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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 80 Number 14

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JULY 16, 2025

Father Lynch completes canon law studies

Father Shane M. Lynch, new pastor of 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, recently completed a degree in canon law at St. Paul's University in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

In addition to his parish role, Father Lynch will continue to work in the diocesan Marriage Tribunal and Office of Canonical Affairs.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

ICE CREAM BREAK



As part of the annual seminarian summer gathering, seminarians from the Diocese of Ogdensburg joined Father Christopher C. Carrara, diocesan vicar of Clergy and director of Seminarians, for a visit to Donnelly's Ice Cream, one of the area's most well known ice cream establishments. Pictured are, from left, Ladouceur Flarissaint, Deacon Dennis Ombongi, Father Carrara, Deacon Tyler Fitzgerald, Deacon Michelet Boncoeur, Venes Laine and Kevin McCullouch. Additional photos of the gathering will be published in a future edition.

THE AWARD GOES TO...



On June 27, the Catholic Media Association held its annual Catholic Press Awards as part of the association's annual conference. The North Country Catholic received a first honorable mention in the category of "Best Newspaper - Weekly" for three editions from 2024.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope Leo urges hope and care for elderly

By Almudena Martínez-Bordiú
Catholic News Agency

For the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly established by Pope Francis and celebrated this year on July 27, Pope Leo XIV has issued a message of hope to the elderly.

At the beginning of his message, the Holy Father evoked the Jubilee Year to remind the faithful that "hope is a constant source of joy, whatever our age."

He cited some elderly biblical figures, such as Abraham and Sarah, Moses, and Zechariah, whom the Lord surprised

in "an act of saving power": "God repeatedly demonstrates his providential care by turning to people in their later years," he explained.

The pontiff noted that by making these choices, "God thus teaches us that, in his eyes, old age is a time of blessing and grace, and that the elderly are, for him, the first witnesses of hope."

He then emphasized that the increasing number of elderly people "is a sign of the times that we are called to discern, in order to properly interpret this moment of history."

The Holy Father noted that "embracing the elderly helps

us to understand that life is more than just the present moment, and should not be wasted in superficial encounters and fleeting relationships. Instead, life is constantly pointing us toward the future."

He also emphasized that "if it is true that the weakness of the elderly needs the strength of the young, it is equally true that the inexperience of the young needs the witness of the elderly in order to build the future with wisdom."

"How often our grandparents have been for us examples of faith and devotion, civic virtue and social commit-

ment, memory and perseverance amid trials! The precious legacy that they have handed down to us with hope and love will always be a source of gratitude and a summons to perseverance," he said.

In the context of the Jubilee Year, he invited the faithful to "to break through the barriers of indifference ..." and to give of themselves to prevent feelings of loneliness and abandonment among the elderly.

"Our societies, everywhere in the world, are growing all too accustomed to letting this significant and enriching part of their life be marginalized and forgotten," he lamented.

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President**Rev. Joseph A. Morgan**
Vice President**James D. Crowley**
Secretary-Treasurer
Darcy L. Fargo
Editor &
Communications Director

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E-mail:
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'When do we leave?'

"When everyone else says, 'no way! That's a crazy idea,' I'm the friend who says, 'what time do we leave?'"

I've used some version of that line eleven billion times over the last month or so as people ask me about going skydiving with my twin sister in early June. My sister achieved a milestone accomplishment and wanted to celebrate in a big way. For some reason, people weren't lining up to join in her jumping out of an airplane.

So, she called me.

While I've always had a spirit of adventure, I've leaned into it in recent years (this was my third time skydiving).



**Darcy L.
Fargo**

Why? Because I've spent too much time on the sidelines.

Almost exactly a year ago, I had my third hip surgery in six years, my second total hip replacement. While I had a period after the first hip replacement in which I felt like my body was working well, it was only about a year before my second hip started began to fail.

During those times when

my original-parts hips were giving me problems, hobbies and tasks I've always enjoyed - photographing events, participating in sports/martial arts, walking miles and miles on vacations... - became painful or impossible.

I feel like God has given me an amazing gift in giving me a second chance to do crazy things with my new, aftermarket parts. That period when I couldn't say "yes" to adventures also made me consider how many opportunities and adventures I've missed in life because I was too wrapped up in being practical and safe.

Through those six years (more actually), I was an-

gry at God for the failings of my body, and I struggled mightily with being rendered incapable. But through that difficult season of "no, you can't do that," God brought me to a place where I want to say "yes" to every possible adventure, a place where I'm open to where He's calling me in new ways. Because of those struggles, God is helping me overcome at least some of my fear of failure and He is replacing it with a desire to try new things, take on new challenges, meet new people and grow in ways I never imagined.

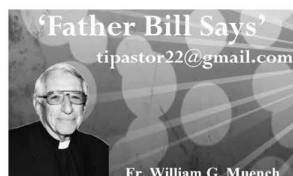
It's a crazy idea, and I'm so grateful to God for bringing me to it.

Continuing formation

I believe I was called by God to be ordained a Catholic priest. After eight years of seminary preparation, I considered myself ready to fulfill the responsibilities of the Catholic priesthood. However, I quickly discovered that I needed more. That further formation I received from people, the parishioners of the parishes where I was assigned.

I also believe that God called me to be a pastor of a Catholic parish. Again, I discovered that I needed further formation. Again, the perfect ones that could show me what I needed to become a good pastor were the people, the parishioners of the parishes I was asked to serve.

In each parish, there were so many people, so many families that showed me the way. These parishioners pointed out the opportunities that would make me a good pastor. They helped me discover what was important to be done for their parish. There were many - young and old - who helped me



realize what they expected of me.

When a person becomes part of a parish, they come searching for their way to God. They trust the parish to show them the way to personal holiness. They want to be directed on the way to becoming a saint. I believe they come hoping that this parish experience will support them as they search to know God and follow his will.

