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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 81 Number 23

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

Honored for 'helping the helpers'

Dr. Kasey Stewart, Elder Abuse Enhanced-Multidisciplinary Team (E-MDT) coordinator for the North Country Hub, was recently given a statewide award for her service to Catholic Charities E-EMDT program, based out of the Plattsburgh Catholic Charities office.

Dr. Stewart coordinates teams of professionals who serve elder abuse victims in Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties.

A Plattsburgh native, Dr. Stewart said God led her to her current role.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

CELEBRATING MARRIAGE



PHOTOS BY JESSE SOVIE

Married couples from around the diocese gathered at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sept. 20 for the annual Celebration of Marriage Mass. Couples honored were married from two years to 74 years. Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated the Mass. See additional photos and names of the couples honored on Page 3.



JOURNEY WITH CHRIST



Dr. Steven Serafin, executive director of Faith and Family Life Catholic Ministries, will present a LEAD Event, "Journey with Christ" on Oct. 17 at Church of the Visitation in Norfolk. The workshop will focus on engaging individuals at all stages of life in their faith.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope calls for protection of migrant minors

By Victoria Cardiel
EWTN News

Pope Leo XIV appealed on Sept. 23 to "everyone's sense of responsibility" to protect migrant and refugee minors, stressing that children and teenagers are the most vulnerable and often endure "unspeakable suffering."

"Children and teenagers are the most vulnerable," he said at the end of his weekly general audience, recalling that the World Day of Migrants and Refugees will be celebrated on Sunday, Sept. 27.

Following his catechesis in St. Peter's Square, the pontiff noted that many minors endure "un-

speakable suffering: violence, torture, exploitation, traumatic conditions, and it is not uncommon for them to lose their lives along migration routes."

In light of this reality, he called for ensuring the protection and support of young migrants.

"I appeal to everyone's sense of responsibility: Let us all feel a sense of involvement in the lives of these young people, who must always be protected and supported," Leo XIV urged.

In his catechesis, the pope challenged the "prejudice" that portrays scientific and technological progress as being opposed to the Christian faith and warned of the "tragedy of

atheistic humanism" described by French Jesuit Cardinal Henri de Lubac.

"In post-Christian humanisms, the human being and God are mistakenly presented as rivals: In order to assert his knowledge, his freedom, and his progress, man would have to emancipate himself from God. Ultimately, however, by denying the relationship with God, one also loses the possibility of affirming the transcendent value of the human person," the pontiff said in St. Peter's Square.

According to Leo, this interpretation "has brought about a change in the way contemporary man views the world, compared with previous ages,"

opening the door to a "prejudice" that prevails especially in that part of Western culture that has lost its reference to Christian revelation.

As part of his reflections on the Second Vatican Council's pastoral constitution *Gaudium et Spes*, the Holy Father invited the faithful to ask: "What is the value of human activity in the world, and therefore of technical, social, and scientific progress?"

"Created in the image and likeness of God, the human being is the agent of progress. With freedom and intelligence, he increases his knowledge, thereby advancing society as a whole," he explained.

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Ogdensburg, NY 13669
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Vice President**James D. Crowley**
Secretary-Treasurer**Darcy L. Fargo**
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Where's my focus

"Some of the cool fungi I saw along the trail when I stopped focusing exclusively on where I was going and started focusing on my surroundings."

That was the text I posted on social media along with photos of tiny purple, yellow and bright red/orange fungi I found while walking a wooded trail a month ago.

I tend to be very focused on my destinations. When I was walking that trail, I was on my way to a swimming spot I vis-

ited regularly all summer. When I hiked the trail to my swimming spot, I didn't spend much time looking around. I was just focused on getting to my swimming spot.

When I go on a road trip, I don't stop often or take the longer, more scenic route. I'm typically focused on where I'm going and the best way to get there, which usually - to me - means the most efficient way.

It struck me recently that I'm very goal ori-

ented and destination focused in most areas of my life, but I'm not when I consider my efforts to follow Jesus and allow Him to get me to heaven.

In my faith journey, I lose sight of the destination - heaven and eternal life with God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Instead, I tend to get bogged down focusing on all the things I do that will prevent me from getting there - my sinfulness, my bad habits, my pride, my attachment to my will... and my unworthiness.

So, instead of focusing on eternal life with Jesus

and trusting Jesus to get me there, I have a habit of making it all about me - about the things I think I should be doing or not be doing. I think and act like someone who thinks she can get herself to heaven.

God is calling me - and all of us - to repent of our sinful natures, but I don't think He wants that to be our first thought when we think of our faith journeys. I think He'd rather have us focus on His mercy and what He's done to win salvation for us and what He continues to do in our lives.

He'll take care of getting us where we're going.

The Feast of St. Matthew

I am writing this on the Feast of St. Matthew, the apostle and the evangelist. We, Catholics, owe such gratitude to all four of the evangelists, who gave to all ages the Gospels concerning Jesus - Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. They took the time in those early years of our Catholic Church to give us these Biblical Gospels - stories about Jesus - all so powerfully written. This was not an easy task - in those days - compared to our digital devices of today. Could you imagine someone following Jesus around with recording devices as we have today. So, those evangelists had to be good listeners - so that they could remember carefully Jesus' words and all the Lord's activities.

You may remember that these evangelists wrote their Gospels several years after the time of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. I am certain



those early Christians repeated over and over the stories about Jesus; they shared together Jesus' words that they remembered. They had been there when Jesus was teaching and healing. I can only imagine the evangelists gathering all these stories and all the words of Jesus.

On this Feast Day of St. Matthew, the Gospel reading at Mass is this same Matthew remembering of the day when he was called by Jesus - "Follow me." Matthew had experienced Jesus; he had heard Jesus' teaching and was present when Jesus healed. I was surprised that Matthew continued to work as a tax collector. In those days, tax collectors were not respected,

not liked; they were cooperating with the Romans. But Jesus knew that there was something special about Matthew. Jesus recognized that Matthew was the perfect person to be part of his apostles. So, one day, Jesus confronts Matthew at his station: "Enough. This is the time. Come, follow me." We thank you, Jesus for choosing Matthew to be an Apostle. His Gospel is so wonderful.

There is also John - the youngest apostle and a talented evangelist; his was the last Gospel to be written. One of the most powerful sections of John's Gospel was his memory of Jesus' Discourse at the Last Supper. John gives us Jesus' words that he shared with his apostles just before his crucifixion. John has continued to transform our Church through the centuries giving us these words of Jesus.

