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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 77 Number 28

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

NOVEMBER 16, 2022

SHARING GOD'S LOVE



Deacon Brent & Nikki Davison of Plattsburgh, parishioners of Holy Cross Parish, have seven children between the ages of 7 and 32, and six grandchildren. Of the seven children, three were adopted through Foster Care. See the full story on Page 3.

AT THE JOSEPHINUM



Deacon Lukas Gruber preaches at Pontifical College Josephinum. Deacon Gruber is one of three Diocese of Ogdensburg seminarians studying at the seminary, located in Columbus, Ohio. The school hosts seminarians from 15 diocese and religious orders, including two international dioceses. The seminary saw an enrollment increase for the 2022-23 academic year.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope: Seminaries do not form 'supermen'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The mission of a seminary "is not to form 'supermen' who pretend to know and control everything," but to help seminarians become priests who are humble servants of the communities they continue to belong to, Pope Francis said.

"The Lord calls some of his disciples to be priests, that is, he chooses some of the sheep from his flock and invites them to be shepherds of their brothers and sisters," the pope wrote in a speech prepared for a group of rectors and staff members of

seminaries in Latin America.

As priests, "we are fellow disciples of the rest of the Christian faithful and, therefore, we share the same human and spiritual needs, just as we are subject to the same frailties, limitations and errors," he wrote in the text he handed to the group Nov. 10 before speaking to them off the cuff.

"The gifts of grace and the traits of a wounded nature," marked by a tendency to sin, are normal parts of the life of every baptized person and are present in the seminarians as well, the

pope wrote, so seminary training needs to help them become aware of both as they grow in faith and basic human maturity.

Pope Francis urged the rectors and seminary staff to help candidates for the priesthood learn "to read their own history" with the eyes of faith, seeing how and where God was at work and where they may have gone astray.

The rector and staff also must recognize that the way they live their own lives has a big impact on the seminarians.

Candidates for the priesthood

should be able to see how "a healthy human maturation" involves overcoming difficulties and periods of crisis through a constant renewal of faith and reliance on the Lord, the pope wrote.

Since "one of the indicators of human and spiritual maturity is the development and consolidation of the ability to listen and the art of dialogue," he said, and those "are naturally anchored in a life of prayer, where the priest enters into daily dialogue with the Lord, even in moments of aridity or confusion."

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‘Write about Jesus’

The same conversation took place between me and my son nearly every Sunday for three years.

Me: Jake, I have no clue what I’m writing about for my column this week.

Jake: Write about Jesus.

Me: Ummm... that’s not very specific. What about Jesus?

Jake: I don’t know. That’s your problem.

And it was my problem. But that conversation wasn’t a problem. I always found it rather endearing.

Not quite so endearingly,

I’ve always had a bad habit of doing things at the last minute. That habit and a 5 p.m. Sunday deadline made

Darcy L.
Fargo

it easy for me to push the last of my work on this newspaper – almost always this column – until Sunday morning, sometimes early Sunday afternoon, when I’d finish from my home office (a corner in our living room).

In addition to creating a lot of chaotic mornings, my Sunday morning work created the routine of that conversation with Jake.

Now, after not having that

conversation for the last five weeks, I miss it.

So why are we not having that conversation? As of the Nov. 9 edition, our print date has moved, and the NCC is now being printed on Friday evenings.

A creature of habit, I dreaded the print date move. I was afraid I’d struggle to adjust my workflow. I was afraid I’d miss deadline, something I’ve never done in nearly 15 years in journalism. We, the NCC staff, reporters, columnists and photographers, practiced for a month before the actual “go live” on the new deadline. I can’t tell you how many times I prayed it would all go

smoothly, but I still feared it wouldn’t.

While I miss the conversation with Jake, God has turned this situation that filled me with dread into a blessing. Because I don’t have the option of pushing work to the weekend, I have more time on Sunday mornings to enjoy coffee and quiet time, to spend with “my two men,” my husband and son, and to better prepare for Mass to and to receive Jesus in the Eucharist.

God has a beautiful way of turning what I initially see as a struggle into a gift.

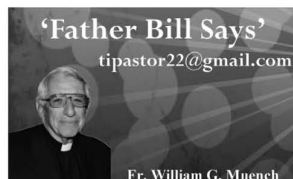
And that same thing has been happening for much longer than three years.

What it means to be Church

During the month of November, we are rushing toward the end of the Catholic liturgical year. Our liturgical year ends with the Sunday Feast Day of Christ the King. Then we begin the new Liturgical Year with the time of Advent, our preparation for Christmas.

Today, I believe this is a good time to remember what we mean when we talk about being Church, our Catholic Church. Each day as we pause to pray as the Church, we must unite ourselves to our Lord Jesus. This month, we celebrate Jesus as Christ the King. We dedicate ourselves to our Lord by making him our King – the King of our life – so we ask him to be our leader, our guide, our king each day.

You and I don’t talk about kings here in our country. Now, I do know that some make a person the king in sports or in music or something like that. When we talk about our Church leaders, we refer to our pope or our bishops. However, as Church, we find our



Fr. William G. Muench

strength and power in the Lord Jesus, our Lord and Savior. On this feast day, we pay honor to our Lord by announcing to the world that Jesus is our king.

I want to use this feast day as an opportunity to remember what it means when we say that we are Church, the Church of Jesus Christ. For me, I believe that we must go back to the Second Vatican Council, especially the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium). This document begins by reminding us that as Church we are the people of God.

In this regard, here is a sentence from this document: “At all times and in every race, anyone who fears God and does what is right has been acceptable to God. He has, however,

willed to make all holy and save them, not as individuals without any bond or link between them but rather uniting them as a people who might acknowledge them and save them in holiness.” We are a people, the People of God.

This document of the council spends time to remind us that the Church is first the clergy, the priests and the bishops. The council teaches us that the eternal pastor set up the holy Church by entrusting the apostles with their mission as he himself had been sent by the Father. Jesus willed that their successors, the bishops namely, should be the shepherds in his Church until the end of the world.

There is much more we could investigate about our clergy, but for now I would like to remind you of how the council emphasized the importance of the laity – you, lay men and lay women. The heart and soul of our Church is always the laity. The Church depends on the dedication and the

evangelizing power of the laity. Each day, lay Catholics bring the message of our Savior, the message of our Church, to more people than the clergy is ever able to do so. I firmly believe that the Lord Jesus challenges all lay men and lay women, bringing into their lives opportunities to help another or to lead another closer to the Lord Jesus.

The council writes this: “All the laity, then, have the exalted duty of working for the ever-greater spread of the divine plan of salvation to all, of every epoch and all over the earth.”

All of this – this Catholic Church, this People of God – is a call to holiness for all peoples, all races, all cultures on this planet. Today, I finish with one more sentence from this Constitution: “It is therefore quite clear that all Christians in any state or walk of life are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of love, and by this holiness a more human manner of life is fostered in the earthly society.”

Adoption story: 'We feel like the blessed ones'

By Mary Beth Bracy
Contributing writer

Deacon Brent Davison, a New York State Police officer, and his wife Nikki, a registered nurse, selflessly share God's love in serving their family and the North Country community, especially at Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh. As we celebrate National Adoption Month, they shared about their experience and joy in welcoming more children into their home.

"Brent and I have a blended family," Nikki Davison explained. "I have two children from a prior marriage. We have two children together, and then we adopted three children. We have a total of seven children ranging in age from 32 to 7. We already also have six beautiful grandchildren. I had a very close family growing up, and we are still close. Family traditions and family times were very important to my parents as my three siblings and I grew up. I grew up in the Catholic faith. Unfortunately, as we got busier with our children, our faith took a backseat."

That changed in 2013 when the Davison's watched "The Bible" series on TV. Deacon Brent Davison commented that he and Nikki had a conversation after viewing the series and came back to Church.

Nikki Davison related what happened when they returned to the faith.

