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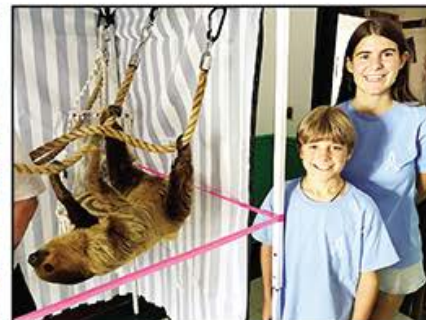
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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 81 Number 18

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

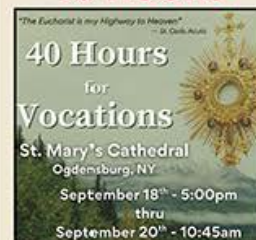
AUGUST 26, 2026

## CELEBRATING 150 YEARS



PHOTOS BY JESSE SOVIE & ST. MARY'S CHURCH, CANTON  
(Left) Diocesan Bishop Terry R. LaValley and Bishop Douglas J. Lucia of the Diocese of Syracuse, receive books made to mark of St. Mary's Church in Canton's 150th anniversary. Pictured with the bishops are Brian Kurish, who presented a proclamation honoring the anniversary on behalf of Mayor Michael Dalton; Susan Law, 150th Anniversary Committee chair; and Father Bryan Stitt, pastor of St. Mary's. (Above) Those attending the 150th celebration on Aug. 15 had an opportunity to meet snakes, lizards and even a sloth.

## STARTING 40 HOURS



Part of an effort to spread the tradition of 40 hours of Eucharistic adoration across the diocese, St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg will host 40 Hours for Vocations from 5 p.m. on Sept. 18 to 10:45 a.m. on Sept. 20. The event is sponsored by the Highway to Heaven team and St. Mary's Cathedral.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## Pope discusses sacred music in liturgy

By Victoria Cardiel  
EWTN News

VATICAN CITY — Pope Leo XIV highlighted the importance of sacred music in the liturgy, calling for the Church's musical heritage to be preserved while fostering healthy inculturation of local traditions.

"For this reason, the composer of sacred music is called to know and preserve the musical heritage of the Church, allowing it to inspire new compositions at the service of the liturgy, while respecting contemporary sensibilities and the different cultural traditions," Leo said.

In his address during his general audience at the Vatican on Aug. 19, the pontiff continued his catechesis on the Second Vatican Council's constitution

on the liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*.

Leo discussed the Second Vatican Council's emphasis on the role of sacred music in the liturgy.

"The document states that 'The musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art,'" Leo explained.

He also explained that sacred music fosters both prayer and communion among the faithful.

"Music, indeed, is part of the liturgical action and is not merely a decorative part of the celebration," Leo said. "In particular, music expresses the affective dimension of prayer, as St. Augustine says: 'Cantare amantis est,' that is, 'singing belongs to those who love.'"

"Singing also fosters communion. It contributes to the unity of hearts, overcoming differences between people and bringing everyone together in praise of God through the symphony of voices," he added.

The pope went on to say that, because sacred music is so important, the liturgy should be celebrated with dignity, with music that is both noble and simple. He highlighted the role of chant and the pipe organ in fostering devotion during liturgy.

"The Council then attributes great value to Gregorian chant, without excluding other genres of sacred music from the celebration. Particular attention is also given to the pipe organ, while the use of other instruments is permitted 'on condition that the instruments are suitable, or can

be made suitable, for sacred use, accord with the dignity of the temple, and truly contribute to the edification of the faithful,'" Leo said.

Leo also discussed inculturation in Church music to incorporate diverse cultures.

"A theme close to the Council's reform is that of inculturation, including in the field of sacred music. In particular, with regard to the musical traditions of different cultures, the Council emphasizes the importance of taking them seriously into consideration, as they form part of people's religious and social life."

The pope also encouraged the faithful to participate in singing parts of the Mass to reflect the sacred mysteries being celebrated.

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## Where he finds God

In his eyes, it's completely normal.

Most people don't regularly share and publish stories about where they see God working in the world and in their lives every day. But my son, Jake, has watched me do that nearly every week for years. Writing about and sharing faith is completely normal in his world.

So, I wasn't surprised when he shared with me a little reflection he had written about

an everyday experience that made him reflect on his faith. I don't plan on getting into a habit of sharing other people's writing in my spot, but I thought it was a fun look at the places this young man you've read about so many times finds God speaking to him.

**Darcy L.  
Fargo****FROM JAKE:**

One of my favorite television shows of all time is *The Simpsons*.

The animated show follows Homer, his wife, Marge, and their three

kids, Bart, Lisa, and Maggie, who go on wild adventures.

I recently watched an episode that made me reflect. In the episode, Homer is watching a football game he had bet on. Marge tells him it's time for church.

Homer first tries to get out of it but then reluctantly goes to church. But he decides to bring a radio into church so he could secretly listen to the game. Ironically, he got the idea from his son, Bart, who had earlier tried to sneak the same radio into church to listen to music.

During the pastor's sermon, which happens to be about gambling, Homer is focused on the radio and the game. His team needs a field goal to win, and Homer is praying the team will make it.

Then he hears over the radio, "It's up! It's good!" Homer excitedly yells out, "It's good! It's good!" The entire church crowd gasps and looks at him in confusion. Realizing what he has done, Homer quickly tries to play it off, saying, "It's good to see you all in church."

That clip reminds me of how excited we should be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## Considering conversion

Each September, one of the most important Catholic parish programs begins in nearly every parish of our diocese. Here I am thinking of the OCIA (you will remember the former title of this program - RCIA). Now we speak of the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults. This is one of the Catholic Church's formal processes through which unbaptized adults, those baptized in other Christian faiths - and - uncatechized adult Catholics learn the faith and prepare to receive the sacrament of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist).

Here in this parish, I look forward to each new group with hope and trust in God, and I look forward to this time to welcome another new group coming to discover more about the Catholic Church. We are ready to answer all of their questions and concerns about this Church of ours. May they join together in prayer and study, as some will make an important decision - whether to be bap-

**Fr. William G. Muench**

tized, whether to join the Catholic Church.

So, a question for you: Do you know someone, a friend or family member, who has expressed an interest in the Catholic Church? Don't be timid - suggest this program to learn more about the Catholic Church. Invite them to the OCIA program in your parish. Remember that there are no definite commitments demanded; this is just a time to have questions answered. Let me suggest something here to you: Encourage them and make them feel welcome and comfortable and promise to go with them to each of these classes. You can be their guide. And tell them why you are Catholic or why you are still Catholic.

This OCIA program is one of our best and most successful parish programs. I

know many who have become Catholic as adults; they often become very committed member of the Church and very involved in their parishes.

I have learned that many of the great Catholic saints were converts to the Catholic faith. They lived their faith in a powerful way, and the Church canonized them as saints. So, do you know some possible saints.

As you know, this summer I have been spending time with St. Augustine of Hippo. Augustine in his book, "Confessions" writes in great detail of his finding faith in God and the teachings of the Catholic Church. He was carefully taught by St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan. Augustine's Catholic faith was formed through his study of the Sacred Scriptures. Augustine writes about his decision to receive Baptism, and we know how he influenced our formative Catholic Church during this Fifth Century. He was a brilliant philosopher and became an important theologian.

His writings continue to influence today's Catholic Church. Augustine, like so many others, converted to the Catholic Church, and lived his Catholic faith, and he was canonized a saint of the Catholic Church.

I remember so well, and it has been many years: It was a Saturday morning - I heard a knock on the rectory door. The man's name was Jim. He said to me, "I have decided, I want to join up." Over a cup of coffee, I explained the details of our program. Jim was anxious but accepted the lengthy preparation. So, at the next Easter Vigil, Jim was baptized, confirmed and made his First Communion that evening. The next morning, Easter Sunday, he was right there at Mass. Jim became a real part of the parish and proved to be truly dedicated to his new-found Catholic faith. I did smile a bit when Jim would tell someone or other who asked him why he became a Catholic, "I know I will have a great funeral Mass." And he did.

