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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 80 Number 6

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MAY 6, 2026

Catholic Charities: The journey continues

Bishop Terry R. LaValley offers his reflections on Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg as the organization prepares for its annual Mother's Day Appeal.

This year's message reminds us that "The Journey Continues." Catholic Charities has been present and serving the communities throughout our Diocese for over 100 years. Your support is what helps us lift others. Your continued generosity has weathered times of hardship, and times of prosperity. We, and the communities we serve, thank you.

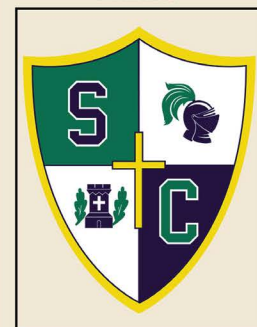
FULL STORY, PAGE 6

SEMINARY VISIT



Bishop Terry R. LaValley and diocesan Vicar for Clergy and Director of Seminarians Father Christopher C. Carrara recently visited diocesan seminarians studying at St. Vincent's Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Pictured are, from left, Father Nathanael Polinski, OSB, academic deacon at the seminary; Father Carrara, diocesan seminarian Deacon Dennis M. Ombongi, Bishop LaValley, seminarian Kevin P. McCullough; Father Edward Mazich, OSB, seminary rector; seminarian Deacon Tyler M. Fitzgerald; Father John Mary Tompkins, OSB, seminary vice rector.

FILLING A NEED



After the unexpected closure of a local childcare center left families scrambling for safe, welcoming spaces for their children, Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh added a pre-K classroom. Nine students – a third of the students impacted by the closure – have joined the Seton family.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope: Church must witness to truth with charity

By Victoria Cardiel
EWTN News

As is customary after apostolic journeys, Pope Leo XIV devoted his main address during the general audience on April 29 to a reflection on his April 13-23 trip to Africa: 11 days of pastoral pilgrimage during which he traveled to four countries — Algeria, Cameroon, Angola, and Equatorial Guinea — including taking 18 flights and stops in 11 cities.

"From the very beginning of my pontificate, I have thought about a journey in Africa. I thank the Lord for granting me the opportunity to undertake it, as shepherd, to meet and encourage the people of God; and also to experience it as a message of peace at a time in history marked by wars and serious and frequent violations of international law," he said.

Alongside this call to peace, he added, he also wished to draw attention to "the grave injustices that exist in these countries, so rich in natural resources," and he urged the international community to overcome "neo-colonial attitudes" in order to commit to an "authentic collaboration" with the African continent.

Pope Leo XIV also highlighted the value of the trip as a platform for giving voice to the African people. According to the pope, the apostolic visit allowed those communities "to make their voices heard, to express the joy of being God's people and the hope for a better future, of dignity for each and every one," amid complex social and political contexts.

The assessment of the trip, he explained, is not limited to the pastoral sphere but also constitutes a call to international responsibility and a reminder of the dignity of African peoples. At the start of his catechesis, the pope explained the reasons that led him to choose Algeria as the first stage of the journey, a country that preserves sites linked to St. Augustine.

"Thus, I found myself, on the one hand, revisiting the roots of my spiritual identity and, on the other, crossing and strengthening bridges that are very important for the world and the Church today: the bridge with the very fruitful age of the Fathers of the Church; the bridge with the Islamic world; and the bridge with the African continent," he said.

After Algeria, the pontiff visited Cameroon, Angola, and Equatorial Guinea — three countries that, unlike Algeria, where Islam is practiced by the vast majority of the population, have a predominantly Christian population. There, he noted, "I therefore found myself immersed in an atmosphere of celebration of the faith and warm welcome, enhanced also by the characteristic traits of the African people."

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It's the best and the worst!

It's somehow both the easiest part of parenting and the hardest part of parenting.

This coming weekend, Mother's Day weekend, my son, Jake, will turn 19.

I'm still adjusting to being the mom of an "adult" child. There are parts of it that are fantastic. It's amazing to watch him as he takes his kindness, joy, determination, talents, humor and faith into the world. Jake is independent and trustworthy, and he doesn't need constant supervision and care. Our relationship continues to shift to where he needs

less of me telling him what to do and more conversations that help him figure things out on his own. It's an awesome time in parenting!

**Darcy L. Fargo**

But it's also incredibly difficult to turn a child loose into the world. It's hard to watch a child struggle when stepping in isn't possible or appropriate. It's hard to watch a child's problems get bigger - from scraped knees and school drama to hard decisions, broken hearts, financial struggles... It's hard to surrender control. It's an awful time in parenting.

I find it interesting that

the part of parenting I struggle with most right now - surrendering control - is also the part of my faith I struggle with most. The same way it's hard for me to let Jake be Jake and not get hung up on what I want to happen or how I think he should behave, it's hard for me to let God be God and not get hung up on what I want to happen or how I think He should behave.

I'm grateful God gave me the best mom - a mom who, through her example, taught me how to be an awesome mom in all the phases of parenting, including parenting adult children (and her adult children - I include my dad in that - are a lot to handle).

And I'm grateful God gave me amazing people in my life who, when I'm wasting piles and piles of energy worrying or stressing about something out of my control, remind me to surrender it to Jesus, the one who can handle everything, and who lift me and my intentions in prayer.

As we move into our celebrations of Mother's Day, it feels like a good time to thank God for and pray for our mothers and the people who have been taken on maternal roles in our lives, and it seems like a good time to thank the people who have been there for the easy parts and the hard parts of our lives.

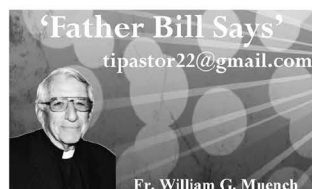
Happy Mother's Day.

