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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 78 Number 10

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JUNE 14, 2023

## CLASS OF 2023



The Seton Catholic Class of 2023 will walk the stage at a commencement to be held June 17 at Hawkins Hall on the SUNY Plattsburgh campus. Learn about the school's top graduates on page 4.

## SOLIDARITY IN FAITH



Bishop Antoine Chbeir, bishop of the Diocese of Latakia in Syria, leads a procession honoring the Blessed Mother through Latakia. Bishop Chbeir shared gratitude and fellowship in a recent letter to Bishop Terry R. LaValley. **FULL STORY, PAGE 5**

## Pope Francis recovering after surgery

By Hannah Brockhaus  
Catholic News Agency

(CNA) - Pope Francis is "steadily improving" two days after he underwent abdominal surgery to correct an incisional hernia, a Vatican spokesman said Friday.

According to Matteo Bruni, the pope rested during the night and on the morning of June 9 was able to eat breakfast and move from his hospital bed to an armchair.

"The medical team reports that the clinical picture is steadily improving and the postoperative progress is nor-

mal," he said in a brief statement released shortly before 1 p.m. Rome time.

He added that Pope Francis was able to read the newspaper and do some work.

Francis underwent a three-hour surgery for an incisional hernia on June 7. A team of surgeons removed scar tissue and operated on a hernia in the pope's abdominal wall at the site of a previous surgical incision.

Dr. Sergio Alfieri, the pope's main surgeon, said at a press conference shortly after the operation that Francis had been experiencing increasing pain

for several months due to the hernia and decided on June 6 to undergo the surgery to correct it.

The 86-year-old Francis has been hospitalized three times in the past two years.

He was hospitalized for four days in March for a lung infection and has also dealt this year with a recurrence of diverticulitis, a painful inflammation of bulges in the large intestine for which he was operated on in July 2021.

Religious leaders around the world have expressed their well-wishes and prayers for Pope Francis as he recovers in

the hospital.

The family of a baby baptized by the pope at the end of March sent a poster to Pope Francis.

Francis baptized Miguel Angel when he visited the pediatric oncology ward of Gemelli Hospital while he was hospitalized for a lung infection.

"We just want to thank you for blessing our brother and wish from the bottom of our hearts that you get better," the poster said in Spanish.

The pope has also been sent a get-well card from children being treated at the Vatican-connected Bambino Gesù Hospital in Rome.

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# Asking the same question

"What's next?"

I remember being a high school senior and later a college senior. I remember being asked that question eleven billion times.

When I graduated high school and prepared for college, I thought I had a response to that question.

"I'm attending Daemen College and majoring in English for secondary education. I'm going to be an English teacher."

**Darcy L. Fargo**

As you are already aware, I was incorrect. I didn't make it through the first three weeks of an education class before I very clearly discerned that I was not, in fact, called to be a teacher. I ended up with a degree in History/Government with a major in English and no plans for what to do with that education.

While I've grown a lot of my skills since then, my ability to plan and pre-

dict my future hasn't improved one bit.

I've said it many times: When I think I have a good, concrete plan for my life, I'm pretty sure God says, "oh yeah? Watch me."

In every single one of those instances, I was devastated. I get attached to my plans. I get attached to the vision I have of my life and/or my future. I sometimes grieved the loss of those plans and visions.

Looking back, though, it's abundantly clear God's plan has been better than mine. I can think

of countless examples of times the destruction of my plans resulted in a better outcome than I envisioned.

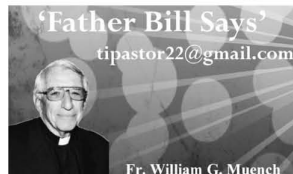
I pray for members of the class of 2023, both high school and college, as they step into the next chapters in their lives. I pray they see their futures through the lens of Christ and allow him to guide them. I pray they let God into their hearts and into their plans as they ask themselves and are asked by others that same question: "What's next?"

