

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Former  
Lake Placid resident  
ordained | PAGE 4

Vaccination is  
'an act of love'  
pope says | PAGE 10

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 76 Number 16

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

AUGUST 25, 2021

## Update on Child Victims Act lawsuits

Bishop Terry R. LaValley issued the following letter regarding the lawsuits filed under the Child Victims Act:

"I want to give you a brief update on the lawsuits filed against the Diocese of Ogdensburg under the Child Victims Act. Last Friday marked the close of the "window legislation" which suspended the statute of limitations and allowed individuals to file lawsuits alleging sexual abuse no matter when the alleged abuse occurred.

During the two-year window 122 lawsuits have been filed against the Diocese. These lawsuits allege abuse from the 1940s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## ON THE PATH



THOMAS SEMERARO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Youth participating in the Guggenheim Summer Fun Days work cooperatively to construct a path for a marble. Two fun days were held at the camp to give participants a taste of the Camp Guggenheim experience while teen camp is not being held due to the Coronavirus pandemic. See the full story on Page 12.

## CENTURY OF LOVE



Sister Joan McElwain, a Moira native and Grey Nun of the Sacred Heart, assists with the health care needs of the sisters and enjoys gardening in her spare time. The Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, including many sisters from the Diocese of Ogdensburg, are celebrating the community's 100th anniversary.

FULL STORY, PAGE 9

# God's law is meant to bring freedom, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The purpose of the law in Christian life is not to forcibly subjugate others, but to teach men and women the way to obtain true freedom in Christ, Pope Francis said during his weekly general audience.

The "function of the law is certainly positive but limited in time," the pope said Aug. 18 to those gathered in the Paul VI audience hall at the Vatican.

"It cannot extend its du-

ration too far, because it is linked to the maturation of individuals and their choice of freedom," he said.

The pope continued his series of talks on St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians and focused on St. Paul's assessment of the role the law plays in Christians' lives.

St. Paul, the pope said, compares the law to a disciplinarian, which "is a beautiful image that de-

serves to be understood in its correct meaning."

In the apostle's view, he explained, the role of the law was changed after Christ's death and resurrection. In his Letter to the Galatians, St. Paul wrote that "before faith came, we were held in custody under the law, confined for the faith that was to be revealed."

The pope said St. Paul's use of the expression "under the law" implies "the

idea of a negative servitude, typical of slaves."

"The apostle makes it explicit by saying that when one is 'under the law,' it is as if one is 'watched' and 'locked up,' a kind of preventive custody. This period, says St. Paul, has lasted a long time and is perpetuated as long as one lives in sin," he said.

St. Paul expands not only on the law's role of "making people aware of their own sin" but also its capacity to

"end up stimulating the transgression."

Yet, for the people of Israel, the law – known as the Torah – was "an act of magnanimity by God toward his people" that protected, instructed, disciplined and supported them "in their weakness," the pope said.

Pope Francis said that for Christians, the law serves the same purpose until "one has come to faith," then it "must give way to another authority."

NORTH  
COUNTRY  
CATHOLICBox 326  
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669  
USPS 0039-3400

BISHOP TERRY

R. LAVALLEY

President

REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN

Vice President

JAMES D. CROWLEY

Secretary-Treasurer

DARCY L. FARGO

Editor &amp;

Communications Director



Publish 45 issues per year. Weekly except skipping every other week beginning July through Aug. and skipping one week in Dec. by the Diocese of Ogdensburg. 622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

## Editorial Office:

622 Washington Street,  
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

## Telephone:

(315) 608-7556

## E-mail:

news@northcountry  
catholic.org

## Entered at the

Post Office:

Ogdensburg, NY  
13669 and  
additional mailing offices as  
Periodical Postage.

## Subscription:

For one year:  
In-Diocese Rate: \$27  
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication

should be addressed to  
PO Box 326  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
and should be received by  
Thursday prior to  
publication.  
Paper is printed each  
Monday;  
dateline is Wednesday.  
Member, Catholic Press  
Association.

## POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to  
North Country Catholic,  
PO Box 326  
Ogdensburg, NY  
13669-0326

## Is it a healthy relationship?

"According to the definition of the podcast I was just listening to, we have a very healthy relationship/friendship," I wrote in a message to my best friend. "Their definition of a healthy relationship is one where the involved parties can have conflicts or disagreements and can voice painful truths, and the relationship isn't broken and still functions."

I love my best friend. While she's not "religious," she exhibits Christian love better than almost any one I know. She's insightful,

she's caring, she's generous almost to a fault, she's hysterically funny, and she loves strongly and with little or no thought of what she'll get in return.

Darcy L.  
Fargo

That having been said, my best friend and I sometimes drive each other nuts.

We sometimes disagree. We sometimes inadvertently hurt each other's feelings. We sometimes have difficult conversations about the ways we can better support one another or at least avoid hurting one another.

Even when we're driving

each other batty, we love each other deeply, and we can be totally honest with each other.

Frankly, I can't imagine my life without her in it.

Thinking about our friendship, especially after interviewing the newly ordained Father Pier Giorgio of Christ the King (see the full story on Page 4), got me thinking about my relationship with the Lord. The new priest spoke of his draw to the Carmelite charism and his desire to be "a friend of Jesus."

While I can say to my best friend, "this situation really upset me, and I'm hurting," I struggle to say similar things to our Lord.

While I know in my head that Jesus loves me no matter what I do or say, including if I'm hurt, upset or struggling, I don't necessarily act like I believe that in my heart.

I have a habit of keeping our Lord at a bit of a distance, I'd say.

With that in mind, I'm going forward this week (and hopefully longer) trying to focus on growing my friendship with the Lord and sharing every part of myself with him, including the difficult parts, and the parts that are hurt and struggling.

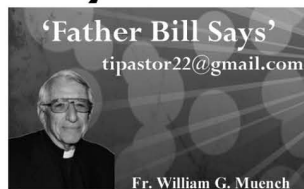
Because I'd like to have a healthy relationship with Jesus, too.

## 'Will you also leave me?'

Today, a little more about John 6 and Jesus' discourse on the bread of life. Jesus describes his love. He longs to come to us, to be part of our lives, to become for us the nourishment and strength that will fortify us to live as true disciples of the Lord.

John 6 closes with the story of disciples who have listened to Jesus but are not willing to accept his message and no longer are willing to walk with him. However, the apostles remain. It is Peter who announces his faith in the Lord. He speaks for the faith of his friends, the other apostles. "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God." (John 6:68)

Today, John 6 invites each one of us to renew our faith. On the day of this story, would we stand with Peter and would our prayer be his? Each Sunday in a dramatic proclamation during



Mass, we declare our faith in Our Savior as we say together the Creed.

Each of us must make our faith own. We have to find meaning in it through personal experience if it is to come alive for us. Our challenge is to recognize exactly what we mean by the word "faith." It is not in the first place the acceptance of a set of beliefs. Instead, it's a belief in and commitment to the person of Jesus.

Can I stand with Peter in my life as a Catholic? I believe that this is possible when I stand with others before the Lord as a Catholic, as Church. Being Church means we are united in Spirit and love with the Lord Jesus. For more and more people, faith is no longer something inherited and taken for granted, but the

result of a personal decision. They live as members of a community of believers whose common faith strengthens the faith of each individual.

The Lord Jesus is the one who strengthens our faith, but we also need to confirm one another. Our presence at the Sunday Eucharist can make both of these things happen.

Each Sunday, parish communities come together to pray and celebrate the Holy Eucharist. The very word Eucharist indicates that we are present in gratitude for all that the Lord did for us and continues to do for us by being present to our community. We pray together and sing together seeking the Lord's strength that our faith will lead us to live as the Lord has taught us.

Each week at Sunday worship, we go to the altar for Eucharist. We believe that through this Blessed Sacrament the Lord becomes present with us in a special, sacramental way.

