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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 74, Number 16

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPT. 11, 2019

## Alive in Christ: 2019 Bishop's Fund Appeal

"Your prayers mean everything!"

These words, shared by Lori and Jim of Malone, echo in our hearts, because we all can recall a time in our lives when we have felt the exact same way.

Lori and Jim went on to share their story: "Our daughter, Cassidy, was diagnosed 3 ½ years ago with kidney cancer. We were in pure shock and devastation. The grant we received from the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund went toward Cassidy's treatment in Arizona."

Learn how your support of the Bishop's Fund Ap-peat helps families like Cassidy's and other critical ministries.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

## BLESSING THE FLOWERS



ELAINE ROZICZKOWSKI/FOR THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

**Father James W. Seymour blesses flowers, herbs and grains at St. Hedwig's Church in Houseville to honor the Blessed Mother. These flowers represent the many virtues of the Blessed Mother that we should imitate. This beloved Polish custom takes place around August 15th each year. The colorful bouquets are given as gifts, kept in the home or taken to cemeteries.**

## HONORING BISHOP LUCIA



A large crowd gathered at Holy Angels Church in Altona to join in the celebration of a Mass of Thanksgiving for Bishop Douglas J. Lucia, the new bishop of Syracuse. Bishop Lucia was joined at the Mass, celebrated in his hometown, by Bishop Terry R. LaValley, priests from around the diocese, area deacons, Bishop Lucia's family and friends, and faithful from Altona and Mooers Forks, as well as other parts of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## Pope: Help the poor, protect the environment

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar (CNS)—In Madagascar, where the destruction of the environment and the suffering of the poor are inextricably bound, Pope Francis urged government officials to promote development projects that protect nature.

The crisis facing the island nation in the Indian Ocean is "both social and environmental," the pope said Sept. 7 as he met President Andry Rajoelina, other government officials,

diplomats serving in Madagascar and representatives of major aid and development agencies.

Immediately after making their speeches, the pope and president went outside the Ceremony Building and planted a baobab tree, a symbol of the island.

Although rich in natural resources, Madagascar is consistently ranked as one of the world's 10 poorest countries. According to the World Bank, 75% of the population lives on less

than \$1.90 a day.

The country also is challenged by a frightening rate of deforestation as prized rosewood trees are cut down illegally and exported, mainly to China.

Phil Boyle, British ambassador to Madagascar, told reporters that perhaps as much as 500,000 acres of forests are lost each year. Without serious measures to stop the destruction of the forests and to begin planting trees, "then possibly the most unique habitat

on earth will be lost."

Pope Francis told the politicians and ambassadors, "We cannot speak of integral development without showing consideration and care for our common home," which means that a way must be found to preserve natural resources, while also investing in education, health care and job creation.

"We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one

complex crisis which is both social and environmental," he said, quoting "Laudato Si," his encyclical on "integral ecology."

The pope was plainspoken in his speech, pointing out how "the last forests are menaced by forest fires, poaching (and) the unrestricted cutting down of valuable woodlands. Plant and animal biodiversity is endangered by contraband and illegal exportation," which benefit the rich and powerful.

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

## Because it's deeply personal

This is personal. As I mention in an earlier column, my son attended Camp Guggenheim for the first time this year. There, he met new people, had a ton of fun and grew in his faith. There, he was helped and accepted despite his developmental disability. He experienced Christ's love in the counselors and other campers.

A family I know was aided by the Good Samaritan Fund in purchasing equip-

ment needed to help their son, who has autism, get the sensory input he needs to help him cope with the sensory overload created by the world around him.



Darcy L.  
Fargo

Several friends and acquaintances completed the Formation for Ministry program, helping them further their ministries and serve the Lord and their parishes. The director of religious education at my parish, the person who leads the efforts

to help my family teach our son his Catholic faith, was one of them.

I know quite a few of the men who are currently discerning and studying as they answer God's call and pursue their vocations to the priesthood and diaconate. These are outstanding men who may some day be serving my parish or yours.

What do all these things have in common? They're all ministries supported by the Bishop's Fund Appeal. And Camp Guggenheim, the Good Samaritan Fund, Formation for Ministry, the dia-

conate and seminary are just a few of the many ministries supported by the appeal. There's also Family Life programs, Natural Family Planning, Respect Life Ministry, Campus Ministry, Youth Ministry, Catholic education and more.

These are programs and ministries that directly impact our lives and our faith. They truly help us all be "Alive in Christ."

Please pray about it. Think about it. Consider supporting the 2019 Bishop's Fund Appeal.

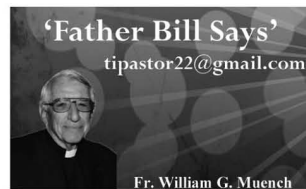
It's deeply personal.

## We are all united together as Church

I would like to write to you today about the challenge that is ours: to live well as a committed member of the Catholic Church. This commitment demands a bold, strong faith in God and in our Church. Each Sunday at Mass, we all say together the Nicene Creed. This moment in the liturgy of the Blessed Eucharist is a celebration of faith, of our own faith. This is a most important moment during the Mass.

Publicly, we announce to each other and to the world our beliefs – "I believe in God, the Father Almighty...I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ...I believe in the Holy Spirit...I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church."

The Second Vatican Council wrote a document on the Church, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church. This document speaks of us, the members of the Catholic Church, as the People of God. The Council Fathers wrote, "God has willed to make all men and women holy and save them, not as individuals without any bond or link between them, but rather to



Fr. William G. Muench

make them into a people who might acknowledge God and serve him in holiness." We are all united together as Church. We are each an important part of this Church.

With faith in God and faith in the Church, we are challenged, each and every one of us, to live well as Catholics, members of the People of God. Each of us were made part of Christ's Church by our Baptism. However, each day we must renew that Baptism by choosing in faith to live our lives as a committed member of the People of God, as a Catholic.

I recognize each Sunday, as I celebrate Mass, as I join with a congregation of people that together, we are the Church of Christ. This is my family, and we are praying together, praying for each other. We all, in faith, dedicate our lives to live well as a baptized person, committed to God as a

member of the Church, the Kingdom of God.

You may remember that a few Sundays ago, the Scripture readings focused on Jesus' message of humility. Jesus teaches us, "Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

As a priest and pastor, I have recognized many humble, rather unnoticed people who have truly transformed this world by living committed lives, by bringing the Lord's love and peace to the world and leading others closer to the Lord by doing many powerful things. They were truly dedicated in their humility. In many ways, they have been doing miracles – as teachers, as parents, as coaches, as religious sisters, as priests – in simple, yet powerful ways. I have personally been touched in loving ways by many families, families that some might call ordinary. Yet, these were truly extraordinary in so many ways. I learned so much from them. I continue to find many who do ordinary things in extraordinary

ways.

One more thing to add here: There are some who may consider Jesus' call to humility as a call to do nothing. I notice many who are called to do something great and good, called to make a difference in life, and yet they consider themselves not good enough, not holy enough, not talented enough to something, and they don't do anything. Humility is a call from the Lord to understand who we are, to recognize our talents and abilities and to do all we can to live like Jesus by living a good Catholic life and being committed members of the People of God.

