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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 78 Number 22

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

OCTOBER 4, 2023

DIOCESAN BLUE MASS



PHOTO BY DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Representatives of law enforcement, corrections, emergency response and emergency communications agencies gathered at St. Alexander's Church in Morrisonville with Bishop Terry R. LaValley for the celebration of the diocesan Blue Mass on Sept. 24. The Mass honors and prays for those who serve our communities in those roles. See additional photos on Page 6.

GUGGENHEIM GAZEBO IN MEMORY OF WILL WARD



In August, a gazebo at Camp Guggenheim was blessed and dedicated to the memory of William Ward, the son of Mark and Erin Ward, who met while serving as counselors at the diocesan youth camp in the 1990s. The blessing and dedication was attended by the Wards, Camp Guggenheim staff alumni and members of the 2023 Camp Guggenheim staff. The gazebo features a plaque with William's image and information about him.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope: Never 'too late' to receive God's love

By Courtney Mares
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis said Sunday that regardless of one's stage of life, it is never too late to receive God's love.

Speaking in his Angelus address on Sept. 24, the pope said that God is seeking us out at every hour of the day and that his "bighearted" love for us is not based on our merits.

"This is how God is: He does not wait for our efforts to come to us," Francis said. "He does not give up if we are late in responding to him. On the contrary, he himself has taken the initiative and through Jesus

came to us to show us his love."

"And he seeks us at all hours of the day, which, as St. Gregory the Great states, represent the different stages and seasons of our life up to old age (cf. Homilies on the Gospel, 19)."

"For his heart, it is never too late; he is always looking for us and waiting for us."

The pope spoke from the window of the Apostolic Palace overlooking St. Peter's Square one day after he gave a strong condemnation of euthanasia on his return flight from Marseille in southern France, saying there is such a thing as "bad compassion."

Pope Francis spent two days

in the French city, where he spoke at a meeting of young people and bishops called Mediterranean Encounter with a message that the deepening migrant crisis unfolding in the Mediterranean is "a reality of our times" that calls for wisdom and a collaborative response from European nations.

"Dear brothers and sisters, today we celebrate World Migrant and Refugee Day, under the theme 'free to choose whether to migrate or to stay,' as a reminder that migrating should be a free choice and never the only one possible," he said on Sunday.

Reflecting on his trip to

France, Pope Francis said that the challenge of creating communities that can welcome and integrate migrants was "at the heart" of the Mediterranean Encounter event.

"It is necessary that every man and every woman be guaranteed the opportunity to live a dignified life, in the society in which they find themselves. Unfortunately, misery, wars, and climate crisis force so many people to flee," he said.

"Therefore, we are all called to create communities ready and open to welcome, promote, accompany, and integrate those who knock on our doors."

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Breaking the bad

"If it weren't for bad luck, I'd have none at all," I told my friend.

I think we've all had those times in our lives when everything seems to go wrong. I was in one of those times. I was overwhelmed. I was struggling.

A friend of mine knew I wasn't doing well, and he invited me to visit it and go out to dinner. While this friend and I text regularly, he lives an hour from me, so I don't see him often.

Reunited, my friend and

I caught up about where we were on our journeys. It was a conversation about several very heavy topics.

**Darcy L.
Fargo**

The conversation continued into our dinner outing, as did the heaviness.

And then came the moment of light.

"Woah! Look at the smile on her face," I said to my friend, gesturing to a young child being held by her father, who was spinning

and dancing to music that was being played at the restaurant. "It's like she's smiling with her whole

body! Her little shrieks and giggles are beautiful! There's so much joy there!"

My friend and I sat for a moment just appreciating the music and the moment of beauty and joy, watching the little girl very happily dancing with her dad.

When the duo ended their dance and thanked the musician, the moment of light didn't escape us. My friend and I reflected on the moment. We both knew it was a gift from God - a moment of joy, love, beauty and light when we needed one, and a reprieve from the darkness and gloom.

I have a bad habit of getting bogged down in moments and losing sight of the bigger picture. When I'm in a period of bad luck, it's easy for me to feel like the whole world is bad or life is just bad. God is constantly giving me these reminders that it isn't true. He reminds me that there is always goodness, love and beauty, because He is always there, and He IS goodness, love and beauty.

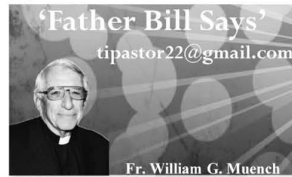
And because I have a good and loving God, and because he's gifted me with amazing family and friends, I have it all, even when I don't feel like it.

Appreciating priests

Recently, our diocese celebrated Priest Appreciation Sunday. Each parish expressed their appreciation to their pastor for his dedication to the people of the parish. Today, I would like to take a few minutes to acknowledge my appreciation for the priests who have touched my life in a special way. I truly appreciate them. I have been blessed to have had many priests help and guide me. I believe Jesus sent them into my life.

I have been grateful when I was mentioned and appreciated by the people of a parish while I was active. It was a very special recognition. I am certain that each pastor and priest in the diocese has been very grateful when told that they were appreciated.

Now my most appreciated priests: This story goes back to my own childhood. I suspect I have told you this story before, but here we go again. My mother died when I was 10 years old.



On the day of her death, I was a camper at a summer camp, Lourdes Camp on Skaneateles Lake. The chaplain at camp was one of those priests that everyone really liked. I am disappointed that I can't remember his name today. However, I will never forget his gentleness. He invited me to take a walk with him. As we walked, he carefully and gently explained what had happened to my mother. I continue to remember how good he was with me. I certainly do appreciate that he was there for me and continue to remember him. He was there for me at a crucial time in my life.

Today, I would like to also mention my appreciation for many priests who were so supportive to me during my ministry

as a priest. I always knew I could call upon them when I needed them. I truly leaned on them. Many became close friends, and their friendship was special to me. I continue to appreciate their friendship. They were priests who brought the presence and support of God to me. Many of them are now with the Lord. I remember them in my prayers. They helped me to be a good priest.

