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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 78 Number 23

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

OCTOBER 11, 2023

## 'THERE'S HOPE THROUGH CHRIST'



Hattie Taylor, campus minister, left, and Lucas Scalcione, a SUNY Potsdam student, middle, and Lucas Roberts-Williams, a Clarkson student, right, talk together at the Friday night volunteer dinner at the Newman House, in Potsdam. Taylor took up the post of pastoral associate and campus minister for Potsdam and Canton in July. She succeeds Conner Cummings, who left to enhance his education in Catholic student ministry. The campus ministry is a joint undertaking of St. Mary's, Potsdam, and St. Mary's, Canton.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## DAY OF RECONCILIATION



PHOTO BY KEITH BENMAN/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

**A gathered crowd listens to survivors of Indian residential schools at Every Child Matters Day at Generations Park in Akwesasne on Friday, Sept. 29. See the full story on Page 3.**

## Pope: Synod meant to 'refocus our gaze on God'

By Courtney Mares  
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis opened the Synod on Synodality's three-week assembly on Wednesday with a call to remember that the Church exists to bring Jesus to the world and should face today's challenges with a gaze fixed on God rather than "political calculations or ideological battles."

Speaking in St. Peter's Square for the synod's opening Mass on Oct. 4, Pope Francis underlined that "the primary task of the synod" is to "refocus our gaze on God, to be a Church that looks mercifully at human-

ity."

"We do not want to make ourselves attractive in the eyes of the world, but to reach out to it with the consolation of the Gospel, to bear witness to God's infinite love in a better way and to everyone," he said.

The pope presided over Mass on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, concelebrated by nearly 500 priests, bishops, and cardinals, including 20 of the Catholic Church's newest cardinals. Recalling the Lord's words to St. Francis, "Go, rebuild my Church," Pope Francis said that the synod serves as a reminder that "our Mother the Church is always in need of purification,

of being 'repaired,' for we are a people made up of forgiven sinners ... always in need of returning to the source that is Jesus and putting ourselves back on the paths of the Spirit to reach everyone with his Gospel."

Pope Francis highlighted a question raised by Pope Benedict XVI at the 2012 Synod of Bishops as the "fundamental question" facing the synod: "The question for us is this: God has spoken, he has truly broken the great silence, he has shown himself, but how can we communicate this reality to the people of today, so that it becomes salvation?"

Francis repeated that the syn-

od is not "a political gathering" or a "polarized parliament" but "a place of grace and communion."

"Dear brother cardinals, brother bishops, sisters and brothers, we are at the opening of the General Assembly of the Synod. Here we do not need a purely natural vision, made up of human strategies, political calculations, or ideological battles. We are not here to carry out a parliamentary meeting or a plan of reformation. No. We are here to walk together with the gaze of Jesus, who blesses the Father and welcomes those who are weary and oppressed," he said.

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# No fair-weather fans

Our beloved Pittsburgh Steelers are awful. They're in dead last place in the NFL in offensive production. If you can't score, you can't win. The Steelers aren't doing much winning.

The Steelers played so badly in their Sept. 30 game, my son, Jake, and I shut it off around half-time. It was embarrassing.

While there are lots of factors that go into making our team stink up the

**Darcy L. Fargo**

stadium every Sunday, Monday or Thursday they play, Jake and I agree, as do most analysts, that the bulk of the problem is play calling/coaching. There's plenty of talent on the team, but the players aren't being put in a position to gain yards, get touchdowns and win games.

The entire Steeler Nation, the team's fanbase, is calling for a particular member of the coaching staff to be fired.

He's still calling plays.

No matter how bad it gets, no matter how many games they lose, and even when the team doesn't make changes we'd like to see, Jake and I will remain loyal, though frustrated, fans. They could win every remaining game this season (and they may if things don't turn around), and we still won't jump ship and go cheer for the Bills or Giants or Jets. We love our team. We're loyal to our team.

Most sports fans I know are the same way. We stick with our teams through

good and bad.

Yet how many of us have thought or said, "if the Church/my parish does \_\_\_\_\_, I'm going elsewhere."

The Church on earth isn't perfect. Our parishes aren't perfect. Our priests aren't perfect. We, the Body of Christ, aren't perfect.

But the Church should be more important than our favorite sports team. We should love her even more and be even more loyal to her.

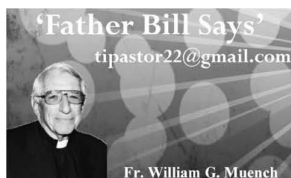
We stick with our teams through good and bad.

## The Eucharistic Prayer

This morning as I celebrated the morning Mass, I was touched very deeply by the words of the Eucharistic Prayer. It was a sacred moment for me as it often is. Each time I offer Mass, the Eucharistic Prayer is most important. I would call it transformative. This prayer transforms us all, makes us new people. I write this today because I am hoping that each one of you finds this joyful transformation each time you participate at Mass.

I want to encourage you to listen carefully to the priest's words of prayer of the Eucharistic Prayer. I believe this prayer draws us all - priest and people - closer to God. This is a powerfully sacred prayer. The Eucharistic Prayer is the time when the priest celebrant consecrates the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus.

The Eucharistic Prayer prepares us for this consecration and prepares us for the reception of Holy Communion. There are several different Eucharistic Prayers. The priest chooses one for Mass. Today I chose the Seconds Eucharistic Prayer for Rec-



conciliation. This prayer focuses our attention on reconciliation with the Lord with forgiveness of sin. Reconciliation is a name often given to confession. We are separated from Our God by sin, and, through the Lord's forgiveness, we are reconciled. We hope to renew and strengthen our relationship with the Lord. We seek reconciliation, and we look to renew and strengthen our relationship with God through reconciliation. Through God's forgiveness from sin, we seek a reconciled friendship with God.

Let me share a bit of this Eucharistic Prayer with you. Each Eucharistic Prayer is a prayer to God the Father. The Eucharistic Prayer of Reconciliation begins with a prayer of praise to the Father in gratitude for the sending of Jesus, "who comes in your name." This Jesus comes as "the hand you extend to sinners." This Jesus is

"the way by which your peace is offered to us." In this prayer, we continue on in gratitude to the Father: "when we ourselves had turned away from you on account of our sins, you brought us back to be reconciled, O Lord," so that "we might love one another through your Son."

Then, the priest celebrant, using the same words as Jesus at the Last Supper, consecrates the bread and wine to be the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus. The Eucharistic Prayer then continues to remind us of why we are here.