Our Lord Jesus will be with us, to lead us and guide us. Jesus will always help us so that we can discover the power of Christ's Spirit to be a committed member of the Catholic Church. It may cost, it may mean self-sacrifice, but it will be our way of making our Church strong and living with the power of the Lord. Jesus will show us the way when we trust the Lord's presence in our lives. We will live in the enthusiasm of the Lord.





Tom Semeraro/North Country Catholic

(Left) Bishop Douglas J. Lucia gives Holy Communion to his father, Leward Lucia, at the Mass of Thanksgiving held in his honor at Holy Angels Church in Altona, where the new bishop grew up. (Right) Bishop Lucia laughs as Bishop Terry R. LaValley recounts playfully questioning then Father Lucia about his feelings on the Diocese of Syracuse before the new bishop was notified of his appointment.

# Bishop Lucia honored at home parish

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

ALTONA - A large crowd gathered at Holy Angels Church to offer Thanksgiving that one of the parish's native sons has become the bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse.

The Sept. 1 Mass honored Bishop Douglas J. Lucia, who was ordained and installed in his new role on Aug. 8.

"This was special," said Diane Peryea of Altona, who attended the Mass. "We watched him grow up. We're very proud to have first a priest and now a bishop come from our community."

Bishop Lucia delivered the homily at the Mass, telling the story of a Nobel Prize winner arriving at a train station in Chicago and finding dignitaries and reporters there to greet him.

"He thanked them politely and, looking over their heads, asked if he could be excused," Bishop Lucia recounted, noting the man then walked to

the an elderly African-American woman, who was struggling to carry two large suitcases. "He picked up her bags in his two large hands and, smiling, helped the woman to her bus."

The man then returned to the crowd and apologized for keeping them waiting.

"The man was Dr. Albert Schweitzer, the famous missionary doctor who spent his life helping the poorest of the poor in Africa," Bishop Lucia said, before noting that an observer told a reporter, "That's the first time I ever saw a sermon walking."

The Bishop noted that the Gospel readings of Sept. 1 remind us that Christian discipleship and ministry require humility.

"On a personal note, such counsel could not come at a better moment," Bishop Lucia said, noting his new position, his new staff, his new miter and his new cross "could have the appearance of being trophies, and today's Mass as part of a victory

tour. Yet, as I stand before you this Lord's day, the one thing I'm most conscious of is that none of this matters, and it's all show if I don't keep my eyes fixed on Jesus."

At the conclusion of the Mass, Bishop Terry R. LaValley thanked Bishop Lucia's parents, who attended the Mass, "for the marvelous gift of faith you gave to your son," and to Bishop Lucia's siblings.

Bishop LaValley also thanked the Holy Angels Church community.

"Whenever a son of a parish is honored, indeed the entire parish and family is honored and joins in the honor the new bishop receives," he said.

Bishop LaValley also thanked two priests who attended the Mass, Msgr. Leeward J. Possant and Father J. Roger McGuinness, for their instruction and spiritual direction while he and Bishop Lucia studied at Wadhams Hall Seminary College.

Bishop LaValley also recounted the story of

learning about Bishop Lucia's appointment in a call from the papal nuncio as he and then Father Lucia rode together to Syracuse to celebrate Bishop Robert Cunningham's 50th anniversary of ordination and 10th anniversary as bishop of Syracuse.

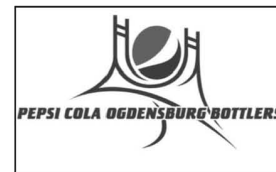
Bishop LaValley said he kept asking his friend questions playfully, since he knew the appointment would be coming soon.

"What do you think of the bishop's throne," Bishop LaValley asked. "It was gaudy wasn't it?"

He also noted that Bishop Lucia indicated he "could never live here. The houses are just so

close. There's no land."

In a reception following the Mass, Bishop Lucia was presented a gift of vestments, crafted of gilded materials, "a reminder that in our minds, you're our golden boy," the presenter said. He was also presented a plaque to commemorate his ordination. The plaque will be displayed at Holy Angels Church "so we can brag about you to all who enter."



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## NEW PASTORS INSTALLED



(Left) Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin was installed as pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Madrid and St. Mary's Church in Waddington on Aug. 31. The installation was officiated by Father Mark R. Reilly, Dean of the St. Lawrence Deanery. Msgr. Aucoin and Father Reilly were joined in celebrating the Mass and installation by Deacon Daniel McGrath. (Right) Bishop Terry R. LaValley installed Father Steven M. Murray as pastor of St. André Bessette Parish in Malone on Aug. 31. Also celebrating the Mass were Father Michael Jablonski, and deacons Bryan Bashaw, Brent Charland and Nicholas Haas.

## Priest to spend one year in the North Country

Father Duc D. Nguyen, a priest from the Diocese of Kansas City-Saint Joseph will serve for one year as parochial vicar at St. Patrick's Church in Rouses

Point and St. Mary's Church in Champlain.

Father Nguyen has family in New York and made the move to be closer to them.

The 51-year-old priest was raised in the south region of Saigon, Vietnam. He's part of a family of 14, with six sisters and seven brothers.

The family lived in the country, where they cultivated rice and raised all the family's food on their farm.

He migrated to the

United States in 1983. Father Nguyen said he received the call to become a priest when he was 13 years old.

"This was because of my parent's faith and involvement in the parish life," he said. "And this would motivate me to become an altar server, where my vocation was nurtured and

encouraged."

After high school, he worked for a time in retail and banking before deciding to enter the seminary to pursue his vocation to the priesthood.

He attended St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Pennsylvania, where he received his bachelor's degree in Philosophy. He then received a Master in Divinity degree at Holy Apostles Seminary in Connecticut. He was ordained May 30, 2009 in the Diocese of Kansas City-Saint Joseph.

Father Nguyen served from 2009-10 as parochial vicar, St. Therese Parish North, Kansas City, Missouri; from 2012-14 as parochial administrator of St. Joseph Parish and Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission in Trenton, Missouri; and from 2014-19 as pastor of Holy Martyrs Parish in Kansas City.

Father Nguyen arrived in the North Country Sept. 4.

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### JOB OPENING

#### Secretary for Regional Faith Formation Offices

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg has an immediate opening for the full-time position of Secretary for Regional Faith Formation Offices.

The Secretary is responsible for supporting the work of the Regional Assistant Directors of Faith Formation, the daily operation of the Western Faith Formation office as well as duties assigned by the Eastern Faith Formation Director. The Secretary must possess strong secretarial, bookkeeping, and computer skills. Knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel is required. Strong interpersonal skills and good oral and written communication skills are also required.

Submit letter of interest, resume and three professional references to: Human Resources Office  
Diocese of Ogdensburg,  
P.O. Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669

or e-mail: [ksnover@rcdony.org](mailto:ksnover@rcdony.org)

Deadline for application is September 25, 2019.



**Environmental Stewardship****A time to celebrate**

From Sept. 1, the World Day of Prayer for Creation, through to Oct. 4, the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology in many traditions, has been designated as the Season of Creation. This season is an annual celebration of prayer and action to protect creation. It is celebrated by tens of thousands of Christians around the world. Local, volunteer event hosts on six continents organize celebrations in their communities. These range from prayer services to litter clean-ups to advocacy actions.

