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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 80 Number 16

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

AUGUST 13, 2025

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. 27.

Follow me: Celebrating Sisters of St. Joseph

Five Sisters of St. Joseph recently celebrated Jubilees with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley and a luncheon.

Read Bishop LaValley's homily from that Mass.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

STATE ROLE IN CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS



Catholic Daughters Court 479, Mary Immaculate, pictured at the Newman Center in Plattsburgh. Mary Skillan, front row, center, a parishioner of Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh and member of the local Court, has recently taken on a statewide role, second state vice regent, with the Catholic Daughters. Story on Page 7.

PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY



Jane Bain signs the guest book at St. Mary's Church, Canton, as her mother June LaShomb looks on. The mother-daughter duo visited all 12 diocesan Jubilee 2025 pilgrimage sites seeking indulgence's for departed loved ones.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope: Eucharistic love is 'conscious choice'

By Kristina Millare
Catholic News Agency

Pope Leo XIV during his Wednesday catechesis on the jubilee theme "Jesus Christ Our Hope" said the gift of the Eucharist prepared by God reveals that his great love "always precedes us."

Speaking to thousands of pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square on Aug. 6, the Holy Father said St. Mark's Gospel shows us that Jesus' love for his disciples "is not the result of chance but of a conscious choice."

"It is not a simple reaction but a decision that requires preparation," he said. "Jesus

does not face his passion out of fatalism but out of fidelity to a path freely and carefully accepted and followed."

Just as God made preparations to show his love for people, the pope said, in turn, people are free to choose God and prepare their own hearts to receive his love.

"He has already thought of everything, decided everything," Leo said. "However, he asks his friends to do their part."

"This teaches us something essential for our spiritual life: Grace does not eliminate our freedom but rather awakens it," he explained. "God's gift does not eliminate our respon-

sibility but makes it fruitful."

Noting the significance of the Eucharist for Jesus' followers, the Holy Father said its celebration should not be "only at the altar" but also lived in "daily life" as a continual offering of love and thanksgiving.

"True love, the Gospel reminds us, is given before it is reciprocated," he said. "It is an anticipatory gift. It is not based on what is received but on what one wishes to offer."

In order to make space in the heart to receive God's love, particularly in the Eucharist, the pope asked his listeners to consider: "What does it mean for me today to 'prepare'?"

"Perhaps to renounce a demand, to stop waiting for others to change, to take the first step," he suggested. "Perhaps to listen more, to act less, or to learn how to trust in what has already been prepared."

Following his catechesis, Pope Leo asked those gathered to pray for the people of Japan who "suffered ... physical, psychological, and social effects" of the atomic bomb dropped during World War II.

"Despite the passing of the years, those tragic events constitute a universal warning against the devastation caused by wars and, in particular, by nuclear weapons," he lamented.

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And... I blew it

I love reading, but because I spend so much of my time writing and editing, reading can feel like work. But my brain craves the stimulation that comes with reading - new ideas, new places, new experiences.

As a result, and because I have a long commute, I've come to love audio books.

I've used a popular audio book company on and off for years. Not long ago, I was looking through my audio book library trying to find the name of a book I had "read" through the service years ago.

I couldn't help but notice something: Probably 80 percent of the books

I've listened to have been in a genre I almost never read when I was firmly committed to what I refer to as "books on dead trees," actual, physical books on paper. Most of my audiobook collection is comprised of memoirs and autobiographies.

**Darcy L. Fargo**

I recently discussed this realization with a friend.

"I especially love memoirs and autobiographies that are read by the authors. There's something about hearing people tell their stories. I can hear where a person puts emphasis. I can hear the emotion in their voice. It feels almost like sitting across a table from someone and listening to

them tell their story. It makes me feel connected to them."

I thought of that conversation after I recently blew an opportunity to talk about my love of Jesus because I was afraid the other people in the group would think I was weird or different. A group of people at the gym were talking about extended fasting, a practice that has become somewhat common in fitness circles. As someone who has done some extended fasting, I jumped right in and joined them in talking about the health and mental/emotional benefits and the challenges.

Not once did I mention the spiritual aspect of fasting, and that's always been my primary reason for doing so. I didn't tell

them it reminds me that I hunger for Jesus, and that he alone can bring me fullness. I didn't tell them that fasting gives me an opportunity to unite my suffering with Jesus' suffering.

I missed an opportunity to share all the things God has done and is doing in my life. I missed an opportunity to potentially help someone else connect with the greatest story ever - the story of our salvation through Christ.

I'm guessing we can all think of moments like that - moments in which we didn't speak about our faith or beliefs out of fear, moments of lost opportunity.

I've been praying for the fortitude to do better next time.

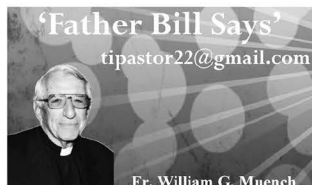
That's work worth doing.

The most important vocation

Just last evening, I attended a Mass and ceremony celebrated by the bishop. It was a ceremony of Candidacy. Five seminarians dedicated themselves to enter preparation for ordination as priests for this diocese. After a time of discernment, these five each decided that they have a vocation to become a Catholic priest. They believe they have a call from God to be a priest.

Today, I would like to use this opportunity to propose to you that while the vocation of priesthood is an important vocation in the Church, this vocation is not the most important vocation in the Catholic Church.

I believe that the first and most important vocation for all Catholics is that which is common to all the baptized - the vocation of being a disciple of Jesus. Every other vocation in the Church must be seen in relation to this one. When we are baptized, Jesus calls us all, "Come, fol-



low me." We are all called to be disciples of the Lord.

This call of the Lord is a transformative vocation. In fact, this is a life long transformative vocation for us all. Our call, received in faith, is that we understand we are ready to follow Jesus out of personal conviction. Cardinal Newman, the great English saint, wrote this: "What difference does being Christian make in the way we live our daily lives? I fear that most of us would not bother, if we believed that Christianity is nothing more than a fable."

Recognizing our call as a Christian changes everything. Christianity is all about how to live, not just what we believe. Faith must be translated into action. Catherine Doherty,

foundress of the Madonna House Community, said this often: "Don't bother proclaiming that you believe unless you act accordingly." In other words, show me. We, Christians, have so much to offer, something this world desperately needs. We must not be shy about our ole. A Christian must be bold and courageous about their following of Jesus.

Jesus said, "I came that you may have life and live it to the full." The Gospel message of our Lord challenges us to a deeper and more authentic way of living our lives. It implants in us the seeds of eternal life.

This morning, I celebrated the morning Mass. The Gospel reading tells the story of Jesus walking on water. After teaching many people, Jesus sends the apostles off in their boat, and he goes up the mountain to pray. The apostles run into rough water. Suddenly, they see Jesus coming towards them walking on the wa-

ter. As he comes closer, Peter boldly asks Jesus to allow him to come and meet him, to walk on the water toward him. Peter gets out of the boat and starts to walk on the water, but then he becomes afraid, and he starts to sink. He prays to Jesus, who reaches out and pulls him out of the water.

We must understand that this is our story. Often, as a disciple of the Lord, we are ready to do something - we are ready to act, we know we must say something important, we want to get out of the boat, and we want to act like good and courageous Christians. I must admit - speaking for myself - that there are too many times when I fail in my efforts, when I act and speak poorly, when like Peter, I sink. So, I often pray to the Lord - especially at Mass - that this day, with the help of Jesus, I will really live and act like a brave and bold Christian, like I can change the world for Jesus.

FOLLOW ME

Celebrating jubilees with Sisters of St. Joseph

What a privilege it is for me today, during this Jubilee Year of Hope, to lead our Eucharistic celebration of the inspiring personal Jubilees of consecrated lifetimes of these Sisters of St. Joseph:

85 YEARS

Sister Jean Marie Chiovitti

75 YEARS

Sister Mary William Argy

70 YEARS

Sister Judith Baumert

65 YEARS

Sister Norma Bryant

Sister Bethany Fitzgerald

In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul states that "Hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Rom.5:1-2,5). In his letter announcing this Jubilee Year of Hope, Pope Francis wrote that "even despite St. Paul's comments, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God's Word, Jesus Christ Himself, helps us find reasons for that hope." In FACT, HE IS THE REASON, THE SOURCE OF OUR HOPE!

