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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 81 Number 10

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JUNE 3, 2026

## CELEBRATING JUBILEES



PHOTO BY DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

**Priests from around the diocese gathered to honor jubilarians, priests celebrating milestone years of service, at the annual Jubilee Mass held May 21 at the Cambria Resort in Lake Placid, part of the annual presbyteral assembly. Pictured are (from left) Father Garry Giroux (50 years), Father Christopher Looby (25 years), Father David DeLuca, MSC (60 years), Father Shane Lynch (25 years), Bishop Terry R. LaValley, Bishop James S. Wall of the Diocese of Gallup, New Mexico, keynote speaker at the assembly, Father Joseph Kanimea, MSC (25 years) and Father Steve Kovacevich (40 years). Unable to attend the Jubilee Mass were Father Arthur LaBaff (60 years), Father John Looby (60 years), Father Terrance Patterson (60 years), Father Peter Helfrich (50 years), and Father Jerome Pastores (40 years). Full story on Page 4. Additional photos on Page 9.**

## PRAYING FOR OUR NATION



Bishop Terry R. LaValley notes that the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is preparing to consecrate the nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in honor of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and urges faithful in our diocese to participate in a novena ahead of the consecration.

**FULL STORY, PAGE 3**

## Pope urges priests to respect 'norms of the liturgy'

By Victoria Cardiel  
EWTN News

At the general audience on May 27, Pope Leo XIV urged priests to respect the "norms of the liturgy" and not to make changes to the Mass "on their own initiative," in order to avoid confusing the faithful.

"I encourage all priests to respect the texts and norms of the liturgy with openness, humility, trust in God's greatness, and with sincere fidelity to ecclesial communion," the pope said in remarks in St. Peter's Square.

The Second Vatican Council "affirmed that legitimate prog-

ress in the liturgy must also preserve sound tradition and that certain elements of the liturgy can never change because they are divinely instituted," he said.

Leo's catechesis continued his reflections on the magisterium of the Second Vatican Council, focusing on the constitution *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, promulgated by St. Paul VI on Dec. 4, 1963. It is one of the most important documents to emerge from the council, since it transformed the way Catholics celebrate the Mass.

The pope offered a historical context in which Vatican II was convened, noting: "At that

moment in history, there was a strong sense of the need for a renewal of the ritual forms through which, for centuries, the Church had glorified God and sanctified the Christian people."

He also underscored that, thanks to the liturgical movement, the conviction had developed - later expressed by St. John Paul II - that "a very close and organic bond exists between the renewal of the liturgy and the renewal of the whole life of the Church. The Church not only acts but also expresses herself in the liturgy, lives by the liturgy, and draws from the liturgy the strength for her life."

The pontiff reflected on *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, which he said sought "to encourage the access of the faithful to the richness of the gifts of grace dispensed by the sacred liturgy." The pope highlighted the formula adopted by the council fathers: "That sound tradition may be retained, and yet the way remain open to legitimate progress."

The pope quoted Pope Benedict XVI, who explained that the council fathers' "reform program" sought "a balance between the great liturgical tradition of the past and that of the future."

NORTH  
COUNTRY  
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# Leading the dance

Everywhere he goes, people want to share in his joy, fun and connection.

I'm not sure which platform - Facebook, YouTube, Instagram... - first introduced me to this content creator, but now I see him everywhere. While he has other types of videos, he is most famous for doing a particular type of dance - a silly freestyle dance - in public spaces, generally on sidewalks.

In most circumstances, if someone asked me to dance on camera in public, I'd decline without hesitation. I have two bad hips and two left feet. I am not a dancer.

But if I saw this guy out on

the street, I'd do what hundreds - maybe thousands - of others have done: I'd run up to him, give him a hug and ask to dance.

**Darcy L. Fargo**

He often starts out dancing with one or two people and ends up with up to a dozen.

So, what makes this guy so special that I would be willing to dance very badly and very publicly with him? Everyone is welcome to dance with him - all ages, races, genders, ability levels. A group may include a 20-something giant muscle man, a middle-aged businesswoman, a grandmother and three teenagers. Everyone in the group does the same

opening move, and then everyone dances however they want. Every group that joins him to do the dance looks like a celebration of silliness, fun, connection and joy.

I thought about that content creator as I joined the priests of our diocese for the celebration of the annual Jubilee Mass. The priests who were honored at that Mass - priests who reached 60, 50, 40 and 25 years of priesthood - have spent those years trying to reflect the kind of love and joy - Christ's love and joy - that helps others want to join the dance.

They're not doing it by busting a move on public sidewalks for social media purposes (though Father Chris Looby does some pret-

ty silly stuff on social media, so maybe), but they're doing it through their ministries in parishes, outreach centers, medical facilities, emergency response agencies, mission territories, diocesan offices, homes, prisons... They're doing it through their warm, loving presence and by sharing Christ with us as we celebrate major milestones and God's sacraments - baptisms, marriages, anointings and funerals and everything in between.

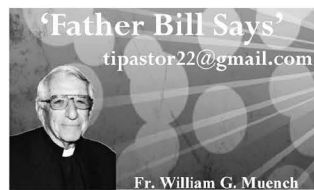
Congratulations, jubilarians. Thank you for your "yes" to God's call and thank you for service to Him and His Church.

Thank you for sharing joy, fun, connection and love that's rooted in Christ through all those years.

## Ordinations to the priesthood

Each year in the parish liturgy of our Catholic Church, the Feast of the Pentecost leads us into several celebrations that center on the Sacrament of the Blessed Eucharist. There is the Sunday of the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Jesus - what is also called the "Corpus Christi." This is the celebration that includes processions - carrying the Blessed Eucharist through the neighborhood. There is the First Holy Communion for the children - welcoming them to join the others at Mass to receive the Lord's Body and Blood in Holy Communion. Also, many parishes celebrate the sacrament of confirmation. The bishop visits the parish calling upon the Holy Spirit to come upon the young people of the parish just as the at the First Pentecost to challenge them to bring Jesus to their world.

Today, I am planning to attend the ordination of a new priest in this diocese. In every diocese in this world, after Pentecost there will be ordinations, and the



Fr. William G. Muench

transitional deacons will be ordained priests. They have spent many years in preparation to become priests. They are now ready to celebrate and lead others at the Holy Mass. We believe that the Holy Spirit, through the sacrament of holy orders, chooses those who are ready to be ordained priests. We believe that the Holy Spirit brings God's wisdom, God's boldness to them to live out their vocation as a Catholic priest of the Lord Jesus.

The ordination ceremony begins as the bishop asks those to be ordained to prostrate themselves on the sanctuary floor. They lay down in praise of God as they prepare to dedicate themselves to the Lord. All those present are encouraged to pray for them. We all call upon the Holy Spirit to bring God's love to make

them successful as priests, to make them ready to make this sacrifice to serve God well.

The ordination for a priest is filled with many ceremonies. However, the actual ordination is when the bishop imposes his hands upon the head of this deacon who now becomes a priest. This new priest will now celebrate Mass. He will now bring the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist to people, the people of God. He will celebrate the other sacraments of our Catholic Church, forgiving sins in the sacrament of penance; anointing the sick for those suffering and for those near death. He will now be called "father."

There is another part of the ordination ritual that I remember so well, that truly impressed me. I am thinking of the time when the bishop anointed my hands with the sacred Chrism. This reminded me - and every new priest - that my hands will now hold the bread as it is consecrated to the Body of Je-

sus. My hands would hold the chalice filled wine that is consecrated to the Blood of Jesus. And now, I know that I and every new priest will pray with the people of a parish and will bring the Lord to transform these people as I celebrate the Mass with them.

