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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 81 Number 9

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

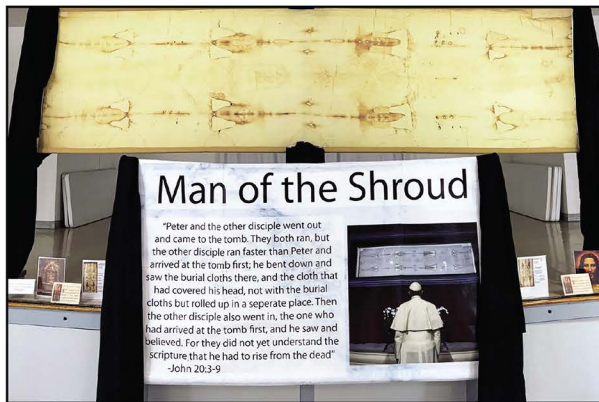
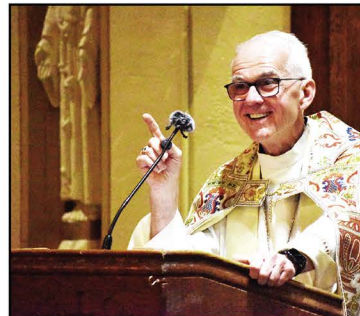
MAY 27, 2026

Settlement reached in Chapter 11

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FULL STORY, PAGE 3

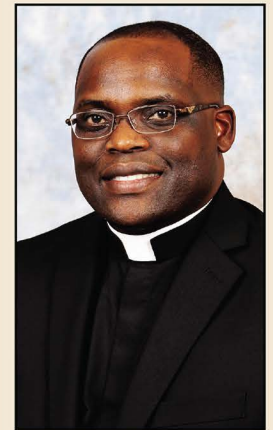
ON THE HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN



(Top left) The Highway to Heaven event held May 16 in Massena brought Jesus out of the church and into the community with a Eucharistic procession. (Top right) Bishop Terry R. LaValley addresses the event at its closing. (Bottom) A replica of the Shroud of Turin was one of the features of the event, which drew a capacity crowd from around the diocese to Sacred Heart Church.

See additional photos of the event on pages 8 & 9.

'READY TO SERVE'



Deacon Dennis Ombongi says he's 'ready to work, ready to serve the people of God' as he prepares to be ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Terry R. LaValley along with Deacon Michelet Boncour and Deacon Tyler Fitzgerald on May 30.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope begins catechesis on sacred liturgy

By Victoria Cardiel
EWTN News

Pope Leo XIV said May 20 that the liturgy occupies a central place in the life of the Church, since it “touches the very heart” of the mystery of Christ — because it is “at once the space, the time, and the context” in which the Church receives from him “her very life.”

The liturgy, he said at the general audience in St. Peter's Square, is where “the work of our redemption is accomplished,” which makes us “a chosen lineage, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people

whom God has acquired for himself.”

The pontiff began a new series of catechesis about the Second Vatican Council's constitution on the sacred liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*.

The conciliar text marks a shift in emphasis in the understanding of the liturgy: Whereas the Tridentine Mass prior to Vatican II focused primarily on the sacrificial dimension, the conciliar liturgical reform placed at the forefront Christ acting in the liturgy, setting at the center the paschal mystery — his passion, death, resurrection, and glorification — which is made sacramentally

present in every celebration.

The pope explained that the council fathers at Vatican II sought not only an external reform of the rites but also a broader spiritual deepening: “In drafting this constitution, the council fathers sought not only to undertake a reform of the rites but to lead the Church to contemplate and deepen that living bond which constitutes and unites her: the mystery of Christ.”

The pontiff thus affirmed that “every time we take part in the assembly gathered ‘in his name’ we are immersed in this mystery,” stressing that Christ continues to act in the

Church as “he who is present in the proclaimed word, in the sacraments, in the ministers who celebrate, in the gathered community and, in the highest degree, in the Eucharist.”

Referring to St. Augustine, Leo recalled that in celebrating the Eucharist the Church “receives the body of the Lord and becomes what she receives,” thus becoming the body of Christ and “a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”

The pope also insisted that the liturgy is not an isolated act but “the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed ... the font from which all her power flows.”

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A day with the Body of Christ

I attended an entire event focused on the Eucharist, and I felt like I never really got time to spend with Jesus in the Eucharist.

I attended most of the Highway to Heaven event on May 16 at Sacred Heart Church in Massena. Booked to capacity, Highway to Heaven drew people from around the diocese and beyond. From morning prayer to closing thanks, it was a beautiful event! The keynote speaker was engaging and inspiring (videos are available on the Highway to Heaven Facebook page), the music was beautiful, the Shroud of Turin, relics and Eucharistic Miracles exhibits were interesting and awe-inspiring, and it

was really exciting to see Jesus go out into the community in a Eucharistic procession with Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

**Darcy L. Fargo**

But when I attend events primarily through the lens of a camera, it's a different type of participation than attending as a participant. Instead of prayerfully spending time with Jesus in the Eucharist, I'm generally thinking about what adjustments I need to make to my camera settings or where I need to be next.

While there was ample time at the event for Adoration, prayer with the Eucharistic Christ, I never really made it to those opportunities except to take photographs.

Everywhere I went at this event, I ran into someone I knew or someone who knew me. And to top it off, my son, Jake, attended the event with me (he spent time as a volunteer, and he really wanted to hear Sarah Kroger lead praise and worship). While I got to chat with a lot of readers of this newspaper, and everyone was super kind and gracious, everyone seemed far more excited to meet Jake than they ever are to meet me. It made my mom heart so very happy and grateful, and Jake loved meeting so many people who are cheering him on and praying for him.

Between the time I spent taking photos and the time I spent chatting away with all the wonderful people I met and wonderful people I already knew who I ran

into at the event, I ran out of time, and I never made it to spend time with Jesus in the Eucharist.

Thinking back on it, I was a little sad that I missed that opportunity, but then it occurred to me, one of the reasons I didn't make it to spend time with the Eucharistic body of Christ was because I was spending time with the Body of Christ. It just didn't look like I expected.

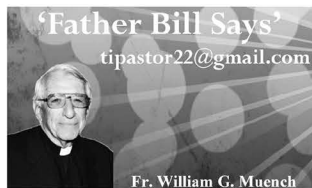
I love spending time with Jesus in Adoration, but the people of God - the Church - are also the Body of Christ, and it was amazing to have an opportunity to be with the Church of the North Country.

I attended an entire event focused on the Eucharist, and it was a blessing to have a chance to share time and love with the Body of Christ.

Living as Church in our churches

The last few months of our Church experience, for us, Catholics, has been celebrating the most important time in our Church year. Ash Wednesday began the several weeks of Lent. Then we celebrated Holy Week - remembering the Lord's Passion and Death. Then Easter arrived, and we celebrated the Lord's Resurrection. The weeks of the Easter Season brought us to the Pentecost - the coming of the Holy Spirit. We remembered those first apostles preparing to form our Catholic Church. They reached out to all who would listen to join in the Christian community. This Catholic Church lasts until our time, now.

The Catholic Church is about all of us, people. We believe that God called our Church into existence, sending Jesus to us. After the Pentecost his apostles became true missionaries, proclaiming the Gospel message of Jesus. Men and

**Fr. William G. Muench**

women embraced God's gift of faith and through baptism became members of this Christian community, members of the Church. This is our story still today.

Now, I know that we use the word, "Church" about buildings. You are aware of many Catholic Church buildings. There, the faithful gather for the sacraments, especially for the Eucharist.

However, when we think about our Catholic Church, we are referring to the people, the members of the Church, the People of God. Our Catholic Church is about the "living stones," the lay men and women, spiritually guided by our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, the bishops, the priests and

deacons, as well as the many religious sisters throughout the world. This Catholic Church of ours is divided into diocese throughout the world; there are now 2,900 Catholic diocese throughout the world. Each diocese is spiritually led and guided by a bishop. Our bishop in the Diocese of Ogdensburg is Bishop Terry LaValley. He has been our bishop since 2010. As members of his diocese, we pray for him each day.

All Catholic dioceses are divided into parishes. Each parish is the place where Catholic families and individuals live out their Catholic life - praying, working together, helping each other - following the leadership of their pastor. The life of a parish involves worshipping together and developing programs to draw all closer in their relationship with God.

Parishioners today join together as a family, living life as a Catholic family led

by various parish groups and councils and the pastor. However, each parishioner must become a part and involved in the life of the parish, participating as fully as they are able. As a parish we, parishioners, join at Mass and pray with our needs and petitions, but we also pray for each other and help each other and each family as well as we can.

Each time we pray, each time we participate at Mass, in gratitude we should remember and celebrate those first disciples of Jesus who formed our Church in the power of the Holy Spirit - and truly continue to bring us to new life in that Holy Spirit. May God the Father, and the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit enrich each parish in our diocese.

Thank you, Lord. Make my parish filled with your love and peace and help me to find my way to become a saint with you.

