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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 81 Number 25

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

OCTOBER 14, 2026

FAITH & FUN FOR YOUNG LEADERS



High School teens gathered at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake for the annual Leadership weekend from Sept. 25-27. The weekend included fun, faith and opportunities to build leadership skills. Additional photos are on page 16.

PRIEST ATTENDS BEATIFICATION



Father Tyler M. Fitzgerald, parochial vicar at Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh, concelebrated at the Sept. 24 Beatification Mass of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen in St. Louis, Missouri. Father Fitzgerald is pictured with his best friend, Christopher K. McGurn, a seminarian from the Diocese of Steubenville, and cardboard cutout of the archbishop.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope: Don't water down Christianity

By Victoria Cardiel
EWTN News

VATICAN CITY — Pope Leo XIV on Oct. 7 called on Christians to be capable of "viewing the world in a positive light," while urging them to be actively committed to transforming society according to the spirit of the Gospel, without watering down the Christian message.

"It is certainly not by watering down the content or softening the demands that Christianity can be made attractive," he recalled on Wednesday, citing the address he delivered to the plenary assembly of the Dicastery for Evangelization, Section on Fundamental Questions Regarding Evangelization in the World, on May 28.

During the general audience held in St. Peter's Square on Oct. 7, the pontiff resumed his catechetical series dedicated to the texts of the Second Vatican Council, following last week's pause, when he reflected on his apostolic journey to France.

Leo thus continued his catechesis on the conciliar constitution *Gaudium et Spes*. In particular, he focused his reflection on Chapter 4 of the first part of the document, which is devoted to the Church's mission in the contemporary world.

"It is the task of the whole people of God, especially pastors and theologians, to discern what in the cultures of our time is worthy of consideration, always taking the word of God and the tradition of the Church as the supreme criteria for discernment. This requires a balanced mind, free from cultural trends, capable of viewing the world in a positive light whilst remaining steadfast in preserving and presenting the Gospel message in its entirety," he said.

We 'cannot accept the oppression of the weak'

Before thousands of pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square, Leo XIV reflected on the vocation of the lay faithful in the world and recalled that Vatican II fostered a new awareness of the responsibility of all the baptized in the Church's mission.

Referring to the concrete demands of the Christian faith, Leo XIV said that, by worshiping Christ, "the believer cannot accept the oppression of the weak and the poor, nor the unjust structures that perpetuate conditions of dependence and injustice."

"The social doctrine of the Church guides the actions of Christians, who collaborate with all people of goodwill in promoting the common good," he added.

The principal settings for this evangelizing mission, the Holy Father recalled, are the family and the workplace, though it extends to every sphere of life.

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That didn't go as planned



Darcy L. Fargo

One analyst picked the game as his "lock of the week," the prediction he was most confident was right.

I listen to a lot of football commentary on satellite radio – at least couple hours of it most days (I have a long commute). It's also not uncommon for me to read football news. I didn't read about or hear one analyst picking the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to defeat the Dallas Cowboys on Thursday Night Football this week.

If I had been asked to predict the outcome, I would've said Dallas was going to crush Tampa Bay with a score around 31-10. The Buccs hadn't won a game yet this season, and they were playing in the Cowboys' home stadium with a rookie quarterback who had exactly one game of professional football experience.

I'm not a betting person, but if I was, I would've felt 100 percent confident betting on Dallas. Based on everything we've seen so far this season and all the available stats and information, it seemed obvious the Cowboys would win.

But they didn't. The Buccaneers won 24-16. Even in my wildest imagination, I would've thought that was impossible.

It's a good thing I'm not a betting person.

I think it's human nature to predict how life will unfold. We predict who will win the game. We predict how people will respond to our words and actions. We predict the outcome of tasks and processes. We predict where we'll be in our lives next week, next month, next year and/or next decade.

Sometimes we're right. Sometimes we're not. I often get frustrated when I predict incorrectly. I like knowing how things will work out. I like being right. I like a sense of control.

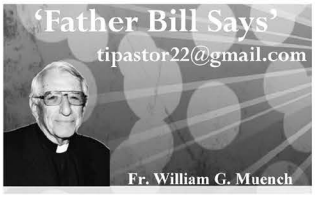
I don't like uncertainty.

Then the Holy Spirit used a football game to get me to sit with and pray about uncertainty. The Holy Spirit used a football game to get me to consider the fact that uncertainty, as uncomfortable as it may be, leaves room for God and possibilities we can't even imagine.

That's not saying we should pretend every disappointment, every time we're wrong is secretly a blessing or that everything will turn out awesome. That's not the point. The point is that we don't know. And not knowing leaves room for hope and trust – hope that God's going to take us where we should be, sometimes even to some outcome far better than we could've imagined, and trust that His plan is good and right even though we don't always understand it and even when it feels far worse than what we predicted for ourselves.

And hope and trust in God's plan is the real lock of the week.

The people of God



First off, I was totally impressed with last week's NCC issue – Priest's Appreciation. It was so great to have parishes recognize their pastor – many priests were acknowledged. Our parishes are alive and well and united with their pastors. Again, I appreciate all our priests.

Recently, I have noticed that the Gospel readings proclaimed at Sunday Masses focused our attention on Church. So, today, I would like to think about our being Church – you and I, members of the Church, the Catholic Church. So, I read again the document of the Second Vatican Council on Church, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium). One of the ways this Council speaks of Church is "The People of God."

The People of God – God has chosen to enter a unique relationship with a people, not merely with isolated individuals. As you know, we believe God's action began in Old Testament time with God calling Israel, his people. However, when Jesus came, he taught us that God called all people, his people. In the New Testament Book, the Acts of the Apostles, we read of the efforts of St. Paul and the Apostles in Jerusalem that the Christian Church welcomes all, Jew and Gentile. Jesus and the message of Jesus is for all people. We are all called to be members of the new People of God, accepting the Sacrament of Baptism. Every Catholic Church can place the same banner on their front doors – "All are Welcome here."

The Catholic Church is not primarily a building, an institution, or even a gathering of people. The Church is a people called by God, gathered and sent. The Christian faith is not simply "God and me." We are brothers and sisters in Christ. So, when you and I gather at Mass, we should look around in prayer; this is our people, this is our Church. We are united before the Lord and with the Lord. The first thing for us to do is to pray for each other.

As Church, we are people on a journey. We are pilgrims, learning to trust God. We are not a perfect community; we have not arrived yet. We have so much more to do. We have a mission. God gathers us together not simply for our salvation but now to make this world of ours a better place by being witnesses to Our Savior, Jesus in this world.

Every baptized person has dignity and a role. The Church is not only priests, bishops or religious. All the baptized share in the life and the mission of the Church. Our Lord, Jesus, remains at the center of all that we are and that we do; we belong to Christ. The Church does not exist for itself; the Church exists to continue Christ's presence and works to this world.

"People of God" means that no one in the Church is merely a spectator. Each baptize person belongs, matters, and has something to contribute to the life and the mission of the Catholic Church.

At the beatification of 'my friend Fulton'

By Mary Beth Bracy, consecrated virgin
North Country Catholic

It was a dream come true. Newly ordained Father Tyler M. Fitzgerald of Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh was among the over 1,000 priests who concelebrated the Beatification Mass of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen at the Dome in America's Center in St. Louis, Missouri on September 24. An estimated 50,000 faithful attended the celebration and hundreds of thousands tuned in via live stream.

"Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen has played a role in my life since I was young," Father Fitzgerald explained. "When I was perhaps nine or ten, I discovered reruns of Life is Worth Living on EWTN and I was immediately intrigued. Sheen's style, humor, and dynamic way of preaching captivated me. While I did not understand everything he was saying, I nonetheless became hungry for more. For a young boy who knew he wanted to be a priest, Sheen became an inspiration and role model. When I began being bullied at school for my faith and desire to become a priest, he became more than a mere inspiration or role model, he became a friend. I was inspired by his zeal and love of the faith. Because of Sheen, I slowly became unafraid to speak about my faith and stand up for the Church's teachings. In an era when more and more priests and bishops were beginning to make an appearance on social media, I saw Sheen as a pioneer in using new technology to bring the Good News of Salvation to as many as possible."

Father Fitzgerald's admiration for Sheen continued to grow.

