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#### The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 80 Number 11

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

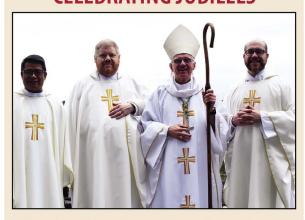
JUNE 4, 2025

#### **NEWLY ORDAINED DEACONS**



Bishop Terry R. LaValley ordained three men to the diaconate on May 24 at Sacred Heart Church in Massena. Pictured are, from left, Bishop Douglas J. Lucia, bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse and former Vocations director for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Deacon Michelet Boncoeur, Bishop LaValley, Deacon Dennis Ombongi and Deacon Tyler Fitzgerald. Stories are on Pages 3, 4, 6 & 8, and additional photos on Page 10.

#### **CELEBRATING JUBILEES**



Father Michael H. Marzan, Father Theodore A. Crosby and Father Joseph W. Giroux were honored by Bishop Terry R. LaValley and their brother priests at the annual diocesan Jubilee Mass, celebrated May 20 as part of the Presbyteral Assembly, an annual gathering of priests, held this year in Lake Placid. Also honored at the Jubilee Mass were Father John L. "Jack" Downs and Father Gilbert B. Menard, both celebrating 70 years of priesthood; Father L. William Gordon, 60 years; Father Lawrence E. Marullo, 50 years; Father Guy. F. "Bill" Edwards, Father Michael I. Miller, a Missionary of the Sacred Heart, and Father Raymond J. Moreau, 40 years.

STORIES ON PAGES 4-7  $\&\,9$  , additional photos on page 11

## Pope: Before being believers, be human

By Almudena Martínez-Bordiú Catholic News Agency

Pope Leo XIV held the second general audience of his pontificate May 28, and he reflected on the parable of the good Samaritan.

At the beginning of his catechesis, addressed to the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square, the Holy Father recalled that the parables of the Gospel offer an opportunity "to change perspective and open ourselves up to hope."

The lack of hope, the pontiff explained, is sometimes due "to the fact that we fixate on a certain rigid and closed way of seeing things," and the parables "help us to look at them from another point of view."

He then recalled that Jesus proposes this parable to "a doctor of the law," who asks him: "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" (Lk 10:25-37), and then Jesus invites him to love his neighbor.

'The practice of worship does not automatically lead to compassion'

The scene of the parable of the good Samaritan is a road "as difficult and harsh as life itself," the pope said. In fact, the man who crosses it "is attacked, beaten, robbed, and left half dead."

"It is the experience that happens when situations, people, sometimes even those we have trusted, take everything from us and leave us in the middle of the road," the pontiff emphasized.

Leo XIV then added that "life is made up of encounters, and in these encounters, we emerge for what we are. We find ourselves in front of others, faced with their fragility and weakness, and we can decide what to do: to take care of them or pretend nothing is wrong."

He recalled that the priest

and the Levite went down that same road and didn't stop to help him. "The practice of worship does not automatically lead to being compassionate. Indeed, before being a religious matter, compassion is a question of humanity! Before being believers, we are called to be human," he emphasized.

Leo XIV then added that "life is made up of encounters, and in these encounters, we emerge for what we are. We find ourselves in front of others, faced with their fragility and weakness, and we can decide what to do: to take care of them or pretend nothing is wrong."

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## Striking a balance

It felt like a tight rope walk.

As I laid out the pages of this edition, I tried hard to

balance two topics the ordination of our three new deacons and the Jubilee Mass honoring priests reaching milestone years of service.

Both are joyous occasions that deserve to be cele- Darcy L. brated and lauded, Fargo but I felt like I was balancing oppo-

site ends of the spectrum - men beginning their journeys as clergy and

tors. Men who have been ordained for seven days

> and men who have been ordained for 70 years.

> As I scrolled through digital of versions the pages and prepared them for press, it occurred me that it wasn't a balancing act of opposites at all; it's the story of a single jour-

ney lived out in different ways by 13 different men. In these pages, you'll

men who are experienced, find the timeline of longtime priests and paspriesthood. You'll find those still in formation, new to the ranks of the clergy who will continue studying and discerning as they move toward, God willing, ordination to the priesthood. You'll find men in the various stages of their priesthoods - from active ministry to retirement, 25 years of priesthood to 70 years of priesthood. Some spent their entire ministries in parish life. Some taught in schools, colleges and seminaries. Some spent time studying or serving in other parts of the country or world.

It's a good look at the scope and magnitude of what these 13 men agreed to when they said "yes" to God's call to serve Him and us, His Church.

I'm grateful to them for their sacrifices, dedication and willingness to follow God's call.

We at the NCC would like to congratulate our three new deacons and our 10 jubilarians.

And I ask you, the readers of the *NCC*, to join me in praying for these men in the coming weeks.

They walk their own tight ropes.

## 'To guide and lead me'

Pentecost is often considered the birthday of the Church. The Holy Spirit comes down on those first apostles and continues to come upon our Catholic Church today. Today, I think of the many who will be ordained priests throughout our world during the time of Pentecost. During the Pentecost, many new priests will be ordained in every diocese of the world; many who have prepared themselves to become priests, missionaries, pastors are now ready to minister to the parishes of Our Catholic Church throughout the world.

I thought I would share with you today my memories of my preparation for the day of my ordination. Ordination was my goal on the very day I entered the seminary. First, there was my seminary college, Wadhams Hall, where I spent four years of study with an emphasis on philosophy. The Church wanted future priests to understand how to think properly. At the same time,



there was an introduction in developing a good spiritual life - learning to pray, discovering the joy of a good relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ through participating in daily Mass, studying Scripture, time spent in silent prayer, and time being guided by a spiritual director.

I must tell you, there was one course then that had a profound influence on me when I became a priest - this was a course each year in public speaking. Truly speech class learning to stand before others to tell a story or give a message - transformed me. It also helped me in putting together the message of Iesus in a teachable form. I know that these courses helped me to become a preacher at Mass. Even today, I can still hear (in my head) my college speech professor, Monsignor Bailey, pointing out a correction or suggesting something as I prepare a homily.

Then followed four years of major seminary where the emphasis was on theology. This was our time to learn more about our Catholic Church, a time continue developing my spiritual life as I prepared for the day of my ordination, and preparing to celebrate Mass. I now realized that ordination would now be soon; I knew I would need to be close to the Lord; I needed a strong spiritual life. I knew how important it would be for me as a priest. I learned that I must be a good person to be a great priest.

Then came the day of ordination. I remember my family and friends - even high school classmates gathering at the cathedral for the Mass of ordination. That was rather special. The one thing I do remember even today was the prostration. There was so much to think about; I can

still show you the exact place I was at on the Cathedral sanctuary floor.

Then the next day, I celebrated my First Mass as a priest. During my deacon year at the seminary, I had practiced well. But now I was ordained, and I was now to use the words of Our Lord Jesus with the Holy Spirit's power. I had been chosen and ordained to celebrate the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

And so, my ministry as a priest began. I quickly learned that there was going to be much more to learn about the priesthood and becoming a pastor. I wondered then, would I get everything worked out successfully? Would people learn from me? Would I be able to convince them of the importance of the message of Jesus? I remember recently that someone asked me if I had saved any souls. I wonder.

God has been good. I have found a real happiness in my ministry as priest. The Holy Spirit has been with me every day to guide and lead me.

#### **FOLLOW ME**

## St. Polycarp's challenge to deacons

Editor's note: The following is Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily from the ordination celebrated May 24.

What a blessed day it is for the Church of Ogdensburg! Here we are, sisters and brothers all, gathered in this beautiful sacred space of Sacred Heart Church to celebrate God's call to these three men to serve the Church in Sacred Orders. We want to thank Bishop Lucia for being with us. As you know, he was our diocesan vocation director and Tyler's pastor a few years ago. Welcome Bishop! On a personal note, I spent my entire diaconal ministry worshipping and ministering to folks who call this sacred space of Sacred Heart home. So, it's a real privilege for me to be back for this special occasion.

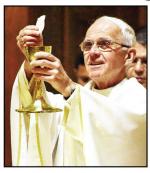
In a few minutes, Dennis Ombongi, Michelet Boncoeur and Tyler Fitzgerald will be advanced to the Order of Deacon as ministers of the Word and of Charity. It is the duty of all the faithful of the diocese to assist the candidates with our prayers. You see, your presence here marks our public commitment to hold each of these men in prayer, today and every day. Thank you for being here to share in this sacred moment. We, also want to acknowledge and greet the family members and friends of these men who are present this morning as well as loved ones who are unable to be with us physically but join us via livestreaming.