The theme of this year's celebration is "**The Web of Life: Biodiversity as God's Blessing.**"

Biodiversity matters firstly because God gives value to every creature that is created. As the Papal Encyclical *Laudato Si* states, "It is not enough, however, to think of different species merely as potential 'resources' to be exploited, while overlooking the fact that they have value in themselves. Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us." (*Laudato Si*: On Care for our Common Home, 33).

Today, human behavior is destroying the fabric of God's creation at an unprecedented rate. Biodiversity loss matters both because all God's creatures have value in themselves and also as an issue of justice. It is the poor and marginalized who are severely impacted by the collapse of the natural systems that sustain all life.

Season of Creation 2019 encourages participation of churches and Christians worldwide. Here are a few actions that are suggested:

- Celebrating the goodness of God's gift of creation in worship, drawing on the Psalms and other scriptures to rejoice in the Creator's glory

- Reflecting on our mistreatment of creation, repent of the decisions we've made, and commit to new practices and habits.

- Practicing nature conservation in our homes, schools, churchyards and community spaces.

- Giving voice to the voiceless by advocating for nature in our home communities and beyond.

For more info. See: season of creation.org

**Rest in Peace**

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

**Sept. 11** – Rev. J. A. Langlois, 1872; Rev. Hyacinth Rueberg, 1913

**Sept. 12** – Rev. Vincent Skiba, 1984

**Sept. 14** – Rev. Russell Charles O'Neil, 1951

**Sept. 15** – Rev. George Lessard, O.M.I., 1978

**Sept. 16** – Rev. Henri Victor Lecompte, O.M.I., 1892; Rev. Alphonse Nolin, O.M.I., 1936

**Sept. 17** – Rev. William E. Capron, 1949; Msgr. Louis D. Berube, 1999

**To Report Abuse**

**If you have a complaint** of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri-  
anne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, 31 Sixth Street, Malone, NY 12953;  
terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com  
Phone: Day: 518-651-2267, Night: 518-569-0612; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920

**Protecting God's Children**

**The Diocese of Ogdensburg** has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults.

Pre-registration online is required. Participants may preregister at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org).

Upcoming sessions:

**Sept. 11** – 6 p.m., Seton Catholic School, Plattsburgh

**Sept. 12** – 5:30 p.m., St. James School, Gouverneur

**Sept. 12** – 6 p.m., St. Mary's School, Canton

**Sept. 18** – 3 p.m., St. Agnes School, Lake Placid

**Bishop's Public Schedule**

**Sept. 11** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral with parishioners from St. James Major Church in Lake Pleasant and St. Ann's Church in Wells followed by lunch and a tour of Bishop's Residence

**Sept. 12** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral with the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod from Watertown and Cadyville followed by lunch at Bishop's Residence

**Sept. 13** – 9:50 a.m. – Mass at Immaculate Heart Central Jr/Sr School in Watertown followed by a school visit

**Sept. 14** – 10:30 a.m. – Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting at St. Francis Solanus Parish Center in Harrisville

**Sept. 15** – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

2:30 p.m. – Marriage and Consecrated Life Jubilee at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Sept. 16** – 10:30 a.m. – Investment Advisory Committee Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by lunch

7:15 p.m. – Novena followed by Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Sept. 17** – 6 p.m. – Sacred Heart Foundation's 46th Annual Benefit Dinner for the Scholarship Programs of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart at the Hilton Garden Inn in Watertown

**Sept. 18** – 9:30 a.m. – Diocesan Department Head Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg with lunch to follow

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Supporting the 2019 Bishop Fund Appeal Insert

# Bishop's Fund Appeal, 'Alive in Christ,' resumes in September

"Your prayers mean everything!"

These words shared by Lori and Jim of Malone echo in our hearts, because we all can recall a time in our lives when we have felt the exact same way.

Lori and Jim went on to share their story: "Our daughter, Cassidy, was diagnosed 3 ½ years ago with kidney cancer. We were in pure shock and devastation. The grant we received from the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund went toward Cassidy's treatment in Arizona. We were there for six weeks, and it was very expensive. We were in a bind. The support we have received is very important and special to us. We are so grateful for everything everyone has done. If you can give to the Bishop's Fund, I would encourage it. It's great when everyone helps out, it makes all the difference."

This is just one example of how the generosity of Catholics across the diocese, through their support of the Bishop's Fund Appeal, have directly impacted many lives throughout the North Country.

The Bishop's Fund Appeal resumes this fall, this following a one-year inclusion in the diocesan Capital Campaign. T

his year, the Bishop's Fund Appeal hopes to reach a goal of \$1.3 million in order to fund the many programs and ministries of the Diocese, including Education of Seminarians, Family Life Office, Natural Family Planning Office, Respect Life Ministry, Formation for Ministry, Office of the New Evangelization, Continuing Education and Formation of Priests, Priests' Graduate Studies, Vocation Office, Permanent Deacons, Deacon Formation, Tuition Assistance,

Campus Ministry, Matching Gifts to Catholic Schools, Faith Formation, Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry Guggenheim Center, Department of Worship and the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund.

These essential programs and ministries provide Catholics of all ages the opportunity to grow in their relationship with Jesus and to be **Alive in Christ** throughout their entire faith-journey. Any funds raised over the \$1.3 million goal will be used to further supplement the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund, which assists individuals and families who are facing emergency situations such as an inability to cover home heating costs or the cost of prescription medications, or who need help covering expenses involved in caring for a sick loved one.

The Bishop's Fund Appeal will kick-off in parishes across the Diocese on the weekend of September 14 and 15. Every Catholic household is asked to prayerfully consider a gift to this year's Appeal.

Every gift, no matter the size is important to the many people we serve. Donations can be mailed to: The Bishop's Fund Appeal, PO Box 150, Ogdensburg, New York 13669 or made online at [www.rcdony.org/bishop-s-fund-appeal](http://www.rcdony.org/bishop-s-fund-appeal).

To learn more about the Appeal and to view the 2019 Bishop's Fund Video, please visit the website at [www.rcdony.org/bfvideo](http://www.rcdony.org/bfvideo).

Please keep Cassidy and her family in your prayers, as "your prayers mean everything!"



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**Plattsburgh** - Smithfield Blvd at Route 3  
2 p.m. to 3:30 - Nancy Belzile 518-593-6024

**Potsdam** - Market Street at Main Street  
2 p.m. to 3 - Conner Cummings 315-783-5477

**Saranac Lake** - Bandshell Park at River St.  
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 - The Miners 518-524-0774

**Schroon Lake** - Route 9 and Main at Fairfield Ave.  
2 p.m. to 3 - Dorothy Bean 518-834-7958

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# ALIVE IN CHRIST

## 2019 BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL

Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg





# ALIVE IN CHRIST



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

The Church of Ogdensburg is *Alive in Christ!* As I travel from parish to parish across our diocese, my heart is filled with much hope, inspiration and gratitude as I meet so many faith-filled parishioners who are *Alive in Christ.* There is an ever-present feeling of zealous joy and spirituality among our youth, families and adults. God is at work among us! For instance,

- This year, 13 seminarians are studying and discerning the priesthood, 14 men are studying to become deacons and 64 adults have recently been commissioned lay ministers and will serve our sisters and brothers in Christ in our North Country parishes.
- Several families and hundreds of teens have participated in programs at Camp Guggenheim, our beautiful summer camp which offers weekend and week-long retreats to families and teens who work hard to keep God at the center of their lives.
- Hundreds of families and individuals have been directly impacted by your prayers and the grants provided by the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund which eases such burdens as job loss, home heating costs, prescription medications and expenses involved in caring for a sick child.