"By the time I began to apply for seminary, I could not get enough of his writings, speeches, sermons and programs," Father Fitzgerald said. "For me, the scariest prospect of becoming a priest was preaching. I never thought I could stand in front of people and preach. I did not want to be a carbon copy of Fulton Sheen or mimic his style, but I admired his ability to explain the dense and lofty to ordinary people so much that I wanted to do it as well. As I got older, I learned more about Sheen the man and priest – his hobbies, interests, own vocation story and struggles. My love for history and the North Country led me to research Sheen's presence in our diocese. In fact, one of my favorite pictures of Sheen is of him preaching at our cathedral in 1954. It sits framed in my room and I look at it every day."



PHOTO FROM EWTN NEWS BROADCAST
Father Tyler M. Fitzgerald, second from right, processes in during the Beatification Mass of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen on Sept. 24 in St. Louis, Missouri.

The young priest recounted a personal encounter with the archbishop.

"Right before I was to move on to major seminary, I made a pilgrimage to his tomb in Peoria, Illinois. Moved to tears when I approached his simple marble tomb placed under an icon of Mary, the only words I could muster out were, 'Hi, Bishop Sheen.' It felt as if I were greeting an old friend; we were not strangers. It is a feeling I will never forget. I had the opportunity to return to his tomb before my ordination to the diaconate, and it was no surprise the same feeling returned.

"All of this is to say that, when I heard Fulton Sheen's beatification had been set for September 24, 2026, I knew I had to be there. I needed to experience, in person, the moment this holy heavenly helper was formally declared Blessed. I needed to be there for my friend Fulton, because he has always been there for me."

And Sheen was certainly with Father Fitzgerald during his pilgrimage. "My trip to St. Louis for Sheen's Beatification was entirely enrobed in providence. After booking the hotel, I contacted the pastor of the nearby Catholic parish and asked if I could join for daily Mass while I was in town for the week. However, I received an email back asking if I would be interested in helping cover daily Masses that week since one of their priests would be out of town.

"Turns out, I sent my initial inquiry email right when they were trying to figure out who could cover Masses," Father Fitzgerald said. "Excited for such an opportunity, I agreed and we made plans to meet for dinner my first night in town. I arrived at the hotel and was confronted with two problems – there were no rooms available, and the front desk clerk was rather miserable about it. Despite confirming before traveling that the room was set, something apparently went wrong. From the lobby, I began trying to find other hotels, but with 50,000 people flooding the city, nothing was available. I called the pastor who was taking me to dinner and explained that I would be a bit late since the hotel fell through. He nonchalantly replied, 'Oh, just stay with me at the rectory.' I thanked him for his generosity and asked if there was room for my best friend – who was flying in the next morning from Pittsburgh – as well, since we had made the hotel accommodations together. 'Not a problem.'

"Normally, a situation like this would put me in a rather perturbed and downright angry mood, but I surprised even myself with how calm I was. The situation just felt so providential. I knew Sheen was orchestrating the whole ordeal. In fact, he once told the story of being a poor student in Belgium and deciding to make a pilgrimage to Lourdes. Sure of Mary's care for him, he decided to check into the most expensive hotel in Lourdes, because as he said, 'If Mary can pay for a cheap hotel, she surely can pay for an expensive one too.' Confident that Mary wanted him in Lourdes, Sheen made a novena but got very nervous on the ninth day when there was still no sign of any funds coming his way to pay the bill. Late at night, he met an American man in the grotto who asked him a series of questions, 'Are you an American priest? Do you speak French? Can you show my family around Paris tomorrow?' But the greatest question was, 'Have you paid your hotel bill yet?' Mary provided. For me in St. Louis, Sheen provided!

"The Providence did not stop there, it followed me to the rectory. I also have a great devotion to St. Thérèse. She often follows me around and pops up randomly during the day. I had a great smirk on my face when I opened the nightstand drawer in my room and staring me in the eyes was a Thérèse rosary. Providence helped with modes of travel too. I did not know I was staying in a neighborhood with a metro station just a few blocks from the rectory, with a train running directly to the Convention Center."

The adventure was only beginning. "It was an incredible day. To sum it up … apart from my ordination, it was the most exciting experience of my life. Processing into a stadium full of 50,000 pilgrims, lined up four by four as one of 1,300 priests, is a feeling I will never

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

ONE CHURCH, ONE MISSION

Helping youth access Catholic education

By Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ
Superintendent of Schools

The purpose of Catholic education is the formation of students who will be good citizens of this world, loving God and neighbor and enriching society with the leaven of the Gospel and who, one day, will be citizens of heaven, thus fulfilling their destiny to become saints. The good news of the Gospel is precisely this, that God sent His Son to live among us and eventually to suffer and die for us so that one day all of us can enjoy eternal life with Him.

Our Catholic schools are invaluable instruments for the proclamation of the good news. Benedict XVI said it so well when he described the Catholic school as "a place of encounter with the living God in Jesus Christ" (Catholic University, April 2008). Instruction in our Catholic faith, the lived example of the community of faith in which the faith is taught, the experiences of prayer and liturgy which express and strengthen this faith and the permeation of the Catholic worldview throughout the curriculum are vital components of our Catholic schools.

Maintaining schools with outstanding academic programs infused with Gospel values and the heritage of our Catholic Faith depends upon many factors, not least of which is the financial support of parishes through parish subsidies, the Catholic School Financial Support Program, and parents' financial commitment through tuition payments and support of fund-raising activities.

Support Catholic education, local ministries

To learn more about the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal, or to make a donation, visit rcdony.org/bfa or call 315-393-2920.

The Bishop's Fund provides the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) to aid parents, who meet eligibility requirements, with tuition costs. This year the Bishop's Fund allotted $226,000 to the TAP initiative. With an additional $20,000 from the Father Mallette Endowment, a total of $246,000 will be distributed in tuition assistance.

Seventeen percent of our K-12 student enrollment will receive tuition assistance from these combined resources. Assistance is given according to the criteria established by the Federal Government's guidelines for free/reduced lunch or to meet a request for a special need.

The Bishop's Fund affords the faithful of the Diocese with the opportunity to contribute to the wide-reaching needs of the Diocesan family and to provide assistance to individuals and programs within the local parish. The Tuition Assistance Program is one example of money "returning" to the local area.

Contributions to the Bishop's Fund are one way that the "entire Catholic community" of the diocese can help to make a Catholic education available and affordable to the parents who have access to a Catholic school for their children. When you help children receive a Catholic school education through the Bishop's Fund Tuition Assistance Program you are helping them to receive an education that will address the whole person. They have the opportunity to be a part of a school community which will give them the human knowledge and skills necessary for their growth and be members of a faith community, where the words and deeds of Jesus, Gospel values, and our Catholic heritage are present and active.

In collaboration with parents and guardians, our schools "equip our young people with a sound education, rooted in the Gospel message, the Person of Jesus Christ, and rich in the cherished traditions and liturgical practices or our faith" (United States Catholic Bishops, Renewing our Commitment . . . to Schools). What a wonderful investment in the lives of our children and the future of the Church!

Brief expressions of gratitude from parents include the following.

"My wife and I would like to say thank you so much for the tuition assistance which helps us to keep our children in a Catholic School."

"Our family would like to extend gratitude to you for helping us to meet our tuition expenses. We are so pleased with our son's experience in the Catholic School and feel truly blessed."

"Thanks for the assistance from the Bishop's Fund. It will help us out a lot with our monthly budget. Our son enjoys his school and works hard to keep his grades up. I believe that the positive atmosphere at his school is the reason for his bright outlook."

"We really appreciate your consideration in awarding us tuition assistance. A Catholic school education is very important to us. You help to make it possible."

Thank you for your contribution to this year's Bishop's Fund. Your commitment to the growth of our faith helps our diocesan family continue its mission to proclaim the Gospel.

Meet the staff of your Catholic Charities



Cathy Jacobs

The following is an installment in an ongoing series introducing and highlighting the staff and programs of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Cathy Jacobs represents Catholic Charities at the agency's Watertown office, located at 44 Public Square, Watertown.

The Watertown Catholic Charities office, serving Jefferson and Lewis counties, provides services that work to enhance the life of our community's marginalized population by conducting case management helping individuals and families procure or find needed resources to meet their needs.

We also provide food, gas cards for medical appointments, work, or other specific requirements, laundry vouchers, personal care items, and at times we can provide gift cards to retail agencies where clients can purchase needed items.

