

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Diocesan
Special Fund
Report | Page 7

More leadership
roles for women
needed | Page 15

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 80 Number 44

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 18, 2026

A LEGACY OF CARING



PHOTO PROVIDED BY GAYLE FRANK

Sister Donna Franklin, front left, chats with Bishop Douglas J. Lucia, then Father Lucia, at the 2017 Catholic Charities Caritas Dinner. Sister Donna died on March 11. Full story on Page 4.

REMEMBERING 'FATHER TED'



Father Theodore A. "Ted" Crosby died March 10 in West Chazy. Father Crosby is remembered for his pastoral nature and his devotion to the Blessed Mother.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope: Church must be 'open to everyone'

By Victoria Cardiel
Catholic News Agency

VATICAN CITY — At his general audience on March 11, Pope Leo XIV reflected on the nature of the Church and emphasized that it "can never turn inwards on herself" but must be "open to everyone and ... for everyone."

"In the Church there is, and there must be, a place for everyone, and every Christian is called to proclaim the Gospel and bear witness in every environment in which he or she lives and works," he explained.

Although believers in Christ

belong to the Church, the Second Vatican Council reminds us that "all men are called to belong to the new people of God," the pope said.

In his talk, Leo continued his reflection on the dogmatic constitution *Lumen Gentium*, focusing on the document's second chapter, devoted to the people of God — one of the central parts of ecclesiology.

"The Church is one but includes everyone," he said to thousands of pilgrims in St. Peter's Square.

The pope quoted Cardinal Henri de Lubac, SJ, one of the

most influential theologians of the 20th century and a key figure of the Second Vatican Council, to describe the Church: "The unique Ark of Salvation must welcome all human diversity into its vast nave."

For this reason, he noted that the people of God "shows its catholicity, welcoming the wealth and resources of different cultures and, at the same time, offering them the newness of the Gospel to purify them and to raise them up."

The pope said that the Church is a people in which "women and men of different

nationalities, languages, and cultures live together in faith." For this reason, he presented it as "a sign placed in the very heart of humanity, a reminder and prophecy of that unity and peace to which God the Father calls all his children."

Every Christian, the pontiff emphasized, is called to proclaim the Gospel and bear witness in the environments in which he or she lives and works.

"Even those who have not yet received the Gospel are therefore, in some way, oriented towards the people of God," he affirmed.

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Publish
45 issues
per year:Weekly except
skipping every
other week be-
ginning July through August
and skipping one week in
December by theDiocese of Ogdensburg,
622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.**Editorial Office:**622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.**Telephone:**

(315) 608-7556

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

Ogdensburg, NY

13669 and additional mailing
offices as
Periodical Postage.**Subscription:****For one year:**In-Diocese Rate: \$27
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30Matters for publication
should be addressed to
PO Box 326Ogdensburg, 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

Why is that your favorite?

I was surprised to hear my son, Jake, say "I love the Fridays with Chris Pratt and Mark Wahlberg!"

Jake decided to do the Lenten program I've done for the last handful of years, the Pray 40 challenge through the Hallow app. With that program, Monday through Wednesday offer prayer sessions centered around a book and theme. Thursday is a prayer session that includes someone telling their conversion story. Saturday is an interview and prayer, and Sunday is a homily from a popular priest.

Friday is a "Fasting Friday" challenge and prayer led by the two celebrity ac-

tors. While it's my favorite session of the week, experience tells me Jake doesn't particularly enjoy fasting, which is why I was surprised he enjoyed those sessions.

**Darcy L. Fargo**

Knowing he doesn't love fasting, I asked why it was his favorite.

"It's only 9 minutes long" was the immediate reply.

The sessions on other days tend to last around 20 min-

utes.

I laughed out loud.

When Jake told me that, my first instinct was to think he liked the short episode because it was easier, essentially.

It then occurred to me that I was being a spiritual

snob.

Jake is 18. He is on the autism spectrum. He sometimes struggles to maintain attention when someone is talking at him for a relatively long time. In addition to being brief, the two actors use conversational language, so it's very digestible and relatable. Fasting Friday meets Jake where he is.

To me, that's one of the beauties of Catholicism - there's something for everyone if you're willing to look for it and follow where God leads. You love the written word? There's lectio divina. Need to have your hands moving at all times? You can do that with the rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet. Does music move you? There are elevanty billion worship songs,

hymns and chanted songs. Do you have a hard time talking with Jesus when there's no one sitting in front of you? There's adoration! Have a short attention span? There's Fasting Friday!

God often reminds me that while I get ridiculously excited whenever I find something that makes me feel closer to the Lord, and I often encourage people I know to seek those same experiences, God sometimes reminds me that he reaches and speaks to each of us in the way we need, and how he reaches and speaks to me is not how he reaches speaks to everyone.

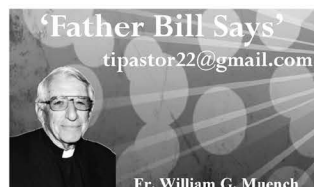
Instead of evaluating his methods and preferences, I'll try to remember that the important thing is that Jake loves Jesus.

Prodigal sons and daughters

During Lent, the Gospel readings at the Sunday Masses and the weekday Masses have been carefully chosen by the Church to lead us to a closer relationship with Our Lord, Jesus. Lent is our time for conversion as we walk the path to personal holiness. These daily Gospels are our signposts so that our Lenten journey is filled with wisdom, joy and peace.

I do wish that some of those weekday Gospel readings were read on a Sunday. They are such important meditations and teachings for Lent that on Sunday they would reach more people. Let me give you an example: At the morning Mass of the Second Week of Lent, Jesus' Parable of the Prodigal Son is the Gospel. This is a powerful teaching for us by Jesus - perfect for a Lenten message. Jesus teaches us that our God forgives our sins.

I know that you remember the story of this para-

**Fr. William G. Muench**

ble of Jesus. A son asks his father for his share of his father's estate now. This is a story of Jesus, but we can still imagine that such an action would break a father's heart. Jesus' story goes on to tell us that this son goes away and wastes his money. Jesus describes his depression, yet he still trusts his father, so he decides to go home - now repentant of his actions. Jesus tells us that as the son walks home, his father sees him coming, and the father literally runs down the road to meet this son of his. The father welcomes the son and calls for a celebration. He has forgiven this son.

We know in faith that Jesus is telling this parable to teach us that God, Our Father, treats us in this very

same way. When we repent our sins and turn to God, God truly runs to welcome and forgive us. The Scriptures tell us that Jesus is telling this story to the scribes and Pharisees. They are upset that Jesus associates with and befriends sinners. I am certain that they were surprised with the parable - to think that God the Father would run out to meet sinners. Jesus teaches us that God welcomes sinners and forgives them.

In Lent, this parable continues to be a powerful message for us. When we turn to God with our Lenten prayers and mortifications, we know that God celebrates our conversion. I believe there is a celebration in Heaven each time a sinner repents. Lent is our time as "prodigal sons and daughters" to return to the Lord in repentance and conversion through our prayers and good works.

Just today, there is an example of another powerful parable of Jesus. Today's

Gospel is the Lord's parable teaching us that we find peace and happiness as the Lord's disciples by being a forgiving people - just as the Lord forgives us. Jesus cleverly constructs this parable - a king forgives a servant his huge debt. But then that same servant refuses to be patient and refuses to forgive another fellow servant over a much smaller debt. So, he imprisons him.

The king hears of this and then decides to punish this servant that he had forgiven. Jesus ends by saying to all, "unless each of you forgives your brothers, your sisters - from your heart - my Heavenly Father will treat you in the same way." God constantly forgives each one of us, and we must be a forgiving people.

There are many such Gospel readings - many such parables of the Lord Jesus - assigned to us during Lent that make our Lent a time to grow in holiness and conversion.

Father Crosby was 'like a true spiritual father'

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

"From the moment I met him, (Father Theodore A. 'Ted' Crosby) would talk to me like he had known me my entire life," said Devin Gagnon, a parishioner of St. Joseph's Church in West Chazy, where Father Crosby served as pastor. "Father Ted cared so much about the well-being of me and everyone else he spoke to and would take the time to give amazing advice like a true spiritual father when I needed it. Father Ted was always a joy to be around, and I would always walk away from speaking to him feeling uplifted and cared for."

Father Crosby died unexpectedly March 10 in West Chazy. He was 55. His obituary is included on this page.

Gagnon noted that Father Crosby was instrumental in his conversion to Catholicism.

"In April 2024 I went to Saint Joseph's Church in West Chazy for the first time, and after Mass I had the privilege of meeting Father Ted," Gagnon said. "He was so welcoming and thrilled that I was interested in Catholicism. Father Ted had mentioned numerous topics including the seven sacraments, the early Church fathers, their writings, and the importance of the Eucharist. This information given by Father Ted put a fire in my heart to learn more about the Catholic faith and Church history. A year later, I was baptized during the Easter Vigil of 2025 by the grace of God. Father Ted has left a major impact on my spiritual journey, and I could never thank him enough."

Gagnon said Father



PHOTO PROVIDED BY DEVIN GAGNON

Father Theodore A. 'Ted' Crosby poses for a photo with parishioner Devin Gagnon. Gagnon says Father Crosby, his pastor, was instrumental in his conversion to Catholicism.

Crosby combined love, humor and a breadth of knowledge of the faith to bring others closer to the Lord.