"When Brent and I came back into the Church, Monsignor (Dennis J.) Duprey connected us with Starr Burke as our catechist. We became fast friends. Starr mentioned



Deacon Brent And Nikki Davison of Plattsburgh celebrate the adoption day of James and Timothy (Joey).

the need for foster parents. Both my parents and Brent's grandparents were foster parents many, many years prior. So, we signed up to take the classes. We were planning on doing respite care. Brent was not 100% onboard at first partly because of our already hectic schedule with our already growing family, partly due to his job."

"I prayed and asked that if it was God's will for us that he place it on my heart also, and the rest is history," shared Deacon Davison.

Participating in a Cursillo Weekend in 2014 was also a transformative experience in their faith journey.

"While attending my Cursillo weekend, it became apparent to me this was the right choice for

us," Nikki Davison added.

"Cursillo allows you to share faith with many fellow Christians close to Christ and better hear God's call," Deacon Davison added. "Our Cursillo friends have always been very supportive of our decision to foster and ultimately adopt our children Marissa, James, and Timothy (Joey). We trust God will accompany us on this journey."

The Davison's began fostering their children in 2014.

"Marissa was adopted in March 2016," Deacon Davison said. "James and Timothy (Joey) were adopted in November 2019. The kids have all been baptized since being adopted, and the two older kids made their First Communion.



The Davison family celebrates the adoption of Marissa.

Timothy (Joey) will make his next spring."

There are numerous blessings in fostering and adopting children, the couple said.

"I believe seeing these children and what obstacles they have overcome, where they were and how they adapt and persevere was both rewarding and eye opening," Nikki Davison said. "I have learned grace and much humility as well, as what a humbling experience this has been. We feel like the blessed ones to be able to give these children homes with the support and love from us as well as our Catholic faith."

Naturally, there are some challenges as well.

"We have had to start over raising children again, which is not always easy, but by God's grace we get by," said Deacon Davison. "Obviously we could not have done any of this without the grace of Jesus Christ and the support of our family and friends."

"I would be happy to talk with anyone considering fostering and or adopting," Nikki Davison added. "I co-taught the foster parent classes as a

parent liaison with the foster parenting staff at Department of Social Services (DSS). Fostering and adopting children, at times was very difficult and frustrating as well as rewarding. As the foster parent, you are acting as the child's advocate, but you are not the parent. That was a tough pill to swallow. The staff and caseworker from DSS we had were excellent, and we worked well together. That made the job a bit easier."

God's love is clearly reflected in the Davison family. At church, they are always greeting others and helping in the parish. Deacon Davison often helps at the Masses, and the Davison children are altar servers.

Deacon Davison encourages others to be open to the possibility of opening their hearts and homes to children in need.

"Some people just can't (have children)," he said. "There is a huge need for foster parenting, and this can also give those parents a chance to experience the love of a family with children. It is a calling and like other callings. You just have to be listening."

Enrollment increases at Ohio seminary

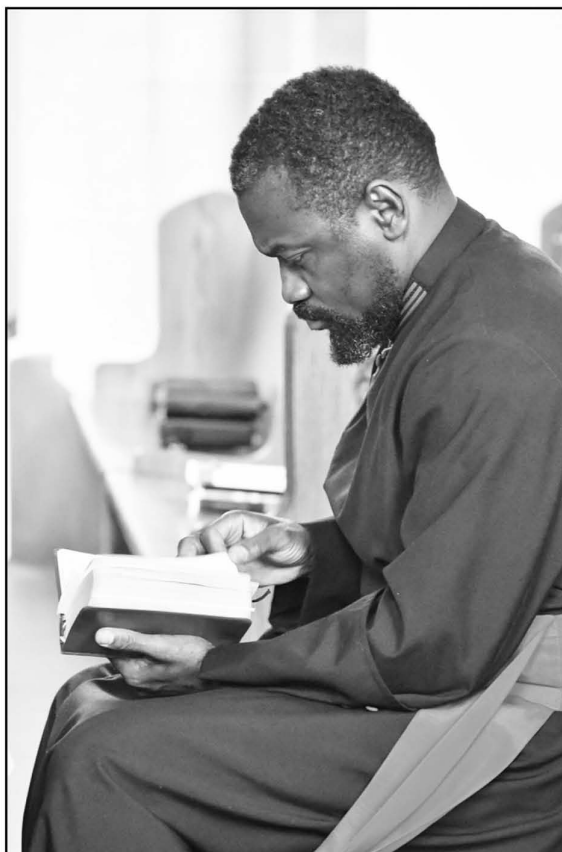
Fall brought the arrival of 20 new seminarians to Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, an overall enrollment increase, and two new sending dioceses.

The seminary now serves 15 (arch)dioceses and religious orders: Birmingham, Cincinnati, Columbus, Fathers of Mercy, Gaylord, Jefferson City, Joliet, Kiyinda-Mityana (Uganda), Lugazi (Uganda), Oakland, Ogdensburg, Saint Thomas in the Virgin Islands, Santa Fe, Steubenville, and Wheeling Charleston.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has three seminarians in formation at the Josephinum: Deacon Lukas Gruber who is in his final year of study before ordination; Dennis Ombongi, a first-year Theology seminarian; and Venes Laine, a third-year Pre-Theology seminarian.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley served for a number of years on the Josephinum's Board of Trustees, as both a member and chair.

"This year we've been blessed with one of the largest entering classes in many years," said Father



Diocese of Ogdensburg Seminarian Venes Laine prays in the chapel at Pontifical College Josephinum.

Steven Beseau, Josephinum rector/president. "But it's not just about numbers, it's also about the quality of the men. The Josephinum

men. They really are exceptional and we are very blessed to have them."

The formation of the Josephinum's 60 seminarians is guided by ten full-time resident priest formators who themselves reflect the national character of the seminary, coming from the (arch)dioceses of Kansas City, Metuchen, Savannah, Chicago, Columbus, and Plymouth (England), as well as Institute of the Incarnate Word, the Dominican Order, and the Fathers of Mercy. Many full and part-time lay professors make possible an academic excellence for which the Josephinum has long been known.

"We have some of the finest professors in the country," said Father Beseau. "This is seen not only in the classroom but also in the love and dedication they offer to the seminarians."

Priestly formation consists of four dimensions – human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral – the integration of which is reflected in seminary life. The Liturgy of the Hours, Mass, Holy Hours, academic classes, opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, off-campus pastoral formation assignments, formation conferences, one-on-one meetings with advisors and spiritual directors, and many recreational activities are all part of the seminary experience.

"Our seminary community is alive and growing," said Deacon Gruber. "I'm grateful for my brother seminarians, who have answered the Lord's call to enter the harvest field to discern a call to the priesthood. I know I am

not the only one who is inspired and filled with hope when I see how faithfully they have responded to the Lord's call."

Seminary administrators are preparing to guide the institution into the future as it adopts a new comprehensive five-year Strategic Plan, currently under final review by the Board of Trustees.

Planning acknowledges the rising cost of seminary formation, reflected in the Josephinum's highest-ever annual fundraising goal of more than \$1.8 million.

"Funds are needed primarily for seminarian scholarships, to give seminarians the opportunity to discern and be formed," said Father Beseau, "so that, if called to the priesthood, they are ready to respond as holy, generous, adaptable, and resilient priests."

Appeal gifts also will fund program adjustments required of all seminaries by the new edition of the USCCB's Program of Priestly Formation.

Independent of any one diocese or religious community, the Josephinum has a 134-year history of being sustained by the generosity of benefactors.

"The historic support of the Josephinum is remarkable," said Father Beseau. "Helping to form future priests is an incredibly unique and deeply rewarding experience. It is a privilege to have so many people share in this journey."

To learn more about the Josephinum's mission, upcoming events, or to make a gift to support the seminary, please visit www.pcj.edu.

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The Diocese of Ogdensburg's 150th Anniversary Mass (above) and Blue Mass (right) were overseen by Bishop Terry R. LaValley and the diocesan Worship Office. The office, and those liturgies, are supported by the Bishop's Fund Appeal.

TOGETHER IN FAITH

Bishop's Fund helps office coordinate Masses

By Father Bryan Stitt
Director, Office of Worship

"What a beautiful Mass!" These words are music to every priest's ears, and the Worship Office of the Diocese of Ogdensburg helps make them heard more frequently.