And there is Luke - among other things Luke

captured the many clever parables of Jesus, especially the excellent attention to details. Even now, these parables of Jesus help us understand better Jesus' message to us. Think of the Prodigal Son or the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

And Mark, whose Gospel carefully has introduced Jesus to many throughout the centuries. The evangelists are an important part of every Mass. In the Liturgy of the Word, we always listen to a reading from one of the Gospels. The Gospels of the evangelists guide us carefully as we unite together to celebrate the Eucharist.

Here is a story about Bishop Sheen: this Bishop did a television program for many years. One year his television program won an Emmy. At the acceptance ceremony, Bishop Sheen said he wanted to give special credit to his team - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.



PHOTOS BY JESSE SOVIE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

(Above) Couples from around the diocese gathered at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sept. 20 for the Marriage Celebration Mass. (Right) Bishop Terry R. LaValley gives the homily at the Mass.



Celebrating love and marriage

The following couples were honored at the annual Marriage Celebration Mass celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on Sept. 20 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg.

2 Years

Andrew & Janette Babel
Charles Bovee & Kimberly Goldsmith
Mykhailo & Maria Garcia Velychko

4 Years

Garrett & Cassandra Barney

10 Years

Aaron & Kayli Langley
Benjamin & Karley Wake

13 Years

Kevin & Nikki Woods

14 Years

Michael & Krista Iannetta

15 Years

Michael & Elaine Spofford

16 Years

Deacon Jimmy & Robin Law

18 Years

William & Marjorie Todd

19 Years

Anthony & Hope Giroux
Gregory & Tina LaFrance

20 Years

Paul & Melisanne Schrems

21 Years

John & Lorna Delles
Michael & Debra Durham

22 Years

Harold & Rachel Kench

23 Years

Raymond & Ria Higby

24 Years

Ernesto & Rhaysa Nieves
Ryan & Beverly Santamour
Steve & Christina Tartaglia

25 Years

Deacon James & Christine Chaufy

26 Years

Deacon Neil & Dee Fuller

28 Years

Roger & Polly Michael

29 Years

Leo & Karen Ackey
Patrick & Shannon Looby

30 Years

Gary & Jennifer Balaban

33 Years

Lawrence & Valerie Mathews

34 Years

James & Catherine Vaughn

35 Years

Deacon Jim & Rita Crowley

Dan & Alynda Haycock

37 Years

Deacon Robert & Melissa Uttendorfsky

38 Years

Dennis & Kareta Olshfski

40 Years

Tom & Sue Jacobs
Rodney & Shari McIntosh

Eric & Joanne Molnar

Todd & Joanne Norrgard

Philip & Mary Shatraw

44 Years

Gerald & Cynthia Boice
Alan Coffey & Janet Potts

45 Years

Mark & Katherine Calcagno

Randy & May Clark

Jack & Jennifer Lucia

Deacon Anthony & Cheryl Pastizzo

47 Years

Charlie & Joanie Childs
Francis & Valerie Pound

48 Years

Paul & Mary Burt

49 Years

Daniel & Judy Carpenter
Donald & Barbara Kohler

50 Years

Deacon Mark & Theresa Bennett
Joseph & Sheree Brosk
Larry & Theresa Crowe
Terry & Barbara Ducatte

Wayne & Nancy Levac

Patrick & Judith Pearson

John & Eduarda Sabik

Neil & Kathy Seymour

55 Years

Thomas & Cheryl Arsenault
Kenneth & Sheila Blankenbush

William & Kathryn Cross

Edgar & Laura Higinis

Mick & Kathy Kopchinski

Deacon Kevin & Kathy Mastellon

Dennis M. & Barbara J. Morris

Michael & Mary Morrissey

Deacon Joseph & Beryl Szwed

Daniel & Janet Zehr

57 Years

William & Janet Leary

George & Jill Snediker

Richard & Cynthia Wilson

58 Years

Bruce & Tina Lynch

59 Years

John & Barbara O'Keefe

60 Years

Leonard & Donna Ducatte

James & Margaret Fraser

Joseph & Maureen Lightfoot

Jerry & Mary Carole Mahoney

John & Cynthia Pate

Deacon Tom & Linda Proulx

61 Years

Wendell & Eileen Pierce

66 Years

Michael & Mary Ellen Guerra

Francis & Sandra Veivia

68 Years

Fred & Barbara Barcomb

69 Years

Norman J & Kathryn A Votraw

70 Years

Dick & Tootsie Sabin

72 Years

John & Sharon Murnane

74 Years

Ned & Helen Hackett

LEAD event to focus on "Journey with Christ"

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

An Oct. 17 LEAD event is intended to assist parishes in improving the ways they help others "Journey with Christ."

Hosted by the Diocese of Ogdensburg, the workshop will be held at Church of the Visitation in Norfolk from 9:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. The presenter is Dr. Steven Serafin of Faith and Family Life Catholic Ministries.

Kristin Healt, assistant superintendent for Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, said she Catherine Russell, program coordinator for Formation for Ministry, first heard Dr. Serafin speak after Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, a Sister of St. Joseph and diocesan superintendent of Schools and director of Faith Formation, gave them the opportunity to attend a workshop he gave in the Diocese of Syracuse.

"We came back with an idea of how each parish could build a team to support families on their faith journey and collaborate with each other for sustainable and effective ministry," Healt said. "The goal is to catechize based on Jesus' own model in the story of the road to Emmaus. In churches all over, there are gaps in ministry between sacraments where we often lose people. The idea is to support everyone on their journey to know Christ from birth to death. This model focuses on people, process and program all working together to get people to Heaven."

Dr. Serafin the goal is to discuss concrete

Journey with Christ

"Journey with Christ," a LEAD event, will be held from 9:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. on Oct. 17 at Church of the Visitation in Norfolk. Participants should bring a bag lunch. To register for "Journey with Christ," go to www.rcdony.org/journey. For more information contact Anita Soltero at asoltero@rcdony.org or 518-310-3669.

According to Kristin Healt, assistant superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools and Anita Soltero, associate director of Faith Formation, the event is intended to equip parishes/teams/individuals:

- To explore a parish-wide vision for lifelong faith formation
- To make faith more tangible for children and to connect families. To create small intention communities that come together to form the body of Christ.
- To have more formed leaders in the church
- To keep people engaged throughout their life, not just during sacrament prep
- To respond to the need of today's families and to re-engage them in parish life
- To learn a framework for the transformation of traditional faith formation structures
- To learn to accompany and guide families through the formation process with love and support from the church community
- To be renewed in the shared mission of helping all people grow as disciples of Christ.

steps parishes and individuals can take to improve lifelong accompaniment on the "Journey with Christ."

"The Church has advocated for a particular recipe for faith formation, but it's talked about mostly at the 10,000-foot view," said Dr. Serafin. "I've found it's really helpful to take the ingredients and put them all together at the local level, and to show people they're not alone in what they're trying to do and that we can collaborate and learn from each other."