Each year as I participate in the ordination ceremony of a new priest, I, of course, think back to my own ordination. It is an opportunity for me to renew my own dedication as a priest of the Lord Jesus. I want you to know that whenever I show someone around our Cathedral, I always show visitors the exact place where I prostrated myself in my ordination ceremony. I often think back to that moment when Bishop Navagh imposed his hands on my head. I do believe that the Holy Spirit called me to that day. I dedicated myself that day to live out my vocation as a priest. I continue to pray that the Holy Spirit continues to show me the way, to help me continue to serve the Lord well as a priest of God.

FOLLOW ME:

# One Nation, Under God

**Dear Fathers, Deacons, Consecrated Religious, Religious Educators, Knights of Columbus and faithful of the North Country:**

As you know, in preparation for the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Bishops of the United States have decided to Consecrate the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This Consecration will take place on Thursday, June 11th while we are gathering at our Conference's summer meeting in Orlando. In preparation for the Consecration, I encourage each of us to pray a Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus beginning on June 2nd. The Novena Prayer is available at: [usccb.org/consecration-united-states-sacred-heart-jesus](http://usccb.org/consecration-united-states-sacred-heart-jesus).

The USCCB website has a number of great resources for ways of praying for our country in celebration of 250 years as a nation, including 250 Works of Mercy and 250 hours in Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Additional information, including a diocesan resource page, will be made available soon. Until then, each parish, each of the faithful, is encouraged to celebrate this historic event beginning with the Novena.

Please find below excerpts from a prayer for the nation composed in 1791 by Archbishop John Carroll, the first Bishop of the United States. The Archbishop instructed the parish in his diocese to recite the prayer at all the Mass-

es. In preparation for the 250th Anniversary, please join in prayer for our troubled nation.

Thank you for your faith-filled citizenship as together we pray for our **One Nation, Under God!**

Christ's Peace be yours,



Most Reverend  
Terry R. LaValley  
Bishop of Ogdensburg

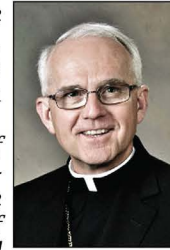
**EXCERPTS FROM THE 1791 PRAYER BY ARCHBISHOP JOHN CARROLL**

*We pray O God of might, wisdom and justice, through whom authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment decreed, assist with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude the president of these United States, that his administration may be conducted in righteousness and be eminently useful to your people over whom he presides; by encouraging due respect for virtue and religion; by*

*a faithful execution of industry, sobriety and the laws in justice and useful knowledge; and may perpetuate to us the blessing of equal liberty...*

Archbishop Carroll went on to say:


*Let the light of your divine wisdom direct the deliberations of Congress, and shine forth in all the proceedings and laws framed for our rule and government, so that they may tend to the preservation of peace, the promotion of national happiness, the increase of*



**Bishop Terry R. LaValley**

*We recommend likewise, to your unbounded mercy, all our brethren and fellow citizens throughout the United States, that they may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the observance of your most holy law; that they may be preserved in union, and in that peace which the world cannot give.*

**FR. JOSEPH KANIMEA, M.S.C.**



**Congratulations on 25 years in the Priesthood**

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**25th ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY**

**TO FATHER SHANE M. LYNCH**

**YOUR WORDS BRING COMFORT,**

**YOUR PRAYERS BRING PEACE,**

**AND YOUR LIFE IS A TESTIMONY OF FAITH IN ACTION.**

**MAY YOU ALWAYS BE REMINDED THAT YOUR MINISTRY MATTERS,**

**YOUR WORK IS BEARING FRUIT,**

**AND YOUR FAITHFULNESS A BLESSING.**

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO, AND MAY GOD CONTINUE**

**TO STRENGTHEN AND GUIDE YOU.**

**YOUR PARISH FAMILIES AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, ST. CECILIA'S,**

**QUEEN OF HEAVEN & ST. ANDREW'S**

# Eleven priests honored at Jubilee Mass

Eleven priests were honored for milestone years of service at the annual Jubilee Mass celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on May 21 at the Cambria Resort in Lake Placid, part of the annual presbyteral assembly.

Celebrating 60 years of priesthood this year are Father Arthur J. LaBaff, Father John J. Looby, Father Terrance R. Patterson and Father David DeLuca, a Missionary of the Sacred Heart; celebrating 50 years are Father Garry B. Giroux and Father Peter G. Helfrich; celebrating 40 years are Father Steve Kovacevich and Father Jerome Pastores; and celebrating 25 years are Father Joseph Kanimea, a Missionary of the Sacred Heart, Father Christopher J. Looby and Father Shane M. Lynch.

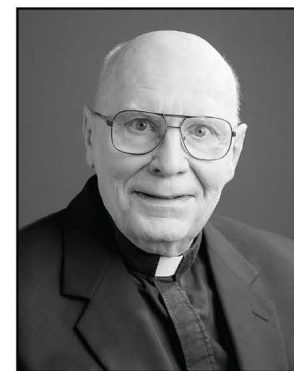
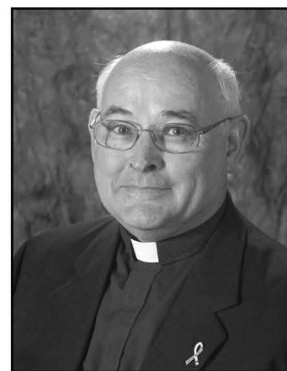
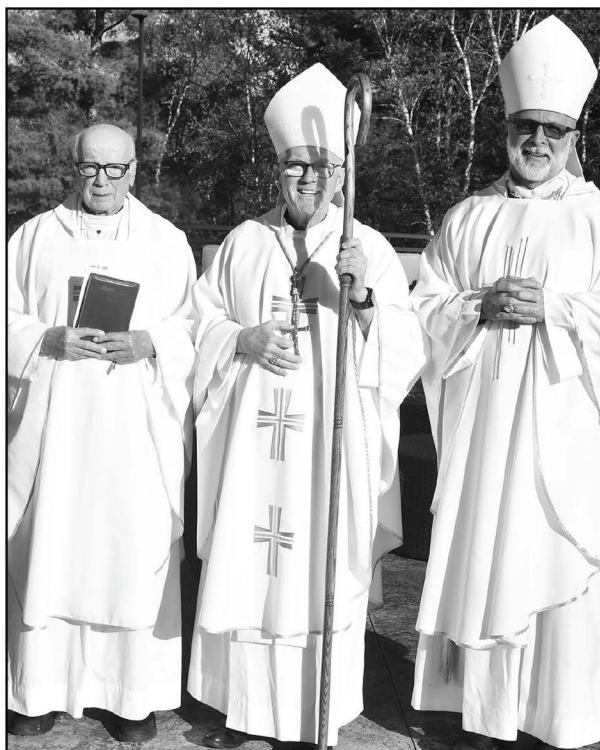
## 60 YEARS

### FATHER ARTHUR J. LABAFF

Father Arthur J. LaBaff, 86, retired from his role as pastor effective July 1 of 2021, but he continues to serve as Sacramental Minister and Supervising Priest at The Catholic Community of Alexandria and St. Mary's Church in Clayton. He has served as pastor of St. Mary's in Clayton since 2010 after serving as its administrator in 2009.

A native of Massena, he studied for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall Seminary-College and Christ the King Seminary in Olean before his ordination May 28, 1966, by Bishop Thomas A. Donnellan.

