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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 76 Number 19

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

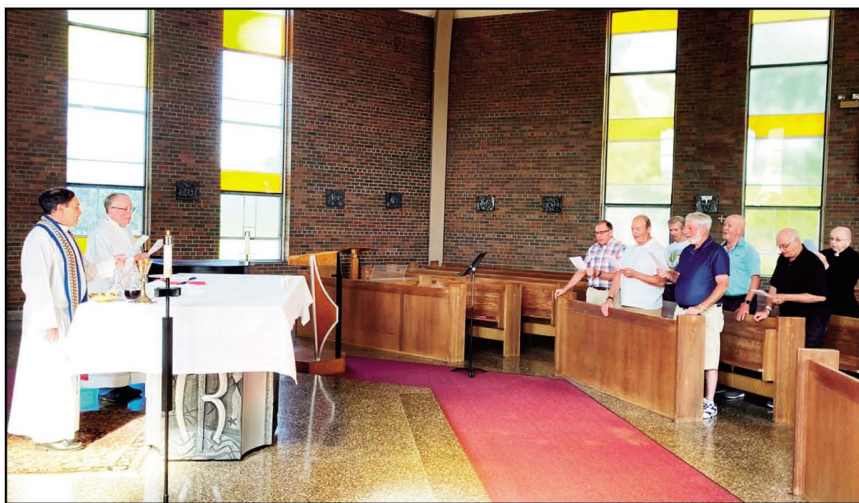
## Familiar face to serve in Vocations Office

In an appointment announced late last week, Bishop Terry R. LaValley has appointed Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, a Sister of St. Joseph, to serve as diocesan Vocations coordinator.

Sister M. Eamon previously served for a dozen years in diocesan administration, first in the Department of Education and later in the Office of Evangelization, and she says returning to a role in the diocesan offices is "like coming home." The appointment is effective Oct. 15.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

## REUNION WITH CLASS



Members of the Wadhams Hall Seminary Class of 1970 gathered at the facility Sept. 7 to 9 for a 50th reunion, an event that was delayed due to the pandemic. Class members in attendance included Joe Fanelli, Tom Lemmo, Tom McKeown, George Ranous, Dan Gennarelli, Father Paul J. Kelly, Father Fred Dailey, Father John Buehler and Father Jim Cesta of Utica. Joining them was Msgr. Paul Whitmore, who served as faculty at the seminary when the class attended. See the full story on Page 4.

## FAMILY OF FAITH IN ACTION



From generation to generation, the ministries and programs of the Bishop's Fund Appeal have touched the lives of our faith family here in the North Country. We are all connected. **We are a Family of Faith in Action.** This year's Bishop's Fund Appeal begins this weekend. In this week's edition, learn how the Bishop's Fund supports vital ministries that touch us all.

FULL STORY, PAGES 3, 7, 8, 9 & 10

# Pope: Eucharist heals from idolatry of 'self'

BUDAPEST, Hungary (CNS) — Spending time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament can heal Christians from a self-absorbed religiosity that is ostentatious and triumphalist, Pope Francis said.

Presiding over the closing Mass of the International Eucharistic Congress Sept. 12, the pope urged people to make time for eucharistic adoration.

"Let us allow Jesus, the living bread, to heal us of our self-absorption, open our hearts to self-giving, liberate us from our rigid-

ity and self-concern, free us from the paralyzing slavery of defending our image, and inspire us to follow him wherever he would lead us," he said.

Pope Francis, arriving in his popemobile, was greeted warmly by thousands who lined the street leading toward the Mass site in Heroes' Square.

In the homily, Pope Francis reflected on the Sunday Gospel reading, in which Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?"

Jesus, he said, addresses the same question to

Christians today and requires a response that is "more than a quick answer straight out the catechism."

The first step in responding to Jesus' question, he explained, is to proclaim Jesus as Lord. However, the pope recalled that Jesus told his disciples to "tell no one about him."

"There was a very good reason: to call Jesus the Christ the Messiah is correct, but incomplete. There is always the risk of proclaiming a false messianism, one of human ori-

gins, not from God," he said.

Nevertheless, to proclaim Christ means also proclaiming his death on the cross, and the Eucharist serves as a reminder of God "as bread broken, as love crucified and bestowed."

Like Peter, who was scandalized at Christ's announcement of the suffering he must endure, Christians can also "be blinded by that way of thinking."

"We, too, can take the Lord 'aside,' shove him into a corner of our heart

and continue to think of ourselves as religious and respectable, going our own way without letting ourselves be affected by Jesus' way of thinking," the pope said.

Lastly, Christians must learn to "walk behind Jesus," because Christianity is not "a race toward success" but to find true freedom in "not needing to be the center of everything."

In doing so, Pope Francis said Christians can learn to follow in the footsteps of Christ, "who came to serve and not be served."

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# Linked as a family of faith

I have a very large extended family, and I've worked in careers that have brought me into contact with a wide variety of people. It's rare for me to go somewhere in the North Country without running into someone I know.

That happens less frequently to my husband. So, it was rather notable when Adam came home from transporting our son to the Summer Fun Day at Guggenheim and said he ran into someone he knew.

"I'm not related to (this individual), but we have an aunt in common," Adam explained. "I haven't seen him

since we were kids."

"I can't place it, but I know that name," I responded.

About a week later, I was interviewing youth who attended the fun days. One of the teens participated in the interview with his father, who had served as staff at the fun day. That man was the same individual my husband knew in his childhood, and he told me he had been a counselor at Guggenheim "in the '90s."

"Wait," I said. "If you don't mind me asking, what years in the '90s were you there?"

He gave me the dates. "You were a counselor

when I went to camp in 1996," I responded, laughing. "That explains why I knew your name!"

I think most of us are familiar with "six degrees of separation," the theory which contends that, because we are all linked by chains of acquaintance, you are just six introductions away from any other person on the planet. I'm pretty confident most of us are separated by fewer than six connections here in this diocese. We're all linked. We're a family of faith.

The theme of this year's Bishop's Fund is "Family of Faith in Action." The ministries funded by the Bishop's Fund are yet another way in which we are linked as a family of faith.

We are linked by the seminarians, deacons and lay ministers in formation, people who come from our communities, are supported by them and serve in them. We're linked by the call to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and see Jesus in those in need. We're linked by our desire to see youth and families have meaningful ways to connect with our Lord and our Church, whether it's through a Catholic school or through youth and family ministry programs.

We're a family of faith. Families support each other. Please consider supporting this year's Bishop's Fund Appeal, whether it be with your prayers or with your donation.



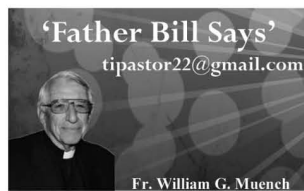
**Darcy L.  
Fargo**

## 'Let's talk about prayer'

Recently, the Gospel reading for a daily Mass described Jesus going up a mountain to pray. This reading then goes on to tell us that "he spent the night in prayer."