"Celebrating the memorial of the Death and Resurrection of your Son, we have the sacrifice of perfect reconciliation. Our prayer is a time to renew our relationship with the Lord.

Our prayer continues in petition: "Holy Father, we humbly beseech you to accept us also, together with your Son and in this saving banquet graciously to endow us with the very Spirit, who takes away everything that estranges us from one another."

Our Eucharistic Prayer then prays for our Church

- that is, for ourselves, for you and me. We pray for a strong union with Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, with our bishop and with all people, those at the Mass, those throughout the world. We pray to the Father that we will be united in a strong friendship.

Our prayer continues in a prayer uniting us all: "Just as you have gathered us at the table of your Son bring us together with the glorious Virgin, Mary, Mother of God, with you blessed Apostles and all the saints, with our brothers and sisters, family and friends, and those of every race and tongue who have died in your friendship." We ask the Father to unite us in a new heaven and a new earth where the fullness of your peace will shine forth in Christ Jesus Our Lord.

Then begins the Communion Rite. The Eucharistic Prayer prepares us to receive the Lord in Holy Communion, receiving the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus. This Eucharistic Prayer is a wonderful and sacred preparation for us all to receive Holy Communion with an open heart, uniting us with our God and with each other.



# Survivors speak at reconciliation event

By Keith Benman  
Contributing Writer

AKWESASNE - Survivors of Indian residential schools spoke about the abuse they endured at those schools at Every Child Matters Day on Friday, Sept. 29, at Generations Park.

Their stories of being snatched away to church-run schools and maltreated there grabbed the attention of young and old in an audience of about 200. Other survivors, seated among that audience, shed tears.

The Catholic church's role in running many of the schools made it especially painful for indigenous Catholics like Dr. Rose-Alma McDonald and Bernice Kahsennaron Lazore. Both have ministries at Akwesasne's Catholic St. Regis Mission Church. They've been purposefully seeking out survivors' stories for the past two years. It's part of their seeking reconciliation and healing.

"For us, for me, working with the church, this is just the beginning," McDonald said. "This isn't like in three years everybody is going to be healed. This is just the beginning."

It was two years ago that evidence of up to 200 unmarked graves was found at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School, in British Columbia. Evidence of hundreds more graves were soon found at other residential schools in Canada. The discoveries led to outrage among indigenous communities. At St. Regis Mission Church's front door, protesters

piled the shoes of hundreds of small children to shame the church. That had a devastating impact on Mohawk Catholics like McDonald and Kahsennaron Lazore.

That's why Catholics feel it's important to keep showing up at events like Friday's, McDonald said. The event was put on by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's Community Advocacy Program and the Seven Dancers Coalition. Attending Every Child Matters Day in company with McDonald and Kahsennaron Lazore were Anne Marie Chisholm and Elizabeth Deziel from the Catholic Diocese of Valleyfield.

"We are really hoping to show our solidarity and witness what they are saying," Deziel said when survivors had finished speaking. "As Catholics we're all called to reach out and listen."

And they're doing more than just showing up and listening.

The Akwesasne Kateri Prayer Circle, made up of St. Regis Mission Church parishioners, is undertaking five projects to further reconciliation and healing. One will be construction of a monument in the vicinity of St. Regis Mission Church memorializing victims of the Indian residential schools. Others are the formation of elder talking circles, youth retreats, raising general awareness and the translation of church hymns into the Mohawk language. The Native North American Traveling College at Akwesasne will aid the Kateri Prayer Circle



PHOTO BY KEITH BENMAN/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

St. Regis Mission Church parishioners Bernice Kahsennaron Lazore, at right, and Rose-Alma McDonald, at left, listen as survivors of Indian residential schools tell their stories Friday, Sept. 29, at Generations Park in Akwesasne.

in its endeavors.

The projects will be funded with \$50,000 from the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund of the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall.

St. Regis Mission Church members consider it part of a call to

action that grew out of an ecumenical atonement and reconciliation service held outside St. Regis Mission Church after the Kamloops discovery.

And then, in July 2022, came Pope Francis' apology to indige-

nous tribes in Canada, including a papal Mass in Quebec City.

"The whole message was about healing and reconciliation, because there's a lot of people now that just don't like the church, people are upset with the church - and for good reason," McDonald said. "So, we decided to do something about it."

The day after Every Child Matters Day, McDonald, Kahsennaron Lazore and others headed to Ottawa for an Indigenous Mass in recognition of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. It was held, at St.

Basil's Parish and included representation by members of the Akwesasne Mohawk Choir, Kateri Native Ministry and other indigenous Catholics.

There were readings done in the Mohawk language as well as hymns sung in Mohawk.

## What is a Foster Grandparent?

Foster Grandparents are role models, mentors, and friends to children with exceptional needs. The program provides a way for volunteers age 55 and over to stay active by serving children and youth in their communities. They are placed in a classroom setting with a child or children who are in need of emotional support, development of basic learning skills, friendship, companionship, encouragement, individual attention, and unhurried help. The program currently has 40 volunteers and serves more than 100 kids per year.

The Foster Grandparent Program is hosted by the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and supported by AmeriCorps Seniors, a federally funded agency responsible for building volunteer based programs for over 50 years and counting.



Sometimes when you get to be my age, you wake up and say what good am I and along came the Foster Grandparent Program that keeps me going!

Roy Foster  
age 83  
Foster  
Grandparent

### Want more info about how to get started?

Contact Melissa Howard,  
Volunteer Coordinator

PHONE:  
(518)359-7688

EMAIL:  
mhoward@cathcharities.org



### Am I Qualified to be a Foster Grandparent?

All you need to join is the ability to give the kind of comfort and love that sets a child on the path toward a successful future. If you're 55 or older and want to share your experience and compassion, you have what it takes to be a Foster Grandparent.

You'll also receive a small bi-weekly, non-taxable stipend that cannot be held against any current benefits you may already have as well as paid mileage for your travel. Additionally, you receive paid holidays, vacations, sick and personal leave.



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# 'There's hope through Christ'

## New campus minister gets to work in Potsdam, Canton

By **Keith Benman**  
Contributing Writer

POTSDAM - The Newman Club and campus ministry for four local colleges has a new leader who is also a new convert to Catholicism.

Hattie Taylor took up the post of pastoral associate and campus minister for Potsdam and Canton in July.

She succeeds Conner Cummings, who left to enhance his education in Catholic student ministry.

The campus ministry is a joint undertaking of St. Mary's, Potsdam, and St. Mary's, Canton.