Father LaBaff's first assignment was as assistant pastor at Our Lady of Victory in Plattsburgh. He also served as assistant pastor at Notre Dame in Malone and St. Mary's in Ogdensburg and was pastor in Morristown, Lisbon, and Cha-



(Left) Father David DeLuca, a Missionary of the Sacred Heart, was honored for 60 years of priesthood at the Jubilee Mass on May 21. He is pictured with Bishop Terry R. LaValley and Bishop James S. Wall, bishop of the Diocese of Gallup, New Mexico. Bishop Wall served as guest speaker at this year's presbyteral assembly, an annual gathering of priests from around the diocese. Father Arthur J. LaBaff (above center), Father John J. Looby (above right) and Father Terrance Patterson (no photo available) also celebrate 60 years of priesthood this year but were unable to attend the Jubilee Mass.

Chateaugay.

In 2010, after the installation of Bishop LaValley, Father Looby was made pastor in Burke and Chateaugay, a position he held until his retirement in 2015.

### FATHER TERRANCE R. PATTERSON

Father Terrance Patterson, 86, was born in Ogdensburg and studied at Wadhams Hall and St. Mary's in Baltimore before his ordination May 28, 1966, by Bishop Thomas A. Donnellan.

The priest served as an assistant pastor in Potsdam, Morrisonville and St. Alphonsus, Tupper Lake. He was name pastor in Redwood in 1973 and Watertown regional religious education director the following year. He also served as pastor in Evans Mills and chaplain at Jefferson Community College.

Father Patterson left Jefferson County in 1979 to become pastor in Constable. In 1981 he took a leave of absence for health reasons.

He was names pastor in Hopkinton in 1982 and retired for health reason in 1983. He resides in

teaugay with its mission in Brainardsville.

From 1983 to 1997, he was pastor at Notre Dame Church in Malone and then served as pastor of St. Patrick's in Watertown from 1997 until his current assignment in Clayton.

Father LaBaff also served the diocese as youth director from 1971 to 1977, overseeing the department as Guggenheim summer camp program began in 1972. Also in 1972, the priest was named assistant chancellor and director of the Bishop's Fund until 1977 when he was named chairman of the Bishop's Fund Committee. He has also served as, a Diocesan Consultor, member of the Council of Priests and of the Priests Personal Committee.

He has served as dean of Franklin Deanery and Jefferson Deanery.

**FATHER JOHN J. LOOBY**  
Father John J. Looby, 86, was born in Ogdensburg and studied for the

priesthood at Wadhams Hall and St. Mary's in Baltimore before his ordination May 28, 1966, by Bishop Thomas A. Donnellan.

Father Looby has served as assistant pastor in Waddington, Saranac Lake, Keeseville and St. John's in Plattsburgh.

He joined the Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate in 1973 and served as a diocesan missionary in Mollendo, Peru for two years.

Upon his return to the diocese, he was named administrator in Altona and then pastor in Black Brook and Wilmington, at St. Joseph's in Massena, St. Thomas More, Canton, and at Port Henry with additional responsibilities as administrator in Westport,

In 1989 he was named pastor in Dannemora until 2004 when he became pastor in Cumberland Head, then Ellenburg and then, in 2009 administrator for the Catholic Community for Burke and

Potsdam.

### FATHER DAVID DELUCA, MSC

Born in Ravenna, Ohio, Father Deluca, 87, made his first vows as a Missionary of the Sacred Sept. 13, 1960, Youngstown, Ohio.

He was ordained to the priesthood Dec. 17, 1966, by Bishop Geo. Rehring, D.D., Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, Ohio.

Father Deluca accepted an appointment to serve as a missionary in Papua New Guinea. He arrived there within a day one year after his ordination! Except for periodic leave for vacations, he kept to his missionary apostolate from Dec. 18, 1967 to June 1998—just short of 31 years!

On returning permanently to the United States, Father Deluca took up studies (1999-2001) at the Chicago Theological Union towards a graduate degree in cross cultural studies with a minor in liturgy. He was posted to the Sacred Heart Retreat and Renewal Center in Youngstown, Ohio, in 2001-2003, went back to CTU for his

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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# 50, 40 years of service

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

comprehensives in 2003 and was awarded a master's degree in theology. From August 2003-08 he taught theology at Allentown Central Catholic and for much of that time also served as a chaplain to the student body.

In 2009, he was assigned to the MSC community in Watertown to be available for pastoral ministry as needed by pastors in the Diocese of Ogdensburg except when on call for mission appeals and other commitments carried forward from previous assignments.

Father Deluca is a bicycle enthusiast and an avid reader who is quite familiar with all the "periti" theologians who had input during the Second Vatican Council.

## 50 YEARS

### FATHER GARRY B. GIROUX

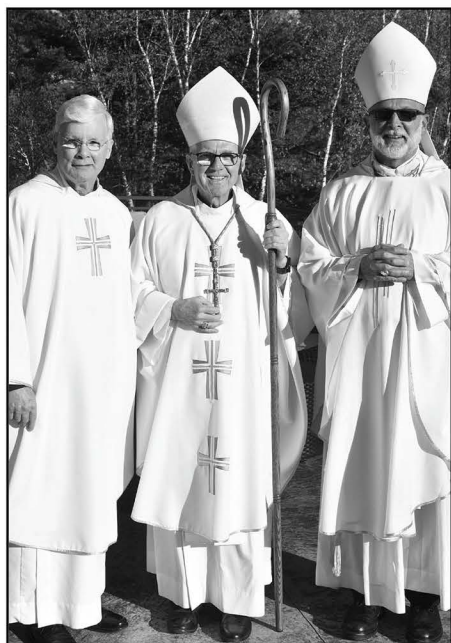
Father Garry Giroux, 76, became pastor of St. Mary's Church in Waddington and St. John the Baptist Church in Madrid on June 29, 2022.

He has served as Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of Ogdensburg since August 1, 2019.

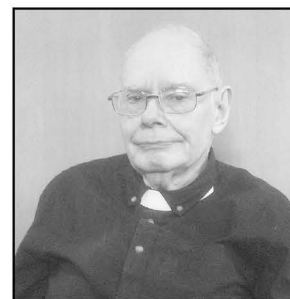
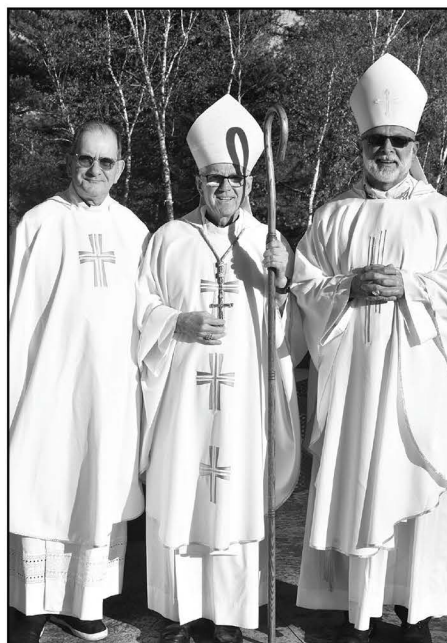
A native of Massena, Father Giroux received a bachelor's degree from Wadhams Hall Seminary-College and a Master of Divinity degree from Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, New York, before his ordination May 1, 1976, by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana.

Father Giroux later earned a master's degree in liturgical studies from the University of Notre Dame and a JCL degree from the Catholic University of America. In September 2007, he completed the certificate program in Catholic Social Teaching at the Catholic University of America.

In addition to his cur-



(Left) Father Garry B. Giroux, pictured with Bishop Terry R. LaValley and Bishop James S. Wall, bishop of the Diocese of Gallup, New Mexico, celebrated 50 years of priesthood at the Jubilee Mass. (Center) Father Steve Kovacevich attended the Mass in celebration of 40 years of priesthood. (Top right) Father Peter G. Helfrich celebrated 50 years (bottom right) and Father Jerome Pastores celebrated 40 years, but both were unable to attend the Mass.



rent role in Waddington and Madrid, he has served as pastor of Visitation and St. Raymond in Norfolk, St. Andrew's Church in Norwood and St. Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls, Notre Dame in Malone, St. Alphonsus in Tupper Lake, St. Lawrence in Louisville and at the Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River.