# Considering the feast days

As I was preparing to celebrate Mass this morning, I considered the wonderful, even powerful feast days that our Catholic Church liturgy is celebrating these days. As Church, we celebrate a feast day in honor of the Holy Trinity; we celebrate a feast day in honor of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi); we celebrate a feast day in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The Feast of the Holy Trinity is a feast day in honor of God. I know every Mass is a celebration in honor of God. This feast day of the Holy Trinity celebrates and makes us recognize that our God is a Trinity - God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the Holy Trinity each time we make the Sign of the Cross. Theologically, we know the meaning of the Holy Trinity is not easily understood; the Holy Trinity is a mystery for us.

Yet, we, Catholics, still know a great deal about God. This is the message



of Jesus we continue to find in the Gospels. Jesus tells us a great deal about God the Father. Jesus makes it clear that God loves us all unconditionally. God the Father is forgiving and loving. Jesus demonstrates to us that he, the Son, was sent by the Father to save us, not condemn us. Jesus comes to live with us, to die for us, to rise again to lead us to a new life. In love, the Father and the Son send the Holy Spirit to empower us. The Holy Spirit comes to us all in the sacraments of baptism and confirmation to lead and guide.

The Feast of the Holy Trinity brings us the message of God's great love for us all. Jesus commissioned the apostles to bring the Good News of God's love for us all, to baptize all in the name of

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

We also celebrate the Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. At the Last Supper, the Lord Jesus instituted this sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. We believe in faith that Our Savior Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Eucharist. On this Feast Day of Corpus Christi, we, Catholics, have a unique opportunity to proclaim and celebrate in gratitude this most important sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. In faith, we believe that at each Mass, the priest, through his ordination, consecrates the bread and wine into the Blessed Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Our Lord, Jesus Christ - bringing to us the Lord's love in Holy Communion.

In addition, our prayer in the presence of the Blessed Eucharist - properly exposed on the altar in the Blessed Monstrance - is an exceptional opportunity to unite ourselves closer to the Lord. This is a transformative prayer,

bringing Our Lord Jesus into our lives - guiding us in all that we do.

The Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus - this feast celebrates in a deeper way the great love that the Lord Jesus has for all of us. St. Margaret Mary brought to Our Church an image of Jesus with his actual physical heart visible on his chest, emphasizing and reminding us of the great love of the Lord, his unconditional love for us all, demonstrated through his suffering and death on the cross. Each time we see this Sacred Heart, we are called to a deeper love for others as Jesus taught us.

Each time we celebrate these feasts of our Church, we celebrate God's great love for us all - God's love for us as Trinity, God's love for us in the Blessed Eucharist and God's love for us as visible in the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Each feast day, of our Church calls upon us to be a loving, caring people - demonstrated by our love for others.



# Three grads receive top honors at IHC

Watertown - Academic leaders of the Immaculate Heart Central Class of 2023 are Emily L. Bombard, Valedictorian, with a cumulative grade point average of 98.32, and Katharina R. Probst, Salutatorian, with a cumulative grade point average of 98.27.

## Valedictorian

Emily L. Bombard, the daughter of Lance and Jennifer Bombard, Chaumont, has been named Valedictorian for the Immaculate Heart Central School class of 2023. Emily was chosen as president of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapter of the National Honor Society, has served as a peer tutor throughout high school, and participates in the IHC Faith Community Service Program. She has been on the High Honor Roll for all four years of high school.

Bombard has received the following awards: Dick & Fern Kobel Memorial Scholarship, Air Force Math & Science Award, Heart of Evangelization Recognition, Suzanne M. Grappotte Memorial Scholarship, Lemoyne College Heights Award, and the Rensselaer Medical Award (RPI), US Marines Distinguished Athlete Award, Sisters of St. Joseph Awards in both English and Science, First place for the Scholarship for Academic Excellence, the Clarence "Boots" Gaffney Award, and the Diocesan Outstanding Student Award, also known as the Bishop's Award.

Bombard is a scholar athlete who served as team captain for multiple years and earned varsity letters in soccer, basketball, and lacrosse.



