

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Parishes, schools  
learn about safety  
& security | PAGE 15

Disabled Catholics hope  
voices are heard  
in synod | PAGE 18

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 77 Number 21

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

## Bishop LaValley is grand marshal of the Applefest Parade in Peru

On Sept. 16, Bishop Terry R. LaValley served as the grand marshal in the parade included in the Peru Applefest.

Sponsored by St. Augustine's Church, the Applefest included a parade, live music, apple fritters, food, vendors and more.

As part of the festivities, the Town of Peru presented Bishop LaValley with a letter from the Town of Peru and signed by Town Supervisor Brandy McDonald.

The letter honored the Diocese of Ogdensburg for its 150th anniversary and noting the contributions made to the community by the local Church.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

**On September 23, St. Bernard's School in Saranac Lake was presented with a New York State Assembly proclamation to commemorate the school's centennial anniversary and thank them for their years of dedication to the North Country by a representative of state Assemblyman Billy Jones. The proclamation was presented to Father Martin E. Cline, pastor of St. Bernard's Church, and Andrea Kilbourne-Hill, principal at St. Bernard's.**

## WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS



Father Michael H. Marzan recently began serving as a parochial vicar at Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh. Father Marzan is on assignment in the Diocese of Ogdensburg from the Archdiocese of Caceres in the Philippines. Read about Father Marzan, Father John Kennedy Ojuok, who returned to the United States from African this month, and the efforts of former mission priests to bring Mass in Spanish to residents of the diocese in this, the NCC's annual Priest Appreciation edition.

STORIES ON PAGES 4, 8 & 11

## Pope to economists: Help the poor, the planet

ROME (CNS) – Acknowledging how young people have been given a world marked by inequality, injustice, war and environmental degradation, Pope Francis urged those looking for solutions to be concrete, to involve the poor, to care for the Earth and to create jobs.

"Our generation has left you with a rich heritage, but we have not known how to protect the planet and are not securing peace," Pope Francis told some 1,000 young adult economists,

entrepreneurs, financial advisers, students, scholars and scientists from 120 countries at the closing session of the Economy of Francesco event in Assisi.

The gathering Sept. 22-24 originally was planned for March 2020 but was postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, the young people spent more than two years working online with older experts, studying agriculture and employment, peace and ecology and finance and development in the search for ways to

make the economy better for more people and for the environment.

The project is named in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, known for his love of the poor and of creation, and has been supported by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

At the end of the meeting, participants gave Pope Francis a pact, promising to work for "an economy of peace and not of war; an economy that counteracts the proliferation of weapons, especially

the most destructive ones; an economy that cares for creation and does not plunder it; an economy at the service of the person, the family and life, respectful of every woman, man, child, the elderly and especially the frail and vulnerable."

The pope encouraged the young people also to dedicate themselves to preserving and increasing their "spiritual capital," the faith and values that will give meaning to their studies, their work and, especially, to their lives.

NORTH  
COUNTRY  
CATHOLIC

Box 326

Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669  
USPS 0039-3400BISHOP TERRY  
R. L. VALLEY

President

REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN

Vice President

JAMES D. CROWLEY

Secretary-Treasurer

DARCY L. FARGO

Editor &amp;

Communications Director



Publish 45 issues per year: Weekly except skipping every other week beginning July through Aug. and skipping one week in Dec. by the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

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

## Editorial Office:

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

## Telephone:

(315) 608-7556

## E-mail:

news@northcountry  
catholic.org

## Entered at the

## Post Office:

Ogdensburg, NY  
13669 and

additional mailing offices as  
Periodical Postage.

## Subscription:

For one year:

In-Diocese Rate: \$27

Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication  
should be  
addressed to  
PO Box 326

Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
and should be received by  
Thursday prior to  
publication.

Paper is printed each  
Monday;

deadline is Wednesday.  
Member, Catholic Press  
Association.

## POSTMASTER:

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

# Don't just take it from me

As we honor our priests in this annual Priest Appreciation edition of the *NCC*, it occurred to me that you've heard a lot of my stories about the impact priests have had in my life. I thought it was a good time to hear from others.

I sent a version of the following text to several of my friends: "If you had to describe something meaningful a priest of our diocese has done in your life in just a few sentences, what would you say?" Here are a few of the responses:

• "Once, while at an event, I asked a priest I knew well if he had time to hear a confession. I knew it was serious matter, willfully done. We found a quiet corner, he

heard my confession, gave practical guidance and an appropriate penance and then absolution. But what struck me most is what he said afterwards: 'thank you for entrusting this me with this,' as if I had given him a great gift. That last comment still gives me great confidence and comfort every time I go to confession."



Darcy L.  
Fargo

• "A priest once sat with me while I ugly cried during a panic attack and then lent me some very good advice on how to work through what was bothering me."

• "My brother was dying, and I was away. I asked for a priest to visit him and one of our diocesan foreign priests was able to see him, hear his

confession and anoint him. This had a deep effect on his family, many of whom do not attend church, but also on myself. We are very blessed to have such men of deep faith and service among us."

For each of my friends, the moments that stood out were the moments of accompaniment. They were times our priests accompanied them or someone they love in time of need, accompanied them on the path to Jesus.

Isn't that what our priests do in our lives? They accompany us and help lead us to Christ. They do it by offering us the sacraments, their wisdom, their counsel and their service. But they do way more than that. They also administer our parishes; serve as chaplains in fire departments, law enforcement, medical facilities and prisons;

lead and participate in ministries; and do much, much more.

We truly appreciate our priests.

Here at the *North Country Catholic*, we especially appreciate Father Bill Muench and Monsignor Paul Whitmore, who write so beautifully and insightfully for our publication.

One note: While we appreciate all our priests, there are some who aren't mentioned in these pages. Despite best intentions, people miss deadlines. People forget to submit their notes of thanks. Though they may not be mentioned, these priests are still appreciated and loved.

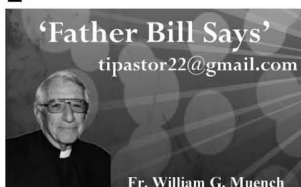
Please keep our priests in your prayers and don't forget to thank them for accompanying us on the path to Christ.

## Appreciating our priests

It's the *North Country Catholic's* annual Priest Appreciation celebration. I begin today by sending my own gratitude and appreciation, first to our bishop, Bishop Terry LaValley, and to all our priests. I have a unique opportunity through this space to share a few words of appreciation.

First, I would like to offer my gratitude and appreciation to Bishop LaValley. Bishop LaValley accepted this huge challenge of being our bishop 12 years ago. He has been an exceptional guide and leader for our diocese. His dedication to the people of the North Country is well known to all of us. I am truly grateful to his leadership as our bishop.

I would now like to also send my gratitude and appreciation to all the priests of our diocese; yes, to them all. I know them all. We, priests, have a strong community and bond of friendship. I am constantly impressed with our priests; they are truly dedicated. In addition, I am truly



Fr. William G. Muench

impressed with our young priests; they bring a unique enthusiasm to their ministry for our Catholic Church and our diocese.

I would like to add one more thing here: while this day of appreciation is for priests, this gives me an opportunity to add here my gratitude and appreciation to the many religious sisters and the laity, the lay women and men, who work with dedication in the Chancery of the diocese and in the parishes, the many parishes throughout our diocese. I am truly impressed with their dedication to the people of their parish and the people of our diocese.

I noticed that this week the Church celebrated the Feast of St. Matthew. Matthew was chosen by Jesus to be one of

the original twelve apostles. Matthew's story is rather fascinating. We are told in Matthew's Gospel that Matthew was a tax collector. In the time of Jesus, the country of Israel was under the rule of the Roman Empire. The Romans chose several Jews to work for them in collecting taxed from the ordinary Jews. Obviously, these tax collectors were considered as not good by the Jewish community. It is said that many of these tax collectors cheated also. Yet, somehow, Matthew knew Jesus and his teachings and his works. Matthew seems to have found peace and happiness in the message of Jesus; he was truly attracted to following Jesus. Matthew tells us in his Gospel that one day while he, Matthew, was sitting at the customs post, Jesus came along and simply said to him, "follow me." Matthew got up and followed Jesus.

This story of Matthew was of interest to me because it is rather like my own story. When I was in high school, in

many unique ways, Jesus reached out to me and challenged me to "follow him." I suspect that I was much like Matthew; I really did not understand exactly what this meant, what my life would be like if I followed Jesus and became a priest. I am still learning.

We do know that Matthew's following of Jesus meant that he would become an Evangelist and write a Gospel telling people of all times the story of Jesus and his message. Matthew's Gospel goes on to tell us that the same day Jesus had a meal at Matthew's table and there were many tax collectors and sinners. The Pharisees complained to some of Jesus' disciples: "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

Jesus answers them with an idea we have heard before from Jesus, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, I desire mercy, not sacrifice. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS



PHOTOS BY PAM BALLANTINE AND JIM FALVO

(Above) Youth who participate in the Catholic Faith Communities of St. Alexander's, St. Joseph's, St. James and St. Augustine's Youth Ministry mark the way to Applefest, an annual event at St. Augustine's in Peru. (Right) Bishop Terry R. LaValley walks the Peru Applefest parade route with Father Scott R. Seymour, pastor of St. Augustine's in Peru. Bishop Lavalley was the grand marshal of the Applefest Parade.



# Bishop was Applefest Parade grand marshal

On Sept. 16, Bishop Terry R. LaValley served as grand marshal in the parade included in the Peru Applefest.

Sponsored by St. Augustine's Church, the event included a parade, live music, apple fritters, food and vendors.

As part of the festivities, the Town of Peru presented Bishop LaValley with the following letter, signed by Town Supervisor Brandy McDonald.

Dear Bishop LaValley,

*On behalf of the Town Board, elected officials, employees, and residents of the Town of Peru, I extend my congratulations to the Diocese of Ogdensburg upon its 150th Anniversary. I also welcome you to Peru as the Grand Marshall of the 2022 Applefest Parade.*

*Peru's Catholics have been part of our community since the early 1800s when a small group of Irish immigrants settled on the Patent Road. In 1841, a local property*

*owner named James McGinty deeded property for the construction of St. Patrick's Church for the princely sum of \$1.00. Gradually, our Catholic population grew. Between 1960 and its closing in 2007, St. Augustine's School educated thousands of Peru's children. In 1982, Bishop Stanislaus Brzana blessed today's church.*

*Today, the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Shop, Roger's House and St. Augustine's Soup Kitchen assist hun-*

*dreds of families. In addition, the Knights of Columbus and Catholic Daughters serve their parish community and the St. Augustine's Parish Center is a valued community meeting and voting place.*

*Most importantly, Peru enjoys the beautiful cooperative spirit between St.*

*Augustine's members of other faiths and our entire community. The Applefest is an example of that cooperation.*

*I hope you enjoy your September 17th visit to Peru, and once again, congratulations on the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.*



Rev. Steven Murray  
Pastor

From a truly faith-filled community, we thank you. Your examples inspire us all to truly live the Gospel!

St. André Bessette Parish.



Rev. Fernando Solomon  
Parochial Vicar



We thank you for inspiring us to be the Face of Christ to the People of God. Your faithful ministry is appreciated. From, The Office of Vocations & Seminarians

## WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS

# Home from Africa, Father Ojuok 'grateful to be a priest'

By **Mary Beth Bracy**  
Contributing Writer



Father John Kennedy Ojuok

PLATTSBURGH—When you are ready to race, safari, or play soccer, visit Father John Kennedy Ojuok, one of the new parochial vicars at Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh.

Originally from the western part of the Kenya in the South Nyanza Region, Migori County, Father Ojuok is the youngest in his family and has one brother and two sisters.

"But, after me, my mother adopted nine children, the youngest is one and half year old," he said. "So, that's a blessing in our home. I grew up in a very humble family. My mom is really dedicated to Our Lady. That's where I get my devotion to Our Lady. I really have a strong devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help."

In high school, Father Ojuok found a picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

"I was so attracted to it, every time I prayed I looked at her," he said. "Praying the Rosary is a routine back home, we prayed it before meals every evening, it is one of the most important prayers."

In third grade, Father Ojuok became an altar server.

"I really admired the

altar servers," he said. "When I saw them helping at Mass, I said they are the holiest boys on earth. I have to join them."

