

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Funeral Mass celebrated for Sister M. Carolyn Madden, RSM | PAGE 4

DOJ sued for allegedly hiding church, pro-life attacks | PAGE 6

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 77 Number 44

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 29, 2023

Eucharistic Revival in New York

The eight Catholic dioceses of New York State are sponsoring an historic statewide Eucharistic Congress, which will be held at Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine in Auriesville from October 20-22. The Eucharistic Congress is part of a national effort of the Catholic Church to reinvigorate devotion to the Eucharist. This National Eucharistic Revival aims to restore understanding and fidelity to the great mystery of Jesus really and truly present in the Eucharist and to encourage all Catholics to make the Eucharist the source and summit of their faith.

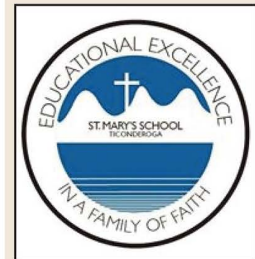
FULL STORY, PAGE 4

VOCATIONS & FUN



Students from St. James School in Gouverneur win prizes from Sister M. Eamon Lyng, a Sister of St. Joseph and diocesan vocations coordinator, during the Middle School Retreat held March 23 at Trinity Catholic School in Massena as Father Severinus Torwøe, parochial vicar at St. Peter's Parish in Massena, looks on.

TICONDEROGA SCHOOL TO CLOSE



As a result of a declining population in the area and declining enrollment, St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga will close its doors at the end of the 2022-23 school year. Opened in 1959, St. Mary's School has served thousands of youth and their families and served as a hub of community in Ticonderoga.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope: Christian witness requires consistency

By Courtney Mares
Catholic News Agency

To effectively witness to the Gospel, Christians need to be consistent in what they believe, how they live, and what they preach, Pope Francis said Wednesday.

"The witness of an authentically Christian life involves a journey to holiness," Pope Francis said on March 22.

Speaking at his weekly audience in St. Peter's Square, the pope underlined that Christian witness must include "professed faith" of what the Church teaches that transforms both one's relation-

ships and "the values that determine our choices."

"Witness, therefore, cannot be separated from consistency between what one believes, what one proclaims, and how one lives," he said. "A person is credible if there is harmony between what he believes and how he lives. Many Christians only say they believe, but live something else ... and this is hypocrisy."

The pope asked the crowd to reflect on three questions first posed by Paul VI in his apostolic exhortation on evangelization in the modern world, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*: "Do you believe what you

are proclaiming? Do you live what you believe? Do you preach what you live?"

Pope Francis emphasized that holiness is "not reserved for a few" but is "a gift from God that demands to be received and made to bear fruit for ourselves and for others."

"Paul VI teaches that the zeal for evangelization springs from holiness, springs from a heart that is full of God," he said. "Nourished by prayer and above all by love for the Eucharist, evangelization, in turn, increases holiness in those who carry it out."

Because of the importance of

bearing witness to the Gospel, Pope Francis said it is necessary for the Church to constantly be "evangelizing herself."

"Indeed, 'she needs to listen unceasingly to what she must believe, to her reasons for hoping, to the new commandment of love. She is the people of God immersed in the world, and often tempted by idols ... and she always needs to hear the proclamation of the mighty works of God ... this means that she has a constant need of being evangelized if she wishes to retain freshness, vigor, and strength in order to proclaim the Gospel,'" he said.

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLIC

Box 326

Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
USPS 0039-3400**BISHOP TERRY
R. LAVALLEY**

President

REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN

Vice President

JAMES D. CROWLEY

Secretary-Treasurer

DARCY L. FARGO

Editor &

Communications Director



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

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

Editorial Office:

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

Telephone:

(315) 608-7556

E-mail:

news@northcountry
catholic.org

Entered at the**Post Office:**

Ogdensburg, NY

13669 and

additional mailing offices as
Periodical Postage.

Subscription:

For one year:

In-Diocese Rate: \$27

Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication

should be

addressed to

PO Box 326

Ogdensburg, NY 13669

and should be received by

Thursday prior to

publication.

Paper is printed each

Monday;

deadline is Wednesday.

Member, Catholic Press
Association.**POSTMASTER:**

Send address changes to

North Country Catholic,

PO Box 326

Ogdensburg, NY

13669-0326

It's making headlines

It wasn't what I was expecting. I had to look twice.

At the NCC office, we get copies of lots of other diocesan, religious order and generally Catholic publications. It was a headline in one of those publications that caught my attention. "Jesus Likes You!"

I've heard before that Jesus loves me. I've heard before that Jesus loves each of us as individuals. I've heard before that Jesus loves humanity. I'd never heard that Jesus

likes me.

The idea of Jesus liking me seemed underwhelming, but I loved the headline!



**Darcy L.
Fargo**

It was the kind of headline that makes someone say, "I need to know more about that," likely for the very same reasons it stood out to me.

I cut the headline out of the newspaper, and I taped it to a wall in my office, the wall directly behind my computer monitor. I never read

the story. I was afraid the story wouldn't live up to the

headline.

That newspaper clipping has been on my wall for a few months. When I look up from my computer, one of the first things I see is "Jesus Likes You!"

I still don't know the intention of that original article, but that headline has made me think a lot about Jesus liking me.

There are people in my life I love but with whom I don't want to spend long periods of time. Sometimes I love them, but I don't like them.

Jesus always wants to spend time with us.

There are people in my life I love but with whom I can't discuss particular topics without both of us getting heated. When those topics come up, I love them, but I don't like them.

Jesus will talk to us about anything.

We're blessed to have a God who loves us unconditionally and likes us unconditionally. He even likes the parts of our personalities we try to give to Him to change.

"Jesus Likes You."

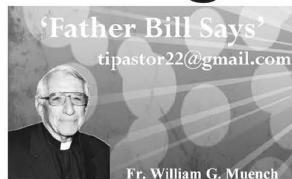
And that catchy headline gave me more than I expected.

Considering the Chrism Mass

I am certain that my involvement in the various Masses and services of Holy Week when I was in high school had a profound influence on my decision to become a priest of the Catholic Church. This year, it will soon be time for the Chrism Mass, as we begin the Holy Week liturgy. The Chrism Mass is a very special time for me. As you remember, during the Chrism Mass, Bishop LaValley consecrates the holy oils that will be used in the celebration of the Church's sacraments in the parishes of our diocese. All the priests of the diocese gather with Bishop LaValley at St. Mary's Cathedral, for the Chrism Mass.

Here in our diocese, the Chrism Mass is celebrated the week before Holy Week. The Chrism Mass is meant to be celebrated on the morning of Holy Thursday. A few years ago, it was decided to schedule the Chrism Mass the week before Holy Week to make it more convenient for our priests and deacons to come to the Cathedral.

