

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A gift with  
an expiration  
date | Page 5

A Knight's Reflection:  
The power of  
pilgrimage | Page 6

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 80 Number 17

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

AUGUST 27, 2025

## SIX NEW DEACONS



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE

Six men, from left, Franciz Szczerzenie of Piseco, James Law of Saranac Lake, Nicolas Tsubulsky of Massena, Gordon Burdo of Peru, James "JB" Kavanaugh of Clayton, and Garry Stevens of Carthage were ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on Aug. 9 at St. Mary's Cathedral. Read Bishop LaValley's homily from the Mass on Page 3, and see additional photos on pages 8 & 9.

## REMEMBERING FR. MENARD



August 8, 2025, at Plattsburgh Rehabilitation and Nursing Center at the age of 96. Father Menard as remembered as a longtime language professor at Wadhams Hall Seminary and for his pastoral nature.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## Pope: Turn to Mary for troubles in family life

By Kristina Millare  
Catholic News Agency

Pope Leo XIV shared advice with a devout wife and mother in a letter published in the Italian monthly magazine Piazza San Pietro, saying Mary is a guide for all families in times of doubt and uncertainty.

The Italian magazine — an editorial project initiated by Pope Francis — features a column of letters exchanged between Catholic faithful and the Holy Father. Pope Leo's letter and a letter from a woman named Laura were published

in the magazine's August edition.

In her letter, Laura shared with the Holy Father that she is blessed with a loving husband but, at times, faces difficulties as a Catholic mother trying to raise children in the faith.

"I am the mother of three wonderful daughters whom I try to nourish with prayer and the word of the Gospel every day, words that, at times, I fail to translate into action," she wrote in her letter to the pope.

"The chaotic life and the hectic pace don't help me appre-

ciate the grace I have around me," she continued. "I pray every day that the Lord will enlighten me so that I may be a guide for my daughters, and I wonder how the Virgin Mary raised the Lord."

Describing her faith as "stronger than ever," Laura said she feared "temptations are taking control" and shared doubts her faith is solid enough to overcome problems affecting her family.

In response, Pope Leo praised the Italian mother's "enthusiasm for the faith" and "sincerity of heart," saying

that they are a blessing for her and her family.

"Take care of this spiritual treasure, which will always be guarded by the love of God," he wrote in his letter. "If your point of reference, dear Laura, is Mary, you will be able to face any uncertainty."

"When you turn to her, the Virgin leads you to Christ," he continued. "Mary's strength is always new and surprising, because she entrusts herself completely to the Son, the Word incarnate through love."

"And in him, with Mary, we are all one," he said.

NORTH  
COUNTRY  
CATHOLIC

PO Box 326

Ogdensburg, NY 13669

USPS 0039-3400

**Bishop Terry****R. LaValley**

President

**Rev. Joseph A. Morgan**

Vice President

**James D. Crowley**

Secretary-Treasurer

Darcy L. Fargo

Editor &amp;

Communications Director



Publish

45 issues

per year:

Weekly except

skipping every

other week be-

ginning July through August

and skipping one week in

December by the

Diocese of Ogdensburg.

622 Washington Street,

Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

**Editorial Office:**

622 Washington Street,

Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

**Telephone:**

(315) 608-7556

**E-mail:**news@northcountry  
catholic.org**Entered at the****Post Office:**

Ogdensburg, NY

13669 and additional mailing

offices as

Periodical Postage.

**Subscription:****For one year:**

In-Diocese Rate: \$27

Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication  
should be addressed to

PO Box 326

Ogdensburg, NY 13669

and should be received by

Wednesday prior to

publication. Paper is

printed each Friday;

dateline is Wednesday.

Member, Catholic

Press Association.

**POSTMASTER:**

Send address changes to

North Country Catholic,

PO Box 326

Ogdensburg, NY

13669-0326

## Going where he's led

"Finding out where you're not called is sometimes part of finding out where you are called."

I've said some form of that eleven billion times in the last few months. It was part of my effort to not put too much pressure on my son, Jake, as he was preparing to leave for barber school in Central New York. He started that school on Aug. 18.

"You have to give it a reasonable try - at least a few weeks," I told him. "But if you hate it, you're not stuck there."

In Church circles, the idea of discernment seems to pop up most when we talk about vocations - the priesthood, consecrated life, married life, single life. That discernment is obviously very important, but it's not the entirety of discernment. God doesn't stop moving in our lives when we figure out if we're going to get married or become a priest or consecrated religious. He's

constantly calling us to decisions and actions that serve and glorify Him and to paths that lead others to

Him, as well.

I'm guessing a lot of us - possibly all of us - can think of a time when we thought we were supposed to go to a particular school, study a particular field, take up a particular career or enter a specific relationship only to later learn it wasn't a good fit for us, and it wasn't where God wanted us. Usually, we know our choices aren't the correct ones because they make us deeply unhappy.

Recently, I had an opportunity to listen to a priest, two women in consecrated life and a married man talk about vocations. One of the common themes was

the joy that is found in going where God calls us. I pray every single day that Jake follows God's call and finds that joy.

Jake entering this new phase of his life has also reminded me to pray for the same - pray for the joy that comes when following God's will for us - in my own life and for those I love. We're not done discerning, either.

While it's been only one week, Jake loves barber school so far, and he's enjoying living in a more urban area.

I pray he, and all of us, continue to follow the joy that only God and following God's call can give us.

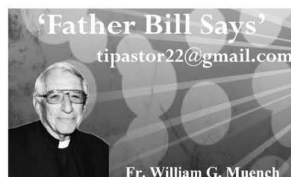
**Darcy L.  
Fargo**

## Finding the truth

Today, I am still thinking back to last Sunday's homily. The Gospel reading at the Mass that Sunday tells us of Jesus proclaiming to his apostles, "I want to bring fire on the earth." I must tell you that I even went to YouTube to see the video of that Mass in other Catholic Churches to see how other priests spoke about Jesus' words. So, today, I plan to take some time to share with you my thoughts on that reading.

When Jesus speaks of fire he is referring to the Holy Spirit. Jesus envisions the Holy Spirit bringing new life to the world and to the Catholic Church throughout the centuries. Jesus always knew that some things that he was teaching would be very divisive among the people who listened to him. We know even now that the words of the Lord can divide families, divide communities, even divide Catholics.

So, even now, we should

**Fr. William G. Muench**

not be surprised that the Gospel of the Lord can be rather divisive. Jesus' sense of justice brought him into conflict with those who exploit the weak and poor. His integrity brought him into conflict with the dishonest. His tolerance for all brought him into conflict with the narrow minded and the bigoted.

Today our Church faces many divisions. There are many other religions. There are several Christian faiths. We should even be aware that there are divisions among Catholics. Living our faith amidst divisions challenges us to find the real Jesus, for only then do we have the truth so that we can live it. Many of us need help; we need someone that we can trust to help us find

the truth, to lead us to the true message of the Lord.

Do you have questions about your faith, about Jesus, about God, about the Catholic Church? I have had many such questions over the years. I want you to know that I have confronted such questions. You know that I have had a good education and continue to study, yet there are still challenging questions. However, I have been blessed by wise and truly learned friends, who have been ready to guide me. Sadly, too many of them have gone back to the Lord. However, I do know that they continue to help me in really powerful ways. So, questions about your faith are okay; they are not some sort of sin.

Do not be afraid of doubts. I know that even very holy saints have written about their personal difficulty with doubts. They have found refuge in prayer, in reaching out to God for direction. For many of them, this be-

came a way to draw even closer in relationship with God. In doubt, find help and turn to God in prayer.

In our time, we are bombarded with so much information. There is so much to try and understand. Our search for the truth is not easy, and it can cause confusion and even takes from God's truth. I am old enough to remember when some would say, "if this is in the newspaper, it must be true." Or is it? Then comes TV: "if something is on television it must be true." Then along comes social media and now AI. How well do we deal with all this? How do we keep ourselves from being misdirected?

So, divisions! I hope that you can find someone you can trust. Someone to talk with, confide in - someone who will always lead you to the truth, someone who will gently help you stay close to the Lord and the Lord's message and help you find what is the truth.



