‘Hear the cry of the earth’

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Environmental destruction is a sign of a "morally decaying scenario" in which too many people ignore or deny that, from the beginning, "God intended humanity to cooperate in the preservation and protection of the natural environment," said the leaders of the Catholic and Orthodox churches.

Marking the Sept. 1 World Day of Prayer for Creation, Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople issued a joint message. They urged government and business leaders "to respond to the plea of millions and support the consensus of the world for the healing of our wounded creation."

Looking at the description of the Garden of Eden from the Book of Genesis, the pope and patriarch said, "The earth was entrusted to us as a sublime gift and legacy."

But, they said, "our propensity to interrupt the world's delicate ecosystems, our insatiable desire to manipulate and control the planet's limited resources, and our greed for limitless profit in markets - all these have alienated us from the original purpose of creation."

Rites held for Fr. Patrick Mundy, 79

For Fatima anniversary
Bishop LaValley to consecrate Diocese of Ogdensburg to Immaculate Heart of Mary

SCHOOL DAYS, SCHOOL DAYS

Emma Therese Conklin, age 4, daughter of Seth and Amanda Conklin, was greeted by Father Bryan Stitt, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Canton, on her first day of Pre-K at St. Mary's Catholic School. Emma's favorite part of her first day was story time. Catholic schools across the diocese opened for the new school year on Sept. 5 or 6.

FATIMA ANNIVERSARY: 100th anniversary of the fifth apparition... p. 6
Rest in peace, Father Pat Mundy

Father Patrick Mundy “was a simple humble man, full of joy, full of charity.” This message of condolence sent to the diocese from the current pastor of St. Martin de Porras Parish in Molendo, Peru, would surely be echoed by all who have known Father Mundy throughout the 51 years of his priesthood.

His charity and joy were on full display as he directed Catholic Charities offices in Watertown and Plattsburgh during the early years of his priesthood. As Catholic Charities celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2017, the decision to honor Father Mundy (along with Msgr. Joseph Aubin) with its prestigious Caritas Award was made months ago. Now the award will be given posthumously.

Father Mundy’s eight-year tenure as a missionary for the Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate began in 1995, fulfilling a lifelong dream. In a reflection he wrote for the North Country Catholic in 2000, he said, “In Catholic Charities, the brothers always encouraged us to think about the plight of others, their needs and importance of the faith for people in their lives and in society…. I volunteered to be a missionary as a young priest and they said I needed more experience. Then I went into social work and finally later, with more experience, I volunteered myself when there was a need and here I am. The Lord is full of surprises.”

In the same article, Father Mundy wrote, “to be Catholic is to be interested in all people, to share with other people, most of all the gospel of the Lord.” And that’s how Father Mundy lived his life. He shared the Good News with families who needed the services of Catholic Charities, with Peruvians, with his parishioners in parishes across the diocese, in Cursillo groups, in prisons.

In this week’s NCC, we are reminding readers of the important role that the Bishop’s Fund plays in the life of the diocese. High on the list of priorities, of course, is the education and continuing education of priests of the diocese.

How blessed we would be if every priest in the future responded to the needs of our church with the same love and generosity as Father Mundy. Rest in peace, dear Father. You will be greatly missed.

Accepting hardship as we help others

As you know, the Scripture readings for the Masses on Sundays have already been carefully chosen. I find it so interesting that almost every Sunday the Gospels selected seems to be just perfect. They say something about what is happening. I noticed this most recently on the Sunday after the hurricane that hit Texas caused so much destruction. In that Gospel Jesus speaks about the sufferings of life.

Most of us do not have to be reminded that suffering is a part of life. We learn very quickly that to accomplish something in life, we should be ready to work hard, to suffer a bit. Following the way of our Lord, living a good life, helping others — being a good person, a good friend, a good good friend, may mean our acceptance of the unsufficiency of suffering. Jesus makes it clear that suffering is easy when accepted with love.

In that Gospel reading, Jesus challenges us, his disciples — “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny themselves, take up their cross and follow me.” I was deeply impressed by the many stories I heard about the innumerable ordinary folks in Texas who accepted hardships to help others. They literally saved lives, they rescued many.

Let me mention the wonderful efforts of the many police and firemen and women also. They also accepted sacrifices beyond their usual duties. I would also use this opportunity to commend the many parish priests in the affected areas — they worked so hard to help protect their parishioners.

One story I noticed was a pastor who is into kayaking. He got into his kayak and went around his parish checking up on his people. Catholic Charities gave so much support and help throughout so many who were suffering.

These efforts continue now during the time of recovery. Many private citizens have joined in the efforts to clean up neighborhoods — helping their neighbors — being dedicated Christians. They accept these crosses in their lives out of love and concern for others.

When Jesus tells his apostles of his sufferings and the possibility of death, he speaks to them of new life, of a resurrection. For Jesus, the cross leads to Easter, to resurrection. This is an important icon of our Christian spirituality — the cross leads to resurrection. Our acceptance of the hardships of being good and dedicated disciples of our Savior leads to the happiness we are searching for in life.

This is also part of our daily life, not a once in a lifetime event. Every day we go through this cycle, accepting the cross that leads to new life and happiness. We find happiness by accepting the hard work of making this a good day. I see this often as a priest. I watch parents who are willing to give of themselves to raise their children, who find the joy of seeing their children succeeding in life. I see friends reaching out unselfishly to help others, finding the satisfaction and happiness of friendship.

A prayer from the works of Father Edward Hayes: Blessed are you Lord our God, who watches over us in times of trial and danger:

Thanksgiving fills our hearts, as we rejoice in You, our Lord and Holy Protector. We who live in the midst of storm and sickness of war and danger, who are daily exposed to evil of every sort, rejoice in Your constant and parental love for us. Surrounded by darkness and the shadow of fear, we do not falter, for we trust that Your constant care cradles us and keeps us safe. With anguished attention, You watch over our home and each of our bodies, Your holy spirits surround us and, in winged wonder, call us to prayer and to confidence. Guard us in this time of danger, as Your Holy Presence fills the darkness of this moment with the splendor of Your shelter. Blessed are You, Lord our God, who watches over us in times of trial and danger. Amen.
Cling to Mary, Hope in Jesus

**Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:**

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima and in supplication for our Lady’s intercession for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, I will consecrate our Diocese of Ogdensburg to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Sunday, October 22, at St. Mary’s Cathedral.

