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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 76 Number 44

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 23, 2022

Follow me: A model of faith, courage

Bishop Terry R. LaValley shares his homily from the Solemnity of St. Joseph, celebrated March 19 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse.

"When Joseph found out his betrothed was with child, his first thought was of protecting Mary from shame. After the angel of the Lord appeared to him and spoke to him of the destiny of Mary's child, Joseph responded obediently, taking "his wife into his home" and caring for both mother and child. Each one of us must discover within our own hearts the truth of how we would and do react to the mysterious ways of God."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

RITE OF ELECTION



Candidates, those who were baptized but did not celebrate First Communion and/or confirmation, were welcomed at the Rite of Election, held March 13 at St. Mary's Cathedral. The candidates are pictured with their sponsors, individuals aiding them through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). See additional photos on Page 8.

SEARCHER FINDS HOME



Kathy Falge of Watertown says she's been "searching" for her spiritual home her entire life. Baptized Catholic as an infant, her journey took her through a number of faith traditions before God called her home to the Catholic Church. She's been participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) in preparation for First Communion and confirmation at the Easter Vigil.

FULL STORY, PAGE 7

Pope: 'No justification' for war on Ukraine

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis again condemned Russia's war on Ukraine, calling it a "senseless massacre" and "sacrilegious" attack on human life.

"Sadly, the violent aggression against Ukraine does not stop, a senseless massacre where each day slaughter and atrocities are repeated," the pope said March 20 after reciting the midday Angelus prayer with visitors in St. Peter's Square.

"There is no justification

for this!" he told an estimated 30,000 people who had come to the square to pray with him.

Pope Francis once again urged international leaders to work together to put an end "to this repugnant war."

Since Russia invaded Ukraine Feb. 24, missiles and bombs have continued to fall "on civilians, the elderly, children and pregnant mothers," he said.

"I went to see the wounded children here in

Rome. One of them is missing an arm, the other has a head wound," he said. That happened to "innocent children."

The pope had gone March 19 to the Vatican-owned Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital where some 50 Ukrainian children had been cared for since the war began. Initially, the Vatican said, most of the young Ukrainian patients were brought to Rome for treatment for cancer, neurological or other diseases.

More recently, it said, the hospital has been providing care for those injured in the war.

Pope Francis also drew attention to the almost 3.4 million people who have fled Ukraine, according to the U.N. Refugee Agency.

"And I feel great sorrow for those who don't even have the chance to escape," he said.

"So many grandparents, sick and poor, are separated from their families," the pope said; "so many

children and fragile people are left to die under the bombs without receiving help and without finding safety even in air-raid shelters," some of which have been bombed.

"All this is inhuman," he said. "Indeed, it is even sacrilegious, because it goes against the sanctity of human life, especially against defenseless human life, which must be respected and protected, not eliminated, and which comes before any strategy!"

NORTH
COUNTRY
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A lesson from musical theater

He doesn't love musicals, but he loves his family.

While I'm the kind of person who will randomly start singing when someone says something that makes me think of a song lyric, my husband does not have that habit. He likes music, especially music he grew up with, but he doesn't think breaking into song and dance is a normal part of life.

Musical theater isn't exactly his "thing."

I love theater. I love watching well-produced musicals live. Prior to this year, I had traveled to see shows with my sister, friends, my mother-in-law and Jake, my

son.

When our favorite theater in Syracuse announced its Broadway lineup for the 2021-22 season, I immediately wanted season tickets.

Jake wanted to go to the shows. My in-laws wanted to go to the shows. Adam decided he'd join us for the shows.

He's joined us for two of the three shows that have been staged so far (we made the third show a girls' day out). While he said he had a good time at those shows, I'm pretty confident going to shows still isn't Adam's favorite pastime.

So why does he go?



**Darcy L.
Fargo**

Adam believes in creating memories and living experiences with his family. He's willing to sacrifice his free time and his money (traveling to Syracuse and attending shows involves cost) out of love.

Of all the things Adam does for our family, attending musical theater may seem like a small thing, but it's a big thing to me. It's a testament to his love. Sacrifice is part of love.

I was thinking about Adam's willingness to subject himself to something he doesn't enjoy as we drove back from Syracuse after a show Saturday ("Hamilton" was fantastic, by the way). It seemed appropriate for this season of Lent.

In Lent, we focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving. At

least two of those – fasting and almsgiving – are sacrificial. We sacrifice food and funds. Sacrificing isn't exactly fun or enjoyable.

While those sacrifices can help us spiritually in a variety of ways, we sacrifice to step outside of ourselves and our needs and to move our focus to the Lord. We sacrifice because we love our Lord and want to grow closer to Him.

I sometimes struggle with Lent. I focus on what I'm giving up and not on what I'm gaining, a better relationship with the Lord. A Saturday of musical theater with my husband who dislikes musicals reminded me where to put my focus.

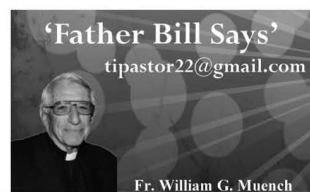
I can dislike sacrifice, but I love the Lord enough to do it.

'True humility frees us'

The Scripture readings at the Masses during Lent are like old friends. At the weekday Masses of Lent, they are the same each year. So, each day during Lent, we are drawn into a meditation, a meditation that challenged us last year and the very same readings at Mass as last year – and the years before.

Recently, I remembered this so well when I noticed the Gospel reading that was proclaimed at the daily Mass during the Second Week of Lent. The reading was from Matthew's Gospel. Jesus is criticizing the scribes and Pharisees while teaching the people. I must admit that this reading is a cause for me, as a priest, to stop and consider my own life carefully.

Jesus says as he is teaching, "that the scribes and Pharisees have taken their place on the chair of Moses. Therefore, the people should do and observe all things what so-ever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice... All their



works are performed to be seen." As you can see, these words of Jesus present a real challenge for me as a priest, for I preach in the name of the Lord. My life must demonstrate my faith and understanding of the message of the Lord.

This same Gospel reading goes on to teach us to realize that as followers of Jesus, Our Savior, we are called to become real disciples of the Lord by living truly humble lives as our Lord did. Jesus teaches this, "The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, but whoever humbles himself with be exalted."

So, today, lets us talk about humility. Too often, many think of humility wrongly as not feeling great about our-

selves. True humility is not feeling bad about yourself or having a low opinion of yourself or even thinking of yourself as inferior to all others.

True humility frees us from preoccupation with ourselves. Humility is the truth in understanding ourselves – truth in action. Humility is viewing ourselves honestly, seeing ourselves as God sees us. There are times when I say the perfect thing. There are times when I do the right thing. But I know only too well that their times when I am a sinner, there are times when I hurt others, there are times when I need the Lord to guide me to change so much in my life, and there are so many times when I need to find forgiveness, times when I must repent, times when I must change. At such times I must learn to be humble just as Jesus taught and as Jesus lived.

Humility helps us to be teachable so we can acquire true knowledge, wisdom, and an honest view of the reality of just who we are. I remem-

ber so well being shown what a gift it is to be teachable, to be a student who is open and receptive, sympathetic and willing to learn and understand. This can be difficult. We refuse to be humble, not ready to truly recognize what kind of follower of Jesus that we are, when we refuse to see ourselves honestly. When we understand the message of the Savior, we are ready to be transformed, ready to make ourselves a disciple – making ourselves ready to make our world all that is should and can be. Humility frees us to love and serve others willingly and selflessly for their own sake rather than for mine.

The model of humility is our Lord, Jesus. When we are close to the Lord, Jesus gives us his heart – the heart of a servant who seeks the good of others and put their interest first in his care and concern. May Jesus set me free from the tyranny of selfish pride and teach me to be humble and to love others generously.

FOLLOW ME

A model of persevering faith, courage, hope

Editor's Note: The Following is Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily for the Solemnity of St. Joseph, delivered at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse.

Well, the Year of St. Joseph has come to a close. I want to thank the members of this community who have contributed greatly by your prayers and by the spiritual insights you've offered in our *North Country Catholic*. Thank you for your support of our diocesan efforts to enhance our devotion to St. Joseph during the Holy Year dedicated to him, albeit somewhat muted due to the pandemic.

We've been urged to "look to Joseph" for guidance and support in all our difficulties and in the challenges we face. We appreciate Joseph's total giving of self in fulfilling the call from God to be the husband of Mary despite the questions he must have considered and the obstacles he had to face.

"Joseph, son of David, **do not be afraid** to take Mary your wife into your home." Don't be afraid?? How can this be? It doesn't make sense. I had no relations with her. What will my family, friends, neighbors think? Where will we live? When? Now? Right now? Joseph's strong faith simply wouldn't allow him to become paralyzed by not having all the answers to the important questions that must have surfaced in his heart and mind.

"Do not be afraid." The ability to provide for loved ones is a real fear among our people today. During this pandemic haven't we learned to value even more the fragility of livelihood. We've seen the lines of cars with families waiting to receive food. We know of joblessness, poverty, loneliness, lack of timely health care.

People are anxious, afraid that basic needs may not be

met in the future, particularly considering severe inflation and escalating energy costs. We've seen truly heroic acts of charity and generosity during the pandemic. I've seen it with the recent tragic fire when almost one hundred residents had to flee their homes at a housing unit in Ogdensburg. In my visits to the residents staying at Wadhams, I could feel their fear and uncertainty about their very livelihood. Fear is real!

Sisters, you know well Joseph's story of strong faith and determination to do God's will, even when he didn't have the answers to vital questions. Joseph placed his heart and all his abilities at the service of his God and his family. Let us not become paralyzed by the difficulties we encounter at this time in our lives, in the life of this religious community, in the life of the Church and, indeed let us not become paralyzed given the condition of our world where there are no clear solutions on the radar screen. We simply cannot become immobilized because things are changing and we might feel helpless because no ready-made answers are available to us.

When Joseph found out his betrothed was with child, his first thought was of protecting Mary from shame. After the angel of the Lord appeared to him and spoke to him of the destiny of Mary's child, Joseph responded obediently, taking "his wife into his home" and caring for both mother and child. Each one of us must discover within our own hearts the truth of how we would and do react to the mysterious ways of God.

The reactions of those closest to the Incarnation

on that Christmas Day so long ago illustrate that the way of faith, obedience and humility leads to life and inner peace.

Even through Joseph's fears, God's will, His plan was at work. Joseph teaches us that faith in God includes believing that He can work even through our fears, our frailties, and our unanswered questions. He also teaches us that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we either are immobilized and do nothing, or we feel that we must be in complete control. We forget that God always sees the bigger picture and He is always with us.

Today I might experience a fear that is seemingly beyond my control: threat of nuclear war, high cost of gasoline, resettlement challenges in the Ukraine's neighboring nations—their ability to receive refugees and its impact on the nation, inflation, Communist expansionism—these are all real fears harbored by many among us. We feel

helpless.

There is also a fear where I can maybe have some impact and make a difference: COVID, People returning to Church, the faith of our youth, vocations in the Church, Religious communities' future heritage and legacy. A reality check tells us that we cannot, we must not hold on to the mantra: "That's the way we've always done it." Holding on to that mentality for dear life, threatens to strangle, to squeeze the vibrancy, the life right out of our changing parishes and religious communities.

Three times in the first two chapters of St. Matthew's Gospel, Joseph receives instructions from an angel in a dream. Can you imagine trusting that God's will has just been revealed to you in a dream? That Joseph had such clarity is an indication that he was a profoundly spiritual man. He had the humility and quietude in his heart to discern God's will. He possessed the humility and quiet to become a courageous father who made the totality of his life one of sacrifice to the mystery of the incarnation and its redemptive purpose.

The man who helped to

raise Jesus walks with us on this journey of faith. Joseph's steadfast trust in God and his patience with God's plan prepared him for events that he did not foresee or understand. St. Joseph is a model of persevering faith, courage, and hope. With prayers of trusting abandonment, we confidently look to this carpenter who took the Child and His Mother on the perilous journey to Egypt and back. And so, if I could, I'd like to conclude with a prayer I prayed throughout the Year of St. Joseph and continue to find helpful when fear lurks its ugly head in my life.

Joseph, you were a man who carried into the dark of anxious sleep the haunting mystery of deep, unsettled doubt. But yet, within, and all untouched, your citadel of trust was calm, serene and still and flamed your unstarred night into the answering of dawn in God's unchanging will. O carpenter of faith, build our inwardness into a city lamped with trust; and when we, too, must face the nights and tread the desert's way, let us, like you, take Mother and Child into the Egypt of each day.

AMEN.



Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley

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Mission of Hope raises funds to aid Ukraine

By Mary Beth Bracy
Contributing Writer

PLATTSBURGH— “I just got off the phone with our assistant manager,” shared Sister Debbie Blow, OP, executive director and co-founder of the North Country Mission of Hope (NCMOH). “In one week and two days we have already collected almost \$25,000 (for Ukrainian refugees). \$11,000 went last week, \$12,000 is going today. We’re trying to do it in clumps of a few thousand at a time. This situation in the Ukraine is not going to be a sprint, this is going to be a marathon. There is going to be disastrous need for a long time, whether that’s food and medicines, or medical care for young mothers. Whatever those needs are, we’re continuing the collection for as long as it needs to be.”