We are invited, all of us, to receive in Holy Communion the Body and Blood of the Lord, consecrated as we pray together. Jesus wants to come to us and to be one with us. We do not receive Holy Communion as a reward for doing something, for living a good life. Rather the Lord Jesus truly wants to be part of our Christian life, guiding and strengthening us to live as true disciples of the Savior. Each Sunday, we take the Lord Jesus with us out into our homes and streets to be the power to live well and to do all we can to transform the world into a place of love and peace.

So, as we pray today, the Lord asks us, "Will you also leave me?" just as he asked the apostles on that day. It's not the Lord who leaves us, but we who may leave him. We need to make our own Peter's profession of faith. Every Sunday we get a chance to do so. We need the Lord to strengthen our faith. Lord, confirm my decision to stay with you.

FOLLOW ME

# Update on Child Victims Act lawsuits

## My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I want to give you a brief update on the lawsuits filed against the Diocese of Ogdensburg under the Child Victims Act. Last Friday marked the close of the "window legislation" which suspended the statute of limitations and allowed individuals to file lawsuits alleging sexual abuse no matter when the alleged abuse occurred.

During the two-year window 122 lawsuits have been filed against the Diocese. These lawsuits allege abuse from the 1940s, 50s, 60s 70s, 80s and 90s. There is only one case that alleges abuse in the last 25 years, after we put into place more rigorous safe environment policies. Our response to these claims has remained constant. We apologize to and seek

to compensate those who were victimized by sexual abuse. These lawsuits are in the hands of our attorneys, and we will seek to resolve them fairly and promptly.

While many of the lawsuits state claims that may be meritorious, the Diocese is also named as a defendant in cases claiming abuse by priests, teachers, men and women consecrated religious, and scout leaders over whom we had no control. As you might expect, there also are some lawsuits where we believe the evidence will show that the accused individual did not commit the abuse alleged. We have a few cases that do not name the offender but simply

allege general abuse. We will do our best to see that all claims are resolved on their merits.

We remain committed to our safe environment policies and practices. We have implemented background checks and safe environment training to protect children and prevent abuse from taking place. All allegations of abuse are reported to civil officials, the accused is confronted with the allegation, the matter is investigated and is reviewed by an independent lay Review Board, and any credibly accused clergy is removed from ministry. We have a Victim Assistance Coordinator who offers counseling and assistance to victims.



**Bishop  
Terry R.  
LaValley**

We remain vigilant, working to prevent abuse from happening.

While it is impossible to predict the financial impact of the lawsuits, the impact will likely be significant. These lawsuits will pose significant challenges to us, but we are committed to continuing our mission. We are working with our insurance companies and hope that a significant contribution to the settlement of these claims will come from insurance.

The past two years have been a challenge for victims and their families, for our priests, consecrated religious and parishioners. Added to the filing of these lawsuits was the anxiety and hardships caused by the Coronavirus and the pandemic emergency. I want to thank and commend the clergy and faithful of

our diocese for your perseverance and generosity during this trying time. I ask you to continue to support your parishes and the work of the diocese. We must continue our mission in good times and in bad. Your continued support is essential.

Please continue to pray for victims of sexual abuse, and for our diocese in the days ahead. We will keep you advised as we move forward in an attempt to resolve these lawsuits while continuing to serve the needs of the people of the North Country. Asking God to bless you abundantly, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,

**Most Reverend  
Terry R. LaValley  
Bishop of Ogdensburg**

## ENJOYING FELLOWSHIP

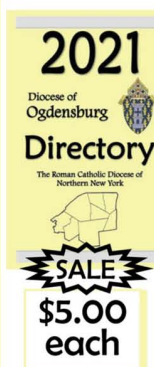


Thousand Islands region deacons and their wives were among those who attended a dinner and cruise in the Thousand Islands. Pictured are, front row, Deacon Patrick & Karen Donaghue of Cape Vincent, (back) Deacon Bernie Slate of Alexandria Bay, Deacon Neil & Dee Fuller of Clayton, Deacon Joel and Dawn Walentuk of Alexandria Bay, and Deacon Gary & Gayle Frank of Clayton).

## SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Visit our website [www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org) to subscribe online by clicking on "Subscribe by Credit Card", top right corner or call our office at 315-608-7556 to subscribe by phone

2021 Diocesan Directories are now available!



The Official 2021 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.

Order online at [www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org) or call our office at

315-608-7556

to order yours today!

# Former Lake Placid resident ordained

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

**LAKE PLACID** – Father Pier Giorgio of Christ the King, born Alexander Pacelli, was ordained as a priest of the Discalced Carmelite Friars of the Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary after a long journey that traveled through Lake Placid, Camp Guggenheim and the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

He was ordained by Cardinal Lars Anders Arborelius, also a Discalced Carmelite, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians at Holy Hill in Hubertus, Wisconsin on July 18.

“It has been a long process, but on the other hand, it’s been a confirmation of what God is already doing in my life,” said Father Pacelli, age 33. “In the abundance of what he’s given me already, this is super abundance. Supernatural graces come from ordination. It’s the next part of his love in my life.”

After growing up in Saratoga County, Father Pacelli had a conversion experience in college that soon led him to discern a calling to the priesthood.

“I think many people who read the North Country Catholic will remember me as a seminarian for the Diocese of Ogdensburg,” he said. “My parents moved to Lake Placid a few months after my conversion experience. I’d go home to Lake Placid when I was in college. My only experience of the priesthood was diocesan priests. I went to seminary knowing almost nothing; I had only been confirmed 15 months or so prior.”

In addition to growing in his knowledge of the faith, his time as a seminarian with the Diocese of Ogdensburg also helped him



**Father Pier Giorgio of Christ the King, OCD, born Alexander Pacelli, is pictured after his ordination with former Guggenheim staff members Michael Knapick, Sam Racette (Saranac Lake), Christian Bobak and Emma Knapick.**

find Catholic fellowship.

“I learned so much, and I gained relationships I still have to this day,” Father Pacelli said. “I worked at Camp Guggenheim for three summers. That’s where I made my first Catholic friends, and they’re still some of my best friends. The Diocese of Ogdensburg is a huge part of my vocation, as is St. Agnes in Lake Placid. Father (Joseph) Morgan and Father John Yonkovig – two powerhouse priests in my book – were great witnesses to me in their witness and generosity. Working at Guggenheim, I got to know Father Scott Belina and Father Bryan Stitt.”

Father Pacelli said he was also able to grow in

his vocation during his times of service in the diocese, including time at St. Alexander’s in Morrisonville and St. Peter’s in Lowville, St. Mary’s in Glenfield and St. Hedwig’s in Houseville.

It was also in seminary where he was first exposed to priests serving with various religious orders.

“There were religious priests on the faculty,” he said. “That’s when I came to know the idea of charisms.”

While he encountered Dominicans, Franciscans and priests of other orders, Father Pacelli said he felt particularly called to the Discalced Carmelites. He also had a family connection to the order.

## Mass of Thanksgiving

Father Pier Giorgio of Christ the King will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at 10 a.m. on Aug. 29 at St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid.

“When I was a seminarian, my mom was doing formation with the secular order of Discalced Carmelites at St. Bernard’s in Saranac Lake,” he said. “My mother’s journey back to the Church preceded mine by a few years. When I was in high school, statues of St. Therese, the Little Flower, started to appear in our house. When I got to seminary, the first book I read on my own was ‘Story of a Soul.’ I started learning about St. Therese and St. John of the Cross. I kept seeing a unified spirituality of friendship with God. That’s what I was really yearning for – friendship with Jesus. That was my first sort of call, ultimately – I was called to be a friend of Jesus. My vocation is to be a friend of Jesus. That’s what the Discalced Carmelites say they’re about. I haven’t been disappointed yet. I continue growing in that relationship with Jesus. It’s not perfect, but it’s beautiful and powerful that it continues to increase.”

Additionally, when he first visited the Carmelites in Wisconsin as part of his discernment process, “everything fell into a groove, so to speak.”