To contact Jacobs, call 315-788-4330 or email cjacobs@cathcharities.org.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg

To learn more about the programs of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, or to make a donation, visit www.cathcharities.org. Donations can also be mailed to Catholic Charities at 12 Homestead Park, Malone, NY 12953 or dropped off at any Catholic Charities office.

A KNIGHT'S REFLECTION

Redemptive suffering: Giving pain purpose

Suffering is simply a fact of life. The world is filled with challenges, injustices, and unexpected changes. We also experience others' suffering – much of it beyond our control. My own trials are small compared to those others endure, but I often reflect on redemptive suffering through the lens of my Catholic faith.



Mike Langlois

The suffering in my life stems from both poor choices and circumstances I could not have predicted. The Church reminds us that Christ can redeem all suffering. I have come to understand that this requires a firm faith in Jesus Christ. Without trust in Him, our tragedies can feel wasted; when we invite Him into our pain, however, that suffering can become redemptive for us and for others.

It can be confusing when we read St. Paul's words: "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church" (Colossians 1:24). While the pain and suffering Jesus endured on the cross is perfect and complete for our salvation, what is "lacking" is our personal participation in His living Body. As Catholics, we are His hands, feet and voice in the modern world. When we endure hardship while proclaiming the Gospel or serving others, Christ works through our wounds to reach those in need.

The average person doesn't wake up in the morning saying, "What a beautiful day. Let's go find some suffering." We naturally avoid discomfort because we are wired for survival, comfort and emotional self-preservation. That instinct is not a character flaw; it is part of our design to keep us alive. Modern culture reinforces it by promising ever greater comfort and protection from pain. Rather than confront the realities of human vulnerability, our culture has created a vast system for numbing, labeling and escaping discomfort.

Let's not forget Satan's role in our suffering. The great Deceiver can't control our trials, but he desperately wants to distort our response to them. It is Satan who whispers, "If God truly loved me, He would not allow me to feel this pain." His goal is to isolate us from the Father with feelings of ingratitude, resentment and anger, tempting us to blame the Creator. We must remember that suffering is a spiritual battlefield where the soul must actively choose between God and the enemy.

I struggle daily to offer my ordinary trials – family, finances, health and strained relationships – for the good of the Church. For the past three years, I have led a Catholic men's faith group serving our combined parishes. More times than I can count, I have stood before those men and emphasized the importance of "offering our suffering to God." I have also stated that growth in holiness requires "a sincere detachment from the world," a process that can itself involve suffering. Yet a recent health crisis involving the severe suffering of a family member forced me to question whether I truly believed what I had so often proclaimed. My philosophy of "giving it up" to God suddenly felt much harder to practice than to preach. Only after continuous prayer and returning to St. Paul's words did a ray of hope begin to strengthen my faith: "Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).

We find a beautiful answer to this in the writings of Servant of God Cora Evans. In her mystical work "The Refugee from Heaven," she describes how Jesus, while dying on the Cross, looked out and saw future generations approaching like vast ocean waves. Within each wave, He saw souls who were willing to offer up all their trials – their physical illness, mental anxiety, poverty and grief – to unite with the very suffering He was enduring for our salvation. By accepting our suffering and anchoring it to the Cross, we recognize the depth of His sacrifice and allow Him to redeem our pain.

We must also remember the severe torment suffered by the Blessed Virgin Mary as she watched her only Son tortured and publicly executed before her eyes. She carried this heavy knowledge throughout her life as a mother. When presenting the infant Jesus in the Temple, the holy prophet Simeon warned her of the immense sorrow she would experience, "and a sword will pierce through your own soul also" (Luke 2:35). Mary did not run from this painful path; she endured it with perfect faith, showing us what it looks like to stand in deep pain without letting the enemy win the soul.

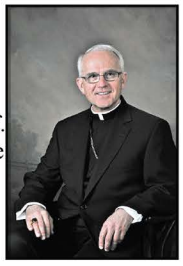
We may long for a world without suffering, but that is not the reality of the human condition. The question, then, is not whether we will suffer, but how we can give that suffering purpose. When we unite our daily trials, illnesses and heartbreaks with Christ's Cross, we allow Him to sanctify our pain and weave it into His eternal victory. Through this offering, we stand firm in faith, cooperate with the Advocate and labor for our salvation and the salvation of the world.

Mike Langlois is the Faith Formation Director for 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.

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Diocese of Ogdensburg
Mission Office 2025 Annual Report



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Today, we celebrate World Mission Sunday, a powerful reminder of our shared responsibility to proclaim the Gospel to all nations. It is a day when Catholics around the world unite in prayer and solidarity to support the missionary work of the Church.

We are all called to be a part of this mission work. The Mission Sunday collection helps extend this work to places where the Church barely exists, where the Gospel has never been heard before, and where the Church is too young, too persecuted, or too poor to sustain herself.

On World Mission Sunday, we stand in solidarity with the missionaries, priests, religious sisters and brothers, and lay leaders serving in the 1,130 mission dioceses — spanning Asia, Africa, Latin America, Oceania, and the Middle East — that depend on our prayers and financial support to continue proclaiming Christ and building His Church.

The year's World Mission Sunday celebration is unlike any other in our lifetime for two reasons.

First, the beatification of Archbishop Fulton Sheen on September 24 reminds us of the importance of the missions. While many know him best for his TV presence, books, and charismatic eloquence, he repeatedly said, "My greatest love has always been for the missions of the Church." For 16 years, as National Director of The Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, he poured his talents into World Mission Sunday and distributed the proceeds diligently to the missions. We can surely count on his intercession for World Mission Sunday 2026.

Secondly, this World Mission Sunday marks the 100th anniversary of its establishment by Pope Pius XI in 1926. This centenary is an opportunity to mark it with renewed missionary zeal. This year's theme, "One in Christ, United in Mission," chosen by Pope Leo XIV, invites us to rediscover the profound unity we share in Christ through baptism and how our baptismal identity overflows into the mission to bring others into communion with God and us.

Pope Leo XIV recognizes how important World Mission Sunday is for the Church. He spent a large part of his priestly ministry as a missionary in Peru, serving communities in the Andean highlands and rural villages, and has noted how dependent he was on the support of the Church universal through World Mission Sunday.

I am praying that World Mission Sunday will be a blessing for our diocese and help foster increased zeal for the missions within all of us. Let us pray together that the Holy Spirit will renew in us the fire of the early Church, that we might truly be One in Christ, United in Mission, and that we will grow in missionary awareness, solidarity, and responsibility.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

+ Terry R. LaValley

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg



Pray and give generously October 18, 2026

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Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director
Alexis Michael, Secretary/Bookkeeper

Please remember The Society for the Propagation of the Faith when writing or changing your will.

Pope Leo's World Mission Sunday message

By Vatican News

Pope Leo has sent a videomessage marking the 100th World Missionary Sunday, marked on the 18th of October 2026. In his video, the reflects on the theme "One in Christ, United in Mission" and expresses his gratitude to all those who have supported the annual celebration over the past century

He begins by giving thanks to God for the "abundant fruits" bestowed upon the Church since Pope Pius XI established World Mission Sunday 100 years ago.

His predecessor, the pope recalls, sought to deepen awareness of the missionary task in every diocese and parish, encourage prayer for evangelisation and missionary vocations, and support the work of the Pontifical Mission Societies.

Pope Leo then reflects on how these efforts helped shape his own vocation.

"Looking back on my youth, I can see how the prayers offered to the Lord of the harvest mysteriously helped prepare my heart to hear Jesus' call to follow him as an Augustinian missionary," he says. The prayers and contributions of the faithful, he adds, sustained both his missionary work in Peru and that of countless other missionaries throughout the world. "For this reason, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported World Mission Sunday over the years," he adds.

Turning to this year's theme, Pope Leo stresses the importance of nurturing the Church's unity in following Christ, particularly through a shared commitment to spreading the Gospel message of salvation.

Through Baptism, he explains, each person becomes a member of the Body of Christ and has "a unique role in contributing to Jesus' saving work."

"Our Lord calls us to cooperate as one family, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to bring everyone everywhere into a communion of faith in Christ."

The Pope renews the appeal he made in his message for the centenary, dated January 25, 2026, inviting everyone to contribute according to their vocation and the gifts they have received.

"Let us all commit to contributing to the great mission of evangelization — which is always a work of love," he urges.

Prayer and practical support, he adds, help bring "the Gospel of God's love to everyone, especially the poorest and those most in need."