# The first 40 hours of adoration for vocations

By Mary Beth Bracy,  
consecrated virgin  
North Country Catholic

Bishop Terry R. LaValley is encouraging the promotion of the centuries-old devotion of 40 hours of Eucharistic adoration throughout the diocese of Ogdensburg for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

The Highway to Heaven team is sponsoring this traditional "40-hour period" commemorating our Lord's burial until His resurrection at parishes throughout our diocese. Individuals, families, and groups are invited to join in these events on the Highway to Heaven.

The first event will take place at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. It will begin on Friday, September 18, with a special anticipated Mass at 5 p.m. followed by exposition of the Holy Eucharist, which will continue through Sunday, September 20, at 10:45 a.m.

Father John M. "Mickey" Demo, rector of St. Mary's Cathedral, highlighted the importance of Eucharistic adoration.

"This is one of the ways the Lord fulfills his promise to be present to us," Father Demo said. "We take up the invitation 'to adore' him who is Lord of all and our personal savior as an act of faith. It needs to be intentional on our part if we are to experience the graces our Lord wants to give us. We can attain an inner peace and contentment from being in his presence that the world cannot give us."

Deacon Bill O'Brien, who is steering the organizational team for the cathedral event, agreed.

"Adoration of Our Lord, truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar, is vital to the spiritual growth of our parishes and our diocese," he said. "We are in great need of priests, religious, and permanent deacons. Jesus invites each of us to take part in the mission of salvation by spending time with Him in prayer before the Holy Eucharist."

"When a parish has 40 Hours of adoration of our Eucharistic Lord, it is a sacred event which involves the whole parish . . . one hour at a time," noted Amy Schirmer, also an organizer and member of the Highway to Heaven team. "It is a whole and beautiful offering of sacrifice of 40 hours . . . one hour at a time. People will always be present, so that our Lord is never alone."

Where did the number 40 come from?

"Forty hours is the traditional number of hours Jesus was in the tomb," said Schirmer. "Forty years the Israelites were in the desert. Forty days Noah listened to a typhoon whirling around the Ark. Then came resurrection, the promised land, a new beginning. What will come forth for our parish after 40 hours of devotion? I can't wait to see."

Families are encouraged to sign up to spend an hour with Jesus during the event to grow closer to our Lord and one another.

"Praying before the

Blessed Sacrament for vocations is especially important in our time. The need for priests, deacons, and religious is urgent," Deacon O'Brien emphasized. "At the same time, we must not forget that the vocation of marriage and family life is also vital. The family is under profound pressure in our city, our state, our country and throughout the world. We must pray for marriage and family life, because the family is the seedbed of all vocations. Without strong families, vocations cannot flourish."

"Making a commitment to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament allows us to show the importance of our relationship with God among all our relationships," added Father Demo. "We can acknowledge that our life is in His hands. What better place to ponder God's plan for us than in the presence of the Holy Eucharist. We come away renewed and refreshed as we continue to walk in faith."

Deacon O'Brien and Father Demo said great fruit comes from spending time with the Lord in adoration.

"Praying before the Lord, present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar, has become a priority in my week," Deacon O'Brien. "I give thanks to the Lord for the blessings He bestows on me, my family, our parish, and our diocese. This time of wonder, contemplation, prayer and thanksgiving brings peace and wisdom that are worth every moment - and so much more."

"Spending time with Jesus in adoration strengthens our ability to trust in his promise to guide and sustain us. It gives us a chance to truly reflect on the Bread of Life discourses in the Gospel of John," added Father Demo.

Schirmer said people can participate in the event, and in adoration in general, in many ways.

There are many ways to spend time in prayer with Jesus during adoration and the minutes often go by quickly. "But what do we do?," asked Schirmer, "Well, Jesus is there, looking for you and loving you. Some are happy to sit with that truth for an hour. It brings peace . . . so much inner peace. Others may choose to spend some time in devotional reading, meditation, rosaries, chaplets . . . those things that keep us quiet and focused on the Lord. Others use this time of encounter to bring heart-felt need to His Sacred Heart. Imaginative prayer can be very fruitful during this time. Perhaps your hour will be so wonderful you'll come back for more."

"When I first began attending adoration before our Eucharistic Lord, I often sat in silence and brought before God my needs and the needs of others. At times, my mind would wander, and I wondered whether I was using the time well. Over time, however, adoration has become a place for spiritual reading, contemplation, intercessory prayer, silence, and conversation with God about my week."

Now, one hour no longer seems like enough. Through faithful repetition, I have come to feel closer to God than ever before."

"The 40 Hours of adoration for Vocations allow us to recognize and express that fostering vocations is the work of the whole Church of Christ. All of us together, baptized in the life of Christ, summon the Lord's assistance in helping women and men recognize their call to serve our Lord. It could be a call to the ordained priesthood or diaconate. It could be a call to embrace married life or the consecrated religious life or the single life," summed up Father Demo. "As members of the family of God, we take responsibility in fostering vocations and supporting those who seek to follow God's will."

To sign up for a Holy Hour as an individual, family or group, contact: Deacon O'Brien at 315-528-0461 or billob315@gmail.com

More locations for the 40 Hours devotion will be announced soon. For more information about hosting a 40 Hours devotion in your parish, or with any questions, contact: h2hcontinues@gmail.com



*Support And Pray  
For Vocations*

# Celebrating the Season of Creation

Starting with World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on Sept. 1, the Church, including the Church of the North Country, will once again spend just over a month celebrating the Season of Creation.

Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, a Sister of St. Joseph and one of the leaders of the Faith & Ecology groups in the diocese, said the season highlights both blessings and challenges.

"In 2015, Pope Francis established the Season of Creation that begins on Sept. 1 through October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi," she said. "This Season is an occasion to celebrate this blessing and a challenge to action to care for it as an expression of our gratitude for it."

To celebrate the Season of Creation in 2026, the Faith & Ecology groups will host two events – a Sept. 26 event from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in New York State Campground at Fish Creek's day-use area and an Oct. 4 event in Cape Vincent at the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Camp from 1 to 3 p.m.

More information about both

events will be listed in the North Country Catholic's calendar in future weeks.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) also highlighted the call to action, call to gratitude and call to implore God's help and ask his pardon that comes with the season.

Encouraging individuals, families and communities to "reaffirm our vocation as stewards of creation," USCCB offers ideas for ways to honor the season and God's creation.

"In your daily life, try to identify the ways in which you can choose reusables, rather than disposables, such as coffee mugs, reusable bags, or cloth napkins, and commit to making one change during this month," USCCB said in a document produced for the Season of Creation.

USCCB also encouraged communities to use the educational programs offered by the Catholic Climate Covenant "to reflect on our vocation as stewards of creation."

Catholic Climate Covenant programs can be found at

<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/programs/>

USCCB also encouraged families and individuals to spend time thanking God for his handiwork in creation during this special season.

"Before and after meals, say a short prayer of thanksgiving for the life-giving food that sustains and nourishes us," the document urges. "Briefly consider how all nourishment ultimately comes from the earth and give thanks for all the human hands that helped bring this food to your table. May we recognize, as *Laudato Si'* has taught us, that this 'moment of blessing, however brief, reminds us of our dependence on God for life.'"

Communities are urged to participate in Eucharistic adoration, as well.

"One of the most meaningful ways we give thanks as Christians is through the sacrament of the Eucharist, a word which means 'thanksgiving,'" USCCB states. "As *Laudato Si'* proclaims, through the Eucharist, 'the whole cosmos gives thanks to God' (no. 236). To celebrate this sacred reality during the

Season of Creation, we recommend hosting a one-hour, care for creation-themed Eucharistic adoration in your parish."