**Bishop to consecrate diocese to Immaculate Heart of Mary Oct. 22**

The message of Fatima remains relevant to our times. It warns of the great calamities that befall humanity when we turn away from Jesus. The message makes promises of peace and joy beginning in this life and everlasting life to all who put their trust in the Lord. The message of Fatima is one of great hope in the midst of the world’s seemingly hopeless turmoil because our Blessed Mother assures us that the Lord is anxious to provide the graces we so desperately need.

“Confirmed in this hope,” Pope Francis declared this May, “we…give thanks for the countless graces bestowed over these past hundred years. All of them passed beneath the mantle of light that Our Lady has spread over the four corners of the earth…” The Holy Father continues, “Dear Pilgrims, we have a mother. Clinging to her like children we live in the hope that rests in Jesus.”

This is my prayer for all the people of the North Country: Cling to Mary. Hope in Jesus. May the consecration of our Diocese help us all to live as faithful children of our Heavenly Mother! We will offer Mass in honor of Our Lady at 2:30 PM on Sunday, October 22 at the Cathedral. Before Mass, at 2:00 PM, we will gather in our cathedral for a time of special prayer and reflection as we pray the Rosary together.

To help us prepare for this holy event, I ask all the faithful of our Diocese to join me in praying a Novena during the nine days from the anniversary date of the last Fatima vision, October 13th to the day of Consecration on October 22nd. More information concerning the Novena and special Marian Mass will be sent to the parishes in the coming weeks.

What a wonderful way to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the Dedication of our Cathedral, dedicated to our Blessed Lady! Please mark your calendar today and join me and many of our neighbors and friends for the Rosary and Mass as I consecrate our beloved Diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In the meantime, please continue to join me in responding to her request that we pray the Rosary for peace and make sacrifices for sinners.

With much gratitude for your prayers and confidence in the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

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**Funeral held Friday for Fr. Patrick W. Mundy, 79**

PLATTSBURGH - A Mass of Christian Burial for Father Patrick W. Mundy, 79, was held Sept. 8 at St. John the Baptist Church. Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided with priests of the diocese concelebrating.

Father Mundy died Sept. 4 at Meadowbrook Healthcare; burial was in Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Father Mundy was born Dec. 6, 1937 in Brooklyn, New York, the son of the late William and Mary (Toman) Mundy. He graduated from Boughlin High School in Brooklyn in 1956 and entered the Discalced Carmelite Monastery in Washington, D.C., in 1961. He completed studies for the priesthood at the Seminary of Our Lady of Angels in Albany.

Bishop Thomas A. Donnellan ordained Father Mundy as priest for the Diocese of Ogdensburg at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg May 28, 1966.

His first assignment was as assistant pastor at St. Mary’s Cathedral for one year until he began his ministry to Catholic Charities where Father Mundy spent 14 years of his priesthood.

In 1967, he was named assistant secretary of Catholic Charities in charge of the Watertown office. He continued his education from 1969 to 1971 at the Fordham University School of Social Science and then was named director of the Plattsburgh Catholic Charities office, a position he held until 1981.

Catholic Charities announced earlier this year that Father Mundy, along with Msgr. Joseph G. Aubin, would be the 2017 recipients of the Caritas Award. Father Mundy will receive the honor posthumously.

While working for Catholic Charities, Father Mundy also served in a number of parishes, as assistant pastor at St. Paul’s Church in Black River, St. Anthony’s Church in Watertown, St. John’s Church in Plattsburgh and St. Mary’s of the Lake Church in Plattsburgh and as administrator of St. Louis of France Church in Sciota, St. Joseph’s Church in Cooperstown and the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Keeseville, St. Alexander’s Church in Morrisonville, St. Joseph’s Church in Treadwell Mills.

In 1981, Father Mundy was named pastor of St. Paul’s Church in Bloomingdale and its mission, the Church of the Assumption in Gabriels. In 1993-94, he served as administrator at St. Mary’s in Potsdam and at the Newman Center in Plattsburgh before becoming a missionary in the Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate. He was an associate pastor and then pastor of St. Martin de Porras Parish in Mollendo, Peru from 1995 until the mission was returned to Peruvian control in 2003.

Upon his return to the diocese, Father Mundy served as pastor at St. Brendan’s Church in Keene and St. Margaret’s Church in Winghamton.

From 2006 to 2008, he was pastor of St. John’s Church and St. John XXIII Newman Center in Plattsburgh.

Father Mundy served the diocese as Vicar for Religious, dean of Adironack deanery and as a member of the Council of Priests. He was also a spiritual advisor for Cursillo and was involved in prison ministry and with the Knights of Columbus.

He is survived by his twin sister, Ann “Nancy” Raimondi of Queens, New York; a sister-in-law, Helen T. Mundy (nee Boyle) of Florida, and nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents and his brothers; William Mundy, Gerard Mundy, Harold Mundy, and Francis Mundy, several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Memorial donations may be made to Catholic Charities, 6866 State Highway 37, Ogdensburg, N.Y., 13669.

A reflection on the life and ministry of Father Mundy appears on page 2.
Leadership for Evangelization and Discipleship

By Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ
Diocesan Director of Faith Formation

OGDENSBURG— Seventy-seven participants from across the diocese - some currently involved in parish leadership, others selected by pastors as potential leaders - attended an Aug. 23 workshop at Wadhams Hall that introduced a new initiative of the Department of Faith Formation and addressed aspects of parish leadership.