I believe that a person joins a parish because they are looking for a family, a new family, a family with whom they can worship God and live a good Christian life. They hope this group of parishioners with their pastor have figured out how to be a successful community. They seek such a family that will unite them to God. A parish family must learn to play

together with their pastor - praying for their needs, praying for each other as one family. In this way the parish becomes a powerful force ready to change their part of the world to become better than ever before by living a good life with the help of God. As a parish family, they are united in prayer, they live and work together, always supporting each other.

I believe these parishioners want to find good parish activities; they want good opportunities for parish worship that will guide and lead each one of them to live well in the image of the Lord Jesus - loving and supporting each other, helping those in need. So, this parish family must find the way to work together to make the message of Jesus come alive for themselves and all others who come to know them. Their goal is always holiness; the goal is always becoming a saint. This parish family must become profoundly alive, united in love with the God who loves them first.

So, these parishioners learn to be united and finding their holiness by worshipping their God together, working together to make their lives better, opening themselves to guidance and the help of God, so that they can truly be disciples of the Lord. As a pastor, I was constantly impressed by the faith, the prayerfulness of the people of each parish. They challenged me to work with them to learn how to lead them to bring peace and happiness to the parish family as their pastor. I found myself becoming a good pastor because I was supported by the wonderful people of my parish. Those parishioners helped me to realize what they needed. They looked to me to work with them to develop the path to becoming holier and always ready to realize what the Lord Jesus expected of us. I have been pastor of several terrific parishes because I became part of families dedicated in love to a loving God. They helped me find the way.

NCC honored as 'best newspaper'

The *North Country Catholic* received honors from the Catholic Media Association as one of the best weekly newspapers in the country.

The newspaper received first honorable mention in the category "Best Newspaper - Weekly" at the Catholic Press Awards late in the evening on June 27 at an award ceremony held during the annual Catholic Media Association Conference held in Phoenix, Arizona.

The local newspaper finished behind only *The Criterion*, a publication of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis; *The Leaven*, Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas; and *The Tablet*, DeSales Media/Diocese of Brooklyn.

Southern Nebraska Register, a publication of the Diocese of Lincoln, received second honorable mention.

"Our *North Country Catholic* was honored alongside the publications of much larger dioceses and archdioceses, and that's a testament to the quality of our newspaper. Congratulations to the *North Country Catholic's* staff, writers and photographers, and thank you for spreading the good news of the Gospel and Church of the North Country so beautifully and effectively."

The three newspaper editions submitted for judging were from 2024, and were dated April 17, April 24 and May 1.

"Creating this newspaper is truly a team effort, and we happen to have an outstanding team," said Darcy Fargo, editor. "Christine Ward, our long-time editorial assistant here, is second to none, and we have an amazing group of contributing

reporters, columnists and photographers. I'm proud to see the quality of our collective work recognized beyond our diocesan borders."

The *North Country Catholic* has won a number of Catholic Press Awards in recent years, including a third place in the regular column category for Fargo's column in 2024; a third place for Fargo's column in 2023; a third place for Fargo's column in 2021 and a first place in "best reporting on the celebration of a sacrament" in 2020.

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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 78 Number 3

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 17, 2024

Follow Me: Update on reorganization

In this installment of "Follow Me," Bishop Terry R. LaValley shares an update on the diocesan reorganization.

"I hope you had a fruitful Lent and a Blessed Easter. I wish to update you on the status of the Diocesan reorganization case. The Diocese continues to carry on our mission in the ordinary course. Parishes also continue their programs and activities.

As you know, all State court lawsuits against the diocese, parishes, schools and other Catholic enti-

MISSIONARY SISTERS



REMEMBERING FATHER KEEFE



Father Paul J. Kelly assists Father Daniel T. Keefe in vesting for Mass on April 2 at Elderwood of Uihlein at Lake Placid, where Father Keefe had been residing. Father Keefe died April 11 at the nursing home.

The three editions submitted for judging were dated April 17, April 24 and May 1 of 2024.

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Father Lynch completes canon law studies

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

"It feels good to be finished and to get back to life in a parish," said Father Shane M. Lynch, who recently completed studies in canon law at St. Paul's University in Ottawa.

"It wasn't what I had envisioned - going back to university after 22 years of ministry," Father Lynch said. "But it was what Bishop (La-Valley) asked me to do, and it's been accomplished."

While he hadn't been a full-time student since his days in the seminary, Father Lynch said he made the transition back into the role easier than he expected.

"I initially thought the transition would be harder than it was," he said. "I found myself able to adjust pretty quickly. I settled into the task before me."

Father Lynch said he enjoyed his coursework on canon law in seminary, and he enjoyed the opportunity to learn more.

"Reflecting back to major seminary, I had an interest in canon law, but I never thought



Father Shane M. Lynch, center, recently completed his studies in canon law at St. Paul's University, Ottawa. Father Lynch is pictured with Dr. Chad Glendinning, dean of the faculty of Canon Law at St. Paul's University, and Msgr. John Renken, a canon law professor at the school.

I'd have a degree in it," he said. "We learned about the different aspects and level of intricacies in some parts of Church law. It was interesting to learn, es-

pecially getting into the details."

In addition to learning general information about canon law, Father Lynch said coursework explored

different codes of law around the world, the intersections of canon law in the Latin rite and in Eastern rites, as well as Church and papal documents that explain implementation of canon law.

"Some of it was eye opening," he said. "I have a greater understanding and appreciation of the Church's law."

With his studies completed, Father Lynch will continue to work with the diocesan Tribunal and Office of Canonical Affairs while serving as pastor in a new assignment, 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.

"At the bare minimum, I'll be doing ministry within the Marriage Tribunal, using this degree and education for the assessment of those who seek a declaration of nullity for marriage," he said. "That's ultimately what a Tribunal does - work with people in a marriage who are looking to see whether or not the marriage is valid. It's looking at a number of different dynamics."

The diocese's canon lawyers also serve as consultants on other issues that relate to the Church's protocols and laws.