It's true, isn't it? Even though we believe that we believe, sometimes it is so hard to trust, to let go and let God be God, particularly at times of

major transition in our lives. That's when Paul's words to the Romans give you and me a nudge reminding us of that precious virtue of hope, founded on Jesus' proven love.

Christian hope does not deceive or disappoint because it is grounded in the certainty that nothing and no one may ever separate us from God's love. (Rom 8:35, 37-39)

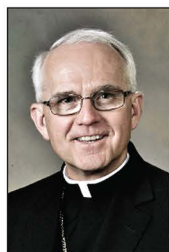
The Lord told Jeremiah, "I know well the plans I have in mind for you." Dear Sisters, He's got your back. In fact, the Lord's got the whole

world in His hands and...He never, never walks out on us. Your continuing loving witness of the consecrated life is a blessing to us all. And so...as Paul wrote to the Colossians, "Let the peace of Christ control your hearts...Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." I'm convinced the Lord has found a dwelling place within each of your hearts. So, it is good to reflect on the question: Do I really understand how much I am loved by God and what that love means for me today, tomorrow and forever?

St. Augustine once wrote: "Whatever our state of life, we cannot live without three dispositions of the soul, that is, the three theological virtues: namely, to believe, to hope and to love." God's love is not how our love can be sometimes, you know-conditional, self-centered, exclusive, measured. Jesus' promise to those who would be faithful is no ordinary promise to the one who



(Above) Sisters of St. Joseph celebrated their Jubilee Mass on July 30 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Watertown with a luncheon following at Hilton Garden Inn. Pictured are, from left, Sister Shirley Anne Brown, major superior, Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, who celebrated 65 years of religious life, Bishop Terry R. LaValley, Sister Mary William Argy, 75 years, and Sister Norma Bryant, 65 years. (Below) Bishop LaValley celebrated the Mass with priests and deacons from around the Watertown area.



Bishop Terry R. LaValley

seeks to live a virtuous life.

Sisters of St. Joseph, thank you for the legacy of love that you have gifted the Church of the North Country. I want to thank today's Jubilarians in a special way as I reflect on the legacy that you have given and continue to share with us. When I think of these Jubilarians, what comes to my mind are traces of sacrificial love poured out in our: Catholic schools, music ministry, parish ministry, Formation for Ministry, Faith Formation, Social Justice ministry, to name just a few areas of impact where your faith life has made a difference and will continue to ripple into the generations to come.

You simply cannot quantify the treasure



you have shared, but we can, from the bottom of our hearts say: Thank you, Sisters. Because you have been and continue to be Christ-led and Christ-fed, we are hope-filled. "Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, we seek your powerful intercession for all these faith-filled Sisters of St. Joseph. May the

challenge of great transition that they are experiencing continue to inspire us all to embrace the height and depth of love that our God has for each of us, never to be abandoned but strengthened by Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN."

Sisters of St. Joseph - rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven! For that, May God be praised...forever may God be praised!

Mother, daughter visit all local jubilee sites

By Keith Benman
Contributing Writer

A pilgrimage that started as a short side trip blossomed into a full-blown religious quest for a 91-year-old St. Peter's Massena parishioner and her daughter this summer.

June LaShomb and her daughter, Jane Bain, 55, traveled nearly 1,000 miles over three months, visiting every church and religious site designated by the Diocese of Ogdensburg as Jubilee 2025 pilgrimage destinations. That's a dozen in all. Their journey together started in the spring with a visit to St. Peter's Church, in Plattsburgh, when they were in the city for an appointment. Their journey ended at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg on July 29.

"It was something that was kind of hit and miss at the beginning," said Jane. "But it just kind of turned into let's see this through and visit all of them. Once it was summertime we took out the map and found where everything was and came up with a plan."

A big motivation for June was praying and obtaining indulgences for her deceased sib-



Father Donald J. Manfred, pastor of St. Stephen's Church in Croghan, meets up with June LaShomb as she visits the church, which is a Jubilee 2025 pilgrimage site. June and her daughter, Jane Bain, visited all 12 diocesan Jubilee 2025 pilgrimage sites between April and June.

lings, of whom there are 15 in all, as well as her husband's deceased siblings, of whom there are eight in all. An indulgence can be obtained through the pilgrimage for a deceased loved one by saying an Apostles Creed and prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father at each site.

The Jubilee 2025 pilgrimage indulgence also requires receiving the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion within two weeks of the visit.

The Catholic Catechism states indulgences open the treasury of the merits of Christ and the saints for believers.

MAKE A PILGRIMAGE

Pilgrimage sites in the Diocese of Ogdensburg by deanery:

Adirondack Deanery

- St. Alphonsus Church, Tupper Lake
- St. Bartholomew's Church, Old Forge
- St. Mary's Church, Ticonderoga

Clinton-Franklin Deanery

- St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh
- Mother Cabrini Shrin, West Peru
- Notre Dame Church, Malone

Jefferson-Lewis Deanery

- Precious Blood Monastery, Watertown
- St. Mary's Church, Clayton
- Holy Family Church, Watertown
- St. Stephen's Church, Croghan

St. Lawrence Deanery

- St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg
- St. Mary's Church, Canton

As such, they can remit temporal punishments due for sin for both those on earth and souls in Purgatory.

Like many Catholics of her generation, June is familiar with the concept of indulgences.

"They say it takes care of the venial sins of everyone if you pray for them," June said. "You're helping all the deceased souls, so it just seems like a good thing to do."

Their plan to visit all 12 pilgrimage sites included visiting five in one day on July 22. That entailed 530 miles of travel as they visited Mother Cabrini Shrine at St. Patrick's Oratory, West Peru; St. Mary's Church, Ticonderoga; St. Alphonsus' Church, Tupper Lake; St. Bartholomew's Church, Old

Forge; and St. Stephen's Church, Croghan.

At St. Stephen's they ran into Father Donald J. Manfred, who they knew from his days of serving at Sacred Heart Church in Massena. It was one of the highlights of their trip. They were able to reminisce a little about the old days, when not only Father Manfred, but one of June's siblings, Sister Mary Stephen, a sister of the Servites of Mary, served there as a teacher.

When told recently that June and Jane had traveled 530 miles that day to visit five pilgrimage sites in all, Father Manfred had this reaction: "God love them. My goodness!"

June told Father Manfred about their pilgrimage and its purpose.

"She comes from an era where having an indulgence means a great deal to her," Father Manfred said. "That was a long trip that day. She was really serious that this was a spiritual experience she lived."

There were other highlights as well for mother and daughter. At Mother Cabrini Shrine they got to say their Apostles Creed and prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father on a hilltop with a spectacular view of the Adirondacks.

"It was very peaceful," June said. "You could light a candle. It was all very nice to see."

June and Jane say they'd recommend the in-diocese pilgrimage to anyone, whether it's just one site visited or all 12.

"You can make this as simple or involved as you want," Jane said.

"They each have their interesting things to see. Each church was beautiful in its own way."

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'Built together into a dwelling place of God'

Deacon delivers address celebrating 150th anniversary of island Tabernacle

Editor's note: The following is an address delivered by Deacon Neil Fuller, parish life coordinator of the Catholic Community of Alexandria and St. Mary's in Clayton at a celebration marking the 150th anniversary of the Thousand Island Park Tabernacle on Wellesley Island.

I have been doing a lot of research the past few months. It would seem the beginnings of the Catholic presence here at (Thousand Islands) Park has been largely forgotten with time. As near as I can tell, there was a need for a Catholic Mass due to an increase in the Catholic population, and in the late 1950s, St. Mary's in Clayton agreed to provide a mission church here on Wellesley Island. The first years a Mass was offered at the Wellesley Hotel. It was well received, and it wasn't long before a larger venue was needed.

Thus our presence here at the Tabernacle which today still thrives after nearly 70 years. There have been many priests, deacons and lay persons who have served us for generations, too numerous to mention. And the tradition continues to this day from the young people who serve the altar, Sue the musician, the lector, the EMs, the sacristans, the lady who brings flowers every week and the team who sets up week after week, year after year.