Considering humility

Recently, I have been re-reading Thomas Merton's book, "The New Seeds of Contemplation." I was truly taken up by his terrific chapter concerning the virtue of humility. Merton writes this, "It is almost impossible to overestimate the value of true humility and its power in the spiritual life. The beginning of humility is the beginning of blessedness, and the consummation of humility is the perfection of all joy."

I want to also quote this from Merton's writing, "Humility contains in itself the answer to all the great problems of the soul. It is the only key to faith, with which the spiritual life begins; for faith and humility are inseparable. If there were no humility in the world everybody would long ago have committed suicide."

So, today, join me as we share a bit about this virtue of humility. We must

**Fr. William G. Muench**

understand the importance of humility for all of us as we journey together on the road of becoming saints. Humility is one of the most beautiful Christian virtues because it is rooted in truth; the truth about God - God loves us first; the truth about ourselves - we are a loved people; and the truth about others - God commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Humility is not thinking less of yourself - but thinking of yourself less.

Humility begins with God. A humble person knows that every gift comes from God - life, talent, opportunities. Humility says: "Thank you, Lord" rather than, "Look at me."

St. Teresa of Avila taught humility as walking in truth. We are called to recognize both our strengths and our weaknesses honestly. We neither boast nor have despair. Jesus is our model of humility. The Gospels tells that Jesus said, "Learn from me for I am meek and humble of heart. (Matt 11:29) At the Last Supper, Jesus taught his apostles when he decided to wash their feet. He willingly became the servant and even now asks us to follow him in service of others. Then there is the unforgettable image of Jesus in his Passion accepting the cross.

We follow our Savior in humility in many ordinary ways each day - listening more than speaking, admitting mistakes, accepting correction, letting others be praised, serving quietly, being patient with difficult people. That could be our examination of conscience - how

are you doing? Humility brings peace. Pride is exhausting; we are constantly defending ourselves. Humility brings peace because we no longer need to be the center of attention. Humility does not make a person smaller. It makes room for God to become greater.

So, a prayer for humility: Lord Jesus Christ, gentle and humble of heart, teach me the way of humility. Free me from the need to be praised, from the desire to be first, from the habit of thinking only of myself. When pride rises within me, turn my heart back to You. When I am forgotten or overlooked, give me peace. When others are honored, help me rejoice with them. Make me small enough to trust You completely, and strong enough to love others generously. May my life give glory not to me, but to You alone. Amen.

‘When families need it most’

Seton Catholic opens new classroom after local child care center shut down

In response to the March 2026 closure of the Bright Beginnings childcare facility at the Plattsburgh YMCA, Seton Catholic School has opened an additional Pre Kindergarten classroom to support local families affected by the sudden loss of child care and early education options.

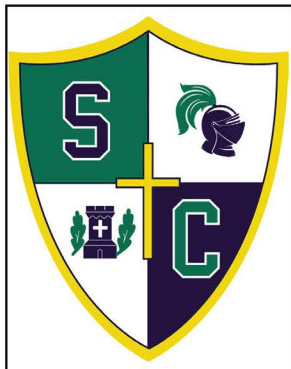
The YMCA’s Bright Beginnings Child Care Center license was suspended in March, leaving many families in urgent need of a safe and reliable educational environment for their young children.

Since that time, Seton Catholic has welcomed nine former Bright Beginnings students into its Pre K program – representing approximately one third of all Pre K aged children impacted by the closure.

The new Pre K classroom officially opened on April 20, following the hiring of an additional certified teacher aligned with the school’s mission and the swift preparation of classroom space.

“We recognized immediately how disruptive and stressful this situation was for families,” said Mary Forbes, principal of Seton Catholic. “At Seton Catholic, we believe in responding with compassion and action. Opening this additional classroom ensures children are in a caring, safe, and academically supportive environment when families need it most.”

While the size of the



additional class alone was not large enough to financially justify opening a second classroom, generous community support made the expansion possible.

Donations made in memory of Sister Stephanie Frenette, OP, helped offset startup costs and allowed the classroom to open immediately. Sister Stephanie, who passed away on November 3, 2025, played a pivotal role in early childhood education in the Plattsburgh community.

Decades ago, she was the driving force behind the opening of the first Pre K program at St. Peter’s School, one of Seton Catholic’s legacy schools. Her lifelong commitment to faith filled education and young learners continues to shape Seton Catholic’s mission today.

“Opening this classroom is a living tribute to Sister Steph’s legacy,” said Jeremy Epler, senior director of Strategic Growth. “She believed deeply in the importance of early childhood education, and it is fitting that her



Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh recently added a pre-k classroom to support children and families impacted by the unexpected closure of a local childcare facility.

memory helped make this possible for so many families.”

Additional financial support was raised at Seton Catholic’s Annual Gala on Saturday, April 18, providing funding to expand the Pre K program into the future.

Looking ahead, Seton Catholic is evaluating extending its Pre K program into this summer to provide continuity of quality education and care after the end of the

school year.

Seton Catholic offers a close knit, mission-driven learning environment grounded in Catholic values while welcoming families of all backgrounds.

The school consistently delivers strong academic outcomes, with New York State test proficiency results 35 percent higher than the local school average.

Financial assistance is available for eligible

families.

Enrollment for Pre Kindergarten through 12th grade at Seton Catholic is now open through June 14.

Families seeking a caring, safe, and academically rigorous learning environment are encouraged to contact the school for more information or visit setonknights.org.

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

- Read local stories and commentaries
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more

Find us on Facebook!

*Support And Pray
For Vocations*



Towne Meeting, known for its innovative blend of folk, soft rock and Americana, will celebrate its 20th anniversary at its annual fundraising concert for North Country Mission of Hope on June 7.