"It includes the temporal goods of the Church - how does the Church acquire and get rid of goods and property, and the code encompasses the rights of the people - the rights of the Christian faithful, rights of the clergy, rights of religious in

different institutes of apostolic life, the authority of the pope and the authority of the bishops. There's an entire penal law section, sections on how processes are supposed to happen."

While Father Lynch says he's looking forward to continuing that role, he also is excited to be returning to parish life.

"I think the bigger transition will be for the parishes," he said. "It used to be two parishes that had one pastor and another two parishes that had one pastor. Now, it's four parishes with one pastor and a seasoned senior parochial vicar. Having Father Hauser in house will be a tremendous help. The parish will also be sharing their pastor with the diocese, and that's going to be an adjustment, as well."

Father Lynch noted, though, that he feels his studies will make him an even better pastor.

"This adds another dynamic to my ministry," he said. "There's a distinct connection between (canon law and parish life). Where do cases in which someone is seeking a declaration of nullity come from? They come from the parishes."

Father Lynch began his new pastoral assignment July 2.

Father Lynch is one of three priests who have studied or who are studying canon law in recent years. Father Joseph W. Giroux also completed studies at St. Paul's University, and Father Leagon Carlin will return to St. Paul's to continue his studies in the fall.

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Bringing Jesus to social, digital media

North Country Catholic

Though he's busy pursuing a college degree, completing internships and maintaining a regular young adult life, Christian Gratto has stepped up to offer his time and talents to helping bring the Church and Camp Guggenheim to others through engaging digital and social media.

Gratto, 20, said he became interested in film and communications through high school coursework, and he first found a way to use those skills to help the Church during the 2020 pandemic.

"During COVID, I reached out to Father (L. William) Gordon at St. Alexander's (in Morrisonville)," Gratto said. "I said, 'I see you're trying to livestream Mass. Can I help?' I brought some equipment over to the church and got everything set up on Facebook to livestream Mass each week."

After that experience, Gratto said he continued to volunteer, offering photography and video services for area parishes and Church events.

Gratto, now studying television and video production, then decided to grow his volunteer ministry, this time to promote Camp Guggenheim, the diocesan youth camp.

"I grew up going to Camp Guggenheim. I've been on staff for two years, but I've gone to camp the last 10 years. Those have been the greatest summers of my life. I was looking for ways to give back and to promote camp. I think everybody should experience a week at

MEET THE 2025 CAMP STAFF

Hi Everyone! My name is Christian and I am from Schroon Lake NY.

I have been going to camp since 2016 and I am super excited to be on staff for a second summer. I am studying television and digital media production at Ithaca College.

I love canoeing, photography, hiking, biking, the Adirondacks, and everything about Camp. My favorite parts of camp are song practice, the variety, show and reconciliation. I can't wait to see you all this summer! Don't be afraid to invite your friends!

Christian Gratto

CAMP GUGGENHEIM, SARANAC LAKE

Christian Gratto, pictured in this graphic he created as part of a series to introduce this year's Camp Guggenheim staff, has been creating engaging video and graphic elements to promote Camp Guggenheim on social media.

camp. I took my knowledge of media and put it to work. Being on staff, I was taking photos and making weekly videos. I had all these photos and video footage, and I have a love for camp, I thought I'd put together a poster or a picture advertising camp."

Gratto started submitting his creations - promotional graphics and videos - to the diocesan Communications Department for sharing on diocesan social media.

"I try to think of ideas that will work well on social media and that will be easy for the diocese to distribute," he said. "The diocesan social media reaches

a wide audience and a variety of ages and demographics. I've been trying to create content that's simple, understandable to everyone, engaging and fun. There are some references to inside jokes from camp that only the campers will get, but I try to make content that's accessible to everyone."

The diocesan Communications Office says he's successful in his efforts.

"Christian understands current trends in social media, media and meme culture," said Darcy Fargo, diocesan communications director. "He uses that knowledge to do an out-

standing job creating engaging digital content, and I've really enjoyed working with him. He's very creative, and he reaches his contemporaries using language and references that are part of their day-to-day lives but maybe not part of our lives as older adults. Just when I think I've seen his best work, he comes up with something else that makes me laugh, makes me smile or makes me wish I could be a Guggenheim camper again."

Though he enters his junior year of college in the fall, and he recognizes the additional demands his coursework and internships will

place on his time, Gratto says he hopes to continue working with both the diocese and his parish on digital media for years to come.

"I enjoy it a lot," he said. "I'd love to keep working to promote camp and to help the Church. Even when I finish school, pursue a career and someday find my own parish, I hope to continue helping at St. Alexander's and helping promote Camp Guggenheim whenever I can."

Regardless of where he is involved, Gratto said he enjoys bringing Christ to social and digital media.

"There are beautiful aspects of social media, and there are terrible aspects," he said. "Our diocese is doing positive things in the digital realm. They're spreading awareness of what we're doing as Catholics in the North Country. No matter what capacity it's in, my goal is to make social media a good place, a place where people can meet Christ. For campers who go home and may forget the camp experience, I want to help remind them of the lessons they've learned at camp. I want parents and grandparents to see content that makes them to think, 'oh! I should send my child or grandchild to camp.'"

"I don't know a ton of young 20-somethings who are spending their free time using their time and talents to bring people to Jesus," said Fargo. "Christian does that, and he does it very, very well. He's been a great help and a great asset to the Church of the North Country."

Environmental Stewardship

Rosary for a greener summer

As we enjoy summer days, we may look for ways to connect with nature and the environment. Our "green" summer can be part of a spiritual renewal and a deeper commitment to caring for our common home. One way to participate in this renewal is by saying the Rosary with an ecological heart.

Pope Francis, in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, reminds us the natural world is not a resource to be used but a gift from God to be cherished and protected. The Rosary, especially when coupled with the theme of *Laudato Si'*, can be a journey into the mysteries of creation and our roles as stewards of earth and its people.

Here are ways to incorporate the Rosary into a green summer:

- Pray outdoors: The sounds of the wind and the sun's warmth can heighten your senses as you pray.