He served as an altar server until he went to minor seminary.

"Then, I volunteered as a teacher in our parochial grade school that is run by the Franciscan Sisters of St. Anna," Father Ojuok said. "After a period of discernment, I was interested in joining the order of St. Augustine and discerned for around five years with them."

After, he continued charitable activities.

"I worked with former street boys through the Salesians of Don Bosco, and in their elderly homes and orphanage," he said. "Then, I went to Tanzania and taught philosophy, English, and religion in a Brothers of Charity institute. At the same time, I was in charge of the logistics at the psychiatric hospital. I came to know the Dominican Missionaries for the deaf Apostolates, of the Deaf and Disabled—based in the United States. I got really interested in them because I felt joyous when I served these people. So, I discerned with them, was accepted into their order and told to start formation in the United States."

When Father Ojuok ar-

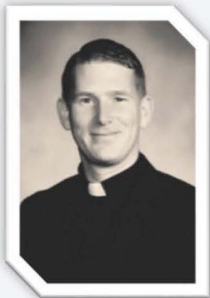
rived in the United States, he learned about the Diocese of Ogdensburg while working at Camp Mark Seven located near St. Bartholomew's Parish, Old Forge. The missionaries had a camp there, ministering both to youth and adults who are deaf.

"I worked there as a volunteer and came to know the diocese well," Father Ojuok said. "One day, while in Alexandria Bay for Mass, I met Father (Douglas G.) Comstock. We talked for a while after Mass, he was so good. Later, we exchanged contacts, and we continued communication even after I returned to the formation house in Illinois. He asked me if I'd ever thought about becoming a diocesan priest. That's how it started. Later I was accepted into the diocese in December 2016."

Father Ojuok stayed in Old Forge until he started his theology studies at Christ the King Seminary in Buffalo.

"I am really grateful to every member of our diocese for their support and prayers for my priestly ordination and to the vocation team, including the present Bishop of Syracuse, Bishop Douglas Lucia, who was my vocation director and who welcomed me in the diocese; Father Chris Carrara, for his unceasing support; and Bishop Terry LaValley for accepting me to the diocese," Father Ojuok said. "Since I came, I've found a home and feel so comforted. When I was in Kenya, I longed to come back home. The people here are so good to me and so kind and so help-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



Fr. Frank Natale



Fr. Joseph Kanimeka



*We are truly blessed and grateful  
for the grace of your ministry  
to our parishes!*

*May God shower you  
with blessings!*

*The Parishioners of  
St. Mary's, Evans Mills & St. Paul's, Black River  
and Knights of Columbus Council 7471*



## HAPPY PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY!

Father Stitt,

Thank you for all that you do in shepherding those that the Lord has placed in your care. May the Lord continue to draw you closer to His Sacred Heart each and every day.

from your parishioners  
at St. Mary's Church in Canton



# Father Ojuok

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

ful. I love saying Mass as a priest and hearing Confession. All glory goes to God, I am so grateful to be a happy priest.”

Father Ojuok noted that he just recently returned from an extended stay in Africa, and he looks forward to resuming his ministry in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

“I was ready to work as a priest (when I was ordained in May 2021) but had to go back home again due to immigration issues,” he said. “But I remember the words that Bishop LaValley told me: ‘everything happens for a reason.’ I’ve never been (geographically) close to my mother since I became a missionary. It gave me the opportunity to visit her and have experiences giving retreats, offering spiritual direction as a chaplain of the Little Sisters of St. Joseph. In doing that, I grew deep into my priesthood and had experiences that I never had before. The Sisters welcomed me wholeheartedly, and the time I stayed with them was so wonderful. I really appreciate and thank them sincerely.

“Now that I’m back I am so happy to minister to those I love most (the people of North Country). And I am praying for God to give me humility to be a priest of the people. I want to be a priest whom anyone can approach, and whenever they approach me to be satisfied when they leave. That is the mission that God called me to do. I am happy to serve at Holy Cross Parish. To all who prayed for me, I am so grateful and praying that God will bless them all. During my Masses they will never be forgotten.”

Father Ojuok said he encourages those still discerning their paths to bring it to prayer, specifically asking for the intercession of the Blessed Mother.

“To the young people discerning vocations, the best thing is to pray to Our Lady and ask her to show you the direction to follow,” he said. “Let us take all our burdens to her because she knows everything before it happens. All those who are confused with what to do, with discernment and with their lives take that to Our Lady and offer all from their heart, pour it

out to her, and let her do the job for you. Because she always does the best and gives us the result and the result is always overwhelming. Apart

from devotion to Our Lady, offer prayers and go to Mass, receive the Holy Eucharist. And upon receiving the Holy Eucharist, as you now have

Christ in you, ask Him to show you the direction as well. Discipline, determination, prayer and hard work helps. Those are the tools for a good life.”

**Thank you  
Fr. Clyde Lewis &  
Fr. Alan Shnob**

For all that you  
have done and  
continue to do for  
our churches.

*The Champlain Knights of  
Columbus 3525*



*We would like to thank Fr. Mark Reilly and Fr. Severinus Torwae for their devotion and service to the people of St. Peter's Parish in Massena.*

*~Deacon Randy Besio  
~Deacon Thomas Proulx*

**Father James Seymour**  
Thank you for being a wonderful pastor. You are a blessing to the parishes of St. James, Sacred Heart and St. Hubert's and we greatly appreciate all that you do!



**Father Douglas Decker**

We are  
So very Thankful  
For our

*Faithful Pastor*

May Christ, in whose place you stand as priest, bless you as you inspire, guide, and support our parish families.

**Catholic Community of St. Peter – St. Mary – St. Hedwig**

5457 Shady Avenue, Lowville, NY

**Environmental Stewardship****A time for praise, blessing and care**

On 29 November 1979, Pope John Paul II declared Francis the patron saint of ecology. On 28 March 1982, John Paul II said that Francis' love and care for creation was a challenge for contemporary Catholics and a reminder "not to behave like dissident predators where nature is concerned, but to assume responsibility for it, taking all care so that everything stays healthy and integrated, so as to offer a welcoming and friendly environment even to those who succeed us." The same Pope wrote on the occasion of the World Day of Peace, 1 January 1990, that Francis "invited all of creation – animals, plants, natural forces, even Brother Sun and Sister Moon – to give honor and praise to the Lord. The poor man of Assisi gives us striking witness that when we are at peace with God we are better able to devote ourselves to building up that peace with all creation which is inseparable from peace among all peoples."

It is a popular practice on his feast day, October 4, for people to bring their pets and other animals to church for a blessing.

If your parish doesn't provide this opportunity, below is a blessing you may pray for your own pet and/or for all animals, agricultural, companion animals, animals that humans depend on or interact with. Your blessing can include wild animals as well as tame ones.

*Blessed are you, Lord God, who made every living thing with which the water teems, and every winged bird, the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground,*

*and the wild animals, and called it all "good." Thank you for this animal, for its life that comes from you, and for the love and joy it brings. Please bless this creature and let our loving care for him/her be a reflection of your loving nature.*

*We praise you for all your beauty in creation, and especially for this expression of your love.*

*Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen. (Bob Hostetler)*

**Rest in Peace**

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

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

**Sept. 22** – Rev. John McDermott, 1870; Rev. Pierre L'Esperance, M.S.C., 1942; Msgr. John Michael Hogan, 1951

**Sept. 23** – Rev. P. Phillips, 1872; Rev. Marcel Dupont, M.S.C., 1982

**Sept. 24** – Rev. John Talbot Smith, 1923; Rev. Leo Staves, O.M.I., 1994; Rev. Jude Belisle, 1994; Deacon Reginald F. Merrill, 2005

**Sept. 25** – Rev. Frederick P. Shue, 1989

**Sept. 26** – Rev. Francis Van Compenhandt, 1880; Rev. Stephen Royet, M.S.C., 1933; Rev. Michael F. Gallivan, 1939; Rev. Joseph Ludger Desjardins, 1941; Rev. Earl Mayo, 1994; Msgr. Francis A. White, 2007

**Protecting God's Children**

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

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

Upcoming sessions:

**Sept. 28** – 6 p.m. – Immaculate Heart Central, Watertown

**Oct. 6** – 1 p.m. – St. James Minor Church, Carthage

**Oct. 17** – 6 p.m. – Catholic Community of St. Augustine, North Bangor

**Oct. 25** – 9 a.m. – St. Joseph's Community Outreach, Plattsburgh

**Bishop's Public Schedule**

**Sept. 28** – 10:30 a.m. – Council of Priests Meeting at Holy Ghost Parish Center in Tupper Lake

**Sept. 29** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Sept. 30** – 10 a.m. – Mass at Seton Catholic School in Plattsburgh followed by a picnic

**Oct. 1** – 11 a.m. – Memorial Mass for the Catholic Daughters of America Past Regents at St. Augustine's Church in Peru

**Oct. 2** – 8 a.m. – Installation Mass of Reverend Tojo Chacko as Pastor of St. Bernard's and St. Edmund's Parish in Ellenburg

**Oct. 3** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Oct. 4** – 11 a.m. – Meeting of The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, New York, Inc. at Bishop's Residence

**Oct. 5** – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

**To Report Abuse**

**If you have a complaint** of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri-

anne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; [terri-annyanulavich@yahoo.com](mailto:terri-annyanulavich@yahoo.com)

Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy;

[ccarrara@rcdony.org](mailto:ccarrara@rcdony.org) Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340. If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at 800-276-1562 or [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org).

**A special thank you to our pastor, Father Martin Cline**

**We deeply appreciate all you've done and continue to do for our parish and community!**

**We thank God for you!**

**Catholic Daughters Court 787 St. Bernard's Parish, Saranac Lake**



*Some of you know our parish priest.*

*For those of you who don't:*

*He's understanding, generous, respectful, compassionate, sincere, kind, caring, approachable, supportive, comforting and attentive.*



*Two, four, six, eight  
Who do we appreciate?  
Father Kris C. Lauzon!!!*

**The Formation for Ministry office would like to thank all Pastors for your pivotal role in guiding all of the Diocese's Formation for Ministry Candidates.**

**With your prayerful guidance our candidates receive the spiritual, academic and pastoral formation they need when seeking the answer to God's call to lay minister in their parishes.**

*We would like to say a big "Thank You"  
to our Bishop Terry LaValley  
and all the priests in the Diocese especially:*

*Fr. Scott Seymour*

*Fr. William Gordon*

*Fr. Jay DeLarosa*

*Fr. Leagon Carlin*

*Fr. William Reamer*

*St. Alexander's Parish, Morrisonville*

*~Glenn & Jamie Burdo*

## *Father Arthur J. LaBaff, VF & Father Douglas G. Comstock*

*The Catholic Community of Alexandria & St. Mary's in Clayton  
are so blessed in having you as our pastors!*

Deacon Neil & Dee Fuller, Deacon Gary & Gayle Frank, Deacon Bernie Slate,  
Deacon Bruce & Liz Daugherty, Deacon Joel & Dawn Walentuk,  
and your parishioners,  
St. Cyril's Church, Alexandria Bay  
St. Francis Xavier Church, Redwood  
St. Mary's Church, Clayton



## WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS

# Using mission skills to offer Mass in Spanish

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon  
Contributing Writer

**Watertown**—The 2020 Census lists Hispanics as 4% of the 21st Congressional District's population. That may not appear to be a significant percentage, but it represents about 28,000 people.

Superimpose a map of the Congressional district on a map of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, and you'll find the diocese is a little smaller. According to the diocesan website, the Catholic population in the diocese is 71,905, 18.2% of the total population. Those who list Hispanic as their race in the diocese probably comprise about 2,000 people.

The Spanish speaking folks from Latin America and South America can be found in the Southwestern part of the United States. In the East, most of the Hispanics are from Cuba, Puerto Rico and other Caribbean Islands. Hispanics comprise 19.5% of American society according to the latest census.

It is safe to assume many Hispanics in the North Country are baptized Catholics. Almost 50% of the country's Catholic parishioners claim to be Hispanic.

Pope Francis is from Argentina. Spanish is his native language.