Concert to raise funds for Mission of Hope

The band Towne Meeting Band will be celebrating its 20th anniversary at the 13th Benefit Concert for the North Country Mission of Hope planned for Sunday, June 7 at St. Augustine's Church., Peru.

The concert begins at 7 p.m. Mark your calendars for a night of great music and surprises.

Towne Meeting is a well loved musical group that has entertained audiences across New York and Vermont for the past 20 years. Along with a generous dose of humor, the band is known for their innovative blend of folk, soft rock and Americana.

This concert will include several special guests for an extra-special event.

Towne Meeting is also known for their generous contribution to the Mission of Hope through their yearly benefit concerts. For the past 13 years, donations from their concerts have provided support to people in Nicaragua, the North Country and to the yearly mission to Appalachian Kentucky.

Longtime fans of the band and supporters of the Mission of Hope are encouraged to attend the concert and enjoy great live music while supporting a worthy cause. Admission by donation.

For more information about the band, visit townemeeting.com.

To learn more about North Country Mission of Hope, visit ncmisionofhope.org.

Funeral Mass celebrated for Valerie E. Cline

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Valerie E. Cline on April 30 at St. Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls.

Burial followed in the parish cemetery.

Mrs. Cline, 70, of Winthrop, passed away on April 22, 2026, at Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital in Plattsburgh.

Born January 11, 1956, in Star Lake, New York, she was the daughter of the late Ambrose and Agnes (Tupper) Ezro.

She attended Clifton Fine School, graduating in 1974.

On July 6, 1974, Valerie married David M Cline at St. Huberts Church in Star Lake with Rev. James Ruddy presiding.

David predeceased Valerie in 2023.

Valerie was a dedicated wife, mother and sister who enjoyed babysitting children throughout the years. She also enjoyed sewing and crafting.

Valerie was an active member of St. Patrick's Church in Brasher, a member of the Altar and Rosary Society, Knights of Columbus Auxiliary and the Gabriel Project.

Valerie is survived by her children, Kenna Cline of New Oxford, Pennsylvania, Father Martin Cline of Saranac Lake, and Max and April Cline of Norwood; four grandchildren, Conner Cline of Brasher, Zackary, Madisyn and Abigail Cline of Norwood; her sisters, Rita Terwilliger of Ogdensburg, Roberta (Patrick) Wiggins of Ogdensburg, Karen (Clifford) Steve of Georgia, Elizabeth (Dennis) Stein of North Carolina and Lisa Jenner of Ogdensburg; her brothers, Phillips Ezro of Winthrop, Lawrence Ezro of California and Joseph Gibbs of Winthrop; as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by her brothers, Roswell Ezro and Stephen Ezro; and her sister, Beatrice Arquette.

Memorial contributions in Valerie's name may be made to St. Bernard Catholic School in Saranac Lake or the Gabriel Project in Brasher Falls since she was a strong supporter of children's charities.



Valerie E. Cline



Enjoy the renewal of spring with a subscription to the *North Country Catholic*, the newspaper for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Welcome Spring!

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MAY 6, 2026

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: 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. Remaining presenters include: Father John Yonkovic, Sister Debbie Blow, John Ferry and Sister Bethany Fitzgerald.

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

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

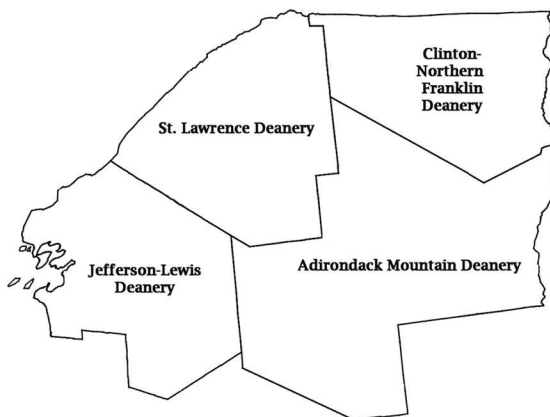
SOAKING PRAYERS SESSIONS

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); May 14, 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 at any level: emotional, psychological, mental, physical, spiritual or generational.



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@northcountycatholic.org.

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

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

FIRE IT UP RETREAT

Malone – St. Andre Bessette Parish to host a retreat, "A Life in the Spirit Seminar", a personal encounter with Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit.

Schedule: May 8, Meet and greet at 5:30 p.m., program at 6:30 p.m.; May 9, 8 a.m. Continental Breakfast, program 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. followed by Mass.

Features: Retreat will be led by Dane and Caroline Dirkes from Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Contact: To register call 518-578-1453

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.

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

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

Constableville – Join us for a Confirmation/Young Adult Retreat, a meaningful day designed to strengthen faith and community bonds among current and past Confirmation candidates and their families.

Date: May 9

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Hall

Features: We invite all current candidates and those recently Confirmed (since 2022), along with their parents, to reconnect and reflect together. Attendees can look forward to a day beginning at 9:30 a.m. filled with engaging activities, including talks from inspiring speakers and opportunities for spiritual growth through Adoration and Confession. The Youth Group will provide lunch, ensuring everyone is energized for the day's events. The retreat will culminate in a beautiful Mass celebrated by Father Marullo at 3:30 p.m., enriching the experience with a deep spiritual resonance.

Contact: To help us plan for lunch, please RSVP by calling 315-348-6104 or emailing portleydenbk@rcdony.org.

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: May 10

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 & MEATBALL DINNER

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

Date: May 16

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

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 bhwjhdioogd@gmail.com 315-486-7967

ST. LAWRENCE

INDOOR SALE

Gouverneur – St. James Thirft Shop will hold a huge indoor sale.

