INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meet the staff of your Catholic Charities | Page 4

Bishops, Evangelicals issue statement on immigration | Page 7

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 81 Number 26

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

OCTOBER 21, 2026

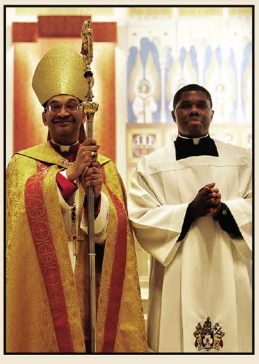
MAKING AN IMPACT



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN GRATTO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Middle School students from around the diocese gathered at Camp Guggenheim Oct. 2 to 5 for the first Impact Weekend, a retreat experience. Additional photos can be found on Page 6.

ADMITTED TO CANDIDACY



Diocese of Ogdensburg seminarian Ladouceur Flarissaint was admitted to candidacy for Holy Orders on Oct. 2 by Bishop Earl K. Fernandes of the Diocese of Columbus at the Pontifical College Josephinum seminary in Columbus, Ohio.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope recovering well after surgery for cancer

By Victoria Cardiel
EWTN News

VATICAN CITY — In a medical update on Thursday, the Vatican confirmed that the right lung of Pope Leo XIV, who underwent surgery for lung cancer on Oct. 13, is recovering favorably.

The bulletin, prepared by the pontiff's personal physician, Luigi Carbone, and the surgeon who performed the operation, Stefano Margaritora, highlights that Leo XIV's postoperative progress on the second day after surgery has been positive.

"The chest X-ray showed a good recovery of the operated lung," the statement said.

The Vatican also reported that the Holy Father underwent routine follow-up examinations, including blood tests and a chest X-ray, "the results of which were normal."

"He independently carried out his daily activities. The physical therapy session included full motor activity," the medical note added.

Overall, "the postoperative course continues to progress regularly," the physicians explained.

Earlier Thursday, the Vatican had already reported that Leo XIV spent a "good" sec-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Oncologist explains pulmonary adenocarcinoma?

By EWTN News Staff

After a surgery on Tuesday in which the lower lobe of his right lung was removed, Pope Leo XIV was diagnosed with lung cancer. Dr. Luis Ráez, a prominent oncologist, explained in an interview with EWTN News what pulmonary adenocarcinoma is and what factors will determine the Holy Father's next medical steps.

Ráez, who is not treating the pope, serves as the medical director and head of the Thoracic Oncology Program at the Memorial Cancer Institute in Florida.

The Vatican reported that the pope had "the lower lobe of the right lung removed using a video-assisted technique. The intraoperative histological examination has confirmed the diagnosis of pulmonary adenocarcinoma, as was suspected from the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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 & Communications Director

Publish 45 issues per year: Weekly except skipping every other week beginning 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@northcountrycatholic.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

I put it down and pick it back up



Darcy L. Fargo

While I pray the words every week, sometimes every day, I don't particularly like them.

The words: "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."

If that's the standard, if we're forgiven only as much as we forgive others, I'm in trouble.

I realized recently that while I'm often pretty good at forgiving people, I'm awful at forgiving people consistently and repeatedly.

Example: A few years ago, someone I love wounded me deeply and intentionally. If I was asked about that situation every day for 10 days, for nine of those days, I'd probably say something like "I forgive the person involved, I pray for that person nearly every day, and I wish that person well."

But the tenth day is different.

Maybe on that tenth day, something made me think of the incident. Maybe something made me think of the relationship I had with that person, someone who is no longer part of my everyday life. Maybe nothing happened at all, but I'm in a bad mood.

But on that tenth day, it's certainly not forgiveness in my heart. The anger and hurt resurfaces. I may even wish I could get revenge on the person – I'm not always a good person. It's like I set the pain and hurt down eleventy billion times only to pick it back up eleventy billion and one times.

My conversations with others make me think I'm not the only person who does this. A lot of us, maybe most or all of us, struggle to forgive consistently and repeatedly.

See why I don't like those words?

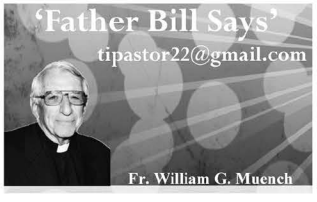
In addition to praying for that person nine out of 10 days, I pray almost every day for the grace to forgive completely – both in that situation and with the rest of the eleventy billion wounds I keep picking back up.

I also trust that while God calls us to forgive others as He forgives us, He also forgives perfectly and wholly. I'm confident God doesn't get mad at me again every 10 days or so for that time I skipped Mass without a good reason.

I pray we all grow in our ability to put down pain and anger and leave them for good. I pray we can reflect Christ's love in the world.

Whether we like the words or not.

'A loud and definite declaration to God'



Today, I would like to consider a little about the Sacrament of Penance with you. Each Monday in this parish where I live and work, we have afternoon confessions. We still speak of this sacrament as confession. Today I am thinking about the priest confessor's place in the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance. The priest is the celebrant of this sacrament; we, priests, hear confessions.

Let me first share with you my experience celebrating the Sacrament of Penance. I remember it well. It was shortly after my priestly ordination. I was informed of my first parish assignment. My new pastor notified me when I should plan to move in; he also told me that my first assignment as a priest would be the Saturday afternoon confessions. As a seminarian, I had studied a great deal about the Sacrament of Penance. I had even practiced during the class the whole service of a personal confession. I must admit I was rather anxious about a real confession. As I drove to my new parish, I prayed for help from the Lord and asked God to make me compassionate like Jesus. Ever since that day, I always take time before hearing confessions to pray asking God's help to prepare me properly.