Deacon James Carlin, president of NCMOH’s Board of Directors, explained how the organization became involved in assisting with relief efforts in the Ukraine.

“While the main area of focus for the North Coun-



Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate in New York prepare items to be sent to one of the community’s convents in Ukraine or Poland. North Country Mission of Hope is working with the community to distribute aid to sisters caring for refugees in those nations.

try Mission of Hope has been those in need in Nicaragua, we have always reached out into other areas of great need, whether that need is a result of natural or man-made occurrences,” he said. “Sister Debbie and many of our board members have a vast network of contacts around the United States and the world, which allow us the opportunity to provide

direct aid and assistance where and when it’s needed. In the case of Ukraine, we have a direct contact who works with sisters serving in Ukraine, and thus we have the ability to get funds directly to them through their Convent in New York.”

NCMOH was able to establish connections on the ground in Ukraine through one of its board members.

“One of our board members, Holly Borzacchiello, who was also assistant treasurer for our congregation for many years, is now working for multiple religious organizations as part of her job, and one of the groups that she’s working with are the Ukrainian sisters, the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate,” Sister Debbie added. “So, I had started receiving a multitude of emails or phone calls saying ‘Sister, are you able to get someone, are you going to do a collection for the Mission of Hope, what do you need, etc.’”

LEARN MORE & GET INVOLVED

For more information or to send donations for the Ukraine, please contact:

North Country Mission of Hope
3452 State Route 22
Peru, NY 12972

Office: 518-643-5572

Cell: 518-572-4246

Email: info@ncmissionofhope.org

Email: dshope2@charter.net

ON THE WEB

Website: ncmissionofhope.org

Instagram: @NCMissionofHope

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PayPal: North Country Mission of Hope

Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate: ssmi.org

Sister Debbie said the Plattsburgh organization also considered sending goods to Ukraine via a container shipment.

“That’s not off the table, but right now it’s on the back burner,” she said. “And the reason for that is, no matter how well intentioned people are, if you don’t have someone that’s going to do that networking in another country, that’s just going to either be pilfered or sit in a warehouse and not get to the people that you intended. We saw that happen in Haiti and we saw that happen in Puerto Rico. So, that’s why we only ship if we have actual people on the ground and we can follow it from beginning to end.”

NCMOH was inspired to raise funds, Deacon Carlin noted, because of their mission statement.

“We say: ‘The North Country Mission of Hope is a nonprofit corporation committed to fostering hope and empowering relationships with people by supporting local,

national or global areas impacted by disasters and poverty.’ It is at the core of what the North Country Mission of Hope is and does,” Deacon Carlin said.

As the situation in Ukraine unfolded, Sister Debbie said NCMOH worked with its partners to evaluate needs.

“In this case, what was most needed immediately were funds,” she said. “The Ukrainian sisters have 20 convents on both the western coast of Ukraine and near Poland, and they had already begun accepting refugees, orphans, and women and children. So, the sisters in Southern New York have a direct link to the sisters there and had a way that they could actually wire it directly to their bank account. Knowing that our friend Holly had already vetted the sisters, because she works for them and we had already been in contact with them, it was a win-win, we could get the funds there immediately, and we can be sure that the funds are going to be used for what is intended.”

NCMOH’s ability to collect funding and resources for individuals in need around the nation and world is attributable to the kindness and caring of North Country residents, Deacon Carlin said.

“North Country residents desire to make a difference,” he said. “Throughout the 23-year history of the NCMOH, we have time and time again been astonished at the generosity and love of the people of the North Country. Even before we were able to speak to the mission board about

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



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Funds to aid Ukraine

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

doing something for Ukraine, people were calling and emailing the Mission office asking what we were going to do and how could they help. This happens with every major disaster. Our donors and the people of North Country are amazingly giving, compassionate, and loving people. They have an understanding that we all have a responsibility to others that does not stop at state lines or country borders, and they are willing to put their time and treasure behind that understanding."

Since there are so many relief organizations assisting in Ukraine, some may ask why it is important to help these sisters.

"There is no doubt that there are many wonderful aid organizations that help

around the world, but the reason that it's important to help these sisters is a concept that we as Catholics are very familiar with, subsidiarity," Deacon Carlin said. "Who better to know and understand the needs on the ground than those who are living and experiencing the hardships firsthand. The sisters live in the areas affected. They are living with, housing, and caring for those directly affected and those directly in the line of fire."

Deacon Carlin also noted that all donated funds will support the relief efforts of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate.

"Donors can also be assured that whatever they donate will go to the sisters in Ukraine," he said. "There are no administrative or processing fees, the

money will go from NCMOH to the sisters in New York and then directly to the sisters on the ground in Ukraine. Those funds will then go to provide for the immediate needs of the families and orphans in their care."

There are countless stories, Sister Debbie attested, about the faith, hope, and joy of the Ukrainian people. This is a moment when the world can learn much from their inspiring witness and love for each other.


Sister Christina Syrotyn-

sky, Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate Provincial Superior for Canada, shared that "On February 24, 2022, war was declared on Ukraine with an order to occupy Free Peaceful Independent Land. The Ukrainian Army, together with the Territorial Defense and the Ukrainian people are bravely defending their Land, their Freedom, and their Values. Incredible support is coming from all over the world to fight against the invader. In support of all those who bravely protect

their Motherland, we, Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, join with our on-going prayers. We believe that faith and continuous prayer strengthens; it is known to be the most powerful weapon. Let us all pray that with God's help Ukraine will overcome the evil sown by the regime and that the light of the Resurrected Christ will come bringing peace to the free Land in Ukraine."

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Environmental Stewardship

Welcome, urban farming?

For many homeowners, porch boxes on a deck, the space adjacent to a sidewalk, or the ground along the edge of a patio are all prominent outside places. Because of their high visibility, it is assumed that such special growing spaces should be cloaked with brightly colored flowers that bloom for most of the summer. Since vegetables are deemed as being less attractive, these plants tend to be relegated to plots behind a garage or in a back corner of a yard that is partially hidden from view.

When trying to reduce one's carbon footprint, eating more of what you raise yourself is of fundamental importance. Food items purchased in a supermarket typically come with a high energy cost that negatively impacts our planet. This is why many of us should consider using all prime growing spaces around the home for food plants rather than flowers. Many urban and suburban residents have been known to grow a fair amount of food in porch boxes, large flower pots, and buckets on their patios and decks. For example, lettuce, spinach, and

other greens can flourish in porch boxes, and green beans, peas, tomatoes, and some small types of carrots can thrive in large pots, pails, or buckets. And since these structures are fairly mobile, depending on their size and the type and amount of soil they contain, they can be started indoors at this time of year and then placed outside when the weather becomes warmer. Green beans and peas can also be started in the large variety of peat pots and then transplanted along the edges of a sidewalk or patio that is exposed to the sun for a good portion of the day.

Planting veggies can be used to limit the impact we have on our common home. The beauty of flowers can soothe our souls. Bucket gardening encourages planting both together in your garden. It can feed both our bodies and our souls. Why not try it? Check out your local Cooperative Extension Office for more details.

Submitted by Tom Kalinowski
St. Bernard's, Saranac Lake
Faith & Ecology Group

Rest in Peace

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

March 23 – Msgr. Paul T. Joly, 1987; Deacon David L. Clark, 2020

March 24 – Rev. George Roskwitalski, O.F.M. Conv., 1980

March 25 – Rev. Michael D. Charbonneau, 1909

March 26 – Rev. Jean P. Bernard, O.M.I., 1885; Rev. Thomas J. Rodgers, O.S.A., 1971; Msgr. William E. LaVallee, 1976

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

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

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

Bishop's Public Schedule

March 23 – 9 a.m. – St. Joseph's Home Board of Managers Meeting at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

March 24 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 25 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 26 – 9 a.m. – Forgiveness Workshop

March 27 – 9:30 a.m. – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

March 28 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 29 – 11 a.m. – Brunch with Ecumenical Leaders at Bishop's Residence

6:30 p.m. – Lenten Public Gathering at the Living Home Church in Malone

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg uses the training, Protecting God's Children for Adults. If you need to complete VIRTUS training, contact Jean Grizzuto, jgrizzuto@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920 x 1413.

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anneyanulavich@yahoo.com)
Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-
569-0612 evenings; or Father
Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal
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Chaplains chip in at Ogdensburg apartment fire

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

OGDENSBURG—Though Father Shane M. Lynch and Father Christopher C. Carrara respond to a fair number of emergencies in their role as chaplains to local emergency responders, the March 8 fire at Riverview Towers was anything but standard.

"This was crazy," said Father Carrara. "It was just the scope of it, as well as the need and the potential."

Father Carrara responded to the fire as a member of Morristown Volunteer Fire Department and as chaplain for St. Lawrence County Sheriff's Department, the St. Lawrence County District 9 fire and rescue departments. Father Lynch also serves as chaplain for both the Jefferson County and St. Lawrence County Sheriff's Departments. Both priests also serve several out-of-county law enforcement agencies.

"I was sitting here at my desk in the Chancery, and my county pager – my fire pager – went off over my phone," Father Carrara said. "There are often alarms in that building. If a resident burns toast, it can set off the fire alarm. I went outside and looked down Washington Street, and I didn't see anything. I grabbed my portable radio to listen, and I knew then it wasn't just burned toast."

Father Carrara said he didn't truly appreciate the scope of the emergency until he arrived on the scene.

"There were ladders on the side of the building, and they were evacuating people down ladders," he said. "That's when I realized how serious it was. I met an assistant chief from Morristown, and I



Father Shane M. Lynch & Father Christopher C. Carrara

drove him back to grab the ladder truck, and I drove an ambulance back. On the way back, I reached out to Father Shane (Lynch) and told him what was happening."

"He sent me the text around 11:30 on (March 8)," Father Lynch said. "It said, 'towers in Ogdensburg on fire. People being evacuated out windows on ladder trucks.' Realizing it's a major situation with potential for a tremendous amount of impact to human life or loss of human life, I texted the (Jefferson County) undersheriff, Sean O'Brien. I told him I realized there was an incident in the city, and realizing the gravity of it, I asked if he wanted me to respond in my capacity as a chaplain in the sheriff's department. His immediate response – it was a minute after I sent him the text – was 'yes.'"

Father Carrara served in two roles – chaplain and first responder – on the scene.

"When we go to a scene solely as chaplains, there's one approach and set of things we do," he said. "This time, I had a dual position. I was needed to drive the ambulance from Morristown and participate in the evacuation and

transport of injured people. While my ambulance and crew was lined up and waiting to get a patient, I was interacting with firefighters out front and victims coming out the door, always keeping an eye on the ambulance and EMT for when I was needed there. When our ambulance was called on, I'd stop what I was doing, get a stretcher and take a patient."

When Father Carrara returned to the Towers from transporting a patient to Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center, Father Lynch had arrived on scene.

"Fairly quickly, I was involved in the conversation about where the displaced residents could go," Father Lynch said. "They had 87 people displaced. Some were going with local families, others were sent to the Salvation Army or (Ogdensburg Free Academy, the local public high school), some were at the hospital. We were talking about what to do next. At that point, I said to (St. Lawrence County) Sheriff (Brooks) Bigwarfe, I believe, 'I can't make any decisions, but do you want me to contact Bishop LaValley about the use of Wadhams Hall?' He responded back, 'yes.'"

Father Lynch contacted Bishop Terry R. LaValley via phone. Bishop LaValley had just finished celebrating noon Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral.

"I ran the idea by him, and he indicated he and (diocesan Moderator of the Curia) Father (Kevin) O'Brien had already been discussing the possibility of using Wadhams. Bishop asked if I was on the scene, and he walked down to meet me there. Aware that there were displaced residents at Centennial Tower – the other apartment tower in that complex – the bishop went straight there."

After obtaining a count of displaced residents in need of housing, Bishop LaValley agreed to open Wadhams Hall for temporary housing.

"He asked Father Chris and myself to coordinate with Bill Seymour, the facility manager at Wadhams, as things started to unfold there," Father Lynch said.

The chaplains also assisted the displaced residents in obtaining clothes and personal items needed.

"Because Father (Lynch) and I were at those central locations where decisions were being made, we were able to hear about the needs as they were realized, and we were able to help come up with strategies to meet those needs," Father Carrara said.

Father Lynch, realizing the need for emergency clothing, suggested contacting Our Lady's Outreach, a ministry of the cathedral parish. Father Joseph A. Morgan, diocesan vicar general and rector of St. Mary's Cathedral, was contacted, and arrangements were made to open the outreach.

Throughout the response, the two chaplains

were checking in on emergency responders, law enforcement and displaced residents, serving as a pastoral presence, as well as meeting practical needs.

As the day progressed, Father Lynch and Father Carrara made their way to Wadhams Hall, where Bishop LaValley, Bill Seymour, Deacon James Crowley and Deacon Anthony Pastizzo were preparing rooms for residents and helping acclimate both the residents and responding agencies to the building.

