The Diocese of Ogdensburg  Volume 74, Number 24

NORTH COUNTRY  CATHOLIC

NOV. 13, 2019

‘Foster grandparents’ are needed

It’s a program that gives students mentors and grandparents a purpose.
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg is hosting the Foster Grandparent Program, which allows volunteers age 55 and older the opportunity to provide emotional support, encouragement, and help with basic learning skills to children who need it.
Volunteers share their time and experience to help children learn to read, prepare younger students for school readiness, and make decisions that will keep them on the right path.
FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope: Dialogue starts with empathy, not contempt

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Christians who preach the Gospel must see people who do not know Christ as children of God and not as nonbelievers worthy of hostility and contempt, Pope Francis said.
The example of St. Paul’s mission in Greece and his encounter with the pagan culture there serves as a reminder that Christians should “create a bridge to dialogue” with other cultures, the pope said Nov. 6 during his weekly general audience.

“Paul does not look at the city of Athens and the pagan world with hostility but with the eyes of faith,” he said. “And this makes us question our way of looking at our cities: Do we observe them with indifference? With contempt? Or with the faith that recognizes children of God in the midst of the anonymous crowds?”

Continuing his series of talks on the Acts of the Apostles, the pope focused on St. Paul’s visit to Athens, a city that “still held the primacy of culture” and was “full of idols.”

According to tradition, St. Paul preached to the Athenians at the Areopagus, an area that was not only a symbol of Greek political and cultural life but also the location of an altar to the “unknown god.”
The paganism of the Greeks did not cause the apostle to flee, the pope explained. Instead, “Paul observes the culture and environment of Athens from a contemplative gaze that sees God dwelling in their homes, in their streets and squares.”

“In the heart of one of the most famous institutions of the ancient world, the Areopagus, he realizes an extraordinary example of inculturation of the message of the faith,” the pope said. “He proclaims Jesus Christ to idol worshippers and doesn’t do it by attacking them, but by making himself a ‘pontiff,’ a builder of bridges.”

The apostle, he continued, “takes his cue from the altar of the city dedicated to the unknown god” and engages with the Athenians with “empathy,” declaring that he is preaching in the name of the one they “worship without knowing It.”

Citing Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis said that in doing so, St. Paul is not proclaiming the unknown god but rather “proclaiming him whom men do not know and yet do know -- the unknown-known.”
The difference between happiness, joy

Recently, I listened to one of those TED talks. The subject was joy and happiness. The speaker spoke of what he considered the difference between joy and happiness. So, I decided to do some investigating myself into the way many writers think about joy and happiness.

I noticed that many simply consider happiness and joy similar emotions. However, others see a real difference. Let me share with you a few of the ideas that I found in this regard: “Happiness is caused by luck, good fortune and other worldly pleasures, whereas joy is caused by overall happiness and soul satisfying incidents.” “Happiness is more momentary, joy is long lasting.” “Joy makes peace with who you are, why you are, how you are, whereas happiness tends to be externally triggered and is based on other people, things, places, thoughts and events.”

So, I decided to look into my own life. Happiness is about self, they say. My example, in my life, would be skiing. Skiing always made me happy. I found a certain happy feeling when I was out with my friends skiing. Each day of skiing brought great fun and definitely a happy spirit.

There have been, of course, may other experiences that were happy moments for me. Time spent with many of my friends were rather happy times. There were plenty of other things that also made me happy, like seeing a good movie.

However, I do think of some other experience that were definitely long-lasting joy. They say that joy is dissolving of self. What comes to mind is how I was blessed by God to spend my times as a priest assigned to wonderful parish communities. As a priest, I have worked together with wonderful families helping each other, praying together each week at Sunday Mass. This continues to bring a unique joy to my life. I have had the opportunity to develop close relationships over my life with my family, with friends, with so many parishioners. These relationships have been and continue to be very joyful experiences and gifts from the Lord.

As a person of faith, when God entered my life, joy entered my life. My relationship with God through prayer and the frequent celebration of the Holy Mass continues to bring joy into all that I am. I believe in faith that every day God is a part of my life. God is always there to guide and lead me, helping me to realize all I can do as a priest for all who need me. This brings joy to my life and my priesthood. This joy is unique and special. This joy is transformative. This joy has a profound influence on me, always leading me and showing me the way to live a very meaningful life and ministry.

One more thing to add: I know only too well that there have been times when I was not successful, times when I truly failed. As I look back over the years, I realize that too many times I missed opportunities to do important things – times when I could have helped others, times when I could have done something good. I continue to realize that I have been a sinner. In faith, I believe that God is a loving and forgiving God. There have been times when I have recognized my need for repentance. I believe and know that the Lord brought forgiveness into my life.

The Lord had truly has challenged me to change my life and find peace in His forgiveness. This is obviously a time of profound joy. I have been saved by this loving God and challenged to continue to do much more in my ministry.

This is my joy.
Youth, Father LaBaff honored at Caritas Dinner

By Jessica Hargrave
Contributing writer

ODGENSBURG—Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg proudly honored those who provide help and create hope for people in need at its annual Caritas Dinner, held at the Gran View Restaurant on Nov. 6.

Each year, Bishop Terry R. LaValley and the Catholic Charities Board of Trustees present awards to individuals or groups who have assisted the organization in serving those affected by poverty throughout the diocese.

Master of ceremonies, Deacon James Crowley, chancellor of the diocese, began the evening by welcoming the attendees, which included staff from Catholic Charities and the diocese, clergy, trustees, and the award recipients and their families. He then introduced Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin who delivered the dinner invocation.

Deacon Patrick Donahue, Catholic Charities’ executive director, recognized six staff members for their long-term commitment and dedication to the organization. Claudine Dailey of the Plattsburgh Catholic Charities Office, Deb Dority and Carol Whitcombe of Seaway Catholic Charities, Joelle Lamicac of the Malone Catholic Charities Office, and Melissa Howard and Vivian Smith of the Tupper Lake Catholic Charities Office received longevity and outstanding service awards.