One of the first thing I learned about confessions was that my first goal as a priest hearing confession is to make certain that each person knows that this sacrament begins with Jesus, both for the person who is going to confession and for me. That individual must understand that the forgiveness of sin begins and comes from the mercy and forgiveness of the loving Lord Jesus. So, I tell each person to begin with gratitude to our God is so good to each of us, especially for His constant love and compassion and forgiveness. We must be grateful. God loves and knows each of us so much.

I want to remind you that when a penitent enters a confessional, they are making a loud and definite declaration to God, to me, the priest, to all who might notice that they are a repentant sinner seeking forgiveness. They want to change all that must be changed in their life as they seek the Lord's forgiveness. Even if they were to say nothing at all, they have announced by coming here that they are repentant and they trust in God's forgiveness.

I pray that as a priest confessor I can gently help each penitent to change and I can encourage them to live even better – to live well in the example of Our Savior, Jesus. So, I ask them to say the Act of Contrition; these are meaningful words, and they should be well understood. At the end of the sacrament, I ask each penitent to go to the front of the Church near the sanctuary and quietly spend time with the Lord Jesus. Many parishes place the Blessed Sacrament in exposition of the altar during the time of confessions.

I also want each person to realize what I pray over them in the words of absolution – the prayer that we, priests, pray seeking God's absolution for this person. This prayer proclaims the forgiveness of Our Lord Jesus. So, now, please listen carefully to the words of absolution for the Sacrament of Penance.

"God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of His Son, has reconciled the world to Himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins, through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace; and I absolve you from your sins, In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Admitted to candidacy for Holy Orders



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PONTIFICAL COLLEGE JOSEPHINUM

Diocese of Ogdensburg seminarian Ladouceur Flarissaint, center left, is admitted to candidacy for Holy Orders by Bishop Earl K. Fernandes of the Diocese of Columbus and vice chancellor of the Pontifical College Josephinum, a seminary in Columbus, Ohio.

Seminarians Ladouceur Flarissaint (Ogdensburg), Donvito Cortese (Wheeling-Charleston) and Gills Phillips (St. Thomas, Virgin Islands) were admitted to Candidacy for Holy Orders on October 2 at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus Ohio.

That admission took place during Evening Prayer in St. Turibius Chapel, by Bishop Earl K. Fernandes of the Diocese of Columbus and Josephinum vice chancellor.

In an official sense, through the Rite, the Church numbers and enrolls each man among the candidates for the diaconate and priesthood. When calling men for ordination, a bishop chooses from among those enrolled as candidates.

During the Rite, each man was called forward by name; in response he rose and answered "present." This act is the moment at which he declares publicly his desire to be bound in Holy Orders for the service of God and mankind. It is a self-offering of the candidate; a manifestation of his will.

Candidacy also is a reception of that offering by the Church and a new commitment by the candidate to care for his vocation.

A CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE



On Sunday, Sept. 6, 39 couples gathered at St. Peter's Church in Lowville during the 9 a.m. Mass for a special celebration and renewal of marriage vows. The couples represented marriages ranging from newlyweds celebrating their first anniversary to one couple celebrating 65 years of marriage. Father Sony G. Pulickal, pastor, offered a special blessing for the couples, who then renewed the vows they had made to one another on their wedding day. Each couple received a commemorative boutonniere and corsage, and the celebration also included a special candle-lighting ceremony honoring their marriages and years together. Following Mass, the couples, their families and parishioners gathered for a lovely and lively reception filled with fellowship, laughter and celebration. The parish community congratulates all 39 couples and gives thanks to God for their beautiful witness to the vocation of marriage. May God continue to bless them with many more years of faith, love and joy together.

Meet the staff of your Catholic Charities

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

Seaway House, a psychosocial club, based on the concepts of psychiatric rehabilitation that has been in operation since 1988, is located at 212 Caroline Street in Ogdensburg. Pass-through funding from St. Lawrence County is provided by the Office of Mental Health and administered by Catholic Charities.

Seaway House currently serve approximately 45 unique individuals and are open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Transportation is provided by Seaway House two times weekly for those individuals who live in the Waddington and Massena areas. All others, who live locally are transported daily to and from program by NYSARC transportation services.



Carole Whitcombe

As the program director, Carole Whitcombe provides oversight of daily programs which include nature adventure, community volunteering, animal interventions, recovery and wellness education, on-site pre-vocational units, art as a tool to recovery, and our education, registration and accommodation program.

All programs support participants in overcoming mental health barriers to achieve whole health and wellness, with the idea that there are eight dimensions of wellness, emotional, physical, occupational, social, spiritual, intellectual, environmental and financial, which are inextricably linked.

Seaway House is a therapeutic community, where individuals are supported in all stages of life and recovery. Participants build camaraderie, engage in peer support, celebrate each other's successes, and practice skills in a safe space. Programs facilitate meaningful engagement both on site and in the community, supporting participants in making positive contributions and healthy choices. Our model is strongly rooted in recovery, support, skill building and informed choice.

Although the mission of Seaway House has remained constant, the methods are forever evolving to meet the unique needs of individuals served.

Whitcombe can be reached at 315-393-2255 or cwhjtcombe@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.