Pope Benedict XVI announced my appointment as Bishop of Ogdensburg on the Feast of St. Polycarp. Ever since, I've paid partic-

ular attention to the writings of this early Church Bishop and Martyr. In preaching to the deacons of his day, St. Polycarp said, "Be merciful and zealous, walking according to the truth of the Lord, who became the servant of all." His words continue to challenge the deacon and priest to this very day.

merciful! Be prophet Jeremiah tried coming up with an excuse why he couldn't answer the Lord's call. But there is no excuse for not being merciful. Gentlemen, mercy should become an identifying feature of your ordained ministry. When you remain faithful to your daily prayer, including the Liturgy of the Hours, and through your service at the Altar, you will come to know, more and more, Jesus as merciful friend. Your ministry will reflect His humility, His gentleness, His mercy. A trusted friend has that kind of an effect on us. Michelet, Dennis and Tyler, a merciful heart in loving service to others will go a long way in helping to heal this fractured world.

Be zealous! No easy task, for sure, given our own human limitations and the crosses encountered in witnessing to Jesus in a world so often uninterested and even hostile to the Church. The Lord told Jeremiah to have no fear because the Lord would be with him. In the Gospel, Jesus offers His disciples the gift of peace and sends them off to be peacemakers. Again, this can only happen to a person of disciplined prayer. The joy of the Gospel will be the motivation for your zealous proclamation and witness



Bishop Terry R. LaValley

to the faith. Never allow yourself to be turned away from the hope and peace offered by the Gospel.

Your people, your Church expects this holy energy from you. Again, this will be fueled by your prayer. Rejoice in your faith and share that joy!

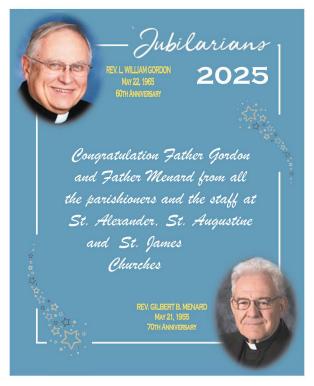
Polycarp told the early deacons that they are to walk according to the truth of the Lord. There is no room for a cafeteria style ministry of preferences. The splendor of all God's truth must be taught. Our people deserve it, our Church expects it, and our God demands it. Tyler, Dennis and Michelet, you are to be lifelong students of the faith, confident teacher, and gentle servant of the Truth. Jesus' word must become a very part of the fabric of your being. As that happens, the number of disciples will increase, as we heard from the Acts of the Apostles in our second reading.

"Christ became the servant, the 'diaconus' of all." The Model is before you, before all of us. Soon, like the deacons set apart by the early Church, you will be set apart for ordained ministry. You will freely promise to live the celibate life with total dedication so as to cling to Christ with an undivid-

ed heart. Through perfect and perpetual continence for the sake of the Kingdom, you will be an inspiring sign of love and hope for all who know you. Firmly rooted and grounded in faith, you are to show yourself chaste and beyond reproach before God and the faithful. Hold the mystery of faith with a clear conscience. Express by your actions the word of God which your lips proclaim and your heart embraces.

The ministry of charitv is most characteristic of the deacon. In fact, with sacred ordination, the deacon is constituted a living icon of Christ the Servant within the Church. So, as you conform your life to Christ Servant, making yourself a generous and faithful servant of God. you will help to shape the vitality and genuineness of the exercise of the corporal and spiritual works of charity in the life of our faith family. Be attentive to the needs of all those with whom you come in contact.

Gentlemen, Church is so very proud of your persevering study and formation. We are grateful for your generous heart in responding to the Lord's call to serve His Church. With much love and deep appreciation, we thank Tyler, Michelet and Dennis' parents and family members for the gift of your son, brother, and grandson. Gentlemen, rely on God's grace, your life of sacrifice, and the prayers of all gathered here to make your ministry among us a heavenly reality with earthly application. "Be merciful and zealous, walking according to the truth of the Lord, who became the servant of all." Through your ordained ministry, May God be praised...forever may God be praised!



## Ten priests honored for years of service

reached milestone years of service were honored at the annual Jubilee Mass, celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on May 20 at the Cambria Hotel in Lake Placid.

The Mass was part of the Presby-teral Assembly, an annual gathering of priests from around the diocese.

Honored at the Jubilee Mass were Father John L. "Jack" Downs and

Ten jubilarians - priests who have Father Gilbert B. Menard, both celebrating 70 years of priesthood; Father L. William Gordon, 60 years; Father Lawrence E. Marullo, 50 years; Father Guy. F. "Bill" Edwards, Father Michael I. Miller, a Missionary of the Sacred Heart, and Father Raymond J. Moreau, 40 years; and Father Theodore A. Crosby, Father Joseph W. Giroux, and father Michael H. Marzan,

## Father Downs & Father Menard celebrate 70 years

Father John L. "Jack" Downs and Father Gilbert B. Menard were ordained May 21, 1955, by Bishop Walter P. Kellenburg.

#### FATHER JOHN L. 'JACK' DOWNS

Father Downs, who retired in 2004, continues to serve as chaplain for the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society. He's previously held similar roles with Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer and North Country Cursillo.

Father Downs, 95 (he'll turn 96 next month) studied for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall and St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

After his ordination as a priest, Father Downs served as assistant pastor at Sacred Heart in Massena and in AuSable Forks. In 1968, he was named pastor in Redwood and a diocesan consultor.

From 1969 to 1980, Father Downs served the diocese as Director of Radio and Television.

Father Downs was assigned as pastor in

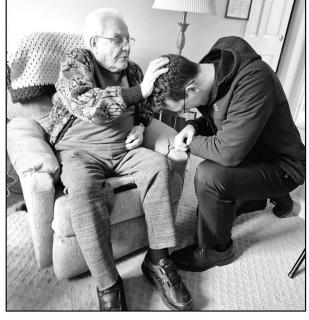


PHOTO BY MSGR. DENNIS DUPREY

Father Gilbert B. Menard, who celebrates 70 years of priesthood this year and is the diocese's oldest priest, gives a blessing to Father Carter G. Pierce, the diocese's youngest priest, during an April visit. Father Pierce also gave a blessing to Father Menard.

took a leave of absence from 1987 to 1990 to work in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia, providing pastoral care and sacraments in impoverished areas of the Appalachian Region.

Upon his return to the diocese, he served as Adams in 1973 and in pastor of St. Joseph's

West Chazy in 1978. He in Massena until his retirement.

He continued to celebrate Masses around the North Country after his retirement.

#### FATHER GILBERT B. **MENARD**

Father Menard, 96, spent many years during the first half of his priesthood as

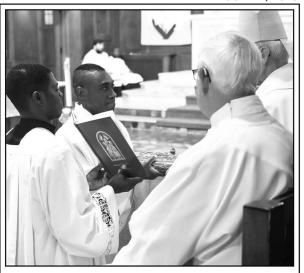


PHOTO BY DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Bishop Terry R. LaValley presents the Gospels to Deacon Michelet Boncoeur during the ordination Mass celebrated May 24 at Sacred Heart Church, Massena, saying 'Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe and practice what you teach.'

## Dcn. Boncoeur ready 'to serve the Church'

By Darcy Fargo

As he approached his ordination to the diaconate, an ordination that was celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley at Sacred Heart Church in Massena on May 24, Deacon Michelet Boncoeur said he was "very excited" about his new ministry.

"I've been preparing for a long time for this wonderful day," he said.

Deacon Boncoeur noted that his path to ordination "is very different from the other guys."

"I started my theological studies at ČTÚ - Catholic Theological Union, where our pope studied theology," he said. "I was then accepted into this diocese. I spent one year with Father Al (Hauser). Then I went to Mount St. Mary's to continue my studies. (the seminary) has really prepared me and given me some good courses that really help me to serve the Church as a deacon. Being a deacon is about service - serving the people the best way I can with my own limitations.'

Deacon Boncoeur said it's the service portion of that ministry he's looking forward to most.

"To serve the Church, to serve on the altar and to proclaim God's word to the people is something I look forward to," he said. "And to serve the people, wherever they are or whoever they may be - not only to the people of the Church, but to the people on the margins, the people on the periphery."

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 5** 



PHOTO BY DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Father John L. 'Jack" Downs was honored by Bishop Terry R. LaValley for 70 years of priestly service at the Jubilee Mass on May 20 in Lake Placid.

## 70 years

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4** 

a professor at Wadhams Hall and Mater Dei College. Between the two colleges, he taught three languages: Greek, Latin and French.

A native of Moohe developed life-threatening pneumonia as a child, and he was healed through the intercession of St. Joseph and St. André Bessette.

He studied for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall and St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester before he was ordained by Bishop Kellenburg.

Known to many as "Father Gibby," his first assignments were assistant pastor in Lake Placid, then Potsdam, then Mooers

Forks.

Father Menard was assigned to the faculty of St. Mary's Academy in Champlain in 1959 and then professor at Wadhams Hall in 1965.

While remaining on the faculty of Wadhams Hall, teaching Latin and French, he was named pastor in Hammond and Rossie in 1971.

