

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Update on
diocesan
reorganization | Page 3

Seminarians, DOVS
gather, Knights go on
pilgrimage | Page 12

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 80 Number 15

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JULY 30, 2025

AT CAMP GUGGENHEIM



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN GRATTO

Campers in the Week 2 session of Camp Guggenheim prepare for the semi-formal dinner and dance, an annual camp tradition. See the full story on Page 3.

No NCC next week

The *North Country Catholic* is now on summer schedule. There will be no newspaper next week. The next edition will be dated Aug. 13.

KNIGHTS GET TO THE COR



Knights of Columbus in Peru have been gathering regularly to participate in the Knights' Cor program, designed to bring men to prayer, formation and fraternity. As a result of his success implementing the program in Peru, council Grand Knight Mike Langlois has been appointed to a new role intended to help implement the program around the four-diocese region of Upstate New York.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

US Bishops aid African churches, projects

By Paris Apodaca
Catholic News Agency

The U.S. Catholic bishops' 2024 Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa has awarded \$2.6 million to support 96 pastoral projects across 32 African countries and multinational regions.

In a July 22 statement, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) said the "boundless growth of the Catholic faith" throughout Africa "can challenge the Church as much as material poverty does."

The "gifts of American Cath-

olics to the USCCB's Solidarity Fund" help preserve a "spirit of unity" within the universal Church, the bishops said.

Compared with the 2023 effort, funding has increased by \$500,000, expanding grant projects by 28%.

"The Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa makes it possible for African Catholics to carry out vital spiritual and social ministries," said Dubuque, Iowa, Archbishop Thomas Zinkula, chairman of the bishops' Subcommittee on the Church in Africa.

"The African Church gives generously to the U.S. Church

as thousands of African priests serve in parishes of the United States," Zinkula pointed out.

The Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa was created "as a concrete way for Catholics in the United States to express a spirit of unity with their brothers and sisters in Africa," the USCCB says.

The U.S. bishops "created the national collections so that, by combining resources, we can more effectively carry out our mission as Catholics."

The Solidarity Fund last year supported nearly 100 bishop-backed grants, funding

projects such as peacebuilding in South Sudan, catechetical training in Zambia, and church administration workshops in Togo.

Also funded was intergenerational teaching in Malawi as well as climate advocacy in Eastern Africa, where parishes are becoming hubs for practical environmental action.

Supported by dioceses across the country, the faithful can contribute year-round through the #iGiveCatholic-Together collection program or participate in their parish's collection on a date scheduled by the local diocese.

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A little bit of effort

I feel like I don't belong there.

I recently joined a gym. Because I wanted to participate in a particular program, I joined a gym I otherwise might not have joined.

"It's almost always me and a bunch of gym bros," I said to a friend, describing the facility. "These are men bench pressing twice what I weigh, while I'm in my corner lifting next to

nothing. I don't speak the gym language - I have no clue what half the equipment or exercises are called. I only sort of know what I'm supposed to be doing. I'm completely out of my element."

As I talked with one of the "gym bros" after a recent workout, he asked if I enjoyed the social aspect of working out in

a gym. "It might be different for a woman," I said. "No

one talks to me. My guess is that the guys don't want to come across the wrong way, but it's kind of weird."

Thinking about that conversation on my way home, it occurred to me: While the "gym bros" aren't going out of their way to talk to me, I'm also not talking to them. I don't even make eye contact half the time.

I sometimes do that in my faith life, too. I'll sit and passively wait around for Jesus to reveal Himself to me and to help me feel connected to Him and His

Church, and I then I'm sad or disappointed when I feel like I'm disconnected.

While Jesus will sometimes meet me in those passive moments, I've found He often wants me to pursue relationships with Him and His people. He wants me to seek Him in adult formation, in service, in liturgy, in the sacraments, in the people He puts in my path and in an active and vibrant prayer life.

He wants me - and all of us - to have an active life in His Church.

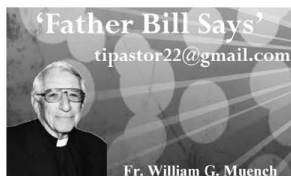
It's where we all belong.

**Darcy L.
Fargo**

'Reverence toward Christ in the other'

On a recent Sunday, the Gospel reading at Mass was the story of Martha and Mary welcoming Jesus to their home for a meal. One of the spiritual messages of this story for us is a remembrance of the profoundly important Christian virtue of hospitality. Today, I want to share with you the call of our Lord to us, his followers, to be a people of hospitality. However, I must admit I still remember the days of the pandemic - the COVID days. Do you remember how we had to separate from each other - even at Mass - in every other pew? There was not much visiting or gatherings in those days, not much hospitality.

So, I thank God, we have gotten through those days. Here at church, we can again be a community, a Catholic parish praying and working together, praying for each other. So, it is time for us Christians to again realize the importance of the virtue of hospitality and of welcoming each other, caring for each other. As Martha



and Mary welcomed Jesus, we are called to be people of hospitality.

Hospitality involves family and friends lovingly being together, noticing each other, caring for each other. Jesus challenges us to live well - characterized by being open and welcoming others in hospitality, welcoming family and friends and even others. Pope Francis spoke often of hospitality as an important opportunity in which we, Catholics, as Church, should also be open to accept even refugees, migrants and the marginalized. Pope Francis connected hospitality not just with charity but also with justice, solidarity and human dignity.

So, we are called as disciples of Jesus to be hospitable people. The sign we should put over our Churches is "All are

welcome." Each parish should find ways to bring care and friendship to the homebound of our parish, the lonely people who need friendship. In this way, we can be a community alive with hospitality. Pope Francis also adds, "Hospitality is one of the works of mercy. It is a virtue that opens the doors of our heart and our home." Hospitality is expressed in so many ways both at home and in our parish. Martha and Mary not only prepared a meal for Jesus, but they also made his presence important. They listened to him. The dedicated Catholics of a parish should always be ready to take time to reach out to others, especially to the lonely among us. We, you and I, live in such a busy world. A hospitable person is willing to take the time to be with our family, with our loved ones - to be with the others.

Sacred Scripture speaks of hospitality. St. Paul writes in the Letter to the Hebrews, "Do not neglect hospitality for through

it some have unknowingly entertained angels." In Matthew, chapter 25, Jesus presents his Parable of the Judgment of the Nations. The sheep are divided from the goats, an image of the separation of the righteous who are welcomed into the Kingdom of Heaven. And why, them? In his parable, Jesus tells us that the King announces to the chosen, "I was hungry, and you fed me - I was thirsty, I was naked, I was sick, I was imprisoned - all such. But also, 'I was a stranger, and you welcomed me.'" The King adds, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me. Jesus identifies himself with that stranger that we welcome. Hospitality is not just kindness. It is reverence toward Christ in the other. We should notice each other.