Taylor was confirmed to the Catholic faith earlier this year after serving for three years in the area as a Methodist minister.

She's enthusiastic about her new faith. And she's enthusiastic about her new job that brings her into contact with people at an age where many fall away from the faith.

"I'm just excited there are practicing Catholics that are young," she said on a recent Friday evening at the Newman Club. "I'm excited there are people 10 years younger than me coming here and following their faith."

About a dozen of them gathered on that recent Friday evening for the campus ministry's weekly volunteer dinner at the Newman Club across the street from St. Mary's, Potsdam.

Students gave various reasons for getting involved.

Paulo Constantino, a Clarkson University senior, laughs when he says he first came to the Newman Club a few years ago because of a "loophole" in Clarkson's COVID regulations.

Religious practice was one of the few reasons a student could legitimately leave campus. But he said what he has found is a Catholic friendship group that



PHOTO BY KEITH BENMAN/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

**Hattie Taylor is the new Catholic campus minister for colleges in Potsdam and Canton.**

enhances the faith he grew up with.

Clarkson junior MacKenzie Smith said she grew disinterested in her Catholic faith in high school. But once in college she felt something was lacking in her life.

"I was wondering, are there other people my

age that are really Catholic?" she said. "I decided I wanted to give it another shot."

In addition to Clarkson, the campus ministry draws students from SUNY Potsdam, SUNY Canton, and St. Lawrence University.

Not all the students attending campus ministry activities are Catholic. St. Mary's Potsdam Pastor Father Joseph W. Giroux says one of the most rewarding aspects of the ministry is seeing the conversions that occur through the ministry.

And the same goes for

reversions, students returning to the faith.

The volunteer dinners are fun affairs where students stand around, sit, eat, play board games and chat. On the recent Friday evening, the conversation ranged from the shortcomings of AI-generated research to plumb-ing horror stories from the dorms. Afterwards, Father Giroux talked to students about the upcoming Vatican Synod of Bishops.

The volunteer dinner is just one of the campus ministry's anchor activities. It also holds weekly Bible studies on the SUNY Potsdam, Clarkson University and St. Lawrence University campuses. A Thursday night adoration at St. Mary's Potsdam was started at students' suggestion.

Taylor said she has one overriding goal for the campus ministry.

"Mostly, I just want to show there's hope through Christ," she said.

More specifically, she'd like to find ways to increase the numbers of college students regularly attending Mass.

Local parishes have a good start with the enthusiastic group they have, but she knows there are hundreds more students on local college campuses who could benefit.



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# Camp Guggenheim: A youth perspective

*Editor's note: The following column is a guest contribution from Erin Savarie, age 15. Miss Savarie approached the North Country Catholic hoping to share her reflections on her experience at Camp Guggenheim. Her words are presented below with minimal editing.*

**By Erin Savarie**  
Guest contributor

Being a second-year camper, I thought I knew Camp Guggenheim and everything about it, but just as God unveils new beauty to us every day, I was introduced to Camp friends and traditions I couldn't have imagined.

"Guggy" as the staff and campers call it, is a truly inspiring place where teens from all over, not just in the diocese, can come and be themselves and share in this beautiful faith.

Being a teenager from a very protestant community, coming to camp and uniting with several people my own age and sharing the same faith has had a very strong impact on me.

Each week at Camp is filled with high-energy activities and faith-filled moments till the sun goes down. Weeks 1-5 follow the same general schedule, having morning programs, work crews, afternoon activities, beach time, Mass, and evening programs. Morning programs include liturgy, arts and crafts, waterfront, and project adventure.

Afternoon activities



**Camp Guggenheim camper Erin Savarie, front left, with camp friends Vivian Looby and Evie Lane.**

range from all different fun things from rappelling, to kayaking, to card games, and making blanket forts.

Mass is held every day except Wednesday, during which there is a reconciliation service.

Evening activities include the movie night, campfire, Olympics, variety show, and the dance (or as staff and campers call it: the prance).

Something I never thought I would do is go rappelling - descending a rock face using a rope that is anchored at the top. This was offered as an opportunity for the older campers, me included.

The scariest part of the experience was by far the "Magic carpet"

which is a literal carpet laid out on the top of the rock to help the campers grip while they learn how to go down. There are three counselors assigned different tasks to ensure that each camper gets down safely.

Something the counselors tell every camper before starting is that for them to fall, it would mean lightning would have to come down and simultaneously strike down two huge trees, and for the person manning the ropes to die. So, essentially, no one ever falls.

The experience itself was a lot of fun, but on a more spiritual level, it taught me to trust more, even when my mind or body tells me

not to. It taught me that God always has our backs and the people around us, our friends and family, are always looking out for us and won't let us fall.

Every minute of every day at camp is an opportunity to make special memories, whether that means laughing with fellow campers, or having a "Jesus moment" - letting your heart be silent and prayerful, feeling God's presence.

The most meaningful part of my own experience this year was on the beach during the candle-lit part of our

reconciliation service for week 3.

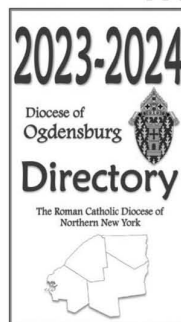
One of our counselors played music on the guitar while all the campers participated in the service.

Everyone gave hugs and some, me included, teared up.

Everything about Camp is so transformative and beautiful. I feel like a totally different person when I'm there, like the person I want to be always.

I invite teens from all over the diocese and beyond to come, experience the holy spirit here, and join our Camp family!

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**Environmental Stewardship****Change is everywhere**

Changes are always occurring in nature, yet in autumn, changes seem to be more evident than at any other time of year. Temperatures drop, daylight wanes, the wind becomes more evident, skies become more overcast and, except for the honking geese and the squawking blue jays, there are few wild sounds to be heard.

The organisms that populate the natural world are genetically programmed to deal with seasonal changes. Some enter a prolonged period of dormancy, others migrate to more favorable settings, and still others adapt physically and behaviorally to the coming changes.

As climate change impacts the schedule and intensity of weather events, it is believed by some naturalists that organisms of our region are becoming stressed. Trees can be used as an indicator of stress, especially at this time of year, as some deciduous trees fail to produce the vibrant colors for which they have become famous. It has been noted that this season's color is somewhat dull. While it is impossible to state the cause for certain, it does indicate the trees are experiencing abnormal conditions for maintaining a healthy life in that particular spot.

Some mental health professionals indicate weather can impact emotional well-being. Prolonged heat spells, unprecedented rain events, frequent bouts of cloudy, smoke-filled skies, or relentless winds can take a toll on mental health.