There are several places in the Gospels where we learn that Jesus took time to pray. I suspect that some are surprised that Jesus prays. Why would the Lord of all take some time to pray? I believe that Jesus prayed for the very same reasons that you and I pray.

So, let's talk about prayer. Each time we stop being busy and take time to pray, it is because we remember how much God loves us. We believe that God loves us first. In faith we know that God knows us and is always ready to support us. God loves us unconditionally. We are a loved people. I must respond in love and in prayer to the God, who cares so much about me. I am such a uniquely blessed



person. God loves me.

Each time I pray to the God who loves me, I must pray in gratitude. I cannot thank God enough for all that he constantly does for me. I am grateful that Jesus came to my world, lived with us, died for us and rose from the dead. I must pray. I must demonstrate my gratitude to my God and Savior. I pray so that Jesus will continue to walk with me. For this I am grateful every day.

I know that each time I pray, I have a new opportunity to strengthen my relationship with my Lord and Savior. I need to pray so I will draw closer to my friend, Jesus. In the Gospels, Jesus tells his apostles and

us that he wants to be our friend. This friendship changes our whole relationship with the Lord. There is a great deal of happiness in knowing that Jesus wants to be our friend. And our friendship grows each time we pray.

Part of our prayer must be a moment to call to mind our cares and concerns, our hopes and our dreams. In this way, we can personally recognize what is important for us at this time. I believe that prayer is an opportunity for me to bring into my heart my loved ones who truly need me. This is a powerfully important part of my prayer time.

I want to mention another important part of a time of prayer. That is to take some time to "rest in the Lord." This may be the most meaningful gift of being in prayer. I believe the Lord wants some special time with us. The Lord simply wants to hold us for a time. This is

the time when we truly recognize God's love and forgiveness for us. The presence of the Lord is very evident to us when we are in prayer.

I want to share with you something I recently learned from a Buddhist who I know knows so much about prayer. He writes that some people say, "Don't just sit there - do something." However, he says that many wisely also say, "Don't just do something - sit there." He goes on to teach us that stopping and being still in prayer can bring a whole new dimension of being. We can transfer our anger and anxiety, and cultivate our energy of peace, understanding compassion as the basis for action. This time of prayer helps so we can live a life of action in a relaxed and joyful way - free from fear, stress and despair.

And finally remember to listen, for the Lord does answer our prayers.



# Bishop's Fund: We are a Family of Faith in Action

By Valerie Mathews  
Director of Bishop's Fund Appeal

From generation to generation, the ministries and programs of the Bishop's Fund Appeal have touched the lives of our faith family here in the North Country. As our faith journey intersects with one another's journeys, we have helped our brothers and sisters in Christ foster real relationships with Jesus. We are all connected. We are a **Family of Faith in Action**.

There is a resilient energy among our family, as three new priests were ordained this past summer, 20 lay ministers were commissioned, nine seminarians have resumed their studies, 13 new deacons will be ordained in October, children have returned to Catholic Schools, and youth across the diocese have participated in online rallies and retreats and attended day events at Camp Guggenheim.

The pandemic may have caused a brief pause in how we approach our ministries but our strong commitment to our faith has kept us a **Family of Faith in Action**.

We continue to minister to our North Country neighbors through the following ministries and programs which are supported by your gifts to the Appeal: 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 and Department of Worship.

It is through your support that these vital ministries continue from year to year.

The 2021 Bishop's Fund

Appeal will begin in all parishes across the diocese the weekend of September 18 & 19. It is our hope to reach a goal of \$1.3M. Any additional funds raised will further assist families and individuals in need through the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund.

Please prayerfully consider a gift to this year's Bishop's Fund Appeal. Every gift makes a difference in the lives of those we serve throughout the diocese.

Donations can be mailed to: The Bishop's Fund Appeal, PO Box 150, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 or made online at: <https://www.rcdony.org/bfa.html#donate>.

To learn more about the Appeal and to view the 2021 Bishop's Fund video, please visit our website at [www.rcdony.org/bfa](http://www.rcdony.org/bfa).

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# Wadhams Hall grads gather for 50th reunion

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

OGDENSBURG—Laughter and liturgy filled Wadhams Hall recently, as graduates of the seminary college gathered there Sept. 7 to 9 to celebrate their 50th reunion.

“Last year was actually our 50th, but we had to postpone due to the pandemic,” said Joe Fanelli of Utica, part of the Wadhams Hall class of 1970.

“We graduated June 7, 1970,” added Tom Lemmo of Syracuse, who served as the reunion treasurer. “Tom McKeown put a lot of this together. There were 28 of us in our graduating class – some from the Diocese of Ogdensburg, some from the Diocese of Syracuse and some from Diocese of Patterson (New Jersey). Tom started developing a spreadsheet and trying to find everyone. Amazingly, he came up with almost half the class on his own, and between us, we were able to find a lot of others. Tom asked about having a reunion. More and more of us who weren’t in ministry were now retired and had more availability to travel, and the guys who are priests are also retired. It seemed like a good time to do it.”

The group gathered in Ogdensburg for a few days last week, some staying at Wadhams Hall



Members of the Wadhams Hall Seminary Class of 1970 gathered at the facility Sept. 7 to 9. Joining them was Msgr. Paul Whitmore, who served as faculty at the seminary when the class attended. Class members in attendance included Joe Fanelli, Tom Lemmo, Tom McKeown, George Ralous, Dan Gennarelli, Father Paul J. Kelly, Father Fred Dailey, Father John Buehler and Father Jim Cesta of Utica.

and some opting to stay at the nearby Inn at Gran View. Attending were Lemmo, Fanelli, McKeown of Syracuse, George Ralous of Oswego, Dan Gennarelli of Baltimore, Father Paul J. Kelly of Saranac Lake, Father Fred Dailey of Syracuse, Father John Buehler of Utica, and Father Jim Cesta of Utica.

“We would’ve had more, but people were stuck because of Hurricane Ida,” said Fanelli. “Either they themselves were flooded or their parishes were experiencing flooding.”

Instead, the group was able to connect with classmates who couldn’t attend in an evening digital meeting after Mass on Sept. 8, a Mass that was also attended by Msgr. Paul Whitmore, who served as faculty at Wadhams Hall when the men attended the school.

Those attending the reunions said being in the former seminary building together again felt comfortable and familiar.

“This building is structurally and substantively the same as it was back

then,” said Fanelli. “Some of the rooms that used to be doubles have been adjusted to singles and guest rooms, but the gym is still there, and there’s the board right there that used to hold our TV, and we used to make our phone calls in that alcove right there. There was one phone, and we had to fight over who was going to call when.”

“And none of us had any money, so we’d call collect,” added Lemmo.

Memories such as those filled their reunion time, as the men spent their time together reminiscing about their days at the school and former classmates and faculty.

“It’s wonderful to be back,” said Lemmo.

“There’s a sense of family that never disappeared over the 50 years. The big difference is that when we first came here, there was that sense of awe and apprehension. We didn’t know what was happening. Coming back, we didn’t have that apprehension we had back then.”

“We’re trying to see how many of our classmates’ names we can remember,” said Gennarelli. “We’ve been doing that since we got here.”