We are *Alive in Christ!* You make this possible because of your generous support of the Bishop's Fund Appeal and its programs and ministries. In this year's Appeal, it is our hope to raise \$1,300,000 for the vital ministries and programs of our Diocese. Any funds raised over our goal will further supplement the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund so that we may continue to provide emergency grants to those among us who are hurting.

I am truly grateful for the support that has been given to the Bishop's Fund Appeal in past years as well as to the recent Capital Campaign. As we resume our Annual Bishop's Fund Appeal, I invite you to continue to be *Alive in Christ* and support the 2019 Bishop's Fund Appeal through your prayers, encouragement and financial assistance.

Wishing God's blessings to you and your loved ones, I am

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley  
Bishop of Ogdensburg



## BISHOP'S FUND PRAYER

### "Alive in Christ"

God and Father of us all,  
in Jesus, your Son and our Savior,  
you have made us  
your sons and daughters  
in the family of the Church.

Continue to make us "Alive in Christ!"  
Through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit  
mold and fashion this local Church  
into the image of Jesus, your Son and our  
Brother.

By means of the 2019 Bishop's Fund Appeal,  
enliven this faith family in its mission of reaching  
out to those whom they encounter along the way.  
May it be "Christ-led, Christ-fed, and  
Hope-filled," inspiring the people of the North  
Country and beyond to find their home in Christ.

O God, give success to the works of our hands,  
and bless this year's Bishop's Fund Appeal,  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

For more information and  
to view the  
2019 Bishop's Fund  
Video, please visit  
[www.rcdony.org/bfvideo](http://www.rcdony.org/bfvideo)



**W**e first gave to the Bishop's Fund because we know our contributions are going to help all the ministries of our Diocese and our church, especially Camp Guggenheim and the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund. We are really excited about our four children attending Guggenheim one day, where they will grow even further in their faith and meet other kids in the Diocese. Last year, we contributed to our Capital Campaign for our parish. We needed the funds for our church for building repair and things that weren't getting done otherwise. Both the Capital Campaign and the Bishop's Fund Appeal are both necessary to help maintain our Diocese. We encourage others to consider giving to the Bishop's Fund Appeal. Give what you can, take a look at your budget, and if it's a small sacrifice, it's well worth it, a little bit goes a long way. If we all are in it together, then it adds up really quickly and helps take care of everyone in the Diocese.

**RACHEL, VINNIE AND FAMILY OF WELLS, NEW YORK**



**O**ur son, Leagon, entered seminary right out of high school and recently finished his first year of Theology. He started his discernment in 10th or 11th grade. This is not a vocation that everybody understands. We are very proud of him and try to provide him with support. The Bishop's Fund Appeal has been key in allowing Leagon to pursue the vocation for the priesthood. The Bishop's Fund helped offset the cost of his tuition and the cost of his books. This has allowed him the opportunity to focus on his discernment, doing well in school and his relationship with God. We have a huge amount of gratitude for those who support the Bishop's Fund Appeal. The Appeal allows us all as Catholics to help our brothers and sisters in the far reaches of the Diocese, and it brings us all closer together as one church.

**BETH & JAMES OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK**



**F**amily Guggenheim gave our family the opportunity to leave all our worries and troubles behind. We look forward to coming to Camp Guggenheim every summer for the peacefulness and serenity. It has strengthened our relationship with Jesus and one another. It has made our faith stronger. We have built strong, lasting friendships at Guggenheim all while praying, hiking, swimming, fishing and participating in the variety show. At Guggenheim, you are accepted for who you are. We are very thankful and grateful to those who have generously supported Camp Guggenheim and the Bishop's Fund Appeal. Guggenheim is just like heaven on earth!

**LISA, ROBERT & FAMILY OF ROOSEVELTOWN, NEW YORK**



**O**ur daughter, Cassidy, was diagnosed 3 ½ years ago with kidney cancer. We were in pure shock and devastation. The grant we received from the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund went toward Cassidy's treatment in Arizona. We were there for 6 weeks, and it was very expensive. We were in a bind. The support we have received is very important and special to us. We are so grateful for everything everyone has done. Your prayers mean everything! If you can give to the Bishop's Fund, I would encourage it. It's great when everyone helps out, it makes all the difference.

**LORI, JIM & FAMILY OF MALONE, NEW YORK**



**T**he Bishop's Fund Appeal is essential to the Diocese of Ogdensburg. It offers so many wonderful programs. Our people here have been very supportive. The Lay Ministry program has been an excellent program. I encourage all my brother priests to be very much involved in the Lay Ministry Program. Many of us are getting older and we can't do the things we always did. Our lay people are doing a tremendous amount of ministry in the parish. The funds that come from the Bishop's Fund are so important to continuing this ministry. We have hundreds and hundreds of ministers throughout the Diocese, and it is only possible because of the generosity of the people of the Diocese to the Bishop's Fund Appeal, which is essential to building up the church here in the North Country.

**FATHER ART LABAFF OF CLAYTON & LAFARGEVILLE, NEW YORK**





# THE BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL

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

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

## WAYS TO GIVE

**Gifts of Cash:** Checks should be made payable to the "Bishop's Fund Appeal."

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

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

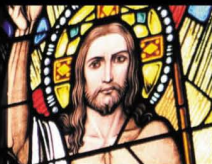
**Automatic Pledge Payments:** To set up automatic credit or debit card pledge payments, please contact the Bishop's Fund Office at 315-393-2920

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

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

**Qualified IRA Contributions:** For those who are 70 1/2 or older, you may wish to consider a tax-free gift directly from your IRA to the Bishop's Fund Appeal. Please contact the Bishop Fund Office at 315-393-2920 for instructions.

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



YES! I WANT TO MAKE MY GIFT TO THE 2019 BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PARISH \_\_\_\_\_

SEND CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO: **Bishop's Fund Appeal** OR FILL IN CREDIT CARD INFO.

CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD FOR

\$ \_\_\_\_\_



CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

SINGLE GIFT     PLEDGE     MATCHING GIFT TO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

TOTAL GIFT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NOW PAYING \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PLEDGE AMT DUE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO:

BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL

PO BOX 150

OGDENSBURG, NY 13669

OR PLACE IN YOUR PARISH COLLECTION

## ADIRONDACK

## FALL RETREAT FOR ADULTS

Saranac Lake - Come away and rest awhile with the Lord amid the beauties of Fall in the Adirondack Mountains.