Dr. Serafin said he became familiar with Faith and Family Life Catholic Ministries as he looked to improve faith formation in his own parish.

"I was a user of resources initially," he said. "I was trying to build a lifelong model for my parish. I felt like the formation we were doing was missing the

home component - people feeling comfortable sharing their faith and talking about their faith in the home. Once kids get older and finish their sacramental programs, there's nothing to follow up with them, and a lot of people faded out. Father Tim Donovan, a priest of the Diocese of Orange, and Pam Hurwitz, also in the Diocese of Orange, were putting a lot of time, energy and effort into developing resources to engage married couples, young families, the formation years and adults. Two years ago, Father Tim asked me to come on board."

At the workshop in Norfolk, Dr. Serafin said participants can expect to discuss "key ingredients for working with adults and building intentionality into ministry. We want to meet families where they are and help lead them to

deeper understanding of the faith."

While Faith and Family Life Catholic Ministries offers resources to help parishes, Dr. Serafin said the workshop will give participants time to create a plan specific to their location.

"We work with 165 parishes, and the number one thing I've found is that it's rolled out at every parish slightly differently," he said. "Each parish has different staff, a different team, a different space. We give people a space and resources for brainstorming, and we're here to accompany parishes after the fact in figuring out what works for them and how to put it into practice and by offering resources to help them."

Anita Soltero, diocesan associate director of Faith Formation, said the workshop is intended for anyone involved in helping others grow in faith.

"Pastors, parish catechetical leaders, catechists, deacons, youth ministers, OCIA directors, commissioned lay ministers and all who care about faith formation or are involved in faith formation including all sacramental preparation for confirmation, baptism and marriage," Soltero said, describing the target audience for the Oct. 17 event. "Adult faith facilitators running adult programs are invited to attend, and we are also inviting members of the Living Stones Planning Committee to join us."

"Dr. Steven Serafin will offer practical insights, encouragement, and parish-based strategies for creating formation opportunities that are

welcoming, connected and mission-focused. With most of our PCAs - Pastoral Care Areas - now in place with one pastor for three or more churches, it is critical that strategies for bringing these congregations together be developed and implemented. Dr. Serafin will provide the strategy and guidelines for developing parish teams to accomplish this."

Dr. Serafin encouraged parishes to send multiple representatives who could work together on a team or to send individuals who could report back with their learnings and help create a team.

"We all have a shared mission," he said. "Gathering and having conversations about our shared mission is helpful. One person can come and take the message back, or a parish can send a group to work collaboratively. The Spirit is clearly working in the world right now, and there's excitement and curiosity about people coming back to the Church. This is an opportunity to speak with like-minded people, work collaboratively and develop a support system as people wrestling with how to serve during this influx of curiosity effectively. We need to learn from each other, and it's nice to not feel alone on this journey. Christ never sent his apostles out as individuals by themselves. He sent them in twos and with a community of support."

To register for "Journey with Christ," go to www.rcdony.org/journey. For more information contact Soltero at asoltero@rcdony.org or 518-310-3669.

Coordinator honored for 'helping the helpers'

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

After years of education and living outside the area pursuing her love of opera singing, Dr. Kasey Stewart said God lead her to her current role as Elder Abuse Enhanced-Multidisciplinary Team (E-MDT) coordinator for the North Country Hub, a role she holds with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Dr. Stewart was honored for her efforts to aid elderly victims of abuse and those who support them when she received the Coordinator Excellence Award from Lifespan of Greater Rochester, the entity who coordinates the E-MDT program on behalf of the state.

Dr. Stewart said the E-MDTs are multidisciplinary teams "made up of professionals with the knowledge and skills to promptly address any situation that might arise when assisting an elder experiencing financial exploitation or other forms of abuse."

New York state, through Lifespan of Greater Rochester, operates E-MDT hubs throughout New York State, and each hub connects county-level teams. The North Country hub coordinated by Dr. Stewart serves Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties.

The teams in those counties are made up of individuals who have direct experience aiding abuse victims and supporting vulnerable populations, including representatives of Office for the Aging, Adult Protective Services, law enforcement, medical representatives, financial institutions, charity/social services organizations and others.

"I don't do direct services," Dr. Stewart said. "I'm too emotional, and I'm neurodivergent. I could never do some of these jobs. I could never do adult protective services or work, for example. But I can help by helping the helpers. That's what I'm doing."

Dr. Stewart said she felt "humbled" winning the award at Lifespan's 10-year celebra-



Dr. Kasey Stewart

tion of the E-MDT program, a program funded in part by New York State Office for the Aging, U.S. Department of Justice Office of Victims of Crime, New York State Office of Victim Services and Lifespan of Greater Rochester.

"I was excited, but I was also embarrassed in a way," she said. "I don't think it's me. It's the people of the North Country who are on these teams and who really care and do good works. My job is to make people feel good about the good works they're doing. My job is to make it easier for them to do the good works they're doing. I'm just an organized person who does well with details. Not everyone has that strength. I can take a whole bunch of disconnected information and distill it down into a very accessible packet of information tailored to the individual who receives it, people who already have large caseloads and lots of information to go through. I try to make their jobs more doable. After I won this award, I told the teams I work with, and I mean it sincerely, that this is their award as much as it's mine."

The teams receive referrals of individuals in need of assistance through referring professionals.

"We take referrals from a broad variety of professionals, but the professional has to be willing to be the client," Dr. Stewart said. "We don't want to put all the onus on the victim. I might be able to give you all things you can do to get out

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. Donations can also be mailed to Catholic Charities at 12 Homestead Park, Malone, NY 12953 or dropped off at any Catholic Charities office.

Catholic Charities offices:

- Clinton County – 1349 Military Turnpike, Plattsburgh
- Franklin & Hamilton Counties – 80 Park Street, Suite 2 (PO Box 701), Tupper Lake
- Franklin County – 12 Homestead Park, Malone
- St. Lawrence County – Ogdensburg Seaway House, 212 Caroline Street
- Jefferson & Lewis Counties – 44 Public Square, Watertown

of situation, but you might not have the physical, emotional, mental strength to do it by yourself. Having the referring professional as an advocate helps. Anyone who comes to the team already has one person in their corner who can help. The team presents a variety of recommendations and options to the referring professional, and they work with the alleged victim."

The E-MDT teams can help victims and alleged victims access forensic accounting reviews, medical reviews and legal services and help address issues leading to problems and to appropriate resolve cases.