“There were 60 in our freshman class, and we graduated with 28,” noted Lemmo. “We’re trying to remember as many of those guys as we can.”

The men also reflected on how much had changed in the North Country, in their lives and in the Church since they became friends so many years ago.

“I joined the class later on,” said Father Kelly. “Back then, the psych center was at its peak. There were probably 3,000 people there, and it was a huge operation. I used to work at the psych center. It’s since gotten so small.”

“We were here in the ‘60s,” added Father Cesta. “The Church was in a period of transition with Vatican II, and society was changing. We were on the cusp of it.”

“There are pictures over there of some of us protesting against the war in Vietnam,” added Lemmo. “That didn’t go over so well with Bishop Brzana.”

Whether reminiscing, sharing a meal or sharing in the celebration of the liturgy, the reunion group said they were pleased to be together.

“We’re lifelong friends,” said Father Cesta.



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# Sister of St. Joseph named Vocations coordinator

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

OGDENSBURG – Though she'll be serving the diocese in a new capacity as Vocations coordinator, Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, a Sister of St. Joseph, says returning to a diocesan role and an office at the chancery is "like coming home."

"I first came to the diocesan office in 2000," she said. "I worked in the Department of Education for six years, and then I worked in the Office of Evangelization for six years. (Office of New Evangelization Director) Marika (Donders) was so kind to take my place when I was assigned to Watertown in 2012. (The diocesan offices) have always been the best place to work, no question about it. It's a place where everyone's vocation and ministry is always focused on the mission of the Church. Everyone works together well for the needs of the diocese and the mission of the diocese. Vocations is one of the diocesan priorities."



Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ

As Vocations coordinator, Sister M. Eamon "is responsible for assisting parishes with the implementation of the We Are Called Vocation Plan, and with the overall administration and coordination of fostering vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life throughout the diocese."

In the role, Sister M. Eamon will promote vocations with Catholic schools and faith formation programs, serve as a liaison to the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society (DOVS), help develop workshops for the deacon formation

program, coordinate Vocations events and programs, collaborate with regional Vocations directors, serve as a point of contact for individuals who are discerning vocations, chair the Diocesan Vocations Committee and provide other support for the Vocations Office.

"At the outset, I'm looking forward to just being able to talk about and look at vocations with the focus of Church and mission," she said. "As a Church, our mission is about teaching, evangelization and mission – sanctifying and being Christ for the mission. Our baptismal call – as well as our spirituality as Catholic Christians – is about understanding that our love affair with our God and God's love affair with us is the most important thing on this earth. Because of the baptismal call to holiness, we all have the call to a love affair and relationship with God, and to know and understand his love relationship with us. Out of that, I'll be able to look at and talk with (current Vocations Coordina-

tor) Cathy (Russell) about some of the priorities concerning vocations and the life of the church. We'll be looking at all aspects vocation – priesthood, those preparing for priesthood, our seminarians, our sisters, especially those ministering in dioceses, our deacons and deacon formation, and consecrated life. And we have many people out there in single life called to holiness, and certainly there are aspects that get into family life and the married vocation."

Sister M. Eamon said she looks forward to collaborating with other diocesan departments in her new role.

"While there are different parts of the diocesan office that take care of youth ministry, family life and married life, it all comes together," she said. "When somebody talks about their own vocation, it's typically built as a result of a good,

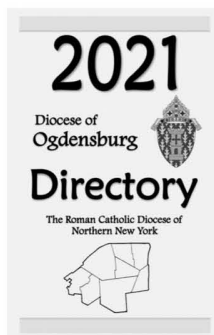
solid family life, a family life centered in faith, in which faith is a lived experience. Families who pray and nurture their relationships with Jesus, who celebrate the sacraments and family life together and recognize the call to a deeper relationship with Jesus, especially in the life of the Church, are so needed."

She also looks forward to continuing her involvement in deacon formation.

"One of the greatest treasures and gifts is that I've been privileged to be a part of deacon formation," Sister M. Eamon said. "I've been able to teach the deacon candidates being prepared for ordination since 2000. It's been a privilege to see these men formed by so many in the diocese go out and serve their own parishes."

Sister M. Eamon will begin her new role on Oct. 15.

## 2021 Diocesan Directories now available!



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

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## Environmental Stewardship

## Call to action

This year we celebrated the fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*. In response to the urgency we witness in the media daily of the effects of the warming of our climate, the Vatican invites us to create together a concrete plan of action to ensure a sustainable planet for all now and in the future.

This plan is called the Laudato Si' Action Platform. It is a unique collaboration between the Vatican, an international coalition of Catholic organizations, and "all men and women of good will." (LS 3) Taking a truly ground-up approach, it is rooted in the strengths and realities of communities around the world, empowering all to take "decisive action, here and now" as we journey towards a better future together. (LS 161)

Action is urgently needed. Our Creator called the human family to be the steward of creation, but we have neglected that call. Our hotter, dirtier, deader planet is driving up the risk of suffering. The most vulnerable suffer above all.

At this kairos moment, we are responding to the call for healing in our relationships with God, our neighbors, and the Earth itself. Through the Laudato Si' Action Platform, we are walking the "path to renewal" together (LS 202).

Exploring the ancient teachings of our faith in the light of today's ecological crisis, Laudato Si' teaches us that "everything is connected." (LS 91) As our relationship with our divine Creator has been neglected, human relationships have faltered, and our world has grown hotter, less stable, and more lifeless. As a result, we all suffer, and the poorest and most vulnerable suffer above all. We face a "complex crisis that is both social and environmental." (LS 139)

There is hope. Pope Francis calls us to develop a "loving awareness" of this home we share and to act on the values we hold dear. (LS 220)

\*Gleanings from Laudato Si' Action Platform

Take a break this week and check out this timely Encyclical. Search: U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) *Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home*. Study guides are also available for discussion with others.

## Rest in Peace

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

**Sept. 15** – Rev. George Lessard, O.M.I., 1978; Rev. Joseph V. Rossitto, 2004

**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

**Sept. 18** – Rev. Charles E. Campeau, 1952

**Sept. 19** – Rev. Clement J. Dwyer, O.S.A., 1956; Rev. Francis C. McMahon, 1975

**Sept. 20** – Msgr. Edmund J. Brown, 1954; Rev. Donald Gallagher, 1959; Rev. Edward J. Wright, 1993; Msgr. Floyd J. Brown, 1994

**Sept. 21** – Rev. M. Stanton, 1908; Rev. M. J. Geraghty, O.S.A., 1914; Rev. Michael J. Brown, 1917; Rev. Wilbert LeBeau, 1953

## 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 or 315-393-2920 x 1413.

## To Report Abuse

**If you have a complaint** of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri-ann Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terriannyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rcdony.org Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340. If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at 800-276-1562 or [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org).

