Pope Francis speaks on care for creation

By Hannah Brockhaus
Catholic News Agency

(CNA) – Pope Francis has emphasized the importance of the virtue of justice in a message for the upcoming World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

"God wants justice to reign; it is as essential to our life as God’s children, made in his likeness, as water is essential for our physical survival," he said in the message, released May 25.

"God wants everyone to strive to be just in every situation, to live according to his laws and thus to enable life to flourish," the pope continued. "When we ‘Seek first the kingdom of God’ (Matthew 6:33), maintaining a right relationship with God, humanity, and nature, then justice and peace can flow like a never-failing stream of pure water, nourishing humanity and all creatures."

Pope Francis established the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation in 2015, to be celebrated every year on Sept. 1.

The ecumenical day of prayer is seen as a sign of unity with the Orthodox Church and launches what is called the Season of Creation, celebrated every year from Sept. 1 through Oct. 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

The theme of the 2023 Season of Creation is "Let Justice and Peace Flow."

Pope Francis said in his message that the theme is inspired by the words of the prophet Amos: "Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream."

The pope’s message for the 2023 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation was released during Laudato Si’ Week May 21-28.

Laudato Si’ Week 2023 marks the eighth anniversary of the publication of Laudato Si’, Francis’ landmark encyclical on the environment.

In his message on caring for creation, Pope Francis said the first step is the transformation of our hearts.

"This is essential for any other transformation to occur; it is that ‘ecological conversion’ which St. John Paul II encouraged us to embrace: the renewal of our relationship with creation so that we no longer see it as an object to be exploited but cherish it instead as a sacred gift from our Creator," he said.
Struck by the beauty

It was strikingly beautiful. On Tuesday, I drove to Lake Placid to photograph the annual Jubilee Mass. As I waited with the jubilarians and attending priests of the diocese for Mass to begin, I was a little worried about how the space constraints would hinder my movement when taking photos. Mass was being celebrated in a room that’s much smaller than the chapel at Wadhams Hall, the location where I last photographed this same event.

But that smaller space, that thing that was concerning me, also contributed to the striking beauty. When the music minister started playing, I readied my camera. A few seconds later, it hit me. It was sound of the priests of our diocese singing together. Because it was such a small space, it was a more unified sound, and it felt bigger than that same singing did last year at Wadhams. The sound was enveloping. It was strikingly beautiful. It was striking enough that I lowered my camera for a few seconds. In that moment, I couldn’t focus on lining up a photo. I was busy appreciating the beauty.

Reflecting on the experience on my drive home from Lake Placid, “strikingly beautiful” was a good overall theme. I found the setting and our Adirondack Park to be strikingly beautiful. I found the strength and sound of the priests of our diocese in song to be strikingly beautiful.

Remembering the gifts of the Spirit

Today I would like to begin by sending my congratulations to this year’s priest jubilarians of our Diocese of Ogdensburg. At the same time, I want to add my gratitude to each of you. This is a very special group of priests and pastors. So, I want to honor them by mentioning their names here: Monsignor C. J. McAvoy, Father Mike Gaffney, Monsignor John Murphy, Father Sony Pulickal, Father Robert Decker, Father Pat Ratigan, Father Dick Demers.

This is a perfect time in our Catholic Liturgical Year to celebrate our Jubilarians. We are now coming to the Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. The Acts of the Apostles tells us their whole story.

I can only imagine how disturbed those apostles were. Jesus had ascended; the apostles were left on their own, and they probably wondered if they would if they would suffer as Jesus did. Then Pentecost – the Holy Spirit came upon those apostles in power, and they received courage as never before. They then responded with courage and readiness to go into the streets to proclaim the message of the Lord Jesus.

In faith, I believe that the Holy Spirit will still active in our Church. I can only imagine how we need a new Pentecost today; the power and courage that the Holy Spirit can give to today’s disciples of the Lord.

Our Catholic Church constantly needs the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

I remember well at the time of the Second Vatican Council; Pope Saint John XXIII began the Council by challenging the bishops in attendance to throw open the Church’s windows to allow the action of the Holy Spirit.

Today, we best remember the action of the Holy Spirit by recognizing the Gifts of the Holy Spirit that come to us all in the sacrament of Confirmation. These gifts are ours, each one of us, but we are the ones that must put them into action. Do you remember? Wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. So now just a little about each.

Wisdom: The Holy Spirit guides us to see everything with the eyes of God. We are guided to see ourselves, recognizing God’s love for us and God’s readiness to love us enough to forgive our sins, always ready to support us. With the Holy Spirit we see others with the eyes of God. The needy, the poor, the marginal.

Understanding: The Holy Spirit helps us, Christians, to know well God’s plan for our salvation. The Gospels help us to understand better the Lord’s teachings and all that he had to suffer.

Counsel: The Holy Spirit guides us to make wise choices in communion with our God. This gift is a grace of prudence. We are supported by the Lord and led in the making of decisions.

Knowledge: The Holy Spirit helps us to realize how great is the love of God. We are led to realize how profound is God’s relationship with each of us.

Fortitude: The Holy Spirit frees us from those things that keep us from doing the right things, free from laziness, uncertainty, like fear, from the fear that causes us to not act for the Lord.

Piety: The Holy Spirit helps us to truly trust God, leading us to a life of prayer and a deeper love of our God.

Fear of the Lord: The Holy Spirit helps us to realize the greatness of God and how small we are before God, how great is God’s love for us and how we must trust God completely.

Pentecost is a time of transformation, transformation for the apostles and now for us. The Holy Spirit is sent to us by the Lord as he promised to make our lives all that they should be and to make our Church always ready to bring peace and the love of God to our parishes and our world.
Bishop LaValley announces priest assignments

Following a meeting of the Committee on Assignments, Bishop Terry R. LaValley made the following appointments. Please pray for the men and parishes involved.