"In seven years, we've helped over 5,500 alleged victims, and those survivors have received approximately \$750,000 in restitution over the years," Dr. Stewart said. "We've had two arrests – one leading to incarceration and one leading to probation. I know the arrest numbers seem low, but oftentimes, when people are being taken advantage of financially, it's by people they know, people they trust, people they love. They often don't want law enforcement involved. They want the behavior to stop, they may want restitution, and they may just want someone to listen to them and show them they care. Some of the most beautiful 'thank you' messages received by our teams have been from folks who got little to no money back but the behavior stopped, and they were happy someone cared, someone listened and someone tried to help."

Dr. Stewart said she's found the work with E-MDT to be extremely fulfilling, and she feels God lead her to this way of

serving God and the people of God.

"I'm from the North Country," she said. "I was born in Plattsburgh. I went away for 29 years. After I got my doctorate in 2019, I knew my parents were getting older, and I said I'd come home if I could get a job where I felt I could make an impact. My mom actually saw the job advertised. Soon after, my cousin's child was getting baptized, and I was the godmother. The priest was (now Catholic Charities Executive Director) Father Scott Seymour... During the luncheon after the baptism, my mom said to him, 'tell me about the Catholic Charities position.' I was really embarrassed."

The position interested her, though.

"In opera, a whole bunch of people with different goals and different jobs who all think their goals and jobs are the most important are working together to create something," Dr. Stewart said. "This is similar in that sense. I never thought this would be something I'd do, though. Apparently, there's Kasey's plan and God's plan. God's plan is so much better than anything I could've come up with on my own. And working here has strengthened my relationship with God and helped me trust that as long as I'm trying to be God's hands in the world and give more than I take, I'm right where I'm supposed to be. I don't think I could ever go back into academia and music. I needed something to fill a God-sized hole, and I tried to fill it for years by being a musician and singing. But this is where I'm supposed to be. I'm grateful."

Environmental Stewardship

Feast of St. Francis

Oct. 4 is the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, a man who saw everything around him as a gift from God. Called by God, St. Francis adopted as simple an existence and as humble an attitude toward others as that of any saint throughout history.

Francis became keenly aware that his actions impacted everything, as every creature and entity is deeply interconnected within God's web. Taking the time and expending the energy to help one entity improves the quality of life for the multitude of other forms of creation around it. Performing simple acts of kindness to seemingly valueless organisms or other objects commonly ignored by the masses became part of this saint's daily routine. For example, feeding the birds or offering words of support and comfort to the sick, especially lepers, was viewed as a waste of time and resources during this era of hardship and struggle. But Francis ignored the ridicule and stayed on the path he had chosen.

In our high-tech society, where life is much easier, we can still practice living a simple and meaningful existence. You don't need to have your face glued to a cell phone screen all the time, especially while out for a walk. Look at the life around you and be amazed and realize that these entities are known by God just as you are.

During this last week of the Season of Creation, we should reflect on ways we acted over the past month to protect nature and bring joy to others. We should try to incorporate more of those gestures of kindness and compassion into our daily routines.

Trying to conserve water and protect its purity impacts all life. The abundance of fresh water in the North Country does not mean it can be wasted. Water requires energy to pump, purify and dispose of it. We must tread lightly in dealing with everything, as did St. Francis, and continually thank God for everything given to us.

Bishop's Public Schedule

Oct. 1 – 10:30 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch

Oct. 2 – 9:30 a.m. – Mass at Seton Catholic School in Plattsburgh

Oct. 3 – 11 a.m. – Memorial Mass for the Catholic Daughters of America Past Regents at Holy Cross Parish (St. Peter's Church) in Plattsburgh

Oct. 4 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

1:30 p.m. – Mass at Elderwood of Uihlein in Lake Placid

Oct. 5 – 2 p.m. – Faith Formation Meeting in the Emmaus Room in Plattsburgh

Oct. 6 – 11 a.m. – Meeting of The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, New York, Inc. followed by Lunch at Bishop's Residence

Oct. 7 – noon – Mass at the Riverview Correctional Facility in Ogdensburg

Rest in Peace

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

Sept. 30 – Most Rev. Bryan J. McEntegart, 1968

Oct. 1 – Rev. Hermenegilde Brisson, 1954

Oct. 2 – Msgr. Joseph D. Creeden, 1944; Rev. Ambrose Raphael Hyland, 1954; Most Rev. James J. Navagh, 1965

Oct. 4 – Rev. George Drummond, 1839; Rev. Daniel F. O'Reilly, 1946; Rev. Thomas P. Fogarty, O.S.A., 1950

Oct. 5 – Rev. Victor Balcerak, O.F.M.Conv., 1960; Rev. Euren Beaucauge, O.M.I., 1984

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. Upcoming sessions:

Oct. 7 – 6 p.m. – St. James School, Gouverneur

To Report Abuse

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

Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

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



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October is Respect Life Month

We are inviting you to consider sponsorship of an advertisement with the USCCB theme:

Respect Life Month

October 2026
respectlife.org/celebrate

to appear in our October 28th
issue of the

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

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Oct. 21, 2026

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Archbishop Fulton Sheen declared 'blessed'

By Jonah McKeown
EWTN News

ST. LOUIS — Archbishop Fulton Sheen, despite his humble origins in small-town Illinois, aspired to great things as an academic and as a communicator of the Catholic faith. On Sept. 24, before a crowd of tens of thousands at The Dome at America's Center, the farm-boy-turned-mass-media star was declared "blessed" after the reading of a decree signed by Pope Leo XIV, a fellow Midwesterner.

Via his decree, Pope Leo announced Blessed Sheen's feast day will be on Dec. 9, the anniversary of his death. His feast day is expected to be on the calendar of the Catholic Church in the United States.

Cardinal Luis Tagle, the pope's representative and the principal celebrant of the beatification Mass, reflected on the meaning of "blessed" during his homily — noting that throughout history many who shared the Christian faith suffered persecution, yet their lives were still marked by joy. It is Sheen's deep, humble relationship with Jesus Christ and his radical solidarity with the poor and vulnerable that characterized his life as a missionary, one that all Catholics should emulate, Tagle said.

Despite his massive worldly popularity and the fact that he personally accompanied countless converts in their journey to become Catholic, Tagle noted that Sheen did not "claim" the converts as his own but rather described himself as a mere "porter" who led people to the "open door of the house of God."

"It is for being a zealous and creative evangelizer, an advocate for mission that Fulton Sheen is called 'blessed' or 'fortunate' or 'happy'... Blessed is the Evangelizer, converted by beholding and touching the wounds of the risen Christ in wounded brothers and sisters, blessed is the missionary who digs deep into the heart of the poor to meet Jesus there. Blessed Fulton J. Sheen!" Tagle proclaimed.

