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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 79 Number 1

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 27, 2024

## BLESSING THE OIL



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

**Bishop Terry R. LaValley blesses the Oil of the Sick during the Chrism Mass on March 23 at St. Mary's Cathedral. In that Mass, Bishop LaValley also blessed the Oil of the Catechumens and consecrated Sacred Chrism, and priests of the diocese renewed their priestly promises. Read Bishop LaValley's homily from the Mass on Page 3. Additional photos will be published in next week's edition.**

## SOLAR ECLIPSE 2024



St. Lawrence University Professor Aileen O'Donoghue explains the science behind the April 8 total solar eclipse to (from left) Piper Ibey, Madison Burns, and Riley Secore at the North Country Kids Expo on March 16 at SUNY Canton. O'Donoghue, a Catholic astronomer, and Father Bryan Stitt, pastor at St. Mary's in Canton, discuss the upcoming complete solar eclipse, an event that won't occur in this area again for nearly 200 years, from a Catholic perspective.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## Pope highlights importance of prudence

By Matthew Santucci  
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis on Wednesday reflected on the virtue of prudence, noting that it is an essential characteristic for good governance, an observation he made while renewing his call for negotiating an end to war.

"War is always a defeat. You can't go on in war. We must make all efforts to negotiate, to negotiate, to end the war. Let's pray for this," the pope said during his Wednesday general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican.

While the 87-year-old pontiff arrived in the piazza greeting the faithful from the famous

"Popemobile," he relied on an aide to deliver the address.

"I asked Monsignor [Pierluigi Girolì] to read it because I still can't," the pope said.

The Holy Father has been assisted in his public remarks since late February when the Vatican announced he was suffering from "mild flu" symptoms. Despite the lingering symptoms, the pope has maintained a full schedule while gearing up for Holy Week in Rome.

The pope's catechesis on Wednesday offered an outline of prudence — one of the four cardinal virtues — with the Holy Father noting that it is an essential characteristic for those "called to govern," as it requires

inner equilibrium and the ability to harmonize conflicting views.

"The prudent do not choose by chance," the pope observed. "First of all, they know what they want, then they weigh up the situations, seek advice, and with a broad outlook and inner freedom, they choose which path to embark upon."

The pope clarified that prudence, which is often conflated with "caution," or hesitation, should instead be thought of as an innate capacity to act freely and creatively, free from sentimentalism and external pressures.

"Granting primacy to prudence means that the action of man is in the hands of his intel-

ligence and freedom. The prudent person is creative: He or she reasons, evaluates, tries to understand the complexity of reality and does not allow him or herself to be overwhelmed by emotions, idleness, pressures, and illusions," the pope reflected.

Francis also highlighted that the virtues are not static concepts but instead form a "living organism" and a point of encounter, and dialogue, with antiquity.

Virtues are not "the exclusive prerogative of Christians but rather belong to the heritage of ancient wisdom, in particular of the Greek philosophers," the pontiff said.

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# I wasn't looking at it that way

He had a fake license plate in the rear window that said, "please stop laughing at my car."

My sisters and I weren't laughing.

It was the late 1980s or early 90s, and my grandfather was the proud owner of an orange Ford Pinto. Actually, describing it as "orange" is giving it more credit than it's due. The dominant color was rust.

While my sisters and I were too young to know or care about the vehicle's dubious safety record, we knew we found riding in it to be embarrassing, and we knew we hated it when grandpa picked us up from school in it.

I hadn't thought of the

Pinto for a while until someone I know mentioned the model, giving me the opportunity to talk about grandpa's orange hunk of junk.

**Darcy L.  
Fargo**

It occurred to me after that conversation that the first vehicle I bought myself with my own money wasn't all that dissimilar to the Pinto. My 10-year-old Mercury Grand Marquis had a better safety record and less

rust, but it was still an older car in less-than-awesome condition. I loved my Grand Marquis. Now, thinking about the Ford Pinto, I think grandpa's love of that vehicle and love of embarrassing

his granddaughters in it is quite entertaining. It's a fond memory.

I find it interesting to consider how age and experience change our perspectives, and how where we are in our lives tints the lens through which we view the world.

I think God wanted me to get that message as we enter Holy Week.

I'll be completely honest: I'm not great at being completely attentive at the various Holy Week liturgies and the Easter Vigil. I find it easy to "check out," so to speak, thinking, "I've heard it all what feels like eleven-billion times."

I forgot that God makes it different, at least partly because He makes me different. Each year, I enter Holy Week looking at the world

through a new lens, a lens that includes all the biases and perspective of my recent experiences.

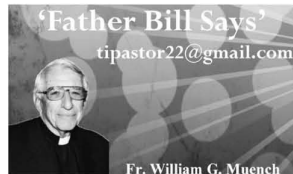
Each year, we can unite our suffering with Christ's in a different way, because our suffering is different. Each year, we can celebrate in his resurrection differently, because God has given us rebirth or a need for rebirth in different areas of our lives.

As we enter this holiest week of the year, I pray for the grace to enter it fully, open to what God has to say to me exactly where I am now and as I am now.

It's certainly no laughing matter.

We, the staff and contributors to the North Country Catholic, wish you a blessed Holy Week and joyous Easter.

## At the Chrism Mass

**Fr. William G. Muench**

Each year as our liturgical year approaches Holy Week, I decide to write a column concerning the Chrism Mass. I want you all to remember all that is celebrated at the Chrism Mass. It is that important. All the priests of the diocese gather for the Chrism Mass. While everyone is invited, the Chrism Mass is essentially for the priests of a diocese.

This Chrism Mass includes a special blessing ceremony for the sacred oils that will be used in the sacraments of our Catholic Church in all the parishes of the diocese during the coming year. Our bishop, Bishop LaValley, will bless the Oil of the Sick, the oil that is used to anoint those who are dying as well as those who are seriously ill or facing serious surgery; the Oil of the Catechumens, used in the celebration of baptism; and he will consecrate the Sacred Chrism, oil used in the celebration of Baptism and Confirmation, as well as the ordination of a priest.

Each of the priests at the Chrism Mass will take some of these oils back to their parishes to be used in the celebration of the sacraments during the coming year. This is a special sign. Our Bishop will be connected with each parish in his diocese; his blessing and support will be united with each sacrament that is celebrated in his diocese.

Also, there is another ceremony that is added to the Chrism Mass. All the priests of the diocese at the Chrism Mass will renew their Priestly Promises, the promises that they made for the first time at their ordination to the priesthood.

So, each year at this Chrism Mass, the priests in the presence of their bishop and also in the presence of the people of their parishes, the people of the di-

ocese, will solemnly renew their Priestly Promises.

In their Priestly Promises, the priests resolve to be more united with the Lord Jesus and more conformed to the Lord Jesus. In addition, the priests resolve to deny themselves and to continue to dedicate themselves to celebrate their sacred duties as priests of the Catholic Church. They resolve that they will do all in their priestly service in the love of the Lord God; they will continue this resolve as they did on the day of their priestly ordination. Then the priests again dedicate themselves to be faithful stewards of the mysteries of God in the Holy Eucharist and all the other liturgical rites. The priests again promise to discharge their sacred office of teaching, following the lead of Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd. The priests make certain to resolve to do all as ministers of the Word of God, not for any personal gain but rather being moved by a zeal for souls.

Then, as part of this cer-

emony, our bishop turns to the people, those present at the Mass and those at home in their parishes, to pray for their priests. In addition, the bishop asks for prayers for himself so that he will exercise his office as bishop and serve and live in the image of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd.

This Chrism Mass presents an important message for the people of God in the Catholic parishes of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Our bishop would like to unite our diocese through the celebration of this Chrism Mass with the priests of the diocese and the people of all their parishes. During the Chrism Mass, Bishop LaValley has a unique opportunity to present a message to all the priests for this coming year, promising his support as they again renew their Priestly Promises.

The Chrism Mass is a call for all the priests and people our diocese, the Diocese of Ogdensburg, to work together in union with the Lord Jesus and with our bishop.



## FOLLOW ME

## ‘Be inwardly transformed’

*Editor's Note: The following is Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily from the Chrism Mass, celebrated March 21 at St. Mary's Cathedral.*

As you know, we call this annual Liturgy of the Church the Chrism Mass. You have noticed that our first reading from the Prophet Isaiah, as well as our Gospel from Luke, speak about an anointing of oil. Soon I will bless the oil of catechumens and the oil of the sick and then I will consecrate the sacred chrism. All of these blessed oils will then be given to our pastors to bring back to their local parishes to be used in the celebration of the sacraments.

As I introduce the consecratory prayer of the chrism, you will hear me say: Let us pray that all who are anointed with it may be inwardly transformed. Isn't that what we all yearn for - inner transformation?

The chrism is a sign that every Christian shares in Christ's kingdom and prophetic priesthood. Chrism is used to anoint the newly baptized and to trace the sign of Christ on those to be confirmed. The newly ordained priest kneels before his bishop who anoints his hands with sacred chrism symbolizing the priest's distinctive participation in Christ's priesthood. As was Aaron, the high priest, the head of a newly ordained bishop is anointed with chrism by the ordaining prelate.

The anointing of chrism is a sign of our common priesthood. It serves as a reminder of the commitment made to Christ in baptism that we would open ourselves - ever ready - to be transformed into His likeness

and love as we live out our particular vocation. The name "Christ" means the "anointed" One. So, by its very definition, to be a Christian is to be anointed, a sharer in Christ's priesthood. Clergy and laity together make up the one priestly people. In virtue of their ministry, priests live in the midst of the lay faithful that they may, through Christ's Spirit, lead and be catalysts for personal transformation. For the lay person, the priest, deacon, sister, brother, bishop - faith is all about inward transformation, allowing God to have His way with us - surrendering to His will, His love, living the call to holiness of every person.

You see, it is important to understand that the Christian faith is not just an immense packet of things to learn. It seems to me that if our message remains abstract and difficult to understand, people will not spend the time needed to reflect, to prepare the soil for the Lord's grace to enter our lives, especially given our short attention span today. We need to translate complicated theological concepts into terms that will capture and keep a person's attention. Ultimately it is simple: God is love. God revealed Himself in Jesus Christ. Conversion to God, faith in Jesus Christ, means readiness to receive God's transforming grace.

But, there is so much that distracts us from openness to transformation in Christ. For instance, we might possess a well-intentioned work routine, but we can forget our own soul, our

own spiritual life, our own intimacy with Christ in the midst of tending to what needs to be done here on earth.

Certainly, my brother priests, it is imminently important that our passion not fizzle out, our joy of being called by the Lord, not wane. You know that loss of enthusiasm can easily creep into our lives, especially if life becomes comfortable and routine, and we figure that the world

always seemingly stays the same anyway, no matter what we do. Then we might feel that ministry has become burdensome, not rewarding. To counter such a flagging spirit and energy zapper, we return even more faithfully to the Word of God, to prayer, to communion with Christ in the Sacraments. Such intimacy with Christ allows Him to renew our spiritual youth, helping us to re-capture our zeal and trash any lukewarmness.