There are subtle signs in nature that organisms are becoming stressed by changing weather patterns. While we must do everything we can to slow the rate at which these changes are occurring, we must also acknowledge that we are not even close to being in control of this process. We must learn to trust in God, who has only our best interests at heart. There are normal, seasonal changes progressing, and planetary climatic shifts that are underway. Being a shining beacon of Christian hope will be most helpful to both society and nature as we experience these periods of change.

**Bishop's Public Schedule**

**Oct. 13** – Virtual Celebrate Christ

**Oct. 14** – Virtual Celebrate Christ  
4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Oct. 15** – 11 a.m. – Mass Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Trinity Catholic School at St. Peter's Parish (Sacred Heart Church) in Massena followed by a Parish Picnic

5 p.m. – Andrew Dinner at the Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond in Norfolk

**Oct. 16** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Oct. 17** – 8:30 a.m. – Prayer Service with the Elementary Students at Immaculate Heart Central Elementary Building followed by Classroom Visits

**Oct. 18** – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch

**Rest in Peace**

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

**Oct. 11** – Rev. William Burns, 1837

**Oct. 12** – Rev. Francis Xavier Pelletier, 1881; Rev. P. Joseph Mullins, O.S.A., 1960

**Oct. 13** – Rev. Francis X. Campbell, O.S.A., 1984

**Oct. 14** – Rev. James Alexander Hagarty, 1903; Deacon Frederic A. Brousseau, 2019

**Oct. 15** – Rev. James Haffey, 1918; Rev. Mark Collins Liebler, 1975; Rev. Robert Fleig, S.J., 1986; Most Rev. Thomas Andrew Donnellan, 1987

**Oct. 17** – Rev. Antoine Anselm Thomas, 1900; Rev. Athanase Marion, O.M.I., 1935

**Protecting God's Children**

**The Diocese of Ogdensburg** has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration is required. Preregister at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org). Upcoming sessions:

**Oct. 11** – 5 p.m. – Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Schroon Lake

**Oct. 12** – 1 p.m. – Diocesan offices, Ogdensburg

**To Report Abuse**

**If you have a complaint** of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terriane Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; [terrianeyanulavich@yahoo.com](mailto:terrianeyanulavich@yahoo.com) Phone: 518-358-3145, Ext. 7179 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)

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## Pope calls for dramatic climate change measures

By Daniel Payne  
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis on Wednesday released a new document on the environment that he has described as the “second part” of his 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'*, and which warns of “grave consequences” if humanity continues to ignore the threat of climate change.

The apostolic exhortation, titled *Laudate Deum* (“Praise God”), is meant to address what Francis in the document calls the “global social issue” of climate change. The pope said that in the eight years since *Laudato Si'* was published, “our responses have not been adequate” to address ongoing ecological concerns.

“Climate change is one of the principal challenges facing society and the global community,” the pope wrote in the document, arguing that its effects are borne by the world’s “most vulnerable people” and that the climate issue is “no longer a secondary or ideological question.”

Francis wrote that the effects of climate change “are here and increasingly evident,” and warned of increasing heat waves and the possible melting of the polar ice caps, which he said would lead to “immensely grave consequences for everyone.”

“No one can ignore the fact that in recent years we have witnessed extreme weather phenomena, frequent periods of unusual heat, drought, and other cries of protest on the part of the earth that are only a few palpable expressions of a silent disease that affects everyone,” the pope said.

‘Resistance’ to climate science

Environmentalism has long been a favorite topic of Francis. *Laudato Si'* was heralded at the time of its publication as a revolutionary papal document for its emphasis on Catholic ecological responsibility.

Then-U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops President Bishop Joseph Kurtz called the encyclical “our marching orders for advocacy.” The document launched the *Laudato Si'* Movement, which bills itself as a “broad range of Catholic organizations and grassroots members from all over the world” walking “on a journey of ecological conversion.”

In the earlier document Francis conceded that the Church “does not presume to settle scientific questions or to replace politics,” but in the exhortation this week the Holy Father took a more forceful line, criticizing those who “have chosen to deride [the] facts” about climate science and stating bluntly that it is “no longer possible to doubt the human - ‘anthropic’ - origin of climate change.”

“It is not possible to conceal the correlation of these global climate phenomena and the accelerated increase in greenhouse gas emissions, particularly since the mid-20th century,” Francis wrote. “The overwhelming majority of scientists specializing in the climate support this correlation, and only a very small percentage of them seek to deny the evidence.”

## Pope to Synod: ‘Do not sadden the Holy Spirit’

By Hannah Brockhaus  
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis in his opening remarks for the Synod on Synodality on Wednesday offered guidance to participants on how the monthlong assembly will proceed.

Pointing synod delegates to texts by St. Basil on the Holy Spirit, the pope emphasized the importance of listening over speaking.

He said the Church is “paused” just like the apostles were when together in the upper room before Pentecost, except they were hiding in fear and “we are not.”

“It’s a pause of the listening Church. And that’s the most important message,” he said Oct. 4 in the Vatican’s Paul VI Hall.

The opening session of the Synod on Synodality took place on Wednesday afternoon. Unlike past synods, which took place in an auditorium-style room called the “new synod hall,” in the 2023 synod, participants are sitting at round tables in the large hall where Pope Francis often holds audiences with members of the public.

The Oct. 4-29 synodal assembly is also utilizing new technology, including tablets for participants. Video cameras and microphones at every table allow speakers’ contributions to be shared on screens at the tables of other members. Simultaneous translations are also available in the principal languages.

The 364 delegates are seated at tables of about 12 people, divided by language: English, Ital-

ian, Spanish, Portuguese, or French.

In the first general congregation, or meeting of all the participants, Pope Francis said a synod on the topic of synodality “is not easy but it is beautiful.”

He said after the Amazon synod in 2019, a survey was sent to the world’s bishops to get their opinions on important topics to discuss as a Church. Synodality, Francis said, was the first most popular answer, followed by the priesthood, and an unspecified social issue.

“Most of the bishops of the world saw the need to reflect on synodality,” he stressed.

Repeating his frequent appeals that the synod is not a parliament or a Church meeting on pastoral care, Pope Francis underlined the priority of listening to the Holy Spirit over speaking.

He said “empty words” are one of the things that sadden the Holy Spirit the most, and that gossip is one of the most common sins in the Church.

“I insist on this: do not sadden the Holy Spirit,” the pope said.

Francis also told participants there should be “a certain fasting from the public word” during the synod.