Date: May 9

Time: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Place: St. James School

Features: Items will include toys, books, yarn, jewelry, puzzles, games, dolls, craft items, art work, household items, knick knacks, frames, CDs, DVDs, movies, linens, glassware, some furniture, new clothing and so much more. Please bring your own bags.

MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

Date: May 10 (Second Sunday of each month)

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

Place: Father Amyot Parish Center

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

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

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)

Cost: \$450 per week

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

HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN

Massena – New location and save the date! Highway to Heaven

Date: May 16

Place: Sacred Heart Church

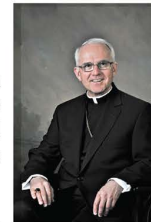
Features: Featuring the Shroud of Turin replica exhibit, CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



"The mission of Catholic Charities is to provide service to people, families and communities in need, to advocate for justice in social structures and to call the entire Church and all people of good will to do the same." Catholic Charities USA

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

With Board approval, I have appointed Father Scott Seymour to the position of Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. This past year Father Scott has consistently demonstrated exceptional faith, interpersonal and leadership skills, empathy, dedication, and compassion. These natural abilities have greatly benefited the overall mission of Catholic Diocese.



As Interim and now Executive Director, Father Scott has been and will continue to be responsible for the oversight of staff and the administration of several programs/grants across multiple counties; identifying new resources to meet service needs; building and renewing community partnerships and fulfilling the core mission of Catholic Charities.

This year's message reminds us that *"The Journey Continues."* Catholic Charities has been present and serving the communities throughout our Diocese for over 100 years. *Your* support is what helps us lift others. *Your* continued generosity has weathered times of hardship, and times of prosperity. We, and the communities we serve, thank you. Thank you for helping us place clothes and blankets upon those naked and cold. Thank you for helping us feed stomachs that are hungry and provide transportation for those who are isolated and without transportation to medical appointments. Thank you for extending a smile, a listening ear and providing words of encouragement and kindness to those who are lost and in need. Whether you are donating for the first time, or the hundredth time - **Thank You and God Bless! Your generosity makes a difference in the lives of others.**

These words were taken from our Mother's Day Appeal of May of 1979 and still ring true today: "Those we assist are often most vulnerable to increased costs, but our contributors and supporters are also hurt by inflation, rising fuel, and electric bills. Despite this, there is a willingness to give generously because people really do care about the needs and burdens of others. Thank you for helping us raise \$182,000 for the **2025 Mother's Day Appeal**. With your help and your support this gives us confidence that the 2026 Mother's Day Appeal will be successful and Catholic Charities will receive the funds it needs to carry on its work of service in the North Country.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

If you have any questions or are seeking information regarding current available programs or services, please contact your local office.

Franklin County & Director's Office

Fr. Scott Seymour

St. Andre's Outreach - Malone - 518-651-2947

Malone

12 Homestead Park
518-651-2947

Tupper Lake

80 Park Street, Suite 2
518-359-7688

Ogdensburg

212 Caoline Street
315-229-2086

Plattsburgh

1349 Military Turnpike
518-566-0944

Watertown

44 Public Square
315-788-4330

*Remote services available
in Essex, Hamilton, and
Lewis Counties
Contact for Assistance:
518-651-2947*

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

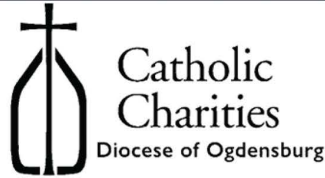
Compassion ~ Justice ~ Dignity ~ Love



2026 CATHOLIC CHARITIES MOTHER'S DAY APPEAL



WWW.CATHCHARITIES.ORG



Serving the counties of: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton-Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence

The 2026 Catholic Charities Mother’s Day Appeal will be held on the weekend of May 10. Your past support of the Mother’s Day Appeal has helped us in your name to respond to critical needs and to be a shining light and a beacon of hope to the most vulnerable members of our North-Country communities.

May is the month of renewal and as Father Scott Seymour, Catholic Charities, comes aboard as the director of Catholic Charities, he is committed to renewing and invigorating our 107-year commitment to God’s people across our seven counties. Your financial support during this Mother’s Day Appeal will make a huge difference in the work ahead.

While some programs have lost funding from Federal government grants, Catholic Charities continues our mission with no break in serving the neediest among you. If you are a parent without a baby crib or a laid-off worker with no food on the table, a parent who needs a ferry ticket to Vermont to get medical treatment for their child , or a gas card to get to a hospital in Syracuse, assistance with those facing high electric bills, or someone who just needs a compassionate ear to listen, Catholic Charities is there to help.

Here’s how Catholic Charities is serving people in need right now:

- Providing food, clothing, personal hygiene and furniture to working families and homeless folks.
- Supporting struggling young parents to reunite with their children.
- Offering important legal advocacy for older adults and elders.
- Informally counseling new young moms, socially isolated seniors, and lonely disabled residents living in the community.
- Working with community partners in dealing with critical financial assistance requests and financial literacy for low-income, working families.
- Offering financial assistance for medical needs such as prescriptions, medical equipment and more.

Here’s how Catholic Charities volunteers are improving lives every day:

- Driving veterans and seniors to essential doctors’ offices and medical treatments throughout the Diocese and even to Burlington, VT.
- Bringing homebound and alone seniors and low-income veterans to grocery stores or grocery shopping for disabled individuals, blind or wheelchair bound folks.
- Delivering emergency food relief through food pantries and home food delivery.
- Assisting vulnerable older adults in their homes with bill paying, budgeting, and money management, monitoring and helping report fraud and senior scams.
- Volunteers support Baby World Ministry by providing children’s clothing, diapers, formula, and a compassionate ear to the struggles of young moms.