“I felt at home,” Father Pacelli said. “The friars get moved around a lot. I’ve been a Carmelite seven years, and I’ve lived in three different places – Wisconsin, Washington DC and Oregon. Throughout those moves, Carmel – the mystical home – exists no

matter where the monastery is.”

Father Pacelli said he will remain in his current ministry now that he’s received holy orders.

“The main thing that’s different is that I’m on the other side of the altar now,” he said, laughing. “My ministry will essentially remain the same. I’m an editor. I work for our publishing apostolate, and I’ll continue doing that work.”

Additionally, Father Pacelli assists with weekend Masses at the National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians at Holy Hill in Wisconsin.

“I’m also studying part-time for a master’s degree at University of Wisconsin,” he said. “I have a lot on my plate. And because a lot of my apostolate is working in an office, I get the opportunity to travel a lot. I don’t have schedule commitments like a lot of priests have, and that frees me up to do things for which priests are normally difficult to find. I just recently served as chaplain for FOCUS, working as a spiritual director and confessor and saying Mass for 50 college undergrads from all over the country participating in a summer program in northern Michigan.”

Father Pacelli’s travels are also bringing him back to the North Country.

On Aug. 29, he’ll celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Agnes in Lake Placid at 10 a.m. He also plans to celebrate a Mass with friends from Camp Guggenheim during his time in the area.

“The Diocese of Ogdensburg still has a special place in my heart,” he said. “Long term, I’m also planning to visit the places I was assigned as a seminarian.”

**OBITUARIES**

**Brownville** – Clifton K. “Kip” Couse, Jr., 60; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 12, 2021 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Brownville Cemetery.

**Canton** – Paul Stuba, 84; Services to be held with family.

**Carthage** – Jo Ellen (Britton) Goodman, 64; Funeral Services Aug. 19, 2021 at the Bezanilla-McGraw Funeral Home; burial in St. James Cemetery.

**Carthage** – Susan L. Tavernier, 61; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 21, 2021 at St. James Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

**Champlain** – Lucy Ida (Monette) Mayo, 86; Mass of Christian Aug. 11, 2021 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Ann’s Cemetery.

**Chateaugay** – Walter F. Brockway, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 12, 2021 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in St. George’s Cemetery, Burke.

**Chateaugay** – Joyce A. (May) Magan, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 11, 2021 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in Riverside Cemetery, Woodstock, VT.

**Chateaugay** – Anna M. (Decker) Silver, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 13, 2021 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery.

**Chaumont** – Patricia Anne (Price) Pawling, 84; Private Services to be held.

**Colton** – Lawrence J. “Smiley” Regan, 79; Funeral Services Aug. 12, 2021 at Buck Funeral Home; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery.

**Constable** – Francis H. “Frank” Fleury, 91; Graveside Services Aug. 20, 2021 at St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery.

**Elizabethtown** – Anna (Muccio)

Scato, 103; Mass of Christian Burial July 17, 2021 at St. Elizabeth’s Church.

**Fort Covington** – Charlotte G. (Gray) Smith, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 17, 2021 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

**Gabriels** – Robert Patrick “Bob” Bynon Sr., 98; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 14, 2021 at Church of the Assumption; burial in St. Paul’s Cemetery, Bloomingdale.

**Heuvelton** – William E. Knowlton, 80; Funeral Services Aug. 23, 2021; burial in Hillcrest Cemetery.

**Lake Placid** – Richard Armando Persico, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 11, 2021 at St. Agnes Church; burial in North Elba Cemetery.

**Lowville** – Ronald L. Brockert, 55; Funeral Services Aug. 18, 2021 at Iseneker Funeral Home, Inc.

**Lowville** – Wilma F. (Burdick) Dailey, 99; Funeral Services Aug. 20, 2021 at Iseneker Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

**Lowville** – Ruth I. Larabee, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 14, 2021 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in Old Glendale Cemetery.

**Lowville** – Dennis John Roy, Jr., 70; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 18, 2021 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in Martinsburg Cemetery.

**Massena** – Lucien L. LaPlante, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 20, 2021 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** – Henry Merithre Jr., 86; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 14, 2021 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** – Eileen (Sauve) Walsh, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 21, 2021 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Morrisonville** – George A. Poust, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 12, 2021 at St. Alexander’s Church; burial in Salem Cemetery, Unityville, PA.

**North Bangor** – Bonnie Lee Marie (Trombley) Lamica, 70; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 20, 2021 at St. Augustine’s Church; burial in St. Augustine’s Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Edward P. Gilbo, 63; Funeral Services Aug. 16, 2021 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Ronald J. Para, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 21, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

**Ogdensburg** – Rebecca W. (Davis) Spooner, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 27, 2021 at Notre Dame Church.

**Peru** – Carlton H. “Carl” Wood, 74; Funeral Services Aug. 19, 2021 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Cadyville Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Elizabeth N. (Squires) Botten, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 14, 2021 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in St. Peter’s Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Donald L. Racette, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 24, 2021 at St. John’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s of the Lake Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Rita (Morin) Russo, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 13, 2021 at St. John’s Church; burial in St. Peter’s Cemetery.

**Port Henry** – John E. Sweet, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 9, 2021 at St. Patrick’s Church.

**Potsdam** – Arnold K. Fefee, 81; Graveside services Aug. 13, 2021 at the Bay-side Cemetery.

**Potsdam** – Frieda A. (LaPoint) Wells, 100; Funeral Services Aug. 19, 2021 at the Garner Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** – Michael J. Bristol, 67; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 17, 2021 at St. Bernard’s Church; burial in St. Bernard’s Cemetery.

**Schroon Lake** – Rita M. (Hodson) Burdick, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 13, 2021 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

**South Colton** – Michael E. Long, 50; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 20, 2021 at St. Paul’s Church.

**Tupper Lake** – Judith (Baker) Brunette, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 23, 2021 at St. Alphonsus Church;

burial in Gale Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Beverly J. (Smith) Chimento, 95; Funeral Services Aug. 17, 2021 at the Hart & Bruce Funeral Home; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – David A. Kane; Graveside Services Aug. 13, 2021 at Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Robert C. Londraville, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 21, 2021 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in Sackets Harbor Military Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Julie A. Marzano, 73; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 21, 2021 at St. Anthony’s Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Maria J. (Tubolino) Smith, 95; Services to be held in September.

**Watertown** – Mary Gretchen Sullivan, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 14, 2021 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in Dexter Cemetery.

**THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS**

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

Eternal Father,  
we lift up to you these  
and all the priests of the world.  
Sanctify them.  
Heal and guide them.  
Mold them into the likeness and  
holiness of your Son, Jesus,  
the Eternal High Priest.  
May their lives be pleasing to  
you. In Jesus’ name we pray.  
Amen

Mass  
Rosary  
Fasting  
Day Offering  
Eucharistic Adoration  
Offering of Sufferings  
Divine Mercy Chaplet  
Or whatever the Lord  
inspires you to offer Him

(With ecclesiastical approval)



**SEPTEMBER**

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY 2021

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

For more copies contact: Diocese of Ogdensburg PO Box 369 Ogdensburg, NY 13669

1	2	3	4
BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY	REV. JOSEPH W. ELLIOTT	REV. ALFRED H. FISH	REV. FRANCIS J. FLYNN
5	6	7	8
REV. J. MICHAEL GAFFNEY	REV. ADRIAN GALLAGHER	REV. GARY B. GIROUX	OUR PASTOR
9	10	11	
REV. JOSEPH W. GIROUX	REV. L. WILLIAM GORDON	REV. ALEX V. GUIMPOL	
12	13	14	15
REV. ROLLAND A. HART	REV. ALBERT J. HAUSER VF	REV. PETER G. HELFRICH	POPE FRANCIS
16	17	18	
BENEDICT XVI POPE EMERITUS	REV. MICHAEL J. JABLONSKI	REV. DANIEL T. KEEFE	
19	20	21	22
REV. PAUL J. KELLY	REV. JOHN P. KENNEHAN VF	REV. THOMAS E. KORNMEYER VF	RETIRED PRIESTS
23	24	25	
REV. STEVE KOVACEVICH	REV. DONALD F. KRAMBERG	REV. ARTHUR J. LABAFF VF	
26	27	28	29
REV. ALAN J. LAMICA	REV. ROBERT O. LAMITTE	REV. KRIS C. LAUZON	DECEASED PRIESTS
30			
REV. CLYDE A. LEWIS			

For more information visit us online at www.mprpapistate.com  
A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated.  
The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by: Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society www.myvocation.net

Visit our website  
[www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org)

- Read local stories and commentaries
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more

Find us on Facebook!