Our hospitality is sacramental in nature; it makes the invisible love of God visible; our hospitality builds community and breaks down walls of fear, prejudice and indifference.

FOLLOW ME

Update on diocesan reorganization

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all enjoying the summer. I am writing to update you as we mark the second anniversary of the filing of our petition for reorganization. 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 entities are stayed as a result of the Diocese's chapter 11 case. As I previously reported to you, we have been attempting to negotiate settlements with the creditors' committee and our insurers. The bankruptcy judge has ordered that all con-

tested matters, including the Childs Victims Act (CVA) cases, be resolved through mediation.

Judge Christopher Sontchi continues to serve as mediator. We had hoped to have another round of negotiations with the creditors' committee yesterday, but Judge Sontchi postponed the meeting until August because of medical issues. We hope to resume negotiations on August 26. It has been a tedious and slow moving process to date.

The mediator and our attorneys have negotiated with our insurers, and some progress has been made. We are hoping that we can reach settlements with some of our insurers in the near future. The diocese and our at-

torneys have done our best to keep the talks about settlement moving. We have disclosed tens of thousands of documents to the insurers and creditors' committee to facilitate the mediation process. The parishes have been represented at the mediation conferences by Jeffery Dove, Esq. and Father Demo, the head of the parishes' steering committee. Due to the confidential nature of the mediation process, I cannot give you particulars about the discussions, but I do want to assure you that we are constantly working towards a settlement and hoping for a just outcome for all. I am grateful for the tireless effort Father Kevin O'Brien and Mr. Mark Mashaw

our Fiscal Officer, have given to this important matter.

I again ask your prayers as we move toward a just and expeditious resolution of all these matters. We are committed to compensating victims of sexual abuse. We need to keep them uppermost in our thoughts and prayers. We are also committed to continuing our mission as a diocese and meeting the needs of our people throughout the North Country. Thank you for your prayerful support. Asking God to bless you and your loved ones, I am,

Faithfully yours in Christ,

† Jimmy R. Faballey

Camp Guggenheim: 'You always feel welcome'

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

"When we're here, we do lots of fun stuff, and we feel like we're part of a family," said Mason Foote, 12, of Constable, describing his experience at Camp Guggenheim, the diocesan summer camp. "Everyone cares about you here, and you get closer to God."

Shortened to five weeks this year because of the state's academic calendar, Camp Guggenheim offers one session for youth ages 11 to 14, three sessions for youth ages 12 to 15, and one session for older teens ages 16 to 18. This year's camp season runs from July 6 to Aug. 8.

A week 2 camper, Foote and his fellow campers spent from July 13 to 18 at the camp, located in Saranac Lake.

"It's a really enjoyable experience," said Alyza Symonds, 14, of Tupper Lake. "This is my third year (as a camper). My first year, I was given a scholarship to come by my church. Ever since, I've been coming back."

"This my fifth year at



PHOTOS BY CHRISTIAN GRATTO

(Above) Camp Guggenheim Week 2 campers enjoy time on the lake.

camp," added Adalyn Cooper, 13, of Latham. "My two older brothers came to camp. They would tell me how much fun they had. I don't really like summer camps, but people here have always treated me like family. I feel like I can be my complete self here. I've always felt like I'm seen and heard here."

In addition to optional morning activities and breakfast, Guggenheim campers spend one morning each in arts and crafts, liturgy, project adventure and waterfront. Evenings include special events such as camp games, a special dinner and dance, and a reconciliation service.

"Beach volleyball was so fun," said Cooper, noting the activity was her favorite of the camp week. "And I like arts and crafts. I'm not a morning person. Getting in the water or doing an adventure course in the morning - I need to ease into moving, so I don't love that."

"I liked the Olympics, and I liked watching a movie," added Foote. "I also like project adventure because we do different things."

"I like everything," said Symonds. "It's nice to have all the different activities. If you don't like one thing, there will be something else you do like later."

The three campers said

they encourage every older child and teen to attend camp.

"Make friends with your roommates first," advised Cooper. "That makes it the most fun. My roommates and I really had fun last night. And then you know someone. Once you get past that first day, you get to know everyone, and everyone feels like family."

"Be prepared for how they wake you up," said Symonds, laughing.

"They bang drums and pots and pans and make lots of noise," added Foote. "The counselors have a lot of energy. I wish I had their energy."

The three campers offered advice for any new Guggenheim Camper who is apprehensive

about their first experience.

"If you're not ready to spend a week of camp by yourself and not knowing anyone, bring a friend," said Symonds. "Or you could go to Family Camp with your family and get used to it that way."

"Leadership weekend is also a good time," added Cooper. "You get to meet some of the counselors and some other camp people."

And once someone has been to camp once, all three campers said they'd likely want to return.

"You go for your first year, and it's such a good experience, it starts to feel like home," said Cooper. "Then you always feel welcome."

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Peru Knight brings council, state to Cor

Editor's note: The following is the first installment of what's intended to be an occasional column from New York State Knights of Columbus Upstate Conference Coordinator for Evangelization and Faith Formation Mike Langlois, a member of St. Augustine's Council 7273 in Peru, New York.

By Mike Langlois
Knights of Columbus

In November 2023, I was in my first year as grand knight for St. Augustine's Council 7273, Peru, when an article in the Knights of Columbus' *Columbia* magazine piqued my interest. The article, "At the Heart of Our Mission," described a pilot of a new Supreme Council men's faith-based program, Cor. The magazine piece focused on about two dozen men from St. Mary Magdalen Council 12295 in Brighton, Michigan, taking the bold step of reengaging Catholic men to the Knights' faith roots.

Now, I am a cradle Catholic who attended 12 years of Catholic school, and my parents made sure our family was at Mass each Sunday. Still, I drifted away from the Church for much of my adult life. In time, I learned that God, not me, was running the show, and I'd better get with the plan. Slowly, through His grace, the desire to build my prayer life and return to the Church had taken a firm hold. In 2019, I put my "faith into action" and joined my local Knights of Columbus council. After reading the *Columbia* article, I realized that the Cor program was an opportunity for our council to reacquire ourselves to, and deepen, our faith.

The name Cor is taken from the motto of St. John Henry Newman, *Cor ad cor loquitur*, which is Latin for "Heart speaks to heart." Cor exists to form and strengthen Catholic men in faith and virtue as missionary disciples by drawing them into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, formation, and fraternity. What is great about the Cor meetings is that each council can determine how to fulfill the program's guidelines. Meetings, usually held weekly or monthly, cover any faith topic

relevant to a particular council. Ideally, the Cor program leader, the council's faith director or any member the grand knight appoints to the position, will poll the meeting attendees for potential topics. A good option is to choose timely topics from the Church's Liturgical Calendar. No matter which topics a council chooses for a Cor meeting, it is important to keep the meetings informal to encourage meaningful faith-based conversation. In fact, you'd be surprised by the various directions a meeting can go when in a relaxed atmosphere.