- Father Daniel Chapin, retired, is appointed pastor of St. Mary’s Church in Constableville, St. Martin’s Church in Port Leyden, St. John’s Church in Lyons Falls and St. Mary’s Nativity Church in West Leyden effective July 26.
- Father Lawrence Marullo, pastor of St. Mary’s Church in Constableville, St. Martin’s Church in Port Leyden, St. John’s Church in Lyons Falls and St. Mary’s Nativity Church in West Leyden, retires effective July 26.
- Father Clement Rimonds, HGN, parochial vicar at St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Tupper Lake, St. Henry’s Church in Long Lake and St. Therese Church in Newcomb, is appointed pastor of the Catholic Community of Holy Name and St. Matthew in Au Sable Forks, The Roman Catholic Community of Keeseville in Keeseville and St. Margaret’s Church in Wilmington effective June 28.
- Father Kris Lauzon, pastor of the Catholic Community of Holy Name and St. Matthew in Au Sable Forks, The Roman Catholic Community of Keeseville in Keeseville and St. Margaret’s Church in Wilmington, retires effective upon ordination.
- Father Shane Lynch, pastor of St. Patrick’s Church in Brasher Falls, the Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond in Norfolk and St. Andrew’s Church in Norwood, is assigned to canon law studies at St. Paul University in Ottawa for the Fall Semester effective June 28. Father Lynch will reside at St. Peter’s Parish in Massena when in the diocese.
- Father Severinus Torwoe, parochial vicar at St. Peter’s Parish in Massena, is appointed parochial vicar at the Catholic Community of St. Peter and St. Mary and St. Hedwig in Lowville effective June 28.
- Father Nicholas Revilla, parochial vicar at St. Peter’s Parish in Massena, is appointed parochial vicar at St. Mary’s Church in Champlain, St. Patrick’s Church in Rouses Point, effective June 28.
- Father Leagon Carlin, parochial vicar at St. James Church in Cadville, The Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph in Morrisonville and St. Augustine’s Church in Peru, is appointed parochial vicar at St. Peter’s Parish in Massena effective June 28.
- Deacon Lukas Gruber, to be ordained to the priesthood on May 27, is appointed parochial vicar at St. James Church in Cadville, The Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph in Morrisonville and St. Augustine’s Church in Peru effective upon ordination.

Following are brief biographies of the priests changing assignments.

**Father Daniel L. Chapin**
Born in Malone, Father Chapin, 76, attended St. Joseph’s Academy, Brushton-Moira Central School before graduating from Wadhams Hall with a bachelor of arts in philosophy and St. Bernard’s Seminary in Rochester with a bachelor of divinity.
He was ordained by Bishop Stanislaus J. Bzrzana on May 13, 1972, in St. Mary’s Cathedral, Ogdensburg.
After serving for a period of time as an assistant at the cathedral parish, Father Chapin spent 10 years serving in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

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Priest assignments

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densburg’s Peruvian Apostolate, returning in 1986. He then served as a parochial vicar in the cathedral parish and later at Holy Family in Watertown.

From 1987 to 1988, Father Chapin took a sabbatical to study at the Weston School of Theology. While on sabbatical, he worked as a chaplain intern at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Brighton, Mass., and then at Hotel Dieu and Kingston General Hospitals in Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

Upon his return to the diocese, he served as parochial vicar at Holy Family in Watertown and priest chaplain at Jefferson Community College in Watertown until being named pastor at St. Mary’s in Clayton and St. John the Evangelist in LaFargeville in 1989. In 2000, he was named pastor of St. James in Gouverneur with added responsibilities as pastor in Edwards in 2004.

He became pastor at St. Stephen’s in Croghan in 2006 with additional responsibilities as pastor in Harrisville added in 2013. Father Chapin also served as part-time priest chaplain at Gouverneur Correctional Facility.

He retired as pastor after serving in Croghan, beginning his time as a Maryknoll Associate. He returned to the diocese in 2022.

**Father Lawrence E. Marullo**

Born in Auburn, Father Marullo, 74, attended Mt. Carmel High School before entering seminary in the Diocese of Rochester. Father Marullo began studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Rochester in Becket Hall, attending St. John Fisher College, Rochester. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree and then entered St. Bernard’s Seminary in Rochester. Father Marullo transferred to the Diocese of Ogdensburg in 1973 and was ordained for the Diocese by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana on May 3, 1975, at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

In his 40 years, he was first appointed parochial vicar in St. Mary’s, Massena, St. Joseph’s, Malone, and St. Patrick’s, Watertown; administrator of Sacred Heart Church, Chazy; pastor in Star Lake and Newton Falls, Holy Name & St. Matthew Churches, Ausable Forks, and St. Bartholomew’s and St. Anthony’s Churches, Old Forge before being appointed to St. Mary’s in Constableville and St. Mary’s Nativity Church in West Leyden. Later, he was also made pastor of St. Martin Church in Port Leyden and St. John’s Church in Lyon’s Falls.

**Father Clement Rimonds, HGN**

Father Rimonds, 39, a native of Vizhinjam, Trivandrum, Kerala, India, arrived in our diocese February 24, 2021. He entered minor seminary in 10th grade before attending St. Joseph’s Major Seminary in Khammam, India. In addition to his seminary studies, he has a bachelor’s degree in English literature from Nagarjuna University in India and a master’s in the subject from Indira Gandhi National Open University.

Before coming to the United States and serving at St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Tupper Lake, St. Henry’s Church in Long Lake and St. Therese Church in Newcomb, Father Rimonds served in two assignments as assistant parish priest; as dean of studies at St. Aloysius Minor Seminary in the Diocese of Bongaigaon; as central regional coordinator of Prison Ministry India; and as spiritual director, and later vice-rector and rector of St. Theresa’s Minor Seminary in the Archdiocese of Bhopal.

**Father Kris C. Lauzon**

Father Lauzon, 64, was born in Cornwall, Ontario, Canada, and was raised in Massena. He graduated from Canton College and worked for six years as a draftsman for Dynapower in Watertown.

He began studies for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall Seminary-College and earned a theology degree from Christ the King Seminary before his ordination May 25, 1991 by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana.

Father Lauzon has served as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Victory in Plattsburgh, and St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg and in Carthage and Copenhagen. While in Ogdensburg he was also chaplain at the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center. He also served as administrator in West Leyden.

In 2000, Father Lauzon was named pastor in Hogansburg with added responsibilities as pastor in Fort Covington and Bombay in 2001.

He was named pastor of St. John’s in Plattsburgh in 2003 and St. Alphonsus and Holy Name parishes in Tupper Lake, in 2004.

Father Lauzon began service in Ausable Forks in 2009, first as administrator and then, in 2010, as pastor, and was given added responsibilities as pastor in Keeseville in 2014.

**Father Raymond J. Moreau**

A native of Dover, New Hampshire, Father Moreau, 68, studied for the priesthood at St. Thomas Seminary Junior College in Bloomfield, Conn., Wadhams Hall and Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora.

He was ordained to the priesthood May 4, 1985, by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana at St. Augustine’s in Peru.

Father Moreau has served as a parochial vicar at St. Patrick’s in Watertown, St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg, St. Bernard’s in Saranac Lake, St. Mary’s in Canton and in Potsdam.

In 1995, he was named pastor in North Bangor and West Bangor until 2002, when he became pastor in Chateaugay and Burke.

In 2003, he became the administrator in Colton, South Colton, and Parishville, and he was named pastor there in 2004.