For a New or Used Car  
**Mort Backus & Sons**  
On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.  
**315-393-5899**

CHEVROLET

## Environmental Stewardship

**'Better to light one candle'**

Most of us are familiar with the quote "Better to light one candle than to curse the darkness," used by Father James Kelly, the founder of The Christophers, in 1945 at the end of World War II. His hope was to inspire people to discover their God-given talents and utilize them to make the world a better place. He spoke these words to a people who knew what it was to live through a time of crisis. This advice may be exactly what we need to hear in today's world.

Amidst the turmoil of war and civil unrest, the continued threat of COVID, wildfires, hurricanes, floods and droughts, we hear the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report from the leading world climate scientists. The UN report describes it as 'Code Red' for human driven global heating. (For more details of this report, do a web search for: IPCC report.)

At this moment we may feel overwhelmed, helpless and tempted simply to 'throw in the towel' and do nothing. However, this is not the response of our Church. Beginning on September 1 through October 4, Catholics around the globe are being invited to join in the Season of Creation. The theme this year is "Restoring Our Common Home." The global Christian family is called to awaken to the urgent need to heal our relationships with creation and with each other and to encourage our parish communities to do the same, "for we know that things can change!" (Laudato Si', 13)

In the next few weeks, some of the ways that Catholics are finding to "light one candle in the darkness" and bring the light of Christ's self-sacrificing love to the world around us will be shared here. As we prepare to join in this Season of Creation on September 1, consider one simple act you can do today that will bring healing to our earth; as simple as turning off lights and electronics when not needed, replacing older light bulbs with energy efficient ones and/or using reusable water container.

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**Aug. 25** – 9 a.m. – Virtual Vocations Presentations to Catholic Schools and Principals

**Aug. 26** – Noon – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Reception at St. Peter's Parish Center in Lowville

**Aug. 28** – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Aug. 29** – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Aug. 30** – Noon – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

## Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg uses the training, Protecting God's Children for Adults. There are no live trainings scheduled.

If you need to complete VIRTUS training, contact Jean Grizzuto, [jgrizzuto@rcdony.org](mailto:jgrizzuto@rcdony.org) or 315-393-2920 x 1413.



# Members sought for Diocesan Youth Council

OGDENSBURG – High school sophomores, juniors and seniors interested in growing in faith, having fun and cultivating leadership skills are wanted for the Diocesan Youth Council (DYC).

The Diocese of Ogdensburg DYC is a group comprised of members in grades 10-12 who live in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Each member serves on DYC for a one-year term (members are able to re-apply annually to serve for up to three total

terms).

The purpose of Diocesan Youth Council is twofold:

- Members will grow in spiritual development and leadership skills so they may take a more active role in their parishes.

- Members will help plan and facilitate diocesan events (youth rally, retreat days...) and promote diocesan events (youth rallies, Camp Guggenheim, March for Life, regional events, Catholic Heart Work Camp...)

Participation in DYC is an opportunity to grow in leadership, build friendships, and have fun.

It is also a significant responsibility, requiring maturity and commitment.

Applying to DYC should be taken seriously and with prayerful consideration.

To learn more or to apply, contact Thomas Semeraro at [tsemeraro@rcdony.org](mailto:tsemeraro@rcdony.org) or 315-393-2920.

## Rest in Peace

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

**Aug. 25** – Rev. Damas Guilbault, 1919; Msgr. Hugh P.R. O'Reilly, 1948; Rev. George W. Tobin, 2010

**Aug. 27** – Rev. John F. Byrne, 1919; Rev. Ubalde LaRose, 1919; Rev. Edward Henry Bernier, 1962

**Aug. 28** – Rev. Florent Vandenberghe, O.M.I., 1882

**Aug. 29** – Rev. John J. Waters, 1921; Rev. Leo Desmet, 1926; Rev. Thomas F. Driscoll, 2003; Rev. Msgr. Robert L. Lawler, 2013

**Aug. 30** – Rev. Bartholomew McLaughlin, 1914

**Aug. 31** – Rev. James J. Sherry, 1890; Rev. Albert R. Plante, 2000

## 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](mailto:terrianeyanulavich@yahoo.com) Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; [ccarrara@rcdony.org](mailto: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).

## APPLEFEST CARD



St. Augustine's Church, Peru, NY  
2021 APPLEFEST GRAND RAFFLE

1st Prize - \$2500

2nd Prize - \$500

3RD, 4TH & 5TH - \$100 Each Cash

DRAWING SATURDAY SEPT. 18th

DONATION: \$5 EACH OR 5 FOR \$20

You do not need to be present to win.

Please make checks payable to St. Augustine's Church and mail to: 3035 Main Street, Peru, NY 12972

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Seller: \_\_\_\_\_

## Job Opening

Assistant Director for the Western Region  
Faith Formation Program &  
Director of Formation for Ministry

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg is seeking an **Assistant Director for the Western Region Faith Formation Program & Director of Formation for Ministry**. The individual will be responsible for the management of the western regional office of Faith Formation and the supervision of the Formation for Ministry Program. The Assistant Director must be a practicing Catholic and a Master's Degree is preferred in the field of religious studies, religious education or faith formation. Additional qualifications include: successful experience as a catechist, knowledge of current catechetical documents, familiarity with the characteristics of the adult learner, a proven record in interpersonal skills and competency in the use of technology both administratively and in instructional settings.

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 10, 2021.**

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Faith leaders concerned over censorship of religious speech

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — YouTube's blocking of a theologian's talk on the Christian view of sex as a "content violation" raises serious concerns that "religious speech is being censored online," San Francisco's archbishop and Focus on the Family's president said in a Wall Street Journal op-ed they co-wrote. "Today's sexual politics function as a new kind of fundamentalism, one that presents a deep problem to a diverse and democratic society.... Social media enables the new fundamentalism, enforced by the mysterious rules of big tech's quasi-monopoly," wrote Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone and Jim Daly. In their Aug. 12 op-ed, they explained that twice on Aug. 7 a live broadcast by the Rev. Carl Trueman, a scholar, best-selling author and Presbyterian minister, "was booted off the air." He was giving a series of talks at the Sacramento Gospel Conference that were livestreamed on the YouTube channel of the conference's host, Immanuel Baptist Church in Sacramento, California. "Viewers were informed that the first interruption was due to a copyright violation, possibly the result of Christian music that the conference organizers played during a break," the archbishop and Daly wrote. "But in the second, more mysterious instance, Mr. Trueman's presentation went dark because of a 'content violation.'"

## College president describes 'difficult times' in his native Haiti

CHICOPEE, Mass. (CNS) — Harry Dumay, president of the College of Our Lady of the Elms in Chicopee and a native of Haiti, said everyone throughout his homeland is "devastated by what happened to their brothers and sisters in the south of Haiti," hit Aug. 14 by a magnitude 7.2 earthquake. "I have been in touch with my family and friends; they are all safe, away from the south where much of the effect of the earthquake was felt," he said in a statement sent to iObserve, the media outlet of the Diocese of Springfield, Massachusetts. Writing ahead of the major tropical storm that hit Haiti a couple of days after the quake, he said the people there also were "bracing for the hurricane season, which has already started to hamper the rescue and recovery efforts and will undoubtedly make things more difficult in the days ahead." Some tens of thousands of residents of southern Haiti are living out in the open following the quake, centered about 80 miles west of the capital, Port-au-Prince. The cities of Jérémie and Les Cayes were most affected. On Aug. 16, Haiti's civil protection agency raised the death toll from the earthquake to 1,419 and the number of injured to 6,000. Tropical Storm Grace dumped heavy rain on Haiti Aug. 16 and 17.