Since January 2024, when Council 7273 began its first Cor meeting, topics have included Lent, Easter, forgiveness, Eucharistic Miracles, an explanation of the Mass, Lectio Divina, Marian apparitions, and St. Faustina and the Divine Mercy, to name a few. It's important to note that a council seeking to institute Cor must involve the pastor and seek his permission before opening the meeting to the entire parish.

For Council 7273, we were fortunate to have the complete support of our parish priest and the council membership to begin the regular Cor meetings. We have had a priest at most of our meetings, and their intimate knowledge of the faith brings a powerful dynamic to the conversation. The program's three pillars – prayer, formation and fraternity – are met with a beginning and ending prayer (prayer), the topic presentation (formation), and informal conversation (fraternity). My council has averaged between 12 and 22 men at each meeting. The focus should not be on a particular headcount since, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). Men who have attended Cor meetings say having a safe space to discuss real-world faith issues with like-minded men has reinforced their relationship to the Church. Essentially, the Cor meetings address the challenges of faith retention and spiritual isolation by creating small group settings where men can deepen their relationship with Christ.

Cor meetings are open to all men of the parish, and it is not a prerequisite to be a Knight of

Bringing the program to four dioceses

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

When he first explored bringing the Knights of Columbus Cor program to his council in Peru, Grand Knight Mike Langlois had no idea the inquiry would lead him to a new role within the Catholic fraternal organization.

Langlois has been named Upstate Conference coordinator for Evangelization and Faith Formation for the New York State Knights of Columbus.

"Back in 2023, when I first saw the article in *Columbia* magazine, I picked up the phone and called the gentlemen referenced in the article, a guy from Michigan," Langlois said. "He explained that the program is a very flexible men's faith-based program. It's trying to get back to the Knights of Columbus' roots. He invited me to a couple meetings online."

As he researched the Cor program, he discovered the program was backed by Patrick Kelly, the organization's supreme knight.

"The Knights aren't just pancake breakfasts and fundraising," Langlois said. "We want to grow in faith, and we want to share the faith."

He first established the Cor program in Peru in January 2024. "For that kickoff, we had 20 guys show up," Langlois said. "We average 12 to 18 people at our meetings."

That success drew attention at the state level.

"New York State level saw the success we were having," Langlois

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Columbus. In fact, the opening of these critical faith conversations can attract men who have, for their own reasons, distanced themselves from the church.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau for 2024, there were roughly 53 million Catholic adults nationwide. A Pew Research poll conducted in March 2025 found that only three-in-10 U.S. Catholics (29%) attend Mass weekly or more often. The same poll found that nearly six-in-10 Catholic adults (58%) are ages 50 and older. The data reveals what Catholics who attend the Mass regularly already know. There is an overall decline in U.S. adults attending weekly church services, and the ones that do are older.

The Knights of Columbus are on the front lines with parish pastoral administrators to take risks for social justice, mercy and healing, and evangelization and to bring Jesus to the world. The Cor program can help rebuild the Church by reacquainting – or introducing – men, and their families, to the faith.

The Cor meetings allow men to explore the good, the bad, and the ugly of our Catholic faith. Local Knights of Columbus councils should promote the Cor program because it fosters spiritual growth and strengthens council fraternity and, as a healthy by-product, helps to make Catholic men better husbands, fathers, and community members. The Cor member, by way of example, can then be a potential beacon to guide souls back to the church and the Mass.

Mike Langlois is the Grand Knight of St. Augustine Knights of Columbus Council 7273 in Peru, New York. He is also the Upstate Conference Coordinator for Evangelization and Faith Formation for the New York State Knights of Columbus, which encompasses the Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and Ogdensburg dioceses. Local Knights of Columbus councils interested in fortifying the faith of their memberships, or offering column topic ideas, can contact him at mjlang67@gmail.com.

Environmental Stewardship

Rosary for a green summer

In the last article, we considered ways to pray the rosary as a part of a spiritual renewal and a commitment to caring for our common home. These suggestions included: pray outside, include intentions for creation, create a special place in yard or garden for praying and pray and walk.

This week we would like to suggest ways each set of mysteries can be an opportunity for ecological reflection:

- Joyful Mysteries: The Incarnation, the moment God entered the created world; the Visitation, showing care for Elizabeth and Mary's willing service; the Nativity, a celebration of life and the grace coming from a humble setting, a stable filled with animals and animal scents and sounds.

- Luminous Mysteries: The Baptism in the Jordan is a blessing of water, the essential gift of life; the Wedding at Cana, showing us the abundance of creation; Christ's proclamation of the Kingdom, a call to reverence for all life.

- Sorrowful Mysteries: Christ's suffering, a connection to the suffering of earth and marginalized people. Our prayers put us in solidarity with people and communities who bear the brunt of environmental degradation.

- Glorious Mysteries: The Resurrection, the victory of life over death and the renewal of all things, just as we pray for the return of a healthy environment for all; the Assumption and Coronation of Mary illustrate Mary's triumph, like the hoped-for triumph of those who would save Earth's dignity and glory.

Saying the Rosary as part of a green summer is a spiritual response to the environmental crisis. It's an invitation to rediscover the sacredness of the earth and our role as caretakers. In the Hail Marys and reflecting on the Mysteries, we may find not only peace but also purpose. Through Mary's intercession, may our hearts be turned more fully to Christ, and may our lives become prayers of reverence.

By Geraldine Wagnor

Bringing Cor to four dioceses

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

said. "(A state official) said, 'we'd like you to take a bigger role in it.'"

In his new role, Langlois is promoting Cor across a four-diocese region that includes Ogdensburg, Syracuse, Albany and Buffalo dioceses.

"We're hoping to start Cor in more locations," Langlois said. "It's my role to serve as a resource as to how it's done. So if we find an individual, maybe a council faith director or anyone the grand knight feels is capable and willing to commit, and for say six months, I would work with them to help them get the confidence and materials needed to run the program. We have 2,000 years of Catholic material to choose from. There's

no end in sight to the topics."

Langlois noted that Cor leaders don't have to know all the answers to every question that may arise during each session.

"We reference scriptures, and we have a copy of the Catechism of the Catholic Church on hand at all times, and we often have a priest we can consult at the meetings," he said. "Sometimes we may come away with more questions than answers, but that's ok. God wants us to wrestle with certain topics and consider hard questions."

Langlois said Cor reaches participants where they are.

"I'm a cradle Catholic who strayed from the Church for a long time. God had other plans for me," he said. "Now, I can't imagine miss-

ing Mass or not going to confession or not trying to be a better person. But we're all at different places in our journey. Someone new may have no idea where they are on their faith journey. And someone who is older may have been taught the catechism in a much different way than we're taught it today. Everybody agrees - even if we approach it from different places, and no matter what disagreements we have during discussions, we all walk away with something to think about."