Concluding his video message, Pope Leo thanks the faithful for all they will do to carry forward the legacy of World Mission Sunday and generously support the Church's evangelising mission throughout the world.

Pope Leo's message can be viewed on the Diocese of Ogdensburg website at rcdony.org/mission/spof.

Missions in the war years

By Marie-Lucile Kubacki
Fides News Agency

"Our missionaries are there, standing firm in the trenches of faith, like watchful sentinels at the outposts."

On October 19, 1940, as the war was also devastating Catholic communities in mission territories, Archbishop Celso Costantini, then secretary of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith replied as follows to the question addressed to the listeners during his radio message: "What are our missionaries doing, how are they living, how are they carrying out their work in these times?"

As secretary of the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, Costantini entrusted radio with a message intended to reach the faithful on the eve of World Mission Sunday. The annual event appears as a reminder not to forget those who were far away: interned missionaries, isolated communities, priests and religious women without resources, populations overwhelmed by violence.

Between 1939 and 1944, these messages tell the story of a mission seeking to keep its places of worship, education and care open whilst aid, communications and freedom of movement were dwindling. They asked for donations, but also for prayers and a solidarity capable of crossing the divisions created by the conflict. Their focus was not the prestige or interests of nations, but the people entrusted to the missionaries and the future of the local Churches.

From the distinction between the Gospel and political interests to the hope of rebuilding amid the ruins, Costantini's words bear witness to a faithfulness put to the test by the war.

A document dated October 21, 1939 and published by Fides reports on a conference given by Costantini at the Pontifical Gregorian University in preparation for World Mission Sunday on October 22. Its title, "Christ and Caesar in the Missions," explores the relationship between Christian proclamation and political power. Recalling the Gospel saying, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's," the secretary affirmed the freedom of the mission from state interference and from nationalist temptations that could affect "some missionaries."

"Christianity did not present itself to the world as the religion of a people, but as the religion of humanity," the report states. Costantini rejected "a serious and widespread misconception": that missionaries were "valuable disseminators of the idea and national influence of their own country," capable of paving the way for its political and commercial expansion. A missionary must not become a "pseudo-consular agent."

At the beginning of the conflict, these words explicitly removed the mission from the rivalry among the great powers. The conference also pointed to a necessity that the war would make increasingly clear: the formation of a local clergy who "even in the event of war would remain in their place," and thus overcome the damage inflicted on the missions by foreign policy.

The address concludes by contrasting destruction with a different course of action:

"While people are killing each other," missionary charity can still kindle "a light of goodness and hope upon this troubled horizon of the world."

In his 1940 radio message, Costantini recounted his own experience in China. During a period of upheaval, a missionary had written to his bishop: "I thank you for offering me the opportunity to seek safety; but our predecessors did not abandon their post in times of danger."

The letter concluded with a decision: "If we are to add a page to the history of our mission, we must know how to write it in the same style. We will stay."

Costantini presented this as an expression of a "heroic style," in which fidelity to the mission prevailed over the search for personal safety. The message nevertheless acknowledged that missionary activity was "necessarily hindered" and at times "completely paralyzed" by the internment or exile of missionaries. Their perseverance therefore had to be matched by concrete support.

Aid from their fellow countrymen and from religious institutes could no longer reach them; listeners were therefore asked to provide, concretely, at least "a little bread for their hard life."

On that same evening, Saturday 19 October 1940, Pius XII himself delivered a radio message addressed to the bishops and Catholics of the United States. His words crossed the Atlantic to encourage their missionary zeal.

Pius XII joined prayer to material aid: "The gift of prayer (...) must not be separated from the gift of action." Donations were intended to make it possible to "promote the good already begun, restore what has been damaged or destroyed," support what was fragile and strengthen what already existed.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

The Pontifical Mission Societies in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc., thanks our generous donors who participate in collections, appeals and bestow unsolicited gifts to the Missions. God bless you!

Mission Support

Mission Sunday	$ 58,796
Legacies	$ 0
Perpetual Memberships	$ 0
Unrestricted Gifts(Monthly Donations)	$ 345
Lenten Appeal	$ 5,290
Christmas Appeal	$ 2,176

The Special Funds

Missionary Project of the Diocese of Ogdensburg	$ 26,062.74
Missionary Cooperation Plan	$ 46,036.00
Mass Offerings	$ 20,904.00

Each year, about one half of the parishes take up the **Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg (MPDO)** Collection, while the other half takes up the ***Missionary Cooperation Appeal***, in the following year the collections are reversed.

St. Peter Apostle Appeal

$5,290 was given by our people to the *Society of St. Peter the Apostle* to educate native priests and novices for mission areas.

2025 Financial Statement

Total Revenue	$ 169,798
Total Operating Expenses	$ 70,868

Notice

This report covers the fiscal year of Jan. 1, 2025 to Dec. 31, 2025; with the exception of the Missionary Childhood, which covers September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026 and MPDO which is July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

mca missionary childhood association

"Children Helping Children"

All funds raised are directed towards self-help programs involving the building of schools, the provision of health and nutrition programs and medications, school fees, and teaching and learning resources.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL GIFTS TO THE MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

September 1, 2025- August 31, 2026 (School Year)
Diocese of Ogdensburg Catholic Schools

CARTHAGE - *Augustinian Academy*	$435.08
***TOTALS**	**$435.08**

**** Totals do not reflect donations received after August 2026 or donations forwarded directly to the National Office.***

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM AND INDIVIDUAL DONATION GIFTS TO THE MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026 (School Year)

Parish	Totals
Saint Andrew Church- Sackets Harbor	$20.66
The Church of the Immaculate Conception- Brownville	$132.93
Saint Peter's Parish- Massena	$50.00
Saint Bernard's & Saint Edmund's Parish- Ellenburg	$260.00
Saint James Minor Church- Carthage	$98.42
Saint Patrick's Church- Watertown	$200.00
Saint Hubert's Catholic Church- Star Lake	$74.98
Saint James Church- Gouverneur	$75.00
Saint Mary's of the Fort- Fort Covington	$292.96
Saint Cecilia's Church- Adams	$115.00
Individual Donations	$775.00
TOTAL:	**$2094.95**

**** These totals do not reflect those donations that were mailed directly to National Office in NYC by individual Parish Religious Education Programs.***

Missionary Childhood Association Funds for School Year 2025-2026

School Totals	$ 435.08
Religious Education and Individual Totals	$ 2,094.95
MCA TOTALS	$ 2,530.03

THE PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES USA

The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.

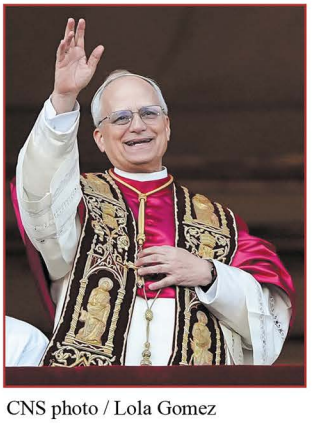
Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Diocesan Director

Alexis Michael, Secretary/Bookkeeper

PO Box 369
Ogdensburg, New York
13669

Visit Our Updated Mission Office Website:

www.rcdony.org/mission



CNS photo / Lola Gomez

2025 Annual Report of Donations to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Parish	Mission Sunday (Jan. – Dec. 2025)	Missionary Cooperation Plan (COOP) (July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026)	Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg (MPDO) (July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026)
Adams	$590		$382
Alexandria Bay			$994
Altona	$235	$496	$346
Au Sable Forks	$1608.09		
Black River	$383		
Blue Mountain Lake			
Brownville	$2309		$763
Brasher Falls	$1237		
Brushton	$756		
Cadyville		$739	
Canton	$910		$1114
Cape Vincent	$1205		$961
Carthage			$1435.12
Champlain	$262	$472	
Chasm Falls			
Chateaugay		$873	
Chaumont			
Chazy		$428	
Clayton	$110		$2011
Colton			$515
Constable	$385	$1357	
Constableville	$431		$435
Copenhagen	$455		$377
Croghan	$1624		$1314
Crown Point	$915	$333	$18
Dannemora	$446	$845	$305
Edwards			
Ellenburg	$599	$2010	
Elizabethtown	$333	$35	
Essex			
Evans Mills	$355		$252
Fort Covington	$494	$688	
Gabriels			
Glenfield			
Gouverneur	$829		$1268
Hammond			
Harrisville			$219
Henderson	$669		$868.45
Heuvelton	$1132		
Hopkinton			
Houseville			
Indian Lake	$1350	$1493	
Inlet		$1634	
Keene	$127	$840	
Keeseville	$1212		$417
Lake Placid	$1613	$3975.45	
Lake Pleasant	$1445	$1867	
Lisbon	$420		
Long Lake	$495	$297	
Louisville			
Lowville	$2952.41		$2818.07