## Bishop: Church has 'sacred duty' to speak truth about gender

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — The topic of transgenderism is discussed routinely in the news, on television shows and in schools. This prevailing ideology — that a person can change his or her gender — is impacting Catholic families, too, said Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington. After consulting with experts in theology, bioethics, clinical counseling, civil and canonical law, as well as with priests, Bishop Burbidge issued "A Catechesis on the Human Person and Gender Ideology." He also released policies to be followed in Catholic schools and faith formation and youth ministry programs. The Catholic Church has "a sacred duty and obligation — out of our love for our young people and God's family — to speak the truth," said Bishop Burbidge. "Not only to speak the truth but to explain why we believe what we do and to give Catholics the language they need to explain this to others." The full text of the document can be found at [bit.ly/gendercatechesis](http://bit.ly/gendercatechesis).

# Vaccination is act of love, pope says in ad campaign

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When each individual makes a small act of charity, like getting the COVID-19 vaccine, every gesture added together can transform the world, Pope Francis said in a global ad campaign.

"Being vaccinated with vaccines authorized by the competent authorities is an act of love. And contributing to ensure the majority of people are vaccinated is an act of love — love for oneself, love for one's family and friends, love for all people," he said in a public service announcement released Aug. 18 in Rome.

The video message was part of a global effort by the U.S.-based nonpartisan, nonprofit Ad Council and the COVID Collaborative's "It's Up To You" campaign to increase people's confidence in COVID-19 vaccines by reminding them that the vaccines are safe, effective and save people's lives. The Vatican's Dicastery for Integral Human Development also cooperated with the educational initiative.

The three-minute video in Spanish with English, Spanish and Portuguese subtitles features Pope Francis and six cardinals and archbishops from North and South America. Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, is among them.

The "It's Up To You" campaign has been inviting "trusted messengers" to deliver "fact-based and life-saving information to populations hesitant about the COVID-19 vaccines, helping them to make informed decisions

for themselves and their families," it said in a joint news release with the Ad Council.

Lisa Sherman, president and CEO of the Ad Council, said, "The role of trusted messengers to educate and inspire their networks is undeniable."

"We are extremely grateful to (Pope Francis) and the cardinals and archbishops for lending their voices and platforms to help people across the globe feel more confident in the vaccines," particularly to the world's 1.3 billion Catholics, she said in the news release.

It said 72% of the adult population and 67% of Hispanic adults have currently been vaccinated against COVID-19 with at least one dose in the United States.

But COVID-19 cases are on the rise worldwide, especially in North, Central and South America. Some nations are still showing very low rates of individuals who are fully vaccinated, such as Honduras with only 5.5% of the adult population and El Salvador with 30%.

While access to vaccines is a challenge, "confidence in the vaccines also presents a hurdle," the news release said.

In his message, the pope said, "Thanks to God and to the work of many, we now have vaccines to protect us from COVID-19. They grant us the hope of ending the pandemic, but only if they are available to all and if we work together."

Getting inoculated "is an act of love" for oneself, family, friends and all people, he said.

"Love is also social and political" as these individ-

ual "small gestures of personal charity" add up, "overflowing" into something universal that is "capable of transforming and improving societies," he said.

"Vaccination is a simple but profound way of promoting the common good and caring for each other, especially the most vulnerable," the pope said.

"I pray to God that everyone may contribute their own small grain of sand, their own small gesture of love; no matter how small, love is always great. Contribute with these small gestures for a better future. God bless you, and thank you," he said.

Also offering messages encouraging vaccination were: Cardinal Carlos Aguiar Retes of Mexico; Cardinal Oscar Rodríguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa, Honduras; Cardinal Cláudio Hummes, retired archbishop of São Paulo; Cardinal Gregorio Rosa Chávez, auxiliary bishop of San Salvador, El Salvador; and Archbishop Miguel Cabrejos Vidarte of Trujillo, Peru.

The campaign encouraged people to go to [GetVaccineAnswers.org](http://GetVaccineAnswers.org) and [DeTiDepende.org](http://DeTiDepende.org) for more information and answers to questions about the COVID-19 vaccines.



*Support And Pray  
For Vaccinations*

## ADIRONDACK

## MASS OF THANKSGIVING

Lake Placid - Rev. Pier Giorgio Pacelli, son of Steve and Liny Pacelli and a former parishioner of St. Agnes in Lake Placid, was ordained to the Carmelite Order on July 17 in Hubertus, WI. Father Pier Giorgio O.C.D will offer a Mass of Thanksgiving.

**Date:** Aug. 29

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Place:** St. Agnes Church

## CLINTON

## CHINESE AUCTION

Lyon Mountain – Chinese Auction to be held.

**Date:** Sept. 5

**Time:** 3 p.m.

**Place:** Lyon Mountain American Legion Post

**Features:** There will be a 50/50, Michigan platter and special drawings. If you would like to donate gifts or gift cards, please give to Jean LeClair (518-735-4782) or leave them at the Legion with your name on it so we will know who donated it.

## APPLEFEST

Peru – The 43rd Annual St. Augustine's Applefest to be held.

**Date:** Sept. 18

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

**Schedule:** Craft booths at 10 a.m.; Food booths at 10:30 a.m. followed by games and raffle. Community parade will begin at 11 a.m. leaving the Peru Elementary School. The rocking On Three Band will perform throughout the afternoon. There will be several new games for children of all ages, plus apple fritters, fried dough, hot dogs, Michigans, burgers, sausages and the K of C's famous chicken BBQ.

**Features:** Covid regulations in effect on Sept. 18th will be in place. As of July 15th, masks are required indoors for all unvaccinated individuals.

## ESSEX

## 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Olmstedville – St. Joseph's Church celebrating their 150th Anniversary.

**Date:** Sept. 5

**Time:** 11 a.m.

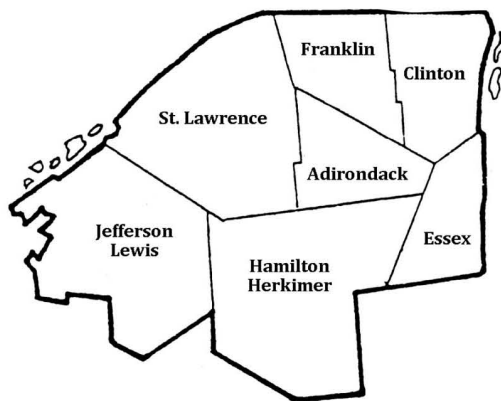
**Features:** Potluck luncheon to be served.

## LATIN MASS

Port Henry – Extraordinary Form Latin Mass to be held each Sunday.

**Schedule:** 1 p.m. on Sundays

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



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, 1-866-314-7296;  
e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

**Features:** The traditional Latin Mass celebrated according to the 1962 Missal of St. John the XXIII.

## JEFFERSON-LEWIS

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Carthage – Through a generous grant from the Mother Cabrini Foundation, Augustinian Academy is excited to offer: Treasured Vacation Bible School!

**Date:** Aug. 23-27

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

**Place:** Augustinian Academy.

**Features:** VBS is for children in kindergarten through sixth grade. It is open to the public, and all denominations are welcome.

**Contact:** For more information and registration forms please visit the school website at [www.c-augustinian.org](http://www.c-augustinian.org).

## 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Watertown – 100th Anniversary celebration of the worldwide Association of the Legion of Mary.

**Date:** Sept. 7

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** Holy Family Church

**Features:** Annual Acies Ceremony with the Rosary and consecration prayers to the Blessed Mother Mary. All are welcome.

## DRIVE THRU DINNER

Lyons Falls – St. John's Church to have a drive thru Chicken and Biscuit dinner to benefit St. John's Catholic Church and St. John's Altar and Rosary Society.

**Date:** Sept. 15

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 6

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Children 6-12, \$6  
**Menu:** chicken and biscuit with homemade biscuits, real mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, cranberry sauce and dessert.