FOLLOW ME

Settlement reached in diocesan Chapter 11

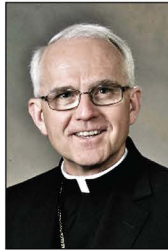
Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As you have been aware, we have been faced with making reparations with the survivors of child sexual abuse by clergy, employees, and volunteers representing the Church. We have also worked hard to establish safe environment protocols to prevent this evil from happening again. In July 2023 we filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy protection to allow us to reach a global settlement for abuse claims filed under the Child's Victim Act. Today I announced a big first step in forming a Chapter 11 Plan that will lead the Diocese to settle with survivors and emerge from bankruptcy.

The Diocese and the parishes, schools and

other Catholic entities within the Diocese (the "Catholic Family") announced on May 19 that an important milestone in the reorganization case has been reached. The Catholic Family has reached a settlement in principle with the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the "Committee"), who represents the survivors in the Chapter 11 case, under which the Catholic Family will contribute \$45 million to a survivor Trust to be formed under a plan of Reorganization (the "Plan") to be developed and proposed jointly by the Diocese and the Committee.

My prayer is that this process and this settle-



Bishop Terry R. LaValley

ment will bring peace and healing to survivors and to the faithful whose hearts were broken by the gravely sinful conduct of Church leaders and representatives.

While this settlement is a good first step, there is more work to be done. The Diocese and Creditors' Committee will continue to negotiate details of child protection policies and protocols to enhance measures already undertaken by the Diocese to protect young parishioners, students and all people entrusted to the care of the Church. The Diocese of Ogdensburg is committed to ensuring the safety of everyone entrusted to our care. The great harm caused

by this heinous sinful behavior must never be allowed to happen again.

Additionally, negotiations will continue with our insurers. Our insurers, upon reaching a settlement in this case, will pay additional funds into the settlement Trust for survivors. When these remaining matters are settled, the Diocese will submit its plan of Reorganization. The Plan will be subject to a vote of all claimants in the Chapter 11 case (including survivors of abuse) and must be confirmed by the Bankruptcy Court before its terms (including payment of the Catholic Family Settlement) will become effective.

Once the Plan is confirmed, the Diocese and

its insurers will pay the funds into the settlement Trust, and the Diocese will emerge from Bankruptcy.

My hope and prayer is that this process will bring peace and healing to all survivors. I ask for your continued prayers for all whose lives have been devastated by the behavior of Church leaders.

In addition, please pray for our Diocese and the people we serve. Asking God to bless you abundantly, I am

Faithfully yours in

 Christ,
 Most Reverend
 Terry R. LaValley
 Bishop of Ogdensburg

Congratulations to all of the Sisters of St. Joseph who are celebrating their religious jubilee this year.

From
 St. Mary's Church, Clayton & the Catholic Community of Alexandria

REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name a priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul; take over his entire personality and life.

Replace him with yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always. O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of priests, pray and intercede for (...)

Amen.

JUNE

DIocese OF OGDENSBURG, NY

2026

Sacred Heart

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	BISHOP 1 TERRY R. LAVALLEY	REV. 2 CHRISTOPHER J. LOOBY	REV. 3 JOHN J. LOOBY	REV. 4 SHANE M. LYNCH	REV. 5 JHON MADRID	REV. 6 DONALD J. MANFRED
REV. 7 LAWRENCE E. MARILLO	OUR 8 PASTOR	REV. 9 MICHAEL H. MARZAN	REV. 10 KEVIN D. MCEWAN	REV. 11 RAYMOND J. MOREAU	REV. 12 JOSEPH A. MORGAN VG	REV. 13 WILLIAM G. MUECHN
MSGR. 14 JOHN R. MURPHY	POPE 15 LEO XIV	REV. 16 STEVEN M. MURRAY	REV. 17 FRANK NATALE, MSC	REV. 18 JUDE C. SNADIBUAGHA	REV. 19 KEVIN J. O'BRIEN	REV. 20 JOHN K. OJOUK
REV. 21 AMRUTA K. PASALA	DECEASED 22 PRIESTS	REV. 23 JEROME PASTORES	REV. 24 TERRENCE R. PATTERSON	REV. 25 CARTER G. PIERCE	MSGR. 26 LEEWARD J. POISSANT	REV. 27 SONY G. PULICKAL
REV. 28 PATRICK A. RATTIGAN	REV. 29 WILLIAM G. REAMER	REV. 30 MARK R. REILLY VF				

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 The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by: Diocese of Ogdensburg
 Vocations Society www.nyvocation.net

'To serve the people of God' as a priest

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

"I'm really happy and excited," said Deacon Dennis M. Ombongi. "At long last, I'm almost there! I'm ready to work to serve the people of God. Being in the seminary for eight years, it's been a blessing. But leaving, my classmates and I, we were just so happy to be done seminary. It's really a good feeling to be so close to being ordained and to serve."

Deacon Ombongi is scheduled to be ordained by Bishop Terry R. LaValley at 11 a.m. on May 30 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg along with Deacon Michelet Boncoeur and Deacon Tyler M. Fitzgerald.

"I look forward to serve as a priest," he said. "I'm going to Malone. I've never been to Malone. I'm so excited to work with Father Scott Seymour and to learn more as a new priest with him. I'm excited to come to know the people in the Malone area, the parishioners, and to step into the life of the people - celebrating Mass, offering the sacraments, seeing people who are sick at the hospital - working with them in each day."

Born in Kenya, East Africa, Deacon Ombongi served for a time with a religious community, the Missionaries of the Poor. The deacon said he's excited to have opportunities to serve individuals in need at the thriving outreach center operated by St. André Bessette Parish in Malone.

"It was my privilege to work with in Kenya, Uganda and Jamaica



Deacon Dennis Ombongi, pictured being vested at his ordination to the diaconate in May of 2025, is scheduled to be ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on May 30 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

working with people - the poorest of the poor, people who had no one to take care of them," he said. "I'm really looking forward to serving in Malone and helping others."

Deacon Ombongi said he strives to follow Christ's call in Matthew 25 to feed the hungry and clothe the naked, serving Christ in the least of His people.

"Serving the people of God is really serving God," he said.

It was that service aspect that also led him to enjoy his year in the diaconate, a ministry devoted to service.

"Deacons serve that one academic year in

seminary - all of us are assigned each to a different parish," Deacon Ombongi said. "I was assigned in Our Lady of the Valley Parish in Pittsburgh - about 20 minutes from the airport - serving four churches, Sts. Peter and St. Paul, St. Cecelia, Holy Family and St. Felix. It was nine Masses - a vibrant parish, really busy. As a deacon, it was an opportunity for me to serve - preaching every weekend, to mingle with so many people and learning from my experience, especially helping the pastor in the preparation for marriage and baptisms. It was a wonderful experience for

JOIN THE CELEBRATION

Through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, Bishop Terry R. LaValley will ordain to the Order of Priesthood Deacon Michelet Boncoeur, Deacon Tyler Martin Fitzgerald and Deacon Dennis Mamwacha Ombongi. You are cordially invited to join in the Ordination Liturgy.

Date: May 30

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Time: 11 a.m.

Features: A Reception will immediately follow the Liturgy downstairs in the Brzana Hall.

Stream online: The Ordination Mass may be viewed at www.rcdony.org/ordination. The Ordination Mass program will be available at the same link shortly before the Liturgy.

me as a deacon."

Deacon Ombongi noted that his family, still living in Kenya, will be unable to attend his ordination in person.

"Because of immigration issues, they will be unable to attend," he said. "Denied visas for reasons we don't know. But for all these years, all of you are my family here - made me feel at home. I really want to thank the people of Massena. They have always been my family, coming back from school - whether for break or for summer - they were always so welcoming. My family will be far away and watching virtually, but I know I have a spiritual family, and that family is all here. I also have a lot of support from the bishop, the priests and the parishioners. I'm not alone."

Deacon Ombongi will celebrate his first Mass as Father Dennis Ombongi at Sacred Heart Church in Massena at

9:30 a.m. on May 31, the day after his ordination.

"I'm so excited to be on the altar of God serving the people of God," he said. "I've been preparing for my first Mass and learning all the sacraments. I am looking forward to the day, and I thank God and the people of God who have prayed for me. I thank our bishop, Bishop Terry R. LaValley, Father Chris Carrara (diocesan Vicar for Clergy and director of Seminarians), the DOVS (Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society) who have done an amazing, amazing job. I just want to thank everyone for taking care of me for six years."

As he moves through the last days preparing for ordination, Deacon Ombongi said he's been praying with John 15:16, "It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you" and Matthew 28:19, "go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations."

"I can say that I believe this Scripture is real," he said. "Many times, I have had challenges or questions, it helps give me that courage. It was God who chose me. He appointed me and called me as Dennis. 'Go and bear fruit, fruit that will remain, so that everything you ask of the Father in my name, He may give you. Always run to Christ... And we are all called to go wherever God is calling us, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These are amazing verses!"