"Father Ted would make a room light up with how kind and loving he was," Gagnon said. "Father Ted also had a sense of humor like no other. He would always manage to slip in a well-crafted joke in a homily that would get the crowd laughing. This combined with his wisdom and deep understanding of the Catholic faith made him such a versatile person to be around. One minute you're learning about the history of the church, the

next minute you're cracking up. He truly was a gift to our town and diocese."

Father Scott R. Seymour, pastor of St. André Bessette Parish in Malone and a classmate of Father Crosby's at Wadhams Hall and Christ the King seminaries, described Father Crosby's preaching style as "reminiscent of Archbishop Fulton Sheen."

"He never had anything in front of him," Father Seymour recalled. "His gestures and mannerisms were very much like Fulton Sheen's, and he had a great sense of humor and could make things come alive. I called it preach-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

Memorial Mass will be March 27

A Memorial Mass for Father Theodore A. Crosby will be celebrated at St. Joseph's Church in West Chazy at 11 a.m. on Friday, March 27. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated following in his hometown, Phelps, New York.

Father Crosby died March 10, 2026, in West Chazy. He was 55.

Born March 12, 1970, in Clifton Springs, he was the son of Theodore M. and Margaret A. (Maslyn) Crosby. He was baptized at St. Francis Church in Phelps on March 29, 1970. He grew up in the Phelps area and remained connected to his family throughout his life.

Father Crosby graduated from St. John Fisher College in Rochester in 1992. He spent a year discerning with the Redemptorists as a postulant while studying at St. John's University from 1994 to 1995. He later attended Wadhams Hall Seminary-College for Pre-Theology followed by Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, where he earned a Master of Divinity in 2000.

He was ordained to the priesthood on August 12, 2000, by Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

Following ordination, Father Crosby served as parochial vicar at Holy Family Church in Watertown from 2000 to 2004, and then at St. Peter's Church in Lowville, St. Hedwig's Church in Housville, St. Thomas Church in Greig, and St. Mary's Church in Glenfield. In 2006 he began ministry in Malone, serving across St. Joseph's, St. Helen's, Notre Dame, and St. John Bosco parishes.

In 2007, he became administrator and later pastor of St. Michael's Church in Standish and St. Bernard's Church in Lyon Mountain. He also provided sacramental ministry as a volunteer chaplain at the Lyon Mountain Correctional Facility. Beginning in 2010, he also served as administrator and later pastor of St. Edmund's in Ellenburg Center. In 2016, he was appointed pastor of St. Joseph's Church in West Chazy and Sacred Heart Church in Chazy, where he ministered faithfully until his death.

He was predeceased by his parents, and he is survived by his sister, Tammy Crosby.

Father Crosby's priestly life was marked by love for the Eucharist, the Mass and Mary, the Mother of God. He once advised, "Mary told the angel at the Annunciation, 'Be it done unto me according to your word.' God was able to entrust such a great vocation to Mary because she never let herself get in God's way." He tried hard not to let himself get in God's way, embracing a life of steadiness, humility, curiosity and simplicity.

He had a lifelong love of history, especially Civil War and Lincoln-era history.

Parishioners across his assignments will remember his generosity, his engaging homilies and his pastoral care.

Arrangements are in the care of R.W. Walker Funeral Home in Plattsburgh.

Sister Donna Franklin died March 11

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

While she helped thousands of people in her 22-year tenure as director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Sister Donna Franklin, a Daughter of Charity, focused on each individual as a beloved child of God.

Sister Donna died early in the day on Wednesday, March 11.

“Looking back at her time at Catholic Charities, it was under her leadership that they started outreach to migrant farmers,” said Gayle Frank, retired diocesan Family Life director and Youth director, who worked with Sister Donna regularly for two decades. “To my knowledge, she was the first one who started working on human trafficking awareness in the North Country. Wherever there were marginalized people, she was there. During the Ice Storm (of 1998), (Sister Donna) traveled all over the diocese with Bishop Loverde going to farms and going to businesses and making sure each person had everything he or she needed. That was lifegiving for her. It really got her out into the trenches.”

Sister Donna earned a bachelor's degree in 1981 from Emmanuel College in Boston; a master's in social work in 1988 from the Hunter College School of Social Work in New York; and a certificate in chemical dependency counseling in 1991 from Villanova University in Pennsylvania. She was licensed clinical social worker



NCC FILE PHOTO

Sister Donna Franklin, A Daughter of Charity and former director of Catholic Charities in the Dioceses of Ogdensburg, receiving an award from Bishop Terry R. LaValley at the 2017 Catholic Charities Caritas Dinner. Sister Donna died on March 11.

in New York State, and she used those skills regularly in her role at Catholic Charities and in the service of others.

“Between youth ministry and family life ministry, it wasn't uncommon to run into families experiencing problems - family conflict, divorce, separations and other problems,” Frank said. “If there was a problem I didn't know how to handle, I could always go to (Sister Donna). I would regularly go to her for advice. She had all the degrees I didn't have. I just had the sense to get qualified help. We were able to talk through a lot of the

issues we'd see. And while she was always serious about her ministry, she also did it all with laughter and love.”

Frank said Sister Donna strongly believed in supporting the “domestic Church.”

“Her whole vision was to put family first and God will provide a way,” Frank said. “She would very, very kindly and passionately spread that to everyone she knew. In every incident that came up, to every person who came into the Catholic Charities office, she showed kindness and compassion. She was direct, and she spoke the truth without fear,

Living in the light

Editor's note: The following is an excerpt from a reflection Sister Donna Franklin, a Daughter of Charity, wrote in 2017, just a few months before retiring from her role as director of Catholic Charities for the diocese. It was published in the North Country Catholic on Nov. 8, 2017.

We all live in a circle of community. Every circle has a rim. In the shadow of the rim, on the margins of community dwell many invisible poor, migrant workers, immigrants, the working poor, retirees and other people who are disenfranchised.

Catholic Charities staff does not just make a place in the circle for our brothers and sisters. Catholic Charities staff knows that it is critical to go to the rim, to the margins with unclenched fists, open hearts and open minds and stand shoulder to shoulder in solidarity with those on the margins. The goal is to accompany them, lighting the path as they journey towards full participation in the circle of community.

Catholic Charities' mission rests on three pillars: responding to people in need; empowering people to build bridges to healthier lives and inviting people to join us in the works of charity and justice.

Tonight I offer you an invitation:

- When our moral values and principles are being relegated to the back of the bus behind racism, sexism and classism and other ism's, can we see the light given to us by Rosa Parks? She had the dignity and self-worth to say, “I'm tired.” “No more.” Can we accept the challenge of living in the light?

- Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream and Robert Kennedy had a vision of our country as it could be. Do we have their Willingness to listen to our own prophetic inner voice and then risk not just speaking truth to power but using the power of our own truth as defined by the Gospel to challenge oppressive structures. Can we accept the challenge of living in the light?

- Alice Paul and the Suffragettes faced their fears and gathered up their courage to begin their protests on Washington fighting for the right for women to vote. They suffered imprisonment and torture but they never gave up when faced with the darkness of discrimination and violence. They knew where they stood and they stood there. Can we accept the challenge of living in the light?

- We have the honor and the privilege of sharing history with a great leader, Pope Francis. The light of his wisdom compels us to reject uniformed, unintelligent and dangerous nativism. He invites us to acknowledge our role as not just global citizens but as integral embers of the human community. He also invites us to care for God's creation which he calls our “common home.” Can we accept the challenge of living in the light?

but she did it with love and care.”

In addition to her work with Catholic Charities, Frank noted that Sister Donna was a regular instructor in the Formation for Min-

istry program and in the Deacon Formation program.

“(Sister Donna) worked a lot with the wives of the guys in deacon formation,”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Funeral Mass celebrated for Msgr. McAvoy

Msgr. Clarence John "CJ" McAvoy, 88, passed away on Thursday March 5, 2026, at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg.

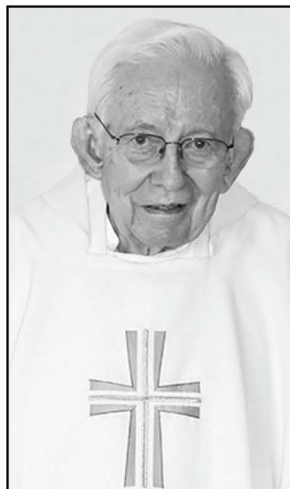
A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17, at St. John the Baptist Church in Madrid. Bishop Terry R. LaValley, bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, celebrated the Mass, and Father James Kane of the Diocese of Albany served as the homilist.

A spring burial will take place in St. John the Baptist Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Born on September 1, 1937, in Ogdensburg to Clarence and Elizabeth (Brady) McAvoy. John was baptized on September 26, 1937, at St. John

the Baptist Church. He entered Wadhams Hall Seminary in 1955 and then went on to Christ the King Seminary at St. Bonaventure University in 1958, graduating in 1963. He was ordained on March 30, 1963, at St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg, by Bishop James Navagh.

Father McAvoy's began his priesthood serving as parochial vicar at the St. Mary's Cathedral. In the early 1970s, he served at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Potsdam, and St. John the Baptist Church, Madrid. He first became pastor at St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake in 1973. During this time, he also served as chaplain of the Knights of Columbus Northern Conference of New York



Msgr. Clarence John "CJ" McAvoy

State and served on the Diocese of Ogdensburg's Senate of Priests, Liturgy Committee of the Department of Worship, and as Dean of the Adirondack Deanery.