## FOLLOW ME

## ‘The presence of number 7’

*Editor's note: The following is Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily from the ordination to the diaconate on Aug. 9.*

Soon, you will hear me pray these words to our Heavenly Father: “in the first days of your Church, your Son's Apostles, led by the Holy Spirit, appointed seven men of good repute to help them in the daily ministry, so that they might devote themselves more fully to prayer and the preaching of the word.”

My sisters and brothers, these, our appointed men: Gordy, JB, James, Frank, Garry, and Nic – number six, who's the seventh? You know, the number seven is quite significant in the Bible, appearing over 700 times throughout both the Old and New Testaments. The number seven was used in Sacred Scripture to often symbolize completeness, perfection, and divine order.

I might suggest that we have these six deacon candidates plus One making seven. So, Who's the “plus One” seventh figure? Brothers, He will be your constant companion, friend, teacher. This Figure will be your Priest, Prophet, King and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Gentlemen: your diaconal ministry will be incomplete, not in divine order. Your service in the Church risks being a ruse, a mere façade, without the Presence of number 7 – the Risen Christ. The Prayer of Ordination will speak about the deacon remaining firm and steadfast **in Christ**, so that, imitating the Father's Son on earth, Who came not to be served but to serve, the deacon may

be found worthy to reign with Him in heaven.

We know that the Christian life is all about our personal relationship with Jesus Christ which motivates and energizes our service to others. In St. Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells His disciples: You are the salt of the earth, the light of the world...your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father. From that intimate relationship with Jesus that we nurture and cherish, we are empowered to accept the Psalmist's refrain to “Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.” So, the underlying plea of every prayer of the deacon, of every Christian, should be “Draw near dear Jesus, draw near.”

Dear brothers in Christ, tend to that relationship, first and foremost, every day of your lives. Through your faithful praying of the Liturgy of the Hours, through personal silent time before the exposed Blessed Sacrament, through your regular reflection of Sacred Scripture, through your deep devotion to the Blessed Mother, through your assistance at the Eucharistic Altar of God and through your outreach to the hurting, you will never be alone. Just as Jesus Himself has done, so also you should do.

Each of you is charged to keep this ordination class of 2025, the Jubilee Year of Hope, intact, complete and divinely ordered. Experience Jesus' constant Presence and rely on the support of the Risen Christ as you encounter challenges in your life and min-

istry. Keeping Jesus ever close, your manner of life will inspire the imitation of God's holy people and be a real Beacon of Hope for others.

In a world searching for a reason to hope, let the light of Christ shine through your diaconal ministry. May that Divine Light radiate through you, so that those you meet might encounter the Presence of Jesus and experience the joy of the Gospel. May the joy of the Gospel permeate your whole being, enhancing your vocation as husband, father and deacon.

We certainly want to acknowledge and thank your wives and your families for their ongoing support and encouragement. Your relationship with your loved ones should be strengthened through your diaconate, never compromised.

Through your diaconal ministry, in Jesus' Name, May God be praised... forever may God be praised!



Bishop Terry R. LaValley ordains JB Kavanaugh to the diaconate on August 9 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. Deacon Kavanaugh serves his home parish, the Catholic Community of Alexandria and St. Mary's Church in Clayton.

## 2025-2026 Diocesan Directories now available!

2025-2026

Diocese of  
Ogdensburg

Directory

The Roman Catholic Diocese of  
Northern New York\$15.00  
each

The Official 2025-2026 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.

Order online at [www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org) for faster delivery or fill out the form below. (Please cutout and send entire ad)

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

(Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery when mailing in)

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ directories

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

# Father Gilbert Menard: Scholar and a priest

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

A longtime professor at Wadhams Hall Seminary, Father Gilbert B. Menard is remembered as being a man who encouraged others, sharing Christ's love with them.

Father Menard died August 8, 2025, at Plattsburgh Rehabilitation and Nursing Center. He was 96.

"I hear about him from so many angles," said Father Bernard Menard, Father Gilbert Menard's nephew. "As a priest, he was very influential. He taught Latin and French at Wadhams. Everyone says he was very encouraging and supportive. He'd give his students hints - he may give them 10 sentences to translate, but then he would give hints about what would be on the next test. Everyone felt he was encouraging them."

While his uncle was known for being scholarly, the younger Father Menard said his uncle's ministry touched lives outside the seminary walls, as well.

"He was scholarly, but he was also pastoral, and he was local and community oriented," Father Bernard Menard said. "He was very even tempered. He handled crisis situations well. He had the gift of counsel, a gift of the Holy Spirit. He was able to do what needed to be done in any situation while keeping his spiritual peace. It's something I try to imitate."

Father Bernard Menard said Father Gilbert Menard also had a gift for giving homilies with

clear lessons that those in the pews could easily remember.

"When he retired, he still had a lot of ministry left in him," Father Bernard Menard said. "He would go all over the place to celebrate Masses. When I was in Louisville and Massena, if I couldn't find local coverage for a Mass, he would cover. When I got back, people would say to me, 'you got to get that guy back again.' His homilies could be summarized around a central point. Everyone could repeat the main point back to me the next week. He was able to reach people that way."

Father Bernard Menard said his uncle was known for being friendly and for having kind words to say about everyone, gifts that helped him connect to a wide variety of people.

"You'd have very liberal people and very conservative people, all different types of people with all different angles after Vatican II," he said. "He was able to work with all the different elements, and he could put a positive spin on just about any situation."

Those characteristics helped the younger Father Menard in his priesthood, he said.

"The first time I went to a priest gathering, at the time it was in Lake Placid, he really gave me a head start," Father Bernard Menard said. "Because of him, the other priests had a positive view of our family, and people received me very well as a result. I'm very grateful for that."

## Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Aug. 14

A Mass of Christian Burial for Father Gilbert B. Menard was celebrated at 11 a.m. on Thursday August 14, 2025, at St. Ann's Church in Mooers Forks. Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated the Mass and offered the homily.

Father Bernard Menard, nephew and priest of the Diocese of Syracuse, presided over the Reception of the Body on August 13 at St. Ann's Church in Mooers Forks. Calling hours will follow until 6 p.m.

Burial was in St. Ann's Cemetery.

Father Menard died August 8, 2025, at Plattsburgh Rehabilitation and Nursing Center. He was 96.

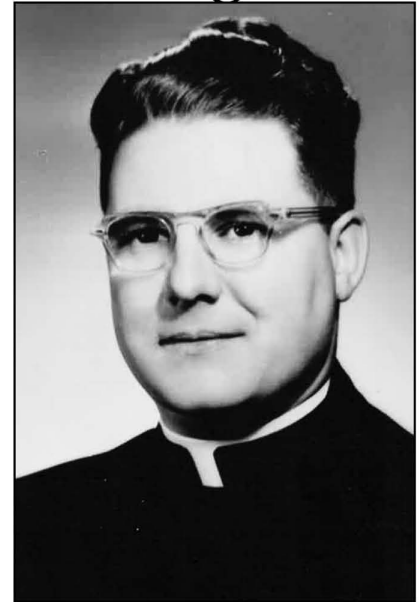
Born October 24, 1928, in Mooers, he was the son of Bernard and Adele (Arquette) Menard. He grew up in Mooers, attending Saint Mary's Academy in Champlain. He studied at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg and St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester, New York. He later received graduate studies at Saint Michael's College in Winooski, VT and the State University College at Potsdam.

He was ordained May 21, 1955, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg by Bishop Walter Kellenberg.

Father Menard's first assignment was as assistant pastor in Lake Placid followed by St. Mary's Church in Potsdam and St. Ann's Church in Mooers Forks. During this time, he also served as faculty at St. Mary's Academy in Champlain and taught Latin at Mooers High School, and the diocesan Director of the Columbian Squires.

In 1965, Father Menard was parochial vicar at Saint Alphonsus Church in Tupper Lake until becoming pastor at St. Peter's Church in Hammond and St. Patrick's Church in Rossie in 1971. In 1978, he was named pastor of St. Alexander's Church in Morrisonville. He then served as pastor at St. Edmund's Church in Ellenburg Center and St. Philomena's Church in from 1983 until his retirement in 1999.