If you would like to make a gift you can scan the code to the left to make your gift today, visit our website or mail in the form below with your gift to:
Catholic Charities, PO Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Please use my gift to support the Catholic Charities Mother’s Day Appeal.

\$25.00 \$50.00 \$75.00 \$100.00 Other \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Contact Number: _____

You can pay by Check or Credit Card

Check is enclosed made payable to Catholic Charities

Please process my Credit Card information below

Please charge my credit card for my gift of \$ _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Credit Card No. _____

Signature _____

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Father Jonathan Meyer, National Preacher of the Eucharistic Revival, Award-winning musician Sarah Kroger. The event will include Holy Mass, Confessions, Eucharistic Adoration, a Eucharistic Procession with Bishop LaValley, the Eucharistic Miracles exhibit, films, vendors and more.

Contact: Space is limited and registration is required. To view the schedule and register, please visit: <https://www.rcdony.org/h2h> For more information contact, Mary Beth Bracy at marybethbracy@gmail.com

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. 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. 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. You are cordially invited to join in the Ordination Liturgy.

Date: June 6

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: Church of the Holy Family

Features: An outdoor recep-

tion 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.

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 healing.

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

Rest in Peace

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

May 6 - Rev. P.A. Lynch, O.S.A., 1927

May 7 - Deacon Thomas R. Finnegan, 1996; Rev. John Cosmic, 2017

May 8 - Msgr. Harold J. Martin, 1958

May 9 - Rev. William J. McCormick, O.S.A., 1935; Msgr. Clarence M. Devan, 2001

May 10 - Deacon Edward L. Mazuchowski, 2019

May 11 - Deacon Richard D. Hart, 2007

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

Bishop's Public Schedule

May 7 - 10:30 a.m. - Priests Personnel Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch

May 8 - Noon - Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

7 p.m. - Confirmation at Sacred Heart Church in Chazy along with St. Joseph's Church in West Chazy

May 9 - 4 p.m. - Confirmation at St. Mary's Church in Clayton along with The Catholic Community of Alexandria in Alexandria Bay

May 10 - 8 a.m. - Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

11 a.m. - Confirmation at St. James Church in Gouverneur along with St. Hubert's Church in Star Lake

May 11 - Noon - Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

May 12 - Noon - Bishop's Heritage Circle and Memorare Legacy Society Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral followed by a Luncheon at St. Mary's Cathedral

May 13 - 9:45 a.m. - Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch

6 p.m. - Confirmation at the Catholic Community of St. Peter and St. Mary and St. Hedwig (at St. Peter's Church) in Lowville along with St. Stephen's Church in Croghan

To Report Abuse

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

The poor and vulnerable

We learn from an early age that money is useful. However, good parents, insightful families, teachers and a vibrant community try to instill the premise that sharing is also vital for living a good life. The most challenging part of this lesson comes when we learn a portion of what you have should be given to those unlikely to ever repay your generosity.

The fourth theme in Catholic Social Teachings centers on helping the poor and vulnerable. These are often the individuals outside of our field of view; those who live in neighborhoods in less than desirable sections of town or on seldom used back roads. Some reside in nursing homes and others in hospitals.

We must remember that God interconnected everyone and everything. As a result, sharing our wealth and time with others is essential to maintain a healthy spiritual state; and giving to people in need is even more vital for experiencing a truly fulfilled life.

There are organizations that assist the poor, such as Catholic Charities/Catholic Relief Services, the Red Cross and Salvation Army. Regularly contributing to them makes a difference to people in the North Country and beyond.

Financial help is great but treating these individuals in a warm and welcoming manner can also improve their outlook on life. It never hurts to smile at people, especially those that seem to be less fortunate. We must also pray regularly for those in need as all too often we underestimate the power of prayer, especially if those prayers are directed toward someone you never met.

Finally, we must remember that humans are not the only organisms in need. St. Francis of Assisi recognized that birds, trees and squirrels are our brothers and sisters in creation and deserve some of our time and attention. Opening your heart to all of creation and developing a harmony with nature can really do wonders for your soul.

Report eyes anti-Christian bias in federal government

By Tyler Arnold
EWTN News

The Department of Justice (DOJ) released a new report on April 30 detailing allegations of anti-Christian bias from former President Joe Biden's administration and unveiling how President Donald Trump's administration is working to reverse those policies.

"When Christian beliefs about morality and human nature conflicted with the Biden administration's views, religious rights often suffered," the executive summary says.

"The Biden administration generally tolerated religious beliefs that were privately held but zealously pursued actions to limit Christians' ability to act in accordance with their faith," the report says. "This affected matters of deep personal importance to nearly every American: life, family, marriage, and self-identity."

The report, titled "Eradicating Anti-Christian Bias within the Federal Government," was issued by the Task Force to Eradicate Anti-Christian Bias, which Trump established in February 2025.

The review lists Biden-era regulations related to abortion, contraception, gender, and human sexuality, among other issues, which often pitted the government against religious institutions, such as the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Similar issues also exist in "state and local governments and the private sector," it notes, which had either "limited interference" or "tacit support" from the Biden administration.

It also alleges a "weaponization" of the government against Christians, which includes concerns about the Richmond office of the FBI investigating what it called "radical traditionalist Catholics" along with criminal convictions of pro-life protesters under the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act.

The report notes that the Trump administration has worked to rescind those regulations and end those practices. It also states the administration has sought to incorporate faith into public life.

"No American should live in fear that the federal government will punish them for their faith," Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche, the chair of the Task Force to Eradicate Anti-Christian Bias, said in a statement.