Gayle Frank, former diocesan Youth Ministry director, and current Youth Ministry Director Tom Semeraro presented The Legacy Award, a special distinction reserved for youth and young adults, to six members of the Diocesan Youth Council. Alexandra Pinkerton of Ogdensburg, Ciara Leroy of Malone, Konrad Wojcikowski of Carthage, Therese Buskey of Natural Bridge, Maureen Pierce and Meaghan Pierce of Heuvelton were honored.

Upon receiving the award, Konrad Wojcikowski, spoke on behalf of the youth honorees and the Youth Council.

“We do our best to work together,” he said. “We haven’t done anything expecting an award. We are just trying to make the lives of everyone in our parish better and just trying to grow our own faith so we can help others.”

Deacon Patrick Donahue presented Father Arthur J. LaBaff with the Caritas Award. Deacon Donahue described Father LaBaff as having “the heart of a great servant leader.”

During his 53 years as a priest, Father LaBaff has served on the Catholic Charities Board of Directors and the Corporation Board for Catholic Charities, is co-founder of summer camp at Camp Guggenheim, and served on many Formation for Ministry boards.

After receiving the distinguished Caritas Award, Father LaBaff called the award a group effort.

“No one person can do anything,” he said. “When all of us come together, we are the Church, we do what we are supposed to do and build up the Church of Jesus Christ here in the North Country.”

Bishop Terry R. LaValley made closing comments saying he is very proud of the recipients and recognized the outstanding work by Catholic Charities.

“I’m so proud of our parishes social outreach ministries, and on a broader scale our Catholic Charities has been at the forefront of responding to the needs of our sisters and brothers of the North Country who are hurting and often are too proud to ask for assistance,” Bishop LaValley said. “We have a terrific staff and leadership at Catholic Charities and for that I am so grateful.”

The Caritas Award was established by the Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg in 1979. All funds raised from the Caritas Dinner will be used to provide counseling and financial assistance to individuals and families in critical need.
Volunteers needed for foster grandparent program

By Jessica Hargrave
Contributing writer

It's a program that gives students mentors and grandparents a purpose. Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg is hosting the Foster Grandparent Program, which allows volunteers age 55 and older the opportunity to provide emotional support, encouragement, and help with basic learning skills to children who need it.

The late Roy Foote who was a foster grandparent volunteer said the program kept him active at the age of 83.

"Sometimes when you get to be my age, you wake up and say 'what good am I' and along came the Foster Grandparent Program that keeps me going," he said.

Volunteers who share their time and experience to help children learn how to read, prepare younger students for school readiness, tackle tough subjects and make decisions that will keep them on the right path.

The volunteers and kids enjoy each other's company while coloring, making crafts, learning math and reading, even practicing how to tie shoes.

Catholic Charities Volunteer Coordinator, Melissa Howard said the program is a win-win situation.

"You are helping children with your presence each day and unhurried help," she said.

The program currently has 40 volunteers and serves more than 100 kids per year in the North Country. Howard said there is always a need for volunteers in the region, especially in St. Lawrence and Jefferson Counties, where volunteer numbers are lower.

While the benefits include friendship and education, volunteers receive a small non-taxable stipend bi-weekly that cannot be held against any current benefits. Volunteers also receive paid holidays, vacations, sick and personal leave.

If a volunteer has to travel to a volunteer site, he or she gets paid mileage.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, call the Catholic Charities Tupper Lake office at (518) 359-7688.

Celebrating the Saints

Saint James School in Gouverneur celebrates All Saints Day with a Saints Parade. Second grade students studied St. Teresa of Calcutta and St. John Paul II as part of the celebration.

Catholic Daughters celebrate 70 years

LONG LAKE – On a beautiful fall Sunday, Sept. 29, the Catholic Daughters of America Court of Our Lady of Mercy # 1511 in Long Lake celebrated their 70th anniversary with a special Mass said by our pastoral advisor, Father Peter M. Berg, followed by a luncheon reception.

A commemorative booklet, supported by donations from the community, outlined the history of both the Catholic Daughters of the Americas as well as the Long Lake chapter and its activities.

Members were recognized for their years of service to the court with first year to 65-year pins presented.

The court was honored by the attendance of Helen Shepard, past Regent National and New York State Regent, as well as Heather Rave, the current New York State Regent. On behalf of the Court of Our Lady of Mercy, Regent Deborah Traynor accepted a congratulatory proclamation from national from Rave.

The proceeds from the commemorative booklet will be donated to local community programs in recognition of the ecumenical support from the townspeople. While the court is small, its dedication is recognized and appreciated by the people of Long Lake.
By Mary Beth Bracy
Contributing writer

PLATTSBURGH – The Church has withheld every persecution, proclaimed Msgr. Joseph G. Aubin at St. Peter's Church, in his homily on the feast of the North American Martyrs. He described the saints' courage, traveling from France to bring the true faith to the Hurons and Iroquois. Msgr. Aubin explained that they passed through the regions of Rouses Point, Cooperstown and Lake George. Despite their efforts, they remained true witnesses to Christ and His love.

Even today, Msgr. Aubin reflected, in Syria, Iraq, and Pakistan, Christians hold onto their faith amidst great sufferings and death.

The North American Martyrs helped lay the foundation of faith in the North Country.

"Isn't it a beautiful connection for those of us who love Camp Guggenheim to think of the holy missionary [St. Isaac Jogues] having been there more than 350 years prior?" observed Father Bryan D. Stitt, pastor of St. Mary's in Canton.

Between 1642 and 1649, eight saints gave their lives for Christ in this region: René Goupil, Isaac Jogues, Jean de Lalande, Anthony Daniel, John de Brébeuf, Gabriel Lalemant, Charles Garnier, and Noël Cha­banel.

Before coming to North America, St. Isaac Jogues prostrated himself before the Blessed Sacrament and asked our Lord to accept his life as an offering. When St. Isaac became the first white man to see the modern day Lake George in the Adirondack Moun­tains on Corpus Christi, he called the lake "Lake of the Blessed Sacrament."