Finally, USCCB encourages individuals, families and communities to "implore God's help and ask his pardon."

"In calling for a deep 'ecological conversion,' Pope Francis has emphasized the importance of examining one's own conscience, of recognizing one's sins against creation, however great or small," the document says. "We invite you to bring these sins to confession and to perform a spiritual work of mercy for our common home, such as an act of 'grateful contemplation of God's world' (*Laudato Si'*, no. 214). One final suggestion for this time is to organize a prayer service in your parish. The *Laudato Si'* Movement has an official prayer book that can provide inspiration for a service. As we approach the beautiful autumn season, holding this service outside may allow for a rich experience."

The prayer book can be found at <https://laudatosimovement.org/prayer-book/>.

## BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL: ONE CHURCH, ONE MISSION

# Training lay men and women for ministry

By Cathy Russell  
Program Coordinator

Thanks in large part to the generosity of donors to the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal, lay men and women have stepped up to be trained as commissioned lay ministers through the Formation For Ministry program for over 30 years. Since its inception in 1990, over 1,000 North Country men and women have been sent out from the program. The current class of 25 is scheduled to be commissioned by Bishop LaValley in June 2027.

The two-year program has evolved to meet the changing needs of par-

ishes and those who seek to serve. Yet, the commitment of the program to provide an excellent foundation for lay ministry has not changed.

The success of the program hinges on the individual working closely with the pastor to match the gifts and needs of both the parish and the candidate. Through a partnership with Boston College's Crossroads program, candidates take classes in an online format. The classes include Old and New Testament, Creed, Sacraments, Spirituality, Morality, Catholic Social Teaching, Ecclesiology, Church History I and II

and the Eucharist.

During year one, candidates participate in two in-person workshops on three fundamental topics: The Vision of Lay Ministry, Teach Me How To Pray and Recognizing Gifts.

There is also a day of reflection at the end of the first year. This day is an opportunity to take the time to integrate what they have learned into their own spiritual lives.

During the second year, candidates choose a ministry area, in consultation with their pastor, from liturgy ministries, youth ministry, formation ministries, sick and elderly min-

istries and parish outreach ministries. They attend four all-day in-person workshops to sharpen skills in their area of choice.

The second year ends with a weekend retreat and the commissioning by the bishop at the Cathedral.

After commissioning, all lay ministers are strongly encouraged to continually deepen their spiritual lives and their pastoral ministry skills through participation with their regional Commissioned Lay Ministry Association and continuing education opportunities.

Tuition costs and other expenses for the

program are kept reasonable for parishes and candidates alike because of the generosity of the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal.

More information on the program can be found on the diocesan website under Office of Formation for Ministry or by contacting the Director, Cathy Russell, [crussell@rcdony.org](mailto:crussell@rcdony.org).

This spring, we will be looking for our next group of ministry candidates. As the new parish planning goes into effect, it will be more important than ever to have generous and competent laity to assist pastors with parish needs.

# Meet the staff of your Catholic Charities



Vivian Smith & Melissa Howard

*Editor's note: The following is the third installment of an ongoing series to introduce the staff and programs of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.*

The Catholic Charities Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) of Northern New York, encompassing Franklin, Essex, Clinton, St. Lawrence and Jefferson Counties, engages adults aged 55 in mentoring and tutoring children with special or exceptional needs while providing older adults with purpose, social connection and benefits. AmeriCorps Seniors FGP Volunteers usually serve 15 to 40 hours per week, often maintaining relationships with children for a year or longer.

Foster Grandparent Volunteers engage in activities such as:

- Tutoring children in reading, math and other subjects.
- Reinforcing positive values and social skills.
- Supporting young mothers with parenting skills.
- Caring for premature infants or children with disabilities.
- Providing companionship and mentorship

## Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg

To learn more about the programs of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, or to make a donation, visit [www.cathcharities.org](http://www.cathcharities.org). Donations can also be mailed to Catholic Charities at 12 Homestead Park, Malone, NY 12953 or dropped off at any Catholic Charities office.

to grow self-esteem and confidence.

### ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS

To participate, individuals must be 55 years or older and meet income eligibility guidelines. In return for their service, Foster Grandparent Volunteers receive:

- A non-taxable hourly stipend to support low-income volunteers.

- Accident and liability insurance while on duty.

- Meals during service hours.

- Transportation reimbursement.

- Monthly training and recognition events.

- Mental and physical health benefits, including reduced anxiety, decreased loneliness, and increased social engagement.

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## THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

### PRAYER SUGGESTION

Eternal Father, we lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

(With ecclesiastical approval)

Mass  
Rosary  
Fasting  
Day Offering  
Eucharistic Adoration  
Offering of Sufferings  
Divine Mercy Chaplet

Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him

September



### SEPTEMBER

| DIOCESE OF OGDENBURG, NY 2026 |                                   |                                  |                                  |                                    |                                  |                                  |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| SUNDAY                        | MONDAY                            | TUESDAY                          | WEDNESDAY                        | THURSDAY                           | FRIDAY                           | SATURDAY                         |
|                               |                                   | BISHOP<br>TERRY R.<br>LAVALLEY   | 1<br>REV. JASON E.<br>HESSELING  | 2<br>REV. MICHAEL J.<br>JABLONSKI  | 3<br>REV. JOSE K.<br>JOHN, HGN   | 4<br>REV. JOSEPH<br>KANIMEA, MSC |
| 5<br>REV. PAUL J.<br>KELLY    | 6<br>REV. KRIS C.<br>LAUZON       | 7<br>REV. THOMAS E.<br>KORNMEYER | 8<br>OUR PASTOR                  | 9<br>REV. STEVE<br>KOVACEVICH      | 10<br>REV. DONALD E.<br>KRAMBERG | 11<br>REV. ARTHUR J.<br>LABAET   |
| 12<br>REV. ALAN J.<br>LAMICA  | 13<br>REV. DONALD J.<br>MANFRED   | 14<br>REV. JOHN J.<br>LOOBY      | 15<br>POPE LEO XIV               | 16<br>REV. SHANE M.<br>LYNCH       | 17<br>REV. JHON<br>MADRID        | 18<br>REV. WILLIAM G.<br>MUENCH  |
| 19<br>MSGR. JOHN R.<br>MURPHY | 20<br>REV. LAWRENCE<br>E. MARULLO | 21<br>REV. KEVIN D.<br>MCEWAN    | 22<br>DECEASED<br>PRIESTS        | 23<br>REV. JOSEPH A.<br>MORGAN, VG | 24<br>REV. WILLIAM G.<br>MUENCH  | 25<br>MSGR. JOHN R.<br>MURPHY    |
| 26                            | 27<br>REV. STEVEN M.<br>MURRAY    | 28<br>REV. FRANK<br>NATALE, MSC  | 29<br>REV. JUDE C.<br>NASHBROUGH | 30<br>REV. KEVIN J.<br>O'BRIEN     |                                  |                                  |

A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated. The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by: Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society [www.mprayerrequest.org](http://www.mprayerrequest.org)

Celebrate your favorite priest in the

## NCC PRIEST APPRECIATION ISSUE

Join the North Country Catholic in honoring the special priests in your life.

The NCC will be honoring our priests in the Oct. 7th issue of the paper.

Priesthood Sunday will be Sept. 27

We invite you to send a message to your pastor, spiritual advisor or priestly friend.

\$20 - a 1 column X 2 inch ad with a short message (e.g., Father Smith, we appreciate your service, from the Jones Family)

\$40 - a 2 column x 2 inch ad

\$135 - Quarter page ad

\$250 - Half page ad

\$475 - Full page ad

If you have a photo please email them to [cward@rcdony.org](mailto:cward@rcdony.org). DO NOT MAIL PHOTOS

If you have a specific budget that is not listed we can design an ad based on that.