"We were able to help coordinate with them as residents made their way to Wadhams," Father Carrara said. "The buses came in at different times, and some residents had gone back to get their cars, so they were trickling in, as well."

At Wadhams, the chaplains said a number of human service and governmental agencies were on scene aiding residents.

"Everyone had a part to play and a spot to go to," said Father Lynch. "Given the circumstances, the coordination and response was very impressive."

After responding to major incidents, the chaplains often help "debrief" the involved responders, helping them process what they saw and experienced. They also help one another.

"We turn to each other," Father Carrara said. "We know each other and ourselves. If we go through something and need to talk, we talk to each other and debrief."

The last of the displaced residents of Riverview Tower left Wadhams Hall on Friday for other housing arrangements. Officials have said Riverview Tower could be under repair for months before all residents can be returned to the facility.

Searcher finds way home to Catholic Church

Editor's Note: This is the third installment in a series highlighting individuals who are participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) as they move toward entering the Catholic Church.

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

WATERTOWN – Baptized into the Church as a baby, Kathy Falge of Watertown says she's explored various expressions of faith throughout her life, but her journey has brought her home. Falge, who has been participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) in Watertown as a candidate, will receive First Communion and Confirmation at this year's Easter Vigil.

"I've always been searching," Falge said. "It's a journey."

Though she was baptized into the Catholic Church, Falge said her "parents never followed through with the Catholic religion at all."

"My mom did take my sister and my brother and I to church, but sporadically, and we usually went to an Episcopal church," she said. "My grandfather, my mother's father, was very devout Baptist. I would go to church with him when I stayed with them. I always enjoyed going to church. I felt comfortable there. I really enjoyed it and was always asking questions, especially with my grandfather, since he had such a strong faith. I was always very curious."

Though her household wasn't typically religious, Falge said she grew up with a connection to God.

"When I was young, even before I was a

teenager, I was always praying," she said. "I had a prayer life even then. Being a kid, you have to have someone take you to church. I didn't go to church consistently, but I did believe God was listening to me. I believed I could pray, and he would listen."

As a young adult, Falge said she explored a number of faith traditions. At around the age of 19 or 20, Falge had an interaction with Mormon missionaries.

"I invited them in after they knocked on the door," she said. "Normally, that wasn't something I'd do, but at that time, I had feelings of being drawn toward God. I was very taken in by how kind and warm they were. They were just wonderful people. Within a couple months, I was baptized Mormon. I went to church and was involved in Bible studies. After almost a year, there was something telling me it wasn't where God wanted me. I slowly stopped going."

Shortly after, Falge moved to Denver, Colorado with friends.

"I lived the single life, the party life," she said. "I was having fun and not thinking about God, religion or spirituality. We were young, single, living in a city and having fun. Then, we got the idea to move to the mountains – close to the ski areas. Life got even crazier. The ski areas are where people go for fun. It was mostly young people that worked up there. I just continued party time and craziness."

After living that lifestyle for a time, Falge said her life "came crashing down."

"I felt like my life was

falling apart," she said. "I wasn't going anywhere. I was working odd jobs. I had no financial future. I was just partying and being crazy. I decided to get a fresh start with life again. I moved back with my parents."

Shortly after, Falge met her now husband, John, in Fort Collins, Colorado. As John entered college, the couple became serious and eventually got married.

"We met people there in the married student housing," she said. "We met a couple who invited us to their Bible study."

After forging connections with that Bible study group, Falge and her husband began attending the couple's church, the Church of Christ.

"I really enjoyed it," she said. "We met a lot of people our age. Our first two children were born in Colorado, and we were meeting all these other young families at church. I got baptized again into the Church of Christ."

When her husband completed his studies, the young family moved to Buffalo, New York, where they continued to attend a Church of Christ. There, they encountered teachings that "just didn't feel right," Falge said.

"I pulled away from the Church of Christ," Falge said. "We then moved to Watertown in 1990. I never thought we'd stay in Watertown. I thought we'd return to Colorado. Our fourth child was born here in 1991."

Though the family attended the Church of the Nazarene for a time, Falge said they gradually fell away.

"Nothing happened," she said. "We just got busy, and we'd miss Sun-

days. One you miss, it gets easy to miss more. We'd go a week, miss a week, go two weeks, miss two weeks... and we eventually just stopped going."

When her youngest child started school, Falge returned to school herself.

"I kept feeling like something was missing in my life," she said. "I've always struggled with depression. I've talked to counselors. I'd go on medication for a while, then I'd go off them. At that time, I decided to go back to college."

Because of her struggles and history, she decided to pursue education in psychology, eventually earning a master's degree.

"That was a great experience, but it was all very... clinical," she said. "It was all 'this is how the mind works,' 'this is how the body works.' We never talked about anything spiritual. To me, it's a big part of who we are as human beings. Spirituality needs to be part of mental health."

For a time, she explored eastern spirituality, teaching yoga and going on trips to India and to other destinations to learn more about the practice. After developing arthritis in her hips and needing a hip replacement, she attempted to resume her yoga practice.

"My heart wasn't in it," she said.

Contracting Lyme Disease in 2018 stopped her yoga practice entirely.

Around a year ago, though, Falge said God called her to the Catholic Church.

"If you would've asked me a year ago if I'd do this RCIA program, I'd say

'you're crazy,'" she said. "We didn't have any close family that was going to church. We don't have any real close friends who were Catholic and attending church. John's family in Syracuse goes to church on Sunday, but they don't talk about it at all. No person said 'come on. Let's go to church.' I just felt like Jesus said, 'hey, take a look over here.' I got online and went to St. Patrick's website. I was trying to figure out how to get started. I saw the RCIA class on the website, and I called (the instructor listed online). It took off from there."

Falge said her RCIA experience has been "amazing, beautiful, wonderful!"

"I'm learning so much about the sacraments and the church's teachings," she said. "I've heard negative things about Catholicism most of my life. I've heard it's very strict, and they do weird things. None of that is actually true. There are some things – a lot of things – that I still have to ask about and learn about, but there's reason and meaning behind everything. There's depth in the teaching."

Falge, a mother of four and grandmother of 13, said she's also fallen in love with the Mass.

"I feel myself tearing up during Mass," she said. "I just feel so much, 'this is where God wants you to be. Just stay here.'"

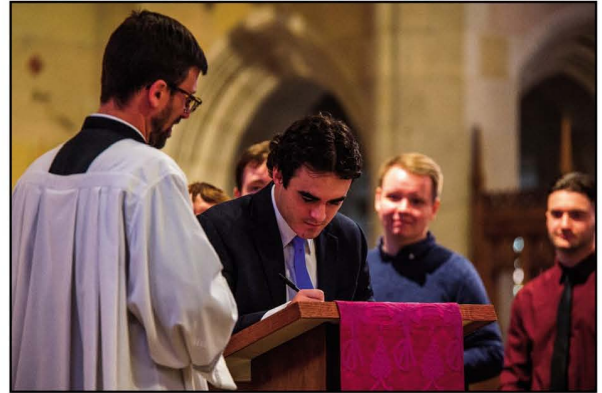
Falge said she's grateful for her RCIA program and her sponsor for their continued support, love and teaching.

"I'm so blessed and grateful that I am where I am right now," she said. "I don't know how it happened, but I thank the Lord it did."

RITE OF ELECTION

On March 13, catechumens from around the diocese gathered at St. Mary's Cathedral for the Rite of Election, where catechumens enroll and publicly express their desire for baptism

Photos by Jesse Sovie



Catechumen Jack Kumpf of Canton, accompanied by Father Bryan Stitt, pastor of St. Mary's in Canton, signs 'The Book of the Elect' at the Rite of Election.



Catechumens, individuals preparing to be baptized into the Church, and their sponsors.



Catechumen Ashley Depew of St. Mary's in Ticonderoga chats with Bishop Terry R. LaValley at the Rite of Election.

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Bishop Terry R. LaValley addresses those gathered at St. Mary's Cathedral on March 13 for the the Rite of Election.

FACES OF FAITH



Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated community Mass at Pontifical College Josephinum during a recent visit. Bishop LaValley is pictured with diocesan seminarians, from left, Dennis Ombongi, Tyler Fitzgerald, Venes Laine and Lukas Gruber.



Deacon Leagon Carlin recently made his Profession of Faith at Mount St. Mary Seminary. Deacon Carlin was accompanied by Msgr. William King, vice-rector of the seminary, and seminarians from the Diocese of Ogdensburg. A Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity are required before a man is ordained to the priesthood.



Father Bryan Stitt, pastor of St. Mary's in Canton congratulates Nancy Layhee and Dan Sweeney on being named Irishman and Irishwoman of the year for 2022. The honors were presented at Knights of Columbus Sarto Council #1059's annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner, which returned this year after a one-year hiatus due to the pandemic.



Students from Seton Catholic School are raising money for the Missionary Childhood Association as part of their Lenten activities. Their goal is to raise \$500. Ella Forrence points to the goal and Oliver Church shows that the students had collected \$98.24 when this picture was taken. Pictured with Ella and Oliver are: Chase Hileman, Lillian Recore and Avery White. They are holding their Missionary Childhood boxes.

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

Too much morphine?

To help people navigate some of the complex decisions involved in end-of-life situations, the National Catholic Bioethics Center offers a free and confidential consultation service via e-mail or phone. Often we are asked about the appropriate use of morphine and other opioids. Family members may be understandably concerned about the potential for overdosing their loved ones, as hospice workers appear to “ramp up” the morphine rapidly, especially in the last few hours of life.

What principles can guide us in the appropriate use of morphine near the end of life? It can be helpful to summarize a few key points here.

Morphine and other opioids can be very useful — indeed, invaluable — in controlling pain and reducing suffering for many patients near the end of life. Morphine is also used to alleviate anxiety and labored breathing. Opioids are highly effective pain management tools in the tool box of palliative care and hospice specialists.

These drugs need to be used carefully, since very high doses are capable of suppressing a patient's ability to breathe, which can lead to death.

Medically appropriate use of these drugs for pain management will involve the important concept of titration. Dosage titration means giving enough medication to dull or limit the pain, but not going so far as to cause unconsciousness or death. This implies continually assessing and adjusting the balance of a drug to assure it is effective and not unduly harmful. In other words, pain medications should be dispensed in response to concrete in-

dicators of pain and discomfort, so that patients can have their pain-relief needs met but not be unnecessarily over-medicated.

Practically speaking, it is important to pay attention to signs of discomfort that a patient may be manifesting, whether grimacing, twitching, crying, flailing extremities, or other movements. Such objective indicators should guide those making dosing decisions as they seek to control pain and limit discomfort.

As families receive advice about how to care for their loved ones, and try to make good decisions on their behalf, one question that should be asked is, “What is the reason someone is being given (or is being advised to receive) pain medication?” Is the medication being provided because the patient is actually experiencing pain, or for some other reason, such as an intent to hasten death? This can be an important factor in determining whether the administration of a particular pain medication would be ethical or not.

By carefully dispensing pain medications without rendering patients lethargic or semi-comatose, to the extent possible, we afford them the opportunity to make preparations for their death while still conscious. In general, patients should not be deprived of alertness or consciousness except to mitigate excruciating or otherwise unbearable pain.

In order to address situations of escalating pain, it may become necessary to administer higher and

higher doses of morphine or other opioids. At a certain point, we may face the prospect that the next dose we provide to properly control the pain will be so high that it will suppress the patient's breathing, leading to death.

The principle of double effect can guide and assist us in such cases. When the clinical requirement of proper titration of pain medications is carried out, and the other conditions of the principle are satisfied, a strict and appropriate use

of pain medication in this manner can be allowable, even when it may indirectly or unintentionally contribute to an individual's demise.

This has been helpfully

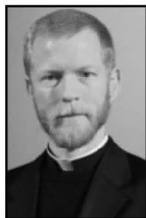
summed up in Directive 61 of the Ethical and Religious Directives of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, which reminds us that, “Medicines capable of alleviating or suppressing pain may be given to a dying person, even if this therapy may indirectly shorten the person's life so long as the intent is not to hasten death. Patients experiencing suffering that cannot be alleviated should be helped to appreciate the Christian understanding of redemptive suffering.”

In situations of truly intractable pain, it can be legitimate to employ “palliative sedation,” which involves the decision to render a patient unconscious during his or her final hours. This should be done with proper consent, obtained from the patient or the designated surro-

gate. It is important to avoid any suicidal intention and to ensure that other duties, such as receiving the last sacraments and saying goodbye to loved ones, have been fulfilled.

Such careful attention to pain management is of paramount importance in end-of-life care and supports both the patient and the family in a dignified way during the dying process.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org and www.fathertad.com.



Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk
Ph.D.

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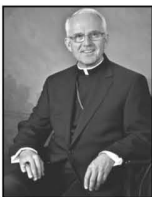
Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg Report of Special Funds

A Letter From The Diocesan Fiscal Officer

A Message from Bishop Terry LaValley

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

I am pleased to provide this introduction to the *Report of Special Funds* for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2021. As is our custom, each year this report is published for your review. It completes our accounting of all those funds entrusted to the Diocese of Ogdensburg for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. These monies are set aside for special purposes and investments.