- Choose sustainable beads: Rosary beads made from recycled or natural materials are a simple gesture of ecological awareness.

- Include intentions for creation: Prayers for endangered species, threatened ecosystems and climate justice make us aware of what we need to do.

- Create a special place outdoors for praying. It doesn't have to be elaborate. Start with what you have. Choose a quiet corner of your yard. Natural elements — stones, wood, water — can set the space off as special. Consider including a statue or image of Our Lady. Native plants support pollinators and require minimal watering, so you can enjoy the space without a lot of extra work. If you have room, design a Rosary path with stations for each set of the Mysteries. Each station can be marked by a stone, cross or plant grouping. Add a bench you can sit on just to relax after reciting the Rosary.

- Walk and pray: As you walk through a special area of your yard or garden, or in a park, or along the shore, feel and notice God's handiwork.

Spend some time reflecting on what is best for you.

By Geraldine Wagner,
Earth Carers

Sr. Audrey Hallahan dies at age 95

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sister Mary Audrey Hallahan, of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, at 11 a.m. on Monday, July 14, at Reiss memorial Chapel in Elderwood of Uihlein at Lake Placid.

Burial followed in St. Alphonsus Cemetery in Tupper Lake.

Sister Audrey died July 6, 2025, at Elderwood of Uihlein Care Center in Lake Placid in her seventy-fifth year of religious life. She was 95.

Born Regina Elizabeth Hallahan in North Law-

rence on May 30, 1930, she was the daughter of (John) Carl and Vivian (McLaughlin) Hallahan.

Sister Audrey entered the Sisters of Mercy in Tarrytown on August 15, 1949. She became a registered nurse and received a bachelor's degree in social science from Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry.

She enjoyed many positions in her nursing ministry — staff nurse, head nurse, director of Nursing Services, and operating room staff nurse in Port Jervis, Watertown, Gabriels, Tupper Lake, as well as many years in Saint Margaret Convent and Uihlein Mercy Center in Lake Placid.



Sister Mary Audrey Hallahan, RSM

Sister Audrey will be remembered for her warm smile, attentive listening, joyous laugh, love of God, her sisters, family, friends and caregivers and for her grateful heart. She also enjoyed keeping up with her family and community on her iPad, when not visiting in person or by phone. She ministered for many years in the North Country, where she grew up, and lived at Saint Margaret Convent with many of her Sisters of Mercy, and after officially retiring from ministry, she was very present to her sisters in community, her family, with Mercy Care of the Adirondacks staff and volunteers, as well as staff and residents of Elderwood. Sister continued her responsibilities

as sacristan in the chapel until she became a resident of Elderwood of Uihlein Care Facility several months ago.

Sister Audrey is survived by her sisters, Marjorie Wilcox, 97, of Williamsburg, Virginia, and Patsy Libby, 78, of Phoenix, Arizona, and many nieces and nephews, as well as her sisters in religion, the Sisters of Mercy and Mercy Associates.

She was predeceased by her parents, Carl and Vivian Hallahan, her siblings, Daniel Hallahan, Sister Mary Charles, OSU, Baby Joseph, Norma Rombach, Genevieve Adkins and John Hallahan.

The Sisters of Mercy, and Sister Audrey's family extend prayers and deepest gratitude to the caring staff at Elderwood of Uihlein Care Center at Lake Placid, the staff and volunteers of Mercy Care of the Adirondacks, and Father Paul Kelly for their loving and supportive care of Sister.

Arrangements are through M.B. Clark, Inc., Funeral Home in Lake Placid.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Mercy Care of the Adirondacks, Attn: Donna Beal, 185 Old Military Road, Lake Placid, NY, 12946.

Please visit www.mb-clarkfuneralhome.com to share a memory, sign the online guest book or leave condolences.

Rest in Peace

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

July 16 — Rev. Eugene Carroll, 1882; Rev. H. T. Regan, O.S.A., 1937; Rev. James Torsney, 1958

July 18 — Msgr. Joseph Domina Brault, 1966

July 19 — Rev. Thomas M. Carroll, 1884; Rev. Francis E. Gilbert, 1939; Rev. James Karlton Dewey, 1963; Rev. Arthur J. Trudel, 1967; Msgr. Donald M. Kelly, 1969; Rev. Thomas A. Moody, 2010

July 20 — Francis Leo Desrosiers, 1956; Gerald F. McGrath, 2016

July 21 — Msgr. John H. O'Neill, 1938

July 23 — Rev. Pierre Casenave, O.M.I., 1884; Rev. Francis J. Casey, O.S.A., 1958

July 24 — Rev. George Burke, 1897; Rev. James Joseph Gainer, 1946; Rev. Bartholemew Aloysius O'Connell, 1963; Rev. Henry Wilcott, 1965; Rev. Francis Edic, O.F.M.Conv., 1975

July 25 — Rev. Simon Wallace, M.S.C., 1941

July 26 — Rev. Zenon B. Decary, 1940; Rev. J. Owen Barry, O.S.A., 1978

July 27 — Rev. John B. Chappel, M.S.C., 1884; Rev. Matthew J. Sweeney, 1935; Rev. Daniel A. Harron, O.S.A., 1942; Rev. Harold J. P. McCabe, 1976; Rev. Daniel F. Lyddy, 2002

Bishop's Public Schedule

July 17 — noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

July 19 — 5:30 p.m. — Installation Mass of Reverend Shane M. Lynch as 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 the Queen of Heaven Church in Henderson

July 20 — 8 a.m. — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

July 26 — 11 a.m. — Sisters of St. Joseph Jubilee Mass at The Church of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Watertown followed by a Luncheon at the Hilton Garden Inn

July 27 — 9 a.m. — Mass at St. Mary's and St. Paul's Parish in Indian Lake

11 a.m. — Mass at St. Paul's Church in Blue Mountain Lake

July 28 — noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

July 29 — 9:45 a.m. — Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch

4 p.m. — Mass for Youth Camp at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake

July 30 — 10 a.m.