Today, I would also like to make certain to you that I appreciate all our priests of our Diocese of Ogdensburg. They all minister with love and enthusiasm, bringing the love of our God to all our people throughout the North Country. I am appreciative of our many young priests who add so much to the spirit of our Catholic Church in this diocese. They add so much spirit and enthusiasm to their ministry. They have made a powerful dedication as they begin this lifelong vocation to the priesthood

as a priest in our North Country. They are all worthy of appreciation.

I would be amiss if I did not add to this life my appreciation for the dedication of our bishop, Bishop Terry LaValley. Since the day of his call, he has been a great leader to the people of our diocese, a true bishop to the priests of this diocese. He is special to us all, special to each parish of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

I close with this reflection: "Lord, I sometimes wonder where I'm going and what is the meaning of my life. I wonder especially what each year holds for me. Will it bring joy or sorrow, success or failure, life or death? But then I remember that you came on earth; and that you still travel the road of life with me. And so I say to my soul: 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand in the hand of Christ, your Brother; that will be better than a light and safer than a known path.'"

'The sacrament of unity'

Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh offers adoration opportunities in conjunction with state Eucharistic Congress & beyond

By **Mary Beth Bracy**,
consecrated virgin
Contributing Writer

Father Kevin McEwan, Pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh planned on leading a pilgrimage to Auriesville for the Eucharistic Congress. "We found out that there were no busses available because it's leaf-peeping season. I wanted to be in solidarity with those praying at the Eucharistic Congress in Auriesville and (the synod) in Rome, to show unity. The Eucharist is the sacrament of unity, so it made sense to offer extended Eucharistic Adoration."

Adoration will be held in the main body of St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh October 20-22 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, except during Mass times. All are welcome to attend anytime. Individuals who plan to participate are encouraged to sign up to ensure that all hours are covered. There is a sign-up sheet at St. Peter's near the parking lot entrance.

Several catechists and staff members are helping to promote the event, including Brenda Smith. She paraphrased wisdom from others: "Adoration is great for the soul... it's radiation therapy for mind and spirit."

Smith also noted that "There is great holiness in Blessed Silence" and "to be able to sit quietly and speak to Jesus directly is one of the

greatest gifts that He has given us."

Holy Cross Parish also offers weekly Eucharistic Adoration throughout the year at St. John's Church in the chapel downstairs. This year marks the 36th anniversary of Adoration in Plattsburgh. It is held Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Adorers gathered on September 30 at the 5:15 p.m. Mass at St. John's to celebrate the anniversary, which falls on October 1. The Mass was also followed by a blessing of the roses which is traditionally done on the feast of St. Therese.

A parochial vicar at Holy Cross, Father Michael Marzan, underscored the importance of Eucharistic evangelization.

"In this Eucharistic revival the Church intended to bring Catholics back to the 'summit and source' of Christian life of the Catholic Faith," he said. "Indeed, young people need the Eucharist explained to them. Parents and educators need to ensure that young people know and understand this difficult but essential truth. The Catholic formation requires more than instruction - it requires the experience of God in wonder and sacrament. It requires beauty and reverence. And it requires the clear witness of adults around them."

Linda Bracy, coordinator of Eucharistic Adoration at Holy Cross,

explained, "Many adorers shared personal testimonies about how, without their weekly Adoration, they don't know how they could have made it through times such as health crises in their lives for themselves or loved ones or financial hardships, job losses or relocations, or other difficulties of some sort like the loss of loved ones."

"This weekly time, this heart-to-heart talk with Jesus is so healing, refreshing, and invigorating," Bracy added. "It is impossible to describe or replicate. He heals our wounds, He nourishes and fortifies us and gives us the wisdom, grace, and strength to persevere to seek and do His will."

Adorers pray for the pope, Bishop LaValley, our priests, vocations, the sick and suffering, world peace, and all those in need. Their time with our Lord leads adorers to bring His love to others in the parish, our diocesan community, and beyond.

Those who attend regularly testify to the numerous graces that time with our Eucharistic Lord brings. "Adoration is the one thing I experience all week that unfailingly brings me peace of mind," said Marie Nacht, a lay minister and weekly adorer at Holy Cross Parish. "It's so good to rest in the presence of the Lord."

Several adorers noted that their weekly

holy hour has helped them develop a personal relationship with the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. "Adoration has been invaluable for my relationship with Christ," added Deacon James Carlin of Holy Cross Parish. "The quiet time in with Christ has allowed me the opportunity to block out the noise of the world and focus on Him and what He is asking of my life. I have had some of my most profound spiritual experiences while praying at Adoration."

Steven Geddes, a parish council member at Holy Cross Parish and weekly adorer, reflected, "I first learned about adoration from the Litany of St. Padre Pio where one of his titles is 'Adorer of the Blessed Sacrament.' The concluding prayer states 'May we follow your Son by walking in the footsteps of St. Padre Pio.' So I took that to heart, and while I never will be a saint, imitating their love for the Blessed Sacrament through adoration has brought me into a closer relationship with Jesus and helped me to fully realize his presence in the Eucharist."

Testimonies also share the theme of thankfulness for God's personal, ever-present love.

"I have done adoration at the chapel in Plattsburgh weekly for a number of years. I don't know how I would do without it in my life," commented Barbara LaTulipe, a Holy Cross parishioner. "Thanks to the Bracy's for keeping it going. We are truly blessed!"

Another weekly adorer from Holy Cross Parish, Kitty St. Denis, expressed her gratitude too.

"I can't thank Jesus enough for being able to be with Him at Eucharistic Adoration," she said. "His presence and blessings are so tangible when we are faithful to visiting Him in this way."

Kathy Racette and her husband Ken are both scheduled weekly adorers as well.

"Adoration to me is the highlight of my week," Kathy said. "I look forward to spending time with Jesus, my Savior. He is truly present in the Eucharist. He listens to my joys and sorrows. Jesus is always there for me. Also, I have learned to listen to Him, such as 'Be still and know that I am God' or 'I will love you always.' It's a precious time for me and I recommend it for everyone who's looking for peace and quiet and a relationship with Jesus!"

In the words of Father Marzan, "Let us take the time to kneel before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Simply be present and receive the love of the Lord. When two people love each other, they want to spend time together to visit, to get to know each other better. We cannot love someone we do not know. Adoration of our Lord in the Eucharist is our chance to know Jesus better."