One reporter covering



PHOTO BY DEACON KEVIN MASTELLON/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

**Father Robert L. Decker celebrates Mass in Spanish once a month in Watertown.**

the Papacy of Francis said of him, "By virtue of language alone, his travels to Spanish-language countries tend to bring out a more charismatic Francis, closer to the people, more spontaneous and, unbridled by language gaps or prepared texts, able to express himself more freely.

Hispanics in this diocese have a couple of opportunities to attend a Mass celebrated in Spanish which allows them to worship with others in their natural tongue. One of those who ministers to the Spanish speaking people of the diocese is Father Robert L. Decker,

pastor of St. Cecilia's Church in Adams and the mission church of Queen of Heaven in Henderson.

Father Decker learned Spanish by immersion with a Spanish speaking family and by study. He then spent five years, 1998 to 2002, in a missionary assignment in the diocesan apostolate in Mollendo, Peru where Spanish is the native language.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg staffed a mission in the Diocese of Arequipa, Peru, for 40 years.

Founded by Father Paul Hagan and Father Roger J. Martin in 1962, the mission would over the forty years be home to 19 priests from the Ogdensburg Diocese. The missionaries established the parish of St. Martin de Pooras in 1963.

Most Reverend Gerald R. Barbarito called the last missionary, Father Stephen Rocker, home to the diocese in 2003. In the May 20 edition of the

North County Catholic Bishop Barbarito wrote: "We have accomplished our mission as true missionaries. We have accompanied the people of Saint Martin de Pooras on a forty-year journey of faith to the stage where they can carry on without us. That is what missionary work is all about: to plant, to nurture and to leave."

The missionaries who returned to this diocese, found their language skills were still in demand. Father Daniel L. Chapin, who served in Peru from 1976 to 1986, found his fluency in Spanish in demand when he ministered to the migrant farm workers in Lewis County.

Fathers James W. Seymour, a Peruvian missionary from 1990 to 1998, travels from his pastoral home in Gouverneur to Lowville to say Mass in Spanish and Father Stephen Decker, who spent five years in the mission, travels from Adams to St. An-

thon's Church in Watertown once a month to celebrate Mass in Spanish.

Latinos and other Hispanics, mostly from the Fort Drum community, expressed interest in a Spanish Mass. Father Christopher J. Looby, who spoke Spanish, was in Evans Mills. Together with Father Decker and Father Chapin, the priests celebrated the Mass in Spanish each week in Black River.

Father Chapin and Father Looby moved away from the area, and Father Decker decided to reduce the frequency to monthly, now in Watertown on the third Sunday of each month.

Naturally the Hispanic parishioners started asking for Sacramental preparation in their native tongue and the reception of certain sacraments. The day before our interview, Father Decker had presided at First Communion for a number of the young people in the Hispanic congregation.

The ministry to the Hispanic community "has been a blessing" Father Decker says. "These people are so devoted and consistent in their attendance," he said. There were 14 adults and 10 children at the Mass we attended. The lector for the Mass in September, Heide Pagan, is Puerto Rican. She has been living in Carthage and, she said, "would not miss the opportunity to attend Mass in my native tongue."

Father Decker and the other priests who use their language skills as an extension of their work in the diocese, are happy to be able to meet the needs of those who do not find English an easy language to speak or hear.

## Father Chris Looby

Thank you for your dedicated service to  
St. Mary's Church, Ticonderoga,  
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Schroon Lake,  
and the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

~Deacon Bernie Slate





We are so blessed to have you as priests at St. Peter's Parish in Massena. We appreciate all that you do for our parish and our community!

Thank you for your vocations and God bless you, Fr Mark Reilly and Fr Serverinus Torwoe.



# WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS

**Thanks,  
Fr. Don Manfred**

~Parishioners of  
St. Francis Solanus,  
Harrisville



**Father  
James Seymour**

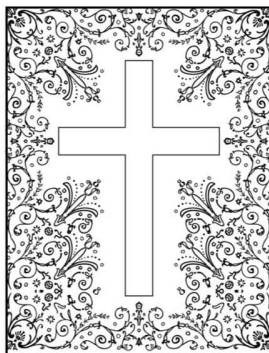
Star Lake  
Knights of Columbus  
Council 5718  
gives a heartfelt  
thank you Fr. Jay,  
for shepherding the  
flock of St. Hubert's.



**Father  
Joseph Giroux**

Thank you!

*St. Patrick's Coffee  
Club*



**Fr. Joseph Kaminea,  
MSC**

Thanks for all you do!

*~Deacon Jim & Chris  
Chaulty*

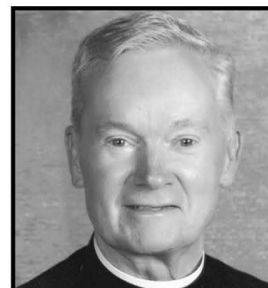


**Fr. Pat Ratigan**

You are a First Rate  
Shepherd, Mentor,  
Spiritual Director and  
Friend.

Thank you for being part  
of and enriching our lives.

Love and Prayers,  
Jimmy and Robin Law



**Fr. Robinson**

We appreciate your  
devoted service and  
caring and friendly  
ways.

The Altar and Rosary  
Society and Parishioners  
of Immaculate  
Conception Church,  
Brownville & Dexter.

In Appreciation of  
**Father Sony Pulickal**

from the parishioners of  
St. Ann's Church, Wells, NY  
&  
St. James Major Church, Speculator, NY

Thank you for all  
that you do.

**Fr. Shane Lynch,**

We appreciate the support and  
care you gave our family during  
Deacon Peter's illness.



Thank you from the Lawless Family

**Father Kris Lauzon,**

Thank you for all you do in the parishes of St. Margaret's  
in Wilmington and Holy Name in AuSable Forks.

Retired Deacon,  
John J. Ryan

**FATHER O'BRIEN**

The parishioners of Ss. Philip and James Church, Lisbon and St. Raphael's Church, Heuvelton are grateful for all you do. We appreciate your leadership.

**Thank you Father Joe**

For who you are and for all you do for us and our parish. We appreciate you!

- Your staff and St. Patrick's and St. Mary's Parishioners

**Father Don,**

The St. Stephen's flock that you shepherd has a most fortunate treasure....YOU!

**Father  
Mike Jablonski**

**Thank you!**

~Knights of Columbus  
Council #2166

**Fr. Ted,**

Many blessings to you!  
From your loving Sacred Heart Family!

We love and appreciate you always!



**Fr. Gaffney**

Thank you for your many years of faithful service. We were blessed to have you as our pastor.

The Altar and Rosary Society and Parishioners of Immaculate Conception Church, Brownville & Dexter.

**WE APPRECIATE  
OUR PRIESTS****FATHER PHILLIP ALLEN**

St. Ann's and Holy Angels would like to honor  
*Father Jay de la Rosa;*  
our pastor

as well as  
*Father Vinny Flynn,*  
*Father Lee Poissant,*  
*Msgr. Dennis Duprey and*  
*Bishop Terry LaValley*  
who served us in the interim.

**Thank  
You!**

# 'God's grace is sufficient for us'

**Father Michael Marzan believes,  
'His power is made perfect in weakness'**

By **Mary Beth Bracy**  
Contributing Writer

PLATTSBURGH — If you hear someone singing Marian hymns like an angel choir, you may be in the presence of Father Michael H. Marzan, one of the new parochial vicars at Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh. Since his recent arrival, he has gone on adventures to the apple orchard, pumpkin patch, and even Vermont.

Father Marzan is originally from the Archdiocese of Caceres in the Philippines and grew up in a poor village near the seashore.

"I came from a simple family," Father Marzan said. "My mother is a tailor, and my father is a fisherman. I am the oldest and have two brothers and three sisters."

At first Father Marzan aspired to become a teacher.

"But God had another plan for me," he said. "When I was in high school, I was recruited to serve in the parish choir. I noticed that I had the inclination, the vocation. I loved serving the parish, so I was attracted to priestly ministries. I had a desire to become a priest but, because I come from a poor family, I thought I had no capacity to do so. It's really God's grace - vocation is really a mystery and, if God is calling you, God will find ways to realize that vocation. So, I took the entrance exam and I passed. And I said, 'I think that God is really calling me,' and I was really happy. But my father said, 'No, don't continue

because I cannot support you. I do not have the capacity to sustain you.' But my mother was really very supportive. She went to our parish priest in order to ask for the support and I got a scholarship from the bishop."

Then, Father Marzan attended Holy Rosary Major Seminary in Naga City, where he obtained his bachelor's degrees in philosophy and in sacred theology.

"My first assignment as a newly ordained priest was at Saint Bernard Abbot Parish in Camarines Sur as parochial vicar, where I had three parishes," he said. "As a pastor, I also had three parishes. I was assigned as a pioneering priest in a



Father Michael "Mike" Marzan, left, poses with Bishop Terry R. LaValley and Father Pedro Edgardo "Jay" N. de la Rosa.

parish which I started from nothing. There was no church and no rectory. I created St. Francis Xavier, in Halawig-Gogon, Goa,

Camarines Sur. It was really challenging for me to build 'two kinds of Church' - the material Church and the real

Church, which are the people."

The struggle, Father Marzan related, was "How

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Thank you to our Pastor, Fr. Scott Seymour and to Fr. Leagon Carlin, Parochial Vicar for making these parish communities a joy.

We also thank Fr. William Gordon and our Priest in Residence Rev Gilbert Menard, Msgr Dennis Duprez and Rev Francis Flynn for the help you give us here at St. Alexander's, St. James and St. Augustine's Church.

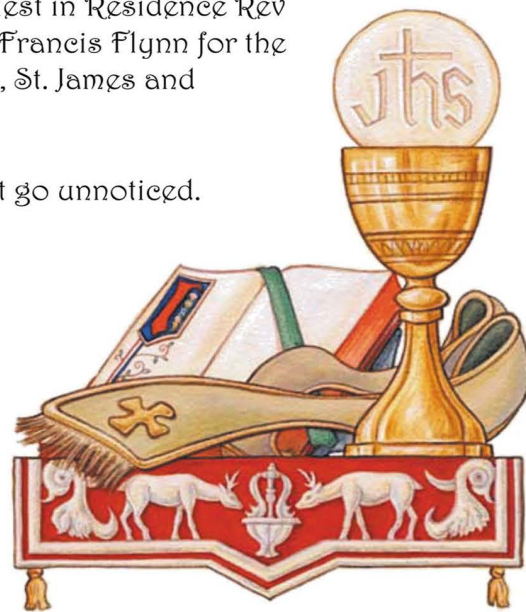
Your hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed.

**THANK YOU**

FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP,  
YOUR FAITHFULNESS,  
AND YOUR HEART

MAY GOD BLESS YOU!

*From your staff and all your parishioners.*



# Father Michael H. Marzan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

would I build this Church, how could I do it? I went to the people and asked their help," he said. "It was successful because of the generous gifts of the people in that place. Also, I built the 'second Church' – liturgical ministries and other religious organizations in the parish. I also went to communities to organize the pastoral and barrio councils because they are consultative bodies which help to realize and implement parish pro-

grams."

Father Marzan is a strong believer in the power of prayer.

"The thing that really strengthened me and gave me hope and inspiration is my deep prayer life because without that I couldn't effectively fulfill the responsibilities in a new parish that was growing little by little," he said. "So, we started from scratch, from the beginning just like in the Gospel. The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, a small seed, but

when it grows it becomes a big tree. So, it starts with a small beginning and later you will see the fruit of it. By ourselves we cannot do it, but with the grace of God and the help of the people, with prayer, of course. Because God gave me this responsibility, He will do it for me. That was my hope and my prayer. It is not my work, it's God's work, I'm just the instrument. The people really loved me in my first assignment as pastor. I think they will not forget me because of what I have done for them."

Even during his formation, Father Marzan felt drawn to the interior life.

"I always heeded the call to the contemplative life," he said. "When we were studying about monasticism, it came to my mind to become a monk. But I said to myself, 'I don't know where this type of community is, maybe I'm just think-

ing of medieval times,' so I became a priest. After 15 years as a priest, the call to be a contemplative came back to my mind. So, I asked my bishop for permission to follow my heart's desire and took a break from parish life and entered the community of the Trappist monks, the Cistercian Order of Strict Observance. They follow the rule of St. Benedict. After a year and a half, I went back again to parish life. But they say that 'once you are a monk you are a monk forever.' So, I loved it. I learned a lot from monastic formation. It really deepened my prayer life, especially devoting time for Lectio Divina and meditation, and praying the Liturgy of the Hours. And I love silence and solitude."