A KNIGHT'S REFLECTION

Hope in hallowed ground

For as long as I can remember, I have felt compelled - or even called - to visit cemeteries. People today may view these spaces with a detached curiosity or avoid them unless they are visiting a loved one. I find them to be peaceful havens that link me to the souls who have passed.

It is hard to estimate the number of cemeteries I have visited; suffice it to say, I have lost count. Traveling extensively for work has allowed me to explore a diverse array of New England burial grounds, each with unique characteristics that reflect the local community. As a history enthusiast, I appreciate the cultural significance these sacred spots offer. People who travel regularly for work quickly notice that towns share similar features such as town halls, schools, and local businesses; however, it is the cemetery that remains a constant. Even when smaller rural communities lack modern services, they never lack hallowed ground to honor their ancestors.

There is a strange kind of peace in cemeteries, and my comfort is knowing that someday I will rest among the faithful. For me, the most intriguing cemeteries are not the famous landmarks; rather, they are the ones stumbled upon by chance while driving down forgotten dirt roads. A small plot of land nestled between evergreens and oaks, surrounded by an old wrought iron fence, offering spectacular views of rolling hills and distant mountains.

Preserved by dedicated local caretakers, these sites may not have seen a burial in over 150 years. Look closely at the weathered granite and marble markers and it will reveal the entire history of the town.

The surname etched in stone - French, English, Irish or German - reflect the heritage of the first settlers. There is also a darker tale in the scars of cholera, smallpox and influenza; the outbreaks that struck with no regard to age, wealth or status. If you try, you can picture a family gathered around a grave listening attentively as the preacher delivers the funeral rites. Once the ceremony concludes, they climb into their single-horse drawn buggy and head home to carry on with their lives as best they can. In the 19th century, it was customary for families to personalize their loved ones' headstones. For a child the inscription might read: "This lovely bud, so young and fair, Called hence by early doom; Just came to show how sweet a flower, In paradise would bloom." Occasionally, the person afflicted with an illness would pen their own epitaph before dying: "Affliction sore long time I bore, Physicians were in vain; Till God did please to give me ease, And take away my pain." The large number of young souls in these grounds and the widespread sorrow felt by families, some many times over,

is heartbreaking.

Whenever I enter a cemetery, I feel a change - a sense that ordinary time, with its past, present and future, fades away. It seems a part of me longs to experience the "eternal now," a way



Mike Langlois

of being that exists beyond the boundaries of time, like God's existence. Instead of seeing countless headstones, I feel the presence of the souls in the hallowed place. My mind races with questions: Did they follow Christian tradi-

tions - were they baptized; did they accept Jesus Christ, receive Anointing of the Sick or die in a state of grace? As Thomas à Kempis, in *The Imitation of Christ*, once wrote, "Every action of yours, every thought, should be those of one who expects to die before the day is out." My thoughts go beyond ordinary existence - the invisible veil - to the souls awaiting redemption in purgatory. These souls experience an internal burning

fire of love - for God - which rages until that soul is detached from sin. The Catholic Church teaches that prayers, especially the Holy Mass, can ease the purifying suffering of the souls and hasten their journey into heaven. We can take comfort in those saints who received the grace of witness to this divine reality. St. Faustina, in a vision she recorded in her diary, described purgatory as a "misty place full of fire" containing a great crowd of suffering souls who are unable to help themselves. According to tradition, the Blessed Virgin Mary told St. Bridget of Sweden, "I am the mother of all souls in purgatory; and all the suffering they endure is alleviated in some measure every hour by my prayers." When I pray, whether it is the Holy Rosary or the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, I envision Mary receiving my prayers into her Immaculate Heart, where they are lovingly dispensed to the suffering souls. Whether souls in purgatory can pray for us remains a topic of theological debate, though

many find the idea reassuring.

We tend to live our lives as if we have endless time to "get it right." The next time you pass by a cemetery, take a moment to reflect on the souls who once lived and breathed. They, like yourself, faced a wide range of emotions that shaped their time in this world. The only difference is that their decisions are irrevocable, and the choices you make - while there is time - can impact how your soul is received after death.

Mike Langlois is the grand knight of St. Augustine Knights of Columbus Council 7273 in Peru, New York. He is also the Upstate Conference coordinator for evangelization and faith formation for the New York State Knights of Columbus, which encompasses the Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Ogdensburg dioceses.

Local Knights of Columbus councils interested in fortifying the faith of their memberships or offering column topic ideas, can contact him at mjlang67@gmail.com.



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MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

The ethics of suicide and organ donation

Physician-assisted suicide involves asking a medical professional to write a prescription for a toxic drug so that a patient can ingest it and bring his or her own life to an end. The practice sadly appears to be growing around the world, especially in Canada, Australia, Europe and the US.

In early 2023, a 66-year old former nurse in Australia, Marlene Bevern, was suffering from an aggressive form of motor neuron disease and opted for physician-assisted suicide. She was also very determined to donate her organs for transplant afterwards — something that had never been done before in Australia.

To make the donation, Ms. Bevern had to spend her last day in an ICU bed. Her assisted suicide had to be carried out close to the operating room where her organs would be harvested, because, if it were done at home, the organs would not be as useful for transplantation due to the extended time between cardiac arrest and or-

gan procurement.

Prior to taking her own life, Ms. Bevern was given information about how many other people her organs would help. "I'll never forget her face," the organ transplant specialist said later, describing how she received that information, "she lit up with a big beautiful smile." Following her suicide, her lungs, liver, and kidneys were transplanted and reportedly helped to save four other lives.

Many ethical concerns arise in a case like this. The prospect of donating one's organs can clearly incentivize and motivate a patient's intention to carry out physician-assisted suicide.

Hospitals and medical facilities face the danger of corrupting their healing mission if they begin supporting the practice of organ harvesting from patients who are making plans to end their own lives through physician-assisted suicide. These institutions should not provide an environment facilitating physician-assisted suicides,

should forbid the use of a hospital bed or suite for premeditated suicide, and should ban the use of operating rooms for organ extraction afterwards. By establishing categorical policies excluding organ donation from such suicides, they avoid giving tacit support to the wrongdoing of the self-killing act.

We can consider related cases to help clarify the ethical lines. Suppose a middle-aged man let people around him know that he intended to commit suicide by using a large caliber handgun to shoot himself in the head. Suppose further that he lived near a hospital where transplants were carried out, and he was very insistent that he wanted to donate his organs after pulling the trigger. Suppose he contacted a local ambulance company requesting an ambulance to be standing by the house, so that as soon as the paramedics heard the gunshot, his lifeless body could be rushed to the hospital where organs would be extracted.

In making these arrangements with the ambulance service, suppose that he fur-

ther requested that the trained EMTs enter his home a few minutes ahead of the scheduled suicide, and set up an IV drip to provide him with blood thinner that would help preserve and protect his organs from blood clots after the suicide.

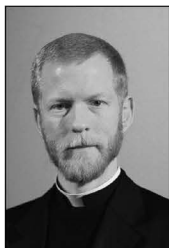
It would of course raise grave concerns for the ambulance company to agree to set up such an IV or to transport his lifeless body to the operating room, when they knew ahead of time that he was making explicit preparations to commit suicide. By agreeing to take either of these steps, they would be signaling their implied or tacit approval of his immoral suicidal choice.

On the other hand, suppose a young man commits suicide by jumping off the 35th story of his hotel onto the sidewalk below. Suppose further that he has a note in large letters attached to his jacket stating: "Please arrange for immediate donation of as many of my tissues and organs as possible after you discover my body." Would it be wrong if an ambulance arrived and quickly transported his deceased body to a hos-

pital, and at the same time contacted the hospital transplant team to notify them of his imminent arrival so they could prepare an operating theater to receive his body? Given that the hospital staff and the ambulance company employees had nothing to do with the death itself, neither contributing to it nor acting in a way that offered approbation or support for the act, they could indeed step in, and, in a blameless way, strive to procure organs from the young man's corpse following his tragic suicide.

These examples involving suicide and organ donation remind us of the ease with which we can be drawn into cooperating with evil in the name of doing good. Organ donation serves as a generous decision that can indeed save lives — and is allowable as long as unpaired organs are removed only after death has independently occurred. Great attention and care are required to avoid contributing to, and therefore becoming partially responsible for, the self-inflicted deaths of others.

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



Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D.

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Continue urging Hochul to opt in to scholarship tax credit

Though Governor Kathy Hochul has indicated she intends to opt in to the Federal Scholarship Tax Credit, New York State Catholic Conference urges Catholics to continue contacting the governor expressing their support of the opt-in until it is officially completed.

Following is a statement by Dennis Poust, executive director of the New York State Catholic Conference, on behalf of Archbishop Ronald Hicks and the Catholic Bishops of New York State:

"Governor Kathy Hochul's announcement that she intends to opt in to the new Federal Scholarship Tax Credit is welcome news for hundreds of thousands of New York children and their parents, who struggle daily to afford their educational expenses. We are grateful to the Governor for her leadership in committing to allowing our state's children to benefit from this federal program, absent any unexpected poison pills in regulations currently under development.

