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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 80 Number 13

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JULY 2, 2025

NFP Week: 'Pursue a lasting love'

"Pursue a lasting love ... Marriage. Create hope for the future! Natural Family Planning, Supporting God's gifts of love and life in marriage" is the theme of this year's national Natural Family Planning Awareness Week (July 20-26, 2025).

An educational campaign of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), NFP Week celebrates God's design for married love and the gift of life and raises awareness about Natural Family Planning (NFP) methods. "NFP," as the U.S. bishops have written, is supportive of Catholic beliefs about married love because natural methods "respect the God-given power to love a new human life into being" (see, U.S. Bishops, "Married Love and the Gift of Life").

The Catholic Church invites all the faithful to embrace God's plan for married love and the gift of life.

Learn more about these beautiful teachings which support the use of NFP in marriage at usccb.org/topics/natural-family-planning/church-teaching, as well as through our diocesan NFP Office at www.rcdony.org/nfp.

STORIES ON PAGES 3, 5 & 6

COMMISSIONED FOR MINISTRY



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE

Twenty-four individuals from around the diocese were commissioned as lay ministers by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on June 22 at St. Mary's Cathedral. See stories on pages 4 & 5 and additional photos on Page 8.

No North Country Catholic next week

The North Country Catholic is now on summer schedule.

There will be no newspaper next week. The next edition will be dated July 16.

Pope laments 'fatigue of living'

By Victoria Cardiel
Catholic News Agency

Pope Leo XIV on Wednesday addressed what he called the "fatigue of living" as one of the ailments afflicting modern society, and he urged the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square to face reality with the grace of Jesus.

"A very widespread ailment of our time is the fatigue of living: Reality seems to us to be too complex, burdensome, difficult to face," the pope said at his final Wednesday general audience before summer break, when he is expected to reduce his schedule and public engagements for all of

July.

"And so we switch off, we fall asleep, in the delusion that, upon waking, things will be different. But reality has to be faced, and together with Jesus, we can do it well," the pope said.

The pontiff continued his cycle of catechesis on hope, focusing on the Gospel accounts of Jesus' miraculous healings. He highlighted two specific miracles as "signs of hope": the healing of Jairus' daughter — Jairus being a synagogue leader who humbly begged Jesus to save his dying daughter — and the healing of the anonymous woman who had suffered from bleeding for 12

years.

To illustrate his point, Leo recalled how Jairus, upon being told that his daughter had died and not to bother the master anymore, still held onto his faith and continued to hope.

The Gospel of Mark tells how Jesus said, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!" and the child got up and began to walk. For the pope, this gesture by Jesus shows that he "not only heals every disease but also awakens from death."

"Because for God, who is eternal life, bodily death is like sleep. The real death is the death of the soul — and that is what we should truly fear," he added.

NORTH
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Going where we're called

When he addressed the 24 new commissioned lay ministers on June 22, Bishop Terry R. LaValley told them, as he often tells confirmation students, that the ceremony was a sending forth to something new, not a graduation – not an end.

But graduation is exactly the ceremony I'm going to tonight. My son, Jake, graduates from high school tonight (I'm writing on June 27).

Words can't capture how proud I am of him. My kind, funny, smart and

**Darcy L.
Fargo**

dedicated kid is becoming a kind, funny, smart and dedicated young man. It's been amazing to watch him conquer so many challenges over the last 18 years, and I'm excited to see what challenges he will conquer in years to come and where God will lead him.

In August, Jake will be off to Central New York to attend barber school. We're planning to go to look at least one potential apartment this weekend.

While I'm super happy for him, I'm also more

than a little bit sad and scared. This is new territory for us. It's hard for me to imagine him not being in our home and sitting across the table from me at dinner.

As Jake begins this next chapter, I keep reminding him that he doesn't have to have his whole life figured out right now. I try to remind him that God sometimes changes our plans. I try to remind him to just be open to where God is leading him.

I think we all need that reminder sometimes.

I also thought about how God can change or add to our plans as I placed the list of newly commis-

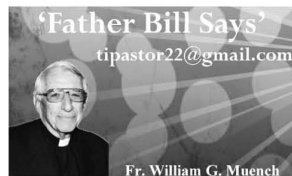
sioned lay ministers on page 4. Next to each name is a field of ministry to which the individuals felt called.

As I read, "(name) – Youth Ministry" or "(name) – Ministry to Sick & Elderly," I thought, "and whatever else God decides." We never know what that's going to look like.

We know, though, that God has a plan and purpose for each of our lives. If we keep praying, discerning, setting aside our wills and following His, we'll have the joy of eternal life.

There's no end there, either.

Loving our enemies



never find peace or closeness with them. In fact, like many others, we give into anger, even hatred, toward them.

Each time we face these questions of disagreement and division, the example for us is Our Lord, Jesus. When he was crucified, he prayed to the Father: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Many dedicated saints who faced martyrdom as followers of Jesus offered forgiveness for those who wanted to persecute them. You, probably, know, as I do, some families – like those who lost a loved one in one of those mass killings – who have made it known that they were willing to forgive the killers.

So, do any of us have enemies? Seems like a curious question. May-

be we might think of a foreign force that would attack our country as enemies to us individually. In this case, I am thinking that some might call others enemies because they disagree with them. And in such situations, they get angry with them, even hate them. They even might treat them with contempt. Many of us may get into such a situation. In such times, Jesus may be talking to us, saying "love your enemies." Will we ever start talking with those we disagree with? May we ever make things better? There is always room for a possible meeting of the minds. Recently I read this: "It will always be wrong and dangerously radical to feel that some deserve contempt because they do not agree with me."

We have a Church and a world that is so divided and messed up, often because too many of us find that there are too many at odds with us. Disagree with me, and I simply have to

be angry and will not take the simple step of talking with them, of finding a common ground to make things so much better. And, of course, even loving them so that things would be better. Love, says St. Thomas Aquinas, means wishing good things for the other. This could become a better, more loving world because I took the trouble of reaching out to them.

Father Ed Hayes has written a wonderful Book of Prayers. I want to share a part of his Prayer to the Lord Our God, Who Heals Us with Forgiveness:

We are grateful for those persons in our lives who have allowed us to be reconciled after we have become separated from them through selfishness and thoughtlessness; Jesus, by His life, gave us an example of how we are to love those who harm us and forgive those who injure us when He asked you, His Father to forgive those who had led Him to suffer and die on a cross.

FOLLOW ME

Natural Family Planning Week is July 21-27

**Dear Sisters and
Brothers in Christ:**

In his letter proclaiming this Jubilee Year of Hope, Pope Francis wrote that looking to the future with hope entails having enthusiasm for life and a readiness to share it. Sadly, in many places in our world today there exists the loss of the desire to transmit life. Openness to life and responsible parenthood is the design that the Creator has implanted in the hearts and bodies of men and women, a mission that the Lord has entrusted to spouses and to their love. (*Spes non confundit*)

The desire to give birth to new daughters and sons is a sign of the fruitfulness of married love, ensuring a future for our society. The desire to have children is born of hope and it generates hope. Catholic Christians should be in the forefront in fostering a hope that is working for a future filled with the laughter of babies and children. As Pope Francis stated "...we need to recover the joy of living, since men and women, created in the image and likeness of God, cannot rest content with getting along one day at a time, settling for the here and now and seeking fulfillment in material realities alone. This leads to a narrow individualism and the loss of hope; it gives rise to a sadness that lodges in the heart. (SNC) In many ways, such sadness, uncertainty, even fear pervades our daily living.