Catholic Charities offices:

- Clinton County – 1349 Military Turnpike, Plattsburgh
- Franklin & Hamilton Counties – 80 Park Street, Suite 2 (PO Box 701), Tupper Lake
- Franklin County – 12 Homestead Park, Malone
- St. Lawrence County – Ogdensburg Seaway House, 212 Caroline Street
- Jefferson & Lewis Counties – 44 Public Square, Watertown

Run for Catholic school, Kids' Closet

Seton Catholic School will host the Knight's Joust Fun Run on Saturday, October 24, at the U.S. Oval in Plattsburgh, bringing runners, families and community members together to raise funds for Seton Catholic School and The Foundation of CVPH's Kids' Closet.

The event will feature a one-mile walk/run beginning at 8:45 a.m., followed by a 5K race at 9 a.m. Registration is $15 for the one-mile and $25 for the 5K. Participants may register in advance or on the day of the event, with proceeds benefiting both Seton Catholic School and the Kids' Closet at CVPH.

The Knight's Joust Fun Run brings the two organizations together around a shared commitment to the North Country community. Funds raised for Seton Catholic will support the school and its students. The Foundation of CVPH's portion of the proceeds will support its Kids' Closet, which provides new comfort and activity items for children in the Emergency Department, including young patients, visitors and children visiting a loved one. The closet is stocked with sensory and fidget items, stuffed animals, games, drawing supplies and other items that CVPH staff can access around the clock to help comfort children during their time at the hospital.

"The Knight's Joust Fun Run gives people a simple way to support children and families in our community," said Jeremy Eppler, Senior Director for Strategic Growth. "The funds raised will support our students at Seton Catholic while also helping keep the Kids' Closet stocked with items that can provide some comfort and distraction for children during what may be a difficult or stressful visit to the hospital."

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

SETON CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Seton Catholic School provides a faith-based education to students in the North Country, with an emphasis on academic achievement, personal growth, service and the development of the whole student.

THE FOUNDATION AT CVPH

The Foundation of CVPH supports programs, equipment and initiatives that enhance patient care and healthcare services for individuals and families throughout the North Country. Through donated funds, The Foundation supports programs such as the Kids' Closet, which provides comfort and activity items for children at CVPH.

Barstow MOTORS
GMC
barstowmotors.com
Family Owned & Serving The North Country For Over 75 Years
154 Market Street
Potsdam, NY
315-265-8800

North Country Catholic has Green option

Our E-paper is now easier to read online. You can receive your *North Country Catholic* in your e-mail rather than in the mail. Fill in your information and send this form to:

☐ Please switch my current *NCC* subscription to E-mail

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State____ Zip_____

E-mail_____

PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
OR Call Christine at 315-608-7556 to make the change

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

Bishop's Public Schedule

Oct. 21 – 10:30 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch
Oct. 22 – noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
Oct. 23 – noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
Oct. 24 – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
Oct. 25 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
2 p.m. – Knights of Columbus Council 1059 Exemplification Ceremony at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Canton
Oct. 26 – noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
Oct. 27 – noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
Oct. 28 – 10:30 a.m. – Diocesan Finance 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. 21 – Rev. Peter LaFort, 1939; Msgr. Robert A. Farmer, 1979
Oct. 22 – Rev. Thomas McNally, 1883; Rev. George J. Savage, 1918; Rev. Michael A. Jarecki, 2012
Oct. 23 – Rev. Discorides Forget, O.M.I., 1916
Oct. 24 – Rev. John P. O'Rourke, 1918; Deacon Frederick J. Mader, 2018
Oct. 25 – Rev. J. Michael Duvic, O.M.I., 1917
Oct. 26 – Rev. J. G. Lavoie, O.M.I., 1908
Oct. 27 – Rev. John M. Fagan, O.S.A., 1966; Msgr. George Norton Whittaker, 1971; Msgr. Gerald H. Service, 2002

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
Oct. 21– 5:45 p.m. – Holy Cross Parish, Plattsburgh

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

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

Find us on Facebook!

Environmental Stewardship

Acting like a saint

A saint is any person who is in heaven with God. Since we can't know for sure who is in heaven, the word "saint" is also commonly used to describe a deceased person who lived a life in who reflected Christ and good energy into the surroundings – someone whose love and actions continue to reverberate across the entire universe and can be tapped for their prayers for healing.

Occasionally you meet a person – a future saint – who radiates love well beyond other people. You can see the peace within their eyes, note the calm tone to their voice and detect a gentle manner to their movements. They always seem genuinely interested in you and what you have to say even though they may not agree with your views.

Domestic animals, like dogs, are especially drawn toward such people as many believe that pets possess the ability to sense a person is no threat and that their actions seem to harmonize with nature rather than conform to the norms of society.

Such heavenly souls often express the beauty they see in people and in all life and seem to possess a joyful aura, especially when in nature. They trust God and seldom waste emotional energy on worrying about events beyond their personal control.

This type of person often engages in simple actions like talking to trees or flowers, relocating frogs or turtles when needed, or brushing away bugs or spiders rather than swatting them when they appear nearby or land on them. They try to limit their use of natural resources and do not seek the limelight.

There are future saints that live among us. They treat all forms of life as gifts from the Creator and quietly allow the Holy Spirit to work through them to benefit other people and to care for God's creations. Let us try to be more like saints.

IMPACT WEEKEND

The first Impact Weekend, an experience for middle school students, was held at Camp Guggenheim Oct. 2-4.