Father McAvoy was

named pastor of St. John the Baptist in Plattsburgh in 1986. During this time, he served as auxiliary chaplain at the Plattsburgh Air Force Base and Dean of the Clinton Deanery. He was given the honor of Monsignor on March 8, 1997. In 1999, he was appointed to serve in the parishes of Malone until 2003. After serving at the Church of All Saints in Mineville and St. Patrick's Parish in Port Henry until 2007, he retired. Not one to sit still, he served as chaplain at Elderwood of Uihlein at Lake Placid.

Msgr. McAvoy was an avid motorcycle rider and enjoyed the time spent riding with others throughout the years.

Surviving Msgr. McAvoy are his sister-in-law,

Mary Joanne McAvoy of Dedham, Massachusetts, along with several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Msgr. McAvoy was predeceased by his brothers, Lauris, Frances, Neil, Ronnie; and a baby sister, Marion McAvoy.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Farrar Home, 46 Constable St, Malone, NY 12953, where he received excellent care and friendship, or to St. Joseph's Home, 950 Linden St, Ogdensburg, NY 13669, where he also received excellent care and made new friends.

Condolences, memories, memorial trees and pictures may be shared with the family by visiting, www.PhillipsMemorial.com.

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Environmental Stewardship

Stillness

There are many facets of nature that draw people into this realm, and perhaps the most powerful is the innate stillness natural settings radiate. Stillness should not be confused with motionlessness. Stillness is the inner peace or lack of internal turmoil that allows a being to function without nervousness, anxiety or panic. Stillness allows responses to occur based on the natural instincts within the being's physical system to deal with issues, including danger. Stillness is the ability to live in harmony with the other organisms, even though some may be seen as harmful.

For humans, there are many ways of dealing with adverse situations and responding with love and compassion, as did Jesus, is preferable to acting from fear or hatred. In nature, harmony may result in death. However, death must be understood as to be a key component to the success of the system. Jesus taught us that death has no power over us, and the most vital part of our being is our immortal soul, which passes to the next phase of its existence.

As winter transitions into spring, the silence that prevailed in our forests and fields fades. Chirping birds, peeping amphibians and chattering squirrels become vocal. Chipmunks exit hibernation, and mice begin having babies. There are movements of many types, sounds of various intensities and fragrances from plants becoming active. These are part of a scheme of life that has been set in motion by God and align with a natural harmony that only an all-powerful entity could support. It is reacting to the words of the Divine through a state of stillness.

Whenever you venture outdoors, please try to take some time this Lent to "sense" or "feel" the stillness that operates through these entities by opening your heart. The silence and solitude offered by natural settings can be wonderful and beneficial to one's soul, but so can its stillness.

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Bishop's Public Schedule

March 18 – 11 a.m. – Council of Priests and College of Consultors Meeting at St. Mary's Social Hall in Massena

March 19 – 2 p.m. – Installation Mass of the Most Reverend John S. Bonnici as the Bishop of the Diocese of Rochester at Sacred Heart Cathedral

March 22 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 23 – 9 a.m. – New York State Catholic Conference Board of Bishops Meeting via Zoom

Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 25 – 9 a.m. – St. Joseph's Home Foundation Board of Directors Meeting at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Rest in Peace

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

March 18 – Rev. Joseph Murtagh, 1928

March 19 – Rev. Andronique Blaignier, 1958; Msgr. Thomas J. Robillard, 2009

March 20 – Most Rev. Joseph H. Conroy, 1939

March 23 – Msgr. Paul T. Joly, 1987; Deacon David L. Clark, 2020

March 24 – Rev. George Roskwitalski, O.F.M. Conv., 1980

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.

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg is able to schedule sessions of the training, Protecting God's Children for Adults. 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. To arrange for training, call 315-393-2920 or email Ishoen@rcdony.org.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

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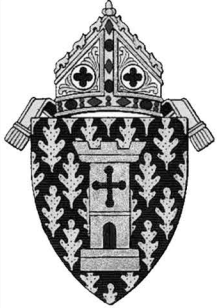
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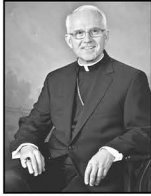
Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg Report on Special Funds

A Letter From The Diocesan Fiscal Officer

A Message from

Bishop Terry LaValley

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:



I am pleased to provide this introduction to the *Report on Special Funds* for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2025. As is our custom, each year this report is published for your review. It completes our accounting of all those funds entrusted to the Diocese of Ogdensburg for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year. These monies are set aside for special purposes and investments.

Your generous giving provides essential resources for the Diocese of Ogdensburg to proclaim the Gospel and minister faithfully to our sisters and brothers in Christ. Through economic distress and uncertain financial times, the people of the North Country continue to support generously our Church's various ministries. We are truly blessed! I am so grateful.

I especially wish to thank our Diocesan Fiscal Officer, Mark T. Mashaw, as well as our excellent fiscal staff for the careful manner in which they safeguard all the financial resources that have been entrusted to our Diocese, ensuring that they are used for the purposes intended. I am also grateful to the members of the Diocesan Finance Council and Investment Advisory Committee who meet regularly and offer their expert counsel in service to the Church of the North Country.

Please know of my sincere appreciation to all the members of our Diocesan family, particularly during these most challenging times. May Mary, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, our Diocesan Patroness, help us all to follow her Son as a people richly blessed.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

The Diocesan Fiscal Office is pleased to present in the *North Country Catholic* the *Report on Special Funds* for the year ended June 30, 2025, along with comparisons to prior years. Special Funds are funds that the diocese holds for special purposes, such as Disability Insurance, Property and Liability Insurance, Missionary Projects, Priests' Retirement and Unemployment Insurance. Also included in Special Funds are funds that belong to diocesan institutions which have been forwarded to the diocese for investment, such as the Diocesan Trust Fund and the Deposit & Loan Fund. Information is included in this report for the Lay Employees' Retirement Trust. All Special Funds statements for 2024-25 presented herein except for the Lay Employees' Retirement Trust have been extracted from the audited financial report that was published in the November 26, 2025, issue of the *North Country Catholic*. The Lay Employees' Retirement Trust is a separate entity with its own audited financial statements and the 2024-25 information contained herein was obtained from those audited statements.

DIOCESAN TRUST FUND

As of June 30, 2025, the Diocesan Trust Fund had investments with a cost of \$25,709,761 and a market value of \$27,619,127. The investment portfolio had a positive rate of return of 9.23% in 2024-25. In the first six months of the 2025-26 fiscal year the Diocesan Trust Fund had a positive rate of return of 5.04%, and its market value was \$28,546,445 as of December 31, 2025. The diocese paid dividend distributions from the Fund in the amount of \$875,000 during the fiscal year, a rate of return of 3.24% on investments in the Fund.

DEPOSIT & LOAN FUND

The Deposit & Loan Fund had an increase of \$852,883 in its net assets in 2024-25, bringing its net asset balance to \$3,853,257. The interest rate paid to depositors was 0.5% for the entire fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. The interest rate on loans was 4% for the entire fiscal year. In the first six months of 2025-26 the Deposit & Loan Fund net assets increased by \$617,914. As of June 30, 2025, total deposits in the Fund, including diocesan central office monies, totaled \$11,804,117, and the balance of loan principal due to the Fund amounted to \$5,505,791.

PROTECTED SELF-INSURANCE PROGRAM

Revenue exceeded expenses by \$281,241 in the Protected Self-Insurance Program in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. The program remains financially sound, as it has reserves for claims in the amount of \$882,215 and net assets of \$2,201,234 as of June 30, 2025. The program's reinsurance premium expense saw an increase of 21.5% in 2024-25.

LAY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT TRUST

The Lay Employees' Retirement Trust had an increase in net assets of \$145,790 during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, increasing its total net assets to \$26,284,069. The investment portfolio had a positive rate of return of 10.10% in 2024-25. During the first six months of fiscal year 2025-26, Trust investments saw a rate of return of 7.00%. On December 31, 2025, the market value of Trust investments was \$24,533,559. The Fund's July 1, 2024,

actuarial valuation determined the Fund's funded status increased from 67.5% one year earlier to 69.0%. The Plan is 96.4% funded as it relates to covering obligations to current retirees. The Fund's July 1, 2025, actuarial valuation report is not yet available.



UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUND

The Unemployment Insurance Fund had a decrease in net assets of \$25,600 for the year ended June 30, 2025, bringing total net assets to \$336,423. Claims paid for the years ending June 30, 2025 and 2024 were \$55,941 and \$11,508, respectively.

MISSIONARY PROJECTS FUND

The Missionary Projects Fund had a decrease in net assets in the amount of \$179,832 for the year ended June 30, 2025, bringing its net assets to \$37,563. The Diocese of Ogdensburg continues to provide monthly financial support to its former mission in Mollendo, Peru, as well as other missions in the world as deemed appropriate by Bishop LaValley. Moneys are given to support the U.S. Bishops' annual appeal for Latin America. Additionally, with Bishop LaValley's approval, financial support is given from the Fund to urgent need collections taken at times of global emergency/crisis.

DISABILITY INSURANCE FUND

The Disability Insurance Fund had a deficit in the amount of \$5,108 for the year ended June 30, 2025. Claims paid were \$20,320 and \$32,075 for the years ended June 30, 2025 and 2024, respectively. Net assets of this Fund as of June 30, 2025, were \$279,310.

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FUND

Net assets of the Priests' Retirement Fund decreased by \$139,381 during the year ended June 30, 2025. The Fund recorded investment income of \$235,517 and net gains on investments in the amount of \$599,483 in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. Support from Christmas collections was \$233,642, as compared to \$192,122 from the prior year. The Christmas collection contribution rate was 75% for the years ended June 30, 2025 and 2024.