It is good this Natural Family Planning Awareness Week, July 21-27, to remember that "Helping married couples to deepen conjugal love and achieve responsible parenthood is part of the Church's pastoral care for Catholic spouses. This means instilling

conviction and offering practical help to those who wish to live out their parenthood in a truly responsible way." (*Familiaris consortio*, 35)

We know that God designed marriage as an "intimate partnership of life and love" (GS.48). In God's design, marriage is a unique union of one man with one woman for the whole of life. Making decisions about when and how many children to have in marriage is a sacred responsibility that God has entrusted to husband and wife.

Through their sexual intimacy, spouses are inviting God to perform His creative act of bringing

a new human soul into existence. God entrusts that soul to the parent to guide and educate and ultimately to help get them to heaven. Church teaching on contraception is not just doctrine that states what not to do.

The Church supports methods of Natural Family Planning (NFP) because they respect God's design for married love. NFP is an umbrella term for certain methods used to achieve and avoid conception. It reflects the dignity of the human person within the context of marriage and family life, promotes openness to life and recognizes the value of the child. It's a teaching that

explains how extraordinarily important is the act of having children. (Dr. J. Smith)

Contraception causes us to think of sexual intercourse as a casual and, to some extent, as an insignificant act rather than an act that can change the universe. Just think about it, someone who did not exist before comes into existence and will remain in existence forever. What a gift! What a responsibility!

We are grateful to Suzanne and Angelo Pietropaoli, Diocesan Directors of our NFP Office. Through their ministry as directors and educators, we offer assistance to

families throughout our diocese. Should you like more information about Natural Family Planning, please contact our office. These days we all could use a good dose of enthusiasm for life. Let's share it and pray that God give strength to those who are living the sacrament of marriage with courage. Be a beacon of hope: "Pursue a lasting love... MARRIAGE. Create hope for the future."

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+ Perry R. Favalley

Most Reverend
Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg



**Diocese of Ogdensburg
Natural Family Planning Office**

518-483-0459 • Email: apietropaoli@rcdony.org
Website: www.rcdony.org/nfp



PHOTOS BY JESSE SOVIE & DARCY FARGO

(Left) The 24 men and women who were to be commissioned as lay ministers sit together in St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg, during the June 22 commissioning. (Right) Bishop Terry R. LaValley gives his homily during the commissioning, which included Vespers, evening prayer.

Twenty-four new ministers commissioned

On June 22, Bishop Terry R. LaValley blessed and commissioned 24 new lay ministers. The commissioned individuals completed the two-year Formation for Ministry Program.

The commissioned individuals are listed with their parishes, pastors and ministries.

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN DEANERY

The Catholic Community of St. Philip of Jesus & St. Joseph, Willsboro

Marycay Doolittle -
Parish Outreach Ministry
Pastor: Father Justin T. Thomas, HGN

St. James Major Church, Lake Pleasant

Richard Doell -
Parish Outreach Ministry
Pastor: Father Sony G. Pulickal

CLINTON-NORTHERN FRANKLIN DEANERY

Holy Cross Parish, Plattsburgh

Beth Carlin - Faith Formation Ministry
Letitia Taylor -
Ministry to Sick & Elderly
Steven Taylor - Liturgical Ministry
Pastor: Father Kevin D. McEwan

St. Bernard's & St Edmund's Parish, Ellenburg

Michael Chase -
Faith Formation Ministry
Pastor: Father Tojo Chacko, HGN

St. André Bessette Parish, Malone

Chad Fenoff - Ministry to Sick & Elderly
David Hunt - Youth Ministry
Pastor: Father Scott R. Seymour

The Catholic Community of St. Augustine, North Bangor

Sally White - Parish Outreach Ministry
Pastor: Father Kris C. Lauzon

JEFFERSON- LEWIS DEANERY

The Roman Catholic Community of Cape Vincent, Rosiere & Chaumont

Lance Bombard -
Faith Formation Ministry
Michael Nebbia - Youth Ministry
Sharon Nebbia - Youth Ministry
Pastor: Father Raymond Diesbourg, MSC

St. Mary's Church, Clayton

Jessie Duffany -
Parish Outreach Ministry
Karen Rockoff -
Ministry to Sick & Elderly
Sacramental Minister,
Supervising Priest:
Father Arthur J. LaBaff
Parish Life Coordinator:
Deacon Neil J. Fuller

Blessed Sacrament Parish, Watertown

Cathy Jacobs - Parish Outreach Ministry
Pastor: Father John M. Demo

Catholic Community of St. Peter & St. Mary & St. Hedwig, Lowville

Alicia Ross - Liturgical Ministry
Pastor: Father Douglas A. Decker

The Roman Catholic Community of Brownville & Dexter

Gregory Jones -
Faith Formation Ministry
Michael Saulaun -
Ministry to the Sick & Elderly
Tamara Saulan -
Ministry to the Sick & Elderly
Pastor: Father Donald A. Robinson, VF

ST. LAWRENCE DEANERY

St. Patrick's Church, Colton

Deborah Hintopoulos -
Ministry to Sick & Elderly
Pastor: Father Joseph W. Giroux

St. Mary's Church, Potsdam

Sarah Towler - Youth Ministry
Pastor: Father Joseph W. Giroux

St. James Church, Gouverneur

Cassandra Myers - Youth Ministry
Michael Myers -
Faith Formation Ministry
Pastor: Father James W. Seymour

Our Lady of Grace Parish, Morristown

Maureen Holleran -
Faith Formation Ministries
Pastor: Father Christopher C. Carrara



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE

Lance Bombard, a parishioner of the Roman Catholic Community of Cape Vincent, Rosiere and Chaumont, receives a certificate from Bishop Terry R. LaValley after being commissioned as a lay minister.

Commissioned for ministry

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

"It's something I did to learn more about my faith and find ways to give back," said Beth Carlin of Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh, one of 24 individuals commissioned to lay ministry by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on June 22. "And I want to help the Church, my local church and the diocese, and through my ministry, I hope to help bring others to God."

The 24 individuals commissioned will serve the Church in faith formation ministry, ministry to the sick and elderly and liturgical ministry. They completed a two-year Formation for Ministry program that included both online coursework and gatherings for retreats/workshops. They also worked with their pastors for further opportunities for discernment, reflection, discussion and growth.

CALLED TO MINISTRY

Carlin, who pursued faith formation ministry, said she also drew inspiration from her husband, Deacon James Carlin, and her son, Father Leagon Carlin.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

PURSUE A LASTING LOVE... MARRIAGE

What does it mean to pursue a lasting love?

By the USCCB NFP Program

As men and women caught in the responsibilities of daily life, it's easy to lose sight of the fact that we are destined for eternity. The thought that God's love endures forever is something difficult for our time-bound selves to comprehend. It's a lofty claim that can be easy to leave on the shelf as an "ideal"—rather than a truth we intentionally integrate into our marriage, here and now.

Because of the consequences of original sin, we do not come into this world knowing how to love as God loves. Instead, we receive and experience God's love for us throughout our lives, even as we learn to model that love in how we treat others. As Pope Francis says:

When a person discovers God, the true treasure, he abandons a selfish lifestyle and seeks to share with others the charity which comes from God. He who becomes a friend of God, loves his brothers and sisters, commits himself to safeguarding their life and their health.... - Pope Francis, Homily, 2014

LEARNING FROM THE TRINITY

A key way we can learn more about God's love is by examining the Trinitarian relationship between God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Trinity is three distinct persons united in one Godhead. The inner life of the Trinity is interpersonal, self-giving, and communicative.