So, during the Chrism



Mass, Bishop LaValley consecrates three sacred oils. First, there is the Oil of Chrism which is used in the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. In addition, the Oil of Chrism is used in the ordination of a priest. At a very powerful moment in the ordination of a priest, the bishop consecrates the hands of the new priest with this Chrism. The bishop covers the new priest's hands with the oil, for this priest's hands will hold the Eucharistic bread and the chalice of wine as they are consecrated to the Body and Blood of Jesus. Each year, I remember the peace I experienced when my hands were covered with the Chrism at my ordination.

Then the Oil of the Sick is consecrated. This is the oil that is used by each priest in his own parish when they celebrate the sacrament of

the anointing of the sick with those who are close to death. In addition, this oil is also used to bless and anoint those suffering from any illness, facing surgery, suffering addictions, challenged by advanced age or suffering with mental difficulties.

And then the Oil of Catechumens is consecrated. This oil is used in the celebration of the sacrament of baptism. For all of us, Catholics, baptism is the most important sacrament we will ever receive. In baptism, those baptized as infants are welcomed into the family of our Catholic Church and called to live in the Holy Spirit as disciples of Our Lord Jesus. For those who receive baptism as adults, they will celebrate the making of a powerful decision to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. They are called to make the Lord a part of everything they will ever do. They will live each day as disciples of Jesus.

I want to call to your attention another purpose of the Chrism Mass. Each priest will take some of

these oils, blessed and consecrated by our bishop from the Cathedral Church, back to their parish to be used for the celebration of the sacraments in their parish during the coming year. The symbol is the unity of the parish with the bishop of the diocese; each pastor acts in the spirit of the bishop.

At the Chrism Mass each year, all the priests of the diocese, gathered together, use this opportunity to make a public pledge of their resolve to be united in spirit with their bishop. They promise their obedience to their bishop. It is truly a sacred moment for us, priests. It's an opportunity to renew our resolve to be faithful as priests of the Catholic Church and faithful to our bishop.

"Are you, resolved to be faithful stewards of the mysteries of God in the Holy Eucharist and the other liturgical rites and to discharge faithfully the sacred office of teaching, following Christ, the Head and Shepherd, not seeking any personal gain, but moved only by zeal for souls?"

I Am.

St. Mary's School, Ticonderoga, to close

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

Facing a declining population in the area and a corresponding declining enrollment, St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga will close at the end of the school year.

"It's certainly sad and disappointing," said Father Christopher J. Looby, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga and Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Schroon Lake. "I don't think it's unexpected, though. I think a lot of people have seen it coming."

The school, like schools around the North Country, is facing declining enrollment.

"We finished last year with 71 students," Father Looby said. "This year, we have 61. Losing 10 each year has been the trend."

"Overall, the population in the North Country is declining. Specifically, the number of school-aged children in public school districts in communities where we have schools are declining," added diocesan Superintendent of Schools Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, a Sister of St. Joseph. This decline in the school-age population has an effect on the enrollment in our schools.

Father Looby said the decision to close the school was made only after consultation with school and parish councils and an extensive amount of prayer by all involved, including the school's Education Council, and the parish Financial Council and Pastoral Council.

"There were people who told me, 'I wish I had a million dollars to give you to keep the school open for years,'" Father Looby said. "It really wasn't about money. We could have been a school with millions of dollars in endowments and with no trouble recruiting and paying top

salaries to teachers, but without students, it's not a school."

St. Mary's school opened in 1959.

"As was typical of those times, it opened with grades one through four," said Sister Ellen Rose. "Each year thereafter, they added a grade. It continued in that manner until the school included grade eight. The first eighth-grade graduation was in 1963." The school hit its peak enrollment of 321 students the next year. Within eight years, the school had 220 students. Enrollment numbers continued to decline from there.

Despite shrinking enrollment, the school has been a significant part of the Ticonderoga community.

"In 2014, there was a significant fire at the school," said Sister Ellen Rose. "The fire was on a Friday night. I remember being there Saturday morning. When I arrived, around 10 o'clock, there was no question as to whether or not they would rebuild. There was never any question. The school received tremendous local support. It wasn't just the parish or the school community, it was the community at large. It wasn't just the parochial school; it was recognized as part of the community and as important to them."

The school is a place full of joy and the love of Christ, said both the pastor and the superintendent.

"There's a lot of life and joy in there," said Father Looby. "It's been a blessing to have a ministry like this for so many years."

"There's something about walking into that school," said Sister Ellen Rose. "It's not just the crucifix on the wall or the statues of Mary. The school just speaks the Catholic faith. There's a

true commitment to providing a very fine academic education that is very much integrated by a Catholic worldview."

Father Looby said he hopes the building continues to contain that life and faith moving forward.

"There's a significant need for daycare here in Ticonderoga," he said. "I've been approached by different entities that would like to start a daycare program here in the school. I feel like that

would honor the legacy of what the school stands for – it was built to serve the needs of parents and families."

The school will also be used by the parish as a parish center.

"We'll have parish events and our Christian Formation programs there," Father Looby said. "When a school closes and the parish loses that way of connecting with children, the parish has to pick that up in a very strong way.

We're hoping to build up our Christian Formation program for both youth and adults. We want that building to continue to be a source of community building. This is certainly like a death in the family for us. But out of death, we believe there is new life, and I truly believe new life will come out of this. It's going to take time, work, patience and prayer, but I truly believe we can build something beautiful there."



**Extraordinary things
can happen when we
*Gather at the Table.***

**NORTH COUNTRY
CATHOLIC**
WEEKLY NEWSPAPER FOR THE DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

The *NCC* shares stories of individuals, couples and families who love the Lord and do great things in His service here in the North Country. The newspaper shares information about events and happenings around the diocese and helps us learn about opportunities to further connect and grow in faith and love of the Lord. Through the *North Country Catholic*, Bishop LaValley communicates with Catholics around the diocese as we move forward together in this journey of faith, guided by the One we encounter at the Sacred Table, Jesus Christ.

SUBSCRIBE OR RENEW

TO THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC TODAY!

- Receive your copy in print by mail or have it emailed to you!
- Place your envelope in your parish collection
- Online at our website: www.northcountrycatholic.org
- Call our office at 315-608-7556



Funeral Mass celebrated for Sister M. Carolyn Madden

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on March 22 for Sister M. Carolyn Madden, 94.

Sister Carolyn, a Sister of Mercy, died on March 15, 2023.

Born in Saranac Lake on Oct. 28, 1928, she was the daughter of Francis and Lillian (Colburn) Madden. She held a bachelor's degree in education from Fordham University and a master's in guidance and counseling from SUNY Plattsburgh.

Sister Carolyn taught in schools in Plattsburgh, Rouses Point, Saranac Lake, Lake Placid and New York City. In addition, she was principal of schools in Lake Placid, Plattsburgh and Tarrytown.

Many will remember Sister Carolyn as director of arts in education in Saranac Lake.