He moved to Tupper Lake in 2009 to serve as administrator of Holy Name Church and St. Alphonsus Church in Tupper Lake until taking on the assignment in...
Priest assignments

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Chazy, where he served from 2010 to 2015, when he was appointed pastor of St. Mary’s in Brushton and St. Augustine’s in North Bangor.

Father Shane M. Lynch

Born in Watertown, Father Lynch, 51, is a 1990 graduate of Immaculate Heart Central School. He graduated from Wadhams Hall and later St. John’s Seminary School of Theology in Boston.

Father Lynch also completed a spirituality year program sponsored by St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He was ordained by Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito May 12, 2001.

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

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

Father Severinus Torwoe

Father Severinus Torwoe, 52, was born in Hlefi, Ghana, Deacon Torwoe received a bachelor’s degree in education at University of Cape Coast, Ghana, in 2008. He then studied philosophy and theology at Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Cromwell, Connecticut, where he obtained a master’s degree in theology in 2017.

In 2018, he received a post masters certificate in theology from Holy Apostles.

He was ordained by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on Aug. 1, 2020, in St. Mary’s Cathedral.

St. Peter’s Parish in Massena was his first assignment.

Father Nicolas J. Revilla

Born in Naga City, Philippines, Father Nicolas J. Revilla, 51, attended high school at Holy Rosary Minor Seminary in Naga City. He later attended University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Philosophy and Faculty of Sacred Theology in Manila, Philippines. He also studied at Pontifical University of St. Thomas in Rome.

He was ordained in 1999 at Basilica Minore in Naga City by Archbishop Leonardo Z. Gaspari.

While he served in a parish as a parochial vicar and at various times as a guest priest, the majority of Father Revilla’s priesthood has been spent as a professor, formator or dean at seminaries in Rome and in the Philippines, where he taught metaphysics, criterionology, history of philosophy, philosophy of religion, rational psychology, cosmology, Spanish, Latin and other subjects.

Father Revilla arrived in the United States from the Archdiocese of Caceres in the Philippines in January of this year.

Father Leagon Carlin

Born in Plattsburgh, Father Carlin, 26, graduated from Peru Central School in 2014 before attending seminary at Pontifical College Josephinum in Ohio and later Mount St. Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on May 21, 2022, in St. Mary’s Cathedral.

After his ordination, he was appointed parochial vicar at St. James Church in Cadyville, The Roman Catholic Com-

munity of St. Alexander and St. Joseph in Morrisville and St. Augustine’s Church in Peru.

Father Lukas Gruber

The newest priest of the diocese, Father Gruber was ordained in St. Mary’s Cathedral on May 27, 2023, by Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

Originally from Queens and Long Island, New York, Gruber discovered the Diocese of Ogdensburg while studying at Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, where he received a bachelor’s degree.

He later studied at Pontifical College Josephinum.

He was ordained a deacon in June of 2022.

Msgr. C. John McAvoy

Congratulations on your 60th Anniversary!

Thank you for your many years of service.

Be assured of our prayerful support always!

- The People of St. André Bessette Parish, Malone

Congratulations on your 40th Anniversary.

We are blessed to have your ministry in our diocese.

Fr. Ratigan
Seven priests celebrate jubilees

Seven priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg were honored for reaching jubilee years of service in the annual Jubilee Mass held May 23 at High Peaks Resort in Lake Placid, part of the Presbyteral Assembly.

Msgr. C. John McAvoy was honored for 60 years of service; Father J. Michael Gaffney and Msgr. John R. Murphy were honored for 50 years of service; and Father Sony G. Pulickal, Father Robert L. Decker, Father Richard D. Demers and Father Patrick A. Ratigan were honored for 40 years of priesthood.

60 YEARS
Msgr. C. John McAvoy

Born in Ogdensburg and raised in Madrid, Msgr. McAvoy, 85, studied for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall and Christ the King seminaries before being ordained on March 30, 1963, by Bishop James J. Navaugh.

The first several years of his priesthood were spent in Ogdensburg, where he served as assistant at the cathedral, procurator of Wadhams Hall, and assistant chancellor and vocation director for the diocese.

He served as diocesan vocation director from 1966 through 1973.

In 1972, Msgr. McAvoy was appointed administrator at the Potsdam Newman Center, administrator in Madrid and administrator in Saranac Lake. In 1973, Father McAvoy was named pastor in Saranac Lake, a position he held until 1986, when he was named pastor of St. John’s in Plattsburgh.

He was named a Prelate of Honor with the title monsignor in 1993.

In 1999, he moved to St. Joseph’s in Malone, where he served as pastor for four years. Finally, in 2003, he was named pastor of St. Patrick’s in Port Henry and All Saints in Mineville.

Msgr. McAvoy retired in 2007 and currently resides in Saranac Lake.

50 YEARS
Father J. Michael Gaffney

Originally from Watertown, Father Gaffney, 75, attended Wadhams Hall and Christ the King seminaries before his ordination on May 5, 1973, by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana.

Early in his priesthood, he served as an assistant in at St. Alphonsus in Tupper Lake, St. Peter’s in Lowville, Notre Dame in Malone and St. Anthony’s in Watertown.

From 1980 to 1995, Father Gaffney served as a faculty member at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown. During a portion of that time, from 1985 to 1995, he also served as pastor in Chaumont.

He later served as pastor at St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid, St. Mary’s and St. Joseph’s in Massena, and
July 2, 1973 in Rome by was as assistant pastor Jubilarians honored Murphy was named He also served the dio­

Potsdam Madrid from 1988 un­

He returned to Rome in 1984, after study­

In 1976, he was named assistant chancellor of the diocese and assistant pastor in Canton. He returned to Rome in 1987 and earned a degree in moral theology from Academia Alfon­

In 1976, he was named assistant chancellor of the diocese and assistant pastor in Canton. He returned to Rome in 1978 and earned a degree in moral theology from Academia Alfon­siana. He later earned a master’s degree in church administration from Catholic University in Washington.

After his retirement, he was named as chancellor for the diocese and pastor of Morristown and Brier Hill. He served as chancellor from 1982 to March 1990. He was also pastor in Madison from 1988 until his appointment as pastor of St. Mary’s in Potsdam from 1990 to 1994.

In 1992, he was named a monsignor by Pope John Paul II. He also served the dio­

In 1994, Msgr Murphy was named Moderator of the Curia and Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Services. He served as administrator in Canton for a short time in 2002 and was named pastor in Heuvelton and Lisbon in 2003 before becoming full-time Moderator of the Curia later that year.

In 2011, he was named administrator of the Church of the Visitation in Norfolk and St. Raymond’s Church in Raymondville. In 2012, he was named pastor in Norfolk and Raymond­

He entered seminary at Wadhams Hall and also attended Christ the King seminaries after serving in the Army National Guard.