"As our report lays out, the Biden ad-

ministration's actions devastated the lives of many Christian Americans," he said. "That devastation ended with President Trump. The Department of Justice will continue to expose bad actors who targeted Christians and work tirelessly to restore religious liberty for all Americans of faith."

A major issue noted in the DOJ report is the Biden administration's reading of the 2019 Supreme Court decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County*, which found the Civil Rights Act bans discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The report notes the first Trump administration issued a memorandum on *Bostock* instructing the DOJ to interpret that ruling without violating religious liberty.

Yet the Biden administration rescinded that memorandum and issued a new one that the report states "applied the ruling to sex-based discrimination in federally funded schools and sports."

"The Biden DOJ also considered requests for religious exemptions as harmful conduct to be regulated and pushed its incorrect *Bostock* interpretation in amicus briefs, even though federal courts repeatedly rejected it," it states.

In one example, the report notes that the U.S. Department of Agriculture tied this interpretation of *Bostock* to the National School Lunch Program. Initially, religious freedom objections were considered on a case-by-case basis, but the administration eventually issued a memo that acknowledged religious exemptions.

"The policy left Christian schools and ministries with a coercive choice: If they wanted to feed the hungry using these programs, they would need to abandon the Bible's teachings on sex and marriage," it states.

"As a result, the Biden USDA pushed many Christians out of the programs," it adds. "The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. Louis, for example, chose to remove all of its parochial schools from the National School Lunch Program."

This interpretation was also applied to Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) rules for what the Biden administration called "gender affirming care for minors." The report notes that "many providers interpreted [this] as a requirement with limited or no religious exemptions." Similar to the lunch program, religious exemptions were looked at on a case-by-case basis.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Bill would allow victims to seek evidence during Chapter 11

A proposed federal bill would allow child abuse victims to continue seeking evidence in civil suits even amid bankruptcy filings, a rule that could have significant consequences for U.S. Catholic dioceses facing abuse lawsuits. The bill, proposed by a bipartisan group of U.S. congresswomen and announced on April 29, would move to "address misuse of the bankruptcy system by organizations facing lawsuits for child sex abuse," according to a press release from Rep. Deborah Ross, D-North Carolina. Ross noted that bankruptcy filings, including those by U.S. dioceses facing voluminous child abuse allegations, trigger stays in civil litigation that block plaintiffs from further discovery while the Chapter 11 process plays out. Ross said U.S. bankruptcy law contains "unacceptable loopholes" that allow organizations to "avoid the consequences of their negligence and abuse." The proposed bill would allow abuse victims to continue the discovery process even amid bankruptcy filings. It would also allow victims to submit impact statements within the Chapter 11 proceedings themselves. The bill would also "require forensic accountants to assess the debtor's estate and nondebtor holdings in child sex abuse cases." The measure, titled the "Closing Bankruptcy Loopholes for Child Predators Act," was previously introduced in 2024, though it stalled in the House of Representatives.

Court allows pregnancy center to challenge donor subpoena

The U.S. Supreme Court said a New Jersey faith-based pregnancy center may challenge a state subpoena demanding donor information. The court in a unanimous ruling April 29 decided the case could proceed in federal court, reversing a lower court decision that had deemed the lawsuit premature. The pregnancy center had raised First Amendment concerns about whether it could immediately assert its right to challenge a state subpoena demanding donor information — including names, addresses, and places of employment — in federal court, or whether it must first proceed through the state court system. The ruling was a victory for First Choice Women's Resource Centers. Diverse groups including the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, members of Congress, the Trump administration, and the ACLU had agreed that First Choice should be able to challenge the subpoena in federal court without first litigating the issue in New Jersey state court. The case, *First Choice Women's Resource Centers, Inc. v. Davenport*, involves a 2023 subpoena issued by New Jersey Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin seeking donor information from First Choice. In 2022, Platkin had begun investigating crisis pregnancy centers like First Choice, saying they are organizations that may provide "false or misleading information about the safety and legality of abortion." First Choice described itself in a Supreme Court brief as a faith-based nonprofit serving New Jersey women by offering material support and medical services.

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

The questions Google can't answer

Siri, tell me all about the Holy Spirit. Siri, if you can't be more specific, I'm going to ask Google?

Many have come to rely on Siri or Google or GPS such that they, especially some of our younger people, do not know how to use a map or a telephone book or even how to think through an issue or a problem. We live in an era of instant information, immediate results and the very false assumption that, since we have found an answer, now we have found the truth, we have "the" answer. An answer and the truth are not necessarily the same. We have lots of information, but do we have truth?

Google Maps or Waze may be able to get us to our destination, but

we still have to use our brains when there are unforeseen roadblocks. A search engine may be right many times, but is it always right? And what if the search engine finds conflicting facts, don't we need some kind of guidance to determine the truth?

You see, even before we had Siri and Google, and even now that we have technologies such as AI, we are the ones who must make choices with our lives. We must decide what route to take in life. We must make value choices. We must realize, too, that our choices always mirror what we value. Also, whether we like it or not, others will judge us based on the choices we have made.

Faith people have a



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

May 10

Sixth Sunday of Easter

READINGS

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

1 Peter 3:15-18

John 14:15-21

barometer, a measuring stick with which to make value judgements, to make decisions.

Listen carefully to what Jesus says in the Gospel: "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him. But you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you."

What an unbelievable promise! God will send and did send the Spirit of truth! Is that not a tremendous gift? This Spirit is not some trite gift. God

sends himself in the person of Jesus Christ to become one of us. God does not leave us orphaned and sends himself to live with us forever in the person of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth.

This Spirit will guide us to make right decisions with our lives, will help us keep our values straight, will move us in the right direction. The Holy Spirit is not the one to help us decide "should I have chocolate cake or apple pie for dessert." These are not the kinds of questions for the Holy Spirit. I'm talking about important decisions, life decisions.