My friends, we all need to sharpen our sense for the supernatural and re-awaken the deep longing which exists in every human heart for what is above. It's not enough to keep things the way they are. That's not transformation. That's lethargy. That's a broken spirit. That's not of God. There is a tremendous need for evangelization. No growth means death. My sisters and brothers, a vibrant Church has something to say to today's culture.

We need to look beyond our own comfortable niche and pay attention to the greater community, a missionary charge that is less individual and more conscious of walk-

ing the journey of faith with others, bringing together our personal and parish energies, not just closing in on ourselves. This is particularly important as our diocesan planning further impacts our pastoral ministry. We are not entities unto ourselves, but pilgrims, fellow companions.

We are linked by our baptism, our common priesthood. We are members of one Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, one, anointed family of faith.

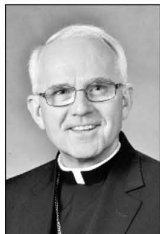
For too many, the next life is off the radar screen. The world wants to exclude anything that transcends the world. Today's philosophy declares that Heaven is empty, not worthy of reflection by the serious person. There is no common journey to anywhere. We worry only about what is here and now. Our world wants to forget about death, the supernatural is irrelevant, even disappearing.

Given this reality, Pope Benedict XVI once wrote: "What is most helpful to the church in these troubled times is a frank and complete acknowledgment of the weaknesses and the sinfulness of her ministers, but also a joyful and renewed realization of the greatness of God's gift, embodied in the splendid example of generous pastors." My sisters and brothers, let there be no doubt, the Church of Ogdensburg is truly blessed with extraordinarily generous, hard-working, holy priests. Perhaps, for many of us priests, our once smooth hands anointed with chrism on the day of our priestly ordination have become somewhat wrinkled and calloused. But, we continue to bless, to absolve

and consecrate, in addition to the shoveling, mowing, cooking, cleaning and all the other daily chores common to us all.

This day in which the Church of Ogdensburg gathers to witness my brother priests renew their commitment to priestly ministry, I wish to thank them for their selfless giving. These men who love God and seek holiness and inner transformation inspire all of us in our quest to follow Jesus. We continue to pray that more young men and women will open their hearts to the Lord's transformative grace and consider a life vocation in the Church. I encourage parish vocation committees to help prepare the soil locally. We will soon hear in the Consecratory prayer: Aaron's anointing foreshadowed greater things to come. Make this chrism a sign of life and salvation. Yes, the anointings point to the future with hope because of what Christ has done for us, culminating in the events the Church will celebrate in our liturgies these next few days, even weeks as we, God willing, will celebrate the ordination of two new priests in this sacred space.

As we prepare to enter this most holiest of weeks, let us resolve to set no limits to the transformation the Lord seeks to influence in our lives. As we hear Jesus beckon each one of us, His anointed, "Follow Me," we respond: "I'm ready Lord." We seek to grasp the height, breadth, and depth of our vocation and embrace the process of our transformation in Christ in living it out to the fullest. May God be praised...forever may God be praised!



Bishop Terry R. LaValley

# Solar Eclipse 2024

## Viewing the once-in-a-lifetime event through a Catholic lens (and special glasses)

By Keith Benman  
Contributing Writer

Catholics in the North Country will soon be able to experience a seldom-glimpsed aspect of God's creation.

"We will see stars in the middle of the day," said Aileen O'Donoghue, an astronomer and professor at St. Lawrence University. "We will see planets and the corona of the sun ... these 1-million-degree gases and particles that are flying off of the sun."

Birds will stop singing. The temperature will drop. It will be like dusk in the afternoon.

No, it won't be the End Times or the Apocalypse. It will be the total solar eclipse on April 8 - something that won't be seen in the North Country for another 181 years.

Of course, not just Catholics will see it, and excitement is growing for everyone. Both public and private viewing parties are planned all across the North Country. One will take place on top of a ski hill; another at a drive-in theater. There are estimates that hundreds of thou-



Source: Base map courtesy of Xavier Jubier Solar Eclipses Interactive

**When and where:** This map shows the 100-mile wide corridor where the total solar eclipse will occur on April 8. It will sweep across the breadth of the Ogdensburg diocese. It will start at 2:10 p.m. in the Watertown area. Within minutes, anyone standing anywhere in the diocese will be able to see the moon start to block out the sun. Totality, when the moon will completely blot out the sun, will start at 3:22 p.m. in the Watertown area. Within minutes, it too will be experienced across the diocese.

sands of eclipse tourists could descend on the region.

But some think Catholics and other people of faith may have a leg up when it comes to appreciating a once-in-a-lifetime event like a total solar eclipse.

"When we see the awesome beauty of creation, we just know that there's

a creator behind it," said Father Bryan Stitt, pastor at St. Mary's Church in Canton.

He'll be thinking of that as he steps outside with his sister and her family that day, who are traveling 600 miles from Virginia to get a look at what promises to be a spectacular event.

And for Catholics,

there's another reason to appreciate the day. April 8 will also be the feast of the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that the light of the world would be coming into the world. It just seems appropriate, Father Stitt said.

"Catholics, through the ages, we've looked at Christ being like the sun and Mary being like the moon," he said.

Astronomer O'Donoghue has been giving presentations on the eclipse throughout the region, including practical steps Father Stitt and others should be taking. At the top of her list is get yourself a pair of the special protective "eclipse glasses" being handed out at presentations like hers and available at some stores and tourist venues. Regular

sunglasses won't protect your eyes.

And there's another piece of advice at the top of her list:

"Don't fiddle with your phone. ... engage your senses with this," she tells audiences. There'll be plenty of great pictures available online from NASA and others that day.

If you can't resist pointing your phone that way at some point, then make sure you have an appropriate filter for the lens. Direct sunlight could damage it and render it useless. And the same goes for your camera.

Of course, a cloudy day could put a damper on things. But it won't be absolutely ruined. O'Donoghue was in Kansas for a total solar eclipse on a cloudy August 21, 2017. It got dark, birds and other animals got weird. In some places the clouds even miraculously parted so folks

could get a glimpse.

"It's an event, even with clouds," O'Donoghue said.

O'Donoghue is a member of St. Mary's Potsdam parish and a commissioned lay minister there.

Her presentations deal with the science behind the eclipse. But she said her Catholic faith and belief in a divine being will also be on her mind April 8.

"My faith and my science compliment each other," O'Donoghue said. "My science teaches me about the wonders of this universe, which are incredible. And my faith helps me to see it as an act of love - the entire universe."

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# Celebrating 75 years of scouting

## Cub Scout pack, leadership have longevity at St. André Bessette Parish

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

In their 75 years of scouting affiliated with Catholic Churches in Malone, Cub Scout Pack 8061 has survived a lot of challenges and changes, but one thing, the pack's leadership, has remained consistent for most of its existence.

On March 4, the pack celebrated its milestone anniversary at its annual Blue and Gold Banquet.

"February is the birthday month of the scouts," said Pack Leader Pat Sauther. "We try to have our Blue and Gold Banquet in February or as close to February as we can get. It's something we look forward to."

The event is a "celebration of scouting," Sauther said.

In addition to receiving pins and awards marking the completion of "adventures," the Blue and Gold Banquet, attended by both scouts and their parents, includes dinner, a short skit performed by older pack members - Webelos and Arrows of Light, and a favorite annual tradition, the "cake bake."

In the cake bake, scouts make and decorate cakes according to chosen themes, and prizes are awarded. Cakes at this year's banquet centered around scouting and the pack anniversary, as well as the eclipse and outer space.

The Blue and Gold

Banquet was opened with a prayer led by Father Steve Murray, pastor of St. André Bessette Parish, and was closed with a prayer of blessing led by Leadership Council Member David Petrelli.

Sauther said pack leadership has worked hard to keep the pack, comprised of dens of Lions (kindergarted), Tigers (first grade), Wolves (second grade), Bears (third grades) and Webelos/Arrows of Light (fourth and fifth grades), running for its 75-year existence.

"Last year, we started in June with three kids," she said. "Throughout the summer, our pack committee got together and worked to do some recruiting. We put up fliers around the schools in Malone, and we held a sign-up night, and we got 10 new kids. But we needed den leaders, too. We had only one experienced leader, Norma Jean Brusso, returning. We put the question out to the parents, and a few said, 'ok. We'll give it a try.' I'm very proud of them. They weren't very familiar with scouting, but they went with it, and they're doing a great job."

Sauther has been with the pack for 68 years of its 75-year existence.

"I've been involved since I was 18 years old," she said. "Immediately after I graduated from high school in 1956, (the parish pastor) called me one night in October and said, 'I have a den of



Photo by Darcy Fargo/North Country Catholic

**Pat Sauther, leader of Cub Scout Pack 8061 in Malone, presents an award to a young scout at the pack's annual Blue and Gold Banquet. The pack, affiliated with St. André Bessette Parish in Malone, celebrated its 75th anniversary at the banquet. Sauther has been a leader with the pack since 1956.**

Cub Scouts here.' I said, 'what are Cub Scouts?' He said, 'boys who need a leader.' I've been with them ever since."

In her 68 years with the scouts, Sauther said a lot has changed both with the scouts as an organization and with the scouts in the pack.

"The projects we do are different than what they were even 20 to 25 years ago," she said. "In some cases, the ideas are the same, but we're presenting them differently. And we're constantly doing new projects. And now we're a family pack, and we have both boys and girls, and the kids have less experience with the outdoors and camping than they used to. Back when I started, we also weren't competing with all these sports and other activities."

Despite the changes,

Sauther said the part she enjoys most has been consistent since she first started as a leader.

"It's the satisfaction of seeing these kids growing and learning," she said. "I get to see them grow in scouting, and I get to see them grow all around. I've seen boys who were in my oldest daughter's class at school who were my Cub Scouts. I've seen them go through scouting to be Eagle Scouts. It's been very satisfying. It's really rewarding when you see them grasp a new concept or skill. They have that moment of 'I know how to do that now,' or 'I got it!' You can see it in their eyes. That's the reward for me."

The mom of four girls and two boys, Sauther said her boys partici-

pated in scouting, with the oldest, David, continuing until he was 16. David later helped the pack as a volunteer for some years before he became ill and passed away at age 59.

While Sauther has also been involved in the Altar Rosary Society at St. André Bessette Parish and in other organizations and volunteer projects, she said scouting has had the most profound impact on her life.

"I told my kids, when I pass away, I want to be buried in my uniform," she said. "So much of my life has been in my uniform. I find scouting very rewarding. It's not because of the awards I've received, but it's because I've been able to watch these boys and girls grow into young men and women. That's rewarding."

# Funeral Mass celebrated for Diane R. Tynon

A Mass of Christian Burial for Diane R. (Lassial) Tynon, a former diocesan employee, was celebrated March 23 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

A spring burial will be in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Mrs. Tynon, 79, a resident of Ogdensburg, passed away on Friday, March 15, 2024, surrounded by her loving family.