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**Sept. 15** – Presbyteral Gathering at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

1 p.m. – Council of Priests Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

5 p.m. – Mass with the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod at the new convent in Lisbon

**Sept. 16** – 9:30 a.m. – Mass at Seton Catholic School in Plattsburgh followed by a picnic Saturday,

**Sept. 18** – 11 a.m. – Confirmation at the Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay (at St. Patrick's Church) in Chateaugay

**Sept. 19** – 1 p.m. – Mass and the Commissioned Lay Ministers Annual Meeting at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake Monday,

**Sept. 20** – Noon – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

**Sept. 22 & 23** – NYS Catholic Conference of Bishops Meeting in Douglaston, NY

## Letters to the Editor

- Letters are limited to 500 words.

- We cannot accept letters which support ideas which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

- Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or e-mail to [news@northcountrycatholic.org](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org)



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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

*Faith in action is love, and love in action is service.* By transforming that faith into acts of love, we place ourselves in contact with God Himself, with Jesus our Lord. Saint Mother Teresa reminds us that when we share our time, talent and treasures with our faith family, we in fact bring ourselves closer to God.

During this past year, in the midst of a seemingly endless pandemic, we have come to realize even more that we are a family of resiliency, caring, compassion and that we must continue to be a **Family of Faith In Action**. As a family of faith in action we are helping one another to know Jesus, who can shape our souls and our lives so that we can become who God truly intends us to be. The Bishop's Fund Appeal and the ministries it supports provides for us an opportunity to put our faith into action, to draw closer to God and to support our family of faith along our journey.

When we support the Bishop's Fund Appeal, we provide others, as well as ourselves, the opportunity to draw closer to God. When we work together, we are able to:

- Provide education to those called to serve as priests, deacons and commissioned lay ministers through the offices of Vocations, Education of Seminarians, Deacon Formation and Formation for Ministry;
- Provide opportunities for children, teens, young adults and families to learn faith leadership skills through the Tuition Assistance Program, Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry and Family Life Ministry; and
- Provide a light in the darkness to those who are hurting due to unexpected difficulties such as job loss, illnesses and other tragedies through the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund.

It is our hope to reach a goal of \$1.3M this year in order to continue the vital ministries of the Diocese. Any funds raised over our goal will be used to supplement the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund so that we may be able to provide additional grants to families and individuals who have been impacted by the pandemic.

I am so grateful for the generosity you have shown in past years through your gifts of time, talent and treasure. I ask that everyone across the Diocese to take a moment to reflect and pray about their support of this year's Bishop's Fund Appeal. Together we are a **Family of Faith in Action!**

With the promise of prayers for you and your loved ones, I am

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley  
Bishop of Ogdensburg



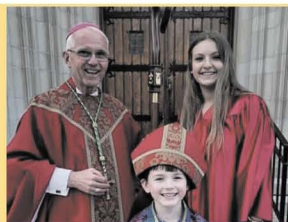
For more information and to view the 2021 Bishop's Fund video, please visit [www.rcdony.org/bfa](http://www.rcdony.org/bfa)



Family Of

# Faith

In Action



## Bishop's Fund Prayer

Lord our God,  
we praise you and we bless you for  
your abiding presence in the  
Diocese of Ogdensburg  
and for making us a Family of  
Faith in Action.

At the dawn of creation,  
you walked with our first parents.  
With the fall of humanity, our  
ancestors worked with the sweat  
of their brows. And in the fullness  
of time you sent your only son to  
be our Savior and to make us all  
your children.

He who worked with his hands  
and was known as the carpenter's  
son, eventually reached out his  
hands on the Cross for the  
ultimate work of salvation.

This story of our family is told in  
Scriptures and Tradition.  
The story is ongoing as we are  
cared for by your Sacraments and  
inspired to charity by your grace.

Lord God, bless our 2021 Bishop's  
Fund Appeal.

Through it may each of us be  
reminded that we are members of  
a family of faith in action.

Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



For more information and to view the  
2021 Bishop's Fund video, please visit

[www.rcdony.org/bfa](http://www.rcdony.org/bfa)

As a priest, I really look forward to sharing the truth of Christ's love and mercy to a world that is so broken and deeply in need of healing. I look forward to sharing the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, Reconciliation and Baptism, and bringing people closer to God and bringing God close to them. Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Bishop's Fund Appeal. There is a lot that the Diocese does and tries to do that is outside of parish ministry, and that only happens because of the donations to the Bishop's Fund Appeal. Thank you very much for donating.

**Carter, Seminarian**



The Youth Ministry Office provides a variety of events and programming for our Diocesan Youth to continue strengthening their Catholic faith as well as exploring and discovering their God given gifts and talents. When we minister to our young people, we also minister to their families. Through donating to the Bishop's Fund Appeal, you and I make the difference in each other's lives and in the lives of our young people. Thank you for generously supporting the Youth Ministry Program through the Bishop's Fund Appeal.

**Tom Semeraro, Director of Youth Ministry**



Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Bishop's Fund Appeal. It makes it possible for me to go to school, to get my education and for youth to attend Camp Guggenheim.

**Allisyn, Youth Representative  
to the Diocesan Pastoral Council**



I want to thank everyone who donated to the Bishop's Fund for the youth and myself to be able to continue to have Catholic School and Camp Guggenheim.

**Madyson, Youth Representative  
to the Diocesan Pastoral Council**

Through the assistance of the Bishop's Fund Appeal's Good Samaritan Fund and through other grants and the generosity of parishioners, it has enabled us to feed people every month. We are really caring for Jesus in our midst. My message to those who give to the Bishop's Fund is to pray first, and in prayer and reflection decide on a generous gift. Often, we can be more generous than we think when we pray about it.

**Father Murray, St. Andre's Outreach Center**

People of all walks of life come in, and we serve them at the food pantry. There is a need that I have never seen before. I encourage others to think about giving to the Bishop's Fund. Your gift to the Bishop's Fund is always appreciated, no matter what the size.

**Molly,  
St. Andre's Outreach Center**



Jesus said when you feed the poor, you feed me. It is a wonderful experience here at the outreach center, and I'm really pleased and proud to be part of it. I encourage people to donate to the Bishop's Fund Appeal. We are so thankful for the monetary gifts. We can't do this without it.

**Caroline,  
St. Andre's Outreach Center**





We have 31 students who qualify for the tuition assistance program through the Bishop's Fund this year. With COVID, it made it especially important to these families, so they felt like they could keep their children at Augustinian. We are truly blessed by all the people that donate to the Bishop's Fund and especially for tuition assistance. What they are doing is helping our children to continue on and develop the plan that God has for them.

**Mary Anne Margrey, Principal,  
Augustinian Academy**



The Tuition Assistance Program allows students who might not otherwise be able to take advantage of a Catholic Education to come to Augustinian. We don't want to turn any child away. We want them all to have the benefit of a Catholic Education. The Bishop's Fund helps to do that.

**Shannon Margrey,  
Teacher, Augustinian  
Academy**



This year, with the financial situation, there were several families struggling. The Bishop's Fund Appeal helped several families. The families were extremely grateful that they could bring their kids back to school and give them kind of a normalcy to life. Please donate to the Bishop's Fund Appeal. We see first-hand how your donations are utilized, and it really is a big advantage to families, especially now with the financial needs and the struggles that a lot of families have. Coming here has made a difference for those children and families, and they really are appreciative, as are we. Anything that you can give would be greatly appreciated by not only the people working in the school but also the families that utilize it.