Father Marzan has witnessed the fruits of monastic life in his parish work "in administering the sacraments and being with people, helping peo-

ple, not only the material help but also with the spiritual needs."

"After seven years in parish life, my original plan was to go back to the monastery and continue, but there was another plan," he continued. "I was asked if I wanted to go on mission in the United States. This mission is a new place in my priestly ministry, because I also want to learn new things in life, especially about new cultures."

When asked what advice he would like to share with readers, Father Marzan replied: "The young and families need guidance. There are many who are depressed, like Jesus said – they are like sheep without a shepherd. They do not know what to do, what is really the meaning of life. So, they should not be afraid of asking for help from religious people, especially priests or religious brothers or sisters."

Fr. Frank Natale, M.S.C

Fr. David DeLuca, M.S.C

Fr. Joseph Kanimea, M.S.C

Fr. Corneille Boyeye, M.S.C

You are a reflection of Christ through the way you faithfully serve others.

Thank you for all you do as you live out His calling on your life.

**YOU ARE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED**

~The Queal Family

## Our Gratitude

*Thank you Father Shane Lynch for all you accomplished in the short time you were with us.*

*We could not have done it without you.*




*We are very thankful for Father Frank Natale and Father Joseph Kanimea for their wonderful support of our parishes.*




**Parishioners of St. Mary's in Evans Mills & St. Paul's in Black River.**

**Rev. John (Mickey) Demo,**  
 We appreciate all you do for us. Thank you!  
 ~From Saint Anthony's Morning Divine Mercy Group


**Father Allen,**  
 Thank you for keeping the doors of  
 St. Joseph's, Olmstedville open the  
 past 8 years.  
 ~Parishioners of St. Joseph

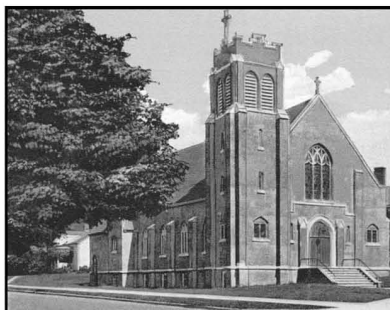


**St. André  
 Bessette  
 Parish  
 Thank You  
 Fr. Steve  
 &  
 Fr. Fernando**  
 Have a great  
 day!  
  
 The 7 a.m. Church  
 Ladies




Thank you to our  
 chaplain,  
**Fr. Bryan Stitt,**  
 for your ministry  
 to Council #1059  
 in Canton.  
*Ad multos  
 annos*

**Father Steven Decker,**  
 We would like to thank you for your  
 leadership in church, the Knights of  
 Columbus and our personal lives.  





Father Mike,  
 We appreciate  
 seeing you when  
 visiting family at  
 home.  
 From  
 St. Joseph's Church,  
 Dolgeville, New York,  
 Your Home Parish!

# WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS

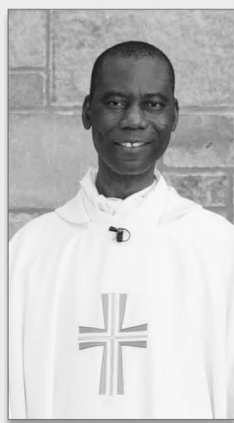



**Father Marullo**  
 Thank you for all you do!  
 You are there for all of us!

St. John's Church, Lyons Falls  
 St. Martin's Church, Port Leyden  
 St. Mary's Church, Constableville  
 St. Mary's Nativity, West Leyden



Thank you  
 Fr. Mark  
 &  
 Fr. Severinus  
 for the support you  
 give to St. Peter's  
 Outreach Ministry  
 and the  
 Parish Community.

# WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS

*Thank You*

Monsignor  
Paul Whitmore

Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood



**Fr. Robert Decker,**

*We appreciate your  
service to  
Queen of Heaven &  
St. Cecilia's Parishes.*

~William & Eva LaSage



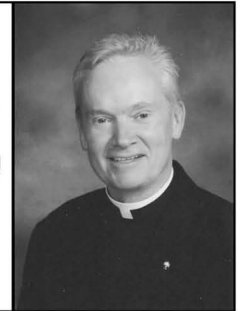
Prayers for  
Msgr. C. J. McAvoy and Fr. Martin Cline  
in recognition of priest appreciation.

-Jimmy and Robin Law

**Father Don Robinson**

**With sincere appreciation,  
for your great pastoral zeal,  
spiritual direction &  
willingness always to go the  
extra mile. We are blessed!!!**

**Parishioners & Members of  
Altar Rosary Society  
St. Andrews Church,  
Sackets Harbor-NY**



***In abundance of  
appreciation to***

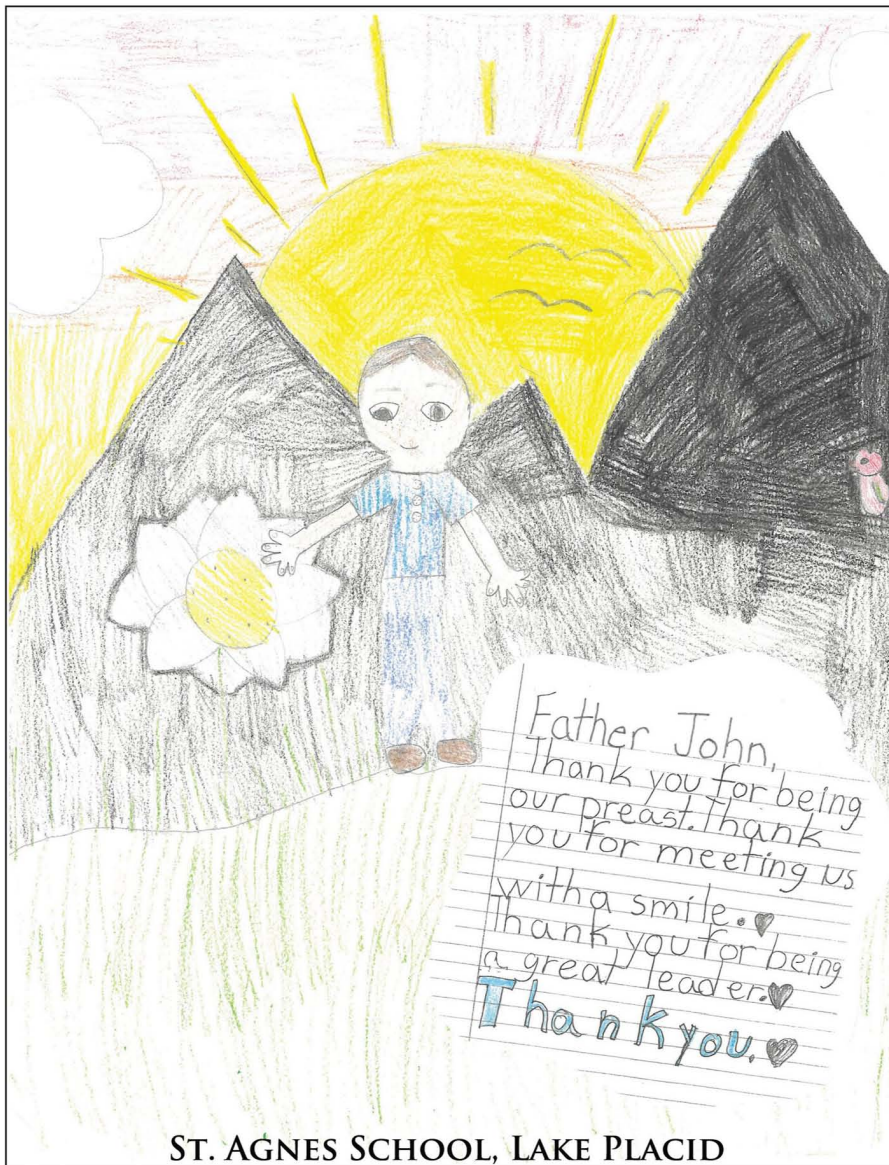


**Father Alan Shnob**

A man of deep faith and a friend of  
our family for many years.

Thank you for your spiritual  
guidance.

Scott & Doreen Wilson  
Louisville, NY



ST. AGNES SCHOOL, LAKE PLACID

# Parishes, schools learn about safety, security

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

OGDENSBURG – In presentations that were several years in the making, representatives of the dioceses, parishes and schools received an introduction to safety and security awareness from local law enforcement on Sept. 20 and 22.

“New York State Police has an office that is responsible for working with non-profit organizations, churches and schools so they’ll be better educated about having situational awareness and not being complacent,” said Father Christopher C. Carrara, diocesan vicar of clergy and chaplain for several area law enforcement and emergency response organizations. “We had started planning for these presentations before the pandemic, and they were delayed by the pandemic. It seemed like time to look at it again.”

Just over an hour in length, the presentations, one in Ogdensburg and one in Plattsburgh, introduced participants to basic security and safety awareness methods.

“In general, we’re seeing an increase in violence against religious institutions around the world and in the United States,” said Father Carrara. “While the North Country doesn’t attract the same level of

attention as the major metropolitan areas, we’re not exempt from safety concerns. These presentations are intended to go over some basics as a way of starting discussions and showing parishes, schools and organizations that there are resources out there to help them with safety and security.”

New York State Police Investigator Peter Kraengel echoed Father Carrara’s sentiment in the Sept. 20 session at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

“No one thinks they can have an active shooter incident or have something serious happens until it does,” Investigator Kraengel said. “Rest assured, it can happen to you.”

Investigator Kraengel pointed to a recent incident at St. André Bessette Parish in Malone, when a woman allegedly attempted to forcefully take a baby from its mother just outside the church during Sunday Mass. The woman reportedly followed the mother into the church, still attempting to take the baby and disrupting Mass. Local law enforcement responded, and the involved woman was arrested and charged.

“This just happened in Malone,” he said. “It can happen anywhere.”

When dealing with a disruptive individual, Investigator Kraengel advised participants to keep lines



PHOTO BY DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC  
New York State Police Investigator Peter Kraengel gives a presentation on safety and security in Brzana Hall at St. Mary’s Cathedral on Sept. 20. A similar presentation was given on Sept. 22 in Plattsburgh.

of communication open, get the individual talking, listen actively and maintain calm.

“When someone else is starting to lose their head, it’s easy to get passionate and start to be defensive,” he said. “You have to be calm, cool and collected. You have to keep your

composure. I know it’s easier said than done, but if you don’t keep your composure, things can go south and sideways really quick.”

Presentation participants were also instructed to follow their gut instincts and “say something” when anything

appears amiss.

“You know who the people are in your churches or schools who are there regularly and likely to be involved,” said New York State Police Sergeant Scott Barrett. “Most of those people are aware of who to go to if there’s an issue.”


CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

**Rev. Matthew Conger**  
We appreciate all you for us. Thank you!  
*From St. Anthony’s Morning Divine Mercy Group*



**Fr. Doug Decker,**  
*Bless and inspire your graces and mercy in your priestly ministry.*


*St. Peter’s Rosary and Altar Society*



**Fr. Scott Seymour & Fr. Leagon Carlin**

*Thank you for caring, sharing and serving as His hands & heart.*

Court St. Monica #2598  
Peru





**Fr. Kevin O’Brien**

*Thank you for being there for myself and my family during our time of need.*

*Thank you for being there for our parish, it is greatly appreciated.*

~Betty & Butch Franche



Thank you,  
**Father Carrara,**  
for your dedicated ministry to the people of the parish of Our Lady of Grace in Morristown, Hammond and Rossie.

## NEWS BRIEFS

## DAY OF MERCY TO BE HELD ON SEPT. 28

Start the Fall off right with a clean soul! St. Mary's in Canton will host a Day of Mercy on Wednesday, Sept. 28. Priests will be available to hear confession from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. in the chapel.