As Christians, we are challenged to have faith that is "the confidence of what we hope for and the assurance of what we do not see" (Heb. 11:1). The first step in pursuing a lasting love, with the Trinity as our example, is the belief that a lasting love is possible—that we truly can and do daily participate in a divine reality that is beyond what can be seen on the surface.

LOVE IS FREE, TOTAL, FAITHFUL AND FRUITFUL!

Church teaching maintains that married love must be free, total, faithful, and fruitful. This is exactly how the Trinity loves!

In the Trinity, love is freely given between the three persons. The persons of the Trinity willingly place themselves at the service of their communion. There is no coercion or ulterior motive.

Secondly, the persons of the Trinity give themselves totally to one another. Though each person of the Trinity retains their unique personhood, they hold nothing back from the participation in Trinitarian love. The total gift of each person to the other allows for the one-ness of the Trinitarian relationship.

Third, Trinitarian love is faithful. The steadfastness of the Trinity is an indispensable part of a love which endures for all eternity. And finally, love is fruitful. The love of the Trinity is life-giving. All of creation, all of mankind, all goodness, all beauty results and flows from the love of the Trinitarian relationship.

THE HUMAN PERSON AS GIFT

It is only from the foundational understanding of love that we can come to know what a person is. The human person is made by love and for love. St. John Paul II phrases it beautifully in what is known as his personalistic norm. He states that human beings are subjects and not objects. Objects are meant to be used. Subjects are meant to be received as a gift. When we see our spouse and our children as gifts, the way that we relate to them shows just how much we value them.

Our families are especially called to be an icon of Trinity—where our hearts are stretched by loving one another and we are prepared to participate in eternal love. Then, spouses are called in a unique and intimate way to enter into a lasting love through the reception of one another as a gift in the sexual embrace. Spouses are called to open their hearts to God in marital intimacy such that each marital act be oriented towards the openness to life and the good of one another.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING, AN EXPRESSION OF LOVE

With this end in mind, it is also

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

PURSUE A LASTING LOVE... MARRIAGE

My Slogan: 'Practice Saved Sex!'

By Fletcher Doyle

I am a journalist and a convert. That sounds like an oxymoron.

Two years after joining the Catholic Church, my wife and I began practicing Natural Family Planning (NFP). I found that the chastity required to get through the periods of abstinence caused profound changes in me. I stopped day-dreaming of swimsuit models, wealth and fame. I became grateful for all God had given me, most of all for my wife. My appreciation for her and all that she gives me grew, improving an already good 20-year marriage.

I was curious to find out if other people had been so affected. This is where the journalist and the convert converged. I interviewed NFP couples and read thousands

of words on conjugal union and the effects of contraception on the relationship between men and women. So for five years I thought about nothing but sex, except during the hockey playoffs. This was a challenge to chastity, but the result was a book, *Natural Family Planning Blessed Our Marriage: 19 True Stories* (Servant Books).

Here is what I learned. When women took control of fertility with the pill and the IUD in the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s, men said "cool." Men's behavior changed, as they no longer felt responsible for their sexual partners. (This can be seen in the disappearance of shotgun marriages.)

There was an accompanying drop in commitment between men and women. Trust between the sexes fell because men no longer acted in ex-

pected patterns.

When you add in the increase in women's wages and the decrease in men's wages, you created couples who are neither financially nor sexually interdependent. This is why, social scientists say, the divorce rate doubled in that time frame.

NFP can repair the damage. Men acknowledge responsibility to their wives. Commitment increases because the couples know when pregnancy is likely before they make love. Their trust increases: she trusts he will fulfill his obligations when he assents to sex; he trusts she is making accurate observations of her fertility and is keeping him informed.

He develops a sense of awe in the way God made her, and she develops a sense of gratitude that he is willing to sac-

rifice his own pleasure for her sake. And both grow in their love and trust in God when they see the plan for sex and marriage that He built into their bodies. I have seen and experienced how using Natural Family Planning can make a difference in marriage. That should come as no surprise because it's God's way to practice responsible parenthood - it's His design for life and love!

*Fletcher Doyle is the author of *Natural Family Planning Blessed Our Marriage*, (Servant Books). He and his wife live in the Diocese of Buffalo.*

Doyle, Fletcher, "My Slogan: Practice Saved Sex," NFP/US Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC: USCCB, 2011. Used with permission.

Lasting love

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

important to note that there are times when, for serious reasons, it may not be prudent for a couple to have a child. In keeping with the vision of a lasting love that is free, total, faithful, and fruitful, the Church proposes Natural Family Planning (NFP) as a practical and morally permissible method for married

couples to avoid or achieve pregnancy.

According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, practicing NFP allows spouses to be responsible parents and at the same time "respect God's design for life and love." NFP is based on the natural times of fertility and infertility experienced throughout the course of a wom-

an's menstrual cycle. In seasons where it may be imprudent for a couple to have a child due to psychological, financial, physical, or other serious reasons, the couple abstains from intercourse during the woman's fertile time. At the same time, NFP can also be used to achieve pregnancy.

NFP is not contraception because it does

nothing to alter or block the body's natural rhythms of fertility. Instead, NFP relies on scientifically proven methods of tracking a woman's menstrual cycle so that a couple can make an informed decision guided by faith and reason.

NFP depends on the couples' free choice to abstain or engage in intercourse based on

the good of the spouses and the good of the family as a whole.

When spouses engage their free will to communicate in this way, they are choosing to see each other and future children as gifts and saying yes to a love that is free, total, faithful, and fruitful - answering the call to be an image of lasting Trinitarian love.



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Commissioned for ministry

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

"They do so much for the Church," she said. "I felt that draw to do (the Formation for Ministry program) for myself, to learn more about the faith and to grow in my service to the Church. I wasn't raised Catholic. I felt the urge and desire to learn more about the faith so I can share the faith more effectively."

Lance Bombard, a parishioner of the Roman Catholic Community of Cape Vincent, Rosiere and Chaumont, said he felt called to grow his faith and grow in ministry.

"It's all about learning," he said. "Once you stop learning, you stop living. My ministry to this point has been being a good husband and a good father to our four children. My children are older now - the youngest will be 17 in August. I've worked with Tony Marra in our RCIA program, and he suggested I think about Formation for Ministry. I looked into it, and it was a good time for me to do it."

Bombard said he's discerning a vocation to the diaconate, and he completed the program with that in mind.

"Growing up, there was a deacon at our parish, and he and his wife invited me into their home," he said. "It was such a peaceful place. I remember feeling safe there. The light they reflected to others really stood out to me. God has been calling me, I think, to the diaconate. This is the first step."

Sarah Towler of St. Mary's Church in Potsdam said she participated in the program to help her be more effective in her primary min-



PHOTOS BY JESSE SOVIE

(Left) Bishop Terry R. LaValley gives Beth Carlin of Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh a certificate honoring her completion of the Formation for Ministry program. (Right) Sarah Towler of Potsdam was commissioned by Bishop LaValley as a youth minister.

istry as cantor at her church.