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

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

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

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

The Diocesan Fiscal Office is pleased to present in the *North Country Catholic* the Report of Special Funds for the year ended June 30, 2021, along with comparisons to prior years. Special Funds are funds that the diocese holds for special purposes, such as Disability Insurance, Property and Liability Insurance, Missionary Projects, Priests Retirement and Unemployment Insurance. Also included in Special Funds are funds that belong to diocesan institutions which have been forwarded to the diocese for investment, such as the Diocesan Trust Fund and the Deposit & Loan Fund. Information is included in this report for the Lay Employees Retirement Trust. All Special Funds statements for 2020-21 presented herein except for the Lay Employees Retirement Trust have been extracted from the audited financial report that was published in the November 24, 2021, issue of the *North Country Catholic*. The Lay Employees' Retirement Trust is a separate entity that issues its own audited financial statements.

DIOCESAN TRUST FUND

As of June 30, 2021, the Diocesan Trust Fund had principal assets with a cost of \$24,040,410 and a market value of \$31,055,291. The investment's portfolio had a rate of return of 27.3% in 2020-21. In the first six months of the 2021-22 fiscal year the Diocesan Trust Fund had a rate of return of 2.8%, and its market value is \$31,509,209 as of December 31, 2021. The diocese paid dividend distributions from the Fund in the amount of \$875,000 during the fiscal year, a rate of return of 2.83% on investments in the Fund.

DEPOSIT & LOAN FUND

The Deposit & Loan Fund had an increase of \$807,486 in its net assets in 2020-21, bringing its net asset balance to \$4,361,458. The interest rate to depositors is 1.5% in 2020-21, and the interest rate on loans is 4%. In the first six months of 2021-22 the Deposit & Loan Fund net assets decreased by \$589,107, as investment performance generated approximately \$200,000 less than anticipated to date, and planned use of Fund net assets for support of legal expenses related to administration of claims filed during the open window set under the Child Victims Act is more than expected to date. As of June 30, 2021, total deposits in the Fund, including diocesan central office monies, totaled \$21,459,549, and the balance of loan principal due the Fund amounted to \$3,210,507.

PROTECTED SELF-INSURANCE PROGRAM

Expenses exceeded revenue by \$44,052 in the Protected Self Insurance Program in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. The program remains financially sound, as it has reserves for claims in the amount of \$1,117,487, and net assets of \$1,757,169 as of June 30, 2021. The program received a department grant of \$725,000 from the Deposit & Loan Fund to cover the cost of settlement of certain sexual misconduct claims in 2020-21.

LAY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT TRUST

The Lay Employees' Retirement Trust had an increase in net assets of \$5,159,386 during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, bringing its total net assets to \$31,998,254. The investment's portfolio had a rate of return of 30.9% in 2020-21. During the first six months of fiscal year 2021-22 fund investments saw a rate of return of -4%, bringing its market value to \$31,470,972. The Fund's July 1, 2021, actuarial

valuation determined the Fund's funded status improved from 71.4% one year earlier to 85.5%. The Plan is funded as it relates to covering obligations to current retirees (122% funded). Diocesan employers contribute 10% of lay employee wages to fund the Plan.



UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUND

The Unemployment Insurance Fund had an increase in net assets of \$97,298 for the year ended June 30, 2021, bringing total net assets to \$306,005. The diocese received notice from the NYS Department of Labor in February 2022 that self-insured programs will not be liable for unemployment insurance claims from March 9, 2020, through December 31, 2021. A receivable of \$74,287 is recorded on June 30, 2021, for reimbursement by NYS for of claims previously paid during this time period.

MISSIONARY PROJECTS FUND

The Missionary Projects Fund had a decrease in net assets in the amount of \$4,885 for the year ended June 30, 2021, bringing its net assets to \$223,602. The Diocese of Ogdensburg continues to provide monthly financial support to its former mission in Mollendo, Peru, as well as other missions in the world as deemed appropriate by Bishop LaValley. Moneys are given to support the U.S. Bishops' annual appeal for Latin America. Additionally, with Bishop LaValley's approval, financial support is given from the Fund to urgent need collections taken at times of global emergency/crisis.

DISABILITY INSURANCE FUND

The Disability Insurance Fund had a surplus in the amount of \$7,674 for the year ended June 30, 2021. Claims paid in 2020-21 were \$4,074 higher than in 2019-20. Net assets of this Fund as of June 30, 2021, are \$266,495.

PRIESTS RETIREMENT FUND

The net assets of the Priests Retirement Fund increased by \$1,397,322 in the year ended June 30, 2021. The Fund had investment income of \$214,734 and gains on investments in the amount of \$2,409,834 in the fiscal year. Support from Christmas collections was \$122,608, as compared to \$235,904 the prior year, as the diocese helped local parish finances during the pandemic by reducing the requested contribution from 75% to 50% of parish Christmas collections to support the Fund. A modest ad hoc pension increase was approved for retired priests effective July 1, 2021.

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

Michael J. Tooley
Diocesan Fiscal Officer

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

Diocesan Trust Fund Principal

January 1, 1977 - June 30, 2021

	January 1, 1977 - June 30, 2019	July 1, 2019 June 30, 2020	July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021	January 1, 1977 - June 30, 2021
Opening Balance	\$0.00	\$27,240,810.38	\$27,948,235.79	\$0.00
Net Deposits	14,640,373.35	(422,360.49)	(2,865,404.88)	11,352,607.98
Net Realized Gain on Sales	23,483,546.09	1,817,078.10	3,988,180.47	29,288,804.66
Fees [Custody/Management]	(2,941,915.35)	(324,593.27)	(277,604.35)	(3,544,112.97)
Transfers to Pay Dividends	(13,128,026.66)	(875,000.00)	(875,000.00)	(14,878,026.66)
Net Adjustments*	5,186,832.95	512,301.07	(3,865,699.91)	1,833,434.11
Closing Balance [Book]	\$27,240,810.38	\$27,948,235.79	\$24,052,707.12	\$24,052,707.12
Market Value	\$30,664,130.12	\$32,015,970.51	\$31,055,290.85	\$31,055,290.85

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

** Assets at NBT Bank, Dimensional Fund Advisors, Christian Brothers Investment Services & The Investment Fund for Foundations.

	Book Value	Market Value	% Yield (Book)	% Yield (Market)
NBT BANK INVESTMENTS				
Bonds & U.S. Government Agencies & Bond Funds	\$7,963,701.23	\$8,210,156.61	2.44%	2.36%
Equities & Equity Funds	9,729,812.37	13,359,963.70	1.40%	1.02%
Real Estate and Real Estate Trusts	960,273.75	1,423,658.50	2.23%	1.50%
Money Market	316,571.71	316,571.71	0.16%	0.16%
TOTAL NBT BANK INVESTMENTS	\$18,970,359.06	\$23,310,350.52	1.86%	1.51%
CHRISTIAN BROTHERS INVESTMENT SERVICES				
Bond Funds	\$1,892,305.59	\$2,021,426.55	1.81%	1.69%
Equity Funds	\$2,425,734.99	\$4,849,007.64	1.16%	0.58%
TOTAL CHRISTIAN BROTHERS INVESTMENT SERVICES	\$4,318,040.58	\$6,870,434.19	1.45%	0.91%
DIMENSIONAL FUND ADVISORS	\$626,000.00	\$702,895.14		
THE INVESTMENT FUND FOR FOUNDATIONS	\$126,010.00	\$171,611.00		
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	\$24,040,409.64	\$31,055,290.85		

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

Deposit & Loan Fund

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021

BALANCE SHEET			STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE		
	June 30, 2021	June 30, 2020		July 1, 2020 June 30, 2021	July 1, 2019 June 30, 2020
ASSETS			INCOME		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$57,269.46	\$1,053,488.09	Interest on Notes Receivable	\$104,990.14	\$91,358.39
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00	\$0.00	Investment Income	517,907.76	812,750.08
Interest Receivable	74,291.13	96,770.30	Unrealized Gain (Loss) On Investments	(25,230.54)	(254,698.65)
Notes Receivable - Borrowers	3,210,506.68	2,925,586.76	Realized Gain (Loss) On Investments	2,115,084.16	1,509,942.22
Reserve	(681,099.00)	(598,709.00)	Other Income	0.00	0.00
Investments	21,456,084.25	20,810,833.04	TOTAL INCOME	\$2,712,751.52	\$2,159,352.04
Investment - Diocesan Trust Fund	0.00	753,369.50	EXPENDITURES		
Investment - Collateral Account	892,072.47	0.00	Interest on Notes Payable	\$321,860.52	\$953,448.92
Due From Operating Fund	839,743.44	2,558,252.40	Investment Management Fees	125,965.32	193,377.75
TOTAL ASSETS	\$25,848,868.43	\$27,599,591.09	Fiscal Office Administration	100,049.81	158,322.36
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE			Office Supplies	0.00	460.55
Notes Payable - Depositors	\$21,459,549.29	\$23,970,490.90	Office Equipment	0.00	0.00
Accrued Interest Payable	27,861.12	75,128.04	Increase in Reserves	82,390.00	(70,551.00)
Liability to Others	0.00	0.00	Loans Forgiven	0.00	0.00
Fund Balance	4,361,458.02	3,553,972.15	Departmental Grant	1,275,000.00	0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	\$25,848,868.43	\$27,599,591.09	Contributions	0.00	0.00
			TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,905,265.65	\$1,235,058.58
			EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURE:	\$807,485.87	\$924,293.46

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
Diocesan Protected Self-Insurance Program
 July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2021

BALANCE SHEET					STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS				
	June 30, 2018	June 30, 2019	June 30, 2020	June 30, 2021		July 1, 2017 June 30, 2018	July 1, 2018 June 30, 2019	July 1, 2019 June 30, 2020	July 1, 2020 June 30, 2021
ASSETS					INCOME				
Investments	\$1,019,598.04	\$1,045,389.73	\$1,095,796.95	\$892,072.47	Earned Premiums	\$1,896,397.85	\$2,004,981.93	\$2,071,771.71	\$2,005,893.99
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4,852.55	4,410.00	5,917.44	\$14,624.51	Contributions	0.00	55,000.00	0.00	\$0.00
Notes Receivable	2,983,360.36	2,855,173.52	1,533,353.86	\$0.00	Gain (Loss) On Investments (Net)	90,847.26	6,956.69	86,912.22	\$119,911.33
Accounts Receivable	239,252.34	255,403.40	246,163.68	\$256,043.70	Department Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$725,000.00
Due From Other Dioceses	202,500.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	Investment Income	24,989.88	29,416.61	29,871.13	\$15,277.87
Prepaid Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.02	\$0.00	TOTAL INCOME	\$2,012,234.99	\$2,096,355.23	\$2,188,555.06	\$2,866,083.19
Due From Operating Fund	1,106,407.78	676,668.22	1,060,049.26	\$1,175,093.33	EXPENDITURES				
BPIC Member Share	330,686.00	311,851.00	348,356.00	\$405,474.00	Reinsurance Premiums and Bonds	\$928,238.43	\$985,351.47	\$1,072,742.34	\$1,127,332.25
Stock in NCRRG	132,247.84	132,247.84	132,247.84	\$132,247.84	Professional Services	11,290.80	98,950.37	148,475.61	\$113,050.06
TOTAL ASSETS	\$6,018,904.91	\$5,281,143.71	\$4,421,885.05	\$2,875,555.85	Gallagher Bassett Service Fee	25,012.00	26,685.00	27,750.00	\$30,425.00
					Adjustment in Reserves	(660,821.68)	(225,249.54)	(205,211.29)	\$30,176.50
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE					Self Insured Claims	921,895.01	1,124,284.29	347,013.14	\$1,308,321.30
Claims Payable	\$2,969,617.82	\$2,713,424.14	\$1,533,353.86	\$0.00	NYS Compensation Board Assessments	50,865.00	42,557.27	37,813.62	\$33,128.10
Unearned Insurance Premium	899.96	0.00	0.00	\$900.00	Department Grants	816,032.44	125,062.29	97,228.74	\$104,938.05
Reserves For Claims	1,517,771.42	1,292,521.88	1,087,310.59	\$1,117,487.09	Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00
Fund Balance	1,530,615.71	1,275,197.69	1,801,220.60	\$1,757,168.76	Diocesan Administration	196,282.09	174,132.10	136,719.99	\$162,763.77
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	\$6,018,904.91	\$5,281,143.71	\$4,421,885.05	\$2,875,555.85	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$2,288,794.09	\$2,351,773.25	\$1,662,532.15	\$2,910,135.03
					EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES	(\$276,559.10)	(\$255,418.02)	\$526,022.91	(\$44,051.84)

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
Diocesan Protected Self-Insurance Program - Claim Payment and Reserve Experience
 As of June 30, 2021