The Diocesan Fiscal Office is available to answer any questions regarding the Report on Special Funds. Please feel free to call the Diocesan Fiscal Office at (315) 605-1031, email at mmashaw@rcdony.org or visit the Fiscal Office at 604 Washington Street in Ogdensburg during normal office hours.

Mark T. Mashaw
Diocesan Fiscal Officer

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
Diocesan Trust Fund
For the Years Ended June 30, 2025 and 2024, and Since Inception

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

	June 30, 2025	June 30, 2024	Since Inception
Beginning Assets of the Fund	\$ 26,460,829	\$ 25,206,761	\$ -
Net Deposits	(126,815)	91,917	10,520,365
Investment Income and Gains(Losses)	2,483,184	2,294,326	40,140,910
Investment and Administrative Fees	(275,169)	(257,175)	(4,616,219)
Distributions to Deposit Holders	(875,000)	(875,000)	(18,378,027)
Ending Assets of the Fund	<u>\$ 27,667,029</u>	<u>\$ 26,460,829</u>	<u>\$ 27,667,029</u>

DIOCESAN TRUST FUND ASSETS

	06/30/25 Book Value	06/30/25 Market Value	06/30/24 Book Value	06/30/24 Market Value
Investments				
Money Market Funds	\$ 329,389	\$ 329,389	\$ 412,217	\$ 412,217
U.S. Government Obligations	2,149,790	2,136,881	2,619,878	2,531,941
Bond Funds	8,894,145	8,249,153	8,162,431	7,395,632
Stocks	8,977,928	10,649,540	6,735,307	8,350,599
Equity Funds	5,255,161	6,202,279	6,362,231	6,970,826
Real Estate Investment Funds	103,348	51,885	768,920	758,882
Total Investments	25,709,761	27,619,127	25,060,984	26,420,097
Accrued Interest on Investments	47,902	47,902	40,732	40,732
Total Assets	<u>\$ 25,757,663</u>	<u>\$ 27,667,029</u>	<u>\$ 25,101,716</u>	<u>\$ 26,460,829</u>

Deposit & Loan Fund
For the Years Ending June 30, 2025 and 2024

BALANCE SHEET

	June 30, 2025	June 30, 2024
ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 312,101	\$ 489,615
Interest Receivable	53,869	75,620
Notes Receivable - Borrowers	5,505,791	5,725,348
Bad Debt Reserve	(407,000)	(480,000)
Investments	10,529,411	11,194,651
Investment - Collateral Account	948,160	898,091
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 16,942,332</u>	<u>\$ 17,903,325</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		
Notes Payable - Depositors	\$ 11,804,117	\$ 12,554,151
Accrued Interest Payable	4,133	4,401
Due to Operating Fund	1,280,825	2,344,399
Fund Balance	3,853,257	3,000,374
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u>\$ 16,942,332</u>	<u>\$ 17,903,325</u>

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

	Year Ending June 30, 2025	Year Ending June 30, 2024
INCOME		
Interest on Notes Receivable	\$ 82,863	\$ 89,495
Investment Income	380,237	411,271
Unrealized Gain (Loss) On Investments	201,528	15,980
Realized Gain (Loss) On Investments	305,874	382,318
TOTAL INCOME	<u>970,502</u>	<u>899,064</u>
EXPENSES		
Interest on Notes Payable - Depositors	60,335	64,717
Investment Management Fees	77,895	88,843
Fiscal Office Administration	52,160	58,807
Office Supplies	229	405
Increase (Decrease) in Reserves	(73,000)	(110,000)
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>117,619</u>	<u>102,772</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIT)	<u>\$ 852,883</u>	<u>\$ 796,292</u>

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

Diocesan Lay Employees' Retirement Trust

July 1, 2023- June 30, 2025

BALANCE SHEET

	June 30, 2025	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
ASSETS				
Cash & Investments	\$ 25,497,948	\$ 25,758,048	\$ 25,742,890	\$ 25,943,250
Receivables	804,521	384,531	221,176	127,070
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 26,302,469	\$ 26,142,579	\$ 25,964,066	\$ 26,070,320
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
Accounts Payable	\$ 18,400	\$ 4,300	\$ 17,700	\$ -
Deferred Revenue	-	-	-	19,286
Net Assets Available for Benefits	26,284,069	26,138,279	25,946,366	26,051,034
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 26,302,469	\$ 26,142,579	\$ 25,964,066	\$ 26,070,320

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025	July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	Sept. 1, 1967 - June 30, 2024	Sept. 1, 1967 - June 30, 2025
ADDITIONS				
Employer Contributions	\$ 1,611,170	\$ 1,520,290	\$ 33,542,804	\$ 35,153,974
Department Grants	-	-	500,000	500,000
Net Gain (Loss) on Investments	1,764,796	1,834,311	31,503,305	33,268,101
Investment Income	695,971	688,679	22,507,069	23,203,040
TOTAL ADDITIONS	4,071,937	4,043,280	88,053,178	92,125,115
DEDUCTIONS				
Benefit Payments	3,604,833	3,529,916	54,290,727	57,895,560
Administrative Expense	321,314	321,451	7,624,172	7,945,486
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	3,926,147	3,851,367	61,914,899	65,841,046
NET ADDITIONS (DEDUCTIONS)	\$ 145,790	\$ 191,913	\$ 26,138,279	\$ 26,284,069
CASH & INVESTMENTS			Book Value	Market Value
Money Market Funds			\$ 1,081,678	\$ 1,081,678
United States Treasury Notes and Bonds			1,119,255	1,110,553
Fixed Income Bond Funds			6,373,655	5,952,357
Stocks			8,293,668	9,685,531
Equity Funds			6,232,470	7,612,419
Real Estate Investment Funds			110,365	55,410
TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS - JUNE 30, 2025			\$ 23,211,091	\$ 25,497,948

Diocesan Lay Employees' Retirement Trust

Annual Amounts (Book and Market Value) of Investments

	Book Value	Market Value
August 31, 1968	\$ 32,855	\$ 33,344
August 31, 1969	105,040	97,828
August 31, 1970	167,236	144,704
August 31, 1971	244,322	248,784
August 31, 1972	328,375	341,430
August 31, 1973	397,979	357,121
August 31, 1974	442,091	374,519
August 31, 1975	485,652	502,393
August 31, 1976	651,402	661,536
August 31, 1977	746,759	758,276
June 30, 1978	907,676	873,290
June 30, 1979	1,091,077	1,066,747
June 30, 1980	1,333,304	1,240,533
June 30, 1981	1,637,330	1,468,851
June 30, 1982	1,966,375	1,685,948
June 30, 1983	2,332,800	2,766,951
June 30, 1984	2,866,861	2,832,430
June 30, 1985	3,314,597	3,748,256
June 30, 1986	4,200,610	5,189,275
June 30, 1987	5,686,447	6,363,937
June 30, 1988	6,280,104	6,713,049
June 30, 1989	6,849,652	7,569,606
June 30, 1990	7,716,476	8,434,613
June 30, 1991	8,285,622	8,951,313
June 30, 1992	9,025,501	10,401,337
June 30, 1993	11,107,406	11,674,275
June 30, 1994	11,653,168	12,127,575
June 30, 1995	12,338,738	13,734,082
June 30, 1996	13,031,227	15,645,877
June 30, 1997	14,013,279	18,380,013
June 30, 1998	15,646,840	21,676,585
June 30, 1999	16,243,415	24,534,082
June 30, 2000	19,524,488	27,831,969
June 30, 2001	21,013,619	23,928,041
June 30, 2002	21,362,600	20,539,549
June 30, 2003	19,524,488	20,622,313
June 30, 2004	22,017,665	22,691,214
June 30, 2005	22,914,541	24,896,701
June 30, 2006	24,356,734	27,020,395
June 30, 2007	25,561,685	30,677,000
June 30, 2008	27,564,499	28,332,067
June 30, 2009	23,030,416	20,674,813
June 30, 2010	21,625,470	21,322,358
June 30, 2011	22,640,200	25,259,933
June 30, 2012	23,074,757	24,490,221
June 30, 2013	23,845,778	26,396,267
June 30, 2014	25,462,694	29,928,554
June 30, 2015	26,826,022	28,222,277
June 30, 2016	25,720,923	26,053,449
June 30, 2017	25,237,149	27,056,268
June 30, 2018	25,528,622	27,862,188
June 30, 2019	25,317,161	27,946,496
June 30, 2020	23,751,808	26,961,397
June 30, 2021	24,452,357	31,966,518
June 30, 2022	27,441,964	25,918,815
June 30, 2023	25,694,597	25,742,890
June 30, 2024	24,313,421	25,758,048
June 30, 2025	23,211,091	25,497,948

Diocesan Unemployment Insurance Fund

For the years ending June 30, 2025 and 2024

BALANCE SHEET

	June 30, 2025	June 30, 2024
ASSETS		
Due From Operating Fund	\$ 333,288	\$ 358,888
Prepaid Expenses	3,135	3,135
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 336,423	\$ 362,023
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		
Fund Balance	\$ 336,423	\$ 362,023
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	\$ 336,423	\$ 362,023

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

	Year Ending June 30, 2025	Year Ending June 30, 2024
INCOME		
Unemployment Premiums	\$ 55,116	\$ 61,144
Net Gain (Loss) on Investments	-	-
Investment Income	-	-
TOTAL INCOME	55,116	61,144
EXPENDITURES		
Claims Paid	55,941	11,508
Consultant	6,270	6,270
Diocesan Administration	18,505	20,561
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	80,716	38,339
EXCESS (DEFICIT)	\$ (25,600)	\$ 22,805