In retirement, Sister Carolyn served as a volunteer at Uihlein Mercy Center, High Peaks Hospice and Adirondack Medical Center. She also served on the Board of Directors at Mercy Care for the Adirondacks.

Sister Carolyn is survived by many nieces and nephews including Frank Heald and his wife Bonnie of Rutland, Vermont, Jim Heald and his wife Kathy of Mt. Holly, Vermont, Robert Woodard of Portland, Maine, Dorothy Hastings of Boynton Beach, Florida, Kelly Woodard of Enfield, Connecticut, Theresa Spanos and her husband Vaughn of New Samaria Beach, Florida, Lee LaPlante and his wife Leslie of Saranac Lake, Lynn Frost of Dundalk, Maryland, and Judy Sheldrake and her husband Tom of Palm Coast, Florida. She is also survived by many grandnieces and grandnephews, including a very special grandnephew Matthew LaPlante of Saranac Lake.

She was predeceased by her brother Thomas and her sisters Helen, Betty and Eileen.

Among the many honors she received in her lifetime was a designation as one of the "Remarkable Women of the Adirondacks."

Sister Carolyn was also honored in the Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the East, Who's Who of Women, Community Leaders of America, Foremost Women of 20th Century and the Directory of Distinguished Americans.

Burial will be in St. Bernard's Cemetery in Saranac Lake in the spring.

Family and friends wishing to remember Sister Carolyn are asked to make memorial contributions to a local charity.



Sister M. Carolyn Madden, RSM

NY Eucharistic Congress planned for October

The eight Catholic dioceses of New York State are sponsoring an historic statewide Eucharistic Congress, which will be held at Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine in Auriesville, New York from October 20-22, 2023.

The Eucharistic Congress is taking place as part of a national effort of the Catholic Church to reinvigorate devotion to the Eucharist on a national level. This National Eucharistic Revival, sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, aims to restore understanding and fidelity to the great mystery of Jesus really and truly present in the Eucharist and to encourage all Catholics to make the Eucharist the source and summit of their faith.

The bishops of New York State have launched an easy to use website, <https://nyseucharistic-congress.org/>, to provide comprehensive information about the Eucharistic Congress and allow people to register.

Bishop Edward Scharfberger, Bishop of the



NYS Eucharistic Congress

October 20-22, 2023

Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine, Auriesville, NY

Diocese of Albany and one of the chairs of the New York State Eucharistic Congress, said, "We look forward to welcoming upwards of 10,000 people to the Eucharistic Congress, who want to draw closer to Jesus and share in this historic three day event. Our Congress will feature Mass on Saturday celebrated by Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York, great speakers, opportunities for prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, and time to socialize. It will be a wonderful time to renew our faith in Jesus, and share that faith with others."

The location of the Eucharistic Congress, the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs, is the site of the 17th century martyrdoms of Jesuit missionaries Saints Isaac Jogues, Rene Goupil and Jean Lande and of the birth of

the first native American saint, St. Kateri Tekakwitha. Jogues is famous for his love for the Mass and Tekakwitha for her love for Eucharistic adoration.

The Shrine's Coliseum, built in 1931 in response to the canonization of martyred Jesuit missionaries, is the largest Church building in the United States, holding 10,000.

The Congress' website will be updated regularly to provide information on the complete schedule of events, the speakers who will captivate and inspire the crowd, religious services that will take place, and nearby places to stay. It will also allow individuals, families, groups and parishes to register as well as give them the opportunity to volunteer during this historic three-day event.

**Missing your parish envelopes to renew your NCC subscription?
No problem. Simply cut out the coupon below and place in your
parish collection with your payment.**

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Subscription Campaign

Please Check Appropriate Box(es):

New Renew Check Enclosed \$ _____

Annual Subscription Cost/Level

- Regular Subscription, \$27
 Outside of the Diocese, \$30
 Patron Subscription, \$35
 Special Patron Subscription, \$50
 Sustaining Patron Subscription, \$100
 Extraordinary Patron Subscription, \$250

Parish _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Parish No. _____

Please e-mail me my copy of the NCC in place of a paper copy

E-Mail: _____

If you would like to subscribe by credit card please visit our website: www.northcountrycatholic.org

MINISTRY OF LECTOR



Diocese of Ogdensburg seminarian Tyler Fitzgerald is installed into the Ministry of Lector at Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. The Ministry of Lector is one of the formal steps required by the Church prior to one's being ordained to the transitional diaconate and priesthood. The Ministry of Lector follows and is a formal recognition, on his part, of the relationship he is called to have with Sacred Scripture and his willingness to apply himself to its study and proclamation for the good of the Church.

Rest in Peace

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

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

March 30 – Rev. Joseph Chartrand, O.M.I., 1960; Rev. Victor Lamore, 2017

March 31 – Rev. Louis Lopic, 1873; Rev. Gabriel Volkert, 1873; Rev. Henri Langlais, O.M.I., 1980

April 1 – Rev. James H. Roche, 1927; Msgr. Herbert J. Hannan, 2002; Rev. Mark McDonald, MSC, 2018

April 2 – Pope John Paul II, 2005

April 3 – Msgr. Philius Garand, 1942

April 4 – Rev. Ronald Brabant, 1963; Rev. Francis J. Beyette, 1984

Bishop's Public Schedule

March 29 – 9 a.m. – St.

Joseph's Home Board of Managers Meeting at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

March 30 – 11 a.m. – Chrism Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
2 p.m. – Pastors' Advisory Committee Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

March 31 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 1 – 10:30 a.m. – Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

April 2 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

1 p.m. – Lenten Penance Service at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 3 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 4 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration is required. Preregister at virtus.org. Upcoming sessions:

March 29 – 6 p.m. – St. Mary's Church, Massena

March 30 – 5:30 p.m. – St. Mary's Church, Canton

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrianne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-651-2267 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.

Environmental Stewardship

Addressing homelessness

Among the most challenging of all the social ills today is finding affordable housing. While there have always been people and families who have struggled to acquire and retain suitable places in which to live, this segment of the population has become larger and more difficult to identify over the past several decades. For many of us who attend church regularly, we may overlook or fail to see that there are people who live out of vehicles or reside in buildings that lack proper heat, leak and/or contains inadequate plumbing.

The divide between the haves and have-nots – those with a safe and secure place to retreat into to relax and sleep, and those without – is growing. There are many individuals, young couples and families that are holding down meaningful jobs and yet are unable to afford the most basic of shelters in this region.

We need to take every opportunity to encourage our local and state leaders to address the problem of the lack of affordable housing and homelessness in our region. We need to contribute to programs that maintain temporary shelters within the area and support individuals that are without housing. Also, we need to provide financial help to people who are occasionally approached by those who that lack shelter. Finally, we need to pray regularly for all those involved in this challenging crisis.