Langlois said he looks forward to getting to know Knights and Catholics in the four dioceses in which he'll be working.

"I'm excited to see where it all goes," he said.

Bishop's Public Schedule

July 30 – 10 a.m. – Gathering of the Diocesan Prison Chaplains at Bishop's Residence followed by lunch

July 31 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Aug. 4 – 5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at St. Patrick's Center in Port Henry

Aug. 5 – 4 p.m. – Mass for Youth Camp at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake

Aug. 6 – 8:30 a.m. – Mass at Bare Hill Correctional Facility in Malone
12:30 p.m. – Mass at Franklin Correctional Facility in Malone

5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at St. Mary's Parish Center in Indian Lake

Aug. 7 – 4:40 p.m. – Picnic with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart at Dablon Point in Cape Vincent

Aug. 9 – 11 a.m. – Ordination to the Diaconate of Mr. Gordon J. Burdo, Jr., Mr. James B. Kavanaugh, Mr. James P. Law, Mr. Francis E. Sczerzenie,

Mr. Garry Stevens and Mr. Nicholas A. Tsubulsky at St. Mary's Cathedral
Aug. 10 – 2 p.m. – St. Lawrence Deanery Mass Celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope at St. Mary's Church in Canton

6 p.m. – Mass Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood for Reverend Theodore A. Crosby at Sacred Heart Church in Chazy

Aug. 11 – 10 a.m. – Diocesan Youth Volunteer's Appreciation Picnic at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake

5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at Mount Pisgah Recreation Center in Saranac Lake

Aug. 12 – 2:30 p.m. – Mass at Altona Correctional Facility in Altona
5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at St. Augustine's Parish Center in Peru

Aug. 13 – 5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at the Malone Golf club in Malone

Rest in Peace

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

July 30 – Rev. Francis Smyth, 1902; Rev. Patrick Majock, O.S.A., 1922; Rev. Jeremiah P. Murphy, 1925; Rev. Moses Minnie, 1935

July 31 – Rev. Napoleon Brisson, 1950; Rev. Michael O'Reilly, 1980

Aug. 1 – Rev. J. Everett Denesha, 2013

Aug. 2 – Rev. Zephyrin Jutras, 1919

Aug. 4 – Rev. Alexandre Soulerin, O.M.I., 1892; Rev. Adolphe Saurel, 1925; Rev. Willie Caron, M.S.C., 1972

Aug. 5 – Rev. M. Calixte Mourier, O.M.I., 1912; Rev. David N. Burke, 1913; Gerald A. Sharland, 1973

Aug. 7 – Msgr. Edmund H. Dumas, 2000; Rev. Lawrence E. Cotter, 2016

Aug. 8 – Rev. Donald E. Seguin, 1976

Aug. 9 – Rev. Edward B. May, O.S.A., 1953; Rev. James N. Flattery, 1997

Aug. 10 – Rev. Walter J. LaRocque, 1936; Rev. Joseph Bolduc, O.M.I., 1956; Rev. Cornelius Vullings, M.S.C., 1971; Msgr. Anthony A. Milia, 2010; Deacon Bruce C. Wadsworth, 2013

Aug. 11 – Rev. Gilbert Monroe, O.F.M., 1958; John M. Kennedy, 1979

Aug. 12 – Rev. Pierre Gagnon, O.M.I., 1901; Rev. John M. Varrily, 1913

Protecting God's Children

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

Upcoming sessions:

Aug. 5 – 9 a.m. – St. André Bessette Parish, Malone

To Report Abuse

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

If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at 800-276-1562 or www.ReportBishopAbuse.org

'Deviation' led to strike on Catholic church

By Daniel Payne
Catholic News Agency

Israel Defense Forces (IDF) on Wednesday said a "deviation of munitions" led to the accidental strike on Holy Family Church in Gaza, an incident that resulted in three deaths and multiple injuries last week.

The July 17 strike claimed the lives of three civilians at the church and injured nine, including the pastor, Father Gabriel Romanelli. The church has served as a shelter for more than 600 people since the Israel-Hamas conflict began in October 2023, including Catholics, Orthodox Christians, and Muslims.

Israeli officials said last week that the parish was "mistakenly" hit by IDF fire. In a statement on July 23, meanwhile, military spokesman Nadav Shoshani said an IDF inquiry showed the church was struck "due to an unintentional deviation of munitions."

"The impact caused damage to the structure and injured several Gazan civilians," Shoshani said. The statement did not mention the three deaths at the parish.

The IDF "directs its military strikes solely at military targets and works to mitigate harm to civilians and civilian infrastructure as much as possible, including religious institutions," the statement said.

The Israeli military "regrets any harm caused to

civilians," the statement added.

In a Wednesday statement, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem said it learned of the results of the inquiry through media reports.

"The published findings of the investigation only underscore the grave dangers of conducting military operations in the vicinity of religious and civilian sites," the statement said.

The findings "once again highlight the vital importance of upholding the principles of international humanitarian law."

The Wednesday statement from IDF said the military has "facilitated the entry of humanitarian aid, including food, medical equipment, and medication, to the Holy Family Church in Gaza," though the patriarchate said on Wednesday that aid "has not yet been delivered" to the parish.

Aid workers would distribute food and medical supplies to the parish and surrounding neighborhoods upon being let into the area, the patriarchate said.

The bombing has greatly stirred tensions in a region already fraught with conflict, particularly in the nearly two years since Hamas invaded Israel, touching off a protracted conflict that has left tens of thousands dead.

Holy Family Church, the only Catholic parish in Gaza, has often been at the center of media and international atten-

tion amid the conflict. It has provided shelter and aid to hundreds in the war-torn region.

Pope Francis made regular nightly calls to the parish in the roughly year and a half leading up to his death, with the

parish children calling the Holy Father "grandfather."

Though IDF issued an unprecedented admission of error last week, Patriarchate Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa stirred tensions further

when he suggested to an Italian newspaper that the strike may have been made on purpose.

"They say it was an error. Even if everybody here believes it wasn't," the prelate said last week.



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DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

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Please consider donating to the Saint Peter Apostle Summer Appeal.



From left to right: Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ—Director, Father Daniel Chapin, Father Edwin Vasquez Gheri, Ms. Alexis Michael-Secretary

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Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

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Institute report: Florida leads states in religious liberty safeguards

By Tessa Gervasini
Catholic News Agency

In the past year Florida has been the most successful state at protecting religious liberty through safeguards in the state's statutes or constitution, while West Virginia has been the least successful, according to the fourth annual Religious Liberty in the States report from First Liberty Institute.

First Liberty – the largest legal organization in the U.S. dedicated solely to defending religious liberty – released its annual index ranking religious liberty protections for each of the 50 states. The report, conducted by the institute's Center for Religion, Culture, and Democracy (CRCDC), focuses on select legal safeguards of religious exercise in laws and constitutions.