Addressing the media, he recalled “pressure” at the 2019 Amazon Synod for the ordination of married men to the priesthood, so-called “*viri probati*,” and the “public opinion” at the two synods on the family about allowing divorced and remarried Catholics to receive holy Communion.

“Now, there are hypotheses about this synod,” he added. “What will they do ... women priests. These are things they say outside.”

The session opened with the praying of the Liturgy of the Hours, which included a reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew for the memorial of St. Francis of Assisi.

Coptic Catholic Patriarch Ibrahim Isaac Sedrak, one of 10 delegate presidents, gave the first speech of the day. Pope Francis’ remarks were followed by speeches from synod Secretary General Cardinal Mario Grech and synod Relator General Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich.

In the morning, Pope Francis celebrated the opening Mass of the synod in St. Peter’s Square.

On Oct. 5, the synod will proceed with small-group discussions, called “conversation in the Spirit.”

Reading a quote from St. Basil included in a collection of patristic texts he chose to share with synod participants, the pope recalled the importance of harmony.

The great work of the Holy Spirit is harmony, he said, adding that “if there’s no harmony, there’s no Holy Spirit.”



*Support And Pray  
For Vocations*

## ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

## FRIENDSHIP GROUPS

You are invited to take part in a Friendship Group that will provide you with dynamic reading and personalized formation to grow in holiness with others online.

**Date:** Oct. 19

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** Zoom

**Features:** Father Leland Thorpe, OMV will talk with us about the book *A Biblical Way of Praying the Mass* by Father Tim Gallagher, OMV and answer your questions. To help you fully tap into the abundance of grace offered at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Father Gallagher resurrects the teachings of Venerable Bruno Lanteri. Venerable Bruno developed a biblical way of praying the Mass that transforms it into a true prayer of the heart. Through a selection of biblical figures, he invites you to live each part of the Mass with these figures' sentiments and hearts. If you have ever attended Mass and desired that it more fully touch your heart, this book is for you.

**Contact:** To sign up, visit: <https://mailchi.mp/sophiainstitute/friendship-groups>. The book is on sale at [www.sophiainstitute.com](http://www.sophiainstitute.com). For more information, please contact Mary Beth Bracy at [mbracy@sophiainstitute.com](mailto:mbracy@sophiainstitute.com)

## CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

## WALKING WITH PURPOSE

Plattsburgh – Women's Ministry to be held offering two new studies.

**Date:** Begins Oct. 12 and will last for 22 weeks.

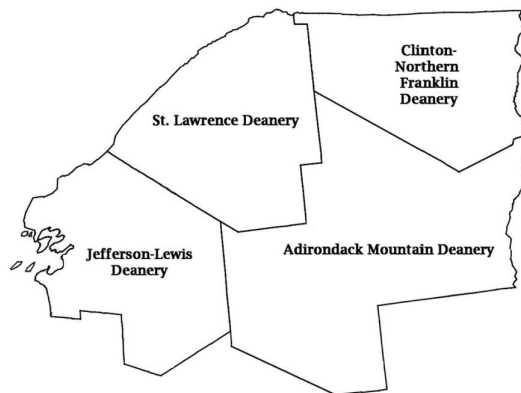
**Time:** 10 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

**Place:** St. John's Dwyer/McAvoy Parish Center

**Cost:** Suggested donation is \$40

**Features:** The two studies being offered are "Opening Your Heart" for newcomers and "Touching The Divine" for the 2nd year group.

**Contact:** For more information contact Janice Tobin at 518-569-



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

e-mail [news@northcountrycatholic.org](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org).

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

5370

## HARVEST DINNER

Altona – Holy Angels to have a Turkey Harvest Dinner.

**Date:** Oct. 15

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

**Place:** Holy Angels Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$15, Children 6-12, \$8; 5 and under, Free

**Features:** Turkey with All the Trimmings, Apple and Pumpkin Desserts, Bake Sale, 50/50 Raffle & Themed Basket Raffle.

**Contact:** For more information call 518-236-5632

## PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

Plattsburgh - Are you a single Catholic man who is hearing the Lord's call to the Priesthood? Consider joining others who are listening and seeking to respond.

**Date:** Oct. 15 and 29, Nov. 12, Dec. 3

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 5

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

**Features:** High school age men and older are invited to gather with Father Howard Venette to discuss this vocation. Virtual participation may also be available.

**Contact:** Please email Father Venette at [info@rcdony.org](mailto:info@rcdony.org)

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Plattsburgh - Holy Cross Parish will be offering extended Eucharistic Adoration.

**Date:** Oct. 20, 21 and 22

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. except during Mass

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

**Features:** This will take place the same weekend as the Eucharistic Congress in Auriesville, NY so that we can unite in adoring the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist exposed in the monstrance. More information and sign-up sheets are located at the entrance of St. Peter's Church.

## HEALING MISSION

West Chazy – St. Joseph's Church will be hold a Healing Mission conducted by Paul Rymniak.

**Date:** Oct. 30, 31 and Nov. 1

**Time:** 7 p.m. each evening

**Features:** Confession will be available. All are welcome. Healing is not just for the Physically Impaired. Mental and Emotional stress can take a heavier toll on our lives. Come and experience the Lord and what He can do for you. Come and enjoy Jesus by Worshipping Him. Come and see what Our Lord has for you. Come and be healed.

**Contact:** For more information, call 518-493-4521 or email [westchazypa@rcdony.org](mailto:westchazypa@rcdony.org)

## JEFFERSON-LEWIS

## THEME BASKET RAFFLE

Houseville – St. Hedwig's Society will have its Annual Theme Basket

Raffle.

**Date:** Oct. 15, 22 after the celebration of the 11 a.m. Mass. No tickets sold during Mass.

**Cost:** \$1 per ticket or \$5 for 6 tickets

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

**Features:** Theme baskets will be on display. Final drawing will be on Oct. 22 at 1 p.m. A bake sale and limited kielbasa sandwich luncheon will also be featured on this day. Proceeds will support church restoration and community outreach.

**Contact:** For questions or donations of theme baskets or bake sale items please contact Elaine 315-486-5532, Mary Ann 315-348-6260 or Lydia 315-348-7006.

## ROSARY RALLY

Turin – Rosary Rally to be held.

**Date:** Oct. 14

**Time:** Noon

**Place:** Spiritwalk Fatamia Garden

**Features:** Come pray the rosary together. Enjoy quiet time at the Chapel of Peace and/or walk the Stations of the Cross. Event goes on rain or shine. Bring a lawn chair.