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
Missionary Projects/Ogdensburg
 For the Years Ending June 30, 2025 and 2024

STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

	Year Ending June 30, 2025	Year Ending June 30, 2024
RECEIPTS		
Diocesan OPA Collection	\$ 24,872	\$ 44,618
Interest	<u>1,202</u>	<u>1,564</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>26,074</u>	<u>46,182</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Administrative	25	25
Grants and Donations	<u>205,881</u>	<u>55,854</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>205,906</u>	<u>55,879</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIT)	(179,832)	(9,697)
FUND BALANCE - BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>217,395</u>	<u>227,092</u>
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 37,563</u>	<u>\$ 217,395</u>

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
Diocesan Disability Benefits Program
 For the Years Ending June 30, 2025 and 2024

BALANCE SHEET

	June 30, 2025	June 30, 2024
ASSETS		
Cash & Money Market Funds	\$ 4,796	\$ 4,804
Due From Operating Funds	<u>274,514</u>	<u>279,614</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 279,310</u>	<u>\$ 284,418</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		
Fund Balance	<u>\$ 279,310</u>	<u>\$ 284,418</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u>\$ 279,310</u>	<u>\$ 284,418</u>

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

	Year Ending June 30, 2025	Year Ending June 30, 2024
INCOME		
Premiums	\$ 55,952	\$ 67,892
TOTAL INCOME	<u>55,952</u>	<u>67,892</u>
EXPENSES		
Claims Paid	20,320	32,075
Administrative Expenses	<u>40,740</u>	<u>44,534</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>61,060</u>	<u>76,609</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIT)	<u>\$ (5,108)</u>	<u>\$ (8,717)</u>

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

Priests' Retirement Fund

For the Years Ending June 30, 2025 and 2024

STATEMENTS OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

	Year Ending June 30, 2025	Year Ending June 30, 2024
INCOME		
Share of Christmas Collection	\$ 233,642	\$ 192,122
Diocesan Assessment	67,669	67,507
Bequests and Donations	43,785	24,926
Investment Income	235,517	232,511
Net Gain (Loss) on Investments	599,433	494,001
TOTAL INCOME	<u>1,180,046</u>	<u>1,011,067</u>
EXPENSES		
Payments to Retired Priests	970,734	974,375
Retired Priests' Health Insurance	274,046	246,201
Administrative Expense	74,647	107,104
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>1,319,427</u>	<u>1,327,680</u>
NET INCOME (LOSS)	(139,381)	(316,613)
FUND BALANCE - BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>8,204,067</u>	<u>8,520,680</u>
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 8,064,686</u>	<u>\$ 8,204,067</u>

FIFTY-SEVEN YEAR SUMMARY
JUNE 30, 2025

	1968-2025	
	Book Value	Market Value
ADDITIONS		
Share of Christmas Collection	\$ 9,667,034	
Assessment Per Priest	1,487,280	
Diocesan Assessment	1,021,877	
Donations in Lieu of Christmas Collection	417,891	
Bequests and Donations	3,140,545	
Investment Income	8,749,143	
Net Realized & Unrealized Gains on Investments	15,626,781	
Self-Insurance Fund Grant	90,000	
Loan Account Interest	119,839	
Loan Account Grant	30,000	
TOTAL ADDITIONS		\$ 40,350,390
DEDUCTIONS		
Payments to Retired Priests	24,531,931	
Retired Priests Health Insurance	4,723,515	
Diocesan Administration	3,030,258	
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS		<u>32,285,704</u>
FUND BALANCE - June 30, 2025		<u>\$ 8,064,686</u>

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FUND ASSETS

	June 30, 2025	
	Book Value	Market Value
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 344,733	\$ 344,733
Accounts Receivable	13,808	13,808
Due from (to) Operating Fund	(258,818)	(258,818)
Interest Receivable	11,722	11,722
Equities	1,356,647	1,636,920
Equity Funds	2,599,993	3,065,441
Government Obligations	1,228,636	1,136,618
Corporate Bonds	456,425	451,457
Bond Funds	1,751,933	1,641,189
Real Estate Funds	43,061	21,616
TOTAL ASSETS - June 30, 2025	<u>\$ 7,548,140</u>	<u>\$ 8,064,686</u>

Priests' Retirement Fund
The Fund Balance has Accumulated as Follows:

1968	\$ 17,501
1969	10,330
1970	20,579
1971	19,266
1972	27,915
1972-1973	5,071
1973-1974	18,329
1974-1975	55,741
1975-1976	44,466
1976-1977	36,976
1977-1978	54,046
1978-1979	66,582
1979-1980	133,680
1980-1981	113,243
1981-1982	22,235
1982-1983	99,794
1983-1984	173,959
1984-1985	30,889
1985-1986	153,453
1986-1987	111,359
1987-1988	204,215
1988-1989	188,567
1989-1990	226,549
1990-1991	143,441
1991-1992	445,497
1992-1993	272,881
1993-1994	463,490
1994-1995	491,107
1995-1996	960,060
1996-1997	1,021,061
1997-1998	408,417
1998-1999	829,004
1999-2000	719,110
2000-2001	660,810
2001-2002	(1,184,839)
2002-2003	330,281
2003-2004	1,009,257
2004-2005	693,493
2005-2006	722,134
2006-2007	1,178,509
2007-2008	(1,037,245)
2008-2009	(1,814,311)
2009-2010	92,957
2010-2011	1,351,135
2011-2012	(403,955)
2012-2013	632,958
2013-2014	1,249,004
2014-2015	(400,661)
2015-2016	(1,078,531)
2016-2017	610,631
2017-2018	4,466
2018-2019	(268,245)
2019-2020	58,453
2020-2021	1,397,322
2021-2022	(2,317,189)
2022-2023	(554,567)
2023-2024	(316,613)
2024-2025	<u>(139,381)</u>

FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30, 2025

\$ 8,064,686

Sister Donna Franklin

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Frank said. “She’d tell us, ‘put family first. It’s your husband’s ministry, and you’re in it with him, but the sacrament comes first.’ She was wonderful! She taught us well. She listened to us – all the wives. She would bring in speakers who were real people with real issues. She wanted us all to know we could do this without being perfect first.”

Frank said Sister Donna was also a personal friend and helped her deal with her own family situations.

“We had lots of issues with our own kids,” Frank said. “Our son was a drug addict. (One son) had two divorces. (Another son) had one divorce. And I was the Family Life director. She was the only person I dared to tell for a while. We often discussed the fact that every family is dysfunctional, even ours. And (Sister Donna) always listened and offered love and wis-

dom.”

Frank and Sister Donna often traveled together as they went to conduct workshops or classes.

“It was always an adventure with (Sister Donna),” Frank said. “It really was. We always had a great time and laughed a lot. She was a wonderful woman of God.”

Sister Donna was honored upon her retirement with the Cross Pro-Ecclesia et Pontifice (Cross for the Church and the Pontiff.) The award, conferred for distinguished service to the church, is the highest medal that can be awarded to the laity by the pope.

In 2011, she was honored with the New York State Catholic Conference Council of Catholic Charities Directors’ annual Bishop Mugavero Award. The award recognizes individuals in New York State who have made significant contributions in charity

and social justice.

Before she was assigned to the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Sister Donna worked as a parish social worker in Philadelphia, a caseworker social work

supervisor for Child Day Treatment Center, Bronx; and a director of group homes for children in Albany and in Boston among other social work positions in Philadelphia, New York

and Kentucky.

A complete obituary was not available at NCC press time and will appear in a future edition.



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JOB OPENING

Human Resources Director

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg is seeking a Human Resources Director.

The position is responsible for recruiting, onboarding, job descriptions, employee evaluations, employment policies and administration of employee benefits for the central office. The Human Resources Director also administers diocesan-wide benefits including retirement plans, health insurance plans, self-insured disability, paid family leave and unemployment plans.

A bachelor’s degree and 3 years of human resources experience are preferred. Applicants must have strong communication and interpersonal skills, be organized and can multi-task. Salary: \$49,458 - \$54,662 (34-hour work week).

Submit letter of interest, resume and three professional references to:
Human Resources Office,
Diocese of Ogdensburg,
P.O. Box 369,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
or e-mail to: ksnover@rcdony.org.



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Report: More leadership roles for women needed

By Victoria Cardiel
EWTN News

The final report of the Synod on Synodality's study group "Women's Participation in the Life and Leadership of the Church" raises the possibility of "re-formulating" certain competencies and functions of priests, deacons, and bishops to give women greater responsibility in the Church, while noting the issue of the female diaconate "is not ripe."

"It is necessary to reflect in particular on the reformulation of the areas of competence of ordained ministry," states the final report of the group that studied women's participation in the life and governance of the Church, published by the Vatican on March 10.

This is one of the 10 groups established by Pope Francis in 2024 after the first session of the Synod on Synodality.

The work and report of this group were coordinated by the Vatican's Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith. In the document, this team expresses openness to "the possibility of new ministries — including those of community leadership — for lay men and women, and for men and women religious."

The report, the publication of which was authorized by Pope Leo XIV, notes an "unease" regarding forms of "machismo" and "clericalism" within the Church and therefore proposes a redefinition of governing power that provides new leadership positions for women.

In this regard, it emphasizes that "redefining these areas of competence could pave the way for the recognition of new spaces of responsibility for women in the Church."

Regarding the female diaconate, the report states that the issue "is not yet ripe" and refers to the work carried out by previous commissions — the second of which issued an opinion against it — without reaching a definitive judgment.