Jam-packed crowds of Catholics of all ages — from the elderly who were around when Sheen's shows first aired, to numerous families with small children — had descended on the stadium for the Mass, which began with a lengthy procession of some 1,000 priests, 89 bishops, and hundreds of seminarians and deacons.

The actual moment when Sheen be-

came "blessed" happened early in the proceedings, following the proclamation of a decree signed by Pope Leo XIV. As is customary at beatifications, the decree was read first in Latin by Tagle, the pope's representative and the pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, and afterward in the vernacular — in this case English — by Bishop Louis Tylka of Peoria, Illinois, in whose diocese Sheen was born.

Immediately following the reading, a portrait of Blessed Sheen was revealed showing him with a halo, to thunderous applause. The same portrait was simultaneously unveiled at his tomb at the Cathedral St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Peoria.

Earlier in the day, Monsignor Jason Gray, executive director of the Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Foundation, announced that six purported miracles are attributed to the intercession of Sheen as part of the process that could lead to his canonization. Any purported miracle attributed to Sheen's intercession that has taken place since Pope Francis announced his beatification in July 2019 can count toward his eventual canonization, which typically requires a second miracle to move forward.

James Fulton Engstrom, recipient of the confirmed miracle that cleared the way for Sheen's beatification, survived in spite of having spent 61 minutes without a heartbeat. The healthy 16-year-old presented several of Sheen's relics during the beatification Mass today.

Catholics from all over the world hailed Sheen's example as a highly creative and effective missionary, who used every means available to him to share the love of Christ.

Father Solomon Patrick Zaku, national director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Nigeria, flew to the U.S. for his first-ever visit to the country to attend the beatification of Sheen, who previously served as the Pontifical Mission Societies' national director for the U.S.

"While I was in the seminary, I read about his book and about his life, and I was somewhat touched by his life. One of the things I have learned from him is the Holy Hour, spending an hour daily, and that has been part of my daily routine, which has been my source of inspiration," Zaku said. "As the national director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Nigeria, [we] promote the Mission Rosary, which Archbishop Fulton Sheen introduced ... I pray it daily."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope Leo calls for climate action before disaster strikes

Pope Leo XIV called for a shift in how the world confronts climate change during a Sept. 24 address to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences. "We cannot respond to these challenges only after disaster has already struck," he said. "We need to move from emergency response to prevention, from vulnerability to preparedness, and from short-term measures to a wise and farsighted vision for humanity." Speaking at the academy's plenary session on "The Future of Science in a Changing World," Leo pointed to increasingly frequent and intense heat waves, droughts, floods, storms, and wildfires. He said their effects "fall most heavily upon the poor" and on communities with the fewest resources to adapt. "It follows that the climate question is not merely an environmental challenge, it is fundamentally a question of justice, human dignity, and solidarity between peoples and generations," he said. The pope called for scientists, engineers, economists, physicians, and social scientists to work alongside local communities and policymakers.

Diocese hosts blood drive on feast of St. Januarius

The Diocese of Allentown, Pennsylvania, began its third annual blood drive on Sept. 19, the feast of St. Januarius, the martyred fourth-century bishop whose blood at times miraculously liquefies. The diocese has partnered once again with the Miller-Keystone Blood Center, which during the 2025 campaign collected 821 units of blood — 40% more than the previous year, according to a diocesan press release. Sixty-three parishes and schools throughout the diocese participated in the blood drive last year. "Blood cannot be manufactured or replaced," Allentown Bishop Alfred A. Schlert said in the release. "It can only come from individuals willing to give of themselves for others." The Miller-Keystone Blood Center said that because of a national shortage of donated blood, most centers around the country are operating with only a one- or two-day inventory.

Sri Lanka jails 15 for up to 260 years for Easter bombings

Sri Lanka's High Court has sentenced 15 men to prison terms of 200 to 260 years for their roles in the 2019 Easter Sunday bombings. The convictions are the first directly tied to the attacks on three churches and three hotels that killed 279 people. A three-judge bench in Colombo delivered the verdict Sept. 22 after a nearly five-year trial involving 23,270 charges, LiCAS.news reported. Fourteen defendants were convicted on all counts, including murder, conspiracy to commit terrorism, and possession of firearms and explosives under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Nine were acquitted, while a 15th was convicted on some counts. The court also ordered the confiscation of the convicts' property. According to the sentencing list published by Sri Lanka Mirror, one defendant received 260 years, four received 240 years, five received 220 years, and five received 200 years. Prosecutors identified Mohamed Naufar, an Islamist preacher, as the ringleader who supported the suicide bombers, and he received 220 years.

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

ITALIAN BUFFET

Lake Pleasant – An Italian Buffet, hosted by St. James Major Altar Rosary Society, will be held.

Date: Oct. 3

Time: 5 p.m. to 7

Place: Adirondack Veteran's Center

Cost: donation, eat in or dine out

Menu: Several Italian dishes with salad, dessert and drinks. Gluten free and vegetarian options will be available.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

FIRST FRIDAY

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

Date: Oct. 2

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

HARVEST DINNER

Brushton – St. Mary's Church to host its annual Harvest Dinner.

Date: Oct. 4

Time: 11 a.m. until sold out

Cost: Adults, \$15; Children 6-12, \$10; 5 and under, free

Menu: Roast turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, squash, cranberry sauce, rolls and dessert.

POT ROAST DINNER

Chateaugay – 45th Annual Pot Roast Dinner to be held.

Date: Oct. 4

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

Place: St. Patrick's Parish Hall

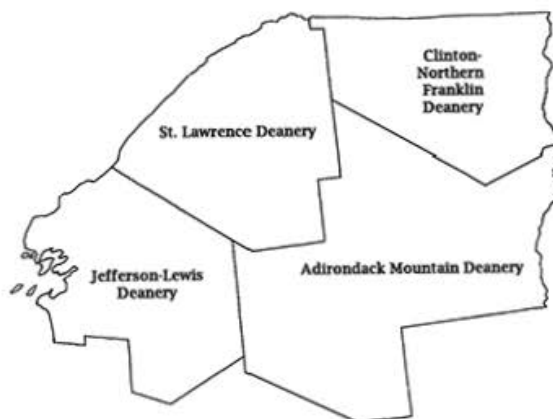
Cost: \$17, dine in or take out

SOAKING PRAYERS SESSIONS

Come enjoy a relaxing prayer opportunity at two different locations.

Plattsburgh: Newman Center, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30; Oct. 5, Nov. 2 **Ellenburg Center:** Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (please bring a bag lunch); Oct. 8; session includes recitation of the rosary.

Features: Each session begins with a short introduction followed by praise, worship and soaking



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.