**Kim Schnexnyder, Teacher, Augustinian Academy**

We first learned about Family Guggenheim through the North Country Catholic and through good friends. Family camp helps strengthen the family dynamic and that really benefits us throughout the rest of the year. Things are so hectic and so busy. It is really a good time for us to be together and reestablish our family ties. There is a strong sense of community here. It's a very faith-filled community. You feel like your connected all over the Diocese. We have good, strong friends from all over the Diocese. It makes you feel like there's hope. There are families like ours in this world that is so tough and so challenging. You get to connect with them and it strengthens you and strengthens us as a family. Our family is very thankful for the Bishop's Fund, and we fully support the Bishop's Fund. We have benefited from the Bishop's Fund. It is very worthwhile to give to the Bishop's Fund. Thank you.

**Samperi Family**



I first contributed to the Bishop's Fund when I got married. Father Gardner talked to the parish community about the Bishop's Fund and about God's plan for giving. He told us to reflect and to pray on what we were sharing. By taking the time to slow down and think about it, pray about it, we realized that we are a parish family, we are a diocesan family, and we all have to be in this together. The money you give to the Bishop's Fund has an impact, it has a huge impact. When we come together as one body, there's nothing we can't do.

**Joey, Parishioner at Sacred Heart, Chazy**

# The Bishop's Fund Appeal

provides financial assistance to the vital ministries of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

- 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/bfa.html#donate](http://www.rcdony.org/bfa.html#donate). If making a pledge, enter your first payment in the "amount" box and in the comments section indicate the total amount you wish to pledge.

**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 ½ 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's 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 2021 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



# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Texas bishops highlight program to help pregnant women

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Amid heated discussion surrounding the new abortion law in Texas, which bans abortions from six weeks, Catholic bishops have emphasized the importance of a long-running state program to help pregnant women. "Texas has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in programs for pregnant moms and families," said a statement issued by the Texas Catholic Conference, two days after the new law went into effect. The conference, which is the public policy arm of the state's Catholic bishops, was referring to the state-funded program Alternatives to Abortion, which started in 2005. The program provides funds for pregnancy centers that offer counseling services and resources to women in crisis pregnancies. "Hundreds of pregnancy and parenting support programs and adoption services in our state provide practical resources to women and families facing overwhelming circumstances," the group's Sept. 3 statement said. The Texas Catholic Conference noted that "pregnant and parenting moms in need are in our parishes and our neighborhoods. As Pope Francis reminds us, our parishes must be 'islands of mercy in the midst of a sea of indifference.'" The state's bishops also stressed that "everyone in the parish should know where to refer a pregnant woman in need."

## Bishop ordained for Wuhan, China, is first in 14 years

HONG KONG (CNS) – A new bishop has been installed in China's Wuhan Diocese, making him the latest to be ordained under a deal between the Vatican and the communist state. Franciscan Father Francis Cui Qingqi was ordained bishop of Wuhan in central China's Hubei province Sept. 8, with the approval of both the state and the church, reported ucanews.com. The local church elected Father Cui to head the diocese Sept. 17, 2020, according to the website of the state-sanctioned Bishops' Conference of the Catholic Church in China. At the Vatican, Matteo Bruni, head of the Vatican press office, confirmed the ordination and said Pope Francis appointed Bishop Cui June 23. "It is the sixth Chinese bishop to be named and ordained within the normative framework of the provisional accord on the appointment of bishops in China," Bruni said. Wuhan Diocese had been without a bishop since Bishop Bernardine Dong Guangqing died in May 2007.

## USCCB president asks bishops to consider storm relief collection

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is asking bishops throughout the country to consider taking up a voluntary special collection to help in the recovery and the humanitarian response to Hurricane Ida. Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez said in a Sept. 8 letter to bishops that the funds collected would be distributed through the Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund to areas most impacted by the storm. In his letter, the archbishop said funds would be used to support the pastoral and reconstruction needs of the Catholic Church in affected areas and also aid the response by Catholic Charities USA and possibly Catholic Relief Services. "Funds will be used in response to the hurricane and the impact of subsequent flooding and tornadoes and any other disasters that occur and will be distributed where they are most needed," the letter said. "However, if such purpose(s) become unnecessary, impractical, or impossible to fill, USCCB may use such contributions for other emergency disaster relief where it is most needed as determined by the Committee on National Collections using its emergency response protocol," the letter added.

# Hidden costs: When chains buy Catholic hospitals

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The Catholic Labor Network's annual "Gaudium et Spes" report, issued each year in time for Labor Day, painstakingly notes each unionized Catholic workplace by state and diocese, along with what unions represent workers there.

But a troubling trend not included in the report is the practice of for-profit corporations buying Catholic hospitals, according to Clayton Sinyai, executive director of the Catholic Labor Network.

"Catholic hospitals were set up to perform corporal works of mercy, not to make a profit," Sinyai said in a Sept. 8 phone interview with Catholic News Service. "This puts them in a situation that when a for-profit institution purchases one, it serves the purpose of trying to serve two masters."

The Catholic Labor Network has not tracked the ownership changes numerically, "but we've seen more of these for-profit institutions operating Catholic hospitals and operating them designed to make a profit," Sinyai said.

One consequence of this trend, he added, is the ongoing strike at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester, Massachusetts. Now a half-year old, the strike is the longest nurses' strike in the state's history, as well as the longest such strike in the United States in at least 15 years, according to the Massachusetts Nurses Association, which represents the striking workers.

St. Vincent Hospital is now owned by Dallas-based Tenet Healthcare, but still qualifies as a Catholic hospital. "They are supposed to agree

when they take over to continue to honor the ERDs" – an acronym for ethical and religious directives – "which is really what makes a hospital a Catholic hospital," Sinyai said.

Directive 7 "addresses how you treat your workers as a Catholic institution," he added, "and it is hard for for-profit institutions to be honoring that."

The directive states: "A Catholic health care institution must treat its employees respectfully and justly. This responsibility includes: equal employment opportunities for anyone qualified for the task, irrespective of a person's race, sex, age, national origin or disability; a workplace that promotes employee participation; a work environment that ensures employee safety and well-being; just compensation and benefits; and recognition of the rights of employees to organize and bargain collectively without prejudice to the common good."

What is going on there now, Sinyai said, "does not serve the common good."

Contract talks have dragged throughout the strike, which Sinyai said was driven largely by staffing issues. The St. Vincent Hospital website said it made a "last, best and final offer" to the union in early August. The hospital has also hired 140 permanent replacement nurses since the strike.

MassLive, a website run by Advance Publications, reported Aug. 31 that both sides met Aug. 16 and 19 after a federal mediator called them in to talk in secret. They nearly came to an agreement, settling

previous differences on hospital staffing. But back-to-work provisions are stalling a deal. The striking nurses want to return to their previous jobs inside St. Vincent without retaliation or harassment; hospital management won't commit to getting rid of the replacements it hired.