"Ticonderoga means 'the land between two waters,' namely Lake Champlain and Lake George," said Father Stitt. "The local parish church, St. Mary's, sits on Father Jogues Place. And a monument in front of the church speaks of his traveling through Ticonderoga between the two waterways. Even lesser known is that Father Jogues traveled deep into the Adirondack Mountains. Francis Talbot, SJ wrote the definitive biography of St. Isaac Jogues, Saint Among Sav­ages. In chapter 10, he described St. Isaac being used as a pack animal by the Mohawks during a winter hunt in or around 1643. Though we can’t be sure of the exact location, Talbot believes that the hunting party went as far as Saranac Lake."

Commenting on why he researched the North American Martyrs, Father Stitt said, "I wrote on the spirituality of the North American Martyrs for two reasons: the practical theology of the Jesuits’ Spiritual Exercises was so influential to my own voca­tion that I wanted to dive deeper into it. But also because I grew up going to school at St. Mary’s in Ticonderoga. And as a boy, the local connection to a saint who was willing to be so terribly tortured out of love of God and souls stuck with me. Even as a child, the Black Robes stood out to me as heroes."

"They wanted to live out the Jesuit motto: Ad maiorem Dei Gloriam – do all for the greater glory of God," Father Stitt continued. "They were willing to go anywhere and do anything to teach and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others."

Father Stitt said he recommends a particular book to those looking to better understand the martyrs.

"I always point people to Abandonment to Divine Providence by J.P. de Caussade, SJ," he said. "Although it was not known by any of the eight North American Martyrs (de Caussade wrote after the last North American Martyr was martyred in 1649), his reflections on Holy Indifference articulate what they lived out in their bod­ies."

Aaron Akey, a seminar­ian for our diocese, revealed that in the lives of the North American Martyrs we see, "the grace of the Holy Spirit providing what is necessary to persevere to the end for Christ. I don’t know how anyone could read the story of their struggles, especially the final struggle of [St.] John de Brebeuf and not see the Spirit in action. From what I’ve read, his is probably one of, if not the most, brutal martyrdoms in the history of the Church. How could a man undergo such trial if not for the Spirit strengthen­ing him?"

"I also thought of a very interesting parallel in one aspect of his martyrdom, the fact that they con­sumed his heart and/or drank his blood (depending on the account referenced)," Akey continued. "As I understand it, even in the midst of conducting their brutal ritual tortures of him, the indigenous rec­ognized that there was a power at work in him that they did not understand, and they may have thought they could gain that power through the physical con­sumption of his body or blood. An interesting albeit savage conclusion to come to on their part. Little did they know, the power (grace) they sought, he was freely attempting to introduce them to it through the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ."

In the words of St. John de Brebeuf, "The only external sign of our holy reli­gion that we have is the Blessed Sacrament of the altar. To its marvels we must open the eyes of our faith without the aid of any sensible mark of grandeur, like the Magi of old in the stable. It seems, moreover, that God supplies what we lack and rewards us with grace for having transported the Holy Sacrament beyond so many seas and having found an abode for it in these poor cabins."

Sensing their death was near, Sts. René Goupil and Isaac Jogues "begged God to accept our lives and our blood and to unite them to His life and His blood for the salvation of these tribes," and prayed the Rosary. St. René Goupil is America's first canonized martyr; he gave his life for Christ at Auriesville, New York in 1642. One of the "first fruits" of the North American Martyrs' sacri­fice was the conversion and sanctification of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks.

Protect our Land, O Heavenly Patrons, which you have bedewed with the rich treasure of your blood. Watch over our Catholic Faith which you helped to establish in this new land. Bring all our fel­low citizens to a know­ledge and love of the truth. Make us zealous in spreading abroad a knowledge of Catholic teachings, so that we may continue and perfect the work which you have begun with so much labour and suffering. Pray for our homes, our schools, our missions, for vocations, for the conver­sion of sinners, the return of those who wandered from the Fold and the persever­ance of all the Faith­ful. Amen.

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Warm up with Good News!

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Audit: Diocese compliant with standards

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

OGDENSBURG – A recent data audit resulted in the Diocese of Ogdensburg being found with requirements of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

Director of Safe Environment and Charter Compliance Coordinator John Morrison explained that the diocese was found compliant in a document audit conducted by StoneBridge Business Partners. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has a contract with StoneBridge to conduct such audits at dioceses across the nation.

“Every three years we have an on-site audit, and auditors interview staff, visit schools and parishes and review documentation,” Morrison said. “In the years in between, they audit our documentation.”

The documentation outlines diocesan compliance with requirements related to background checks, communication of policies and procedures, abuse prevention training, abuse reporting and other portions of the Charter.

“I think the fact that we’ve been found consistently to be in compliance (with the audited Charter requirements) shows we continue to be on the right track,” said Morrison. “There will always be work that needs to be done, but the diocese overall, our schools and our parishes are doing a great job in terms of their Safe Environment efforts.”

The audit letter, as well as Safe Environment policies and procedures, can be found at rcdnny.org/safeenv.

Letter to the Editor

To the editor:

In the October 30 North Country Catholic article on the “Celebrate Christ” event, it was noted that the keynote speaker, Mr. Dowd, attributed a quote to St. Teresa of Avila, co-founder of the Discalced Carmelites Order. The quote which begins “Christ has no body now but yours...” is cited often, but it does not belong to St. Teresa. I do not know where the saying originated, but it is not found anywhere in St. Teresa’s writings.

Considering that St. Teresa is a Doctor of the Church who would never make such a claim, a quote like this can be very misleading. The truth is that Christ, after his resurrection, continues to have a body as his Blessed Mother does and as we will after our bodily resurrection. The Church is indeed the mystical Body of Christ, but that does not negate the existence of his physical body, which lives on. This makes the quote not only misattributed, but untrue, however laudable is the message that as members of the Body of Christ we should act as Christ and do his work.

In this time of much confusion among the faithful regarding doctrines of the Church, it is very important to have clarity on what are to be definitively held as Catholic beliefs.