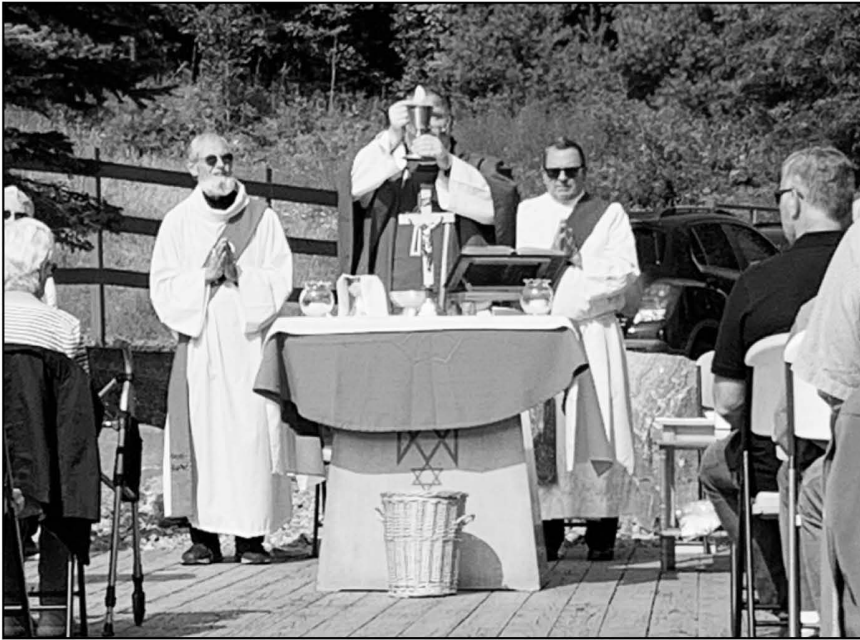
## PET BLESSING ON FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

St. Mary's Church in Canton will host a pet blessing at 3 p.m. on Oct. 4. The blessing will be conducted on the parish lawn.

## MASS ON A MOUNTAIN

PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER/  
NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

St. Bernard Parish in Saranac Lake held a parish Mass and picnic at Mount Pisgah on Sept. 11. Father Martin Cline, pastor, celebrated the outdoor Mass.



## Safety and security

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

If you have a new person, it's important to let them know who to reach out to and how to report if there's a problem or something doesn't seem right. The worst thing you'd want to find out is that a situation could've been prevented, but someone didn't know who to tell. And don't ever think you're wasting (police) time. If there's something going on, call us. We'd just assume come to a church or event and have it turn out to be nothing than have someone think a situation isn't that bad and have it esca-

late into something serious. Our goal is just to resolve the situation. It doesn't mean someone is getting arrested. It doesn't mean someone is in trouble."

"And if you do have a situation and are able to de-escalate it and resolve it, make sure you call us and mention that, too," added Investigator Kraengel. "It might be a person who is on our radar for a pattern of similar behavior, and your report is the missing piece for making a case."

The law enforcement representatives also educated the participants

about warning signs that someone may have ill intent.

"When someone may become verbally combative or physically violent, he or she – though statistically it's more likely to be a male – may exhibit warning signs."

Such warning signs can include carrying bags, pacing or exhibiting signs of nervousness, excessive sweating or constant fidgeting.

"These are warning signs a reasonable person would observe and say, 'something is not right,'" said Investigator Kraengel. "Go with your gut. If

something doesn't seem right, make the proper notifications."

The investigator also encouraged the participants to visually assess areas upon entry, making note of ways to "run, hide or fight" in the event of an active shooter situation or act of violence.

"Look at where the exits are located, know places you could hide or take cover, and have an idea of items nearby – fire extinguishers, furniture, heavy items, whatever – that could be used as weapons if you need to fight," he said.

Additionally, the law enforcement representatives encouraged participants to be aware that they can

contact 911 via text in St. Lawrence County. Similar services are available in Clinton, Essex, Franklin and Lewis counties. It was unclear as to whether the service is available in Jefferson, Hamilton and Herkimer counties. They also informed participants about the "See Something Send Something" app, through which suspicious information can be reported to authorities.

Investigator Kraengel also noted that police are happy to work with local parishes, schools and organizations to develop safety plans and conduct safety trainings. For more information or to arrange a training, contact Father Carrara.

*God's Blessings  
on all former and  
current priests of  
Sacred Heart Church  
Massena  
~The Dishaw Family*



Fr. Mark Reilly &  
Fr. Severinus Torwoe,  
thank you for all you  
do for our school!



Love,  
Trinity Catholic  
School

**Fr. Justin Thomas,**

We thank you for  
your devoted service.


~From the Hutchins  
Family



Visit our website

[www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org)

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

 Find us on Facebook!





# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Indiana abortion ban temporarily blocked as court hears case

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — A judge issued a preliminary injunction Sept. 22 on a new Indiana abortion law that gives legal protection to most unborn babies. The ruling temporarily reinstates access to abortion in Indiana up to 22 weeks gestation as allowed by state law prior to Sept. 15, the date when S.B. 1, as the new law is known, went into effect. It banned abortion in Indiana except in cases of rape, incest, and particular serious medical complications and emergencies. The injunction puts the law on hold while the judge reviews arguments for a suit filed Aug. 30 by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers operating in the state. S.B. 1 was passed by the Indiana General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Eric Holcomb Aug. 5. The preliminary injunction on the law will remain in effect until a decision on the case is made. On Sept. 19, Special Judge Kelsey Hanlon of the Owen County Circuit Court heard arguments from lawyers for the plaintiff and defendant — listed as members of the Medical Licensing Board of Indiana, et al. — regarding the lawsuit. The case was filed in Bloomington, Indiana, in Monroe County.

## Cardinal Parolin, Russian foreign minister meet at U.N.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in New York, Vatican News reported. While the Vatican press office issued no statement regarding Cardinal Parolin's Sept. 22 meeting, the Russian foreign ministry tweeted a video of the two officials shaking hands and exchanging greetings. "We thank you for the suggestion to have this meeting," Lavrov is heard telling the cardinal. "We appreciate your efforts in this not-very-quiet time." "Unfortunately," Cardinal Parolin replied, interrupting Lavrov's welcome. The Russian foreign minister continued expressing his appreciation for the cardinal's efforts "to promote more stability, more justice and, of course, the rule of law." The Russians' video stopped there. In a statement published after the meeting, the Russian foreign ministry said Lavrov "made clear the reasons for the ongoing crisis in relations between Russia and the West" and blamed increasing tensions on "NATO's crusade to destroy Russia and split the world."

## Northern Ireland census shows more Catholics than Protestants

DUBLIN (CNS) — More people in Northern Ireland now identify as Catholic than Protestant for the first time in the history of the jurisdiction, new census figures reveal. The data has led to calls for a referendum for voters to decide whether to remain part of Britain or join with the rest of Ireland and form a new country. It comes 101 years after Northern Ireland was established in the six northeastern counties on the island of Ireland, remaining part of Britain when the 26 southern counties won independence from British rule. The founders of Northern Ireland drew the boundaries of the state along lines that they hoped would guarantee a permanent Protestant majority. Traditionally, Protestants have supported being part of Britain, whereas the Catholic community has traditionally supported unity with the rest of the island to form a single independent Ireland. The first prime minister of Northern Ireland, Sir James Craig, famously addressed the legislature describing it as a "Protestant parliament for a Protestant people," and the Catholic minority complained of discrimination in terms of jobs, housing and voting rights. The proportion of the resident population that is either Catholic or brought up Catholic is 45.7%, compared to 43.5% Protestant.

# Pontifical Academy: Science must work for peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Condemning all atrocities against civilians and crimes against humanity, members of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences called for accountability and independent investigations into suspected war crimes in the world's current conflicts.

"We also call for unfettered humanitarian aid, access to basic services to civilians and lifting of sieges," the members said in a final statement.

"As scientists, we must not neglect the fundamental drivers of conflicts, and not ignore the role of science in the arms race," they said, adding that "it is ever more important for science to have peace as a goal."

The statement, published on the academy's website, came after the academy held its plenary session on "Basic science for human development, peace and planetary health," Sept. 8-10. Dozens of experts — both academicians and invited speakers — discussed how their specific field has been contributing to "problem solving" and promoting human development, peace and health.

The final statement said, "The many ongoing armed conflicts, such as the Russian attack on Ukraine, wars in Tigray/Ethiopia and in Yemen and Syria, as well as many other armed conflicts inside and between countries, are of grave concern to us because they cause great suffering for civilian populations, particularly for women and children."

Current "threats or ac-

tual attacks by powerful countries on their neighbors are putting political order and human civilization at risk, the statement said. "At a time when science is so dominant in culture, all scientific disciplines should consider their potential contributions to peace."

Another concern, the academy members wrote, was the lack of "science-informed rational arguments" and the growth of "science skepticism in parts of the general public, and in conventional and social media."

The plenary session looked at some of the reasons for this neglect and the role religion may play in fueling science skepticism or in fostering greater openness to science.

But the academy recognized "there is also well-informed, important skepticism about sometimes overlooked disconnections between science, technology and their real-world impact," which can cause concern, suspicion or skepticism about science.

Academy members support following "established science ethics" and having scientific discussion be transparent and open to the general public, the statement said; members were encouraged "to show how science is done and what can come out of it, without neglecting risks of misuse."

The academy members called on public policy, society and faith-based communities to recognize the importance of and "more strongly support basic sciences."

"Basic sciences are always at risk of being marginalized when crises, wars and growing insecurity occupy people's minds and divert resources to the mitigation of day-to-day problems, as is currently the case," it said.

Scientific study and progress can take decades if not centuries, it said, and supporting these endeavors "requires continuity."

At the same time, "science-informed actions on some of these challenges need to be taken now," it said.

Yet "huge payoffs that often come about in unpredictable ways" are possible when science is supported, it said. One example, "is the rapid development of the COVID vaccine thanks to developments in the decade-long studies of messenger RNA, which were planned for completely different purposes."

"Curiosity-driven basic science needs to develop a stronger sense of urgency: we need more opportunity for inquisitiveness in the younger generation, fostered by vibrant educational systems that stimulate imagination," it said, underlining that many scientific advancements are driven by curiosity and a sense of wonder, not some utilitarian goal.

The academy also said the resources needed to pursue science and the fruits of its discoveries "need to be shared more equitably — especially by the rich nations — with low-income regions of the world."

# Disabled Catholics hope voices heard in synod

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Gospel of St. John tells the story of Jesus' encounter with a man who was born blind. Upon seeing him, the disciples asked Jesus if the man's blindness was due to his sins or that of his parents.

"Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him," Jesus replied before healing the man.

One could dismiss the disciples' query as a reflection of the beliefs of a bygone era. But Luz Elena

Bracamonte Zamora, a member of the Deaf Catholic Youth Initiative for the Americas, knows those beliefs are still prevalent today.

"In the world, especially in Latin America, there is this ideology that still exists that says we (persons with disabilities) are punished, that we are sick, that we have been bewitched," she told Catholic News Service Sept. 22. But "we are normal people and come from normal families."

Bracamonte joined other

people with disabilities at a two-day synodal listening session at the Vatican sponsored by the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life.

A report of the listening session, which highlighted both the needs of disabled people and their contributions to the life of the church, was presented to Pope Francis Sept. 21 after his weekly general audience.

According to the dicastery, the text also was "delivered to the general secretariat of the synod" to ensure that "for the first time, the voice of the faithful with disabilities reaches the synod fathers."

The listening sessions took place as bishops' conferences around the world published their reports synthesizing the 10-month synodal process in dioceses. With the release of those reports, a team of 25 people from around the world began 10 days of

work and reflection in Frascati, Italy, Sept. 21 to draft the document for the continental stage of the synodal process.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops released its report Sept. 19, summarizing the concerns, hopes and desires of an estimated 700,000 participants who joined thousands of listening sessions and other events during the diocesan phase in the lead-up to the Synod of Bishops on synodality in October 2023.

Among the concerns brought up by U.S. Catholics, the report stated, was the "wound of marginalization" that exists in the church experienced by groups "who are made vulnerable by their lack of social and/or economic power," including "people who have disabilities or mental health issues."

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales released its report in July and said Catholic dis-

abled persons in the country "have called on this synod for attention to be given to their needs."

"They want to participate more in the life of the church. This might mean introducing or making use of particular facilities and technologies, but the predominant voice asks that the people of God listen to their experience," the report stated.

Bracamonte told CNS that some in the church believe disabled persons "cannot live the sacraments or understand them." Addressing the pastoral needs of those with disabilities, she added, should be included in priestly formation.