"I pick all the hymns for Mass," she said. "I wanted to have a better understanding of the Mass and of liturgy to be able to do a better job picking out hymns that would enhance the liturgy, and deepen worship and prayer for the congregation."

Towler completed the youth ministry tract of the program.

"I help out with the catechetical program at our parish," she said. "I don't know where that will lead. We have a new pastor coming in. It depends on what he wants and where he wants me to go. I'm open to doing what I can to help. I've been an educator for 18 years, I love working with children, and instilling a love of faith in

Participate in the program

Do you feel called to serve the Lord, His Church and your parish in new ways? Planning is underway for the next session of the Formation for Ministry Program. For more information, or to apply, visit <https://www.rcdony.org/formation/candidate>

them brings me a lot of joy."

GROWING IN KNOWLEDGE, FAITH

Bombard, Carlin and Towler said they enjoyed the variety of topics explored in the Formation for Ministry program coursework.

"I enjoyed the subject matter," said Carlin. "Some of it was tricky and made me feel like I didn't know anything at first. But it was nice to explore the variety of topics. I especially enjoyed learning about Church history."

"You get a little of everything," Towler added. "You may not get to

go very deep into every category, but you get a sample of it, and you get exposed to ideas or topics you may want to explore more through reading or research on your own."

While he said he enjoyed the coursework and growth he experienced there, Bombard said he also learned a lot about himself through the program.

"Part of the program is doing reflections with your parish priest," he said. "I met with my pastor, Father Ray Diebsbourg (a Missionary of the Sacred Heart). We talked about forgive-

ness. That was hard. I had to actually reflect on my past, including some pain I've experienced over the years. A lot of emotions came up with that. There were conversations with others I had to have, and we spent time talking about forgiving myself. I got past that forgiveness of others, but I struggled more with forgiving myself. I sat with Father Ray and went to confession for the first time in a few years. That was a big thing I took out of the program - that personal growth."

While Bombard said he enjoyed the online format for much of the coursework, Carlin and Towler said there were aspects of it they enjoyed and aspects they

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

NEW LAY MINISTERS

Photos by Jesse Sovie & Darcy Fargo



Seven men become deacon candidates

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon
Contributing Writer

Bishop Terry R LaValley presided at a ceremony June 6 at Wadhams Hall, Ogdensburg to designate seven aspirants as candidates for the diaconate. The designation is a formal step for a man who feels called to ordination as a deacon.

The men have spent two years, first as inquirers and then as aspirants, in the Diocesan Formation Program. They will continue their formation for another two years before being eligible for ordination.

The new candidates for Permanent Deacon are Russel Backus of St. Mary's, Canton, Daniel Haycock of St. Mary's, Clayton, David Hunt of St. André Bessette, Malone, Lucien Leroux of St. Mary's of the Fort, Fort Covington, John Lucia of St. Mary's, Clayton, Michael Salaun of Immaculate Conception, Brownville, and



PHOTO BY DEACON KEVIN MASTELLON/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

New deacon candidates for the diocese are pictured with Bishop Terry R. LaValley on June 6 at Wadhams Hall. Pictured are (front row, from left) Lucien Leroux, Bishop Terry R LaValley, Daniel Haycock, Russel Backus, (back row) Jason Scull, John Lucia, Michael Salaun, Deacon Lee Trudeau, director of Permanent Deacon Formation, and David Hunt.

Jason Scull of St. Agnes, Lake Placid.

According to the National

Directory of Formation, "The candidate stage of initial formation is the occasion to confirm a man's diaconal vocation and prepare for ordination. Throughout this stage of formation, the candidate himself assumes the primary responsibility for his discernment and development. Self-formation does not imply isolation, or independence from formators, but responsibility and dynamism in responding with generosity to God's call."

Men preparing for ordination study Scripture, Worship and Liturgy, Social Teaching of the Church, Canon Law, Human Development and Homiletics. They meet for a weekend each month from September to June and complete on-line courses offered by Notre Dame University.

Another six men have completed their course work and now hope to be Called to Orders by Bishop LaValley. Their ordination is planned for August 9, 2025, at St. Mary's Cathedral.

CALLED TO SERVE

There is no substitute

Each week, we record the Sunday homily delivered in a Watertown church by a priest or deacon at one of the Masses. Through the magic of the digital world, we then copy the pictures and sound to our parish website.

There is an intermediate step called the editing stage. The raw footage is embellished with opening and closing graphics, theme music, transitions, and titles. The result is the finished product that will be available for a week on our website.

We are not unique in this effort. Other parishes stream a Mass each week, called live streaming, and then provide the recorded Mass through the parish YouTube or Facebook page.

Some parishes in this diocese provide a live

stream of daily Mass.

All this live and recorded stuff was a direct result of the pandemic.

On March 15, 2020, the New York City Public and Parochial schools closed because of the illness that would eventually be called COVID-19. You might recall we started wearing masks all the time at about that time. Pastors looked to the diocese for advice on how to proceed.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley "dispensed all the Catholic faithful from the obligation to participate at Sunday Mass" on March 17, 2020. That dispensation in the Diocese of Ogdensburg remained in force for 14 months.



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

The dispensation was lifted in 2021, but parishes are still trying to get people who stayed away from Church to return to regular attendance.

And live streamed Mass or recorded elements have become the norm, not an emergency reaction.

Those who subscribe to live stream technology today argue the Mass is made available to the home-bound and residents of nursing homes.

Naysayers suggest home viewing of the Mass is an excuse for individuals and families to not attend Church. They also argue televised Masses do not present the opportunity to receive the body and

blood of Christ.

But there is Spiritual Communion counters the supporters. That became popular during COVID too.

I am of the opinion live streamed Masses and a recorded version are here to stay. It is time to embrace technology but do it well. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal tells us, in one paragraph, the Mass "is arranged in such a way that it leads to a conscious, active, and

full participation of the faithful...to which the Christian people have a right and duty in virtue of their Baptism."

Watching Mass on your screen is not a substitute for attending Mass. There is no adequate substitute for conscious, active and full participation.

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

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Environmental Stewardship

Laudato Si - Chapter 5

In Chapter 5, the encyclical *Laudato Si* changes direction. Rather than focusing on the many environmental and social issues impacting the health of our planet, the pope emphasizes that worldwide cooperation is needed to address those issues.

"A global consensus is essential for confronting the deeper problems, which can not be resolved by unilateral actions on the part of individual countries." (LS 164)

Pope Francis cites the need to drastically reduce "...polluting fossil fuels-especially coal, but also oil and to a lesser degree, gas..." (LS165) He goes on to say that "Politics and business have been slow to react..." (LS165) However, he points out a reason for hope as "the ecological movement has made significant advances, thanks also to the efforts of many organizations of civil society." (LS166)

While progress is being made on several fronts, not enough change is occurring, and it's not occurring fast enough to stem the crisis. Pope Francis stresses that "We believers can not fail to ask God for a positive outcome to present discussions..." (LS169)

The chapter progresses with ways to address problems on a national and local level. Francis cites a hard reality of society: "The myopia of power politics delays the inclusion of a far-sighted environmental agenda..." (LS178) Politics and the influence of big business make it extremely challenging gain support for efforts to scale back our throwaway mentality and consumer culture.

Chapter 5 ends with the need for science and religion to work together, as each have very different resources to help us change the ways we live. Pope Francis calls all of us to not "...lose sight of the great motivations which make it possible for us to live in harmony, to make sacrifices and to treat others well." (LS200) We have to think about the consequences our actions have on the often invisible poor and on future generations.