Parish	Mission Sunday (Jan. – Dec. 2025)	Missionary Cooperation Plan (COOP) (July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026)	Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg (MPDO) (July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026)
Lyons Falls	$221		$174
Lyon Mountain			
Madrid	$461		
Malone		$4024	
Massena	$1776	$35	$2706
Mineville			
Mooers Forks	$1031.25	$765	$517
Morrisonville	$949	$1636	
Morristown	$1058	$1041	
Newcomb	$590		
Norfolk	$1047		
North Bangor	$860	$1572.5	
Norwood	$894.46		
Ogdensburg			
Old Forge	$725	$1449	
Olmstedville	$385	$541	
Peru		$1362	
Plattsburgh	$4592.01	$5420	
Port Henry	$658	$2108	
Port Leyden	$436		$280
Potsdam	$1338		$1027
Redford	$240	$647	
Redwood			
Rosiere			
Rossie			
Rouses Point	$945		
Sackets Harbor			$582
Saranac Lake	$1750	$2246	
Schroon Lake	$708	$1241	
Star Lake	$705	$500	
St. Regis Falls			
Ticonderoga	$2627	$1861	
Tupper Lake	$784	$2360.05	
Waddington	$628		
Watertown	$3091.42		$3261.76
Watertown, OLSH			$702
Wells			
Westport	$388	$297	
West Chazy	$573	$648.25	
West Leyden	$145		
Willsboro	$322		
Wilmington			
Individual Donations	$981	$50	
TOTALS	**$58,795.64**	**$48,186.25**	**$26,062.74**

Thank You

Mission Sunday 2025 collections are calculated using the dates of our Fiscal Year (Jan. – Dec. 2025)
Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Appeal and Mission Coop Appeal 2025 is calculated using the dates of July 2025- June 2026. **These totals do not reflect any 2025 late payments that were received in the Mission Office. It is also possible that some amounts represent combined totals amongst parish groupings.**

One in Christ, United in Mission



Witness to Africa…
…Where 19,000 young men are preparing for the priesthood.



Witness to Asia…
…Where six million children receive an education from Religious Sisters in more than 15,000 Church-run elementary schools.



Witness to Latin America...
…Where catechists travel to remote areas to bring the Good News of God's great love to families.



Witness to Pacific Islands…
…Where 3,5000 religious bring the Lord's mercy and peace to those in need.



Witness to Europe…
…Where 3,5000 religious bring the Lord's mercy and peace to those in need.

Environmental Stewardship

First Americans

On Oct.11, our nation celebrates Indigenous Peoples' Day, a time to recognize the first Americans, their heritage and culture. The civilizations that developed on this continent thousands of years ago were supported by living in close proximity with nature.

These indigenous societies realized nature was ultimately responsibility for sustaining life and allowing it to flourish. There are cycles that had to be followed, and powerful forces running through nature that positively impact humans if they are properly responded to. Understanding how nature works and developing a lifestyle in harmony with it was critical for survival.

As the Industrial Age expanded, greater emphasis has been placed on plundering the resources of the planet to power the imperial activities of those that ruled the more "advanced" European societies. Over the last several centuries, we have gradually lost our connection to nature and no longer pay much attention to the subtle changes occurring.

Nature can be slow to respond to injuries; however nature has ways of attempting to mitigate the harm done by generating forces to counter development and exploitation that is causing harm. For example, the intensity of storms is increasing around the globe supported by a warming climate.

Perhaps the most effective step anyone can take to properly care for creation is to adopt some of the practices employed by Native Americans. For example, we have been programmed by our culture since birth that the more "stuff" we have, the better and happier we will be. Pope Francis addressed our love of "Consumerism" and the harm it causes the health of our planet. Learning to enjoy a quiet walk in the forest rather than possessing some physical gift is a great starting point for helping Mother Earth.

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:

Oct. 21– 5:30 p.m. – St. Anthony's School, Watertown

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

Bishop's Public Schedule

Oct. 16 – All day – New York State Catholic Conference Board of Bishops Meeting in Douglaston

Oct. 17 – 10:30 a.m. – Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting at St. Andre Bessette Outreach Center in Malone

4 p.m. – Mass at St. Peter's Parish (at Sacred Heart Church) in Massena followed by the Annual Knight of the Year Banquet at St. Mary's Hall

Oct. 18 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Oct. 19 – 3:30–4 p.m. – New York State Catholic Conference Board of Bishops Executive Committee Conference Call

Oct. 21 – 10:30 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch

Rest in Peace

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

Oct. 14 – Rev. James Alexander Hagarty, 1903; Deacon Frederic A. Brousseau, 2019

Oct. 15 – Rev. James Haffey, 1918; Rev. Mark Collins Liebler, 1975; Rev. Robert Fleig, S.J., 1986; Most Rev. Thomas Andrew Donnellan, 1987

Oct. 16 – Rev. Joseph W. Elliott, 2023; Rev. Gerald Cerank, 2024

Oct. 17 – Rev. Antoine Anselm Thomas, 1900; Rev. Athanase Marion, O.M.I., 1935

Oct. 18 – Edwin A. Kennedy, 1990; Deacon Chester Lloyd Price, 1991

Oct. 20 – Rev. Walter Plaisance, O.M.I., 1918; Msgr. Stephen J. Wojciechowski, 1978

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org
- Read local stories and commentaries
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more

Find us on Facebook!

October is Respect Life Month

We are inviting you to consider sponsorship of an advertisement with the USCCB theme:



to appear in our October 28th issue of the

The Diocese of Ogdensburg
NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

For $25 your name will appear as a supporter of human life from conception through natural death. Your donation helps to support the material printed in the NCC.

Must be returned to the NCC by Oct. 21, 2026
Please return entire ad with payment

Call our office at 315-608-7556 to donate with your Credit Card or fill out the form below:

YES! I/We would like to support a Respect Life Page in the *North Country Catholic.*

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State_____ Zip_____

Phone_____

Name as it will appear in the ad (please print):

_____

_____

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

Pope urges bishops to show courage responding to struggling families

By Victoria Cardiel
EWTN News

Pope Leo XIV on Wednesday urged bishops from around the world gathered at the Vatican for a meeting on the family to face with "courage" the challenge of learning from and responding to families marked by hardship and "apparent failure."

"The wisdom of the people of God reaches us through our common faith, which enlightens all families, including situations marked by difficulties, loneliness, and at times even apparent failure," the pope said in his opening address to the gathering, being held in the Paul VI Audience Hall and scheduled to conclude Oct. 14.

The closed-door assembly, which is not open to journalists, is expected to produce a synthesis document without doctrinal authority that will later be presented to the pope.

The meeting is part of the synodal evaluation assemblies proposed at the conclusion of the 2021-2024 Synod on Synodality process.

Ten years after the two synods on the family and the widespread debate sparked by Amoris Laetitia, 154 bishops and cardinals, 53 priests and lay faithful, and 11 invited families began a series of meetings Wednesday aimed at assessing the current situation and evaluating the reception of Pope Francis' 2016 apostolic exhortation on the family.

The document generated significant debate after its publication because it opened the possibility, in certain cases, for some divorced and civilly remarried Catholics to receive the sacraments of reconciliation and the Eucharist.

The pope made no direct reference to that issue during his address, which he delivered in English following a time of prayer.

Leo XIV said the lives of families pose to the Church "questions that deserve to be faced with courage" and highlighted several situations that concern him.

"In many contexts, a growing distance has emerged between the ways in which sex and intimacy are lived and the Christian vision of marriage," he said.

"Young people continue to long for love, fidelity, and belonging, yet many find it difficult to embrace how such a vision of love can take shape in their own lives or to believe that a lifelong commitment is the condition for reaching what they desire," he continued.

"Economic insecurity, migration, violence, loneliness, and other forms of emotional fragility also shape the choices people make and the possibilities they can imagine for their future," he added.