Father Menard was on the faculty of Wadhams Hall Seminary from 1965 to 1978, teaching Latin and French and serving as Foreign Languages Chair. Additionally, Father Menard was a prolific speaker and retreat director for youth and adults, presenting around the diocese on many topics. Among his many other duties, he was



Father Gilbert B. Menard in an undated NCC file photo from early in his priesthood.

a prison chaplain at Clinton Correctional Facility, instructed CCD teachers, was chaplain of the Court Little Rose Catholic Daughters of America, was a deanery director for the Bishop's Fund Appeal and served on the diocesan Board of Consultors.

Survivors include his sisters Cecile McDonald, Rita Miner, Sr. Elizabeth Menard, Gloria Menard, Catherine (Jerry) Frederick, Regina (John) Stansbury, and Jeanne Menard; brothers Roland Menard and Arthur (Norma) Menard. Father Menard is also survived by Shirley Reyell, his faithful housekeeper for over 45 years, and many nieces and nephews.

Father Menard was predeceased by his parents, brothers Fr. Clarence Menard, Leonard (Doris and Joyce) Manor, and infant Joseph Menard; sisters Theresa (Raymond) Lavoie, and infant Bertha Menard; and brothers-in-law Donald McDonald and Jerry Miner.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be offered to St. Ann's Church, Mooers Forks, New York.

Arrangements are in the care of the Brown Funeral Home, Plattsburgh, New York.



## MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

## A gift with an expiration date

Diagnosed in 1995 with the most aggressive form of brain cancer known as glioblastoma multiforme, and given only a few months life expectancy, Dr. Ben Williams, a professor of psychology at the University of California San Diego, summed up his experience this way:

*"When I was diagnosed with brain cancer, I knew almost nothing about the disease, other than it was one of the worst medical diagnoses you can get.... I hadn't even heard of a glioblastoma at that point. I was told it was the worst kind of tumor you could have, and that nobody survived it. ... For the first several months, most of my thinking was: I'm going to die — how am I going to deal with it? I thought a lot about death.*

*When you receive a diagnosis that everyone tells you is terminal, that no one survives it, it's impossible not to become depressed by that information. I look at pictures from that period of time, and clearly I was depressed. It wasn't until I began doing research that said there was a possibility, that there are things that you can do that would be helpful, that I began to think, 'Well, this is worth at least making the fight.'"*

The bewildering experience of receiving an adverse diagnosis reminds us how personal our physical health is. In a certain sense, nothing could be more inti-

mate or immediate. As we age and start to feel poorly, and especially when we struggle with serious or life-threatening illnesses, it can seem that our bodily health is the highest good there is, the summum bonum, almost an "absolute" good. Declining health can trigger feelings of sadness and depression as we sense our life slipping through our fingers, and sometimes can lead to dark temptations like physician-assisted suicide or euthanasia. We may fall prey to oft-repeated cultural clichés such as: "I'm free to do what I want with my life and health," or even, "My life is no longer worth living."

Life and health are clearly very important goods. They are instrumental goods, enabling us to pursue and partake of other important goods, like interpersonal and familial relationships, employment, recreation, etc. Health and well-being are also "goals" worthy of energetic pursuit to the extent that we have some control over a limited set of variables like exercise and nutrition that affect our health.

While it is good to take steps to improve our health, we are not "entitled" to good health, nor is it a "right" we can lay claim to. We have not originally conferred the state of life or health upon ourselves but have re-

ceived it gratuitously from the Giver of all gifts — a gift with an earthly expiration date. Our health and well-being, marked by fragility, are transient and contingent, and therefore not "absolute goods."

Health challenges, of course, are part of almost every person's life journey. We may struggle not only with physical maladies, but also with mental limitations like ADHD,

obsessive compulsive disorders, depression or any number of other agonizing mental conditions that constrict our well-being and livelihood.

As we age and face an expanding list of ailments and infirmities, new opportunities for growth and transformation arise. Contending with weakness and sickness, for example, draws us into connection with other people, as we come to depend on them for assistance.

When we face a worsening health situation, we should earnestly pursue several goals: first, to take responsible steps to restore our health, including doctor visits, medications, surgeries, or other reasonable interventions; second, to seek to reflect more deeply, and in spiritual terms, on the meaning of our health burdens; and third, to work to accept our situation without fear, desperation, or irresponsible actions like physician-assisted suicide or euthanasia.

Coming to accept our situation, with all its ups and downs, helps us begin preparing for our earthly end, death itself, prompting us to take up core questions about life's meaning, the survival of the soul, life after death and even the resurrection of the body.

The afflictions we struggle against can lead us actively to surrender and accept where we are, even as we turn to the One who sees all things and knows the specifics

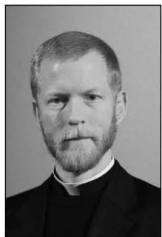
of our situation better than we do.

When our lives are marked by good health, vigor and strength, we may hesitate to engage these kinds of core questions in any meaningful way. We tend to look past important transcendental priorities and focus on immediate temporal matters.

Health, then, is an instrumental good, but so is sickness. Both can serve to point us towards higher, more spiritual goods. At some point, we may even be able to see our ailments as a blessing and a gift from the One who better sees the big picture of our life's journey.

*Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as Senior Ethicist at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.*

See [ncbcenter.org](http://ncbcenter.org) and [fathertad.com](http://fathertad.com).



Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D.



Relax this summer with your subscription to the *North Country Catholic*, The newspaper for the Diocese of Ogdensburg

## Summer's Here!

Visit our website at [www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org) to pay by Credit Card for immediate delivery.

OR Send this coupon with payment to:  
North Country Catholic

PO Box 106, Canajoharie, New York, 13317

**\*\*Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery when mailing in your renewal\*\***

☐ Inside Diocese \$27 ☐ Outside Diocese \$30  
I want to be a Patron: ☐ \$35 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250  
☐ New Subscription ☐ Renewal

☐ Please send my subscription to my e-mail address:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Parish \_\_\_\_\_

## A KNIGHT'S REFLECTION

# Power of pilgrimage: Shrine of Divine Mercy

Recently, the Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander (Morrisonville), St. Augustine (Peru), and St. James (Cadyville), my parish, participated in a pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. After a powerful Cor meeting on the topic of Divine Mercy Sunday, we decided to make the trip to this sacred site. We shared this idea with our parish pastor, and the pilgrimage was opened to all parishioners.



Mike  
Langlois

The National Shrine of the Divine Mercy was built as a votive offering to Jesus, The Divine Mercy, and honors Mary, the Immaculate Conception. It's associated with St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, who received revelations about Divine Mercy from Jesus. The shrine - managed by the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception - is a place of spiritual pilgrimage and devotion. It sits on "Eden Hill," a property of 375 acres that offers great natural beauty. The shrine is a designated Jubilee Year of Hope pilgrimage site, allowing visitors to receive plenary indulgences.

We arrived at the shrine around 10 a.m. The day began with a guided St. Faustina's Way of the Cross (Stations of the Cross) prayer service. Pilgrims walked the well-maintained outdoor path winding through the oak and pine tree forest. The life-sized - and lifelike - statues are awe-inspiring and provided a powerful spiritual experience.

In the afternoon, we

had access to confession, adoration, the Rosary, Holy Mass, and a healing blessing with a relic of St. Faustina housed at the shrine. Also, pilgrims can explore a replica of the Grotto of Lourdes, the Shrine of the Holy Innocents, the Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine, the Holy Family Shrine and an Oratory Chapel. There are many places to light candles, reflect, meditate and pray. The shrine celebrates Divine Mercy Sunday annually with a weekend of events including Masses, processions and opportunities for prayer and reflection. The main event, the Divine Mercy Sunday Mass, is televised globally on EWTN and brings nearly 15,000 pilgrims into the small town of Stockbridge.

St. Faustina was born Helen Kowalska in a small village west of Lodz, Poland on August 25, 1905, to a poor and religious family. She realized, at the age of seven, a calling for religious vocation. Her parents would not give her permission to enter the convent. Then, at the age of 19, she received a vision of Jesus stripped of his clothing and covered in wounds, asking her, "How long shall I put up with you and how long will you keep putting Me off?" It was this vision that transformed her and, eventually, would have a profound impact on the world.