The workshop was a collaborative effort of the diocesan offices of Faith Formation, Youth, Vocation, Evangelization and Formation for Ministry.

In parishes today, we must look more and more toward lay leadership to help fulfill the parish's mission. Our parishes already have many people who have assumed leadership roles. They, as well as future leaders, may need some assistance, guidance and formation in their current leadership positions. In addition, parishes always need to form new leaders.

The Department of Faith Formation has sponsored CORE for many years. Originally begun as a means to nourish the ministry of catechetical leaders, over the years CORE welcomed other parish ministers to nourish their ministerial life.

In light of the renewed diocesan vision, we are replacing CORE with LEAD (Leadership for Evangelization and Discipleship).

During the course of a year, the Department of Faith Formation will provide three Diocesan LEAD events for ongoing ministry development for current and potential parish faith formation and pastoral leaders.

In addition, the Western and Eastern Regional Offices will provide a minimum of three meetings in their respective regions to address the specific needs of the LEAD members in their area.

The Department of Faith Formation is committed to helping parishes form leaders for parish ministry. Leadership is a vital component in the implementation of our diocesan priorities. Vibrant parishes utilize the gifts of all the baptized, clergy and laity. Anyone in a parish ministry role, no matter how small or great, is encouraged to participate in LEAD.

Additional information on LEAD is available from Deacon Patrick Donahue at the Western Regional Faith Formation Office, pdonahue@redony.org or 315-782-3620.

PHOTO BY CHRISTINE WARD
St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, diocesan director of faith formation, welcomes participants to the first LEAD event Aug. 23 at Wadhams Hall. The program offers ongoing ministry development for current and potential parish faith formation and pastoral leaders.

The Office of Faith Formation of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Salutes the Pastors, Catechetical Leaders and Catechists of the diocese as we Celebrate Catechetical Sunday 2017
‘One Bread, One Body, One Family’

By Valerie Mathews
Diocesan Bishop’s Fund director

“At eighteen, feeling isolated and alone, I fi­nally asked God, what do You want me to do? One day, while at Mass, I felt a stirring in my heart. I experienced an overwhelming feeling of purpose and a calling to serve God’s people from the altar, preparing for them the Lord’s body and blood,” reflected newly ordained Father Michael Jablonski.

As a seminarian, Father Jablonski received assistance with tuition and books from the Bishop’s Fund Appeal. “The assistance that I received from the Bishop’s Fund Appeal has made a tremendous difference in my life. On behalf of my brother seminarians and myself, thank you. Thank you for your generosity, kindness and prayers.”

This fall, nine young men will be enrolled as seminarians for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. What a hope-filled blessing this is for our entire faith family as we continue our journey of Creating a Culture of Vocations.

Your gifts to the Bishop’s Fund Appeal make this possible.

The Bishop’s Fund Appeal will begin in all parishes across the Diocese the weekend of Sept. 16-17. In this year’s appeal, we hope to raise $1,300,000, with any gifts over the goal to further supplement the Bishop’s Good Samaritan Fund.

The Bishop’s Good Samaritan Fund provides emergency assistance for heating and utility costs, rent or mortgage payments and prescription or medical expenses such as the situation Dixie of Copenhagen faced this past year: “I thought I was having a heart attack but it turned out to be an ulcer that burst in my stomach,” Dixie said. “Our insurance did not cover all the expenses of my surgery and one week hospital stay. I was out of work for a month without pay. During this time, our regular bills were coming due and on top of that, hospital bills nearing $100,000 started to roll in.

“This situation became overwhelming, disheartening and very worrisome,” she said. “We were fortunate enough to get help from the Bishop’s Good Samaritan Fund. I am so thankful for the prayers and grant that we received to help us with these unexpected bills.

“Because of the generosity of others, we were able to pay a small portion of my medical bills,” Dixie said. “Thank you.”

Your gifts to the Bishop’s Fund Appeal made this possible. Your support of this vital Appeal has a direct and powerful impact on the lives of your sisters and brothers in Christ. From the children in faith formation and religious education classes in our parishes and Catholic schools, to the teens who attend Camp Guggenheim and Youth Rallies, to the young couples and families who participate in Pre-Can and Family Guggenheim, to the women and men who are discerning a Church vocation, you are making a difference.

Please take a moment to prayerfully consider a gift to the 2017 Bishop’s Fund Appeal. Every gift is important. Donations can be mailed to: The Bishop’s Fund Appeal, PO Box 150, Ogdensburg, New York 13669 or made online at www.rcdony.org/bishop-s-fund-appeal.

To learn more about the Appeal and to view the 2017 Bishop’s Fund video, please visit www.rcdony.org/bfvideo.

Blue Mass is set for Oct. 1

WATERTOWN - Bishop Terry LaValley will celebrate the annual Blue Mass for all in law enforcement in the Diocese of Ogdensburg Oct. 1 at 2:30 pm in St. Patrick’s Church.

Law enforcement includes state troopers, police officers, sheriff employees, correctional officers, border patrol and customs agents, all in federal law enforcement and district attorneys.

Attendees from the various agencies are invited to wear their department uniforms.

The entire North Country community is invited to join in prayer for the safety and well-being of all in the law enforcement community.

With 15 state and federal prisons, an international borders and police agencies in eight counties of New York State, a large percentage of people in the Diocese of Ogdensburg is active in law enforcement.

The Blue Mass presents an opportunity for the entire community to support all those serving in Law Enforcement and their families with prayers and faith.
Fatima: the fifth apparition

Part 5

This is the fifth installment of an NCC series, featured from May 2017 to October 2017, to mark the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima Apparitions. The fifth apparition took place Sept. 13, 1917. Excerpts derived from: ‘The True Story of Fatima’ by John de Marchi, I.M.C.

The thirteenth of September was at hand. As the day broke, crowds stormed the homes of the children and everyone wanted to speak to them to ask a special remembrance to Our Lady.