Focusing on contemporary challenges, the pope encouraged bishops to listen to families and stressed that the Church still has much to learn from them.

In that context, he posed a series of questions that he said should accompany the meeting's work, which is being conducted according to the synodal method and conceived as a space for listening and discernment.

"What are people truly seeking beneath these cultural changes? What do their joys and hopes, griefs and anxieties reveal to us? Where do our pastoral language and practices succeed in opening a path, and where do they fail to touch people's hearts or assist their efforts to do what is good? What is the lived experience of families teaching us — an experience from which we have not yet fully learned? What can we offer as formation for healthy and holy family life? In particular, what can we learn from parents as they seek to accompany their children and young people in such contexts?"

The Holy Father also emphasized that "fragility deserves special attention" because it can "profoundly shape the way people see themselves, their future, and even their relationship with God and with the Church."

"We all know the gap between the good we desire and what we are able to live. We need grace, forgiveness, and new beginnings to accomplish God's will, and we learn that fidelity is itself a grace to be received and a path to be gradually renewed, often through trial," he said.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Canada won't include mental illness in assisted suicide
The Canadian government will not expand its broadly popular assisted suicide program for individuals suffering solely from a mental illness, Minister of Justice Sean Fraser said on Oct. 7. The announcement brings an end to several years of debate and speculation regarding whether the country would allow doctors to help kill individuals who are suffering from mental health issues but who are not terminally or seriously ill. Fraser told media at the Canadian House of Commons on Oct. 7 that the country would not move forward with the proposed expansion. "While there is not a perfect consensus on this issue, we believe this is the correct approach at this particular time," he told media. Euthanasia has become a leading cause of death in Canada since it was legalized roughly a decade ago. About 100,000 Canadians have died by the country's medical assistance in dying (MAID) program since 2016. In 2023 euthanasia accounted for roughly 1 out of every 20 deaths there.

Pope receives relic of Blessed Fulton Sheen from Peoria bishop
Pope Leo XIV received a relic of Blessed Fulton J. Sheen from leaders of the Diocese of Peoria, Illinois, this month, marking a poignant moment involving the Catholic Church's first American-born pope and one of the nation's most iconic modern evangelists. Bishop Louis Tylka of Peoria, accompanied by Monsignor Jason Gray, executive director of the Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Foundation, met with the Holy Father in a private audience Oct. 5. The audience followed the long-awaited beatification of Sheen, a pioneer of Catholic radio and television whose cause for sainthood was championed by his home diocese in central Illinois. The encounter carried added significance given that both Pope Leo XIV and Blessed Fulton Sheen trace their roots to the state of Illinois.

Court rejects Diocese of Oakland bankruptcy settlement plan
A federal judge this month rejected a request from the Diocese of Oakland, California, to resolve its ongoing bankruptcy proceedings, arguing that the diocese had not satisfied statutory requirements to do so while dismissing claims that the diocese should be granted a special religious dispensation. The diocese had proposed a plan earlier in the year to pay more than $200 million into an abuse victims' fund. A committee of survivors countered with a proposed payout of more than $300 million, which the diocese itself subsequently opposed. Judge William Lafferty said in an Oct. 2 decision that the diocese had failed to demonstrate that it was undergoing a "substantial burden" on its religious rights in being required to adhere to federal bankruptcy proceedings. The judge dismissed as "incorrect and impossible" a scenario suggested by the diocese that would result in what Lafferty described as an "apocalyptic forced sale of all churches in the Oakland Diocese" under the federal bankruptcy court. The diocese would "study the court's decision," said Bishop Michael Barber, SJ, before deciding how to move forward.

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

HARVEST DINNER

Crown Point – Sacred Heart Church to have a Turkey Harvest Dinner.

Date: Oct. 27

Time: Noon to 3 p.m. (or sold out)

Cost: $15 per person, eat in or take out.

TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP

Lake Placid – Mercy Care for the Adirondacks will host a Technology Assistance Workshop open to all older adult community members.

Date: Nov. 4

Time: 9 a.m. to noon

Place: Adirondack Educational Center, BOCES

Features: Roberta Bryson from NBT Bank will present on Fraud Prevention and Electronic Banking. Following the presentation, the Mercy Care Team will be available for personalized, one-on-one assistance with your cell phones and tablets. Bring your devices and your questions! Mercy Care's Technology Workshop and iPad Permanent Loan Programs are offered free of charge, on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration is required.

Contact: To request more information or to register, please contact Lexi Bevilacqua, Director of Programs and Mission Integration at abevilacqua@adkmercy.org or at 518-523-5446.

HUNTERS MASS

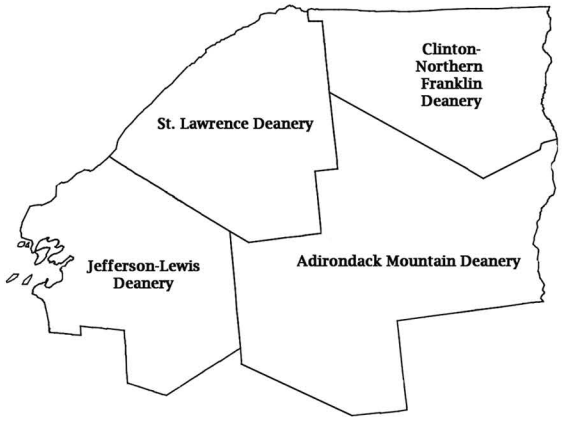
Newcomb – All are invited to the 2026 annual Hunters Mass.

Date: Nov. 7

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: St. Therese Church

Features: This Mass continues in the spirit of Father Peter Berg who worked to include everyone in the fullness of Catholic spiritual life. Since many may come directly from hunting, we welcome and encourage camouflage, well-behaved hunting dogs will have a place to warm up, and we ask that participants be sure to practice gun safety and refrain from bringing guns into the church.



The North County 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.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

PURGATORY PRAYER DEVOTION

Ellenburg – The House of Prayer welcomes a new house sitter, Gary Phifer will be teaching the Purgatory Prayer devotion.

Date: Oct. 13, 20 and 27

Time: 10 a.m. to noon

Place: Our Lady of the Adirondack House of Prayer

Features: Drop by and learn this beautiful prayer from Gary Phifer, a Commissioned Lay Minister from Plattsburgh, made even more awesome by praying together with your brothers and sisters in Christ. As we enter the fall season, we move through the great season of remembrance and pray for those who have gone before.

Contact: Please call 518-534-9976 (Sarah) for more information.

CRAFT SHOW

Mooers Forks – The Ladies of St. Ann will be having their Annual Craft Show.

Date: Oct. 17

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: Mooers Fire Station

Features: There will be craft and non-craft vendors, lunch and baked goods for sale, and a raffle to benefit the local food pantry. Nonperishable items and monetary donations for the Mooers Food Pantry are welcomed.

HARVEST DINNER

Altona – St. Ann's and Holy Angel's to have a Turkey Harvest Dinner.

Date: Oct. 18

Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: Holy Angels Hall

Cost: Adults, $18; Children 6-12, $10; Children 5 and under, Free

Features: Bake sale, themed basket raffle, lottery ticket raffle, and apple and pumpkin desserts.

CHARISMATIC MASS

Malone – St. Andres Parish to have Charismatic Masses and Healing services.

Date: Oct. 18, Nov. 15

Place: Notre Dame Church

Time: Worship to prepare for Mass starts at 1:45 p.m., Mass starts at 2 p.m.

Features: Following Mass, prayer teams will be available for individual prayer.

Contact: For more information call 518-483-1300 or sseymour@rcdony.org

FUN RUN

Plattsburgh – Seton Catholic School to have a Knight's Joust Fun Run to Support Seton Catholic School and The Foundation at CVPH Kids' Closet.

Date: Oct. 24

Time: 1 mile starts at 8:45 a.m.; 5K starts at 9 a.m.

Place: US Oval

Cost: $15 for the 1 mile and $25 for the 5K

Contact: Additional event information, updates and registration details are available through Seton Catholic School's official Facebook page at facebook.com/SetonKnights

HARVEST DINNER

Plattsburgh – Holy Cross Parish to have a Turkey Harvest Dinner.

Date: Nov. 1

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: Parish Center

Cost: Adults, $16; Children, $8; Children 5 and under, Free. Dine in or take out

SOAKING PRAYERS SESSIONS

Plattsburgh – Come enjoy a relaxing prayer opportunity at two different locations.