Humans are a critical component of God's tapestry of life. As the divide among groups of people grows, the harmony that we are supposed to generate to our surroundings dwindles and eventually drags down the rest of creation. It is imperative that everyone has a safe and warm place to call home if we expect life on Earth to flourish. (307)

By Tom Kalinowski
Faith & Ecology Group

FORMATION FOR MINISTRY

Is God calling you to deepen your spirituality and to serve in parish ministry?

Enrollment is now open for 2023-2025 cycle

Interested? Attend a virtual information session on Zoom hosted by Formation for Ministry Director Cathy Russell:

Tuesday, April 4 at 6 p.m.

Saturday, May 13 at 6 p.m.

Registration is required to attend a session.

Go to www.rcdony.org/newcan

or contact Cathy Russell at

crussell@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920

A link to the session will be emailed as the date approaches.

Diocese of Ogdensburg



CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Late Pope Benedict's secretary searches for five cousins

(CNA) — Five German cousins of the late Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI are the direct heirs to his personal property, the pope's personal secretary, Archbishop Georg Gänswein, told Italian media after a Mass celebrated in Rome on Sunday at Santa Maria Consolatrice parish, Cardinal Ratzinger's titular church. Benedict XVI died Dec. 31, 2022. The archbishop explained that he thought there were two direct heirs. However, he was surprised to learn that there are three more, hitherto unknown. "This has been very interesting for me. I thought he had two relatives, two cousins, but there are five cousins in total," he said. "By law I have to write to the cousins who are the closest relatives, and also by law I have to ask them: 'Do you accept the inheritance or do you not accept it?'" he told various Italian national media.

Encounter Jesus in the Mass this Easter with 7-week series

This Easter season the U.S. bishops are inviting old and new Catholics to discover the truth, beauty, and goodness of the Mass through a brand-new reflection series releasing every Thursday from Divine Mercy Sunday to Pentecost, April 13 through May 25. Titled "Beautiful Light: A Paschal Mystagogy" and part of the bishop's National Eucharistic Revival campaign, the series will feature powerful weekly reflections from some of the nation's leading Catholic speakers and theologians on the divine mystery of the Mass. "At every age and stage of life, Jesus invites us to discover the joy of friendship with him," said National Eucharistic Revival spokesperson Sister Alicia Torres, FE, in a Monday press release. "For Catholics, this happens in a most special way during Mass — the source and summit of the Christian life." "Many of us haven't had the chance to really explore the beauty and mystery God invites us into at Mass. That is the goal of [this series], to give every Catholic a chance to go deeper this Easter season," Torres said.

After arson fire a year ago, NY pregnancy center vandalized

A New York pro-life pregnancy center that was seriously damaged in an arson attack in June 2022 was vandalized again recently with pro-abortion graffiti. The destruction of property at CompassCare Pregnancy Services in Amherst, New York, is the latest in a wave of attacks against pro-life pregnancy centers across the country, which began after a May 2022 leak from the Supreme Court indicating that the justices were poised to overturn Roe v. Wade. Roe was overturned that June. There have only been two reported arrests in the more than 60 acts of vandalism on pro-life pregnancy centers across the country. Amid heavy criticism from the pro-life community, the FBI announced in January a reward of up to \$25,000 for information leading to the arrest of the arsonists of CompassCare. The word "liars" was spray-painted in red capital letters across the center's sign at its 1230 Eggert Rd., Amherst, location.

DOJ sued for allegedly hiding attacks on churches

By Tyler Arnold
Catholic News Agency

A coalition of conservative organizations is taking legal action to obtain documents from the Department of Justice related to the surge in pro-abortion attacks on churches and pro-life pregnancy centers and a lack of prosecution from the agency.

Based on data compiled by CNA, there have been more than 100 attacks on churches and pro-life pregnancy centers since the May 2022 leak of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*, which overturned the abortion protections guaranteed in *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. The DOJ has failed to prosecute the perpetrators in nearly all of the attacks.

A lawsuit led by the Heritage Foundation and Advancing American Freedom accuses the DOJ of failing to provide them with documents requested through the Freedom of Information Act. The documents requested include all records and internal DOJ communication related to crimes against pro-life pregnancy centers and churches. The requests also include all communications between the DOJ and the Domestic Policy Council or the Executive Office of the President related to investigations of these crimes.

The lawsuit accuses the DOJ of failing to "promptly review agency records for the purpose of locating and collecting those records" and failing "to conduct searches for responsive records" required by FOIA and DOJ regulations. The lawsuit further claims that the coalition has "exhausted their administrative remedies" in attempting to obtain the documents. It further accuses the DOJ of wrongfully denying their request for a waiver of the FOIA request fees.

"[Attorney General] Merrick Garland and his top officials at DOJ clearly hold us in contempt," Mike Howell, the director of the Oversight Project, said in a statement provided to CNA. Howell is one of the people suing the DOJ for these documents.

"They refuse to prosecute those who violently attack pro-life organizations simply for existing and who attempt to coerce and intimidate Supreme Court justices into ruling the way the mob desires," Howell continued. "Meanwhile, they send SWAT teams to the homes of pro-life Americans to arrest and prose-

cute them on trumped-up, phony charges."

The lawsuit states that the groups have faced "irreparable harm" because "they are being denied information to which they are statutorily entitled." The lawsuit asks the court to order the DOJ to conduct searches and provide the documents within 20 days or whatever date the court deems appropriate. It also asks the court to order the DOJ to provide the documents free of charge.

"It is clear that President Biden's politicized Department of Justice is fearful of igniting the wrath of the far left and abortion extremists," J. Marc Wheat, who serves as general counsel for Advancing American Freedom, said in a statement provided to CNA. The organization is part of the coalition suing the DOJ.

"The American people have a right to know why those who burned and vandalized pregnancy centers have not been held accountable for their violence against traditional conservatives and pro-life groups," Wheat added.

Despite the allegations in the lawsuit, the DOJ has claimed it has lived up to its legal obligations in how it has handled the FOIA requests. As mentioned in the lawsuit, the Federal Bureau of Investigation responded to the request but closed it because it did not "contain enough descriptive information to permit a search of our records."

The DOJ has also stated that its Office of Information Policy informed the coalition that the searches could take longer than 30 days and provided contact information for a FOIA public liaison to assist with the request. The DOJ has further noted that the DOJ provided them with contact information for the Office of Government Information Services, which it has argued is consistent with the legal requirements for an agency if it cannot produce the documents within 30 days.

In January of this year, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution that condemned the attacks on churches and pro-life pregnancy centers. However, the condemnation was mostly partisan: All 219 House Republicans voted in favor of the resolution, but only three Democrats voted for it.

Some Republican lawmakers have accused Garland and the DOJ of selective enforcement of the law, claiming that they aggressively enforce laws that protect abortion facilities but neglect to enforce laws that protect pro-life pregnancy centers.

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

COFFEE AND CATHOLICISM

Wells - Please join us at our Coffee and Catholicism program.