In my role as the Director of Worship, I get to assist our chief liturgist, Bishop Terry R. LaValley, as he sanctifies the North Country and shares the Beauty of Christ's life with the people of God.

Were you able to be with us in August for the 150th Anniversary Mass at the cathedral? What about the diaconate ordi-

nation of Deacon Lukas Gruber in Potsdam the month before? What about the Blue Mass in Clayton the month after? The list of beautiful celebrations never ends.

As we look forward to 2023, we're already planning another round of confirmations, a priestly ordination, and even a Mass for the Consecration of a woman to a life of virginity.

All these events are overseen by the Worship Office, and all the components – the programs, flowers and music, not to mention all the run-of-the-mill expenses like incense, candles, hosts,

wine, electricity and heat – must be paid for.

Beautiful diocesan liturgies come at a cost. That's where your support of the Bishop's Fund Appeal is invaluable. Donations to the Bishops Fund support the budget of the Worship Office, and the Worship Office helps you experience beautiful Masses.

Could I give you one more example of an un-

seen offering that your donations have supported?

In the middle of the pandemic, Bishop LaValley was looking for a way to stay visibly connected with his priests and to support them with in growing in their appreciation for the Mass. The Worship Office was able to bring create a custom program for our diocese with Chris Carstens of

the Liturgical Institute.

"Rediscovering the Beauty of the Mass" gave us a chance to meet and grow together (albeit virtually) in the worst days of the pandemic. See for yourself at rcdony.org/eucharistini initiative.

Thanks as always for supporting beauty in the Liturgy by supporting this year's Bishop's Fund Appeal.



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Environmental Stewardship

For the birds

Climate change has its effect on not only the environment but also our bird population. These changes disrupt the “normal” patterns of weather, which has a profound effect on our birds. As a photographer, I have observed and photographed birds in different areas and seasons. The patterns were pretty consistent, including their migration, feeding and nesting habits. Over the past 5 years, I have noticed gradual changes. Different species are coming to the feeders, and other species have been missing. Some birds are coming earlier and staying later or not leaving at all.

Doing research, I discovered a wealth of information. I encourage you to add to the research.

A way to record birds' behaviors is through banding. Manomet's banding lab — one of the oldest banding labs in North America in Plymouth, Massachusetts — helps contribute to studies tracking changes in bird numbers and distribution in North America. Those studies show that over a quarter of birds found in the U.S. and Canada have vanished in the last 50 years.

From Audubon.org, I found these scientific terms related to birds:

- 1) Drought: Drought destroys water and food resources for many species.
- 2) False Spring: False springs (unseasonably warm, mid-winter days) “trick” plants into flowering early.
- 3) Urbanization: Cities demolish bird habitat and are often located in the places birds need.
- 4) Spring Heat Waves: Spring heat waves endanger young birds in the nest.
- 5) Lake levels Rise: Rising lake levels flood coastal habitat important to nesting birds.

If you are a birder or just enjoy observing birds, be aware of the species you are seeing and not seeing and let your local birding organization know.

It is very important to keep track of what is happening to our birds. We can be a part of the solution.

By Faye Martin
Member of the Watertown
Faith and Ecology Group
Sisters of St. Joseph's Lay Associate

Rest in Peace

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

- Nov. 16** — Rev. Alexis Trudeau, O.M.I., 1885; Rev. Martin C. Mullen, 1904; Rev. John Henry O'Rourke, 1930; Rev. George C. Egan, O.S.A., 1957; Rev. John H. McCloskey, O.S.A., 1957; Rev. J. Lee Snow, 2003; Rev. George F. Sykes, 2007; Rev. Roland G. Gonyo, 2011
- Nov. 17** — Rev. Edward V. Murphy, 1907; Rev. George D. Boucher, 1954; Rev. Romuald A. Wolski, O.F.M. Conv., 1976
- Nov. 18** — Rev. Edward J. Shea, O.S.A., 1931
- Nov. 20** — Rev. Robert Joseph Booth, 1939
- Nov. 21** — Msgr. Joseph L. Tierney, 1968
- Nov. 22** — Rev. Bernard Caraher, 1893; Rev. James F. Lamitie, 2010

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Vic-tims Assistance Coordinator**, Terriane Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianeyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rc-dony.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.

Protecting God's Children

The **Diocese of Ogdensburg** has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required. Participants may preregister at www.virtus.org. Upcoming sessions: **Nov. 17** — 6 p.m., St. Peter's Church, Lowville

Bishop's Public Schedule

- Nov. 14-17** — United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Plenary Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland
- Nov. 19** — 4 p.m. — Installation Mass of Reverend Douglas A. Decker as Pastor of the Catholic Community of St. Peter and St. Mary and St. Hedwig (at St. Peter's Church) in Lowville
- Nov. 20** — 10 a.m. — Installation Mass of Reverend Thomas E. Kornmeyer as Pastor of St. Bartholomew's Church in Old Forge and St. Anthony of Padua Parish of Inlet and Raquette Lake in Inlet (at St. Bartholomew's Church)
- Nov. 21** — 10 a.m. — Lay Employees' Retirement Plan Committee Meeting at Bishop's Residence
- Nov. 22** — 9 a.m. — Mass at Cape Vincent Correctional Facility
- Nov. 23** — 9:45 a.m. — Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence



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CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT WORKING ON THE MARGINS

I should no longer say that I have neighbors to help,
but that I must myself be a neighbor to others.

—Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, no. 81

For more than 50 years, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has supported organizations that combat poverty and improve the lives of people in communities across the United States. From empowering immigrants in towns along the southern border to advocating for improved housing and educational opportunities in northern and midwestern cities, CCHD-funded groups tackle a wide range of economic and social justice challenges that affect local communities in rural and urban areas.

In areas of Tennessee where coal-mining operations and landfills have caused water pollution and other environmental damage, Statewide Organizing for Community eMPowerment (SOCM) works with governments and regulatory agencies to limit hazardous waste disposal in landfills and to require environmental cleanup as part of the permitting process for new business operations.

Environmental damage affects all of us, most especially low-income people who are affected by water pollution resulting from mineral extraction, lack of access to healthy foods in urban “food deserts,” and natural disasters caused by climate change. The Church teaches that “the natural environment is

a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone” (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, no. 95). Since the release of *Laudato Si'* in 2015, CCHD has invested more than \$4.3 million in organizations that work to protect the environment and combat pollution. When you support CCHD, you support organizations that work to protect the air, soil, and water for all the members of their communities.

To learn more about the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and the way CCHD upholds the moral and social teachings of the Catholic Church, visit www.usccb.org/cchd/collection.

- **LEARN** about those living in poverty.
- **ACT** and spread the word about poverty by sharing this flier.
- **CONNECT** with the work of CCHD by supporting the collection.
- **PRAY** for those who benefit from this collection.

2020-2021 GRANTS

Category	Dollars	Number of Grants
Community Development Grants	\$11,557,000	219
Strategic National Grants	\$6,452,837	16
Technical Assistance Grants	\$195,700	6
Total	\$18,205,537	

2020 EXPENSES

Category	Dollars	Percent
Grants and Donations	\$18,827,477	87.54%
Allocations-Internal Grants*	\$2,341,113	10.88%
Promotions and Fundraising Expenses	\$274,325	1.28%
Program Costs	\$65,337	0.30%
Total Expenses	\$21,508,252	
Total Expenses Excluding Internal Grants	\$19,167,139	
Total Grants & Donations Including Internal Grants	\$21,168,590	

*Internal grants include a distribution from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development Collection for CCHD operations expenses and for the USCCB Justice, Peace and Human Development's education and outreach program, which includes engaging Catholics in our faith-filled call to address the root causes of poverty.