If you would like your ad in color please add \$25 (The North Country Catholic provides design services)

Must be received in the NCC Office by Sept. 25, 2026

Questions? Email [cward@rcdony.org](mailto:cward@rcdony.org) or call 315-608-7556

Please cut out the entire ad when you send in your request.

☐ YES! I/We would like to honor a priest in the North Country Catholic

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Ad Size:

- ☐ \$20 Special Message only ☐ \$40 2x2  
☐ \$135 Quarter Page ☐ \$250 Half Page  
☐ \$475 Full Page ☐ \$25 Extra for color

Message as it will appear in the ad (please print)

Feel free to use your own paper.

NAME OF PRIEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail checks payable to: North Country Catholic  
PO Box 106, Canajoharie, NY 13317

## Environmental Stewardship

## The Season of Creation

The Season of Creation was incorporated into the Church calendar to better align our lives toward what we believe and what we pray for. It can be easy to accept the concepts and ideals we hear in the Gospels and ask for some great things when speaking to God, but our ways of living don't always match these beliefs and words sent to heaven.

The hectic nature of our modern lives can seriously disrupt the harmony that should be developing between our desire to please Our Lord and the actions we inevitably take during the day.

We all know that we should treat our neighbor with kindness, but the Church is proclaiming that our Christian behavior should also extend to all of nature. It is during this five-week period, from Sept. 1 to Oct. 4, when we are asked to pause and reflect on how our actions impact our surroundings.

As a society, we have not treated the environment God made for us well. All the components of this intricate web have their own special role in helping to sustain our existence on earth.

Starting on Sept. 1, World Day of Prayer for Creation, try to step back and just notice what you are really doing, how you are impacting our planet, and what you could do differently. You may notice a light that's not being used — one that could be shut off. Maybe you could open a window rather than turn on an air conditioner or visit a nearby farm stand rather than go to the supermarket for produce. You might elect to refrain from mowing the lawn this week, or pick up a piece of plastic in a parking lot with a smile. While no one may take any notice of any of your actions, God will, and He will hope that maybe these minor acts of kindness to nature will become a lifetime habit.

# Sister Mary Sullivan died Aug. 17

A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Mary Sullivan, an Ursuline sister, was celebrated on Aug. 25 at the Ursuline Province Center in New Rochelle.

Sister Mary, formerly Sister Karen, died August 17, 2026, at Andrus on Hudson Nursing Home.

Sister Mary was born in the Bronx, on July 23, 1940, the oldest child of Katherine Cahill and Patrick Sullivan, both from County Kerry, Ireland.

She professed vows in the Ursuline Community on January 6, 1963.

Sister Mary earned a bachelor's degree in English from the College of New Rochelle and a master's degree in English from St. Michael's College in Colchester, Vermont.

She began her teaching ministry at Blessed Sacrament School in New Rochelle, St. Jerome's in the Bronx, Notre Dame, and St. Joseph's Ursuline

Academy in Malone.

She went on to serve on the Boards of Trustees of the College of New Rochelle, Academy of Mount St. Ursula, and The Ursuline School. One of her fondest educational ministries was teaching Peace Education at St. John Chrysostom School in the Bronx.

Responding to a new call, Sister Mary pursued certification in Clinical Pastoral Education at Walter Reed Hospital and Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital. She served in chaplaincy and pastoral care positions at Memorial Sloan Kettering, Lincoln Hospital, St. Clare's Hospital and Calvary Hospital in New York. Recognizing her gifts in pastoral care, Sister Mary was appointed assistant director of Pastoral Care at Calvary Hospital.

Advocacy for justice was an integral part of Sister Mary's life. She was



Sister Mary Sullivan, OSU

involved in the Ursuline Roman Union Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation projects, demonstrations at the School of the Americas and the initiation of a Madeleva Reflection Group, which met regularly to reflect on the Christian feminist vision of full humanity for all persons and right relationships among all creatures. As a member of the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility, Sister Mary was invited to be part of the U.S. delegation serving as human rights monitors and observers of Orange Order parades held in Northern Ireland. She was assistant

director of Siena House, which provides transitional housing for pregnant women and young mothers. Her concern for immigrants also led her to volunteer at Catholic Social Services in Laredo, Texas.

Within the Ursuline community, Sister Mary served in several leadership positions, including provincial and local superior. Her gifts as a spiritual director were central to her role as director of all stages of Ursuline formation.

Sister Mary will be remembered by her Ursuline sisters, family and friends for her leadership, compassion and vision of a future where all will be part of God's peaceful kingdom.

She was predeceased by her brothers, John and James. She was survived by her sister, Eileen Barrett; her sister-in-law, Pam Sullivan; and many nieces and nephews.

Donations in Sister Mary's memory may be made to the Ursuline Sisters Development Office, 1338 North Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10804.

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**Aug. 26** — 9 a.m. — Superintendent's Day at the Cambria Hotel in Lake Placid

**Aug. 27** — noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Aug. 28** — noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

4 p.m. — Clinton-Northern Franklin Deanery Picnic at Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh

**Aug. 29** — 4 p.m. — Installation Mass of Reverend Todd E. Thibault as Pastor of St. Joseph's Church in West Chazy and Sacred Heart Church in Chazy

**Aug. 30** — 10 a.m. — Installation Mass of Reverend Jose K. John, HGN as Pastor of St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid and St. Brendan's Church in Keene

**Aug. 31** — noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Sept. 2** — 11 a.m. — Mass at Wadhams Hall

## Rest in Peace

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

**Aug. 27** — Rev. John F. Byrne, 1919; Rev. Ubalde LaRose, 1919; Rev. Edward Henry Bernier, 1962

**Aug. 28** — Rev. Florent Vandenberghe, O.M.I., 1882

**Aug. 29** — Rev. John J. Waters, 1921; Rev. Leo Desmet, 1926; Rev. Thomas F. Driscoll, 2003; Rev. Msgr. Robert L. Lawler, 2013

**Aug. 30** — Rev. Bartholomew McLaughlin, 1914

**Aug. 31** — Rev. James J. Sherry, 1890; Albert R. Plante, 2000

**Sept. 1** — Rev. Michael Guth, 1864; Rev. John B. Martin, O.S.A., 1955

## Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled Protecting God's Children training sessions. 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. Pre-registration is encouraged at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org). Upcoming sessions:

**Aug. 24** — 1 p.m. — St. James School, Gouverneur

**Sept. 9** — 9 a.m. — St. James Minor Church, Carthage

**Sept. 16** — 3 p.m. — St. Peter's Parish, Massena

**Sept. 17** — 7 p.m. — Augustinian Academy, Carthage

## 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](mailto:terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com); Phone: 518-569-0612; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; [ccarrara@rcdony.org](mailto: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](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org)

# Bishops concerned about safety as protected status designations expires

By Tessa Gervasini  
EWTN News

The Trump administration has moved to end temporary protected status (TPS) for people from 13 countries since 2025, and Catholic bishops warn that people may still face unsafe conditions if forced to return.

TPS is an immigration status granted to eligible foreign nationals from designated countries that are deemed unsafe to return to due to ongoing conflict, environmental disasters, or other extraordinary conditions.

Multiple nations will lose their designations in coming months. TPS for El Salvadoran nationals will expire Sept. 9. Designations for Sudan and Ukraine are set to expire Oct. 19, while Lebanon's will end Nov. 27. TPS for Haiti ended July 27.

Bishop Brendan Cahill of Victoria, Texas, chair of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Migration, said bishops are focused on Haitian nationals "because that's the community most affected right now, and now lives in a fear because they could be deported any time."

The situation there "is pretty dire," he told EWTN News. "The government is ending the temporary protected status and wants to return people to Haiti," but "in our judgment it's not safe, and there's a moral question of returning people to Haiti right now."

"The bishops themselves from Haiti have ... said 'it's just not safe,'" he said.