YEAR	CLAIMS	RESERVES	TOTAL	Losses In Excess of Specific Retention	Losses In Excess of Aggregate Retention	Net Claims	Maximum Amount Single Claim	Maximum Amount Aggregate Claims
XLVI - 2020-21	\$151,242.74	\$194,247.07	\$345,489.81	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$345,489.81	\$250,000.00	\$0.00
XLV - 2019-20	\$163,264.56	\$95,407.72	258,672.28	\$0.00	\$0.00	258,672.28	\$250,000.00	\$0.00
XLIV - 2018-19	183,820.02	70,192.80	254,012.82	0.00	0.00	254,012.82	250,000.00	0.00
XLIII - 2017-18	523,779.83	0.00	523,779.83	0.00	0.00	523,779.83	250,000.00	0.00
XLII - 2016-17	159,621.99	0.00	159,621.99	0.00	0.00	159,621.99	250,000.00	0.00
XLI - 2015-16	291,154.02	0.00	291,154.02	0.00	0.00	291,154.02	250,000.00	0.00
XL - 2014-15	6,030,681.23	0.00	6,030,681.23	5,286,007.93	0.00	744,673.30	250,000.00	0.00
XXXIX - 2013-14	492,858.97	0.00	492,858.97	0.00	0.00	492,858.97	250,000.00	0.00
XXXVIII - 2012-13	379,291.96	0.00	379,291.96	0.00	0.00	379,291.96	250,000.00	0.00
XXXVII - 2011-12	371,606.71	0.00	371,606.71	0.00	0.00	371,606.71	250,000.00	0.00
XXXVI - 2010-11	787,327.59	0.00	787,327.59	242,767.59	0.00	544,560.00	250,000.00	0.00
XXXV - 2009-10	176,267.31	168,332.74	344,600.05	96,712.00	0.00	247,888.05	250,000.00	0.00
XXXIV - 2008-09	605,357.54	0.00	605,357.54	0.00	0.00	605,357.54	250,000.00	850,000.00
XXXIII - 2007-08	321,690.04	0.00	321,690.04	0.00	0.00	321,690.04	250,000.00	850,000.00
XXXII - 2006-07	192,554.93	0.00	192,554.93	0.00	0.00	192,554.93	250,000.00	815,000.00
XXXI - 2005-2006	554,178.38	26,202.01	580,380.39	118,000.00	0.00	462,380.39	250,000.00	815,000.00
XXX - 2004-2005	726,960.73	0.00	726,960.73	92,089.73	0.00	634,871.00	250,000.00	815,000.00
XXIX - 2003-2004	759,922.41	0.00	759,922.41	199,815.51	0.00	560,106.90	250,000.00	780,000.00
XXVIII - 2002-2003	802,835.42	138,052.53	940,887.95	446,294.37	0.00	494,593.58	250,000.00	750,000.00
XXVII - 2001-2002	275,460.43	0.00	275,460.43	22,192.92	0.00	253,267.51	125,000.00	525,000.00
XXVI - 2000-2001	299,143.47	0.00	299,143.47	0.00	0.00	299,143.47	125,000.00	500,000.00
XXV - 1999-2000	302,681.02	0.00	302,681.02	0.00	0.00	302,681.02	125,000.00	500,000.00
XXIV - 1998-1999	329,653.96	0.00	329,653.96	0.00	0.00	329,653.96	125,000.00	500,000.00
XXIII - 1997-1998	551,727.55	0.00	551,727.55	105,084.53	0.00	446,643.02	125,000.00	500,500.00
XXII - 1996-1997	478,202.02	0.00	478,202.02	98,570.05	0.00	379,631.97	125,000.00	583,500.00
XXI - 1995-1996	301,341.20	0.00	301,341.20	0.00	0.00	301,341.20	125,000.00	550,000.00
XX - 1994-1995	779,580.33	10,289.22	789,869.55	290,901.70	9,497.46	489,470.39	125,000.00	475,000.00
XIX - 1993-1994	1,210,292.63	92,464.34	1,302,756.97	681,079.89	0.00	621,677.08	125,000.00	450,000.00
XVIII - 1992-1993	326,552.77	0.00	326,552.77	0.00	0.00	326,552.77	75,000.00	355,000.00
XVII - 1991-1992	233,464.19	0.00	233,464.19	0.00	0.00	233,464.19	75,000.00	355,000.00
XVI - 1990-1991	92,322.17	0.00	92,322.17	0.00	0.00	92,322.17	75,000.00	355,000.00
XV - 1989-1990	190,545.56	0.00	190,545.56	0.00	0.00	190,545.56	75,000.00	330,000.00
XIV - 1988-1989	175,616.44	0.00	175,616.44	0.00	0.00	175,616.44	75,000.00	330,000.00
XIII - 1987-1988	217,603.90	0.00	217,603.90	38,761.50	0.00	178,842.40	75,000.00	300,000.00
XII - 1986-1987	189,446.09	0.00	189,446.09	0.00	0.00	189,446.09	75,000.00	300,000.00
XI - 1985-1986	56,964.54	0.00	56,964.54	0.00	0.00	56,964.54	75,000.00	260,000.00
X - 1984-1985	160,033.76	0.00	160,033.76	0.00	0.00	160,033.76	75,000.00	260,000.00
IX - 1983-1984	109,583.65	0.00	109,583.65	0.00	0.00	109,583.65	75,000.00	260,000.00
VIII - 1982-1983	184,851.55	0.00	184,851.55	18,990.00	0.00	165,861.55	75,000.00	260,000.00
VII - 1981-1982	103,135.97	0.00	103,135.97	0.00	0.00	103,135.97	75,000.00	260,000.00
VI - 1980-1981	323,071.44	0.00	323,071.44	112,199.00	0.00	210,872.44	75,000.00	225,000.00
V - 1979-1980	1,106,649.73	386,177.88	1,492,827.61	1,138,967.94	61,206.62	292,653.05	75,000.00	212,000.00
IV - 1978-1979	40,498.05	0.00	40,498.05	0.00	0.00	40,498.05	75,000.00	212,000.00
III - 1977-1978	153,929.85	0.00	153,929.85	36,878.52	0.00	117,051.33	50,000.00	150,000.00
II - 1976-1977	61,216.79	0.00	61,216.79	0.00	0.00	61,216.79	50,000.00	150,000.00
I - 1975-1976	63,402.99	0.00	63,402.99	0.00	0.00	63,402.99	50,000.00	150,000.00
	\$21,991,388.43	\$1,181,366.31	\$23,172,754.74	\$9,025,313.18	\$70,704.08	\$14,076,737.48		

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
Diocesan Lay Employees' Retirement Trust
July 1, 2017- June 30, 2021

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	June 30, 2021	June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019	June 30, 2018
Accrued Income	\$36,992.86	\$27,951.61	\$35,523.70	\$26,910.14
Accounts Receivable	\$19,389.51	94,413.85	40,343.68	37,795.45
Prepaid Expenses	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	243,274.16
Cash & Investments	\$31,966,517.73	26,961,397.05	27,946,496.46	27,862,187.60
TOTAL ASSETS	\$32,022,900.10	\$27,083,762.51	\$28,022,363.84	\$28,170,167.35
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
Due for Office Expense	\$24,646.02	\$244,894.74	\$604,678.33	\$318,579.11
Deferred Revenue	\$0.00	0.00	10,783.02	124,401.00
Fund Balance	\$31,998,254.08	26,838,867.77	27,406,902.49	27,727,187.24
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$32,022,900.10	\$27,083,762.51	\$28,022,363.84	\$28,170,167.35

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021	July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020	September 1, 1967 June 30, 2020	Sept. 1, 1967 - June 30, 2021
ADDITIONS				
Employer Contributions	\$1,200,533.99	\$1,195,557.97	\$28,294,743.88	\$29,495,277.87
Department Grants	\$0.00	0.00	500,000.00	\$500,000.00
Gain (Loss) on Investments (net)	\$7,185,414.71	1,178,101.30	24,791,718.26	\$31,977,132.97
Investment Income	\$474,643.95	\$76,759.81	20,119,276.99	\$20,593,920.94
TOTAL ADDITIONS	\$8,860,592.65	\$2,950,419.08	\$73,705,739.13	\$82,566,331.78
DEDUCTIONS				
Benefit Payments	\$3,365,227.82	\$3,213,525.60	\$40,483,988.86	\$43,849,216.68
Administration Expense	\$335,978.52	304,928.20	6,382,471.88	\$6,718,450.40
Loss on Security Deposit	\$0.00	0.00	410.62	410.62
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	\$3,701,206.34	\$3,518,453.80	\$46,866,871.36	\$50,568,077.70
NET (ADDITIONS MINUS DEDUCTIONS)	\$5,159,386.31	(\$568,034.72)	\$26,838,867.77	\$31,998,254.08

CASH & INVESTMENTS

	Book Value	Market Value
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,653,337.22	\$1,653,337.22
U.S. Government & Agency Obligations	\$1,088,224.78	\$1,163,311.91
Corporate Obligations	0.00	0.00
Equities	9,577,392.25	12,852,953.70
Manning & Napier Advisors Investment Funds	5,199,252.53	5,715,499.24
Dimensional Fund Advisors - Emerging Markets	1,034,250.00	1,195,936.70
Christian Brothers Investment Services - Funds	5,765,333.74	9,202,215.96
The Investment Fund for Foundations - Real Opportunities Fund	134,566.00	183,263.00
TOTALS	\$24,452,356.52	\$31,966,517.73

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
Diocesan Lay Employees' Retirement Trust
Annual Amounts (Book and Market Value) of Investments

	Book Value	Market Value
August 31, 1968	\$32,855.00	\$33,344.00
August 31, 1969	\$105,040.00	\$97,828.00
August 31, 1970	\$167,236.00	\$144,704.00
August 31, 1971	\$244,322.00	\$248,784.00
August 31, 1972	\$328,375.00	\$341,430.00
August 31, 1973	\$397,979.00	\$357,121.00
August 31, 1974	\$442,091.00	\$374,519.00
August 31, 1975	\$485,652.00	\$502,393.00
August 31, 1976	\$651,402.00	\$661,536.00
August 31, 1977	\$746,759.00	\$758,276.00
June 30, 1978	\$907,676.00	\$873,290.00
June 30, 1979	\$1,091,077.00	\$1,066,747.00
June 30, 1980	\$1,333,304.00	\$1,240,533.00
June 30, 1981	\$1,637,330.00	\$1,468,951.00
June 30, 1982	\$1,966,375.00	\$1,685,948.00
June 30, 1983	\$2,332,900.00	\$2,766,951.00
June 30, 1984	\$2,866,861.00	\$2,832,430.00
June 30, 1985	\$3,314,597.00	\$3,748,256.00
June 30, 1986	\$4,200,610.00	\$5,189,275.00
June 30, 1987	\$5,686,447.00	\$6,363,937.00
June 30, 1988	\$6,280,104.00	\$6,713,049.00
June 30, 1989	\$6,849,652.00	\$7,569,006.00
June 30, 1990	\$7,716,476.00	\$8,434,613.00
June 30, 1991	\$8,285,622.00	\$8,951,313.00
June 30, 1992	\$9,025,501.00	\$10,401,337.00
June 30, 1993	\$11,107,406.00	\$11,674,275.00
June 30, 1994	\$11,653,168.00	\$12,127,575.00
June 30, 1995	\$12,338,738.00	\$13,734,082.00
June 30, 1996	\$13,031,227.00	\$15,645,877.00
June 30, 1997	\$14,013,278.75	\$18,380,013.00
June 30, 1998	\$15,646,840.00	\$21,676,585.00
June 30, 1999	\$16,243,414.85	\$24,534,082.00
June 30, 2000	\$18,392,037.89	\$27,831,968.70
June 30, 2001	\$21,013,619.31	\$23,928,040.75
June 30, 2002	\$21,362,600.49	\$20,539,548.82
June 30, 2003	\$19,524,487.79	\$20,622,312.68
June 30, 2004	\$22,017,665.13	\$22,691,213.55
June 30, 2005	\$22,914,541.47	\$24,896,701.34
June 30, 2006	\$24,356,734.29	\$27,020,394.56
June 30, 2007	\$25,561,684.80	\$30,676,999.67
June 30, 2008	\$27,564,499.16	\$28,332,067.06
June 30, 2009	\$23,030,415.60	\$20,674,813.27
June 30, 2010	\$21,625,470.32	\$21,322,358.36
June 30, 2011	\$22,640,200.15	\$25,259,932.71
June 30, 2012	\$23,074,757.16	\$24,490,220.68
June 30, 2013	\$23,845,778.35	\$26,396,266.72
June 30, 2014	\$25,462,693.87	\$29,928,554.01
June 30, 2015	\$26,826,021.72	\$28,222,276.89
June 30, 2016	\$25,720,922.66	\$26,053,449.19
June 30, 2017	\$25,237,148.73	\$27,056,267.56
June 30, 2018	\$25,528,622.35	\$27,862,187.60
June 30, 2019	\$25,317,160.55	\$27,946,496.46
June 30, 2020	\$23,751,808.43	\$26,961,397.05
June 30, 2021	\$24,452,356.52	\$31,966,517.73