In 1978, he moved to Clinton County to serve as pastor in Morrisonville until 1983 when he was named pastor in Ellenburg and Churubusco until his retirement in 1999.

He continued serving God and the people of the North Country after his retirement, assisting with faith formation classes and celebrating Masses.

## Father L. William Gordon: A priest for 60 years

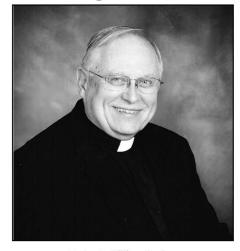
Father L. William Gordon spent many years of his priesthood as an educator in Catholic schools beginning with his first assignment as teacher at Immaculate Heart Central School (IHC) in Watertown. He later served as a vice-principal at Holy Family School in Massena and principal of IHC from 1970 to 1977.

A native of Plattsburgh, Father Gordon, 85, studied for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall Seminary and St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore before he was ordained at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg by Bishop Thomas A. Donnellan on May 22, 1965.

Father Gordon has served as assistant pastor in Lowville, St. Patrick's in Watertown, Brownville and Sacred Heart in Massena.

In 1977, he was named pastor in AuSable Forks until 1983, when he became pastor in Morrisonville.

Father Gordon returned to St. Patrick's in Watertown in 1988 as pastor and later served as parochial vicar in around the region.



Father L. William Gordon

Peru, and pastor in Port Henry, Westport, Champlain and Chazy.

He retired in 2010 and now makes his home at St. Alexander's in Morrisonville, and he has aided parishes

## eacon Boncoeur

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4** 

The new deacon said he's also looking forward to serving God and his people at baptisms, weddings and funerals if and when the opportunity is presented to him.

"I'm very excited for that," he said. "I do not know if I will have a chance to administer baptism, weddings but I'm really open to it. In some parishes, the pastor prefers to administer those sacraments or there are other deacons. But I'm open to it. My ministry is for the Church."

Deacon Boncoeur said he found the idea of delivering homilies daunting at first, but he said he feels his seminary experience has and is preparing him well for the task.

"It takes time," he said. "It requires a lot of time to put yourself into the readings and Gospels and let yourself be guid-

ed by the holy Spirit. Sometimes, there's an idea in your head, but putting it into writing is more difficult. Mount St. Mary's helps us to overcome fears we might have and helps us better prepare homilies and deliver homilies. It's still not easy. There are different types of people in the congregation. Some in the assembly might be lawyers, some might be religious sisters, some might be children - all kinds of people. We need to give homilies that are for all of them."

After ordination, Deacon Boncoeur will serve for the summer in Ticonderoga before returning to Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Maryland in the late summer.

"I'll also have a chance to continue serving as a deacon at the seminary,' he said. "We are assigned to a parish and serve at Mass and preach and lead Holy Hours."

While he noted there's some sadness because his parents, who reside in Haiti, were unable to attend the ordination, Deacon Boncoeur said he's glad they'll be able to participate remotely via livestream.

"They will see it, and they will pray for me," he said.

Deacon Boncoeur said he's grateful to God for giving him the grace needed to reach this point in his journey to the priesthood.

"To be ordained to the diaconate is a blessing and a grace," he said. "It's all received from God, and God can use us to serve his people through this ministry. I'm grateful to Bishop (LaValley) and to the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg for their prayers and sup-

## 50 years for Father Marullo

Father Lawrence E. Marullo, 76, was ordained by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana on May 13, 1975.

Born in Auburn, he studied for the priest-hood at Becket Hall, the college seminary for the Diocese Rochester. He completed studies at St. Bernard's in Rochester.

He has served as assistant pastor at St. Mary's in Massena, St. Augustine's in Peru, St. Joseph's in Malone, Notre Dame in Ogdensburg, St. Patrick's in Watertown, and St. Peter's in Lowville. He was an administrator in Chazy and pastor in Star Lake, where he also served as chaplain at the Wanakena campus.

He was pastor in AuSable Forks and then was pastor at St. Bar-



Father Lawrence E. Marullo

tholomew's in Old Forge prior to his assignment to St. Mary's Church in Constableville in 2002. He was given additional responsibilities over St. Mary's Nativity Church in West Leyden in 2004, and St. Martin's Church in Port Leyden and St. John's Church in Lyons Falls in 2011.

He retired in July 2023 and continues to reside in Constableville.

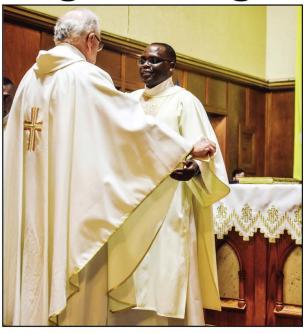
## Deacon Ombongi: 'From Kisii to Ogdensburg'

**By Darcy Fargo** Editor

"The thing I look forward to most is to serve," said Deacon Dennis Ombongi as he prepared for his May 24 ordination to the diaconate. "That's the most exciting part of my ministry – working with people in their lives, in their joys, in their struggles and be a sign of Christ and his presence in day-to-day life. I am excited to be with the people."

He said he was looking forward to moving forward "preaching the Gospel, baptizing, assisting at the altar and giving an ear to someone in need."

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 9** 



Deacon Dennis Ombongi is vested by Msgr. John R. Murphy during the ordination celebrated May 24 at his home parish, St. Peter's Parish in Massena.

congratulations

40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood

Fr. Raymond (Ray) Moreau

1985 - May 4 - 2025

You are a priest forever in the line of Melchizedek.

May God's light continue to guide you as you shepherd His flock with faith and grace.

Congratulations and many blessings as you celebrate your many dedicated years.

from friends and members of St. Patrick's Church, Brasher Falls, St. Andrew's Church, Norwood, and the

Parish of the Visitation & St. Raymond, Norfolk, Raymondville.

70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood

Fr. John (Jack )Downs

1955 - May 21 - 2025

## Three priests mark 40 years

Father Guy F. "Bill Ed-Brzana May 4, 1985, at wards, Father Michael I. Miller, a Missionary of the Sacred Heart, and Father RaymondJ. Moreau were honored for reaching 40 years of priesthood at the Jubilee Mass.

#### FATHER GUY F. "BILL" **EDWARDS**

A native of Peru, New York, Father Edwards, 71, studied for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall Seminary, the North American College at Rome and Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, New York. He was ordained a priest by Bishop Stanislaus J.

his home parish of St. Augustine's in Peru.

Father Edwards first assignment was as parochial vicar of Notre Dame in Malone. In 1988, he joined the Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate beginning language studies at Cochabamba, Bolivia. He was a missionary in Mollendo, Peru, from 1988 to 1993, serving as pastor of St. Martin de Porres Church for part of the time.

Upon his return to the diocese, Father Edwards served **CONTINUED ON PAGE 20** 



Bishop Terry R. LaValley congratulates jubilarians celebrating 40 years of priesthood, from left, Father Guy F. 'Bill' Edwards, Father Raymond J. Moreau and Father Michael I. Miller, MSC, provincial of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart USA Province.



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THIS IS A JOINT COLLECTION WITH THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 7 & 8, 2025

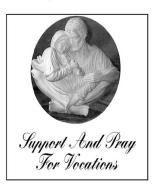
## 'The Lord makes provisions for every age'

**By Darcy Fargo** Editor

"This has been seven years I the making," said Deacon Tyler Fitzgerald, as he approached his ordination to the diaconate on May 24. "I just finished my seventh full year (of formation). Holy cow! I've spent almost a decade of my life doing this. As of next year, a third of my life will have been in seminary."

Deacon Fitzgerald said the time leading up to the ordination included mixed emotions.

"I'm very nervous," he said. "I'm realizing more and more the weight of what's happening, the fact that in a couple days, my relationship with the Church, the bishop, my family - when acting in an official capacity within my family - and my fellow parishioners will change. I'll be acting and blessing and preaching in the name of the Church. I'm also excited. My life will radically change after that Mass. I've always wanted this. There's nothing I want to do more with my life than be a priest and be of service to the Church, especially the Church of the North Country."



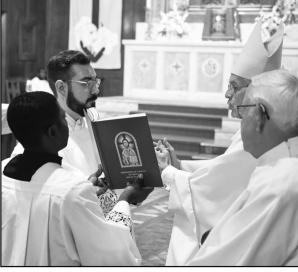


PHOTO BY DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Deacon Tyler Fitzgerald makes the Promise of Obedience to Bishop Terry R. LaValley and his successors during his ordination on May 24 at Sacred Heart Church in Massena.

Deacon Fitzgerald said he's spent a lot of time "daydreaming about this day," but the reality has proved to be better than his dreams.

"When we daydream - we think of things as perfect, happy and fluffy and pristine," he said. "In reality, I don't have everything figured out. There are bumps and mountains to get over, but the Lord chose me in this point in my history and the Church's history. He raised up a farm boy from Madrid to do just this. Instead of that perfect daydream, it's finally happening, and it's real. It's humbling that the Lord chose me with all my struggles and imperfections and past hurts, to be a source of His healing here in the North Country."