Date: Every Saturday (except for Holy Saturday), beginning March 4 and ending May 13

Time: 9 a.m. to 10

Place: St. Ann's rectory

Features: Enjoy brunch, view and discuss Word on Fire's Catholicism series.

Contact: For more information, please call 757-817-4700.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

LENTEN FISH FRY

Plattsburgh - Holy Cross Parish to have a Lenten Fish Fry hosted by the K of C Council #255.

Date: Fridays through March 31

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

Place: Parish Center behind OLV

Cost: \$12 per person. Dine in only

Menu: Alternating weeks of cod and haddock, fries, cole slaw, drink and dessert.

Contact: For more information call 518-563-0730

FISH FRY

Chazy - Sacred Heart Church to have a Fish Fry.

Date: March 31

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7:30

Place: Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$15; Children 5-12, \$9; All take-outs, \$15

Menu: Fried perch, macaroni and cheese, French fries, cole slaw, rolls, beverage and dessert.

Contact: For more info, contact Noreen at the rectory 518-846-7650 or email sacredheart@west-elcom.com

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

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

Date: April 1

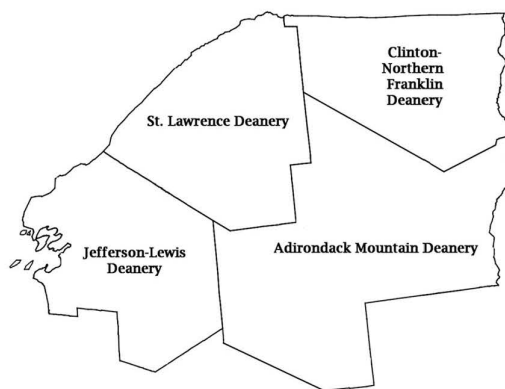
Time: 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH

Altona - Palm Sunday Brunch to be held for St. Ann's and Holy Angels.

Date: April 2

Time: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.



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@northcountycatholic.org.

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

Place: Holy Angels Hall
Cost: Adults, \$15, Children 6-12, \$8; under 5, Free

Menu: Ham, sausage, biscuits with sausage & gravy, French toast & pancakes, scrambled eggs, potatoes, sweet muffins, pulled pork, macaroni salad, baked beans, coffee, tea, juice or milk.

Features: Bake Sale, Basket Raffle and 50/50.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Plattsburgh - Stations of the Cross to be led by Deacon Michael Howley in front of Planned Parenthood.

Date: April 7

Time: 10 a.m.

Features: For the Respect For Life, especially the Unborn Child.

Contact: Direct questions to Toni Krupka 518-563-7521

RITE OF CONSECRATION

Plattsburgh - The Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley cordially invites you to a special Mass where Mary Beth Bracy will be admitted in the Rite of Consecration, to a Life of Virginity Living in the World.

Date: April 16

Time: 11:15 a.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: A Reception will immediately follow in the Emmaus Room. The Mass may be viewed at www.rcdony.org/livemass.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Plattsburgh - Divine Mercy services to be held.

Date: April 16

Place: St. Peter's Church

Schedule: 2 p.m. Adoration begins; 2 p.m. to 2:30 Confession in chapel; 3 p.m. Singing of the chaplet, followed by Benediction.

Contact: For more information

Contact: Holy Cross Parish 518-563-0730

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

PRE-SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Watertown - St. John Bosco Pre-school program to have open enrollment.

Date: April 3 for the public

Features: Must be 4 by Dec. 1

Contact: For more information visit www.ihschool.org or call 315-788-4670 ext. 1

CHICKEN & BISCUITS

Lyons Falls - Drive thru chicken and biscuit dinner to be held.

Date: March 29

Time: Pick-ups start at 4:30

p.m.

Place: St. John's Church

Cost: \$12

Menu: Chicken and homemade biscuits, potatoes, gravy, vegetable, cranberry sauce, dessert.

Contact: For pre-orders call 315-348-8577. The day of the dinner call, the church at 315-348-

6599. Deliveries are available! Any questions call Chris Chaufy at 315-766-6897.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Watertown - St. Anthony's Altar and Rosary Society will hold a spaghetti dinner.

Date: March 30

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children, \$7

Features: Take-outs, please bring your own containers.

WOMEN'S PRAYER & HEALING RETREAT

Watertown - The Department of Faith Formation will host a Women's Prayer & Healing retreat.

Date: March 31

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30

Place: Sisters of St. Joseph Hearthsides Room

Cost: \$20

Features: The retreat will be run by Sister Mary Michael Fox, OP, a member of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia in Nashville.

Contact: To register go to, www.rcdony.org/healingretreat

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

Watertown - The Divine Mercy Novena will begin with a brief background of the Divine Mercy, and by praying the Chaplet in the Church to begin the first day of the 9-day Novena.

Date: April 7

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Patrick's Church

Contact: call Judy Boulton at 315-783-7349 or Kim Tyler at 315-486-4542.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Carthage - The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a monthly Pancake Breakfast to benefit Augustinian Academy.

Date: April 9

Time: 8 a.m. to Noon

Place: St. James Community Room

Cost: Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$7; Children under 10, \$4; Family of 4 or more, \$27

Menu: Pancakes, French toast, sausage, baked goods, juice, and coffee

Contact: For more information call 315-493-3224.

DINNER DANCE

Watertown - You are invited to join us for a celebration of 50 years of ministering with People with Disabilities.

Date: April 14

Time: 5 p.m. to 8

Place: Elks Club on Bradley Street

Cost: \$30

Menu: Roast beef au jus, grilled rosemary chicken, roasted potatoes, salad and vegetables.

Features: Dinner, dance, raffle and silent auction.

Contact: Tickets can be purchased at the office of St. Patrick's or the SSJ Motherhouse between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tickets will be available until April 3.

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

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

Date: April 15

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; Quart of sauce, \$6

Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Watertown - All are invited to St. Patrick's Church who will hold a Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration.

Date: April 16

Time: 3 p.m.

Features: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, singing the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, confession & a procession. You may bring a Divine Mercy picture to be blessed. Refreshments to follow.

Contact: For more information call Judy Boulton at 315-783-7349 or Kim Tyler at 315-486-4542.

ST. LAWRENCE

LENTEN FISH FRY

Gouverneur - Lenten Fish Fry to be held every Friday during Lent.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Date: Now through the end of Lent.

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Place: St. James School

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

Features: Dine in or take-out

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Norwood – Stations of the Cross to be held with reflection.

Date: Wednesdays during Lent.

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: St. Andrew's Church

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

Date: April 1

Time: 8 a.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

Features: Rosary with devotions

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

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

Date: April 1

Time: 3:15 p.m.

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

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

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

Date: April 1

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

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: Coffee and donuts after service in the parish center

Contact: Bob Brothers at 315-

DIOCESAN EVENTS

842-2886

ALPHA

Massena – You are invited to ALPHA.

