take that responsibility seriously.

The newly ordained deacon kneels before the presiding celebrant. The bishop extends a Book of the Gospels to the man before him and says, "Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach."

This act during an ordination isn't just ceremonial. The deacon is com-

missioned to become a "living voice of the Word," echoing Christ's mission.

The deacon, in proclaiming the Gospel, symbolically stands as someone who is "walking with the people," hearing their needs and bringing their concerns to the liturgical setting.

The charge is a challenge. "Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach."

For a deacon of the Catholic Church this challenge summarizes the

man's formation during the last four years.

At each Mass he attends, the deacon will proclaim the Gospel reading. The Roman Missal explains the ceremony that precedes the reading.

"The Deacon who is to proclaim the Gospel, bowing profoundly before the Priest, asks for the blessing, saying in a low voice: Your blessing, Father. The Priest

says in a low voice: May the Lord be in your heart and on your lips, that you may proclaim his Gospel worthily and well, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The Deacon signs himself with the Sign of the Cross and replies: Amen."

While the Cantor sings the Alleluia and verse, the deacon moves to the altar and elevates the Book of the Gospels for all to see.

I spend time at the altar, usually to the end of the singing of the verse, be-

fore moving to the ambo. The cover of our copy of the Book of Gospels is embossed with four creatures, representing each of the four Gospel writers by a winged creature.

The Lion (Mark) emphasizes Christ's kingship, the Ox (Luke) highlights Christ's suffering and death for the redemption of humanity. Man (Matthew) focuses on Christ's lineage and earthly life, and the Eagle (John) emphasizes Christ's divine origins and spiritual teachings.

"Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach."

A deacon takes the Gospel with him, at the ambo or at home or at the supermarket. He believes the teaching of Jesus and lives those teachings.

At least he tries.

When he is finished proclaiming the Gospel at Mass, the deacon kisses the printed words and says to himself, "Through the words of the Gospel may our sins be wiped away."

God willing.

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

CALLED TO SERVE

Proclaiming the Good News



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

June 19 – Rev. Gerard Chouinard, O.M.I., 1955; Deacon David F. Moltz, 2011

June 20 – Rev. James O'Hara, 1949

June 21 – Rev. Joseph T. Moriarity, O.S.A., 1905; Msgr. Joseph F. Luker, 1972

June 23 – Rev. Edward Chevalier, O.M.I., 1894; Rev. Donat Morrisette, O.M.I., 1976

June 24 – Rev. John Simard, 1943; Msgr. Timothy P. Holland, 1948; Rev. Joseph P. Ryan, 1968; Rev. W. Cyril Rapin, 2006

June 25 – Rev. J. Rodrigue Lauzon, 1944

June 26 – Rev. Charles F. Turgeon, 1888; Rev. Jean Baptiste Frigon, O.M.I., 1930; Rev. Arthur St. Cyr, O.M.I., 1957

June 27 – Rev. Auguste A. Brunet, O.M.I., 1866; Rev. Francis X. Charbonneau, 1928

June 28 – Rev. John J. Regnery, O.S.A., 1954

June 29 – Rev. Pierre Huet de la Valiniere, 1806; Rev. Adonat L. Dufresne, 1940; Rev. Gilbert J. Faucher, 1981; Deacon Francis E. LeRoux, 1996

June 30 – Rev. George F. Maroun, 2016

July 1 – Rev. Norbert Callahan, M.S.C., 1909; Rev. William A. O'Connor, 1922; Rev. P. Leon Legault, 1991

Bishop's Public Schedule

June 19 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

June 21 – 11 a.m. – Graduation Ceremony for Immaculate Heart Central seniors at in Watertown

4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

June 22 – 8:30 a.m. – Mass at St. Margaret's Church in Wilmington

3 p.m. – Commissioning of Lay Ministry at St. Mary's Cathedral

June 23 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

June 27 – 10:30 a.m. – Diocesan Finance Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

June 28 – 10:30 a.m. – Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting at St. Hubert's Church in Star Lake

June 29 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. James Major Church in Lake Pleasant

10:30 a.m. – Mass Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of St. Ann's Church in Wells

June 30 – 1 p.m. – Mass Celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope at Elderwood in Ticonderoga

July 2 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victim Assistance Coordinator, Terrienne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terriannyanulavich@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

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. Upcoming sessions:

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

July 1 – 2 p.m. – Camp Gugenheim, Saranac Lake

Religious freedom, free speech advocates support couples barred from fostering

By Amira Abuzeid
Catholic News Agency

Twenty-two states and various religious freedom and free speech advocates have filed friend-of-the-court briefs on behalf of two Vermont couples who are suing the state after their licenses to be foster parents were revoked due to their religious beliefs concerning human sexuality.

Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) is suing on behalf of Brian and Katy Wuotis and Bryan and Rebecca Gantt after the Vermont Department for Children and Families informed the two families that their belief that persons cannot change biological sex and that marriage is only between a man and a woman precluded them from serving as foster parents in the state.

Despite describing the Wuotis and the Gantts as “amazing,” “wonderful,” and “welcoming,” state officials revoked the couples’ foster care licenses after they expressed their commonly-held and constitutionally-protected religious beliefs. The state said these beliefs made them “unqualified” to parent any child, regardless of the child’s age, beliefs or identity.

In 2014, the Wuotis became foster parents, eventually adopting two brothers from foster care. The Gantts started fostering in 2016, caring for children born with drug dependencies, and have adopted three children.

Attorneys general from 21 states and the Arizona Legislature filed an amicus curiae, or friend-of-the-court brief, on June 6 in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit on behalf of the families, writing that the state is burdening the couples’ “free speech and free exercise rights.”

In another friend-of-the-court brief, The Conscience Project director Andrea Picciotti-Bayer decried Vermont’s “ideological intolerance,” writing that Vermont’s stance is “nothing other than an ideological snare set to identify and exclude anyone — especially those with religious convictions — unwilling to embrace gender ideology.”

Picciotti-Bayer told CNA that the Vermont policy is especially egregious because there is a tremendous need for foster families in the state and nationwide. Because of the huge shortage, Picciotti-Bayer said children are placed in “crazy situations” like hotels

and sheriff’s offices.

She criticized the Vermont Department for Children and Families, saying the state’s “priorities are so far off,” because excluding Christian families like the Wuotis and the Gantts prevents foster children from “finding safe, loving, and stable homes.”

ADF Senior Counsel Johannes Widmalm-Delphonse agreed, saying in a statement that “Vermont’s foster-care system is in crisis: There aren’t enough families to care for vulnerable kids. Yet instead of inviting families from diverse backgrounds to help care for vulnerable kids, Vermont is shutting the door on them, putting its ideological agenda ahead of the needs of suffering kids.”

According to Picciotti-Bayer, Christians have an “incredible track record in fostering,” saying Christian families are more likely than the general population to foster and are also more likely to foster more complex placements.

“Hard-to-place kids often find the best homes in families of faith,” Picciotti-Bayer told CNA, because of the “deep bench of community support” found in churches and faith communities, who support foster families by providing food, clothes, and respite support.

“When you know these Christian families make stellar foster families,” she continued, “for the state to categorically exclude them seems nonsensical, apart from the possibility of grave discrimination.”

A friend-of-the-court brief was also filed by Concerned Women for America, the First Liberty Institute, the Foundation for Moral Law, and professors Mark Regnerus, Catherine Pakaluk, Loren Marks, and Joseph Price.

A friend-of-the-court brief was even filed by the left-leaning Women’s Liberation Front, whose attorney, Lauren Bone, wrote that “gender ideology is religious in nature,” and mandating that foster parents adopt such ideology is akin to an “unconstitutional establishment of religion.”

Bone also wrote that gender ideology, rather than being “progressive,” is actually a “regressive approach to sex stereotypes and sexuality” that “harms children, women, and LGB [lesbian, gay, and bisexual] people” by “leading often troubled children to question their sex, by subverting the basis for necessary sex separation, and by confounding the meaning of same-sex attraction.”