In April, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation, H.R. 1689, that would extend TPS for Haitians for three more years. No legislative efforts have gained traction in the Senate.

"We're hoping, politically right now, for the Senate to agree to a resolution the House has already passed," Cahill said.

In January, Cahill called on the administration to extend TPS for Haitians. In June, Cahill followed up after the Supreme Court allowed TPS designations for Haiti and Syria to end, calling for other options including "deferred enforced departure."

"If we have, in good faith, offered temporary protected status, we

should not return people until we deemed it safe to go back," Cahill said in an interview. "And what's the criteria? And that's the question for politicians to work out: 'What's the criteria for determining when it is safe that a person can return to their country?'"

"Justice is about human dignity and how we treat other human beings," Cahill said. It's an "injustice" to somebody who has been here legally, "to all of a sudden say, 'We're going to take it away and send you back,'" he said.

"It's about justice and right reason," he added.

As of March 31, 2025, the U.S. provided TPS protections to about 1.3 million individuals from 17 countries including Venezuela, Haiti, El Salvador, Ukraine, Honduras, Afghanistan, Nepal, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Syria, Burma, Nicaragua, Sudan, Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan, and Lebanon.

Since the program's inception, nearly 30 countries have received TPS designations, some more than once. TPS designations can be, and usually have been, extended.

TPS holders reside all over the United States. As of 2025, the largest populations of TPS holders live in Florida (403,965), Texas (147,080), New York (98,250), California (79,320), and Georgia (50,110), according to the National Immigration Forum.

The Trump administration has ended, or moved to end, TPS for 13 of the 17 nations. The programs for Venezuela, Afghanistan, Cameroon, Nepal, Honduras, and Nicaragua ended throughout 2025.

In 2026, TPS for South Sudan, Burma, Haiti, Somalia, Yemen, Haiti, and Syria were terminated or expired. In February, a district court blocked the terminations for Haitian and Syrian nationals, but in June the U.S. Supreme Court allowed the administration to officially terminate the designations.

Once TPS protection ends, a TPS holder will revert back to his or her previous immigration status, and those who no longer hold status in the U.S. will potentially be subject to removal proceedings.

While the TPS designations end, DHS is encouraging people without status to self-deport rather than be deported by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

## CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

### Block on immigration enforcement at religious sites upheld

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit on Aug. 18 upheld a Maryland judge's order blocking a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) policy that would have loosened limits on immigration enforcement at or near houses of worship while the case proceeds. The plaintiffs, including the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Sikh Temple Sacramento, and several Quaker organizations, sought the injunction after DHS ended the policy that treated churches as "sensitive locations" in January 2025. DHS previously restricted immigration enforcement from conducting arrests at churches and other sensitive locations unless there is approval from a supervisor or there is an urgent need to take enforcement action. Instead, the Trump administration's policy requires officials to use "discretion" and "common sense" when deciding where to conduct immigration enforcement. The plaintiffs filed suit against DHS in the District of Maryland on Jan. 27, 2025, alleging that the policy violates the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA). The district court granted the plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction, ordering DHS to follow its prior guidelines, most recently issued in 2021. On May 6, 2025, DHS appealed the preliminary injunction to the 4th Circuit.

### Quebec Archdiocese to pay \$31.5 million in abuse settlement

The Archdiocese of Quebec in Canada will pay out an eight-figure sum as part of a major class action lawsuit that has played out there over the last several years. The archdiocese said in a press release that the agreement was ratified on Aug. 12 by Quebec Superior Court Judge Danye Daigle. The law firm Dufresne Wee, which had originally brought the lawsuit in 2020, also confirmed the settlement on its own website. An Aug. 12 filing in the superior court said the agreement would consist of \$31.5 million "to compensate the class members covered by [the] class action." The agreement also stipulated that a "letter of apology" would be delivered to abuse victims. In its press release the archdiocese said its leaders "welcome this news." The archdiocese said Church officials were "aware that [the settlement] can help members continue on their path to peace and healing." Announcing the settlement, Auxiliary Bishop Jean Tailleux told victims: "Faced with the suffering you are carrying, there is little that my words can relieve or heal. However, something must be said. On behalf of the Catholic Church of Quebec, I would like to offer you our most sincere apologies."

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- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more



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## ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

## ALPHA

Lake Placid – Alpha program to be held.

**Date:** Sundays, Sept. 20 to Dec. 6

**Time:** 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

**Place:** St. Agnes Church

**Features:** Alpha offers a welcoming place to gather with others for conversation, friendship, and discovery. Each session includes a shared meal, an engaging video, and honest, respectful discussion in a relaxed and hospitable environment. Whether your faith is strong, you're returning after time away, or you're simply seeking more, you'll find that every question and every person is welcome.

**Contact:** Deb Lennon for more information: lennondebra26@gmail.com or 518-524-4388

## 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; Sept. 14, Oct. 5,

**Ellenburg Center:** Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (please bring a bag lunch); Sept. 10, Oct. 8

**Features:** Each session begins with a short introduction followed by praise, worship and soaking prayer for an extended period of time as guided by the Holy Spirit. Remainder of time is spent listening to scripture readings and remaining receptive to receive healing.

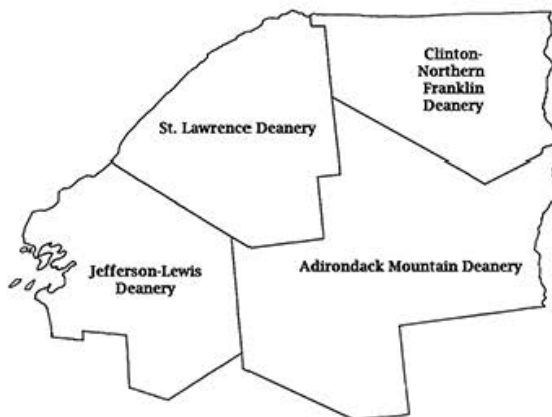
**Contact:** All sessions are facilitated by Eve McGill, Living Waters Healing Ministry 518-645-2648, evemcgill16@charter.net

## FIRST FRIDAY

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

**Date:** Sept. 4

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



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.

## CHICKEN BBQ

AuSable Forks – The Holy Name Church is bringing back its chicken barbecue, which was featured for many years in the town's Labor Day celebration, sponsored by the Au Sable Forks Knights of Columbus and the Holy Name Church.

**Date:** Sept. 5

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

**Place:** Holy Name Parish Center

**Cost:** \$15 includes 1/2 BBQ chicken, cole slaw, potatoes, roll, dessert, and bottled water. And for the children, for \$10 we are serving hot dogs, chips or sides, dessert, and bottled water.

## CLM ANNUAL DINNER

Brushton – The St. Lawrence, Franklin, and Adirondack Commissioned Lay Ministers Association are invited to the CLM Annual Dinner.

**Date:** Sept. 9

**Time:** Mass at 5 p.m. with Bishop LaValley followed by dinner at 6 p.m.

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

**Cost:** \$15 per person

**Contact:** To register go to: <https://www.rcdony.org/clm-event>

## TURKEY DINNER

Lyon Mountain – St. Bernard's and St. Edmund's Parish to have a turkey dinner to benefit the fuel fund.

**Date:** Sept. 13

**Time:** 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Place:** Lyon Mountain American Legion

**Cost:** Adults, \$15; Children 6-12, \$7; Under 5, Free

## TRIP TO "SIGHTS AND SOUNDS"

Lancaster, Pa – St. Mary's and St. Augustine's Altar and Rosary Society of North Bangor and Brushton are doing a trip to see Sights and Sounds "Joshua."