**Contact:** For more information call (315) 272-6168

## SPAGHETTI &amp; MEATBALL DINNER

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

**Date:** Oct. 14

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 7

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

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

**Contact:** For more information call 315-629-4678

## ST. LAWRENCE

## CATHOLIC PARENTING

Potsdam – A series of workshops from the Franciscan University Catechetical Institute to be held on Catholic Parenting.

**Date:** First Sunday of the month from Oct. to April

**Place:** St. Mary's Rectory, sec-

ond floor

**Features:** Attend all or only those that interest you. Child care can be provided. Event is free.

**Contact:** For more information contact Mike Neaton at 315-335-6302 or Liz Tarbox at [formation-stp@gmail.com](mailto:formation-stp@gmail.com)

## TRINITY 40TH CELEBRATION

Massena – Trinity Catholic School to celebrate their 40th birthday.

**Date:** Oct. 15

**Time:** 11 a.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Church

**Features:** Mass will be celebrated with Bishop LaValley. Immediately following Mass there will be a luncheon held at Trinity's cafeteria.

**Contact:** RSVP by Oct. 1 to the school office at 315-769-5911

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## ANDREWS DINNERS

Come and join Bishop LaValley to learn more about being a priest. Any man of high school age and above is welcome to attend the Andrew Dinner sponsored by the Vocation Office. Parents are welcome to attend.

**Dates:** St. Lawrence Deanery, Oct. 15 at Church of the Visitation Hall, Norfolk; Jefferson-Lewis Deanery, Oct. 29 at St. James Parish Hall, Carthage

**Time:** The program begins at 5 pm followed by Holy Hour and dinner with Bishop Terry R. LaValley, and area pastors and priests.

**Contact:** If you are interested in attending, speak to your pastor and register at <https://www.rcdony.org/andrewdinner>.

## CELEBRATE CHRIST

Celebrate Christ for parish personnel to hold.

**Date:** Oct. 14

Locations: Norfolk, Father Amyot Parish Center; Plattsburgh, Emmaus Room at St. Peter's; Watertown, SSJ Hearthside.

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

**Features:** The Human Person in Today's World, we are all God's Children.

**Contact:** Cathy Russell, 315-393-2920



# Mother Theresa's postulator says film creators made 'grave errors'

By Daniel Payne  
Catholic News Agency

The chief promoter of St. Teresa of Calcutta's cause for canonization says a new film about the beloved saint is hampered by "grave errors" in how its producers approached the life of the celebrated nun.

Father Brian Kolodiejchuk, the director of the Mother Teresa Center and the postulator of the cause of beatification and canonization of Mother Teresa, said in a Sept. 28 statement before the release of "Mother Teresa and Me" that its creators committed "several crucial errors" in portraying the doubts St. Teresa experienced in her life even as she devoted herself to living out the Gospel in her care for the sick and poor.

"Mother Teresa and Me" tells the story of Kavita, a young woman who finds herself with an unexpected pregnancy. Battling whether or not to get an abortion, she returns to her hometown in India where her now very old nanny shares the story of Mother Teresa's first days working in the streets of Calcutta. Learning how Mother Teresa faced many doubts after no longer being able to hear the voice of Jesus, Kavita is inspired.

The film's writer and director, Kamal Musale, claimed on the film's website, before it was revised, that the film's portrayal of Teresa is "more true to life" be-

cause of its treatment of how she "lost her faith" and apparently "never recovered from it."

"During [an] approximately 12-year period, Teresa goes through a complete change, from the intensity of her epiphany to the disillusionment and the realization that her connection with God is lost," Musale said.

Yet, Kolodiejchuk has criticized this characterization of St. Teresa as inaccurate.

"Unfortunately, the producers of the film appear unaware of Mother Teresa's own interpretation of her darkness, or the significance it had for her life and vocation," Kolodiejchuk said.

"As her own writings attest, one of the most profound things about Mother Teresa is that she never 'lost her faith,' even amid desolation and uncertainty. Her personal letters speak of her 'unbroken union [with God]' during her darkness and observe that 'my mind and heart is habitually with God,'" she describes the 'doubt' in which she lived 'for the rest of her life' as, instead, a trial of faith - an experience well-known in the Catholic mystical tradition," Kolodiejchuk said.

The priest argued that, rather than demonstrate a loss of her faith, St. Teresa's doubts "illustrated the depth of that faith, and her confidence that Christ would not abandon her."

"She even states that, 'I will hear his voice', and 'I know this is only

feelings - for my will is steadfast bound to Jesus."

Citing his own personal experience with the saint, Kolodiejchuk said the film "does not accurately capture the woman who captured the world with her steadfast, joyful love of God and neighbor; one of the most loved and admired women of the 20th century."

"We still must wait for a nondocumentary film that adequately portrays the 'real and relatable' St. Mother Teresa," he said, "since a misrepresentation is unjust to her and to those who wish to know her in all her beauty and fullness."

The film is set to premiere for a one-night-only release on Oct. 5 in 800 theaters around the United States. It was produced by Curry Western Movies out of India along with Switzerland's Les Films du Lotus.

Musale, the film's director, has also directed the films "Millions Can Walk" and "Bumbai Bird," among others.



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## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

## Invited to the banquet

In this Sunday's Scripture, we hear about two great banquets. Isaiah, the 8th century prophet, has a vision of a lavish banquet on a high mountain which God will give at the end of time for every nation on earth. He speaks of "... juicy, rich food, and pure, choice wines." No one will be excluded. We are meant to presume that these nations have learned their lesson the hard way. God has removed the veil of hatred and di-

vision from their eyes. They see one another as brothers and sisters, so they have finally abandoned war as a means of solving differences. All people are now united in peaceful submission to the one Lord of the Universe. In return, God has given prosperity to the earth. Obviously, the nations of the earth have a long way to go before they could merit such a banquet!

In the Gospel, Jesus tells his listeners that the Kingdom of Heaven

Oct. 15

28th Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

Isaiah 25:6-10a

Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Matthew 22:1-14

is like a king who gave a great wedding banquet for his son. At first, the list of guests in quite limited (a pointed reference to the Pharisees and followers of the Law). When these "elite" guests refused the invitation and even abused and killed the messengers, the King sent out his soldiers to destroy those murderers and

burn their city. He then sends his soldiers out to invite to the banquet the entire countryside, both bad and good. In the course of the banquet, the king throws out a boorish individual who didn't take the trouble to wear a "wedding garment" (which, in that society, would have been provided to any guest who needed one).