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Vatican Bank recorded net profit of 32.8 million Euros in 2024

The Institute for the Works of Religion (IOR, by its Italian acronym), popularly known as the Vatican Bank — a small financial institution with just over 100 employees founded by Pope Pius XII in 1942 — obtained a net profit of 32.8 million euros (about \$37.7 million) in 2024, compared with 30.6 million euros (about \$35.1 million) in 2023. As indicated in the annual report published Wednesday by the Holy See Press Office, the net profit of 32.8 million euros represents a 7% increase compared with 2023. This result, according to the report, is due to growth in interest income (+5.8%), commission income (+13.2%), and brokerage income (+3.6%), along with other measures implemented to ensure strict cost control. The report also included information on the profits redistributed to the pope and to other Holy See budget items. As required by the IOR statutes, the report was subsequently submitted to the Commission of Cardinals, which authorized the distribution of a dividend of 13.8 million euros (about \$15.8 million) to the Holy Father. It was a gesture that — according to the Vatican — reaffirms “the institute’s commitment to its mission of supporting religious and charitable works.”

Cardinal appeals to Trump: Africa is important to the U.S.’

Cardinal Fridolin Ambongo is asking U.S. President Donald Trump to reinstate foreign aid to Africa. “Targeted humanitarian aid for Africa is urgently needed, morally good, and of great strategic value to the U.S.,” Ambongo, the archbishop of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo, wrote in a June 8 op-ed published in the Wall Street Journal. “President Trump has made clear that he will put the needs of his country and its citizens first before attending to the needs of the world. No leader of a nation as great as the U.S. could do otherwise,” the cardinal stated. “It would be a mistake, however, for Mr. Trump to forget about Africa.” Ambongo highlighted Africa’s rich natural resources and “bright entrepreneurial and eager young people” as important assets to the U.S., emphasizing the utility of a relationship between Africa and the United States. American generosity toward Africa through USAID has “transformed millions of lives for the better” in the region, Ambongo said, pointing out that American aid has helped enhance African society and avert further political and economic crises threatening the continent’s development. In the process, he noted, American economic influence in the region has been strengthened.

Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

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



Find us on Facebook!



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 his 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 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

BROWN BAG SERIES

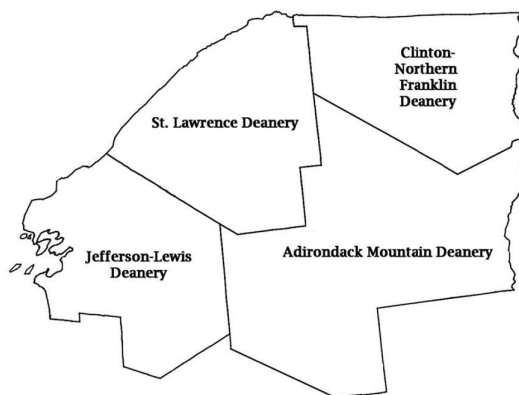
Join us for a new Brown Bag Virtual Series, "Where the World Meets the Church: A Way to Engage and Evangelize," in 4 Sessions. Father John Riccardo speaks on the HOME as the place where the world meets the Church. We will meet via TEAMS to discuss Father John Riccardo's hour-long talk by breaking it 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 To register go to <https://www.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@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

brownbag

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 through Scripture readings and being open to receive healing. Bring a bagged lunch.

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

FIRST FRIDAY

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

Date: July 4

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

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Morrisonville - The 20th Annual St. Alexander & St. Joseph Golf Classic Tournament will be held.

Date: July 11

Time: Shotgun start, 2 Flights One at 8 a.m. and one at 1 p.m. Team choice

Place: Harmony Golf Club

Cost: 4 Person Scramble, \$65 per person Includes. Green fees, cart, awards, meal between golf flights

Features: Awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams. Prizes for

the longest drives, closest to the pin, skins and putting contests. Chances to win with a Hole in One sponsored by Shumway Insurance.

Contact: Register by July 3rd by contacting Bob Robare at 518 420-3854 or Jacki Black at the Church office at 518 561-5039.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

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.

STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

Port Leyden — St. Mary's and St. John's Churches will hold their annual Strawberry Social.

Date: June 21

Time: Noon to 3 p.m.

Place: Port Leyden Community (Fire) Hall

Features: There will be hamburgers, hot dogs, sausage sandwiches, strawberry shortcake, sundaes, milkshakes and drinks available. Also, raffles, basket auction, fancy cake silent auction, cake walk, bake sale and much more. Don't miss this event!