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

Rest in Peace

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

July 2 — Rev. Richard A. Gleason, O.S.A., 1939; Rev. Denis F. Finnegan, 1951; Msgr. John A. Stone, 1964; Msgr. Francis J. Connors, 1977; Rev. George A. Lemieux, 1993; Rev. John M. Crable, 2012; Deacon Francis F. Bateman, 2019

July 3 — Rev. E. Leonard Murphy, 1954, Rev. Peter M. Berg, 2022

July 4 — Rev. Joseph L. St. Jacques, 1952

July 5 — Rev. Paul F. Lederman, 2016

July 6 — Rev. Armand Baron, O.M.I., 1936

July 7 — Rev. Felician Fehlner, O.F.M. Conv, 1952

July 9 — Rev. John Rogers, 1887; Rev. Joseph H. Emard, O.M.I., 1924

July 10 — Rev. Mary Ignatius Grom, 1936; Rev. John F. McNamara, 1971; Deacon Victor Fisher, 1999; Rev. James A. Delbel, 2013

July 12 — Rev. James Salmon, 1835; Rev. John J. Brennan, 1881; Most Rev. Albert Pascal, O.M.I., 1920

July 13 — Rev. George Garand, 1941

July 15 — Rev. John Conlon, 1881; Rev. Charles D. Thomas, 1895; Msgr. Armand Dussault, 1963; Rev. Joseph F. Quinn, 1970; Rev. Joseph F. Dowd, 1983

J. Povoncha died June 11

Joseph Alvin Provoncha passed away on June 11, 2025, in Elizabethtown. He was 65.

Born July 12, 1959, he was the son of Alvin George Provoncha and Shirley Marie (Goodspeed) Provoncha of North Hudson. His parents survive.

A graduate of Schroom Lake Central School, Joe attended the College of St. Rose, where he earned honors in the field of education.

After college, Joe began his career as an educator at St. James Institute, teaching fourth grade before transitioning to junior high English and reading. Though he eventually left the classroom, Joe never stopped being a teacher to those around him. His quiet wisdom, natural compassion, and unwavering support guided and inspired others throughout his life.

Joe later returned to his beloved North Hudson and Essex County, where

he joined the County Youth Bureau, first as programs coordinator, then as director.

Joe served as Essex County Clerk for 30 years, earning many accolades for his achievements in the role. Upon his retirement, he was honored with the New York State Association of County Clerks' first "Lifetime County Clerks" designation.

Joe also served on the Schroom Lake Public Library Board of Trustees as both vice president and president.

A lifelong member of Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church, Joe's faith was central to his life. He became an altar server in the fifth grade and continued to serve the church throughout his life as a catechism teacher, lector, parish council member, trustee, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion and Master of Ceremonies for local clergy. On Decem-

ber 8, 2013, Bishop Terry LaValley awarded Joe the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross, the highest honor a layperson can receive for service to the Church.

Joe was a member of the Knights of Columbus, third degree in Port Henry and fourth degree in Ticonderoga, and he served as chaplain of the North Hudson Fire Department. Locally, he also held roles as a temporary board member, Town Clerk, and Deputy Town Supervisor of North Hudson.

Joe was also a devoted uncle who gave generously of his time, energy, and heart to his nieces and nephew. He played an active role in their upbringing, education, and faith, and remained a steady, loving presence.

In addition to his parents, Joe is survived by his sister and brother-in-law, Amy and Thomas Garcia; his nieces and nephew, Mary and Logan Quinn, Sarah and Jason Marks, and Thomas Joseph "TJ" Garcia; his great-nieces and nephews, Clarah Marie Quinn, Alvin Thomas Quinn, Finn Henry Quinn, Skyla D., and Molly Marks; his aunts, Fran Provancha (wife of the late Paul Provoncha) and Pam Goodspeed; many treasured cousins, numerous godchildren, and individuals he sponsored for confirmation, Tanner Stone, William Lowe, and Christopher Veverka. Joe is also remembered with love by his countless friends, colleagues, and community members whose lives he touched with his kindness, faith and quiet leadership.

A funeral Mass was celebrated June 16 at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Schroom Lake. Interment followed at the Cemetery of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in North Hudson.

Bishop's Public Schedule

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

July 3 — 10 a.m. — Mass Celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope at the Meadowbrook Healthcare in Carthage

July 6 — 10:30 a.m. — Mass Celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope at the Mother Cabrini Shrine in West Peru followed by a Picnic

July 8 — 4 p.m. — Mass for Youth Camp at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake

July 11 — 5 p.m. — Dinner Gathering for Pastors, Priests and Church Leaders in Northern New York at the Mooers Wesleyan Church in Mooers

July 13 — 12:15 p.m. — Mass at the 77th Annual New York State Knights of Columbus Pilgrimage at St. Anne's Shrine at Isle La Motte in Vermontine at Isle La Motte in Vermont

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

Pope Leo calls bishops to be 'firm and decisive' in dealing with abuse

By Hannah Brockhaus
Catholic News Agency

Pope Leo XIV on June 25 called bishops to be firm and decisive in dealing with scandal and sexual abuse, linking vigilance against abuse to living a chaste life.

Speaking to over 400 bishops from 38 countries in St. Peter's Basilica, the pope also emphasized the importance of pastoral prudence, poverty, and synodality in the ministry of a bishop.

"Together with material poverty, the life of the bishop is also marked by that specific form of poverty, which is celibacy and virginity for the sake of the kingdom of heaven," he said during the June 25 meeting, the last part of a morning of spiritual activities for the Jubilee of Bishops.

Leo said celibacy is more than living as a celibate but includes "chastity of heart and conduct, and in this way, living a life of Christian discipleship and presenting to all the authentic image of the Church, holy and chaste in her members as in her head."

Following his reference to their personal chastity, the pope asked the bishops, when dealing with abuse, especially abuse of minors, to fully respect the Church's current regulations.

Pope Leo, before his election, spent two years as head of the Dicastery for Bishops, the Vatican department responsible for assisting the pope in the appointment of new bishops around the world, providing formation for new bishops, and intervening when necessary in problems of governance within a diocese.

Evangelical poverty, as lived by the bishop, "is a simple, sober, and generous lifestyle, dignified and at the same time suited to the conditions of the majority of his people," the pontiff said.

"The poor," he continued, "must find in him a father and a brother, and never feel uncomfortable in meeting him or entering his home. In his personal life, he must be detached from the pursuit of wealth and from

forms of favoritism based on money or power."

On pastoral prudence, Leo underlined the need for synodality — "dialogue as a style and method" — in the bishop's particular Church.

He encouraged bishops to be men of the theological virtues: faith, hope, and charity. And he cited the Second Vatican Council decree on priests, *Presbyterorum Ordinis*, which mentions the human virtues of "fairness, sincerity, magnanimity, openness of mind and heart, the ability to rejoice with those who rejoice and to suffer with those who suffer, as well as self-control, delicacy, patience, discretion, great openness to listening and engaging in dialogue, and willingness to serve."

"These virtues," the pontiff said, "can and must be cultivated in conformity to the Lord Jesus, with the grace of the Holy Spirit."

For the Jubilee of Bishops, members of the Roman Curia and bishops on pilgrimage to Rome began the morning by passing through the Holy Door. Cardinal Marc Ouellet, PSS, prefect emeritus of the Dicastery for Bishops, celebrated Mass for them at the Altar of the Chair before the approximately half-hour meeting with Leo.