He noted that he keeps returning to a portion of the ordination prayer that notes "the Lord makes pro-

Fitzgerald visions for every age in bent a lot the Church."

"The Lord new I'd be raised up to be a deacon at this point," he said.

Deacon Fitzgerald said the part of his new ministry that he looks most forward to is also the part that scared him the most initially: preaching.

"Years and years before seminary, I was scared to death of preaching," he said. "I always thought it was a scary thing - a big, scary animal. I've heard so many wonderful preachers. (Bishop) Fulton Sheen has been a huge influence. I love Bishop Barron. There are wonderful preachers here in this diocese. I thought I could never be like them. But after some wonderful summer experiences and courses, and homiletics, I think I've come to bring a unique flavor and zeal to preaching, and I've come to love it "

The new deacon said he looks forward to drawing on his education and experiences to "help bring people to a point of understanding theology and issues of faith."

He also noted that he's grateful for the support he's received as he's followed God's call to ordination.

"My family is honored, proud and grateful," Deacon Fitzgerald said. "My mom and dad, sister and grandparents are experiencing and living through tis just as I am; it's new for me, and it's new for them. I'm grateful for the support of my family. I have classmates being ordained same weekend who have families that aren't supportive. It makes me that much more grateful for my supportive and understanding family."

Deacon Fitzgerald also received support from unexpected sources.

"I was the only practicing Catholic in my school growing up, at least the only one who took it seriously," he said. "A couple of my classmates from high school, people I didn't keep in close contact with, are going to the ordination and party after. These are people I never thought would be supportive. They don't understand it to some extent, and they may not even believe in God, but they're coming to support, and they understand this is special."

He said he also re- Lord makes p ceived great support for every age.'

from the priests of the diocese.

"For our diocese, I'll be the first clergyman born in the 21st Century," he said. "I'll be vested by Father (John L.) Jack Downs. He's celebrating 70 years as a priest - seven decades of selfless, giving and loving ministry. He's a wonderful role model. I want to be like that. I pray the Lord gives me a fraction of those decades of beautiful. humble service."

Deacon Fitzgerald said he also received support from the priests who have served as his pastor and who have hosted him for summer assignments.

The new deacon will begin his ministry in Champlain and Rouses Point.

"I plan to ease into ministry," he said. "I pray that the Lord will bless me with many decades of ministry, but I'm not called to fix the Church, just cooperate, do the best I can and preach, and remind others that thev're loved. The reality of our diocese is we're getting to where we have fewer and fewer priests, parishes are closing. There are many challenges, and it's easy to get discouraged. If you look at the roots of our diocese, it was Bishop Wadhams traveling around by horseback from parish to parish. We're no longer on horseback, but the traveling from place to place is again part of our history. The Church started with only 12 apostles. Look what happened. The Lord makes provisions

## Fathers Crosby, Giroux, Marzan mark 25 years

Three priests, Father Theodore A. Crosby, Father Joseph w. Giroux, and Father Michael H. Marzan were honored at the Jubilee Mass for 25 years of priesthood.

#### FATHER THEODORE A. **CROSBY**

A native of Phelps, New York, Father Crosby, 55, first earned a bachelor's degree at St. John Fisher in Rochester before he began studies for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall Seminary in Ogdensburg. He then studied at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, Diocese of Buffalo.

He was ordained to the priesthood Aug. 12, 2000, by Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito.

Early in his priesthood, Father Crosby served as parochial vicar at Holy Family in Watertown, at St. Peter's Church



PHOTO BY DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Joining Bishop Terry R. LaValley as they celebrated 25 years of priesthood were, from left, Father Michael H. Marzan, Father Theodore A. Crosby, Father Joseph W. Giroux.

in Lowville, St. Mary's Church now St. André Bessette Parish, in Glenfield and St. Hedwig's Church in Houseville, and for

before named administrator of St. Bernard's Church Lyon the Malone Catholic Parishes, Mountain in January 2007 and

pastor in June of that year. His assignment grew to include St. Edmund's Church in Ellenburg in 2009.

Father Crosby was named pastor of St. Joseph's Church in West Chazy and Sacred Heart Church in Chazy in

#### FATHER JOSEPH W. GIROUX

A native of Plattsburgh, Father Giroux, 50, studied for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall and the Pontifical North American College in Rome Italy before his ordination on Aug. 12, 2000, by Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito.

After his ordination, Father Giroux continued studies in Rome, earning a Licentiate in Sacramental Theology from the Pontifical Athenaeum of St. Anselm.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 19** 

## 'From Kisii to Ogdensburg' Deacon Ombongi said been my family. When I

"People have so many challenges," Deacon Ombongi said. "Entering into people's suffering and times of grief and crisis needs great compassion and trust in God. People go through a lot. We, as ministers of God, are supposed to enter into their lives and feel and stand with them. We have to have compassion and trust in God - God will always be with me and be with the people. This vocation is not my own; God called me to serve God's people.'

Deacon Ombongi said he thought it was noteworthy that he, Deacon Michelet Boncoeur and Deacon Tyler Fitzger-ald were being ordained in this Jubilee Year of

"Ît gives me courage to know we always have hope, despite challenges." he said. "We know that God is always there, and that gives hope."

he also looks forward to spending his summer in Cape Vincent, an area of the diocese that is new to him.

"As part of the pastoral assignment, the challenge is to live and work closely with the parish community. preaching, assisting at Mass, visiting the sick, and to allow the pastor to direct me and to learn from him, and to help him when necessary.'

While he noted his biological family was unable to travel from Africa to attend the ordination, Deacon Ombongi said he was still surrounded by family.

"When God calls, there is grace we receive," he said. "For the past five vears. I have not seen my family. From the time I came and joined the diocese, they send me to St Peter's Parish in Massena. The people in the parish have

come back (from seminary studies or pastoral assignments), I see a warm welcome, and it feels like home. They feel like family, not parishioners. And they've been working so hard to prepare for the ordination because their son is being ordained. I'm not alone. I'm with family. That's something that has been encouraging me a lot.'

Deacon Ombongi expressed gratitude for the support.

"I thank this diocese for the opportunity to come and serve the Lord in the North Country,' he said. "Something about it reminds me of home. I come from Kisii (in Kenya), and Kisii is my first language. I lived in the countryside - away from town. Driving from Columbus, Ohio, coming from school, the trip is a lot of countryside. It feels like home. I thank the bishop, Father Chris (Carrara, vicar of Clergy and Seminarians), of course the people of Massena, Father Mark (Reilly), who has been my spiritual father and has been directing me, all of you working for the diocese - everyone I work with - all the joy I see. The Knights of Columbus support (seminarians and clergy) a lot. The (Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society) DOVS do a lot of work for us.'

He noted, though, that he's able to regularly chat with his family using digital communications.

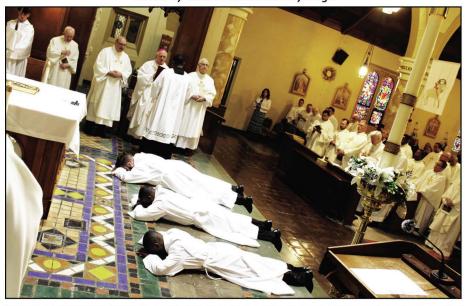
'We're able to Facetime," he said. "That's the best part of the internet. My family is so grateful. My mom and dad are both living. I lost my brother five vears ago - the first week I entered this diocese. My family is doing good and looking forward to the day I will be ordained. They pray for me - so excited and supportive."

The newly ordained said deacon amazed with the journey God has led him on so far.

"I encourage anyone who might be discerning their own call, remember, here I am - not to add, not to subtract. God will direct you. Whether in marriage, religious life, service in the Church, wherever God leads, trust in God. God is always doing the work in surprising ways. He brought me from Kisii to Ögdensburg. I think about Matthew 28:19-20, when Jesus sends his disciples all over the world, and they proclaim the word of God. Those who hear and listen, they baptize in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It's encouraging us and encouraging children to religious life and priesthood.

## **ORDAINED** AS DEACONS

Photos by Keith Benman & Darcy Fargo















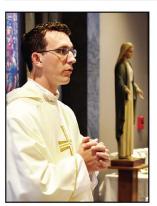


# CELEBRATING JUBILEES

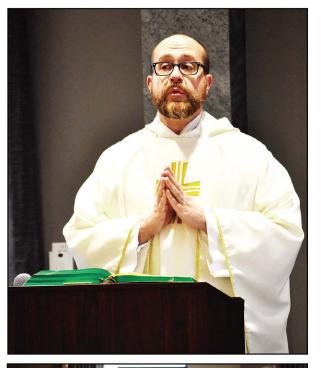
Photos by Darcy Fargo















#### **Environmental Stewardship**

#### Seeds of hope

"Even if I know the world would end tomorrow," Martin Luther wrote, "I would plant an apple tree today."