Diane is survived by her daughter, Christine (Tynon) Welker and her husband, Daniel, of Bridgeport, NY; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; siblings, Kevin LaRock and Billy LaRock; a sister, Tammy Otto; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. Diane is predeceased by her son, Henry Tynon, and siblings, Robby LaRock and Dawn Waiculonis.

Diane was born on March 27, 1944, in Ogdensburg, NY, the daughter of the late Henry A. and Constance (Miller) Lassial. Predeceased by her former



Diane R. (Lassial) Tynon

husband Donald M. Tynon. She attended St. Mary's Academy and Rethel's Business School.

Diane was a secretary with the Diocese of Ogdensburg for over 40 years at the time of her retirement. She started her career at the Chancery office and later moved over to the Spratt Building. Her dedication to her work extended beyond her family; She was committed to the diocese youth ministry and Camp Guggenheim, devoting special attention to Camp Guggenheim, to ensure that as many youths as possible had the opportunity

to experience the faith generated at camp.

Diane delighted in spoiling her grandchildren and adored the company of her dogs. She found great joy creating in knitting and crocheting, especially crafting blankets and sweaters for her grandchildren and others. In addition, thinking ahead she made a baby blanket and sweater set for future great-grandchildren.

Diane's life was a testament to her boundless love for horses. She found her greatest joy in the company of horses, caring for them as often as possible with grace and passion.

Donations may be made in Diane's memory to the Ogdensburg Boys and Girls Club, PO BOX 555, 610 Paterson Street, Ogdensburg, NY 13669, or Camp Guggenheim, c/o Catholic Diocese, 622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669.

Online condolences may be made at [www.fraryfuneralhome.com](http://www.fraryfuneralhome.com).

## A MUSICAL CELEBRATION



Parishioners and guests at Sackets Harbor's St. Andrew Church celebrated St. Patrick's Day after Mass with musicians Deborah and Lindsey Davis. The mother-daughter duo, who live in Sackets Harbor, sang Irish songs and played traditional Celtic instruments in the parish center. Deborah taught music for 35 years, and her daughter followed in her footsteps, just completing her tenth year as a music teacher.

## OBITUARIES

**Champlain** – Jeanine M. Surprenant, 92; Mass of Christian Burial in Spring at St. Mary's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Lowville** – Nicholas Henry Thisse, 87; Mass of Christian Burial March 23, 2024 at St. Peter's Church;

burial in Martinsburg Cemetery.

**Massena** – Freda Pellegrino Basso, 89; Mass of Christian Burial March 23, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Morrisonville** – Mary Lou

(Smith) Lavigne, 86; Mass of Christian Burial March 22, 2024 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Joanne (Hilborne) Crowder, 88; Funeral Services March 18, 2024 at Oswegatchie Mausoleum.

**Plattsburgh** – Dr. Victor E.

Castine, Jr., 71; Mass of Christian Burial March 19, 2024 at St. John's Church; burial in Ingraham Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Sebastien R. Cuadrado, 20; Mass of Christian Burial March 25, 2024 at St. Peter's Church.

**Plattsburgh** – Martin D. Mannix Jr., 82; Funeral Services April 20, 2024 at Brown Funeral Home.

**Plattsburgh** – David Pombrio, 90; Mass of Christian Burial March 21, 2024 at St. Peter's Church.

**Rouses Point** – Raymond A. Cayea, 72; Mass of Christian Burial March 25, 2024 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Watertown** – Rosemary (Janack) Patenaude, 86; Mass of Christian Burial March 22, 2024 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**West Leyden** – Madeline H. (Denslow) Schoff, 93; Mass of Christian Burial March 22, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

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**Bishop's Public Schedule**

**March 27** – 9 a.m. – St. Joseph's Home Board of Managers Meeting at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**March 28** – 7 p.m. – Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. Mary's Cathedral

**March 29** – 3 p.m. – Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord at St. Mary's Cathedral followed by Confessions

**March 30** – 8 p.m. – Easter Vigil at St. Mary's Cathedral

**March 31** – 8 a.m. – Easter Sunday Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Protecting God's Children**

**The Diocese of Ogdensburg** is able to schedule sessions of the training, Protecting God's Children for Adults.

To arrange for training, call 315-393-2920 or email jgrizzuto@rcdony.org

**Rest in Peace**

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

**March 27** – Rev. Bernard Marron, 1927; Rev. Henry Cormerais, 1938; Rev. Lawrence J. Gerrity, O.S.A., 1981; Rev. John L. Gallagher, O.S.A., 1982

**March 28** – Rev. Francis McShane, O.S.A., 1932; Rev. Walter C. McMahon, 1978; Rev. Lawrence A. Mallette, 1989; Rev. Joseph P. Trombley, 2001

**March 29** – Rev. Joseph Taney, 1880; Rev. Hillary Hemmer O.M.C., 1934; Rev. J. Aime Troie, 1955; Rev. Ross A. Garnsey, 1986; Rev. Euclid Marier, 2003

**March 30** – Rev. Joseph Chartrand, O.M.I., 1960; Rev. Victor Lamore, 2017

**March 31** – Rev. Louis Lopic, 1873; Rev. Gabriel Volkert, 1873; Rev. Henri Langlais, O.M.I., 1980

**April 1** – Rev. James H. Roche, 1927; Msgr. Herbert J. Hannan, 2002; Rev. Mark McDonald, MSC, 2018

**April 2** – Pope John Paul II, 2005

**Environmental Stewardship****Earth's Passion**

During Holy Week, we enter into the passion and suffering of Christ. Pondering the mystery of His love poured out for us reveals the cost of true love. This can motivate us to offer our lives for the good of others as He did. However, have you ever thought about the suffering and passion of the earth?

In Romans 8:22 we read, "We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time." St. Paul teaches us creation shares in the cycle of pain, suffering and rebirth. We witness this cycle in the four seasons. If we look around us, we realize our way of viewing creation merely as a commodity to be used to fulfill not only our needs but also our wants has caused much pain and suffering to creation. We witness this suffering in pollution of the air, the water, the soil. We view the extinction and suffering of species God created with a unique place in the web of life. Often decisions are made by humans with little or no questions about the effect it will have on the environment or people. God has given us a valuable lesson in nature – take only what we need. There is enough for one's need but not for one's greed in the world. As followers of Jesus, our love for others includes concern for both the welfare of all our sisters and brothers and the earth upon which all life depends.

During Holy Week, while contemplating the passion and suffering of Christ and in our sisters and brothers, spend some time pondering the suffering of creation that cries out to us for healing and new life. Just as our Lenten season calls us to a conversion of heart in our relationship with one another, it calls us also to a renewed relationship with the earth. In Genesis we encounter God's call to care for His creation. Where is God calling you to a part in the healing of the earth's suffering to bring about new life?

**To Report Abuse**

**If you have a complaint** of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terriane Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianeyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-358-3145, Ext. 7179 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rcdony.org Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340.

**If you have a complaint** of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at 800-276-1562 or [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org)



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# Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg Report of Special Funds

## A Letter From The Diocesan Fiscal Officer

### A Message from Bishop Terry LaValley

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

I am pleased to provide this introduction to the *Report on Special Funds* for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2023. As is our custom, each year this report is published for your review. It completes our accounting of all those funds entrusted to the Diocese of Ogdensburg for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year. These monies are set aside for special purposes and investments.

Your generous giving provides essential resources for the Diocese of Ogdensburg to proclaim the Gospel and minister faithfully to our sisters and brothers in Christ. Through economic distress and uncertain financial times, the people of the North Country continue to support generously our Church's various ministries. We are truly blessed! I am so grateful.

I especially wish to thank our Diocesan Fiscal Officer, Mark T. Mashaw, as well as our excellent fiscal staff for the careful manner in which they safeguard all the financial resources that have been entrusted to our Diocese, ensuring that they are used for the purposes intended. I am also grateful to the members of the Diocesan Finance Council and Investment Advisory Committee who meet regularly and offer their expert counsel in service to the Church of the North Country.

Please know of my sincere appreciation to all the members of our Diocesan family, particularly during these most challenging times. May Mary, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, our Diocesan Patroness, help us all to follow her Son as a people richly blessed.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley  
Bishop of Ogdensburg



The Diocesan Fiscal Office is pleased to present in the *North Country Catholic* the Report of Special Funds for the year ended June 30, 2023, along with comparisons to prior years. Special Funds are funds that the diocese holds for special purposes, such as Disability Insurance, Property and Liability Insurance, Missionary Projects, Priests' Retirement and Unemployment Insurance. Also included in Special Funds are funds that belong to diocesan institutions which have been forwarded to the diocese for investment, such as the Diocesan Trust Fund and the Deposit & Loan Fund. Information is included in this report for the Lay Employees' Retirement Trust. All Special Funds statements for 2022-23 presented herein except for the Lay Employees' Retirement Trust have been extracted from the audited financial report that was published in the November 22, 2023, issue of the *North Country Catholic*. The Lay Employees' Retirement Trust is a separate entity with its own audited financial statements and the 2022-23 information contained herein was obtained from those audited statements.

#### DIOCESAN TRUST FUND

As of June 30, 2023, the Diocesan Trust Fund had principal assets with a cost of \$25,231,938 and a market value of \$25,198,221. The investment portfolio had a positive rate of return of 6.97% in 2022-23. In the first six months of the 2023-24 fiscal year the Diocesan Trust Fund had a positive rate of return of 5.09%, and its market value was \$26,024,375 as of December 31, 2023. The diocese paid dividend distributions from the Fund in the amount of \$875,000 during the fiscal year, a rate of return of 3.49% on investments in the Fund.

#### DEPOSIT & LOAN FUND

The Deposit & Loan Fund had an increase of \$551,097 in its net assets in 2022-23, bringing its net asset balance to \$2,204,082. The interest rate paid to depositors was 1.5% for the period July 1, 2022 – September 30, 2022, and 0.5% for the period October 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023. The interest rate on loans was 4% for the entire fiscal year. In the first six months of 2023-24 the Deposit & Loan Fund net assets increased by \$519,811. As of June 30, 2023, total deposits in the Fund, including diocesan central office monies, totaled \$14,990,466, and the balance of loan principal due the Fund amounted to \$2,946,757.

#### PROTECTED SELF-INSURANCE PROGRAM

Expenses exceeded revenue by \$29,134 in the Protected Self-Insurance Program in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. The program remains financially sound, as it has reserves for claims in the amount of \$1,028,979 and net assets of \$1,645,732 as of June 30, 2023. The program's reinsurance premium expense saw an increase of 12.3% in 2022-23.

#### LAY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT TRUST

The Lay Employees' Retirement Trust had a decrease in net assets of \$104,668 during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, reducing its total net assets to \$25,946,366. The investment portfolio had a positive rate of return of 9.58% in 2022-23. During the first six months of fiscal year 2023-24, Trust investments saw a

rate of return of 5.70%. On December 31, 2023, the market value of Trust investments was \$25,110,729. The Fund's July 1, 2023, actuarial valuation determined the Fund's funded status increased from 67.4% one year earlier to 67.5%. The Plan is 96.4% funded as it relates to covering obligations to current retirees. Diocesan employers contributed 11.1% of lay employee wages to fund the Plan in 2022-23 and will contribute 12.2% of wages in 2023-24.



#### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUND

The Unemployment Insurance Fund had an increase in net assets of \$23,032 for the year ended June 30, 2023, bringing total net assets to \$339,218. Claims paid for the years ending June 30, 2023 and 2022 were \$24,182 and \$8,131, respectively.

#### MISSIONARY PROJECTS FUND

The Missionary Projects Fund had a decrease in net assets in the amount of \$12,667 for the year ended June 30, 2023, bringing its net assets to \$227,092. The Diocese of Ogdensburg continues to provide monthly financial support to its former mission in Mollendo, Peru, as well as other missions in the world as deemed appropriate by Bishop LaValley. Moneys are given to support the U.S. Bishops' annual appeal for Latin America. Additionally, with Bishop LaValley's approval, financial support is given from the Fund to urgent need collections taken at times of global emergency/crisis.

#### DISABILITY INSURANCE FUND

The Disability Insurance Fund had a surplus in the amount of \$17,577 for the year ended June 30, 2023. Claims paid in 2022-23 were \$4,496 lower than those paid in 2021-22. Net assets of this Fund as of June 30, 2023, were \$293,135.

#### PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FUND

Net assets of the Priests' Retirement Fund decreased by \$554,567 during the year ended June 30, 2023. The Fund recorded investment income of \$221,700 and net gains on investments in the amount of \$400,678 in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. Support from Christmas collections was \$144,839, as compared to \$196,251 from the prior year. The Christmas collection contribution rate was 75% for the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022.

The Diocesan Fiscal Office is available to answer any questions regarding the Report of Special Funds. Please feel free to call the Diocesan Fiscal Office at (315) 393-2920, ext. 1210, email at mmashaw@rcdony.org or visit the Fiscal Office at 604 Washington Street in Ogdensburg during normal office hours.

Mark T. Mashaw  
Diocesan Fiscal Officer



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

*Diocesan Trust Fund Principal*

January 1, 1977 - June 30, 2023

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN PRINCIPAL**

	January 1, 1977 - June 30, 2021	July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023	January 1, 1977 - June 30, 2023
<b>Opening Book Balance</b>	\$ -	\$ 24,052,707	\$ 26,334,866	\$ -
Net Deposits	11,352,608	(559,037)	(238,308)	10,555,263
Net Realized Gain on Sales	29,288,804	1,754,300	(161,218)	30,881,886
Fees [Custody/Management]	(3,544,112)	(292,516)	(247,247)	(4,083,875)
Transfers to Pay Dividends	(14,878,027)	(875,000)	(875,000)	(16,628,027)
Net Adjustments*	1,833,434	2,254,412	418,845	4,506,691
<b>Closing Book Balance</b>	\$ 24,052,707	\$ 26,334,866	\$ 25,231,938	\$ 25,231,938
<b>Market Value</b>	\$ 31,055,291	\$ 24,978,769	\$ 25,198,221	\$ 25,198,221

\* includes income reinvested for fund, funds in transit, etc.

	06/30/23 Book Value	06/30/23 Market Value
<b>NBT BANK INVESTMENTS</b>		
Bonds & U.S. Government Agencies & Bond Funds	\$ 9,658,799	\$ 8,593,369
Equities & Equity Funds	7,049,013	8,675,658
Real Estate and Real Estate Trusts	665,572	735,479
Money Market	185,748	185,748
<b>TOTAL NBT BANK INVESTMENTS</b>	17,559,132	18,190,254
<b>CHRISTIAN BROTHERS INVESTMENT SERVICES</b>		
Bond Funds	2,013,427	1,767,601
Equity Funds	4,930,031	4,617,263
<b>TOTAL CHRISTIAN BROTHERS INVESTMENT SERVICES</b>	6,943,458	6,384,864
<b>DIMENSIONAL FUND ADVISORS</b>	626,000	550,973
<b>THE INVESTMENT FUND FOR FOUNDATIONS</b>	103,348	72,130
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</b>	\$ 25,231,938	\$ 25,198,221

*Deposit & Loan Fund*

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023

**BALANCE SHEET**

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE**

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022		July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023	July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022
<b>ASSETS</b>			<b>INCOME</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 19,990	\$ 277,821	Interest on Notes Receivable	\$ 97,561	\$ 105,169
Interest Receivable	63,948	77,481	Investment Income	469,183	483,103
Notes Receivable - Borrowers	2,946,757	3,367,108	Unrealized Gain (Loss) On Investments	492,111	(2,940,712)
Reserve	(590,000)	(700,567)	Realized Gain (Loss) On Investments	(308,352)	1,025,756
Investments	15,382,859	16,577,802	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	750,503	(1,326,684)
Investment - Collateral Account	860,844	856,755	<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Due From Operating Fund	-	22,049	Interest on Notes Payable	127,236	286,932
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	\$ 18,684,398	\$ 20,478,449	Investment Management Fees	103,412	124,439
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>			Fiscal Office Administration	79,094	100,413
Notes Payable - Depositors	\$ 14,990,466	\$ 18,801,239	Office Supplies	231	237
Accrued Interest Payable	6,910	24,225	Increase (Decrease) in Reserves	(110,567)	19,468
Due to Operating Fund	1,482,940	-	Departmental Grant	-	850,300
Fund Balance	2,204,082	1,652,985	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	199,406	1,381,789
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	\$ 18,684,398	\$ 20,478,449	<b>EXCESS (DEFICIT)</b>	\$ 551,097	\$ (2,708,473)

**THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG**  
**Diocesan Protected Self-Insurance Program**  
**July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2023**

**BALANCE SHEET****STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**

	BALANCE SHEET				STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS			
	June 30, 2020	June 30, 2021	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2023	July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020	July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021	July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023
<b>ASSETS</b>								
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 5,917	\$ 14,625	\$ 16,519	\$ 20,127	\$ 2,071,772	\$ 2,005,894	\$ 2,176,614	\$ 2,295,865
Investments	1,095,797	892,072	968,178	972,799	86,912	119,911	(2,990)	(48,589)
Notes Receivable	1,533,354	-	-	-	-	725,000	100,000	-
Accounts Receivable	246,164	256,044	313,377	388,282	29,871	15,278	-	-
Due From Operating Fund	1,060,049	1,175,093	875,547	771,437	-	-	-	-
BPIC Member Share	348,356	405,474	443,028	389,818	-	-	-	-
Stock in NCRRG	132,248	132,248	132,248	132,248	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 4,421,885</b>	<b>\$ 2,875,556</b>	<b>\$ 2,748,897</b>	<b>\$ 2,674,711</b>	<b>2,188,555</b>	<b>2,866,083</b>	<b>2,273,624</b>	<b>2,247,276</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>								
Claims Payable	\$ 1,533,354	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				
Unearned Insurance Premium	-	900	-	-				
Reserves For Claims	1,087,310	1,117,487	1,074,031	1,028,979				
Net Assets	1,801,221	1,757,169	1,674,866	1,645,732				
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 4,421,885</b>	<b>\$ 2,875,556</b>	<b>\$ 2,748,897</b>	<b>\$ 2,674,711</b>				
<b>INCOME</b>								
Earned Premiums					\$ 2,071,772	\$ 2,005,894	\$ 2,176,614	\$ 2,295,865
Net Gain (Loss) On Investments					86,912	119,911	(2,990)	(48,589)
Department Grant					-	725,000	100,000	-
Investment Income					29,871	15,278	-	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>					<b>2,188,555</b>	<b>2,866,083</b>	<b>2,273,624</b>	<b>2,247,276</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>								
Reinsurance Premiums and Bonds					1,072,742	1,127,332	1,215,779	1,365,787
Professional Services					148,475	113,050	32,483	79,507
Gallagher Bassett Service Fee					27,750	30,425	35,888	43,588
Adjustment in Reserves					(205,211)	30,177	(43,456)	(45,052)
Self-Insured Claims					347,013	1,308,321	713,813	503,625
NYS Compensation Board Assessments					37,814	33,128	31,965	27,540
Department Grants					97,229	104,938	115,689	117,404
Grants					-	-	80,000	-
Diocesan Administration					136,720	162,764	173,766	184,011
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>					<b>1,662,532</b>	<b>2,910,135</b>	<b>2,355,927</b>	<b>2,276,410</b>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIT)</b>					<b>\$ 526,023</b>	<b>\$ (44,052)</b>	<b>\$ (82,303)</b>	<b>\$ (29,134)</b>