Photos by Christian Gratto













Bishops, Evangelicals issue joint declaration on immigration

By Tyler Arnold
EWTN News

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) have teamed up in calling for "compassion" in immigration policy amid U.S. President Donald Trump's ongoing crackdown.

Bishop Brendan Cahill, who chairs the USCCB Committee on Migration, signed onto the five-page document along with NAE President Walter Kim, as part of a joint effort called the Evangelical-Catholic Dialogue on Immigration (ECDI).

"We write as Christian leaders who love our country and our immigrant neighbors," they wrote in an Oct. 13 statement titled " A Call for Christian Compassion and Wisdom in the Immigration Debate."

"As Catholic and evangelical Christians, we have doctrinal differences, but we are united in our conviction that God calls us to stand both with our fellow Americans who are experiencing economic and cultural anxieties and with our immigrant neighbors who are facing existential challenges," they indicated.

According to a USCCB news release, ECDI timed the statement to correspond with an increase in reported detentions and deportations, as well as the ending of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for nationals of several countries, including Haitians and Syrians.

The document puts a "special focus" on children and families, citing Matt. 18:5, in which Christ says, "whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me."

Cahill and Kim emphasized all people, regardless of where they are born or their immigration status, are made in the image of God, adding: "This dignity comes from God, not government, and no earthly power may erase it."

"The stranger is not merely a burden to bear," they wrote. "Again and again, God has blessed his people through the outsider. From Ruth the Moabite to the present day, immigrants can bring renewal to congregations and communities that welcome them. We lament approaches that pit citizens against noncitizens."

Both leaders said that they recognize the government's responsibility to secure and manage borders, but that governments must also uphold religious liberty, protect the persecuted, and facilitate pathways for legal immigration.

Cahill and Kim encouraged "a better path forward," which they argued would be consistent with all of those obligations.

"Catholic and evangelical Christians make up a large portion of our American citizenry," the letter added. "Majorities of evangelicals and Catholics support immigration reform that would provide meaningful opportunities for longtime residents to regularize their status."

According to the document, one element is secure borders and targeted immigration enforcement that protects family unity and prioritizes action against people who are a threat to public safety.

Other elements include limiting detentions of non-violent people, access to chaplains, and more legal pathways to permanent status for workers, family members, and humanitarian populations.

Cahill and Kim asked Christians to pray for their leaders as commanded in 1 Tim. 2:1-2, which reads: "First of all, then, I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone, for kings and for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity."

"Our promise of prayer extends to our law enforcement officers, our policymakers, our judges, and all in our communities who play an essential role in building up the common good," they wrote.

"Every Christian deserves to know that he or she has been made a new creation in Christ and is a member of his Body — no matter what the particular circumstances of duty or residence," the document points out.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pew poll: Catholics prefer Democrat House candidates by 3pts
A survey by Pew Research Center found that Catholic registered voters prefer Democratic candidates over Republicans in the upcoming U.S. House of Representative races by a narrow margin. With the midterms approaching on Nov. 3, the survey found Catholics favoring Democrats by 3 percentage points. Pew polled 5,062 adults, which included 3,917 registered voters from Sept. 28 to Oct. 4 for its American Trends Panel. The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 1.6 percentage points. The survey found that Catholics favor Democratic House candidates by a narrow margin, 42% to 39%, though white Catholics and Hispanic Catholics differ significantly in their political preferences. Among white Catholics, 50% said they plan to vote Republican and 32% Democratic, while 59% of Hispanic Catholics said they plan to vote Democratic and 19% Republican.

U.S. bishops to elect secretary, committee chairs at meeting
The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will elect the next secretary and leadership for six committees during its November meeting, which will determine who leads the bishops' work on education, doctrine, pro-life activities and other issues. American bishops will meet for their fall plenary assembly from Nov. 16-19 in Baltimore, which will include the election of bishops to the positions. Each bishop will serve as bishop-elect for one year, before taking over the role at the end of the 2027 fall plenary assembly. They serve three-year terms. The most senior office up for election is USCCB secretary, which also leads the Committee on Priorities and Planning. This bishop helps set conference-wide priorities for the bishops. Two bishops were nominated for the role: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, and Bishop Earl K. Fernandes of Columbus, Ohio. Rhoades holds the position because he was elected in 2025 to finish the term of Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, whose election to the USCCB presidency left a vacancy.

Firing squad execution will not be livestreamed, Trump says
President Donald Trump announced the execution of Fort Hood shooter Nidal Malik Hasan will not be livestreamed. The president said in a Truth Social post on Oct. 15 that while he still believes "streaming the execution for all to see might have been a strong deterrent for the World to witness how America deals with Terrorists and SCUM like Hasan . . . many very good and well meaning people would rather not watch him die, through streaming, or through any other visual device." Trump said the execution of the convicted mass shooter will still take place by firing squad on Dec. 3 and the victims' immediate families will still be allowed to attend. Pentagon spokesperson Sean Parnell had announced Oct. 5 on X that Trump had approved Hasan's execution. On Oct. 8, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said in an interview with Real America s Voice that the execution would be livestreamed.