"This new \$1,700 tax credit for donations to scholarship-granting organizations (SGOs) will help public school families afford such critical needs as after-school programs and technology, tutoring and special education services, and transportation and uniforms. In addition, it will open new scholarship opportunities for children whose parents have chosen a religious or independent school.

"Governor Hochul clearly recognizes the value of a diverse education landscape that allows parents, regardless of their income, to direct the education of their children. This new credit will address the affordability gap by driving potentially billions of dollars of investments in education in New York that otherwise would have gone to Washington. And it won't take a single dollar from our state's incredibly important public school system.

"The Bishops of New York State look forward to the day they can celebrate the Governor's formal announcement that she has opted in to the program and opened up new educational opportunities for the children of our great state."

GET INVOLVED

For more information and a form to directly email the governor, visit the Catholic Action Network (CAN) at nyscatholic.org/action-center.

CAN, an arm of the New York State Catholic Conference, gives Catholics in New York a larger voice in the halls of government. Through email and social media alerts, CAN reaches tens of thousands of Catholics to provide educational updates on important issues being debated and to provide you tools to simplify the process of contacting elected officials.

Bishop's Public Schedule

- May 27** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
6 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Tupper Lake along with St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid and St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake
- May 28** – 5 p.m. – Mass Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood for Reverend Arthur J. LaBaff at St. Mary's Church in Clayton followed by Dinner at the Edgewood Resort in Alexandria Bay
- May 29** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
5 p.m. – Dinner with Deacon Michelet Boncoeur, Deacon Tyler Martin Fitzgerald and Deacon Dennis Mamwacha Ombongi and their Families and Special Guests at Bishop's Residence
- May 30** – 11 a.m. – Ordination to the Priesthood of Deacon Michelet Boncoeur, Deacon Tyler Martin Fitzgerald and Deacon Dennis Mamwacha Ombongi at St. Mary's Cathedral
- May 31** – 10 a.m. – Confirmation at St. Ann's Church in Wells along with St. James Major Church in Lake Pleasant
- June 1** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
- June 2** – 10:30 a.m. – Pontifical Mission Society Board Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch
- June 3** – 6 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Cecilia's Church in Adams along with The Roman Catholic Community of Brownville and Dexter in Brownville, the Queen of Heaven Church in Henderson and St. Andrew's Church in Sackets Harbor

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 lshoen@rcdony.org

Rest in Peace

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

- May 27** – Rev. J. Rosario Jalbert, O.M.I., 1938; Msgr. Wilfred Allen Nugent, 1991; Rev. Andrew R. Mulvaney, 2013
- May 29** – Rev. Hervé Racette, O.M.I., 1948
- May 30** – Rev. J. Heliodore Valois, 1952
- May 31** – Rev. John J. Dean, 1930; Rev. Eugene T. Desnoyers, 1993
- June 1** – Rev. Tobias M. Glenn, 1907; Rev. Charles B. Cotter, 2001
- June 2** – Rev. Antoine Buch, O.F.M., 1927; Msgr. John L. Plunkett, 1950; Deacon Richard T. Larche, 1989

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victim Assistance Coordinator, Terrienne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terriannyanulavich@yahoo.com; 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

Environmental Stewardship

From Hope to Action

Last week, we celebrated the eleventh anniversary of Pope Francis's Encyclical: *Laudato Si: On Care for our Common Home*. Many people think *Laudato Si* is about only environmental issues. While it is about caring for God's creation, we are a part of that creation. One day, when I invited someone to an event on the Encyclical, the person, who worked in Chicago with the poor, replied, "You take care of the earth, and I take care of the people." Then, the crisis happened in Flint, Michigan where contaminated water affected those most vulnerable. Next time we met, she said, "Hey, I get it now! It is all connected."

These quotes from Pope Francis' Encyclical may help us understand this interconnectedness. "Exploring the ancient teachings of our faith in the light of today's ecological crisis, *Laudato Si'* teaches us that everything is connected." (LS 91)

Standing on the firm ground of "three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbor and with the Earth itself," we commit to setting out "on the long path of renewal." (LS 66, 202) We embrace our rightful place in the "order and dynamism" that our Creator ordained, and we urgently embark on new ways of living with "creativity and enthusiasm" (LS 221, 220).

The theme for this year's celebration of the Encyclical is: From Hope to Action. In November 2022 the Vatican urged us as Catholics to participate in the *Laudato Si* Action Platform. This Vatican sponsored program provides concrete resources to protect our common home, in operational partnership with the *Laudato Si'* Movement.

To learn more about this initiative and how people in our own Country and around the world are responding to this challenge see: [Laudato Si Platform.org](http://LaudatoSiPlatform.org). Pray and share with family, friends and/or parish in how you can choose to be a part of this challenge.

HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN

Photos by Darcy Fargo

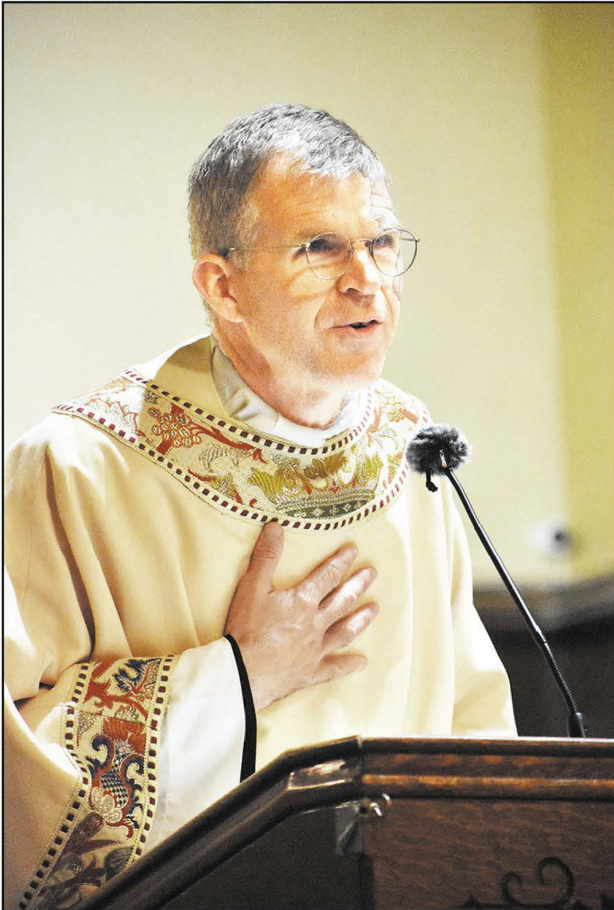


People from around the diocese gathered in Sacred Heart Church, Massena, for Highway to Heaven on May 16.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley carries the Eucharistic Christ in a Eucharistic procession that traversed the roads surrounding Sacred Heart Church.



Marika Donders (left), diocesan director of Evangelization, and Angela Bashaw (right) of Fort Covington served as lectors for Morning Prayer and the opening Mass.



Father Jonathan Meyer, a national preacher for the Eucharistic Revival, YouTube content creator and author, gave the homily at the Highway to Heaven opening Mass and two keynote addresses.



Musician Sarah Kroger traveled from Nashville to Massena to lead praise and worship during Adoration at the Highway to Heaven event.



Father Bryan Stitt, one of the event's organizers, celebrated the opening Mass joined by Father Mark Reilly, pastor in Massena, and Father Meyer and aided by Deacon Dennis Ombongi and Deacon James Carlin.



Father Lukas Gruber provided music for the opening Mass.



Event coordinator Mary Beth Bracy, consecrated virgin for the diocese, greets visitors and aids shoppers at the Highway to Heaven event.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

GOSPEL JUSTICE

The Sisters of St. Joseph Justice Promoter/Faith and Ecology Committees are sponsoring an online series, "Putting on the Lens of Gospel Justice"

Date: Wednesdays until May 27

Time: 7 p.m. to 8

Place: online via Zoom

Features: Seven-week series on Gospel Justice as a lens to view our current reality and to consider ways to act in light of them in our daily lives, based on the Beatitudes, Matthew 25:31-46 and the Catholic Social Teachings concluding with Laudato Si. Final presenter is Sister Bethany Fitzgerald.

Contact: Series is FREE; just need to register. To register contact: srbethssj@gmail.com or call 315-212-6592.

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

FRIENDSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Lake Placid - Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is recruiting new volunteers to help their elder neighbors age in place successfully.

Date: May 27

Place: Heaven Hill Farm

Features: New Volunteers will join Mercy Care's more than 100 Friendship Volunteers from Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, and Tupper Lake and surrounding areas who are helping their elder neighbors stay connected to their communities while helping to make their lives a little easier and happier. A complementary lunch will be provided.

Contact: There is no cost for the training, but registration is required. To register for the training, please visit Mercy Care's website at www.adkmercy.org or contact Lexi Bevilacqua, Mercy Care's Director of Programs and Mission Integration, at abevilacqua@adkmercy.org or call Lexi for more information at 518-523-5446.