For more information on the weekly Adoration at Holy Cross Parish or to sign-up or become a substitute, please contact 518-563-3773.

A memorial and a place for connections

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

Just yards from the entrance to the beach at Camp Guggenheim, there's a shaded spot where Will Ward once sat enjoying his time at camp. This summer, a gazebo in Will's memory was placed in that same location.

"It's a beautiful addition to camp, and it's in a wonderful spot," said Mark Ward, Will's father. "We were able to bring Will to camp a few times - for Family Camp, summer staff reunions and the 40th anniversary celebration. When we saw the location that had been picked for the gazebo, we knew God had a hand in it. We have fond memories and a photo of Will hanging out in that very spot."

"We envision it being used in so many ways," added Erin Ward, Will's mother. "It would allow for outdoor activities on a rainy day at camp, a place for outdoor crafts and workshops. A lot of thoughtfulness went into it. There are benches that can be moved around depending on the needs, and the gazebo has a ramp. The addition of the ramp was important to us. It's a thoughtful consideration and it's just one more thing to help make camp accessible to everyone."

William M. Ward was born with a rare condi-



A gazebo in memory of Will Ward was dedicated this summer at Camp Guggenheim. Ward was born with a rare condition, Myotubular Myopathy, a condition typically associated with muscular weakness, including breathing and swallowing difficulties. Will died in 2021 at age 20.

tion, Myotubular Myopathy, a condition typically associated with muscular weakness, including breathing and swallowing difficulties. Will died in 2021 at age 20.

"It affected him pretty profoundly right from the start," Mark Ward said. "But it was his normal. As our only child, it was our normal, as well. Will relied extensively on supportive technology. A ventilator helped him breathe. He used a wheelchair to get around. He had commu-

nication tech. He always took all of it in stride, and he had this amazing, easy-going spirit. Lots of people find cause to complain or feel bad for themselves, but Will was always such a delight, and he was generous with love and joy. He taught us, as his parents and people around him, so much about faith and joy and love of life."

"He had a strong spiritual life," Erin Ward said. "He did CCD classes. He went to confession using his communication device. He made his confirmation. St. Jude was the saint he chose because of his devotion to hope in hopeless situations. He was incredibly patient. So many people have told us stories - some of which we didn't know about - of

how Will impacted their lives and their faith journeys. He was like our quiet teacher."

Will was a fan of the Boston Red Sox and Taylor Swift.

"He loved things kids love," his mom said.

He also enjoyed time at Camp Guggenheim.

The Wards have a special fondness for Camp Guggenheim. Mark and Erin's relationship grew after they served together as counselors from 1994-96.

"It's hard to put into words and hard to overstate the importance of Camp Guggenheim in our journeys," Mark Ward said. "It was a huge part of our forming us as Catholics and forming us to be a married couple. It's where we met. The experiences we shared through those three summers on staff - the lives we touched and that touched us, and the lessons learned - continue to hold us and help us many years later."

Erin Ward said she felt their time at Camp Guggenheim helped prepare them for their future journeys.

"In many ways, it was at camp that planted the seed and oriented our hearts toward service," she said. "That continued to bloom. And the skills we developed at camp - how we work with people and how we collaborate - served us throughout our lives. We went on to do non-profit work for Will's rare disease. We incorporated so many skills we developed as counselors. We were blessed that Will was able to experience camp and that there were a lot of opportunities for him to be included."

Mark and Erin Ward said they're blessed to maintain contact with people they met at and through Camp Guggenheim. It was some of those connections who came up with the idea and most of the funding to honor Will with the gazebo.

"We weren't the ones who initiated this," Erin Ward said. "It was people we know from camp - (Deacon) Jim and Rita Crowley, Calvin Campy, Scott McDonald, Michelle Watkins. We're very blessed and grateful."

The gazebo was dedicated August 6, the weekend Mark and Erin Ward celebrated their 25th anniversary.

"It was right before week 6 drop-offs at camp," Erin Ward said. "A lot of our friends from camp were able to join us, since they were dropping off kids for week 6."

The Wards reflected on the experience on social media shortly after the dedication.

"(We have) so much gratitude to the current camp staff for accommodating us and joining with us before kicking off your last week of summer camp - you are all amazing," the Wards wrote. "And our deepest, heartfelt thanks to all our family and friends who gathered, both in person and in spirit, to honor Will in this very special way. Getting a chance to reconnect, share memories, and lots and lots of laughs is always so good for our souls, and a reminder of the friendships that last a lifetime no matter where we all travel, and same place that calls us home."

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www.northcountrycatholic.org

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- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more



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Environmental Stewardship**Call for transformation**

"How can we contribute to the mighty river of justice and peace in this Season of Creation?" Pope Francis asked in his Sept. 1 message during the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. We must "resolve" to transform our hearts, our lifestyles and the public policies ruling our societies, he answered.

Transforming our hearts is accepting that "made in God's image" means we are all — humans, animals, nature, Earth — interdependent. It means taking on the suffering of people most harmed and finding fair solutions that respect poorer and indigenous cultures.

Transforming our lifestyles becomes urgent as our hearts are transformed. Less developed nations lose lives, land and livelihoods to drought, floods, and violence resulting from greenhouse gas emissions largely from industrialized nations. We must lessen our dependence on fossil fuels and transition to renewable energy while carefully considering economic and labor impacts.

Transforming public policies involves changing economic models of excessive consumption that make the rich richer and the poor poorer. Catholics are fortunate to have great examples for embracing a simple life of "less is more," such as St. Francis of Assisi. We can commit to studying our candidates for public office urging priority be given to caring for God's Creation.

As Pope Francis said in his World Day of Prayer address, "Truly, much can be done, provided we come together like so many streams, brooks and rivulets, merging finally in a mighty river to irrigate the life of our marvelous planet and our human family for generations to come."