In July 1924, Helen applied at the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, in Warsaw, Poland. The superior assessed Helen as "no one special" and



(Above) Parishioners from the Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander, St. Augustine, and St. James by the statue of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska in front of the shrine. (Right) A view from inside the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy. In 1950, the construction of the Shrine of The Divine Mercy was entrusted to Antonio Guerrieri, a 74-year-old resident of Stockbridge.



## Visit the shrine

- Groups of 15 or more and Buses are asked to pre-register to ensure that staff can better accommodate visitors.
- Gift Shop is open daily 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Visit the shrine's website at [https://www.shrineofdivinemercy.org/visit\\_planning](https://www.shrineofdivinemercy.org/visit_planning) to plan your trip and view the daily schedule.

know this as the Divine Mercy image, with rays of red and pale light emanating from His heart. The image is displayed in churches, homes and religious institutions.

St. Faustina's visions of Jesus resulted in additional forms of worship including the Feast of Divine Mercy, the Chapel of Divine Mercy, and the Prayer in the Hour of His Death on the Cross (the Hour of Mercy). St. Faustina was reluctant in fulfilling certain re-

quests of Jesus, primarily due to doubt, obedience to authority and feelings of inadequacy. In time, she began to understand Jesus' repeated message, "The graces of My mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is — trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive." In the end, despite her doubts, St. Faustina persevered, and Jesus' Divine Mercy message began to spread world-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



AUGUST 27, 2025

# Mercy pilgrimage

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

wide.

In 2000, St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, the secretary of Divine Mercy, was canonized on Divine Mercy Sunday and the Feast of Divine Mercy officially proclaimed by Pope St. John Paul II at St. Peter's in Rome. Father L. William Gordon, a retired priest of our diocese in residence, at St. Alexander's, Morrisonville, NY, who attended the pilgrimage, recalled that time. "My first visit, now many years ago, was to 'see' what Pope St. John Paul II had in mind establishing Divine Mercy Sunday and his canonization of St. Faustina," said Father Gordon. "To me, as a pastor, it was just something else to add to a way too busy parish schedule! Well, that first visit erased my doubts, opened my heart, changing my spiritual life completely."

A pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy can be conducted individually or in a group, either by bus or self-transport, and can

provide an opportunity to step away from daily routine, unite parishioners through prayer and reflection and, most importantly, help to encounter God in a personal and transformative way.

*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.*

## Rest in Peace

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

**Aug. 27** – Rev. John F. Byrne, 1919; Rev. Ubalde LaRose, 1919; Rev. Edward Henry Bernier, 1962

**Aug. 28** – Rev. Florent Vandenberghe, O.M.I., 1882

**Aug. 29** – Rev. John J. Waters, 1921; Rev. Leo Desmet, 1926; Rev. Thomas F. Driscoll, 2003; Rev. Msgr. Robert L. Lawler, 2013

**Aug. 30** – Rev. Bartholomew McLaughlin, 1914

**Aug. 31** – Rev. James J. Sherry, 1890; Albert R. Plante, 2000

**Sept. 1** – Rev. Michael Guth, 1864; Rev. John B. Martin, O.S.A., 1955

**Sept. 2** – Rev. Timothy J. Mahoney, 1938; Msgr. Claudius Sechi, 1966; Rev. Thomas G. Votraw, 2007; Rev. Floyd J. Bleaux, 2009

## 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](http://www.virtus.org). Upcoming sessions:

**Aug. 27** – 12:30 p.m. – Augustinian Academy, Carthage

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

**Sept. 2** – 6 p.m. – Augustinian Academy, Carthage

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**Aug. 28** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Aug. 30** – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Aug. 31** – 11 a.m. – Installation Mass of Father Severinus Torwae as Pastor of St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Tupper Lake, St. Henry's Church in Long Lake and St. Therese Church in Newcomb

**Sept. 3** – 5 p.m. – Installation Mass of Father Joseph W. Giroux as Pastor of St. Philip Neri Church in Westport, The Catholic Community of Moriah in Port Henry and St. Elizabeth Church in Elizabethtown

## Environmental Stewardship

### Laudato Si, Chapter 6

In the final chapter of his encyclical, *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis emphasized that the most important steps to tackle climate change and pressing environmental issues are those that we, as individuals, must make to alter our ways of life. "Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change." (LS202)

The pope stressed our need to experience the peace and joy that is found in "less is more." We must learn to recognize the face of God in small objects that occur around us and cultivate the attitude that there are miracles everywhere if we look. While the Grand Canyon around sunset can be breathtaking, a similar sense of awe can be experienced when observing a small patch of lawn when we open our hearts to God's graces. As followers of Jesus, we should strive to find "... the capacity to be happy with little." (LS222)

The pope noted, "the emptier a person's heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume." (LS204) Buying too many gadgets, knick-knacks, and popular items that will be used for only a brief period depletes the natural resources of the planet at an unsustainable rate.

Pope Francis advised that we need to establish a "... harmony within ourselves, with others, with nature and other living creatures, and with God." (LS210) He also observed that "Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue..." (LS217)

Near the end of his encyclical, he cites St. Therese of Lisieux who "... invites us to practice the little ways of love, not to miss out on a kind word, a smile or any small gesture which sows peace and friendship." (LS230) Finally, he ends with the advice to rely on the graces present in the Eucharist, to seek guidance and assistance from Mary and St. Joseph and suggests that we "sing as we go." (366)

# BARSTOW

AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION BUICK PONTIAC GMC SUBARU

"Family owned dealership serving the North Country for over 56 years!"

For more information, visit our Website at: [www.barstowmotors.com](http://www.barstowmotors.com)

MARKET ST., POTSDAM, NY • (315) 265-8800

## REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

### PRAYER SUGGESTION

Eternal Father,  
we lift up to you these  
and all the priests of the world.  
Sanctify them.  
Heal and guide them.  
Mold them into the likeness and  
holiness of your Son, Jesus,  
the Eternal High Priest.  
May their lives be pleasing to  
you. In Jesus' name we pray.  
Amen

(With ecclesiastical approval)

Mass  
Rosary  
Fasting  
Day Offering  
Eucharistic Adoration  
Offering of Sufferings  
Divine Mercy Chaplet

Or whatever the Lord  
inspires you to offer Him



## SEPTEMBER

2025

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	BISHOP TERRY LAVALLEY	1 REV. SCOTT R. SEYMOUR	2 REV. ALAN D. SHNOB	3 REV. F. JAMES SHURTELL	4 REV. FERNANDO V. SOLOMON JR.	5 REV. BRYAN D. STITT
7 REV. JAMES V. TITI	8 OUR PASTOR	9 REV. TODD E. THIBAUT	10 REV. SEVERINUS ASIWOME KOWASI TORWAE	11 REV. HOWARD V. VENETTE	12 REV. DANE WESTOFF	13 REV. JOHN R. YONKOVIG
14 REV. PHILIP T. ALLAN	15 POPE LEO XIV	16 REV. ANDREW J. AMWOT	17 REV. MEDENEL ANGRAND	18 MSGR. ROBERT H. AUCCOIN	19 REV. SCOTT A. BELINA	20 REV. CORNELIE EKILA BOYEYE, MSC
21 REV. TIMOTHY G. CANAN	22 DECEASED PRIESTS	23 REV. LEAGON J. CARLIN	24 REV. CHRISTOPHER C. CARRARA	25 REV. TONY CHACKO, HGN	26 REV. DANIEL L. CHAPIN	27 REV. MARTIN E. CLINE
28 REV. DOUGLAS G. COMSTOCK	29 REV. MATTHEW S. CONGER	30 REV. THEODORE A. CROSBY				

A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated. For more information visit us online at [www.myprieststate.com](http://www.myprieststate.com)

The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by:



Diocese of Ogdensburg

Vocations Society

[www.myprieststate.com](http://www.myprieststate.com)

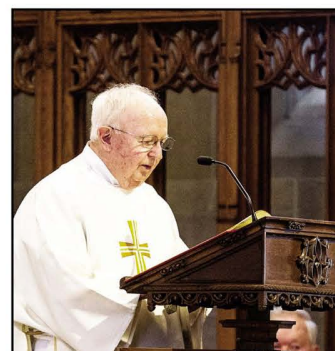
## To Report Abuse

**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](mailto:terriannyanulavich@yahoo.com); Phone: 518-569-0612; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; [ccarrara@rcdony.org](mailto:ccarrara@rcdony.org) Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340.