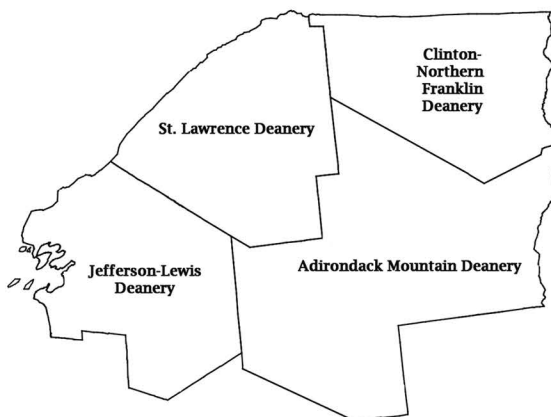
CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

CAR SHOW

Mooers Forks - St. Ann's to have their 8th annual Festival of Cars.

Date: May 31

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



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.

Place: St. Ann's Grounds

Cost: Vehicle Pre-Register \$15 or \$20 day of the show between 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hot Wheels entry fee, Kids \$5, Adults, \$10 (includes car). Kids Power Wheels show entry fee, \$10

Features: There will be a craft fair, theme baskets, lottery tree, food and entertainment. In addition to the car show there will also be a Kids Power Wheels show and Hot Wheel races for kids and adults. Garden tractor pullers on display. The top 40 picks and special awards will be at 3 p.m.

Contact: For more information or to pre-register your vehicle please call 518-236-5632 or 518-236-7200 or 518-565-6754

SOAKING PRAYERS SESSIONS

Come enjoy a relaxing prayer opportunity at two different locations.

Plattsburgh: Newman Center, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30; June 1, July 6 Aug. 3 Sept. 14, Oct. 5, Nov. 2 and Dec. 7

Ellenburg Center: Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (please bring a bag lunch); June 11, July 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 10, Oct. 8; session includes recitation of the rosary.

Features: Soaking Prayer is done in a relaxed spiritual atmosphere wherein you surrender yourself to receive an outpouring

and infilling of the Holy Spirit enabling you to be immersed in God's love, mercy, healing, compassion and peace. Each session begins with a short introduction followed by praise, worship and soaking prayer for an extended period of time as guided by the Holy Spirit. Remainder of time is spent listening to scripture readings and remaining receptive to receive healing.

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

FIRST FRIDAY

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

Date: June 5

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

BENEFIT CONCERT

Peru - Mark your calendars for the 20th anniversary for the Benefit Concert for the North Country Mission of Hope, Towne Meeting Band will be performing.

Date: June 7

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Augustine's Church

Cost: Donation

Features: For the 13th year Town Meeting will be performing.

They are known for their blend of Folk, Soft Rock, and Americana. This concert will include special guests as well. Donations from the concert have provided support to people in Nicaragua, the North Country, and to the yearly mission to Appalachian Kentucky.

Contact: For more information visit www.townmeeting.com or www.ncmissionofhope.org

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Peru - The Peru Knights of Columbus Council #7273 will have the Bill McBride Jr. Memorial Charity Golf Tournament.

Date: June 19

Time: Shotgun start at 10 a.m.

Place: Adirondack Golf and Country Club

Cost: \$300 for a 4 person team

Contact: Obtain entry forms and information from Greg Lombard at 518-593-2652, or email zeroturn364@gmail.com or Scarlett McBride at 518-572-8790 or email scar6064@charter.net

HOUSE SITTERS

Ellenburg Center - Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer is looking for many volunteer "House Sitters".

Time: The responsibility is to arrive by 10 a.m. on your chosen day(s) and remain on premises until 2 p.m. to welcome visitors.

Features: snack items on hand along with tea, coffee, soda, and bottled water. Training will be provided on the history of the House of Prayer, its mission, and the various ways to carry out this ministry of hospitality for those seeking time in a home of Mary to listen to our Lord, browse in the library. Flexible hours are fine.

Contact: If interested in volunteering for one day a month, or week, or more, please call Sarah Anderson at 518-534-9976.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Lyons Falls - A drive thru spaghetti dinner to be held.

Date: May 26

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6

Place: St. John's Church

Cost: \$13

Menu: spaghetti with Dino's sausage and meatballs, tossed salad, Italian bread, and dessert.

Contact: Pre-orders can be made by calling 315-348-8945 or 315-348-8577. The day of the dinner call 315-348-6599. Any questions, call Christine Chaufy at 315-766-6897.

RUMMAGE SALE

Port Leyden - St. Martin's will be hosting a three day rummage sale to help raise funds to cover church heating costs and important renovations.

Schedule: June 5 and 6, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and June 7, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Features: Shoppers can expect a wide variety of items, including clothing, toys, household goods, and many unique finds. Proceeds from the sale will help ensure the church remains a warm, welcoming place of worship and that the rectory continues to serve parish life for years to come. All are invited to attend, shop, and be part of this meaningful mission.

Contact: For more information, please contact The Port Leyden Food Pantry at 315-348-5575.

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: June 7

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

Watertown - Save the date for Immaculate Heart Central's Alumni and Friends Happy Hour get together.

Date: June 12

Time: 5 p.m. to 9

Place: The Italian American Club

Features: Catch up with old Friends, meet fellow Alumni and Friends, enjoy drinks and lite bites, celebrate the central connection. Music by DJ and raffles will be taking place.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

MAY 27, 2026

MASS AND SOCIAL

Highmarket – St. Patrick's will celebrate its annual Mass and social event.

Date: June 14

Time: Mass will be at noon with events to follow after

Features: Celebrating the Mass will be Father Lawrence Marullo, Father Daniel Chapin and Deacon James Chaufty. Following Mass, the Butler-Sheehan Academy traditional Irish dancers will perform. Food, bake sale, crafts, children's games, basket raffle, silent auction, door prizes, 50/50. 250 Club Raffle - only 250 tickets sold - available now for a donation of \$20. Drawings begin at 3 p.m. All proceeds benefit St. Patrick's Restoration Society for upkeep of this historic church. Come celebrate 250 years of democracy, Jubilee of the Restoration Society, and the immigrants who settled on Tug Hill and built a beautiful testament to God.

Contact: Julie Hutchins (315) 397-2708 for information or to volunteer.

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: June 14

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

SPAGHETTI DINNER

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

Date: June 25

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

MOUNT CARMEL FEST

Watertown – St. Anthony's to have their 108th Mount Carmel Festival.

Schedule: June 26, 5 p.m. to 10; June 27 1 p.m. to 10; June 28, 1 p.m. to 10. Religious Procession at 5 p.m. and giant fireworks at 9:30 p.m.

ST. JAMES FAIR

Carthage – St. James to have their 52nd annual fair.

Date: June 25 & 26, 5 p.m. to 9; June 27, noon to 9 p.m.

Features: Games of Chance, black jack, big six wheel, pull tabs, raffle tickets, raffle ticket prizes: 1st Place - \$1000, 2nd Place (5) - \$200; Seller of 1st place winning ticket - \$100. Ticket price: One for \$5 or five for \$20; Drawing Saturday June 27. Entertainment: Reptiles Forever, Forest City Farms Petting Zoo, DJs, Fire Department and much more! Rides provided by Ontario Amusement Rides, purchase a wrist band for \$20 and get unlimited rides for 4 hours, Thursday and Friday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, noon to 4 or 5 p.m. to 9. Food will include: Italian, American, specialty, Bob's Burgers, clams, salt potatoes, fried dough, ice cream and a beer & wine tent.

HEALING WORKSHOP

Cape Vincent – Save the date for a breakthrough healing workshop.

Schedule: Aug. 6-7, 5:30 p.m. to 9; Aug. 8, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: St. Vincent of Paul

Features: Are you longing for deeper healing, freedom, and peace in your life? Join Patrick and Joy Campbell, Benedictine Oblates, from the Cross of St. Benedict Society and Joyful Hope. The Breakthrough Healing Workshop is a powerful time of testimony, teaching, and prayer ministry to help you overcome spiritual obstacles. Heals past wounds and encounter God's restoring love. Feel free to invite a friend and seek healing and hope.

Contact: For more information

contact bhwhjdioogd@gmail.com 315-486-7967

ST. LAWRENCE**ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS**

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

Date: June 6

Time: 8 a.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

Features: Rosary with devotions

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

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

Date: June 6

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: June 6

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

Place: Sacred Heart Church

MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

Date: June 14 (Second Sunday of each month)

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

Place: Father Amyot Parish Center

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

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

DIOCESAN EVENTS**GUGGENHEIM REGISTRATION**

Camp Guggenheim registration and new staff application season is now open.