By Dave Babcock,
Syracuse Laudato Si' Task Force

Bishop's Public Schedule

Oct. 4 — 11 a.m. — Prayer Service with the Students at St. Bernard's School in Saranac Lake followed by Classroom Visits

1 p.m. — Prayer Service with the Students at St. Agnes School in Lake Placid followed by Classroom Visits

Oct. 5 — 9:40 a.m. — Mass at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown

Oct. 6 — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

7 p.m. — Deacon Candidates Class on Canon Law at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

Oct. 7 — 11 a.m. — Memorial Mass for the Catholic Daughters of America Past Regents at The Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph Church in Morrisonville

Oct. 8 — 8 a.m. — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

5 p.m. — Andrew Dinner at Holy Ghost Parish Center in Tupper Lake

Rest in Peace

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

Oct. 4 — Rev. George Drummond, 1839; Rev. Daniel F. O'Reilly, 1946; Rev. Thomas P. Fogarty, O.S.A., 1950

Oct. 5 — Rev. Victor Balcerak, O.F.M.Conv., 1960; Rev. Eurené Beaucauge, O.M.I., 1984

Oct. 7 — Rev. Jean N. Laverlocher, O.M.I., 1884

Oct. 8 — Rev. Edward Letourneau, 1898

Oct. 9 — Rev. William Joseph Normandeau, 1892; Rev. Francis Xavier Chagnon, 1911; Most Rev. Leo R. Smith, 1963

Oct. 10 — Robert Duford, 1949; Rev. J. A. Sirois, O.M.I., 1950

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. Upcoming sessions:

Oct. 5 — 6 p.m. — St. Peter's Church, Lowville

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, Terrienne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrienneyanulavich@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 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

Prayer to Blessed Virgin

Oh most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity.

Oh, Star of the sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth,

I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity.

There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times).

Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3 times).
EM

October is Respect Life Month

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The Diocese of Ogdensburg

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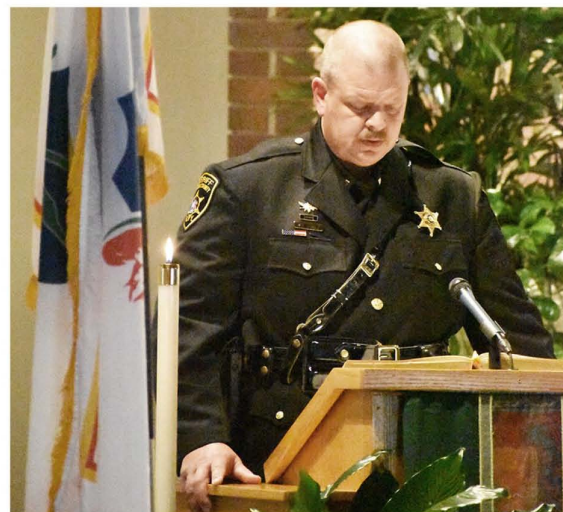
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CELEBRATING THE BLUE MASS



(Left side, top) Department of Corrections & Community Supervision Sgt. Joseph Seymour joins Chief CBP Officer Kevin Packwood in presenting the offertory gifts at the Blue Mass celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on Sept. 24. (Left side, middle) Priests from around the diocese gathered at St. Alexander's Church in Morrisonville for the Blue Mass celebration, including, from left, Msgr. Dennis Duprey, Father Francis Flynn, Father Mike Marzan, Father Howard Venette, Bishop LaValley, Father Christopher Carrara and Father Scott Seymour. Bishop LaValley was aided by Deacons Randy Smith (retired DOCCS) and Brent Davison. (Left side, bottom left) Deacon Brent Davison, commander of New York State Police Troop B, proclaims the Gospel. (Left side, bottom right) Melissa Bresnahan proclaims the first reading. (Right top) Representatives of New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision lay the wreath while Rev. Samuel Lundy, chaplain of Jefferson County Fire, tolls the bells in memory of fallen emergency responders. (Right bottom) Lt. Bill Dominy of the Clinton County Sheriff's Office proclaims the second reading.

Canadian bishops address protection of minors, vulnerable adults

By Tyler Arnold
Catholic News Agency

On the second day of the 2023 Plenary Assembly of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), a bishops' committee provided recommendations on diocesan policies that are focused on protecting minors and vulnerable adults to all the bishops in attendance.

The Standing Committee for Responsible Ministry and the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Persons has studied the issue of "vulnerable persons" over the past year, looking at how to define vulnerability, how to reduce risks, and what behaviors should be encouraged on the part of those in ministry, according to the CCCC.

During a Tuesday news conference, Richard Fréchette, who serves on the committee, said "many dioceses already have a code of conduct for priests" but that much of the previous work had been solely focused on protecting minors. He said the committee presented a code of conduct template that incorporated protections on all vulnerable persons, noting the "importance of having that as part of the code of conduct."

Archbishop Paul-André Durocher of the Archdiocese of Gatineau, who also serves on the committee, said the protections for vulnerable persons are meant to prevent people from

"using positions of authority to impose themselves and demand various kinds of [sexual] favors ... of people who are under their care."

The archbishop said the committee was motivated, in part, by the "Me Too" movement, which he said showed this problem in the sports world, the artistic world, the media world, "and unfortunately the Church world, also."

Durocher added that all of the Canadian bishops engaged in a study session that looked into three case studies and provided recommendations on how to address these issues if they arise.

Fréchette noted that the committee discussed a variety of issues related to conduct, such as harassment, violence, sexual conduct, information technology, and financial issues.

The bishops began their annual four-day meeting on Monday, and it comes to a close on Thursday. They have gathered in King City, Ontario, just outside of Toronto.

On the first day, the bishops prepared for the Synod on Synodality, which begins in Rome in about a week. Four Canadian bishops and four Canadian non-bishop participants will take part in the global synod. They also discussed humanitarian efforts in Honduras.

The bishops also plan to address the growing practice of euthanasia in Canada and the recent expansion of eligibility to include those suffering from mental health conditions. They plan to discuss the importance of promoting palliative care rather than euthanasia.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Cardinal Dolan: Biden 'doesn't take my calls' on migrant crisis

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the archbishop of New York, said in an interview that President Joe Biden is ignoring his calls about the "tragic, broken" migrant system in the U.S., which has landed tens of thousands of migrants and refugees in New York City, filling shelters to capacity. "He doesn't take my calls or answer my letters," the cardinal told the New York Post. New York City Mayor Eric Adams said last week that 60,000 migrants who crossed the southern border are in New York City, while 10,000 more are expected to come each month. Adams' office said in a press release last week that since the beginning of the crisis, more than 116,000 migrants have been housed in the city. In an interview on Sunday, Adams said that if the city doesn't continue to receive support from the federal government, the outcome for New York City could be "extremely devastating." The mayor has been voicing his concerns for the city throughout the overwhelming influx of migrants and said in July: "It's not going to get any better. From this moment on it's downhill. There is no more room."