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

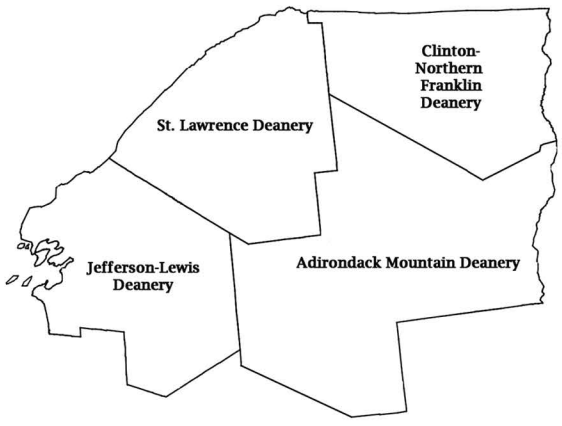
Newcomb – All are invited to the 2026 annual Hunters Mass.

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.



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

CRAFT FAIR

Morrisonville – St. Alexander's will have their Fall Craft Fair.

Date: Oct. 24

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

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 and registration details are available through Seton Catholic School's official Facebook page at facebook.com/SetonKnights

HARVEST DINNER

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

Date: Oct. 27

Time: noon to 3 p.m.

Place: Basement of Sacred Heart Church

Cost: $15, eat in or take out.

PURGATORY PRAYER DEVOTION

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

Date: Oct. 27

Time: 10 a.m. to noon

Place: Our Lady of the Adirondack House of Prayer

Features: You are warmly invited to 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 with hearts renewed pray for those who have gone before.

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

SACRED TIME WITH SAINTS

Malone - Notre Dame Altar & Rosary Society of Malone presents Sacred Time with the Saints at Notre Dame Church.

Schedule: Oct. 31, 3 p.m. - Adoration & Divine Mercy chaplet; 3:30 p.m. - Holy Rosary; 4 p.m. - Holy Mass; 5 p.m. - Adoration & Stations of the Cross; 6 p.m. - Overnight adoration; Nov. 1, 7:30 a.m. - Holy Rosary; 8 a.m. - Holy Mass; 10 a.m. -Holy Rosary; 11 a.m. - Holy Mass; Noon - Conclusion of vigil

Features: First Class relics will also be exposed.

Contact: For more information call the parish office at 518-483-1300

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

NOVENA TO THE HOLY SOULS

Notre Dame Altar & Rosary Society will host a Novena to the Holy Souls

Locations: Nov. 2 - Notre Dame Cemetery, River Road, Malone; Nov. 3 - St. Helen's Cemetery, Chasm Falls; Nov. 4 - St. Joseph's Cemetery, Route 37, Malone; Nov. 5 - St. Joseph's Cemetery, Route 30 North, Malone; Nov. 6 - St. John Bosco Cemetery, Route 30 North, Malone; Nov. 7 - St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery, CR-38, Constable; Nov. 8 - St. George's Cemetery, CR-23, Burke; Nov. 9 - St. Augustine's Cemetery, CR-53, North Bangor; Nov. 10 - St. Bridget's Cemetery, Trout River Road, Trout River

Time: 3 p.m.

Features: Pray for your family members and friends who have gone before us to their eternal reward. Novena for the Relief of the Poor Souls in Purgatory prayer guides will be available at each site.

HARVEST DINNER

Morrisonville – St. Alexander's to have a Turkey Harvest Dinner.

Date: Nov. 8

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

Cost: $15

Features: Basket Raffle, bake sale and grand raffle.

SOAKING PRAYERS SESSIONS

Come enjoy a relaxing prayer opportunity at two different locations.

Plattsburgh: 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 at any level: emotional, psychological, mental, physical, spiritual or generational.

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: Sept. Sept. 23 to Nov. 1

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

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Watertown – Spaghetti supper sponsored by the St. Anthony Altar Rosary Society.

Date: Oct. 22

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Anthony's Church downstairs in Msgr. Sechi Hall

Cost: Adults, $12; Children, $8

Features: Take-outs available, please bring your own containers

Contact: For more information call the parish office at 315-782-1190

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

'Lead Kindly Light' premiers, available online

By Ishmael Adibuah
EWTN News

A new documentary about the life of St. John Henry Newman has premiered in Rome.

The film "Lead Kindly Light: The Story of Saint John Henry Newman" premiered at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome on Oct. 9, marking the first celebration of his feast day since Pope Leo XIV declared him the 38th doctor of the Church in 2025.

The movie, produced by Lumine Studios in Brazil, features places significant to Newman's life, including his childhood home in London, the University of Oxford, and Rome, where he studied for the Catholic priesthood after converting from Anglicanism.

The movie is available in English on the Catholic media website Formed.

Father Hermann Geissler, FSO, director of the International Centre of Newman Friends in Rome, described the movie as a demonstration of faith and the significant personal sacrifices that would mark Newman's life.

"It is a documentary film where we visit all of the places where Newman lived, doing interviews," Geissler told EWTN News, "and where we are telling the story of Newman and reading parts of Newman's letters. It is a wonderful film that shows the great faith of Newman, the sacrifice that his conversion cost, and the coherence of his life and thought."

Pope Francis canonized Newman along with four others in 2019, after Pope Benedict XVI beatified him in Birmingham, England, in 2010.

In 2025, Pope Leo XIV declared Newman a doctor of the Church and a co-patron of Catholic education alongside St. Thomas Aquinas. In his homily, the pontiff cited Newman's famous hymn "Lead, Kindly Light" to highlight the need for education to inspire hope.