**Date:** Sept. 13-15

**Place:** Guggenheim Lodge

**Cost:** \$150

**Theme:** "Meeting God in the Mountains and Valleys of Life"

**Speakers:** Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ, Faith Formation Educator, Father Paul Kelly will be celebrant for Mass on Saturday afternoon.

**Contact:** For info, 315-212-6592 or srbethssj@gmail.com

## BLESSING OF THE ROSES

Saranac Lake - In honored St. Therese, there will be a blessing of the roses.

**Date:** Sept. 29

**Time:** 4 p.m.

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

**Features:** Please join members of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites for a holy hour including Eucharistic Adoration, Vespers, Benediction, and a blessing of roses to be distributed. There will be light refreshments at the conclusion.

## CLINTON

## CHARISMATIC PRAYER

Morrisonville - A Charismatic Prayer Gathering is to be held.

**Date:** Starting Sept. 11, the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.

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

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

**Features:** A time for prayer, praise, scripture, song, sharing and fellowship. All are welcome! An opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and each other.

**Contact:** For more information or if you have questions, please contact the church office at 518-561-5039.

## HARVEST DINNER

Moers Forks - St. Ann's to have Turkey Harvest Dinner.

**Date:** Sept. 15

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

**Place:** St. Ann's Pavilion

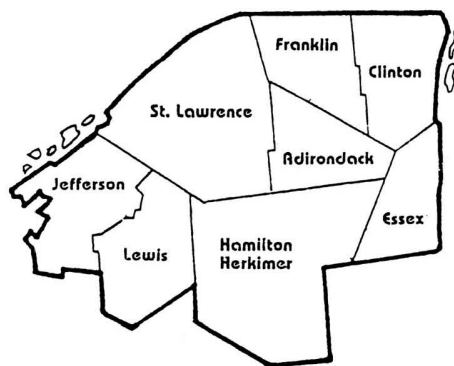
**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Children 6-12, \$5; under 5, Free

## APPLEFEST

Peru - St. Augustine's 42nd Annual Peru Applefest to be held.

**Date:** Sept. 21 and 22

**Schedule:** Parade begins at 11 a.m. on Saturday. Sunday at 11 a.m. there will be a Chicken BBQ



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; fax, 315-394-0670;  
e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

**Features:** Two days of live music, a giant craft fair, foods, games and rides for young children and teens. Saturday's music features the Police Fife and Drums of Plattsburgh followed by the rocking Bootleg Band. There will be a craft fair, Grand Raffle, Chainsaw Carver Ted Holzer, new rides, games and Applefest food favorites. Sunday afternoon the On Three Band will perform.

## FALL SALE

Peru - St. Vincent's Store to have their annual Fall Sale.

**Date:** Sept. 19 to 22

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 9-19 will also be 6 p.m. to 8

**Features:** Customers can fill a large bag with gently used clothing and footwear for \$8.

## AUTUMN RETREAT

Ellenburg - A Day Retreat, "True Hospitality of the Heart" with Sr. Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ is being offered.

**Date:** Sept. 28

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Place:** Our Lady of the Adirondacks

**Features:** Light luncheon included.

Donations gratefully accepted, but not expected.

**Contact:** Call 518-594-3253 (House) or 518-846-3060 (Sarah) to RSVP.

## IS JESUS CHRIST CALLING ME?

Plattsburgh - Lakeside Fishers Club to have Priesthood Discernment Group meetings.

**Schedule:** Sept. 22, Oct. 6 & 20

**Time:** 3 p.m.

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

**Features:** For Highschool Junior men & older. Come join for discussions about discernment, Evening Prayer and dinner.

**Contact:** Father Howard Venette pastormoll@stmarysti.org 518-585-7144 or Father Christopher Carrara at ccarrara@rcdony.org.

## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Plattsburgh - Calling all Christians across the Diocese to participate in this life saving event.

**Date:** Sept. 25 - Nov. 3

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

**Place:** Planned Parenthood

**Features:** You're invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life - 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood. Prayer Volunteers needed.

**Contact:** If you would like more information please contact: Nancy Belzile at 518-593-6024.

www.40daysforlife.com/plattsburgh

## FRANKLIN

## HAM DINNER

Constable - The Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River to have a Ham Dinner.

**Date:** Sept. 21

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

**Place:** St. Francis of Assisi

**Cost:** \$10; Children 12 and under, \$5

**Features:** Dinner and 2019 Big ticket raffle to be held. 16 prizes to be awarded. The drawing will be at 7 p.m.

Tickets will cost \$5 each or 6 for \$25.

Ticket holder need not be present to win, must be 18 to purchase.

## JEFFERSON

## SPAGHETTI &amp; MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills - The Indian River Knights of Columbus to have a Spaghetti & Meatball dinner.

**Date:** Sept. 14

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

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

**Cost:** Adults, \$7; Senior Citizens, \$6; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free  
**Contact:** 315-629-4678

## PILGRIMAGE TO PA

Lancaster, PA - St. Mary's and St. John's, Clayton to have a Pilgrimage to Pennsylvania.

**Date:** Sept. 18 - 19

**Place:** Sight & Sound Theatres in Lancaster, PA; St. John Neumann Shrine, Church of St. Peter the Apostle and St. Katharine Drexel Shrine at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Philadelphia.

**Cost:** \$320 Double & Triple Occupancy; \$400 Single Occupancy

**Features:** Guided tours at both churches. Mass with Father LaBaff. Museum and Gift Shop at St. John Neumann's Shrine.

**Contact:** St. Mary's Rectory at 315-686-3398

## SPAGHETTI DINNER

Watertown - St. Anthony's church to have a Spaghetti Dinner.

**Date:** Sept. 26

**Time:** Take-outs begin at 4 p.m., dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.

**Cost:** Adults, \$8; Half portions for children or adults, \$4.50; children 3 and under, Free; Sauce, \$5 quart (bring a pot); extra meatballs are .75 cents each.

## ST. LAWRENCE

## 177 PROJECT

Canton - An Evening of Adoration and Music to be held.

**Date:** Sept. 17

**Time:** 7 p.m. to 9

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

**Features:** Come join us as we adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament with worship music provided by Catholic musician, Lee Roessler. This event is free and open to all.

**Contact:** Amanda at 315-386-2543 or conklina@canton.edu for more information. For additional information visit www.the177project.com

## CABBAGE ROLL

Norwood - The Norwood Knights of Columbus are having their 24th Annual Cabbage Roll Sale.

**Date:** Sept. 21

**Time:** 9 a.m. until sold

**Place:** St. Andrew's Church Basement

**Cost:** \$3

**Contact:** Pre sale pick ups before 11:00. Call Mark Tebo 315-353-8821, Phil Regan 315-353-9917, Jim Murray 315-261-9975, John Murray 315-353-2334.

## COMMISSIONED LAY MINISTRY DINNER

Massena - Commissioned Lay Ministry Association SLFA Annual Dinner Meeting.

**Date:** Sept. 24

**Time:** 5:30 p.m. Mass with dinner to follow

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

**Cost:** \$15 Per person

**Features:** Spouses and guests invited. Guest presenter will be Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ

**Contact:** Registration required by Sept. 19 by going to :https://www.rcdony.org/formation/commissioned-lay-ministers/clm-event-registration.html OR call Jeannie Grizzuto 315-393-2920 Ext. 1413 OR e-mail jgrizzuto@rcdony.org

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

Saranac Lake - The First Annual Young Adult retreat to be held.