When it came time to leave for the Cova da Iria, Lucia wrote, “I left with Jacinta and Francisco, but there were so many people that we could hardly move a step.

When they finally reached the holm oak, Lucia as usual started the Rosary, with the people responding. “...a few moments passed and the children arose as they had seen the flash. The All Holy Queen of Angels was standing over the holm oak.

“What do you want of me?” Lucia spoke very humbly.

“Let the people continue to say the Rosary every day to obtain the end of the war.”

Our lady then repeated her promises from the last apparition.

“In the last month I shall perform a miracle so that all may believe in my apparitions. If they had not taken you to the village the miracle would have been greater. Saint Joseph will come with the baby Jesus to give peace to the world. Our Lord also will come to bless the people.”

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**CAR RAFFLE**

Our Annual Car Raffle is underway. Tickets will be sold after the Saturday and Sunday Masses. They are also available at the rectory Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12 Noon. The drawing will be held after the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday October 8, 2017 and the winner may choose the car or $15,000 in cash.

The price for the ticket is $20 or six (6) tickets for $100 with all proceeds going to St. Agnes School.

The car this year is a 2017 Subaru Outback fully equipped from Jerry Strack of Central Garage here in Lake Placid.

If you wish to buy tickets by mail, please fill out the form & enclose your check made out to St. Agnes Church.

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**Bishop’s Schedule**

**Sept. 13** – 11 a.m., St. Regis Mission Board of Directors Meeting at Kateri Hall in Hogansburg

**Sept. 14** – 11 a.m., Council of Priests Meeting at Notre Dame Rectory in Malone

**Sept. 16** – 4 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral

**Sept. 17** – 2 p.m., Harvest Mass at St. Augustine’s Church in North Bangor

**Sept. 18** – 9:50 a.m., Opening School Mass at Immaculate Heart Central Jr/Sr High School in Watertown.

**Sept. 19** – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral followed by a luncheon with the Bishop’s Heritage Circle at the Bishop’s Residence in Ogdensburg

**Sept. 20** – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph’s Home in Ogdensburg 6 p.m., Missionaries of the Sacred Heart 44th Annual Benefit Dinner at the Hilton Garden Inn in Watertown

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**Mark Your Calendars**

**Sept. 17** – Harvest Mass, St. Augustine’s, North Bangor

**Sept. 24** – Marriage Jubilee, St. Mary’s Cathedral, Ogdensburg

**Oct. 1** – Blue Mass, St. Patrick’s, Watertown

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**Environmental Stewardship**

**What is the connection?**

Our faith teaches us to feed the hungry. (Mt. 25:35-40) It also teaches us from the first book of the Bible — that God put us in the Garden to work it, watch over it and protect it. (Genesis 2:15)

This Season of Creation (Sept. 1 – Oct. 4) is an opportunity to learn more about how these two challenges are interconnected.

Here are some thoughts offered from a Christian sermon in observance of Food Waste Weekend.org.

- Globally, we waste 2.9 trillion pounds of food every year, enough to feed the world’s 800 million hungry people twice over.
- Here in the US, we throw away enough food every single day to fill the Rose Bowl. Every year, the average US family wastes over 1,000 pounds of food. http://news.national-geographic.com/news/2014/10/141013-food-waste-national-security-environment-science-ngfood/ But how is the food waste also an environmental problem?

Think about the water used to irrigate the crops was wasted, the fuel used in the tractor when they were harvested or shipped to the store, the electricity in the store that refrigerated the food, the jars and cans and boxes that held the food were wasted and then thrown away, not to mention all of the labor that went into growing, packaging, manufacturing the food, and of course the food itself was wasted.

How can I as a Christian do better?

Obviously, there are some things that governments and businesses need to do with policies that prevent food from going wasted.

But what can we do to ensure that we contribute to solving this problem? Here are some simple suggestions:

- We can accept that produce can be top quality and taste great even if it is a slightly odd shape.
- We can ask for a take-home container for food that we don’t finish in restaurants.
- We can donate excess food from our gardens to a nearby food pantry.

“Calls to Action” at http://foodwasteweekend.org/calls-to-action for more suggestions for you to share with friends.

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**Follow Pope Francis on Twitter:**

www.twitter.com/Pontifex

@Pontifex

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**Protecting God’s Children**

**The Diocese of Ogdensburg** has scheduled sessions for Protecting God’s Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may pre-register at www.virtus.org by selecting the registration button and following the directions.

Upcoming sessions:

**Sept. 13** – 6 p.m., Seton Academy, Plattsburgh

**Sept. 14** – 6:30 p.m., St. Alexander’s Church, Morrisonville

**Sept. 14** – 2:30 p.m., St. Agnes School, Lake Placid

**Sept. 18** – 6 p.m., St. Bernard’s School, Saranac Lake

**Sept. 20** – 5:30 p.m., Trinity Catholic School Massena

**Sept. 20** – 6 p.m., St. James, Gouverneur

**Oct. 2** – 1:30 p.m., Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, Watertown

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**To Report Abuse**

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terriannne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, PO Box 2446, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; terriannneyanulavich@yahoo.com

Phone: 518-483-3261; or Fr. James Seymour, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340

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**Follow Pope Francis on Twitter**: www.twitter.com/Pontifex

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2017 Bishop's Fund Appeal

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

One Bread, One Body, One Family – the Eucharist, what an awesome gift the Lord has given us!

At the Eucharist, we come together to celebrate God’s unconditional love for each of us and are nourished with the Bread of Life so that we might share that love with others in tangible ways. Mass strengthens our bond as a family of faith and challenges us to give witness to the love we have found in Jesus.