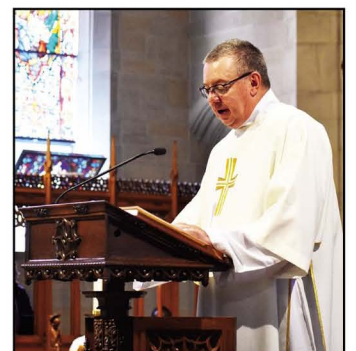
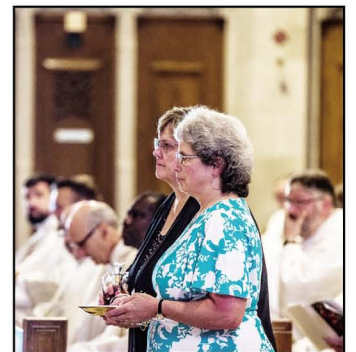
**If you have a complaint** of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at 800-276-1562 or [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org)

# SIX NEW DEACONS

Photos by Jesse Sovie & Darcy Fargo









# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Caprio, famed judge known for showing mercy, dies at age 88

Frank Caprio, who served as a Providence, Rhode Island, municipal court judge for nearly 40 years and came to be known as "America's nicest judge," passed away on Aug. 20 from pancreatic cancer. "Beloved for his compassion, humility, and unwavering belief in the goodness of people, Judge Caprio touched the lives of millions through his work in the courtroom and beyond. His warmth, humor, and kindness left an indelible mark on all who knew him," read a statement posted on his official Facebook page. Rhode Island Gov. Dan McKee ordered flags in the state to be flown at half staff at all state agencies and buildings until the day of Caprio's internment, and he also asked Rhode Island residents to lower their flags out of respect. A devout Catholic, Caprio gained worldwide fame for a lenient judicial style that blended justice, extreme empathy, and mercy when his courtroom was televised in a program called "Caught in Providence."

## Court awards \$1 over unconstitutional abortion clinic rule

Pro-life activists in New York state were awarded \$1 this month after a court found that a county abortion clinic rule violated their constitutional free speech rights. The Thomas More Society brought suit in federal district court in 2022 against New York's Westchester County over its rule forbidding "interference" with abortion access there. The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York found in favor of pro-life sidewalk counselors Oksana Hulinsky and Regina Molinelli, with District Judge Philip Halpern ruling on Aug. 12 that the county ordinance violated the activists' free speech and due process rights. The plaintiffs were only seeking "nominal damages" in the suit, the court noted, leading Halpern to order the \$1 award. The county had already repealed the ordinance in question prior to the ruling. Thomas More Society attorney Christopher Ferrara said the ruling sends a "powerful message to municipalities nationwide" that "vague laws targeting pro-life speech will not stand."

## Archbishop rescinds appointment of priest convicted of rape

Archbishop Guy de Kirmel of Toulouse, France, has reversed his decision to appoint a priest convicted of rape as chancellor of the archdiocese and asked forgiveness of the victims of abuse, whom he had no intention of offending, according to a statement released Aug. 16. "In order not to cause division among bishops, and not to remain at a standoff between those for and against, I decided to reverse my decision; this has now been done, with the appointment of a new chancellor," the archbishop said. The reversal of the appointment of Father Dominique Spina, a priest sentenced in 2006 to five years in prison for raping a 16-year-old boy in 1993, came after the French Bishops' Conference asked the archbishop on Aug. 11 to "reconsider the decision." The French prelates stated at the time that "an appointment of such importance, both canonically and symbolically, can only reopen wounds, arouse suspicions, and disconcert the people of God."

# Religious freedom commission chair: China, Iran, Nigeria are priorities

By Chris Casquejo  
Catholic News Agency

Nigeria is the deadliest country in the world for Christians, according to the new chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).

Vicky Hartzler, a Republican who represented Missouri in the U.S. House of Representatives for 12 years, became chair of the commission in June. In an interview with CNA, she said of her new mission: "We want to make a difference. We want to save lives."

Hartzler's top priority is Nigeria. Citing statistics from Open Doors, an international organization dedicated to helping persecuted Christians, Hartzler said 69% of Christians killed worldwide in 2023 died in Nigeria, with more than 50,000 killed since 2009. The violence includes mass killings of worshippers, such as the June attack on a Catholic church where more than 200 people were slaughtered.

Hartzler is calling on the U.S. State Department to designate Nigeria a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) and pressure its government to better protect citizens and prosecute those committing crimes against religion.

Iran and China remain major focuses. In Iran, Hartzler said more than 900 executions took place in 2024, and 96 Christians received sentences totaling more than 260 years in prison.

China, meanwhile, continues its so-called sinicization campaign, especially against Uyghur Muslims in the Xinjiang region, requiring mosques and churches to display portraits of leader Xi Jinping and replace traditional worship with Chinese Communist Party propaganda. Hartzler said these examples not only represent repression but also are systematic attempts to erase authentic religious practice.

Stephen Schneck, who served as chair of the USCIRF under President Joe Biden and is a former director of the Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies at The Catholic University of America, equates USCIRF's work within a Catholic tradition of defending religious liberty, tracing back to the Second Vatican Council's declaration of religious freedom *Dignitatis Humanae*.

He warned of "a historic uptick in

the persecution of religion around the world" and highlighted two genocides in Asia: against Uyghur Muslims in China and the Rohingya in Myanmar. For Schneck, it is vital not only to document these atrocities but also ensure they remain in international focus.

Fellow Commissioner Maureen Ferguson, a former senior fellow at The Catholic Association and EWTN radio host, wants to draw attention to Nicaragua, where President Daniel Ortega's regime has targeted the Catholic Church by arresting priests, expelling nuns, and even monitoring homilies.

"When they kick out the nuns, what are the nuns doing?" Ferguson asked. "They take care of the street girls, the elderly poor who are dying. Who's taking care of them now? The government is certainly not taking care of these people."

Ferguson also pointed to Cuba's ongoing repression of churches and independent religious voices as another regional priority for USCIRF.

She framed international religious freedom as part of a broader defense of human dignity. "The right to practice your faith is one of the most fundamental human rights," Ferguson said, linking it with conscience rights and the sanctity of life.

Schneck said USCIRF's bipartisan structure adds weight to its recommendations. But he cautioned that designations such as CPC or the Special Watch List are not enough without enforcement.

"Too often these designations come with no sanctions, or sanctions are waived," he said.

Hartzler and her fellow commissioners also highlighted USCIRF's Victims List, which features individuals imprisoned or tortured for their beliefs. By publicizing their names and stories, the commission seeks to pressure governments into releasing them and to remind the world that religious persecution is not abstract but lived by real people.

The commissioners all agree that Americans have a role to play. Hartzler urged people not just to pray but also to act: calling elected officials, pressing the White House and State Department, and demanding that religious freedom be a core element of U.S. foreign policy.



## VIRTUAL EVENTS

**BECOME EUCHARISTIC 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](mailto:mdonders@rcdony.org)

**FRIENDSHIP GROUP MEETING**

You are invited to our next Friendship Group Meeting, Find PEACE in this life!

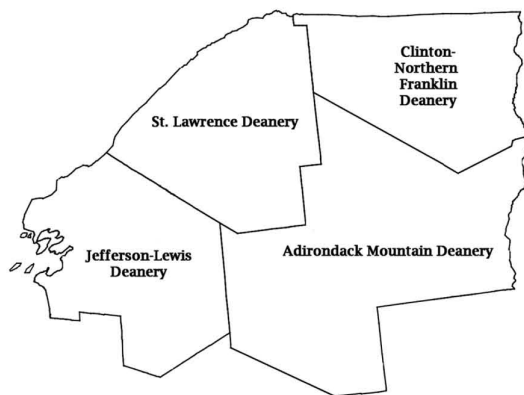
**Date:** Sept. 26

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** Zoom

**Features:** A common enemy in the spiritual life is discouragement, and Venerable Bruno Lanteri masterfully assisted his directees in overcoming it through his inspired, straightforward, practical counsels. By prayerfully reflecting on these gems — which Father Timothy Gallagher, O.M.V. deftly connects to the writings of other saints in his new book “If You Want Peace in This Life” — you will gain confidence in God and a greater patience with yourself. At this meeting Father Gallagher will lead us in discussing the first half of this book.