Pope's next environmental document to be 'Laudate Deum'

Pope Francis' new document on the environment, to be released Oct. 4, will be called *Laudate Deum*. The pope shared the name of his latest apostolic exhortation during a meeting with Latin American university rectors on Sept. 21, though the speech was only made public by Vatican News in Spanish on Monday afternoon. According to Vatican News, while speaking about the environment and the "culture of abandonment," Pope Francis revealed that his new document on the topic will be titled *Laudate Deum*, which means "Praise God" in Latin. It will be, he said, "a look at what has happened and say what needs to be done," Vatican News reported. In the same speech to 200 university personnel, Francis reflected on what he has termed a throwaway culture, saying it reveals "a lack of education to use the things that remain, to remake them, to replace them in the order of the common use of things." He encouraged a "good use of nature," including practical actions that can help the environment.

Abducted priest in Nigeria released, diocese 'grateful'

The Diocese of Enugu in Nigeria has expressed its gratitude to God and the faithful following the release of Father Marcellinus Obioma Okide, who had been abducted on Sept. 17. In a Sept. 22 statement obtained by ACI Africa, CNA's news partner in Africa, Father Wilfred Chidi Agubuchie, the chancellor of the Enugu Diocese, said: "We are glad to inform you that our brother and priest, Father Marcellinus Obioma Okide, has been released from the den of the kidnappers." Agubuchie said Okide, a parish priest at St. Mary Amofia-Agu Affa Parish in the Enugu Diocese, was set free on Thursday evening, Sept. 21. "The Catholic Diocese of Enugu is grateful to the Almighty God for his protection over Father Okide, and thanks you for your prayers and Masses throughout this difficult period," Agubuchie said.

A Greeting to our new pastor Father Clement Rimonds



You've been with us a short time, but you have taken over our hearts. Your warm personality has won us over. Your God given sense of humor is delightful and has made it very easy for us to feel comfortable around you and for that we thank you! We are here to assist you in anyway we can.

*With God's continued Blessings,
The Altar Rosary Society and
Keeseville Knights of Columbus*

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 questions. The book shows you how to: Humbly seek forgiveness like the tax collector; Give glory to God like the angels; Listen to God's Word with the hunger of a disciple; Profess the Faith with the courage of the martyrs; Receive communion with the heart of a lover; Go forth from the Mass with the zeal of an Apostle; To fruitfully pray the Mass from the heart is a gift of grace.

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

FRIENDSHIP VOLUNTEERS TRAINING

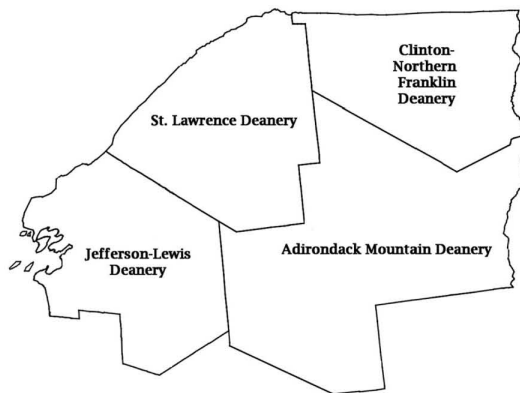
Saranac Lake – Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is recruiting new volunteers for the Friendship Volunteer Training Program.

Date: Oct. 4

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

Features: New Volunteers will join Mercy Care's more than 100 Friendship Volunteers from Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, Tupper Lake and surrounding areas who are helping their elder neighbors stay connected to their communities and helping to make their lives a little easier and happier. Volunteers of all faiths are encouraged and invited to participate. Complementary lunch will be provided.

Contact: To register for the training, please visit Mercy Care's website at www.adkmercy.org or contact Lexi Bevilacqua, Mercy Care's Program Director, at ilacqua@adkmercy.org



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.

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

ilacqua@adkmercy.org or call Lexi for more information at 518-523-5446.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

LIVING STONES, A CALL TO SERVICE

Plattsburgh - Members of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Living Stones Committee will be updating on the work of the committee and plans for the future of our diocese.

Date: Oct. 4

Time: 6 p.m., Mass; 7 p.m., Program; 8 p.m., Fellowship

Place: St. Peter's Church

Cost: \$5 per person for refreshments would be most appreciated.

Contact: RSVP to Mary Skillan at mskillan30@gmail.com

CHICKEN DINNER

Lyon Mountain – Baked Chicken Dinner to be held.

Date: Oct. 7

Time: 3 p.m. to 6

Place: Lyon Mountain American Legion

Cost: Adults, \$10; Under 10, \$10

Menu: Baked chicken, stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, vegetable and dessert. Dine in or take out.

Contact: 518-735-9998

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

Ellenburg – Our Lady of the Adirondacks invite you to First Saturday Communal Devotions.

Schedule: Oct. 7, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2

Time: 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Features: You are warmly invited to join us as we pray for peace by meeting the conditions of this powerful devotion made in reparation to our Lady's Immaculate Heart.

Contact: For more information, contact Sarah at 518-534-9976.

HARVEST DINNER

St. Regis Falls – St. Ann's Society will be holding a Harvest Dinner.

Date: Oct. 8

Time: 12 p.m. to 3

Place: St. Ann's Parish Hall

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

Features: Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings. There will also be a 50/50.

Contact: For take-outs call 518-522-4633

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 518-569-5370

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 for those unable to attend in person.

Contact: Please email Father Venette at info@rcdony.org

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE FOUNDATION COURSE

Plattsburgh - Using the Westberg Institute for Faith Community Nursing curriculum, this course is open to RN's or other persons interested in health ministry in their church or community.