Emily Bombard

On the basketball court, Emily was part of the Section Three all-tournament team and a four-year Frontier League All Star. In soccer, she was also a Frontier League All Star, All-North Honorable Mention and named to the All-Section team.

In addition to her faith-based and athletic activities, Emily has been active in student government and currently serves as Vice President of the IHC Class of 2023. She was a member of the Cavalier Yearbook staff and the Whiz Quiz Team, participated in the Tri-County Art Show, the JCC Spaghetti Bridge Competition, and placed second last year and third in this year's New York State Mathematics League.

Bombard will be attending Jefferson Community College this fall where she plans to study psychology with the intention of becoming a social worker or school psychologist.

**Salutatorian**  
Katharina R. Probst, the daughter of Verik Probst and Wendy Probst, Theresa, has been named Salutatori-



Katharina Probst

an for the Immaculate Heart Central School class of 2023. Miss Probst is a member of the National Honor Society where she serves as Vice President and is President of the school's chapter of Rotary Interact. In college coursework, she has earned 34 credits with a 4.0 GPA while taking classes in Emergency Medicine, Psychology, German, English, Statistics, and Government.

She has held various offices in student government through all four years of high school and has also participated in Whiz Quiz, yearbook, varsity golf, student theater, Odyssey of the Mind, and is an IHC Mystery Player. She was awarded the George Eastman Young Leader's Award, Air Force Scholar Athlete of the Year Award, 2nd place for the Scholarship for Ac-

ademic Excellence, Margaret Wiley Memorial Health Sciences award, and the Sisters of St. Joseph Award in Physical Education.

On the soccer field, Katharina was a 2x First Team All-State soccer player, 2x All North MVP, and 4x team captain. She finished her high school career with 117 goals and 30 assists. Miss Probst also played club soccer with the Black River Valley Soccer Academy, Syracuse Development Academy, and the Empire United. She was a 4x USYS Olympic Development Program Eastern Region Player.

Probst is a founding member of Boy Scout Troop 65G where she recently became the troop's first Eagle Scout and has been named New York State's VFW Scout of the Year. Miss Probst is an EMT with



Emily Bombard

both the Indian River Ambulance Service and Gouverneur Rescue Squad and a volunteer firefighter with the Plessis Volunteer Fire Department. She has earned her NY and National EMT certification and her NYS Advanced EMT certification.

Probst will attend the University of Rochester in the fall where she will major in Biology and play soccer. She hopes to become a doctor specializing in emergency medicine in the Armed Forces.

## Outstanding Vocational Leader

Joselyn S. Pertl is this year's Outstanding Vocational Leader for the Immaculate Heart Central Class of 2023. Joselyn is a member of the Immaculate Heart of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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Support And Pray  
For Vocations

# IHC graduates

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Mary Chapter of the National Honor Society and has a cumulative average of 90.78. Additionally, she has achieved an average of 90 in the Culinary Arts program at BOCES and was recently inducted into the National Technical Honor Society.

Pertl serves on student council as treasurer of her class and is very active in her parish, working with the RCIA and Vacation Bible School programs. She also participated in the March for Life in Washington DC. Josalyn has earned a varsity letter in tennis and academically has earned the following

awards: NY State Comptroller Award, Jreck Sub Winning Attitude Award, and the Sisters of St. Josephs Award in Religion.

Pertl spends a lot of her time interning and working at her family's restaurants, Spokes on the Square, Spokes on the River, and Spokes on the Green. She has a very strong work ethic, has a high attention to details, can successfully manage both kitchen and serving duty, and she often fully runs catering events.

Pertl has found her passion in life. She plans to attend the Culinary Institute of America for Hospitality Management.



Charlotte Anderson Hughes



Ebony Ruffin

## Seton Catholic names Class of 2023 top grads

Charlotte Anderson Hughes and Ebony Ruffin are the top graduates of the Seton Catholic Class of 2023.

Valedictorian is Charlotte Anderson Hughes, daughter of Anandi Anderson and Kenneth Hughes. Charlotte plans to attend Bucknell University in Pennsylvania where she will study Global Management.