Contact: For more information regarding the menu and activities go to <https://facebook.com/ParishesofSouthernLewisCounty>

SPAGHETTI DINNER

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

Date: June 26

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

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

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

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

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

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 pm DJ Johnny Spezzano

Streaming live music from the

border 106.7 with their mobile

Station Vehicle; 6-9 pm DJ Tom

Ellis with Zapet Vibrations DJ

service; Forest City Farm's petting

zoo; Ontario Amusement Rides;

Unlimited rides from 5-9pm

with purchase of \$20 Wrist Band;

June 27, 5 p.m. to 9, 5-9 pm J

& K Karaoke & Entertainment,

Reptiles Forever, West Carthage

Fire Prevention Trailer, Ontario

Amusement Rides, Unlimited

rides from 5-9 pm with purchase

of \$20 Wrist Band; June 28, Noon

to 9 p.m. 12-4 pm 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 pm or

from 5-9 pm with purchase of \$20

Wrist Band

Features: All of the days will

have Specialty foods, Ice Cream

booth, Children's games, Gam-

bling, Wine & Beer Tent, Pull tabs

and Jewelry booth. In addition

to wrist bands which include

unlimited rides for the designated

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

4 hours, individual ride tickets will also be available. Entry is FREE

HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY

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

Date: July 6

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

SUMMER GALA AND RAFFLE

Clayton – St. Mary's Church is holding their annual summer Gala and Raffle.

Date: Gala will be Aug. 5

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 10

Place: Cerow Arena at the Town of Clayton Recreation Park

Cost: \$100 (Each ticket is an entry into the raffle, and includes dinner for two, hors d'oeuvres, 2 coupons for 1 drink each, coffee, dessert and music. Sorry no take-outs.)

Features: First Prize is \$10,000. Second through Fifth Prizes are \$500. \$100 Early Bird Prize for tickets purchased on or before July 3. Winners need not be present to win. All winning tickets are returned to the drum and will be eligible for all 6 prizes.

Contact: Tickets available after St. Mary's Masses or at the parish office. For more information call 315-686-3398.

ST. LAWRENCE

MONTHLY BRUNCH

Norfolk – Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond's will have their monthly Knights of Columbus Brunch.

Date: July 13 (Second Sunday of each month)

Time: 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Place: Father Amyot Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$10; under 12, \$5; under 5, Free; Omelets, add \$3; Take-outs available

Contact: For more information

contact Grand Knight Gil Gonthier 315-212-5166.

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 connerandall47@yahoo.com

PILGRIMAGE TO ST. ANNE'S SHRINE

Isle LaMotte, VT – Knights of Columbus Councils from throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg will participate in their 77th annual pilgrimage to St. Anne's Shrine.

Date: July 13

Schedule: Bishop Terry A. LaValley 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

YOUTH PARISH VOLUNTEER PICNIC

Saranac Lake – Calling all Youth Parish Volunteers! Join us for a special day celebrating and honoring our Diocesan Youth Parish Volunteers! Parents and siblings, Youth Volunteers – altar servers, music ministers, faith formation helpers, lectors, etc., are invited to Camp Guggenheim for a joyful gathering filled with faith, fellowship, and fun.

Date: Aug. 11

Time: 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Features: This event is a wonderful opportunity for youth to connect, listen to the vocation stories of special guest speakers, and enjoy games and activities designed to strengthen their faith. A cookout of hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. The day will culminate in Mass celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

Contact: Don't miss out on this special occasion! The registration deadline is Aug. 4, 2025. Register now at <https://www.rcdony.org/ya>

CAMP GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake – Camp Guggenheim registration is now open.

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

Cost: \$425, scholarships are

available

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

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

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake – Registration for Family Guggenheim is now open.

Date: Session 1: Aug. 14-17 (waiting list); 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.

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. We are looking for visual and/or tactile art that express the theme of HOPE. These works do not have to be overtly religious, but must represent the Look, Feel and Sound of Hope. For musicians from around the diocese, there are three ways to participate in this initiative: as a member of the Diocesan Choir, as a Soloist/part of a chamber music group, and/or the Invitational Diocesan Schola Select Choir.