Of course as we look back on the early years, there was a quiet trans-

formation unfolding-one that reflected the very soul of Vatican II's vision for the Church: a community that would be engaged, dialogical, ecumenical, and open to the Spirit wherever the Spirit breathes. Nowhere is this more evident than in this unique worship site where the Catholic community shares a sacred space with a Protestant congregation, is led pastorally by me, a deacon and parish life coordinator, nourished sacramentally by retired priests, and even finds wisdom and friendship through the influence of a Hindu Swami.

AN ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH HOME

This shared space as a religious community is already a powerful testimony. Instead of viewing denominational differences as walls, these communities have chosen to see them as windows - ways of seeing God from different perspectives. The sanctuary has become a place of convergence. While the altar table may host different liturgical expressions, it remains a common table of love, memory and hope.

And beyond ecumenism, we have also been graced by a deep and respectful friendship with a Hindu Swami. What began as a neighborly encounter in 1895, has matured into a spiritual exchange rooted in mutual reverence. The Hindu Swamis, advocates of compassion, meditation and non-violence, have shared their wisdom with this community during inter-

faith prayer gatherings, and even simple meals where stories and teachings are exchanged. This has been our tradition for 130 years.

And I emphasize the Swamis' presence does not diminish the uniqueness of the Catholic faith - it deepens it. By listening to the way another tradition speaks of interior peace, detachment, the sacredness of all creation, and the divine presence within, we are reminded of our own mystical heritage - of saints like John of the Cross, Teresa of Avila, and Thomas Merton, who also dialogued with the East. It is not the merging of different religions and beliefs - it is spiritual hospitality. And it reflects what the Second Vatican Council encouraged in *Nostra Aetate*: "The Church rejects nothing that is true and holy in these religions."

A PARISH LIFE COORDINATOR: LEADING THROUGH COLLABORATION

At the helm of our parish is not a pastor in the traditional sense, but a parish life coordinator (PLC)- I am a deacon who has been trained in pastoral planning, appointed by Bishop Terry LaValley. From organizing liturgical ministries and coordinating catechesis to visiting the sick and mentoring volunteers, the PLC exemplifies the Church's emerging understanding of diaconal and lay co-responsibility. Incidentally, I am the only PLC in this vast diocese, and because of the progressive nature of our parish community, we have become a model and proof that this type of parish leadership works.

We are the future of the Church.

Working hand-in-hand with retired priests, I am able to ensure that sacramental life continues robustly. More than just managing operations, the PLC is a spiritual presence: a leader who listens deeply, encourages others to serve and fosters a culture of discernment and dialogue.

Though retired from administrative duties, the priests who serve this community have not retired from ministry. They bring decades of homiletic insight, sacramental presence and pastoral love. They are available for Mass, confessions, anointings, funerals and spiritual direction. Their ministry is freed from bureaucracy and grounded in encounter. These retired priests also model a deep humility. They collaborate with the deacons and lay leadership and are open to new ways the Spirit is

working in the world.

A PARISH THAT LIVES THE GOSPEL BOLDLY

This parish is not large. It is not wealthy. It is not led by a celebrity pastor or packed with programs. Yet it is undeniably alive. It lives the Gospel with courage and creativity. It teaches young people to pray and to listen. It honors its elders. It serves the poor. It breaks bread with neighbors who worship differently. It honors the sacraments and also the sacredness found in listening to another's journey.

By welcoming ecumenical and interfaith dialogue, it fulfills the deepest longings of the Church for unity, peace and truth. It affirms that while Christ is the Way, Truth, and Life, He often speaks through the voices we least expect.

The parish isn't trying to reinvent the Church - it's simply living out

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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Wisdom in nature

It has been regularly reported by individuals who have had near-death experiences that heaven is full of light. This magnificent radiance, however, does not come from a central sun, but rather from God's light and love radiating through flowers, grasses, shrubs, trees, bugs, birds, and other creatures.

When spending time in nature on earth, some people say that they feel some sort of positive or uplifting energy. This calming or peaceful sensation can especially be noted when a person quiets their mind and slows or stops physical activity. Some individuals attribute this feeling to being part of the harmony God created among the entities present in an undisturbed setting.

While it may seem that nature is full of randomness, chaos and competition for water and resources, such impressions can be misleading. Scientists who delve deep into the workings of natural systems have discovered that cooperation and harmony are more basic than competition. God has connected the elements of his creation in ways that allow ecosystems and the organisms within them to thrive.

If we take time to sit without distractions and open our hearts to the power of God's love, we can come to understand the wisdom that God provides through nature. Jogging through a park listening to music doesn't allow one to be fully present to the riches nature offers.

There are subtle, yet powerful forces or energies in nature that can help align your life in the direction pleasing to the Holy Spirit and open up a world of fulfillment. Along with a sense of beauty and wonder, an experience with God's creations can yield many graces and insightful wisdom that can change a person's life.

By Tom Kalinowski
St. Bernard's Parish,
Saranac Lake

Bishop's Public Schedule

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

Aug. 14 – 5:30 p.m. – Mass at Our Lady of Grace Parish followed by a Picnic

Aug. 15 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Aug. 16 – 11 a.m. – Mass for Family Camp at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake

Aug. 17 – 8:30 a.m. – Mass at Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora

Aug. 18 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at St. Peter's Parish Center in Lowville

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

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

Aug. 20 – 10:30 a.m. – Mass at Meadowbrook Healthcare in Plattsburgh

Aug. 21 – 11 a.m. Mass at the Clinton County Nursing Home in Plattsburgh

5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at Martin Field Club (formerly the Knights of Columbus Hall) in Ogdensburg

Aug. 22 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Aug. 23 – 11 a.m. – Mass at Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer in Ellenburg Center

Aug. 24 – 10:30 a.m. – Mass Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of St. Bernard's Church in Lyon Mountain followed by Dinner

3 p.m. – Jubilee Year of Hope Art Exhibit and Music Concert at St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake

Aug. 25 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

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'Dwelling place of God'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

its deepest identity: as a community of faith, rooted in Christ, open to the Spirit and radically committed to love.

In a time of ecclesial transition and cultural change, our faith community here at TI Park offers a living sign of what the Church can become. It shows us that ministry can flourish even when traditional structures shift, that retired priests are still a blessing, that

deacons and lay leaders can faithfully shepherd, that Protestants and Catholics can share sacred ground, that a Hindu Swami can remind us of the contemplative beauty of our own faith, and that the Spirit is not done with the Church – far from it.

This community – although not perfect – wrestles with challenges of the day but it is alive, joyful and hopeful. It is a place where walls have

become doors, silence has become welcome, and unity has become a verb. We are a vision that began with Pope John XXIII and carried through to Pope Leo, who has the same vision, and we are very blessed.

In the words of St. Paul, this community is “being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit” (Eph. 2:22). And in doing so, it offers the rest of us a glimpse – not of a Church in decline but of a Church in divine renewal.

Gracious Creator,
Source of all life, love
and wisdom,

We come before You
with grateful hearts,
thankful for this sacred
time shared in peace
and unity.

Though we journey
along different paths,
our hearts beat with
common hopes:
for compassion,
for justice,
for understanding,
and for a world healed
by love.

In this gathering,
we have listened with
open ears, spoken with
honest voices,
and stood together in
mutual respect.

Let the spirit of this
moment continue to
guide us as we return
to our communities, our
homes, and our lives.
May we carry forward
the light of this day – a
light that transcends
boundaries, bridges dif-
ferences, and reveals our
shared humanity.

Bless us with courage
to live out the truths we
know, humility to keep
learning from one another,
and grace to walk gently
with all Your creation.
And may peace – deep,
enduring peace – be
upon us, within us and
between us.
Amen.