Schedule: Oct. 12 and Nov. 9 at St. Joseph's Community Outreach Center; Oct. 19, 26 and Nov. 2 will be virtual via Zoom (All 5 sessions are required)

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Features: Faith Community Nurses (Parish Nurses) provide health education and counseling, serve as patient advocates and connect patients to resources in the community. They care for the whole person - body, mind and spirit - with a particular focus on the spiritual. Mercy Care's Faith Community Nurse Program is a volunteer program. Nurses may choose the number of hours they are able to give. Mercy Care will provide the training, support and networking with other nurses or health ministers who are called to take on this role.

Contact: For more information, contact Lexi Bevilacqua at ilacqua@adkmercy.org

or 518-523-5446

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

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. 7

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

THEME BASKET RAFFLE

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

Date: Oct. 8, 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 & MEATBALL DINNER

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

Book explores J.R.R. Tolkien's faith

By Jonah McKeown
Catholic News Agency

Most people are likely aware - at least vaguely - that J.R.R. Tolkien, the author of "The Hobbit" and "The Lord of the Rings," was Catholic.

Fewer, perhaps, know how seriously he took his faith, in a time and place where being Catholic carried serious negative societal consequences.

A new book from Word on Fire - "Tolkien's Faith: A Spiritual Biography" - explores the renowned fantasy author's Catholic faith and how it influenced his stories, delving primarily into Tolkien's own writings and interviews as well as the testimonies of those who knew him best.

Holly Ordway, the book's author, told CNA that she sought to create a book that is inviting and accessible to non-Catholics. The book itself seeks to explain the Catholic faith that Tolkien had, she said, but in an objective way, not in a way that the reader - who is perhaps a Tolkien fan, but has no understanding of Catholicism - is "hit over the head with a heavy-handed Christian message."

"I was one of those readers, because I am myself a convert. I first read 'Lord of the Rings' as a non-Christian and loved it," Ordway told CNA.

"I've aimed to help readers understand Tolkien's faith on his own terms, neither praising or criticizing it."

Today, Ordway is the Cardinal Francis George professor of faith and culture at the Word on Fire Institute and visiting professor of apolo-

getics at Houston Christian University. She said she was inspired, in part, to undertake the book to coincide with the 50th anniversary of Tolkien's death on Sept. 2, 2023, but also because she had come to realize that a book solely dedicated to Tolkien's faith had yet to be written. Humphrey Carpenter's official biography mentions his faith, she said, but only as relates to the faith of his mother; other biographical media, such as a 2019 biopic, barely mention his faith at all.

John Ronald Reuel Tolkien, born in 1892, was baptized an Anglican in South Africa, where his family lived before he; his mother, Mabel; and his brother, Hillary, moved to Birmingham, England.

Tolkien's father died suddenly while still in South Africa, leaving Mabel to raise the two boys alone. During this time, Mabel converted to Catholicism. Tolkien made the choice to follow his mother into her new faith, receiving the sacraments of holy Communion and Confirmation at the age of 12.

It's hard to overstate how consequential Mabel and John's conversions were. Mabel's family cut off all financial and emotional support permanently, leaving the family destitute. Tolkien later described Mabel, who died in 1904 when she was only 34 and he was 12, as a "martyr."

Ordway found that it

was far from a foregone conclusion that Tolkien would retain the faith he embraced as a child. The familial and societal challenges that presented themselves were bad enough, not to mention Tolkien's horrific experiences in the trenches of World War I, which challenged his faith and shaped his worldview immensely.

Additionally, Ordway said her extensive research for the book included a look at the anti-Catholic climate of the time in order to accurately paint a picture of just how consequential Tolkien's conversion was.

"Recognizing exactly how anti-Catholic English culture was when he was growing up makes it all the more remarkable that he was incredibly generous-spirited towards other traditions," she commented.

Father Francis Morgan, a priest of the Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in London, would later take on a major role in Tolkien's life as a substitute father figure. Tolkien wrote proudly of his Catholic faith, including his love for the Eucharist, and was strengthened in his Christian convictions by his friendship with C.S. Lewis, a highly renowned Christian author in his own right.

Tolkien is very clear

in his writings that "The Lord of the Rings" is not a Christian allegory, contrasting the "Narnia" books by his friend Lewis. He nevertheless described "The Lord of the Rings" as "a fundamentally religious and Catholic work."

Ordway said it is clear that Tolkien's Catholic worldview is infused in his stories.

"There are Marian figures, there are Christ-like figures ... what he's imbuing into the story is the fundamentally religious element. I think he chose that word carefully ... fundamentally at the roots. So things like his understanding of good and evil, and he has a very clearly Catholic understanding of that," Ordway said.

"He says, 'I don't believe in absolute evil, but I do believe in absolute good.' So he's explicitly rejecting a dualistic view of the world and he's affirming the fundamental Catholic view. God does not have an ontologically equivalent opposite. God is the supreme, and evil is parasitic."

Tolkien also prizes in his books the virtues of pity and mercy, which are "fundamentally Christian concepts," Ordway said. "The Lord of the Rings" also strongly proffers the idea that suffering - while real and painful - can also be

redemptive.

"I think that is a message that is profoundly Christian, profoundly Catholic, and profoundly meaningful. It speaks to people even if they don't know that it has any connection to the Christian faith," Ordway said.

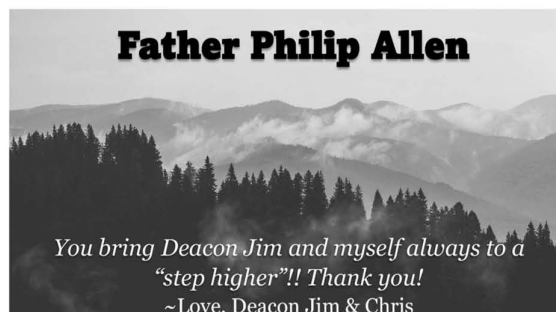
"Even if you don't recognize the fact that these elements are Christian, I think people are still responding to the reality of it. They're still experiencing the beauty of goodness and the sordidness of evil and wanting goodness to prevail. And that's a big deal in today's world, to recognize something as fundamental as the reality of goodness," she continued.

"By the time someone who's not a Christian, by the time they get to the end of [my] book, first of all, they will know a lot more about Christianity and Catholicism than they did before ... they'll see that whatever Tolkien believed, it wasn't simple or trivial or foolish. It was something substantial. It meant a lot to him. And that opens the door for them to say, 'Maybe I should look into this some more.'"