Gathering of the Diocesan Prison Chaplains at Bishop's Residence followed by lunch

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

Protecting God's Children

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

Bishops: Church will not endorse candidates despite IRS rule shift

By Tyler Arnold
Catholic News Agency

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has confirmed that the Catholic Church will not endorse political candidates for public office in any elections, despite a tax code change that has opened the door for houses of worship to make such endorsements.

On July 7, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) signed a court agreement to allow churches and other houses of worship to endorse candidates without risking their tax-exempt status. This reversed a 70-year ban that was in place based on the IRS' interpretation of the "Johnson Amendment," which prohibits nonprofits in the tax bracket from engaging in political campaigns.

USCCB Director of Public Affairs Chieko Noguchi, however, released a statement this week to announce that the Catholic Church will not be endorsing political candidates, even if the tax code allows it.

"The IRS was addressing a specific case, and it doesn't change how the Catholic Church engages in public debate," Noguchi said.

"The Church seeks to help Catholics form their conscience in the Gospel so they might discern which candidates and policies would advance the common good," she added. "The Catholic Church maintains its stance of not endorsing or opposing political candidates."

Noguchi told CNA that if an individual member of the clergy were to endorse a candidate, "this is a matter that is best handled by the local bishop."

Christopher Check, the president of Catholic Answers, told CNA that the USCCB's decision to avoid endorsements is "a wise one for our time and place."

"The Church is not one of several political organizations or NGOs [non-governmental organizations] competing for public opinion on the cultural and civic playing fields," Check added. "She is the primary and divine institution through which all that public activity must be understood."

Check pointed out that avoiding endorsements is consistent with the 1983 Code of Canon Law, which he

explained "[prohibits] clergy from engaging in active participation in political parties except in cases where the rights of the Church are threatened or the 'promotion of the common good requires it,' and then only in the judgment of 'competent ecclesiastical authority.'"

There have been situations historically in which clergy rightly engaged in political campaigns, such as when Marxist parties in some countries sought to "eradicate the Church," according to Check. Yet he also cautioned that there have been times in which members of the clergy have "misled the faithful" by involving themselves in campaigns.

"Today in the United States, neither political party offers a platform that would serve as a foundation for a true home for faithful Catholics," Check said. "As such, the obligation for the clergy and the episcopacy to form the consciences of the faithful rightly is especially critical. It is in this realm that the Church, who very much in a sense is above partisan politics, is called to operate."

Susan Hanssen, a history professor at the University of Dallas (a Catholic institution), told CNA she believes the IRS policy to not penalize churches for political endorsements is "wise" but said the USCCB commitment to not endorse candidates "is also prudent."

"The IRS policy is wise to leave broad leeway to religious leaders to offer guidance, even on political matters that could shape the moral and cultural atmosphere within which religious life takes place," Hanssen said.

Hanssen added that the Church hierarchy and the clergy can still be vocal on political issues that implicate Church teaching, noting that they "should give clear principles of action" but that "it is the moral responsibility of the laity to potentially apply those principles."

She added that clergy should also help correct Catholic politicians whose policies do not conform to "the principles of natural law, for example, with regard to abortion, parental rights over their children's education and medical care, euthanasia, and same-sex marriage."

"Thus their action would be appropriately pastoral, rather than political — a concern for souls," Hanssen said.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Papal nuncio celebrates historic Mass at Anglican cathedral

For the first time in modern history, the apostolic nuncio to the United Kingdom has celebrated Mass in England's most celebrated Anglican cathedral. On Monday, July 7, which marked the feast of the Translation of St. Thomas Becket, Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía celebrated the holy sacrifice of the Mass at Canterbury Cathedral with hundreds in attendance, including the Vatican's cricket team. During his homily, Maury Buendía said: "This Mass of pilgrimage takes place within the context of the jubilee year. It highlights the Christian life as a spiritual journey, moving through life's trials and joys with hope anchored in Christ. Having traveled as pilgrims today, we do more than just honor a figure from history." Those in attendance also received a plenary indulgence because of the jubilee year and its customs. While it is traditional for the Catholic Parish of St. Thomas of Canterbury to celebrate Mass at the cathedral every year on July 7, this is the first time the apostolic nuncio has presided.

Faith communities hold services for Texas flood victims

The faith communities of the Texas Hill Country flood victims are rallying in support of the families with Masses, rosaries, and memorial services. The Fourth of July flood disaster near the central Texas town of Kerrville, where the Guadalupe River rose 35 feet in the early morning hours, has claimed over 100 lives so far, including more than 30 young children, with many more still unaccounted for. Especially affected was Camp Mystic, the 100-year-old Christian girls' camp in Hunt, Texas. At least 27 campers there perished, with several more, including a counselor, not yet recovered. Over the last few days, schools and churches in Houston, where many current and former Camp Mystic families reside, have held prayer services and Masses for the victims and their families. In an email, Father Sean Horrigan, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, asked the community for prayers for the family of Anna Margaret Bellows, 8, a parishioner who was one of the 27 girls who died in the flood.

Synod reports on controversial issues postponed

The Vatican's synod office has said that final reports from Synod on Synodality study groups — including opinions on women deacons and controversial doctrinal issues such as LGBT inclusion — have been postponed until the end of the year. The study groups, formed by Pope Francis to examine topics he took off the table for discussion at the second session of the Synod on Synodality, held in October 2024, will have until Dec. 31 to submit their final results — a six-month extension of the original mandate of June 30. In the meantime, synod leadership will publish brief interim reports from the study groups in July. A spokesman for the synod secretariat said most of the 10 commissions requested more time to complete their reports following delays due to Pope Francis' death. In June, they received a green light from Pope Leo XIV to proceed. The commissions are made up of cardinals, bishops, priests, and lay experts from both in and outside of the Vatican.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

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 talk by breaking it up into 4 sessions.