John Miner, O.C.D.S.
Discalced Carmelite Community of the Divine Will
Saranac Lake
The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg

Building A Bridge For The Future

The Foundation Office of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg
622 Washington Street • Ogdensburg
Scott Lalone, Executive Director • 315-393-2920 (Ext. 1330)

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT
Passing Our Living Faith to Future Generations

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

In my travels around the Diocese, I have come upon many bridges of all sizes and designs. They are amazing structures. I am impressed and intrigued with the planning, design, expense, and great effort that went into the construction of these bridges.

Some are wooden, some are stone, and others are fabricated of steel or some combination of materials. Some are small while others are massive, but they all function basically the same way. They span a chasm. They make it possible for someone to pass from point 'A' on one side of the chasm to point 'B' on the other side. Bridges are constructed for one reason. There is a need to connect!

As a family of faith, the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg generously support one another from one generation to the next. In 2007, in order to “Build a Bridge for the Future” and continue a strong sense of commitment to our Catholic faith, the Foundation was established with the purpose of preparing the Diocese to meet the needs of tomorrow, connecting the strong faith of today with generations that will follow us.

Since 2007, fifty Endowments have been created that support the future work of the Church. Please take a moment to review these on the back page of this insert as well as our mission statement that explains what a Catholic Foundation is and how it works along with methods of giving.

As I present you this 2018 Annual Report, I would like to express my gratitude to the Board of Directors for their willingness to serve, provide guidance, and ensure legal ethical integrity. I am grateful for the Directors’ wise stewardship in overseeing the investments and dividends of its funds.

I am extremely appreciative of those who have had the foresight in contributing to the Foundation. These gifts are a perpetual source of revenue for the Diocese, Parishes, Schools, Ministries and Missionary Projects of the Diocese. The Foundation is an instrument for you to make a legacy for the next generation and generations to come. If you have not already, I encourage you to consider developing an estate plan for the benefit of your loved ones and those close to your heart.

Wishing God’s blessing to you and your loved ones, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg
Statements of Financial Position
June 30, 2019 and June 30, 2018

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$6,321,523</td>
<td>$6,078,732</td>
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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of The Foundation is to pass our living faith to future generations by financially supporting the charitable, spiritual, educational and temporal works of the Catholic Community of the Diocese of Ogdensburg by accepting donations or endowment funds from donors and the administration of these funds.

In fulfilling its mission, The Foundation will:
• Provide estate planning and charitable giving information and assistance.
• Provide gifting vehicles in which the Church or related entities are the designated beneficiary.
• Provide responsible and financial management and distribution of earnings that further the mission of the Catholic Church.

Catholics are called by God to protect human life, to promote dignity, to defend those who are poor, to strengthen the Church and to seek the common good. The Foundation exists to help Catholics live out this sacred mission of the Church, through the wise stewardship and thoughtful sharing of their financial resources.

The Foundation will provide permanent endowments and memorial funds for donors who want to give lasting support to parishes, schools, religious and social service ministries in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Board of Directors

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Mr. Michael J. Toole,
Diocesan Fiscal Officer
Mr. Thomas Hannan
Ogdensburg, NY

NOV. 13, 2019
## Methods of Giving

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<th>Type of Gift</th>
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<th>Benefit to You</th>
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<td><strong>Outright Gift</strong></td>
<td>Cash, Stocks/securities, Real estate, Insurance</td>
<td>Perpetual income, Interest income used by The Foundation, parishes, schools and organizations in diocese</td>
<td>Income tax deduction, No capital gains tax on Appreciated gifts</td>
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<td><strong>Wills &amp; Bequests</strong></td>
<td>Cash, Real estate, Personal property, Percentage of estate, Remainder of estate</td>
<td>Bequest will be held in perpetuity and invested to fund The Foundation needs as designated by the donor</td>
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<td><strong>Insurance Policies</strong></td>
<td>Name The Foundation as policy owner and/or beneficiary</td>
<td>The Foundation receives full face value of policy upon death of the donor, or may receive current surrender value prior to donor's death</td>
<td>Opportunity to make substantial future gift to The Foundation at current manageable cost, Income tax deduction for value of the policy when transferred, Premium payments may be deducted as gifts</td>
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<td><strong>Real Estate</strong></td>
<td>Home, Land, Vacation Home</td>
<td>The Foundation receives the proceeds from the sale of the property at your death or sooner if so desired by the Donor</td>
<td>Can be given with life use, Can be given without incurring tax on the appreciation</td>
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<td><strong>Charitable Remainder Trusts</strong></td>
<td>Cash, Stocks/securities, Real estate</td>
<td>The Foundation receives substantial future gifts to support the work of The Foundation and the charities named by the donor</td>
<td>Variable or fixed income, Option to defer income, Income tax deduction, Reduction of estate taxes, No capital gains tax on appreciated gift (or deferred in some instances)</td>
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**Endowment Beneficiaries Can Include**
- The Diocese of Ogdensburg
- The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg
- Your Parish or Catholic School
- The Education of Priests & Seminarians
- The Priests Retirement Fund
- The Priests Disability Fund
- The Bishop's Fund
- Any Ministry or Program of the Diocese
- Catholic Charities
- Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg
- St. Joseph's Nursing Home
- Any Diocesan institution of your choice

### TO CONTACT THE DIOCESE OF Ogdensburg FOUNDATION OFFICE
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg
Or Call: Scott Lalone, Executive Director 315-393-2920 (x1330)

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT**
We recognize and understand as a Catholic Foundation entirely separate from the Diocese but in all ways accountable to both the Diocese and our donors, we are sustained by public trust and laws that confer upon us a special responsibility to society and the Roman Catholic Church. We further acknowledge that this responsibility can be met by full, open and public disclosure of all our affairs.

**HOW THE FOUNDATION WORKS**
The Foundation solicits and receives planned gifts to benefit the people and communities of the Diocese as designated by donors. Prudent financial management of the funds is entrusted to the Board of Directors comprised of distinguished Church, business and civic leaders. A professional staff administers the day to day operation of The Foundation and oversees the distribution of annual earnings from the funds. Assets are managed by investment professionals.
Endowments Established in the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, New York, Inc.