Speaking to journalists at the Vatican press office Sept. 21, Schonstatt Father Alexandre Awi Mello, secretary of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, said he was moved "by the testimony of faith of these people with disabilities who are often not taken into consideration."

"At times, there is an association made with intellectual disability and disability in general, as if people with intellectual disability don't understand about life, about God or about other things," Father Awi Mello said.

But "to hear them talk about God, about their own encounter with Jesus, is something that moves me deeply," he said. "It was the first time I had this opportunity, and I hope that the church also has this opportunity" to listen to them.

Jesuit Father Justin Glyn, who serves as general counsel of the Jesuits' Australian province and is legally blind, said the listening sessions were a "spirit-filled experience" and that the report delivered to the pope and the Synod of Bishops "hopefully has the potential to be a groundbreaker within the church itself."

*Monsignor Paul,*



It's been 21 wonderful years! Thank you!

Love, Deacon Jim & Chris

## In thanksgiving to the Lord and appreciation for our Bishop and Priests!

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley

Reverend Joseph A. Morgan

Reverend Jude Nnadibuagha

Reverend F. James Shurtleff

retired

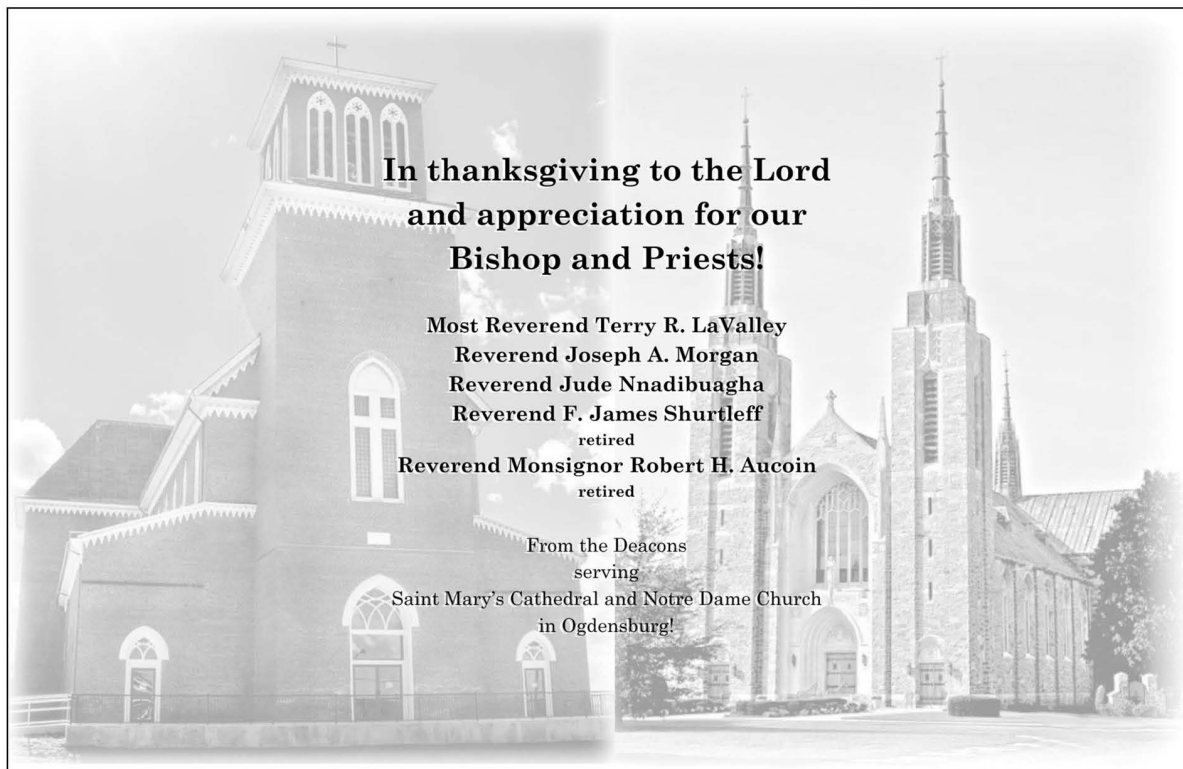
Reverend Monsignor Robert H. Aucoin

retired

From the Deacons

serving

Saint Mary's Cathedral and Notre Dame Church  
in Ogdensburg!



**ADIRONDACK-FRANKLIN**

**PRAISE AND WORSHIP**

Lake Placid – Monthly praise and worship to be held.

**Date:** First Friday of the month  
**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** St. Agnes Church  
**Features:** Music led by Joey and MC Izzo. Time for fellowship and snacks afterwards. Will be livestreamed as well on St. Agnes Facebook page.

**HARVEST DINNER**

Chateaugay – The Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay to have their 41st Annual Harvest Dinner.

**Date:** Oct. 2  
**Time:** 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Place:** St. Patrick's Church, Take-out only

**Cost:** \$14 per meal  
**Menu:** Roast Beef, potatoes, carrots, coleslaw and roll. Apple and pumpkin pie for dessert donated by the Brainardsville Bakery.

**Contact:** Call to reserve the Rectory Office at 518-497-6673 or Monique Dwyer at 518-651-0144

**DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR**

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

**Date:** First Saturday of the Month  
**Time:** Following the 4:30 anticipated Mass

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

**CLINTON**

**HARVEST DINNER**

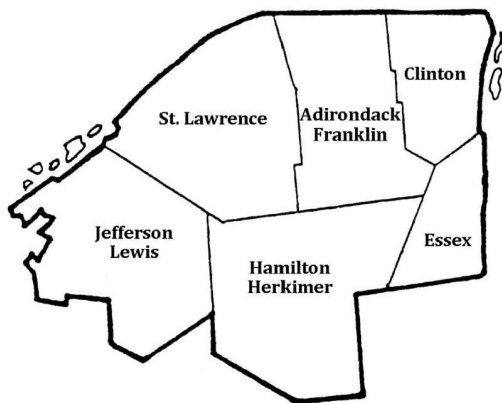
Altona – Holy Angels to have their harvest dinner.

**Date:** Oct. 16  
**Time:** 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Place:** Holy Angels Hall  
**Cost:** Adults, \$14; Children 6-12, \$7; under 5, Free

**Menu:** Roast Beef, mashed potatoes, squash, carrots, corn, coleslaw, apple crisp, pumpkin crunch and drink.

**Features:** Take-out available. There will also be a Chinese suction and baskets of different themes.



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.

**HOUSE SITTERS**

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

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

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

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

**JEFFERSON-LEWIS**

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE**

Watertown – Ligeright will participate in the "40 Days for Life" Campaign

**Date:** Starting Sept. 24 and 40 days after

**Time:** 12:30 p.m. to 1:30  
**Place:** Across from Planned Parenthood

**Features:** Pro-Life people will stand to draw attention to the fact that they are the number one abortion provider. This is a peaceful prayerful gathering. Participants will hold signs supporting moms and their unborn children.

**LIFECHAIN**

Watertown – Ligeright will hold a Life

Chain to witness the sanctity of all human life, born and unborn.

**Date:** Oct. 1  
**Time:** 1 p.m. to 3

**Place:** Public Square in downtown Watertown

**Features:** Participants will stand along the periphery of the square holding signs that promote support for unborn children and their expectant moms.

**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:** Oct. 2  
**Time:** Following 11 a.m. Mass

**Place:** St. Hedwig's Church  
**Contact:** 315-348-6260

**SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER**

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

**Date:** Oct. 8  
**Time:** 4 p.m. to 7

**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center  
**Cost:** Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$8; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free; Sauce, \$6 per quart

**BASKET RAFFLE**

Houseville – St. Hedwig's Church is sponsoring their Annual Theme Basket Raffle.

**Date:** Oct. 30 (Baskets will be on display Sundays in October)

**Cost:** \$1 per ticket or \$5 for 6 tickets  
**Features:** The proceeds will support

church repairs and outreach projects.

**Contact:** For questions or donations of baked goods or theme baskets **Contact:** Elaine 315-486-5532, Mary Ann 315-348-6260 or Lydia 315-348-7006.

**CLM EVENT**

Watertown – The Jefferson-Lewis Deanery CLM Association to present "A Journey of Conversion."

**Date:** Oct. 20  
**Time:** Mass at 5:30 p.m., dinner and presentation immediately to follow.

**Place:** St. Anthony's Church  
**Cost:** \$15 per person

**Features:** The presentation titled A Journey of Conversion will begin with a RCIA ministry introduction by Tony Marra of the Blessed Sacrament Parish and will then feature Kathy Falge and Allyssa Francis who have recently entered the Catholic Church via the RCIA process.

**Contact:** Registers at [www.rcdony.org/clm-event](http://www.rcdony.org/clm-event) (be sure to select the correct event as there are two events for the month of October).

**ST. LAWRENCE**

**HOLY HOUR**

Canton – Holy Hour for Vocations to be held.

**Date:** Every Tuesday  
**Time:** 4:10 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Church  
**Features:** Holy hour followed by Mass at 5:15 p.m. and confessions at 5:45 p.m.

**ROSARY FOR LIFE**

Canton – Rosary for life to be held.

**Date:** Every Saturday  
**Time:** 4:25 p.m. preceding the 5 p.m.

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

**ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS**

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

**Date:** Oct. 1  
**Time:** 8 a.m.

**Place:** Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

**Features:** Rosary with devotions

**FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY**

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

**Date:** Oct. 1  
**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.

**MONTHLY BRUNCH**

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

**Date:** Oct. 9 (Second Sunday of each month)

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

**Place:** Fr. Amyot Parish Center  
**Cost:** Adults, \$10; under 12, \$5; under 5, Free; Omelets, add \$3; Take-outs available

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

**CLM EVENT**

Massena – The St. Lawrence, Franklin and Adirondack Deaneries CLM Association to present a "Clergy Perspective on the 150th Diocesan Anniversary."

**Date:** Oct. 12  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Social Hall  
**Cost:** \$20

**Features:** Clergy perspective on the 150th diocesan anniversary from different generations of priests, Father John Downs, Father Mark Reilly, and one more newly ordained priest.

**Contact:** Register at: [www.rcdony.org/clm-event](http://www.rcdony.org/clm-event) Be sure to choose the correct CLM event when registering. There are two events from different deaneries going on during the month of October.

**DIOCESAN EVENTS**

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP RETREAT**

Saranac Lake – Youth Leadership retreat to be held for teens in grades 9 to 12.

**Date:** Sept. 30 check in at 6 p.m. to Oct. 2 at 10 a.m.

**Place:** Guggenheim Center  
**Cost:** \$95, includes dorm and meals.

**Features:** During this overnight youth retreat we invite high school age teens an opportunity to learn skills for Christian leadership and ministry. The following skill points will be covered: Christian Leadership, Communication Skills, Group Dynamics, Decision Making and Planning skills.

**Contact:** To register go to [rcdony.org/leadership](http://rcdony.org/leadership) or contact Jeanne Grizzuto – [jgrizzuto@rcdony.org](mailto:jgrizzuto@rcdony.org) – 315-393-2920 ext. 1413 with any questions.

**FALL RETREAT FOR ADULTS**

Saranac Lake – Fall retreat for adults to

# Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

be held. Come away and rest awhile with the Lord amid the beauties of Fall in the Adirondack Mountains.

**Date:** Sept. 30 to Oct. 2

**Place:** Guggenheim Lodge

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

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

**Cost:** Suggested offering is \$150

**Contact:** For more information contact 315-212-6592 or [srbethssj@gmail.com](mailto:srbethssj@gmail.com)

## CHRIST IS HERE: COME ENCOUNTER HIM

Presentation to be held for an opportunity to understand how Christ draws us to Himself through all things in this world! Event to be held on 2 different days at 6 different locations total.

**Schedule:** Oct. 1 at St. Mary's Social Hall, Massena; St. Peter's Church, Lowville; St. Elizabeth's Church, Elizabethtown. Oct 15 at St. Mary's Parish Center, Brushton; Dostie Hall in Watertown; Emmaus Room, St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh

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

**Features:** All are welcome to attend this event presented by the Diocese of Ogdensburg Department of Education. This is an in-person event only. Attendees must bring their own lunch. It is free to attend.