**Diocesan Protected Self-Insurance Program - Claim Payment and Reserve Experience**  
**As of June 30, 2023**

Policy Year	Claims	Reserves	Total	Losses In Excess of Specific Retention	Losses In Excess of Aggregate Retention	Net Claims	Maximum Amount Single Claim	Maximum Amount Aggregate Claims
XLVIII - 2022-23	\$ 331,505	\$ 78,456	\$ 409,961	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 409,961	\$ 250,000	\$ -
XLVII - 2021-22	471,299	36,908	508,207	-	-	508,207	250,000	-
XLVI - 2020-21	151,243	31,846	183,089	-	-	183,089	250,000	-
XLV - 2019-20	163,265	2,029	165,294	-	-	165,294	250,000	-
XLIV - 2018-19	183,820	58,221	242,041	-	-	242,041	250,000	-
XLIII - 2017-18	523,780	-	523,780	-	-	523,780	250,000	-
XLII - 2016-17	159,622	-	159,622	-	-	159,622	250,000	-
XLI - 2015-16	291,154	-	291,154	-	-	291,154	250,000	-
XL - 2014-15	6,030,681	-	6,030,681	5,286,008	-	744,673	250,000	-
XXXIX - 2013-14	492,859	-	492,859	-	-	492,859	250,000	-
XXXVIII - 2012-13	379,292	-	379,292	-	-	379,292	250,000	-
XXXVII - 2011-12	371,607	-	371,607	-	-	371,607	250,000	-
XXXVI - 2010-11	787,328	-	787,328	242,768	-	544,560	250,000	-
XXXV - 2009-10	176,267	168,333	344,600	96,712	-	247,888	250,000	-
XXXIV - 2008-09	605,358	-	605,358	-	-	605,358	250,000	850,000
XXXIII - 2007-08	321,690	-	321,690	-	-	321,690	250,000	850,000
XXXII - 2006-07	192,555	-	192,555	-	-	192,555	250,000	815,000
XXXI - 2005-2006	554,178	26,202	580,380	118,000	-	462,380	250,000	815,000
XXX - 2004-2005	726,961	-	726,961	92,090	-	634,871	250,000	815,000
XXIX - 2003-2004	759,922	-	759,922	199,816	-	560,106	250,000	780,000
XXVIII - 2002-2003	802,835	138,053	940,888	446,294	-	494,594	250,000	750,000
XXVII - 2001-2002	275,460	-	275,460	22,193	-	253,267	125,000	525,000
XXVI - 2000-2001	299,143	-	299,143	-	-	299,143	125,000	500,000
XXV - 1999-2000	302,681	-	302,681	-	-	302,681	125,000	500,000
XXIV - 1998-1999	329,654	-	329,654	-	-	329,654	125,000	500,000
XXIII - 1997-1998	551,728	-	551,728	105,085	-	446,643	125,000	500,500
XXII - 1996-1997	478,202	-	478,202	98,570	-	379,632	125,000	583,500
XXI - 1995-1996	301,341	-	301,341	-	-	301,341	125,000	550,000
XX - 1994-1995	779,580	-	779,580	-	-	779,580	125,000	475,000
XIX - 1993-1994	1,210,293	10,289	1,302,757	290,902	9,497	489,470	125,000	450,000
XVIII - 1992-1993	326,553	92,464	419,017	681,080	-	621,677	125,000	450,000
XVII - 1991-1992	233,464	-	233,464	-	-	233,464	75,000	355,000
XVI - 1990-1991	92,322	-	92,322	-	-	92,322	75,000	355,000
XV - 1989-1990	190,546	-	190,546	-	-	190,546	75,000	330,000
XIV - 1988-1989	175,616	-	175,616	-	-	175,616	75,000	330,000
XIII - 1987-1988	217,604	-	217,604	38,762	-	178,842	75,000	300,000
XII - 1986-1987	189,446	-	189,446	-	-	189,446	75,000	300,000
XI - 1985-1986	56,965	-	56,965	-	-	56,965	75,000	260,000
X - 1984-1985	160,034	-	160,034	-	-	160,034	75,000	260,000
IX - 1983-1984	109,584	-	109,584	-	-	109,584	75,000	260,000
VIII - 1982-1983	184,852	-	184,852	18,990	-	165,862	75,000	260,000
VII - 1981-1982	103,136	-	103,136	-	-	103,136	75,000	260,000
VI - 1980-1981	323,071	-	323,071	112,199	-	210,872	75,000	225,000
V - 1979-1980	1,106,650	386,178	1,492,828	1,138,968	61,207	292,653	75,000	212,000
IV - 1978-1979	40,498	-	40,498	-	-	40,498	75,000	212,000
III - 1977-1978	153,930	-	153,930	36,879	-	117,051	50,000	150,000
II - 1976-1977	61,217	-	61,217	-	-	61,217	50,000	150,000
I - 1975-1976	63,403	-	63,403	-	-	63,403	50,000	150,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 22,794,194</b>	<b>\$ 1,028,979</b>	<b>\$ 23,823,173</b>	<b>\$ 9,025,316</b>	<b>\$ 70,704</b>	<b>\$ 14,727,153</b>		



MARCH 27, 2024

## THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

### *Diocesan Lay Employees' Retirement Trust*

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023

#### BALANCE SHEET

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021	June 30, 2020
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Cash & Investments	\$ 25,742,890	\$ 25,943,250	\$ 32,003,511	\$ 26,989,349
Receivables	221,176	127,070	19,389	94,414
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 25,964,066</b>	<b>\$ 26,070,320</b>	<b>\$ 32,022,900</b>	<b>\$ 27,083,763</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>				
Accounts Payable	\$ 17,700	-	\$ 24,646	\$ 244,895
Deferred Revenue	-	19,286	-	-
Net Assets Available for Benefits	25,946,366	26,051,034	31,998,254	26,838,868
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 25,964,066</b>	<b>\$ 26,070,320</b>	<b>\$ 32,022,900</b>	<b>\$ 27,083,763</b>

#### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023	July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022	Sept. 1, 1967 - June 30, 2022	Sept. 1, 1967 - June 30, 2023
<b>ADDITIONS</b>				
Employer Contributions	\$ 1,326,476	\$ 1,200,760	\$ 30,696,038	\$ 32,022,514
Department Grants	-	-	500,000	500,000
Net Gain (Loss) on Investments	1,654,822	(3,962,961)	28,014,172	29,668,994
Investment Income	659,084	565,385	21,159,306	21,818,390
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>3,640,382</b>	<b>(2,196,816)</b>	<b>80,369,516</b>	<b>84,009,898</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS</b>				
Benefit Payments	3,473,271	3,438,323	47,287,540	50,760,811
Administrative Expense	271,779	312,081	7,030,942	7,302,721
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>3,745,050</b>	<b>3,750,404</b>	<b>54,318,482</b>	<b>58,063,532</b>
<b>NET ADDITIONS (DEDUCTIONS)</b>	<b>\$ (104,668)</b>	<b>\$ (5,947,220)</b>	<b>\$ 26,051,034</b>	<b>\$ 25,946,366</b>
<b>CASH &amp; INVESTMENTS</b>			<b>Book Value</b>	<b>Market Value</b>
Money Market Funds			\$ 1,185,691	\$ 1,185,691
United States Treasury Notes and Bonds			2,976,909	2,707,843
Fixed Income Bond Funds			5,187,551	4,534,716
Stocks			7,839,259	9,159,954
Equity Funds			7,927,123	7,612,930
Real Estate Investment Trusts			578,064	541,756
<b>TOTAL CASH &amp; INVESTMENTS - JUNE 30, 2023</b>			<b>\$ 25,694,597</b>	<b>\$ 25,742,890</b>

### *Diocesan Lay Employees' Retirement Trust*

Annual Amounts (Book and Market Value) of Investments

	Book Value	Market Value
August 31, 1968	\$ 32,855	\$ 33,344
August 31, 1969	105,040	97,828
August 31, 1970	167,236	144,704
August 31, 1971	244,322	248,784
August 31, 1972	328,375	341,430
August 31, 1973	397,979	357,121
August 31, 1974	442,091	374,519
August 31, 1975	485,652	502,393
August 31, 1976	651,402	661,536
August 31, 1977	746,759	758,276
June 30, 1978	907,676	873,290
June 30, 1979	1,091,077	1,066,747
June 30, 1980	1,333,304	1,240,533
June 30, 1981	1,637,330	1,468,851
June 30, 1982	1,966,375	1,685,948
June 30, 1983	2,332,800	2,766,951
June 30, 1984	2,866,861	2,832,430
June 30, 1985	3,314,597	3,748,256
June 30, 1986	4,200,610	5,189,275
June 30, 1987	5,686,447	6,363,937
June 30, 1988	6,280,104	6,713,049
June 30, 1989	6,849,652	7,569,606
June 30, 1990	7,716,476	8,434,613
June 30, 1991	8,285,622	8,951,313
June 30, 1992	9,025,501	10,401,337
June 30, 1993	11,107,406	11,674,275
June 30, 1994	11,653,168	12,127,575
June 30, 1995	12,338,738	13,734,082
June 30, 1996	13,031,227	15,645,877
June 30, 1997	14,013,279	18,380,013
June 30, 1998	15,646,840	21,676,585
June 30, 1999	16,243,415	24,534,082
June 30, 2000	19,524,488	27,831,969
June 30, 2001	21,013,619	23,928,041
June 30, 2002	21,362,600	20,539,549
June 30, 2003	19,524,488	20,622,313
June 30, 2004	22,017,665	22,691,214
June 30, 2005	22,914,541	24,896,701
June 30, 2006	24,356,734	27,020,395
June 30, 2007	25,561,685	30,677,000
June 30, 2008	27,564,499	28,332,067
June 30, 2009	23,030,416	20,674,813
June 30, 2010	21,625,470	21,322,358
June 30, 2011	22,640,200	25,259,933
June 30, 2012	23,074,757	24,490,221
June 30, 2013	23,845,778	26,396,267
June 30, 2014	25,462,694	29,928,554
June 30, 2015	26,826,022	28,222,277
June 30, 2016	25,720,923	26,053,449
June 30, 2017	25,237,149	27,056,268
June 30, 2018	25,528,622	27,862,188
June 30, 2019	25,317,161	27,946,496
June 30, 2020	23,751,808	26,961,397
June 30, 2021	24,452,357	31,966,518
June 30, 2022	27,441,964	25,918,815
June 30, 2023	25,694,597	25,742,890

## *Diocesan Unemployment Insurance Fund*

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023

#### BALANCE SHEET

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Investments	\$ -	\$ 153,456
Due From Operating Fund	336,083	159,595
Prepaid Expenses	3,135	3,135
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 339,218</b>	<b>\$ 316,186</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>		
Fund Balance	\$ 339,218	\$ 316,186
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 339,218</b>	<b>\$ 316,186</b>

#### STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023	July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022
<b>INCOME</b>		
Unemployment Premiums	\$ 65,136	\$ 61,519
Net Gain (Loss) on Investments	3,245	(24,116)
Investment Income	4,509	5,259
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>72,890</b>	<b>42,662</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Claims Paid	24,182	8,131
Consultant	6,270	6,270
Diocesan Administration	19,406	18,080
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>49,858</b>	<b>32,481</b>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ 23,032</b>	<b>\$ 10,181</b>

**THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG**

*Missionary Projects/Ogdensburg*

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023

	<u>July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023</u>	<u>July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022</u>
<b>FUND BALANCE - JULY 1</b>	\$ 239,759	\$ 223,602
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Diocesan OPA Collection	\$ 20,350	\$ 31,523
Interest	2,066	3,874
Transfers from Other Programs	-	10,000
Bequests	-	1,898
	<u>22,416</u>	<u>47,295</u>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		
	<u>22,416</u>	<u>47,295</u>
<b>TOTAL JULY 1 FUND BALANCE AND RECEIPTS</b>	262,175	270,897
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Advertising	110	-
Grants and Donations	34,973	31,138
	<u>35,083</u>	<u>31,138</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		
	<u>35,083</u>	<u>31,138</u>
<b>FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30</b>	\$ 227,092	\$ 239,759

**THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG**

*Diocesan Disability Benefits Program*

July 1, 2021-June 30, 2023

BALANCE SHEET

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

	<u>June 30, 2023</u>	<u>June 30, 2022</u>		<u>July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023</u>	<u>July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>			<b>INCOME</b>		
Cash & Money Market Funds	\$ 5,255	\$ 4,818	Premiums	\$ 71,397	\$ 67,280
Due From Operating Funds	287,880	270,740			
	<u>293,135</u>	<u>275,558</u>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<u>71,397</u>	<u>67,280</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>					
	<u>\$ 293,135</u>	<u>\$ 275,558</u>	<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>			Claims Paid	13,596	18,092
Fund Balance	\$ 293,135	\$ 275,558	Fiscal Office Administration	40,224	40,125
	<u>293,135</u>	<u>275,558</u>			
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>			<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<u>53,820</u>	<u>58,217</u>
	<u>\$ 293,135</u>	<u>\$ 275,558</u>			
			<b>EXCESS (DEFICIT)</b>	\$ 17,577	\$ 9,063