From 1987-90, Father Giroux served as the director of Diocesan Relations for The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Father Giroux has also served the diocese as secretary to the bishop and associate chancellor as well as executive secretary of the diocesan Department of Worship.

### FATHER PETER G. HELFRICH

A native of Spencerport, New York, Father Helfrich, 86, studied for the priesthood at St. Andrew's High School Seminary, St. John Fisher College and St. Bernard's

Seminary, all in Rochester, and Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, New York.

Father Helfrich was incardinated into the Diocese of Ogdensburg at the time of his ordination as a transitional deacon on Dec. 3, 1975.

He was ordained a priest May 1, 1976, at St. Mary's Cathedral by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana.

Father Helfrich has served as parochial vicar at Sacred Heart, Massena; in Au Sable Forks, Keeseville, Brasher Falls; St. Joseph, Massena; Holy Family, Watertown; and Our Lady of Victory, Plattsburgh.

In 1986 Father Helfrich was named pastor of St. Therese and St. Henry, Newcomb and Long Lake; and, in 1994 St. Francis Solanus, Harrisville.

From 1994 to 1998, Father Helfrich also received a special assignment with the Carmel of St. Joseph in Saranac Lake and was Spiritual Director for the Lay Car-

melites of Saranac Lake and Malone.

From 1998 to 2002, he assisted at parishes in the Tri-Lakes area.

In 2002, Father Helfrich received permission to come to the Rochester Diocese to assist his brother, Father P. Frederick Helfrich, who was then pastor at Holy Spirit Parish in Webster and was ill. He has remained in the Rochester Diocese and since 2002 has been involved with the Latin Mass Community at St. Kateri Parish, St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in Rochester and the Legion of Mary.

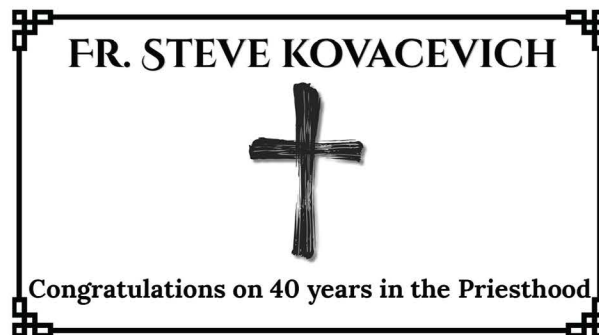
Father Helfrich celebrated his 50th anniversary with a liturgy and reception with the Latin Mass Community in late April. On May 5, he and his brother celebrated their 50th and 55th jubilees, respectively, by concelebrating Mass with Father Gary Tyman, the chaplain at the The Hurlbut nursing home in Brighton.

## 40 YEARS

### FATHER STEPHEN KOVACEVICH

A priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Canton, Ohio, he received faculties from Bishop La-

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# Celebrating 25 years

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Valley to serve in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Father Kovacevich was born in New York City but spent most of his life in Croatia. He earned a bachelor's degree from St. Joseph's College in Whiting, Ind.; a master's degree from Loyola University in Chicago and a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, Penn.

He was ordained June 12, 1986, and, as a board-certified chaplain, has served in hospital and police chaplaincy positions throughout the United States.

Father Kovacevich served in our diocese as director of pastoral care for Adirondack Medical Center. He is a member of the National Association of Catholic Chaplains and the International Conference of Police Chaplains.

## FATHER JEROME B. PASTORES

Father Jerome Pastores, 65, pastor of St. Regis Mission in Hogsburg, is a priest of the Diocese of Bayombong, Philippines.

He was ordained a priest Dec. 30, 1986.

During his 20 first years as a priest, Father Pastores was active as parochial vicar and parish priest. In his diocese, he served various structures of the Diocesan Curia, such as the Office of the diocesan Commission on basic Episcopal Communities, in which he served in the capacity of diocesan coordinator, and also the diocesan Social Action Committee, in which he served as director. He also was member of the College of Consultors and of the Finance Committee of his diocese.

After 20 years of ministry, it is common

practice in the diocese of Bayombong to allow some sabbatical time to the priests. Father Pastores chose to come to Canada.

In 2006, Father Pastores was assigned to St. Patrick's Parish in Pincourt, Que., as an assistant priest. At the end of the year 2007, he was appointed parish administrator for the same parish.

He has served pastor at St. Regis Mission Parish since 2011.

## 25 YEARS

### FATHER JOSEPH KANIMEA, MSC

Originally from Fiji, Father Kanimea, 58, made first vows with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in 1993 and his final profession on Dec. 8, 1999. He was ordained in Fiji on Jan. 27, 2001, part of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Pacific Union Province.

In our diocese, he has served as Parochial Vicar for Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Watertown, St. Paul's, Black River, and St. Mary's, Evans Mills and as chaplain at the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center.

While he has served in Diocese of Ogdensburg since 2022, Father Kanimea has been serving in the United States since 2014. Prior to his arrival in the North Country, he served as pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Rose-to and Bangor, Pennsylvania.

### FATHER CHRISTOPHER J. LOOBY

On July 8, 2024, Father Looby, 55, became pastor of pastor of the Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph in Morrisonville and St. James Church in Cadyville and



**Celebrating 25 years of priesthood at the Jubilee Mass were Father Christopher J. Looby, Father Shane M. Lynch and Father Joseph Kanimea, MSC. The three jubilarians are pictured with Bishop Terry R. LaValley and Bishop James S. Wall, bishop of the Diocese of Gallup, New Mexico, after the Jubilee Mass on May 21 at the Cambria Resort in Lake Placid.**

St. Augustine's Church in Peru. Prior to that assignment, he served as pastor of St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga and Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Schroon Lake.

Father Looby grew up in Harrisville and studied for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall and St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. He was ordained at St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg, on May 12, 2001, by Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito.

After ordination, he served as parochial vicar at St. Peter's in Plattsburgh, at Holy Family in Watertown and at St. Peter's in Lowville.

In June 2009, he was named administrator of St. Mary's Church in Brushton and Church of St. Augustine in North Bangor. A year later, he was named pastor of those churches, where he served until he was appointed pastor in Evans Mills, Theresa and Philadelphia. He later

served as pastor of St. Anthony's and St. Patrick's in Watertown.

### FATHER SHANE M. LYNCH

Father Shane Lynch, 54, completed studies in canon law at St. Paul University in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada in May 2025. He was then appointed pastor of The Roman Catholic Community of Brownville and Dexter, St. Andrew's Church in Sackets Harbor, St. Cecilia's Church in Adams, and Queen of Heaven Church in Henderson effective July 2, 2025.

Born in Watertown, Father Lynch is a 1990 graduate of Immaculate Heart Central School. He graduated from Wadhams Hall and later St. John's Seminary School of Theology in Boston.

Father Lynch also completed a spirituality year program sponsored by St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He was ordained by Bishop Ger-

ald M. Barbarito May 12, 2001.

Father Lynch has served as parochial vicar in Saranac Lake and Lake Clear, at Notre Dame in Malone, at the Malone Catholic Parishes and at Holy Family in Watertown. He was also a temporary administrator in Croghan.

Father Lynch was appointed to serve as in Wells and Lake Pleasant in 2007, first as administrator and then as pastor. He later served as pastor of St. Bartholomew's in Old Forge, and St. Anthony of Padua Parish of Inlet and Raquette Lake, in St. James Church in Gouverneur, Sacred Heart Church in Edwards and St. Hubert's in Star Lake, St. Paul's in Black River and St. Mary's in Evans Mills, and most recently in Church of the Visitation in Norfolk, St. Andrew's Church in Norwood and St. Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls.