He was ordained by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana on Sept. 24, 1983, at St. Ber­

Father Richard D. Demers
Born in Trout Riv­

He currently serves as pastor St. Cecilia’s Church in Adams with its mission Queen of Heaven Church in Hen­

Father Robert L. Deck­er
After growing up in Hammond, Father Deck­

He entered seminary at Wadhams Hall and also attended Christ the King seminaries after serving in the Army National Guard.

He was ordained by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana on Sept. 24, 1983, at St. Ber­

He has served as as­

Father Patrick A. Rati­

Originally from Sara­

After his retirement, he was appointed temporary administrator for six months at St. Elizabeth Church in Elizabethtown, St. Philip of Neri Church in Westport, and St. Joseph’s Church in Essex. Again retired, he resides in Hannawa Falls.
### Environmental Stewardship

**Why I became a beekeeper**

A member of the Formation for Ministry class who will be commissioned next month has become a beekeeper. He was willing to share why he embarked on this venture:

“[I] became a beekeeper because I always had a fascination with nature and the outdoors. So many things interact in nature that make our environment vibrant and appealing. Sadly, the opposite occurs when our environment is abused and nature responds accordingly.” — Jack Lucia, LaFargeville

While there are many reasons scientists give for the rapid decrease in the number of bees in recent years, one is the use of pesticides on crops and lawns. In the words of Chief Seattle, “What you do to the earth you do to yourself.”

So, the way we treat the earth has consequences in terms of our food and air.

We may not all be called to be beekeepers, but we can do something to protect bees and our own environment. As we prepare gardens and lawns, we can invest in natural and nontoxic lawn products. We can plant native flowers to attract bees. For more information, see Cornell Cooperative Extension in your area. Learn more about NYS The Birds and Bees Protection Act (S1856 Hoylman-Sigel/A3226 Glick) and decide what else you can do.

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<tr>
<th>Bishop's Public Schedule</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>May 31</strong> – 9:45 a.m. — Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop’s Residence followed by lunch</td>
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<td><strong>June 1</strong> – 1 p.m. — Conference Call of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Native American Subcommittee</td>
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<td><strong>June 3</strong> – 11 a.m. — Burial Prayers at Calvary Cemetery in Massena</td>
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<td><strong>June 4</strong> – 6:30 p.m. — Confirmation at St. Peter’s Parish (at Sacred Heart Church) in Massena</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>June 6</strong> – 11 a.m. — Confirmation at St. Andrew’s Church in Norwood with St. Patrick’s Church in Brasher Falls and the Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond in Norfolk</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>June 7</strong> – Noon — Mass at St. Mary Cathedral</td>
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<td><strong>June 8</strong> – Noon — Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral</td>
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### Rest in Peace

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

| May 31 | Rev. John J. Dean, 1930; Rev. Eugene T. Desnoyers, 1993 |
| June 1  | Rev. Tobias M. Glenn, 1907; Rev. Charles B. Cotter, 2001 |
| June 4  | V. Rev. Ferdinand Richard, O.M.I., 1971 |
| June 5  | Rev. Charles Donaher, O.S.A., 1984 |

### Protecting God’s Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God’s Children for Adults. Pre-registration is required. Preregister at www.virtus.org. Upcoming sessions:

| June 1 | 6:30 p.m. — St. Mary’s School, Ticonderoga |
| June 9 | 1:30 p.m. — Diocesan offices, Ogdensburg |

### To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrianne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, S05 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terriyanneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; carrara@redonys.org Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340. If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at 800-276-1562 or www.ReportBishopAbuse.org.

### Camp Guggenheim Staff 2023

#### Stephen Dwyer

**Counselor**

- **Age:** 18
- **Hometown:** Chateaugay
- **Parish:** Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay

What are your hobbies/talents/interests?

I love to sing, learn about my faith, go to mass and adoration, lead praise and worship, play music or instruments, laugh, go for walks, spending time with family and friends, and be outside.

Why did you want to work at Camp Guggenheim?

I would like to work at Guggenheim because I have gone to Guggenheim my entire life, Family camp and teen camp, and I have always wanted to be a counselor. I want to help provide the same great camp experience that I experienced when I was in teen camp.

#### Madonna Champagne

**Counselor**

- **Age:** 24
- **Hometown:** Malone
- **Parish:** St. André Bessette

**What are your hobbies/talents/interests?**

I love to sing, learn about my faith, go to mass and adoration, lead praise and worship, play music or instruments, laugh, go for walks, spending time with family and friends, and be outside.

**Why did you want to work at Camp Guggenheim?**

My faith is the most important thing in my life, I would not be alive without it. As such, I long for others to know the truth, beauty and goodness of the Catholic faith! I pray people come to know how much they are truly loved and come home to Jesus. Camp Guggenheim offers a wonderful experience for our youth to see these truths and hopefully encourage them on their faith journeys. “Life with Christ is a beautiful

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### Additional 2023 Camp Guggenheim staff will be featured in future editions of the North Country Catholic
Augustinian’s Margrey to retire after 45 years

By Eileen Greenwood
Contributing Writer

Augustinian Academy Principal Maryann Margrey will be retiring this year after 45 years in Education at the Catholic school.

Margrey wore many different hats through the years, having served as teacher, cheerleading and basketball Coach, tutor, vice-principal, and principal, to name a few.

“I graduated in 1978 from Potsdam college and was hired by Pastor Ellis,” Margrey said. “Sister Bernadette was the principal then. I was hired to teach fourth grade and was hired by Pastor Ellis.”

Margrey also taught math, for seventh and eighth-grade team. I coached the seventh- and eighth-grade team. I coached about 35 years. I taught classes for about 29 years. I had an N-6 degree in education and a bachelor’s in math and a master’s degree in reading. But I needed to do a degree through Boston college for administration. I worked on that and took courses from the Diocese of Ogdensburg for my principal training.”

Margrey said she initially didn’t intend to be the school’s principal. “In addition to teaching, I was also a vice-principal for three years,” she said. “Then we lost our principal, and I was asked to fill in for six months. I said, ‘you have got to be kidding,’ because I was still teaching. For six months I was principal but only had two free periods to do the work of a principal. After those six months, Father Don (Robinson) said he really needed me to do the principal’s job full-time. I still wanted to teach but there was nobody else to step into the other position. So I said yes.”

While she works long hours, Margrey said she was able to balance work, family and faith by prioritizing. “I think back now, how we did it all,” she said. “We had a schedule. Routine was very important. Our youngest child, Christopher, was a toddler, and would go to grandma’s daily. We would bring him after school to all the kids’ activities. Joe and I were coaching, and (Christopher) would play on the stage. The kids all loved him! We drove to games, and I would bring dinner from Stefano’s and be feeding Joe forkfuls of salad and pizza as he drove us. At the time he was working at Fort Drum, plus a job with Carthage police department, and the Reserves.”

