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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 81 Number 11

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JUNE 10, 2026

THREE NEW PRIESTS



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE/
NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

On Saturday, May 30, Bishop Terry R. LaValley ordained three men, Father Michelet Boncoeur, Father Tyler M. Fitzgerald and Father Dennis M. Ombongi in a Mass celebrated in St. Mary's Cathedral. Pictured after the Mass are from left, Father Fitzgerald, Father Boncoeur, Bishop LaValley and Father Ombongi. Read Bishop LaValley's homily from the Mass on Page 3. See additional photos on pages 8-9.

DEACON ORDAINED



Seminarian Kevin McCullough was scheduled to be ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on June 6 at Church of the Holy Family in Watertown. The new deacon will complete his studies in December and serve as a deacon here for a few months before ordination to the priesthood.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope: Rediscover signs and symbols of liturgy

By Ishmael Adibuah
EWTN News

At the general audience at the Vatican on June 3, Pope Leo XIV called Catholics to be open to an "encounter with God by rediscovering the signs and symbols of the sacred liturgy."

"We need to let ourselves be educated by the rites of the liturgy, tending to the beauty of our celebrations with a delicate hand and without arbitrariness," Leo said to the faithful.

Leo's remarks were part of his catechesis on the liturgy, focusing on the Second Vatican Council's document *Sac-*

rosanctum Concilium. In his remarks, the pope explained the council's teaching about participation in the liturgy through its signs and symbols.

"In the liturgy, we are invited to participate — body, mind, and heart — and enter into a dimension inhabited by the Holy Spirit. In order to enter into this dimension, the liturgy is woven with signs and symbols that have a performative and transformative dimension," Leo said.

He also called on Catholics to recall the meaning of the various gestures associated with the liturgy, such as the sign of peace and kneeling be-

fore the Blessed Sacrament. He explained that these symbols and signs are not arbitrary gestures, but are important for helping Catholics experience "the presence of God through Jesus Christ."

"The rites of the Christian liturgy are not an outward covering of the sacramental mystery or a set of arbitrary ceremonies," Leo said. "Rather, they are the ecclesial mediation through which the divine gift reaches us. Through the sacred rite, we are thus formed in listening to the Word of God, in thanksgiving and adoration, in fraternal sharing, and in ecclesial communion."

In an appeal at the end of the general audience, Leo invited Catholics to bear public witness to the mystery of the Eucharist during the upcoming eucharistic processions for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi.

"The processions with the Blessed Sacrament that take place in the streets of many towns are an expression of popular eucharistic piety; in this regard, I encourage you to keep alive this beautiful manifestation of public witness to the faith," Leo said.

He also gave a special greeting to priests serving in the Middle East amid continuing armed conflicts in the region.

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Publish

45 issues

per year:

Weekly except

skipping every

other week be-

ginning July through August

and skipping one week in

December by the

Diocese of Ogdensburg.

622 Washington Street,

Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Editorial Office:

622 Washington Street,

Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Telephone:

(315) 608-7556

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

Ogdensburg, NY

13669 and additional mailing

offices as

Periodical Postage.

Subscription:**For one year:**

In-Diocese Rate: \$27

Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication
should be addressed to
PO Box 326

Ogdensburg, NY 13669

and should be received by

Wednesday prior to

publication. Paper is

printed each Friday;

deadline is Wednesday.

Member, Catholic

Press Association.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to

North Country Catholic,

PO Box 326

Ogdensburg, NY

13669-0326

I should be committed

If it's a bit scary or I'm a bit unsure, I don't always like to fully commit.

While there are eleven billion examples of that from my life, I'm living one right now.

I have a long-term goal I'm not sure it's a goal I can reach, and I talked someone else into joining in. My aunt and I are hoping to train for a sprint triathlon - a race that includes a swim (or paddle in my aunt's

case), a bike and a run - in early summer of 2027. We've talked about signing up for the same race location's "aqua bike" - only the swim/paddle and bike portions of the race - in late

August of this year.

I've purchased only low-budget and second-hand gear for the open water swim, and I've borrowed a bike from my twin sister. And while it's just a couple months away and the price of registering increases as race day approaches, I haven't registered for the aqua bike race.

**Darcy L. Fargo**

Spending a lot of money on this goal feels like a big commitment, and I'm currently too scared, too unsure to commit.

Thus far, my swimming has been confined to a pool. Maybe I'll hate open water swimming. I'm not fond of being cold, and I'm

not sure how helpful a wet-suit can be when I'll still be sticking my face in cold water. Open water swimming techniques are also just different from pool swimming techniques. I'm worried I won't be able to swim the required distances without pushing off from a wall every 25 yards like I do in the pool.

I haven't biked any distance since my hip replacements. I'm not sure how I'll feel in the awkward position involved in sitting on a road bike.

Until I feel like I have all the pieces in place exactly as I want them, I'm reluctant to commit to even spending \$100 on a race - a commitment that has relatively low stakes in the big scheme of things.

I'm completely in awe of these men who have committed themselves fully by saying "yes" to God's call to the priesthood. I'm sure the pieces weren't in place exactly like Father Michelet Boncoeur, Father Tyler Fitzgerald, Father Dennis Om-bongi and (to be ordained June 6) Deacon Kevin McCullough would've wanted, but despite their imperfections, their struggles, their hardships, their fears and their doubts, they were willing to commit fully to Christ and to us as His Church. That takes a lot of trust in God and a lot of bravery.

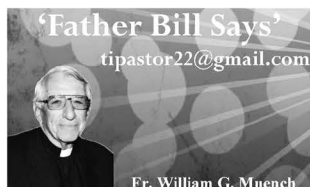
Please join me in congratulating and praying for our new fathers and deacon and in thanking them for their willingness to fully commit.

We are companions

Recently, I listened to a priest's homily on YouTube. He spoke of the Church, the People of God, as companions. He spoke of the Catholic people of a parish living and praying together like companions. So, he was telling us that we need each other in our efforts to become a holier people, to become saints. We need others for support, affirmation, encouragement. We need companions as the Lord's Pilgrim Church.

I immediately thought of the hymn often used at Mass - you remember it - "Companions on the Journey." Today let me remind you of this excellent hymn. The refrain of the hymn is this: "We are companions on the journey, breaking bread and sharing life; and in the love we bear is the hope we share for we believe in the love of our God, we believe in the love of our God."

What unites us as fol-

**Fr. William G. Muench**

lowers of Jesus, as the disciples of the Lord? God's love. God loves us and that love gives us hope. Jesus taught us often that God loves us first and God loves us even in our sins. Jesus promised that the Father and the Holy Spirit, with Jesus comes to make an abode with us to live with us in love. So, we are not afraid. Jesus gives us the hope and the confidence that we may live well as followers of the Lord Jesus. We are not afraid. The Lord is with us, and we can make our world a better place.

This hymn tells us that as companions on this heavenly journey, we will find the power to live well by the breaking of the bread. This is an image

we recognize of the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. We, the companions on the journey, find the divine strength through our participation at the Holy Mass and through the reception of the Lord in Holy Communion. We are called in a magnificent way by the Holy Spirit and joined with all our companions - all those we pray with and join with in the Holy Eucharist - to find the way and to lead others to our God.