Schedule: There are 2 options, Mondays Noon to 1 p.m. July 14, July 21, July 28 or Thursdays 7 p.m. to 8 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/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

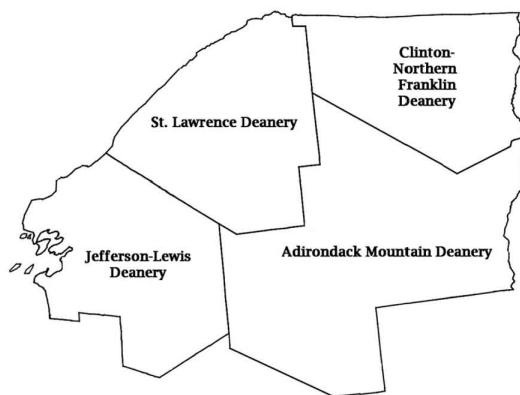
Ellenburg Center – Soaking Prayers Sessions to be held every third Thursday of the month.

Date: July 17, Aug. 21, Sept. 18

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



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.

surrendering yourself to the Holy Spirit in a relaxed atmosphere and being immersed in receiving an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Includes praise and worship, soaking prayer, witness/group sharing, lunch (bring your own bagged lunch) and recitation of the Rosary.

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

FOUNDERS DAY

Ellenburg Center – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer to celebrate Founders Day.

Date: July 23

Schedule: 9:15 a.m. to 10 Arrival and Special Music; 10 a.m. to 10:45 Creation, Our Cathedral of Hope! with Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ, Guest Speaker; 11 a.m. Celebration of the Mass with Bishop Terry R. LaValley; 12 p.m. Delicious Summer Luncheon

Features: Join friends and neighbors in giving thanks and praise to our Lord as we remember Father Joseph Trombley and the volunteers who founded this treasure of prayer and worship in the beautiful foothills of the Adirondacks!

Contact: Please call 518-594-3253 to RSVP for lunch. If you forget, come anyway for we always have plenty! There is no cost for lunch. Any donation, however, is always gratefully accepted.

YARD SALE

Brushton – St. Mary's Church to have a huge yard sale.

Schedule: July 18 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and July 19 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Features: Lots of items to choose from as well as baked goods, plants, and lunch will be also be available.

INDOOR YARD SALE

Chazy – Sacred Heart Parish is having their indoor yard sale.

Date: July 26

Time: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Features: We have furniture, appliances, household items, toys, books, games, knick knacks, dishes, collectibles, tools, gardening, holiday, baby items and much, much more! We also have concessions.

Contact: For more information, contact the rectory 518-846-7650.

CHINESE AUCTION & CRAFT FAIR

Lyon Mountain – St. Bernard's and St. Edmund's Parish to have a Chinese Auction and Craft Fair.

Date: July 27

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

Place: Sorrell-Woodward American Legion Post 1623

Features: All proceeds support St. Bernard's Church's 150th Anniversary Celebration.

Contact: For more information

call 518-594-3907

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Plattsburgh – Heartwell Homestead's Golf Tournament planned.

Date: Aug. 22

Place: The Barracks Golf Course

Contact: For more information and details go to <https://www.HeartWellHomestead.org>

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

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: Aug. 3

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 a summer Gala & 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 Gonther 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

CATECHIST CERTIFICATION OPPORTUNITY

Deepen your faith life and work on your catechist certification.

Schedule: Aug. 2 in Morrisonville or Aug. 24 in Brownville

Time: 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Features: Earn up to 3 workshop credits in one day.

Contact: Register by July 30 at: rcdony.org/certworkshops

ORDINATION TO THE ORDER OF THE DIACONATE

Ogdensburg - Through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, Bishop Terry R. LaValley will Ordain to the Order of Deacon Mr. Gordon J. Burdo, Jr., Mr. James B. Kavanaugh, Mr. James P. Law, Mr. Francis E. Szczerzenie, Mr. Garry Stevens and Mr. Nicholas A. Tsibulsky. You are cordially invited to join in the Ordination Liturgy.

Date: Aug. 9

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Pro-life coffee co. hits donation milestone

By Francesca Pollio Fenton
Catholic News Agency

Seven Weeks Coffee, an American, pro-life coffee brand, announced July 7 that it has now donated \$1 million to pro-life organizations.

Founded in 2021 by Anton Krecic, the coffee company has combined direct-trade specialty coffee with pro-life values. Ten percent of the profit of each coffee bag sold is donated to pro-life organizations, specifically pregnancy resource centers.

"When my wife and I founded Seven Weeks Coffee, the skeptics doubted Americans would support a values-based company. They were wrong," Krecic said in a press release. "We are so blessed to have gone on this journey with our custom-

ers, raising money for pro-life causes."

During its time in business, Seven Weeks Coffee has donated to over 1,000 pregnancy resource centers in all 50 states, paid for ultrasounds for pregnant mothers in unwanted pregnancies, and estimates that it has helped save over 9,000 lives.

Women from across the country have written to the pro-life coffee company thanking it for its support.

"When I found out I was pregnant, I didn't know what to do. I was scared, alone, and abortion felt like the only option. But the pregnancy center offered me a free ultrasound - and I saw my baby's heartbeat. That changed everything," one mother wrote to Seven Weeks Coffee after the company paid

for her ultrasound.

In an interview with "EWTN Pro-Life Weekly" in 2023, Krecic discussed how he originally wanted to work in politics but ended up running a coffee company instead. He explained that he moved to Washington, D.C., "with a passion just to get involved in the political process" but that he also has always had "a very big heart for the pro-life movement."

After visiting a pregnancy care center several years ago, the experience made a lasting impact on him, which led to his idea to start a pro-life coffee company.

"There really was no pro-life coffee company around that I really saw making a kind of a national impact ... I was like, 'There's a mission here and there's an impact that we can

have,'" he recalled.

While trying to come up with a name for the business, Krecic's wife asked him when a baby in utero was the size of a coffee bean. After doing some research, Krecic found that a baby in utero is the size of a coffee bean at seven weeks. Additionally, this is also when a baby's heartbeat is clearly detectable during an ultrasound.