The family made sure to keep faith at its core. “Our Catholic Faith was very important to us,” Margrey said. “We didn’t miss Mass. We went as a family, and the kids knew we would find out the time and place for a Mass wherever we traveled to. If you have a family you just figure out how to make it all work.”

While she’s not leaving Augustinian Academy completely behind, Margrey said she looks forward to spending some time outside of the North Country during her retirement. “I hope to travel,” she said. “I will continue to help out at Augustinian. I am leaving lots of grants I have written ahead and are already completed. My advice (the next principal) is to delegate. I didn’t do that enough. People wanted to help and would offer but I thought it was easier to just do it all myself. You do need to delegate some.”

STUDENTS SHOW SUPPORT

Braelyn Pelerin and Lauren Taylor, students at St. Mary’s School in Ticonderoga, sold their own stickers to raise money for the Missionary Childhood Association. They raised $163.07.
Survey: Fewer confident God exists, many still pray

By Kevin J. Jones  
Catholic News Agency

Only about half of Americans now say they are certain that God exists, and though regular religious attendance has declined, many Americans say they still pray several times a day.

A snapshot of American religiosity comes from NORC at the University of Chicago, which released the 2022 data from the General Social Survey (GSS) on May 15. The survey is considered one of the top sources of data on Americans' opinions. The past three years were a period of great trial and change for the United States. Understanding how these times affected Americans' thoughts, beliefs, and opinions is critical to understanding social change, René Bautista, director of the GSS, said May 15.

The survey of U.S. adult residents was conducted through in-person interviews, self-administered internet surveys, and phone interviews. The GSS codebook, an accompanying document on the survey methods, says changes to the survey methodology during the COVID-19 pandemic could result in apparent changes in opinion, attitudes, and behaviors in 2021 and 2022 compared with results from previous years.

Do you believe in God?

Among the many views surveyed included the question of Americans' confidence in the existence of God.

About 50% of Americans said that they "know God exists and have no doubts." That number has not changed since 2021. This response peaked at 65% in 1993 and fell to 60% in 2008. Another 16% told the GSS that they "believe in God but have doubts," down slightly from its 1988 peak of 19%. Another 14% said that they believe in "some higher power.

About 6% said they believe in God "sometimes," while about 7% responded "don't know and no way to find out." Though given the option "don't know," zero percent chose this option.

About 7% said they do not believe in God, unchanged from 2021. Nonbelief in God hovered around 2%-3% for decades until 2014, when it began to increase.

Are you religious?

On the topic of self-identified religiosity, 14% told the GSS they were "very religious," 32% identified as "moderately religious," and 25% as "slightly religious." The "moderately religious" showed the largest decline, down from 38% in 2018 and 41% in 2010.

There is an upward trend in respondents who identify as "not religious." In 2022, 29% chose this response, down slightly from the 2021 peak of 32%. Before 2012, fewer than 20% of respondents had ever chosen this answer.

How often do you attend religious services?

Religious attendance figures appear to reflect this nonreligious trend. Among GSS respondents, 34% said they never attended religious services, a new high. This figure first hit 30% in 2018 and 20% in 1998 after hovering at about 15% for decades.

As many as 11% of respondents said they attended religious services less than once a year, 13% said they attended once a year, and 10% attended several times a year. Only 4% said they attended once a month, 5% attended two or three times a month, and 4% attended "nearly every week.

About 13% attended religious services weekly, a slight increase over 2021 respondents but a decline from 18% in 2018. GSS respondents have never reported weekly attendance over 30%, though this figure peaked at 29% in 1972, the first year GSS asked this question.

About 5% of respondents attended religious services more than once a week. This response last peaked at 9% in 1993 and has never exceeded 9% since 1972.

How often do you pray?

Self-reported prayer was more popular than self-reported church attendance. According to the GSS, 28% of respondents said they pray several times a day, down slightly from a 2004 peak at 31%. Another 20% said they pray once a day, an increase from 16% in 2021 but down from 28% in 2018, where the figure had held steady for decades.

Another 13% said they prayed several times a week, while 6% prayed once a week. The numbers of those who rarely or never pray are near a historic high: 34% said they prayed "less than once a week or never," a decline from the 2021 peak at 38%.
The North County Catholic welcomes contributions to “Around the Diocese.” Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:
North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY 13669
E-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.
Items must be received in the NCC office by the Wednesday before publication.

**VIRTUAL EVENTS**

**BROWN BAG SERIES**
The Office of New Evangelization will be running a new Brownbag Chat Series.

**Date:** June 14
**Time:** Noon to 1 p.m.
**Place:** Via Zoom

**Features:** This series will be a book discussion on Apostolic Exhortation *The Joy of the Gospel* by Pope Francis, available online or in book form from the Office of the New Evangelization. The reading schedule (approx. 20 pages per week) will be sent to participants.

**Contact:** To register, go to https://www.rcdony.org/brownbag. For more information, contact Marika at mdonders@rcdony.org.

**FRIENDSHIP GROUPS**
You are invited to take part in a Friendship Group that will provide you with dynamic reading and personalized formation to grow in holiness with others online.

**Date:** Thursdays starting June 15
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Place:** Zoom

**Features:** The first book we will read is Overcoming Spiritual Discouragement by popular author Fr. Timothy Gallagher, OMV. Book summary: With warmth, understanding, and pastoral skill, Father offers a hopeful invitation to all who struggle to overcome discouragement. It is a call to solace in times of suffering and will empower you to stand tall in times of affliction.

**Contact:** Fr. Bill Brown will join us for the first meeting, share about the liberating spirituality behind this book, lead a discussion, and answer participants’ questions.

**Contact:** To sign up, visit: https://mailchi.mp/sophianstitute/friendship-groups. For more information, please contact Mary Beth Bracy at mbracy@sophianstitute.com.

**ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN**

**BLACK FLY 5K RUN**
Saranac Lake – St. Bernard’s to have their third annual Black Fly 5K run, walk, roll or stroll.

**Date:** June 3
**Time:** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
**Place:** Dewey Mt. Rec. Center

**Features:** for more information or register on Run Sign Up website: https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/SaranacLake/StBSBlackFly5K

**HGA Auction and Flea Market**
Tupper Lake – St. Alphonsus – Holy Name of Jesus, St. Henry’s and St. Therese to have an Auction and Flea Market.

**Date:** June 11
**Time:** Flea Market, 9 a.m. to noon; Auction, Noon until done
**Place:** Holy Ghost Parish Center

**Features:** Lunch Available for a fee. Donating proceeds to Tupper Lake Food Pantry, Camp Guggenheim Scholarship Fund and Tupper Lake Ecumenical Pastors Fund

**Contact:** For more information contact Bob Brothers at 315-842-2886

**PARISH BAZAAR**
Fort Covington – St. Mary’s to have their Annual Parish Bazaar.

**Date:** June 3
**Time:** 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
**Place:** 3 Burns Holden Rd

**Features:** Yard Sale, Flea Market, Multi-Prize Raffle; Chinese Auction, Thrift Store Specials, Children’s Games, Food & Music!