In the parable, the king is God, his son is Jesus, and guests who were first invited are the chosen people. They rejected the Old Testament prophets and even killed them, Now, they

are soon to kill the Son and His messengers, the Apostles. Who is the man without a wedding garment? Anyone who has heard the Good News of the Kingdom but does not change his or her life and live by the teachings of Jesus.

What great reward God has prepared for His people! Whether a nation or an individual, we are all invited to that glorious banquet. Will we accept? Have we woven ourselves an acceptable wedding garment?

According to today's Scriptures, it's all up to us!



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

## CALLED TO SERVE

## Deacon, put your pin on

Have you ever noticed a deacon from your parish wearing a lapel pin shaped like a cross with a stole across the face? It is usually a brown pin with a red stole.

We sell them.

My wife, Kathy, and I don't sell them. The St. Lawrence Society of Deacons does. The pins are sold locally and worldwide. Our clients are individual deacons and dioceses. Most of the customers are in the U.S. and Canada, but we have sold some pins to deacons in the

Philippines, England, Ireland, and some other countries.

The pins are \$10 each plus a nominal charge for shipping and handling. Subtract from the price the cost of manufacturing them, a small mark-up for the vendor who gets them for us, packaging, and shipping. The profit is not that great per pin but that's how the society funds its good works.

The Society sells pins embossed with the deacon's anniversary of ordination too. Same \$10.

Those pins are available in multiples of five years.

The pins, conceived and introduced by a couple of Ogdensburg deacons in the 1980s, are used as an identifier. Deacons in this diocese do not wear what is called "clerical garb." We do not wear the Roman Collar like our brother priests.

Ordained men in pris-

on ministry do wear the collar to distinguish them from others, but they are the exception.



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

Many dioceses in the U.S. have a similar dress code, so the pins became quite popular.

Deacons mostly work in jobs in the world outside of church, so the pin helps to identify him. A deacon working the line in a Detroit auto

manufacturing facility, for example, might wear the pin on his shirt to remind his coworkers that he is clergy.

Recently the Society ordered pins commemorating the deacon's 50th anniversary of ordination. The deacon who sports that anniversary pin is announcing that he was ordained in 1973. There are a few of them still living. They reside in dioceses

around the country and are at least 85 years old.

The living members of my class celebrated our 20th anniversary on the feast of St. Francis, October 4. That is a long way from 50, but, speaking for us, what a joy this has been.

At Mass on the fourth, Kathy and I wished each other a Happy Anniversary at the kiss of peace. Our wives, present or of happy memory, have had a lot to do with our longevity in the Order.

A huge thank you to all the wives who have journeyed with their deacon husbands.

By the way, the society sells Deacon Wife pins too. It is a forever pin. Same ten bucks.

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

## St. Mary's Fall Fundraiser Raffle

Drawing Date: November 19, 2023

- \* \$500 Cash
- \* Quilt (\$300 Value)
- \* Afghan (\$100 Value)
- \* Gift Card Tree (\$400 Value)
- \* Bird House (\$250 Value)
- \* Folding Picnic Table (\$100 Value)
- \* Lottery Tree (\$100 Value)
- \* Bear Carving Table (\$250 Value)
- \* Fire Pit (\$200 Value)
- \* \$250 Gift Certificate Lucky Leaf Beef
- \* Hand Carved Welcome Sign (\$100 Value)
- \* Fall Basket (\$100 Value)
- \* Christmas Basket (\$100 Value)

\$10 Donation per ticket or 6 for \$50

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

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

Number of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: St. Mary's Church

Mail to:

Mary Jane Fleming, PO Box 103, Copenhagen, NY 13626  
 Marcia Mundy, PO Box 303, Copenhagen, NY 13626

Must be 18 years or older to purchase tickets



# An anniversary message

On May 19 the Pontifical Society of Holy Childhood [now renamed the Missionary Childhood Association], celebrated the 180th anniversary of its founding. On Sunday, October 1, the feast day of Saint Therese of Lisieux, Patroness of the missions, Pope delivered a message to all in honor of both.

Dear missionary children and young people, parents, formators and friends!

May 19th marked 180 years since the founding of the Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood [MCA], and many of you are still celebrating this happy anniversary in these days.

Bishop Charles de Forbin Janson of Nancy, a pastor gifted with a great apostolic heart, founded it in 1843, having come to discover, through the letters of French missionaries, that many boys and



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296  
mbrett@rcdony.org

girls in China were dying of hunger and neglect. This gave rise in him to a strong concern for their salvation, not only physical but also spiritual, since Jesus, the Son of God, died and rose again for the salvation of all.

It is indeed from his missionary zeal, then, on the occasion of this anniversary, that we can draw a first important lesson: that of caring for the salvation of others. As true disciples of Jesus, in fact, cultivating in us a heart similar to his, we cannot help but ardently desire that all be saved. This is how your beautiful association began, which still today, active and vi-

brant after 180 years, teaches so many children and young people around the world to be missionary disciples.

This year also marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of a very special member of the Society: Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, patroness of the missions, who was a member from the age of seven. Today, (October 1), we celebrate her liturgical memorial, and it is from her that we can receive a second precious message: with our prayer, even if we are small, we can contribute to making Jesus known and loved, silently, helping others to do good. Prayer - Saint Thérèse teaches us - is

the first missionary action, and can reach every place in the world, every child and young person, every missionary. That is why I invite you to grow, through it, in friendship with our Saviour, and in friendship among yourselves and with all the children and young people of the world, so as to be peace-makers.

Dear missionary children and young people, I want to thank you, because with your efforts you help all of us to be courageous witnesses of the Gospel and to share with others, not only material assistance, but what is most precious to us: faith. And I also want to thank your parents and the animators who accompany you, promoting the charism and spirituality of the Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood.

It is a "Pontifical Society," and therefore universal, of the Catholic

Church, of the Pope, and so I consider you my special collaborators. I remind you, though, that this qualification also implies a further important commitment: that of building bridges and relationships, following the example of Christ Himself, and I urge you to do this too.

Continue to work according to the charism that Bishop Charles de Forbin Janson left you, following the "little way" of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, faithful to your motto: "Children praying for the children, children evangelizing children, children helping children worldwide."

May the Lord bless you and accompany you always, and please, do not forget to pray for me.

Article from *FIDES* missionary news service of the Pontifical Mission Societies.

## OBITUARIES

**Au Sable Forks** – Constance Clare (Kemp) Madden, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 7, 2023 at Holy Name Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

**Brownville** – Patrick E. King, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 5, 2023 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery, Watertown.