**Contact:** This is a pre order, drive-thru dinner. Please call 315-348-8945 or 315-348-8577 before September 10th. Deliveries are available!

## ST. LAWRENCE

## PRAYER AND ADORATION

Massena – Commissioned Lay Ministers are invited to gather for Adoration and Rosary.

**Date:** Every third Wednesday of the month (Sept. 15)

**Time:** 6:30 to 7 p.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Church

## PRAYER SERVICE

Canton – Prayer Service before the icon of Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians.

**Date:** Sept. 2

**Time:** 2 p.m.

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

**Features:** Social hour to follow featuring our famous peach cobbler.

**Contact:** More info at [canton-catholics.com](http://canton-catholics.com) or call 315-386-2543.

## FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

Massena – First Saturday Rosary to be held.

**Date:** Sept. 4

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

**Place:** Sacred Heart Church

**Features:** Praying the Rosary to Our Lady of Fatima in reparation to her Immaculate Heart and for World Peace.

Confessions will be available starting at 2:45 p.m. Saturday Mass Vigil is at 4 p.m.

## CABBAGE ROLL SALE

Norwood – The Norwood Knights of Columbus will be having a Cabbage Roll sale.

**Date:** Sept. 18

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. or until all are sold.

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

**Cost:** \$4

**Contact:** Pre order is requested.

Please call Mark Tebo at 315-353-8821.

## ALPHA

Massena – You're invited to ALPHA.

**Schedule:** Tuesdays Starting Sept. 21 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 and Saturdays starting Sept. 25 from 9 a.m. to 11

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

**Features:** Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian Faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. Alpha runs for about 11 weeks and includes food, a short talk and time at the end where you can share your thoughts. This is an opportunity to ask the big questions in life and share with others in an inviting and welcoming environment.

**Contact:** For more information contact 315-769-2469 or [masse-nacatholics.com](mailto:masse-nacatholics.com)

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## INVITATION TO LAY ASSOCIATE PROGRAM

Sisters of St. Joseph invite you to a meeting to learn about their Lay Associate Program that is open to women and men.

**Schedule:** Introductory meetings will be held in these diocesan locations: St. Patrick's Parish Center, Colton, Saturday, Sept. 11; Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, Watertown on Sunday, Sept. 12 and St John XXIII Newman Center, Plattsburgh, Sunday Sept. 12.

**Contact:** For more information, contact Sister Kathleen DeBoalt [skmdeb@yahoo.com](mailto:skmdeb@yahoo.com) (Watertown area) or Sister Bethany Fitzgerald [srbethsj@gmail.com](mailto:srbethsj@gmail.com) (Colton and Plattsburgh areas) or 315-782-3460

## MYSTERY OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Special event to be held for those serving in any ministry in their parish. Time to refocus our attention on the Holy Eucharist as a "Mystery to be believed, a Mystery to be celebrated, a Mystery to be lived."

**Date:** Sept. 18

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Locations:** IHC in Watertown, St. James School in Gouverneur, St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga, Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh, St. Edmund's Parish Center in Ellenburg, St. Peter's Church in Lowville, the parish center in Waddington, and St. Mary's Parish Center in Brushton

**Features:** This is an in-person event only. Attendees must bring their own lunch. Light refreshments will be provided.

**Contact:** Registration is due by September 1. Space is limited therefore registration is first come, first serve. Register at: [rcdony.org/mystereucharist](http://rcdony.org/mystereucharist)

## CLM ANNUAL MEETING AND BBQ

The Commissioned Lay Ministers Association in SLFA Deaneries are invited to attend an annual meeting and barbecue for the St. Lawrence, Franklin and Adirondack deaneries.

**Date:** Sept. 19

**Time:** 1 p.m. to 4

**Place:** Camp Guggenheim

**Features:** Celebrate Mass with Bishop LaValley at 1 p.m. It is free to attend. Enjoy the beautiful scenery and a hotdog and hamburger cookout.

**Contact:** Registration to attend is required at: [rcdony.org/clm-event](http://rcdony.org/clm-event)

## SACRED HEART FOUNDATION DINNER

Watertown – Sacred Heart Foundation to have 48th Annual Benefit dinner with Bishop Lucia as guest speaker.

**Date:** Sept. 21

**Time:** 6 p.m. social hour, 7 p.m. dinner

**Place:** Hilton Garden Inn

**Cost:** \$40 per person. Tickets must be pre-purchased at [www.sacredheart-foundation.com/benefit-dinner](http://www.sacredheart-foundation.com/benefit-dinner)

## BLUE MASS

Malone – Bishop Terry R. LaValley cordially invites all Police, Corrections, Fire and EMS Personnel to the Diocese of Ogdensburg Blue Mass.

**Date:** Sept. 26

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Place:** Notre Dame Church

**Features:** Join in prayer for the safety and wellbeing of all first responders and public safety personnel.

**Contact:** Registration is appreciated for planning and social distancing: [rcdony.org/bluemass](http://rcdony.org/bluemass). For more information contact, Father Chris Carrara 315-605-1039 or [ccarrara@rcdony.org](mailto:ccarrara@rcdony.org)



# 'A century of love' filled with local connections

Submitted by Joseph Tebo  
GNSH Associate

Birthdays are meant to be celebrated. On August 24, 2021, the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, Associates, families and friends will celebrate their 100th anniversary -- "A Century of Love, A Century of Service."

St. Marguerite d'Youville founded the Sisters of Charity of Montreal, the Grey Nuns, in 1731. From this first foundation, five other congregations of Grey Nuns were established: the Sisters of Charity of St. Hyacinthe, Sisters of Charity of Quebec, Sisters of Charity of Ottawa (Grey Nuns of the Cross), the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart and Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. Each congregation carried on St. Marguerite's legacy of trust in Divine Providence and loving service to those made poor.

Several Canadian Grey Nun congregations have missions in the United States and throughout the world, and their Sisters are primarily French speaking, though many are bilingual. The Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart and the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception were both founded as English-speaking communities, and only the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart are based in the United States.

By the late 1800s, the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa had established missions of education, health care and social services in Canada and also in the North Country, in Buffalo and in Lowell, Massachusetts.

Many American women sought to enter the congregation, but language and customs proved to be barriers. Attempts to resolve these differences were not successful, and eventually, some sisters made the painful decision to separate from the Ottawa com-



Ogdensburg natives Sisters Anne Boyer and Eileen Murray. Sister Eileen celebrates her 80th Jubilee as a Grey Nun this year. The Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart are celebrating their 100th anniversary.

munity and found a new American congregation of Grey Nuns.

One hundred years ago, 155 Grey Nuns of the Cross – some U.S. citizens and some Canadians – became Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart (GNSH) at D'Youville College in Buffalo.

After the separation from Ottawa, the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart decided to establish their motherhouse in Philadelphia at the invitation of Cardinal Dougherty. The second motherhouse was established at Melrose Park, Pennsylvania in 1922. Finally, their third motherhouse was established at Yardley, Pennsylvania in 1966.

Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart continued the ministries which were originally the responsibility of the Ottawa Grey Nuns in Buffalo, Ogdensburg, Plattsburgh, and in Lowell, Massachusetts, with the exception of those that were French-American.

Almost immediately after the separation from Ottawa, the new community accepted a new mission. St. Joan of Arc School, in Jackson Heights, New York. In the 100 years of GNSH history, sisters undertook many other ministries in education, health care, pastoral ministry and social work in several eastern states, in Alaska and in Peru.

Immaculate Conception Parish in Lowell, Massachusetts has provided the congregation with many sisters, including three wonderful major superiors/presidents: Sister Mary Charlotte Barton, Sister Jean Liston and Sister Julia Lanigan.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has provided the Grey Nuns with numerous members. Many are alumnae from St. Mary's Academy (SMA) in Ogdensburg.