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St. Joseph’s Home Foundation Endowment – Corporate purposes
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Building For Tomorrow Endowment – Operating expenses of the Catholic Community of Alexandria
Education of Seminarians Endowment – Funding to the annual operating budget
Faylene LeRoux Endowment – Support of Catholic Education
Formation For Ministry Endowment – Parish financial assistance and annual operating budget
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Leona Schiafly Endowment – General purposes of the Diocese of Ogdensburg
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Thomas and Ann Fiacco Endowment – General purposes Trinity Catholic School, Massena, NY
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Brian E. McManus & Alison E. McManus Endowed Scholarship Fund in Memory of Dorothy W. McManus – Tuition assistance for students of financial need at St. Agnes Catholic School
Halsey J. Seguin Memorial Scholarship Fund - to benefit poor students of St. Bernard’s Catholic School as they see fit

Education of Seminarians/St. Joseph’s Home Endowment – Education of Seminarians & St. Joseph’s Nursing Home Foundation general purposes

Donor Restricted Net Assets as of June 30, 2019 - $6,428,568
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishops are expected to vote on a revised set of strategic priorities to take them into the next decade.

The bishops, when they met in June, gave their provisional OK to development of a new set of strategic priorities for 2021-24.

The June vote allowed committees, secretariats and departments of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to continue work on how to carry out the priorities.

The expectation is the proposed 2021-24 priorities would receive a final vote for implementation at the USCCB’s November 2020 meeting.

For this year’s vote, a simple majority of bishops present and voting is needed for passage.

A working group of bishops under the aegis of the USCCB Committee on Priorities and Plans — following two rounds of consultations with the bishops, one round with the USCCB’s National Advisory Council, with recent input from five USCCB standing committees — identified four priorities:

- Evangelization: Form a joyful band of missionary disciples of Jesus Christ. The phrase “of Jesus Christ” is new since June.
- Life and dignity of the human person: Serve the common good as the leaven in a free society.
- Protect and heal God’s children: Restore integrity, foster virtue.
- Vocations: Equip all Christ’s disciples for mission.

Within each priority there are four to six emphasis points, with slight changes in wording for a few since June.

Under evangelization:
- “Evangelize a culture in need of hope, especially the religiously unaffiliated.”
- “Invite and empower youth/young adults to become missionary disciples.”
- “Foster an evangelizing focus in catechesis and Catholic schools.”
- “Communicate more effectively how the faith transforms lives.”
- “Offer our society an account for the hope that is within us.”
- “Acknowledge and welcome the gifts and talents that the Encuentro process brings to Christ’s church.”
- “Encuentro process” replaces “Hispanic community” in an earlier version.

Under human life and dignity:
- “Work to heal the scourge of racism and religious intolerance.” It originally read: “Work to heal the scourge of hatred based on race and/or religion.”
- “Protect and defend the dignity of migrants and refugees, of the poor and those on the peripheries.”
- “Defend the right to life for all people especially the unborn, elderly, sick, dying and persons with disabilities; and fight the advance of abortion, infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia, violence and the death penalty.” “Violence” has been added to this list.
- “Defend and secure religious liberty and freedom of association.”
- “Foster reverence for God’s creation, in protection of our common home.” The phrase “in protection of” was added.
- “Articulate a convincing anthropology of the human person, male and female, as proclaimed by faith and affirmed by science and right reason.”

Under protect and heal God’s children:
- “Maintain and strengthen safe environments through sound policies and procedures.” Originally, it began with “Create and maintain.”
- “Extend and ensure effective collaboration with the laity.”
- “Cultivate an ever-deepening spirituality of chastity and other virtues.”
- “Nurture courageous and transparent leadership.”
- “Accompany survivors and embrace their witness.”

Under vocations:
- “Foster lifelong discernment and formation to fulfill one’s God-given vocation.”
- “Prepare for and sustain the living-out of marriage and family life.”
- “Create a culture that nurtures consecrated life and holy orders.”
- “Encourage the laity in their mission to evangelize society and transform it through the grace of word and sacrament.” The “transform” phrase is an addition.

According to USCCB statutes, the bishops’ strategic plan is to be reviewed and revised every four years.

Should the priorities and plans be approved, USCCB committees, secretariats and departments will continue developing draft operational plans.
**ADIRONDACK**

**CLIMATE CHANGE**
Saranac Lake — Interfaith youth perspective on climate change presentation to be held.

Date: Nov. 20
Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8
Place: St. Bernard’s Church

**Features:** There will be a climate reality presentation. A summary of Pope Francis’ Laudato Si Encyclical. Interfaith panel discussion “Climate action as a moral imperative”. Speakers will include the Adirondack Youth Climate Summit students, Dr. Curt Stager, Tom Kalinowski, Katherine Preston, and Sr. Bethany Fitzgerald. All ages and faiths are welcome, and the admission is free. Light snacks will be provided.

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**
Lake Placid — St. Agnes school to have their Christmas Bazaar.

Date: Dec. 7
Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Place: St. Agnes School

**Features:** A great way to start your holiday shopping. There are trees, wreaths, plants, toys, crafts, gifts, baked goods, raffles, silent auction items and so much more. Lunch will be served and Santa will make a visit.

Contact: Vendor space is available. Please call Kathleen Murphy at 518-523-3771 or email info@stagneslsp.org.

**TURKEY RAFFLE**
West Chazy — St. Joseph’s Men’s Club of St. Joseph’s Parish, West Chazy, will host their annual Turkey Raffle.

Date: Nov. 22
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: St. Joseph’s Parish Center

**Features:** Lots of Prizes. Everyone welcomed. Free buffet supper.

Contact: For more information, call the Parish Office at 518-493-4521.

**WINTER CRAFT FAIR**
Peru — CDA #2598 to have Fall into Winter Craft Sale.

Date: Dec. 7
Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Place: St. Augustine’s Church

**Features:** Vendors from all around the area with craft items, household items and more. Bake Sale with lots of goodies.

Contact: For more information contact Judy Akey at 518-643-8716

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**CLINTON**

**CRAFT SHOW**
Morrisonville — St. Alexander’s Church will be having their 8th Annual North Country Christmas Craft Show.