**Contact:** To order “If You Want Peace in This Life,” please visit [sophia institute.com](http://sophia institute.com) and enter Friendship25 at the checkout to receive a 25% off discount. For



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](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org).

Items must be received in the NCC office by the Wednesday before publication.

more information or to sign up please contact Mary Beth Bracy at [mbracy@sophia institute.com](mailto:mbracy@sophia institute.com)

**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). Winner 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.stagneslp.org](http://www.stagneslp.org) or [development@stagneslp.org](mailto:development@stagneslp.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>

**GOLF SCRAMBLE**

Saranac Lake — St. Bernard's School to have their annual St. Bernard's 4 person Golf Scramble.

**Date:** Sept. 20

**Time:** Shotgun start at 10 a.m.

**Place:** Saranac Lake Golf Club

**Features:** This fun-filled day on the greens will bring together teams of four for an exciting competition, all in support of the school's mission and programs. will feature a variety of contests

and prizes for participants. Golfers of all skill levels are invited to join, with all proceeds directly benefiting the students and families of St. Bernard's School. Following the tournament, participants are invited to enjoy a post-tournament lunch provided by BlueLine Brewery and Tail of the Pup.

**Contact:** To register your team of four or learn more about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Andrea Kilbourne-Hill at 518-891-2830 or [principal@stbernardsschool.org](mailto:principal@stbernardsschool.org). Early registration is encouraged, as space is limited.

**CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN****FIRST FRIDAY**

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

**Date:** Sept. 5

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

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Ellenburg Center — Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer to have three Special Presentations from Father Roy Tvrdik, SMM.

**Date:** Sept. 6

**Schedule:** First Sat. Devotions at 8 a.m.; First Presentation at 10 a.m.; Lunch followed by the Second and Third Presentation with a Blessing and departure at 4:30 p.m.

**Features:** The theme will be “Jewish Roots of Baptism, Penance and Eucharist”. Father Roy Tvrdik is a professed member of the Society of Mary of Montfort also known as the Montfort Fathers or Company of Mary Missionaries. You are warmly invited to join us for all or any part of this full day program of wisdom and joy! There is no cost but donations are much appreciated.

**Contact:** Please RSVP at 518-534-9976 or 518-594-3253 but if you forget, come anyway!

**CARLO ACUTIS CANONIZATION DAY FOR YOUTH**

Plattsburgh — Youth in grades 8-12 and Young Adults are invited

to join Holy Cross as they celebrate the canonization day for Carlo Acutis.

**Date:** Sept. 7

**Time:** 11:15 a.m.

**Place:** St. Peter's Church

**Features:** Mass followed by Lunch, Guest Speaker Mary Beth Bracy, Adoration with Praise and Worship in the Chapel, Soccer Game on the Field And More!

**Contact:** To register for the day or sign up to play soccer email: [PlattsburghSEC@rcdony.org](mailto:PlattsburghSEC@rcdony.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](mailto: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](http://www.rcdony.org/plattsburghyearofhope)

**SOAKING PRAYER SESSIONS**

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

**Date:** Sept. 18 and Oct. 16

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

**Place:** Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer

**Features:** Sessions are offered by Eve McGill, Living Waters Ministry. Soaking Prayer is surrendering yourself to the Holy Spirit in a relaxed atmosphere and being immersed in receiving an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Includes praise and worship, soaking prayer, wit-

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

ness/group sharing, lunch (bring your own bagged lunch), and recitation of the Rosary.

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

### APPLEFEST

Peru — St. Augustine to have their 47th Annual Applefest.

**Date:** Sept. 20

**Time:** Starting at 10:30 a.m.

**Place:** St. Augustine's Parish Center

**Features:** Attendees can explore the grounds in search of the Grand Raffle, craft fair, apple fritters, fried dough, caramelized apples, hot dogs, Michigans, sweet sausages, burgers, chicken BBQ, games, a train ride, face painting, a bounce house, and performances by the Pipes and Drums of Plattsburgh and the On Three Band. Roger's House and St. Vincent DePaul will host sales. The community parade starts at 11 a.m., proceeding down Main Street from Peru Elementary School.

### CHARISMATIC MASS

Malone — St. Andre Bessette Parosh to have a Charismatic Mass.

**Date:** Sept. 28

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Place:** Notre Dame Church

**Features:** Prayer teams will be available after Mass for private prayer. All are welcome.

**Contact:** For more information please call (518)-483-1300 at sseymour@rcdony.org

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

### SUMMER CONCERT

Alexandria Bay — St. Cyril's Choir to have their 15th Annual Summer Concert.

**Date:** Aug. 31

**Time:** 4 p.m.

**Features:** St. Cyril's Church of Alexandria Bay presents: Raising 15 years of a Joyful Noise!! Join the world traveled St. Cyril's Choir, under the direction of Rebecca Rose, as they present their 15th free summer concert. The choir will be performing a program of religious and inspirational music with a theme of Hope, Love, and Family.

**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 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.

### ROSARY EVENT AND RALLY

Ogdensburg — You are cordially invited to commemorate the east of the Most Holy Name Mary at a Rosary Event/Rally.

**Date:** Sept. 12

**Time:** 5 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Cathedral

**Features:** Sponsored by St. Mary's Parish/the Legion of Mary - Our Lady of Perpetual Help Praesidium. The Cathedral is a designated site for the Year of Hope- come make your pilgrimage. Refreshments will be served.

**Contact:** Angela Morley at 315-276-4588

### MONTHLY BRUNCH

Norfolk — Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond's will have their monthly Knights of Columbus Brunch.

**Date:** Sept. 14 (Second Sunday

of each month)

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

**Place:** Father Amyot Parish Center

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

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

### COMMUNITY VOICES AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Ogdensburg — A Human Trafficking awareness informational meeting to be held.

**Date:** Sept. 25

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** Ogdensburg Free Academy Auditorium

**Features:** You can learn to spot the signs. Victims can be any age, gender, race or nationality. Be vigilant, Be observant. Be someone's hero.

### ALPHA

Massena — Join us for ALPHA.

**Date:** Tuesdays starting Sept. 30

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

**Place:** St. Mary's Social Hall

**Features:** There is no cost and includes a free meal and great fellowship.

**Contact:** For more information call the parish office at 315-769-2469 or visit [www.massencatholic.com](http://www.massencatholic.com)

### DIOCESAN EVENTS

#### SSJ LAY ASSOCIATE PROGRAM

The Sisters of St. Joseph invite you to a meeting if you are interested in learning about our Lay Associate Program.

**Schedule:** Sept. 6 at St. Patrick's in Colton, Sept. 7 at John XXIII Newman Center in Plattsburgh or Sept. 21 at the former St. Patrick's School in Watertown

**Time:** 2 p.m. to 4

**Features:** Associates meet 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. This group is open to men and women.

**Contact:** If you are interested, please contact Sister Mary Eamon (smelyngssj@yahoo.com) or contact Sister Bethany Fitzgerald (srbethany@gmail.com).

### 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:** Bishop LaValley will be presiding. 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 [sttartaglia@rcdony.org](mailto:sttartaglia@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](http://rcdony.org/leadership)

### BLUE MASS

Saranac Lake — Bishop Terry R. LaValley will celebrate the annual Diocesan Blue Mass.

**Date:** Sept. 28

**Time:** 2:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Bernard's Church

**Features:** The Blue Mass is the Church's way to offer thanksgiv-

ing to God for the dedication and sacrifices made by the men and women of Fire, EMS, Corrections, Law Enforcement, and Dispatchers. First Responders, their families, and all the faithful are invited to attend this Sunday celebration. Uniforms are encouraged but not required.

**Contact:** Questions can be addressed to Father Chris Carrara, Blue Mass Committee Chair at [info@rcdony.org](mailto:info@rcdony.org) or by phone at 315-393-2920.