Another emerging trend, according to Sinyai, is organizing activity by adjunct faculty at Catholic colleges and universities.

However, "some Catholic colleges and universities have chosen to use their religious identity as a shield to protect them from honoring the rights of workers," he added.

"They realize that they can make a case that, as religious institutions, they are not covered by the National Labor Relations Act. It seems they would recognize they are still covered by Catholic social teaching, which recognizes the rights of workers, including those at Catholic institutions."

"This exemption does not mean that teachers lack the right to form unions and bargain collectively, just that the National Labor Relations Board will not protect them from those that might violate their rights," the "Gaudium et Spes" report said.

Sinyai noted that 2021 marks the 35th anniversary of the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter "Economic Justice for All," which said: "All the moral principles that govern the just operation of any economic endeavor apply to the church and its agencies and institutions; indeed the church should be exemplary."

## CLINTON

## 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 On Three Band will perform throughout the afternoon. There will be 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.

## HARVEST DINNER

Chazy – Sacred Heart Parish will be having their Harvest Dinner.

**Date:** Sept. 26

**Time:** 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Cost:** Adults, \$12; Children 5-12, \$5; under 5, Free; all take-outs, \$12

**Menu:** Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, turnip, corn, coleslaw, cranberry sauce, rolls and butter, plus beverage. Apple or pumpkin pie.

**Features:** Take a moment to shop our "Sinners' Den" where you will be tempted by sinfully delicious treats and take a chance on our raffle.

## TURKEY DINNER

Lyon Mountain – St. Bernard's and St. Edmund's to have a turkey dinner.

**Date:** Sept. 26

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

**Place:** Lyon Mountain American Legion Post #1623

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

**Contact:** For more information call 518-594-3907, 518-578-2638 or 518-593-2052

## ESSEX

## LATIN MASS

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

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

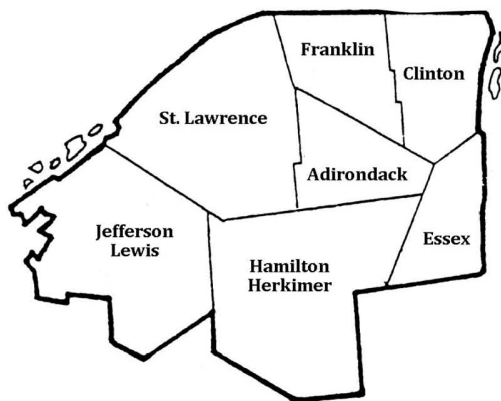
**Place:** St. Patrick's Church

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

## JEFFERSON-LEWIS

## 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.



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.

**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!

## BASKET RAFFLE

Houseville – St. Hedwig's Church to have their Annual Basket Raffle.

**Date:** Oct. 10, 17, 24 and 31

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

**Features:** The Raffle baskets will be on display and tickets will be available for sale after the celebration of the 11 a.m. Mass. No tickets will be sold during Mass. Tickets are \$1 each, or \$5 for 6 tickets. One silent auction item will be available - a hand-crafted Shaker-style cherry coffee table by Ed Knapp. On Oct. 31, we will have the drawings for the baskets at 1 pm, following a bake sale.

**Contact:** If you wish to donate a theme basket, baked goods or make a monetary donation to St. Hedwig's Society contact: Elaine 315-486-5532, Lydia 315-348-7006, or Mary Ann 315-348-6260.

## EXPLORING A SOJOURN WITH CHRIST IN THE EUCHARIST

Watertown - The Commissioned Lay Ministers Association of the Jefferson-Lewis Deanery is excited to announce the fall event, Exploring a Sojourn with

Christ in the Eucharist.

**Date:** Oct. 14

**Time:** 5:15 p.m. Mass following a dinner and presentation by Deacon Tom Yousey

**Place:** Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse

**Cost:** Dinner \$13 per person

**Contact:** Register at www.rcdony.org/clm-event. The deadline to register is Oct. 7.

## 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

## 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. No pressure. No follow up. No charge. Alpha runs for about 11 weeks and includes food, a short talk and time at the end where you can share your thoughts.

**Contact:** For more information contact 315-769-2469 or www.masse-nacatholics.com

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## 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 9. Space is limited therefore registration is first come, first serve. Register at: rcdony.org/mysteryeucharist

## 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, just enjoy the beautiful scenery and a hotdog and hamburger cookout.

**Contact:** Registration to attend is required at: www.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.sacred-heartfoundation.com/benefit-dinner)

## YOUNG ADULT DAY OF REFLECTION

Saranac Lake – Young Adult Day of Reflection to be held.

**Date:** Sept. 25

**Time:** 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Place:** Guggenheim

**Features:** A day to rest, pray, socialize and deepen your faith, including talks by Father Matt Conger and the Young Adult Team, brunch, opportunity for confession, Mass with together with the College Students Retreat with Bishop Terry R. LaValley, followed by dinner, and plenty of time for personal prayer, reflection, socializing and simply enjoying the beauty and peace of Guggenheim.

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

## 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:** The entire New York North Country Community is invited to join in prayer for the safety and well-being of all first responders and public safety personnel.

**Contact:** For more information contact, Father Chris Carrara 315-605-1039 or ccarrara@rcdony.org

## YOUTH OVERNIGHT

Saranac Lake – Youth Leadership overnight retreat to be held.

**Date:** Oct. 1, 5 p.m. to Oct. 2, 6 p.m.

**Place:** Guggenheim

**Cost:** \$49 per teen (Overnight dorm, meals and special gift)

**Features:** During this overnight youth retreat, we invite teens into a relationship with God by encouraging them to ask the big questions about the purpose of life and answering them with the Gospel message. Along the way, they will have a ton of fun while enjoying a true "camp" experience. We have a full line up of activities planned and special guest Music Ministry leaders and presenters, MJM7.

**Contact:** For more information about COVID regulations and how to register go to rcdony.org/leadership.

AT THE MOVIES

# SHANG-CHI AND THE LEGEND OF THE TEN RINGS

NEW YORK (CNS) – Sprightly wit paces the elegant martial-arts showdowns in director and co-writer Destin Daniel Cretton's Marvel Comics-derived adventure "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings" (Disney).

A treat for grown-ups, the film is too laden with extra-biblical ideas to be recommended for impressionable moviegoers. As for older teens, they'll likely shrug off its overly-elaborate mythos as so much window dressing.

Together with his best friend and co-worker Katy (Awkwafina), mild-mannered, ambitionless San Francisco parking valet Shaun (Simu Liu) leads a contented – if directionless – life, partying, staying up late and going nowhere professionally. So when a group of thugs try to steal the amulet he always wears around his neck, and he responds with a magnificent display of fighting skills, Katy is left incredulous.

Her amazement only deepens on learning that Shaun is, in fact, the superhero of the title,



CNS PHOTO/MARVEL STUDIOS

**Tony Leung and Fala Chen star in a scene from the movie "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings." The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

trained from his youth to be a semi-supernatural warrior.