Contact: Artists and musicians, for details how to participate in this festival, see <https://www.rcdony.org/soundofhope>. Deadline for Artists and Musicians to register their interest has been extended to JUNE 30.

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>

North Country Catholic has Green option

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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

Multiple sentences in four letters

When we come to celebrate the Eucharist there are many special moments: the official ones of the ritual and the personal ones in the life of each participant. As we approach the altar to receive the Eucharist, the ritual and personal merge as the minister says: "The Body of Christ," and we personally respond: "AMEN."

Those four letters

spell out multiple sentences. Amen equals I believe that this is the same Christ who took flesh and was born in Bethlehem. That Amen cries out "I believe that this is the same Christ who restored health to the sick, hearing to the deaf, sight to the blind and even life to the dead." That Amen tells the world "I believe that this is the same Christ who suffered for me

June 22

Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

READINGS

Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26

1 John 4:11-16

John 17:11b-19

and died on the cross for me." That Amen announces: "I believe that this is the same Christ who rose from the dead

at Easter, ascended to the Father, promised the Holy Spirit, and now reigns at the right hand of God."

All of that because of the simple word AMEN. Certainly, all of us can fall into a habit or routine of celebrating Eucharist and receiving Holy Communion.

However, there is nothing ordinary about the Eucharist, nor is there anything ordinary about receiving Holy Communion. These are extreme actions with which we join ourselves with our Lord, so connected that he has allowed us to receive his Body and Blood.

Our belief in the Eucharist draws many people to the Catholic faith. The fact that Jesus himself can be so present as he promised encourages to people understand the fullness of this Jesus. Our belief in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist finds its home in scripture, not something that the Church invented.

Today's second reading clearly expresses our belief: "This is my body... Do this in remembrance of me... This cup is my blood... Do this in remembrance of me." What an enormous privilege we have when we can share in this Eucharist. Every celebration of the Eucharist is a community event even when the community is small. Each person receives the Eucharist in unity with others, a commu-

nity event.

Our Gospel, speaking about the multiplication of the bread and fish, alludes to the Eucharist. In this Gospel, Jesus tells his companions to feed the people themselves. The disciples were perplexed when Jesus said: "Give them some food yourselves." After all there were

thousands of people. Yes, God watches over us, but he expects us to use what we have to take care of ourselves. This true miracle is coupled with the exhortation of Jesus to tend to the needs of others.

Perhaps another way of looking at the juxtaposition of these two passages is that Jesus will feed us spiritually, but we need to take care of each other with our physical needs.

As we celebrate this feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, Corpus Christi, we need to remind ourselves of two awesome mysteries. First, Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. Our response to this presence must be the utmost of reverence and respect.

Secondly, because we share in the life of Christ, who gave himself for others, so, too, we must give ourselves to one another in service. God feeds us so that we can feed one another. May our AMEN as we receive the Eucharist today be an AMEN as we reach out to others' needs in the world in which we live each day.



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

*World Day of Prayer
for the Sanctification of Priests
Solemnity of the
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
June 27, 2025*



Photo taken by Jesse Sovie at the Chrism Mass held on April 10, 2025

*"The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus."
(St. John Marie Vianney)*

Vocation Office





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

Educating children in Peru

Approximately 120 students between the ages of 12 and 18 from the 48 indigenous Ashéninka communities in Gran Pajonal are hosted during the school year at the Oventeni student residence, in the province of Atalaya, within the Apostolic Vicariate of San Ramón in the country of Peru. "We have two pavilions for girls and two for boys. The state pays for the cooks, the maintenance staff, and the educational assistants who spend most of their time with the children, as well as two psychologists," says Father Luis Alfonso Tapia Ibáñez, parish priest and coordinator of the 'Keshiki' student residence in the parish of San Pascual Bailón.

The teachers are appointed by the Apostolic Vicariate of San Ramón and employed by the state. "We form a big family. This is their second home," the priest affirms. The residence provides adolescents with the opportunity to continue studies and overcome poverty, both material and educational. Gran Pajonal, located in the central Peruvian jungle, has approximately 38 primary schools. However, the long distances—between four and 10 hours on foot—prevent many students from accessing secondary education. Therefore, at the request of parents, a bilingual secondary school was created. During the week, the adolescents reside there and return to their families at weekends."