The Second verse of this hymn says this: "We have been gifted with each other, and we are called by the Word of the Lord to act with justice, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with our God, to walk humbly with our God." One of God's great gifts to us, his followers, are the many others who walk with us, supporting us in our efforts to keep our Church alive and strong - bringing God's love and peace to all.

The hymn goes on to remind us that we are called by the Word of the Lord. We all have a definite vocation - a call by the Holy Spirit - to bring God's love to all those we meet. This hymn calls us to act with justice, to love tenderly, to walk humbly with God. We are companions, supporting each other, working together in love.

The Holy Spirit brings us together for a purpose as we join together at Mass. We pray in gratitude for all we have received - individually and as Church - as companions on the journey. At the Last Supper, the apostles found a bond with Jesus; they realized that Jesus was their companion. Even now the Holy Spirit calls us to discover the closeness of Our Savior; and to remember well the closeness we must have with all our companions on the journey. As companions may we always pray for each other.

FOLLOW ME

'A living instrument of Jesus Christ'

The following is Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily from the ordination Mass celebrated May 30 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

It's so heart-warming, isn't it, to see such great generosity, enthusiasm and hope in the willingness of these three young men whom the Church calls this day to be ordained priests! The Holy Father said that a secret for the life of the priest is that we must not be frightened by reality, especially these days. It is the Lord of life who calls us to live the joy of the Gospel. May the ministry entrusted to you, dear brothers, convey the peace and joy of those who know that they are safe, even amid life's dangers. As the Lord told the prophet Jeremiah: "Have no fear before them, because I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord." Certainly, fear of the unknown and deep sadness was experienced by those two disciples enroute to Emmaus.

Michelet, Tyler and Dennis, as you begin your priestly ministry, you will find that the story of salvation is already at work in the many good deeds that are quietly carried out by so many people of goodwill in our parishes. You will soon join them as their priests and fellow travelers. In fact, your parish family will help you to become saints.

Brothers, in just a few minutes you will lie prostrate before the Altar of God seeking the intercession of the saints on your behalf. You will note that I have modified somewhat the traditional list of the Litany of Saints. I have included the names of

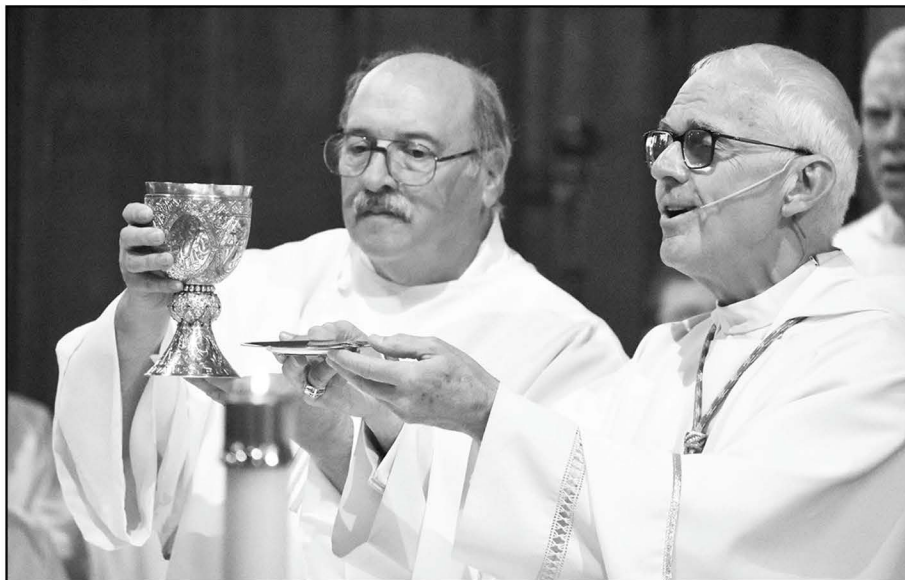


PHOTO BY DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

On May 30, Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated the Mass in which Father Michelet Boncoeur, Father Tyler Fitzgerald and Father Dennis Ombongi were ordained to the priesthood. Bishop LaValley is pictured with Deacon Randy Besio of Massena, who aided at the liturgy.

all the patron saints of our parishes in this diocese. When you hear their names, remember your responsibility and priestly privilege to pray and care for those entrusted to your pastoral care and their salvation.

For your part, help the faithful to walk together, following Jesus, the Good Shepherd, so that our parishes may become places, gardens of hope-filled, resurrected, Eucharistic life, that rise anew where families, as true companions on faith's journey, share themselves with others.

People are often lacking a place where they can understand that it is better to be together, and that it is possible to just plain get along, as Rodney King once challenged Americans. Facilitating encounters, helping to bring together those who would otherwise never meet, and healing divisions is the challenge of this era. Celebrating the Mass

and the Sacrament of Penance are real means of holiness and wholeness. Especially as this local Church continues to meet the challenge of pastoral planning, dear brothers, facilitate unity and be a beacon of hope for our sisters and brothers.

Coming together always means planting the Church anew. "Today more than ever, when statistics seem to indicate a divide between people and the Church, keep the door open! Let people in and always be prepared to go out to meet members of your parish family. At a recent priestly ordination Pope Leo XIV told those to be ordained priests: "You are a channel, not a filter...be a reflection of Jesus' patience and tenderness. You belong to everyone and are for everyone! Let this be the fundamental purpose of your mission: to keep the doorway open and personally direct others

through it. As we heard in the Letter to the Hebrews, the high priest is able to deal patiently with the sinner because he himself is beset by weakness.

St. Augustine wanted the ordained to realize they were living instruments in God's hands. (Again - an instrument, a channel, not a filter.) Dennis, Tyler and Michelet, you are to treat your priestly responsibilities as a sacred trust, challenge yourselves to move from self-serving love to self-giving love. We pray that your motivation for priesthood is the desire to help others experience salvation and sanctification. Earn the honorable title "Father" by your continual prayer for and outreach to your parishioners.

Be a good listener. It is important to listen first to the life stories of your parishioners in order to know where to begin to join them, accompany them, in their spiritual

journey. Engaged in the right way, people often reveal themselves to be open, even inquisitive. So, the Church has to be willing to listen, to treat each person with respect, to exhibit appreciation for each person's journey, and then, nourished with the Eucharist, food for the journey, to be unafraid to engage them about the way that the truths of our faith speak to their real life experience.

In ordination, the priest not only becomes a living instrument of Jesus Christ but also receives a share of the Good Shepherd's love for his flock. The priest manifests this love of Christ and grows in personal holiness precisely by preaching the Word of God, administering the sacraments and giving pastoral care to God's holy people.

When a man gives himself to Christ in ordination, our Lord pledges to give him all the graces he needs to grow in pastoral charity every day of his life. Dear brothers, it is important to understand the ever-present help of God in living out your vocation, especially since similar graces are given to Christian spouses in the sacrament of matrimony and to women and men consecrated to God through the profession of the evangelical counsels as a consecrated religious. As spiritual father of your flock, you must know and believe, you must give assurance to all that God's grace is sovereign and always available. That's our consolation! That's our hope! There's our joy! And for that, May God be praised...forever may God be praised!