Place: Newman Center, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30; Nov. 2 and Dec. 7

Features: Each session begins with a short introduction followed by praise, worship and soaking prayer for an extended period of time as guided by the Holy Spirit. Remainder of time is spent listening to scripture readings and remaining receptive to receive healing.

Contact: All sessions are facilitated by Eve McGill, Living Waters Healing Ministry 518-645-2648, evemcgill16@charter.net

FIRST FRIDAY

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

Date: Nov. 6

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

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Watertown – Gather in prayer in front of Planned Parenthood for 40 days.

Date: Ongoing until Nov. 1

Time: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS

Watertown - : The Commissioned Lay Ministry Association of the Jefferson-Lewis Deanery Presents "The Role of The Church in Human Trafficking". Mass, dinner and presentation to be held.

Date: Oct. 15

Time: 5:15 p.m. Welcoming remarks, 5:30 p.m. Mass, followed by dinner and presentation

Place: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church

Cost: $15 per person if attending dinner, no charge if registering for the program only

Features: Presentation led by Sr. Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ

Contact: Register for the dinner and the program ($15) or program only there is no charge, at: www.rcdony.org/clm-event

BASKET RAFFLE

Houseville – St. Hedwig's Society will hold its Annual Themed Basket Raffles to benefit church outreach and repairs at St. Hedwig's Church.

Schedule: The raffles will be held on the following Sundays: Oct. 11,18 and 25 after the celebration of the 11 a.m. Mass. No tickets will be sold during Mass. Themed Baskets and a handmade quilt will be on display and raffle tickets may be purchased in the church hall from noon to 1 p.m. on the above Sundays. The final drawings for the baskets will be on Oct. 25, at approximately 1 p.m. A bake sale and a limited kielbasa sandwich luncheon will also be featured on October 25. The drawing for the handmade quilt will take place during the church Christmas party.

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: Nov. 1

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

125th Anniversary

Black River – St. Paul's will be celebrating the parish's 125th Anniversary.

Date: Nov. 8

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Pope: We need more beauty in age of tech

By Ishmael Adibuah
EWTN News

Pope Leo XIV on Wednesday urged patrons of the Vatican Museums to rediscover beauty in an era dominated by technology.

The pontiff held a private audience on Oct. 7 at the Vatican with the Louisiana chapter of the patrons during their pilgrimage to Rome. The Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums, founded in 1983, is an international group of benefactors who fund the conservation and restoration of the Vatican's art collections.

Leo, in his remarks, thanked them for their collaboration and support for the Vatican Museums and invited them to create spaces of beauty in a world where technology is often preferred.

"In an age dominated by technology, in which efficiency and profit often take precedence, it is so important that we continue to cultivate a spirit of contemplation and allow time and space for beauty," Leo said.

He also added that fostering this attitude would "greatly help humanity, especially young people, not only to discover the ability of art to uplift and reveal the depths of the human spirit."

"Ultimately," Leo added, "contemplation presents a marvelous opportunity to encounter the God who is beauty, whom St. Augustine described as ever-ancient and ever-new."

Leo's remarks followed his address during a private audience with artists on Oct. 2 in which he explained the difference between authentic art and art created by artificial intelligence (AI).

"There is an ontological difference — even before an aesthetic one — between art and what a machine can generate through statistical calculation based on millions of images created by others. Algorithms lack the spark of the human, whereas 'authentic culture and art preserve this spark,'" Leo said, quoting from his encyclical on AI, Magnifica Humanitas.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Features: Celebrant will be Bishop Terry R. LaValley. A community reception and historical exhibit will immediately follow Mass in the parish center.

Contact: If you with to RSVP for the luncheon following Mass, contact Esther at 315-783-4438.

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – The Indian River Council 7471 Knights of Columbus will be having a spaghetti & meatball dinner.

Date: Nov. 14

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, $12; Seniors, $10; Children 12 and under, $5; under 5, Free; Sauce or meatballs available for $6 per quart

Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

ST. LAWRENCE

MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

Date: Nov. 8 (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.

FALL BAZAAR

Massena – St. Mary's to have their annual Fall Bazaar.

Date: Nov. 14

Time: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Features: Win $2500 in Big Money Raffle. Come enjoy some delicious fried bread dough as well as other great food from the concession all day! Ticket central, Turkey raffles, pull tabs, 50/50, Skilo, quilt raffle, country store, cake walk, children's games and activities, religious items. All are welcome! Bring family and friends for loads of fun!

TRIVIA NIGHT

Ogdensburg - The Vocations Committee for the Catholic Churches of Ogdensburg (St. Mary's Cathedral and Notre Dame), Heuvelton (St. Raphael's) and Lisbon (Ss. Philip and James) is planning a Trivia Night.

Date: Jan. 8

Time: Arrive by 6:45 p.m., trivia starts at 7 p.m.

Place: Martin Fieldhouse

Cost: $20 per person

Features: Teams of up to 6 will compete for the bragging rights and Grand Prize. All funds raised will be donated to the Diocese of Ogdensburg to help offset the miscellaneous college costs for the seminarians. Join us for a night of fun and friendly competition in a contest of general knowledge across a variety of topics! Mulligans will be sold at the door.

Contact: More rules and registration at www.ogdensburgcatholics.net/trivia or email vocationsarenottrivial@rcdony.org

FIRST FRIDAY

Morristown - Our Lady of Grace Parish (Morristown, Hammond, and Rossie) will start observing the First Friday devotions in honor of the Sacred Heart on every First Friday of the month.

Date: Nov. 6

Time: Mass at 8 a.m.; Confessions from 4 p.m. to 6

Place: St. John's Church, Morristown

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

Ogdensburg – The Legion of Mary will pray the rosary with devotions for First Saturday.

Date: Nov. 7

Time: 8 a.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

Features: Rosary with devotions

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

Massena - Sacred Heart Church to have first Saturday Rosary Devotion.

Date: Nov. 7

Time: 3:15 p.m.

Features: First Saturday Rosary Devotion to OUR Lady of Fatima. Confessions will be available. Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 p.m.

MENS GROUP

Massena – Men's group to meet the first Saturday of every month.

Date: Nov. 7

Time: 9 a.m. Mass with meeting to follow

Place: Sacred Heart Church

DIOCESAN EVENTS

JOURNEY WITH CHRIST

Norfolk - All catechists and parish leaders are invited to join us for Journey with Christ, a Fall LEAD event.

Date: Oct. 17

Time: 9:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Features: Journey with Christ to learn how parishes can nurture faith across every stage of life while building stronger family and ministry connections among the wider parish community. No fee. Speaker: Dr. Steven Serafin, of Faith and Family Life Catholic Ministries. Please bring a bagged lunch.

Contact: Register at www.rcdony.org/journey For more information contact Anita Soltero, asoltero@rcdony.org; 518-310-3669

DISCERNMENT GROUPS

Watertown - Discover your vocation. Strengthen your faith. Walk with brothers.

Date: Oct. 24

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Holy Family Church

Features: Gather with men ages 18 and above who are seeking to understand God's call in their lives and explore the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood. Father Carter Pierce will lead the group. Sponsored by the Diocese of Ogdensburg Office of Vocations.

Contact: For more information, call 315-782-1190



SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

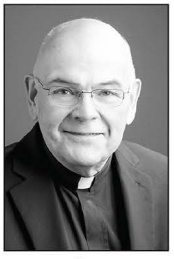
'Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar'

October 18

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS
Isaiah 45:1, 4-6
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b
Matthew 22:15-21

Politics is an interesting sport. Some politicians present themselves as if they walk on water while the opposing side is portrayed as someone who would push the other under water and hold him there.



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

An underlying current of so many debates, not just political debates, can be summarized in but one word "gotcha!" Not only do they look for the other person to dig his own grave, but they are more than willing to say gotcha before they fill in the hole with dirt.

Our Gospel passage portrays a "gotcha" moment. The Pharisees and the Herodians, who usually opposed each other, approach Jesus. The Jewish Pharisees opposed the tax because it recognized someone other than God as the king; the Jewish Herodians favored the tax because they wanted the Romans to continue to take care of the Jews.

So, they combined their strength to confront Jesus and hopefully catch him off guard so that they could both then say: "Gotcha" and ultimately find a reason to eliminate or, at least, discredit him

Their attempt fails. Jesus responds with his famous: "repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God." Some have interpreted that saying as Jesus' teaching about what we call today separation of Church and State.