The 2025 report was revealed on July 21 by the CRCDC team at an event with Gov. Ron DeSantis to celebrate Florida holding the No. 1 spot for the first time since the research started.

"Florida holds several No. 1 rankings, leading the nation in education, economy, and tourism – and now, Florida is No. 1 in religious liberty," DeSantis said at the event. "Religious liberty is critical to the foundation and function of America, and I am proud that Florida excels in protecting this right."

The report assigns a percentage score to each state based on 47 legal protections that states have to protect religious liberty within six categories: government, health care, economic life, religious life, and family and education.

These protections are aggregated into 20 "safeguards," which researchers average to produce each state's score. The analysis determined that Florida holds the top spot with an accumulated score of 74.6%. Montana (70.6%), Illinois (68.8%), Ohio (66.9%), and Mississippi (66.4%) make up the rest of the top five rankings.

In last place, for the third year in a row, is West Virginia with 19.6%. The state did make some progress by passing a Religious Freedom Restoration Act in 2023 but still holds the lowest score. Also in the bottom five is Wyoming (23.3%), Michigan (27.4%), Nebraska (29.1%), and Vermont (29.3%).

The majority of the states fall within the 25% to 50% range, meaning there is "significant room for improvement." CRCDC's researchers found that 38 states are capable of doing more as most states, on average, are employing "less than half of the safeguards measured to protect religious liberty."

Since the 2022 Religious Liberty in the States report, Montana has improved the most. It has raised its score by about 31%, specifically due to recent legislation protecting rights of health care workers.

Since 2024, Idaho has improved the most, due to new protections in the categories of health care and family.

With the new research, First Liberty Institute and CRCDC reported they hope "that legislators and concerned citizens will use our findings to identify ways their states can better protect religious liberty."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

U.S. Olympic Committee bans men from women's sports

The United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) will formally prohibit men from competing in women's sports amid the Trump administration's efforts to roll back transgender policies throughout the United States. USOPC said in an email to Olympic groups and stakeholders on Tuesday that leaders had "engaged in a series of respectful and constructive conversations" with federal leaders after President Donald Trump's February executive order that moved to "protect opportunities for women and girls to compete in safe and fair sports." "Under the Trump administration we will defend the proud tradition of female athletes and we will not allow men to beat up, injure, and cheat our women and our girls," Trump said when signing the order. "From now on, women's sports will be only for women." "As a federally chartered organization, we have an obligation to comply with federal expectations," USOPC said in its email this week.

Priest released 51 days after Boko Haram kidnapping

A Nigerian priest who served for years in the U.S. has been released after being held in captivity by the Islamic terrorist group Boko Haram for several weeks. Father Alphonsus Afina was captured by Boko Haram in June while serving in the Diocese of Maiduguri in the Nigerian state of Borno. The priest had previously worked in the Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska, for six and a half years. The Fairbanks Diocese last month urged the faithful to "pray for [Afina's] freedom from captivity and for his physical and spiritual strength" while he was in captivity. In a Facebook post on July 21, the diocese announced that Afina had been freed. The diocese called on the faithful to "continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ who continue to be held captive that they, too, will soon taste freedom. On July 21 the pontifical charity Aid to the Church in Need said the priest had spent 51 days in captivity.

Pope Leo marks moon landing anniversary with call to Aldrin

Pope Leo XIV marked the 56th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing with a video call to U.S. astronaut Buzz Aldrin and a visit to the Vatican Observatory, located on the papal estate of Castel Gandolfo, where he has been staying for two weeks. According to the Vatican, the pontiff's July 20 call with the 95-year-old Aldrin, the last surviving Apollo 11 crew member, included reminiscing on the historic 1969 landing and meditating together on the "mystery, greatness, and fragility" of God's creation as described in Psalm 8. Earlier in the day, Leo visited the Vatican's internationally-recognized observatory, called the Specola Vaticana, where he was able to look through the astronomical center's historic telescopes. The Vatican Observatory has been located on the papal estate of Castel Gandolfo, around 18 miles southeast of Rome, since the 1930s, but the history of the institution dates to the 18th century. After several years of closure in the late 1800s, Leo's predecessor, Pope Leo XIII, re-founded the observatory in 1891.

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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 \$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

ALPHA

Lake Placid – ALPHA to be held, all are invited no matter your background or beliefs.

Date: Weds. Starting Sept. 17

Time: 6:15 p.m. to 8:15

Place: St. Agnes School

Features: This is a free event and includes a delicious dinner, great videos (about life, faith, and meaning), and small group discussion. All are welcome, so help spread the word to your neighbors and friends.

Contact: To register and for questions, go to <https://stag-neslakeplacid.com/alpha>

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

SOAKING PRAYERS SESSIONS

Plattsburgh – Soaking prayer Sessions to be held the first Monday of each month.

Date: Aug. 4, Sept. 8 and Oct. 6

Time: 1 p.m. to 3 or 6 p.m. to 8

Place: Newman Center

Features: Praise and worship followed by soaking prayer. Led by Eve McGill, Living Waters Ministry. All are welcome.

Contact: evemcgill@charter.net 518-645-2648

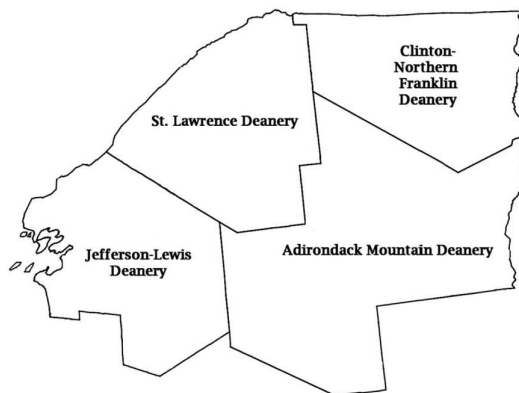
SOAKING PRAYER SESSIONS

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

Date: Aug. 21, Sept. 18 and Oct.

16

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



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.

Place: Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer

Features: 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: Aug. 23

Schedule: 9:15 a.m. to 10 A-rival and Special Music; 10 a.m. to 10:45 Creation, Our Cathedral of Hope! with Sr. 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 Fr. Joseph Trombley and the many volunteers who founded this treasure of prayer, retreat 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.

FIRST FRIDAY

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

Date: Aug. 1

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

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Plattsburgh – Heartwell Homestead's 2nd Annual Golf Tournament to be held.

Date: Aug. 22

Schedule: Registration at 11 a.m., a Putting contest at 11:30, Shotgun start at 12:30 p.m., Dinner and Prizes by 6 p.m.

Place: The Barracks Golf Course

Features: Opportunities for sponsorship. It's time for golfers to sign up. They can match you up with a team. Get ready for a day of fun and camaraderie.