Salutatorian is Ebony Ruffin,

daughter of Kristin Ruffin and grand-daughter of Brenda Ruffin. Ebony plans to attend SUNY Geneseo where she will study Mathematics Education.

Anderson Hughes and Ruffin will graduate with their classmates on June 17 at Hawkins Hall on the campus of SUNY Plattsburgh.



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SOLIDARITY IN FAITH



Bishop Antoine Chbeir, bishop of the Diocese of Latakia in Syria, celebrates First Communion in Latakia.

# A note from Bishop Chbeir

*Editor's note: Bishop Terry R. LaValley recently received the following correspondence from Bishop Antoine Chbeir, bishop of the Diocese of Latakia in Syria. The Diocese of Ogdensburg is in a "twinning relationship" with that diocese through its Solidarity in Faith initiative. Learn more at [rcdony.org/about/solidarity-in-faith](http://rcdony.org/about/solidarity-in-faith). Bishop Chbeir receives the email edition of the North Country Catholic weekly.*

I am in low spirits the help comes to me from the other end of the planet, knowing you care for me and my people, spending time and efforts to pray for us.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has been to my people and to me the physical presence of the Providence. If you know how many people pray for you from the bottom of their hearts because without you, they were hopeless.

Yesterday I celebrated the First Communion for few kids in Latakia, the most affected area by the earthquake, at the end of the month of May, the month dedicated to Our Lady. We had a little procession around the church in the street of the city, in honor of our Lady, asking her to protect us and the city (here are enclosed some photos). It was very moving to see people on their balconies, most of them Muslims, throwing flowers and rice on us and the statue.

Thank you for your continuing unwavering support to our people, for your sensitive attention to us. We do appreciate the efforts and sacrifices you are doing in our behalf.

Distinct regards to Fr. Steven, Fr. Kevin, Christine and all who take the trouble to assist us. You are always in our thoughts and prayers!

+ Antoine

Dear Bishop Terry,

I hope this email finds you well as well as the clergy of the diocese, in particular Msgr. C. John McAvoy, Msgr. John Murphy, Fr. Michael Gaffney, Fr. Richard Demers, Fr. Patrick Ratigan, Fr. Robert Decker, Fr. Sony Pulickal, celebrating jubilee years of service! May the Lord bless all of them for these long years of service, and a special prayer goes for both Msgr. John Murphy and Fr. Richard Demers for not being able to attend that important event.

It is always nice to hear from you, about your activities through the diocese papers and particular thanks to Christine who has been timely providing them to me.

You never stop of surprising me with unexpected initiatives of yours which they come just in time not only for my people but for me as well, when

# Funeral Mass celebrated for Claudia Sanders

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Claudia A. Sanders, 75, of Rooney Road, West Chazy, on Friday, June 9, 2023, at St. Joseph's Church in West Chazy.

Claudia passed away on Sunday June 5, 2023. Born in Worcester, Massachusetts, on March 28, 1948, she was the daughter of Raymond and Annette (Berube) Gauthier.

Claudia was a loving military wife, traveling around the United States with her husband Thomas, who served in the United States Air Force from 1964 to 1984.

Claudia and Tom made their home in West Chazy after his discharge from the military. She worked in various positions at Mount Assumption Institute and later Seton Catholic Central.

Claudia was a parishioner and very active at St. Joseph's Church in West Chazy. Together Claudia and Tom received the Bishop Wadham's Award and taught religious education and Pre-Cana.

She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren; they were the light of her life.

Claudia was predeceased by her parents and her husband Tom.

She is survived by her children, Thomas Sanders and his wife, Deena, of Balston Spa, and Michelle Rugar and her husband, Jeffery, of Morristonville; five grandchildren, James (Samantha) Sanders, Ryan Sanders, Sara Sanders, Morgan Rugar and Matthew Rugar; her brother, Raymond Gauthier of Montreal; her brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law; George (Carla) Sanders, James (Joretta) Sanders, Fr. Bill Sanders, Ann Marie (Robert) Holland, Mary Jane Howard, Julie (Cliff) Welsh and Rosemary (Dave) Bengtson; several nieces and nephews also survive him and Godchildren, Lyndsay Kelly, Christina Pijanowski and Corrie Clements.