One of the ways in which we can do this is through our support of the annual Bishop’s Fund Appeal. This important Appeal provides support for our whole Diocesan family, impacting the lives of so many of our sisters and brothers. We are able to:

• Encourage women and men to discern a Church vocation with the assistance of our diocesan Vocations Office;
• Offer programs and events such as Pre-Cana and Family Guggenheim that help to enrich marriages and families through the efforts of our diocesan Family Life Ministry;
• Assist parents who choose a Catholic School Education for their children with financial aid from the Tuition Assistance Program;
• Provide opportunities for our young people to express and celebrate their Catholic faith by participating in diocesan Youth Rallies and enjoying Camp Guggenheim;
• Bring solace to the sick, the hurting and the discouraged, by offering them hope and prayer through the assistance offered by the Bishop’s Good Samaritan Fund.

We hope to raise $1,300,000 for the ministries and programs supported by the Bishop’s Fund. In 2016, requests for assistance with medical and prescription expenses, heating and utility costs, and rent or mortgage payments reached nearly $115,000. Many of the requests came from parents with young children who too often must choose between buying food or medicines and paying the rent or mortgage. What a terrible position to be in! Similar to last year, any funds raised over our goal will be used to further supplement the Bishop’s Good Samaritan Fund.

I invite every family in the Diocese of Ogdensburg to prayerfully consider making a gift to the Bishop’s Fund Appeal. Can you imagine all that we will be able to accomplish if every family participates in this year’s Appeal? It is my prayer that you will consider making a gift at whatever level of support you are able.

With much appreciation for your generosity and faithfulness and with the promise of prayers for you and your loved ones, I am

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

For more information and to view the 2017 Bishop’s Fund Video, please visit www.rcdony.org/bfavideo
A teenager, I went to Mass and received my sacraments but I was not close to the Lord. Instead, I wanted to hang out with my friends and turn to God only when things got tough. At eighteen, feeling isolated and alone, I finally asked God, “What do You want me to do?” One day, while at Mass, I felt a stirring in my heart. I experienced an overwhelming feeling of purpose and a calling to serve God’s people from the altar, preparing for them the Lord’s body and blood. As each day passed, I felt this calling strengthen. In the Fall of 2011 I entered the Pontifical College Josephinum. During my journey, so many kind and generous organizations and people have helped me, including the annual Bishop’s Fund Appeal. The assistance that I received from the Bishop’s Fund has made a tremendous difference in my life. On behalf of my brother seminarians and myself, thank you. Thank you for your generosity, kindness and prayers. Please know that you all will be in my prayers and may the Lord’s love and mercy ever shine on the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

~Father Michael Jablonski - Massena, New York

I have been part of the teaching tradition of Catholic education in Massena for almost 40 years. Catholic education is the backbone of our Catholic community and has a long tradition in Massena. At Trinity Catholic School, we believe each child is unique and a gift from God. We believe the environment of Trinity Catholic emulates a family: uniting church, home and school, founded on Christian values. We believe our guidance and encouragement will lead students to become lifelong learners, responsible citizens and Disciples of Christ.

When choosing Catholic education for their children, parents make a financial sacrifice. With the support of the Bishop’s Fund, Catholic education is affordable. Over the years, hundreds of children have been the recipients of tuition assistance. All families are strongly encouraged to apply for help through the Bishop’s Fund. At Trinity Catholic one-third of our families receive tuition assistance. No child should be refused a Catholic education due to finances.

I urge you to support the Bishop’s Fund Appeal. Thank you for the sacrifices you make to support the educational programs here in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. May God bless you.

~Ann - Massena, New York

...
The Bishop’s Fund Appeal

provides financial assistance to the vital ministries of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The following are among the ministries supported:

• Education of Seminarians
• Family Life Office
• Natural Family Planning Office
• Respect Life Ministry
• Bishop’s Good Samaritan Fund
• Formation for Ministry Program
• Office of the New Evangelization
• Continuing Education and Formation of Priests
• Priests’ Graduate Studies
• Vocation Office
• Permanent Deacons
• Deacon Formation
• Tuition Assistance Program
• Campus Ministry Program
• Matching Gifts to Catholic Schools
• Department of Faith Formation
• Diocesan Center of Youth Ministry
• Young Adult Ministry
• Guggenheim Center
• Department of Worship

Ways to Give

Gifts of Cash: Checks should be made payable to the “Bishop’s Fund Appeal.”

Pledge: A gift to the Bishop’s Fund Appeal may be paid in four payments - at the time of the pledge, December, February and April.

Online Giving: The Bishop’s Fund Appeal offers the opportunity to make your gift and pledge payments online using a credit card. To donate online, please visit www.rcdony.org/bishop-s-fund-appeal and click on Donate Now (found in the tool bar on the left).

Matching Gifts: Many companies endeavor to match the charitable contributions of employees. Please contact your company’s Human Resource Department to determine if your company participates in the Matching Gift Program for Catholic Schools.

Gifts of Securities: Federal tax laws offer special incentives for gifts of non-cash property especially that which has increased in value since it was acquired. Please contact the Bishop’s Fund Office at 315-393-2920 for transfer instructions.

Bequests: When considering gifts to a charity in your Will, please remember the Bishop’s Fund Appeal. Gifts can be made in the following manner through your Will: Specific dollar amount; a percentage of your estate or a particular asset such as real estate or other valuables.

Please help to support the 2017 Bishop’s Fund Appeal. Give Generously

Goal : $1,300,000
Pope arrives to help promote healing in war-scared Colombia

By David Agren
Catholic News Service

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA (CNS) - Pope Francis arrived in Colombia Sept. 6 for a five-day visit to promote reconciliation in a deeply Catholic country scarred and reticent to offer forgiveness after decades of war.

On the 12-hour flight from Rome, Pope Francis told reporters that the trip was "to help Colombia go forward in its journey of peace."

Expectations for Pope Francis' visit were running high among Colombian Catholics. It's the first papal trip to Colombia since 1986, when St. John Paul II visited.

But he arrived after the signing of a peace accord promising to put Colombia on a path of ending more than 50 years of armed conflict.

Just days before the visit, the National Liberation Army, a Marxist organization carrying out crimes like kidnap and bombings, and the government agreed to a four-month cease-fire.