Contact: For more information on cost and details go to <https://www.HeartWellHomestead.org> or contact Janice Tobin at 518-569-5370, jtobin@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 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. 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.

BLESSING OF FLOWERS, HERBS, GRAINS

Houseville – St. Hedwig's will observe the Polish custom of blessing flowers, herbs and grains followed by a free ice cream social.

Date: Aug. 17

Time: 11 a.m. Mass

Features: We will honor our Blessed Mother, Matka Boska Zielna, Our Lady of the Greens. All are welcome to participate in this beautiful ethnic custom by bringing pots or bouquets of flowers, herbs and grains and join in a procession if desired. These blessed items can decorate the home, be taken to the cemetery or given as gifts. There is no limit to the number of items you can bring.

Contact: 315-348-6260 for more information.

ST. LAWRENCE

ST. JAMES SUMMER RAFFLE

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

Date: Drawing is Sept. 7 at

12:30 p.m.

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

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

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

DIOCESAN EVENTS

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 work-shop credits in one day.

Contact: Register by July 30th 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. Szerzenie, 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, 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 VOLUNTEER PICNIC

Saranac Lake – Calling all Youth Parish Volunteers! Join us for a

CALLED TO SERVE

Are you a Martha or a Mary?

Ceola would arrive at church between 9 and 10 each weekday morning. She moved slowly, shuffling her way from the main entrance to her spot in the first pew.

Ceola and God would talk for hours. For the most part, the conversation was unspoken. Occasionally Ceola would utter something aloud. That would usually be something she needed to get off her chest. Someone or something had her riled up.

Ceola made herself at home in that pew. She was prepared for a full day of prayer. This wonderful woman carried all sorts of things in her bag. Among them were a sandwich for lunch, maybe some fruit to snack

on, rosary beads and her prayer book.

I never got a close look at her prayer book so I can't tell you what it was. I know it was important to her.

Ceola must have gone elsewhere for weekend Mass; at least I rarely saw her. She was not averse to Mass. She was present for noon Mass each weekday and received Holy Communion.

The lady just did not like crowds, and I suspect she was a little self-conscious about her gait and appearance. If you passed her on the street, you would be convinced she was a bag lady, a home-

less woman who walks around the streets of a city carrying her possessions in a bag.

Not true in her case. Ceola lived in an apartment about a quarter mile from church. Her daughter, who she lived with, would transport her to church each weekday morning and pick her up at the same time in the late afternoon to return home.

Ceola was a teacher of sorts. She helped me understand prayer.

I was able to look beyond her idiosyncrasies. She took a roll of toilet paper from the bathroom occasionally and put it in

her bag to go home.

She also refused to receive Communion from a deacon. She told me once that she understood deacons were ordained ministers of the Church and were ordinary ministers of Communion. She recognized that lay people were selected by the pastor to be extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. However, she could not bring herself to receive from anyone other than a priest.

The front pew lady moved away after several years. Her daughter was moving to Virginia, I think, and Ceola went with her.

I thought about Ceola as I was preparing a homily based on the Mary and Martha Gospel.

The lady was far from a contemplative like Mary. But I will wager she and God got along just fine.

Ceola died a few years ago. She may not have realized it then, but she was a bright light sent by God to witness to others.

Ceola had an impact on me. Among other things, she helped me understand the Mary and Martha story better. Thank you, friend.

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



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

day celebrating and honoring our 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: An opportunity for youth to connect, listen to the vocation stories and enjoy games and activities designed to inspire and strengthen their faith. A cook-out of hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. The day will culminate in Mass celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

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

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake - Registration for Family Guggenheim is now open.

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

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

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

AFTERNOON OF MUSIC AND ART

Saranac Lake - Experience beauty and vibrancy through art and music in the Jubilee Year of Hope. Join us for "The Look, Feel and Sound of Hope," a gallery art show and music presentation.

Date: Aug. 24

Time: 3 p.m. to 5

Place: St. Bernard's Church

Features: This FREE event includes a concert of talented members of diocesan choirs, soloist and musicians followed by light

refreshments and a gallery art show of visual and tactile art created by local North Country artists, all expressing the Look, Feel and Sound of Hope. The event is part of the diocese's 2025 Jubilee Year Celebration.

CELEBRATION OF LOVE AND MARRIAGE MASS

Ogdensburg - Join us at the annual Celebration of Love and Marriage Mass.

Date: Sept. 7

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: Whether you have been married for less than 1 year or over 50 years, we want to acknowledge your commitment and celebrate with you. Married couples that wish to receive a certificate signed by Bishop LaValley and have their names appear in the program should register no later than Aug. 29th at <https://www.rcdony.org/jubilee>. There will be a gathering with refreshments after the Mass.

Contact: For more information please contact Steve Tartaglia at

315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org.



REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name a priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul; take over his entire personality and life.

Replace him with yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always. O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of all priests, pray and intercede for (...)

Amen.

August



Immaculate Heart

AUGUST

2025

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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REV. 10 STEVEN M. MURRAY	REV. 11 FRANK NATALE, MSCNADIRIAGHA	REV. 12 JUDE C. O'BRIEN	REV. 13 KEVIN J. O'JUK	REV. 14 JOHN KENNEDY	POPE LEO XIV	15 REV. AMRUTA KUMAR PASALA
REV. 17 JEROME PASTORES	REV. 18 TERRENCE R. PATTERSON	REV. 19 CARTER G. PIERCE	MSGR. LEWIS J. POISSANT	REV. 21 SONY G. PULICKAL	DECEASED PRIESTS	22 REV. PATRICK A. RATIGAN
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A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated. For more information visit us online at www.mypriestpostcard.com. The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by: Diocese of Ogdensburg, Vocations Society, www.mypriestpostcard.com

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

Treasure or baggage?

This weekend's readings are so depressing. The first reading emphasizes the vanity of life. So, why really bother? The Gospel seems counterintuitive to today's beliefs and practices: build up today so that we have for tomorrow.

You know that a Reality television

U-Haul is never part of a funeral procession. The scriptures are warning us about what is most important in our lives: how do we measure our lives, what do we need to keep, what do we want to keep, how much do we need of any one thing in life.

August 3

**Eighteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

READINGS

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23

Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

Luke 12:13-21

works very hard to bring out the worst of human nature. So many of those shows portray

human nature at its worst. Consider one show called "Hoarding: Buried Alive." Basically, the program presents people who hoard things in their lives such that they have no other life. Literally, their homes are so stacked with stuff resulting in no space to live. The whole concept is much more depressing than the first reading from Ecclesiastes. Perhaps some watch the program and say to themselves: "Thank God, I am not like that. Who would ever want to live with so much baggage in one's life?"

The immediate message of today's scripture readings is clear. In the words of Jesus, we need to store up an inexhaustible treasure in heaven. In His words: "where your treasure is, there also will be your

heart."