Date: Dec. 14
Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Features:** The works of local vendors, a fabulous Bake Shop with all your favorite Christmas Treats, Basket Raffle and More... and Don’t forget to stop by and have lunch at Padre’s Café. See you there!

**JEFFERSON**

**CATHOLICISM**
Watertown — Bishop Robert Barron’s “Catholicism” DVD presentation and discussion to be held.

Date: Nov. 14 (Part 2); Nov. 21 (Part 3)
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: Dostie Hall at Sacred Heart Church

**Features:** Explore the faith through stories, biographies, & images; like a world tour of persons, places, & cathedrals. All believers welcome. Refreshments.

Contact: Holy Family Rectory, 315-782-2468

**PRESENTATION ON BULLYING**
Clayton — St. Mary’s Catholic Church is sponsoring a presentation on the “Facts, Effects, and Prevention” of Bullying.

Date: Nov. 14
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: St. Mary’s Parish Center

**Features:** Our guest speaker is Deputy Carrie Mangano, who knows first-hand the effects of Bullying in our schools. Adults and youth are invited to join us. This event is informative and free.

Contact: For more information contact St. Mary’s Parish Office at 315-686-3398.

**SPAGHETTI DINNER**
Watertown — St. Anthony’s church to have a Spaghetti Dinner.

Date: Nov. 21
Time: Take-outs begin at 4 p.m., dinner 4:30 p.m. to 6:30

**Cost:** Adults, $8; Half portions for children or adults, $4.50; children and under, Free; Sauce, $5 quart (bring a pot); extra meatballs are $.25 cents each.

**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TABLE**
Clayton — Community Christmas Table and Living Nativity to be held.

Date: Dec. 7
Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Place: St. Mary’s Parish Center

**Cost:** $8, over 50 delicious dishes to sample

**Features:** Stop in for the Community Christmas table. Again this year, students will present a living nativity.

**LEWIS**

**BRUNCH**
Lyons Falls — An all you can eat breakfast to be sponsored by the Fr. Pascal Rys Knights of Columbus Council.

Date: Nov. 17
Time: 8 a.m. to Noon
Place: St. John’s Church Hall

**DIANE MERCY DEVOTIONS**
Houseville — Divine Mercy Devotions to be held for the month of December.

Date: Dec. 1
Time: 3 p.m.
Place: St. Hedwig’s Church

**Features:** Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. All are welcome.

Contact: 315-348-6260 for more information.

**DAY OF REFLECTION**
Louisville — All are invited to a Day of Reflection on “True Hospitality of the Heart” with Sister Bethany Fitzgerald.

Date: Dec. 7
Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Place: St. Peter’s Church

**Features:** Lunch will be served.

Contact: Please call Deb Mullin at the Parish Office 315-376-6662 or 315-523-0336 to RSVP.

**ST. LAWRENCE**

**WOMEN’S ADVENT GATHERING**
Norwood — Women’s Advent Gathering group meeting to be held.

Date: Dec. 15
Time: 12:30 p.m.
Place: St. Andrew’s Church Hall

Contact: For more information, contact Parish Office at 315-898-4851

**CURLSOLLO EVENTS**
Ogdensburg — North Country Curriculum event to be held.

Schedule: For Men, Nov. 21-24; For Women Dec. 12-15
Place: Wadhams Hall
Features: Cursillo is a means to help Catholic Christians realize the depth of God’s love for each of us and the beauty of our Catholic Faith. It provides a simple method to help one develop and grow in Faith and better live the daily struggle of the Christian life. A Cursillo Weekend is an encounter with Christ, others and self. Cursillo means “short course” and consists of talks given by priests and lay persons with participation in small group discussions. Weekend participants also share the Eucharist, sing, pray and fellowship together.

Contact: For more information please contact the person in your area: Watertown/Ogdensburg Area: Anne Seegbeath Email: ams2962@gmail.com, Phone: 315-783-4596; Canton/Massena Area: Michael Neaton Email: neatonmichael@yahoo.com, Phone: 315-335-6302 or 315-261-4150; Port Henry/Ticonderoga Area: Dan Stewart Email: dshope444@gmail.com, Phone: 518-988-6851; Plattsburgh Area or other not listed above: Ken Racette Email: kracette1a@gmail.com, Phone: 518-314-1505 or 518-578-3056

**YOUTH BUSES FOR LIFE**
Washington, DC — Registration is now open for the Youth Buses for life.

Date: Jan. 26, 2020
Cost: $50

**Features:** Buses depart the North Country and the cost will include transportation, 3 hotel stays, 3 breakfasts, 2 dinners, 2 lunches, t-shirt, sling bag and an awesome experience! Western bus departs from IHC in Watertown. Northern bus departs from Massena with stops in Canton and Gouverneur. March for Life in our nation’s capital and participate in the Life is Very Good Rally and Mass and the National ProLife Summit!

Contact: Registration and more information at www.jcdony.org/prolife

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**Barstow Motors**

“Family owned dealership serving the North Country for over 56 years!”

For more information, visit our Website at: www.barstowmotors.com
NEW YORK (CNS) – The holiday-themed blend of romantic comedy and drama “Last Christmas” (Universal) is both awkward in execution and problematic in content. So viewers committed to scriptural values should approach it with caution.

The film tells the conversion story of Kate (Emilia Clarke), a childhood refugee from ex-Yugoslavia living in London whose selfish, thoughtless ways are transformed after she meets and falls in love with the good-hearted owner (Henry Golding) of the yuletide merchandise store where she works.

Kate’s eventual reform benefits the stern but good-hearted owner (Michelle Yeoh) of the yuletide merchandise store where she works who goes by the nickname Santa. It also comes as a relief to her war-scarred mother, Petra (Emma Thompson), and put-upon dad, Ivan (Boris Isakovic), as well as her successful attorney sister, Marta (Lydia Leonard).

As written by Thompson and Bryony Kimmings and directed by Paul Feig, “Last Christmas” is aesthetically flawed and a moral grab bag. Kate’s original personality is so grating that it’s difficult to take much of a shine to her while the twist ending is a whopper only the most sentimental will willingly swallow.