Challenges remain, especially as many Colombians - including Catholics and those of conservative persuasions - object to the idea of demobilized Marxist guerrillas accused of atrocities receiving reduced punishments and even participating in politics. Those persecuted by paramilitaries voice similar misgivings.

"We are expecting that the pope brings a lot of hope," said Msgr. Hector Fabio Henao, director of Caritas Colombia. "The pope arrives at a time when reconciliation is the greatest challenge. We hope that his message touches the hearts of those who have suffered due to this conflict."

The papal trip carried the motto: "Let's take the first step, purposely chosen to convey a sense of collective involvement in the country's peace process.

The papal visit touched on themes important to the country and church.

In the capital, Bogota, Sept. 7, the pope was to celebrate a Mass focused on young people, expected to attract more than 1 million attendees.

He was scheduled to travel Sept. 8 to Villavicencio - gateway to the at-times neglected southern half of Colombia - where he was to pray with 6,000 victims of violence and was expected to call for reconciliation. That call for reconciliation was to include a call to reconcile with creation; included in the audience was to be indigenous peoples from the Amazon and lands increasingly exploited by mining and natural resource extraction.

The following day, Pope Francis was to address clergy and religious in the city of Medellin. He also was to visit a Catholic orphanage.

Pope Francis is expected to end his visit to Colombia on the Caribbean coast in the city of Cartagena. There he was expected to address the church's controversial history of trafficking slaves to the New World.

He also planned to recite the Angelus at a shrine to St. Peter Claver, a Jesuit who worked to stop slavery.
SCROLLULAR REFLECTIONS

Opening our hearts to God’s forgiveness

God is surely speaking to our hurts in the 27th and 28th chapters of Sirach that make up our first reading for this Sunday. “Forgive your neighbor’s injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven.”

Just like a fearful child will hang on to an old piece of blanket, so will the “sinner” hang on to unforgiveness. It’s mine! I’ll feel weak and defeated if I let it go. And so we hug it to ourselves.

Isn’t it something how slow we are to let old hurts heal? They will probably never heal until we see our enemies as human.

We need to understand more of their anger and wrath. We need to know more about them, and how they, too, may have been wounded.

There’s more really good advice in today’s passage from Sirach. He asks how we can possibly expect healing from the Lord unless we let go of our unforgiveness.

Now that’s a thought to ponder. There’s a real connection between God’s forgiving me and my forgiving my neighbor.

God says there is a connection, and we need to listen. It’s human to want revenge, but is it God’s way? How many times has God forgiven our sins and failings?

Look at the steward in this Sunday’s Gospel. He probably thought his Master was foolish and soft to forgive him the millions of dollars he owed, even though he gladly accepted the favor.

But he evidently didn’t see any reason why he himself should act in the same way toward his fellow servant. And that servant owed a bare fraction of the debt his master had forgiven him.

What a huge debt we owe God for His great mercy toward us.

Forgiving others is the way we pay that debt to God. And the astonishing thing is that we don’t really lose anything at all by forgiving.

It’s not money out of our pocket, nor is it hurting our health. Just the opposite. Holding grudges is what hurts our health, while forgiving others is actually beneficial.

To forgive means to let go, and letting go helps our blood pressure, slows down our heart rate, and brings us peace of mind. How often we complain about being “stressed out”.

Forgiving others opens our heart to God’s forgiveness, and helps us to pray better.

It’s a win-win situation.

This week, may we pray for a change of heart for all who are contemplating acts of terror or hatred. Let’s throw in for good measure all who have offended us.

If we do, God will lift some of the weight from our hearts.
Director Steven Soderbergh reinvents his "Ocean's Eleven" trilogy with a backwoods twist in "Logan Lucky" (Bleecker Street), a zany heist caper.

Instead of suave leading men like George Clooney and Brad Pitt, who rob casinos with sophistication and flair, Rebecca Blunt's screenplay presents a band of mismatched misfits from West Virginia who turn to crime in the hope of a better life beyond the trailer park.

The resulting romp is an amusing bit of fluff, a tasty confection that, like cotton candy and other late summer treats, does not linger long in the memory. It's safest for grownups, but possibly acceptable for mature teens as well.

Jimmy Logan (Channing Tatum) has just lost his job as a coal miner. He adores his daughter Sadie (Farrah Mackenzie), who lives with his mean ex-wife, Bobbie Jo (Katie Holmes). With Bobbie Jo planning to relocate out of state, Jimmy is in desperate need of cash to move closer to his daughter.

He concocts a scheme to rob the Charlotte Motor Speedway in neighboring North Carolina during a NASCAR race. The racetrack sits atop a series of tunnels which Jimmy helped to excavate, and where he observed the elaborate system of pneumatic tubes that funnels cash from the betting windows and concessions above to the vault below.

A bit too eagerly, Jimmy's siblings hop on board: his one-armed bartender brother, Clyde (Adam Driver), who makes a mean martini, and his sassy sister, Mellie (Riley Keough), a beautician.

All that's needed is a demolition expert to blow a hole in the vault. Enter the aptly named Joe Bang (Daniel Craig, straying very far indeed from his James Bond persona). There's one catch: This lunatic is in prison.

No worries: Jimmy and Clyde arrange to spring Joe for the heist and have him back in his cell before the guards miss him.

As the climax nears, expect a few curve balls -- as well as curvaceous FBI agent Sarah Grayson (Hilary Swank).

The film contains drug references and occasional profane and crude language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned.
HOLY HARVEST FESTIVAL
Malone - St. André Bessette Parish to have its Holy Harvest Festival
Date: Sept. 24
Time: 12 p.m. to 3
Place: Holy Family School
Features: A harvest dinner featuring smoked pulled pork, potato salad, coleslaw, corn on the cob, macaroni & cheese, baked beans, rolls and dessert will begin at noon. Cost for the meal: Adults, $10; Seniors, $8; Children 6-12, $6; under 5, Free. Take-outs will be available. Entertainment by the Old Timer’s Band. Harvest table filled with goodies, children’s games & activities and a raffle with a $1,000 first prize!