**Date:** Sept. 13-15

**Place:** Camp Guggenheim

**Cost:** \$30

**Features:** The theme will be Encounter Christ, in Creation, in each other, in yourself

**Contact:** For more information and registration go to rcdony.org/yamretreat

## MIDDLE SCHOOL VOCATION RETREAT

Saranac Lake - Middle Vocation retreat to be held.

**Date:** Sept. 20

**Time:** 9:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Place:** Camp Guggenheim

**Features:** For all Catholic School Children & Parish Programs. Lunch will be provided. The day will end with Mass with Bishop LaValley. Families who bring children are welcome to stay for the day.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



## AT THE MOVIES

# OVERCOMER

NEW YORK (CNS) – "If you want to send a message," Hollywood stalwart Sam Goldwyn is said to have remarked – with regard to someone's yen to make a "meaningful" movie – "use Western Union."

While telegrams may have been overtaken by more recent technology, the advice remains sound, as the faith- and sports-themed drama "Overcomer" (Sony), alas, proves.

Alex Kendrick directed, co-wrote (with his brother, Stephen) and stars in this well-intentioned film.

He plays John Harrison, the basketball coach at an evangelical Christian school whose shot at a championship is ruined by the shuttering of a local factory, his hometown's main employer.

With his best players, other than his own son, Ethan (Jack Sterner), relo-

cating to more prosperous communities and the school as a whole feeling the pinch, John is asked by its principal, Olivia Brooks (Priscilla C. Shirer) to help out by taking over the track team.

He reluctantly agrees. But tryouts produce only one interested student, cross-country runner Hannah Scott (Aryn Wright-Thompson).

Hannah not only suffers from asthma, she also has a troubled home life. In the absence of her parents, both of whom she believes to have succumbed to drug addiction, Hannah lives with her overworked grandmother, Barbara (Denise Armstrong).

One symptom of Hannah's damaged emotional state is her habit of purloining other people's property – John's watch, for example.

On a visit to a nearby hospital – where he

boosts ailing fellow parishioners' spirits, in tandem with his pastor – John has a chance encounter with Thomas Hill (Cameron Arnett), a born-again reformed addict.

Already blinded by diabetes, Thomas is facing potentially fatal further complications of the disease.

As John befriends Thomas, a former track champion, he seeks his advice on how to maximize Hannah's gifts.

He also comes to believe that Thomas and Hannah's fates are linked.

Arnett gives a strong, lyrical performance, and the movie showcases the enduring bond between John and his wife, Amy (Shari Rigby).

But Kendrick gets in his own way as sermonizing hobbles an otherwise appealing – if leisurely unfolded – story of conversion and reconciliation that would have been more effective if allowed to speak for itself.

The theology on offer, moreover, is flawed from a Catholic perspective, especially as regards the role of baptism in establishing Christian identity.

Unsurprisingly, given the movie's pedigree, objectionable elements are entirely absent.

Yet some of the topics raised make this unlikely fare for kids.

The film contains mature themes, including narcotics use, and a bit of marital discord.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-II – adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG – parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

## Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

**Contact:** Pre-register by Sept. 20 with Cathy Russell by e-mail at: [crussell@rcdony.org](mailto:crussell@rcdony.org)

### MARRIAGE AND CONSECRATED LIFE JUBILEE MASS

Ogdensburg – The 2nd Annual Marriage and Consecrated Life Jubilee Mass to be held.

**Date:** Sept. 15

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

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

**Features:** Reception to be held after Mass.

**Contact:** If a couple is interested in attending, please direct them to <https://www.rcdony.org/marriagejubilee> to register. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Family Life Office.

### LEAD EVENT

Norwood – LEAD Western Regional Event to be held.

**Date:** Sept. 28

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Place:** Lobster House Restaurant

**Features:** Starting To Think Outside The Box: Alternative Ways To Deliver Faith Formation Programs

**Contact:** Shayne Lippincott by email at [slippincott@rcdony.org](mailto:slippincott@rcdony.org) or call 315-393-2920.

### BLUE MASS

Ogdensburg - Bishop Terry R. LaValley, announces that a Blue Mass honoring the law enforcement and corrections personnel of the North Country will be celebrated.

**Date:** Sept. 29

**Time:** 2 p.m.

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

**Features:** The Blue Mass is the Church's way of offering thanks to God for the dedication and sacrifices made by the men and women who "Protect and Serve". The Mass is open to all law enforcement and corrections regardless of church affiliation. Police agencies, family members, supporters and the Faithful from around the diocese are encouraged to attend.

**Contact:** Father Christopher Carrara, Chaplain JCSO/SLCSO 315-393-2920 or at [ccarrara@rcdony.org](mailto:ccarrara@rcdony.org)

### DOVS PILGRIMAGE

Ottawa – DOVS to have a pilgrimage to Notre Dame Cathedral with Bishop LaValley.

**Date:** Oct. 2

**Time:** Departing from Malone at 7 a.m., Potsdam at 7:45 a.m. and Ogdensburg at 8:15 a.m.

**Cost:** \$145

**Features:** Bus ride, lunch at Tuckers Market Place Restaurant, Mass/Holy Hour for Vocations at Notre Dame Cathedral and free time at Little Italy.

**Contact:** Connie Randall at 315-265-2762 or Mary Enslow at 315-268-1016

### LIFECCHAIN

Lifefchain Sunday to be held.

**Date:** Oct. 6

**Schedule:** Massena - Main Street at Route 37; 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 - Charles Shearer 315-769-0898; Plattsburgh - Smithfield Blvd at Route 3 2 p.m. to 3:30 - Nancy Belzile 518-593-6024; Potsdam - Market Street at Main Street 2 p.m. to 3 - Conner Cummings 315-783-5477; Saranac Lake - Bandshell Park at River St. 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 - The Miners 518-524-0774; Schroon Lake - Route 9 and Main at Fairfield Ave. 2 p.m. to 3 - Dorothy Bean 518-834-7958

**Contact:** Visit [www.lifefchain.net](http://www.lifefchain.net) or call the contacts listed above.

### FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake – Registration is open for Family Guggenheim 2019.

**Date:** Session 3: Oct. 11-13

**Features:** Come pray and play with other faithful families, enjoy the mountains and lake, beach time, workshops and liturgies. Families of all sizes and ages are welcome!

**Contact:** For information contact Deacon Henry and Dayna Leader, Family Guggenheim Directors [deleader@rcdony.org](mailto:deleader@rcdony.org) 315-323-0827 visit <https://www.rcdony.org/family-life/family-guggenheim.html>

### CELEBRATE CHRIST

Lake Placid – Celebrate Christ event to be held.

**Date:** Oct. 19

**Place:** Crowne Plaza

**Features:** This event is for those involved in parish ministry. We are excited about the presenter, Mr. Kevin Dowd will be speaking about A Spirituality of imperfection and the Eucharist, Source and Center of our Lives.