'Never fading and never faltering'

Seminarian Kevin McCullouch
ordained to diaconate June 6

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

"I'm really looking forward to serving the Church in a new way," said seminarian Kevin McCullouch as he prepared to be ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on June 6 at Church of the Holy Family in Wauertown. "It's definitely been a long journey - a lot of school, a lot of determination and perseverance and prayer. I'm very excited."

After his ordination, Deacon McCullouch will be serving the Church in a ministry that is new to him, and he'll do it while completing an academic and formation year that is structured in a new way.

"I'm in a unique position," he said. "I'm a guinea pig - the first guy (from our diocese) who will graduate in December and be home for good after Christmas. My studies are kind of coming to an end next semester. Along with my studies, I'll have a little ministry experience in the Diocese of Pittsburgh or one of the surrounding areas."

Then, after he returns to the Diocese of Ogdensburg, the new deacon will spend time serving in that vocation until, God willing, he is ordained to the priesthood next year.

"It gives us a vocational synthesis stage," he said. "It's intended to be a better bridge and synthesis between diaconate ordination and

priestly ordination. Before being thrown right into the grind of priestly service in the diocese, there's that synthesis - bridge of diaconate ministry in our diocese and building connections in one of our local parishes so we'll be all the more ready to serve as priests."

While he's excited to enter his last year of studies and his new ministry as Deacon McCullouch, he said he will be sad to leave behind some of his seminary experiences at St. Vincent's Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

"I have maybe two or three more seven-hour drives to St. Vincent's," he said. "There's a bittersweet feeling. There's sadness about going separate ways and leaving my classmates here. But I'm really looking forward to serving the Church in this new way. This semester, a lot of classes have been focused on the role of the deacon, and the main role of the deacon is to be at the assistance of the bishop and going wherever he asks me to go. In terms of what I'm particularly excited for - I hope to have a few baptisms. I look forward to leading Adoration in a new and particular way. One thing - when I began my seminary journey, I was nervous to do preaching. I've grown more comfortable in that, and I'm excited to share the word of God with people in a new way."

The new deacon said



Deacon Kevin McCullouch

he looks forward to the opportunity to grow as a servant leader.

"I tend to be more of a passive leader, and I'm sometimes not super good about making decisions," he said. "I have a little nervousness about the leadership role and people looking to me for certain answers. At the same time, I'm also excited for that opportunity."

As he prepared for ordination, seminarian McCullouch said he was grateful to God for bringing him to this point and for those who supported him along the way.

"I think my parents are just as excited as I am," he said. "My family is very excited. Both of my siblings got married within the last two to three years. Now, as we're planning all the ins and outs of the reception after the ordination and all the

details, it's almost like planning my own. I'm excited to have the (ordination) Mass in my home parish - where my vocation all began."

The seminarian said he grew up in a Catholic household and attended public high school in Carthage.

"I was a cradle Catholic, but I didn't have a lot of Catholic friends in school," he said. "The school was definitely predominately Christian, but I didn't have a huge Catholic influence with my peers. But between my family's devotional practices, attending Mass together on Sundays and religious education, coupled with my experiences attending Family Guggenheim and (youth camp at) Camp Guggenheim and meeting a variety of Catholic friends throughout the diocese, there was a foundation that helped me grow in dis-

cernment and learning practices of prayer and discernment - it helped me learn where God is calling me to be."

After graduating high school, the new deacon spent a few years working and taking college classes before entering seminary.

At one point, he wasn't sure he was where God was calling him to be, and he stepped away from his seminary studies.

"After stepping away, I have broader experience," Deacon McCullouch said. "I have a larger community of support through the friends and connections I made in college when I stepped away from the seminary for that time. And it affirmed me in this vocation. Even when I stepped away, I still found the urging of the call never fading and never faltering."

He said he's excited to take what he's learned through his formation process and put it into service.

"I'm now at St. Vincent's for my fifth year," he said. "One of the things I take away from St. Vincent's and the Benedictine influence is the beautiful charism of hospitality and conversations. They make promises and vows to live celibate life and to direct all their actions to daily conversion in their lives. I'm excited to take away a little of that rich Benedictine tradition and bring it into the parishes that I'm sent to. And I'm excited to foster relationships with people around the diocese and share our faith here in the North Country."

CALLED TO SERVE

Ordained to the Third Order

The first weekend of June 2026 was a deacon weekend in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Kevin McCullough was ordained deacon June 6 by Bishop Terry LaValley. The ordination Mass was held at Holy Family Church in Watertown. Holy Family is Deacon McCullough's home parish.

He will spend the summer months developing his pastoral skills in the Roman Catholic Community of Cape Vincent, Rosiere and Chaumont before returning to St. Vincent Seminary in Pennsylvania.

God willing, Deacon Kevin will be ordained a priest in 2027.

The night before that ordination, seven men preparing for their ordination as deacon in 2027 were installed as lectors in the Catholic Church. Bishop LaValley presided at that ceremony at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg.

These future deacons will

be permanent. They are all married. They have answered a call from God to minister as deacons.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "No one has a right to receive the sacrament of holy orders. Indeed, no one claims this office for himself. He is called to it by God. Anyone who thinks he recognizes the signs of God's call to the ordained ministry must humbly submit his desire to the authority of the Church (the local bishop), who has the responsibility and right to call someone to receive orders. Like every grace this sacrament can be received only as an unmerited gift."

Russell Backus of Canton, Daniel Haycock of Clayton, David Hunt of Malone, Lucien Leroux of Fort Covington,

John Lucia of LaFargeville, Michael Salaun of Dexter, and Jason Scull of Lake Placid, each placed his hands on a book bearing the Sacred Word of God, the Lectionary.



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

Lector recognizes that each man is prepared to proclaim the Word of God. It is a role deeply rooted in the Church's tradition. During the rite, each candidate was called by name and entrusted with the Lectionary as Bishop LaValley said, "Take this book of holy Scripture and be faithful in handing on the Word of God, so that it may grow strong in the hearts of His people."

The institution also helps each man with his spiritual life. As he becomes more immersed in Scripture he will, through his engagement with

sacred texts, be drawn to a deeper relationship with the Lord.

Candidates for the priesthood and the diaconate have developed skills in public speaking and communication during formation. This rite of Institution to Lector is one of two rites a deacon experiences prior to ordination. Through this installation, and the concluding rite when they are instituted as acolytes, the men are encouraged to active participation in the liturgical life of the Church.

Congratulations Deacon Kevin McCullough and the candidates installed as lectors.

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

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

A higher standard than for cats and dogs

Sometimes people will point out:

"We euthanize our pets when they suffer, and they are clearly creatures of God, so why can't we euthanize a sick and suffering person who wants it?"

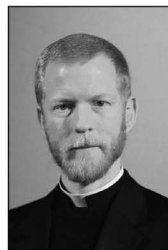
It seems like we treat our dogs and cats better than we treat our suffering family members."

The way we treat animals, however, should not be the measure of how we treat fellow human beings. We keep animals as pets, but we don't do the same with humans. We use animals to make clothing and food, but we don't do the same with humans. For all our similarities to the rest of the animal kingdom, we are aware of a fundamental difference in kind between ourselves and our furry friends. We are not meant to die just as animals do, or be euthanized as they

are. The death of a human is a more complex event that has other important realities associated with it.