Date: Tuesdays starting April 4

Time: 6 p.m. to 8:30

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Contact: Parish office at 315-769-2469 or go to massenacatholics.com for info or to register.

MONTHLY BRUNCH

Norfolk – Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond's will have their

monthly Knights of Columbus Brunch.

Date: April 9

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

Place: Fr. Amyot Parish Center

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

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

CHRISM MASS

Ogdensburg – All the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are invited to join Bishop LaValley in the annual Renewal of Priestly Commitment, the Blessing of the Holy Oils, and the consecration of the Sacred Christ for use in all the churches of our Diocese.

Date: March 30

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: This ritual symbolizes that we are one family in Christ. The Chrism Mass will also be livestreamed at <https://www.rcdony.org/livemass>.

DAY OF REFLECTION

Ogdensburg – The Department of Faith Formation will be hosting a Day of Reflection.

Date: April 1

Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Place: Wadhams Hall

Cost: \$30, lunch is included

Features: Sister Mary Michael Fox, OP, a member of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia in Nashville will present "Blessed, Broken, Given: Living Eucharistia!"

Contact: To Register go to www.rcdony.org/dayofreflection

THE LETTER

Join us for a viewing and discussion of *The Letter: A Message for our Earth*, a documentary about how spiritual values call us to take action on the ecological crisis.

Schedule: April 15: Plattsburgh Holy Cross Parish Center, behind OLV; April 22: Watertown, St. Anthony Parish; April 29: Waddington St. Mary's Parish Center; May 20: Brushton St. Mary's Parish Center

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Features: *The Letter* follows six leaders from around the world who were invited to the Vatican by Pope Francis to speak about the effects of climate on their communities. We will screen the movie in three segments interspersed with discussion. Lunch and refreshments included.

YOUTH RALLY

Lake Placid – "We are Jesus in the World" Youth Rally to be held for Middle and High school age students.

Date: April 22

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with Mass to follow at St. Agnes Church

Place: High Peaks Resort

Cost: \$35, includes full day pass, lunch, snacks, games and giveaways.

Features: A presentation from Monet Souza and a concert from Catholic recording artist, Joe Melendrez. Closing Mass will be of-

fered by Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

Contact: To register please go to www.rcdony.org/youth/rally If you have any questions please contact Jeannie Grizzuto at the Youth Office, 315-393-2920.

LOVING AUTHENTICALLY

This free semina is designed to deepen our understanding of how Church doctrine on sexual morality connects with our happiness.

Schedule: Two different times and locations to attend. April 22, 2023 at St. Bernard's Saranac Lake 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; May 20, 2023 at St. Mary's Ticonderoga 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Features: A showing of "Unprotected: A Pope, the Pill, and the Perils of Sexual Chaos." With Q & A led by Natural Family Planning Directors, Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli and Catholic Theologian, Maura Hearden Fehlner, Ph.D. Lunch will be provided.

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

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Saranac Lake – Rachel's Vineyard After Abortion Healing Retreat to be held.

Date: May 26 to 28, Memorial Day Weekend

Place: Guggenheim Lodge
Features: If you or friend are hurting after abortion loss, please consider attending a Rachel's Vineyard healing retreat. You aren't alone, help is available.

Contact: Registration is online at www.rcdony.org/pro-life or by contacting the Respect life office at cmminer@rcdony.org. A list of retreat locations outside of our diocese is available at: www.rachelsvineyard.org.

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 Foote
age 88
Foster
Grandparent

Volunteers Needed



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.

Want more info about how to get started?

Contact Melissa Howard,
Volunteer Coordinator

PHONE:

(518)359-7688

EMAIL:

mhoward@cathcharities.org

80 Park Street, Suite 2

PO Box 701

Tupper Lake, NY 12986

Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

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



Find us on Facebook!



Discover Pier Giorgio Frassati in new film

By Hannah Brockhaus
Catholic News Agency

That Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati liked to go mountain climbing is not a surprise to those who know even a little about the 20th-century Italian youth's story.

"To the Top," a new docudrama produced in cooperation with EWTN, uses this aspect of the blessed's life as a focal point to better understand both Frassati's humanity and his holiness.

"Pier Giorgio Frassati was one of these strong and powerful figures that we could really present to the audience of EWTN," the film's writer and director, Daniela Gurrieri, told EWTN News during production in August 2022.

"The audience will discover many aspects that are normal aspects of a youth of his time," she said. "He loved to go with his friends in the mountains, to play jokes

among them, to laugh, to have a good time together. But at the center of everything was faith, was prayer, was love for God."

Gurrieri, together with members of the all-Italian cast and a niece and nephew of Frassati, were present at the Italian premiere of the film at Farnese Cinema in Rome on March 18.

The English-language drama is 52 minutes long, followed by approximately 30 minutes of interviews explaining more about Frassati's life.

The name "To the Top" was taken from a phrase written on a photo of Frassati mountain climbing, dated a few weeks before his sudden death from polio at the age of 24.

On the photo, Frassati wrote "Sunday, June 7, 1925," and in Italian, "Verso l'alto," which is sometimes also translated in English as "to the heights."

The docudrama centers on a day Frassati spent mountain climbing with some of his friends. Scenes of an early morning Mass followed by taking a train to the mountains and the hike itself are interspersed with flashbacks to Frassati's life as a student and the son of a prominent journalist and Italian diplomat.

Scenes show Frassati's dedication to prayer and the Mass, his generosity to the poor, his opposition to fascism, his lack of concern for his own comfort — and how he always maintained a strong enthusiasm for life and joy in his Catholic faith.

Frassati, who died on July 4, 1925, was beatified by Pope John Paul II on May 20, 1990.

"To discover Pier Giorgio Frassati's life and spirituality helped me be more prayerful, for example," director Gurrieri said, "to trust more in God, to be more attentive

also to the needs of the people, and also to be more kind. Pier Giorgio was very kind."

Francesco Buttironi, a 27-year-old Italian actor, played Frassati.

He told EWTN News during production of the film in 2022 that it was challenging to play a Blessed.

"I think the tendency is to go to just abstract stuff," he said. "Actually, we're always talking about a human being ... so we have a life, we have a body, we have a family, and so I try to stay with that human part."

"And from the human part ... I have been traveling into his soul, into his spiritual behavior and spiritual life," Buttironi added.

The actor said one particularly touching moment for him during the making of the docudrama

was when they were filming a scene of Frassati and his friends praying the rosary in the mountains.

A member of the crew told Buttironi a personal story of something he had experienced once while reciting the rosary.

"And in that moment, in that specific moment while being in the mountains, in these wonderful places [where] we've been shooting in Abruzzo," he said, "thinking about his experience touched me in some way."

"It was really, really strong, and what was just another scene to shoot at some point became something really powerful, really strong that touched me even personally, I have to say."

"To the Top" will premiere on EWTN on June 28 at 10 p.m. ET and re-air on July 1 at 8 p.m. ET.