### 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>

### FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake — Registration for Family Guggenheim is now open.

**Date:** 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 [sttartaglia@rcdony.org](mailto:sttartaglia@rcdony.org).



# Bioethics expert: Not too late to avoid AI dangers

By **Kate Quiñones**  
Catholic News Agency

As artificial intelligence (AI) has become more widespread, a Catholic bioethics expert is warning against the dangers posed by it, saying it's "not too late" to "put the genie back in the bottle" and avoid the worst effects of the new technology.

Pope Leo XIV has already warned that AI could have negative effects on the development of young people and contribute to a "loss of the sense of the human."

"He took the name Leo XIV to connect himself to Leo XIII, who himself was dealing with the industrial revolution of the late century, which totally transformed culture," moral theologian Charles Camosy, a bioethics professor at The Catholic University of America and an acclaimed author, told "EWTN News In Depth" anchor Catherine Hadro on Aug. 15.

"We're undergoing right now a similar technological change that is going to totally transform the culture," Camosy said. "How do we respond?"

Camosy recently wrote a story for the Atlantic in which he argued that addressing artificial intelligence "could be the most ambitious and enduring project of Pope Leo XIV's legacy."

AI is "going to impact nearly every part of our culture," Camosy noted, adding that "people often can't tell the difference when they're talking to a human be-

ing or a chatbot."

"To the extent that we have any confusion about that, that's really super worrisome, because we need to hold on to this idea that we're fundamentally different from a large-language model," he said.

"We are flesh and blood made in the image and likeness of God with a soul that reflects a relationship that can't possibly be present in a chatbot."

With an ongoing loneliness epidemic, people are already vulnerable, he noted.

Camosy remarked that if individuals are living in a world where, "addicted to their smartphones," they are unable to communicate authentically and lack friends who can respond genuinely, they can become "vulnerable to a very articulate chatbot."

He said AI chatbots are not just "stepping in to fill the void, but doing so in ways that at least imitate the need that all of us have for intimacy, for somebody to care about us."

It is something that the Church has been addressing for some time via working groups on AI, Camosy noted.

"You could argue that the Church has been ahead of the broader culture on AI because these groups have been around for some years," he said.

Camosy referred to the Vatican document *Antiqua et Nova: Note on the Relationship Between Artificial Intelligence and Human Intelligence as a Catholic*

resource on AI.

"I suspect, but don't know for sure, that our current Holy Father is at least in the early stages of putting something like that together," he continued.

"It's not just AI," he said, noting that the AI discussion ties into the "advent of transhumanism."

Transhumanism is a scientific and cultural movement proposing the modification of human biology through technology, potentially blurring the lines between the artificial and the real.

"We're in this really important cultural moment where this second industrial revolution is right on the cusp of happening. Thank God we have someone like Pope Leo" to lead the Church through it, Camosy said.

He pointed to grand claims that AI will eventually help human beings move away from work altogether. But work, he pointed out, is "an integral part of the human experience."

"We need protections for work. We need protections for workers," he said. "It's not too late to put the genie back in the bottle on this one. We have to create a culture that shapes AI to serve human beings, not the other way around."



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](mailto: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

## SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

## The humble and the proud

We have many rules of etiquette – how to eat, where to sit, what to do, where to put a knife and fork, sending notes, greeting cards, thank you notes, etc. Rules now dictate electronic etiquette: when to text, when not to text, when to use uppercase, when not to. In today's Gospel, Jesus is not giving a lesson in etiquette but is rather using established rules of etiquette prevalent in those days to teach a lesson, specifically the lesson of humility.

The Jewish people had pecking orders among themselves, and they knew full well where they should sit at a banquet. To violate that rule would be to expose oneself to ridicule

as illustrated in today's Gospel. If Jesus were telling the story today, he might say something like if your plane ticket is for coach, and you decide to sit in first class or business class, be ready to have someone tell you to move even if the seat is unoccupied. Being escorted back to coach class would be embarrassing.

Humility does not mean putting ourselves down. Others do a much better job of zapping us when we get cocky or proud. Humility does not imply not recognizing our gifts and talents. After all, God gave us our talents and gifts so that we exercise stewardship over those gifts and talents to benefit others as well



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

August 31

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29

Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a

Luke 14:1, 7-14

as ourselves.

Jesus' message is quite contrary to today's culture and understanding of our gifts and talents. In today's thinking, the mantra is "if you've got it, flaunt it." In Jesus speak, the mantra should be "If you've got it, use it for the benefit of others, to build up others, not to build up oneself.

The humble person focuses on the other; the proud person focuses on himself. The proud person asks: "What's in it for me?" The humble person asks: "What can I do for you?" The proud

person is self-centered; the humble person is other-centered.

Today, we so often hear: "I am, I want, I expect, I deserve, Take care of me, I'm number one." Jesus' message is much different. The humble person always is concerned about the other person, and especially about The Other - God himself.

Thomas Merton was a convert to Catholicism who eventually became a Trappist monk and a spiritual writer. One day, long before becoming a Catholic, he had an indescribable urge to go to Mass. So, he went to Corpus Christi Church in New York City. There he noticed a young girl praying quietly in a corner pew near where he stood. About this experience he wrote: "What a revelation this was, to discover so many ordi-

nary people in a place together, more conscious of God than of one another: not there to show off their hats or clothes, but to pray, or at least to fulfill a religious obligation, not a human one."

An offshoot of humility is generosity. After all, if we are humble, if we recognize that we are made in God's image, if we acknowledge that all our gifts come to us from God to be used for others, if we admit the wisdom of "Humble yourself the more, the greater you are" (What we heard in today's first reading), then we know our true place of greatness can be found only in the arms of humility.

The humble person is generous; the generous person is humble. Let us humbly accept the gift of life so that we in turn can generously share that life with others.

## CALLED TO SERVE

## Called to serve another way

An obituary attracted my attention recently. The headline said it was about a 24-year-old private from Boonville.

I was afraid the story was about a young man who had been involved in an off-duty accident, or that he was the victim of a recent skirmish down range in a country we only know about from the news. Worse yet, Pvt. Hennessey's death might have come because of some on- or off-base dispute with other soldiers.

None of that was true. Pvt. Harland J. Hennessey died November 1, 1942, in the Cabanatuan Prison Camp in the Philippines.

Cabanatuan was used as a Japanese pris-

oner-of-war camp. Eight thousand captured Allied soldiers and an estimated 63,000 Filipino troops were led there after three-month battle and eventual surrender to the Japanese at Bataan.

Here is how that death march is described by the World War II Museum in New Orleans:

*Three months after the start of the Battle of Bataan, the Bataan Death March began, forcing 60,000-80,000 Filipino and American prisoners of war to march through the Philippines. The route was about sixty-five miles long and stretched from the peninsula to the railroad inland.*

The Bataan Death March is remembered as an absolute tragedy. The prisoners of war were forced to march through tropical conditions, en-

during heat, humidity, and rain without adequate medical care. They suffered from starvation, having to sleep in the harsh conditions of the Philippines. The prisoners unable to make it through the march were beaten, killed, and sometimes beheaded. The Bataan Death March has a devastating legacy, with Filipinos suffering disproportionately compared to US troops.

Private Harland J. Hennessey was among those in the Bataan March. He made it to the prison camp, but died shortly after from beriberi, a

vitamin deficiency that leads to a host of health problems.

Hennessey was originally buried in a grave with nine other POWs outside the camp. It has taken all these years to positively identify the remains

of Private Harland Hennessey.

He was not forgotten by his hometown. The local Veterans of Foreign War post is named in his

honor.

Every war, every military battle ends up with soldiers who die, are missing in action or become prisoners of war. Our prayers are for them all.

Almost 83 years later, Harland came home to Boonville. Trainor Funeral Home managed all the arrangements. On August 23, the remains of 24-year-old Private Harland J. Hennessey were buried in the Boonville Cemetery in a family plot next to his parents. Rest in the Lord's peace.

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



Deacon Kevin Mastellon





## 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

# Eating animal food to survive

In the tragedy of the conflict in Sudan, the Darfur region is one of the hardest hit. In particular, in North Darfur state, the siege of the capital, El Fasher by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has brought the population of the city and the Zamzam refugee camp on the outskirts to their knees for months. The siege is blocking the arrival of food and raising prices, which are now the highest in the country. The population is exhausted; throughout the city and in the refugee camp, the number of malnourished people is increasing day by day, and the only means at their disposal is to cook food normally intended for cows.