In euthanizing a cat or dog, an assessment about the nature of the creature is rolled up into our decision to proceed. Our pets seem to process the world around them mostly in terms of pleasure and pain, oscillating between these two poles as they instinctively gravitate towards pleasurable experiences, and engage in "mechanisms of avoidance" when they

come up against pain or discomfort. Animals lack that uniquely human power to reason about, resign themselves to, and allow good to be drawn out of pain. Animals can't do much else in the face of their suffering apart from trying to skirt around it, escape the situation, or passively endure it. Because of our strong sense of empathy, humans find it more emotionally acceptable to "put the animal to sleep," rather than watch it suffer a long and agonizing death.



Father Tad
Pacholczyk, Ph.D.

But it would be false empathy, and a false compassion, to promote the killing or suicide of suffering family members. As human beings, we have real moral duties, and better options, in the face of our own pain and tribulations. On an instinctual level, we tend to recoil and do our best to avoid suffering, just like animals. But we are able to respond in a way that animals cannot, and even willingly accept our suffering, which is unavoidably part of the fabric of our human existence. None of us lives out our life without encountering some suffering, even if

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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

Environmental Stewardship

Wisdom of Pope Leo

Recently, Pope Leo released his very timely encyclical Magnificent Humanity. This document focuses on social justice issues that could arise with unchecked use of advanced forms of technology, especially AI. However, while Pope Leo's primary concern is the welfare of mankind, he periodically notes that all of creation is being placed at risk.

The Holy Father comments that "In the era of artificial intelligence, when human dignity is threatened by new forms of dehumanization, ours is the pressing duty to remain profoundly human. We must lovingly safeguard the grandeur of humanity bestowed upon us and revealed in its fullness in Christ, the splendor of which no machine can ever replace." The pope, however, indicates that we do have options, as the power of the human spirit acting in harmony with the Holy Spirit can achieve wondrous things. "It is the pursuit of the common good that gives life to a people, understood not as a mere collection of individuals, but as a living reality in which people learn to recognize that they themselves are interconnected and jointly responsible for the Welfare of the State."

"We must remember that humanity flourishes not despite limitations, but often through them."

Despite the dangers technology and some elements of society pose, the encyclical ends on a positive note. "With the same faith as Mary, let us become 'weavers of hope' in our world.... In the humble fidelity of daily life, even the era of AI can become a time in which the Holy Spirit brings about the civilization of love."

Social justice issues are also environmental issues. Convenience, pleasures and easy living sound great, but they sometimes come with a high moral price tag that we often ignore because they are not attached to any monetary amount. We have to treat all creatures that populate His domain with respect and care.

June 8-13 – United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Plenary Assembly in Orlando, FL

June 14 – 11 a.m. – Confirmation at The Catholic Community of Moriah in Port Henry along with St. Elizabeth Church in Elizabethtown and St. Philip Neri Church in

Westport

June 15 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

6:30 p.m. – Confirmation at The Roman Catholic Community of Cape Vincent, Rosiere and Chaumont (at All Saints Church) in Cape Vincent

June 16 – 9:30 a.m. – Diocesan Department Head Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg followed by Lunch

6:30 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Peter's Parish (at St. Mary's Church) in Massena

June 17 – 9:30 a.m. – Mass at

the Adirondack Correctional Facility in Raybrook

5 p.m. – Annual Banquet for the Staff of Our Lady of Outreach Ministry at Martin Field Club (formerly the Knights of Columbus) in Ogdensburg

Rest in Peace

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

June 10 – Rev. Augustus Gaudet, O.M.I., 1895; Rev. Alfred J. Boulerville, 1952; Rev. Rupert P. Hajna, O.F.M.Conv., 1979

June 11 – Rev. Lawrence K. Brady, 1993

June 12 – Rev. Eugene A. Kelly, 2001; Rev. Francis J. Coryer, 2012

June 14 – Rev. Hermidas Mayer, 1927; Rev. Thomas A. Kiley, O.S.A., 1954; Rev. William J. Deacy, O.S.A., 1960; Rev. Arthur Desrosiers, 1963; Msgr. Walter T. Cleary, 1968

June 15 – Rev. Francis C. A. Cornish, 1960

June 16 – Rev. James L. Meehan, 2004; Deacon John Dwyer, 2007

To Report Abuse

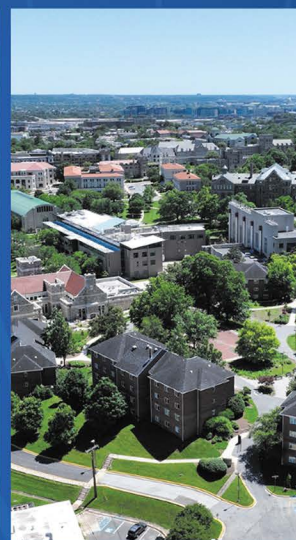
If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victim Assistance Coordinator, Terriane Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianeyanulavich@yahoo.com; Phone: 518-569-0612; or Father Christopher Carrara, 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

Bishop's Public Schedule

FORMING MINDS. STRENGTHING FAITH.

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THIS IS A JOINT COLLECTION IN YOUR
CHURCH WITH THE CATHOLIC
COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN THE
WEEKEND OF JUNE 13 & 14, 2026.

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

RETIREMENT RECEPTION

Olmstedville — Come honor Father Philip Allen who is celebrating 67 years of priesthood and 15 years of devoted care for the parishioners of St. Joseph's Church.

Date: June 21

Time: 1 p.m. to 4

Place: Minerva Community Center

Contact: Food served will be potluck. Please contact Jan Hogan at 518-242-0890 to share a dish.

RETREAT DAY

Saranac Lake — The Sisters of St. Joseph Justice Promoter/Faith and Ecology Committee are inviting you to a retreat day.

Date: June 19 or July 25

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; registration begins at 9:30

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

Cost: \$25

Features: An invitation to come aside amid the beauty of the Adirondack Mts. and Saranac Lake to ponder the mystery of God's creation and our role in His Plan.

Facilitator: Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ

Contact: Wanda Kavanaugh sewmom59@gmail.com, 315-489-6733 Space is limited; Deadline to register is June 14. For more information, Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, srbethssj@gmail.com

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

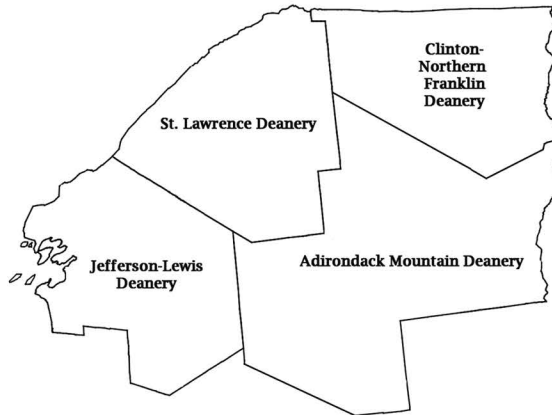
SOAKING PRAYERS SESSIONS

Come enjoy a relaxing prayer opportunity at two different locations.

Plattsburgh: Newman Center, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30; 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



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.

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.

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

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 scar064@charter.net

FIRST FRIDAY

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

Date: July 3

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

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Malone — Chip in for charity at St. André's Parish Golf Tournament.

Date: July 24

Time: 12 p.m.