Pope Francis talks to Gen Z in Disney documentary

(CNA) – Disney will release a new documentary April 5 titled "The Pope Answers," airing an extended conversation between Pope Francis and 10 members of Generation Z, discussing the Church's stance on LGBTQ+ issues, abortion, clergy abuse, feminism, and more.

Shot in Rome and directed by Spanish filmmakers Jordi Évole and Marius Sanchez, the documentary is entirely in Spanish and will be released exclusively on Hulu in the U.S.

Évole's production

company Producciones del Barrio (Neighborhood Productions) is known for such documentaries as "Mr. Trump, Pardon the Interruption," investigating the impact of Trump's border policies on Hispanic communities, and "What You Give Me," which explores the meaning of life with the late Spanish musician Pau Dones.

Évole is also known for hosting, directing, and producing the Spanish news show "Salvados" ("Saved," 2008-2019), which sparked controversy for its criticism and

satiric humor directed at the Catholic Church. The trailer for "The Pope Answers" shows an informal conversation between Francis and a small group of young people discussing some of the Church's most controversial positions and some of society's most difficult problems.



THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

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

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



APRIL

The Holy Eucharist

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY		2023						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
2 REV. JOHN R. YONKOVIG	3 REV. PHILIP T. ALLEN	4 REV. ANDREW J. AMYOT	5 REV. MEDENEL ANGRAND	6 REV. PIERRE AUBIN, MSC	7 MSGR. ROBERT H. AUCOIN	8 OUR PASTOR	BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY	
9 REV. SCOTT A. BELINA	10 REV. CORNELLE E. BOYEYE, MSC	11 REV. TIMOTHY G. CANAAN	12 REV. LEAGON J. CARLIN	13 REV. CHRISTOPHER C. CARRARA	14 REV. GERALD A. CERANK	15 POPE FRANCIS		
16 REV. TOJO CHACKO, HGN	17 REV. DANIEL L. CHAPIN	18 REV. MARTIN E. CLINE	19 REV. DOUGLAS G. COMSTOCK	20 REV. MATTHEW S. CONGER	21 REV. NORMAND C. COTE	22 RETIRED PRIESTS		
23 REV. THEODORE CROSSBY	24 REV. PEDRO EDUARDO DE LA ROSA	25 REV. DOUGLAS A. DECKER	26 REV. ROBERT L. DECKER	27 REV. DAVID DELUCA, MSC	28 REV. GARVIN J. DEMARAIS	29 DECEASED PRIESTS		

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

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

The shock of Palm Sunday

With Palm Sunday, we enter into the most sacred week of the year, celebrating the "Paschal Mystery" of the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Latecomers to Mass this Sunday are usually embarrassed as they open the church door quietly, only to find themselves right in the middle of the action as an usher hurriedly thrusts a palm branch into their hands for the reading of the first of two Gospels. The Holy Week drama has begun, with the singing of "Hosannas"



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

and, usually, "All Glory Laud and Honor."

The first reading from the 50th chapter of Isaiah speaks of the Suffering Servant with the well-polished tongue who patiently but boldly speaks the saving truth "to a weary world." How skillfully the Church shows us that, long ago, God foretold the depths of suffering His Son would endure, setting his face "like flint," not flinching, not turning back.

St. Paul's second reading is all about Jesus' "kenosis," the emptying

April 2

Palm Sunday

READINGS

Isaiah 50:4-7

Philippians 2:6-11

Matthew 26:14, 27:66

out of His divine glory, that He might become the humble servant, human like us in all things but sin. No wonder every knee must bow at the mention of His name! How the early Church fought to maintain the doctrine that Jesus is both God and man. What a stupendous sacrifice for our redemption!

The Church is a master of drama in the liturgies

of this week. In the use of the celebrant and two readers for the Passion this week, and in the congregations' voice, we all become part of the action. Most feel embarrassed to cry "Crucify Him!" with the palm branches still in our hands. We feel like hypocrites. Yet our sin is what placed us in that position. It helps drive home the crime of deicide! St. Mark presses the question, "Who is Jesus?" all through his gospel. As we watch the heavens darken and hear the thunder, we cry with that centurion, "Indeed this was the Son of God!" We should beat our breasts at the realization

of what our sins have done!"

The shock of Palm Sunday's liturgy compresses 2,000 years into this Year of Our Lord. We have no place to hide. We need to suspend all other activities, quiet our busy-ness, and focus on the events of this week. It's all in the sacred Liturgy, the local penance services, the Stations of the Cross, the Thursday night adoration and the Good Friday veneration of the Cross. All will prepare us for the coming out of darkness into the new fire, the new light, the new saving water of the Easter Vigil – and Resurrection.

CALLED TO SERVE

'How was your trip?'

Friends have posed that question regularly in the past week and my answer has been something like:

"Great, it was memorable and spiritually beyond explanation."

I just came back from my first visit to the Holy Land.

There really is no way to adequately describe the emotional impact of a visit to the Holy Land. Imagine being in Jesus'

birthplace in Bethlehem, or visiting the birthplace of Mary, his mother, or standing where Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, or walking in the footsteps of Jesus Christ on the Via Doloroso, singing the Stabat Mater at each station of His cross at 4:00 in the morning.

That was some of what we did.

We sailed on the Sea of Galilee. Some folks

dipped in the Dead Sea (I did not).

Our adventure included the sites of the Annunciation and Visitation, the place where Jesus gave us the Beatitudes, selected Peter to lead His church, multiplied the loaves and fishes and was Transfigured before his friends.

I will never proclaim a gospel or preach the same way because of this experience.

That's how it was.

Another thing that struck me as we finished our eleven-hour flight from Istanbul to New York City last week is how kind and welcoming everyone had been. The flight attendants, the airport staffs, the shop

keepers, the sacristans in the various churches, even the armed soldiers we encountered in Bethlehem (Palestinian) and Jerusalem (Israeli) were polite and considerate.

Love occurred to me. That emotion has popped up a lot recently.

This trip while exciting, certainly showed me how much I love my wife, family, friends and work since I was gone for a dozen days.

My fellow travelers demonstrated their love for each other by helping those who had some difficulty walking the paths, hills and trails we encountered at every turn.

Our parish Lenten mission is about love. A student presented a

homily on love.

The morning prayer on the day I write this column included the petition: Teach us to be loving not only in great and exceptional moments, but above all in the ordinary events of daily life.

Love your neighbor as yourself, Jesus taught us.

But the greatest love was demonstrated by God, who gave his only Son to be crucified and die a human death.

Jesus accepted death on the cross for us, for me. That was the love I felt in the Holy Land.

It is good to be home, with those I love.

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown.

He is the Director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

MONASTERY CARD SHOP

Cards for All Occasions

Mass Enrollments for your living & deceased loved ones.