**CAR SHOW**
Moosers – St. Ann’s Church to have their 5th Annual Festival of Cars.

**Date:** June 4
**Time:** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
**Place:** St. Ann’s Grounds

**Features:** Cat Lot, Fair, Theme Baskets, Food and Entertainment. Top 40 picks and special awards at 3 p.m. There will be Hot Wheel races for kids and adults (Entry fee, $5 Kids; $10 Adults, includes car).

**Contact:** For more information or to pre-register your vehicle call 518-891-2830

**HEALING MASS**
Clayton – St. Mary’s to have their annual Healing Mass and Antoine Tetrault Memorial Service.

**Date:** June 10
**Time:** 11 a.m.
**Place:** St. Mary’s Church

**Features:** The Celebrants will be Fr. Arthur Labaff and Father Connelly Boyleye. During Mass the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is offered. Immediately following Mass will be prayer teams to pray for individual needs. A social with refreshments will take place in the parish center following the Mass.

**Contact:** For more information contact St. Mary’s parish office at 315-686-3398 or claytonsec@rcdony.org or visit the www.stmary-sclayton.org.

**CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN**

**MERCY CARE EDUCATIONAL FORUM**
Paul Smiths – Mercy Care for the Adirondacks will hold its annual Educational Forum co-hosted by Paul Smith’s College.

**Date:** June 7

**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

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

**Date:** June 3
**Time:** 8 a.m.
**Place:** Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

**Features:** Rosary with devotions

**FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY**
Massena – Sacred Heart Church to have first Saturday Rosary Devotion.

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

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

**MEN’S PRAYER GROUP**
Massena – First Saturday of the month, men’s prayer group to meet for Mass and Adoration.

**Date:** June 3
**Time:** 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
**Place:** St. Mary’s Church

**Features:** Coffee and donuts after service in the parish center

**Contact:** Bob Brothers at 315-842-2886

**MONTHLY BRUNCH**
Norfolk – Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond’s will have their monthly Knights of Columbus Brunch.

**Date:** June 11 (Second Sunday of each month)
**Time:** 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
**Place:** Fr. Amiot Parish Center

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

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

**CONCERT AT THE CATHEDRAL**
Ogdensburg – Please join us for a concert of original music by Ryan C. McNally, to include Mass in D Minor which incorporates piano, organ, orchestra and choir.

**Date:** June 11
**Time:** 4 p.m.

**ST. LAWRENCE**

**BINGO**
Canton – Bingo to be held.

**Date:** Mondays
**Time:** Card sales start at 5:30 p.m., Games start at 7 p.m.
**Place:** Sarto Club
Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Place: St. Mary’s Cathedral
Features: An Ogdensburg native, Mr. McNally is an arranger and performer, with over 60 compositions to his name. We hope you’re able to join us and bring a friend! There is no charge and all are welcome!
Contact: For more information, contact our Music Director, Christine Bookman at ogdensburgmusic@rcdony.org.

USA FLAG RAFFLE
The Bishop McEntegart 4th Degree Assembly 707 are holding a patriotic raffle of a USA Flag.
Cost: 1 ticket $5 OR 3 tickets for $10.
Features: 1 grand prize - Flag Pole Set (installed); 2nd prize, US Capital Flown Flag; 3rd to 5th prize, 5 Foot Porch Flag Set. Drawing June 14.
Contact: Any Sir Knight of the Canton Assembly or call 315-244-4455

CHICKEN BBQ
Canton – St. Mary’s Church to have a drive thru Chicken BBQ.
Date: June 18
Time: 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Place: Drive thru with picnic seating available on the lawn.
Cost: $15 Full meal, $12 half chicken only
Menu: ½ Chicken, Coleslaw, Salt Potatoes, Baked Beans, Dinner Roll.
Contact: For more information call 315-386-2543

DIOCESAN EVENTS

GUGGENHEIM SUMMER CAMP
2023 registration is open. New this year is a mini session for youth 11-13 years old along with the annual sleepaway camp weeks for ages 11 to 18.
Dates: The season starts July 5th and ends Aug. 11th.
Cost: Mini session is $200 and the weeklong sessions is $425 per camper. Meals and accommodations are included in the registration fee.
Features: There are so many fun things to do at camp! Like arts and crafts, Project Adventure, Liturgy, rappelling, hiking, basketball, or soccer. Guggenheim has its very own beach where you can swim, too around on our watercrafts and play watersports. Evenings at camp are packed with fun activities like bonfire time, a dance, outdoor movies, and camp-wide games.
Summer Camp Guggenheim is a fun place where you can make great friends, escape the craziness of the world, and just chill with cool people like you.
Contact: To sign up for camp please visit: www.rcdony.org/youth/camp or call, Jeannie Grizutto at 315-393-2290 ext. 1413.
Deadline is June 21!

THE MIRACLE OF THE MASS RETREAT
Saranac Lake – LEAD overnight retreat to be held on the Significance of the Eucharist in our Lives.
Schedule: June 9, 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 – Praise and Worship with Madonna Champagne and Nates Pulvokar of Plattsburgh, campfire and s’mores; June 10, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Panel on the Eucharist: Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ; Msgr. Dennis Duprey, Anita Soltero and Cathy Russell.
Cost: $30, meals included
Place: Camp Guggenheim
Contact: Register at www.rcdony.org/lead2dayevent

LIFE GIVING WOUNDS RETREAT
Ogdensburg – Retreat for adults whose parents separated or divorced and also for those who grew up in single-parent families.
Date: Aug. 11-13
Place: Wadhams Hall
Cost: $200 for a shared room or $250 for a single room.
Features: Financial assistance is available...do not let cost prevent you from experiencing the healing you deserve.
Contact: For more information or to register for the retreat, please contact Steve Tartaglia at startaglia@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920.