**Date:** Sept. 14 – 16

**Cost:** \$605 Double, \$575 Triple, \$804 single. All rates are per person.

**Features:** Package includes: lodging, two breakfasts, two dinners, performance of Joshua at Sight and Sound Theatre, Chalk Talk, Bird in Hand Farmers Market, Bass Pro Shop and Outlets, Souvenir gift, Motorcoach Transportation, taxes and gratuities. Pickups in Brushton, Potsdam, Canton, Watertown

**Contact:** Gayla LePage 518-569-3612 or email luer913@hotmail.com

## APPLEFEST

Peru – Join your family and friends at the 48th Annual St. Augustine's Applefest.

**Date:** Sept. 19

**Place:** St. Augustine's Parish Center

**Schedule:** Activities at St. Augustine's Parish Center begin at

10:30 a.m. At 11 a.m., the community parade begins its route down Main Street, from Peru Elementary to St. Augustine's Parish. People look forward to the apple fritters, chicken BBQ, fried dough, caramelized apples, michigans, sweet sausages, burgers, games, train ride, face painting, bounce house, Pipes and Drums of Plattsburgh, and the On Three Band. Roger's House and St. Vincent DePaul have sales throughout the day. The Grand Raffle drawing takes place at 4 p.m. Father Alan Shnob is Parade Grand Marshal.

## HARVEST DINNER

Altona – St. Ann's and Holy Angels invite you to St. Ann's Harvest Dinner.

**Date:** Sept. 20

**Time:** 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Place:** Holy Angel's Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$18; Children 6-12, \$10; 5 and under, \$Free

**Features:** Turkey and all the trimmings, Apple and Pumpkin desserts. There will be a bake sale, themed basket raffles and a Lottery Ticket Raffle.

## JEFFERSON-LEWIS

## SUMMER CONCERT

Alexandria Bay – St. Cyril's Church proudly presents "Raising 16 years of a Joyful Noise," their free summer concert for the community.

**Date:** Aug. 30

**Time:** 4 p.m.

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

**Features:** Please join the world traveled St. Cyril's Choir, under the direction of Rebecca Rose. The choir will be performing a program of religious and inspirational music with a theme of Hope, Love, and Family. In this turbulent world of ours today, we are excited to present this inspirational program of joy, peace, hope, and love.

## 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:** Sept. 6

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

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

**Contact:** 315-348-6260

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

**Date:** Sept. 12

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 7

**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center

**Cost:** Adults, \$12; Seniors, \$10; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free; Sauce or meatballs available for \$6 per quart

**Contact:** For more information call 315-629-4678

## ST. LAWRENCE

## ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

**Date:** Sept. 5

**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:** Sept. 5

**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:** Sept. 5

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

**Place:** Sacred Heart Church

## ALPHA

Massena – You are invited to join us for ALPHA.

**Date:** Tuesdays starting Sept. 8

**Time:** 6 p.m. to 8:30

**Place:** St. Mary's Social Hall

**Features:** Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian Faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. No pressure. No follow up. No charge including a FREE Meal.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

# Film tells story of Oklahoma priest, martyr

By Francesca Pollio Fenton  
EWTN News

Hundreds gathered late last month in Oklahoma City for the premiere of the new film "American Martyr: The Stanley Rother Story," a feature-length documentary depicting the inspiring life of Blessed Stanley Rother.

"This has been a long time coming," Archbishop Paul Coakley of Oklahoma City told EWTN News on the red carpet July 28.

Born in Okarche, Oklahoma, Rother was a farmer before he attended Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and was ordained a priest in 1963. After serving as an associate pastor at a parish in Oklahoma for five years, Rother received permission to join the staff at the Oklahoma diocese's mission in Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala.

He served the Tz'utujil people, who are descendants of the Mayans, in Guatemala, learning their native Tz'utujil language as well as Spanish. As their pastor, Rother celebrated Mass and helped translate the New Testament into the Tz'utujil language. He quickly gained the trust and love of the local people, ministering to them in their homes, sharing meals, helping them in the fields, and visiting the sick.

While Rother was in Guatemala,

a civil war broke out and the Catholic Church was caught in its crosshairs. The priest's name was placed on a death list. On July 28, 1981, three men entered the rectory at night and killed the beloved priest.

Rother's cause for canonization opened in 2007 by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, and in 2016 Pope Francis recognized Rother as a martyr for the faith. He became the first American-born priest to be recognized as a martyr by the Catholic Church.

"We've been very intentionally promoting the cause of Blessed Stanley Rother for many years," Coakley said. "He's been beatified and now we're working toward his canonization, and in order for that ever to happen we need more and more people seeking the intercession of Blessed Stanley Rother and seeking his divine favor so that miracles may be performed through his intercession. So that's why we undertook this production, to introduce him to more and more people."

The archbishop added that the film is "a beautiful depiction of the life of an ordinary Catholic who responded generously and faithfully to God's grace and mercy and allowed the Lord to transform him and form him into the saint ultimately that we

hope he will finally be named."

Michael Scaperlanda, chancellor at the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, said: "This is an exciting moment for the archdiocese to have a nationwide release ... of this wonderful documentary narrated by Martin Sheen."

He highlighted the importance of sharing Rother's story to a wider audience because it serves as a reminder that "even ordinary people can become saints."

For Felipe Coche Pablo, the documentary is particularly personal. Pablo is a native of Santiago Atitlán and was baptized by Rother when he was 6 months old. He was 2 years old when Rother was killed.

When Rother's cause was opened, Pablo was appointed to serve as the official church notary for Rother's parish in Santiago Atitlán. It was then that he learned about the potential saint's life and legacy.

Pablo said learning about Rother deeply impacted his life and taught him "to keep fighting in life. There are always stumbles, but you have to pick yourself back up, like he [Rother] did."

Today, Pablo is the administrator at Colegio Católico Padre Aplá's — also known as the Blessed Stanley Rother Catholic School — in Santiago Atitlán. This school is part of the parish

in which Rother served, Santiago Apóstol, or St. James the Apostle Church.

"We have 435 students and the education is trilingual — Tz'utujil, Spanish, and English," he explained. "Our first language is the Mayan language, Tz'utujil. And he [Rother] was a priest that was very loved by the people because he learned the Mayan language Tz'utujil, like us, like what I speak."

Pablo said he hopes viewers of the film will be inspired by Rother's "service to others" and to "carry peace, love, evangelize, and what is most needed in life — look for God."

Coakley added that he hopes viewers will leave the theater reminded that "all of us are called to holiness."

"Stanley Rother would not have been the one in high school in the yearbook that said most likely to become a saint ... And yet all of us are called, it's our vocation if you're baptized, you're called to be a saint. All of us are called to be saints. And Stanley Rother gives us a hope that for each one of us that is a possibility that is real."

"American Martyr" can be seen in theaters across the U.S., including Regal Salmon Run in Watertown, on Aug. 25 and 26 in English and in Spanish on Aug. 27.

## Where he finds God

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

about our love of God. Homer was so passionate about the football game that he couldn't contain his excitement. It makes me wonder: Am I that excited about my faith? Are we that excited about our faith?

When it comes to sports, many of us can be like Homer when our favorite teams play. We cheer and celebrate — sometimes so loudly that everyone around us knows how we feel. We talk about our favorite teams all week and all season.

Maybe we don't need

to yell, but I feel like we should be as excited about God as we are about sports, and that love should be with us not just on Sunday but every day.

We should all be as passionate and excited about our God and our faith as Homer is about football. Most impor-

tantly, we should let that excitement for God show in our everyday lives.

*that has made sharing his relationship with God normal to him.*

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## SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

## 'See the world the way God does'

Today's Gospel presents us with two very original thoughts. They both come from Jesus himself. "You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." And the second: "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me." This second original thought has a corollary: "Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

Which political leader would get any votes running on that platform? Which business leader would be able to woo investors by proposing that they would have to suffer if they wanted to prosper?

Nevertheless, Jesus made those statements, and we, his disciples, are supposed to see as does

God and take up our cross.