Place: 79 Golf Course Road

Cost: MGC Members \$65 / Non-Members \$100; Includes: green fees, Cart, Dinner & Prizes

Features: Fundraiser for St. André's Outreach Center. Men, Women, Mixed Divisions

Contact: Call Sue at St. André's Church Office at 518-483-1300 or malonemb@rcdony.org.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

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.

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 Chaufy. 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 once thriving historic Catholic Church. Come celebrate 250 years of democracy, Jubilee year of the Restoration Society, and the immigrants that 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: 1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20; Drawing Saturday June 27th. Entertainment: Reptiles Forever, Forest City Farms Petting Zoo, DJ's, Fire Department and much more! Rides provided by Ontario Amusement Rides, purchase a wrist band for \$20 and get unlimited rides for 4 hours, Thurs and Fri 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sat. 12 p.m. 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.

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: July 5

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

MAY 30 ORDINATION

THREE NEW PRIESTS

Photos by Jesse Sovie & Darcy Fargo





CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

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.

Contact: For more information contact bhwhdioogd@gmail.com 315-486-7967

ST. LAWRENCE

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.

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

Date: July 4

Time: 8 a.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

Features: Rosary with devotions

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

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

Date: July 4

Time: 3:15 p.m.

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

MENS GROUP

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

Date: July 4

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

Place: Sacred Heart Church

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 week 5)

Cost: \$450 per week

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

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.

YOUTH SERVICE PICNIC

Saranac Lake – The Diocesan Youth Service Picnic to be held for all youth in parish ministry.

Date: July 18

Time: Noon to 5 p.m.

Place: Camp Guggenheim

Features: Join us for a diocesan wide celebration of the young people who serve our parishes as altar servers, musicians, lectors, greeters, and more. Enjoy an afternoon at Camp Guggenheim with

great food, high energy activities, music, time with peers from across the Diocese, and Mass with Bishop LaValley.

Contact: Register at <https://rcdony.org/ya>

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

RACHELS VINEYARD

Saranac Lake - Are you or a friend suffering after abortion? You aren't alone. Join others for a week-end of hope and healing.

Date: Oct. 9-11

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

Cost: \$150 includes lodging, food and all retreat materials. Scholarships available.

Contact: Confidential online registration at www.rcdony.org/pro-life/rv-retreat For more information: Colleen Miner Email:

cminer@rcdony.org Phone Number: 518-524-0774

HEALING RETREAT

Ogdensburg – This year's Annual Our Lady of the Rosary Healing Retreat will have the theme of Love Heals.

Date: Oct. 8 – 11

Place: Wadhams Hall

Features: The Presenter will be Sonja Corbitt. Do not waste another day. Stop the pain. Love heals. John Paul the Great said, "Suffering unleashes love," because we only ever find Jesus and His love in our wounds. Sonja Corbitt has been teaching people how to acknowledge and open their woundedness to God's love for over 17 years as a leader in the Catholic Church and Scripture teaching space. You may know her as the Catholic Evangelista through her speaking, writing, and podcasting.

Contact: Space is limited and Register today: <https://www.rcdony.org/ourlady>. For more information contact Kathleen Nichols kmsnichols1163@gmail.com

PILGRIMAGE

RHINE RIVER CRUISE

Join Father Donald Robinson on a 10 day cruise.

Date: Dec. 3-12, 2026

Cost: \$4,599 from New York (*Air/land tour price is \$4,049 plus \$550 gov't taxes/airline charges)

Features: On board the luxurious MS Amadeus Silver II Visiting: Freiburg, Strasbourg, Speyer, Rudesheim, Koblenz, Cologne, Rothenburg, Nuremburg, Munich

Contact: For more information contact Father Donald Robinson at donrob4@twcnv.rr.com / (315) 408-0858

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Meet the Camp Guggenheim Staff

It's almost time for the start of the Camp Guggenheim season! Session 1 (ages 11-13) starts July 5! Week 2 (ages 12-15) and Week 5 (ages 16-18) are waiting list only, and other weeks are filling fast. Register today at rcdony.org/youth/camp/registration to secure a spot for your child/grandchild!

The following is the first installment of our annual "Meet the Camp Guggenheim Staff" series. Additional 2026 camp staffers will be featured in future editions.



Gabriel Gratto
Camp Director

Hometown: Malone

Bio/Welcome: Hi, my name is Gabriel Gratto! I am so excited for the summer! This will be my 5th summer on staff, and 2nd as the Camp Director. Outside of camp, I teach middle school chorus and orchestra at Plattsburgh Middle School. I am really looking forward to hearing about the fun and exciting things that returning campers have been up to this past year, and meeting all of the new campers as well! Over 25% of all campers are brand new to camp this year! See you this summer, and don't forget to bring your deodorant to camp!



Mariah (Terpstra) O'Neill
Assistant Camp Director

Hometown: Gouverneur

Bio/Welcome: Hi! I'm Mariah and I am so blessed to get to spend my third Summer - (as Assistant Director this time!) - at the wonderful Camp Guggenheim! I've had an amazing three years studying psychology at Franciscan University of Steubenville and look forward to starting grad school in applied behavior analysis at Russell Sage this Fall! Every year since I was young, Guggenheim was the place that reignited my faith, and I know it will do the same with you! This is the place you will meet some amazing people and learn how to take the steps to encounter our Lord Jesus! I cannot wait to see you there!



Christian Gratto
Assistant Camp Director

Hometown: Schroon Lake

Bio/Welcome: Hi everyone my name is Christian! This will be my third summer on staff and 10th summer at camp! I am excited to step into the role of Assistant Camp Director this summer alongside Mariah and Gabe. I will be graduating from Ithaca College this May with a Television and Digital Media Production degree. I love canoeing, photography, hiking, biking, the Adirondacks, and everything about Camp. My favorite parts of camp are song practice, the variety, show and reconciliation. I can't wait to see you all this summer! Don't be afraid to invite your friends!



Natalie Wargo
Counselor

Hometown: Buffalo

Bio/Welcome: Hey guys! My name is Nat and I'm from Buffalo, NY! This will be my first summer on staff and 6th summer at camp! I am studying Education at Franciscan University of Steubenville. My favorite parts of camp are mass, the "prance", song practice, and the friendships! Camp has always been a huge part of my life, and I'm so blessed to share this special place with you all this summer! I'm praying for you all as you finish up the school year! God is good, all the time!!



Katie Samperi
Counselor

Hometown: Saranac Lake

Bio/Welcome: Hi everyone! I'm Katie Samperi, and I'm very excited to be coming back for my 3rd summer on staff (I've lost count of all the years!) This May I'll be graduating from University of New England with my Bachelor's in Dental Hygiene and obtaining my RDH license! My favorite parts of camp have always been the Olympics, Reconciliation and Thursdays in general. This year I'm looking forward to directing Teen Vision with Jacob and seeing all of your smiling faces! Whether or not you're new to camp, I promise it will be the best week of your life!



Molly Tierney
Counselor

Hometown: Fredericksburg, Virginia

Bio/Welcome: Hey y'all! My name is Molly, and I'm from Fredericksburg, Virginia. This is my first summer on staff, and my 5th summer at camp! I just finished my first year at Hillsdale College, where I'm studying English and French. My favorite parts of camp are Adoration, reconciliation, hikes, song practice, and making friends! I cannot wait to be on staff this summer and to share my love for camp and for the Lord with all of you campers! Never forget how much Christ loves you, and get excited for an epic summer!