**Contact:** To register go to: [www.rcdony.org/christ](http://www.rcdony.org/christ)

## LIFECHAIN

The 35th year of the National Lifechain to be held.

**Date:** Oct. 2

**Schedule:** Potsdam across from Roxy Theatre, 2 p.m. to 3; Plattsburgh at Smithfield Blvd, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30; Saranac Lake at Bandshell Park along River Street, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30

**Features:** Life Chains form nationwide to make a public, prayerful, peaceful stand for life. We stand for life rain or shine. Signs provided.

**Contact:** More information and a listing of all locations at [www.lifechain.org](http://www.lifechain.org)

## WOMEN'S HEALING RETREAT

The St. Andre Bessette Sisters of Malone is sponsoring a Healing Retreat for 30 women of the Diocese of Ogdens-

burg.

**Date:** Oct. 6 to Oct. 9

**Place:** Wadhams Hall, Ogdensburg

**Cost:** \$250 per person and includes accommodations and all meals.

**Features:** Women must be age 18 or older to attend. The purpose of the Healing Retreat is to 'make more room within, for God', allowing His love and mercy to heal as He desires. Bishop LaValley, Father Bryan Stitt, Sister Kelly and Sister Grace Capuchin Sister of Nazareth, and Dave McClow will be presiding and presenting.

**Contact:** For more information and registration visit the Diocese of Ogdensburg website at [www.rcdony.org](http://www.rcdony.org)

## FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake – Online registration is now open for Family Guggenheim.

**Date:** Session 3 Oct. 7-9

**Place:** Guggenheim

**Cost:** Visit [www.rcdony.org/family-life/fg](http://www.rcdony.org/family-life/fg) for more information

**Features:** Family Guggenheim welcomes families of all dimensions to come enjoy a special weekend in the beauty of the Adirondacks. Expect fun family workshops and activities that will have you working and laughing together. Celebrate Christ's presence in your lives through liturgy (often outside) and prayer services. Take time for outdoor activities like paddle boat rides, beach volleyball, and hiking.

**Contact:** For more information, please contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or [startaglia@rcdony.org](mailto:startaglia@rcdony.org)

## MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

The Vocation Office and the Office of Youth Ministry is sponsoring a Middle School Retreat (Grades 6-8) in three regions of the Diocese.

**Schedule:** Oct. 7 at Our Lady of Victory Center, Plattsburgh for the Clinton, Essex, Adirondack Deaneries; Nov. 4 at Immaculate Heart Central School, Watertown for Jefferson, Lewis, Hamilton-Herkimer Deaneries; Nov. 16 at St. Mary's Social Hall, Massena for the St. Lawrence and Franklin Deaneries

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

**Features:** The purpose of a Middle School Retreat is to guide young women and men to prayerfully consider what God's plan is for their lives. This invitation is open to students in Grades 6-8 both in the Catholic schools and public schools. This is a Retreat Day for the students and is considered a

legal excused absence.

**Contact:** Your pastor, Catholic school principal, or Religious Education Coordinator for a registration form.

## LOVING AUTHENTICALLY

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

piness.

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

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

**Features:** Program will be a showing of "Unprotected: A Pope, the Pill,

and the Perils of Sexual Chaos." With Q & A led by Natural Family Planning Directors, Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli and Catholic Theologian, Maura Hearden Fehlner, Ph.D

**Contact:** to register go [rcdony.org/lovingauthentically](http://rcdony.org/lovingauthentically). For more information contact Stephen Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or [startaglia@rcdony.org](mailto:startaglia@rcdony.org)

Thank you,  
**Fr. Mickey Demo**  
and  
**Fr. Matt Conger,**  
for all you do for us!



We are truly blessed by your joyful ministry and so very grateful for your leadership.

*From the People of  
Blessed Sacrament Parish  
St. Patrick's, St. Anthony's &  
Holy Family,  
Watertown*

# Author, Marine mulls how faith tempers violence

In December 2020, former U.S. President Barack Obama selected Phil Klay's book, "Missionaries," as one of his favorite books of the year. Six years earlier, the book-loving former president identified Klay's short story collection, "Redeployment," as one of his favorite books of 2014.

Obama's choices were just more in a series of accolades for Klay, a Catholic writer who has carved a special niche for his fiction, short stories and essays. In many cases, Klay writes about what war, armed conflict and bloodshed do to the human soul.

Before turning to writing, Klay served as a public affairs officer with the U.S. Marine Corps and was posted to Iraq's Anbar province, where he served a 13-month tour. After his discharge from the military in 2009, Klay entered Hunter College of the City University of New York and obtained a Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing.

"Redeployment" is a series of short stories drawn from combat experience in Iraq. In addition to garnering a National Book Award, "Redeployment" marked Klay as a writing force to be reckoned with.

In interviews with CNS over the past several months, Klay talked extensively about how his Catholic faith has influenced his writing.

"My Catholicism informs the questions I want to ask in fiction and the aspects of literature that are most vital to me," Klay said. "I think the best writing isn't simply about psychological or moral struggles, but spiritual ones as well. I take the role of ritual and community seriously. I see us as broken people in a fallen world, but I believe in the possibility of grace, of redemption, and so I do not see the comfort of despair as an option. (Gerald Man-

ley) Hopkins told us that the world is charged with the grandeur of God. I would like to think he was right."

Since his success with "Missionaries" and "Redeployment," Klay has gained more notoriety as a Catholic-influenced writer. At a recent reading at a bookshop in New York, Klay suggested Catholic writers are those who present the faith in their fiction in a serious way and who strive to see Catholicism inform their creative imagination.

This does not mean, however, that Catholic authors write primarily about catechism, theology, spiritual conflict or the lives of priests and religious.

"It's not explicitly Catholic material that makes a Catholic writer," Klay told CNS, "but it's in the approach to the world and in the attitude toward human beings."

Some commentators have suggested that his military experience changed Klay from a professional soldier into a writer. The author, however, has a few qualifications on that particular assessment.

"I think what changed for me was the attitude I took toward writing," Klay said. "It became less about trying to create a beautiful work of art than about desperately trying to communicate something that felt vital for me, even if I wasn't sure what exactly it was until I'd written it into a story."

In discussing his choice of the word "missionaries" to title his 2020 novel, Klay said it was based only peripherally on the idea of Crusaders spreading the faith "to all the nations." Rather the "Missionaries" title has a variety of associations relevant to the concerns of the book such as the role of faith -- whether in God or in progress -- or

in a variety of other things that people use to satisfy their spiritual longings.

"But these characters don't just want to believe in 'something.' They want to believe in something that informs as they go about trying to remake the world."

"Missionaries" focuses on American involvement in the ongoing drug wars in Colombia. Told from four personal perspectives, the story also highlights the frequently glossed over suffering of powerless civilians in battle zones and sheds light on the multinational component of even localized armed conflict.

Similarly, in the short story "Prayer in the Furnace" in "Redeployment," Klay raises the thorny issue of where to find grace and meaning in times of war.

At a funeral for a fallen Marine, the company chaplain offers the following: "I asked God to protect the battalion from further harm. I knew he would not. I asked him to bring abuses to light. I knew he would not. I asked him finally, for grace."

In May, Klay released "Uncertain Ground," a 15-essay collection examining the soul of America after 20 years of the "forever wars" in Iraq and Afghanistan. One essay, "Tales of War and Redemption," offers sobering thoughts on the examination of conscience for believers and nonbelievers alike.

"You can accept the miraculous or not," Klay writes. "Either way we remain both blessed and

guilty, obliged to absorb the full radiance of the world and to accept the consequences of our failings as people, as members of churches, as members of nations. To take our obligations to our fellow man seriously means knowing we will never be able to adequately respond. It means knowing, at all times, that we should be moving toward a revolutionary change of heart, for the strength to act more fully, directly, and powerfully in relation to the agony existing not just overseas, but in the divided communities where we live. It means knowing we will fail, and knowing the glory of creation is there for us anyway. It means accepting that being responsive to suffering and attuned to joy are not different things, but one and the same."

How does Klay respond to the question of war and

bloodshed's impact on humanity and religious faith?

"I think horrible situations don't necessarily destroy faith, or spark it -- as in the old, false saying about how there are no atheists in foxholes," Klay told CNS. "But extreme experience can force people to confront their beliefs about the world, about morality, about other people and the meaning of existence."

"Horror is right at the center of the Christian faith, after all. We're accustomed to the sight of Christ on the cross, but imagine how the sight must have struck the apostles. This is not a faith for those who want to avert their eyes from horror or pretend that only bad people experience bad things. But that's also part of its power. So yes, belief in the face of horror, or belief in response to horror, are of concern to me."

## REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name a priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul; take over his entire personality and life.

Replace him with yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always. O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of priests, pray and intercede for (...) Amen.



**October**  
The Most Holy Rosary

### OCTOBER 2022

| DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY        |                                 |                              |                               |                              |                                |                        | BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| SUNDAY                           | MONDAY                          | TUESDAY                      | WEDNESDAY                     | THURSDAY                     | FRIDAY                         | SATURDAY               |                          |
| 2<br>REV. THOMAS E. KORNMEYER    | 3<br>REV. STEVE KOVACEVICH      | 4<br>REV. DONALD F. KRAMBERG | 5<br>REV. ARTHUR J. LABAFF VF | 6<br>REV. ALAN J. LAMICA     | 7<br>REV. KRIS C. LAUZON       | 8<br>OUR PASTOR        |                          |
| 9<br>REV. CLYDE A. LEWIS         | 10<br>REV. CHRISTOPHER J. LOOBY | 11<br>REV. JOHN J. LOOBY     | 12<br>REV. SHANE M. LYNCH     | 13<br>REV. DONALD J. MANFRED | 14<br>REV. LAWRENCE E. MARULLO | 15<br>POPE FRANCIS     |                          |
| 16<br>BENEDICT XVI POPE EMERITUS | 17<br>REV. MICHAEL H. MARZAN    | 18<br>MSGR. C. JOHN MCAVOY   | 19<br>REV. KEVIN D. MCEWAN    | 20<br>REV. GILBERT B. MENARD | 21<br>REV. RAYMOND J. MOREAU   | 22<br>RETIRED PRIESTS  |                          |
| 23<br>REV. JOSEPH MORGAN VG      | 24<br>REV. WILLIAM G. MUENCH    | 25<br>MSGR. JOHN R. MURPHY   | 26<br>REV. STEVEN M. MURRAY   | 27<br>REV. FRANK NATALE, MSC | 28<br>REV. JUDE C. NABDIAGHA   | 29<br>DECEASED PRIESTS |                          |

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

A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated. The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by:  Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society www.nyvocations.net



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

## The story of Dives and Lazarus

Five years ago, Pope Francis canonized Mother Teresa of Calcutta, although the world had already considered her a saint since her death in 1997. She spent most of her life giving human dignity to the poor and the dying. Her example left us little excuse to ignore those in desperate poverty of soul and body all around us. The readings this Sunday show what Jesus thought of the indifference of the rich and comfortable.

In the first reading, the prophet Amos paints a picture of the wealthy rulers of Israel, lying on their

beds of ivory, and drinking wine from bowls, completely oblivious to the near collapse of the kingdom. God is condemning their indifference, their selfishness, their lack of discipline, and their disobedience to His commandments. The northern kingdom is soon destroyed by Assyria.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells us a story of Dives and Lazarus. The scene opens on the street in front of Dives' front door. There lies the beggar, Lazarus, in tattered clothes that scarcely cover his open sores. The door opens, and the well-fed



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

September 25

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## READINGS

Amos 6:1a, 4-7  
1 Timothy 6:11-16  
Luke 16:19-31

guests of Dives emerge, laughing loudly as they depart from their daily banquet. Then Dives comes out. Having bid good-bye to the last guest, he decides to take an evening walk. Like his guests, Dives steps over the beggar not even looking at him. He doesn't kick or abuse him. He just doesn't pay any attention.

The next scene is some years later. In the upper right, we see Lazarus in heavenly glory, courted by

the angels, reclining at table with the patriarch, Father Abraham. In the lower left, we see Dives, in the torments of hell, looking longingly at the heavenly feast in the distance.