**Contact:** Register at [www.rcdony.org/celebrate](http://www.rcdony.org/celebrate)



## Rachel's Vineyard

### After-Abortion Healing Retreat

Don't suffer alone. Help is available.

October 18 - 20

Guggenheim Lodge, Saranac Lake

Confidential online registration [www.rcdony.org/pro-life](http://www.rcdony.org/pro-life)

Questions? Please contact the

Diocese of Ogdensburg Respect Life office  
315-524-0774 (call or text) [cmminer@rcdony.org](mailto:cmminer@rcdony.org)

# Catholic organizations raise funds to aid Dorian victims

MIAMI (CNS) – In the wake of Hurricane Dorian's brutal blasting of the Bahamas, Catholic organizations in Florida continued to raise funds to aid victims there.

The best aid from individual Catholics is monetary donations. Money can be used to buy supplies in bulk and get them delivered promptly, and to reboot the local economy, enabling communities to start getting back on their feet. Money also ensures the items sent are actually the items needed – not just immediately after the disaster but months later, when recovery is ongoing.

"It's the agencies that are on the ground providing the help, they really know what is needed. So it's best to give them the resources so they can purchase locally what is needed. It helps to get businesses back up and running locally," Peter Routsis-Arroyo, director of the Archdiocese of Miami's Catholic Charities, told the Florida Catholic, Miami's archdiocesan newspaper.

Arroyo noted the "tremendous amount of manpower" and agency funds required to organize, pack and ship donated items. "If we had just turned that money over to them, there's none of those costs involved in that," he said.

Not to mention that some items may only be needed the first few days.

"Maybe they need MREs (meals ready to eat) for the first two days, but that's it," he said. Other needs will arise as reconstruction begins, Arroyo added.

The Catholic Church has a distinct advantage,

though, when disaster strikes anywhere: an interconnected network of churches and agencies with deep roots and deep knowledge of the affected communities.

The Miami Archdiocese has many links to the Archdiocese of Nassau. Priests from Miami's Metropolitan Tribunal helped Nassau set up its tribunal a decade ago. For years, representatives from the Bahamas Women's Auxiliary have joined members of the Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women at their annual convention – sometimes bringing Nassau Archbishop Patrick C. Pinder with them.

"We've been in constant contact with Archbishop Pinder," Routsis-Arroyo said, adding that what he's dealing with "is overwhelming."

"He sends us a list of what he needs and it's easier for us to collect monies, purchase in bulk, not have to pay taxes or anything. And then we have friends of the agency who will ship it for free to him. And then he knows how to get it to whoever he knows on his end," Routsis-Arroyo said.

Those "friends" include shipping companies and wealthy individuals who offer to cover the costs or deliver the goods free of charge.

Normally, relief work in a foreign country is done by the U.S. bishops' overseas agency, Catholic Relief Services. But Routsis-Arroyo explained that CRS doesn't have any offices in the Bahamas "so they work with the archbishop and the local Caritas," which is part of the

international network of agencies under the umbrella of Caritas Internationalis

When Dorian slammed into the Bahamas, Knights of Columbus of Florida went into action.

The first order of business: texting with a fellow Knight of Columbus by the name of Patrick Pinder.

"We are in touch with Archbishop Pinder of Nassau by text," said Ronald Winn, a resident of Pensacola and state disaster response chairman for the Knights of Columbus.

The Knights' Florida Council has had a long relationship with the Knights in the Bahamas, which is considered part of the Florida jurisdiction. When Dorian hit the Bahamas, the texts between the archbishop and the Knights in Florida were traded back and forth.

Winn was prepared to respond to the bishop and his people. Since July 1, the Knights have stepped up service efforts with their new Disaster Response Program. Once Dorian made landfall in the Bahamas, the organization developed a fundraising campaign posting information about it on their state and supreme council websites.

"Things change day by day. ... We are waiting until the airports are safe and in good working order to receive aircraft safely," Winn told the Florida Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of West Palm Beach. He added that some Knights have offered to navigate their own boats to the Bahamas to deliver items.

Celebrate your favorite priest in the

**NCC PRIEST APPRECIATION  
ISSUE**

**Join the North Country Catholic in honoring the special priests in your life. The NCC will be honoring our priests in the Sept. 25 issue of the paper.**

**Priesthood Sunday will be Sept. 29**

We invite you to send a message to your pastor, spiritual advisor or priestly friend.

**\$20** - a 1 column X 2 inch ad with a short message (e.g., Father Smith, we appreciate your service, from the Jones Family)

**\$40** - a 2 column x 2 inch ad featuring your message, a photo or graphic design

**\$135** - Quarter page ad

**\$250** - Half page ad

**\$475** - Full page ad

If you have a specific budget that is not listed we can design an ad based on that.

If you would like your ad in color please add \$25 (The North Country Catholic provides design services)

**Must be returned to the NCC by  
Sept. 18, 2019**

**YES! I/We would like to honor a priest in the North Country Catholic**

**YOUR NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ad Size:**

**\$20 Special Message only**  **\$40 2x2**

**\$135 Quarter Page**  **\$250 Half Page**

**\$475 Full Page**  **\$25 Extra for color**

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## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Remember God's forgiveness of our sins

With all the evil in our world – its lack of respect for human life, for the environment, its outrageous violations of justice and charity – we wonder at God's tolerance of our present-day world.

Our readings this week are all about God's patience. They're also about God's incredible forgiveness.

First, it was with the Israelites, who he had brought through the desert. When they panicked at Moses' absence on the mountain, they made a golden calf as a substitute for the One

True God. At the very time God was presenting Moses with the Ten Commandments, they were breaking the first one!

It was Moses, of course, who cooled God's anger, so that God relented of His anger, forgave the Israelites, and gave them a second chance.

In the second reading, we hear about God's patience with Paul (then called Saul), who was murdering the new Christians with great zeal. Paul tells us that Christ came to redeem sinners, and mercifully treated him "so that



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

September 15

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-32

in me, as the foremost (sinner), Christ Jesus might display all his patience as an example for those who would come to believe in him for everlasting life".

In the Gospel, we have the story of a lamb, a coin, and two brothers that were lost. There are some beautiful paintings of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, pulling that poor lamb out of a thorn bush, or carrying the exhausted and

trembling lamb on his shoulders. The second story about the woman sweeping the house for a single coin, then throwing a party in her joy, seems a bit exaggerated to us today, but we certainly get the idea that Jesus is filled with happiness when someone like ourselves, not much more important than a small coin, comes back to our senses.

The third story is the most famous, the one about the Prodigal Son. The spendthrift, younger son, can't even get his carefully rehearsed speech out of his mouth, before the Father smooths him with kisses, and treats him like a returning hero. He could well sing

for the rest of his days, "I once was lost but now am found." We're not so sure of his angry, resentful older brother. The tearful father could not persuade him to come into the party! But the father forgives him, too.

How about us? We often have little patience when God doesn't answer our prayers right away. We're impatient with people who do not measure up to our standards.

Our impatience can offend and discourage family members. Just remembering God's forgiveness of our sins and failings should help us to be much more patient with the foibles of our friends and family.