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

June consistory of cardinals to address synod, war, AI

Several working sessions and four themes ranging from war to synodality are planned for the next consistory convened by Pope Leo XIV. From reflection on the international situation to a possible "updating" of the doctrine of just war, to discussion of the encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas* to the steps of the synodal process, the cardinals are called upon for broad discussions in multiple sessions. The plans were reported Thursday by Vatican News. The themes were outlined by Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, dean of the College of Cardinals, in a letter sent to all cardinals on June 3. The extraordinary consistory, the second convoked by Leo XIV, will be held June 26-27. Cardinal Re emphasized in the letter that the consistory "is intended, above all, to be a space for mutual listening, discernment, and shared exploration of certain issues relevant to the life and mission of the Church in the present time."

Diocese asks court to block law requiring it to hire nonbelievers

A Catholic diocese and a pregnancy center in Illinois are asking a federal appeals court to strike down a state law that they say would force them to hire workers who disagree with their religious and pro-life missions. The Diocese of Springfield in March 2025 had filed suit against the state alongside the Pregnancy Care Center of Rockford. Both parties had argued that the Illinois Human Rights Act "dictates how religious employers must speak and act about employees' voluntary reproductive decisions like abortion, contraception, and sterilization." That law "prohibits employers from disciplining or refusing to hire employees" regarding their decisions about abortion and further "requires employers to grant employee accommodations" regarding abortion, the lawsuit said. A district court dismissed the lawsuit in March of this year, claiming the plaintiffs lacked standing to sue. On June 3 the Alliance Defending Freedom, which is representing both the diocese and the pregnancy center, said it had filed suit in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit over the dispute. The district court had ruled that the alleged religious liberty violations were "speculative," according to the filing; the appeals brief called the court's conclusion "erroneous."

Exorcist removed from role over remarks about UFOs

Washington archbishop Cardinal Robert McElroy on June 3 removed Monsignor Stephen Rossetti from his role as an archdiocesan exorcist after the priest made remarks linking UFOs to demonic activity. Rossetti is a priest of the Diocese of Syracuse, New York, the statement noted. In addition to Rossetti's removal, McElroy said the archdiocese had "ended all affiliation between the archdiocese and the St. Michael Center for Spiritual Renewal located in Washington, D.C." Led by Rossetti, the St. Michael Center is a Catholic nonprofit that "conducts spiritual education workshops and trains clergy, religious, and laity," according to its website. Rossetti had on May 29 posted a video to YouTube in which the exorcist had expressed his personal belief that "many, if not most, [UFO] sightings are, in fact, demons."

U.S. bishops issue wish list to Congress on migration

By Tessa Gervasini
EWTN News

U.S. bishops urged Congress to reauthorize the Religious Worker Visa Program, protect refugee services and unaccompanied children, and reject expanded enforcement and detention measures, warning that mass-deportation policies would undermine due process and separate families.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) sent a list of immigration-related requests to lawmakers June 1 as they are set to vote on fiscal 2027 appropriations.

In a letter sent to leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, Bishop Brendan J. Cahill of Victoria, Texas, wrote on behalf of the USCCB asking the committee to consider "additional priorities" in connection "to human life and dignity."

"The well-being of immigrants, refugees, unaccompanied noncitizen children, victims of trafficking, and other populations, as well as our immigration system in general, is of deep concern to the Catholic Church," wrote Cahill, chair of the bishops' Committee on Migration.

"Our perspectives on these matters are grounded in Scripture and Catholic teaching, including our belief in the inherent and inviolable dignity of every person," he said.

The letter was sent to Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine; Sen. Patty Murray, D-Washington; Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla.; and Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Connecticut.

The bishops urged that funding continue for the Refugee and Entrant Assistance (REA) programs administered through the Office of Refugee Resettlement, as the programs are needed to assist refugees, victims of human trafficking, and other migrant groups.

They asked for "robust" appropriations for the Wage and Hour Division and the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs to support victims of trafficking, and funding for International Humanitarian Assistance and Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance.

While acknowledging the government's right to enforce immigration laws, the bishops reiterated their opposition to expanded enforcement

and detention measures, and asked for "more humane" alternatives.

The letter warned that mass deportation threatens due process, family unity, and discriminatory practice and asked Congress to ensure that people in detention facilities have access to religious and pastoral services.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is operating without fully enacted fiscal 2026 funding, and instead has been funded through continuing resolutions after a 76-day shutdown that ended April 30. The Trump administration is asking Congress to approve \$118.4 billion in fiscal 2027 DHS spending, which is a \$6.6 billion increase over the continuing resolution levels.

The bishops asked the committee to consider permanently reauthorizing the Religious Worker Visa Program, "to avoid the uncertainty and disruption" that its expiration creates for religious organizations, their workers, and communities they serve.

The bishops also reiterated their request for Congress to take up and pass H.R. 2672/ S. 1298, named by sponsors as "the Religious Workforce Protection Act." The legislation would let DHS keep certain religious workers in the U.S. beyond the five-year limit on R-1 visas while their green card or immigrant visa applications are still pending.

The bishops urged Congress to support agencies that help "promote trust" in the immigration system that "have been weakened" or "ceased operating entirely," including the DHS Office of Inspector General and the Office of Immigration Detention Ombudsman.

Concerned about "nationality-based restrictions on legal immigration pathways," the bishops asked that the State Department and DHS be required to report the status of all nationality-based restrictions.

Bishops urged lawmakers to fund the Legal Orientation Program, support the immigration court system, and oversee functions related to immigration enforcement in their consideration of the fiscal 2027 Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) appropriations bill. U.S. House consideration is next for CJS appropriations; the House Appropriations Committee approved the legislation May 13.

Lay woman to lead Vatican communications

By EWTN News

Pope Leo XIV has appointed Maria Montserrat Alvarado, president and chief operating officer of EWTN News, as prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for Communication. The appointment will take effect Nov. 1.

Since 2023, Alvarado has overseen EWTN News' global and multilingual news operations across television, radio, print, digital, and social media platforms.

During her tenure, she helped expand the network's international news presence and deepen collaboration across its multilingual platforms.

"Montse's background in international media, public affairs, and Church engagement has helped shape EWTN's outreach at a critical moment in the history of our apostolate: the pivot into a deeper engagement with the digital space," said Michael P. Warsaw, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of EWTN. "Just as importantly, she has remained deeply committed to the mission that defines EWTN: proclaiming the

truth of Jesus Christ and the teachings of his Church with clarity, fidelity, and charity."

Before joining EWTN, Alvarado spent 14 years in leadership roles at the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, where she worked extensively on issues related to religious freedom and human dignity.

In a statement released following the appointment, Alvarado said she received the news "with deep gratitude, humility, and trust in the Lord," adding that the faithful witness of the EWTN family strengthened her faith.

Archbishop Paul Coakley of Oklahoma City, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, welcomed Alvarado's appointment.

"It was with gratitude that I learned of Montse's appointment as the next prefect of the Holy See's Dicastery for Communication," Coakley said in a statement. "We are grateful for her work as a Catholic journalist, faithfully covering the work of the bishops, and also for her advocacy and dedication to upholding religious freedom and human dignity at the Becket Fund. On behalf of the conference, I as-

sure her of our prayers as she continues to serve the universal Church with her unique talents."