Holy Spirit

You who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the Divine Gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and You who are in all instances of my life with me. I in this short dialogue thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from you no matter how great material desire may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. Amen. Thank you for your love toward me and my love ones.

E.M.



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Workers in God's vineyard

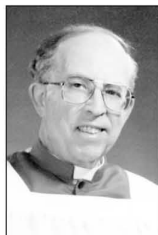
Those of us who live in Upstate New York are finding more and more vineyards dotting the landscape. They are a most welcome sight. No wonder God used the image of a vineyard to describe the chosen people of Israel.

In today's first reading, Isaiah uses a well-known Song of the Vineyard to describe how his friend (God) went to elaborate pains in constructing his vineyard, with ditches and a tower for protection, and a wine press for squeezing out the precious grape juice that would become delicious wine.

How disappointed God was when his vineyard produced only wild grapes, unfit for a good yield. All that work and loving care came to nothing! So, God decided to tear down that vineyard and let it revert to pastureland. Even as Isaiah was prophesying, the Assyrians were pounding at the gates of Jerusalem, about to destroy the city.

Jesus in the Gospel uses that same image of a vineyard to describe Jerusalem in His time.

He focused on the unfaithful people who, by their sin and failure to listen to the prophets,



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

Oct. 8

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Isaiah 5:1-7

Philippians 4:6-9

Matthew 21:33-43

had brought God's anger down on them. Jesus' reference to the killing of the King's only Son was not lost on the Pharisees. They had already decided to kill this Jesus who claimed to be the son of God. Jesus' words enraged them, and their hearts were further hardened against him.

In the early days of America, trading companies and land agents, eager to bring Europeans to our shores, often described the new world as

a "garden of the gods," rich in natural resources and opportunity. And so it was! It was very much like the vineyard of today's Gospel.

Today, not only preachers, but even the average citizen is aware that greed, selfishness, indifference, as well as relativism in morals is spoiling the garden.

October is Pro-Life month. Abortion and the culture of death is far from conquered. It is the worm killing the grapes in the vineyard and spoiling the garden. We are even slow to compassion and action in regard to immigration reform at home and the massacre of Christians abroad. Yes, we are killing the garden. There is an ax-

iom in law which states that the greater the person offended, the greater the offense itself. Since God himself was the victim in today's parable, the offense against Him was beyond measure. Jesus directed the story at the Pharisees. Who does He direct it against in today's society?

We are the workers in God's vineyard which the Lord has given us to tend. Are we working hard enough to stop what is killing the grapes?

October is also the month of the Rosary. Here is a powerful weapon that is ours to pray each day for a restoration of God's Garden that once produced such goodness and peace.

CALLED TO SERVE

The time came to harvest

In 1957, Pope Pius XII spoke favorably about restoring the diaconate as a permanent order to the Church universal but concluded "the time was not yet ripe."

When the bishops met for the 2nd Vatican Council six years later, the idea that had been kicking around for a couple of centuries finally matured, and the bishops voted to recommend to the pope that he restore the order.

In June 1967, Pope Paul VI implemented the decree of the Council, leaving it up to the particular churches, like a diocese, to implement the order when the local bishop decided it would be in the interest of the people of the church he shepherded.

Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana restored the diaconate to this diocese on April 22, 1977.

Father Donald Manfred,

now pastor in Croghan and Harrisville, was the first formation director.

He was asked to educate the priests of the diocese about the diaconate, find some candidates for the first class, develop a curriculum for the men to prepare them for diaconal ministry, put the formation program together and find some faculty.

With God's grace, hard work and a lot of help, Father Don accomplished all that, and the first ordination of deacons in the Diocese of Ogdensburg took place on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, a deacon by the way, October 4, 1980.

It is a terrible thing to not be loved, not enthusiastically welcomed, not even acknowledged in some cases. Sometimes that's the way the first deacons felt.

Throughout the country, those first deacons

of the modern age, and those who followed close behind, soon found they were like the youngster who got thrown into the ocean by a parent who joked "let's see if the kid can swim."

Those newly ordained deacons did not have much direction about their role in the parish and frankly, their pastors were just as uncertain.

Some priests objected to the presence of a deacon since the latter did not have the formation in philosophy and theology that priests did.

The deacons in this diocese started to worry about things like their ongoing spiritual development and continuing education. The diocese is not providing it, they wrote in some early meeting minutes, so we

better care for each other and our wives.

That's how the St. Lawrence Society of Deacons was born. It is a community of deacons, their wives, and widows of deacons. The society's main purpose today is supporting the annual assembly of deacons and sponsoring an annual retreat for deacons. The society's elected president is a member of the Council of Deacons to the Bishop.



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

The situation for deacons has vastly improved over the 46 years since the order was restored in the Diocese of Ogdensburg thanks to Bishop LaValley's support of the order.

The Conference of Bishops writes, "as ministers of Word, deacons proclaim the Gospel, preach,

and teach in the name of the Church. As ministers of Sacrament, deacons baptize, lead the faithful in prayer, witness marriages, and conduct wake and funeral services. As ministers of Charity, deacons are leaders in identifying the needs of others, then marshaling the Church's resources to meet those needs. Deacons are also dedicated to eliminating the injustices or inequities that cause such needs. But no matter what specific functions a deacon performs, they flow from his sacramental identity. In other words, it is not only WHAT a deacon does, but WHO a deacon is, that is important."

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



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

Helping neighbors

Niger is a country in central Africa that is 80% covered by the Sahara Desert. Recent political upheaval, poor crops, and being landlocked on all sides has negatively impacted the lives of citizens. Here we hear from Father Rafael Casamayor, a missionary, describing his efforts in the region.

"Despite the uncertainty in which the country lives after the coup of July 26, we continue to work. Harvests throughout the Sahel are poor and the closure of the borders, especially those of Benin, means that food is becoming increasingly scarce, and prices are rising at an alarming rate," said Father Rafael Casamayor, who works as a missionary in the community of Dosso, Diocese of Niamey, and shared with Fides the initiative of a campaign with which the mission wants to contribute to the fight against famine.