Office of National Collections

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Special Collection to be held with Black and Indian Mission Nov. 19-20, 2022
Combined Collection

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg

Building A Bridge For The Future



Deacon Lukas Gruber
4th Theology
Pontifical College
Josephinum



Carter Pierce
3rd Theology
Mount St. Mary's
Seminary



Douglas Schirmer
3rd Theology
Mount St. Mary's
Seminary



Tyler Fitzgerald
1st Theology
Saint Vincent
Seminary



Dennis Ombongi
1st Theology
Pontifical College
Josephinum



Michael Lennox
Pre-Theology 2
Mount St. Mary's
Seminary



Kevin McCullough
Pre-Theology 2
Saint Vincent
Seminary



Venes Laine
4th College
Pontifical College
Josephinum



Tuan (Joseph) Vuong
4th College
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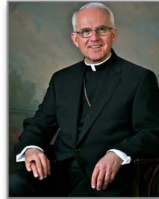
2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Passing Our Living Faith to Future Generations

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

St. John Paul II said, "the future starts today, not tomorrow." Every day presents an opportunity for you and me to pave the way for a better future. Our Pope and leader of the Catholic Church from 1978 until his death in 2005 taught that if we appreciated the mindset that the future starts now, we can live each day with new motivation to make life the best it can be for ourselves, the people around us and for our loved ones in the future.



Here, in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, we, too, have adopted this belief. In 2007, to "**Build a Bridge for the Future**" and continue a strong sense of commitment and attentiveness to meet the needs of tomorrow for our Catholic Community, the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg was established.

We look to provide for the future needs of our parishes, schools, ministries, and Missionary Projects. The Foundation plays a pivotal role in supporting the financial, charitable, spiritual, educational, and temporal works of the Catholic family here in the North Country in the years ahead.

Our Foundation is in its fifteenth year of existence. Since its establishment, fifty-four Endowments have been created. They are listed on the back page of our insert along with their beneficiaries. Please take a moment to review these as well as our mission statement, what a Catholic Foundation truly is and how it works along with methods of giving.

I am extremely grateful to those who have had the generous foresight in contributing to the Foundation to benefit the future work of the Church. These gifts are a perpetual source of revenue for the parishes, schools, Nursing Home, ministries, and Missionary Projects of the Diocese as well as for the Education of Seminarians and Special Care of Priests.

As I am pleased to present to you this 2021 Annual Report, I would like to express my gratitude to Scott Lalone, Executive Director and to the Board of Directors for their willingness to serve, provide proper financial oversight, ensure legal ethical integrity, and offer effective organizational planning for the Foundation.

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

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg Statements of Financial Position June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2021

	6/30/2022	6/30/2021
ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 302,792	\$ 197,725
Accrued Interest	9,480	8,337
Investments at Fair Value	7,077,443	8,253,518
Charitable Gift Annuities	1,852	1,852
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 7,391,567	\$ 8,461,432
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$ -	\$ -
NET ASSETS (DEFICIT)		
Without Donor Restrictions	(139,514)	(128,079)
With Donor Restrictions	7,531,081	8,589,511
Total Net Assets	7,391,567	8,461,432
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 7,391,567	\$ 8,461,432

The Foundation's IRS Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt Form Tax, is available for inspection upon request

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of The Foundation is to pass our living faith to future generations by financially supporting the charitable, spiritual, educational and temporal works of the Catholic Community of the Diocese of Ogdensburg by accepting donations or endowment funds from donors and the administration of these funds.

In fulfilling its mission, The Foundation will:

- Provide estate planning and charitable giving information and assistance.
- Provide gifting vehicles in which the Church or related entities are the designated beneficiary.
- Provide responsible and financial management and distribution of earnings that further the mission of the Catholic Church.

Catholics are called by God to protect human life, to promote dignity, to defend those who are poor, to strengthen the Church and to seek the common good. The Foundation exists to help Catholics live out this sacred mission of the Church, through the wise stewardship and thoughtful sharing of their financial resources.

The Foundation will provide permanent endowments and memorial funds for donors who want to give lasting support to parishes, schools, religious and social service ministries in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Board of Directors

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg
President

Reverend Joseph A. Morgan
Vicar General
Vice President

Mr. Michael J. Tooley
Diocesan Fiscal Officer
Treasurer

Sister Mary Eamon
Lyng, SSJ
Ogdensburg, NY

Reverend Kevin
McEwan
Pastor

Mr. Thomas Hannan
Ogdensburg, NY

Mrs. Mary Anne
Bukolt-Ryder
Plattsburgh, NY

Passing Our Living Faith to Future Generations



St. Cyril's Catholic Church – Alexandria Bay, NY

Endowment Beneficiaries Can Include

- The Diocese of Ogdensburg
- The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg
- Your Parish or Catholic School
- The Education of Priests & Seminarians
- The Priests Retirement Fund
- The Priests Disability Fund
- The Bishop's Fund
- Any Ministry or Program of the Diocese
- Catholic Charities
- Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg
- St. Joseph's Nursing Home
- Any Diocesan institution of your choice

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

We recognize and understand as a Catholic Foundation entirely separate from the Diocese but in all ways accountable to both the Diocese and our donors, we are sustained by public trust and laws that confer upon us a special responsibility to society and the Roman Catholic Church. We further acknowledge that this responsibility can be met by full, open and public disclosure of all our affairs.

HOW THE FOUNDATION WORKS

The Foundation solicits and receives planned gifts to benefit the people and communities of the Diocese as designated by donors. Prudent financial management of the funds is entrusted to the Board of Directors comprised of distinguished Church, business and civic leaders. A professional staff administers the day to day operation of The Foundation and oversees the distribution of annual earnings from the funds. Assets are managed by investment professionals.

Methods of Giving

Type of Gift	Form of Gift	Benefit to Church	Benefit to You
Outright Gift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash • Stocks/securities • Real estate • Insurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perpetual income • Interest income used by The Foundation, parishes, schools and organizations in diocese 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income tax deduction • No capital gains tax on Appreciated gifts
Wills & Bequests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash • Real estate • Personal property • Percentage of estate • Remainder of estate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bequest will be held in perpetuity and invested to fund The Foundation needs as designated by the donor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible estate tax deduction • Opportunity to make perpetual gifts
Charitable Gift Annuities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash • Stocks/securities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon the death of the donor or last surviving annuitant remaining assets generate interest income for The Foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible estate tax deduction • Opportunity to make perpetual gifts
Insurance Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name The Foundation as policy owner and/or beneficiary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foundation receives full face value of policy upon death of the donor, or may receive current surrender value prior to donor's death 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to make substantial future gift to The Foundation at current manageable cost • Income tax deduction for value of the policy when transferred • Premium payments may be deducted as gifts
Real Estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home • Land • Vacation Home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foundation receives the proceeds from the sale of the property at your death or sooner if so desired by the Donor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be given with life use • Can be given without incurring tax on the appreciation
Charitable Remainder Trusts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash • Stocks/securities • Real estate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foundation receives substantial future gifts to support the work of The Foundation and the charities named by the donor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variable or fixed income • Option to defer income • Income tax deduction • Reduction of estate taxes • No capital gains tax on appreciated gift (or deferred in some instances)
Retirement Plan/IRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name The Foundation as beneficiary of death benefit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant gift upon death of donor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to make a major gift • Estate and income tax savings
Endowment Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any of the above types of gifts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final beneficiary(ies) will have a perpetual source of revenue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making a lasting gift that is a permanent legacy of your faith

TO CONTACT THE DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
 FOUNDATION OFFICE
 622 Washington St., Ogdensburg
 Or Call: Scott Lalone Executive Director 315-393-2920 (x1330)

Endowments Established in the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, New York, Inc.