Sister John Mary Allard, Sister Anne Boyer, Sister Mary Imelda Brown, Sister Agatha Doe, Sister Teresa



Sisters Kathleen Hannan and Mary Teresa LaBrake, both natives of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Sister M. Teresa celebrates her 70th Jubilee as a Grey Nun this year. Both sisters continue the Grey Nun Mission of "Creating a Compassionate World" through their outreach to fellow residents and staff at their residence.

Marie Elie, Sister Ann Josita Emond, Sister St. Irene Flanagan, Sister Mary Lee Farrell, Sister Mary Bernard Fitzgerald, Sister Kathleen Hannan, Sister St. Edgar Irwin, Sister Bernadette Marie Lalonde, Sister Eunice Lalonde, Sister John Helen Main, Sister Helen Martin, Sister Mary Dorothy Moroney, Sister Irene Marie Murphy, Sister Eileen Murray, Sister Rose O'Donoghue, Sister Mary Evelyn Oliver, Sister Mary Rita Oliver, Sister Mary Gertrude Overton, Sister Kathleen Sholette, Sister Mary Assumpta Spellman, Sister Donna Jean Tavernier, Sister Mary Margaret Taylor, Sister Rose Ann Taylor and Sister Francis Elizabeth Wilford all graduated from St. Mary's Academy. The school closed in 1969.

The following Sisters are from other places in the Diocese of Ogdensburg: Sister Mary Loretta Bechard, Cooperville; Sister Mary Brennan, Mineville; Sister Mary of Lourdes, Sister Ann Michael Delaney, Sister Agnes of the Sacred Heart and Sister Mary Marcella, Canton; Sister Mary Teresa LaBrake, Lisbon (graduated from SMA); Sister Mary Elizabeth Lafleur,

Fort Covington; Sister Mary Joanna Larock, Morristown; Sister Angelina LeClarie, Massena; Sister Francis Xavier Lynch, Watertown; Sister Alice McCollister and Sister Joan Patricia McCormick, Chateaugay; Sister Joan McElwain, Moria; Sister Mary Charles McKillop, Saranac Lake; Sister Mary Priscilla, Sister Catherine Teresa McMillian and Sister Mary Loyola Murphy, Lowville; Sister Mary Agnes Quigley, Sister Mary Ursula Quigley and Sister Pierrette Remillard, Peru; and Sister St. Louis Roy, Sister Bernard of the Cross and Sister Margaret Turner of Pope Mills. These vocations came from Champlain Valley Hospital School of Nursing, Plattsburgh, A Barton Hepburn School of Nursing and D'Youville College, Buffalo.

Please pray for the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart as they celebrate their one hundredth year.



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

## We must be doers of the Word

This has been a tumultuous summer, with political upheavals, citizens fighting tyrants in so many countries, and struggles for many to find permanent jobs. In addition, the pandemic is still far from over.

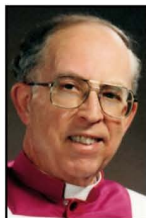
What are the proper procedures for children and young adults returning to schools and colleges? There is still lack of security for all of us. How do we cope this Labor Day?

Our Mass readings will be quite helpful. The Epistle of James tells us that we must be doers of the Word, and not hear-

ers only. It's not enough just to listen to the Scriptures, we must also live them. Show me your works, James says, and I'll show you the truth of my faith that motivates my works. It is a living faith that saves us.

Then, Jesus in the Gospel very emphatically states that we must love the Word if we are to live it effectively.

Deeds without love behind them result in mere legal observance. The Book of Deuteronomy contains the "Shema," the two great commandments of the Law, love of



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

August 29

22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

## READINGS

Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-8

James 17-18, 21b-22, 27

Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15k 21-23

God and love of neighbor. Jesus was upset with the religious leaders who added many legalisms that emphasized the letter, rather than the spirit of the law. And when the Pharisees accused his disciples of omitting the legal washing of hands before eating, Jesus points out that real filth comes not from the outside but from the inside of a person.

This weekend, we also honor the dignity of work

and of workers. It's a good time for us to reflect on the obligations of both employers and employees. As a worker, do I focus on doing the best job I can, and am I doing it because I care about the quality of the results? Do I treat my fellow-workers and my employers with respect? Even if the person I'm working with is irritating? They still have the dignity of being a child of God. If I am an employer, do I provide adequate health care for my employees, and do I provide time off for Sunday worship and adequate family time? It was a great Pope, Leo XIII, who wrote an encyclical *Rerum Novarum* (On the Dignity of Labor) in 1891,

shortly before Labor Day was made a national holiday.

The Church has always promoted the dignity of every working person. Our Catholic Church has always taught the doctrine of the living wage – in other words, every person has a right to earn enough money to feed and clothe and shelter his family, and that governments have an obligation to legislate to that effect.

May the power of Scripture guide us into more intense Christian living. May our Fall activities be done with greater love, and reliance on prayer and frequent reception of the true Body and Blood of Christ.

## CALLED TO SERVE

## We took a ride on a boat

A few weeks ago, a bunch of deacons, deacon wives and widows came together to, well, be together. The idea for the gathering grew out of a discussion a few of us deacons were having in the wake of the cancellation, again, of our annual Assembly.

Bishop LaValley calls his priests together each year for a few days of prayer, fellowship and education. On the day the priests are to leave their Presbyteral Assembly, the deacons arrive for a similar gathering with the bishop.

There is a luncheon for all the clergy of the diocese, priests and deacons, gathered together in a collegial setting. It is a chance to renew friendships fostered when a

priest and a deacon served in a parish together, or to allow for introductions, or just to say "hi!" to a fellow clergyman you haven't seen in a while.

COVID put the kibosh on those gatherings, twice.

Each member of the clergy in the diocese goes on a retreat each year. A priest or deacon is usually alone on his retreat. It is an opportunity for him to "get out of Dodge" and spend some time with God. Through prayer, spiritual reading and introspection, the retreatant finds inner peace and is hopefully reinvested.

The opportunities cancelled by the virus are a different animal. Assemblies, deanery meetings,

prayer opportunities like the annual Chrism Mass give all the men called to

Holy Orders in the diocese a chance to visit with each other, share ideas and joke a bit about those unusual events that seem to be a constant in parish and ministry life.

For deacons and our wives, the annual assembly gives us a chance to come together as a community. Men are ordained but our wives have lived the life of the deacon through six years of lay and deacon formation and then are supportive of the new, mostly volunteer roles the deacon takes on in a parish, hos-

pital, nursing home, soup kitchen, prison and other ministries.



Deacon  
Kevin Mastellon

The deacon and his wife learn together how to wear the many hats they have been blessed to possess. They are friends, lovers, parents and grandparents. They might be retired, recently retired, working or between jobs.

They learn from other deacons and wives they are not alone dealing with the unique challenges posed by diaconal life.

And so almost from the introduction of the diaconate to the diocese by Bishop Brzana in 1977, this community was

born. A community of mutual support more than anything. The members of the community, scattered as they are from one end of the diocese to the other, like to come together.

Sixty of us, our Bishop and our Vicar, Father Chris Carrara, spent two hours on a boat in the Thousand Islands and then had dinner together.

That's how we met the COVID challenge as a community.

It was refreshing. It was cathartic.

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



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

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

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669

(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296

mbrett@rcdony.org

## Fellow prisoner keeps hope alive

Article from FIDES missionary news service of the Pontifical Mission Societies

"What can we all do together to help Sister Gloria Cecilia Narvaez in the hands of the kidnappers for 4 years and 6 months?" writes the Canadian Edith Blais who shared 5 months of imprisonment in the hands of jihadists together with the Colombian nun of the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary Immaculate, and who managed to escape in March 2020 from the terrorist group GSIM (Group for the support of Islam and Muslims) who kidnapped her in Burkina Faso in December 2018.

The note sent to Fides through Father Pierluigi Maccalli, a priest of the Society for African Missions kidnapped by jihadist militiamen on September 17, 2018 and released on October 8, 2020, is full of hope and at the same time of concern for the fate of the nun of whom, after more than 4 years, there is still no news.