HAMILTON-HERKIMER
PILGRIMAGE TO AURIESVILLE
Wells - A Pilgrimage to the Martyrs’ Shrine at Auriesville, is being planned for parishioners of St. Ann’s and St. James Major in Lake Pleasant
Date: Oct. 13
Features: A Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Sony Pulicall. More information will be available in church bulletins.

JEFFERSON
CIDER DAYS
Sackets Harbor - Cider Days to be held at St. Andrew’s Church.
Date: Sept. 24
Time: 12 p.m. to 5
Features: games, food, and music.

ADORATION
Adams - The St. Joseph of Cupertino Fraternity will hold adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
Date: Sept. 23
Time: 10 a.m. to Noon
Place: St. Cecilia’s Church
Features: To pray for vocations

BEREAVEMENT MEETING
Watertown - Bereavement meeting to be held.
Date: Sept. 25
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: SSJ Motherhouse
Speaker: James Monaco, Local psychoanalyst on “Mourning Your Loss”

LEWIS
ADORATION
Lowville - One hour of exposition, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, silent adoration, and benediction is set
Date: Sept. 21
Time: 4 p.m. to 5
Place: St. Peter’s Church

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS
Houseville - Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of October to be held.
Date: Oct. 1
Schedule: At 2:25 p.m. before the monthly devotions, we will view the DVD entitled, “God’s Master Plan” from the Series Divine Mercy in the Second Greatest Story Ever Told by Fr. Michael Gaitley MIC. At 3 p.m. The program includes: Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.
Place: St. Hedwig’s Church
Contact: 315-348-6260

CABBAGE ROLL SALE
Norwood - The Norwood Knights of Columbus 2309 will host the 22nd annual Cabbage Roll Sale.
Date: Sept. 16
Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Place: St. Andrew’s Church basement
Contact: Pre-orders Mark Tebo 315-353-8821, Phil Regan 315-353-9917, John Murray 315-353-2334, Jim Murray 315-261-9975

CLM ASSOCIATION DINNER
Norfolk - Save the date for the Annual CLM (commissioned lay ministers) Association Dinner.
Date: Oct. 11
Place: Parish of the Visitation
Features: For all commissioned Lay Ministers in St. Lawrence, Franklin and Adirondack Deaneries. The special guest speaker will be Bishop Terry R. LaValley.
Contact: Jeannie Grizzuto at 315-393-2920 or e-mail ggrizzuto@rdcny.org

Life Chain
Potsdam - Life Chain to be held.
Date: Oct. 1
Time: 2 p.m. to 3
Place: Market & Main Street

FATIMA ANNIVERSARY
Ogdensburg - The Legion of Mary in Ogdensburg invites everyone to join them in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun.
Date: Oct. 13
Time: 6 p.m.
Place: St. Mary’s Cathedral
Features: pray the Rosary, followed by a presentation of the film “The 13th Day”,

and a dramatic re-telling of the Story of Fatima through the memories of Sr. Lucia. No charge for this event,

FRANKLIN
HOLY HARVEST FESTIVAL
Peru - St. Augustine’s Parish will host the 40th Annual Applefest.
Date: Sept. 16 and 17
Place: Parish Grounds
Schedule: Parade begins at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Peru Elementary and ends at the Parish Grounds. Following there will be live music, craft fair, food, games, rides. SUNY Plattsburgh Gospel Choir will perform on Saturday. The Bootleg Band will play both days. Sunday chicken bbq begins at noon.

HAMDON AND Raffle
Constable - St. Francis Church Altar Rosary and K of C Annual Ham Supper and Raffle is set
Date: Sept. 16
Time: 4 p.m. to 7
Place: St. Francis Church
Cost: Adults, $10; Children 12 and under, $5
Features: Lots of great raffles prizes

BREAKFAST BUFFET
Brushton - St. Mary’s events committee to have a breakfast buffet.
Date: Sept. 17
Time: 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Place: St. Mary’s Parish Center
Cost: Adults, $8; Seniors, $7; Children 6-12, $4; under 5, Free; Immediate Family of 5 or more, $25
Contact: Take-outs, call 518-529-6580

Winter Cider Days - Raffles, children’s games, and more!
Date: Oct. 23
Time: 12 p.m. to 5
Place: St. Cecilia’s Church
Features: Games, food, and music.

WATERFALL MEETING
Watertown - Bereavement meeting to be held.
Date: Sept. 26
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: SSJ Motherhouse
Speaker: James Monaco, Local psychoanalyst on “Mourning Your Loss”

SPAGHETTI SUPPER
Watertown - St. Anthony’s Church Altar Rosary Society to have a spaghetti dinner.
Date: Sept. 28
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall
Cost: Adults, $8; Children, $4; Children under 3, Free; Sauce, $5 per quart; Meatballs, $.75
Features: Take-out available at 4 p.m., please bring your own containers

ST. LAWRENCE
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FAMILY GUGGENHEIM
Saranac Lake - One Family Guggenheim session remains
Dates: October 6 - October 8, Features: weekend in the Adirondacks, family workshops, activities, liturgy, special prayer services, outdoor activities like paddle boat rides, beach volleyball, and hiking.
Contact: Register online at: http://www.rdcny.org/familylife.htm

DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL
Students in grades 10-12 are invited to apply to Diocesan Youth Council for the 2017-18 academic year! DYC members will grow in spiritual development and leadership to act as leaders in their parishes, as well as by helping to plan and lead some dioecesan events.
Contact: Kelly Donnelly at kdonnelly@rdcny.org for more information.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP WEEKEND
Saranac Lake - Students in grades 9-12 are invited to register for Youth Lead, the annual leadership weekend held at Camp Guggenheim.
Date: Sept. 29 – Oct. 1
Cost: $60
Contact: To register: http://rdcny.org/youth/leadership.html. For more information contact Kelly Donnelly at kdonnelly@rdcny.org.
Our goal of faith - as missionaries

As Fall approaches, our lives can take on many changes. The return of the routine and the return of the chill in the air. We start to see the newspaper filled with school sports scores or remind the kids to do their homework. We experience the smells of rustling leaves and pumpkin spice.