MARCH 27, 2024

## THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

*Priests' Retirement Fund*

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023

	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023	July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022
<b>FUND BALANCE - JULY 1</b>	\$ 9,075,247	\$ 11,392,436
<b>ADDITIONS</b>		
Share of Christmas Collection	\$ 144,839	\$ 196,251
Diocesan Assessment	68,517	70,418
Donations in Lieu of Christmas Collection	-	-
Bequests and Donations	13,330	5,824
Investment Income	221,700	195,386
Net Gain (Loss) on Investments	400,678	(1,413,147)
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>849,064</b>	<b>(945,268)</b>
<b>TOTAL JULY 1 FUND BALANCE AND ADDITIONS</b>	<b>9,924,311</b>	<b>10,447,168</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS</b>		
Payments to Retired Priests	978,628	966,671
Retired Priests' Health Insurance	255,066	242,193
Diocesan Administration	169,937	163,057
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>1,403,631</b>	<b>1,371,921</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30</b>	<b>\$ 8,520,680</b>	<b>\$ 9,075,247</b>

**FIFTY-FIVE YEAR SUMMARY**  
**JUNE 30, 2023**

	1968-2023
<b>ADDITIONS</b>	
Share of Christmas Collection	\$ 9,241,270
Assessment Per Priest	1,487,280
Diocesan Assessment	886,701
Donations in Lieu of Christmas Collection	417,891
Bequests and Donations	3,071,834
Investment Income	8,281,115
Net Realized & Unrealized Gains on Investments	14,533,347
Self-Insurance Fund Grant	90,000
Loan Account Interest	119,839
Loan Account Grant	30,000
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>\$ 38,159,277</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS</b>	
Payments to Retired Priests	22,586,822
Retired Priests Health Insurance	4,203,268
Diocesan Administration	2,848,507
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>29,638,597</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE - June 30, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 8,520,680</b>

**PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FUND ASSETS**

	Book Value	Market Value
Cash and Cash Equivalents - NBT Bank	\$ 266,416	\$ 266,416
Accounts Receivable	11,885	11,885
Due from (to) Operating Fund	(258,818)	(258,818)
Interest Receivable	13,763	13,763
Stocks	1,247,050	1,524,927
Bonds and U.S. Government Obligations	2,711,854	2,470,299
Manning & Napier Funds	1,034,427	1,054,376
Christian Brothers Investment Services	3,396,523	3,083,418
The Investment Fund for Foundations: Real Opportunities Fund	43,061	30,052
Dimensional Fund Advisors - Emerging Markets Social Core Equities	364,750	324,362
<b>TOTAL ASSETS - June 30, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 8,830,911</b>	<b>\$ 8,520,680</b>

*Priests' Retirement Fund*

The Fund Balance has Accumulated as Follows:

1968	\$ 17,501
1969	10,330
1970	20,579
1971	19,266
1972	27,915
1972-1973	5,071
1973-1974	18,329
1974-1975	55,741
1975-1976	44,466
1976-1977	36,976
1977-1978	54,046
1978-1979	66,582
1979-1980	133,680
1980-1981	113,243
1981-1982	22,235
1982-1983	99,794
1983-1984	173,959
1984-1985	30,889
1985-1986	153,453
1986-1987	111,359
1987-1988	204,215
1988-1989	188,567
1989-1990	226,549
1990-1991	143,441
1991-1992	445,497
1992-1993	272,881
1993-1994	463,490
1994-1995	491,107
1995-1996	960,060
1996-1997	1,021,061
1997-1998	408,417
1998-1999	829,004
1999-2000	719,110
2000-2001	660,810
2001-2002	(1,184,839)
2002-2003	330,281
2003-2004	1,009,257
2004-2005	693,493
2005-2006	722,134
2006-2007	1,178,509
2007-2008	(1,037,245)
2008-2009	(1,814,311)
2009-2010	92,957
2010-2011	1,351,135
2011-2012	(403,955)
2012-2013	632,958
2013-2014	1,249,004
2014-2015	(400,661)
2015-2016	(1,078,531)
2016-2017	610,631
2017-2018	4,466
2018-2019	(268,245)
2019-2020	58,453
2020-2021	1,397,322
2021-2022	(2,317,189)
2022-2023	(554,567)

**FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30, 2023****\$ 8,520,680**



# Court will not hear suit over transgender child custody

By Daniel Payne  
Catholic News Agency

The Supreme Court rejected without comment this week an Indiana Catholic husband and wife's petition over a dispute involving custody of their transgender-identifying son.

Mary and Jeremy Cox refused to accept their son's self-declared female identity in 2019 and instead sought therapy to address what they saw as underlying mental health concerns. The government subsequently removed their son from their home, placing him in another home that "affirmed" his transgender beliefs.

The state government eventually dropped its abuse allegations against the couple,

though it ultimately refused to return him to their custody, claiming that the child had developed an eating disorder due to the dispute. Multiple court decisions upheld the state's order.

The couple, represented by the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, subsequently petitioned the Supreme Court last month. On Monday the Supreme Court declined to hear the case, turning down the Coxes' petition without comment.

The Coxes' child has turned 18 since the dispute began, though the Coxes argued in their appeal that the state's decision should still be challenged in part because they have other children at home and were "gravely con-

cerned that Indiana will make similar claims and allegations" regarding those children.

In a statement provided to CNA on Tuesday via Becket, the Coxes said that "no other loving parents should have to endure what we did."

"The pain of having our son taken from our home and kept from our care because of our beliefs will stay with us forever," the parents said.

"We can't change the past, but we will continue to fight for a future where parents of faith can raise their children without fear of state officials knocking on their doors."

Lori Windham, vice president and senior counsel at Becket, said in a statement that Indiana's handling of the case "was a shocking attack on parental rights."

"Loving parents should not lose custody of their children because they disagree with the state about gender," she said.

Though the justices declined to hear the case, Windham said Becket was "confident that the Supreme Court will ultimately protect this basic right and ensure that parents can raise their children consistent with their religious beliefs."

Windham had in February described Indiana's conduct as "an outrage to the law, parental rights, and basic human decency."

"If the Supreme Court doesn't take this case," she said last month, "how many times will this happen to other families?"

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Five U.S. priests chosen to attend Synod meeting in Rome

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) announced Wednesday the names of five parish priests who have been selected to attend a global gathering of 300 priests at the Vatican this spring as part of the ongoing Synod on Synodality. In a March 20 announcement, the USCCB said the five priests consist of four Latin-rite priests and one Eastern Catholic priest, at the request of the Vatican. The five priests include Father Artur Bubnevych, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Byzantine Catholic Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Father Joseph Friend, parochial administrator of three parishes in the Diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas; Father Luis Navarro, a canon lawyer and pastor of St. George Church in Stockton, California; Father William Swichtenberg, pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Appleton, Wisconsin; and Father Donald Planty, a canon lawyer and pastor of St. Charles Catholic Church in Arlington, Virginia. The gathering, "Parish Priests for the Synod: An International Meeting," will be held April 28 to May 2. Announcing the event last month, the Vatican said bishops were asked to give preference to parish priests with "significant experience in the perspective of a synodal Church" while also selecting priests from "a variety of pastoral contexts." During the five-day meeting, the priests will participate in roundtable discussions, liturgical celebrations, workshops on pastoral proposals, and "dialogue with experts," according to the press release by the synod organizers.

## Biden pushes for taxpayer-funded abortion in budget plan

President Joe Biden is calling for taxpayer-funded abortion nationwide and more funding for a program that funnels money to Planned Parenthood facilities in his 2025 budget plan unveiled last week. The \$7.3 trillion budget would eliminate two safeguards that prevent taxpayer-funded abortion: the Hyde Amendment and the Dornan Amendment. Both amendments have been included in federal budget bills for decades, but the president's proposal leaves them out completely. His plan would also increase funding for the Title X family planning program, which funnels millions of dollars to the abortion provider Planned Parenthood. "Since flip-flopping on taxpayer-funded abortion to run for president, Biden has lost any resistance to his party's pro-abortion activist wing," Marjorie Dannenfelser, the president of Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, said in a statement. "Democrats' ongoing assault on Hyde proves their commitment to abortion above all, as they continue pushing unlimited abortion nationwide, throwing out long-standing, bipartisan consensus for the sake of their abortion lobby allies," she added. The president's message accompanying his budget lists "defending and protecting reproductive rights and health care" in his section about investing in the American people. It criticizes pro-life laws passed since the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade and urges congressional action on legislation "restoring the protections of Roe v. Wade in federal law," which would mandate legal abortion nationwide.

## REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

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

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

April  
The Holy Eucharist

**APRIL 2024**

DIocese OF OGDENSBURG, NY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
BISHOP TERRY LAVALLEY	1 REV. DOUGLAS A. DECKER	2 REV. ROBERT L. DECKER	3 REV. DAVID DELUCA MSC	4 REV. GARVIN J. DEMARAI	5 REV. RICHARD D. DEMERS	6
7 REV. JOHN M. DEMO	8 OUR PASTOR	9 REV. RAYMOND DIESBOURG MSC	10 REV. JOHN L. DOWNS	11 MSGR. DENNIS J. DUPREY	12 REV. GUY E. EDWARDS	13 REV. ALFRED H. FISH
14 REV. FRANCIS J. FLYNN	15 POPE FRANCIS	16 REV. JAYA KUMAR FRANCIS MSC	17 REV. J. MICHAEL GAFFNEY	18 REV. GARRY B. GIROUX	19 REV. JOSEPH W. GIROUX	20 REV. L. WILLIAM GORDON
21 REV. LUKAS H. GRUBER	22 DECEASED PRIESTS	23 REV. ALBERT J. HAUSER	24 REV. PETER G. HELFRICH	25 REV. MICHAEL J. JABLONSKI	26 REV. JOSEPH KANIMEA MSC	27 REV. DANIEL T. KEEFE
28 REV. PAUL J. KELLY	29 REV. JOHN P. KENNEHAN	30 REV. THOMAS E. KORNMEYER	For more copies contact: Diocese of Ogdensburg PO Box 369 Ogdensburg, NY 13669			

A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated. The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by: Vocations Society www.vocationsnet

A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated. The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by: Vocations Society www.vocationsnet

MARCH 27, 2024

# Stephen Colbert co-narrates Pope's audiobook memoir

By Tyler Arnold  
Catholic News Agency

The Catholic late-night talk show host and comedian Stephen Colbert is one of the narrators for the English audiobook version of Pope Francis' upcoming autobiography, which comes out on Tuesday, March 19.

Francis' book, titled "Life: My Story Through History," documents the most significant moments of the pontiff's life from his childhood until the present day.

The publisher, HarperCollins, lists "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" host, along with Franciscan Father John Quigley,

as the narrators for the English-language audiobook version of the autobiography.

The book discusses Francis' upbringing, his time in the seminary, and his service as a priest, bishop, and ultimately pope. It does not shy away from the controversial elements of his papacy but rather addresses his detractors and defends his efforts to make the Church more pastoral.

Colbert, who has been outspoken about his Catholic faith throughout his career, has frequently expressed his affinity for Francis' papacy, such as saying on his show in 2015 that he is "a total Francis fanboy."

When the pontiff visited the United States that year, Colbert dedicated a small portion of his show to discussing papal infallibility, the Second Vatican Council, and apostolic succession.