## CALLLED TO SERVE

# The Holy Spirit at work

Three deacons became priests May 30 of this year. Deacons Dennis Ombangi, Tyler Fitzgerald, and Michelet Boncoeur became priests in a liturgy this past Saturday in St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

They were ordained deacons May 24, 2025, in Massena.

Kevin McCullouch will be ordained as a deacon this Saturday, June 6, in Watertown.

These men feel called by God to the priesthood. That's why we call their diaconate transitional. They are following their time as deacon with another ordination as priest.

For a diocesan priest, ordination follows years of discernment, college and clerical formation

in seminary. Most men today have dedicated eight to 10 years or more to their vocation.

The majority of deacons in the Diocese of Ogdensburg are called to minister as deacons. We call them permanent.

In the end, a deacon is a deacon in the Catholic Church. Bishop, priest and deacon are the clerical orders of the Church. Priests and deacons help the bishop minister and instruct the people of God throughout the bishop's diocese.

Transitional deacons join other seminarians in formation or spend a year in a parish preparing for priesthood. Permanent deacons are prepared for their min-

istry in studies over three years at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg. Before that they prepared with two years of study in the diocesan Formation for Ministry program.

The ordinations are special moments for the men involved and for their families and friends. It is a special time for the church too because it manifests the Holy Spirit's presence.

These ordinations were not unique visits by God this year. He sends his Spirit to renew the face of the earth in so many ways. Consider the sacraments conferred just this year so

far.

Every baptism, first confession, first Communion and confirmation has changed the world.

Each couple that chooses to have their marriage blessed in a Catholic church has made a statement and renewed the earth. The world changes every time a man receives Holy Orders. The impact of a man or woman receiving

the sacrament of the sick reaches beyond the person blessed by the priest.

The Church exists to give glory to God and to continue Christ's work of salvation by pro-

claiming the Good News of God's saving presence. The face of the earth changed because all these people heard and felt the presence of the Holy Spirit inspiring them. The face of the earth changed when Deacons Tyler, Dennis, and Michelet became priests. It will change when Kevin becomes a deacon.

In our prayers of thanksgiving and petition, we can thank God for the gift of his love and ask "Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth."

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



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

### To Report Abuse

**If you have a complaint** of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victim Assistance Coordinator, Terrianne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com; Phone: 518-569-0612; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rcdony.org Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340.

**If you have a complaint** of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at 800-276-1562 or www.ReportBishopAbuse.org

### Bishop's Public Schedule

**June 3** – 6 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Cecilia's Church in Adams along with The Roman Catholic Community of Brownville and Dexter in Brownville, the Queen of Heaven Church in Henderson and St. Andrew's Church in Sackets Harbor

**June 4** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**June 5** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**June 6** – 11 a.m. – Ordination to the Diaconate of Mr. Kevin Patrick McCullouch at the Church of the Holy Family in Watertown

4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**June 7** – 10:30 a.m. – Confirmation at The Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph in Morrisonville along with St. James Church in Cadyville and St. Augustine's Church in Peru

2:30 p.m. – Confirmation at Holy Cross Parish (at St. John the Baptist Church) in Plattsburgh

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

## Winning free throw honors

North Country Knights of Columbus Councils congratulate Olivia Newcombe for her recent third-place finish in the Knights of Columbus New York State Basketball Free Throw Contest. Dannemora Knights of Columbus Council 2166 sponsored Olivia. She is the daughter of Bob and Marcia Newcombe of Saranac.

Olivia competed in the 10-year-old girls category, winning contests in Champlain, Canton and Syracuse. These victories led her to advance to the state competition at the West Point Military Academy Prep School in West Point, where West Point Cadets from College Council 8250 host the contest.

Olivia's participation in the Knights of Columbus free-throw compe-



Olivia Newcombe

tion continues a Newcombe family tradition. Building on last year's second-place finish as a 9-year-old, she fol-

lowed in the footsteps of her sister, Madeline (Maddie), who was state champion at ages 10, 11, and 12. Their parents, Bob and Marcia Newcombe, drive the girls many miles to attend these events. Marcia shared, "I like how the competitions build sportsmanship and confidence. I appreciate how everyone is trying so hard."

Ed Liberty has been the Free Throw Chairman for the Dannemora Council 2166 for 25 to 30 years. He is extremely happy for Olivia and the Newcombe family. He said, "Bob, Marcia, and the girls are a wonderful family. We're blessed to have them as members of our community. The girls' free-throw success is putting Dannemora Council on the map."

## Environmental Stewardship

## Bug season

It doesn't take long after warm weather arrives for bug season to begin. In the North Country, there are several groups of insects that form the core of this annual occurrence, and it all begins with the black flies.

Shortly after the final patches of snow disappear from shady places, such as dense spruce and fir thickets, small erratically flying bugs begin to relentlessly buzz around your head. As the weeks pass and temperatures finally reach into the 60s, these dark-colored insects become greater in numbers and start to bite. When they attack, some people experience an adverse reaction to the tiny amount of anti-coagulant that they introduce to

the wound. This chemical allows enough blood to flow from the break in the skin for them to get several fair-size droplets before it clots.

Most people that spend time outdoors in mid to late spring have developed a hatred for black flies and want them all dead. However, their abundance and slow flying manner of flight allows them to serve as a vital part of the food web. Many types of songbirds, like warblers, vireos and flycatchers, have been slowly decreasing in numbers in recent years; it is believed that a reduction in bug numbers is a primary cause. While it may seem that black fly numbers are unlimited, their populations do fluctuate

wildly from one year to the next depending on a multitude of factors. There is increasing evidence that the general decline is a result of changing weather patterns which are becoming more unfavorable to the needs of their complex life cycle.

Viewing a living entity from a hateful perspective should always be discouraged. Brushing black flies away from your face or off your forearm, rather than killing them outright when they land, is a great practice that helps you accept adversity in nature. More thoughtful encounters with black flies are one example of how we can benefit our spiritual wellbeing as we attempt to care for God's creations.

## Rest in Peace

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

**June 3** – Rev. Auriemma Veronneau, O.M.I., 1962; His Holiness, Blessed John XXIII, Pope, 1963; Rev. Franz P. Romuald Reiter, 1971; Rev. Bernard W. Desnoyers, 1987

**June 4** – V. Rev. Ferdinand Richard, O.M.I., 1971

**June 5** – Rev. Charles Donaher, O.S.A., 1984

**June 6** – Msgr. Euclid Elie, 1962; Rev. John E. Silver, 2014

**June 8** – Rev. Anthime Constantineau, 1942; Rev. James J. McGowan, 1961; Deacon Ronald Coryea, 1995

**June 9** – Rev. James Bolton, O.S.A., 1925; Rev. John W. Ryan, 1982

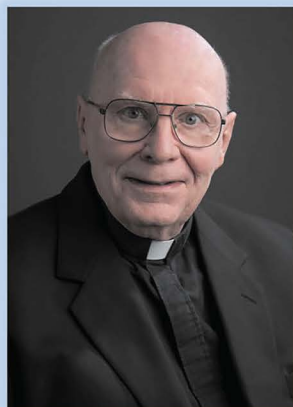
## Protecting God's Children

**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](mailto:Ishoen@rcdony.org)

*Lord God, Creator of all things, we thank you for the gift of Father John and Father Chris. We praise you for the countless lives they have touched, the sacraments they have celebrated, and the love they have shared with your people.*

*Renew in their hearts, the spirit They received the day they were ordained. Strengthen them with your Holy Spirit, give them continued health and joy, and fill their days ahead with your grace. May they always know your loving presence and be protected from all dangers.*

## CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

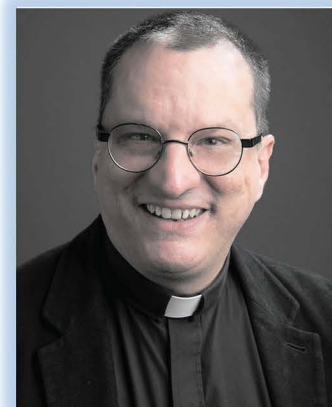


REV. JOHN J. LOOBY  
MAY 28, 1966



*Blessings to you, for being a bright light!  
Keep **rocking** the ministry and bringing us closer to heaven through your joy.*

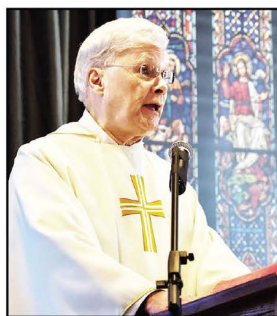
## CELEBRATING 25 YEARS



REV. CHRISTOPHER J. LOOBY  
MAY 12, 2001

# JUBILEE MASS

Photos by Darcy Fargo



# Pope Leo unveils encyclical about AI

By Victoria Cardiel  
EWTN News

VATICAN CITY – Pope Leo XIV on May 25 personally attended the presentation of his first encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, in an uncustomary gesture. Upon his arrival at the event, held in the Vatican's Synod Hall, he was greeted with sustained applause from an audience made up of members of the Roman Curia, representatives of academia, and the diplomatic corps.

Among the speakers was Canadian Christopher Olah, co-founder of Anthropic, one of the leading artificial intelligence (AI) companies. The firm has recently had tensions with the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump after prohibiting the U.S. Department of Defense from using its software for military purposes.

Some observers had raised concerns about including a representative of a major tech company like Anthropic in an event of this kind. The Holy Father himself dispelled any hesitation by thanking Olah for his presence: "What a great sign of hope it is that with our differences we can listen to one another," he said in his remarks.

"This interchange clearly bespeaks the gravity of the moment, as well as confidence that together we can discern the major questions of our time, and so the future of humanity," he added.

In his remarks prior to the pope's address, Olah echoed the same idea: "That is why, if we want this technology to go well, it is enormously important that there be people outside those incentives – people who care about things going well and insist on safety, who are paying close attention, who are willing to say hard things, who are willing to be our earnest, thoughtful, critics. It is through dialogue and mutual effort, through the push and pull, that humanity will achieve great things. That is what I see in *Magnifica Humanitas*, and it is why I am grateful to His Holiness and the Church for taking up this work of discernment."

Olah, who is not a believer, also issued a call to various sectors – religious communities, civil society, academics, and governments – to follow the pope's example with this document: "to take this seriously, to look closely, and to push events in a better direction. We need informed critics who will tell the labs when we are failing. We need moral voices that the incentives cannot bend."

It is no coincidence that Leo XIV signed his first encyclical on May 15, the same date on which his predecessor Leo XIII promulgated *Rerum Novarum* ("On New Things") in 1891 in response to the dehumanization brought about by the Industrial Revolution. As the pope explained, the world today faces a transformation of perhaps even greater scope.

"Today we find ourselves facing a transformation of similar magnitude, with perhaps even greater consequences. Artificial intelligence already touches many areas of our lives and affects decisions that shape human coexistence," he said.

The pope expressed particular concern about the impact of new technologies on the conduct of war, which, he warned, is changing dramatically.

"Like the earlier Leo, I feel entrusted to look upon another huge transformation with eyes of faith, with lucidity of reason, with openness to mystery, and with cries of the poor and the earth resounding in my heart," he said.

The Holy Father also described the method behind the drafting of this magisterial document, which began in July 2025 at the papal residence in Castel Gandolfo. In it, he seeks to reaffirm what makes us human in a society shaped by technology.

He emphasized that *Magnifica Humanitas* was born from listening: "I have listened to scientists and engineers who work with sincere enthusiasm on technologies capable of alleviating immense suffering, to political leaders and public officials who have perseveringly sought just rules, to parents and teachers who are deeply concerned for the future of younger gen-

## Ten key points of *Magnifica Humanitas*

Cardinal Fernando Chomali, archbishop of Santiago, Chile, offered a 10-point guide to understanding the central message of *Magnifica Humanitas*, Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical, presented May 25.

The encyclical's theme is "On Safeguarding the Human Person in the Time of Artificial Intelligence." In it, the pope calls upon both society and those who design artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to be subject to "more rigorous ethical constraints" out of "respect for human dignity and the sanctity of life."

The cardinal shared 10 points on social media to foster a deeper understanding of the Holy Father's central message in the document:

1. The human person lies at the center of all technological progress.
2. The great challenge of our time is not technical but human and spiritual.
3. Artificial intelligence must be placed at the service of the common good.
4. Human dignity does not depend on productivity or capabilities.
5. Fragility is not a defect that must be eliminated.
6. No artificial intelligence can replace human experience.
7. Truth is a common good that must be protected.
8. Human work cannot be subjected to the logic of machines.
9. Freedom is threatened by new, invisible forms of control.
10. Peace and the civilization of love constitute the true alternative to technological power.

erations," he said, without naming individuals.

At the same time, he acknowledged: "Other very troubling voices have also reached me about increasingly autonomous weapons systems practically beyond any human reach to govern them effectively."

"I hear very troubling accounts of algorithms that can block access to healthcare, employment, and security on the basis of data tainted by prejudice and injustice. And I've heard the silence of those who have no voice when decisions are made – decisions likely to generate new forms of exclusion and suffering," he lamented.

In line with the document – which states that artificial intelligence is not morally neutral – the pope called for AI to be "disarmed."

"The word is strong, I know, but deliberately chosen because this moment needs words capable of attracting attention, awakening consciences, and indicating paths forward for hu-

manity," he warned.

"The Church has long been working for nuclear disarmament, aware that every great technical power can affect people's lives, and so must be accompanied by adequate moral discernment and public control. Nuclear disarmament remains a service to peace and the dignity of the human family," he added.

Also speaking at the presentation were three cardinals of the Roman Curia: Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin; Cardinal Víctor Manuel Fernández, prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith; and Cardinal Michael Czerny, SJ, prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

Two theologians also took the floor: Anna Rowlands, a specialist in Catholic social teaching and migration ethics at Durham University, and Leocadie Lushombo, an expert in political theology and Catholic social thought at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University in California.

**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 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

**FIRST FRIDAY**

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

**Date:** June 5

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

**BENEFIT CONCERT**

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

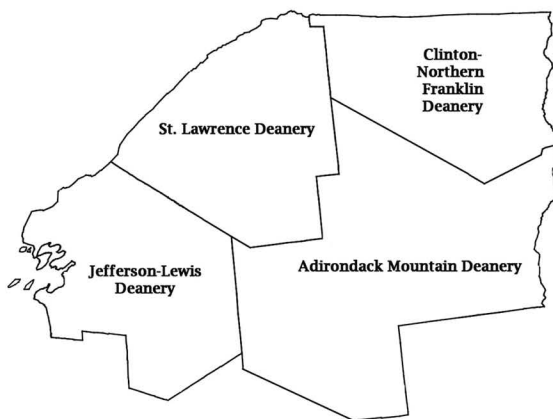
**Date:** June 7

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** Augustine's Church

**Cost:** Donation

**Features:** For the 13th year Town Meeting will be perform-



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.