"So I was like, 'That is the name. That's what we're going to call the company,'" he recalled.

In its first year alone, 2022 - which was also the year Roe v. Wade was overturned - Seven Weeks Coffee donated over \$50,000 to more than 250 pregnancy resource centers.

"God has blessed us more than we could have ever imagined," Krecic said.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Features: A Reception will immediately follow at the Martin Field Club, 721 Hasbrouck Street. The Ordination Mass may be viewed at www.rcdony.org/ordination. The Ordination Mass program will be available at the same link shortly before the Ordination.

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

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

CAMP GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake - Camp Guggenheim registration is now open.

Dates: 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: 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 outdoor activities like paddle boat rides 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

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.

Contact: For more information, see <https://www.rcdony.org/soundofhope>.



St. Mary's Parish Cash Raffle 2025, Ticonderoga

Drawing Date: August 31, 2025

518-585-7144

Grand Prize - \$10,000

2nd Prize - \$500 (four awarded)

3rd Prize - \$250 (eight awarded)

4th Prize - \$100 (ten awarded)

Proceeds to benefit youth ministry activities and religious education programs.

Must be 18 or over to purchase.

Winner need not be present to win.

Tickets are \$100 donation

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Number of Tickets:

Make checks payable to:

St. Mary's Church

Cut and return this ticket with payment and mail to:
22 Father Joques Place, Ticonderoga, NY 12883



*Support And Pray
For Vocations*

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

Done for the right reason

The main thing is to know the main thing and to keep the main thing the main thing. Obviously, quite a few words, perhaps grammatically and stylistically poor, but words that get to the heart of the matter. What is really important?

At first glance, our Gospel may sound like a story of sibling rivalry, a type of story which may be familiar to some. Two sisters arguing, probably over the same issues that they have argued over in the past, but this time, they ask an outsider to settle the dispute. Personally, I would probably have told Martha to get a grip, but obviously Jesus takes a different tack.

At first glance, too, especially in comparison

with the first reading in which Abraham offers an abundance of hospitality to the strangers, the lesson may seem to teach that we must provide hospitality especially for the stranger. The obligation to provide hospitality is true but does not get to the crux of the issues at hand.

From the very beginning of the Church, there has been an ongoing and continuing discussion about which is more important: a spiritual, prayerful relationship with Jesus or active involvement with the needs of God's people through service to one another. That controversy plays out in the gospel. Some would argue that, because of this gospel passage, the con-



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

July 20

Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

Genesis 18:1-10a
Colossians 1:24-28
Luke 10:38-42

templative aspect of our faith is more important than the active components of our tradition.

The truth is that Martha and Mary are both doing the same thing. They are both devoted to Jesus and both are serving him. But why did Jesus say to Martha: "Mary has chosen the better part?"

Well, perhaps Martha had forgotten why she was doing what she was doing. We could easily say that Martha was not focused on her guests but was focused on the tasks. What is up for debate is not what she was

doing, but rather the why or how she was doing it.

That can easily happen to anyone. We get so involved in what we are doing that the "why" gets forgotten. Forgetting can happen in our personal lives, in our relations with others, in our work habits, and even when we do good deeds.

There is a big difference between doing something because someone says I have to and doing the same deed because we are trying to imitate Jesus. The same deed is done. The motivation is different. That is why there is a big difference between church sponsored social activity and social activity sponsored by others. Our activities are always motivated by love of God, by the Gospel message, and by our desire to imitate Christ. While others may do similar deeds, the mo-

tivations, although worthy, are different.

But there is something even more than doing something for the right reason. It goes back to motivation. In a word, what energizes you? What motivates you to get up in the morning? Martha was worn down by her good deeds. She was not being energized by them.

So, when Jesus admonishes Martha, he is really telling her to make sure that her activity is done for the right reason and that this activity, rather than making her angry or emotionally drained, should energize her to do even more.

The better part is always to focus on Jesus whether at prayer or in service to one another. The better part, the focus, is always keeping the main thing the main thing.

CALLED TO SERVE

'Howdy! I'm the new pastor!'

Most of the transitions have taken place. In many cases a priest knows he will be transferred, so he is warned to stay close to his phone on the day the Personnel Committee meets. Where he is going is always a mystery.

Priests who received a call from their bishop last month have now settled into their new digs. They moved, for whatever reason, from their current parish assignment to another parish assignment in the diocese. The change could result in a move that is many, many miles distant from the parish a priest has called "home" for a year or more.

The Priest Personnel Committee makes the fi-

nal recommendations to the bishop after a couple of meetings and lots of conversations.

There could be any number of reasons to recommend a move. The retirement or death of a priest assigned to a particular parish might cause the committee to think about that position. The pastor or assistant who has been in a parish for a long time may think, or the bishop thinks, it is time to move on. The parish may need new thinking to become vibrant again.

Perhaps a priest needs to move to be closer to ailing relatives. Could be a pastor feels his time worrying about furnaces and snow removal for the parish property is

at an end. He wants to return to the reason he became a priest initially, to help people on their journey of faith.

Newly ordained priests, say in the last five or six years, need experience working in a parish and with various mentors, pastors who have knowledge to share.

A move causes a bunch of things to happen. If Father A moves from one parish to another, the bishop is obliged to fill the now vacant spot or merge that parish with another existing parish recognizing the workload for the pastor

in the new configuration will double.

The bishop does not just dump the new layout in the pastor's lap. There has been discussion over the last several years through the work of the Living Stones Committee that identified future mergers and consolidations. Each year, the bishop decides if this is the year to order the new configuration or delay it.

And the parishioners are taken into consideration too. They have come to know "the priest" pretty well. It was former President George W. Bush who said, "You

may not always agree with me, but at least you know where I stand." That's true of anyone in a leadership position. In the case of a pastor, parochial vicar and deacon, "where I stand" is influenced by Church teaching and the local bishop. Pastors and parochial vicars are the leaders of our parish. The parish is a community of believers who meet together to worship and to care for each other.