Last week, we learned that in response to the urgent call to care for our common home, as expressed in the social encyclical, Laudato Si: On Care for our Common Home, students from the parishes of St. Cecilia's, Adams, St. Peter's, St. Mary's, St. Hedwig's, Lowville, along with Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown, planted many trees this spring.

This week, we share other projects completed by students whose seeds plant a genuine promise for the future and who received the Pope Francis Green Apple Recognition. Students from St. Stephen's, Croghan, planted flowers and prepared a garden to attract butterflies, bees and other pollinators. A statue of Blessed Mother Mary in the middle of the garden. DRE: Deb Hoppel

The students of St. Catherine of Siena, Canton, are replanting and caring for a butterfly garden. They are also learning about ways to reuse single-use plastics. **Principal: Daniel Sweeney** 

Kindergarteners from Seton Catholic School, Plattsburgh, called Earth Day Warriors, were very active:

- 1. We held our "Trash Walk" around campus to collect trash and debris to recycle.
- 2. We read Earth Day books to learn ways to help protect earth.
- 3. We had an Earth Day challenge checklist to see how many of the tasks the students could complete with their families.
- 4. We made Earth Day t- shirts with recycled fabric and a snack to look like Earth.
- 5. We played a game during to practice and sort items for recycling. Teacher: Natalie Wylie

May our youth inspire us to do something in gratitude for all God has given to us that will ensure a future full of hope!

#### Bishop's Public Schedule

June 4 - 2 p.m. - Mass Celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope at the Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital in Plattsburgh

6 p.m. – Confirmation at The Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph in Morrisonville along with St. James Church in Cadyville and St. Augustine's Church in Peru **June 5** – 9:30 a.m. – Mass Celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope at Alice Center in Malone 1 p.m. - Catholic Charities

Corporation Meeting at St. Angela's Cafe in Malone June 6 - 6:30 p.m. - Deacon Candidates Class on Canon Law at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

June 7 - 4 p.m. - Confirmation at St. Joseph's Church in Dannemora along with the Church of the Assumption in Redford

June 8 - 3 p.m. - Confirmation at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg along with Saints Philip and James Church in Lisbon, Our Lady of Grace Parish in Morristown, Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond in Norfolk, St. Bartholomew's Church in Old Forge and St. Anthony of Padua Parish of Inlet and Raquette Lake in Inlet June 9 - 6:30 p.m. - Confirmation at St. Mary's Church in Potsdam along with St. Patrick's Church in Colton and St. Mary's Church in Canton **June 10 –** 9:30 a.m. – Mass at the Adirondack Correctional Facility in Ray Brook June 11 - 9:45 a.m. - Episco-

pal 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 (Formerly the Knights of Columbus) in Ogdensburg

#### **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 5 – 9 a.m. – St. André Bessette Parish, Malone 9:15 a.m. – Holy Cross Parish, Plattsburgh June 25 - 5 p.m. - St. Peter's Parish, Massena

#### To Report Abuse

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

Service at 800-276-1562 or www.ReportBishopAbuse.org

#### **Rest in Peace**

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

June 4 - V. Rev. Ferdinand Richard, O.M.I., 1971

June 5 - Rev. Charles Donaher, 0.S.A., 1984

June 6 - Msgr. Euclid Elie, 1962; Rev. John E. Silver, 2014

June 8 - Rev. Anthime Constantineau, 1942; Rev. James J. McGowan, 1961; Deacon Ronald Corvea, 1995

June 9 - Rev. James Bolton, 0.S.A., 1925; Rev. John W. Ryan,

June 10 - Rev. Augustus Gaudet, O.M.I., 1895; Rev. Alfred J. Boulerice, 1952; Rev. Rupert P. Hajna, O.F.M.Conv., 1979





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## Father Joe Giroux

Congratulations and thank you for your 25 years of dedicated service to the people of God.

> From your parish families at St. Patrick's, Colton & St. Mary's, Potsdam

## Pope signals focus on artificial intelligence

By Tyler Arnold Catholic News Agency

When the newly elected pontiff stepped onto the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica to address the Catholic faithful on May 8, his first decision as pope — to take the papal name Leo — signaled the direction he intends to take his papacy in handling certain social questions that need moral guidance, including artificial intelligence (AI).

In his first meeting with the College of Cardinals on May 10, the pope confirmed he took the name to honor Pope Leo XIII, who he said "addressed the social question in the context of the first great industrial revolution" with the encyclical Rerum Novarum at the tail end of the 1800s.

The encyclical, which set the foundations for Catholic social teaching, can help guide the Church as it seeks to offer moral insight on "developments in the field of artificial intelligence," the new pontiff explained, adding that the rise of AI poses "new challenges for the defense of human dignity, justice, and labor."

In the influential encyclical, Leo XIII eschewed both socialism and unrestrained business power, opting for cooperation between competing interests that is centered on the dignity of the human person. Pope Leo XIV's comments suggest these same principles will shape the Holy Father's approach to similar questions surrounding AI.

Leo XIII published Rerum Novarum on May 15, 1891, at a time when laborers were struggling with poor working conditions amid the industrial revolution and when Marxists were seizing on the discontent to promote radical changes to the social order.

Essentially, Leo XIII was "primarily concerned with laying out ... a philosophical or theological anthropology" that focused on "the human person and the dignity of work," according to Joseph Grabowski, the vice president of evangelization and mission at the Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton. wrote that there is a need "in drawing the rich and the working class together," which could be accomplished by "reminding each of its duties to the other" and "of the obligations of justice."

These obligations to justice include a business owner's duty to "respect in every man his dignity as a person ennobled by Christian character" and to never "misuse men as though they were things in the pursuit of gain or to value them solely for their physical powers," Leo XIII taught.

Grabowski told CNA that one of the problems of industrialization was that people were "kind of viewed mechanistically" when working in factories and that the pontiff was reminding factory owners that humans should not be treated as though they are simply "part of a machine."

Leo XIII also defended the right to private property, which he wrote must "belong to a man in his capacity of head of family" and rebuked Marxist and socialist ideologies, which he thought would disrupt the social order by pitting humans against each other and turning private property into "the common property of all, to be administered by the state or by municipal bodies.'

"It is a most sacred law of nature that a father should provide food and all necessaries for those whom he has begotten," Leo XIII wrote. "And similarly, it is natural that he should wish that his children, who carry on, so to speak, and continue his personality, should be by him provided with all that is needful to enable them to keep themselves decently from want and misery amid the uncertainties of this mortal life.'

Grabowski said if one were to summarize the encyclical in one line, it would be: "The economy is meant to serve man and not vice versa.

"Economics and productive work and things like that are all really about man's nature and serving the highest end of

In the encyclical, Leo XIII man," he said, which is to "get to heaven" and live in a "harmonious community."

> Pope Leo XIV's predecessor Pope Francis already incorporated some elements of Catholic social teaching into the Church's approach to questions surrounding AI.

> In December 2023, Francis urged global leaders to regulate AI toward "the pursuit of peace and the common good" and emphasized that innovations must avoid a "technological dictatorship" and instead be used to serve "the cause of human fraternity and peace."

> The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith in January released a 30-page "note" that explained that AI lacks "the richness of corporeality, relationality, and the openness of the human heart" and that innovation should spur "a renewed appreciation of all that is human.

> Grabowski told CNA that, as AI continues to advance and the Church formalizes its teachings on the new technology, Leo XIV will be contending with some of the same issues that Leo XIII wrestled with at the turn of the 20th century.

> "It's still a question of: How do we use machinery within economic production in a way to serve man [that] does not subvert man to servitude of the machine?" he said.

> AI is already being incorporated into many workplaces, such as the fields of marketing, banking, health care, and coding. The adoption of AI can sometimes improve accuracy and efficiency but is yielding concerns that the technology could replace humans in certain activities.

> A May 25 New York Times article noted that some software developers at Amazon are complaining that their work is becoming routine and thoughtless as much of the coding has been automated with AI, while other workers are cheering the increased productivity.

> Alternatively, in health care, an October 2024 Forbes article noted that AI is helping doctors find anomalies in patients

and link symptoms together to boost the speed and accuracy of medical diagnoses.

Speaking to the AI assistance in the field of medicine, Grabowski said: "There can be benefits there" with the technology helping doctors "look through symptoms and maybe come up with things a human doctor isn't going to catch onto."

"We would have no objection to that, but like with everything, a balance is called for." he said.

In line with some complaints reported at Amazon, Grabowski said "increasingly mechanized work" poses a concern, and with AI, there's a lot of outsourcing of "the creative process" and "the idea gener-ation process" with the ability of AI to produce art and novels, which he called "somewhat alarming.'

"There is a notion of a right to a meaningful employment for a person [in Leo XIII's writings]," he added. "To be ful-filled."

Another principle of Rerum Novarum that can help guide teaching on AI is the concern about a "respect over property, over productive property, Grabowski noted, highlighting that one issue with AI is "respect for intellectual property rights."