"The task of education is precisely to offer this Kindly Light to those who might otherwise remain imprisoned by the particularly insidious shadows of pessimism and fear," Leo said. "For this reason, I would like to say to you: Let us disarm the false reasons for resignation and powerlessness, and let us share the great reasons for hope in today's world."

In February, the Vatican established Newman's feast day as Oct. 9 in the General Roman Calendar.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

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 25th. 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 their 125th Anniversary.

Date: Nov. 8
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.

ST. LAWRENCE

40 HOURS OF ADORATION

Potsdam - St. Mary's, with the support of the Highway to Heaven committee, is hosting 40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

Date: Oct. 23 starting after 4 p.m. Mass until Benediction Oct. 25 at 8:40 a.m.
Features: There will be Solemn Exposition of the Holy Eucharist. Individuals, families, and groups sign up to spend an hour with Jesus, truly present in the Holy Eucharist. It provides a wonderful opportunity to hear God speaking to your heart, through quiet and community prayers, and unleashes His blessings upon our local Church.
Contact: To sign up for a Holy Hour as an individual, family, or group, contact Beth Bergman at 518.536.2491 or email ebeth.bergman@gmail.com with the subject line "40 Hours." You may also contact Elaina Smith at the Parish Office of St. Mary's in Potsdam at 315.265.9680 or potsdamsec@rcdony.org. For more information including prayer resources and a history of the 40 Hours devotion, go to www.h2hcontinues.org.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Star Lake – St. Hubert's to have their Holiday Bazaar.

Date: Nov. 7
Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Place: St. Hubert's Parish Hall
Features: Themed gift baskets, raffles, Chinese Auction, wine tasting & more. Handicap accessible. Lunch will be served by the Knights of Columbus.

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.

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 DEVOTION

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

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



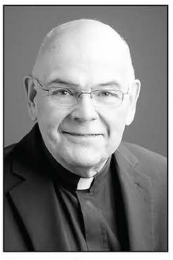
SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

Loving God and neighbor

October 25

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS
Exodus 22:20-26
1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10
Matthew 22:34-40



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

One day, Charlie Brown, the cartoon character, is trying to write a letter to a girl. Snoopy watches sympathetically. Charlie says: "I just don't know how to write a love letter. What can you say to a girl that shows you really like her?" In the next frame, Snoopy thinks: "Enclosed please find a cookie." Would that it were that simple to show love for one another.

The bottom line is that love, used in scripture, is an action, not a feeling. Love means willing and doing the good for the other. A simple definition, one that is difficult to enact.

Jesus' opponents just won't give up! Last week, they attempted to trip him up on the sticky question of taxes to Caesar. Today's passage is a cunning attempt to lead him into a hair-splitting debate over the details of the Mosaic Law.

Matthew sets the scene well! A Pharisee asks Jesus which of the commandments is the greatest. Jesus' response does not seek to set aside the Law, but rather to interpret it more fully. For Jesus, the greatest commandment is found in Deuteronomy: You shall love the Lord, your God, with your whole heart, and with your whole being, and with your whole strength (6:5).

Jesus' answer emphasizes the centrality of love – a cord that binds together the human heart and soul and directs us toward God.

While asked for only one commandment, Jesus adds a second, quoting from Leviticus, which he says is equal to and inseparable from the first: You shall love your neighbor as yourself (19:18). Everything, he says, hangs on these two interrelated commandments. Like a door on two hinges that will not open or close properly if one is out of alignment, so, too, our lives will not work out properly if we do not love God and our neighbor. Jesus is not discounting any other commandments, but simply emphasizing that these two are foundational.

So, what does this declaration mean for us today? As we struggle to live the Christian life, we can easily fall into the trap of believing that Christian love is a feeling. However, Christian love means action, something we do. In fact, if you cannot enumerate what you have done for the other, it means that you have not loved. Sometimes, it may seem easier to love God than to love our neighbor. But, as Jesus proclaims, these two loves cannot be separated.

By linking this Gospel with a practical first reading from Exodus, we are reminded that this love is more than a warm, fuzzy feeling, more than giving someone a few cookies as Snoopy advises. Loving God means prayer and worshiping God; loving neighbor results in our outreach to others. Both are tied together. Worship without love of neighbor or outreach to one's neighbor without worship of God breaks the equation.

Here is the hard reality. The more we focus on ourselves and our own needs, the less we will love God and love others. The more time we spend on taking care of what we want, the less time will be spent on what God wants. The more we serve ourselves, the less we will serve God and others. How many ways can we express that reality?

The words of Jesus sound so very true and very beautiful. Transferring those words into concrete, practical reality will challenge us. Some are up for the challenge; some make excuses for not facing the challenge; others don't bother; still others make sure that they love God and love their neighbor.

CALLED TO SERVE

... And render to God

Atheism has been on my mind this week.

Last week, you might recall, I wrote about "rendering to Caesar the things that are Caesar's." Jesus tells the people it is permitted to pay taxes and things like that.

But what about "render to God, the things that are God's"?

Someone who doesn't acknowledge the presence of a god, an atheist, is not concerned at all about the second half of the evangelist's quote.

An atheist does not read the Bible anyway.

Of course, if you do not believe in the existence of a creator, you do not believe in eternal life either. Therefore, I conclude, an atheist has no hope.

That is simplifying things a bit, but I have a limit on the length of this piece so bear with me.

The opposite of an atheist is a believer.

Believer's "render to God the things that are God's."

God is love. God is our creator and our hope. God is mercy and forgiveness.

When we believe in God, we are inclined to please him.