Seeing the world differently means looking at life the way God does and not the way we do. What's the difference? See the world the way God does, not the way TV and radio talking heads do. See human weakness as God does, not as gossips do. Those are just a few ways.

Here's an appropriate example as we come to the end of summer and think about the opening of school. Why did God make you? God made me to know, love and serve him in this world and to be happy with him forever in heaven. That's God's answer to the question. Here's man's answer. You are here (notice the absence of God) to be successful in this world, to get a good job, to make lots of money,



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

August 30

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Jeremiah 20:7-9

Romans 12:1-2

Matthew 16:21-27

to retire happily and perhaps go to eternal life if it exists. Big difference. God created us to be human beings, not human doings. Yes, our primary reason for existence is to be a child of God both now and into eternity.

We exist primarily to be people and secondarily to have jobs, activities, careers. Our greatest possession is ourselves. That's not selfish. That's realistic. If we do not have ourselves, then we have nothing to give to others. Let's make the example even more concrete. As we begin the school year, we should remember that the goal of education is primarily to educate, to form

a person, not create a functionary. We are to be human beings, persons, not human doings. We should think and do as God does.

Then, there is that uncomfortable "cross" thing that Jesus brings up. Jesus does not say, "Look at the crosses of life and try to avoid them or get someone to fix them for you." He says to take them up. We spend so much time trying to avoid the crosses of life rather than just taking them up, with Jesus at our side, and facing them. Here's a tangible example, especially for parents and grandparents. Your middle names are not "fix it." You can't spend your lives fixing the crosses your children must face, no matter how old those children are. Help your children carry the cross; make them understand that the cross has a value and is part of life. Teach our young to

conquer the bumps - the crosses - of life not to skirt them.

The crosses we face may not replicate the cross of Jesus. Our crosses have different names, names like pandemic, racism, looting, pillaging, hurricanes, politics, crumbling family life, cancel culture, loss of faith in a loving God and who knows what else.

Jesus does not say take up your cross all by yourself. He says, "follow me." We are not alone in taking up our crosses as did Jesus. Remember that Jesus' victory over death came through the cross, taking up the cross, not by avoiding the cross.

With our beautiful summer ending, we now face the ordinariness of life, even though our lives are not always ordinary. Face that life as Jesus taught us: see the world as God sees it and take up the crosses as did Jesus.

## CALLED TO SERVE

## 'The devil made me do it'

Visions of comedian Flip Wilson came to me as soon as I read next weekend's Gospel passage from Matthew. Wilson had his own variety show in the early 1970s. He was famous for creating characters, like Geraldine. She would punctuate every skit with "what you see is what you get!"

For you Geeks, that phrase ended up being WYSIWYG, what you see is what you get.

Wikipedia tells us, "WYSIWYG implies the ability to directly manipulate the layout of a document without having to type or remember names

of layout commands." It made sense to me when Geraldine said it. Wilson coined the phrase "the devil made me do it" too.

The scripture reading for the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time follows Matthew's account of Peter being named the first pope. Remember last week when Jesus renamed Cephas Peter, which means "rock"? The Lord said he would build his church on this rock and "the gates of the netherworld shall never prevail against it." Then Jesus figuratively gave Peter the keys to the Kingdom of heaven.

Talk about a field pro-

motion. From follower to Pope.

The new name, and job, probably gave Peter a little bravado, a bit of a swollen chest in front of the other apostles. It made him full of his own importance.

Packed with this overabundance of confidence, Peter decides to challenge the boss when Jesus tells the apostles for the first time that he will be arrested, suffer and die in Jerusalem.

Peter rebukes Jesus.

Can I offer a suggestion to readers just starting a new job? Do not rebuke the person responsible for your job unless you intend to leave that job. Getting fired is likely.



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

The only exception to that rule is if you are rebuking the most merciful being on earth. He might give you some slack.

Jesus said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking as God does, but as human beings

do." We human beings do

things, think things that are contrary to what we know is pleasing to God. Conveniently we argue "the devil made me do it." Maybe.

Maybe Satan led us on that path, but we human beings made the final decision to act.

Peter is put in his place; behind Jesus. Then Jesus tells all of us, "whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me."

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



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

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

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

# Aiding victims

For 30 years, the Missionaries of Mary Queen of Heaven (MQHM), a religious community of nuns founded in 1996 in the Archdiocese of Cebu, have rescued and rehabilitated hundreds of women and girls who survived sex trafficking, prostitution and child abuse.

An estimated 60,000 to 100,000 children in the Philippines are forced into prostitution or sex trafficking every year. According to the Philippine Department of Justice, sexual exploitation is the most widespread form of trafficking. Among identified victims, women and girls account for the overwhelming majority. At the national level, more than 70% of trafficking convictions are linked to commercial sexual exploitation.

Sister Corazon J. Salazar, MQHM founder and mother general, established the community with six other nuns to respond to one of the most tragic consequences of poverty in the Philippines: the sexual exploitation and trafficking of young girls. Through their apostolate of mercy and compassion, the sisters are committed to restoring dignity, hope and a future to girls and young women who have suffered abuse and exploitation.

MQHM's mission has two main dimensions: First, they rescue girls and young women, ages 8 and up, from prostitution and human trafficking, offering them a safe home, care and loving attention. Second, they provide educational assistance to survivors and children from impoverished rural communities, helping them break the cycle of poverty through education and training.

The MQHM run the "House of Love" in Tuburan for the rehabilitation of survivors of prostitution and women and girls who have fallen victim to sex trafficking. Nearby, they operate the "My Bonita Girls' Home" in Purok, which assists minors who have suffered abuse.

"Many women have taken part in rehabilitation and employment programs and are now reintegrated into society," said Sister Corazon.

Both centers offer rehabilitation and counseling programs, education and vocational training to prepare survivors for reintegration into society.

The program also includes supporting people living in poverty in rural areas and protecting them from illegal recruiters who operate in their communities, promising fictitious jobs to deceive parents and persuade them to send their children away with them.

During a recent visit to the "House of Love," one of their facilities, Archbishop Alberto S. Uy of Cebu said: "Seeing the ministry of the Missionaries of Mary Queen of Heaven firsthand deeply moved me. This is a work that gives life."

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

## OBITUARIES

**Canton** — Shirley Ann (Haney) Hourihan, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 22, 2026 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Chateaugay** — Judith A. (Franklin) Bordeaux, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 19, 2026 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Dannemora** — Linda Lee (Dukette) Miller, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 21, 2026 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

**Gabriels** — Francis R. Hogan, Sr., 93; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 21, 2026 at Church of the Assumption; burial in The Mountain View Cemetery.

**Hogansburg** — Peter J. Herne, 57; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 17, 2026 at St. Regis Mission.

**Hogansburg** — Rose Marie "Konwahrha" Sunday, 89; Funeral Services at the Akwesasne Home-makers.

**Madrid** — Debra J. (Tiernan) Kenney, 63; Funeral Services Aug. 18, 2026 at Phillips Memorial Home.

**Malone** — Jeanne (Matthews) Dufort, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 24, 2026 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame

Cemetery.

**Malone** — Joyce M. (Dupra) King, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 21, 2026 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Brainardsville Cemetery.

**Massena** — Gerald Elman, 87; Funeral Services Aug. 20, 2026 at Phillips Memorial Home; burial in Pine Grove Cemetery, Norfolk.

**Plattsburgh** — Carol (Covey) Carpenter, 59; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 20, 2026 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** — Teresa N. (Mitchell) Defayette, 101; Funeral Services Aug. 19, 2026 at Brown Funeral Home; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** — Shirley A. (Seymour) Kilkeary, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 20, 2026 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Divine Mercy Cemetery, Cumberland

Head.

**Plattsburgh** — Eleanor (Ayotte) Tart, 98; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 21, 2026 at St. Peter's Church.

**Redford** — Richard Chellis, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 28, 2026 at Church of the Assumption; burial in Church of the Assumption Cemetery.