So, there are really two realities that we store up: earthly treasures such as money, prestige, power, wealth, glory, fame, strength, all things that are being sold to us as important, all things that we might like to put into that non-existent U-Haul behind the hearse, all things that are supposed to protect us and guarantee us life, but ultimately things that we will not bring with us to eternal life.



Msgr. Robert
H. Aucoin

But then there is the baggage of life. I don't mean the things that people on "Hoarding: Buried Alive" keep with them in their homes. Rather, baggage such as resentment, ill-will, inferiority, self-doubt, self-hate, self-pity, pride, lust, prejudice, all of which and more can ultimately keep us from the fullness of life.

Someday, Google the expression "giving pledge." The first hit will be a website with that name. There you will see a very impressive list of famous, wealthy people who have made a lot of money, but who have pledged to give of their resources to worthy

causes. We may disagree with some of their worthy causes. However, people as diverse as Oprah Winfrey, Michael Bloomberg, Tom Monahan, Ted Turner, Conrad Hilton and David Rockefeller, to name a few, have recognized the imperative to give away what they have been able to acquire.

So, the exhortation of today's scripture invites us to scrutinize the baggage of our lives, no matter what that baggage may be. Look at that baggage, whether material such as this world's goods or non-tangible such as those mind-sets, mentalities, and even sins that keep us from the fullness of life now and may impede our journey to the kingdom of God.

The spiritual author Henri Nouwen expressed this idea as follows:

Dear God, I am so afraid to open my clenched fists! Who will I be when I have nothing to hang on to? Who will I be when I stand before you with empty hands? Please help me gradually to open my hands and discover that I am not what I own, but what you want to give me. And what you want to give me is love, unconditional, everlasting love. Amen.

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
In re The Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, New York,
Chapter 11 Case No. 20-30663**

**In re The Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, New York, et al. v. Arrowpoint Capital, et al.,
Adversary Proceeding No. 21-ap-50002**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that on July 1, 2025, The Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, New York ("Diocese") filed its Motion for Entry of Orders Pursuant to Sections 363 and 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 9019 Approving Settlement Agreements and Policy Buy-backs with Certain Insurers and Granting Related Relief ("Settlement Motion").

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that pursuant to the Settlement Motion, the Diocese is seeking entry of orders approving proposed settlement agreements with (i) London Market Insurers, (ii) Catholic Mutual Risk Retention Group, (iii) Excelsior Insurance Company, (iv) TIG Insurance Company, North River Insurance Company, and U.S. Fire Insurance Company, (v) Interstate Fire & Casualty Company, National Surety Corporation, and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, (vi) The National Catholic Risk Retention Group, Inc., (vii) Utica Mutual Insurance Company, (viii) Nationwide Mutual Fire Insurance Company, (ix) Hartford Fire Insurance Company, (x) Hanover Insurance Company, and (xi) Travelers Insurance Company Limited, Travelers Casualty and Surety Company, and Traveler's Indemnity Company (collectively, the "Settling Insurers"), pursuant to which the Settling Insurers would buy back from the Diocese and certain non-debtor related Catholic entities (collectively, the "DOS Entities") (a) all or substantially all policies of insurance and certificates issued to, or subscribed on behalf of or allegedly issued to or subscribed on behalf of, the DOS Entities (the "Policies"), and/or all or substantially all coverage under such Policies (but, solely with respect to Catholic Mutual Risk Retention Group of America and The National Catholic Risk Retention Group, Inc., excluding any "Preserved Coverage" as defined in their respective settlement agreements) along with certain related claims (together with the Policies, the "Subject Property"), in exchange for settlement payments in the aggregate amount of \$76,140,000. The transactions contemplated in the proposed settlement agreements are subject to the occurrence of certain conditions precedent, including, without limitation, the confirmation of a chapter 11 plan and the issuance of one or more injunctions enjoining the prosecution of certain claims against the Settling Insurers (as set forth in greater detail immediately below).

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that in connection with the Settlement Motion, the Diocese is seeking to settle and sell, free and clear of all liens, claims, encumbrances, and other interests, the Subject Property. This "free and clear" sale of the Subject Property contains certain releases, injunctions, and other protective provisions in favor of the Settling Insurers. The sale proposes a Settling Insurer Injunction that permanently enjoins all Persons who have held or asserted, or may in the future hold or assert, any Claims from taking any action, directly or indirectly, for purposes of asserting, enforcing, or attempting to assert or enforce any Barred Claim against the Settling Insurers, their respective Related Persons or Released Parties, or the property or assets of each (all as defined in the applicable settlement agreements). The Diocese is seeking to fully release any Claims against the Settling Insurers or their respective Related Persons or Released Parties arising from or related in any way to the Policies, including all extra-contractual claims. There are additional provisions in the settlement agreements – beyond those set forth in the preceding sentences – which should be reviewed to understand completely the settlement agreements and their effect on your rights.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that a hearing on the Settlement Motion will be held before the Honorable Wendy A. Kinsella, Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of New York, or such other judge as may be sitting in her stead in the James M. Hanley U.S. Courthouse and Federal Building, 100 South Clinton Street, Syracuse, NY 13261, on **August 27, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.**, which may be continued, as necessary, without further notice except as may be filed on the Court's docket or as otherwise announced by the Court on the record at such hearing. Responses in opposition to the relief requested in the Settlement Motion, if any, must be filed and served upon (i) counsel for the Diocese, Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC, One Lincoln Center, Syracuse, New York 13202 (Attn: Stephen A. Donato, Charles J. Sullivan, and Grayson T. Walter); (ii) the Office of the United States Trustee for the Northern District of New York, 10 Broad Street, Room 105, Utica, NY 13501, Attn: Erin Champlin; and (iii) counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, Stinson LLP, Attn: Robert T. Kugler & Edwin H. Caldie, 50 South Sixth Street, Suite 2600, Minneapolis, MN 55402, and (iv) those persons who have formally appeared and requested service in this case pursuant to Rule 2002 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, on or before **August 15, 2025**.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that the Diocese may file one or more supplements to the Settlement Motion attaching the proposed form of any Settlement Agreement not included in the initial filing of the Settlement Motion, as well as any revisions or additions to previously filed Settlement Agreements. Notice of any Settlement Motion Supplements will be served only upon those parties who have formally appeared in this Chapter 11 Case and requested notice in accordance with Rule 2002 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure.

Copies of the Settlement Motion and any supplements thereto (once filed) may be obtained from the Clerk's Office, United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of New York, Syracuse Division, via the Court's electronic case management system at <https://ecf.nynb.uscourts.gov>, by visiting <https://case.sretro.com/diocesefofsyrcase/docket>, by calling 855.329.4244, or by written request to counsel for the Diocese: Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC, One Lincoln Center, Syracuse, NY 13202, attn: Stephen A. Donato.