"Niger is isolated in this delicate and difficult time because of the lack of rain, poor harvests, lack of international aid and the closure of borders in a landlocked country. In this context," reports Father Rafael, "we are in our mission in Dosso committed to helping the most disadvantaged families who are already in a difficult and almost impossible situation. We have decided to do this as discreetly as possible so as not to cause tension within the community. The four base communities of the mission will be responsible for the initiative as they know best the situation of the most disadvantaged families. We intend to organize different distributions depending on our possibilities and the events in this very uncertain time."

Niger belongs to the Sahel zone, a vast area between the Sahara Desert and the African savannah, home to the poorest countries in the world. Climate change is having a severe impact on this area, where crops are becoming increasingly scarce, and famines more frequent. This year, rainfall was insufficient, and crops were destroyed in a large area. [...]

"With the parish council of our mission we have worked out a project on how we can intervene," reports Father Casamayor. "We are all poor here, starting with all the members of the Christian community, but no one has held back. We will ask for donations for the most needy, whether Christian or Muslim, the poorest in the city and we have decided to entrust the project to the four grassroots communities that know the neighborhoods and the people. Those responsible will discreetly compile a list of families in need and distribute it in the most confidential manner. The first action took place last week in the evening, in the most remote, small and humble places with the simplest people who, to our surprise, greeted us with the words: "It is God who sends you to us." "We returned to the mission in the middle of the night, full of joy, with the intention of returning next month. So, we continue, God willing." *Article from FIDES missionary news service of the Pontifical Mission Societies.*

OBITUARIES

Brasher Falls — Margaret E. Sova, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 26, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Champlain — Andrew J. Guay, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 2, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Rouses Point.

Chateaugay — Francis Donald Jones, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 30, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Lake Placid — John K. Rand, 63; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 27, 2023 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Lowville — Ambrose J. André Jr., 89; Graveside Services at Brantingham Cemetery.

Madrid — Linda M. (Perry) Newtown, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 27, 2023 at St. John's Church; burial in Visitation Cemetery, Norfolk.

Massena — Linda M. (Cummings) Portolese, 69; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 7, 2023 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville — Darren Mark Utzler, 57; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 29, 2023 at St. Alexander's Church.

Ogdensburg — Carolyn J. (Dupree) Ashley, 89; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at a later date; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Blair T. Roethel, 65; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 30, 2023 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Plattsburgh — Margaret E. Clodgo, 97; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 3, 2023 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery, Keeseville.

Plattsburgh — Sandra L. Staley-Rock, 68; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 25, 2023 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Mary's of the Lake Cemetery, Cumberland Head.

Port Henry — Louise (Braunmuel-ler) von Brockdorff, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 23, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church.

Potsdam — Carol Virginia (Weller) Sharlow, 96; Funeral Services Sept. 22, 2023 at Garner Funeral Service;



*Support And Pray
For Vocations*

burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Colton.

Potsdam — Barbara (Crum) Thorpe, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 30, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake — Donald K. Fina, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 6, 2023 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake — JoAnne (Chabot) Voudren, 76; Funeral Services Sept. 22, 2023 at Fortune-Keough Funeral Home; burial in St. John's in the Wilderness Cemetery, Lake Clear.

Watertown — Jon Lee Grant, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 2, 2023 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

West Chazy — Joseph Matott, 93; Graveside Services Sept. 25, 2023 at St. Peter's Cemetery, Plattsburgh.



Fr. Chapin,

*Welcome aboard
to our parish.
We are so blessed!!*

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



Service Available

D.L. CALARCO Funeral Home, Inc.

135 Keyes Avenue
Watertown • 782-4910

Msgr. Paul Whitmore,

*22 years of bringing us
together. God bless you!!*

Love, Deacon Jim & Chris

Around the diocese

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

MONTHLY BRUNCH

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

Date: Oct. 8 (Second Sunday of each month)

Time: 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Place: Father 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.

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, second 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

INDOOR SALE

Gouverneur – St. James School to have huge indoor sale.

Date: Oct. 7

Time: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Place: St. James School

Features: Items include: Houseware, glasses, jewelry, puzzles, frames, yarn, toys, crafts, books, Halloween décor and costumes, holiday items, clothing, art work, and much more. Remember to bring shopping bags.

Contact: For more information call 315-323-2654

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

Date: Oct. 7

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. 7

Time: 3:15 p.m.

Features: First Saturday Rosary Devotion to OUR Lady of Fatima.

Confessions will be available. Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 p.m.

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

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

Date: Oct. 7

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

Place: St. Mary's Church

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

WOMENS HEALING RETREAT

Ogdensburg – Our Lady of the Rosary Healing Retreat for Women to be held.

Date: Oct. 5-8

Place: Wadhams Hall

Cost: \$275 per person, \$100 Deposit

Features: Retreat for women 18 years or older. Registrations begin July 1, 2023

Contact: For more information call Kathleen Nichols 518-651-6895 or go to <https://www.rcdony.org/ourlady>. Donations

accepted to be payable to OLRHR and sent to Wadhams hall.

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: Adirondack Mountain Deanery, Oct. 8 at Holy Ghost Parish Center, Tupper Lake; 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 help.

Date: Oct. 14

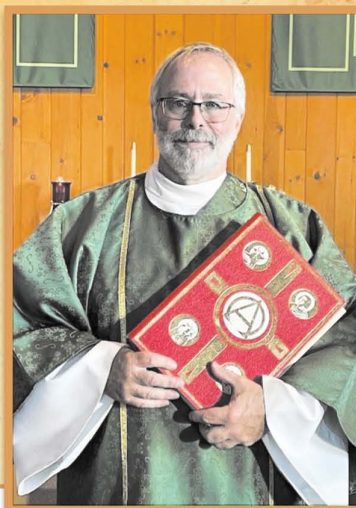
Locations: Norfolk, Father Amyot Parish Center; Plattsburgh, Emmaus Room at St. Peters; Watertown, SSJ Harthside.

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

Congratulations and Thanks!



Thank you, Deacon Larry!

Our lives have been enriched by your devotion and 10 YEARS of dedicated service to our parishes.

Queen of Heaven, Henderson
& St. Cecilia's, Adams

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