After the pope delivered his spiritual message, which the bishops applauded, he led them in singing the Creed, the profession of the faith, in Latin.

"At the very place where Peter gave witness to Christ, together with me, his successor, you renew your loyalty to the prince of pastors," the pope said as he introduced the Creed.

Pope Leo, in his catechesis, also cited St. Augustine's description of the priestly ministry as the "amoris officium," or the "office of love" in English.

Here the theological life of the bishop, he said, "is expressed and shines forth in the highest degree. Whether preaching, visiting communities, listening to priests and deacons, or making administrative decisions, all that he does is inspired and motivated by the charity of Christ the Shepherd."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

AG confirms investigation into 'DC five' aborted babies

U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi confirmed this week that there is an "ongoing investigation" into the deaths of "the D.C. Five," the five late-term aborted babies recovered from a Washington, D.C., abortion clinic three years ago. During a June 23 House budget hearing for the Department of Justice, West Virginia Rep. Riley Moore noted that, in 2022, the D.C. Metropolitan Police "recovered the remains of five unborn children, apparently from a D.C. abortion mill, which appeared to be the victims ... of a brutal partial-birth abortion." Moore asked Bondi — who was at the hearing to present the White House's Department of Justice budget — if the government would "commit to working with me and this committee to conduct a full and fair investigation into the deaths of these children to ensure justice is served for the D.C. Five?" Bondi confirmed that the controversy is "an ongoing investigation," adding that she "cannot discuss that in this forum." "The D.C. Five" were found at the home of Catholic convert and pro-life activist Lauren Handy. The group Progressive Anti-Abortion Uprising said it obtained the remains from reported whistleblowers who thought the killings may have violated federal laws against partial-birth abortion and infanticide.

Religious sisters demonstrate as senators consider budget bill

Sisters from 60 congregations gathered in Washington, D.C., on June 24 to urge lawmakers not to cut government programs that support immigrants and people with low incomes. The event, called "Sisters Speak Out," was held in the nation's capital while approximately 40 "echo events" took place across the country. Around 300 sisters and supporters attended the D.C. gathering for "immigrants and a just economy" in anticipation of the Senate voting on the reconciliation bill this week. According to a press release from the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, the sisters were gathered to speak out against budget cuts they believe will "gut health care and food assistance, inflicting serious harm on families, children, the elderly, and disabled." The event "had five different speakers" and the group gathered to pray a decade of the rosary together.

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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 four Sessions. Father John Riccardo speaks on the HOME as the place where the world meets the Church. We will meet via TEAMS.

Schedule: There are two options, Mondays, noon to 1 p.m. July 7, July 14, July 21, July 28; or Thursdays 7 to 8 p.m. July 3, July 10, July 17, July 24.

Place: Virtual via TEAMS

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

Contact: If you have any questions, contact Marika at mdonders@rcdony.org To register go to <https://www.rcdony.org/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

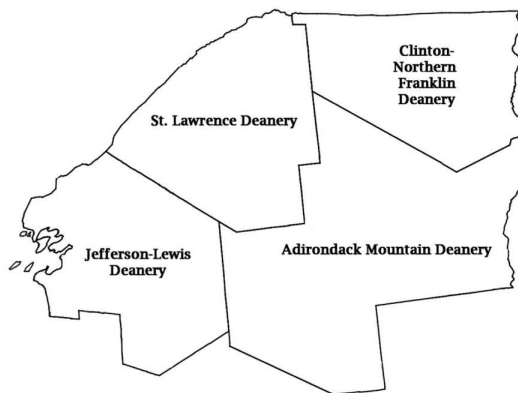
SOAKING PRAYER SESSIONS

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 surrendering yourself to the Holy Spirit in a relaxed atmosphere



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.

and being immersed in receiving an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. A short introduction is given about the flow of the session followed by a 30-minute praise and worship segment to invoke the Holy Spirit. The remainder of the time is spent listening to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Bring your own bagged lunch.

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

FIRST FRIDAY

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

Date: July 4

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

GOLF TOURNAMENT

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

Date: July 11

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

Place: Harmony Golf Club

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

Features: Awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams. Prizes for the longest drives, closest to the pin, skins and putting contests.

Chances to win with a Hole in One sponsored by Shumway Insurance.

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

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 2nd Annual Golf Tournament to be held.

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: July 6

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

SUMMER GALA AND RAFFLE

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

Date: Gala will be Aug. 5

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 10

Place: Cerow Arena at the Town of Clayton Recreation Park

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

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

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

ST. LAWRENCE

BRUNCH

Norfolk – Parish of the Visitation

and St. Raymond's will have their Knights of Columbus Brunch.

Date: July 13 (Second Sunday of each month)

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

Place: Father Amyot Parish Center

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

Contact: For more information contact Grand Knight Gil Gonthier 315-212-5166.

ST. JAMES SUMMER RAFFLE

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

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

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

Features: Grand Prize: \$10,000; second prize: \$5,000; third prize: \$2,500; fourth prize: \$1,500; fifth prize: \$500. Winner need NOT be present to win.

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

DIOCESAN EVENTS

WALK AND TALK

Rensselaer Falls – Walk and Talk, a Young Adult Encounter. All Young Adults (aged 18 ~ 35ish) are invited to an informal gathering and hike.

Date: July 5

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: Indian Creek Nature Center (www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org)

Features: Entry to the park is free. We will decide on the trail to follow as a group. Depending on the weather, the terrain and roads could be muddy, so please plan accordingly. Please bring a bagged lunch.

Contact: For more information and to let us know that you are planning joining us, contact Alexis Michael at alexismichael198@proton.me or Marika Donders at mdonders@rcdony.org

Actor Al Pacino meets with Pope Leo

By Victoria Cardiel
Catholic News Agency

In an unexpected visit, Hollywood actor Al Pacino was received by Pope Leo XIV on June 17 at the Vatican, according to photos shared on Instagram by Italian film producer Andrea Iervolino.

Pacino and Iervolino are currently in Italy filming their next movie, which is dedicated to the origins of the iconic Maserati automobile brand.

The film, "The Brothers," which chronicles the vicissitudes of the Maserati brothers, stars the Oscar-winning actor and is produced by Iervolino.

During the private audience with the pontiff, Leo was presented with a miniature model of a Maserati vehicle, a symbol of the Italian design-and-engineering legacy.

The Holy See Press Office has not issued an official statement about the meeting,

nor has it confirmed it. Iervolino's social media post, which is accompanied by a photo of the meeting, shows Pacino and Iervolino smiling next to the pope, who is holding the small replica of the car.

In a press release posted on social media, Iervolino stated: "We are honored to announce that this morning His Holiness Pope Leo XIV received in private audience at the Holy See a delegation from the film Maserati."

He also stated that the meeting "was a moment of profound spiritual and cultural inspiration, centered on the shared values that are at the heart of both the Catholic Church and the film: family unity, love, compassion, and the importance of contributing to the common good."

This story was first published by ACI Prensa, CNA's Spanish-language news partner. It has been translated and adapted by CNA.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

DOVS RAFFLE

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

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

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

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

Contact: Connie Randall at 315-783-0574 or email connerandall47@yahoo.com

PILGRIMAGE TO ST. ANNE'S SHRINE

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

Date: July 13

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

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

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. Sczerzenie, 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

Features: A Reception will immediately follow at the Martin Field Club (formerly the Knights of Columbus Hall), 721 Hasbrouck Street. The Ordination Mass may be viewed at www.rcdony.org/ordination.