Precious Blood Monastery

OPEN: 9 AM - 5 PM
SATURDAY 9 AM - 12 PM

400 PRATT ST., WATERTOWN

315-788-1669
www.sisterspreciousblood.org



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSI, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669

(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296

mbrett@rcdony.org

'An adventure worth living'

"At the beginning of January 2022, I moved to Calavi, Benin, to the 'Brésillac' Center where the seminarians of the Society for African Missions (SMA) attend the International Year of Spirituality (Novitiate), between the two of three years of philosophy and three or four years of theology." Thus, Father Giovanni Benetti recounts the experience that he is living among the young seminarians of the Calavi Center, on the outskirts of the large city of Cotonou, in the south of the country.

"I find myself in the midst of many young people who, together with the formation parents and the friends of the Center, nurture an atmosphere of fraternity and simplicity," writes the missionary. [...] [There are] 37 seminarians currently present in the 'Brésillac' Center in Calavi. [...]

"I am involved," continues Father Benetti, "in their spiritual accompaniment, in the preparation of some retreats and formation courses, and in the participation in the various meetings planned for the formators. Depending on the time I have available, I also try to offer my pastoral service, especially on Sundays, in some neighboring parishes. The work is not lacking and requires a great sense of responsibility, since the vocation is at stake and, therefore, the lives of the seminarians, future missionaries of the SMA, who expect an authentic Christian witness from me and from the other fathers. This requires humility which allows the formators to share the problems and immerse themselves in the personal story of these young people on their way towards the priesthood and missionary commitment without borders."

"Of course, here as everywhere, not everything is rosy. The water, for example, is not drinkable, so it must be filtered or boiled. Unlike Nairobi, where I have been since 2021, Calavi's tropical climate is harsh and Anopheles mosquitoes are very present and active; you try to fight them with mosquito nets and repellents. However, I dare to say it bluntly: the mission is an adventure worth living because it helps to grasp what is essential in life and to relativize what risks becoming absolute. I ask the Lord to help me be a reflection of his love, here and wherever the breath of his Spirit takes me. My desire is, above all, to share with simplicity the precious gift that I have received from Him: faith, which gives flavor, serenity and meaning to life."

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

KNIGHTS IN ACTION



PHOTO USED WITH PERMISSION OF CONNIE JENKINS, DIRECTOR OF CHURCH AND COMMUNITY PROGRAM

Knights of Columbus Sarto Council 1059 in Canton's Supreme Knight Russ Backus delivered a large load of food – 204 items, weighing an estimated 180 pounds – for Canton's Church & Community Program Food Pantry. The Knights hold a collection during Lent, 40 cans for 40 Days, every year. This year they've added a collection box at Bingo games. Church parishioners also are very dedicated to sustaining to the pantry. The pantry is seeing new people in need every day, and every can and box of food goes to a local person who truly needs it. Backus is pictured with pantry volunteers Marsha Akins, left, and Korena Onyner.

OBITUARIES

Brownville – Therese Irene (O'Neill) Sparacino, 84; Mass of Christian Burial April 26, 2023 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Champlain – Carol Lee (Higgins) Pinsonneault, 78; Mass of Christian Burial March 20, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Chazy – Diane M. (Baker) Thibault, 73; Funeral March 22, 2023 at R.W. Walker Funeral Home; burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Clayton – Sally Ierlan Russell, 90; Mass of Christian Burial March 25, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Hogansburg – Hubert Jock, 96; Mass of Christian Burial March 28, 2023 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Akwesasne.

Louisville – Sara Jane (Brannen) Martin, 82; Mass of Christian Burial March 24, 2023 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Henry A. Dupell; Mass of Christian Burial March 21, 2023 at St. Alexander's Church.

Port Leyden – Glenn D. Satterly, 91; Mass of Christian Burial March 23, 2023 at St. Martin's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Potsdam – Randy L. Foster, 68; Graveside Services March 24, 2023 at the West Stockholm Cemetery.

Sackets Harbor – Elizabeth E. "Betty" (Johnson) Mooney, 78; Funeral March 24, 2023 at Redd & Benoit Funeral Home; burial in St.

Cecelia's Cemetery, Henderson.

Tupper Lake – Betty A. (Lamay) Vaillancourt, 82; Mass of Christian Burial March 25, 2023 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

Waddington – Alice Eileen (Egan) Pavelski, 75; Mass of Christian Burial March 23, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

North Country Catholic has Green option

Our E-paper is now easier to read online. You can receive your *North Country Catholic* in your e-mail rather than in the mail. Fill in your information and send this form to:

Please switch my current NCC subscription to E-mail

Name _____ PO Box 326
Ogdensburg,
NY 13669

Address _____ OR Call
Christine at
315-608-7556

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ to make the
E-mail _____ change

BARSTOW

AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION BUICK PONTIAC GMC WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE SUBARU

"Family owned dealership serving the North Country for over 56 years!"

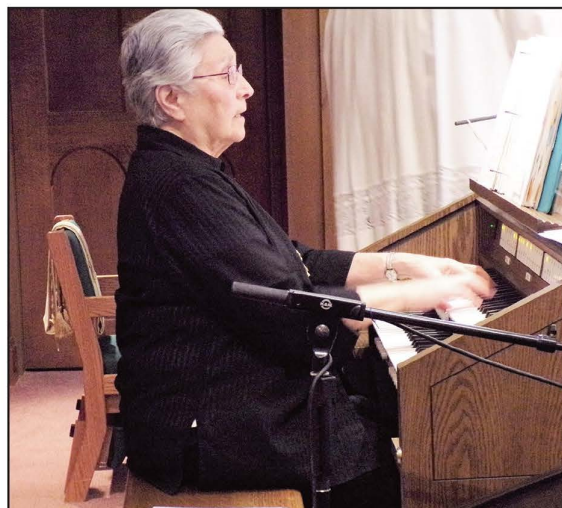
For more information, visit our Website at: www.barstowmotors.com

MARKET ST., POTSDAM, NY • (315) 265-8800

FACES OF FAITH



(Above) Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated Mass March 19 with the Sisters of St. Joseph on March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph, at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown. Bishop LaValley was joined by 11 priests of the diocese in the celebration of the Mass. (Top right) Sister Mary Helen Hermann, a Sister of St. Joseph, reads at the St. Joseph's Day Mass. (Bottom right) Sister M. Gregory Munger provided organ music for the Mass.



(Above) After being welcomed by diocesan Knights of Columbus and their wives, (right) Bishop Terry R. LaValley accepted a \$10,000 donation from New York Knights of Columbus State Deputy Deacon Charles Esposito at the March 19 Annual Bishop's Bourse Dinner hosted by Norfolk Knights of Columbus Council 11544. Before the State Deputy's presentation, Grand Knights and Faithful Navigators representing North Country councils and assemblies presented gifts. Bishop LaValley said he wishes the Knights could personally witness how much their donations assist the diocese in its charitable works.