Rest in Peace

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

Aug. 13 – Msgr. Bernard F. Kellogg, 1993; Rev. Rolland A. Hart, 2022; Deacon Lawrence C. Morse, 2022

Aug. 14 – Rev. Patrick Foley, 1839; Rev. George Dermody, O.S.A., 1956

Aug. 15 – Rev. Alfred Onesime Boyer, 1959; Msgr. Cornelius A. Collins, 1967

Aug. 16 – Rev. Peter Paladini, S.A.C., 1990

Aug. 17 – Rev. Joseph Winfrid Vinet, 1907; Msgr. Victor Primeau, 1957

Aug. 18 – Rev. Leoneo Proulx, O.M.I., 1979

Aug. 19 – Rev. J. N. Emery, O.M.I., 1933; Rev. Richard A. Maher, O.S.A., 1959

Aug. 20 – Rev. J. McCarthy, O.S.A., 1931; Msgr. Griffith J. Billmeyer, 1988

Aug. 21 – Rev. Remigius Clo-
terius Decarie, 1920; Rev. Albert G. Salmon, 1997

Aug. 22 – Rev. James W. M. Rensing, 1936

Aug. 24 – Rev. Louis Lewis, O.M.I., 1938; Msgr. Paul George Brunet, 1991

Aug. 25 – Rev. Damas Guil-
bault, 1919; Msgr. Hugh P.R. O'Reilly, 1948; George W. Tobin, 2010

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. 20 – 5:30 p.m. – Plattsburgh Faith Formation office

Aug. 27 – 5:30 p.m. – St. Bernard's School, Saranac Lake

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

Skillan gets state role in Catholic daughters

By Mary Beth Bracy,
consecrated virgin
Contributing Writer

Mary Skillan is no stranger to the North Country, but she also holds a statewide role with the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

A member of Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh, Skillan was recently appointed as second state vice-regent to the Catholic Daughters. Her term in the role will last two years.

"I was asked to put my hat in the ring," she said. "Someone approached me and said 'we think you would be a good fit.' It's important for me to do it; I want to do it right and I want to do it well."

In 1903, this national organization of Catholic women officially became known as Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

"Prior to that, we were originally an offshoot of the Knights of Columbus known as the Daughters of Isabella," explained Skillan. "We focus on the circle of love: spiritual enhancement, family, education, youth, quality of life, legislation and leadership."

The organization also promotes fellowship and community.

"One of the important things is the sisterhood," Skillan said. "Throughout the country, Puerto Rico included, being there for one another, keeping one another in prayer, usually always a hug when you greet, not a handshake. What drew me to the organization



Helene Shepard (left), past NYS regent and past National regent for Catholic Daughters, and Mary Skillan (right) at the 2025 NYS Catholic Daughters Convention in Syracuse.

was this idea of sisterhood."

This sororal aspect is important to Skillan.

"I joined in the fall of 2021," she said. "I've had a trajectory straight to the top. When I was affiliated with SUNY Plattsburgh, I dealt a lot with sororities and fraternities, and it also impressed me the close bond that young men and women had with one another."

Catholic Daughters are active in their parishes and beyond.

"The organization is filled with really strong, intelligent women who have leadership capabilities," Skillan said. "Most courts are very involved in their local parishes helping out wherever necessary, sometimes through monetary donations; it's important for them to be a vibrant part of parish life. As an example here (at Holy Cross Parish), some of us

were present for First Communion, and we participated in the Corpus Christi procession. I think it's important to be a presence, to show especially those families who have youngsters preparing for sacraments that we are here for prayer and we support you.

"We helped out at the summer festival, and we give monetary donations to help offset the cost for the festival and harvest dinner. It's a combination of time, talent and financial support."

The group also spends time pursuing spiritual pursuits together.

"This year we are going to hopefully take a pilgrimage, because it's a Jubilee Year, to Notre Dame in Malone," Skillan said. "The past few years we've gone to Our Lady of the Adirondacks (House of Prayer) in Ellenburg. We have

Mass, sometimes Adoration, and a luncheon. Sister Jackie Sellapan, SCC, talked (as the speaker) one year. I gave a presentation last year on the Eucharist."

The Catholic Daughters also play an active role in their communities.

"Some Catholic Daughters march in their local Memorial Day parades," Skillan said. "We have been lucky to have some younger women join us, but a lot of our ladies have been involved for many years. I'm always looking for ideas on how we might be able to be a little more involved."

The Catholic Daughters do a lot of charitable works as well.

"In the fall we put together these car kits: hats, gloves, mittens, and socks that can be infants to adults and we give them out to our soup kitchen, but this year we also gave them out to NAMI (National Association of Mental Illness), because they deal with the homeless population. I think we did over 100."

"In June, we did our priest's appreciation dinner, we invited the priests, and Kevin (McCullough), our seminarian, was there. We gave them gifts and there was a nice dinner."

Educational initiatives also keep them busy throughout the year, Skillan said.

"In February, we have a formation meeting," she said. "Our first year it was on human trafficking. Just this past February we did it on mental health; NAMI has a program called Faith Net to educate people on mental illness. Someone shared her story about what she and her family have gone through and what her son has gone through. Because a lot of times people who are in a tight spot gravitate toward places of worship, (it's important to know) how to deal with people who are having mental issues, phrases to avoid. A few others and I are on the NAMI board so we took some specialized train-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



Service Available

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Celebrate your favorite priest in the

**NCC PRIEST APPRECIATION
ISSUE**

Join the *North Country Catholic* in honoring the special priests in your life. The *NCC* will be honoring our priests in the Sept. 24 issue of the paper.

Priesthood Sunday will be Sept. 28

We invite you to send a message to your pastor, spiritual advisor or priestly friend.

\$20 - a 1 column X 2 inch ad with a short message (e.g., Father Smith, we appreciate your service, from the Jones Family)

\$40 - a 2 column x 2 inch ad

\$135 - Quarter page ad

\$250 - Half page ad

\$475 - Full page ad

If you have a photo please email them to cward@rcdony.org. **DO NOT MAIL PHOTOS**

If you have a specific budget that is not listed we can design an ad based on that.

If you would like your ad in color please add \$25 (The *North Country Catholic* provides design services)

**Must be received in the NCC Office by
Sept. 15, 2025**

Please cut out the entire ad when you send in your request.

☐ **YES!** I/We would like to honor a priest in the *North Country Catholic*

YOUR NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Ad Size:

☐ \$20 Special Message only ☐ \$40 2x2

☐ \$135 Quarter Page ☐ \$250 Half Page

☐ \$475 Full Page ☐ \$25 Extra for color

Message as it will appear in the ad (please print)

Feel free to use your own paper.

NAME OF PRIEST: _____

Mail checks payable to: *North Country Catholic*
PO Box 106, Canajoharie, NY 13317

FACES OF FAITH



St. Joseph's Church in Olmstedville participated in the 37th annual Minerva Day Parade on July 5. The church's parade entry featured an 8-foot-tall Jesus the Good Shepherd with a sheep following him on the back of a truck. The truck featured banners on each side with excerpts from John 10, 10 - 11, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly... I am the good shepherd." On the back of the truck was a banner welcoming all to the St. Joseph church community. A number of parishoners made St. Joseph's participation in the parade possible. David McNally designed the display and loaned the truck. Mary Irene Lee drew Jesus the shepherd and a sheep. Deacon Mark Soloski drove and Kathy Halloran helped distribute candy donated by Jan Hogan and Clare McNally. In addition to parishioners, neighbors Nate Davie cut the figures out of wood, and Ed Doran helped David McNally assemble the display.



Bishop Terry R. LaValley recently met with Father Roy George the provincial superior of the Mother Theresa Province of the Heralds of Good News. Pictured are, from left, Father Clement Rimonds, HGN, pastor of the Catholic Community of Holy Name and St. Mathew in Au Sable Forks, The Roman Catholic Community of Keeseville, St. Margaret's Church in Wilmington and The Catholic Community of St. Philip of Jesus and St. Joseph in Willsboro, Father George, Bishop LaValley, Father Jose Kanyiankunnel John, HGN, parochial vicar at Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh, and Father Tojo Chacko, HGN, pastor of St. Bernard's and St. Edmund's Parish in Lyon Mountain and Ellenburg.



Four young men, Christopher Johnson, Hudson Maybee, Noah Wood and Silas Wood recently celebrated First Communion at St. Hubert's Church in Star Lake. They are pictured with Father Jay Seymour, pastor.



PHOTO BY MICHELLE BEAGLE

Deacon Jim Chafty and his wife, Christine, volunteer to man the Right to Life booth at Lewis County Fair. They have volunteered for the past 12 years, becoming involved via the Knights of Columbus.



Sister Louella Pelletier and Sister Bernadette Ducharme admire the bouquet of flowers presented to Sister Louella by the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society (DOVS) on the occasion of her 60th Jubilee as a sister of the Sisters of Charity of St. Louis. Sister Louella resides at the Clinton County Nursing Home in Plattsburgh.