Reverend Norman Poupore Endowment – Support of Priests' Disabilities
Catholic Charities Endowment – Corporate purposes
Society of the Sisters of St. Joseph Endowment – Corporate purposes
Society of the Propagation of the Faith Endowment – Corporate purposes
St. Joseph's Home Foundation Endowment – Corporate purposes
Catherine Aurelia Endowment – Bishop's Charities and Religious Works
Reverend Anthony A. Milia Endowment – Support of the Diocesan Archives
Building For Tomorrow Endowment – Operating expenses of the Catholic Community of Alexandria
Education of Seminarians Endowment – Funding to the annual operating budget
Faylene LeRoux Endowment – Support of Catholic Education
Formation For Ministry Endowment – Parish financial assistance and annual operating budget
Guggenheim/Hughes Endowment – Support of capital needs of Guggenheim Center
Leona Schlafly Endowment – General purposes of the Diocese of Ogdensburg
Reverend James Meehan Endowment – Special care of priests
St. Mary's Cathedral Endowment – Support of general operations
Joseph & Joyce Sylvester Endowment – General operating needs of St. Anthony's, Watertown
Guggenheim Maintenance Endowment – Maintain the main camp building, boathouse and grounds
Spratt Memorial Endowment – Support capital needs
St. Alexander's Catholic Education Endowment – Support of Catholic education at parish
Alice Austin Trust Mass Endowment – Masses at St. Andrew's Church, Sackets Harbor
Lawrence R. Robinson Trust Mass Endowment – Masses at St. Andrew's Church, Sackets Harbor
St. Augustine's Church Endowment – General purposes of St. Augustine's at Peru.
Margaret Brothers Endowment – General purposes of St. Patrick's Church, Rouses Point
Victor West Endowment – General purposes of St. Patrick's Church, Rouses Point
St. Mary's Champlain NY Endowment – Support of St. Mary's Church
Reverend W. Cyril Rapin Endowment – Support of disabled priests
Good Samaritan Endowment – Christian charity to the people of the North Country
Holy Family Strauss Educational Endowment – Promote Catholic education
Deacon Adam Crowe Scholarship Endowment – Education of Seminarians
William Cornish Endowment – St. Henry's Church, EWTN, Diocese
Donald J. Grant Endowment – General purposes of RC Community of Brownville & Dexter
St. Lawrence Church Endowment – General purposes of St. Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls
St. Patrick's Church Shamrock Endowment – General purposes of St. Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls
Queen of Heaven Church – General purposes of Queen of Heaven Church
Church of St. Patrick/Stumpf Family – Catholic Education
ME Walton Good Samaritan Endowment – Needs of parishioners at St. Cyril's and St. Francis Xavier
Special Care of Priests Endowment – Funding for annual operating budget
Alice Austin Mass Endowment – Masses at Queen of Heaven Church, Henderson
St. Francis of Assisi Endowment – 50% Diocese, 50% Covenant House
William L. Patnode Endowment – Education of Seminarians
Gertrude J. Tyo Endowment – Education of Seminarians
Chapin, McCarthy, LaBelle Families Endowment – General purposes St. Augustine (North Bangor)
Chapin, McCarthy Families Endowment – General purposes St. Martin de Porras, Peru (Missionary Projects)
St. Patrick's & Mother Cabrini's Shrine of Peru, NY Endowment – General purpose of Shrine
Thomas and Ann Fiacco Endowment – General purposes Trinity Catholic School, Massena, NY
Thomas and Ann Fiacco Endowment – General purposes Trinity Catholic School, Massena, NY
Bishop Brzana Chapter Vocations – emergency medical/dental assistance to active Seminarians
Brian E. McManus & Alison E. McManus Endowed Scholarship Fund in Memory of Dorothy W. McManus –
 Tuition assistance for students of financial need at St. Agnes Catholic School
Halsey J. Seguin Memorial Scholarship Fund - to benefit poor students of St. Bernard's Catholic School as they see fit
Education of Seminarians/St. Joseph's Home Endowment – Education of Seminarians & St. Joseph's Nursing Home
 Foundation general purposes
Leonard J. Furnia Endowment Fund – Support of Education of Priests & Seminarians
Saint Ignatius Special Needs Endowment Fund – special need grants for extra ordinary, emergency, one-time situations
Francis & Constance Kehoe Memorial Endowment Fund – Education of Seminarians and Graduate Studies for Clergy of the
 Diocese of Ogdensburg
The Leary Family Endowment Fund – General purposes Trinity Catholic School, Massena NY, and St. Peter's
 Parish, Massena NY



CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Steubenville bishop says merger needs more discussion

STEBENVILLE, Ohio (CNS) — A proposed merger between the Diocese of Steubenville and the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio, will undergo further discussions on the diocesan level after a survey of parishioners showed "disappointment and even fear" over the proposal, said Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton. He made the comments in a Nov. 7 letter to the priests of his diocese. It was scheduled to be discussed and voted on by the U.S. bishops during their Nov. 14-17 general assembly in Baltimore, but Bishop Monforton said in his letter that he has asked the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to remove this from the agenda. The decision to erect, merge or suppress dioceses belongs to the pope, but this always is done in consultation with the bishops' conference. The proposed merger of the two Ohio dioceses has been prompted by factors such as aging priests and fewer priests to serve the diocese, a significant decline in baptisms and first Communion in the past 10 years, as well as the diocese seeing a decreasing number of Catholics, who themselves are aging, and a general population that is shrinking.

Cardinal: 'Moral obligation' to act on climate change

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt (CNS) — Leaders gathered in Egypt for the U.N. climate summit have "a moral obligation" to act seriously and together to safeguard the planet and to offer concrete aid to people suffering the "more frequent and more serious humanitarian impacts caused by climate change," said Cardinal Pietro Parolin. The Vatican secretary of state led the Holy See's official delegation to COP27, the 27th Conference of the Parties to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh Nov. 6-18. The cardinal told world leaders Nov. 8 that "the growing phenomenon of migrants being displaced" by climate change is something they must act on because currently "they lack access to international protection" recognizing them as deserving special care. And, he said, if it is not possible to give them special status as refugees, "it is important to recognize migration as a form of adaptation and to increase the availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration."

Pope helped facilitate prisoner exchanges

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Russia's ambassador to the Vatican confirmed Pope Francis helped facilitate recent prisoner exchanges with Ukraine and said the Vatican is ready to act as a mediator between Ukraine and Russia. The Italian news agency Askane news reported the ambassador, Aleksandr Avdeyev, said the exchanges of prisoners occur in accordance with the lists of military prisoners of the Armed Forces of Ukraine; the lists are handed over by Pope Francis. "In this case, we highly appreciate the personal actions of the pontiff, who is carrying out a very important humanitarian mission that allows hundreds of people to return to their families," Avdeyev said. Returning to the Vatican from Bahrain Nov. 6, Pope Francis told reporters traveling with him that the Vatican is "constantly attentive" to what is happening in Ukraine, and that the Secretariat of State continues to do what is possible and has worked behind the scenes to help arrange prisoner exchanges. The pope also told reporters he thinks the cruelty of the attacks on Ukraine and its civilians are the work of mercenaries, not Russians, who are "a great people" and have a strong "humanism."

Catholic leaders vow to continue fight after state abortion measures pass

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although Catholic leaders and state Catholic conferences had pushed for the defeat of ballot measures protecting legal abortion and urged voters to pass measures restricting abortions, state voters ultimately went the other way Nov. 8.

Voters in California, Vermont and Michigan approved abortion protections, while Kentucky and Montana voters rejected abortion restrictions.

These ballot measures were the first time voters faced the opportunity to weigh in on abortion laws since the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision in June that overturned Roe v. Wade, its 1973 case legalizing abortion nationwide.

Catholic bishops in states where these votes took place expressed disappointment and renewed their commitment to keep up the fight to end abortion and to provide support to women and families in need.

"Abortion is now legal in Michigan at an unprecedented level, and millions of lives are at stake," wrote Detroit Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron in a letter to Catholics posted on the archdiocesan website Nov. 9.

"We awake today to the news that Proposal 3 has passed, altering our state constitution to allow for unregulated and unsafe abortion on demand in Michigan," he wrote, saying that people of faith are "deeply saddened by this grave assault on the dignity and sanctity of unborn, innocent human life."

The archbishop called the measure an "unjust and perverse law" and pointed out that in the last several months pro-life advocates in the state had "worked tirelessly to spread the truth about Proposal 3, imploring voters to make an informed decision at the ballot box."

"I offer my deepfelt gratitude to all who prayed, spread awareness, voted and otherwise worked against this proposal," he said, "and I share in their sorrow at the outcome."