Dates: July 5 - July 10 for 11-13 year olds; July 12 - July 17 for 12-15 year olds; July 19 - July 24 for 12-15 year olds; July 26 - July

31 for 12-15 year olds; Aug 2 - Aug 7 for 16-18 year olds (waitlist only for final week)

Cost: \$450 per week

Contact: Register for camp at <https://www.rcdony.org/youth/camp/registration>

ORDINATION TO THE ORDER OF THE PRIESTHOOD

Ogdensburg - Through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, the Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg, will Ordain to the Order of Priesthood Deacon Michelet Boncoeur, Deacon Tyler Martin Fitzgerald and Deacon Dennis Mamwacha Ombongi.

Date: May 30

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Time: 11 a.m.

Features: A Reception will immediately follow the Liturgy downstairs in the Brzana Hall. The Ordination Mass may be viewed at www.rcdony.org/ordination. The Ordination Mass program will be available at the same link shortly before the Liturgy.

ORDINATION TO THE ORDER OF THE DIACONATE

Watertown - Through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, the Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg, will Ordain to the Order of Deacon Mr. Kevin Patrick McCullough.

Date: June 6

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: Church of the Holy Family

Features: An outdoor reception will immediately follow the Liturgy behind the Greystone Building (across from Holy Family Church). If there is inclement weather, the reception will be held inside the Greystone Building. The Ordination Mass may be viewed at www.rcdony.org/ordination. The Ordination Mass program will be available at the same link shortly before the Liturgy.

MEN'S RETREAT

Saranac Lake – The Diocesan Catholic Men's Retreat to be held.

Date: June 12 to 14

Place: Guggenheim Dorm

Cost: \$125 and includes meals and lodging

Features: This year Father Leagon Carlin will speak about G. K. Chesterton. The retreat is open to men 18 years of age or older. Outdoor activities will include canoeing and hiking.

Contact: To register go to <https://www.rcdony.org/family-life.html> and then the bottom of the page. For more information, contact Stephen Tartaglia at startaglia@rcdony.org

LIFE GIVING WOUNDS RETREAT

Utica - The Life-Giving Wounds retreat, for adults whose parents separated or divorced to be held.

Date: June 26-28

Place: Good News Center

Cost: \$80-150 for commuter, shared room or single room. Retreat price includes overnight lodging, meals, and all retreat materials.

Contact: Register now at <https://solgw26.eventbrite.com/> If you have any questions, contact Steve Tartaglia at startaglia@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920.

DYING WITH CHRIST, LIVING WITH HOPE

Plattsburgh - When we make a commitment to die with Christ, we can truly live with hope. Learn about the new Physician Assisted Suicide law and how MAID has progressed throughout Canada.

Date: Sept. 29

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Emmaus Room

Cost: \$10 donation, includes lunch

Features: Discussions feature theologians and healthcare professionals giving perspectives on suffering, grief, dying and our Christian duty to care. The day will include guest speaker Jessica Rodgers, coalition director of Patients Rights Action Fund.

Contact: Registration online at: <https://www.rcdony.org.living-withhope> For more information contact cminer@rcdony.org

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

U.S. bishops urge Congress to restore environmental funding

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is urging lawmakers to prioritize the environment and conservation in the budget reconciliation package being negotiated by Congress. In a letter to leaders of the House and Senate appropriations committees, Louisville, Kentucky, Bishop Shelton J. Fabre, chair of the USCCB Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, wrote that conserving the environment is a command from God and necessary for the common good. "In the Book of Genesis, God commands humanity 'to cultivate and care for' the Earth and its resources," Fabre wrote, quoting Genesis 2:15. He listed the environmental priorities of both Pope Francis and Pope Leo XIV and said one important way to fulfill that mission is with federal funding to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Interior (DOI). Fabre encouraged the restoration of previous levels of funding after the fiscal 2026 budget decreased EPA funding by \$277 million and DOI funding by \$211 million. The Trump administration's fiscal 2027 budget proposal called for cutting the EPA's budget by more than half.

Archdiocese of Baltimore proposes \$170M abuse settlement

The Archdiocese of Baltimore is proposing nearly \$170 million in compensation for abuse victims amid its ongoing bankruptcy proceedings there. A May 15 filing in U.S. Bankruptcy Court revealed that the archdiocese would contribute just under \$44 million to an abuse settlement for survivors, while "settling insurers" would pay a total of \$125 million into the fund. The insurance amount represents a 25% increase from an earlier proposed contribution of \$100 million. In a statement on the filing, the archdiocese said the overall plan "seeks to provide equitable compensation to survivors while sustaining the Church's mission and ministries." "The proposal 'reflects a commitment to transparency and a realistic assessment of available resources,'" it said. The archdiocese noted that "no final agreement has yet been achieved." The proposal would also establish a "Survivor Compensation Trust" to "evaluate claims and distribute compensation to survivors."

Catholics denied bail after confronting mob disrupting Mass

UDAIPUR, India — Nine Catholics have been behind bars for more than two weeks after parishioners chased out more than a dozen people who barged into a village church during Mass, shouting accusations of conversion, in a remote village in India's desert state of Rajasthan. "We feel frustrated that our people were denied bail a second time today on the false allegation of conversion," Bishop Devprasad John Ganawa of Udaipur, a Divine Word missionary, told EWTN News on May 12. "When the hooligans disrupted the Mass on May 1 shouting 'conversion,' our people forced them out. Instead of registering a criminal case against the intruders, the police have charged our people with 'conversion and attempt to murder' and arrested nine Catholics of Bandaria Parish," Ganawa explained.

Bishops appeal ruling that mandates abortion accommodations

By Tyler Arnold
EWTN News

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and other Catholic groups appealed a court ruling that would require them to provide workplace accommodations for employees seeking an abortion in certain circumstances.

"In 250 years, our nation has never allowed the state to make the church support abortion — and now's not the time to start," Laura Wolk Slavis, an attorney for Becket who represents the Catholic groups in the lawsuit, said in a statement.

The lawsuit centers on a May 2025 court ruling that interprets the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA) to include a mandate that employers must offer accommodations to employees for obtaining abortions if they are not fully elective.

The language of the PWFA itself does not mention abortion but instead requires that employers offer accommodations to pregnant women in the workplace. The USCCB supported the law, and its Senate sponsor, Sen. Bob Casey Jr., D-Pennsylvania, with cosponsor Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-Louisiana, promised it would not require abortion accommodations.

In spite of this, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) under former President Joe Biden imposed rules for PWFA that interpreted it as requiring abortion accommodations for both elective and nonelective abortions in April 2024, which prompted the USCCB lawsuit.

A federal court in May 2025 ruled that the law itself, regardless of what the regulations say, does require that the Catholic bishops and the other Catholic groups offer abortion accommodations if a pregnant woman is experiencing a negative health effect from the pregnancy itself but not if it is fully elective.

According to the USCCB lawsuit, such negative effects range from serious complications with the preg-

nancy to common pregnancy-related conditions such as minor or severe hormonal changes, anxiety, nausea, or vomiting.

Daniel Blomberg, an attorney for Becket, told EWTN News that some of the conditions listed are "literally the case for any pregnancy." He noted that the ruling requires the Catholic groups to not only accommodate abortions in those situations but also to rewrite policies and procedures in a way that clearly communicates these accommodations to employees or prospective employees.

The court's interpretation of the law, Blomberg said, forces Catholic ministries to "adopt anti-life employment policies and statements in the workplace" and would stifle the speech of anyone in the workplace who would discourage an abortion accommodation.

As interpreted by the court, the rule would "police the internal speech and even the atmosphere of the religious ministry" and it "radically transforms the requirements on religious ministries" as it relates to abortion, he warned.

Blomberg noted that the 2025 court ruling interpreted the law itself as creating this mandate — not simply the regulations that followed. He explained that this means President Donald Trump's administration does not have the authority to overrule the court order by promulgating regulations.

He noted that the Department of Justice's report on anti-Christian bias under Trump admonished the Biden-era PWFA rule, but "it remains to be seen how the administration's lawyers will respond in court."

The EEOC did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Wolk Slavis noted in her statement that other lawsuits against this PWFA interpretation led to stronger religious freedom rulings for other organizations that objected.

"Every other court to consider religious objections to this mandate has protected churches, and we hope the 5th Circuit does too," she said.

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

Father, Son and Holy Spirit

We celebrate Trinity Sunday, a day on which we emphasize that our one God manifests himself as three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In fact, we begin and end our prayers, making the sign of the cross and saying that we pray in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

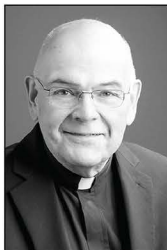
Those words can roll off our tongues quite easily, but when we try to explain them, instead of rolling off our tongues, we may end up tangled.

Over the centuries, many have explained how there is one God but three persons. We have a huge desire to explain even the unexplainable. St. Patrick used the image of a clover leaf. The single piece of clover with its

three leaves reflects the reality of the Trinity, one clover but three leaves.

Pope Francis proposed: "Jesus is the Son who made us know the merciful Father and brought to the world his 'fire,' the Holy Spirit." Those words capture, perhaps a bit more dynamically, the essence of the Trinity with Jesus revealing by his words and actions the dynamic reality of the Trinity.