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
Diocesan Unemployment Insurance Fund
July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	June 30, 2021	June 30, 2020
Money Market	\$0.00	\$0.00
Investments	177,572.71	148,097.93
Due From Operating Fund	51,009.80	57,473.67
Prepaid Expenses	3,135.00	3,135.00
Accounts Receivable	74,287.27	0.00
Accrued Interest Receivable	0.00	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$306,004.78	\$208,706.60
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		
Claims Payable	\$0.00	\$0.00
Reserve For Claims*	0.00	0.00
Due to Operating Fund	0.00	0.00
Fund Balance	306,004.78	208,706.60
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	\$306,004.78	\$208,706.60

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

	July 1, 2020 June 30, 2021	July 1, 2019 June 30, 2020
INCOME		
Unemployment Premiums	\$69,217.18	\$72,028.44
Gain (Loss) on Investments (Net)	9,557.99	6,812.58
Investment Income	4,581.96	4,037.12
Insurance Reimbursement	38,172.79	0.00
Transfer from Other Funds	0.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$121,529.92	\$82,878.14
EXPENDITURES		
Claims Paid	\$0.00	\$88,652.84
Consultant	6,270.00	6,270.00
Diocesan Administration	17,961.74	16,949.42
Departmental Grants	0.00	50,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$24,231.74	\$161,872.26
EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES	\$97,298.18	(\$78,994.12)

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

Missionary Projects/Ogdensburg

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021

<u>FUND BALANCE - JULY 1</u>	<u>July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021</u>	<u>July 1, 2019- June 30, 2020</u>
	\$228,487.20	\$208,328.19
RECEIPTS		
Diocesan OPA Collection	\$42,806.39	\$35,289.18
Missionary Coop Collection	0.00	0.00
Parish OPA Donations	0.00	0.00
Interest	3,867.54	6,711.20
Special Gifts	0.00	0.00
General Donations	0.00	0.00
Bequests	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,961.51</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	46,673.93	44,961.89
TOTAL JULY 1 FUND BALANCE AND RECEIPTS	\$275,161.13	\$253,290.08
EXPENDITURES		
Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00
Advertising	0.00	0.00
Department Grants	0.00	5,000.00
Budget Grants and Donations	<u>51,558.90</u>	<u>19,802.88</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	51,558.90	24,802.88
FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30-	<u>\$223,602.23</u>	<u>\$228,487.20</u>

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

Diocesan Health/Disability Benefits Program*

July 1, 2019-June 30, 2021

<u>BALANCE SHEET</u>			<u>STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES</u>		
	<u>June 30, 2021</u>	<u>June 30, 2020</u>		<u>July 1, 2020 June 30, 2021</u>	<u>July 1, 2019 June 30, 2020</u>
ASSETS			INCOME		
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00	\$0.00	Premiums	\$70,348.00	\$72,144.00
Cash & Money Market Funds	4,498.30	5,055.96	Retiree Drug Subsidy	0.00	0.00
Investment in Deposit & Loan Fund	0.00	0.00	Gain (Loss) on Investments (Net)	0.00	0.00
Due From Operating Funds	<u>261,996.52</u>	<u>253,765.11</u>	Investment Income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$266,494.82</u>	<u>\$258,821.07</u>	TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$70,348.00</u>	<u>\$72,144.00</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE			EXPENDITURES		
Reserve for Claims**	\$0.00	\$0.00	Claims Paid	\$24,248.38	\$20,174.66
Deferred Revenue	0.00	0.00	Administrative Fees	0.00	0.00
Due To Operating Funds	0.00	0.00	Health Insurance - Retired Priests	0.00	0.00
Fund Balance	<u>266,494.82</u>	<u>258,821.07</u>	Fiscal Office Administration	38,425.87	35,182.06
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u>\$266,494.82</u>	<u>\$258,821.07</u>	Transfers to Other Programs	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
			TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>\$62,674.25</u>	<u>\$55,356.72</u>
			EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES	<u>\$7,673.75</u>	<u>\$16,787.28</u>

*Self insured health insurance program was terminated August 31, 1997

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

Priests' Retirement Fund

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021

	<u>July 1, 2020- June 30, 2021</u>	<u>July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020</u>
FUND BALANCE - JULY 1	\$9,995,114.33	\$9,936,661.03
ADDITIONS		
Share of Christmas Collection	\$122,608.20	\$235,903.92
Diocesan Assessment	72,452.00	73,362.00
Donations in Lieu of Christmas Collection	1,668.00	248.00
Bequests and Donations	450.28	25,504.96
Investment Income	214,733.68	245,857.86
Gain (Loss) on Investments (Net)	<u>2,409,833.56</u>	<u>790,621.81</u>
TOTAL ADDITIONS	<u>2,821,745.72</u>	<u>1,371,498.55</u>
TOTAL JULY 1 FUND BALANCE AND ADDITIONS	\$12,816,860.05	\$11,308,159.58
DEDUCTIONS		
Payments to Retired Priests	\$986,209.16	\$902,138.66
Retired Priests' Health Insurance	230,007.90	227,689.11
Diocesan Administration	<u>208,206.72</u>	<u>183,217.48</u>
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	<u>1,424,423.78</u>	<u>1,313,045.25</u>
FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30	<u>\$11,392,436.27</u>	<u>\$9,995,114.33</u>

FIFTY-THREE YEAR SUMMARY
June 30, 2021

	<u>1968-2021</u>
ADDITIONS	
Share of Christmas Collection	\$8,900,179.37
Assessment Per Priest	1,487,279.70
Diocesan Assessment	747,766.44
Donations in Lieu of Christmas Collection	417,891.41
Bequests and Donations	3,052,680.37
Investment Income	7,864,028.80
Net Realized & Unrealized Gains on Investments	15,545,816.63
Self-Insurance Fund Grant	90,000.00
Loan Account Interest	119,838.70
Loan Account Grant	<u>30,000.00</u>
TOTAL ADDITIONS	\$38,255,481.42
DEDUCTIONS	
Payments to Retired Priests	\$20,641,522.96
Retired Priests Health Insurance	3,706,009.60
Diocesan Administration	<u>2,515,512.59</u>
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	<u>26,863,045.15</u>
FUND BALANCE - June 30, 2021	<u>\$11,392,436.27</u>

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FUND ASSETS

	<u>Book Value</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents - NBT Bank	\$108,816.15	\$108,816.15
Accounts Receivable	\$787.00	\$787.00
Due from Operating Fund	13,965.76	13,965.76
Interest Receivable	14,009.40	14,009.40
Deferred Revenue	0.00	0.00
Stocks	2,216,886.86	3,021,311.03
Bonds and U.S. Government Obligations	2,666,390.77	2,727,092.03
Manning & Napier Funds	1,452,185.02	1,702,705.06
Christian Brothers Investment Services	2,088,434.66	3,318,447.15
The Investment Fund for Foundations: Real Opportunities Fund	52,504.00	71,503.00
Dimensional Fund Advisors - Emerging Markets Social Core Equities	<u>364,750.00</u>	<u>413,799.69</u>
TOTAL ASSETS - June 30, 2021	<u>\$ 8,978,729.62</u>	<u>\$ 11,392,436.27</u>

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

Priests' Retirement Fund

The Fund Balance has Accumulated as Follows:

1968	\$17,500.80
1969	10,330.23
1970	20,579.08
1971	19,265.60
1972	27,914.97
1972-1973	5,070.97
1973-1974	18,329.14
1974-1975	55,740.80
1975-1976	44,465.90
1976-1977	36,976.48
1977-1978	54,045.99
1978-1979	66,581.55
1979-1980	133,679.84
1980-1981	113,242.58
1981-1982	22,235.30
1982-1983	99,793.90
1983-1984	173,959.28
1984-1985	30,889.45
1985-1986	153,452.78
1986-1987	111,359.14
1987-1988	204,214.85
1988-1989	188,566.80
1989-1990	226,548.99
1990-1991	143,441.06
1991-1992	445,497.41
1992-1993	272,881.17
1993-1994	463,490.02
1994-1995	491,107.10
1995-1996	960,060.25
1996-1997	1,021,061.17
1997-1998	408,417.16
1998-1999	829,004.36
1999-2000	719,110.30
2000-2001	660,809.56
2001-2002	(1,184,839.10)
2002-2003	330,280.74
2003-2004	1,009,257.04
2004-2005	693,492.98
2005-2006	722,134.05
2006-2007	1,178,509.12
2007-2008	(1,037,244.76)
2008-2009	(1,814,310.57)
2009-2010	92,956.71
2010-2011	1,351,134.50
2011-2012	(403,955.22)
2012-2013	632,958.28
2013-2014	1,249,004.22
2014-2015	(400,661.47)
2015-2016	(1,078,531.11)
2016-2017	610,630.75
2017-2018	4,465.63
2018-2019	(268,244.74)
2019-2020	58,453.30
2020-2021	<u>1,397,321.94</u>

FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30, 2021

\$11,392,436.27

Russian Catholics cautious about opinions, welcome consecration to Mary

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) – Although Russia's Catholics hold different views about the conflict in Ukraine, a spokesman for the country's bishops said all are united in welcoming Pope Francis' plan to consecrate their country to the Immaculate Heart of Mary March 25 in a service at the Vatican.

However, a Catholic professor in the country said the pope's plan was likely to provoke a negative reaction from the Russian Orthodox Church, which could see it as infringing its "canonical territory."

"For Catholics, this gesture isn't about faith, but about people and peace between two countries – but Orthodox bishops will wonder why the pope is consecrating two predominantly Orthodox countries in this way," the professor, who asked not to be named, told Catholic News Service March 17.

Father Kirill Gorbunov, spokesman for the Russian bishops' conference, said because there had been disinformation and propaganda attacks in Russia and Ukraine, the bishops had restricted their remarks about Russian President Vladimir Putin's "special military operation" to avoid "contradiction and conflict" among Russian Catholics.

"But although everyone acts on their own understanding and we can't always agree about what's being done, we are all absolutely united in our deepest desire that the suffering of innocent

people should stop immediately – and profoundly grateful for all efforts being made to stop the bloodshed," he told Catholic News Service after a March 15-16 plenary of the five-member conference at Listvyanka, near Irkutsk. The bishops called on parishes and communities to "join in fervent prayer, combined with fasting and deeds of love," for peace in the Russia-Ukraine war.

Father Gorbunov added that many had long requested their country's consecration as "a response to the current tragedy" and said the pope's "providential decision" had reunited the church at all levels.

Father Gorbunov also said that "Catholics who hold certain political opinions have obvious reason to be careful about expressing them openly, since new legislation forbids views contrary to the official version."

The professor, a lay Catholic, said the bishops' capacity to speak out had since been curbed by new March 4 Criminal Law amendments, imposing up to 15 years' jail for spreading "fake news" and "false information."

To comply with Russian laws, peace appeals by Pope Francis, including his Angelus messages of March 6 and 13, have not been published on the church's main news website, Cathmos.Ru, which reissued a Russian Orthodox statement, rather than a Vatican communiqué, about the pope's

March 16 video conversation with Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill of Moscow.

Father Gorbunov told CNS that Russia's bishops had not issued instructions about what should be published, but said Catholic media editors and staffers were having to "choose their formulas carefully" to avoid being penalized or closed down.

The bishops' spokesman added that Western sanctions would have "dramatic consequences" for everyone in Russia and said church leaders had urged "a rethink about which categories of faithful most needed help."

Meanwhile, the Catholic professor said the church's Caritas aid organization had been forced to suspend many charitable projects in St. Petersburg and other cities because of the cancellation of foreign aid contracts, while many parishes were now running short of liturgical objects usually imported.

He said many Catholics had resigned their jobs and were seeking to leave the country.

"As the economy declines and living conditions worsen, their earnings have now also dropped because of the plummeting exchange rate," the lay Catholic told CNS. "Many Catholics have family roots in Poland, Lithuania, Ukraine and elsewhere, and are fearful of being stranded on the wrong side if a new Iron Curtain falls."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope asks bishops to join consecration of Ukraine, Russia

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis has asked bishops around the world to join him March 25 in consecrating Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, something bishops in every part of the globe had started announcing the minute they heard what the pope had planned. "Pope Francis has invited the bishops of the whole world, along with their priests, to join him in the prayer for peace and in the consecration and entrustment of Russia and of Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary," Matteo Bruni, director of the Vatican press office, said March 18. Three days earlier, the Vatican had announced the pope would lead the prayer in St. Peter's Basilica during a Lenten penance service and that, on the same day, the feast of the Annunciation, Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner, would lead a similar act of consecration at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal. When Mary appeared to three shepherd children at Fatima in 1917 with a message encouraging prayer and repentance, she also asked for the consecration of Russia.

Church's outreach to refugees follows Jesus' example

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The church's charitable outreach to people fleeing war, political instability, poverty and other threats is a requirement for followers of Jesus, the Administrative Committee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said in a March 17 statement. "Some may question why and how the church supports refugees and migrants, regardless of race, creed or color, but the simple truth is that Christ identifies with those in need: 'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me,'" the committee said, citing Matthew 25:35. Led by Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez as USCCB president, the committee said various challenges have forced people to flee in search of safety and security and that their plight requires a Christian response. "This means that when people are hungry and knock at our door, we feed them. When they come to our door cold, we clothe them. And when someone who is a stranger comes, we welcome him or her. The church does this everywhere she exists," it said.