The Church of St. James Major in Lake Pleasant recently celebrated its centennial. Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated Mass and presented four ladies, from left, Linda Slack, Kathy Gramlich, Dee Fiorillo and Gerry Rogers, with broaches in recognition of their many years of service to the parish.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Next World Youth Day to be first in non-Christian country

The next World Youth Day, scheduled for Aug. 3–8, 2027, will mark a historic milestone for the Catholic Church: the first time the global gathering of Catholic youth will be held in a non-Christian country, South Korea. Bishop Paul Kyung-sang Lee, general coordinator of World Youth Day Seoul 2027 and auxiliary bishop of Seoul, emphasized the significance of the event in an interview with CNA during the recent Jubilee of Youth in Rome. “Korea is the first non-Christian country to host World Youth Day,” Lee said. “At the same time, it’s the only nation that is divided in two. So, the main theme should be peace — peace between religions, peace between two countries.” “I want to see the young people enjoying the immense love of God,” he added. “So that the next generation won’t send their children to war. . . . This is my hope.”

Bishop seeks justice after massacre at Catholic Church

The pontifical foundation Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) reported that the bishops of the Democratic Republic of Congo are demanding justice following the massacre perpetrated by a group linked to the Islamic State on July 26–27 at a Catholic church in which more than 40 people were killed or injured. That weekend, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) attacked Blessed Anuarite Parish in the Diocese of Bunia, killing 37 young people and wounding six others who were participating in a vigil marking the 25th anniversary of the Eucharistic Crusades movement, according to ACN. The bishop of Bunia, Dieudonné Uringi, told ACN that after the massacre, “many people were traumatized. When the adults found out, they came immediately to see what had happened.” So far, no one has been arrested, and the prelate lamented that law enforcement did not react appropriately. “The police and military were not far away, but they didn’t act in time. They should have intervened more quickly to protect the population.”

Administration may walk back IVF insurance mandate plan

President Donald Trump’s administration may be walking back an earlier plan that would have required insurance companies to provide coverage for in vitro fertilization (IVF), according to a report from the Washington Post. The Post reported that “two people with knowledge of internal discussions” told the outlet that the White House does not plan to impose any IVF mandates on health insurance providers. According to the report, a senior administration official said expanding IVF access is still “a huge priority” for the president but that any government-imposed mandatory coverage would need to come from legislation passed through Congress. The article reported that such a plan is not on the table at the moment. CNA reached out to the White House for a response to that report and to ask whether religious liberty concerns for Catholics and others opposed to IVF are being weighed in the deliberations but did not get a response by the time of publication.

Pope Leo XIV addresses 1 million youth at jubilee

By Hannah Brockhaus

Catholic News Agency

Pope Leo XIV addressed the largest crowd of his pontificate in Rome’s outskirts on Saturday, telling an estimated 1 million young adults to “study, work, and love according to the example of Jesus” and to pray: “Stay with us, Lord.”

The pontiff was greeted Aug. 2 by joyous crowds on the 237-acre grounds of the University of Rome Tor Vergata, 10 miles east of Rome, where teenagers and young adults will stay all night in anticipation of the closing Mass of the Jubilee of Youth on Sunday morning.

Pope Leo, who arrived at the largest event of his pontificate by helicopter, drove through the grounds before the prayer service waving to cheering young people from the popemobile as the sun set.

He then carried the pilgrim cross of the Jubilee of Hope on foot from the crowd up to the 15,000-square-foot stage for prayers and Eucharistic adoration. The pontiff will return to the outdoor venue to celebrate the jubilee Mass at 9 a.m. on Aug. 3.

Clare Fletcher, 29, from Omaha, Nebraska, told CNA she was so grateful she decided to come to Rome for the Jubilee of Hope during the Jubilee of Youth.

“I’ve never been to World Youth Day, but everyone I’ve talked to is comparing the two,” she said.

She described the crowd as singing along to the hymns and worship music with joy.

Fletcher’s 24-year-old brother, Paul, who attended the prayer vigil with her, said he had “never seen an event of this scale and with this level of reverence.”

During the first part of the prayer service, Leo answered questions from young adults about friendship and loneliness, making good choices, and how to truly encounter Christ.

In his answers to the questions, one in each of the three languages he speaks fluently — Spanish, Italian, and English — Leo encouraged youth to seek good relationships with others and with God.

“And we can say thank you, Jesus, for loving us,” he said in a moment of improvisation in the midst of his prepared remarks.

“Each time we adore Christ in the Eucharist, our hearts will be united in him,” the pontiff added, and he recommended saying to the Lord: “Stay with us, because without you we cannot do

the good we desire.”

Fletcher, who traveled to Rome with a group of young adult friends who work in Catholic schools, called the question-and-answers with Pope Leo “poignant and so relevant! Each spoke for us. Each spoke to our hearts.”

“This is a pope who knows the youth. His response was savvy, beautiful, and worth remembering, not to mention worth praying with for some time,” she said.

Leo’s advice to young people included having Jesus, “who always accompanies us in the formation of our conscience,” as a friend.

“If you truly want to encounter the risen Lord, then listen to his word, which is the Gospel of salvation. Reflect on your way of living, and seek justice in order to build a more humane world. Serve the poor, and so bear witness to the good that we would always like to receive from our neighbors,” he recommended.

“Adore Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, the source of eternal life,” he said. “Study, work, and love according to the example of Jesus, the good Teacher who always walks beside us.”

Elodie, from France, told EWTN News at the prayer vigil that the Jubilee of Youth felt like “a huge family.”

“You feel the heart of the Church beating. I think, really, it’s beautiful,” she said.

The Jubilee of Youth, held July 28 through Aug. 3, is the most-attended event during the Catholic Church’s 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope, with an estimated 1 million young adults, teens, and their chaperones flocking to Rome from 146 countries.

Leo left the vigil after 10 p.m., more than 30 minutes past the scheduled time. After Eucharistic adoration, the crowd broke out in loud chants of “Papa Leone,” Italian for “Pope Leo.”

Young Catholics began arriving at the site of the vigil as early as 3 p.m., where they braved sun, humidity, and temperatures in the upper 80s during an afternoon listening to live performances and the personal stories of young people from different countries.

During his remarks, the pope asked for prayers for two female pilgrims who died this week, a 20-year-old Spaniard, Maria, and an 18-year-old Egyptian, Pascale Rafic. He also asked the young people to pray for another Spaniard, Ignazio Gonzales, who was hospitalized in Rome.

Knights honor Pope Francis, mark milestones

By Tyler Arnold
Catholic News Agency

At the first Knights of Columbus Supreme Convention since Pope Francis' death, Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly offered a tribute to the former pontiff's legacy and celebrated the growth of the organization and its charitable accomplishments over the past year.

The Knights of Columbus began their 143rd annual convention on Aug. 5 at the Washington Hilton in Washington, D.C., where thousands of members of the organization — including Archbishop William Lori, the Knights' supreme chaplain of 20 years — gathered for the occasion.

Kelly, who has served as supreme knight since 2021, remembered Pope Francis' dedication to the most vulnerable — a hallmark of the Knights of Columbus' global charity work — and the late pontiff's close relationship with the fraternal organization.

"Pope Francis was a powerful witness to charity and when he summoned the Church to the peripheries, he led by example — like a good father," Kelly said in his delivery of the annual report of the Knights' charity work.

"His love for the poor and the sick was extraordinary," he said. "Who can forget the moment, in the early days of his papacy, when he embraced a severely disfigured man in St. Peter's Square or when he celebrated his 80th birthday by sharing breakfast with the homeless? He did what our world so often refuses to do. And the world watched, with admiration."

Kelly said Francis was "a great friend of

the Knights of Columbus" who "encouraged our charity around the world" and "especially praised our humanitarian work in Ukraine, as well as our efforts to combat human trafficking." He also credited Francis with inspiring the organization to grow its outreach to the Indigenous people of the United States, Canada, and the Philippines.

Knights of Columbus' global charity work and growth

During his address, Kelly also reported on the fraternal organization's ongoing charity work globally and its growth.

The report noted that members of the Knights of Columbus collectively dedicated more than 48 million hours to service. The organization also broke its record for charitable donations, reaching about \$197 million over the year.