"A large part of the Vicariate is inhabited by native communities made up mostly of children," emphasizes Gerardo Antón Zerdin, OFM, Bishop of San Ramón, in the latest bulletin of the Pontifical Society of Missionary Childhood, which supports this initiative. "Childcare is a priority due to the poverty and enormous educational deficiencies faced by these remote communities in the Amazon," he adds. "The Vicariate directly administers five educational centers (preschool, primary, and secondary), and another fifteen schools are under the responsibility of religious congregations present in the Vicariate area."

These schools are the result of a joint effort between the State and the Church and offer free education. Regular subjects are taught there and the activities of the Pontifical Society of Missionary Childhood are promoted. However, students face serious risks, such as family instability, criminal gangs, drug use, and various forms of abuse.

Explains Father Tapia Ibáñez, "It is a wonderful opportunity to hear about God, to get to know him little by little, and to become friends of Jesus, each in his own time. The first step is friendship and the example of life. As always, we approach the children and their parents to awaken in them an interest in the Church and the Gospel. Last year, 21 students requested baptism and prepared to receive it."

OBITUARIES

Brasher Falls — Wayne L. Wilkins, 89; Mass of Christian Burial June 12, 2025 at St. Patrick's Church.

Chazy — Edrick A. Favro, 66; Mass of Christian Burial June 12, 2025 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Keene — Mary Etta (Defendorf) Shackett, 82; Mass of Christian Burial June 12, 2025 at St. Brendan's Church; burial in Norton Cemetery.

Keeseville — John David Brelia, 86; Mass of Christian Burial at Immaculate Conception Church at a later date; burial in parish cemetery.

Lowville — Fred J. Clark, 84; Mass of Christian Burial June 11, 2025 at St. Peter's Church.

Lowville — Dorothy Angelina (Buoniconto) Hanno, 98; Mass of Christian Burial July 19, 2025 at St.

Peter's Church; burial in Old Glendale Cemetery.

Massena — Monica M. Jacobs, 73; Funeral Services June 14, 2025 at Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Norwood — John B. Hough, Jr., 84; Mass of Christian Burial June 10, 2025 at St. Andrews Church; burial in Evergreen Cemetery, Canton.

Plattsburgh — Keith Alan Grovine, 61; Mass of Christian Burial June 14, 2025 at St. John the Baptist Church.

Plattsburgh — Kenneth Charles Rascoe, 84; Graveside Services June 20, 2025 at St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Addie S. (Desautels) Torrence, 99; Mass of Christian Burial June 12, 2025 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Potsdam — Mary Theresa (Greenleaf) Zimmerman, 91; Mass of Christian Burial June 27, 2025 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Bayside Cemetery.

Rosiere — Reta M. Mussot, 90; Mass of Christian Burial June 14, 2025 at St. Vincent de Paul Church; burial in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery.

Ticonderoga — Richard Alan Nadeau, 87; Mass of Christian Burial June 7, 2025 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Watertown — Joan (Keggins) Nottell, 85; Graveside Services June 20, 2025 at North Watertown Cemetery.

Watertown — Gloria J. (Prairie) Washer, 82; Mass of Christian Burial June 11, 2025 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

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St. Mary's in Constableville and St. Mary's Nativity in West Leyden.*

NY on brink of legalizing assisted suicide

By Daniel Payne
Catholic News Agency

Pro-life advocates are warning of the need to protect vulnerable patients, including the elderly and terminally ill, as New York prepares to legalize assisted suicide.

New York will become the 12th state in the country, along with the District of Columbia, to allow doctors to prescribe lethal doses of medication to terminally ill patients in order to allow them to kill themselves. The measure passed the state Legislature this week and is expected to be signed by Democratic Gov. Kathy Hochul.

New York's law defines a "terminal illness or condition" as "an incurable and irreversible illness or condition that has been medically confirmed" and will "within reasonable medical judgment" result in death within six months.

A chorus of pro-life advocates has spoken out against New York's passage of the bill, calling on Hochul to veto it.