PILGRIMAGES

PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINES OF FRANCE
An eleven-day pilgrimage of shrines of France hosted by Father Andrew J. Amyot.
Date: November 6-16, 2023
Cost: $3,979 from Montreal (includes tour price, taxes and airline surcharges)
Features: Visits to Lourdes, Nevers, Tours, the Loire Valley, Chartres, Mont. St. Michel, Bayeux, Normandy, Caen, Lisieux and Paris.
Contact: Father Andrew Amyot at 315-384-4242 or framyot2@gmail.com

PILGRIMAGES TO SPAIN & MOROCCO
Join Father Chris Looby on a journey to Spain and Morocco.
Date: Nov. 4-17, 2023
Cost: Pricing starts at $4,494 per person for a double and $5,849 per person for single occupancy. Features: This unforgettable trip will take you to the heart of Madrid, the historic cities of Cordoba and Seville, and the stunning Alhambra. Experience the passion and rhythm of Flamenco in Jerez de la Frontera and explore the vibrant blue streets of Chefchaouen. Journey through the spiritual centers of Fes and Rabat, and visit the Mausoleum of Mohammed V. In Marrakech, immerse yourself in the bustling markets and architecture, and enjoy a “Choice on Tour” experience. The trip will end with a visit to the iconic Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca. Don’t miss this once-in-a-lifetime adventure!
Contact: For more information contact Mary McIntosh at Watertown AAA at 315-558-6372

RHINE RIVER CRUISE
Join Father John Yonkovic of Lake Placid on the Rhine River with Viking Cruises from Amsterdam, Holland to Basel, Switzerland in the spring of 2024.
Date: May 30 – June 6, 2024
Contact: For information call Deb Rothermel at 800-223-3884 or BTAGROUPS@gmail.com

Support And Pray For Vocations

Congratulations
Fr. J. Michael Gaffney
For 50 years of priestly service to the People of God
From, Immaculate Conception, Brownville St. Andrew’s, Sackets Harbor
LA Dodgers to honor ‘queer and trans nuns’

By Shannon Mullen
Catholic News Agency

Responding to the news that the Los Angeles Dodgers will honor a self-described “leading-edge order of queer and trans nuns” with a long history of obscenely satirizing the Catholic faith, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles is calling for “all Catholics and people of goodwill to stand against bigotry and hate in any form.”

“The decision to honor a group that clearly mocks the Catholic faith and makes light of the sincere and holy vocations of our women religious is an integral part of our Church what has caused disappointment, concern, anger, and dismay from our Catholic community,” the archdiocese said in a statement Tuesday.

“The ministries and vocations of our religious women should be honored and celebrated through genuine acts of appreciation, reverence, and respect for their sacred vows, and for all the good works of our nuns and sisters in service of the mission of the Catholic Church,” the statement continued.

“The decision stands against any actions that would disparage and diminish our Christian faith and those who dedicate their lives to Christ,” the statement said. “Let us also show our care and respect for our women religious by sending a message of support to their communities through phone calls, letters, and posts on their social channels, supporting vocations by donating to their orders, and/or making donations in their name to the programs they support,” the archdiocese said. “Let us show the world how much our women religious mean to us and our Church.”

After sharp criticism from Catholic advocacy groups and U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Florida, the Major League Baseball team at first backed down from its plans to honor the L.A. Chapter of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence with a Community Hero Award at a June 16 LGBTQ+ Pride Night game against the San Francisco Giants at Dodger Stadium. Less than a week later, however, the Dodgers on Monday reversed course again, issuing an apology and a new invitation to participate in the event, which the Sisters accepted.

In response, CatholicVote, a Catholic advocacy group that publicly condemned the initial invitation, vowed to launch a “barrage” of advertising against the team across Los Angeles and in game broadcasts.

“This is a slap in the face of every Catholic,” CatholicVote President Brian Burch said in a statement. “We’re raising $1 million as fast as we can, and we will pummel this decision in advertising that the Dodgers can’t ignore.”

“Every advertiser, every season ticket holder, every charity, every fan must speak out against the Dodgers’ decision to promote anti-Catholic hate,” Burch added. “Why does ‘pride’ have to include honoring the most grotesque and scandalous anti-Catholic perverts?”

The Dodgers’ decision also drew the ire of San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone.

“Our Catholic sisters devote themselves to serving others selflessly. Decent people would not mock & blaspheme them,” he tweeted Tuesday. “So we now know what gods the Dodger admin worships. Open desecration & anti-Catholicism is not disqualifying. Disappointing but not surprising. Gird your loins.”

Also on Tuesday, the Catholic League released a report citing examples of the Sisters’ anti-Catholic insults going back to 1979. The list includes an “exorcism” and a “Condom Savior Mass” in 1987; a mock Mass in 1994 that featured “holy communion wafers and tequila”; a “Midnight Confessional Contest” held in a San Diego gay bar that gave prizes to those with the “hottest confessions”; and the group’s annual “Hunky Jesus” contest held every Easter Sunday.

“Our next step is to persuade Catholics in the Los Angeles area not to attend Pride Night on June 16,” Catholic League President Bill Donohue said in a statement Tuesday. “By boycotting this event, we can send a message to the Dodgers, and to Major League Baseball, that anti-Catholic bigotry is unacceptable.”

CNA requested comment from the Sisters’ L.A. chapter through its website but did not receive a response before publication.
A few years ago, a young Harvard genius by the name of Mark Zuckerberg created Facebook. In a short space of time, millions of people have made their pictures and much personal information available on the world wide web. Why this phenomenon? There is an obvious need for relationship in the human soul that is fulfilled by this. Most people shun isolation. They yearn to be connected.

Today is the Feast of the most Holy Trinity - one God in Three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The words “Holy Spirit” and “Holy Ghost” are interchange-able, since “spirit” is directly translated from the Latin “Sanctus Spiritus,” while “ghost” is the Old English word for spirit. How do you explain the Holy Trinity? You don’t really. It’s beyond our human reason. Just use multiplication —3 times one still equals three. Right? But three persons times One God equals One God. Now, if you want to carry it further, you’ll get dizzy and may even suffer a headache. At this point, you really should give up!

Logic doesn’t carry us very far in trying to explain the mystery of three Persons in one God. St. Anselm had it right a long time ago when he wrote, “I don’t understand so that I can believe; I believe so that I can understand.” Just believe Jesus’ teaching that there is a Holy Trinity. From there, let’s look at our heart’s experience of God’s beauty, His wisdom, His mercy, and His limitless love. It’s as though someone were to ask you, “Do you believe in sunsets...or mountain tops...or starry nights?” We’d tell them, “Just go out and watch a sunset...just to up and sit on a mountain top...just go out on a warm summer evening...lay on your back, and gaze up at a sky filled with stars!”

God is powerful, and eternally in motion. Think of a celebration that never comes to an end. At a celebration, there are people. There’s action, music, food and drink, and a good time. So...the life of the Holy Trinity is like an eternal party. God the Father loves the Son without interruption, and the Son returns that Love with every breath of His being — and that breath becomes the Holy Spirit of them both — full of the power of love and jubilant motion.

God the Father is like a beautiful sunset, soothing and quieting my soul.

The Son is like a lover, forgiving and tender, feeding my hunger, satisfying my desire.