According to the report, the Knights of Columbus surpassed 2.1 million members after more than 96,000 men joined the organization last year. The Knights of Columbus have also grown on college campuses with now 8,000 knights at 146 college councils.

Kelly noted that the Knights of Columbus is currently responding to the flash flood in Texas, where "hundreds of families lost their loved ones — and one brother knight tragically lost both his parents and his two young daughters." The Knights also responded to floods in Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Florida along with the wildfires in California.

The report stated that the Knights of Columbus have continued "bringing emergency

supplies to refugees" in Ukraine with the organization's Charity Convoys and serve people in the country through its Mercy Centers.

"We pray for an end to the war in Ukraine, but so long as the war continues, we'll be there for those who suffer," Kelly said.

Kelly reported on the growth of the Knights' Global Wheelchair Mission, which has now donated more than 158,000 wheelchairs, including 19,000 last year. This includes 300 to Nigeria, which was provided to "Christians who have endured violence and persecution for their faith."

The Knights of Columbus also set a new record for winter jackets delivered to children through its Coats for Kids initiative, which has now surpassed 1.6 million total jackets to children.

According to the report, the Knights' program Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) provided pro-life pregnancy centers with \$6 million last year and more than \$17 million over the last three years. The Knights also surpassed more than 2,000 donated ultrasounds through its Ultrasound Initiative meant to "save lives by showing parents their unborn children."

The Knights of Columbus also saw growth in its Cor program, which is a "small-group setting [that] gives men a place to embrace the mission for which they were made — the mission that God himself has uniquely given to them," according to the report. In August 2024, Cor was active at 650 councils but has now expanded to more than 5,000 councils.

"Like every generation that came before us, we

Pope Leo lauds knights

By Tyler Arnold
Catholic News Agency

Pope Leo XIV extolled the work of the Knights of Columbus in a prerecorded message for the Catholic fraternal organization's 143rd Supreme Convention, which is being held in Washington, D.C., Aug. 5-7.

"I commend your efforts to bring together the men in your communities for prayer, formation, and fraternity, as well as the many charitable efforts of your local councils throughout the world ... which brings hope and healing to many and continues the noble legacy of your founder," Leo said in his message.

The Holy Father specifically commended the Knights of Columbus for their "generous service to vulnerable populations, including the unborn, pregnant mothers, children, those who are less fortunate, and those affected by the scourge of war."

Leo tied his message to the convention's theme "Heralds of Hope," which was chosen to reflect the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope, which was promulgated by Pope Francis.

Pope Leo XIV offers a heartfelt message to the Knights of Columbus gathered for the 143rd Supreme Convention in Washington, D.C.

The pontiff said that the Jubilee Year of Hope "encourages the universal Church and indeed the entire world to reflect on this essential virtue, which Pope Francis described as the desire and expectation of good things to come despite or not knowing what the future may bring."

"As Catholics, we know that the source of our hope is Jesus Christ, and he has sent his followers in every age to bring the good news of his saving paschal mystery to the entire world," the Holy Father said. "The Church has always been called to be a sign of hope through the proclamation of the Gospel in words as well as in actions."

Leo added that during the holy year, Catholics "are called to be tangible signs of hope to those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind," noting that the founder of the Knights of Columbus, Blessed Michael McGivney, "understood this well."

"He saw the many needs of immigrant Catholics and sought to bring relief to the poor and suffering through his faithful celebration of the sacraments as well as through fraternal assistance ... which continues on to this day," the pontiff said.

Leo said the convention theme is an invitation to members of the Knights of Columbus "to be signs of hope in your local communities, parishes, and families."

will move forward — in charity, unity, and fraternity," Kelly said. "We will serve Our Lord by serving others," he added. "And we will sacrifice for them, like he did for us."

VIRTUAL EVENTS

EUCCHARISTIC MISSIONARY FORMATION

A Virtual workshop to be held. A Eucharistic Missionary is any Catholic who – inspired by an encounter with Christ in the Eucharist and fueled by the Bread of Life – allows God to use them as an instrument of his grace “for the life of the world.”

Schedule: 5 online sessions with 2 options to choose from. Mon. Noon to 1 p.m. Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 or Wed. 7 p.m. to 8. Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24, and Oct. 1

Place: Meet online via TEAMS

Features: Session 1: Eucharistic Revival; Session 2: Eucharistic Encounter; Session 3: Eucharistic Identity; Session 4: Eucharistic Life; Session 5: Eucharistic Mission. Each session includes a half-hour video followed by small group discussion, as well as practical ways of putting the lessons into practice during the week.

Contact: If you have any questions, please contact Marika at mdonders@rcdony.org

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.

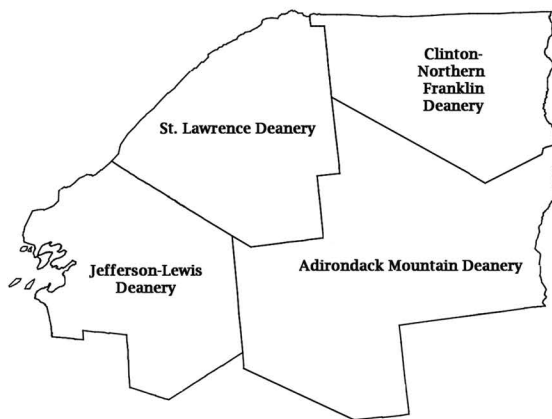
Features: Grand prize \$12,000, second prize \$4,000, third prize \$2,000, fourth prize \$1,000, fifth Prize \$500. Five Early Bird Drawings for \$100 each on July 6; five Early Bird Drawings for \$10 each on August 31, Grand Prize Drawing on October 12. You do not need to be present to win.

Contact: For more information call the Parish Office at (315)369-3554

CAR RAFFLE

Lake Placid – St. Agnes School is having their annual Car Raffle. Win a new Subaru or \$20,000.

Features: Tickets are \$20 apiece or \$100 for six. Tickets are available at the school (weekdays), after Mass (weekends), or by phone (518-523-3771). Win-



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.

ner need not be present to win. Drawing will take place Oct. 12 after the 10 a.m. Mass. Winner can choose a new Subaru Forester of \$20,000 cash - and 100% of raffle proceeds benefit scholarships and programs.

Contact: For more information got to www.stagnesp.org or development@stagnesp.org or (518) 523-3771

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://stagneslakeplacid.com/alpha>

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN**SOAKING PRAYER SESSIONS**

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

Date: Aug. 21, Sept. 18, Oct. 16

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

Place: Our Lady of the Adiron-

dacks House of Prayer

Features: Sessions are offered by Eve McGill, Living Waters Ministry. 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 Arrival 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 Father 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.

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

SOAKING PRAYERS SESSIONS

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

Date: 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

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE

Plattsburgh – Eastern Region Commissioned Lay Minsters are invited to celebrate with Bishop Terry LaValley a 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope Pilgrimage.

Place: St. Peter's Church

Date: Sept. 14

Time: 2 p.m.

Cost: \$12 per person

Contact: To register and for more information www.rcdony.org/plattsburghyearofhope

JEFFERSON-LEWIS**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.

EVENING OF SACRED MUSIC

Clayton - Enjoy St. Mary's music ministry for an evening of sacred choral music, scripture readings, and solo performances.

Date: Aug. 17

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: This concert is a free event with a goodwill offering available at the door to support our music ministry.

Contact: St. Mary's parish office Email claytonsec@rcdony.org Phone Number: 315-686-3398

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: Sept. 7

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

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

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New Bishop Barron documentary planned

By Francesca Pollio Fenton
Catholic News Agency

Word on Fire announced Monday that a new documentary by Bishop Robert Barron is underway that will showcase the beauty of Catholic cathedrals and how they guide the faithful to the divine.

In the announcement, Barron — who also serves as bishop of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota — explained that the inspiration for the documentary came after the tragic fire that destroyed part of the historic Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris.

In April 2019, Notre Dame's

iconic roof and spire were engulfed by a fire, the causes of which have yet to be determined. Its main structure was saved, along with many of its priceless contents, but the restoration project was monumental, amounting to almost 700 million euros (\$740 million). The historic cathedral reopened on Dec. 7, 2024.