YOUTH PARISH VOLUNTEER PICNIC

Saranac Lake - Calling all Youth Parish Volunteers! Join us for a special day celebrating and honoring Diocesan Youth Parish Volunteers! Parents and siblings, Youth Volunteers - altar servers, music ministers, faith formation helpers, lectors, etc., are invited to Camp Guggenheim for 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 the vocation stories of guest speakers, and enjoy games and activities designed to inspire and strengthen their faith. A delicious cookout of hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. The day will culminate with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Terry R.

LaValley

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

CAMP GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake - Camp Guggenheim registration is now open.

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

Cost: \$425, scholarships are available

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

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

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake - Registration for Family Guggenheim is now open.

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

Features: Expect fun family workshops and activities that will have you working and laughing together. Celebrate Christ's presence in your lives through liturgy and prayer services. Take time for great outdoor activities like paddle boat rides, beach volleyball, and hiking.

Contact: Registration is open now at <https://www.rcdony.org/fg> Financial assistance is available. For more information, contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org.

AFTERNOON OF MUSIC & ART

Saranac Lake - The Diocese of Ogdensburg will host an arts festival, "The Look, Feel, & Sound of Hope."

Date: Aug. 24

Time: 3 p.m. to 5

Place: St. Bernard's Church

Features: The event is part of the diocese's 2025 Jubilee Year Celebration and aims to bring a greater share of hope and prayer to our lives, our communities and our world. We are looking for visual and/or tactile art that express the theme of HOPE. These works do not have to be overtly religious, but must represent the Look, Feel and Sound of Hope.

For musicians from around the diocese, there are three ways to participate in this initiative: as a member of the Diocesan Choir, as a Soloist/part of a chamber music group, and/or the Invitational Diocesan Schola Select Choir.

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

WOMENS HEALING RETREAT

Ogdensburg - The Our Lady of the Rosary Healing Retreat Committee is offering a Women's Healing Retreat with the theme "From Eve to Mary, A Journey of Hope and Healing."

Date: Oct. 9 - 12

Place: Wadhams Hall

Cost: \$275 includes accommodations and meals

Features: Presenters will be Father Michael Jablonski and Father Douglas Schirmer

Contact: to register and for more information go to <https://www.rcdony.org/ourlady>



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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

Finding peace

Many of us will remember the "peace era," the 1960s. There were peace protests, peace symbols, peace T-shirts, the word "peace" emblazoned wherever we turned. The happy go-along with peace was love. We heard such songs as "All you need is love," and music seemed to intertwine peace and love. For some, merely speaking, singing, writing or printing the words "peace" and "love" would make those realities happen.

Some even believed that the Gospel could be replaced with the peace and love movement. Peace and love definitely stand out in the Gospel message, but the scriptural uses of those terms differ. Often, we believe that

peace means no war, and love means no hate. In a nutshell, when we hear peace and love in scripture, those words do not suggest a mere lack of war and hate, but, rather, they tell us to act to bring peace and love. Jesus never said, in building peace and in loving our neighbor, that we would get warm, fuzzy feelings of good will and cheer. Rather, in

Jesus speak, peace and love result from actions not wishes.

Jesus tells his disciples that they must bring peace to those whom they encounter. In his words, "Into whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.'"

The scriptures speak of peace with four different meanings. One

July 6

**Fourteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

READINGS

Isaiah 66:10-14c

Galatians 6:14-18

Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

use of the word peace is in the military sense, a lack of war, peace among nations. Scripture also speaks of peace in a personal sense, a feeling of personal well-being, being at peace with ourselves. Then, there is the religious sense of peace indicating a right relationship with God, being at peace with God. Finally, there is Jesus' use of the word promoting our peace with God, neighbor, and oneself.

Later in Mass, at the sign of peace, when we speak of the peace of Christ, when we extend to others the peace of Christ, we are wishing that the other person be at peace with God, his neighbor, and himself.

In the Our Father, we pray: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done."

Let me ask a question. It may sound stupid, bold or even arrogant. Do you really want God's kingdom to come? Do you really want God's will to be done? Do you really want God's peace to rule on the earth? You see the phrases "thy kingdom come... thy will be done" leave out the doer of these actions. Thy kingdom come and thy will be done can happen only with our actions, our deeds, our moving forward. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done are human activities not wishful thoughts.

If we cave in to moral relativism, God's will will never happen, and the kingdom will fall apart. Moral relativism removes objective moral values and truths. The moral relativism defines morality from within the person without a link to an objective moral value or belief. When the results of moral relativism become enacted in laws and public policies, then "thy kingdom come" and "thy will be done" have been replaced with "someone

else's kingdom come" and "someone else's will be done."

This week we justifiably celebrated our American heritage with pride and dignity. We celebrate our freedom, our justice, our melting pot heritage, our ability to respond to national challenges. In celebrating our peace and love found in our country, we should never forget that "In God we trust" is more than a slogan.

Jesus was very clear that his disciples had to bring peace and love to the world, but he also said that his peace and love are not as the world gives them. The peace and love of Jesus are values based on God's will and God's law. They are not values based on human will and human law. God's peace and love can only come from God's law and God's will as lived and practiced by his disciples.

If we want to continue having peace and love in our world, then these words must come alive and radiate at all times: Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.

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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

Rainy season brings hardships

Three months after the devastating earthquake of March 28, the area around Mandalay in north-central Myanmar has been hit by heavy rains and thunderstorms for more than three weeks. Due to the persistent rains and aftershocks, some buildings already damaged by the earthquake have collapsed, causing further difficulties for affected communities, according to a report by the Emergency Rescue Team for humanitarian assistance of the Archdiocese of Mandalay.

"Many people are still spending the night outdoors or in makeshift shelters. Many houses have been damaged or destroyed by the earthquake, forcing families to sleep outdoors," the report states. "In and around Mandalay, people are using (tarps), tents or bamboo structures to protect themselves from the weather. Access to clean water, sanitation and essential goods remains limited."

With the onset of the monsoon, the situation for earthquake victims is likely to become even more difficult. The makeshift shelters "will not be able to withstand heavy rains and winds," the report says. "We fear that flooding and poor sanitation will increase the risk of waterborne diseases, especially for children and the elderly. Without urgent assistance in providing more permanent shelters and improving sanitation conditions, the safety and wellbeing of large segments of the population will be seriously threatened during the rainy season."

The diocese has provided undamaged structures and church buildings or rooms to house the displaced. "Makeshift tents have been set up by earthquake victims at the St. Michael's Parish complex in Mandalay. Among those affected are not only Catholics but also Buddhists. Their homes were severely damaged," the report states.

Volunteers diocesan teams distribute aid to earthquake victims, others work to repair damaged church buildings, and still others lead emergency relief teams. Priests and religious share the fate of the refugees. For example, in the courtyard of the archbishop's complex, Father Peter Kyi Maung, secretary of the archdiocese, explains: "We have made ourselves comfortable sleeping places with simple sheets and mosquito nets in the open areas of the complex. Until the necessary repairs are carried out, we have no choice but to continue living in these makeshift conditions. But all the volunteers and faithful are working hard every day to improve the situation bit by bit. The Lord gives us the strength to continue."