And the Holy Spirit is like a hot scorching fire, a whirlwind of inspiration, stirring me to intense Praise and Dynamic Action.

Through faith, we believe that this Holy Trinity actually dwells inside the souls of the baptized when they are in a state of grace. Our only proper response to that awesome truth is Wow!

No wonder we speak of the dignity of the Christian.

Three-personed God, I gape at the wonder of your beauty, May I glow with the light of your Truth, May I burn with the excitement of Your Life! Someday I pray that I will see You face to face, and enjoy your life and love forever.

Some thoughts on retreats

We often hear the word “retreat” used in a military context. The sound of the bugle to retreat usually means the soldiers are being overrun or in danger of being overrun by the enemy. The pull-back to safer ground usually allows those retreatng to regroup in a safer position.

A synonym for retreat is withdraw. The notion of a retreat, a withdrawal from the world around us, is not new to Catholics.

I can remember relatives, and later me, making a retreat to allow us to put worldly things on hold temporarily and focus on God and our relationship to him.

Father Joe Kanimea, MSC, talked about retreat in a homily recently. I was assisting at that Mass, and it got me thinking about retreats. Deacons in our dio­cese are encouraged to take a “make a retreat” at least once a year.

We all have stress. Most deacons are juggling a host of responsibilities, spouse, family, home, work and Church, so they need a break every once in a while. I am not looking for sympathy, just stating fact.

St. Mark tells us Jesus sent his apostles off on mission and when they returned and were de­briefed, Jesus encour­aged them to “come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.”

Beginning last year, the St. Lawrence Society of Deacons, with the diocese’s blessing, has sponsored a retreat for deacons of the North Country. Last year Deacon Mark Reilly from Massena was the retreat leader. This fall the retreat will be led by Father Chris Carrara from Morristown.

Some deacons travel out of the diocese to make their annual retreat. It is not important where we go or when in a year.

The important thing is that a deacon, everyone for that matter, “get out of Dodge” for a few days and be with God.

There are opportuni­ties for one day or multiple-day retreats right in your parish. Ask or suggest a retreat to your pastor if not already available.

As Father Joe men­tioned, we all need some time free from the daily responsibilities and routines of our daily existence. We need time to recharge, refresh, renew.

For most of us a vacation is a kind of retreat. Perhaps we travel, perhaps we just hunk­er down at home, but the routine is changed.

For clergy and religious, a retreat takes on a different dimension. A retreat for us is a period of withdrawal for prayer, meditation, study, or sometimes, instruction under a director.

Whether the retreat is solo, with family or a group, a time away from the distractions of everyday living is wonderful for our physical and mental health. It is a perfect time to think about our role in life and the path God wants us to follow.

If you know someone who is taking a break, either going on vacation or on retreat, pray that the time away is beneficial for that person.

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

The Mission Office is excited to congratulate Father Lukas Gruber on his ordination to the Order of Priesthood, and Deacon Carter Pierce and Deacon Douglas Schirmer on their ordination to the Order of Deacon.

We are proud of you and your answer of “yes” to God’s call to serve the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg with your vocations.

We would also like to congratulate our jubilarians for their many years of service to the Diocese of Ogdensburg and its faithful. We thank you for your commitment to serving God’s people and your ongoing missionary spirit.

60 YEARS
Msgr. C. John McAvoy

50 YEARS
Father J. Michael Gaffney
Msgr. John R. Murphy

40 YEARS
Father Sony G. Pulickal
Father Robert L. Decker
Father Richard D. Demers
Father Patrick A. Ratigan

OBITUARIES

Canton – Avis R. (Todd) Ragan, 94; Mass of Christian Burial May 27, 2023 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Champlain – Rodney Nephew, 72; Mass of Christian Burial May 20, 2023 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Louis de France Cemetery, Sciota.

Constable – Raymond Bous­sey, 86; Mass of Christian Burial May 19, 2023 St. Francis of Assisi Church; burial in St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery.

Lowville – Margaret Elizabeth “Peggy” (Burke) Gunn, 80; Funeral Services June 3, 2023 at Iseneker Funeral Home, Inc.

Malone – Robert Gaspar, 88; Graveside Services May 27, 2023 at Morningside Cemetery.


Malone – Joan (Clark) Lavoie, 93; Mass of Christian Burial May 25, 2023 at Notre Dame Church; burial in New St. Joseph’s Cemetery.


Massena – Wayne D. Donaldson, 79; Funeral Services May 24, 2023 at Phillips Memorial Home; burial in Pine Grove Cemetery.

Massena – Elizabeth A. (Zappia) Wicke, 93; Services to be held at a later date.

Morrisonville – Sally (Blaise) Hemingway, 76; Mass of Christian Burial May 26, 2023 at St. Andrew’s Church; burial in Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Peru – David Roy Hislop, 76; Private services at St. Augustine’s Church.

Port Henry – Jean Marie (Kim­ball) Kelly, 76; Mass of Christian Burial May 31, 2023 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery, Moriah.

Potsdam – Dominick Violi; Services to be held at a later date.

Saranac Lake – Geneva R. Court­ney, 94; Private Services to be held; burial in St. Bernard’s Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Naomi “Nonnie” (Baker) Bevilacqua, 86; Mass of Christian Burial May 25, 2023 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Francis Elmer Godin, 79; Mass of Christian Burial May 23, 2023 at St. Alphonse Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Watertown – Mary J. (Tibbles) Eddy, 82; Funeral Services June 3, 2023 at D.L. Calarco Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in Hillside Cemetery, Champion.

Watertown – Michael Baldwin O’Driscoll, 78; Memorial Services May 31, 2023.

Congratulations to

MSGR. JOHN R. MURPHY

on the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary of your Ordination

Many thanks for all you do!

Your Parishioners at

St. Hubert’s, Star Lake & St. James, Gouverneur and Edwards

Please remember The Pontifical Mission Societies when writing or changing your Will.
https://www.rcdony.org/mission.html
Bishop Terry R. LaValley addresses the priests of the diocese in his homily at the Jubilee Mass held May 23 at High Peaks Resort. The Mass was celebrated as part of the annual Presbyteral Assembly, a gathering of priests of the diocese.

Father Robert L. Decker, celebrating 40 years of priesthood, distributes Holy Communion to Father James Teti during the Jubilee Mass.

Father Joseph N. Sestito exchanges smiles with Father Raymond J. Moreau during Sign of Peace at the Jubilee Mass on May 23.

Father Scott R. Seymour, Father Albert J. Hauser, and Father Kevin D. McEwan join Bishop Terry R. LaValley in praying the words of Consecration during the Jubilee Mass.

Father Patrick Ratigan, who celebrated 40 years since his ordination to the priesthood, gazes at the flowers on the trees through a window at High Peaks Resort as the Jubilee Mass concluded.