**Carthage** – Marcia (Gray) Blunden, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 5, 2023 at St. James Church.

**Champlain** – Tammy Rose Sample, 55; Mass of Christian Burial Spring 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Rouses Point.

**Chasm Falls** – Carl A. Bashaw Sr.,

86; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 9, 2023 at St. Helen's Church.

**Constable** – Thomas R. Breen, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 12, 2023 at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

**Constableville** – Sandra Marie (Felshaw) Roberts, 70; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 6, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Rural Cemetery.

**Coopersville** – Norman Joseph LaRoche, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 7, 2023 at St. Joseph's Church.

**Croghan** – Elizabeth L. (More) Morrow, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 3, 2023 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Lowville** – Sybill Lorraine (Williams) McTarsney, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 6, 2023 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Staten Island.

**Lyon Mountain** – Theresa A. (Benware) Supley, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 2, 2023 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Malone** – Jodi (McCabe) Andrews, 52; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 4, 2023 at Notre Dame Church.

**Massena** – Donald Charles McDonald, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 5, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Morrisonville** – Elizabeth "Betty" M. (Hackett) Roberts, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 10, 2023 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in Assumption Cemetery, Redford.

**Plattsburgh** – James P. Conley, 82; Funeral Services Oct. 6, 2023 at the Heidrick Funeral Home.

**Redford** – Alice B. Miola, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 11, 2023 at Church of the Assumption.

**Rouses Point** – Anna Marie (Gadway) Langlois, 40; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 6, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Watertown** – Frank D. Gior-danelli, 92; Graveside Services Oct. 6, 2023 at Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Pam Maxwell, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 5, 2023 at Holy Family Church.

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## WE SHARE THE BURDEN

# Keeping memories alive, growing at camp

By Deacon James Crowley  
Chancellor, Diocese of Ogdensburg

The Guggenheim Center brings memories of mountains and lakes, trees and fresh air. I think of the majestic Lodge where retreats happen and the Dorm side which hosting Summer Youth Camp and Family Camp.

Connections seem to sprout from the dirt and float on the fresh Adirondack breeze at Guggenheim. It is a beautiful place where young and young-at-heart share faith and love. It is a place that fertilizes connections into relationships with Christ and one another. A place that grows relationships that make lives richer, deeper, stronger. The kind of relationships Christ wants with us and for us.

I share a story of a young man that I will not meet this side of heaven. Will was born with Myotubular Myopathy, a rare disease that severely affects all the skeletal muscles. Will used a wheelchair his entire life. He spoke through his eyes and a sophisticated computer. He never drew a breath without mechanical assistance.

Will lived a full life. He learned about his Catholic faith, fell in love with baseball and graduated from high school. By all accounts he had a quick wit and a tender heart. Knowing it would only help children who came after him, he raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for Myotubular Myopathy advocacy and research at Boston

## LEARN MORE

Boston Children's Hospital assembled a video about William Ward. If you would like to learn more, visit <https://youtu.be/WmRXvOUeE5o>



Children's Hospital.

Will's parents, Erin and Mark, met while working on the Guggenheim Summer Camp staff, fell in love, married and made a family. You and I have a vague idea of what their life with Will was like. Mark looks familiar to me, but we have still not met. Erin and Mark attended Summer Camp when Calvin Company was on staff. Years prior when Calvin was a camper, I was on staff. If we are lucky, Calvin and I see one another every year or so. Through Calvin, Erin and Mark, I have a distant connection to Will.

When Will died, Calvin reached into 35-year-old connections and drew a community to respond in prayer and pocket. Prayer went out for Will on his journey to meet Christ face to face, and to Mark and Erin in their grief. Today a gazebo watches over the shore near the Guggenheim beach, made possible by Guggenheim connections. It is nothing extravagant but sits in a place where Will soaked in the beauty of Lower Sa-



William Ward spending time at Camp Guggenheim. The diocesan camp received extensive support from the Bishop's Fund Appeal.

ranac Lake.

Why support the Bishop's Fund? To help fertilize relationships, love and stories like Will's.

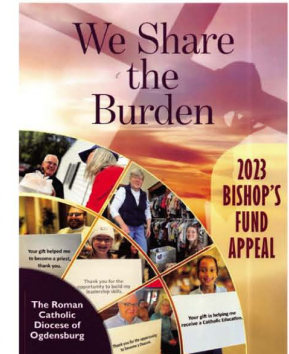
Camp Rockledge was donated to the Diocese of Ogdensburg by Edmond Guggenheim. Later named after our benefactor, the Guggenheim Center has an Adirondack Great Lodge that provides retreat and respite space for small groups. Each year the Lodge hosts the Diocese of Ogdensburg's Seminarian Retreat where seminararians spend time with one another, Bishop LaValley and Father Carrara, to share, learn and pray together. The Syracuse Diocese seminararians have started holding their retreat at Guggenheim as well.

The Lodge hosts Rachel Vineyard, a healing retreat for those who suffer after the sin of abortion. Annual gath-

erings of the Lay Associates of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, the Commissioned Lay Minister Advisory Board and the Secular Discalced Carmelites happen at the Guggenheim Lodge. Groups from across the diocese and beyond to explore their faith, ecology, life as a young adult and more.

Youth and larger groups use the Dorm side of the Guggenheim Center. It hosts six weeks of Summer Youth Camp, three weekends of Family Camp, college retreats, high school leadership retreats, high school and sixth-grade class trips, Alpha retreats, youth groups and parish picnics. Last year it pioneered the Life-Giving Wounds Retreat for children of divorced parents.

Six large buildings and a handful of small structures are the core of the Guggenheim



Learn more about the Diocese of Ogdensburg's Bishop's Fund Appeal or make your donation at <https://www.rcdony.org/bfa.html>

Center. The cold, heat, wind, rain and snow of the Adirondack Mountains are part of the beauty of this place, but they make maintenance a constant challenge. Add in a half mile of road (with trees that always seem to die across it), a beach and lawns and this place of beauty becomes and remains a place of encounter with supernatural beauty through the generous gifts to the Bishop's Fund Appeal. Those same gifts directly support many of the ministries which happen at Guggenheim.

Each year, hundreds make their way to the Guggenheim Center sparking thousands of connections that draw us to faith, hope and love and a deeper relationship with Christ. Your contribution to the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal supports Guggenheim Center and the many, many ministries that happen in this special place. Please consider fertilizing these Guggenheim connections through your gift.