Donations in Claudia's memory may be made to St. Joseph's Church in West Chazy.

Arrangements were entrusted to Brown Funeral Home, Plattsburgh.

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## Environmental Stewardship

## The value of fire

Among the forces of nature that shape the environment, fire is the most controversial. For thousands of years before Europeans invaded this continent, fires that were ignited by lightning periodically burned significant areas of land before being extinguished by rainstorms. These natural conflagrations typically decimated long-standing stretches of timber and transformed them into open areas with ashy dirt.

The resulting plant and animal communities that eventually spring forth from such sites produce diverse and vibrant ecosystems that renew the cycle of life. In this way, fire is the main force that ends one stage of ecological succession and starts a new cycle. Naturally occurring wildfires often pose a threat to people's property and the resources of a wilderness area, yet fire's positive role in the grand scheme of life in that region is difficult for any ecologist to overlook.

Disease, floods, wind and ice storms can seriously impact the stability of mature woodlands; however, none of these can end a cycle of life in a region by inflicting as much damage as can fire.

In the North Country almost all wildfires are caused by human carelessness. As a result, once a fire breaks out, it is attacked by forest rangers and fire fighters in an attempt to limit damage.

Conditions across the region this year are exceedingly dry. It doesn't take much of a spark to ignite a mass of tinder into a roaring blaze. Care for creation during these times requires us to ensure no source of heat comes into contact with the forest floor. Cigarette butts, campfires and fireworks must be treated with special care. Fire is nature's most powerful force of change, and should always be treated with the utmost respect.

**Tom Kalinowski**  
St. Bernard's Parish  
Faith and Ecology Member

# A day to pray for our priests

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSI  
Diocesan Vocations Coordinator

On the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Friday, June 16, we celebrate World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests. Pope St. John Paul II established this day to invite all Catholic faithful to join in prayer for the sanctification of priests.

Every priest is the "persona Christi," the heart of Christ's love flowing within him to be like Christ, drawing from His heart all the love and mercy to be shared with the People of God. The hands of the priest, anointed at the time of his ordination, come under the protection of the heart of Jesus Christ, kept safely in the palm of His hands and finds himself in His protection. In one of Pope Benedict XVI's reflection on The Hands of the Priest, he remembers his own experience of his ordination at the time of the imposition of hands in which Christ took possession of him, saying:

## Rest in Peace

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

**June 14** – Rev. Hermisdas Mayer, 1927; Rev. Thomas A. Kiley, O.S.A., 1954; Rev. William J. Deacy, O.S.A., 1960; Rev. Arthur Desrosiers, 1963; Msgr. Walter T. Cleary, 1968

**June 15** – Rev. Francis C.A. Cornish, 1960

**June 16** – Rev. James L. Meehan, 2004; Deacon John Dwyer, 2007

**June 17** – Rev. Thomas J. Thotumkal, 1992

**June 19** – Rev. Gerard Chouinard, O.M.I., 1955; Deacon David F. Moltz, 2011

**June 20** – Rev. James O'Hara, 1949



**Bishop Terry R. LaValley is joined by Bishop Douglas Lucia of Syracuse, priests of the diocese and visiting priests at the May 27 ordination of Father Lukas Gruber, Deacon Carter Pierce and Deacon Douglas Schirmer.**

"You belong to me." He also reflected, "You are under the protection of my hands. You are under the protection of my heart. You are kept safely in the palm of my hands, and this is precisely how you find yourself in the immensity of love. Stay in my hands and give me yours."