We also need to remember to take pause and to reflect on our Faith: One Bread, one Body. One Lord.

Very often in our busy world and in our busy lives we can neglect to take a moment and remember how blessed we are to know the life of Jesus and know how much he loves us all. We also can forget in our modern world with comforts and convenience of those living under the same sun that life is not always easy for the rest of the world who share our Faith.

We are Missionaries at the root of it all. We are called to do so by our baptism. It’s part of the core of Catholicism. We are to answer the call. We are to come to realize that we are one Faith. One bread. One body.

There are so many ways we can be missionaries, without leaving the country or setting off to live away and immerse. We can pray. We can sacrifice. We can be aware of the world. We can remember that we are all of one Faith.

May God bless all of you as we turn toward the shorter days and cooler nights. Do not forget the Mission Lands. The Mission office is so abundantly grateful for the support received in our summer collection and appeals. World Mission Sunday is around the corner.

Remember the importance of the World Mission Rosary. Each decade of the World Mission Rosary calls to mind an area where the Church continues her evangelizing mission: GREEN for the forests and grasslands of AFRICA; BLUE for the ocean surrounding the ISLANDS OF THE PACIFIC; WHITE symbolizing EUROPE, the seat of the Holy Father, shepherd of the world; RED calling to mind the fire of faith that brought missionaries to the AMERICAS YELLOW, the morning light of the East, for ASIA. Praying the World Mission Rosary is a wonderful way to get in touch with your inner missionary and pray for the Mission Lands. God Bless!

OBITUARIES

Churubusco — Francis J. Nichols, 88; Funeral Services Sept. 8, 2017 at Immaculate Heart of Mary; burial in Sheldon Hill Cemetery.

Gouverneur — Betty J. (Woodard) Shrewsberry, 81; Funeral Services Aug. 28, 2017 at the French Funeral Home; burial in Hailesboro Cemetery.

Lake Placid — Rebecca Jean Colby, 53; Funeral Services Sept. 2, 2017 at the M.B. Clark Inc. Funeral Home.

Malone — Patrick S. Murtagh, III, 46; Funeral Services Sept. 9, 2017 at St. Joseph’s Church burial in St. Joseph’s Cemetery.

Malone — Maggie P. “Maggie” (Brooks) Perry, 72; Funeral Services Sept. 12, 2017 at St. John Bosco Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Malone — Clifford John Steenberge, Lt., Col., USAF Ret., 95; Funeral Services Sept. 6, 2017 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena — Jane A. (Trombino) Charleston, 80; Funeral Services Sept. 2, 2017 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Newcomb — Helen Theresa O’Donnell, 86; Funeral Services Aug. 26, 2017 at St. Theresa Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Newcomb — Nancy Anne Pickering, 80; Funeral Services Sept. 5, 2017 at St. Theresa Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Arthur G. Barkley, 67; Funeral Services Sept. 8, 2017 at the Frary Funeral Home.

Ogdensburg — David G. LaRose, 81; Funeral Services Sept. 9, 2017 at St. Mary’s Cathedral; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Alfreda R. Bushey, 86; Funeral Services Sept. 9, 2017 at the Brown Funeral Home; burial in St. Peter’s Cemetery.

Port Henry — Scott M. Fields, 33; Funeral Services Sept. 5, 2017 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in Catholic Community of Moriah Cemetery.

Saranac Lake — Margaret Kathleen (Bradbury) Morrow, 100; Funeral Services Aug. 28, 2017 at St. Bernard’s Church; burial in St. Bernard’s Cemetery.

Tupper Lake — Lee Clarence Hovey, 79; Funeral Services Sept. 8, 2017 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Watertown — Carl J. Lettieri, 87; Funeral Services Sept. 8, 2017 at St. Anthony’s Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.
Annual Harvest Mass to be held Sunday in N. Bangor

NORTH BANGOR - Bishop Terry R. LaValley will celebrate the annual Diocesan Harvest Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Augustine's Church Sept. 17 at 2 p.m.

Farmers, their families and co-workers are encouraged to attend.

All who call the North Country home – and visitors are invited to participate to “thank God for the fruit of the earth and the work of human hands.”

The Harvest Mass of Thanksgiving has been held in the fall in the Diocese of Ogdensburg nearly every year since November 2001; it followed a pastoral priority of Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito.

The location varies year to year so that over the course of time, the Mass can be offered in many different parts of the North Country.

A reception will follow in the parish hall.

SUPPORT FOR LAY MINISTRY

Over 800 lay ministers have been commissioned for service in their parishes after completing the two-year diocesan Formation for Ministry program. To provide communication and opportunities for continuing education and formation three Commissioned Lay Ministry Associations were created. A volunteer advisory board of directors leads each association. The boards work with Deacon Patrick Donahue, the director of Formation for Ministry, and Jim Crowley, chancellor and the bishop’s delegate to pastoral ministers. The board members, Deacon Donahue and Crowley gathered at the Guggenheim Lodge Aug. 14 for an annual day of prayer, presentations and sharing. Discussion revolved around developments in pastoral leadership, educational and formation opportunities, identifying issues in ministry and improving communication across the diocese.

Bishop Terry LaValley cordially invites you to the

Diocese of Ogdensburg Blue Mass

Sunday, October 1, 2017
2:30pm
St. Patrick’s Church
123 South Massey Street
Watertown, NY

In prayerful support for the safety and well being of all in the law enforcement community and their families.

For more information: Fr. Carrara 315-376-6662 ccc@twcny.rr.com

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