Northern Ireland archbishops: 'Never take peace for granted'

ARMAGH, Northern Ireland (CNS) – In a joint message for St. Patrick's Day, the Catholic and Anglican archbishops of Armagh said the war in Ukraine is a lesson to Northern Ireland to "never take peace for granted" and "never give up on dialogue, the building of bridges, and mutual understanding across historical divides." Catholic Archbishop Eamon Martin and Anglican Archbishop John McDowell, whose dioceses straddle both sides of the Irish border, made their comments after they led the annual St. Patrick's lecture organized by local borough councils. Armagh is where St. Patrick built a church in the fifth century. Each year, the lecture offers insights on how the witness of St. Patrick speaks to the contemporary world. This year's lecture was March 16, the eve of St. Patrick's Day, with the theme, "St. Patrick as a model for reconciliation and peace." The two churchmen appealed for an end to the "pointless massacre and pulverizing of the property, bodies and spirit of the Ukrainian people. What is happening today in Europe should help us learn lessons for our own peace process," they stressed. Speaking to Catholic News Service, Archbishop Martin said, "We have to learn here on this island from Ukraine about the importance of continuing progress in peace, dialogue and diplomacy. We should never take peace for granted."

Higher prices squeeze food banks, clients

DETROIT (CNS)—A trip to the grocery store is giving shoppers sticker shock over staples such as a gallon of milk.

Imagine the pocketbook pain of buying 250,000 gallons.

Southeast Michigan food aid ministries, including food banks and parish-based pantries, are "absolutely" feeling the pinch of inflation as food prices rise at their fastest pace in nearly 40 years, according to those who spoke to Detroit Catholic, the archdiocesan news outlet.

Granted, most aren't shopping at the local supermarket, but the impact of rising prices is there.

"Inflation is definitely having an effect in terms of our costs," said Stacy Averill, vice president of community giving and public relations for Detroit-based Gleaners Community Food Bank. "Two of our largest costs as an organization are food and staffing. From the food perspective, we are definitely seeing substantial increases in the cost of items that we purchase and make available through our distribution."

The U.S. consumer price index, which measures the impact of inflation across a range of cate-

gories, rose 7.9% in February, the steepest one-month gain since 1982. Food prices, which are among the most volatile commodities, rose an average of 3.9% in 2021.

So far, ministries such as Gleaners have been able to keep pace with demand for assistance, which remains high two years into the COVID-19 pandemic.

As one of the largest food banks in Metro Detroit, Gleaners purchases food in bulk to distribute to more than 660 soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters and schools. Most of the food it distributes is given away free or at a low service fee.

Because of its wide network, Gleaners is able to purchase food in bulk at discounted prices from local farms, retailers and wholesalers, but those prices have increased dramatically in the past two years, Averill said.

She estimated food costs have risen 10% to 25% compared with pre-pandemic prices. "That's across the board from food staples like fresh produce, but also things like canned fruits and vegetables, frozen chicken and fresh milk," she said.

For instance, Averill said, Gleaners projects to spend almost \$500,000 more this year on fresh milk, and is already spending more than it budgeted for produce this fiscal year.

When the pandemic began, food banks, shelters and soup kitchens received an influx of federal, state and private aid in the form of monetary donations, grants and direct food donations. However, as the health crisis has waned much of that initial burst of support has dried up, Averill said, causing nonprofits to rely more heavily on their own budgets to continue meeting an elevated demand for food.

Even organizations that are more insulated from direct food price increases, such as Oak Park, Michigan-based Forgotten Harvest, are feeling the inflation's impact in other ways.

While Forgotten Harvest provide food free of charge to local pantries and soup kitchens, its organizational model relies on rescuing and redistributing perishable food from local grocers, restaurants and farms that otherwise would go to waste.

Although Forgotten Harvest re-

ceives food for free, costs are involved, especially for fuel, said Christopher Ivey, director of marketing and communications for Forgotten Harvest.

"It's not a food cost issue so much as it's just the transportation costs of getting the food to us," Ivey said. "And then obviously, like everyone else, we're running a bit short staffed. So on top of that, we've had to pay overtime. When our drivers are out sick, we have to get a temporary driver, so then we incur costs there."

During the pandemic, many large corporations and organizations that would normally send volunteers to help pack, organize, sort and distribute food pulled back because of safety concerns, Averill said, leaving nonprofits scrambling to fill orders and leaning on staff – and in some cases overtime – to fill the void.

While both organizations have protocols to ensure volunteers' safety, and some volunteers have begun to return, both Ivey and Averill said their organizations' biggest needs are manpower and monetary donations.

Funding boost for human needs welcomed

The \$1.5 trillion federal budget for fiscal year 2022 passed by Congress and signed into law March 15 by President Joe Biden includes increased funding for key programs that Catholic advocates say will benefit low-income families.

From providing rental assistance to an additional 25,000 households to a boost in support for maternal health care, the budget contains a year to year spending increase of about 6.7% in domestic programs at a time when inflation is hitting poor and working-class families the hardest.

Allocations for housing, schools, workforce training, child care, renewable energy, biomedical re-

search, and nutrition programs total \$730 billion, some \$46 billion higher than 2021. It's the largest increase in nondefense programs in four years.

Defense spending comes in at \$782 billion, about \$29 billion more than Biden first proposed last spring. The amount is 5.6% above the 2021 level.

The legislation also provides \$13.6 billion in additional humanitarian and military aid to Ukraine.

The boost in nondefense outlays marks somewhat of a turning point – for now – from recent federal allocation trends in which fundings for domestic initiatives remained relatively flat.

"There has been over the

past several years a lot of programs, when adjusting for inflation, that effectively have been cut. We want to be sure we get to adequate levels of support. This (budget) is a positive step in that direction," said Julie Bodnar, domestic policy adviser in the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office of Domestic Social Development.

Representatives of Catholic Charities USA and the Catholic Health Association of the United States as well as advocacy organizations echoed Bodnar in welcoming the bipartisan legislation, which covers the fiscal year that ends Sept. 30.

At the same time, they called on members of Con-

gress to recognize the nation's continuing responsibility to prioritize the needs of struggling families in future budget negotiations especially as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are expected to be felt long into the future.

Mercy Sister Mary Haddad, CHA's president and CEO, welcomed the bipartisan support the omnibus appropriations bill received.

"The legislation provides support for our nation's health and social safety net," she said in a statement released March 14.

She identified additional Medicaid funding for U.S. territories as a key budget component. Health care providers in the territories

received lower rates of Medicaid funding than the states.

CHA also welcomed a provision that temporarily extends telehealth waivers so that people enrolled in Medicare, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program can more easily receive medical care during the continuing public health emergency declared by federal health officials.

The inclusion of conscience protections – namely the Weldon Amendment – will allow Catholic health care providers to serve their communities in accord with their ethical and moral beliefs, Sister Haddad said.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Celebrating Laetare Sunday

Today is Laetare Sunday (Rejoice – be joyful!). The celebrant may wear rose vestments at Mass. We're closing in on the feast of Easter.

In our first reading from Joshua, the 40 years in the desert has ended. They are celebrating the Passover, getting ready to cross over into Canaan. The manna has ceased, and fresh produce awaits them on the other side.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

In the second reading, St. Paul reminds the Corinthians that they are now a "new creation." They are ambassadors for Christ, meaning that Christ wants to work His accomplishments through them. How can this be? Christ has reconciled the world so that now we can become the "righteousness of God."

The Gospel is the parable of the Prodigal Son

March 27

Fourth Sunday of Lent

READINGS

Joshua 5:9a, 10-12

Corinthians 5:17-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

who has squandered all his inheritance in sinful activity. Repentant, he returns to the father who welcomes him with open arms.

When the elder son hears the sounds of a party, he is angry and resentful, and he refuses to come in. After all, he has

never offended the father, yet the father has never thrown a party for him.

How often we have squandered God's gifts through sinful behavior, yet the Father has relentlessly pursued us like the Hound of Heaven until we return. God's ways are not our ways.

Like the older brother, we are sometimes angry at God for being so "prodigal" of his mercy toward someone we don't approve of. "What kind of justice is that?" we complain.

His love is beyond our understanding.

As we approach Holy Week and Jesus' passion and death, we need to spend time meditating on how his love doesn't discriminate.

He sends the rain and he sunshine all the good and the evil alike.

He even forgave those who nailed Him to the cross!

In these terrible days of massacres and pandemic, we too must pray for those who extend the chaos in which we live. God will bless us for it.

CALLED TO SERVE

Take a Lenten break; wear pink

"You look pretty good in pink, Father."

"Hey Deacon, it took a lot of guts to wear pink today!"

We will hear comments like that next Sunday IF we wear rose colored vestments for Laetare Sunday. They aren't really pink, they are rose.

Some pastors would not be caught alive or dead in rose vestments, so they opt for the violet vestments that are typical in the season of Lent. That's their prerogative. I did just buy a new rose

dalmatic though, knowing my pastor will wear a rose chasuble.

The Roman Missal doesn't call this Laetare Sunday anymore, but the Church still acknowledges it as a unique milestone on our Lenten journey. The Church permits violet or rose-colored vestments on the 4th Sunday of Lent.

The 4th Sunday celebration marks the halfway point of Lent.

We rejoice (Laetare) with a day of relaxation from the normal rigors of

Lent. It is a day of hope with Easter within sight. We do something similar during Advent when we observe Gaudete Sunday about halfway through that season of preparation for the coming of Christ. We can wear rose vestments that day, too.

The readings for this Sunday remind us of God's mercy.

The entrance antiphon echoes the words of Isaiah the prophet.

"Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast."

In Luke's Gospel, we relive the poor decisions made by the younger of two sons of a rich man and his eventual return to

his father. The prodigal son is destitute, messy, dirty and hungry. He returns to his home with his proverbial tail between his legs. He is looking for forgiveness and some comfort.

His father is more than willing to rejoice at his son's return and welcomes him home.

The analogy to God's love for us when we sin and are contrite is unmistakable. Paul implores the Corinthians in the second reading "on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

In the midst of the penitence and preparation of Lent, we will take a moment to celebrate the reason for our 40-day discipline. T

he priest and deacon will replace purple (vio-

let) vestments with rose, the church decorating committee can put flowers around the altar if they choose and, the restrictions on the use of the organ by our liturgical musicians during Mass are relaxed.

These are external symbols of the joy that we are meant to feel as we prepare for the Easter feast.

So go ahead and joke with the clergy about their "pink" vestments but don't lose sight of the why: "taste and see the goodness of the Lord" and the salvation Christ will win for us at Easter.

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

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NOW STREAMING: THE ADAM PROJECT

NEW YORK (CNS) – A climactic sequence in the sci-fi action adventure "The Adam Project" (Netflix) finds the preteen version of the eponymous character using hi-tech weapons to fight evil robots.

Like several other elements in director Shawn Levy's film, this is clearly designed to appeal to the lad's contemporaries in the audience. Unfortunately, a script studded with vulgar expressions makes the movie grown-up fare instead.

There are, in fact, two Adams in this time-travel themed tale. Adult Adam (Ryan Reynolds) hails from the year 2050. Arriving in the present, he teams with his 12-year-old self (Walker Scobell) to nip a future problem for humanity in the bud.

Youthful Adam is under-sized, asthmatic and a victim of bullying, largely because he has a big mouth. Reynolds, of course, is anything but a weakling, yet he's still a wiseacre. As a result, there's a smart-alecky tone to their exchanges that's likely to prove more irritating to viewers than amusing.

Behind all the flip dialogue are some positive messages about family bonding, in particular youthful Adam's need to be

kinder toward his widowed mom, Ellie (Jennifer Garner).

There are also unresolved emotions surrounding the untimely death of his scientist dad, Louis (Mark Ruffalo), that get sorted out as the plot moves forward.