The proposals now circulated are also not definitive. They have been submitted to the pope for his consideration.

The text argues that it is necessary to "overcome the conception of women's active participation in the life and governance of the Church as a 'concession' from hierarchical authority."

According to the document, women's involvement should not be understood as a mere functional substitution but as a reality linked to baptismal dignity, since women are "holders of a right in this regard, inasmuch as they are baptized and bearers of charisms."

The document also states that "there is no reason or impediment preventing women from exercising leadership roles in the Church" and emphasizes that "the mere fact of being a woman does not, in itself, prevent women from assuming leadership roles in the Church."

From an ecclesiological perspective, the study group participants consider it necessary "to overcome the artificial separation between genders and roles, considering the shared dignity of all creatures created in the image and likeness of God."

In this vein, the group emphasizes that priority must be given "to the order of being with respect to that of doing," recalling that participation in the mission of the Church is based, above all, on baptism and the gifts of the Holy Spirit present in the people of God.

The report notes that the discernment of these charisms belongs to the bishop, who can recognize them through a mandate, delegating [a function], or the institution of a specific ministry. However, it cautions that this process "is not a solitary decision" but must also involve the ecclesial community.

From a theological and canonical perspective, the document clarifies that the lay faithful do not participate in holy orders, although they can collaborate in the exercise of the bishop's ministry.

In this context, the authors emphasize that both Pope Francis and Leo XIV put this guideline into practice by appointing women to positions of authority in the Roman Curia, which constitutes "a model for reflection."

"The recent appointments of women to positions of responsibility in some dicasteries constitute a prophetic sign of both symbolic and practical significance. They represent a first step towards opening new spaces for participation, recognizing that the capacity for governance and discernment is not the exclusive prerogative of the male gender," the study group emphasizes.

The document warns, however, that attitudes marked by "clericalism" still persist. In this regard, it points out that "women, even in positions of responsibility, sometimes have difficulty participating and being heard on equal terms with their male colleagues, especially in interactions with ordained ministers."

This story was first published by ACI Prensa, the Spanish-language sister service of EWTN News. It has been translated and adapted by EWTN News English.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Catholic leaders in Holy Land call for peace and prayer

Amid the war engulfing the Middle East, the Assembly of Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land issued a spiritual and humanitarian message expressing the Churches' deep concern over the situation in the region and reaffirming Christians' commitment to peace despite the harshness of the circumstances. In an official statement, the assembly announced that its members had been forced to suspend their plenary meeting, which was scheduled to take place in Nazareth, because of security measures. Instead, they met online to exchange updates on the situation in their Churches. The statement noted that communities in the Holy Land are all suffering, to varying degrees, from the consequences of the war unfolding in the region. Yet, according to the assembly, what stands out is that Christian faithful have not yielded to the temptation to respond with violence, even in the most difficult circumstances. It described this as a true sign of hope and a clear witness to Christian identity.

Report: FDA abortion-by-mail policy endangers women

After the U.S. Food and Drug Administration removed in-person dispensing, the dangers of abortion drugs increased for women, according to a March 10 report. The FDA used to require an in-person visit for the prescription of abortion drugs — a requirement that was in flux in 2020 and has been revoked since 2021. The Ethics and Public Policy Center (EPPC) looked at data across a period of about six years (2017–2023) and found that the rate at which women experienced serious adverse events increased "significantly" with no in-person requirements in place. The report found this to be "especially true" for women with ectopic pregnancies — a life-threatening condition that can only be diagnosed by a doctor in person. According to the EPPC report, the rate of serious adverse events increased by 1.35 percentage points from when in-person visits were required to when the requirement was in flux and removed. For women with ectopic pregnancies, the rate of harm was 52% higher after the in-person policy was revoked. The serious adverse rate was found to be 10.15% before the policy was revoked, and 11.50% after, but the label for the abortion drug lists the rate of serious adverse events as "less than 0.5%."

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www.northcountrycatholic.org

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- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more



Find us on Facebook!



CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

FISH FRIES

AuSable Forks - The Au Sable Knights will be holding three fish fries every other Friday night.

Date: March 20

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30

Place: Holy Name School/Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$15; Children under 12, \$10; Take-outs available.

CHICKEN AND BISCUIT DINNER

Malone - Knights of Columbus Council 308 will hold their Chicken and Biscuit Dinners.

Dates: March 25

Time: Beginning at 4 p.m.

Place: K of C Home, 41 Elm St.

Cost: \$13 for drive-thru, take-out, or dine in

Features: Proceeds benefit our charitable donations.

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Altona - Holy Angles and St. Ann's parish to have a Palm Sunday Breakfast.

Date: March 29

Time: 8 a.m. to Noon

Place: Holy Angels Hall

Cost: Adults, \$15; Children 6-12, \$8; 5 and under, Free

Features: Scrambled eggs, Egg Cups, Bacon, Sausage, French Toast, Pancakes, Biscuits with Sausage & Gravy, Golden-fried potatoes, Home-made sweet muffins, coffee, tea, juice, milk. Gift Basket Raffle, Bake Sale & Lottery Tree.

FIRST FRIDAY

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

Date: April 3

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

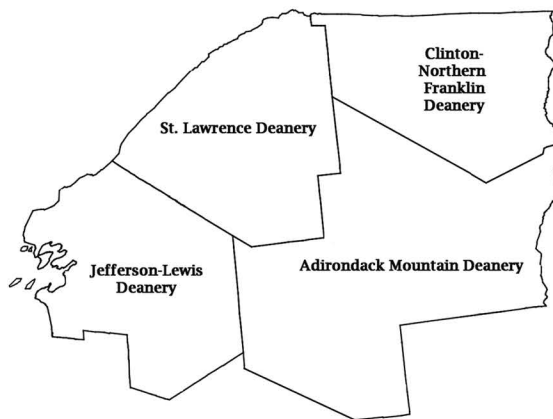
SOAKING PRAYERS SESSIONS

Plattsburgh - Come enjoy a relaxing prayer opportunity the first Monday of the month.

Date: April 6, May 4 and June 1

Time: New time, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30, no more evening sessions.

Place: Newman Center



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese"

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

Features: Session includes a praise and worship segment followed by scripture readings, soaking prayer and healing prayers. Led by Eve McGill, Living Waters Ministry. All are welcome.

Contact: evemcgill16@charter.net

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

IHC GALA

Watertown Immaculate Heart Central invites you to join them this year for their annual fundraiser (Golf Themed).

Date: March 21

Time: 6 p.m. to 10

Place: Bad Apple Social/Lves Country Club

Cost: \$60 per person, includes appetizers and band
Theme: Augusta After Dark Par-Tee and Online Auction

Features: Online Auction will open on March 13. Both ticket purchases and online bidding can be done through the Better World website. (immaculate-heart-central.betterworld.org/auctions/2026-augusta-after-dark-silent-a)

Contact: Mary O'Brien at (315) 788-4670 (IHC School) or mary.o'brien@ihcschool.org for any questions.

DRIVE THRU DINNER

Lyons Falls - St. John's Church will

have a drive-thru chicken and biscuit dinner.

Date: March 24

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6

Cost: \$13

Menu: Chicken with homemade biscuits, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable and dessert.

Contact: To reserve your dinner, please call 315-348-8945 or 315-348-8577 today!

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Watertown - St. Anthony's Altar and Rosary Society is sponsoring a spaghetti dinner.

Date: March 26

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: Downstairs in St. Anthony's church in Msgr. Sechi Hall

Cost: Adult, \$12; Child, \$8

Features: Take-outs available, please bring your own container.

Contact: For more information contact the Parish Center at 315-782-1190

DINNER

Constableville - Corned Beef and cabbage or Ham and potato dinner to support the Youth of Southern Lewis County.

Date: March 29

Time: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Hall

Cost: Adults, \$15; Children under 10, \$7.50

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

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

Date: April 11

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

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Carthage - Pancake Breakfast to be held in support of Augustinian Academy, sponsored by the Carthage K of C Father John Cosmic #291 and Ave Maria Circle.

Date: April 12

Time: 8 a.m. to noon

Place: St. James Community Room

Cost: Adults, \$10; Seniors, \$8; Children under 10, \$5; Family of 4, \$30

Menu: Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes, French Toast, Ham, Sausage, Baked Goods, Juice, and Coffee

Contact: For more information call 315-493-3224

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Watertown - Divine Mercy Sunday to be held.

Date: April 12

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Patrick's Church

Features: Be sure to start the novena to the Divine Mercy on Good Friday, April 3, at home, as there will not be a church service to begin the novena. Continue to say the novena every day until the feast of Divine Mercy Sunday. Join us for the celebration April 12.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Houseville - The Feast of the Divine Mercy will be celebrated.

Date: April 12

Place: St. Hedwig's

Schedule: Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament will begin at 2 p.m. followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 3 p.m. The program continues

with a Reflection on the message of Divine Mercy, the Divine Mercy Chaplet (sung), Benediction, The Blessing of Holy Cards and Petitions, and the Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image.

Features: Celebrants Fr. Sony G. Pulickal and Fr. John Ojuok. A reception will follow in the church hall. Everyone is welcome to come and receive special graces on this day when the "Floodgates of Mercy" are opened to all.

Contact: 315-348-6260 for any questions.

HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY

Houseville - Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament and the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be observed the first Sunday of the month.

Date: May 3 (Please note this will NOT be observed on April 5)

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

ST. LAWRENCE

FISH FRY

Gouverneur - St. James School to have a fish fry every Friday during Lent.