"She shared everything she had with me," said the Canadian. "Sister Gloria helped me a lot during my imprisonment in the desert. She is a great woman, and it saddens me to know that it is precisely this characteristic that brought her to this hell. She has dedicated her life to helping others, travelling to poor and dangerous countries to support women and to look after the health of young children who probably would not have survived without this kindness."

"I would like to share a true story, a truth that unfortunately still exists today," writes Edith, who wanted to share her brief reflection to make Sister Gloria's reality visible to others. "She was working in an orphanage when a group of rebels broke in and demanded money. Unfortunately, the women who worked there did not have what the terrorists were looking for, living on next to nothing. Fearing that the attackers would harm her companions, she begged them to choose her if they wanted to hurt one of them, as she was the oldest of the four. They listened to her and fled the orphanage taking her with them, heading into the desert on their motorcycles. It was a journey that lasted several days and will mark her forever. Sister Gloria is deeply affected by post-traumatic stress disorder and finds herself alone. Her suffering is great, but she remains strong and does not lose hope. She has always kept her faith in God, in life, in humanity."

The Canadian woman concludes her appeal by exhorting to continue "to keep alive the hope and story of Sister Gloria Cecilia Narvaez, so that humanity can think of her and carry her in their heart, as I carry her in mine."

## Campus Ministry: Unlocking pathways to Jesus Christ

*With the Bishop's Fund Appeal now underway, the North Country Catholic will be highlighting some of the ministries supported by the Bishop's Fund.*

**By Thomas Semeraro**  
Campus Ministry Director

Catholic Campus Ministry in the Diocese of Ogdensburg exists to create opportunities for college students to encounter Christ through the sacraments and each other. Campus ministers walk with students as they grow in their understanding of the faith. Campus ministers work to create a community of students that encourages each other to increase in holiness.

With over 10 colleges and universities across the Diocese of Ogdensburg, it doesn't take long to realize that this is a challenging ministry. The Diocesan Bishop's Fund Appeal supports five campus minister positions, a diocesan administrator, and many volunteers. These dedicated individuals work to assist Catholic and non-Catholic college students discover their path to Jesus Christ. This is accomplished through sacramental celebration in the supporting parishes as well as opportunities for Adoration, bible study, movie nights, holiday celebrations, social events, and outdoor excursions to name a few. At a weekly gathering, a first-year transfer student at Potsdam shared, "I have been very grateful for the experience and friendships in Newman club. It has provided a sense of community to grow in our



**Conner Cummings, campus minister for SUNY Potsdam and Clarkson University, leads a group of students on a hike. Campus Ministry is one of many diocesan ministries funded by the Bishop's Fund.**

Catholic faith and yet also do fun, relaxing activities to alleviate the stresses of school."

Having a place on campus for college students to feel connected to God is essential, especially in these times of uncertainty.

Along with college community offerings, the Bishop Fund Appeal also supports pilgrimage opportunities such as the March for Life to D.C. and retreat opportunities at Guggenheim. The March for Life pilgrimage and retreats at Guggenheim are tailored to the needs of college-age adults. Pilgrimages and retreats further strengthen relationship building with Jesus Christ as witnessed in each other and the sacraments.

Providing opportunities and creating pathways to the sacraments is a key component of Campus Ministry.

I cannot tell you how many times I've heard adult Catholics admit they didn't go to church while in college because they got caught up in the demands and activities of college life. Catholic Campus Ministry puts ministers in and around

campuses. Their presence is an open invitation for college students to continue attending parish masses and participating in the sacraments while they are in college. This is essential in forming strong, faith-filled Catholic adults.

As we move into the 2021-22 school year, we are still faced with challenges presented by the ongoing COVID pandemic. Campus ministers, with the support of the Bishop Fund Appeal, are working ever harder to find innovative and engaging methods to reach college-age Catholics in a meaningful and rewarding way. Whether on a digital platform or in-person, the diocesan campus ministers are dedicated to spreading the Gospel and creating a "home" for college students to gather.

It's with your support to the Bishops Fund Appeal that we are able to do the "good work" of the Lord and "unlock pathways to Jesus Christ."

Thank you for your contribution to this ever-important ministry in a time when the world is working to pull young Catholics away from their faith.



## Campers get taste of Guggenheim at fun days

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

**SARANACLAKE**— While COVID shuttered teen camp at Camp Guggenheim for the second summer, the camp fun returned for two Guggenheim Summer Fun Days.

Guggenheim campers — returning and new alike — attended the two fun days

on July 30 and 31. Youth ages 12 to 15 attended July 30, and ages 16 to 18 attended on July 31.

“The Guggenheim Summer Fun Days presented a wonderful opportunity for youth to visit for the first time or re-visit Guggenheim Summer Camp,” said diocesan Youth Ministry Director Thomas Semeraro. “Even

though strict COVID protocols were in place, everyone had a wonderful time. The campers in attendance had the chance to dive into what was really a week of camp squeezed into one day! Kudos to the volunteer staff of counselors for putting together wonderful programming. The (two days) were full of fun and activities, as well as time for the campers to sit in the stillness and beauty of Guggenheim.”

The youth, many of whom were missing their normal camp experiences, were happy to have the opportunity to spend the day at Guggenheim.

“It was a great idea,” said Elizabeth Eggleston, 15, of Theresa. “We were able to at least have a part of camp, even if it wasn’t a whole week. We did everything we would’ve done at camp minus the campfire and cookout. We did a big game, we played on the beach and swam, we had Mass, and we played volleyball.”

Eggleston said this would’ve been her third year at camp had COVID not canceled the season.

“My favorite part of camp is being able to grow in faith and meet

people,” she said. “When you go to camp, you make strong friendships that last.”

Seth McDonald, 15, travels to Camp Guggenheim from his family’s home in the Cobleskill area. His father, Scott McDonald, was a camp counselor in the 1990s and 2000s.

Scott McDonald served as a volunteer counselor for the Guggenheim Summer Fun Days, so Seth was able to attend both sessions of the event.

“It was really cool to be able to help set up and see the background of it,” Seth McDonald said. “And it was great to be at camp. It filled my cup, if that makes sense. I really like the community at camp. The community there has always been so accepting. It’s always like seeing old friends.”

“I’ve had a connection to camp since 1985,” added Scott McDonald. “It was great being able to staff those days. It was nice working with former staff and former campers I worked with, and it was great meeting new campers and staff.”

Jacob Fargo, 14, of Moira, said he enjoyed the opportunity to have the camp experience while

camp isn’t running.

“It was good,” Fargo said of the fun day. “I wish it had been a little longer, but it was just nice to have some Guggenheim. Meeting new people and having fun was my favorite part.”

All three teens said they hope Camp Guggenheim returns in its regular form next year.

“It’s really important to get everyone back there,” said Seth McDonald. “When we get the chance to go back, I really encourage people to come back or to try it for the first time.”

“I’m looking forward to meeting new people, seeing people I met before and having fun,” added Fargo.

“If someone is debating whether or not to go to camp, I want them to know it’s 100 percent worth it,” said Eggleston. “You make new friends, and everyone is very welcoming. No matter what your background is or who you are, you can be yourself at camp. Even if you’re shy, by the first or second day, someone is bound to help you break out of your shell and help you get comfortable being yourself at camp.”



**Sacred Heart Foundation**  
*Established 1967*

**48<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit Dinner**  
**Tuesday, September 21, 2021**  
**Hilton Garden Inn**  
**Watertown, NY**

*Guest Speaker*  
**Bishop Douglas J. Lucia**  
*Bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse*  
**Syracuse, NY**

6:00 pm Social Hour  
7:00 pm Dinner  
Tickets - \$40.00 per person  
Available online at [www.sacredheartfoundation.com](http://www.sacredheartfoundation.com)  
Or call 315-782-3344

**A Local Non-Profit with a Global Touch**

Providing scholarships for the formation and education of seminarians of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

320 West Lynde Street  
Watertown NY 13601  
[mail@sacredheartfoundation.com](mailto:mail@sacredheartfoundation.com)