"There's great concern over the fact that [AI] isn't really producing anything itself, so therefore it's recycling the words and images created by other real people and usually doing so without credit," he said.

Grabowski said the pontiff's choice to pick the name Leo is "exciting," given that the world is in a "very critical point in economic history." He expressed hope that people will be amenable to the expected moral guidance from the Holy See and referenced a line from G.K. Chesterton's book "What's Wrong With The World."

"The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting,' Chesterton wrote, "It has been found difficult and left untried.'

# at a glan

#### Vatican refreshes website for first time in nearly 30 years

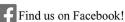
The official website of the Vatican for the first time has been refreshed since it was created in the 1990s, prominently featuring multimedia content and online links to other Vatican offices and ministries. A banner image of a waving Pope Leo XIV against a simple light blue background can now be found spread across the top half of the revamped Holy See website's homepage published earlier this week. Replacing the outdated dropdown mega menus found in the older version of the Holy See's homepage is a large, clickable "Magisterium" button — which also features a small icon of the pontiff's new coat of arms — to help online visitors find the pope's prepared homilies and speeches and additional information about the Vatican. Acquiring tickets for papal audiences and liturgical celebrations has also been made easier through the updated website. Earlier this year, the Prefecture of the Papal Household — which is one of four Vatican offices featured on vatican.va — launched its new website with digital registration forms for individuals and pilgrim groups wanting to see the pope.

#### Pope Leo XIV to give 'conclave bonus' to Vatican workers

Pope Leo XIV has reinstated the "conclave bonus" given to Vatican employees for their service during the sede vacante period. Approximately 5,000 staff working for the Roman Curia and state institutions — such as the Vatican Museums, the Vatican Pharmacy, the Vatican Library, and Vatican Media — will receive an extra 500 euros (about \$566) in their June paychecks. The custom of distributing conclave bonuses by newly-elected popes is seen as a gesture of gratitude toward Vatican employees who had worked, often overtime, in the weeks following the death of a pope until the election of a new one. Though Pope Leo did not speak about the monetary gift in his audience with several Holy See and state workers earlier this month, he expressed his high regard for the men and women who form the different "working communities" of the Vatican. "To work in the Roman Curia means to contribute to keeping the memory of the Apostolic See alive," he said at the May 24 meeting. "And, by analogy, this can also be said of the services of Vatican City State.""Each one of you gives your contribution, carrying out your daily work with commitment and also with faith, because faith and prayer are like salt for food; they impart flavor," he added.

#### Visit our website www.northcountrycatholic.org

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





#### Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society Raffle Drawing Date: July 9, 2025

1st Prize - \$500 2nd Prize - Quilt 3rd Prize - Birdhouse 4th Prize - \$100 in Gift Cards \$50 Gift Card to Stewarts \$25 Visa Gift Card \$25 Gift Card to Walmart

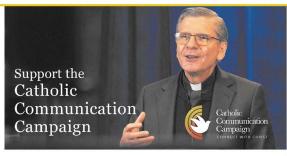
Tick	ets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20
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	Ogdensburg Vocations Society
Cut and return	n this ticket with payment and mail to:
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At this time in history, which risks becoming rich in technology and poor in humanity, our reflections must begin with the human heart. -Pope Francis, Message for World Communications Day 2024

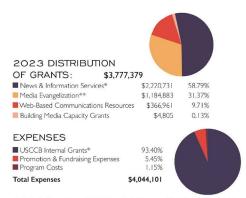
The Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) presents a unique opportunity to help your neighbors and people across the country connect with Christ. When you contribute to this collection, half of your donation supports the national communications programs of the bishops of the United States, while the other half stays at home in your diocese to support local communica-

For example, in the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, the diocesan share of the CCC collection supports a bimonthly diocesan magazine as well as two biweekly podcasts focusing on the power of faith and on the work of the Holy Spirit in the diocese. In the Diocese of Raleigh, funds helped staff to transform the diocesan website and social media channels to provide integrated parish and diocesan news.

CCC helps local dioceses to expand and modernize communications efforts to adapt to technological and demographic changes like the Diocese of Tucson, which used CCC funds to upgrade its audio and video production capabilities. These upgrades allow the diocese to produce and update its regular offerings of high-quality podcasts and You-Tube videos. Visitors to the diocesan website can now access a growing library of podcast and video content in both English and Spanish, including spiritual reflections, insightful interviews, and messages from the bishop.



When you participate by supporting CCC, you make a positive impact across the country and at home. What could your support help your diocese communicate to your community?



- \* Includes funding to support Catholic News Service's coverage of Pope Francis and his global ministry to share the mercy of God.
- \*\* Includes funding for resource production and distribution of print and electronic media from the USCCB.

#### WHAT IMPACT DO YOUR DONATIONS MAKE?

To learn more about the CCC collection and the projects like those desribed above. The other half supports the communications activities of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and some projects across the United States and abroad. The following table shows what the national share supported in 2023.



CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN OFFICE OF NATIONAL COLLECTIONS 3211 FOURTH STREET NE . WASHINGTON, DC 20017-1194 202-541-3400 • FAX 202-541-3460 • WWW.USC

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THIS IS A JOINT COLLECTION WITH THE COLLECTION FOR THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 7 & 8, 2025

#### **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

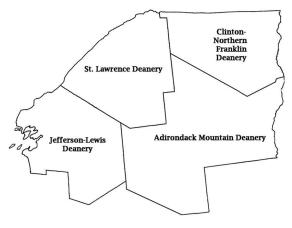
Features: In the book "The Hidden Power of Silence" in the Mass, Father Boniface Hicks, O.S.B., reveals how you can actively listen and open yourself to receive God's personal love for you in the MassFather Bill Neubecker, OMV, will lead discussion and answer questions. We will discuss the introduction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



The North County 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.

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

#### ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

### 5K RUN, WALK ROLL OR STROLL

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

Date: June 7

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

Place: Dewey Mountain Recreation Center

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

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

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

#### CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

#### **SPRING STUDY SERIES**

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

**Date:** May 30 to June 27 **Time:** 6:30 p.m. to 8

**Features:** Video presentations of the material and discussion encourage participants to enter a

fuller understanding of God's love and forgiveness. Light refreshments included. While donations are always appreciated, all materials for this series are free.

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

#### **BAZAAR AND YARD SALE**

Fort Covington — St. Mary's to have their 5th annual Bazaar and Yard Sale.

**Date:** June 6 and 7 **Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center **Features:** In conjunction with Fort Covington's Town-Wide Garage Sale Weekend. Furniture, Household items, lawn/garden tools, sportsitems, concession, vendors, thrift sore sales & More!

#### **FIRST FRIDAY**

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

**Date:** June 6 **Schedule:** 9 a.m. Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. 11 a.m. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

#### CONCERT

Peru — Mission of Hope Fundraising Concert featuring Towne Meeting.

Date: June 8
Time: 7 p.m. to 9
Place: St. Augustine's Church
Features: Admission by Donation. Towne Meeting is known

nation. Towne Meeting is known for their harmonies and engaging performances. Oriented in folk, their music branches into many other genres, from Americana to acoustic rock. All proceeds benefit North Country Mission of Hope.

#### **CHARISMATIC MASS**

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

Date: June 8

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

Place: Notre Dame Church

#### **SOAKING PRAYER SESSIONS**

Ellenburg Center – Soaking

Prayers Sessions to be held every third Thursday of the month.

Date: June 19, July 17, Aug. 21 Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Place: Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer

Features: Sessions are offered by Eve McGill, Living Waters Ministry. Soaking Prayer is surrendering yourself to the Holy Spirit in a relaxed atmosphere and being immersed in receiving an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. A short introduction is given n followed by praise and worship music. The remainder of the time is spent listening to the direction of the Holy Spiri, reading Scripture and being open to receive healing physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual – and praying the rosary. Bring your own bagged lunch.

**Contact:** 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

**Menu:** Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes, French Toast, Ham, Sausage, Baked Goods, Juice, and Coffee

**Contact:** For more information call 315-493-3224

#### **HEALING MASS**

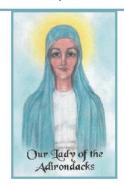
Clayton — Come to St. Mary's Church in Clayton for our Annual Healing Mass, St. Mary's is designated as a Pilgrimage Site for the Jubilee Year of Hope.

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

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 16** 



#### Congratulations, Fr. Bill Edwards!

Thank you for your great love to us all in your dedicated service to our Lord and His Mother.

**CAMP GUGGENHEIM** 

Saranac Lake - Camp Guggen-

heim registration is now open.

Dates: Session 1 - (11-14 yrs

old) - July 6 to July 11; Session 2 -

Session 3 - (12-15 yrs old) - July

20 to July 25; Session 4 - (12-15

5 - (16-18 yrs old) - Aug. 3 to

Cost: \$425, scholarships are

Features: Don't miss this

opportunity to grow in your faith

while enjoying a full camp experi-

ence in beautiful Saranac Lake!