Ethically, positive messages about welcoming foreigners, caring for the poor and the power of love to ennoble people are offset by a frivolous attitude toward emotionless encounters and homosexual relationships. It is held out as a sign of progress that Tom foregoes sex with Kate to pursue another woman, and Kate learns to love Tom and a lesbian relationship, but the gay theme is introduced by way of Marta’s cohabitation with her girlfriend. While incidental, this bond is implicitly accepted as an alternative to marriage.

There’s a certain air of desperation in the movie’s desire to charm, divert and be liked. But as cinematic offerings go, “Last Christmas” is a bit of an ugly sweater.

The film contains a benign view of casual sex and a lesbian relationship, about a half-dozen uses of profanity, a couple of milder oaths and occasional crude and crass language.

The Catholic News Service classification is L – limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 – parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

ALBANY, (CNS) – A longtime priest of the Diocese of Albany, died tragically Oct. 31, when he was caught up in flash flooding on a rural road while traveling to say Mass for the people of Herkimer and Newport about 90 miles outside of Albany.

Father Thomas Connery, 82, a fixture in the diocese, was best known as pastor at Immaculate Conception in Glenville from 1990 to 2007.

“We are so saddened to learn of Father Thomas Connery’s tragic death, but we know that he died as he lived — serving the people of God without fear or concern for himself,” Albany Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger said in a statement. “Father Connery was a devoted priest who served faithfully for 56 years.”

State Police in Herkimer County reported that at approximately 10:10 a.m., Father Connery then got out his car and tried to walk back through the flood waters he had just driven through toward the eyewitness, but he lost his footing and was washed downstream, the report said.

Due to the strong current, his body could not be recovered until the next day.
‘On notice’ about the final judgement

We are very close to the end of the Church Year. Advent is only a couple of Sundays away!

Today, the readings sound a warning about the final judgement, whenever that comes for all of us.

When? That is so uncertain. But we’re “on notice.” Will we pay any attention?

Today, the readings sound a warning about the final judgement, whenever that comes for all of us.

Those who are evil-doers will be caught in the fires of justice, while the righteous will be bathed in light and joy.

The choice is ours when we are still alive and on this side of the grave. We do well to heed the message on a sundial that sits in an old garden in England: “It’s later than you think!”

There are many people these days who are highly disturbed by our neglect of the environment.

We all know the reaction of nature to the greed and exploitation of our forests, our lakes and our rivers.

We may wonder if the resultant tornadoes, floods, devastating fires and earthquakes are signs of the end of the world.

Yet, Jesus tells us, “You know not the day nor the hour when the Son of God will come.”

He urges us not to be deceived by false prophets who predict the end time.

Instead, let us live out our “righteousness” day by day, while following the advice of Mother Teresa who said: “Do little things with great love, and make the Eucharist the center of your life.”

Pushing back against evil

During a recent speech in Texas, I mentioned that “Drag Queen Story Hours” are being sponsored by local public libraries across the country. Toddlers and kids are brought in and placed in front of cross-dressing men who read children’s stories to them, stories that encourage them to reject fundamental gender differences between males and females. The LGBTQ agenda, I also noted, is being energetically promoted to upend and rewrite public school curricula even for kindergarten and preschool-aged children.

During the Q & A after the talk, one of the parents in attendance, with a measure of frustration in his voice, asked what the average person can do to push back against the seemingly endless expansion of evil and error in our society.

His question is a common one.

I usually reply by saying that we cannot yield to discouragement over the apparently widespread moral decline around us, nor dissipate our personal energy in worry and anxiety about the state of the world. Instead, we need to recognize how God has entrusted to each of us a small garden that he asks us to tend. If we tend that plot well, he will extend the reach of his grace in ways we cannot foresee or imagine, and we will actually contribute to stemming the tide of error and evil well beyond the limited confines of our particular plot.

This implies that each of us has different responsibilities, depending upon our particular state in life, our commitments, and our employment and family situations. By attending carefully to those responsibilities and conscientiously tending our gardens, the air around us can indeed begin to change.

A true story I recently heard brought this lesson home in a powerful way.

A woman, facing complex health issues, felt a strong impulse one morning to pray for her oldest son while she was confined to her bed. He lived far away in a large metropolitan area and worked in his spare time for a ride-sharing company.

Later that day, her son called home, and she mentioned that she had felt the need to pray for him earlier. “That’s interesting,” he replied, “because I had something unusual happen today.”

He then told her about picking up a pregnant woman with two young children. After greeting them, he looked at his phone and started driving. The address on his screen subconsciously caught his attention; meanwhile the woman was speaking to someone on her phone in the back seat. After several minutes of thinking about the address, the young driver suddenly realized where they were headed: the local Planned Parenthood abortion clinic.

He decided to make a couple of wrong turns to buy some time so the woman would finish up her phone conversation. When she kept on talking, he pulled the car over and brought it to a complete stop. As she paused her conversation, he turned and said to her, “I’m sorry but I have to let you know that because of my religious beliefs, I simply cannot take you where you are going. I will return you to where I picked you up and refund your fee.”

The woman was surprised, but seemed to understand, and he drove her and her three children back to the pickup point.

That young driver made an intentional decision, within the confines of the particular garden God had given him to cultivate, to push back against a present evil he became aware of.

Another person of lesser determination might have said, “Who am I to get involved in this person’s choices?” “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

He recognized, however, that he was already unwittingly involved, and that each of us, in fact, is our brother’s keeper. He was concerned about a neighbor and her little family gathered in the back seat of his car. He knew he could not be party to the wrongdoing she seemed poised to carry out against her unborn child.

We don’t know what happened after he dropped her off. Maybe, sadly, she just ordered another ride. Maybe, however, she reconsidered her choice. Any time we try to do what is right and push back against evil, any time we seek to act with resolve on behalf of what is good and true, new options open up, the air changes around us, and we contribute to renewing our world.

That’s what each of us can do as we take care of our own garden.
Extraordinary gratitude during Mission Month

I am very grateful for your generous World Mission Sunday offerings in support of the Church’s missionary work from the people in our diocese. The generous missionary spirit means so much to those who serve in mission dioceses and to me personally as well.