As we come towards the end of the Easter season our scripture readings point us in the direction of the Holy Spirit, God present in the Church even up to today. Our human being problems draw us away from listening to the Holy Spirit,

directing us and focusing on ourselves, our wants, our desires, our cravings. Do I tell my boss to go take a hike or do I find a better way to express my concerns? Do I save my money so that my family will benefit in the future or do I blow it now on what is most appealing? Do I go to church on the weekend, or do I blow it off in favor of something else? Do I try to save face by telling a lie or do I sugar coat my lie reducing it to a so-called white lie? Have we come to the point of keeping God, especially God the Holy Spirit, at a distance. Does keeping God at a distance make our lives easier? If that description sounds familiar, then it's time to regroup and refocus.

Someday, perhaps, when Siri, Alexa, Google and AI become very intelligent, they will answer: "Don't ask me. Ask the Holy Spirit."

CALLED TO SERVE

Time travel

Those of you who are new to this column may not know that I was raised in Queens, New York, one of five boroughs of the City of New York (we call boroughs counties north of The City.)

I transferred to Potsdam College in St. Lawrence County back in the late 1960s and have lived in this part of the country ever since.

Kathy, my wife of almost 56 years, is from Queens too.

We used to tell relatives and friends in The City "we live in that part of New York that you have to flip the map over to see."

Anyone old enough to remember gas station maps will understand.

I am sorry for those

who missed maps, Trip Tiks, and other such paraphernalia. We have all fallen prey to Google Maps, MapQuest, Waze and the like.

My mind travelled to these travel improvements the other night while we were watching a show on the TV and I simultaneously was watching a hockey game on my Kindle. What a world!

I heard Clayton mentioned in the NCIS episode. That caught my attention.

It must have been some sort of electronic guide that directed two NCIS characters from Washington D.C. to Clayton, New York, to find somebody. I googled the trip. It takes nine and a half hours to travel 438 miles via in-

terstates. On TV, it took seconds.

That wonderful river community was mentioned as the hang-out of a central character in the plot, but otherwise Clayton did not get another mention. Even the drone picture of the village used to establish the agent's arrival in Clayton was not of the "upstate" community we frequent.

But a North Country community did get mentioned.

Other network shows have named North Country communities for bad guys to covet. Places like Plattsburgh, Malone, Massena, and Fort Cov-

ington have all had their day. Those communities are usually depicted as convenient crossing points to Canada.

I recall one episode of Rizzoli and Isles that had the perp find her way to Boston after crossing into the U.S. at Rouses Point.

These are make-believe, of course. In real life, for a few days, Fineview on Wellsley Island was in the national news. The federal fugitive Abby Hoffman lived on

Wellsley Island for years. He had assumed the name Barry Freed and opposition to winter navigation on the St. Lawrence

was his public cause. No one suspected he was a fugitive on the lamb.

Abby Hoffman was one of the Chicago 7 who championed their anti-Vietnam position by disrupting the 1968 Democratic Convention. He was eventually wanted on drug charges. Hoffman turned himself over to authorities in 1980.

Sometimes it is a real-life-who-done-it, or a casual reference to a location we all know and love. Maybe it is a person, place, or thing that evokes a memory.

Thank you, God, for the brain teaser,

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



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

MAY 6, 2026

OBITUARIES

Altona – Marie Alice (Lashway) Boulrice, 83; Mass of Christian Burial April 29, 2026 at Holy Angels Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Cadyville – Susan A. (Guynup) Fifield, 77; Mass of Christian Burial April 28, 2026 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Clayton – Sandra (Dollinger) Hunneyman, 83; Graveside Services May 12, 2026 at St. Mary's Cemetery.

Constable – Judy (Supernault) Begor, 78; Mass of Christian Burial May 8, 2026 at St. Francis of Assisi Church; burial in St. John Bosco Cemetery, Malone.

Constable – Richard C. Bell, 73; Private Services.

Croghan – Elizabeth (Niezabytski) Pound, 82; Mass of Christian Burial May 18, 2026 at St. Stephen's Church.

Fort Covington – Dolores T. Stone, 97; Mass of Christian Burial April 24, 2026 at St. Mary's of the Fort; burial in Old St. Mary's Cemetery.

Gouverneur – Franklyn "Dave" Rastley, 85; Mass of Christian Burial May 6, 2026 at St. James Church.

Hopkinton – Howard J. Busch, 84; Mass of Christian Burial April 29, 2026 at Holy Cross Church; burial in Fort Jackson Hopkinton Cemetery.

Indian Lake – Peter Klein, 83; Mass of Christian Burial April 30, 2026 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Benon Cemetery.

Keeseville – Norman A. LaFountain, 94; Mass of Christian Burial May 4, 2026 at St. John's Church; burial in Port Douglas Cemetery.

Keeseville – Marion M. Perrotte, 91; Mass of Christian Burial April 27, 2026 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Lyon Mountain – Amy DuBrey-Wilson, 63; Mass of Christian Burial May 1, 2026 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Massena – Lawrence Allen Dowdy, 78; Mass of Christian Burial April 30, 2026 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Norfolk – Frederick J. Baxter, 81; Mass of Christian Burial April 28, 2026 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Norwood – Norma M. (Gadway) Miller, 88; Mass of Christian Burial May 1, 2026 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Myrna H. (Ryan) Sandburg, 90; Mass of Christian Burial April 24, 2026 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Dr. Honorio Torres Dispo, 81; Mass of Christian Burial May 1, 2026 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Saratoga National Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Joanne M. (LaFave) Jones-Russell, 88; Mass of Christian Burial April 29, 2026 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Watertown – Leo Raymond Coleman Jr., 76; Mass of Christian Burial April 29, 2026 at St. Patrick's church.