Why is Dives in hell? Not because he is rich. Jesus, in telling the story, never condemns him for that. Why, then? Because he never thought to share his riches with this poor beggar who lay outside his door day after day. He never offered him some of the leftovers, never inquired about his health, never offered him employment. What a difference he could have made in the life of Lazarus. He might have gotten to know him better and given help to Lazarus' wife and children. Who

knows? They might even have become friends!

God's warnings in Scripture apply to every age. Who are we stepping over? It's not a question of how much money we have, but how willing we are to share with those who have nothing. The rich man's sin was first of all a lack of awareness of the poor man right at his door. If we are Christians who are to care for others as brothers and sisters, then we can't be ignorant of their plight. We must do our best to learn about their needs, and in some small way discover how we can share what we have. As Mother Teresa was fond of saying, "Do little things with great love, and make the Eucharist the center of your lives."

## CALLED TO SERVE

## We could sit through the whole Mass, right?

Years ago, a friend died and all of us who were his colleagues went to the funeral. It was a Catholic Mass. This happened long before I was ordained so I was seated in a pew, not in the Sanctuary assisting the celebrant.

As we were leaving the church, a colleague who was not Catholic said to me, "Wow, you Catholics sure bounce around a lot. When you're not sitting, you're standing, or kneeling

or something."

He was right. We do change our posture often. But every move, every position, is for a reason. I'm not sure we do a good job explaining those moves when we educate young people or converts.

Do we explain that we dip our right hand in the Holy Water and bless ourselves, In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, to remind ourselves that we

have been baptized into the Church and are a brother or sister of Jesus?

The Sign of the Cross has all sorts of symbolism but as we enter church, it is a reminder we are about to enter into a conversation with God, prayer, and our actions and decorum should be appropriate.

We genuflect before entering a pew when we first arrive at church as a sign of reverence. We are acknowledging that we have entered a house of worship and God is present. We genuflect again when we are leaving. We reverence God again but also acknowledge his command to us spoken by the deacon, "Go forth and spread the Good News."



Deacon  
Kevin Mastellon

By the way, it isn't necessary that we genuflect every time we enter or leave a pew but that's your prerogative.

Do we explain that we stand at the opening of Mass as "a sign of respect and honor? We stand as the celebrant, who represents Christ, enters and leaves the assembly. From the earliest days of the Church, this posture has been understood as the stance of those who have risen with Christ and seek the things that are above. When we stand for prayer, we assume our full stature before God, not in pride but in humble gratitude for the marvelous things God has done in creating and redeeming each one of us."

We sit for the scripture

readings and the psalm. "Sitting is the posture of listening and meditation, so the congregation sits for the pre-Gospel readings and the homily and may also sit for the period of meditation following Communion."

Hopefully we are attentive when sitting, not merely at rest, fussing around with our stuff in the pew, reading other prayers or writing a check for the collection. Now is not the time for those things. It is time to listen and meditate.

We stand for the Gospel. Why, you ask? Check back here next week and I'll try to answer that question.

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



The Sisters of St. Joseph are grateful to the priests who celebrate daily Mass at the Motherhouse.

We especially thank:

Fr. Leo Wiley, Msgr. Paul Whitmore,  
Fr. Mickey Demo,

Diocesan Priests of Jefferson Deanery  
and the

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart,  
for their priestly presence among us.



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

**The Society for the Propagation of the Faith**  
 Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director  
 622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
 (315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296  
 mbrett@rcdony.org

# Grateful for our priests

We begin each day with grateful hearts for all our priests and their continued service to the Church. It is only with their continued hard work and support that we can complete the work we do every day in the Mission Office. We are especially grateful for their efforts with this year's MPDO and Missionary COOP appeals.

We would like to specifically thank Bishop Terry R. LaValley, Father Joseph Morgan, VG, Father James Seymour, Father Daniel Chapin, and Father Kevin O'Brien for supporting us on our Board of Directors. Both your guidance and the time and effort you put into helping us is invaluable.

The priests in our diocese and dioceses and orders around the world work hard every day to fulfil their vocations as priests. We pray for the priests in mission territories working to distribute the sacraments in areas torn by war and violence. We pray for the priests striving to keep their people fed and clothed in the face of poverty and corruption. We pray for priests fighting for the dignity of those who are not granted it by society.

As we come out of MPDO and Missionary COOP and move towards Extraordinary Mission Month, may we keep in mind all those men called to service in the Church with a vocation to the holy priesthood. We are especially grateful for those who spend their lives as missionaries. Because of them, we are able to become more interconnected with the rest of our church family and better live out our vocation of missionary spirit. We thank all priests in our diocese who served at our former mission parish in Mollendo, Peru, for their faith, dedication and hard work. We also thank those priests that have come to us from other countries to share their faith and spirit with the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

As the Pope Francis once said of priest appreciation, "Challenges exist to be overcome! Let us be realists, but without losing our joy, our boldness and our hope-filled commitment. Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of missionary vigor!"

To be added to our mailing list or to learn more please feel free to contact us at amichael@rcdony.org. More information can also be found at our website www.rcdony.org/mission. And as always, please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.

## OBITUARIES

**Altona** – Estherine (Burdo) M. King, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 10, 2022 at Holy Angels Church; burial in Ellenburg Town Mausoleum.

**AuSable Forks** – John Pattno, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 12, 2022 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

**Brownville** – Rose (Frazzitta) Sliwa, 89; Memorial Services Sept. 17, 2022 at Immaculate Conception Church.

**Brushton** – Marie M. (Bivin) Reil, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 12, 2022 at St. Mary's Church.

**Constableville** – Phyllis (Szur) Szewczyk, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 17, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, West Leyden.

**Evans Mills** – Noreen (Kenna) Carnevale, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 16, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Gouverneur** – Carolyn (Tyler) Pistolesi, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 15, 2022 at St. James Church; burial in New St. James Cemetery.

**Malone** – Jeannette Anne (McElwain) Mitchell, 77; Funeral Services Sept. 17, 2022 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

**Malone** – Robert N. Recore, 93; Funeral Services Sept. 10, 2022 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in St. John Bosco Cemetery.

**Massena** – Marilyn (Conant) DeCelles, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 13, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** – David Dominic Zappia, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 15, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Mineville** – Anna C. Myers, 93; Memorial Mass to be held in June 2023; burial in Port Henry Union Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Thomas F. Crabbe, 55; Mass of Christian Burial held Sept. 20, 2022 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Donald "Red" A. Ross,

94; Funeral Services Sept. 16, 2022 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Foxwood memorial Park.

**Rouses Point** – Virginia M. (Legnard) Guay, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 1, 2022 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Sackets Harbor** – Alice M. (Leimberger) Powell, 76; Memorial Mass Sept. 24, 2022 at St. Andrews Church.

**Ticonderoga** – Dean F. Deso, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 15, 2022 at St. Mary's Church.

**Watertown** – Janet C. (Fitzgerald) Zapf, 88; Mass of Christian Burial to be held in 2023 at St. Anthony's Church.

*With special thanks to*

*Frater  
Thibault*



*Holy Lord,*

*we ask that you shine your loving light on your faithful minister. Guide, support and strengthen your servant in fulfilling your will and in carrying out this service of love to your people.*

*Amen.*

From the parishioners of  
 St. James, Carthage; St. Mary's, Copenhagen  
 and  
 Students, Faculty & Families at Augustinian Academy.

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For Vocations*

# Cardinal: Padre Pio showed world 'God is real'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – St. Pio of Pietrelcina did not boast of his fame or holiness but instead showed that God "chooses the weak to confuse the strong," said Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley of Boston.

"Today, we stand before this great saint and we thank him for showing the world that God is real and that the only true success in life is holiness," Cardinal O'Malley said Sept. 23 during a Mass at the Shrine of St. Pio of Pietrelcina in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy.

The Mass on the saint's feast day also was part of the shrine's celebrations of the 20th anniversary of his canonization.

In a tweet published Sept. 23 on his official Twitter account, Pope Francis said St. Pio's life was an example that "charity inspired by faith has the power to disarm the forces of evil."

"Saint #PadrePio of Pietrelcina fought evil throughout his life: with humility, with obedience, and with the Cross, offering up suffering for love," the tweet said.

While at the shrine in southern Italy, Cardinal O'Malley also blessed three sculptures of Padre Pio designed and sculpted by Canadian artist Timothy Schmalz. The sculptures were donated to the Padre Pio Foundation of America and to the Shrine of St. Pio of

Pietrelcina.

In his homily, the cardinal reflected on the humble example of the "saints next door" who in small ways give witness to God's love in their ordinary lives.

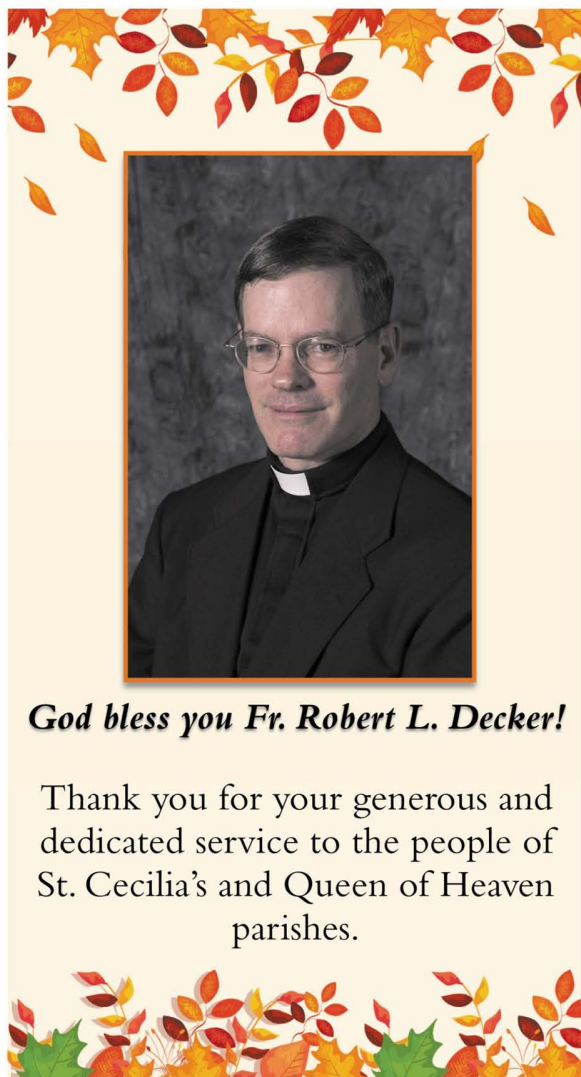
At times, however, "God takes 'the saint next door' and shines a spotlight on that individual so that his life and testimony become a window, a portal, through which people can have a glimpse of God's presence, to discover God hidden in plain sight," he said.

"Padre Pio was a man who did not boast of his wisdom, nor of his strength, nor of his riches. Like St. Paul, his boast was in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, and like the

Poor One (St. Francis), Padre Pio became a living crucifix," said the cardinal, a Capuchin friar like Padre Pio.

Recalling the suffering endured by the saintly friar due to "the burden of the stigmata," Cardinal O'Malley said Padre Pio's example of bearing pain with "love and patience" can help Christians see that holiness "brings light and peace to a world of darkness and chaos."

"In a world where pain is seen as the greatest evil, Padre Pio shows us the power of the cross. He shows us that the greatest evil is not pain, but sin and selfishness," the cardinal said.



**God bless you Fr. Robert L. Decker!**

Thank you for your generous and dedicated service to the people of St. Cecilia's and Queen of Heaven parishes.

## NEW SCHOOL YEAR, NEW SEMINARY



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. VINCENT SEMINARY

Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, welcomed 15 new students for the 2022-2023 academic year, including two from the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Tyler Fitzgerald and Kevin McCulloch. Fitzgerald and McCulloch are pictured with Fitzgerald and McCulloch are administrators from St. Vincent's, Father Boniface Hicks, O.S.B., director of spiritual formation; Father Patrick Cronauer, O.S.B., academic dean; Deacon Lawrence Sutton, Ph.D., director of pre-theologian formation; Very Rev. Edward Mazich, O.S.B.; rector; Father Emmanuel Afunugo, dean of students; Father Cyprian Constantine, O.S.B., director of liturgical formation; Father John-Mary Tompkins, O.S.B., vice rector and director of human formation.