**Contact:** To register go to:

www.rcdony.org/youth/camp

To inquire about financial aid

jgrizzuto@rcdony.org

please email Jeannie Grizzuto at

yrs old) - July 27 to Aug. 1; Session

(12-15 yrs old) - July 13 to July 18;

## round the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15 contact the parish office at 315-686-3398.

#### 107th MOUNT CARMEL FEST

Watertown - St. Anthony's Church to have 107th Mount Carmel Fest.

Schedule: June 27,5 p.m. to 10, BINGO at 7 p.m.; June 28, Grounds open 1 p.m. to 10; June 29 grounds open 1 p.m. to 10;

Live Entertainment, 6 p.m. to 9, Religious procession at 5 p.m. and fireworks at 9:30 p.m.

Features: Italian food, rides, games and raffles. Free admission and parking. Cash only event.

#### ST. LAWRENCE

#### ST. JAMES SUMMER RAFFLE

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

Date: Drawing is Sept. 7 **Cost:** Tickets are \$100 each, only 350 will be sold.

Features: GRAND Prize: \$10,000; 2nd Prize: \$5000 3rd Prize: \$2500; 4th Prize: \$1500 5th Prize: \$500

Plus 5 Early Bird drawings for \$100 each, will be drawn June 29th! All tickets will remain "in the drum" and be eligible for EVERY prize drawing!! Winner

☐ Please send my

subscription to my

e-mail address:

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 its only fundraiser, a raffle.

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

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

nierandall47@yahoo.com

#### **PILGRIMAGE TO ST. ANNE'S** SHRINE

Isle LaMotte, VT - Knights of Columbus Councils from throughout the diocese will participate in the 77th 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

#### **DOMESTIC MISSION OPPORTUNITY**

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

**Date:** Aug. 9 - 15

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

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

Vocation Society (DOVS) is having

Cost: Tickets are \$5 each or 5

Contact: Connie Randall at 315-783-0574 or email con-

#### **FAMILY GUGGENHEIM**

Aug. 8

available

Saranac Lake — Registration for Family Guggenheim is now open.

Date: Session 1: Aug. 14-17; Session 2: Aug. 21-24; Session 3: Oct. 10-12

**Features:** 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.

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, 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.



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Congratulations **₹Fr. Lawrence Marullo** 

on the occasion of your Anniversary of Ordination.



Thank you for your many years of dedicated service in our parishes.

We wish you well in your retirement.

The Parishes of St. John's in Lyons Falls, St. Martin's in Port Leyden, St. Mary's in Copenhagen and St. Mary's Nativity in West Leyden.

#### **CALLED TO SERVE**

## **April showers bring May flowers?**

The sky was clear, the temperature was exactly right, in the low 70s, and I was puttering in the yard. Mowing, clearing fallen limbs, weeding. God is good.

I thought about the news stories lately that reminded us we have not had a weekend without rain or snow since last December.

Those reports have made for interesting conversations. Everybody lately is talking about the weather. The comments ran from "Will it ever stop raining," and I'm sick of all this rain," to "I wonder if I'll ever get to mow the lawn!"

There is a preoccupation, at least in my area, with the almost daily rainfall.

It has become so routine that I wondered, as I weed wacked dandelion stems, if I would be able to get out to finish the job tomorrow. Rain was forecast.

Then I remembered the Psalm from Morning Prayer. It was a psalm of thanksgiving, 65, which put everything in perspective for me.

Even the antiphon for the psalm was timely. "You have visited the earth and brought life giving rain to fill it with plenty, Alleluia."

Psalm 65 speaks of sovereignty, God's goodness and provision. It highlights God's ability to hear prayers, forgive sins and bless

both the land and its people with a bountiful harvest. The psalm also emphasizes God's mighty acts in nature, such as controlling the seas and mountains, and the global reach of His blessings.

I found these stanzas particularly appropriate:

"You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches. Your river in heaven brims

over to provide its arain.

And thus, you provide for the earth; You drench its furrows, vou level it, soften it with showers, you bless its growth.

It is hard to complain about the weather when we are reminded of God's blessings and what the rain he pro-

vides means to us.

It will be difficult for some farmers to sow their fields if the field is muddy but consider the alternative. What if we had a drought?

There are times when we feel like farmers having the field when our lawn grass gets high, but what if we had just dirt in our yard?

I'll save my complaining for late August when we traditionally worry about how dry things have become. And then we can think about shoveling snow.

"The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks, the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes, they sing."

Welcome to spring and summer in the North Country.

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



Deacon **Kevin Mastellon** 

## 'James the Less' season 2 to be released

**By Francesca Pollio Fenton** Catholic News Agency

The second season of the award-winning online EWTN series "James the Less" will be released on Monday, June 9.

The first season introduced viewers to James Little, a student fresh out of college desperate for a job. James is an atheist. However, a "help wanted" sign on the church bulletin board catches his eye and entices him to interview for the position: handyman.

James accepts the position at St. James the Less Church and starts to encounter Catholicism. Soon, James finds his ideals challenged by the no-nonsense pastor Father Lambert Burns and through his romantic pursuit of parishioner Anne-Marie.

EWTN Director of Stu-

Beaumont told CNA that the idea for the series came from his desire to "create a series of short videos about a character growing in virtue.'

"The idea for the title came from a Mass I attended at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, probably in 2019. I was in Rome on business and decided to attend a daily Mass at St. Peter's. At St. Peter's, there are always pilgrimage groups having Masses at the many side altars, and I ended up participating in a Mass with a group from a parish in England called St. James the Less," he explained. "That name interested me, because vou usually hear 'St. James the Lesser' or 'St. James the Younger.' Also, it reminded me of a saints book I got for my first Communion, which listed the apostle thought it would work well as the title."

Season 2 will consist of five episodes. "There will also be some new characters introduced, and most of all, you will see development of the relationship between James and Anne-Marie," Beaumont shared.

James is played by Catholic artist and missionary Tanner Kalina. He has been a part of ministries such as FO-CUS, Ascension Presents, NET, and others. He also hosts a podcast with several of his friends called "Saints Alive."

While playing James, it has inspired Kalina "to look at the faith with fresh eyes," he told CNA in an interview.

"He's reminded me of how attractive our faith is and how we need to do a better job of own-

dio Operations Stephen as St. James the Less. I ing it," he said. "There's so many people out there in James' shoes who are aching for what we have as Catholics."

> "It's been a great joy and a testament to the goodness and creativity of God. He's so good," Kalina added. "After I left Hollywood a number of years ago for ministry, I didn't know if I'd ever have the chance to act again. When this fell in my lap, it felt like God was saying, 'I see you. I know you. I love you. Eniov!""

> Kalina shared that in Season 2 viewers will also see "what happens after James opens his heart ever so slightly to our Eucharistic Lord.'

> When asked what he hopes people are taking away from the series, Kalina said: "I honestly just hope people are enjoying it. It's just good ol' wholesome fun,

which is hard to find nowadays without an agenda attached."

"Primarily it is a romantic comedy and a fish-out-of-water story, so most of all, we hope that people will find it entertaining," Beaumont added. "There are some teaching moments along the way, but these moments flow naturally from the characters and the situations."

The series will not be broadcast on television. Watch exclusively on EWTN's YouTube channel: https://www. voutube.com/@EWTNcatholictv



#### **SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE**

## Using the gifts of the Holy Spirit

In hearing the story of ciples. Pentecost, especially the part about the "strong, driving wind," thoughts of airplanes and birds that need such a wind to take off come to mind. Imagine the dead weight lifted by the invisible wind, which became a powerful force, similar to the force that changed the lives of the early dis-

Remember what happened. Jesus inserted himself into their lives. He taught them, spoke to them about living now and life after death, gave them his body and blood in the Eucharist, and bestowed the power to forgive sins, restoring people to baptismal integrity. When he ascend-

#### June 8

#### **Pentecost Sunday**

READINGS Acts 2:1-11 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Romans 8:8-17 John 20:19-23

ed, he told them to stay in the city and wait. Howwhat they were waiting for.

Then, this "strong, driving wind" lifted the disciples from their doldrums and shuttled them to a new place. The Holy Spirit empowered them to speak in tongues, an apostolic zeal to preach and an inner power

to become, for God, Msgr. Robert more than mere H. Aucoin human beings.

How did that happen? The Holy Spirit a local college, the camcame to dwell in them and endowed them with spiritual gifts that far outweigh material gifts. Over the years, these gifts have been given names: wisdom, understanding, counsel, prudence, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. No matter the name, the reality is the same.

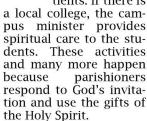
Paul clearly speaks about the gifts of the Holy Spirit, beyond the seven we know. He praises the manifestation of the Holy Spirit among Church members. He emphasizes that any gift is for the Church's benefit, not for personal

Pentecost is often called the Church's birthday, marking its growth. As members, we can be powerhouses of virtue and talent for the Church and our communities. Would that we had the

ever, they had no idea and vigor as the early Church?