IF YOU HAVE (1) A CLAIM AGAINST THE DIOCESE AS TO WHICH INSURANCE COVERAGE IS OR MAY BE AVAILABLE, (2) AN INTEREST IN ANY OF THE DIOCESE'S INSURANCE POLICIES OR CERTIFICATES, OR (3) ANY CLAIMS AGAINST ANY OF THE SETTling INSURERS RELATING TO THE FOREGOING, YOUR RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED.



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**



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

'Vincentian tea'

Saint Vincent de Paul bore witness to Christ's charity by offering food to the hungry and care for the sick in 17th-century France. Today, following in his footsteps, the parishioners of the Longwan Church dedicated to him, in the diocese of Wenzhou, offer a cup of fresh tea to those who must work hours and hours outdoors in the Chinese coastal province of Zhejiang.

Food delivery workers, postmen, bricklayers and messengers of various kinds have had to work even on the so-called "dog days," the 30 hottest days of the year, when the humid heat becomes oppressive and everything becomes more tiring. The fresh tea offered by the parish community to all those in need of refreshment has become a simple and appreciated sign of how Christian charity recognizes and embraces the needs, even physical needs, of all.

In winter, in the same parish, those suffering from the cold can always find a steaming cup of hot tea. The parish of Longwan has become famous for its concern in bearing witness to and proclaiming faith in Jesus, also through many social works. In addition to the distribution of "Vincentian tea," members of the parish community maintain a service of regular, free medical visits for those most in need.

They also organize sacred music concerts, pilgrimages and social gatherings for groups of the elderly, young people, and children. All of this is inspired by devotion to the Patron Saint Vincent de Paul, in accordance with the ever-helpful suggestion of the Didache: "Seek the faces of the Saints every day and find rest in their words."

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.

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OBITUARIES

Adams — Elizabeth "Betty" Ann (Loson) Henry, 92; Mass of Christian Burial July 29, 2025 at St. Cecilia's Church; burial in Beaches Bridge Cemetery, Watson.

AuSable Forks — Gerald Elder Hall, 76; Mass of Christian Burial July 18, 2025 at Holy Name Church; burial in Norton Cemetery, Keene.

Cape Vincent — Frederick R. Priestly, 90; Graveside Services July 16, 2025 at Omar Cemetery.

Carthage — David Jay Arthur Young, 65; Memorial Mass July 24, 2025 at St. James Church.

Champlain — Leonard Mercaldi Sr., 90; Mass of Christian Burial July 11, 2025 at St. Mary's Church.

Dannemora — Alan M. Hadcock, 72; Mass of Christian Burial July 29, 2025 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in New St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Hogansburg — Iris K. Herne, 69; Mass of Christian Burial July 11, 2025 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Akwesasne.

Hogansburg — David Bruce Phillips, 65; Mass of Christian Burial July 17, 2025 at St. Regis Church.

Keene — Raymond Stephen Shackett, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 9, 2025 at St. Brendan's Church; burial in Norton Cemetery.

Keeseville — George Lawrence Fleury Jr., 94; Mass of Christian Burial July 25, 2025 at St. John's Church; burial in Harkness Cemetery.

Keeseville — Mary Edith (Earle) King, 83; Mass of Christian Burial July 26, 2025 at St. John's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Lake Placid — Beatrice Clarke, 94; Mass of Christian Burial July 30, 2025 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Lake Placid — Elizabeth M. (O'Connor) McIntyre, 94; Mass of Christian Burial July 17, 2025 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Lowville — George Reape Jr., 96; Funeral Services July 25, 2025 at Isenecker Funeral Home; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lyon Mountain — Jerry Joseph Rolich, 64; Mass of Christian Burial July 23, 2025 at St. Bernard's Church.

Massena — Marilyn A. Badger, 83; Mass of Christian Burial July 14, 2025 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Thomas P. Forget, 64; Mass of Christian Burial July 15, 2025 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Potsdam.

Mooers Forks — William Watts, 90; Mass of Christian Burial July 24, 2025 at St. Ann's Church; burial in the Town Ellenburg Mausoleum.

Norfolk — Adam J. Villnave, 32; Funeral Services July 11, 2025 at Buck Funeral Home; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

North Bangor — Jeanne M. (Baker) Tough, 49; Mass of Christian Burial July 17, 2025 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Norwood — Robert E. Queor, Sr., 86; Funeral Services July 19, 2025 at Buck Funeral Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Thomas C. Sherry, 82; Mass of Christian Burial July 18, 2025 at Notre Dame Church.

Peru — Ronald Clarence Bruno, Sr., 82; Funeral Services July 26, 2025 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

Plattsburgh — Cleve Fesette, 89; Mass of Christian Burial July 15, 2025 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Port Henry — Tyler Evan Snyder, 33; Mass of Christian Burial July 14, 2025 at St. Patrick's Church

Potsdam — Robert N. Griffin, 90; Funeral Services July 13, 2025 at Donaldson-Seymour Funeral Home; burial in St. John Bosco Cemetery, Malone.

Saranac Lake — Michael T. Finlayson, 57; Graveside Services July 15, 2025 at Union Cemetery, Vermontville.

Saranac Lake — Raymond Louis Macey, 94; Funeral Services July 24, 2025 at Fortune-Keough Funeral Home; burial in North Elba Cemetery.

Star Lake — John C. Tulip, 69; Mass of Christian Burial July 26, 2025 at St. Hubert's Church.

Tupper Lake — Anne Nancy (Stewart) Cray, 77; Funeral Services July 19, 2025 at Frary Funeral Home.

Tupper Lake — Frederick J. Monette Sr., 76; Graveside Services July 28, 2025 at St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

Watertown — Peter Clough, 77; Mass of Christian Burial July 14, 2025 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Westport — Raymond Edward White, 83; Mass of Christian Burial July 11, 2025 at St. Philip Neri Church.

Seminarians, DOVS gather for Mass, picnic



(Top left) Diocesan seminarians pose for a photo with Vocations Coordinator Garry Stevens and Vicar for Clergy and Director of Seminarians Father Christopher C. Carrara. Pictured are, from left, Stevens, seminarians Ladoucuer Flarissaint, Venes Laine, Deacon Tyler Fitzgerald, Kevin McCullouch, Deacon Dennis Ombongi, Deacon Michelet Boncoeur and Father Carrara. (Bottom left) The Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society (DOVS) saw the Lodge at Camp Gugenheim needed a new grill. Led by DOVS members Phil and Mary Shatraw, the organization donated funds for the purchase to benefit all who use the Lodge. (Above) Father Christopher Carrara celebrates Mass for the DOVS and seminarians on July 9, part of the annual seminarian gathering.

Knights go on annual pilgrimage to Vermont



PHOTOS BY JESSE SOVIE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Knights of Columbus from around the Diocese traveled to St. Anne's Shrine in Isle LaMotte, Vermont, on July 13. Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated Mass, and the Knights and their families enjoyed a picnic lunch.