We say things like "God, be with me." "God, watch over me" (and those we care about).

Catholics believe God is three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our rendering might be to a person of God. "Jesus, help me," or "Holy Spirit inspire me."

I often use that last one to start a column or homily.

We also render to God when we seek his forgiveness. In confessing our sins to him, through the priest, we are asking God to pardon us for our vices.



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

Big or little, mortal or venial sin, if we think what we did is wrong, hurt our relationship with God, then it is and should be reconciled in the confessional.

Author Father Josh Johson said in his introduction to a Guide for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, "God created every one of us to be Saints in our walk toward eternity. We should never let our past failures or our present struggles prevent us from attaining our desire to be with God forever in the Kingdom of heaven!"

We render to God every day as we encounter our fellow creations, our demeanor, our service, our vocation in life, our introspection. We render to God when we worship him and participate in the sacraments he has given us.

Rendering to God is a function of our belief in him and the hope of eternal life with him.

I believe!

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

Part 3: 'The fate of the flock is my fate

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

In Kyrgyzstan, a country of more than seven million people bordering China, Catholics number only several hundred, [Father Anthony Corcoran] says.

"The Church in Kyrgyzstan is lovely," Father Corcoran tells Fides. "It's tiny. Pope Francis called the Church in Central Asia and Mongolia a germoglio – a young shoot. Because we are a little flock."

Their story begins in exile.

"Their families were sent to Central Asia and Siberia during the war, by Joseph Stalin. Their children and grandchildren are the ones we have mostly worked with, since the end of the Soviet Union." Then, almost as soon as the community found its footing again, it began to empty out. "The vast majority of these people have emigrated out of the country – it's really not an exaggeration to say that perhaps ninety-eight, ninety-nine percent of our Catholic population has left. We feel that, please God, the foundation they received in the faith here allows them to bring it elsewhere. I've heard from parishes where they've moved – to Germany, to Russia – that the people who came from Kyrgyzstan were often very faith-filled. It was part of God's plan."

What remains is small by any measure, and he does not pretend otherwise. Nine priests serve across the entire country. The prayers are said mostly in Russian; some of the priests, including him, are learning Kyrgyz. A few young ethnic Kyrgyz now come to Mass, alongside the mixed community that is left. And yet he calls it a joy. "It's a beautiful witness of hope, that Jesus has His Church here, where He would have it – perhaps for the next generation, or perhaps, if we're faithful, we will see His fruit in this generation. It's His work. I understand as bishop – sometimes people say I'm the head, but really I'm hopefully a loyal second worker with Him. That's how we understand our little community."

He speaks of the Kyrgyz themselves with the attentiveness of a man who has spent years watching a people from the inside, with faith and high emotional intelligence. "The history of the Kyrgyz people is short compared to many other cultures in the world, but it definitely has a sense of its own identity, and the dignity of that identity, the pride of it, in a good way. At the same time, because of their culture, they are quite open to different peoples. This was the area of the Silk Road, and the Silk Road was possible partly because of people such as the Kyrgyz. Someone noted very astutely that the Kyrgyz generally do not like fanaticism. They take life for what it means, centered on how nature happens, how God acts, how their families are. I think these are natural virtues: God gives these to a people who develop them, for the sake of building up their society, for the sake of meeting God the way He would have it."

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

Brushton – David A. Holmes, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 12, 2026 at St. Mary's Church.

Chateaugay – Michael Joseph Cayea, 64; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 16 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Indian Lake – Gerald Husson, 99; Funeral Services Oct. 8, 2026 at Miller Funeral Home; burial in Cedar River Cemetery.

Keeseville – Eleanor (Liberty) Blaise, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 14, 2026 at St. John's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Lowville – Bernard H. Bush, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 14, 2026 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, New Bremen.

Lyon Mountain – Lloyd Leonard Bailey, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 13, 2026 at St. Bernard's Church.

Malone – Lorraine T. (LaFrancis) Boyer, 98; Funeral Services Oct. 16, 2026 at St. Mary-Murphy-Wilcox Funeral Home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena – Michael T. LaShomb, 63; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 14, 2026 at Sacred Heart Church.

Massena – Patricia (Musto) O'Brien, 97; Graveside Services Oct. 19, 2026 at Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Kenneth F. Premo, 70; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 13, 2026 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery, Constable.

Ogdensburg – Daniel L. Hazen, 80; Memorial Mass Oct. 14, 2026 at Notre Dame Church.

Old Forge – Barbara A. (Shug) Bergner, 66; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 19, 2026 at St. Bartholomew's Church; burial in Riverview Cemetery.

Peru – Richard Neal Lindsey, 71; Funeral Services Oct. 14, 2026 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

Plattsburgh – James Albert Hay, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 15, 2026 at St. Peter's Church.

Port Henry – Antonio W. Lemza, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 19, 2026 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Redford – Donald Edward Roberts, 68; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 20, 2026 at Church of the Assumption; burial in parish cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Ralph E. Crossman, 93; Graveside Services Nov. 7, 2026 at St. Mary's Cemetery.

Watertown – Judith E. (Killorin) Pierie, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 16, 2026 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

West Chazy – Lori Ann (Nephew) Frennier, 62; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 16, 2026 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, Plattsburgh.

Willsboro – Brian Vincent Sammon, 34; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 19, 2026 at St. Philip of Jesus Church; burial in parish cemetery.