For all of Shaun's prowess, however, the bad guys – agents of his ruthless China-based gang leader father, Wenwu (Tony Leung) – did, in the end, succeeded in purloining the talisman, a cherished gift his late mother, Li (Fala Chen), gave him before she was murdered by a band of her husband's enemies. So, with Katy in tow, it's off to the homeland Shaun abandoned

decades before to get away from his dad.

There, Shaun is once again embroiled in family tensions, including the resentment his younger sister Xialing (Meng'er Zhang) continues to harbor over his abandonment of her in childhood. Since she's as gifted a combatant as her sibling, moreover, Xialing knows how to make her wrath felt.

Behind all the bloodless action that follows lies a basic story of good versus evil. The plot gains moral

subtlety, however, from the fact that, although he's acting under a delusion, Wenwu's latest scheme, which his children eventually come together to oppose, is fueled by grief and the desire to be reunited with his spouse rather than by any wicked intention.

Along with vocabulary unsuitable for kids, the script, penned in collaboration with Dave Callahan and Andrew Lanham, presents viewers with ideas – such as centuries-old Wenwu's quasi-immortality – that might confuse those inclined to take them seriously. Additionally, a briefly touched-on theme of honoring the fallen is marked by no sense of hope in an after-life.

Given everyone's preoccupation with battling as well as the nature of

Shaun and Katy's bond – a friendship that barely skirts the outer edges of romance – there's no sexual element to the picture. Instead, it's all jaunty dust-ups and derring-do. And, if human interest is briefly lost amid the oversized special effects of the climactic confrontation, it's skillfully recaptured via a wry wrap-up.

The film contains frequent stylized violence, nonscriptural religious ideas, at least one use of profanity, a few milder oaths, about a half-dozen crude terms, a couple of crass expressions and an obscene gesture. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG-13 – parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# May we silence our ambitions

If a preacher this Sunday were to look for an image to bring with him for "show and tell," it might be the green-eyed monster named ENVY. In the first reading, the power people are plotting to get rid of a Holy One who is exposing their evil. Let us beset the just one, because he is obnoxious to us. Like corrupt backroom politicians, they are saying, He's a pain!



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

of him! They plot to torture him and eventually kill him! Of course, the just one wins out in the end since, in his wisdom, he is following the way that leads to eternal life.

In the second reading for this week, St. James warns the early Christians to avoid self-seeking, envy and pleasure as an end in itself. This only leads to dis-

September 19

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

James 3:16—4:3

Mark 9:30-37

war. The true follower of Jesus will seek that wisdom that leads to peace.

But what is this "wisdom" that guides us away from the evils of envy, selfishness and strife? In the Gospel, the disciples of Jesus are so busy arguing about which one is

going to be greater in the Kingdom that they really miss what Jesus is trying to tell them. Even as He is preparing to enter his Passion, wisdom is found in serving others. The disciples were unable to understand this teaching, so Jesus gives them an object lesson. Placing a small child in the middle of the group, he declares that the trust and love they see in the eyes of this little one must be found in the hearts of all who would follow Him.

As we think about that

dramatic teaching of Jesus, we realize how far we are from being truly child-like. We are no longer able to hear God; there are too many frequencies filling our ears. If we cannot hear the truth of His Wisdom, how can our hearts embrace it with joy and live it simply in child-like trust? May we silence our ambitions, our dissensions, and the clamor of a fearful world this week, and listen to God's Wisdom. In so doing, we're taking a big step toward peace.

## CALLED TO SERVE

# Every guy needs a purse

I am the proud owner of a brand-new man bag. You would do well not to snicker just now. Shortly I will explain in boring detail why it benefits a man to have a carrying case for his stuff. But first I should explain why there is a new man bag in my life.

My former man bag wore out. The faux leather, also known as vinyl, started to peel away. I quickly resorted to an old college trick and sutured the torn Naugahyde with electrical tape. That didn't work. The guts of the bag, it was more like a mini knapsack, were fine. It was the exterior that was downright embarrassing.

The appearance of the

bag didn't bother me in the least when the bag was slung over my shoulder, but I cringed every time I put the bag down and spotted the peeling around each of the snaps.

What would my colleagues think? What would my pastor think? What if Bishop saw that at a department meeting? He would think me impoverished or careless or, worse yet, uncouth.

Clearly it was time to replace my well-worn mini backpack with another. But the size I wanted is not to be found in the backpack world. I think I found my original several years ago in the ladies department of a large store masquerading

as a purse, but that's between us.

The bag I wanted had to accommodate carrying a file folder or three, so it needed to be wide enough and long enough. It had to stand up to almost daily use. It would have to hold those files and my wallet, keys, phone, Rosary beads, pyx, assorted pens and highlighters, a notebook and from time to time an iPad and cables. That's a lot to ask of a bag.

Which brings me to the whole issue of man bags. This is not a defense of men carrying a purse. In-

stead, it is a realistic approach to hauling all that extra baggage around every day. For many of us, we have enough trouble carrying us around. We don't need an extra five pounds distributed in pockets in our slacks and jackets.

Have you ever noticed that men's pants have four pockets? How often do a woman's slacks have pockets? Rarely. Men have been conditioned to carry their lives in their pockets. In my younger days I smoked a pipe. Add a pipe, lighter, tobacco pouch and pipe tool

to the "must carry" list.

In New York City, we learned to carry cash in a separate pocket, not in our wallet. It made life miserable for pickpockets.

Men, how much time do you waste at the doctor's office emptying your pockets before you step on the scale? And then you have to put it all back in your pockets.

The man bag is the solution. The new label for man bags is messenger bags. It's what the crazed bicycle riders carry in metropolitan areas as they zig-zag their way from one high rise office building to another.

Jesus told his apostles to go out two by two with nothing but a walking stick - no food, no sack, no money in their belts. Historians tell us the money would be kept in a bag or purse attached to the belt. See, even then men had man bags! I feel better now that I have a new one.

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



Deacon  
Kevin Mastellon

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mbrett@rcdony.org

# The abbreviated summer games

*Editor's note: The following is an update on Lenity Project's operations in Quinto, Peru courtesy of Sister Cindy Sullivan.*

It has been customary for us to dub our summer recreation program THE OLYMPIC GAMES. This year, they really were Olympian, in a certain sense. After over a month of planning, organizing, and getting all the materials for the games, we began them just after the fourth of July. As it turned out, that's also when we ended them.

We had "burritos" for lunch, since the food bank gave us about a hundred tortillas. We were riding high all morning long! Then came the afternoon events. The main act there was by the Ministry of Education. They showed up to congratulate us on our organization, and at the same time to tell us that we couldn't continue the games because of the pandemic. So, we accomplished the Olympic feat of setting up the games, playing for an entire morning, enjoying our introduction to the "burritos," and wrapping things up.

We console ourselves knowing that as soon as we get the go-ahead, we have everything ready for the next round of games. [The original story included an image of the games showing students spread out and masked at the event.]

As summer ends, daylight gets shorter and leaves begin to drop, we dread the coming of the darkness of winter. There is so much bad news that adds to the darkness each day: the virus, the fires, natural disasters, conflicts, etc.