We pray for all the clergy. Those we know and those we are meeting for the first time.

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



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

Rehabilitation center in Georgia

A truly extraordinary project is currently taking shape in Kutaisi in the country of Georgia. The establishment of the St. Camillus Rehabilitation Center, whose initiatives address autistic children and their families, is an important example of how solidarity and social commitment can address the challenges faced by vulnerable communities.

The Center, launched by the Camillian NGO Madian Orizzonti Onlus in collaboration with the Camillian religious community in Georgia, aims

to provide concrete support to those in need.

Kutaisi is the second-largest metropolitan area in Georgia and the third largest in the country by population. In a region where resources are scarce and poverty is widespread, a specialized facility that responds to the needs of children with autism spectrum disorders and their families is crucial.

Often, in contexts like these, families often must struggle on their own every day to find adequate support and care. The lack of trained



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

staff and specialized facilities makes the situation even more difficult. The St. Camillus Center, with its range of therapy, psychological support, and educational activities, can become an important point of reference, not only for the practical help it provides, but also for the

message of integration and dignity it conveys.

"A project that can change the lives of many people and, above all, restore hope," reads the statement from the Camillian NGO, sent to Fides.

Among the initiatives that the Camillian missionaries have carried

out in Georgia in the past for people with disabilities is the Diagnostic and Rehabilitation Center in the town of Akhaltsikhe, about 200 kilometers from the capital, Tbilisi, in a country where living with disabilities is still associated with prejudice.

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

Please remember the Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg INC. when writing or changing your will.

OBITUARIES

Alexandria Bay — John Patrick Weldon, 71; Mass of Christian Burial July 10, 2025 at St. Cyril's Church; burial in Redwood Cemetery.

AuSable Forks — Eleanor Alice (Seguin) Deyoe, 89; Mass of Christian Burial July 2, 2025 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Brushton — Winona M. (Richards) Marshall, 97; Mass of Christian Burial July 9, 2025 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Carthage — Ralph E. Bowman, 89; Mass of Christian Burial July 10, 2025 at St. James Church; burial in Sunnyside Cemetery, Naumburg.

Chazy — Elizabeth J. (Church) Trombly, 85; Mass of Christian Burial July 3, 2025 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Croghan — Stephen Joseph Brownell, 77; Mass of Christian Burial July 14, 2025 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Croghan — Dorothy Mae Mosher

Gracey, 84; Mass of Christian Burial July 3, 2025 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in Sanford Corners Cemetery, Calcium.

Croghan — Beverly B. (Nortz) Moore, 63; Mass of Christian Burial June 27, 2025 at St. Stephen's Church; burial at St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Gouverneur — Robert Leader, 91; Mass of Christian Burial July 14, 2025 at St. James Church; burial in Riverside Cemetery.

Keeseville — Richard W. Andrews, 88; Memorial Mass July 9, 2025 at Immaculate Conception Church.

Lake Placid — Richard Cassidy, 77; Mass of Christian Burial July 12, 2025 at St. Agnes Church.

Louisville — Paul P. Cameron, 41; Mass of Christian Burial July 5, 2025 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

Malone — Jeannette M. (Latour) Champagne, 98; Mass of Christian Burial July 12, 2025 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Malone — Christopher Jarvis,

71; Mass of Christian Burial June 28, 2025 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Chateaugay.

Malone — Wayne Edmund Kelley, 88; Mass of Christian Burial July 10, 2025 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Malone — Daniel Patrick Maneely, 79; Mass of Christian Burial July 8, 2025 at Notre Dame Church.

Massena — Richard G. Shinnock, 91; Private services to be held; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Mooers Forks — Reyes (Ocasio) Nieves, 94; Mass of Christian Burial July 11, 2025 at St. Ann's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Mooers.

Norfolk — Kenneth Louis Lavigne, 94; Mass of Christian Burial June 28, 2025 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Simone (Campeau) Ayotte, 91; Funeral Services June 28, 2025 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Oswegatchie Mausoleum.

Ogdensburg — Richard F. Kelly,

81; Mass of Christian Burial June 30, 2025 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Peru — Dawn Joyce (Miller) Jakobetz, 81; Funeral Services July 9, 2025 at Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Saratoga National Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Kennedy Carly Columbus, 17; Mass of Christian Burial July 1, 2025 at St. Peter's Church.

Plattsburgh — Michael Ireland, 68; Mass of Christian Burial June 28, 2025 at St. John's Church.

Plattsburgh — Charles Voorhees, 79; Mass of Christian Burial July 11, 2025 at St. Peter's Church.

Port Henry — Maureen E. Savage, 58; Mass of Christian Burial June 25, 2025 at St. Patrick's Church.

Potsdam — Robert A. Gibbs, 93; Mass of Christian Burial July 14, 2025 at St. Mary's Church.

Potsdam — Peter L. Smith, 67; Mass of Christian Burial July 2, 2025 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Bixby Cemetery, Norfolk.

Redford — Leona H. (Meserole) Smith, 84; Mass of Christian Burial July 10, 2025 at Church of the Assumption; burial in Assumption Cemetery.

Watertown — John J. Bertrand, 64; Mass of Christian Burial June 28, 2025 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Watertown — Ethelyne P. (Johnson) Cousins, 96; Mass of Christian Burial July 8, 2025 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in North Watertown Cemetery.

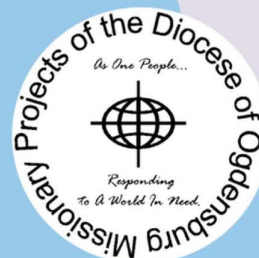
Watertown — Ret. Lt. Col. John Fromm, 78; Mass of Christian Burial July 10, 2025 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Sanford Corners Cemetery, Calcium.

Watertown — Clayton M. Jank, 97; Mass of Christian Burial June 27, 2025 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Stanley Edward Hajdasz Jr., 80; Mass of Christian Burial July 1, 2025 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Evans Mills.


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