This weak understanding of Jesus' teaching may lead us to honor the accepted norms of civic life over our duties vis-a-vis God. Life issues, especially abortion, the value of human life, morality, the meaning of the Christian vocation to marriage, the nature of war, human responsibility towards one another, the responsibility and nature of education have all become political or civil issues such that the teachings, the values, the instructions that come to us from God as revealed in scripture and as authentically taught by the Church have been pushed aside and, according to some, must never be considered. For them, following God's law equals religion's interference into life.

Jesus' response contains a much greater message than a popular slogan. Jesus' Gospel confrontation urges each one of us to recognize to whom we ultimately belong and in whose image we have been created. Our allegiance, our fidelity must always remain focused on and obedient to the one true Lord and not to any modern-day Caesar.

If we truly believe that we are made in God's image, if we truly believe that human life itself comes from God and is destined to return to God, then these convictions must influence every dimension of how we live and permeate our every choice. Would we not be just kidding ourselves if we make a so-called "civic" decision that would negate what our faith life tells us? These faith convictions must motivate our actions in our families, in our schools, in the workplace, in our political life, in our social life.

Isaiah says it best in the first reading: "I am the Lord and there is no other." The weekend activities that replace worship, the organizations that oppose what we believe, the programs, courses, activities that negate what we consider sacred, and our leaders and policies that act contrary to our beliefs must all give way to that saying: "I am the Lord and there is no other." The apostle Peter in his first letter says it another way: "fear God, honor the emperor."

I read this somewhere. "Take a minute in the morning to sit with God, alone. Sixty seconds in the silence to let his will be known."

CALLED TO SERVE

We pay our taxes but...

Matthew quotes Jesus telling the Herodians that it is OK to pay taxes to various governments, but it is also our responsibility to give God our wealth too. The comment comes in the Gospel passage at Mass next weekend.

Herodians were a political group of Jews who sided with the Romans and with the Pharisees a lot. Members of the Herodian party did not like Jesus very much. Jesus, in their view, was a troublemaker and did not play by their rules.

Pharisees counted on the Torah, the five books of the Jewish bible given to Moses and oral tradition, or interpretation, as the rule of law. They could bend the law anyway they saw fit. They did not like Jesus very much either for the same reasons as the Herodians.

The leaders of the Pharisees convinced a bunch of Herodians to try and trick Jesus by asking him about paying taxes to the government,

The Pharisees assumed Jesus would respond that it was contrary to God's will to pay man-made taxes. They would have proof then that Jesus spoke against Roman rule and could turn Jesus over to the local Roman governor.



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

Jesus didn't fall for the ploy and responded to the Herodian question, "render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

The Pharisees must have been the inspiration for the cartoon character Dick Dastardly who said, "Curses, foiled again!"

We all complain about paying taxes until we have a service taken away or diminished, but we must pay them.

It is the second part of the response that caught my attention today. Render "to God the things that are God's."

For some it is a vocation to dedicate one's life to spreading the Good News of Jesus as a priest or in consecrated life. Still others choose the permanent diaconate to minister for God to his people. Those men are usually older, have been or are married and have children.

The total ordained or consecrated in the USA represents a small percentage of the 72 million Catholics in the nation. What about the rest of us? How do we "render to God the things that are God's?"

I'll have some thoughts next week. Don't touch that dial!

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

The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

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info@rcdony.org

Part 2: 'The fate of my flock is my fate'

Behind [the] decision [to be a missionary] was something older, something [Father Anthony Corcoran] learned on his knees as a child. "From there I went into the novitiate. I had always dreamed of becoming a missionary. When we were children, we prayed every day, three Hail Marys for the conversion of Russia, as Our Lady of Fatima had asked. I suspect that allowed Mary to get into my heart and my soul, to prepare me for coming to these people."

He earned a degree in political science from Marquette University, a master's in international political economic development from Fordham, and, later, a licentiate and a doctorate in sacred theology from the Weston Jesuit School of Theology. He was ordained a priest on June 8, 1996, at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama. By then, history had already answered his childhood prayer, in its own way. "When I was ready to be ordained a priest, the Soviet Union had just collapsed, and Saint John Paul II asked for priests to go. My community sent me to Russia, to Siberia at the beginning. From there I got to know Kyrgyzstan, and was assigned here," he relates to Fides.

He would spend more than twenty years in Russia as vicar general in Novosibirsk, then as major superior of the Jesuits' Russian Region in Moscow, where he professed his final vows in 2002. In 2017, Pope Francis named him apostolic administrator of Kyrgyzstan.

Looking back on the whole arc of it, he resists tidy explanations. "Of course," he affirms, "it is all God's Providence: when we try to say yes to one step, however imperfectly we do it, that step leads us somewhere. It's not so important for us to know exactly where and how. What matters is to know with whom—with God. That's how I got here."

Article by Marie-Lucile Kubacki of FIDES missionary news service of the Pontifical Mission Societies.

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

OBITUARIES

Clayton – Michael A. Colello, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 5, 2026 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Grove Cemetery, LaFargeville.

Dannemora – Fred H. LaGoy, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 7, 2026 at St. Joseph's Church.

Keeseville – Kathleen Ann (McDonough) O'Connor, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 23, 2026 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Lowville – Catherine (Mathis) Lee, 66; Private Funeral Services at Iseneker Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, New Bremen.

Massena – Arleen C. (Kirkey) Clary, 89; Private Burial in Pine Grove Cemetery #2.

Massena – Michael Gerald Savage, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 7, 2026 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Brasher Falls.

Massena – Beulah L. (Wilkins) Trippany, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 6, 2026 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Norfolk – Jean (Arno) Shyne, 82; Private services to be held; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Stacie L. (Ames) Bertram, 46; Funeral Services Oct. 7, 2026 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home.

Ogdensburg – Eloise K. (Finley) Kroeger, 101; Funeral Services Oct. 6, 2026 at Fox & Murray Funeral home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Peru – Kenneth R. Desotell, 82; Funeral Services Oct. 10, 2026 at Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, Plattsburgh.

Plattsburgh – Kathryn Murray Steele, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 17, 2026 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery, Morrisonville.

Watertown – Virginia B. Harrienger, 73; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 12, 2026 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

'My friend Fulton'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

forget. It pulled on the heart strings and set my soul on fire. I have always known that Fulton Sheen was and is a well-known figure, but physically seeing the crowd gathered to celebrate his legacy put it into a whole new perspective.

"The energy of the priests was sheer excitement – downright, genuine, honest to goodness, joy. I couldn't contain my emotions when the official decree naming Fulton J. Sheen as Blessed was read, first in Latin then English. It was real. It was happening. My friend Fulton was now Blessed Fulton. The man who embraced new methods of media to bring the Gospel to the world. The priest who filled my young heart with zeal to teach and preach. Mary's priest who referred to her as 'The Woman I Love.' One of my biggest role models and intercessors. The inspiration I turned to during tough times growing up and during seminary. Blessed Fulton J. Sheen. And there I was … not even four months ordained, shedding tears as tens of thousands of people applauded and cheered for 'America's Apostle.' Just as visiting his tomb, I felt as if I were greeting an old friend.

"Concelebrating with over a thousand other priests was powerful. I offered my intention and prayed hard for an increase in vocations to the priesthood for our diocese. I had the opportunity to help distribute Communion. After receiving, we were instructed to grab a ciborium and follow the seminarian leading us. It was an impressive sight. Honestly, it was a pretty smooth process considering how many communicants were in attendance. When I approached for Communion, I looked into the sanctuary and saw a very familiar face—Bishop Lucia! We did not get an opportunity to connect in person, but it was such a 'small world' feeling."

Father Fitzgerald described how the crowd was filled with energy. "So many things stood out, but the one of the most memorable was the number of young people. Young priests, seminarians, pilgrims, families. I was amazed by the number of men in suits and women in dresses. It was amazing."

The legacy of the beloved Archbishop is just beginning to touch a new generation of hearts and news of his intercessory power is spreading. "Fulton Sheen has concretely impacted my life in a threefold way—his zeal for teaching, love for the Blessed Mother, and use of new means of communication."

LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

High School students from around the diocese gathered at Camp Guggenheim Sept. 25-27 for the annual Leadership Weekend

Photos by Christian Gratto