## What's the truth about love?

By Dr. Maura Hearden Fehlner

Love is easily among the most popular topics of conversation in America today. Online dating services are a billion dollar industry, movies about romance continue to draw large crowds, and, in the name of supporting everyone's right to have love in their lives, there is a push to expand the legal definition of "family" to include pretty much any number and combination of men, women, and children that consenting adults desire.

So why do so many Americans suffer from failed marriages, broken relationships, abandonment, depression, anxiety, and feelings of isolation? Maybe there's something wrong with the way we're going about this whole love thing.

For generations now, popular culture has used

the bully pulpits of public education, mass media, self-help books, and entertainment to preach the following message: "The only way to make sure you have what it takes to love others is to love yourself first!" This usually translates into two recommended actions: 1) take care of your own needs and desires before considering those of others; and 2) rather than striving to be a better person, learn to value your sins and faults as precious aspects of your identity.

Unfortunately for popular culture, this way of thinking couldn't be more wrong.

Love...real love...the kind of love that makes us courageous, patient, strong, and filled with joy even in the midst of suffering involves striving to overcome our own shortcomings and requires us

to think of others first before ourselves. It is about imitating the self-sacrificial love—the gift of self—that is the very essence of God. This is because we were made in God's image and no matter how enticing selfish impulses may seem, they can only lead us away from happiness because they lead us away from the perfection of our own design.

Earlier this summer, I was the keynote speaker for a diocesan event called "Loving Authentically." Part of my presentation involved explaining the self-giving nature of love. In an article about the presentation in the North Country Catholic, it was reported that I had said "The gift of self-love is the very essence of God" and "we will only find true happiness by participating in the gift of self-love..." My jaw dropped

as I read these words, because they misrepresented the presentation and promoted the very idea that I was trying to refute.

I'm not sure why this misunderstanding occurred, but I do know the quote, as presented, reiterated a false belief that has permeated our culture and led people astray for decades. Don't fall into this trap. The only way to receive the love that satisfies all human longing is

to give yourself to God, and the best way to learn how that is done is to give yourself to other people. If you can do this, you'll get a taste of heaven right here on earth!



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# Sister Dorothy Stang, a missionary hero

In February 2005, Sister Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN, a missionary based in the Amazon jungle in the rainforests of Brazil, was walking along a rural road where illegal logging efforts had been ongoing. These ruthless criminals had no legal rights to the land they were on and had very little regard for the beautiful and important rainforest lands. Sister Dorothy was shot and killed by a local rancher she was trying to prevent from carrying out such illegal acts that month.

Today, Sister Dorothy's legacy lives on in Brazil and the world. She is known as, "The Angel of the Amazon," and her death was not in vain. Upon learning of her demise, the President of Brazil at the time, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, stepped in and gave the land in question to local farmer for sustainable development. Almost 22,000 acres of Brazilian rainforest were spared by his actions and in the spirit of Sister Dorothy.

Before her death and on assignment in Brazil with the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, she had worked for more than 30 years in the rainforests. She had done many great things while there including the opening of schools, starting religious education programs and empowering local indigenous people to secure sustainable projects. A native of Ohio, she had been a member of her order since 1948 and was 73 years old at the time of her death. Always remembered as the Martyr of the Amazon, over two thousand people attended her funeral in Brazil in 2005.

As we are about to embark on Extraordinary Mission Month this October, Sister Dorothy Stang embodies the full spirit of an extraordinary missionary. The theme of "Baptized and Sent" could not be any more applicable than it is to this extraordinary individual. She traveled to a remote part of the world to bring the Good News of Christ and to provide for those who could not for themselves. Literally sacrificing her own life to save those who could not stand up for themselves, her legacy lives on today. Pope Francis shares Sister Dorothy's vision of hope and beauty for the Amazon. The Holy Father has called for more missionaries to flock to the Amazon to work and train native clergy there to bring the vision of the Church into sharper focus. Pope Francis also appeals for respect and protection of the region that God entrusted to Men.

Baptized and Sent. In a world where so much divides us, please take a moment to remember and pray for Sister Dorothy Stang. Her extraordinary efforts as a missionary and custodian to our planet are very special and deserve all our prayers and gratitude. "May the love for the church's mission, which is a passion for Jesus and a passion for his people, grow ever stronger." Pope Francis. God bless you all.

## OBITUARIES

**Au Sable Forks** – Gary F. Whisher, 69; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 3, 2019 at Holy Name Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

**Canton** – Patrick William Casey, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 6, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Parish Cemetery.

**Lake Placid** – Willima A. McConvey, IV, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 4, 2019 at St. Agnes Church; burial in Haselton Cemetery, Wilmington.

**Louisville** – Evelyn M. (Warren) Cameron, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 7, 2019 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

**Lowville** – John C. "Jack" Kieffer, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 7, 2019 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Brantingham Cemetery.

**Malone** – Joseph William Dufort, 71; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 7, 2019 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Massena** – Duane T. Hazelton, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 6, 2019 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Jean (Cassaw) Jennings, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 7, 2019 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Cyril's Cemetery, Alex Bay.

**Ogdensburg** – David J. McLellan, 64; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 6, 2019 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Emma J. (Fournier) Robillard, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 5, 2019 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Phyllis I. (LaFave) Wilson, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 10, 2019 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Fairview Cemetery, Canton.

**Plattsburgh** – Shilrye Leonard, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 7, 2019 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

**Star Lake** – Janet Ruth Feerick, 78; Memorial Mass Sept. 20, 2019 at St. Hubert's Church; burial in St. Hubert's Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Marie Anne Edginton, 64; Funeral Services Sept. 5, 2019 at D.L. Calarco Funeral Home, Inc.

**Watertown** – Patricia A. (Scanlin) Guga, 88; Funeral Services Sept. 7, 2019 at D.L. Calarco Funeral Home,

Inc.; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Colonel Kurt Dexter Philip Norman, 67; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 5, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

**West Chazy** – Joseph A. Baker, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 31, 2019 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

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Father Martin E. Cline was recently installed by Bishop Terry R. LaValley as pastor of St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake and Church of the Assumption in Gabriels.



Youth, young adults and adults from Dannemora traveled to Gilford, New Hampshire this summer to attend Soulfest.

## Dannemora group attends New Hampshire 'Soulfest'

Nine members of the Y.E.S. youth group from Dannemora, attended the Soulfest at Gunstock in Gilford, NH from Aug. 1-3.

This is the 22nd year of this event. The Dannemora group has been attending for 21 years.

The group also bring college students (two this year), young adults and adults.

The trip gives the group

a spiritual experience along with uplifting music, ministry and fun activities.

Soulfest is focused on ministry and finding God.

The Catholic Diocese of Manchester, NH youth ministry provides a Catholic presence with three days of ministry, confessions, holy hours, daily Mass and Mass with Bishop Libasci of the Dio-

cese of Manchester. Several priests and Sisters are on site to minister to those there. Saturday morning liturgical music was provided by Matt Maher.

The final act was For King and Country.

For more information feel free to contact Dick Lynch at [yesgrp7@aol.com](mailto:yesgrp7@aol.com) or go to [thesoulfest.com](http://thesoulfest.com).



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