Support And Pray For Vocations

Recovering from surgery

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ond night at Rome's Gemelli Hospital, where he remains hospitalized after undergoing surgery Tuesday to remove a pulmonary adenocarcinoma.

Also on Thursday, like the previous evening, the pontiff was able to spend a few minutes in the temporary chapel set up at the hospital to concelebrate Mass with one of his collaborators, according to Matteo Bruni, director of the Holy See Press Office, speaking to journalists.

Bruni also said that the pope has continued working during his recovery, though he clarified that he has not yet received visitors in his hospital room.

As a sign that the Vatican's ordinary activity continues despite the pontiff's recovery, the Holy See on Thursday announced two new bishop appointments, signed by Leo XIV from the hospital.

They include the appointment of Italian priest Father Paolo Andreolli as bishop of Ponta de Pedras, Brazil, and Father Ignazio Ding Zuyao, "whom the Holy Father appointed bishop of Haimen (Jiangsu Province, China) on Aug. 24, 2026, after approving his candidacy within the framework of the Provisional Agreement between the Holy See and the People's Republic of China."

The Vatican is expected to soon announce whether the pope will preside over the public Angelus prayer from Gemelli Hospital on Sunday, as some of his predecessors did during periods of hospitalization.

Regarding the international trip the pontiff is scheduled to make to Uruguay, Argentina, and Peru from Nov. 6–17, Bruni referred to comments Leo XIV made during last Sunday's Angelus address, when he announced that he would undergo surgery for a lung nodule.

The pope made explicit reference to his upcoming trip to Peru while greeting members of the Brotherhood of the Lord of Miracles present in St. Peter's Square.

"Thank you for your prayers for the pastoral visit that I will make to Peru," he said.

At that time, it was not yet publicly known that the pontiff was suffering from pulmonary adenocarcinoma. The diagnosis was confirmed following surgery, during which the lower right lobe of his lung was removed.

Prayer to St. Peregrine, patron of cancer patients

O great St. Peregrine, you have been called 'The Mighty,' 'The Wonder-Worker,' because of the numerous miracles which you have obtained from God for those who have had recourse to you. For so many years you bore in your own flesh this cancerous disease that destroys the very fiber of our being, and who had recourse to the source of all grace when the power of man could do no more. You were favored with the vision of Jesus coming down from His Cross to heal your affliction.

Ask of God and Our Lady, the cure of the sick whom we entrust to you.

(Pause here and silently recall the names of the sick for whom you are praying)

Aided in this way by your powerful intercession, we shall sing to God, now and for all eternity, a song of gratitude for His great goodness and mercy.

Amen.

St. Peregrine was born in 1260 at Forlì, Italy to an affluent family. He lived a comfortable life as a youth and politically opposed the papacy. After he experienced the forgiveness of St. Philip Benizi, he changed his life and joined the Servite order. He was ordained a priest and later returned to his home to establish a Servite community. There he was widely known for his preaching, penances and counsel in the confessional. He was cured of cancer after he received a vision of Christ on the cross reaching out His hand to touch his impaired limb. He died in 1345 and was canonized in 1726. He is the patron of cancer patients.

SOURCE: EWTN News

Pulmonary adenocarcinoma

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

preoperative tests."

THE MOST COMMON LUNG TUMOR

"The Holy Father remained in the operating room for approximately 3 hours; the duration of the surgery was approximately 90 minutes. The surgery was a success and there were no complications," the Holy See added.

Ráez explained that adenocarcinoma "is the most common tumor in the lung" and noted that "in general, lung cancers are more aggressive than those of the prostate or breast."

However, he clarified that seriousness is not defined solely by the type of cancer, but that "the prognosis depends on the stage, that is, the size of the tumor and how far it has spread."

'STAGE ONE OR STAGE TWO'

The pope said during the Angelus prayer on Sunday, Oct. 11, that a nodule on his lung was detected "at a very early stage" and was "well localized." Ráez speculated that the decision to operate could confirm that the cancer is not at an advanced stage.

"We assume that is the case because they subjected him to surgery. If it were metastatic, for example, stage three or stage four, which are advanced, most likely they would not have operated on him. An operation usually implies stage one or stage two," he said.

Asked what will determine whether removal of part of the lung is sufficient or whether additional treatment will be required, Ráez highlighted the importance of the tumor size and the absence of metastases.

"If the tumor is larger than four centimeters, the surgery will not be enough and chemotherapy will be necessary. If the tumor is smaller than four centimeters, the surgery is sufficient and nothing else is done. A patient then moves to an observation phase with checkups every six months," he explained.

THE RECOVERY PROCESS

Regarding the chances of a cure, Ráez noted that, under optimal conditions and with a tumor smaller than four centimeters, the figures are favorable: "The chance of cure for early-stage lung cancer is 80 to 90%; it is not total because the cancer can come back."

Regarding the physical recovery of Pope Leo XIV, who is 71 years old, Ráez expressed a favorable short-term prognosis. "Since he is a healthy man, the most likely thing is that he will be fine" in a few weeks, he stated.

He added that this surgery usually requires a hospital stay of two or three days in the United States and considered that, in the pontiff's case, more days of hospitalization may have been planned as a precaution.

Regarding medical follow-up after discharge, the specialist stressed that the protocol does not end when one leaves the hospital. "For the next five years, control CT scans must be done every six months, until one is sure that the cancer has not returned and that he has been cured," said Ráez, who has more than two decades of experience in hematology and medical oncology.