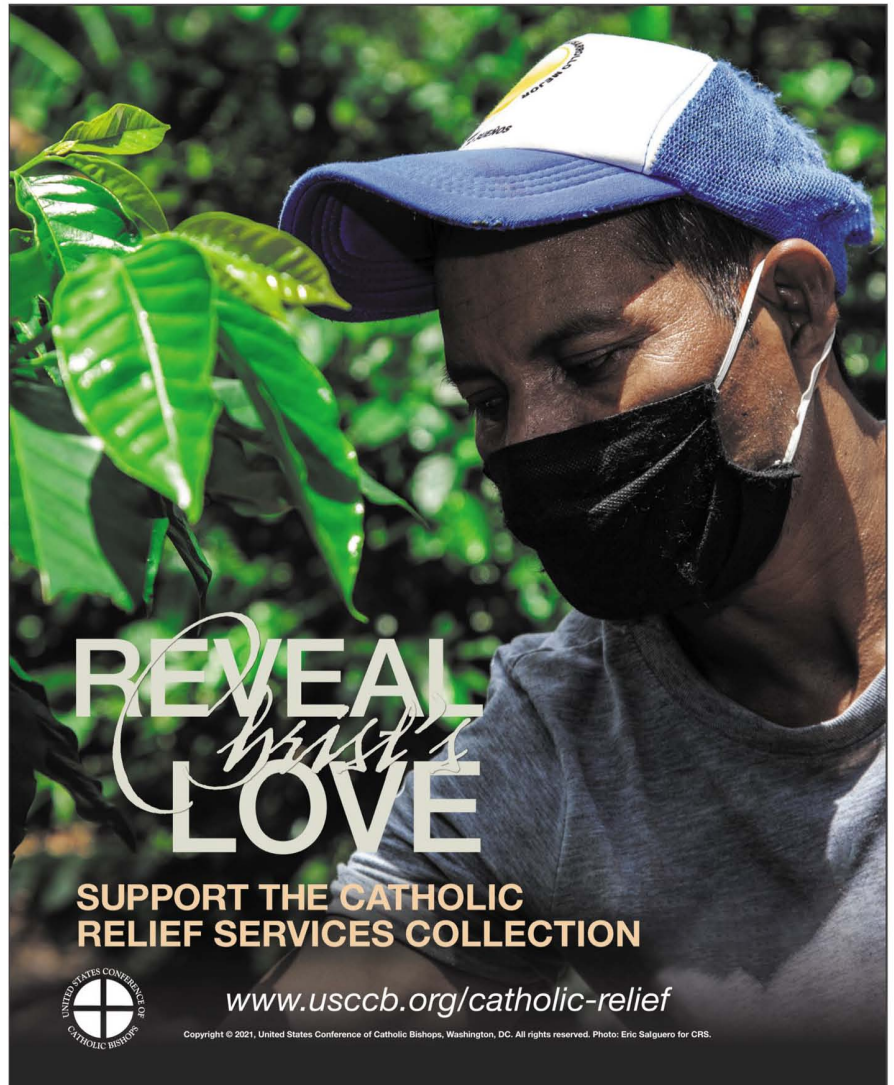
But these themes come packaged in a screenplay, penned by a quartet of writers, that's far from kid-friendly. So another of its

implicit ideas – that put-upon real-life youngsters can look forward to a brighter future – is also off-limits to those at whom it's aimed.

Their elders will find the shrill tone offset by a fast pace. Yet a momentary reference to the idea that the rules of chronology busting may require the two embodiments of the protagonist to forget that they ever met each other might be

extended to "The Adam Project" as a whole. It's ultimately more a serviceable experience than a memorable one.

The film contains mostly stylized violence with little gore, a scene of marital sensuality, several profanities, milder oaths as well as crude and crass language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG-13.



REVEAL
Christ's
LOVE

SUPPORT THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION

www.usccb.org/catholic-relief



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The Catholic Relief Services Collection helps **Jesus in disguise**. Funds from this Collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad.

Collection Weekend: March 26 & 27



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VIRTUAL EVENTS

BROWN BAG SERIES

The Office of New Evangelization will be running a new Brownbag Chat.

Date: 10 sessions starting Wednesdays, March 23

Time: noon to 1 p.m.

Place: via Zoom

Features: We will use the Revive Parishes Series by Chris Stefanick on Evangelization. In each session, we will watch a video together via zoom and then have an informal discussion.

Contact: If you would like to join us this series of lunch-time chat discussions, please sign up online at <https://www.rcdony.org/brownbag>. For more information, contact Marika Donders at mdonders@rcdony.org

CLINTON

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Plattsburgh – You're invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion.

Date: March 2 to April 10

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

Place: Outside Planned Parenthood

Features: Stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood of the North Country.

Contact: Nancy Belzile at 518-593-6024 or email: nancys_56@hotmail.com for more information.

ADORATION

Ellenburg Center – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on the Fridays during Lent.

Date: March 4 to April 8

Time: Noon to 3 p.m.

Place: Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer.

Contact: Deacon Ken Lushia 518-493-6671 or Sarah Anderson, OFS 518-534-9976

TAIZE PRAYER

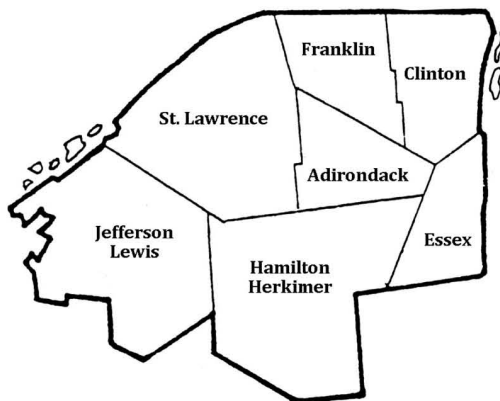
Plattsburgh – Lenten Prayer opportunity to be held.

Date: March 24

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: Join us as we gather around the wood of the cross for Taize' prayer this Lent! Taize' Prayer includes song, silence and Sacred Scripture in an atmosphere of quiet reflection. The music is simple and melodic. Refrains are repeated in the mantra style of the Eastern Church. As you enter into the



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.

song and silence, the prayerful repetitions will permeate your spirit. All are welcome. "Come, let us Adore Him"

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Plattsburgh – Stations of the Cross to be held for the victims of abortion.

Date: April 15

Time: 10 a.m.

Place: In front of Planned Parenthood

Features: Please dress accordingly. Volunteers needed to hold stations, somber and prayerful meditation.

Contact: Nancy at 518-593-6024

FRANKLIN

LENTE DEANERY MISSION

Father John Yonkovic will be doing a Lenten Mission at parishes in our deanery with the theme "Dying to Live".

Schedule: April 4, at St. Mary's Church Brushton ("The Best Seat in the House"); April 5, at Notre Dame Church, Malone ("Business as Usual"); April 6, at St. Francis of Assisi, Constable ("Keep Your Hands and Feet Inside the Boat")

Time: 7 p.m.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

CHICKEN AND BISCUIT DINNER

Lyons Falls – Drive-thru Chicken and Biscuit dinner to be held.

Date: March 29

Time: 5 p.m.

Place: St. John's Church

Cost: \$12

Contact: Deliveries are available!! Pre-orders should be made by calling 315-348-8945 or 315-348-8577 or the day of the event by calling the church

hall at 315-348-6599.

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: April 2

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – The Knights of Columbus to have a Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner.

Date: April 9

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

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

Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

Watertown – Divine Mercy Novena to begin for 9 days.

Date: April 15 (Good Friday)

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Patrick's Church, PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION THIS YEAR

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

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Watertown – St. Patrick's Church will hold a Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration.

Date: April 24

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Patrick's Church, PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION THIS YEAR

Features: For all Catholics, active and fallen-away. The Divine Mercy Devotion consists of making a Novena by praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy beginning on Good Friday, making a good confession & celebrating the Feast of Mercy in church.

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.

LENTE FISH FRY

Gouverneur – St. James School Friday Fish Fries are back during Lent.

Date: Beginning March 4 through Lent.

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:15

Place: Back of St. James School

Cost: Adults, \$12; Children under 5, Free

Features: Dine in or take out.

Contact: Local deliveries available by calling 315-287-0130

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Canton – All are welcome to join in praying the Stations of the Cross.

Date: Fridays from March 4 – April 15

Time: 5:15 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

FOOD DRIVE

Canton – Join the Sarto Council #1059 Knights of Columbus in Canton in a Lenten Food Drive. All are challenged to donate one can of food (or other non-perishable item) for each day of Lent. Donations can be deposited at the doors St. Mary's Church.

11TH AND 12TH GRADE RELIGION CLASSES

Ogdensburg – St. Mary's Cathedral Parish is offering an 11th & 12th grade religion class. Youth in the applicable grades from outside the Cathedral Parish are welcome to attend.

Date: April 10, May 15

Time: 5 p.m. to 7:30

Place: Brzana Hall below St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: Lots of discussion, less lecture. Games with prizes. Dinner included. Classes are self-contained units. Can't make it in October, you are still invited for November, December... No makeup assignments! Guests welcome! Bring a friend!

Contact: If you have questions or concerns that can't wait, contact Deacon Jim Crowley via email jcrowley@rcdony.org or Jessica Hargrave via email jhargrave@rcdony.org.

ACIES

Ogdensburg – The ACIES of the Legion of Mary to be held.

Date: March 27

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: Deacon Winter Chapel at St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: ACIES is the Latin work meaning "Army Dressed in Battle of Array". This is the yearly opportunity for all Legionaries to gather in unity and fellowship and consecrate themselves once more to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Prayers, music and hymns in the Chapel will be followed by refreshments in Bishop Brzana Hall. Anyone who loves our Blessed Mother is invited to attend this Legion of Mary event.

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

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

Date: April 2

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.

ALPHA

Massena – You're invited to ALPHA.

Date: Starting Tuesdays April 5

Time: 6 p.m. to 8:30

Place: St. Mary's Parish Hall

Features: Join for a meal and fellowship. No cost to attend
Contact: Sylvie Marion at 315-769-2469

DAY OF MERCY

Canton – St. Mary's Church will be offering a Day of Mercy.

Date: April 6

Time: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Features: The Sacrament of Confes-

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OBITUARIES

Altona – Linda Mae Trudo) Bonsie, 74; Mass of Christian Burial March 18, 2022 at Holy Angels Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Carthage – Ilene (Arnold) O'Connor, 81; Graveside services in spring at Fairview Cemetery.

Clayton – Gerald T. Wetterhahn, 69;

Mass of Christian Burial March 19, 2022 at St. Mary's Church.

Dannemora – Diane Marie (Deyo) LaRose, 77 March 16, 2022 at St. Joseph's Church.

Heuvelton – Eleanor Mary (Cardinal) Willard, 83; Mass of Christian Burial March 15, 2022 at St. Raphael's Church;

burial in Purmont Cemetery.

Keeseville – Leonard H. Guimond, 84; Mass of Christian Burial March 19, 2022 at St. John's Church; burial in Evergreen Cemetery.

Malone – Robert H. French, 86; Mass of Christian Burial March 17, 2022 at

Notre Dame Church.

Norwood – Laurence E. McKenna, 80; Mass of Christian Burial March 18, 2022 at St. Andrew's Church.

Waddington – Richard J. Ryan, 68; Funeral Services March 19, 2022 at the Phillips Memorial Home.

Watertown – Robert M. Humphrey, 77; Mass of Christian Burial March 16, 2022 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

Watertown – Paul J. Michaelson, DDS, 70; Mass of Christian Burial March 18, 2022 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Around the diocese

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-sion to be heard all day with a pause at 8:15 a.m. for morning Mass.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST: JESUS PRESENT AND HOW TO SHARE IT

Waddington – A Continuation of the Eucharist Initiative sponsored by LEAD.

Date: April 30

Time: 9:30 a.m. to noon

Place: Waddington Parish Center
Presenter: Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ

Features: Bring a bagged lunch for food and conversation afterwards. There is no cost to attend.

Contact: To register, go to rcdony.org/liturgyeucharist

DIOCESAN EVENTS

REFLECT AND RECONCILE

A Diocese of Ogdensburg youth Lenten retreat to be held for all young people in grades 7 to 12.

Schedule: March 26 at St. Mary's Parish Center, Champlain.

Time: 1 p.m. to 5

Features: Join fellow youth in grades 7 to 12 as you get a chance to dive deeper into the concept of forgiveness and to understand more in a space that is judgment-free and supportive. The pace of this retreat experience will contain moments of fun, quiet reflection, candid conversation, and a presentation.

Contact: Registration: rcdony.org/lentenretreat For more information please contact Tom Semeraro – Office of Youth Ministry – 315-393-2920 ext. 1415 or tsemararo@rcdony.org

PRESENTATION OF FORGIVEN

A Continuation of the Eucharist Initiative. Discover the merciful way that God calls us back to Himself when we have sinned.

Date: March 26

Time: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center, Clayton; Dostie Hall, Watertown; St. Peter's Church, Lowville; Father Amyot Parish Center, Norfolk; St. Edmund's Parish Center, Ellenburg; The Emmaus Room inside St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh; St. Bernard's School, Saranac Lake; Holy Ghost Parish Center in Tupper Lake

Features: There will be time for discussion. Bring a bagged lunch.

Contact: To register go to: rcdony.org/forgiven

YOUTH RALLY

Lake Placid – Diocese of Ogdensburg Youth Rally to be held.

Date: Apr. 2

Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (with Mass at St. Agnes at 5:30 p.m.)

Place: High Peaks Resort

Cost: \$35 per youth

Features: A Special Day event for you people in grades 7 to 12. Theme will be "In His House". It will be a day filled with Faith, Friendship, Fun, and a closing Mass led by most Reverend Bishop Terry LaValley.

Contact: Please visit: www.rcdony.org/youth/rally or contact Tom Semeraro 315-393-2920 ext. 1415

CHRISM MASS

Ogdensburg – The faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are invited to join the Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley in the annual Renewal of Priestly Commitment, the Blessing of the Holy Oils and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism for use in all the churches of the Diocese.

Date: April 7

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: The Chrism Mass will also be livestreamed at rcdony.org/live-mass.

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