We do not dismiss the reality of a mystery just because we cannot give a full description and explanation. In life, one entity can have several identities. For example, each one of us has different identities depending on what we are doing. The mother of the family is mom to her children, sis to her



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

May 31

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

READINGS

Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

John 3:16-18

siblings, boss at work, beloved to her husband.

Admittedly, this comparison pales in many ways because we are talking about the same person. With the Trinity we speak about one God and three persons. However, our weak comparisons can perhaps reveal a portion of the truth.

Then, again, other moments in our lives will reveal different aspects of the same reality just as Father, Son and Holy Spirit reveal different aspects of the same God. Perhaps we should enjoy the fact that God manifested himself to us in three different ways:

creator, redeemer and continuous sanctifier. We should revel in the reality of a God who created us and reaches out to us, who never abandons us, who loves us beyond all limits, who wants us to be in union with him forever in eternity.

This year we are celebrating 250 years as a country. You may wonder why I speak about this anniversary in the context of the Trinity. Well, think about this. There is one God, but three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. There is unity, but there is also diversity. Is not our country supposed to be something like that? Unity coming out of diversity may sound contradictory. In secular terms, we speak about the "melting pot": a new entity made up from many different backgrounds. The core of the spiritual life is one God with three

persons. Perhaps, a pathway to our national identity can be found by emulating the Trinity, then foster, promote, encourage, work for and create unity from the richness of the existing diversity. After all, one of our core fundamental beliefs is that we are made in the image and likeness of God. As such, we respect all life from birth to natural death.

So, our message is a simple one: let us live, let us love, let us rejoice. The Trinity is one with many. As a country, we strive to be one with many. With faith in God, this can happen. St. Catherine of Siena prayed these words: "O eternal Trinity, You are light, give us light. You are wisdom, give us wisdom. You are supreme strength, strengthen us." So, we can pray "In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN."

Bishops plan consecration, issue meeting agenda

By Tessa Gervasini
EWTN News

Archbishop Paul Coakley of Oklahoma City is set to deliver his first remarks as president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) before bishops consecrate the nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in June.

The USCCB is set to gather for the 2026 Spring Plenary Assembly in Orlando, Florida, on June 10-12.

Archbishop Gabriele Giordano Caccia, nuncio to the United States, also is scheduled to deliver his first address to U.S. bishops since his appointment in March.

In preparation for consecrating the nation, bishops will

hear reflections on the Sacred Heart from several of the bishops ahead of the Mass. The USCCB said in a statement that the bishops hope the event encourages parishes and individuals to also participate in America's 250th anniversary by contributing to 250 hours of adoration and 250 works of mercy.

LECTIONARY CHANGES

The full plenary agenda has not yet been finalized and is subject to change, but it is expected to include votes on a number of action items including the causes for canonization of Monsignor Joseph Francis Buh and John Rick Miller.

The Committee on Divine Worship also will present ele-

ments of a revised edition of the "Lectionary for Mass" and the "2025 Roman Missal-Liturgy of the Hours Supplement" for approval.

The bishops are expected to vote on a potential revision to the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," which was first addressed by bishops in 2022 meetings.

The bishops have determined the charter is in need of revisions to align with its original intention of safeguarding minors, the prevention of abuse, and ensuring structures continue to be in place to respond to abuse allegations, the USCCB said.

9-YEAR NOVENA, CATHOLIC UNIVERSITIES

The U.S. bishops are also ex-

pected to talk about the USCCB's engagement with the Intercontinental Guadalupan Novena, a nine-year novena called for by Pope Francis in 2022 that anticipates the fifth centennial of the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031.

For the 25th anniversary of the implementation of *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* in the U.S., there is an expected presentation and reflection on Pope John Paul II's apostolic constitution to guide Catholic colleges and universities on theological and pastoral principles.

The group will also discuss upcoming events including World Youth Day 2027, which will be held in Seoul, South Korea.

CALL TO SERVE

Goodbye, CBS Radio News

CBS Radio News packed up and turned out the lights May 22, 2026, with the 11 p.m. newscast. It was the end of an era for the radio stations around the world that broadcast the network's hourly news update and for the hundreds of employees that called CBS home.

Radio news means a lot to me, so I cannot let the passing of a broadcast giant go unmentioned. It seems ironic to me that I write in a newspaper column about the death of another medium's segment.

When I was young, I was influenced by the transistor radio. That little radio was under my pillow at night with an ear plug muting the noise to all but me. It got my day going with music of the day. The transistor radio, powered by a nine-volt battery, found its way into the classroom during the

World Series too. Sister was never an enthusiastic fan of that.

Dan Ingram, Bruce Morrow, Herb Oscar Anderson were my heroes. They were disc jockeys on WABC-AM in New York.



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

Fast forward to Potsdam. Potsdam College was my choice for my last two years of undergraduate school. That's where my affection for radio would become my career.

Broadcasting was not my major. In fact, my introduction to broadcasting came in a way that I can only describe now as influenced by the Holy Spirit.

Two guys approached me at a student club and organization fair early in my first semester at Potsdam. I had never seen them before. They asked me to join them at WRPS, the campus radio station. Given

my love of radio, that notion intrigued me. Little did I know my future was to be determined by a simple "yes" from me.

Almost six decades later I view my life in the North Country with affection. My career in radio and television has been wonderful. The opportunities we have enjoyed are a bonus.

I can understand the decision to end CBS radio news. "It was not an easy (decision). A shift in radio station programming coupled with challenging economic realities has made it impossible to continue the service," CBS News President Tom Cibrowski and Editor-in-Chief Bari Weiss said in their announcement.

Things change. If I had not said "yes" to Tim Lyman and Dave Waite all those years ago, our lives, my wife's and mine, our daughter, son-in-law, and grandsons would be different.

Would I have become a dea-

con in service to God and the Church? God has a knack for tracking people down if he wants to invite them to ministry, so probably, but I cannot know that.

Eventually I gravitated to the all-news broadcasts of WCBS-AM. That was good radio. The fate of radio news at that network was inevitable when the flagship programming was changed from All News to All Sports two years ago.

Farewell CBS Radio News. There are alternatives to the hourly newscast. I wonder how much longer they will be around.

Incidentally, I have a transistor radio with ear plugs on my nightstand today. I use it from time to time. Life goes on.

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown.

He is the director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Vatican sets up commission on AI

By Marco Mancini
EWTN News

VATICAN CITY — Pope Leo XIV has approved the creation of a new Vatican commission on artificial intelligence to coordinate the Holy See's response to the rapidly expanding technology and its implications for human dignity, integral development, and the Church's own internal use of AI.

The move comes as the Vatican is preparing for the release of Leo's first encyclical, which is expected to deal extensively with artificial intelligence and its ethical, social, and economic consequences. Reports have indicated that the document will likely frame AI as one of the defining moral questions of the present age,

drawing a parallel with the social upheavals of the Industrial Revolution addressed by Pope Leo XIII in *Rerum Novarum*.

The Holy See Press Office announced the decision May 16. It followed a May 3 audience with Cardinal Michael Czerny, prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

The Vatican said the pope made the decision in light of the development of artificial intelligence in recent decades, its rapid acceleration in general use, its potential effects on the human person and humanity as a whole, and the Church's concern for the dignity of every human being, particularly in relation to integral human development.

The new commission

will include representatives from the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Dicastery for Culture and Education, the Dicastery for Communication, the Pontifical Academy for Life, the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences.

Any changes to the commission's composition will be submitted to the approval of the Holy Father.

The head of each participating institution will delegate a representative to the commission. Its coordination will be entrusted for one year, renewable, to the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. After that, the

Roman Pontiff will entrust coordination to one of the participating institutions, again for a period of one year.

The coordinating institution will be responsible for facilitating collaboration and the exchange of information among the group's members regarding activities and projects related to artificial intelligence, including policies governing its use within the Holy See. The commission is also tasked with promoting dialogue, communion, and participation.

Pope Leo XIV has stressed the global challenges posed by artificial intelligence since the beginning of his pontificate.

Explaining his choice of papal name in an address to the College of Cardinals on May 10,

2025, Leo said: "In our own day, the Church offers to everyone the treasury of her social teaching in response to another industrial revolution and to developments in the field of artificial intelligence that pose new challenges for the defense of human dignity, justice and labor."

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





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

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Remembering a life

"I cannot leave the people of Sudan because I love them." This is what Sister Veronika Racková, doctor and missionary, said about herself before South Sudanese soldiers shot her at a checkpoint on May 16, 2016.

Ten years after her death in a hospital in Nairobi, the memory of her witness remains vivid, especially in her homeland. Many hope that the beatification process for the Slovak nun will begin soon.