He asked Catholics to join him in prayer about this issue and to renew their "commitment to accompanying women and families in need, with greater resolve than ever," pledging to "continue our efforts to build a culture of life in which abortion is unthinkable, all families receive the support they

need, and the dignity of all people is recognized."

In October, the Michigan Catholic Conference released a letter to Catholics in the state urging them to reject Proposal 3 and describing the measure as "the most extreme proposal concerning abortion this state or country has ever seen."

The measure, also known as the Reproductive Freedom for All Amendment, modifies the state's constitution to remove restrictions on abortion in the state and eliminate other pro-life laws.

"As citizens and pastors in Michigan, we call your attention to an immense threat to the dignity of human life on this November's ballot," the bishops wrote, pleading with Catholics to vote against it.

The California Catholic Conference had similarly urged Catholics to vote against that state's abortion measure called Proposition 1.

On its website, the Catholic conference — which is the public policy arm of the state's bishops — said the measure "would enshrine the explicit right to abortion in our state constitution, setting a nationwide precedent. It is the most egregious expansion of abortion this country has ever seen."

It also said the measure was the first time in California when "voters are being asked to vote for unrestricted late-term abortion, ending any real chance for California to protect unborn life in future laws."

In Vermont, voters passed Article 22, also called the Reproductive Liberty Amendment, to protect "personal reproductive autonomy" for people of any age.

The measure came to the state's voters after state legislators passed a law in 2019 guaranteeing "reproductive rights." After the Dobbs decision, the measure's supporters said the constitutional amendment was needed to provide more protections for abortion.

In September, Bishop Christopher J. Coyne of Burlington, Vermont, wrote to Catholics in the state urging them to vote against the abortion measure and instead to promote laws and policies that "directly confront the reasons why people choose to have an abortion."

ADIRONDACK-FRANKLIN

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Lake Placid – St. Agnes School to have a Christmas Bazaar.

Date: Dec. 3

Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Features: This is a great event to fill all of your holiday needs and get in the spirit of Christmas! There will be baked goods, gifts, toys, crafts, wreaths, trees, holiday plants and lots of wonderful raffle and silent auction items.

Contact: Vendor space is available. Please call or email St. Agnes School at 518-523-3771 or info@stagneslp.org.

DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR

St. Regis Falls – All are invited to the monthly first Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour for Vocations.

Date: First Saturday of the Month

Time: Following the 4:30 anticipated Mass

Place: St. Ann's Church

Features: Prayer after Mass, Night Prayer, Prayer for All Souls and the Holy Souls, Novena in Honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, The Reparation Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary with private meditation on the 15 Mysteries of the Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament reposed in the Tabernacle, and Prayers for the Holy Father and his intentions.

CLINTON

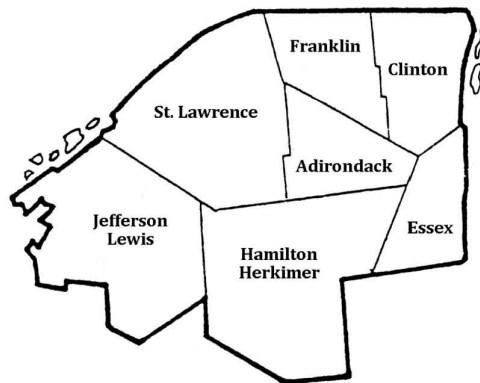
HOUSE SITTERS

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

Time: The responsibility is to arrive by 10 a.m. on your chosen day(s) and remain on premises until 4 p.m. to welcome visitors.

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

Contact: If interested in volunteering for one day a month, or week, or more, please call Sarah Anderson at 518-534-9976.



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.

FABULOUS FALL CRAFT FAIR

Chazy – Sacred Heart Church to have a fall craft fair.

Date: Nov. 19

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

Place: Sacred Heart Parish Center

Features: Great craft festival with many craft vendors from New York and Vermont. Hot lunches, baked items, silent auction. Handicapped Accessible and Free Admission.

Contact: For more info contact Sharon Nephew 518-493-2914.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

ST. MARY'S FALL FUNDRAISER

Copenhagen – St. Mary's Church to have a raffle fundraiser.

Date: Drawing Nov. 20

Cost: Tickets are \$10 each or 6 for \$50

Features: Prizes include Cash (2 at \$500 each), Pack Basket (\$350 Value), Card/Cash Tree (\$400 Value), Folding Picnic Table (\$100 Value), Shop Local Gift Cards (\$255 Value), Simmons Farm Gift Certificate (\$350 Value), Wally's Auto Group Gift Basket (\$100 Value), Red Barn Meats Gift Certificate (\$100 Value), Quilt (\$300 Value), Afghan (\$100 Value), Bird House (\$250 Value), Lotto Tree (\$100 Value), Fire Pit (\$200 Value). Must be 18 years or older to purchase tickets.

Contact: For tickets spend payment to St. Mary's Church, PO Box 12, Copenhagen, NY 13626

HEALING PRAYER SERVICE

Watertown – Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and the Missionaries of the Sa-

cred Heart would like to invite everyone to a Healing Prayer Service, an evening of healing of: mind, body, and spirit.

Date: Dec. 1

Time: 5 p.m.

Place: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Features: The evening will begin with adoration and reflection. The night then will provide an opportunity for individual confession and anointing with the oil of the sick. The evening will conclude with Benediction. Healing prayer services are a powerful means of bringing God's healing power into the lives of those who are suffering from illness, physical disabilities, grief, fear, and mental or spiritual health issues. Starting a healing prayer service can meet these needs through the power of prayer that brings the gift of healing into the lives of others by connecting to God's loving presence.

HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY

Houseville – A Holy Hour of Adoration with the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be observed the first Sunday of the month.

Date: Dec. 4

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – The Indian River Knights of Columbus 7471 will be having a spaghetti and meatball din-

ner.

Date: Dec. 10

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$8; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free; Sauce, \$6 per quart

Menu: Includes spaghetti & meatballs, salad, bread, beverage and dessert.

ST. LAWRENCE

HOLY HOUR

Canton – Holy Hour for Vocations to be held.

Date: Every Tuesday

Time: 4:10 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: Holy hour followed by Mass at 5:15 p.m. and confessions at 5:45 p.m.

ROSARY FOR LIFE

Canton – Rosary for life to be held.

Date: Every Saturday

Time: 4:25 p.m. preceding the 5 p.m. Vigil Mass

Place: St. Mary's Church

ADORATION

Norwood – St. Andrew's Church to offer Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday.

Time: After 8:30 a.m. Mass until Noon

Features: Sign up is not needed.

ORGAN RECITAL

Ogdensburg – Organ Recital with Christine Bookman to be held.

Date: Nov. 27

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: There is no cost to attend. Come hear Mrs. Christine Bookman on both the new organ as well as the antique Steinway.

Contact: For more information, contact the Parish office at 315-393-3930.

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

Date: Dec. 3

Time: 8 a.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

Features: Rosary with devotions

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

Massena – Sacred Heart Church to have first Saturday Rosary Devotion.

Date: Dec. 3

Time: 3:15 p.m.

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

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Massena – First Saturday of the month, men's prayer group to meet for Mass and Adoration.

Date: Dec. 3

Time: 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: Coffee and donuts after service in the parish center

Contact: Bob Brothers at 315-842-2886

MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

Date: Dec. 11 (Second Sunday of each month)

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 11:30

Place: Fr. Amyot Parish Center

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

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

DIOCESAN EVENTS

MEN'S DISCERNMENT GROUPS

Are you discerning how God is calling you to serve Him with your life? Are you between the ages of 18 and 40 and open to God's plan for you? Have you ever considered priesthood or religious life? Men's Discernment Group is for you!