Despite his Catholic faith, Colbert has diverged from Church teaching on some issues, such as homosexuality and abortion.



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## VIRTUAL EVENTS

## PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

Are you a single Catholic man who is hearing the Lord's call to the Priesthood? Consider joining others virtually who are listening and seeking to respond.

**Date:** Mar. 24, Apr. 14, Apr. 28

**Time:** 4 to 5 p.m.

**Place:** Online

**Features:** High school age men and older are invited to join fellow discerners and Father Howard Venette to discuss this vocation.

**Contact:** You must register in order to attend, please go to [www.rcdony.org/priesthooddiscernment](http://www.rcdony.org/priesthooddiscernment)

## ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

## LENTEN PROGRAM

Lake Pleasant – St. James Church to host Bishop Barron's 4-week presentation on the Eucharist.

**Date:** April 3

**Time:** 5 p.m.

**Features:** The Seder meal will be celebrated on March 27. The four presentations will follow a simple shared Lenten meal of soup and bread. Please join fellow parishioners and friends to enjoy a time together developing a deeper understanding of love for the Eucharist.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross to be held during Lent.

**Schedule:** Half an hour before the 8 a.m. Mass at St. James, Lake Pleasant and the 10 a.m. Mass at St. Ann's, Wells.

## CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

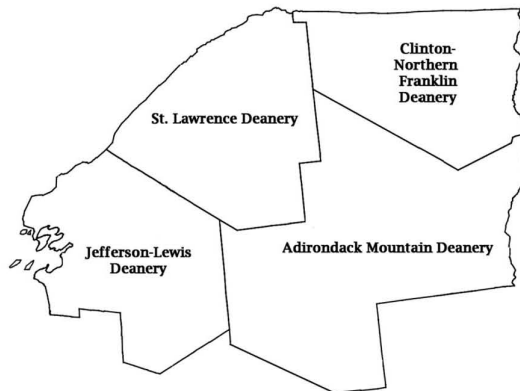
## SURVIVING DIVORCE

Plattsburgh – The Family Life Office will be offering the Surviving Divorce program.

**Date:** April 4 to June 20, Thursday evenings

**Place:** Newman Center

**Features:** Surviving Divorce features twelve video presentations that cover topics such as shock and grief, anger and forgiveness, money issues, dealing with children and a



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese".

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

e-mail [news@northcountrycatholic.org](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org).

Items must be received in the NCC office by the Wednesday before publication.

former spouse, and annulment and remarriage. This program is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later. The program helps participants find answers to their questions, restore their hope, and begin authentic healing.

**Contact:** To register, go to [www.rcdony.org/survivingdivorce](http://www.rcdony.org/survivingdivorce). For more information, contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920.

## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Mooers Forks – St. Ann's Church to have Divine Mercy Celebration.

**Date:** April 7

**Schedule:** 2 p.m. - Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; 2:15 p.m. to 2:45, Confessions; 3 p.m., Singing of the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy and Benediction.

**Contact:** For inquiries, please call 518-236-5632

## COMPASSIONATE COMPANIONS VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Plattsburgh – Compassion Companions of Clinton County to have a volunteer training.

**Date:** April 19

**Time:** 8:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Joseph's Community Outreach Center

**Features:** Compassionate

Companion Trained Volunteers are generous and kind people carrying out errands of mercy to help their neighbors age in place more successfully by providing their gifts of companionship and friendship, easing isolation and loneliness by establishing and strengthening meaningful social relationships between older adults and their family, friends and volunteers, encouraging and enabling participation in the life of their communities.

**Contact:** For more information contact Starr at 518-825-0697 or [Starr@stalexanders.org](mailto:Starr@stalexanders.org)

## HOUSE SITTERS

Ellenburg Center – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer is looking for many Volunteer "House Sitters".

**Features:** Lunch and snack items on hand along with tea, coffee, soda, and bottled water. Training will be provided on the history of the House of Prayer, its mission, and the various ways to carry out this gentle ministry of hospitality for those seeking time in a home of Mary to listen to our Lord, browse in the library, or visit the "Gift Shop". Flexible schedule (and hours) are fine.

**Contact:** If interested in volunteering for one day a month, or week, or more, please call Sarah

Anderson at 518-534-9976.

## JEFFERSON-LEWIS

## DIVINE MERCY CELEBRATION

Watertown – Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated along with the Divine Mercy Novena beginning on Good Friday.

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

**Schedule:** March 29 at 3 p.m., The Divine Mercy Novena will begin with a brief background of the Divine Mercy, and by praying the Chaplet in the Church to begin the first day of the 9-day Novena. Therefore, the Novena must be prayed everyday for the following 8 days until Divine Mercy Sunday.

April 7 at 3 p.m., There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, confession, and a procession. You may bring your own Divine Mercy picture to be specially blessed. The Celebration will be approximately 1 hour with refreshments to follow. Divine Mercy Sunday must be celebrated in church in order to complete the Novena.

**Features:** The Divine Mercy Devotion consists of making a Novena of chaplets by praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy beginning on Good Friday, March 29, making a good confession & celebrating the Feast of Mercy in church, April 7th the first Sunday after Easter; being merciful to others, placing our complete trust in Jesus, making a good confession, & receiving Communion on the Feast of Mercy Sunday without the stain of mortal sin. The Promise - Total forgiveness of sins and punishment, like that of a new baptism.

**Contact:** For more information on Divine Mercy Sunday ... call Judy Boulton at 315-783-7349 or Kim Tyler at 315-486-4542, or by visiting [www.thedivinemercy.org](http://www.thedivinemercy.org)

## DIVINE MERCY

Houseville – Divine Mercy to be celebrated.

**Date:** April 7

**Time:** 2 p.m.

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

**Features:** Celebrants will be Father Douglas Decker and Father Severinus Torwae as homilist. The Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament will take place at 2 p.m. followed by confessions until 3 p.m. "The Miracle Box" will be shown in the church hall during the time for confessions. Adoration will continue at 3 p.m., followed by the homily, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Benediction, blessing of Holy Cards and petitions and the Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image. The program concludes with a reception in the church hall. All are welcome.

**Contact:** 315-348-6260 for more information.

## SPAGHETTI &amp; MEATBALL DINNER

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

**Date:** April 13

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

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

**Cost:** Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$8;

Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free

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

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Carthage – Pancake breakfast to be held to benefit Augustinian Academy.

**Date:** April 14

**Time:** 8 a.m. to Noon

**Place:** St. James Community Room

**Cost:** Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$7;

Children under 10, \$4; Family of 4 or more, \$27

**Menu:** Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes, French Toast, Ham, Sausage, Baked Goods, Juice, and Coffee

**Features:** Event is sponsored by Carthage K of C, Father John Cosmic #291 and Ave Maria Circle.

**Contact:** For more information call: 315-493-3224

## CLM MASS AND PRESENTATION

Watertown – The Commissioned Lay Ministry Association of the Jefferson-Lewis Deanery Presents

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



MARCH 27, 2024

# Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

an evening of prayer and reflection with a celebration of mass and presentation.

**Date:** April 18

**Time:** Mass at 5:30 p.m. with dinner and presentation following.

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

**Cost:** \$20 if attending the dinner, no charge if only coming to the program.

**Features:** Presentation entitled "The Eucharist and Reconciliation" by His Excellency, Bishop Terry LaValley.

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

## ST. LAWRENCE

### ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

**Date:** April 6

**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:** April 6

**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:** April 6

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Church

### ALPHA

Ogdensburg – ALPHA to be held at St. Mary's Cathedral.

**Date:** Beginning April 9 during the Spring on Tuesdays

**Time:** 5:30 p.m. to 8

**Place:** Brzana Hall

**Features:** Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian Faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. No pressure. No follow up. No charge. Talk about the big questions in life and share with others in an inviting and welcoming environment.

**Contact:** Registration for this current session is now open! For more information, please call the parish office at 315-393-3930 or e-mail [ogdensburgsec@rcdony.org](mailto:ogdensburgsec@rcdony.org)

### MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

**Date:** April 14 (Second Sunday of each month)

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Place:** Father Amyot Parish Center

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

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

### ORGAN CONCERT

Ogdensburg - German organist and composer Paul Fey journeys to Ogdensburg as part of his 2024 U.S. Tour.

**Date:** April 24

**Time:** 7 p.m.

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

**Features:** The program titled "Music from Leipzig," includes composers who have lived and worked in Leipzig, Germany, starting with the famous J.S. Bach and continuing through the centuries, including works by the artist. He is also a prolific composer whose works have been played by organists around the world. We will hear his "Fantasie on Simple Gifts", along with works by Bach, Kuhnau, and Mendelssohn. His program will feature well-known works alongside lesser-known but very exciting pieces, including

a dramatic reading and musical commentary on "The Battle of David and Goliath"! The concert is free and open to the public.

**Contact:** For more information, please call the parish office at 315-393-3930.

### ALPHA

Massena – You are invited to ALPHA.

**Date:** Tuesdays starting April 2

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

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

**Features:** Free to all and includes a free meal.

**Contact:** Parish office at 315-769-2469 or go to [massenacatholics.com](http://massenacatholics.com) for info or to register.

### CATHOLIC PARENTING

Potsdam – A series of workshops from the Franciscan University Catechetical Institute to be held on Catholic Parenting.

**Date:** April 21

**Time:** 12:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Rectory, second floor

**Features:** Attend all or only those that interest you. Child care can be provided. Event is free.

**Contact:** For more information contact Mike Neaton at 315-335-6302 or Liz Tarbox at [formationstp@gmail.com](mailto:formationstp@gmail.com)

### MEAL DRIVERS NEEDED

The St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging is seeking drivers for home delivered meals in Brasher Falls, DeKalb, Canton, Gouverneur, Morristown, Ogdensburg, Potsdam and Star Lake.

**Features:** These drivers deliver hot, nutritious meals to older adults. Many are homebound and receive a lunchtime meal Monday through Friday. A critical component of this program is the daily wellness check that is provided by this service. Drivers receive a mileage reimbursement. Typical deliveries take place between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Routes can be between one hour and two hours. You can volunteer for one day a week or several. Any

help is greatly appreciated.

**Contact:** If you are interested please contact Danielle Durant at 315-386-4730.

### LEAD EVENTS

#### DIOCESAN EVENTS

The following is a list of LEAD (Leaders for Evangelization and Discipleship) events that will be held across the diocese.

#### Schedule:

April 7, Watertown, Hearthside, SSJ Motherhouse, 1 p.m. to 3, "Sacred Scripture the Big Picture", No Cost

April 10, Virtual, 6p.m. to 8, "Vocation of the Catechist", No Cost

April 11, Plattsburgh Regional Office, 1 p.m. to 3, "Child Methodologies and Learning Styles Part 1", No Cost

April 14, Massena, St. Mary's Social Hall 1 p.m. to 3, "Catholic Social Teaching", No Cost

April 27, Massena, St. Mary's Social Hall, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., "Using CHOSEN as a Tool for Catechesis", <https://www.rcdony.org/Chosen1>, \$10

**Features:** We are all called to know our faith and to share it with others. LEAD offers quality diocesan and regional events to support parish ministries. These opportunities include spiritual, personal and professional development, networking and days of reflection. All involved in parish ministries are invited to attend LEAD events. If there is a cost associated with the event, parishes may receive a bill.