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

PURGATORY PRAYER DEVOTION

Ellenburg – The House of Prayer welcomes a new house sitter, Gary Phifer will be teaching the Purgatory Prayer devotion.

Date: Oct. 13, 20 and 27

Time: 10 a.m. to noon

Place: Our Lady of the Adirondack House of Prayer

Features: You are warmly invited to drop by and learn this beautiful prayer from Gary Phifer, a Commissioned Lay Minister from Plattsburgh, made even more awesome by praying together with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Contact: Please call 518-534-9976 (Sarah) for more information.

CRAFT SHOW

Mooers Forks – The Ladies of St. Ann will be having their Annual Craft Show.

Date: Oct. 17

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

Place: Mooers Fire Station

Features: There will be craft and non-craft vendors, lunch and baked goods for sale, and a raffle to benefit the local food pantry. Nonperishable items and monetary donations for the Mooers Food Pantry are welcomed.

HARVEST DINNER

Altona – St. Ann's and Holy Angel's to have a Turkey Harvest Dinner.

Date: Oct. 18

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

Place: Holy Angels Hall

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

Features: Bake Sale, Themed Basket Raffle, Lottery Ticket Raffle, and Apple and Pumpkin Desserts.

CHARISMATIC MASS

Malone – St. Andres Parish to have Charismatic Masses and Healing services.

Date: Oct. 18, Nov. 15

Place: Notre Dame Church

Time: Worship to prepare for Mass starts at 1:45 p.m., Mass starts at 2 p.m.

Features: Following Mass, prayer teams will be available for individual prayer.

Contact: For more information call 518-483-1300 or sseymour@rcdony.org

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Watertown – Gather in prayer in

front of Planned Parenthood for 40 days.

Date: Sept. 23 to Nov. 1

Time: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

SEASON OF CREATION

Cape Vincent – Come join us to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi; enjoy the beauties of God's Living Water and share ways to be better stewards of this precious gift of WATER. (Ezekiel 47:9,12)

Date: Oct. 4

Time: 1 p.m. to 3

Place: Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Camp Dablon Point, 27393 Hetzler Dr.

Features: Prayer, reflection on "Water" by Lee Willbanks from Talking Rivers, quiet time, sharing with others and snacks. Come with an open mind and an open heart. Sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph Faith & Ecology Committee.

Contact: For more info., contact Sr. Bethany Fitzgerald srbethssj@gmail.com/315-212-6592

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: Oct. 4

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS

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

Date: Oct. 10

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

HARVEST DINNER

Constableville – St. Mary's Altar and Rosary Society to have their annual drive thru take out Turkey Harvest Dinner.

Date: Oct. 11

Time: 10:30 a.m. until gone

Place: St. Mary's Church

Cost: \$15

ROSARY RALLY

Turin – The 15th Annual Rosary Rally to be held.

Date: Oct. 10

Time: Noon

Place: Spirit Walk Fatima Garden, West Main Street

Features: The rosary will be recited with one decade in Polish, one in Spanish, and the remainder in English. The event is held regardless of weather. Dress appropriately and bring a lawn chair. A social will follow with light snacks. The Chapel of Peace will be open for reflection, and the Stations of the Cross walkway will be open.

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: Oct. 11

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

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS

Watertown – The Commissioned Lay Ministry Association of the Jefferson-Lewis Deanery Presents "The Role of The Church in Human Trafficking". Mass, dinner and presentation to be held.

Date: Oct. 15

Time: 5:15 p.m. Welcoming remarks, 5:30 p.m. Mass, followed by dinner and presentation

Place: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church

Cost: \$15 per person if attending dinner, no charge if registering for the program only

Features: Presentation led by Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ

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CALLED TO SERVE Thoughts on fall

Welcome to the fourth quarter. Autumn officially arrived on September 22 at 8:06 p.m. We can squabble about the time. It varies by a minute to two depending on your geography. We can agree this is the astronomical start of fall in the Northern Hemisphere, when the sun crosses the celestial equator moving southward. And winter is next.

For those of us in these parts, fall means the World Series, the start of fall sports and the beginning of grade and high school classes.



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

In the parishes, it is time to crank up the OCIA process and get the various parish committees organized or reorganized. It is time to begin thinking about Advent and the Christmas Mass schedule for this year. The pastor and his associates (if he is lucky enough to have some priests and deacons) are knee deep in all those things in addition to the daily and weekend Mass schedule, funerals, baptisms and weddings, shut-in and nursing home visits, and the need to prepare a homily for next week-

end. Those things don't take the summer off.

The Director of Religious Education (DRE) of the parish has been at it for a few weeks. The DRE anticipates, and has probably seen by now, the start of youth faith ministry classes. Youth Faith Ministry (YFM) is what we used to call CCD, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. It is still called that, CCD, by older folks and people who lean away from new labels.

Where I went to grade school, it was unofficially called Released Time. Our Catholic parish school released students at one in the afternoon on Wednesdays to let the kids from the pub-

lic schools occupy our desks for the one-hour CCD class.

A downside to released time, and it is the only negative I can recollect, is that we students had to empty our desks before we were dismissed for home. Our teachers strongly suggested we do that. The action was a less than veiled warning that those public-school kids might inadvertently walk off with one of our books or some other item near and dear to us.

I cannot imagine a teacher saying that today.

We used many phrases to explain things that you do not hear much anymore. "I spent the night studying until

three or four o'clock in the morning" used to be "I burned the midnight oil."

Back in the day, we would tell someone to "keep your shirt on" or "don't flip your wig." The latter comment was in reaction to agitation or excitement and had nothing to do with the person's coiffure. It is inappropriate today to comment on someone's hairpiece or for that matter, hair color. It just is not done.

Ah, the good ole' days. Happy Autumn.

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

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Contact: Register for the dinner and the program (\$15) or program only there is no charge, at: www.rcdony.org/clm-event

BASKET RAFFLE

Houseville - St. Hedwig's Society will hold its Annual Themed Basket Raffles to benefit church outreach and repairs at St. Hedwig's Church.

Schedule: The raffles will be held on the following Sundays: Oct. 11, 18 and 25 after the celebration of the 11 a.m. Mass. No tickets will be sold during Mass. Themed Baskets and a handmade quilt will be on display and raffle tickets may be purchased in the church hall from noon to 1 p.m. on the above Sundays. The final drawings for the baskets will be on Oct. 25. A bake sale and kielbasa sandwich luncheon will also be featured on October 25. The drawing for the handmade quilt will take place during the church Christmas party.

ST. LAWRENCE

FIRST FRIDAY

Morristown - Our Lady of Grace Parish (Morristown, Hammond, and Rossie) will start observing the First Friday devotions in honor of the Sacred Heart on every First Friday of the month.