The Dicastery for Communication was established by Pope Francis in 2015 as part of his reform of the Roman Curia, bringing together the Holy See's various communications entities, including Vatican News, Vatican Radio, L'Osservatore Romano, Vatican Media, the Vatican Publishing house and printing press, Filmoteca Vaticana, and the Holy See Press Office.

Appointed for a five-year term, the prefect is responsible for overseeing the entire media network of the Holy See.

Alvarado succeeds Paolo Ruffini, whom Pope Francis appointed in 2018 as the first lay prefect of a dicastery in the Roman Curia.

Ruffini said he had come to know Alvarado "over the last couple of years" and will work closely with her in the coming months "in the spirit of communion that unites us in the Church."

In recent years, Pope Francis entrusted a growing number of leadership roles in the Vat-

ican to laymen and laywomen, including several senior appointments for women religious.

Alvarado's appointment continues that development and marks the first time a woman who has not taken religious vows as a nun or a sister has been appointed to lead a dicastery of the Holy See.

Born in Mexico City, Alvarado earned academic degrees from Florida International University and George Washington University.

She has received several national recognitions for her commitment to religious freedom and service to the Church, and her writings and commentary have appeared in a range of international media outlets.

While noting that EWTN would miss Alvarado's leadership, Warsaw said the network rejoices in her new mission of service to the universal Church.

"We offer her our prayers, our encouragement, and the full support of the EWTN family as she begins this important mission in service to Pope Leo XIV and his pontificate."

Pope Leo XIV's prayer intention for June: Sports

By Francesca Pollio Fenton
EWTN News

Pope Leo XIV's prayer intention for the month of June is for the value of sports.

"In times of war and extreme polarization, sport is one of the few things that bring us closer together," the pope said in a video released on X on June 2.

He added: "Let us pray this June that sport may be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations. and that it may

promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth."

In the full video shared on the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network website, Pope Leo recites an original prayer written specifically for this month's prayer intention:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord of life, we thank you for the gift of sport, for those who glorify God through the exercise of their bodies. for

the friendships born on the field and the joy of playing as a team.

You teach us that in life, as in the game, no one is saved alone.

We need others to grow, to learn respect, to overcome our limits, and to celebrate together the victories we achieve.

We ask that sport may always be a school of fraternity, not of empty rivalry, a space of encounter, not exclusion, a path of peace, not violence.

May those who play, train. or cheer discover

in sport a universal language that brings cultures together, unites peoples, and sows respect, solidarity, and personal growth.

Lord Jesus, may every sport become a parable of life lived with you, working with joy and effort, living with humility in defeat and with gratitude in the victory you offer in your resurrection.

May your Spirit never be lacking in us, making us one team, united with you to build communion and fraternity in history.

Amen.

"Pray with the Pope" is accessible on the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network website and its digital platforms.



SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

Following the Good Shepherd

June 14

Eleventh Sunday

in Ordinary Time

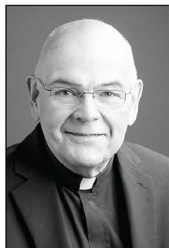
READINGS

Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26

1 John 4:11-16

John 17:11b-19

A recent trip to Lowe's inspired this week's homily reflection. I went to the store looking for a widget. I knew what I was looking for but was not sure what it is called. So, in going up and down some of the aisles, a clerk came up and asked: "You look lost. Can I help you?" "Lost" was definitely the right word. I told him that I wasn't sure what the widget is called, but I would know



Msgr. Robert
H. Aucoin

it when I see it. This helpful clerk asked me a few questions and accompanied me to the sought-after item.

Do I dare say that I felt like the lost sheep roaming around until the clerk, the good shepherd acted like the Good Shepherd of to-

day's Gospel and came to my rescue and led me where I belonged. By the way, he was not the first person to tell me where to go!

In today's Gospel, Jesus compares the crowds following him as sheep without a shepherd. While not a compliment, that analogy accurately described the people then, but, unfortunately, it also describes many people and societies of today - lost, trying to find their way, roaming here and there.

In an effort to find a leader or a direction in life, some will look to politicians who claim for themselves the ability to cure all difficulties in society. Others may seek substances which,

they believe, will deaden the pain they experience in facing the realities of life. Still others may remain tough but blame others and complain to others but do nothing.

In reality, there exists but one solution - follow the Good Shepherd and face life the way Jesus sees the world. Jesus sees people, the sheep, as valuable, but needing redemption, thirsting for direction. He knows that he can guide the sheep, but the sheep need to follow his direction, his example and his teaching.

Life is not a spectator

sport. Life as a disciple of Christ can make us active participants in the "game of life" with the guarantee of ultimate victory, if not now, but certainly into eternal life.

To guide the wandering sheep of the world, leaders are needed to carry on Jesus' ministry. Jesus chose twelve sheep, morphed them into shepherds, and commissioned them to teach his message and guide people to understand and make the message part of their lives. Jesus chose sheep to become shepherds. In fact, that same process has been followed from the time of Jesus to our present day.

The Church also takes very seriously what we call the "Great Commission: Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in

the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matt. 28:18-20). Even though the clergy act upon this commission, Jesus invites all members of the Church in their own ways to fulfill this commission.

So, the bottom line is simple.

If you are a wandering sheep, look to the Shepherd, Jesus. In your search, the Church's ministers and teachings can provide the leadership. Also, even if you are wandering sheep right now, maybe the Good Shepherd is calling you to be one of his ordained shepherds, a priest or deacon. Listen for the voice of the Shepherd.

NY university files lawsuit over bargaining rule

By Daniel Payne
EWTN News

A historic Catholic university in New York City has filed a federal lawsuit against state officials amid a dispute over collective bargaining with faculty unions.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. district court on June 1, alleges that the New York State Public Employment Relations

Board is infringing on its "fundamental constitutional right" to religious liberty by presumptively exercising jurisdiction over the school's union bargaining policy.

In February the school announced that it would no longer recognize two unions on campus, the St. John's University Chapter of the American Association of Uni-

versity Professors and the Faculty Association. Both had been formed in 1970.

A school spokesman said the decision would "allow [the school] the flexibility required to innovate while continuing to support our faculty and, most importantly, deliver on our promise to our students."

The unions subsequently filed a complaint with the state Public Employment Relations Board, alleging that the school's decision, along with changes to faculty employment terms, violated the New York State Employment Relations Act.

In its June 1 filing, the school said the First Amendment and extensive court precedent prohibits the state

board from what the university described as "excessive government entanglement with religion."

The lawsuit alleges that the union's request would require the school to share its decision-making authority with both union leaders and the state government, even on issues that are "essential to its mission."

Oversight from the state board would "[prevent] St. John's from exercising its First Amendment right to freely govern itself in accordance with its Catholic and Vincentian mission and faith," the suit says.

The state labor board did not immediately respond to a request for comment from EWTN News regarding the fed-

eral lawsuit.

Earlier this year the school received criticism from some community members for its decision to withdraw from union bargaining.

Sophia Bell, the president of the St. John's chapter of the American Association of University Professors, called the decision "a disastrous mistake."