**Contact:** To register go to: [www.rcdony.org/certworkshops](http://www.rcdony.org/certworkshops) unless otherwise noted.

### HEALING MASS

Potsdam - Bishop LaValley has scheduled a Healing Mass for those hurt by the Church on Divine Mercy Sunday.

**Date:** April 7

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

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

### RACHELS VINEYARD

Saranac Lake – A Rachel's Vineyard After-Abortion Healing Retreat to be held.

**Date:** May 24-26

**Place:** Guggenheim Lodge

**Features:** If you or a friend are suffering after abortion loss, you are not alone. Find hope and healing at the spring Rachel's Vineyard Retreat.

**Contact:** Register online:

[www.rcdony.org/pro-life](http://www.rcdony.org/pro-life) or contact The Respect Life Office for more information: [cminer@rcdony.org](mailto:cminer@rcdony.org) or [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org) for a list of locations.

### CAMP GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake – Registration is now open for Camp Guggenheim.

**Schedule:** Session 1: June 30 to July 3 (11-13 yrs old); Session 2: July 7 to July 12 (12-15 yrs old) \$425; Session 3: July 14 to July 19 (12-15 yrs old) \$425; Session 4: July 21 to July 26 (12-15 yrs old) \$425; Session 5: July 28 to Aug. 2 (12-15 yrs old) \$425; Session 6: Aug. 4 to Aug. 9 (16-18 yrs old) \$425

**Cost:** Session 1, \$200 per Camper. Session 2-6, \$425 per camper

**Features:** Since 1972, young people have called Guggenheim "home away from home." Located on the shores of lower Saranac Lake, Summer Camp Guggenheim is a great place to make friends, draw closer to Christ and have fun in a natural setting.

**Contact:** For more information or to register go to [www.rcdony.org/youth/camp](http://www.rcdony.org/youth/camp) by June 1



*Support And Pray  
For Vocations*

## SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

## 'Easter is all about being reborn'

What exactly is heaven? More precisely, where is heaven? How do we get there? What is it like? What will I look like when or if I get there? Will my husband look the same or will I get a more updated model? These kinds of questions go on and on without even the slightest possibility of answering any one of them.

But, when we come to church on Easter Sunday we speak about the resurrection from the dead. Paul in his writings makes it clear that, if there is no resurrection from the dead, then all of Christianity falls apart. Life after death, the resurrection from the dead to life in heaven, hell, or purgatory is an essential element of our faith even if we like to leave off the possibility of hell and purgatory.

Of course, at the total

other end of the belief spectrum, there are people like the late Stephen Hawking who dismisses the whole idea of heaven in one sentence: "I regard the brain as a computer which will stop working when its components fail. There is no heaven or afterlife for broken-down computers; that is a fairy story for people afraid of the dark." How easy it is for some to obliterate away centuries of belief, research, and dedication by the mere stroke of a pen merely because one is not able to comprehend and accept the reasonableness of what the human mind cannot fully fathom.

Easter tells us quite clearly that there is a resurrection from the dead. Jesus rose triumphantly from his death. This same Jesus has promised us eternal life. Simply put,

March 31

## Easter Sunday

## READINGS

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Colossians 3:1-4

or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

John 20:1-9

*This homily is offered  
courtesy of a priest of  
the Diocese of Ogdensburg.*

Easter is all about being reborn, being re-created, rising from the dead, and becoming a new person.

Jesus came to cancel out sins and our sinfulness. He does not obliterate the sinner, as does Stephen Hawking, nor does he cancel the sinner as perhaps our current cancel culture might want to do. Jesus does not cancel. Jesus forgives, he lifts up, he offers a higher form of life.

So many people live

in tombs, yes, tombs. It could be a tomb of resentment because of some silly personal injury at one time in our life. It could be the tomb of fear about the future and what it holds for us. The tomb of confusion overwhelms some people's lives because they are confused about their faith and how to deal with it. Others might live in a tomb of fear due to a culture of hate and war. For some, the uncontrollable tomb of despair makes them unable to handle the seemingly impossible situations of life.

Then, this Jesus comes along and tells us that we don't have to live in those tombs or any other tomb that life may present. As his followers, we can be free of those tombs that we create for ourselves. In fact, some day we can be released from the

tomb that holds our bodies after our death here on earth.

Is that hard to understand? Perhaps. Is it worthy of belief? Of course it is. Otherwise, the resurrection of Jesus makes no sense.

Easter is about rebirth, re-creation. Easter forces us to open our hearts to Jesus and to let him do for us what he has done for so many over the centuries. No tomb can restrain us or hold us back. Jesus has given us the power to rise from our tombs. Don't let this Easter pass you by as just another occasion to come to church. Rather commit to Jesus because only he can give us all good things. Jesus does not cancel us. Rather, Jesus gives us life.

This is the day the Lord has made let us be glad and rejoice!

## CALLED TO SERVE

## Remembering the Via Dolorosa

We were asked to gather in the lobby of the hotel we were staying in at 3 a.m. Our guide met us there. We boarded the bus. In the dead of night, we took off for the Lions' gate in the Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem.

The Lions' Gate is also known as St. Stephen's Gate.

Christians and Muslims enter Old City Jerusalem through the gate. Almost immediately, the pilgrims have a choice, left or right.

About a tenth of a mile inside the gate, Muslims choose the left branch. That lane leads to Al-Aqsa Mosque. After Mecca and Medina, the Al-Aqsa Mosque is the third holiest place in the Islamic world. The mosque was built in the eighth century AD. According to Islamic

sources, it is from here that Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven for a night. The Muslims who entered the Holy City with us were hurrying to the mosque for morning prayer.

We Christians took the right branch and were on the Via Dolorosa, The Way of the Cross. The literal translation of the Latin to English is *The Suffering Way*. It is a devotional walk through the streets of Old Jerusalem which retraces the route followed by Jesus as he carried his cross to Golgotha.

Pilgrims are led by a large cross carried by several of them. We took turns helping to carry the cross. Jesus, and Simon, carried the cross alone. We stopped at each "station" of the cross, like the

stations in each of our churches.

There are 14 Stations of the Cross, nine of them hanging from the walls on the Via Dolorosa. The remaining five stations are inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, our destination.

Even at 4 a.m., we competed with motorbikes and an occasional small truck. This route stretches for less than half a mile and meandered through streets filled with markets, eateries and souvenir stores. If we had started later in the day, we would have competed with a lot of vehicular and pedestrian traffic and open shops filled with people.

During Lent, the journey of our Lord Jesus Christ remembered on Via Dolorosa is read first on Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. It will be read again on Good Friday. Palm Sunday we heard the Passion according to St. Mark; we will pray St. John's version Friday.



Deacon  
Kevin Mastellon

My trip to the Holy Land was just a year ago, so all the places and experiences are still vivid.

Those of you who have been blessed to visit the Holy Land understand the imprint left on our minds and hearts.

It is impossible to describe the emotions stirred up by walking where Jesus walked, sail-

ing on the Sea of Galilee, being at the place on the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized by John and other sites.

These were all places we imagined in our minds through the narratives in the Gospels.

A visit to the Holy Land makes those imagined places real.

Unfortunately, the current war makes travel to the Holy Land ill advised. Perhaps someday you, too, will have the opportunity to walk and pray on the Via Dolorosa.

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you redeemed the world.

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

# Conflict continues in Sudan

Hunger, floods, drought and growing insecurity, a weak economy on the verge of collapse. These are the factors that bring great suffering to the people of South Sudan, says Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala, Bishop of Tombura Yambio.

“Our people continue to suffer the effects of complex emergencies which are still being experienced in many parts of the country, including those parts that had previously been peaceful,” Bishop Kussala said in a statement. “As a result, the number of internally displaced persons who are living in deplorable conditions, and are starving has increased tremendously across the country, with the most affected being



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

**The Society for the Propagation of the Faith**

**Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director**

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mbrett@rcdony.org

women, children, the aged, and people living with disabilities.”

“Those still living in their homesteads are equally facing starvation since most of them have had to, ironically, abandon their sources of livelihood in a bid to save their lives. Most school-going children have had to drop out of school because of insecurity and fear of being forcefully recruited to serve as soldiers in the conflicts,” continued Bishop Kussala.

“It is no longer about the country and its

leadership, but about the people of South Sudan who are slowly perishing. Unless cushioned from these calamities, we are afraid that our people will not survive especially because the majority of the population (64%) are helpless youths who have no source of income, while most of the remaining 36% are elderly persons. The situation is dire and therefore in need of urgent intervention,” he concludes.

In its latest report, released on March 1,

the UN Human Rights Commission for South Sudan notes that violence and persistent impunity continue to impact the lives of an extremely vulnerable population and warns that the already dire humanitarian situation in the country is worsening.

The elections scheduled for December, the first since Sudan’s independence in 2011, are expected to be a

milestone in efforts to achieve lasting peace after the end of the civil war that has erupted since 2013 and has killed an estimated 400,000 people. A peace agreement was reached in 2018, but implementation has been slow, and violence continues in some parts of the country.

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

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SPECIAL COLLECTION  
GOOD FRIDAY - MARCH 29, 2024

## HOW THE PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION IS USED



### What is the Pontifical Good Friday Collection?

**It supports the people of the Holy Land  
and the pilgrims that visit.**

At the request of the Holy Father, the Franciscans of the Holy Land promote the Pontifical Good Friday Collection in the United States and other parts of the world. Funds are distributed at the direction of the Vatican's Congregation for the Oriental Churches. A portion of the funds are directly allocated to the educational and ecclesial projects in the Middle East. The rest of the funds collected in the United States and a number of other countries support the ministries and programs entrusted by the Holy See to the Holy Land Franciscans. The Franciscans have served in the Holy Land for 800 years.

**The Pontifical Good Friday Collection  
provides, Humanitarian, Liturgical,  
Pastoral, Archaeological, Charitable,  
Educational services, as well as care for  
the Holy Places.**

### Serving those in need in the Holy Land

- **250** friars **11** countries
- **65** sanctuaries and **23** parishes
- **6** guest houses for pilgrims
- **30** youth served by Bethlehem Boys' Home
- **63** apartments restored for families in need
- **1,020** employees in Israel and Palestine
- **17** schools with more than **10,000** students
- **509** university scholarships
- **56** Friars preparing for the priesthood
- **700** refugees aided on the island of Rhodes
- **8,000+** Syrian families aided
- **650+** families in Lebanon assisted
- Construction of a Catholic school in Cana

**Help us continue to serve!**

## Commissariat of the Holy Land

1400 Quincy St. NE, Washington, DC 20017  
[www.MyFranciscan.org/good-Friday](http://www.MyFranciscan.org/good-Friday)