Date: Oct. 2

Time: Mass at 8 a.m.; Confessions from 4 p.m. to 6

Place: St. John's Church, Morristown

INDOOR SALE

Gouverneur - St. James School to have a huge indoor sale.

Date: Oct. 3

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

Features: House-ware, dishes, glasses, jewelry, puzzles, linens, CD's, DVD's, some new clothing, fall items, frames, yarn, toys, books, crafts, Halloween décor and costumes, Thanksgiving and Christmas items, knick knacks and much more. Remember to bring your reusable shopping bags.

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

Date: Oct. 3

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: Oct. 3

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: Oct. 3

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: Oct. 11 (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

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. Whether you're coming with friends or meeting new ones, 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

LIFECHAIN

National Life Chain Sunday to be held. Join in the annual peaceful, prayerful, public, pro-life witness to the sanctity of life. Rain or shine. Signs will be provided.

Date: Oct 4

Schedule: Gouverneur - St.
 CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

'Cultivate and nurture human life'

October 4

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Isaiah 5:1-7

Philippians 4:6-9

Matthew 21:33-43

"The Kiss of Death" is a term I use about me and my relationship with plants, flowers - in fact, with anything that grows. It's a well-deserved reputation, one that I readily admit. One Christmas season, I was struck by the beauty of a Christmas cactus. When I heard the word cactus, I figured that a cactus could grow in a desert and doesn't need much attention. Happily, I can report that I found a friend in Christmas cactus. I tell this story because whenever scripture uses images of plants, flowers or crops, I feel very guilty. But, today, we hear through stories about another kind of life, human life.

We just heard two readings speaking about growing and harvesting and reaping. In the first reading, Isaiah's portrays God as the owner of the vineyard. God has done all the right things to produce good grapes, but the result of the harvest is wild grapes, not good ones. In other words, God has given life and has cultivated life, but life did not result.

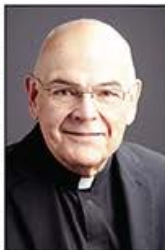
The Gospel tells the story of a very successful vineyard. The managers of the vineyard were supposed to pay rent to the landowner but refused to do so. They were successful in cultivating the life of the grapes but misused their success and killed the owner's servants

and son so that they did not have to share the fruits of their labor.

It is clear in our scriptures that God is the author of life, the giver of life. We, on the other hand, are the stewards of life. Life is a gift entrusted to us, and, just like any gift, we are expected to take this gift and encourage its growth. Nurture life, encourage life, strengthen life and, like the grapes, bring life to fruition.

The stewards of life in today's readings were not good stewards. In the first reading, they were jealous of the life that was given and decided to destroy it. In the second, they were greedy and had to get rid of the people with whom they were supposed to share.

Every year, October is Respect Life month, and we are reminded about the sacredness of human life from the moment of its conception until natural death. The stories in today's scriptures are not stories about grapes, but stories about human life. The destruction of life that occurs in the scriptures occurs even in our own day.



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

Pope John Paul II wrote a document entitled *The Gospel of Life*. In that document, he underscores the sacredness of human life created by God and reminds us about our obligation to be good stewards and cultivate and nurture human life.

But how good have we been? Abortion has become the law of the land. Some subscribe to the false notion that humans can decide who may live and who may not. Some believe that they can choose who is male and who is female. God gave us human life endowed with dignity, but so many have chosen to manipulate life to fulfill selfish desires. God has given us human intellect to build up and enhance life, but so many look for ways to control, manipulate, change genders or even end human life. God has given us a heart to love life, to love others, but we have often chosen to end the lives of others and to manipulate the lives of others, especially those not yet born, the most vulnerable of all human life.

This month presents us with an opportunity to renew our commitment to life, our commitment to be good stewards of what God has given us, to rediscover the beauty of life, to nurture and cherish life rather than to destroy, manipulate or misuse life.

May we resolve to protect life, to reverence life and, above all, never to hurt or abuse human life.

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Bishop Terry LaValley, 622 Washington Street, PO Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669		Darcy Fargo, 622 Washington Street, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY 13669	
Editor (Name and complete mailing address)		Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)	
Darcy Fargo, 622 Washington Street, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY 13669		Darcy Fargo, 622 Washington Street, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY 13669	
Full Name		Complete Mailing Address	
Bishop Terry LaValley, President		622 Washington Street, PO Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY	
Father Joseph Morgan, Vice President		622 Washington Street, PO Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY	
James D. Crowley, Secretary-Treasurer		622 Washington Street, PO Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY	
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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

After the earthquake

More than a month after the earthquake that struck the island of Flores, Indonesia on Aug. 15, 2026, the emergency is not yet over. Tremors continue, albeit with less intensity, and many families are still spending the night in tents for fear of returning to their homes.

In the Manggarai region, one of the areas hardest hit, the Camillian Missionaries have reached around 20 villages, distributing food parcels to some 400 families and 100 tents to people who have lost or been forced to abandon their homes.

"Our initial response focused above all on the most vulnerable families, particularly children and the elderly," Father Luigi Galvani, MI, a missionary on the island of Kupang, told Fides.

The focus is now turning to reconstruction.

"The emergency is far from over now that the initial relief efforts have ended," the religious priest stressed. The Camillians intend to help around 30 families build homes that are simple but safer than tents and makeshift huts. The project envisages the construction of thirty houses, measuring approximately 3-by-5 meters or 4-by-6 metres, using bricks, cement, sand and metal sheets for the roofs.

Schools, too, continue to suffer the consequences of the earthquake: numerous institutions remain closed, while in some villages, tents have been turned into temporary classrooms. In Ruteng, the hardest-hit area, the hospital has been declared unsafe, and patients and the injured are being cared for in a temporary facility set up with tents.

"The path to reconstruction will be long and demanding," Father Galvani observed. Nevertheless, he added, "the people of Flores continue to look ahead with the strength of their faith and their trust in the solidarity" of those who wish to share in their suffering.

The Camillian Missionaries intend to remain alongside the affected families, supporting them in rebuilding their homes and community life.

"Every brick donated, every tent, every food parcel, every gesture of solidarity," Father Galvani concluded, can help make possible "a new miracle of missionary charity".

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

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

OBITUARIES

Adams — Jordan P. Hancock, 29; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 26, 2026 at St. Cecilia's Church.

Alexandria Bay — Thomas Christopher Fitzsimmons, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 3, 2026 at St. Cyril's Church; burial in Barnes Settlement Cemetery.

Altona — Donald J. Sayah, 83; Private Services to be held.