The animal feed is called ambaz and is the residue from the processing of sunflower seeds, peanuts and sesame. Food waste, used as a supplement to livestock feed because it is rich in protein and inexpensive, is now the only food available to a population exhausted by the conflict and siege.

Like any substitute food, ambaz is not only incomplete but even harmful. It lacks vitamins and other nutrients, and it develops a carcinogenic toxin if improperly stored. The harms posed by this forced choice include malnutrition, liver damage and, in some cases even cancer. These problems are exacerbated by the fact that ambaz is mainly consumed by children.

As the newspaper *Dabanga* reports, it is primarily widows with children who use ambaz to combat food shortages by cooking it like porridge.

The state governor has appealed to humanitarian organizations to intervene in the region, where prices for the few available supplies have become extremely high. The World Food Program suspended food deliveries in February due to the deteriorating security situation. In previous months, in addition to direct food deliveries, food vouchers were also distributed to families, but only 60,000 vouchers were issued last month.

According to sources in the government of North Darfur, whose capital is Al Fasher, the cause of the humanitarian crisis is middlemen and traders who deliberately block food supplies to drive up prices. The governor announced the creation of an ad hoc commission to monitor the markets and uncover those involved... The governor himself has attempted to force the release of the blocked food stocks by threatening to confiscate them and distribute them free of charge to the population.

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

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

## OBITUARIES

**Brushton** — Lyle J. Trumble, 98; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 15, 2025 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Cadyville** — Burton F. Duquette, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 12, 2025 at St. James Church.

**Canton** — Elizabeth (Carraher) Whalen, 98; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 23, 2025 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Cape Vincent** — Susan E. Lallier, 68; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 18, 2025 at St. Vincent dePaul Church.

**Carthage** — Roland "Coach" Roch, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 23, 2025 at St. James Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery, Croghan.

**Chasm Falls** — Maureen Reyome Reynolds, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 20, 2025 at St. Helen's Church.

**Chateaugay** — Lillian E. (Soulia) Helm, 83; Private burial to be held.

**Chazy** — Maryellen Favreau, 55; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 6, 2025 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Chazy** — Shay Haggerty McAuliffe, 51; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 18, 2025 at Sacred Heart Church.

**Copenhagen** — Barbara Ann (Cannan) Lawlee, 89; Services to be held at a later date.

**Croghan** — Barbara Louse (Norton) Monnat, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 20, 2025 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Vincent DePaul Cemetery, Belfort.

**Ellenburg** — Mary Jane Seguin Dauphinaus, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 14, 2025 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in Ellenburg Mausoleum.

**Fort Covington** — Jeannette M. (Reid) St. Ann, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 23, 2025 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Bridget's Cemetery, Trout River.

**Hogansburg** — Mary Josephine (Herne) Franics, 97; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 14, 2025 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

**Lowville** — Jean Ann (Gallup) Call, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 19, 2025 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Martinsburg Cemetery.

**Lowville** — Ruth (Manzer) Zubrzycki, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 22, 2025 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

**Malone** — Patrick D. Stacy, 70; Funeral Services Aug. 14, 2025 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Morningside Cemetery.

**Malone** — Elizabeth Dorothy (Robidoux) Vigneault, 88; Graveside Services Aug. 15, 2025 at St. Joseph's Cemetery.

**Massena** — James Anthony Bronchetti, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 12, 2025 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** — Nancy E. (Caruso) Convertini, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 16, 2025 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** — June A. (Laraby) Dywan, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 21, 2025 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** — Pauline M. (Borey) LaBaff, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 14, 2025 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** — Peggy Joyce (Koshenina) Puhlmann, 65; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 14, 2025 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in

Louisville Community Cemetery.

**Norwood** — Terry L. "Tugger" Steinburg, 78; Funeral Services Aug. 14, 2025 at Buck Funeral Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** — Dennis R. Perkins, 82; Funeral Services Aug. 23, 2025 at the Fox and Murray Funeral Home; burial in White Church Cemetery, Lisbon.

**Plattsburgh** — Judith A. (Lavigne) Haley, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 22, 2025 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Redwood** — Margaret C. (Lees) Amyot, 97; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 27, 2025 at St. Francis Xavier Church; burial in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** — Walter H. "Bud" Duffy, Jr., 97; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 23, 2025 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

**Ticonderoga** — Ronald James Olcott, 88; Graveside Services Aug. 30, 2025 at St. Mary's Parish Cemetery.

**Tupper Lake** — David L. Mace, 78; Graveside Services Aug. 15, 2025 at St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

**Tupper Lake** — Janice (McGillis) Pryor; Graveside Services Aug. 22, 2025 at St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

**Watertown** — Floyd E. Marino Jr., 77; Private services to be held.

**Watertown** — Mona Lou (Rowsam) Paragon, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 16, 2025 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in St. James Cemetery, Carthage.

**Watertown** — Lucille (Wheeler) Van Wormer, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 19, 2025 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Union Cemetery, Adams.

# Funeral Mass for Sr. Anne Boyer is Aug. 30

Sister Anne Boyer, a Gray Nun of the Sacred Heart, formerly Sister Mary Mark, 95, died August 18, 2025, in the 75th year of her religious life.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 30, in the Redeemer Sisters' Chapel 521 Moredon Road, Huntingdon Val-

ley, Pennsylvania. Visitation will precede the Mass, starting at 9:30 a.m. in the chapel. The sharing of memories will be at 10 a.m.

Burial will follow in Resurrection Cemetery, Bensalem, Pennsylvania.

Born in Ogdensburg, she was the daughter of Felix J and Antoinette (Valley) Boyer.

She graduated from Holy Cross Elementary School and St. Mary's Academy and attended D'Youville College earning a bachelor's degree in English/Social Studies and a master's degree in European History from Villanova University.

Sister entered the GNSH in 1950.

Teacher, college ad-

ministrator, pastoral associate and hospital chaplain are among the ministries that engaged Sister Anne during the more than 75 years of her religious life. Seventeen of these years were in the North Country, where she taught at St. Mary's Academy and was Patient Advocate/Pastoral Care Director at Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center. She also spent a year in Canton as pastoral associate and parish visitor coordinator at St. Mary's and a year as pastoral associate in All Saints Parish in Chaumont.

For 34 years she served in the Buffalo area including 11 years at D'Youville College as assistant dean, School of Arts and Science, and later as financial aid counselor. Other assignments took her to Niagara Falls, Batavia and Tonawanda, New York, Atlanta, Georgia and Strafford, Pennsylvania.

In 2011, Sister Anne retired from active ministry, returning to the Grey Nuns Motherhouse. There she continued to serve through ministries of prayer and volunteering within the congregation. Moving to Holy Redeemer Lafayette in 2015, she engaged in prayer and visiting and phoning other sisters. She was active on her computer, keeping other sisters



Sister Anne Boyer, GNSH

informed of community events. An avid reader, Sister Anne enjoyed sharing books and recommendations with others. She shared her passion for South Carolina Women's Basketball and made many fans among Grey Nun sisters and colleagues.

In addition to her religious congregation, sister is survived by several nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her parents; brothers Arthur, Joseph, Henry, Adrian and Felix Boyer; and sisters Beatrice, and Jacqueline Riley.

Memorial donations may be made to the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, 928 Jaymor Rd., Suite C-120, Southampton, PA 18966 or at [www.greynun.org](http://www.greynun.org) Arrangements by Beck Givnish Funeral Homes.

**UNITED**  
*we bring*  
**HOPE**

"We have this hope as an anchor  
for the soul, firm and secure."  
Hebrews 6:19

**2025 Bishop's Fund Appeal**

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

[www.rcdony.org/bfa](http://www.rcdony.org/bfa)

**MONASTERY CARD SHOP**  
**Cards for All Occasions**  
*Mass Enrollments for your living & deceased loved ones.*

**Precious Blood Monastery**  
OPEN: 9 AM - 5 PM  
SATURDAY 9 AM - 12 PM  
400 PRATT ST., WATERTOWN  
315-788-1669  
[www.sisterspreciousblood.org](http://www.sisterspreciousblood.org)