Barron recalled that the response from people all around the world was "intriguing" to him and he "had a sense that people knew the fire was threatening to destroy something of great spiritual value — even if they were not faithful themselves."

After this, Barron wrote a

script for a documentary that explored the idea of the spirituality of cathedrals and their ability to draw in even those who do not believe in God or practice any faith.

The documentary will take viewers to the French cathedrals of Amiens, Chartres, Notre-Dame, Reims, and Saint-Denis to explore these medieval cathedrals more in depth. It will combine history, theology, art, and Scripture to show the significance of cathedrals and answer the question: What is it about the beauty of a cathedral that is so transcendent?

Barron said he believes the documentary will have "great

evangelical value."

"My hope is that this film can have a similar impact by drawing people into the beauty of our faith through the intrigue of these impressive buildings," he said.

Barron has released several documentaries over the years including the "Catholicism" series, which took viewers to 50 locations throughout 15 countries to reveal the fullness of the Catholic faith, and the "Pivotal Players" series, which dove into the lives of 12 of the most influential Catholic figures in history.

A release date for the new documentary has not been announced.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

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. 23 in Brownville

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

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

Contact: Register by Aug. 21 at: rcdony.org/certworkshops

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake — Registration for Family Guggenheim is now open.

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

Features: Family Guggenheim welcomes families to come enjoy a special weekend in the beauty of the Adirondacks. Expect fun family workshops and activities that will have you working and laughing together. Celebrate Christ's presence in your lives through liturgy and special prayer services. Take

time for great outdoor activities like paddle boat rides, beach volleyball, and hiking. You are never too young or too old to enjoy being family at Camp Guggenheim!

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 AND ART

Saranac Lake — All are invited to 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 and aims to bring a greater share of hope and prayer

to our lives, our communities and our world.

CELEBRATION OF LOVE AND MARRIAGE MASS

Ogdensburg — We invite all families to 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. 29 at <https://www.rcdony.org/jubilee>. **Contact:** For more information please contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Saranac Lake — The Diocese of Ogdensburg Youth Ministry is inviting all High School students (grades 9-12) are to their annual Leadership Weekend.

Date: Sept. 19-21

Place: Camp Guggenheim

Cost: \$150 (financial aid is available)

Features: Special guest speaker will be Penelope Rose from Students for Life. Learn to be a leader in Christ. Free T-Shirt is included.

Contact: Register at rcdony.org/leadership

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>

NEWS BRIEF

Learn about Sisters of St. Joseph Lay Associate Program

The Sisters of St. Joseph are inviting men and women to become a Sister of St. Joseph Lay Associate.

The Lay Associate Program meets once a month to learn about the spirituality, the charism and mission, and history of the Sisters of St. Joseph, pray together and discuss ways to deepen one's spiritual life. If you are interested in learning about our Lay Associate please contact Sister Mary Eamon (smelyngssj@yahoo.com) or contact Sister Bethany Fitzgerald (srbethany@gmail.com).



*Support And Pray
For Vocations*

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

'I came to bring division'

August 17

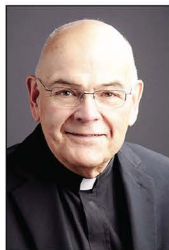
Twentieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10

Hebrews 12:1-4

Luke 12:49-53

Msgr. Robert
H. Aucoin

How good a Christian are you? That's a tough question since everyone seems to have a definition of who or what a Christian is. When I was a high school principal and had to impose some form of discipline on a student, the student's supposed clinching argument was: "You're not being very Christian." My response was always something like: "What you did to end up in my office actually was not very Christian." Or sometimes I would hear: "Is that what Jesus would do?" My standard answer was: "I don't know, but I'm the only one in charge right now. So, build a bridge and get over it."

Today's Gospel could

and should make us nervous. Those strong words of Jesus: "I came to set a fire on the earth ... I came to bring division." That is absolutely true. Jesus did not bring division for the sake of division. Not at all. Rather, he is saying that his words will bring divisions to society, even to the smallest but most important unit, the family.

He is saying in very clear terms that division will result because not everyone will follow his message, not everyone will take a stand on issues, not everyone will adopt and see the beauty of his message.

Let's look at some small, but telling, issues. When you have company for dinner, do

you still say grace before meals, or do you forego the prayer thinking that you don't want to make someone uncomfortable?

When someone introduces a controversial item, do you avoid it or take it on? Have you fallen for the false notion that everyone's truth is true. That's not the position Jesus took with the issues he faced: his teaching caused dissension, but he did not back down; he forgave the penitent woman, even though others wanted to stone her; he said that he was the truth and did not

give in on that point; he told the woman at the well that she was living in adultery, in sin.

The saints and heroes of today do not back down from what is truth. Dorothy Day and Mother Cabrini defended the needs of the poor in New York city; Bishop Oscar Romero was shot while celebrating Mass because he spoke against an oppressive government; people stand in defense of the unborn even though they are subjected to ridicule.

Some will say that we, as church, should not get involved in political issues. Whenever an issue, political or not, affects humanity in any way, then the rights of humanity must be defended. Human rights, religious freedom, human dignity must always be defended by a voice that defends

them whether politics has gotten involved.

The teachings of Jesus were deemed unpopular, but they have endured to this day.

Kings and queens in whatever political shape they may exist, may try to alter what we believe and what we practice. But the words of Jesus and his Church must drown them out.

The Gospel that we heard tells us that Jesus knew his words would be unpopular and cause division. That remains true even today. So, who but us, the Church, are going to be the voice of Jesus in today's society? Even though the voice of Jesus' teaching is unpopular, it must still be lived, preached, and spoken both when convenient and inconvenient.

Jesus spoke very clearly. Hopefully, we can do the same.

CALLED TO SERVE

Welcome to the new deacons!

"God willing, you will be ordained a deacon of the Diocese of Ogdensburg."

We use that sentence regularly during the formation years for men who have been called to pursue membership in the order.

"God willing" may sound like a clever phrase, even a joke at times. The truth is, "God willing" is an expression packed with honesty and an understanding that God will decide if a man is to be ordained.

As I write this column, six men are preparing for their ordination August 9.

I thought about writing as if the ordination had occurred and you are reading this after the

fact. I might tell you how wonderful the ceremony was. That Bishop LaValley's words of encouragement to the new deacons were inspirational. That the six men, Gordy Burdo, Jimmy Law, JB Kavanaugh, Frank Sczerzenie, Garry Stevens, and Nick Tsibulsky acquitted themselves beautifully. That each was ordained and is now Deacon.

But I would be making that up because the ordination will happen after the deadline for the edition you are reading. If I told you how perfect it all was, I would be hoping, praying, that God's will is that the ordination happened as planned.

Let's assume that it is God's will and the ordination occurred at St.

Mary's Cathedral August 9, 2025.

Family and friends of the newly ordained were present. In the crowd at the Cathedral were some of the people who mentioned to their friend a few years ago, "You would be a great deacon! Have you ever considered that?"

Fellow deacons and priests of the diocese were vested and witnessed the ceremony. Bishop's homily was inspirational, as always.

Deacon Nick, Deacon Garry, Deacon Frank, Deacon JB, Deacon Jimmy, and Deacon Gordy were welcomed to the order by their broth-

er deacons after each of the new deacons was given his stole and dalmatic.

These six men returned to their sponsor parishes and assisted at the Celebration of the Eucharist for the first time as deacon. The Mass was held Sunday, August 10.

Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

August 10 is the Feast of St. Lawrence, himself a deacon. As a first century deacon in Rome, Italy, Lawrence was responsible

for the material goods of the Church and the distribution of alms to the poor. A Roman official demanded that Lawrence hand over

the goods of the Church. Instead, he distributed those goods among the poor.

"When ordered to deliver the treasures of the Church, he presented the city's indigent, crippled, blind, and suffering, and declared that these were the true treasures of the Church: 'Here are the treasures of the church. You see, the church is truly rich, far richer than your emperor!'"

St. Lawrence, deacon, is an inspiration to all of us in the Order. Welcome to our new members.

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

Role in Catholic Daughters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

ing. We received recognition on the state level for an education program in February 2024. I try to focus on social justice stories.”

Prayer is central to who the Catholic Daughters are.