On World Mission Sunday, our community joined with Catholics throughout the world to celebrate the hope that saves and the hope that is our Lord Himself. They fulfilled, in prayer and sacrifice, the Lord’s command to be His witnesses “to the ends of the earth.”

I would like to take this opportunity to also acknowledge our priests, especially at this time of the closing of Extraordinary Mission Month. Many of our retired and active priests who lived and worked in our mission parish in Mollendo, Peru were kind to impart stories of their life and times of living there during Extraordinary Mission Month in the North Country Catholic. Please know that you all remain in our prayers and we are so grateful for your time, tales and photos of a time gone by. I am most grateful for our priests and pastors for encouraging the missionary spirit of prayer and sacrifice among their parishioners. Thank you for being a home missionary and helping in your own way. Your hard work and good deeds do not go unnoticed by the Mission Office. Your time, effort and willingness to promote Mission Awareness year-round assist the Mission Office in responding to the command of Jesus to “Go and teach all nations.”

Another point of gratitude is for our religious missionaries who live and work here amongst us. Special thanks to Sister Cindy Sullivan, BVM, and Sister Debbie Blow, OP, for their participation in our EMM Panel Discussion in Massena last month. Over 30 blessed individuals were amongst our audience that evening to hear of your real-life experiences. Thank you for your time and treasure!

More than a thousand mission dioceses around the world rely on World Mission Sunday funds financial assistance. The Society for the Propagation of the Faith relies on us, all of us, committed to the worldwide mission of Jesus. We must understand the importance of the missionary vocation of all. All Catholics here and throughout the world celebrate and share their faith.

Thank you again for your generosity on World Mission Sunday and to our dedicated Priests for their tireless endeavors to spread the Word. That’s indeed very “good news”!

OBITUARIES

**Brasher Falls** — Betty Louise (Troupe) Murtagh, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 11, 2019 at St. Patrick’s Church.

**Brownville** — Dolores Fitzsimmons, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 9, 2019 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Dexter Cemetery.

**Brownville** — Eleanor L. (McCormick) Harding, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 11, 2019 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Dexter Cemetery.

**Clayton** — Harry W. Bazinet, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 9, 2019 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

**Copenhagen** — Leonard E. Vogt, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 7, 2019 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

**Croghan** — Dr. Richard Frank Higby, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 16, 2019 at St. Stephen’s Church.

**Deferiet** — Francisco C. Cassoni, 87; Memorial Services Nov. 24, 2019 at St. Rita’s Church; burial in St. James Cemetery, Carthage.

**Evans Mills** — Rita (LaBrie) Ritter, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 6, 2019 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Sanford Corners Cemetery, Calcium.

**Massena** — Claire Catherine (Lantry) Koszarski, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 8, 2019 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** — H. Olin Peets, 97; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 5, 2019 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** — Sally Ellen Rusaw, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 2, 2019 at St. Mary’s Cathedral; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

**Peru** — Theresa Josephine "TJ" (Unzueta) Winslow, 81; Funeral Services Nov. 6, 2019 at Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Holy Rood Cemetery, Westbury.

**Plattsburgh** — Maurice J. Fugeau, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2019 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in St. Peter’s Cemetery.

**Sackets Harbor** — James S. Powers, Jr., 92; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 9, 2019 at St. Andrew’s Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** — Margaret Patricia “Peggy” Ratigan, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 9, 2019 at St. Bernard’s Church; burial in St. Bernard’s Cemetery.

**Tupper Lake** — Maurice “Butch” Trudeau, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2019 at Holy Name of Jesus Parish; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

**Watertown** — JoAnn (Augliano) Kolb, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2019 at St. Anthony’s Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

N.Y. bishops on 'ad limina' will cast USCCB ballots

**VATICAN CITY (CNS) —** While other U.S. bishops are preparing for their general meeting in Baltimore Nov. 11-13, the bishops of New York state are packing their bags for Rome.

The bishops of Albany, Brooklyn, Buffalo, New York, Ogdensburg, Rochester, Rockville Centre and Syracuse are scheduled to make their visits “ad limina apostolorum” — to the threshold of the apostles — Nov. 11-16.

It has been eight years since the bishops made the pilgrimage to Rome to pray at the tombs of Sts. Peter and Paul, make the rounds of offices of the Roman Curia and have a private meeting with the pope.

But their brother bishops in Baltimore will be voting for new officers for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and new committee chairs and conducting other important business.

So, after a morning of Curia meetings in Rome Nov. 12 and before celebrating Mass at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, the New Yorkers will gather at the Pontifical North American College to watch the livestream of the USCCB meeting and cast their ballots. Paper ballots.

"The conference has made a special accommodation for the 2019 November plenary assembly to allow the bishops who are in Rome for their ad limina visits to vote," said Cheiko Noguchi, USCCB director of public affairs.

"Two tellers will be chosen from the bishops in Rome who are voting members of the conference, and they will tally the paper ballots and call the results in to Baltimore," she said. The Rome-cast votes will be added to the Baltimore tally before the results are announced to the assembly.

In addition to Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, the eight New York dioceses have a total of 21 active bishops and auxiliary bishops.
Seminarians Deacon Jude Nnadibuagha, left center, and Deacon Severinus Torwoe, right center, receive financial and spiritual support from James T. Gratch, left, grand knight of the Knights of Columbus, Father John Cosmic Council #291, Carthage, and John C. Heindorf, financial secretary of Council 291. “With the generous support of the parishioners of St. James Church, Carthage and St. Mary’s Church, Copenhagen, we are able to help our seminarians with our ‘Pennies’ and our prayers,” Gratch said, referring to the “Pennies from Heaven” collections held by the Knights once monthly at weekend Masses. Both deacons are currently completing pastoral years and preparing for ordination to the priesthood in the spring.

The Canton Knights of Columbus recently donated winter coats to St. Mary’s School in Canton. Pictured are, from left, Grand Knight John Taillon, Principal Michelle Lallier and Grade 5-6 Teacher Marianne Augenstein.