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

**Contact:** For more information visit [www.townemeeting.com](http://www.townemeeting.com) or [www.ncmissionofhope.org](http://www.ncmissionofhope.org)

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

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

**Date:** June 19

**Time:** Shotgun start at 10 a.m.

**Place:** Adirondack Golf and Country Club

**Cost:** \$300 for a 4 person team

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

**JEFFERSON-LEWIS**

**RUMMAGE SALE**

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

**Schedule:** June 5 and 6, 8:30

a.m. to 4 p.m. and June 7, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Features:** Shoppers can expect a wide variety of items, including clothing, toys, household goods, and many unique finds. By continuing the tradition established by St. Mary's, St. Martin's is embracing the same spirit of generosity and stewardship—bringing the community together to support the needs of the parish. Proceeds from the sale will help ensure the church remains a warm, welcoming place of worship and that the rectory continues to serve parish life for years to come. All are invited to attend, shop, and be part of this meaningful mission. Your support truly makes a difference.

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

**HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY**

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

**Date:** June 7

**Time:** Following 11 a.m. Mass

**Place:** St. Hedwig's Church

**Contact:** 315-348-6260

**ALUMNI AND FRIENDS**

Watertown – Save the date for Immaculate Heart Central's Alum-

ni 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. LAWRENCE**

**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, djs, fire department and much more! Rides provided by Ontario Amusement Rides, purchase a wrist band for \$20 and get unlimited rides for 4 hours, 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.

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

**ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS**

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

**Date:** June 6

## OBITUARIES

**Brasher Falls** – Helen (St. Hilaire) LaVare, 94; Mass of Christian Burial May 27, 2026 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery, North Lawrence.

**Clayton** – Timothy J. Cantwell, 63; Services to be held at a later date; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Croghan** – Howard A. Nortz, 99; Mass

of Christian Burial May 29, 2026 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

**Keeseville** – Theresa (Mader) Santor, 95; Mass of Christian Burial July 10, 2026 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Morrisonville** – Lorraine (Wiech) Kon-

stanty, 67; Mass of Christian Burial May 29, 2026 at St. Alexander's Church.

**Plattsburgh** – Willard Miller, 93; Mass of Christian Burial May 28, 2026 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Potsdam** – Jean A. (Provencher) Hewey, 90; Mass of Christian Burial May 27, 2026 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's

Cemetery, Waddington.

**Saranac Lake** – Diane G. Burman, 75; Mass of Christian Burial May 29, 2026 at St. Bernard's Church.

**Watertown** – Emily (Dodds) Queior, 91; Mass of Christian Burial June 1, 2026 at Holy Family Church burial in Black River Cemetery.

# Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

**Time:** 8 a.m.

**Place:** Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

**Features:** Rosary with devotions

## FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

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

**Date:** June 6

**Time:** 3:15 p.m.

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

## MENS GROUP

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

**Date:** June 6

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

**Place:** Sacred Heart Church

## MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

**Date:** June 14 (Second Sunday of each month)

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

**Place:** Father Amyot Parish Center

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

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

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

### GUGGENHEIM REGISTRATION

Camp Guggenheim registration season is now open.

**Dates:** July 5 - July 10 for 11-13 year olds; July 12 - July 17 for 12-15 year olds; July 19 - July 24 for 12-15 year olds; July 26 - July 31 for 12-15 year olds; Aug 2 - Aug 7 for 16-18 year olds (waitlist only for final week)

**Cost:** \$450 per week

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

### ORDINATION TO THE ORDER OF THE 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 McCullouch. 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 reception will immediately follow the Liturgy behind the Greystone Building (across from Holy Family Church). If there is inclement weather, the reception will be held inside the Greystone Building. The Ordination Mass may be viewed at [www.rcdony.org/ordination](http://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 [sttartaglia@rcdony.org](mailto:sttartaglia@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 [sttartaglia@rcdony.org](mailto:sttartaglia@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](mailto:cminer@rcdony.org)

### 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](mailto:kmsnichols1163@gmail.com)

**F.R. DAVID DELUCA, M.S.C**



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# Sisters go viral after attending NBA game

By Tessa Gervasini  
EWTN News

Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco have drawn national attention as “diehard” San Antonio Spurs fans after a group of sisters attended a recent NBA playoff game.

The sisters went viral on social media following the Texas team’s May 24 home-court matchup against the Oklahoma City Thunder. The superfans wore Spurs jerseys, cheered on the team, and prayed over Catholic Spurs player Luke Kornet before the game.

The prayer was seemingly answered as the Spurs scored their biggest victory in the 2026 NBA Western Conference finals so far.

Salesian Sister Cherilly Galley said the response the order has received since the game has been “really beautiful.”

There has been a “response of people who are interested in Catholicism and people who would like to get involved, cheer on the Spurs, and also see how they can support our sisters here in San Antonio, which is really a huge blessing and a wonderful surprise from the Lord,” Galley said in an interview May 27 with “EWTN News Nightly.”

While many first noticed the group of sisters at the recent game, the fans have been attending Spurs games “for over 20 years,” said Sister Bernadette Mota, a Salesian sister who prayed with Kornet at the game.

“We have some sisters who were really diehard Spurs fans throughout the years, and they’re the ones who made that initial connection with

the Spurs,” she said. “They would write to Coach [Gregg] Popovich, and he would actually write back.”

Popovich, president of the San Antonio Spurs and former coach, and his wife “came to visit the sisters a few times,” Mota said.

The sisters “would watch the games” and over the years the connection has “just kept up,” Mota said. “But a few years back, it had kind of died down a little bit, and then COVID happened, and we kind of lost that connection.”

“But just this past year, and more recently in these past weeks, it really has built up in a very strong way. And so we’re back praying with the Spurs and being there to support the community and the San Antonio people who love the Spurs,” she said.

It’s “wonderful” to “have a lot of family and friends come together and watch the games,” Galley said.

The sisters host watch parties with “parents and students from our school at St. John Bosco here in San Antonio,” she said. It’s “a lot of fun and a wonderful way to share the joy of faith and family.”

Mota and Galley said their favorite Spurs players are Kornet and Victor Wembanyama – widely known as “Wemby.”

“Wemby by far is the best player,” but the

sisters “really like Luke [Kornet] because of the way he lives his Catholic faith on and off the court,” Mota said.

While “sports and things like that are great,” players must remember that “God has

to be first in your life,” Mota said.

“Keep him first. Play strong, play your best, and work as a team because a team that’s united is very hard to pull down. So play together and have faith in God,”

Mota said.

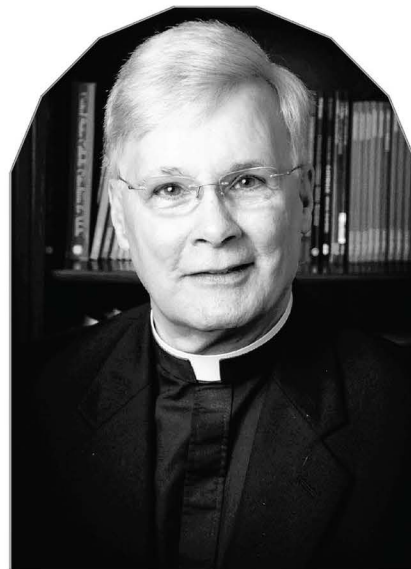
“Trust one another as your team members – that is very valuable,” Galley added. Also, “have fun, enjoy it. That’s always a wonderful thing: to have fun on the court.”

*The Staff of the  
Diocese of Ogdensburg  
as well as the members of the  
Tribunal Office  
wish to extend our prayerful  
best wishes and congratulations to*



## Rev. Garry B. Giroux

### on his 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to the priesthood



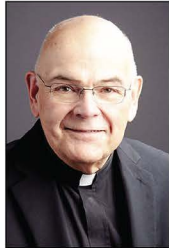
**Thank you for your  
dedication to the  
Diocese of  
Ogdensburg  
and Tribunal Office.**



SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

# 'In the Eucharist, there is a transformation'

As a young priest in Watertown, I often celebrated the 6:30 a.m. Mass at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Part of the routine for the priest at the time of Holy Communion was to bring Holy Communion to the sisters in the infirmary unable to come to the chapel. Since we did not go to the same sisters every day, another sister accompanied the priest so that we knew where to go.