"[School president Father Brian Shanley] is violating New York state law and ignoring decades of St. John's institutional practice and centuries of Catholic social teaching around respect for labor and workers," Bell told EWTN News.

The school was founded in 1870 and is headquartered in Queens, New York.

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'Why are you here?' Part 2

This is part 2 of the story of Father Stephen Kim SeongHueon, a Korean missionary in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Then came Mongolia. "One day I learned that the bishop was looking for someone willing to go to Mongolia." At that moment, one of the French missionaries from his childhood, the first parish priest, whom he only knew from a monument, came back to him: "I knew that priest through a monument on which his name was engraved." Then he understood: "Why am I here? It becomes clearer to me every day: because of that name engraved on the monument. One day I too will be dead, and perhaps some children, seeing my name, will ask themselves: 'Why was Father Kim here?'"

In Mongolia, where he founded the parish of St. Mary Assunta in the Khan-Uul district, Father Stephen lived in a poor and young Church. "In Mongolia, we are still in the early stages." And yet, he observed: "Throughout the world, ultraliberalism and consumerism are becoming a challenge for all Christians." The poverty of the Mongolian Church did not seem to him a limitation, but rather an evangelical richness: "We are poor, and that is precisely our wealth." Looking at St. Francis of Assisi, he reversed the perspective: "St. Francis of Assisi was rich and had to give up all his possessions to follow Jesus. The 'St. Francis' of Ulaanbaatar was born poor and has nothing to strip himself of to follow Jesus." If one recognizes "the richness of poverty," discovering that God has given them "the gift of not having to renounce anything to follow him," then "the 'St. Francis' of Ulaanbaatar can be happy."

But he was also aware of the ambiguity of any discourse on poverty: "We must also be aware of how indecent it is to extol the benefits of poverty in front of the poor if we do not share their condition." That is why he insisted that it was "a real challenge for missionaries": "We must be what we preach." "What we can offer people is also a way of living with suffering." Not by avoiding it, because it exists, even if we don't like it or seek it, but by finding a way to navigate it, by following in the footsteps of Jesus."

Article by Marie-Lucile Kubacki courtesy of FIDES News Agency.

OBITUARIES

Canton — Joseph N. Lamendola, 95; Mass of Christian Burial June 8, 2026 at St. Mary's Church.

Cape Vincent — Carol Marie (Radley) Forte, 62; Mass of Christian Burial June , 2026 at St. Vincent of Paul Church; burial in St. Vincent of Paul Cemetery.

Ellenburg — Stephen J. Burgoyne, 70; Mass of Christian Burial June 5, 2026 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in Immaculate Heart of Mary Cemetery, Churubusco.

Ellenburg — Evelyn (Sayah) Ryan, 89; Mass of Christian Burial June 6, 2026 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in St. Edmund's Cemetery.

Gouverneur — Larry Woodrow, 68; Funeral Services May 30, 2026 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Riverside Cemetery.

Lowville — Herbert A. Ehlers, 69; Mass of Christian Burial June 10, 2026 at St. Peter's Church.

Massena — Margaret "Elenor" (Palmer) Cole, 83; Funeral Services June 3, 2026 at Phillips Memorial Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Etta Rose Swan Manfred, 91; Memorial Mass June 9, 2026 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Sylvia C. (Guay) Filion, 88; Mass of Christian Burial May 29, 2026 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Rosemary (La-tour) Monty, 91; Funeral Services June 3, 2026 at Brown Funeral Home; burial in St. Joseph's Church, West Chazy.

Saranac Lake — Thomas E. Sey-

mour, 83; Mass of Christian Burial June 3, 2026 at St. Bernard's Church

Ticonderoga — Richard John-drow 93; Mass of Christian Burial June 3, 2026 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ticonderoga — Anna May

(Cutting) Peterson, 86; Mass of Christian Burial June 6, 2026 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Watertown — Paul A. Mandeville, 78; Mass of Christian Burial June 5, 2026 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

it may be purely internal, like the agony that comes from loneliness, isolation, depression, or rejection. Every person must, in one way or another, confront

suffering along the trajectory of life, and human maturity is partially measured by how we deal with suffering.

Those who live with serious disabilities, through their deter-

mined and beauty-filled lives and example, remind us every day of the good that can be drawn from suffering. The way they deal with their struggles manifests the depths of

what it is to be authentically human. It is precisely disability, with its disfigurement, impairment, vulnerability, and dependence that challenges us to grasp the outlines of our human journey in a less superficial way, and to value human life and protect human dignity in sickness as well as in health. Victoria Kennedy spoke to this same point when describing Senator Kennedy's final months:

"When my husband was first diagnosed with cancer, he was told that he had only two to four months to live.... But that prognosis was wrong. Teddy lived 15 more productive months.... Because that first dire prediction of life expectancy was wrong, I have 15 months of cherished memories.... When the end finally did come—natural death with dignity—my husband was home, attended by his doctor, surrounded by family and our priest."

As human beings, we reach beyond the limits that suffering imposes by a conscious decision to accept and grow through it, like the athlete or the Navy seal who pushes through the limits of his exhaustion during training. We enter into an awareness of something greater behind the veil

of our suffering when we come to accept it as an integral component of our human condition. We also give positive example, strength and encouragement to the younger generation as they witness our response to, and acceptance of, our own suffering. Our trials and tribulations also teach us about our reliance on God and the illusions of self-reliance.

On the other hand, if our fear of suffering drives us to constant circumlocution and relentless avoidance, even to the point of short-circuiting life itself through euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide, we can miss those mysterious but privileged moments that invite us to become more resplendently human, with all the messiness, awkwardness and agonies that are invariably part of that process.

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.

Communication is not only the transmission of information, but it is also the creation of a culture, of human and digital environments that become spaces for dialogue and discussion. In looking at how technology is developing, this mission becomes ever more necessary.

—Pope Leo XIV, Address to the Representatives of the Media, May 12, 2025

The 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope reminded us that the Gospel is a message of hope that we are called to share with the world. The Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) presents a unique opportunity to participate in that mission of love by supporting media efforts to share the Gospel with your neighbors as well as people across the country. When you contribute to this collection, half of your donation supports the national communications programs of the bishops of the United States, while the other half stays in your diocese to support local communications initiatives.

Each day, hundreds of thousands of users visit the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) for an easy and convenient way to enrich their devotional lives with the Word of God. Taken from the Lectionary readings for each day's Mass, the Daily Readings page helps users follow along with the biblical texts proclaimed at Mass and aids their prayer and meditation on Sacred Scripture.

Funding from CCC allows this popular and valuable resource to be made



available to users free of charge rather than through paid subscriptions or user fees. When you participate in the annual collection for CCC, you support the national communications efforts of the USCCB, including the free availability of the online daily readings. And your support is not limited to those national efforts. When you give to your diocese's collection at Mass, half of your contribution stays within your own diocese to support local communication efforts that help bring the hope of the Gospel to your family, friends, and neighbors!

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USCCB Internal Grants‡	93.17%
Promotion & Fundraising Expenses	6.09%
Program Costs	0.48%
Grants and Donations	0.27%
Total Expenses	\$3,731,462

* Includes funding for resource production and for distribution of print and electronic media from the USCCB.

† Includes funding to support Catholic News Services' coverage of Pope Leo XIV and his global ministry to share the mercy of God and the hope of the Gospel.

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