The New York State Catholic Conference warned that the measure would bring about an "assisted suicide nightmare," with the bishops

urging the governor this week to recognize that the law "would be catastrophic for medically underserved communities, including communities of color, as well as for people with disabilities and other vulnerable populations."

Brooklyn Bishop Robert Brennan said the bill's passage "while not completely unexpected, is truly disappointing."

"We turn to the governor urging her to act boldly, consistent with her efforts to combat the suicide crisis in our state, and veto this bill," the bishop said.

The New York Alliance Against Assisted Suicide, meanwhile, called the measure "a grave mistake for New York."

"It brings our state dangerously close to a public policy that many in the medical, disability, and mental health communities consider deeply flawed and unjust," the group said, adding that the law "contains no requirement that a person seeking a lethal prescription receive a mental health evaluation."

Kathryn Jean Lopez, currently the chair of New York archbishop Cardinal Timothy Dolan's pro-life commission, told CNA that those opposed

to euthanasia and assisted suicide in the state should be prepared for a tough road ahead, saying it is virtually certain that Hochul will sign the legislation.

"She's so enthusiastic about abortion, it would seemingly take a miracle to say no to her caucus on this," said Lopez, who is also the religion editor at National Review.

Lopez expressed doubt that the law, if signed, will generate much sustained pushback. "There's not going to be a march on the street to reverse assisted suicide," she lamented.

She said that raising awareness of assisted suicide is nevertheless key, stressing the need for family and friends to defend the most vulnerable, such as the terminally ill and the elderly.

"Being advocates, that's the most important thing at this point," she said. "Because this is the reality we're living in."

Critics of euthanasia and assisted suicide have pointed to countries that have already legalized the procedure and which have seen both huge increases in suicides and reported abuses.

Eve Slater, a physician and former assistant secretary for health

and human services under President George W. Bush, told CNA that in every case where euthanasia has been legalized, suicide numbers have soared.

She pointed out that suicide currently accounts for 5% of Canadian deaths, a number that rises to the double digits in some provinces. She also cited rapid rises of suicide in some European countries after the practice has been legalized.

The Canadian government in 2016 legalized "medical aid in dying." Less than a decade later suicide accounts for roughly 1 in 20 deaths there. In some cases the suicide program has been expanded to include those who cannot consent to the procedure at the time, while hundreds of violations of the law are allegedly going unreported.

In the Netherlands last year, meanwhile, the government permitted the assisted suicide of a physically healthy 29-year-old woman with mental health issues. Other countries, such as France and England, are also actively considering allowing euthanasia.

In an op-ed last month in National Review, Slater wrote that huge increases in euthanasia are "enabled by wording that includes ambiguous eligibility criteria and then by gradual liberalization of interpretation."

"[I]n each state where [euthanasia] has been legalized, amendments to widen eligibility either have been granted or are under discussion," Slater wrote. "The amendments include provisions for tourism, the possibility of self-injection, a shortening of the reflection period, reduction of informed-consent safeguards, and the ability of

certain nonphysicians to prescribe."

Slater told CNA that New York's willingness to embrace suicide conflicts directly with state laws requiring doctors to prevent suicide itself.

"If a patient comes in to see me, and even hints of thoughts of suicide, I am obligated — we teach this, it's standard practice — to recommend they see a psychiatrist immediately. And if they are hesitant, we have to call security," she said.

"Now what do I do?" Lopez also pointed out the inconsistency in how, even as assisted suicide becomes more accepted, there are still official efforts to discourage suicide in general.

"If you or I Google 'assisted suicide' because we're looking for the latest news stories, we'll get the number for a suicide hotline in response," she said. "Someone's still concerned you want to kill yourself and they want to talk you out of it."

"That's good," she pointed out, "but it's also irrational," given the increasing mainstream acceptance of euthanasia.

Slater said this is "different from normal pro-life politics."

New York residents "have to be aware of the gravity and the damage to human dignity that these laws do," she said.

Speaking of doctors, Slater stressed that even if the doctors themselves are not explicitly pro-life, they in particular should know that the laws are "a total violation of our oath as physicians to take care of patients to the very end."

"Doctors have to be aware that it's effectively state-sanctioned suicide and that it sends the message that suicides under certain conditions are legitimate," she said.



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