Your contributions to Lenity Inc. help us keep something bright and positive going and growing. The hope you provide to our mission in Ecuador, with your gifts, allow the poor families to have dreams and access to tools to become positive agents of change in this small corner of the world.

We are most grateful to you and ask God to bless you and your families. The "Olympic torch" in Quinto at the Foundation has not been put out thanks to your help. Thank you.

— From the desk of Madre Cindy.

Please remember the Pontifical Mission Societies  
when preparing your Will.  
[rcdony.org/mission](http://rcdony.org/mission)

## OBITUARIES

**AuSable Forks** — Joseph Ano, 66; Funeral Services July 6, 2021 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

**Brushton** — Daniel Lee Bowen, 73; Graveside Services Sept. 10, 2021 at St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Chateaugay** — Brian J. Coughlin, 65; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 11, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. George's Cemetery, Burke.

**Chateaugay** — Anita B. (Trombley) McCann, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 13, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Immaculate Heart Cemetery, Churubusco.

**Chazy** — Marilyn M. (Coon) Dumas, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 7, 2021 at Sacred Heart Church.

**Fort Covington** — Monica Josephine (Southwick) Lauzon, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 5, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Gouverneur** — Julia Anne "Judy" (Barr) Paquette, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 8, 2021 at St. John the Evangelist Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery, Ogdensburg.

**Louisville** — Joseph H. Geiser, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 7, 2021 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Louisville** — Dennis George Wilkins, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 9, 2021 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Malone** — Rita St. Denis Brown, 92; Services to be held at a later date.

**Massena** — Roy A. Portolese, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 8, 2021 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Morrisonville** — Brooks W. Latremore, Jr., 79; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 13, 2021 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** — Ronald D. Bell, 82; Funeral Services Sept. 10, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame

Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** — Chad M. Bonk, 41; Funeral Services Sept. 25, 2021 at Frary Funeral Home.

**Ogdensburg** — Michael J. Stacey, 71; Funeral Services Sept. 13, 2021 at Frary Funeral Home.

**Ogdensburg** — Leo A. Tynon, Jr., 77; Funeral Services Sept. 8, 2021 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Ogdensburgh Cemetery.

**Peru** — Charlene Ann (Masters) Sperle, 81; Funeral Services Sept. 10, 2021 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Schuyler Falls Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** — Lori A. (Lancto) Boren, 55; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 11, 2021 at Our Lady of Victory Church.

**Plattsburgh** — Kathleen A. (Kolesko) Fresn, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 7, 2021 at St. Peter's Church.

**Potsdam** — Steve M. Smutz, 84; Funeral Services Sept. 13, 2021 at the Donaldson-Seymour Funeral Home; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Colton.

**Potsdam** — Beverly A. (Weaver) Stone, 86; Funeral Services Sept. 11, 2021 at Garner Funeral Service; burial in Bayside Cemetery.

**Watertown** — Patricia (Spicer) Stabins, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 3, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Mausoleum.

**Wilmington** — Yvonne C. Farmer; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 24, 2021 at St. Margaret's Church.

### Foster Grandparent Program-

The Foster Grandparent Program's Purpose is to provide opportunities for low income persons aged 55 and older (that reside in Franklin, Clinton, Essex, St. Lawrence, and Jefferson Counties), to provide person to person services in health, education and the welfare of children ages 21 and below. Foster Grandparents are placed in a classroom setting with children who need development of basic learning skills, to provide friendship, and unhurried help. You'll also receive a small non-taxable stipend bi-weekly that can not be held against any current benefits you may have. You also get paid mileage for your travel and you receive paid holidays, vacations, sick and personal leave. If this is something that would interest you please call Melissa Howard @ (518) 359-7688.



### RSVP

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Franklin Counties purpose is to provide meaningful opportunities for older Americans ages 55 and older. RSVP shows you how you can apply the skills and wisdom you've acquired throughout your life to make a positive difference in the lives of others by placing volunteers in home-bound and hard to reach areas, so that we can make a tangible difference in your community. We offer insurance, mileage reimbursement and there's no set hours, just the time you are willing to make for others. If this is something that would interest you please call Melissa Howard @ (518) 359-7688.



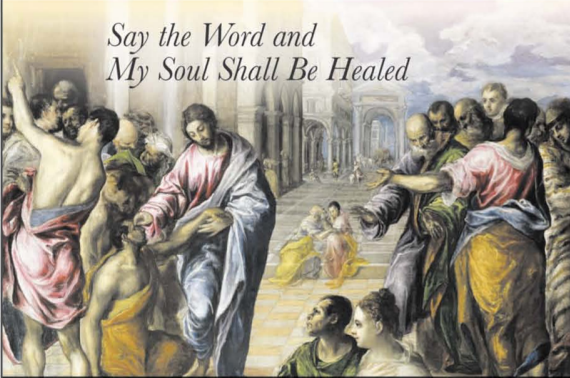
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# Bishop LaValley to ordain 14 men to the diaconate

OGDENSBURG— In two Masses scheduled a week apart, Bishop Terry R. LaValley will ordain 14 men to the diaconate.

Through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, Bishop LaValley will Ordain to the Order of Deacon Mr. Randy N. Besio, Mr. Gerald F. Bouchard, Mr. Brent M. Davison, Mr. Daniel G. LeRoy, Mr. Michael A. Lieber, Jr., Mr. Kenneth L. Lushia, Mr. Roderic O.

Roca, Mr. Lee M. Trudeau, Mr. Robert S. Uttendorfsky, Mr. Noel D. Voos, Mr. Mark T. Webster and Mr. Peter J. Woolschlager on Saturday, Oct. 2, at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

The ordination is open to the public and it will also be livestreamed at [www.rcdony.org/ordination](http://www.rcdony.org/ordination).

Please note this may be subject to change due to COVID-19.

A week later, on Saturday, Oct. 9, Bishop LaValley will ordain Mr. James P. Carlin and Mr. Leagon J. Carlin to the Order of the Deacon at 10 a.m. at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh, New York.

James Carlin will serve as a permanent deacon, while his son, Leagon, is a seminarian for the Diocese of Ogdensburg and will be a transitional deacon.

Subject to pandemic conditions, that ordination will also be open to the public and will also be livestreamed at [www.rcdony.org/ordination](http://www.rcdony.org/ordination).

## Youth retreat planned

The Office of Youth Ministry will host an overnight leadership retreat, Searchlight, for diocesan youth in grades nine through 12 at Guggenheim on Oct. 1 and 2.

The retreat will include special guest Music Ministry leaders and presenters, MJM7, a Catholic family band.

Overnight accommodation in the Dorm, meals and a special gift included for a fee of \$49 per teen. COVID-19 Safety Notice

All staff are fully vaccinated. All attendees, upon check-in, will be requested to provide proof of vaccination or results of a negative PCR test for COVID-19 taken in the last 72 hours. We ask that any registered attendee experiencing any common COVID symptoms not attend.

To register visit [www.rcdony.org/leadership](http://www.rcdony.org/leadership)

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