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.

Alexandria Bay — Sylvia Ann (Hall) Fahsel, 76; Graveside Services June 22, 2025 at St. Cyril's Cemetery.

Bombay — Colin G. "Butch" Cunningham, 81; Mass of Christian Burial June 28, 2025 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Bombay.

Carthage — Alfreda M. Ellis, 90; Mass of Christian Burial July 14, 2025 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Chazy — Gary George Moore, 78; Mass of Christian Burial June 20, 2025 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Clayton — Louis Anthony Costantino III, 45; Mass of Christian Burial June 23, 2025 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Clayton Cemetery.

Colton — Julia W. Regan, 85; Mass of Christian Burial June 20, 2025 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Colton — John "Jack" B. Saunders, 92; Mass of Christian Burial June 28, 2025 at St. Patrick's Church.

Croghan — Kevin L. Turck, 90; Mass of Christian Burial July 15, 2025 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Gabriels — Marybeth (Fox) Leavitt, 71; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 2, 2025 at Church of the Assumption; burial in Brighton Mountain View Cemetery.

Harrisville — Parrish Preston Baillargeon, 52; Funeral Services June 24, 2025 at Scanlon Funeral Home; burial in St. Francis Cemetery, Harrisville.

Hogansburg — Christine Rose (Comstock) Wood, 94; Mass of Christian Burial June 16, 2025 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

OBITUARIES

Keeseville — David L. King, 59; Funeral Services June 19, 2025 at Hamilton Funeral Home.

Lowville — Robert O. Mono, Sr., 39; Funeral Services June 27, 2025 at Lundy Funeral Home.

Lyon Mountain — Margo M. (Pageau) Rounds, 70; Mass of Christian Burial June 20, 2025 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Malone — Cheryl D. (Tebbo) Sauve, 80; Funeral Services June 23, 2025 at Frary Funeral Home.

Massena — John S. Perrine, 88; Private Services to be held.

Morrisonville — Carl J. Goddeau, 80; Graveside Services June 27, 2025 at St. Alexander's Cemetery.

Norwood — Larry G. Steinburg, 75; Funeral Services June 19, 2025 at the Buck Funeral Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Richard L. Dings, 89; Mass of Christian Burial June 17, 2025 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Manley B. Nipe, 90; Mass of Christian Burial June 20, 2025 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Oswegatchie Mausoleum.

Olmstedville — Patricia H. (Jackson) Moriarty, 90; Mass of Christian Burial June 20, 2025 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Irishtown.

Peru — James Edward Roach, 61; Funeral Services July 5, 2025 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Carol A. (Rostak) Beebie, 78; Mass of Christian Burial June 20, 2025 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Christopher F.

Boslet, Sr., 88; Mass of Christian Burial June 23, 2025 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Helen "Holly" A. (Carnahan) Cadigan, 61; Funeral Services June 22, 2025 at Brown Funeral Home.

Plattsburgh — Margaret "Peggy" Durnin Tolosky, 64; Mass of Christian Burial June 26, 2025 at St. Peter's Church.

Potsdam — Lynne Marie (Ellis) Saucier, 72; Mass of Christian Burial June 20, 2025 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Bayside Cemetery.

Potsdam — Nathan David Snell, 78; Mass of Christian Burial July 12, 2025 at St. Mary's Church, Potsdam burial in Chapel Hill Cemetery, Parishville.

Rosiere — Linda A. (Bourquin) Aubertine, 76; Mass of Christian Burial June 19, 2025 at St. Vincent de Paul Church; burial in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery.

Rouses Point — William Roger Bosley, 69; Mass of Christian Burial June 20, 2025 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Mooers.

Rouses Point — Carol A. (Lynch) Hand, 69; Mass of Christian Burial June 19, 2025 at St. Patrick's Church.

Saranac Lake — John "Jack" Finegan, 94; Mass of Christian Burial June 26, 2025 at St. Bernard's Church.

Tupper Lake — Georgianna "Jean" (McFaul) Garrow, 89; Mass of Christian Burial June 20, 2025 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Tupper Lake — Ayupe J. Shaheen, 90; Mass of Christian Burial June 23, 2025 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

Commissioned for ministry

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

found challenging. "It made it accessible for me to do as a father and husband and while working," Bombard said. "It was nice meeting people online first and then meeting

them in person at the retreats. As far as the training and the collaboration with classmates, I really enjoyed that. It was nice getting to meet people and talk about our faith. That's not something we often

get to do. The online format worked great for me."

Carlin said she appreciated the flexibility the online program offered, and that flexibility enabled her to participate through unexpected

life events, but she also found aspects of the online program challenging.

"I understand and appreciate the convenience, and it was convenient for me, as well," she said. "But I'm a people person. I understand a topic better if I hear someone talk about it, and if I hear people ask questions and get answers. I found it challenging to not have that."

Towler echoed those sentiments.

"In the beginning, I found the online aspect to be very attractive, mostly because I'm extremely busy," she said. "I liked being able to do the work on my own time. Going through the courses, I missed having more opportunities to interact with my classmates. I think the online courses gave us a nice variety of courses, but I would've liked more opportunities for dialogue, deepening relationships and learning from each other. We might post about what we took from a video or a reading, but we didn't have conversations."

MOVING FORWARD

As she continues working with youth and in music ministry, Towler said she hopes her participation in the program and the ministries of the other participants will bear fruit.

"I'm really hopeful and prayerful that the people who took this course can move forward in ways that reflect Catholicism and God's love for everyone," she said. "I hope they can meet people where they are, that they can be open minded, and that they can have honest conversations but come from a

place of love."

Carlin said she looks forward to using the skills she's obtained working with confirmation students in her home parish.

"I also sit in with (Deacon) James (Carlin) when he teaches OCIA," she said. "I feel like bringing my background - not growing up Catholic - into that can be helpful. In the past, I've sometimes felt apprehensive and worried I couldn't explain what different parts of Catholicism mean or why they are the way they are. Now, I'm a little less nervous to say, 'I can help with that.'"

"I hope to work on an outreach program with my son," added Bombard. "We share a passion for our faith. We want to go out and reach others and get them to the Church or back to the Church - to go out into the community and make disciples."

Bombard said he'd encourage others to pursue the Formation for Ministry program.

"As Bishop (LaValley) mentioned at commissioning, this isn't graduation," he said. "We're supposed to take this out into the world and tell people about it. It takes sacrifice and work to get through the program, but it's been a great experience for me, a great spiritual journey. Just growing in my understanding of the Eucharist - the true body and blood of Christ - has made Mass take on new meaning for me."

"It's a starting point to learning more and feeling more comfortable in helping in ministry," added Carlin.

CONGRATULATIONS
and God's blessings
upon you, our dear Pastor
Father Donald A. Robinson

We are deeply grateful for your 45 years of priesthood and a lifetime of answering God's call. Your humble kindness, your reverent prayers, your inspiring homilies, and your unwavering dedication to God's work has touched our hearts. You have shepherded us through times of joy, times of challenges and times of growth. You have baptized our children, administered confirmation, visited the sick, celebrated the Eucharist, comforted us in times of grief and guided us closer to God every day. We are grateful for your spiritual leadership and the impact you have had on our parish family. We wish you well and pray for continued blessings upon you, as you embark on this new chapter.

From your parish families of
Immaculate Conception, Brownville &
Saint Andrew's Church, Sackets Harbor