Watertown – Jean Doud Dowe, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Jun 6, 2026 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Sharon J. (Myers) Hammond, 87; Mass of Christian Burial April 30, 2026 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in North Watertown Cemetery.

Watertown – Scott J. Wormwood, 45; Mass of Christian Burial May 9, 2026 at St. Anthony's Church.

Three to be ordained as priests, one to diaconate

Three men will be ordained to priesthood for the Diocese of Ogdensburg on May 30, and another man will be ordained to the diaconate on June 6.

Through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, the Bishop Terry R. LaValley, will ordain to the Order of Priesthood Deacon Michele Boncoeur, Deacon Tyler Martin Fitzgerald and Deacon Dennis Mamwacha Ombongi on May 30 at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral.

A reception will immediately follow the liturgy downstairs in the Brzana Hall.

The following week, through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, Bishop LaValley will ordain Kevin Patrick McCullough to

the Order of Deacon. That liturgy will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on June 6 at Church of the Holy Family in Watertown.

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.

Both ordinations will be livestreamed. The livestreams can be found at rcdony.org/ordination. The Ordination Mass programs will be available at the same link shortly before the liturgies.

Stories about the men to be ordained will be featured in upcoming editions of the *North Country Catholic*.

Many thanks

Below you will find two notes of gratitude by some of the organizations that took place in last summer's Mission COOP appeal.

Here you can read about some of the projects in other parts of the world that your generous donations have directly helped support.

Please join us in continuing to pray for the success of the Pope's missions.

SISTERS OF MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH:

May I use this opportunity to thank you for granting us the occasion to participate in the 2025 Mission Coop Appeal in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. We very much appreciate it.

On behalf of my Superior General Sister Dr. Lucy Hometown, I wish to express my sincere thanks to all the faithful of St Augustine and Mary's Parish for the gift... which is to



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

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

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

support our missionary work, particularly towards the completion of our novitiate building

Your love has motivated us to continue trusting in the loving providence of God who provides us more than we ask.

LENITY PROJECT:

Thank you so much for sending us this generous contribution! We have, at long last, procured a piece of property from the Municipal government. It has taken five years, but they finally gave us a nice piece of property where we can now plan to expand our services. Alleluia! This new property will help us expand and

provide more care for our families.

The situation in Ecuador is quite difficult at this time with two warring drug cartels fighting for dominance. But God is still in His heavens, and we remain hopeful that our values program for these poor families will give them what they need to beat the odds and get out of their poverty.

Thank you again for all that you do to help missions like ours.

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

Mercy Care seeks new 'Friendship Volunteers'

Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is recruiting new volunteers to help their elder neighbors age in place more successfully. Mercy Care has scheduled a Friendship Volunteer Training Program on May 27th, 2026, at Heaven Hill Farm, 302 Bear Cub Road, Lake Placid. A complementary lunch will be provided. Volunteers of all faiths are encouraged and invited to participate.

New Volunteers will join Mercy Care's more than 100 Friendship Volunteers from Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, and Tupper Lake and surrounding areas who help their elder neighbors stay connected to their communities and make their lives a little easier and happier.

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.

Volunteers will learn about offering friendship and assistance to elders in sessions on spirituality and aging, how to recognize scams aimed at older adults and the effects of isolation and loneliness on the aging population. Mercy Care Friendship Volunteers provide informal supports such as assistance with grocery shopping, transportation to medical appointments or social outings, or visiting with an elder in their home.

Mercy Care is experiencing many new requests from elders in our community who



Mercy Care Friendship Volunteer and Elder Friend enjoy the view at Camp Guggenheim on Lower Saranac Lake.

need social support and assistance to help them age in place more successfully. Mercy Care serves any older adult in need within our ca-

capacity.

The mission of Mercy Care for the Adirondacks, sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, is to extend mercy to elders

living in the community in order to enhance the fullness of their lives and help them age in place more successfully.

Documentary highlights pope's time in Peru

By Francesca Pollio Fenton
By EWTN News

EWTN premiered a one-hour documentary titled "Pope Leo's Peru" on May 1.

Produced by EWTN News, the program, now available for streaming, offers an in-depth look at the years Pope Leo XIV served as a missionary in the South American country.

Jonathan Liedl, EWTN News correspondent and managing editor of the National Catholic Register, takes viewers to northern Peru to take a look at the communities the Holy Father served.

These cities include Chulucanas, where the then-young priest had his first missionary experience; the city of Trujillo, where he grew as a pastor; and the Diocese of Chiclayo, where he served as bishop.

Through on-location reporting, interviews, and local testimonies, the documentary highlights the impact of the pope's ministry among the many parish communities and those on the margins and captures the perspectives of those who knew him best during those years.

"The word I heard over and over from Peruvians who had known

Pope Leo is that he was 'un amigo' — a friend," Liedl said in a press release. "From soup kitchen volunteers to cathedral rectors, former altar servers to fellow bishops, Pope Leo drew close and listened to everyone, leading others more deeply to Christ in the process."

The documentary also depicts a portrait of a local Church that helped form a global shepherd, provid-

ing context for Pope Leo XIV's priorities as he leads the universal Church today.

As we near the one-year anniversary of Pope Leo XIV's election, this news special helps us reflect on the experiences that he brings into his papacy," said Montse Alvarado, president of EWTN News. "From his emphasis on the poor to his focus on healing divided communities, it's clear

that the good work he began in Peru has carried over to how he now leads us all from Rome. Understanding the Holy Father's heart is the essence of this report."

"Pope Leo's Peru" aired on EWTN on May 1 and is available on EWTNNews.com and the EWTN News YouTube channel.



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