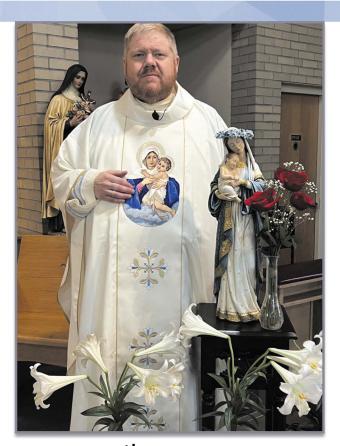
Our parishes enhance their communities, tak-

ing care members' needs and outreach to the needy. We care for mothers. fathers and children through faith formation programs, Catholic schools, visits to the homebound and hospital patients. If there is



Associations such as the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters of America, Gabriel Project, Altar Rosary Societies, prayer groups, to name a few, foster the spiritual lives of their members, and reach out to serve others.

Pentecost celebrates what happened years ago and our continued living the Holy Spirit daily. May we rejoice and celebrate these gifts, using them for ourselves and others, as Paul said: "In one spirit, we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of



# Happy 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Fr. Ted!

With love and prayers from your parish family at St. Joseph's.

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## 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

# Job assistance in India

An initiative launched by the Salesian missionaries in the Diocese of Srikakulam aims not only to shape the conscience of young people but also to impart skills needed to enter the world of work. The diocese is located in one of the poorest districts of the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.

In a social context where youth unemployment is high in India, with approximately 42 out of 100 young people unable to find work in their preferred field, the missionaries' initiative, implemented as part of a festival with cultural events and meetings with local businesses, proved not only to be a form of "employment agency" but also a moment that gave new hope to more than 500 young people from rural areas and their families.

During the three-day event, jointly organized by DISHA, the career counseling and placement service of the Salesian Province of India-Hyderabad, the Don Bosco Job Placement Network, and the Diocese of Srikakulam, the young people also participated in sessions focused on communication, decision-making, emotional intelligence, goal setting, and teamwork, all aimed at helping the young people succeed in job interviews.

Theater performances, songs, and various artistic performances complemented the training sessions and gave the young people the opportunity to showcase their talents. The artistic performances also addressed social issues relevant to the community, such as unemployment and migration. At the end of the festival, over 300 young people received job offers on site from the 15 participating companies from various sectors (including healthcare, retail, manufacturing, and IT services).

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

#### **OBITUARIES**

**Black River** – William Neville Dowe, 44; Mass of Christian Burial May 31, 2025 at St. Paul's Church; burial in Black River Cemetery.

**Brushton** – Mark F. McCabe, 63; Mass of Christian Burial May 31, 2025 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Bombay.

**Canton** – Patricia Margaret (Elliott) Hall, 89; Mass of Christian Burial June 6, 2025 at St. Mary's Church.

**Canton** – John A. "Jack" Lawrence, 97; Mass of Christian Burial May 28, 2025 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemeterv.

**Carthage** – Gary F. Simser, 78; Mass of Christian Burial June 12, 2025 at St. James Church; burial in Hillside Cemetery, Natural Bridge.

**Croghan** – Marjory Ann (Briot) Schindler, 88; Mass of Christian Burial May 30, 2025 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, New Bremen.

**Keeseville** – Sally Ann (Bezio) MacDonald, 69; Funeral Services May 31, 2025 at the Hamilton Funeral Home

**Malone** – Teresa (Dorie) Latulipe, 93; Mass of Christian Burial June 6, 2025 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Bombay.

**Malone** – Leon Arthur "Lee" Vivlamore, 89; Graveside Services May 29, 2025 at St. Mary's Cemetery,

Brushton.

**Norfolk** – Russell L. Eurto, 68; Graveside Services May 30, 2025 at Visitation Cemetery.

**Norfolk** – Jean A. (Babcock) Myers, 87; Mass of Christian Burial May 30, 2025 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

**North Bangor** — Ronald Thomas, 68; Memorial Mass May 30, 2025 at St. Augustine's Church.

**Norwood** – Jean E. (Claffey) Fiacco, 92; Mass of Christian Burial May 30, 2025 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Peru** – Louis Major, 69; Funeral Services June 3, 2025 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Brainards-ville Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** — Barbara Joyce (Provost) Caouette, 90; Memorial Mass July 14, 2025 at St. Peter's Church.

**Saranac Lake** – Phillip A. Tucker, 80; Funeral Services June 2, 2025 at Fortune-Keough Funeral Home; burial in St. Bernard Cemetery.

**Tupper Lake** — Richard L. Beauchamp, 90; Mass of Christian Burial May 30, 2025 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

**Tupper Lake** – Elizabeth "Beth" (Boguss) Smith, 78; Funeral Services June 3, 2025 at Frary Funeral Home.

## Celebrating 25 years

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9** 

Father Giroux has served as parochial vicar at Notre Dame Church, Malone; St. Bernard's, Saranac Lake; St. Peter's, Lowville; Sacred Heart, Massena; and St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. While in Ogdensburg, he also served as parttime chaplain at the Ogdensburg Correctional Facility. He also served as the first director of the diocesan Program for the Ongoing Formation of Newly Ordained Priests.

In 2021, Father Giwas at Sain roux completed his Abbot Parish, studies in Canon Law at St. Paul's University, Ottawa. Also that year, he rochial vicar.

was named pastor of St. Mary's Church in Potsdam and St. Patrick's Church in Colton, a role he still holds.

#### FATHER MICHAEL H. MARZAN

Father Marzan, a priest of the Archdiocese of Caceres in the Philippines, attended Holy Rosary Major Seminary in Naga City, Philippines, where he obtained his bachelor's degree in philosophy and sacred theology.

He was ordained March 13, 2000.

His first assignment was at Saint Bernard Abbot Parish, a community of three churches, in Camarines Sur as parochial vicar. He later started a parish, St. Francis Xavier, in Halawig-Gogon, Goa, Camarines Sur, overseeing the building of the church structure and the parish community.

Prior to arriving in the United States in June of 2022, he was assigned as a parish priest of Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Parish, Santiago, Irga City, a parish in the Archdiocese of Caceres.

After arriving in the United States in 2022, Father Marzan was assigned to Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh.

He currently serves as parochial vicar at St. Mary's Cathedral Parish in Ogdensburg.

## Celebrating 40 years

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

parochial vicar of St. Bernard's Parish in Saranac Lake.

After participating in a sabbatical program for returning missionaries at Notre Dame University, Father Edwards served as pastor of Our Lady of Victory Church, Plattsburgh.

He retired in 2023. FATHER MICHAEL I. MILLER, MSC

Father Miller professed religious vows with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in 1978 and was ordained a priest in 1985.

His first assignment was as parochial vicar in Holy Family parish, Pennsylva-Nazareth,

an assignment as a mis-

sionary in Colombia, South America. While there, he was pastor of two parishes, worked as a formation director for Missionaries of the Sacred Heart theology students, served the community as sectional treasurer and volunteered as a chaplain at Kennedy Hospital in Bogotá. He also supervised the construction and completion of building the "new" (begun in 1986) church at St. Margaret Mary parish in Bogotá.

In 2005, he was assigned to serve as pastor of St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish in Aurora, Illinois, a role he held for 13 years.

He was then appoint-In 1989, he accepted ed secretary general in Rome, where he ministered until he was elected provincial superior of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart USA Province.

He is currently living in Watertown with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart community. FATHER RAYMOND J. **MOREAU** 

A native of Dover, New Hampshire, Father Moreau, 70, studied for the priesthood at St. Thomas Seminary Junior College in Bloomfield, Conn., Wadhams Hall and Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana on May 4, 1985, at St. Augustine's Church in Peru.

Father Moreau has

served as a parochial vicar at St. Patrick's in Watertown, St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg, St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake, St. Mary's in Canton and in Potsdam.

In 1995, he was named pastor of St. Augustine's Church in North Bangor and St. Edward's Church in West Bangor until 2002, when he became pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Chateaugay and St. George's Church in Burke.

In 2003, he became the administrator of St. Patrick's Church in Colton, St. Paul's Church in South Colton Michael's and St. Church in Parishville, and he was named pastor there in 2004.

He moved to Tupper Lake in 2009 to serve administrator of Holy Name Church and St. Alphonsus Church in Tupper Lake until he was assigned to Sacred Heart Church in Chazy, where he served from 2010 to 2015. He then served as administrator of St. Philip of Jesus Church in Willsboro and St. Joseph's Church in Essex to serve for a brief time before being appointed pastor of St. Mary's Church in Brushton and Church of St. Augustine in North Bangor.

In 2023, he was appointed pastor Brasher Falls, the Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond in Norfolk and St. Andrew's Church in Norwood.