Veronika Racková was born in 1958 in Bánov, a town then part of Czechoslovakia. She was a doctor and a member of the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the Servants of the Holy Spirit. As a missionary and doctor, she initially worked in Ghana and later in Sudan, the part of the country that declared its independence during her time as a missionary, giving rise to South Sudan. The Slovakian nun headed St. Bakhita's Medical Center in Yei. According to news reported at the time by Fides, Sister Veronika received an urgent emergency call around midnight on May 16 regarding a woman with complications during childbirth. The nun accompanied the patient by ambulance to Harvester's Health Center, a facility better equipped to care for mothers and newborns. On the way back, she was shot by armed men, soldiers of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA, the former guerrilla movement that seized power after the country's independence proclaimed in 2011). Sister Veronika was immediately taken to a hospital in Nairobi, where she died of her injuries several days later.

As the security situation in the country deteriorated, the religious order was asked whether they wished to return home. In her last interview, Sister Veronika recounted, "We considered it, each nun individually and then as a community, and we decided to stay because we felt that we were in the right place at the right time and that God was with us. These people didn't need us so much for our work, but rather to be able to pray and be together."

At the memorial service last Sunday, Father Peter Cieško of the parish of Bánov reminded those present that the residents of Bánov were rightly proud of their fellow citizen and that looking to Sister Veronika's life offered great encouragement to people not only to live for themselves, but also to be ready to offer their help to others.

*Article by Bohumil Petřík courtesy
of FIDES News Agency.*

OBITUARIES

Adams – Cecelia Swiernik Mooney, 83; Graveside services May 21, 2026 at Port Leyden Cemetery.

Brownville – Cheryl L. (Monroe) Connor, 67; Mass of Christian Burial May 23, 2026 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Brownville Cemetery.

Clayton – Donna W. (Wiley) Orvis, 65; Mass of Christian Burial May 20, 2026 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Keeseville – Henry Griffeth Bennage, 94; Mass of Christian Burial May 16, 2026 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in parish cemetery

Lisbon – Jeanne (Lucienne) LaBrake, 85; Mass of Christian Burial May 28, 2026 at Ss. Philip and James Church.

Malone – Betsy Theresa Hughes, 62; Mass of Christian Burial July 23, 2026 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Lake Titus.

Massena – Josephine Portolese Post, 85; Mass of Christian Burial May 27, 2026 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Elsie (Gabri) Scruggs, 96; Mass of Christian Burial May 18, 2026 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Gladys C. (Eldred) Daust, 88; Mass of Christian Burial May 15, 2026 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Yong Un (Kum) Fifield, 63; Funeral Services May 18, 2026 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Pine Hill Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Rosemary (Baker) LaJoy, 74; Funeral Services May 27, 2026 at Foxwood Mausoleum; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Ogdensburg – Sandra Lee (Caldwell) Weiler, 84; Funeral Services May 21, 2026 at Fray Funeral

Home; burial in Rensselaer Falls Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Michele Marie Gibson, 59; Mass of Christian Burial May 27, 2026 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Saint Louis Cemetery, Sciota.

Plattsburgh – Paula Selzer, 85; Mass of Christian Burial May 19, 2026 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in St. Mary's of the Lake Cemetery, Cumberland Head.

Port Henry – Jeanette (Scozzafava) Cembalski, 89; Mass of Christian Burial May 29, 2026 at St. Patrick's Church.

Watertown – Theodore G. Kolb, 92; Mass of Christian Burial May 22, 2026 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Frieda P. (Grandjean) Washer, 100; Graveside Services at North Watertown Cemetery.

Willsboro – Donald Lindo, 89; Graveside Services May 23, 2026 at Memorial Cemetery.



CELEBRATING FIRST COMMUNION

Lilliana Pawlikowski made her First Communion with Father Douglas Comstock on May 17 at St. Cyril's in Alexandria Bay. Her parents are Daniel and Danielle Pawlikowski.

Funeral Mass celebrated for Elsie Scruggs

Elsie G. Scruggs, 96, of Massena, died on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at Rochester Regional Hospital, Massena.

The daughter of Theresa (Molnar) and George A. Gabri, both immigrants from Hungary, Elsie was born in the family home on September 6, 1929. She graduated from St. Mary's School in 1943 and Massena High School in 1947. She then studied at the Central City Business Institute in Syracuse, graduating in 1948. She was employed at Alcoa as a private secretary.

On May 10, 1952, she married Carl R. Scruggs Sr. at St. Mary's Church in Massena, with the late Msgr. Joseph P. Heslin, presiding. They were blessed with six children, three boys and three girls. She and Mr. Scruggs observed their 50th wedding anniversary in 2002 with a party hosted by their six children and a Mass celebrated at Sacred Heart Church with Father Donald Manfred, pastor, presiding.

Elsie studied piano and pipe organ with the Sisters of Servants of Mary. She was an organist at St. Mary's and Sacred Heart Churches, where she was director of Music and Choir director, retiring in 1989. She also served as an organist at many area churches for weddings and funerals. She had a piano studio in her home for over 15 years.

Elsie also served on the Diocese of Ogdensburg

Music Commission for several terms. She also taught second grade religion classes for 12 years.

She was a member of the Sacred Heart Church Liturgy Worship Committee for many years. She was a lector and Eucharistic minister and was involved in Communion Ministry for the homebound. Since 2012, Elsie was active in the Comfort and Sorrow Bereavement Group, ministering to families who have lost loved ones.

Elsie was also a volunteer at Sacred Heart School, later Trinity Catholic School, for over 40 years serving as an accompanist for school programs and liturgies. She also assisted with the Trinity Catholic School Endowment Fund program and was actively involved with Holy Family High School fundraising activities. She accompanied at the piano for the Holy Family High School graduations for many years. Along with her husband, Carl, she volunteered with the Music Ministry at St. Regis Nursing Home in Massena.

In May of 2018, she was one of several participants recognized for their contributions and volunteer work at the Trinity Catholic School's Spring Gala. On July 10, 2022, she was awarded and presented by Bishop Terry R. LaValley at the St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg, The Bishop Wadhams' Award. This



Elsie Scruggs

award was instituted by Bishop Paul Loverde, the eleventh Bishop of Ogdensburg, in 1996, to recognize exceptional service to the Diocese of Ogdensburg. She became an Associate of the Servants of Mary in 1991, and with the sisters, she became involved in presenting many spiritual retreats at the Sacred Heart Convent. She was also involved in a ministry for recently widowed men and women for fellowship at the Sacred Heart Convent.

Elsie was a very loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Her great joy in life was spending time with her family at holidays, birthdays, sporting events, and graduations from high school and college. She enjoyed being in her home, particularly in the kitchen, where she spent many hours cooking and baking. Elsie especially loved preparing Hungarian pastries. She was a very faith-filled woman who trusted in God for

guidance in her everyday living. She enjoyed bird watching and found pleasure in her colorful flower garden.

Her Hungarian heritage was a source of great pride for her, and in 1992 she and her husband visited her parents' birthplace in Tur Terebes, Hungary, where they met many of her relatives. In 2009, she completed a book, "My Childhood Memories And Then Some", which told about her experiences living through the American Great Depression of the 1930's and beyond.

Elsie is survived by her six children and grandchildren, Dr. Carl Scruggs, Jr., and Ann Guyette, of Hannawa Falls (Laura S. and Thomas Warner, Dr. Candace Scruggs and Dr. Jon Ohnzeit, Jennifer L. Scruggs and Derrick Speas, Carl Scruggs III and Christine (Terrell); Thomas and Shiela Scruggs, Decatur, Georgia (Richard and Daniela Scruggs, Christina S. and Greg Funk); Martha S. Hoskyns, Arden, North

Carolina (Christopher and Sabrina Hoskyns, Sarah H. and Justin Malachowski); Kathryn and James Reichhart, Watertown (Julie Reichhart, Cmdr. Thomas and Nicole Reichhart, Amy R. and Mike Scalise, Beth R. and Joseph Clopp); William Scruggs, Salem, South Carolina; Nancy S. Bogardts, Oxford, Georgia; and great-grandchildren, Audrey and Jack Warner, Grace and George Ohnzeit, Sydney and Max Speas, Catherine Scruggs, Eleanor and Sebastian Scruggs, Desmond Funk, Tilly Hoskyns, Christopher, Genevieve and Eleanor Malachowski, Lilian Gregory, Morgan, Noelle, and Conner Reichhart, Margaret and August Scalise, Cameron Clopp.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was predeceased by her sister, Margaret G. Ashley (Merrill) and brothers Stephen Gabri (Dorothy), George Gabri (Helen), and John Gabri (Betty) and granddaughter, Emily H. Gregory, as well as several nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Resurrection was celebrated at Sacred Heart Church in Massena on May 18. Burial followed in Calvary Cemetery, Massena.

Memorial contributions may be made to:

- The Servants of Mary; 7400 Military Avenue, Omaha, NE 68134

- St. Peter's Parish; 201 Main Street, Massena, NY 13662

- St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital; P. O. Box 1000, Dept. 495, Memphis, TN 38101-0901

- Tunnel to Towers Foundation; P.O. Box 70719, Philadelphia, PA 19176-0719.

Family and friends are encouraged to share memories, photos, memorial tress and condolences online, by visiting www.PhillipsMemorial.com

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