“It definitely is a very worthwhile organization, and one of the things that we do every night is at 8 p.m. on our Facebook page, we go live for prayer, with the Rosary or a prayer service. I offered to pitch in and help.”

Skillan said she is excited to see where her new state role takes her.

“I’m very excited,” she said. “I was honored to be given a role in leadership so early. I think it’s the Holy Spirit – my trajectory, it just happened. I am excited about this new role, it will involve travel to different courts for anniversaries, possible installations of officers. I like to travel a bit and to meet new Catholic Daughters. I will definitely do my best to do it well.”

Members of the Catholic Daughters’ leadership team include Judy Sterling, regent; Deborah Di-Toto, first state regent; Mary Skillan, second state regent; Susan Potaczala, secretary; and Maureen Bonanno, treasurer.

Skillan is also the director of Birthright in Plattsburgh. Her family moved here in 1963 because of the Air Force base. Though she moved away a few times, she has been back here longer than she has been away.

“This has really become home for us,” she said. “I was on ARC (Advocacy and Resource Center) board for 20 years. My first board experience was with them. I joined in 1995 and left in 2015.”

Skillan said she’s grateful for the Holy Spirit’s moving in her life.

“What’s led me down this path is just being open to the workings of the Holy Spirit, in all honesty,” she said. “The Holy Spirit hasn’t led me down a wrong path. The past 20 years of my life have been some of the best years that I have experienced. It’s a completely different path than I thought I would have in my life, but I’m glad that it’s a path I ultimately decided to take.”

North Country Catholic has Green option

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OBITUARIES

Brushton – Marlene Joan Prue, 71; Mass of Christian Burial July 30, 2025 at St. Mary’s Church.

Champlain – Ricky Arthur Grimshaw, 66; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 2, 2025 at St. Mary’s Church.

Champlain – Dolores (Ausili) Nobile, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 4, 2025 at St. Mary’s Church.

Clayton – Patricia Ann (Aubertine) Bristol, 88; Memorial Mass Aug. 5, 2025 at St. Mary’s Church.

Clayton – Geraldine “Gerry” (Casler) Carpenter, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 7, 2025 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Clayton – Leslie E. Drake, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 8, 2025 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Sandy Hollow Cemetery, Philadelphia.

Colton – Frank T. Kearing, 97; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 29, 2025 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery.

Copenhagen – Doris M. (Benware) Young, 81; Memorial Services July 31, 2025 at Sundquist Funeral Home; burial in Beaches Bridge Cemetery.

Ellenburg – Linda (Lafreniere) Johnson, Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 4, 2025 at St. Edmund’s Church.

Ellenburg – Rolland C. Magoon, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 2, 2025 at St. Edmund’s Church.

Evans Mills – Katherine E. (Knapp) Hall, 82; Graveside Services Aug. 1, 2025 at Evans Mills Cemetery.

Gouverneur – Tina (Frank) Binion, 97; Funeral Services July 31, 2025 at French Funeral Home; burial in New St. James Cemetery.

Gouverneur – Quinta A. Pistolesi, 81; Mass of Christian Burial July 30, 2025 at St. James Church; burial in

Oswegatchie Memorial Park, Ogdensburg.

Hammond – Bertha M. Arquitt, 62; Services to be held at a later date.

Harrisville – Michael Alexander Webster, 26; Funeral Services July 31, 2025 at Scanlon Funeral Home.

Hogansburg – Robert J. “Bobby Snye” Phillips, 68; Mass of Christian Burial July 31, 2025 at St. Regis Church.

Keeseville – Rodney W. Davey, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 14, 2025 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Evergreen Cemetery.

Lake Placid – Linda Lee (Thayer) Borden, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 4, 2025 at the Reiss Memorial Chapel at Elderwood of Uihlein; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Lake Placid – Gene Joseph Gengel, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 2, 2025 at St. Agnes Church.

Lowville – Kenneth Henry Klauck, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 8, 2025 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Lowville – Gordon H. Allen, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 2, 2025 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lowville – George Reape Jr., 96; Graveside services July 25, 2025 at the Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lyon Mountain – Freda (Alexander) Whittfield, 98; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 2, 2025 at St. Bernard’s Church; burial in St. Bernard’s Cemetery.

Malone – Clarence E. Dumas, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 16, 2025 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Malone – Barbara J. (Fleury) LaMondie, 86; Mass of Christian

Burial July 29, 2025 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. John Bosco Cemetery.

Massena – Cecilia (White) Montour, 88; Funeral Services July 19, 2025 at Donaldson Funeral Home.

Massena – Fay M. (LePage) Scully, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 8, 2025 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville – William G. Wiese, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 13, 2025 at St. Alexander’s Church.

Ogdensburg – Suzanne M. (Petrie) Brown, 65; Funeral Services July 31, 2025 at Oswegatchie Memorial Park.

Saranac Lake – Walter James Ryan, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 8, 2025 at St. Bernard’s Church; burial in St. Bernard’s Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Reta Juliette (Young) Larabee, 74; Funeral Services Aug. 1, 2025 at the Frary Funeral Home; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Lee Mandigo Sr., 89; Funeral Services July 29, 2025 at the Frary Funeral Home; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Watertown – Beatrice C. Boyce, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 4, 2025 at Holy Family Church.

Watertown – Helen G. (Gartland) Chisholm, 102; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 1, 2025 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – William Palmer “Scotty” Scott, 79; Funeral Services Aug. 8, 2025 at Reed & Benoit Funeral Home; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

West Chazy – Mary E. (Hayes) LaDuke, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 1, 2025 at St. Joseph’s Church; burial in St. Joseph’s Cemetery.

Help support seminarians around the world

"God loves us, God loves you all, and evil will not prevail! ...So, let us move forward, without fear, together, hand in hand with God and with one another!"

- Pope Leo XIV, First Speech

Dear North Country Catholic readers,

When Father Edwin Vasquez Gheri enrolled in a college medical program at the age of 17, he had no idea how God was going to change his life.

In 1963 the Diocese of Ogdensburg founded the parish of San Martin de Porres in Mollendo, Peru, building the church stone by stone. Over the course of 40 years, 19 diocesan priests and numerous

other religious and lay people traveled to South America on behalf of our diocese to help provide for the spiritual and physical needs of those in the area before the parish was turned over to the local church.

I myself spent two weeks in the parish assisting with day-to-day activities and working with the children. Peanut butter was our main protein source. The kids loved peanut butter and popcorn. We would bring over-the-counter medications with us to stock up the clinic. They told us there was a "pain in their heart" when we left.

Father Edwin grew up in a religious family that attended the parish of San Martin de Porres. His parents were devout and helped establish the parish. Father Edwin credits many sources for his vocation, including the Carmelite nuns, Franciscan, Capuchins, Jesuits, and priests from our very own Diocese of Ogdensburg. He says that our priests were patient, listened, and were understanding to him throughout his discernment.

He entered medical school at the age of 17. In the coming years things became difficult with the student riots, but luckily the area was spared from terrorism. At the age of 23 Father Edwin decided to join the Jesuit missionaries and begin his formal

training to become a priest. His parents were hesitant to see him give up school for such an unclear future but were supportive of his vocation.

He was ordained a priest in 1996 in Lima, Peru at Our Lady of Fatima Parish. Father Edwin was one of the many vocations that came from the Parish of San Martin de Porres.

God plants vocations like Father Edwin's all over the world. Often, these vocations cannot flourish due to lack of money and extreme poverty.

Through your donation to the Saint Peter Apostle Appeal you will be helping people just like him to realize the call that God has for them. Priests in developing countries often do not receive a salary and instead live off donations.

The Saint Peter Apostle Appeal now supports over 38,000 seminarians worldwide with an annual subsidy of \$700. It also supports 400 seminarians and nearly 10,000 men and women religious novices.

Your support of the Saint Peter Apostle Appeal is instrumental in helping those with vocations to be able to pursue the calling that God has for them without fear.

God Bless

Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ



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DIOCESE OF OGDENBURG

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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

Your support of the Saint Peter Apostle Appeal is instrumental in helping those with vocations to be able to pursue the calling that God has for them without fear.

Dear Director: I'd like to share my blessings for the St. Peter Apostle Summer Appeal to help seminarians worldwide fulfill their calling to be priests.

Enclosed is my sacrifice in the amount of \$ _____

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Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

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