Date: March 20 & 27

Time: 4:30 p.m. until gone

Cost: \$15

Menu: Dinner includes fried fish, choice of macaroni and cheese or french fries, cole slaw, dinner roll, beverage and your choice of dessert. Dine in or Take Out.

Contact: Local deliveries available 315-287-0130

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

Date: April 4

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

'House of David,' 'The Chosen' win awards

By Francesca Pollio Fenton
EWTN News

"The Chosen" and "House of David" were among the many winners at the 33rd annual Movieguide Awards, which aired March 5.

The annual Movieguide Awards celebrates TV shows and movies that, according to its website, "reflect Christian values, biblical truth, and messages of redemption, hope, and faith" and "stories that uplift families, strengthen believers, and point hearts toward Christ."

"House of David" and the star of the show, Michael Iskander, took two awards home. The new hit series won the Faith and Freedom Award for Television — which honors programs that "celebrate independence, faith in midst of oppression, individual dignity, and freedom" — for its Season 2 episode titled "The Truth Revealed."

Jon Erwin, creator, writer, and producer of the series, said in his acceptance speech that being at the awards show reminded him of Psalm 34: "Magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together."

"This really does feel like something that we're all doing together and have been doing it for a long time," he said to the faith-based creators in attendance. "I do feel like there's something in the air in L.A."

He explained that the show uses an old sound stage in Culver City, California, that was first used for Cecil B. DeMille's — the filmmaker best known for "The Ten Commandments" — 1927 movie "King of Kings."

"So, I feel like there's a bit of a reclaiming of ground going on in our industry and I think we're back in a big way," Erwin said.

Iskander, who portrays King David in the series, won the Grace Award for Television for

an actor, which is given to an actor whose performance is exceptional and "best contribute to the world's understanding of God's love."

In his acceptance speech, Iskander thanked his family, especially his mother, "for sticking by my side ... but most importantly I want to thank God, who's been my anchor and my sail and my light in the darkness. He's been everything to me and I owe it all to him. He's brought me out of so much and wherever he takes me, I want to go."

He added: "I've been thinking a lot about why David is being highlighted so much in today's culture. David is a guide for us and he shows us that no matter how far away we may stray from Christ, he is going around and looking for us and he's calling us by name and all we have to do is just say 'yes.' All we have to do is just listen to his voice and say, 'Yes Lord, I will

follow you.' So, I want you to know that God doesn't see how weak or small you may look or how grand or strong you may look; he sees into your heart."

"The Chosen: Last Supper — Part 2" was awarded the Epiphany Award for Inspiring Movies, which recognizes a movie that is "both inspirational and redemptive and can lead us to a closer and personal relationship with a kind, loving, and forgiving God." Despite being a TV show, "The Chosen: Last Supper — Part 2" was released in theaters as a cinematic event.

Other winners included "Light of the World," which won for Best Movie for Children; "BAU: Artist at War," which tells the true story of an artist who survives a World War II concentration camp, won the Faith and Freedom Award for Movies; and "Sarah's Oil" took home the award for Best Movie for Mature Audiences, among several others.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

tion.

Date: April 4

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: April 4

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

Place: Sacred Heart Church

DIOCESAN EVENTS

IHC MYSTERY PLAYERS

The IHC Mystery Players will present the Way of the Cross around the Diocese and beyond.

Lent 2026 Prayer Schedule:

March 20, 7:30 p.m. at Holy Family, Little Falls; March 22, 7:30 p.m. at St. Cecilia's, Adams; March 27, 7:30 p.m. at Pope John XXIII, Liverpool; March 29, 7:30 p.m. at St. James, Carthage; April 2, 8 p.m. at IHC,

Watertown; April 3, 7:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's, Watertown

Contact: For more information go to <https://www.ihcschool.org/mystery-players>

CLM WORKSHOP

Peru — Marika Donders will present a free hospitality workshop.

Date: April 11

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Theme: Hospitality: More than Coffee and Donuts

Features: A workshop for anyone and everyone who wants to create a more hospitable and inviting environment where ALL can encounter the love of Christ in Word and Sacrament, in Community, and in each other.

Contact: RSVP by April 1 at www.rcdony.org/clm-event

SURVIVING DIVORCE

Canton — The Family Life Office will be offering the Surviving Divorce program again starting in late

February.

Time: Meeting dates and times will be determined by the needs of the participants.

Cost: The program is free but we happily accept \$25 donations to offset the cost of materials.

Features: Surviving Divorce features twelve video presentations that cover topics such as shock and grief, anger and forgiveness, money issues, dealing with children and a former spouse, and annulment and remarriage. This program is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later. It will help them find answers to their questions, restore their hope, and begin authentic healing.

Contact: To register, go to <https://www.rcdony.org/survivingdivorce>. For more information, contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920.

DAY OF REFLECTION

Norfolk — All Catechists, Catechet-

ical Leaders, Commissioned Lay Ministers, Youth Leaders and Candidates in Formation for Ministry are invited to a Day of Reflection.

Date: March 21

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Mass will be at 9 a.m.

Place: Norfolk Parish Center

Cost: \$15 includes lunch (soup and sandwich)

Features: Presented by Sr. Janet Schaeffler, OP. The theme will be "In Step with Christ: Embracing Discipleship and Accompaniment."

Contact: Register by March 12 at rcdony.org/dayofreflection

CHRISM MASS

Ogdensburg — All the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are invited to join Bishop LaValley in the annual Renewal of Priestly Commitment, the Blessing of the Holy Oils, and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism for use in all the churches of our Diocese.

Date: March 26

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: This ritual symbolizes that we are one family in Christ. The Chrism Mass may be viewed at <https://www.rcdony.org/live-mass>. The Chrism Mass program will be available at the same link shortly before the Liturgy.

PUBLISHERS DAY

Plattsburgh/Brownville — All Catechetical Leaders and Catechists are invited to Publishers' Day. Attend in person or virtually.

Date: April 25

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Contact: For more information Asoltero@rcdony.org for details. To register go to www.rcdony.org/publisherday



SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

Death or eternal life

March 22

Fifth Sunday of Lent

READINGS

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Romans 8:8-11

John 11:1-45

Today we celebrate the fifth Sunday of Lent. It's hard to believe that five weeks have gone by since we received ashes on our foreheads. If you have been faithful in your Lenten observance, perhaps Lent is passing too slowly. If you have not been faithful in your Lenten observance, well, time is running out.



Msgr. Robert
H. Aucoin

Today's Gospel reminds us about death, a topic that may make us uneasy. In civil society, at this time of the year, we are reminded about taxes - a topic that can also make us very uneasy. So, we come to church faced with death and taxes.

For some of you, tax time can bring joy because a refund is on its way, sometimes two re-

funds: federal and state. For others, paying more is on the horizon. Likewise, some of us look at death, not perhaps with joy, but at least as a moment of faith, but then others see death as so very final, so destructive, so dreaded.

Well, frankly I cannot help you with the tax issue, but perhaps a few words about death as seen in today's Gospel might give us some reassurance.

As starters, listen again to some of the phrases found in today's Scripture passages:

Ezekiel: "I will put my spirit in you that you may live."

Paul: "If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one

who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit dwelling in you."

Jesus: "I am the resurrection and the life; everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

All three passages speak eloquently about death not as the end, but death as a stepping stone.

The Gospel poses a definite conundrum. Jesus hears about Lazarus' imminent death, but he waits a few days before going to the family. We immediately ask "Why." Frankly, we do not

know. We can speculate all we want, and theologians have done that for centuries. Ultimately, every possible answer proves to be unsatisfactory.

But isn't that the same question that occurs whenever there is a death, even often when the death is expected? Why did she have to die? Why did he have to die now? What kind of God would permit death to such an innocent person? Why does God do those things?

Those "whys" cannot and probably should not be answered. We never know the why, and even if we did, we might not like the answer.

When confronted by Martha, Jesus does not hesitate to speak those famous words: "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live and everyone who

lives and believes in me will never die."

Then, so to speak, to prove his statement, he raises Lazarus from the dead. Lazarus was given a new lease on life. Did Lazarus eventually die? Of course, he did. But, that's not the issue.

The true issue is who is Jesus and what does he promise? The Gospel clearly portrays Jesus as a man (he wept, he cared, he listened), and Jesus is God because he can command life itself.

Jesus cannot do anything about the inevitability and reality of taxes, but he can work marvels with the inevitability and reality of death. For the believer, life on earth is terminal, but death is a stepping stone to eternal life.

The stark, ultimate question is simple: do you want death or do you want eternal life as promised by Jesus?

CALLED TO SERVE

Bring on spring

This time of year is good for maple syrup producers. Not so good for the winter outdoor enthusiasts.

I heard a gaggle of geese flying north on two separate occasions this week. On warmer days recently, plants started to break through the dirt to show off their new growth.

Birds are wonderfully noisy. Young squirrels are prancing about looking for whatever it is squirrels are searching for.

In sports, the hockey and basketball seasons are nearing play-

off time. Major League Baseball players are preparing for the regular season start around April 1. Some of the diamond stars represent their home countries in the world baseball classic.

The temperature was mild enough one day and the snowbanks melted sufficiently, that I was able to inspect our property. I resolved to clean things up, rake, pick up twigs, maybe make some repairs. Soon.

It definitely feels like spring.

But as we know, March and even April

can be fickle. It might be sunny and warm one day; cloudy, rainy, dare I say snowy, and downright chilly the next.

We expect that. We don't get too excited about spring arriving soon. It will come, we know, but we can wait.

Lent is perfectly situated for us as we wait for the glory of Easter.