**Rouses Point** — Donald Herbert Keddy, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 18, 2026 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Ticonderoga** — Francis James Trudeau, Jr., 93; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 22, 2026 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Watertown** — Cosmo Amedeo, Jr., 86; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 18, 2026 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

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**Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society Raffle**

Drawing Date: Sept. 16, 2026

Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20

**First Prize: \$500**

**Second Prize:**  
2-27" Bronze Painted LED Candle Lanterns

**Third Prize:**  
Framed Painting by Local Artist Steven C. Cobb

**Fourth Prize:**  
6'5" Pre-lit Christmas Tree

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:  
Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society  
Cut and return this ticket with payment and mail to:  
Connie Randall  
125 Lenny Rd., Potsdam, NY 13676

# Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

**Contact:** For more info at 315-769-2469

## MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

**Date:** Sept. 13 (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.

## ALPHA

Gouverneur – You are invited to Alpha.

**Date:** Mon. Sept 14 to Nov. 22

**Place:** St. James School

**Time:** 5:30 p.m.

**Features:** Each session includes a shared meal, an engaging video, and honest, respectful discussion in a relaxed and hospitable environment. Whether your faith is strong, you're returning after time away, or you're simply seeking more, you'll find that every question and every person is welcome. Many people find that Alpha becomes a place where faith comes alive, relationships are formed, and hearts are opened to what God is doing. It's completely FREE and includes a home cooked dinner each week.

**Contact:** For more information call 315-287-0114

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

### YOUTH MINISTRY SUMMIT

Saranac Lake – First Annual Youth Ministry Summit to be held. Open to all adults who work with MS/HS aged young people in the diocese.

**Date:** Aug. 28-30

**Place:** Camp Guggenheim

**Cost:** \$25 to help defray the cost of food. Includes all lodging, food, and events.

**Features:** We have Camp Guggenheim booked for the whole

weekend, so you can come for a day or retreat the whole time! It will be a time of collaboration, problem-solving, resource sharing, prayer, and strategizing for the year and, of course, some well-deserved relaxation. Catechists, Confirmation Teachers, Youth Group Leaders, Religion Teachers...if you work with young people, you are invited!

**Contact:** To register go to [forms.cloud.microsoft/r/7FNXDb-FmVP](https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/7FNXDb-FmVP)

### SSJ LAY ASSOCIATE PROGRAM

The Sisters of St. Joseph invite you to learn more about our Lay Associate Program.

**Schedule:** Sept. 12 at St. Patrick's Church, Colton at 1 p.m.; Sept. 13 at John XXIII Newman Center, Plattsburgh at 2 p.m.; Sept. 20 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Dostie Hall, Watertown from 2 to 4 p.m.

**Features:** Associates meet once a month to learn about the spirituality, the charism and mission and history of the Sisters of St. Joseph, pray together, and discuss ways to deepen one's spiritual life. This group is open to men and women.

**Contact:** If you are interested, please contact Sister Mary Eamon ([smelyngssj@yahoo.com](mailto:smelyngssj@yahoo.com)) or call 315-393-6511 or Sister Bethany [srbethssj@gmail.com](mailto:srbethssj@gmail.com) or call 315-405-4058.

### FREE THEOLOGY SERIES

Canton – This free professional-development opportunity is open to all who work with middle school or high school youth, including catechists, Catholic school teachers, youth group volunteers, parish youth ministers, and core-team members.

**Date:** Sept. 12

**Time:** 9 a.m. to noon

**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center

**Features:** How do we know God exists? Why does evil happen if God is good? What about evolution, the Big Bang, or the multiverse? The first session of the Ready to Give an Answer se-

ries will help Catholics respond to these questions with clarity, confidence, and charity while exploring the relationship between faith and science. A continental breakfast will be provided, and participants may receive credit toward certification in Youth Ministry.

**Contact:** Although the event is free, registration is required so that we can prepare for food and communicate any changes. Register at or email Patrick Looby at [plooby@rcdony.org](mailto:plooby@rcdony.org).

### MARRIAGE CELEBRATION MASS

Ogdensburg – We invite all married couples and their families to join us at the annual Celebration of Love and Marriage Mass.

**Date:** Sept. 20

**Time:** 2:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Cathedral

**Features:** Bishop LaValley will be presiding. Whether you have been married for less than 1 year, over 50 years or anywhere in between, we want to acknowledge your commitment and celebrate with you. Married couples that wish to receive a certificate signed by Bishop LaValley and have their names appear in the program should register no later than Sept. 11 at <https://www.rcdony.org/jubilee>. There will be a gathering with refreshments after the Mass.

**Contact:** For more information please contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or [startaglia@rcdony.org](mailto:startaglia@rcdony.org).

### DOVS EVENT

Norfolk – The Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society (DOVS) is sponsoring an event that will include a Mass, a free luncheon and talk.

**Date:** Sept. 22

**Time:** Mass begins at 11 a.m. with lunch and talk to follow

**Place:** Church of the Visitation Parish

**Features:** Talk by diocesan vocation director, Father Matthew Conger. The talk is entitled, Promoting Vocations Is Everyone's Business: What Can I Do? All are welcome!

**Contact:** Let Connie know by email at [connierandall47@yahoo.com](mailto:connierandall47@yahoo.com) or by phone at 315-783-0574 no later than Sept. 17th if you wish to attend.

### LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

Saranac Lake – High school Leadership weekend to be held for teens entering 9th to 12th grade.

**Date:** Sept. 25 – 27

**Place:** Camp Guggenheim

**Cost:** \$150, Financial Aid available

**Features:** Spend an unforgettable weekend growing in faith, building friendships, enjoying outdoor adventure, and learning from inspiring Catholic leaders.

**Contact:** To register and find out more information go to [www.rcdony.org/leadership](http://www.rcdony.org/leadership)

### BLUE MASS

Black River – Bishop Terry R. LaValley cordially invites all Police, Corrections, Fire and EMS Personnel to the Diocese of Ogdensburg Blue Mass.

**Date:** Sept. 27

**Time:** 2:30 p.m.

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

**Features:** The Blue Mass is the Church's way to offer thanksgiving to God for the dedication and sacrifices made by the men and women of Fire, EMS, Corrections, Law Enforcement and Communications. First Responders, their families and all the faithful are invited to attend this Sunday celebration.

**Contact:** Questions can be addressed to Father Chris Carrara, Blue Mass Committee Chair at [info@rcdony.org](mailto:info@rcdony.org) or by phone at 315-393-2920.

### DYING WITH CHRIST, LIVING WITH HOPE

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

**Date:** Sept. 29

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

**Place:** St. Peter's Emmaus

Room

**Cost:** \$10 donation, includes lunch

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

**Contact:** Registration online at: <https://www.rcdony.org/living-withhope> For more information contact [cmminer@rcdony.org](mailto:cmminer@rcdony.org)

### MIDDLE SCHOOL WEEKEND

Saranac Lake – Join us for an exciting weekend at Camp Guggenheim designed just for middle school students, entering 6th to 8th grade.

**Date:** Oct. 2 to 4

**Place:** Camp Guggenheim

**Cost:** \$100, Financial Aid Available

**Features:** Experience fun outdoor activities, high-energy games, inspiring talks, praise and worship, prayer, and new friendships—all while discovering how much God loves you. Middle School Impact Weekend is the perfect opportunity to grow in faith, have an amazing time, and make memories that will last long after the weekend ends.

**Contact:** To register and find out more information go to [www.rcdony.org/msleadership](http://www.rcdony.org/msleadership)

### RACHELS VINEYARD

Saranac Lake – Are you or a friend suffering after abortion? You aren't alone. Join others for a weekend 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](http://www.rcdony.org/pro-life/rv-retreat) For more information: Colleen Miner Email: [cmminer@rcdony.org](mailto:cmminer@rcdony.org) Phone Number: 518-524-0774