Schedule: Plattsburgh Discernment Group – Nov. 28 at 6 p.m. at St. John XXIII Newman Center Facilitator: Deacon Brent Davison bdavison71@westelcom.com or 518-563-0730; Potsdam Discernment Group – Nov. 26 at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Parish Rectory Facilitator: Connor Cummings campusministrism@gmail.com or 315-783-5477; Watertown Discernment Group – Nov. 26 at 11 a.m. at St. Patrick's Parish Center Facilitator: Father Matt Conger mconger@rcdony.org or 315-323-8151

LOVING AUTHENTICALLY

All are invited to attend this free seminar designed to deepen our understanding of how Church doctrine on sexual morality connects with our

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Book envisions Austen as modern life coach

By Nancy L. Roberts
Catholic News Service

"Jane Austen's *Genius Guide to Life: On Love, Friendship, and Becoming the Person God Created You to Be*" by Haley Stewart. Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame, Indiana, 2022). 160 pp., \$16.95.

If you're surprised by the idea of Jane Austen as a life coach, don't be. After all, the Jane Austen Society of North America has at least 81 regional groups devoted to the writer that host regular book discussions, workshops and celebrations of her birthday.

The timelessness of works such as "Pride and Prejudice," "Sense and Sensibility" and "Emma" speaks to their author's deep understanding of human vulnerabilities.

Now Haley Stewart, a Catholic writer and podcaster, unpacks the practical and spiritual wisdom that Austen offers in her six novels. Lively and informative, "Jane Austen's Genius Guide to Life" gives a uniquely Catholic perspective on the British writer's exploration of human relationships.

For example, Stewart

writes that the character Emma Woodhouse "fails to recognize either the shortcomings of those who flatter her or the potential of friends who might challenge her to improve. She judges others not according to their merits but according to how much they admire and agree with her."

This self-centeredness leads Emma to reject friendship with Jane Fairfax, a "beautiful and accomplished" orphan, for fear that the woman might "outshine her."

The takeaway from Emma's story is that we should strive not to let jealousy and vanity stop us from reaching out to others. As Stewart observes, "Humility is always the turning point in our journey toward virtue."

In "Mansfield Park," Austen deals squarely with the conflict between reality and appearance. An attractive exterior may not necessarily be good -- and it may not match the character of the interior.

In this novel, Edmund Bertram finds himself unable to resist the charms of a beautiful

married woman, and, after hesitating, this leads him to participate in a little home play with her that also involves other young men as well as his young sisters.

This happens while his father is away and it has the potential to create a scandal, because it was then considered unseemly for young women to have such close, unsupervised contact with young men they hardly knew.

Because Edmund "is bamboozled by charm -- he does not have the moral strength and courage to stay committed to the right course of action under pressure from others." But the quiet Fanny Price, whom Stewart describes as the story's "moral compass," declines to participate, showing the importance of the virtue of constancy.

As Stewart observes, each of Austen's novels wittily examines common human vices -- and their antidote virtues. Thus "Pride and Prejudice" explores "the consequences of intemperance (Lydia and Wickham), folly (Mr. Bennet and Mrs. Bennet) and

selfishness (Caroline Bingley)." The cure for pride, according to Austen, is humility.

Another lesson from Austen the life coach teaches the importance of prudence. For instance, Mrs. Jennings in "Sense and Sensibility" means well but doesn't recognize that others might be more sensitive than she is to teasing behavior.

And the "lack of a moral imagination" by Catherine of "Northanger Abbey" prevents her from seeing that others may be far more "false, manipulative or conniving" than her own good character allows her to imagine.

Stewart rightly recommends reading "Persuasion," the last and most mature of Austen's finished novels, last. Here you'll encounter the beloved character Anne Elliott, who models the virtue of fortitude.

Life's slights could have made her angry and bitter, but she chooses to endure her disappointments with grace. She remains open and compassionate toward others, with a strong sense of self.

Stewart likens Anne's courage to that of early Christian martyrs. While she "is not at risk of execution in the Colosseum by wild beasts," nevertheless Anne is "afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed" (2 Cor 4:8-9).

This little gem of a book is thoroughly engaging with wide appeal, including to those who have never even cracked a Jane Austen novel.

An appendix gives pithy plot and character summaries for each of the novels. Another appendix briefly reviews the many film adaptations that have been inspired by Austen's books. There are also suggestions for further reading and extensive footnotes.

For each chapter, an appendix includes several useful group discussion questions. These reflect Stewart's wide-ranging background and include thoughtful references and comparisons with Flannery O'Connor, St. Thérèse of Lisieux and others.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12
happiness.

Schedule: 4 different times and locations to attend. Nov. 19, 2022 at St. Mary's Massena; Feb. 12, 2023 at Newman Center, Plattsburgh; April 22, 2023 at St. Bernard's Saranac Lake; May 20, 2023 at St. Mary's Ticonderoga.

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

Features: Program will be a showing of "Unprotected: A Pope, the Pill, and the Perils of Sexual Chaos." With Q & A led by Natural Family Planning Directors, Angelo and

Suzanne Pietropaoli and Catholic Theologian, Maura Hearden Fehrlin, Ph.D.

Contact: to register go www.rcdony.org/lovingauthentically. For more information contact Stephen Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org

YOUTH BUSES FOR LIFE

Washington DC -- Travel to DC with other Highschool students for the Youth Bus for Life Pilgrimage to join in the 50th March for Life.

Date: Jan. 19 -- 21, 2023

Cost: \$150 includes transportation, two hotel nights and 5 meals.

Features: Pick up locations: Potsdam, Gouverneur and Watertown.

Contact: Visit



www.rcdony.org/pro-life to view complete itinerary and to register.

Contact the Respect Life office with questions.

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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Considering the end time

Our readings today are all about the end of time. Malachi speaks of the end-time as a “blazing oven.”

Evil doers will be set on fire, while the sun of justice will cause the just to rise to glory.

In 2nd Thessalonians, only those who persevere in good works and eat quietly will experience a merciful judgement.

There will be turmoil among the nations, earthquakes and famine. What are we to do?

We must depend on the Holy Spirit to give us the right words to say. Dissension between families and hatred from many sides will occur.

“By perseverance you will secure your lives.”

In the present time, we see all of these signs of the end time happening.

November 13

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Malachi, 3: 19-20a
2 Thessalonians 3:7-12
Luke 21:5-19

We wonder if these things mean we're close to God's final judgement.

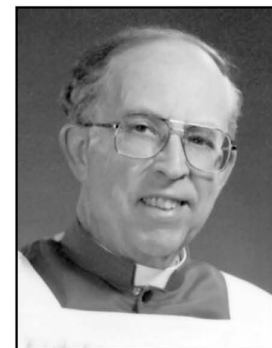
So, what can we do? Today's readings give us many instructions – con-

tinuing to witness to the Gospel, working for secure justice and peace, keeping all God's commandments, forgiving, forgiving, forgiving.

Advent is fast approaching. What a good season for us to follow daily its message.

Advent brings joy within the sacrifice and discipline it offers.

It may be later than we think.



Msgr. Paul E. Whitmore

CALLED TO SERVE

Do you want to preach today?

Father and I were processing to the opening hymn at the start of Mass one day many moons ago when he interrupted his enthusiastic singing by throwing a question in my direction.

“Do you want to preach today?”

I was ordained a dea-

con a little over a year prior to this event. Bishop LaValley had granted me the faculty – that's what permission is called – to preach at the Sunday liturgy only a month or so before.

“Do you want to preach today?”

Little beads of sweat

started to form on the back of my neck. A panic attack was imminent. All my spiritual preparation for the celebration of the Word and Eucharist was replaced by immediate fear.

In the time it took to sing two more measures, my mind was racing to remember the readings and fashion some sort of message of hope for this congregation that expected and deserved more than I was going to be able to conjure.

“Do you want to preach today?” I had not answered yet. Our procession was half-way to the sanctuary.

Three years of preparation to preach had taken place in formation for the diaconate. My instructor had repeated over and over that a good homily was the fruit of prayer, study and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Every homily required time to choose the right message, fashion the text and review it over and over.

Several months of “practice preaching” in other locations occurred

before I was deemed ready to preach to my home parish congregation. Each new homily had been submitted to my priest mentor in advance of delivery. Every homily I preached during this pre-season period was critiqued by people in the various congregations.

My priest mentor and my pastor had to tell our bishop in writing that I was ready. He considered their recommendations and, if necessary, chatted with other people before deciding whether to grant the faculty or not.