For those of us in the northern hemisphere, Lent coincides with late winter and the spring we anticipate.

We have been through another winter and as it ended, liturgically, we found the first of the two Ordinary seasons of the year.

During these weeks between the Christmas season and Lent, we have taken a whirlwind trip through Jesus' birth, presentation in the Temple, his early life, childhood and early ministry days.

Now we prepare for his final days and ultimately his resurrection from death. East-

ter could be called our spring. It prepares us for the eternal summer with God. An eternity we have been promised for our obedience to the Word.

We are thankful for the change of seasons and the clean-up that awaits our yards.

We are thankful for the promise of eternity and this time to clean up our lives.



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

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

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296
info@rcdony.org

Deaf ministry in Ghana

"The Kingdom of Ashanti is one of the most powerful and influential pre-colonial states in West Africa, whose capital is Kumasi," reports Father K. René D. Yao, of the Society for African Missions (SMA). Since its founding in 1856, the SMA has established missions in different parts of Africa, including the Kingdom of Ashanti in Ghana.

"The contribution of the SMA among this ancient population can be seen in their work of evangelization and education," adds the missionary. "The SMA fathers have worked in the region to improve people's living conditions and spread the message of Christianity. They set up schools and health services."

Among the most salient results Father Yao points out the establishment of the St. Hubert seminary in Kumasi, founded in 1948 to train African candidates for the priesthood.

"As for me," concludes Father Yao, "I am currently serving in Accra in a project for the deaf, St. Martin Deaf Ministry, but I hope to extend my mission to other regions of Ghana, including the Ashanti Kingdom... At first, I did not have an office. I sat under a tree near the church. Later, parishioners pointed out that I could not work under a tree and helped me set up a small office."

Today, Father René works with a small group of deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

In a statement sent to *Fides*, the missionary explains how, thanks to small donations and the generosity of parishioners, he can maintain the various activities of the St. Martin Deaf Ministry he founded. Inclusion is at the heart of pastoral care. In addition to spiritual matters, the parish is committed to social encounters, creative and educational projects, and sign language courses to ensure sustainability.

Every Sunday morning, Father René celebrates Holy Mass in sign language so that deaf parishioners can fully participate in the Eucharist.

"I do not want separate Masses for the deaf. They already experience enough exclusion," he said. "If we celebrate a Mass just for them, we separate them even further from the hearing community. We must pray together, as one body in Christ."

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

OBITUARIES

Altona — Mary Jane (Lovejoy) Sorrell, 84; Mass of Christian Burial in spring at Holy Angels Church.

AuSable Forks — Amy Jane (Bombard) Votraw, 98; Mass of Christian Burial March 21, 2026 at Holy Name Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Brasher Falls — EllaJane (LaComb) Burnett, 81; Mass of Christian Burial March 11, 2026 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Brushton — Mary E. (Roshia) Snyder, 79; Funeral Services March 6, 2027 at Flint Funeral Home.

Burke — Joyce (Marlow) Southworth, 88; Memorial services May 30, 2026 at Chateaugay Funeral Home; burial in St. George's Cemetery.

Canton — Carol A. O'Horo, 74; Funeral Services March 12, 2026 at O'Leary Funeral Home.

Heuvelton — Robert Hynes, 80; Funeral Services March 11, 2026 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Hillcrest Cemetery.

Keeseville — Margaret (Henry) Karkoski, 90; Mass of Christian Burial March 14, 2026 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in parish cemetery

Lake Placid — John Dustin "Dusty" Smith, 102; Funeral Services March 10, 2026 at M.B. Clark Funeral Home; burial in Norton Cemetery, Keene.

Lowville — Bernard Daley, 80; Mass of Christian Burial March 14, 2026 at St. Peter's Church.

Malone — Donald E. Warner, 82; Funeral Services March 7, 2026 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Lake Titus.

Ogdensburg — Joan M. (O'Marah) Mills, 89; Funeral Services March 20, 2026 at Oswegatchie

Mausoleum.

Old Forge — Lorraine Wanda (Nalwak) Mitchell, 91; Mass of Christian Burial March 14, 2026 at St. Bartholomew's Church.

Peru — Mary Ann Theresa (McGuire) Flora, 89; Mass of Christian Burial April 25, 2026 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Elaine (Anctil) Favreau, 77; Private services.

Plattsburgh — Gloria (Barnaby) Guimond, 86; Mass of Christian

Burial March 14, 2026 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Clarissa D. (Rushford) Stone, 92; Mass of Christian Burial March 13, 2026 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Tupper Lake — Robert J. Christy, 84; Mass of Christian Burial March 9, 2026 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Watertown — Isabelle (Ellison) Murphy, 99; Mass of Christian Burial May 23, 2026 at Holy Family Church.

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SAINT ANNE'S SHRINE
Center of Life, Light and Love

Hospitality Manager Job Opening

Saint Anne's Shrine, a Catholic spiritual retreat center and historic attraction situated on thirty-two pristine park-like acres on the shores of Lake Champlain in Isle La Motte, VT seeks a Hospitality Manager to oversee all aspects of the guest experience for all who visit with us.

Established in 1893 and conducted by the Society of Saint Edmund since 1904, the mission of Saint Anne's Shrine is to "serve as a welcoming place of peace and hope ministering to all God's people through prayer, devotion, hospitality, and spiritual renewal."

The Shrine provides the ideal setting for people of all ages to grow in their faith through pilgrimages, various retreats, and days of reflection.

The Hospitality Manager will lead a group of four to six employees, varying by time of year and schedule. The primary focus of the position will be understanding and meeting the needs of our guests focusing on food service, space, cabin and resource set-up and readiness, including housekeeping and special events, and oversight of our gift shop, and welcome center.

We seek an enthusiastic, energetic, and engaging person who enjoys tending to the details and providing a meaningful experience for all who visit our beautiful Shrine. A high school diploma is required, with a college degree preferred, with a focus in a hospitality related field a plus. Customer/client/guest care experience is required, as is experience leading others in a similar role or field.

This position is full-time, year-round and some evening and weekend work is required. A competitive salary and generous benefits package supplement the beautiful surroundings and meaningful work.

Please send your resume and letter of interest to: Joe Gallagher, Shrine Administrator, via email: jgallagher@saintanneshrine.org.

Applications will be accepted until a Hospitality Manager is selected.

'A true spiritual father'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ing/teaching. He'd give a beautiful message, but it would also be a teaching moment."

Father Seymour said Father Crosby was a good friend despite his reserved nature.

"He tended to be a little shy with those he didn't know," added Father Sey-

mour. "Once he knew you, though, he was the life of the party. He had a sense of humor that could knock you over! He would keep us laughing all the time, but you had to get him to that moment."

"Even if you didn't see him or hear from him for weeks or months, when

you reconnected with (Father Crosby), you just picked up where you left off. He loved to reminisce about the days in seminary and all the trips we went on. He didn't like crowds, though. It just wasn't him. He came to my 25th anniversary celebration, but he came only to the Mass. He skipped

the reception. That just wasn't him. But he never lost touch. He was a good friend. No matter when you needed him, he would always be there."

Father Crosby was known for his love of the Blessed Mother.

"He referred to the Blessed Mother as 'mama Mary,'" Father Seymour said. "He would remind us that mom will never leave you alone, and mom will never let you down. Her son, Jesus, gave her to us."

"If someone on this earth had a devotion to The Blessed Virgin Mary, it was Father Ted," Gagnon agreed. "He always would join our prayers to Hers, and before every Mass, you could count on him taking a gaze at the statue of Our Lady. He would frequently ask us to pray a rosary every day and to strengthen our devotion to Jesus' Blessed Mother. He has said the quote many times 'It is through Mary that Jesus came to us, and it is through Mary we are led to Jesus, Mary always leads us to her son.'"

While his love of Mary was always evident, he had a couple other loves, Father Seymour noted.

"If you walked into his house, you could generally know three things he was passionate about," the priest said. "One was clearly the Blessed Virgin Mary. She was everywhere - statues, rosaries, pictures. He just loved her. His second passion was the Civil War and that era. He had lots of representations of Mary, but he also had a larger-than-life portrait of Abraham Lincoln. When he went on vacations, he often spent them on the battlefields in Pennsylvania and elsewhere. His third love was the music of Hank Williams - senior not junior. That was his taste.

"He also had a great love of animals, especially his dog, Molly."

Father Crosby was also known for his care for the dead.

"Father Ted also was an advocate for the poor souls in purgatory," Gagnon said. "He truly had a grasp on the importance of prayers for them and would frequently give penances asking to pray Hail Marys for their poor souls."

Gagnon said the beloved priest encouraged the faithful to embrace signs of their faith.

"Father Ted on numerous occasions told his congregation, 'Every Catholic home should have a crucifix in it, even every room if you can. It reminds us what God has done for us, because He loves us,'" Gagnon recalled.

Father Seymour said his friend and classmate loved being a priest.

"(Father Crosby) loved his ministry. He loved Church work," Father Seymour said. "He loved offering the gift of God's forgiveness and mercy and helping people find new hope in their lives."

Gagnon indicated he had found such hope.

"Although we mourn the passing of Father Ted who touched our hearts, we should have hope and confidence he is with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, whom he faithfully served with his life, and with the Blessed Virgin Mary whom he loved so much," he said.

Father Seymour said Father Crosby's impact will carry on long after the priest's passing.

"In his own quiet way, he touched a lot of lives," Father Seymour said. "People loved him because he was genuine and authentic, and his preaching touched their hearts and lives in profound ways."

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