Canton — Charles O. Nevin, 95; Mass of Christin Burial Sept. 21, 2026 at Holy Family Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

Canton — Scott E. Niles, Jr., 44; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 21, 2026 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ellenburg — Kathryn (Fencez) Seguin, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 24, 2026 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in St. Edmund's Cemetery.

Malone — Joanne M. (Charland) Ward, 88; Graveside Services Sept. 28, 2026 at Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena — Nancy Ann (Hatch) Evans, 75; Memorial Services Nov. 7, 2026 at St. Mary's Church.

Massena — Thomas W. MacComber, 82; Funeral Services Sept. 24, 2026 at Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morristown — Alfred Leonard Pidgeon, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 27, 2026 at St. John's Church.

New Bremen — Richard Tabolt, 88; Private graveside services to be held at St. Peter's Cemetery.

Norwood — Barbara G. (Haggett) Buck, 91; Graveside Services Sept. 21, 2026 at Riverside Cemetery.

Norwood — Stella M. (Claffey) Hollinger, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 23, 2026 at St. An-

drew's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Norfolk — Yvette T. (Mere) Ploof, 95; Private Services.

Ogdensburg — David "Peanut" B. Beldock, 92; Funeral Services Sept. 18, 2026 at Oswegatchie Mausoleum Chapel and Mausoleum.

Ogdensburg — Linda M. (Hyde) Bogart, 82; Funeral Services Sept. 21, 2026 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Oswegatchie Mausoleum.

Ogdensburg — Michael S. Duprey Sr., 81; Funeral Services Sept. 25, 2026 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Ogdensburg Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Harold J. Dupra, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 28, 2026 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Patricia C. (Peav-

ler) LaPier, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 23, 2026 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Rouses Point — Sharone Eve Ramsey, 67; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 3, 2026 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Tupper Lake — Thomas J. Proulx, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 23, 2026 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

Waddington — Daisy (Matthie) Wagstaff, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 24, 2026 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Visitation Cemetery, Norfolk.

Watertown — Helen V. (Bandyh) Keohane, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 28, 2026 at Holy Family Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Constableville.

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

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

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



OCTOBER

DIOCESE OF OGDENBURG, NY		2026			
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
For more copies contact: Diocese of Ogdensburg PO Box 369 Ogdensburg, NY 13669				BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY	1 REV. JOHN K. OJUOK
REV. 4 AMRUTA K. PASALA	REV. 5 JEROME PASTORES	REV. 6 TERRENCE PATTERSON	REV. 7 CARTER G. PIERCE	OUR PASTOR	8 MSGR. LEONARD J. POISSANT
REV. 11 PATRICK A. RATIGAN	REV. 12 WILLIAM G. REAMER	REV. 13 MARK R. REILLY, VF	REV. 14 NICHOLAS J. REVILLA	POPE LEO XIV	15 REV. CLEMENT RIMMONS, HGN
REV. 18 STEPHEN ROCKER	REV. 19 DOUGLAS A. SCHIRMER	REV. 20 JAMES W. SEYMOUR	REV. 21 SCOTT R. SEYMOUR	DECEASED PRIESTS	REV. 23 ALAN D. SHNOB
REV. 25 FERNANDES V. SOLOMON JR., STITT	REV. 26 BRYAN D. STITT	REV. 27 JAMES V. TETI	REV. 28 TODD E. THIBAUT	REV. 29 SEVERI NUS A. TORWOE	REV. 30 HOWARD J. VENETTE
					REV. 31 JOHN R. YONKOVIC

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 Vocational Society www.vocationsociety.org

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

James Church Line up along Main Street, 12 p.m. Contact: Brandy, prinnygrl@aol.com; Massena - Main Street & Rt. 37, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30, Contact: Father Mark Reilly, mreilly@rcdony.org; Plattsburgh - Smithfield Blvd., 1 p.m. to 2, Contact: Deacon Lushia, lushiak@gmail.com; Potsdam - Pick up signs in St. Mary's Community Room. Gather for prayer at 12:50 in public parking lot across from Roxy Theatre, Line up along Main Street. 1 p.m. to 2. Contact: Hattie, campusministysm@gmail.com;

Saranac Lake - Meet at Bandshell/Riverside Park, line up along River Street 2:30 p.m. to 3:30, Contact: Colleen, cminer@rcdony.org; Watertown - Public Square, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., (please note this location will be held on Oct. 3), Contact: BetiAnn Honan, bhonan51@gmail.com

Contact: www.lifechain.org for more information

RACHELS VINEYARD

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

end of hope and healing.

Date: Oct. 9 - 11

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

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

Contact: Confidential online registration at www.rcdony.org/pro-life/rv-retreat For more information: Colleen Miner Email: cminer@rcdony.org Phone Number: 518-524-0774

HEALING RETREAT

Ogdensburg - This year's 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. You may know her as the Catholic Evangelista through her speaking, writing, and podcasting.

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

JOURNEY WITH CHRIST

Norfolk - All catechists and parish leaders are invited to join us for Journey with Christ, a Fall LEAD event.

Date: Oct. 17

Time: 9:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Features: Journey with Christ to learn how parishes can nurture faith across every stage of life while building stronger family and ministry connections among the wider parish community. No fee. Speaker: Dr. Steven Serafin, of Faith and Family Life Catholic Ministries. Bring a bagged lunch.

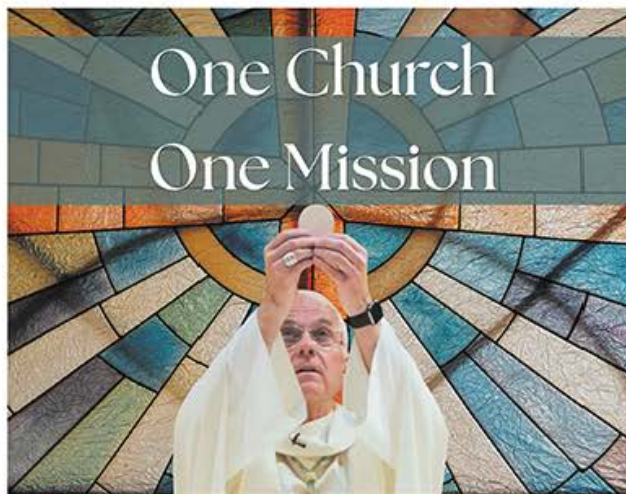
Contact: Register at www.rcdony.org/journey For more information contact Anita Soltero, asoltero@rcdony.org; 518-310-3669

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Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg

Please use my/our gift to continue the good works of our Church and help support the ministries of the Diocese.

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☐ \$800
☐ \$400
☐ \$200
☐ \$100

4 Pledge Payments

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Ogdensburg, NY 13669