The bottom line is that a really good homily takes time to prepare, reading and re-reading the scripture texts, silent prayer and inspiration.

Coming from the pastor, the question was more like a statement. “Do you want to preach today?” really meant “You will preach today.”

“Sure,” I whispered between words of the opening song.

Father nodded.

We bowed at the entrance to the sanctuary. I was operating purely by memory because my mind was considering, rejecting, accepting and formatting the homily I would preach in ten minutes.

Then, as the celebrant and I kissed the altar, I spotted the little smile he always adds to a “gotcha.” It is my friend's tell.

We reached the chairs and bent over to pick-up our hymnals for the final verse of the processional hymn. We faced each other. Father winked and said, “On second thought, I'll preach.”

Relief. But I was a little disappointed. In that minute or two I had come up with a pretty good idea, I thought. Father's homily, as usual, was way better.

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

JOB OPENING

Family Support Coordinator

The Diocese of Ogdensburg is seeking **Family Support Coordinators** to work at **Seton Catholic, Plattsburgh, NY**. The Family Support Coordinator will support *Healthy Families for a Hopeful Future* promoting healthy family lifestyles and choices. The Family Support Coordinators will assist students and families through an array of services that build healthy relationships and strengthens family engagement practices including parental support, efforts to coordinate and provide access to enhanced health, education, social and emotional well-being of youth and families. Bachelor's degree in childhood education, human services or related field. Prior experience as a Family Support Coordinator of youth and/or families is desirable. Strong communication and organizational skills are a must.

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.

Missionary sister, now free, awes with courage

The following is an unsigned editorial published on the website of Catholic New York, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of New York. It is printed here courtesy of Catholic News Services.



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

It takes a special kind of person to become a missionary, to leave the familiarity and comforts of home to serve others in far-off developing lands where, at best, you may not be welcome or, at worst, may be targeted by rebel groups or gangs.

Marianite Sister Suellen Tennyson, an 83-year-old native of New Orleans, is one such special person, and we're in awe of her courage and strength.

Sister Suellen was based for nearly 10 years at a medical mission in northern Burkina Faso, a country where security has markedly deteriorated in recent years with armed gangs causing fear

and havoc.

Despite that, the nun remained at her post until last April, when she was abducted by a group of armed Muslim men who pulled her from her bed, blindfolded and gagged her and held her for five months in a forest deep in West Africa.

She did not know where she was nor why she was taken, nor does she know why she was suddenly released in neighboring Niger to the custody of the FBI and American diplomatic personnel.

"I had many conversations with God" during captivity, she said.

"Prayer sustained me."

Aside from the loss of her freedom and the stress of loneliness and isolation, she was not tortured or overtly mistreated by her captors. In one instance, in fact, one of the men noticed she had a cut on her toe and surprisingly began washing her foot.

"I'm sitting there, and this Muslim man is washing my feet. And I said, 'God, is something going on here?' It was like God was using him in some kind of way. I was just taken aback," Sister Suellen said in a Sept. 13 interview with the Clar-

ion Herald, newspaper of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, and picked up by Catholic News Service.

It is not clear whether Sister Suellen was targeted because she is an American or because she is a churchwoman.

Certainly, Christian clergy and other church personnel – including local clergy – have suffered in places plagued by civil unrest.

In Cameroon, for instance, a predominantly Christian country in West Africa, the church is a frequent target. Priests, bishops and seminarians have been kidnapped and released and a church was set ablaze last week in a separatist war that's been raging since 2016.

One of those kidnapped and released, Bishop Michael Bibi of Buea, told CNS that the church will continue to do God's work, despite the challenges. The

priests, he said, "will never abandon the people of Christ."

Sister Suellen, speaking from New Orleans where she returned quietly Aug. 31, expressed gratitude that her life was spared and for the invisible actions of the uncounted people who prayed and worked for her release.

"That's what I want to say, 'Thank you to all these people,'" she said. "I am truly humbled by all of this. And the only way I can say thank you is 'thank you.'"

A beautiful sentiment, but we are the ones who are humbled. And we are the ones who say, again, we're awed by her courage and strength – and the humility and dedication we've seen in so many missionaries over the years.

They're the ones giving witness to Christ. They're the ones who deserve our thanks.

OBITUARIES

Carthage – Joyce A. Thesier, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 10, 2022 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Chateaugay – Christine M. Walfield LaDuke, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 11, 2022 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Chazy – Deborah D. (Tallman) Mesec, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 7, 2022 at Sacred Heart Church.

Gabriels – Joan M. (Mose) Corrow, 82; Graveside services Nov. 11, 2022 at Mountain View Cemetery.

Ellenburg – Thomas J. Grogan, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 11, 2022 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in Town of Ellenburg Mausoleum.

Lowville – Joan M. (Bush) McVoy, 81; Funeral Services Nov. 14, 2022 at Iseneker Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in

Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lowville – Gordon C. Simmons, 98; Funeral Services Nov. 12, 2022 at Sundquist Funeral Home; burial in Riverside Cemetery, Copenhagen.

Malone – Anthony Allen LaMondie, 32; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 11, 2022 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. John Bosco Cemetery.

Massena – Pauline A. (Landon) Miller, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 9, 2022 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Waddington.

Massena – Francs Adrian Taraska, 86; Funeral Services Nov. 7, 2022 at Phillips Memorial Home.

Norwood – Cherry L. (Matthie) Hennessy, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 8, 2022 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Norwood – Lawrence E. "Larry" LaPoint, 69; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 10, 2022 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Gene L. Love, 87; Funeral Services Nov. 8, 2022 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Peru – Heidi L. (Reyell) Boggs, 50; Funeral Services Nov. 11, 2022 at Hamilton Funeral Home.

Plattsburgh – Douglas P. Begor, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 8, 2022 at Our Lady of Victory Church.

Plattsburgh – Dorothy A. (Burdo) Giroux, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 9, 2022 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Sackets Harbor – Theodore M. Eckhoff, 77; Private Services to be held; burial in Sanford Corners Cemetery,

Calcium.

Saranac Lake – Kent S. Robinson, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 11, 2022 at St. Bernard's Church.

Ticonderoga – Blanche E. Fosco, 101; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 7, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's parish cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Louella H. (Clark) LaClair, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 11, 2022 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Watertown – Barbara (Neverett) Phillips, 85; Funeral Services to be held at a later date.

West Chazy – Earl R. Parker, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 14, 2022 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

West Leyden – Jane A. (Barton) Ernest, 90; Funeral Services Nov. 6, 2022 at Trainor Funeral Home, Inc., Boonville.

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COLORFUL FOR A CAUSE

On Saturday, October 15, St. Agnes School in Lake Placid held a Color Fun Run, a fundraiser for the Missionary Childhood Association. In a color run, volunteers toss a powdered color on participants at various spots throughout the run course.



BUILDING Our Mission to the Missions

The Black and Indian Mission Collection (BIMC) exists to help diocesan communities to build up the Church and preach the Gospel of Jesus among the African American, Native American, and Alaska Native people of God.

Every year, it is the amazing generosity of Catholic faithful, just like you, who enable the Black and Indian Mission Office to support the following important priorities:

Enlivening Parish Life & Catechesis

Grant funds from the BIMC support parish-based catechetical programs, which form and train catechists who form children to be disciples of Jesus in the world and who put bibles and catechisms in kids' hands so they can learn the ways of the Lord and take their place around his altar.



Empowering Evangelizers

BIMC grant funds support African American and Native American ministries to sponsor events and formation that encourage living the Christian life in culturally appropriate ways. The religious sisters shown here, serve Native American Catholic communities across the United States.



Helping Educators Reach Kids

With your contribution to the BIMC, you will help support the placement of good teachers to educate African American and Native American children. In 2021, your generous donation reached over 5,000 students in more than 400 schools and parishes across the United States.



Encouraging Vocations

The church needs men and women to answer the call to the consecrated life and offer their witness as radical disciples of Jesus Christ. We need priests in order to have the Eucharist! Supporting the BIMC enables us to help encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life in African American and Native American communities across the country.



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