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

One day, I went into the room of this very elderly sister. I mean she was really old. As I approached her bed, I held up the host and said: "Sister, the Body of Christ." She looked at the host with eyes

of adoration and yelled out "Oh goodie, goodie, goodie."

This was not the response that we would normally expect to hear, and please, don't any of you use it! However, upon reflection, this response reflected her deep-seated belief in the Eucharist, the body and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ.

Today, we celebrate that great reality, that marvelous sacrament given to us by Jesus, the Eucharist, Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of Christ. Some, as did the listeners of Jesus, have a hard time understanding this reality of the Eucharist. How can Christ give us his Body and Blood? The

June 7

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

READINGS

Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

John 6:51-58

answer is simple. He is God and can do what he wants and how he wants.

Consider the Scripture readings for this day. The journey of the Israelites in some way prefigured this Eucharist. God gave them bread to eat, a bread that mysteriously appeared each day as they journeyed.

Listen once again to Paul's teaching in the second reading: the cup is a sharing in the blood of Christ; the bread is a participation in the body of Christ. Can it get any clearer?

Then, of course, there is the very unambiguous

teaching of Jesus: "The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." And later: "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you."

What more do we need to understand?

Our belief is clear. The bread and wine consecrated by a priest become the Body and Blood of Jesus even though the external appearances do not change. Others claim that the bread and wine merely symbolize or represent the body and blood of Christ.

I am amused by the fact that some have no trouble believing that God loves them, even without any form of human proof, but cannot accept the reality of the Eucharist even though our teaching is found in Scripture.

The doctrine on the Eucharist is difficult to understand because our senses do not see a

change in the bread and wine. However, just because we don't understand, does that make it any less real? There are many things in life we do not understand, but does that make them any less true? One's inability to understand does not weaken the truth of the Eucharist.

Read the stories of the saints, especially the modern-day saints like Edith Stein, Mother Teresa, St. André Bessette, Carlo Acutis. They were locked in on their devotion to the Eucharist, the real presence of Christ.

So, our good sister at the beginning of today's reflection may have used the wrong words in speaking, but they were words of faith expressing the reality of what we receive.

As we celebrate this Eucharist and as we receive the Body and Blood of Christ may our faith be as strong and may our word Amen express clearly our belief in Jesus truly present as a gift to us in the Eucharist. In the Eucharist, there is a transformation. The bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ, and we are changed into Christ. Just as Christ is present in the Eucharist, may we make Christ present in all that we say and do.



Support And Pray For Vocations

*Congratulations*

**FR. LABAFF**

**on your 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee as a priest**

~Deacon Neil and Dee Fuller

On December 31, 1986,  
Father Jerome Pastores was ordained a priest in the Philippines. We thank God for his holy priesthood and for sending him to us. Pray for Father Jerome B. Pastores on the 40<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD BLESS YOU FATHER JEROME

FROM THE PARISHIONERS OF THE ST. REGIS MISSION CHURCH, AKWESASNE.

# Why are you here? Part 1

For the next three weeks we will be sharing the story of Father Stephen Kim SeongHueon, a Korean missionary in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Three years after his death on May 26, 2023, the figure of Father Stephen Kim SeongHueon remains very much alive in the memory of the Church in Mongolia.

A Korean missionary and vicar general of the Apostolic Prefecture of Ulaanbaatar, his life was an answer to a question that had accompanied him since childhood: "Why did they come here?"

We met him a month before his death. In a chapel located beneath the cathedral, dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima, to whom he was especially devoted, he spoke to us about his spiritual and vocational journey, particularly about the memory of the tomb of a French missionary buried in the village where he had grown up. His home parish was founded by missionaries in the Diocese of Daejeon, South Korea. "I grew up asking myself, 'Why did they come here?'" I wondered about it even more because back then their countries of origin seemed much more interesting to me than the country where I lived...." It was a silent question, unknown to anyone, but one that gradually led him to the seminary and the priesthood. During his studies, an encounter with a Korean missionary marked a turning point: "I don't remember the exact content of his speech, but I do remember his last words: 'One of you will go abroad as a missionary.'" That sentence pierced him deeply. "When I heard him say that, I thought: 'What if it were me?'"

From then on, he began

to see his vocation differently. In his fourth year, the bishop sent him to Rome to study: "So I ended up studying missiology while preparing to be a priest in my diocese..." From that tension arose an even deeper question: "What was my true priestly identity? How could I reconcile my identity as a diocesan priest with that of a missionary, which at the time seemed like too much of a role for me?" The answer began to take shape thanks to the Gospel: "I asked myself: Were the twelve



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

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

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

disciples diocesan priests or missionaries? And Jesus?" Contemplating their lives, he discovered a common trait: "They were the predecessors of those diocesan priests who never close the door, not even when they are tired, and say: 'Let peo-

ple come to me!'" In that image, he found a synthesis: "Because that is precisely the spirituality of the diocesan priest: to keep the door open." And within him, "a great 'yes

resounded," because he understood that a diocesan priest "could also be a missionary." Even before leaving, he decided to live his vocation in this way: "Since Korean was the language I knew best, I decided to be a Korean missionary in Korea, as if I were at the ends of the earth." That change of perspective, he said, made him "profoundly happy." *Article by Marie-Lucile Kubacki courtesy of FIDES News Agency.*




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**Congratulations on 50 years in the Priesthood**

Congratulations

Father Terrence Patterson  
Thank you for your 60 years of priesthood and prayer.  
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St. Mary's Potsdam,  
St. Mary's Canton, and St. Patrick's Colton

*It is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8*




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**The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, INC. would like to congratulate and thank all of our 2026 jubilarians. Thank you for your decades of tireless work for the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and the Pope's Missions!**

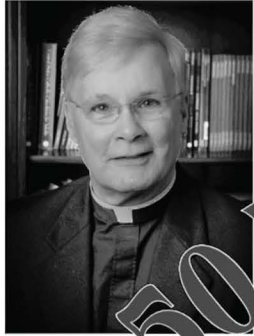


**60 years**  
 Reverend Arthur LaBaff  
 Reverend John Looby  
 Reverend Terrance Patterson  
 Reverend David DeLuca, M.S.C

**50 years**  
 Reverend Garry Giroux  
 Reverend Peter Helfrich

**40 years**  
 Reverend Steve Kovacevich  
 Reverend Jerome Pastores

**25 years**  
 Reverend Joseph Kanimea, MSC  
 Reverend Chris Looby  
 Reverend Shane Lynch



50

*You are a priest forever  
in the line of Melchizedek.*

*May God's light continue to guide you as  
you shepherd His flock  
with faith and grace.*

# celebrating YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD

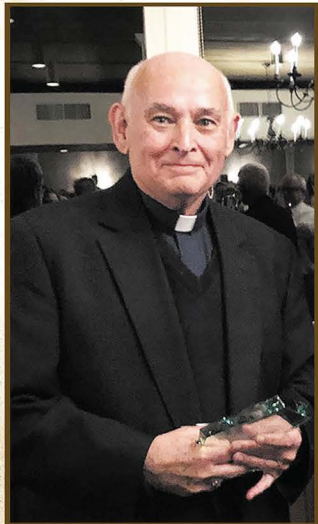


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and  
St. Mary's Church, Waddington*

# Congratulations



*Fr. LaBaff  
on the occasion of your  
60<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a priest.*

*We are blessed to have your ministry  
among us.*

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