Hand in hand, the priest's encounter with Jesus, the priest, is shared with his parish family. He is doing what Jesus did: encounter others whose faith is both strong and weak, those who might think differently, as well

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**June 13-16** – United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Plenary Assembly in Orlando, Florida

**June 17** – 1 p.m. – Graduation Ceremony for Seton Catholic at Hawkins Hall (SUNY Plattsburgh)

**June 18** – 10:30 a.m. – Confirmation at St. Mary's Church in Waddington with St. John the Baptist Church in Madrid

**June 19** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**June 20** – 9:30 a.m. – Diocesan Department Head Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

**June 21** – 11 a.m. – Meeting with the Deans of the Diocese of Ogdensburg followed by Lunch at Bishop's Residence

as those who hold other beliefs, who do not have the same faith, and he prays with them. He reaches out to the rich and poor, the sick and dying, the imprisoned and vulnerable, drawing them closer to the Person of Jesus Christ. Like Jesus, he can say, "I have called you friends."

The highlight of his "priestly action" is to celebrate the sacraments, especially the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The priest is the only one who can say: "This is my Body... this is my Blood." Jesus, the priest, exercises His

## To Report Abuse

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priesthood through the priest in your parish. How blessed we are to have a bishop and priests in this diocese who are "the persona Christi" for the people of God!

We earnestly need to give thanks to God for the gift of each of our priests who minister to us and to our families. Let us pray for them. Let us pray for more vocations to the priesthood for this diocese, so that by "their anointed hands," they may continue the priesthood of Christ as instruments of service and mission, shaping the People of God, and uniting them closer to Jesus Christ, the priest.

As St. Jean-Marie Vianney said, "Without the priest, the death and passion of our Lord would be no use; the priest has the keys of the heavenly treasures... What is the priest? A man who holds the place of God, a man clothed with all the powers of God."

## Protecting God's Children

**The Diocese of Ogdensburg** has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration is required. Preregister at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org). Upcoming sessions: **June 24** – 10 a.m. – Camp Guggenheim, Saranac Lake **June 26** – 5 p.m. – St. Peter's Church, Lowville



JUNE 14, 2023

# Bishops: Congress must act against child exploitation

By Kevin J. Jones  
Catholic News Agency

Congress must act to help prevent the exposure of children to online pornography and to combat online exploitation and abuse of children and other vulnerable people, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) said Wednesday.

“Online child exploitation threatens the safety and well-being of our young people and destroys families and communities,” four leading bishops of the USCCB said in a June 7 letter to members of Congress. “The ability of a child to grow into adulthood in peace and security is both a human right and a demand of the common good: The dignity of the human person requires protections for our young people so that they may flourish as they mature.”

Signers of the letter were Bishop James V. Johnston Jr. of Kansas City-St. Joseph, who chairs the USCCB’s Committee on Protection of Children and Young People; Archbishop Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Archeparchy of Philadelphia, who chairs the bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; Auxiliary Bishop Robert P. Reed of Boston, who chairs the Committee on Communications; and Bishop Robert E. Barron of Winona-Rochester, chair of the bishops’ Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth.

The bishops’ letter alluded to Catholic failures to protect children from sexual abuse by clergy in the U.S., failures that have only been brought to light in the last two decades.

“As pastors, we have seen the destructive effects of the reprehensible offenses of child exploitation firsthand,” they said. “And as leaders of an institution that, for many years, failed to meet its responsibility to protect all children, we know all too well the consequences of a culture that fails to give adequate attention to the problem of child sexual exploitation.”

The bishops voiced concern that research indicates social media use can negatively affect young people’s mental health. They stressed the need for young people to have the opportunity to “mature to adulthood in safety and security” and to avoid pornography.

“Being exposed to pornography can be traumatic for children and youth,”

the bishops said. “Seeing it steals their innocence and gives them a distorted image of sexuality, relationships, and men and women, which may then affect their behavior, including addiction to pornography. Because children lack mature understanding of appropriate behavior, pornography makes them more susceptible to victimization by sexual abuse and maltreatment.”

A majority of young people have viewed pornography, accidentally or intentionally, by the age of 13.

The bishops did not comment on any particular legislation. However, the REPORT Act passed the Senate Judicial Committee on June 1. The legislation would require websites and social media platforms to report crimes that violate federal trafficking and enticement of children laws. It would increase fines for companies that knowingly and wilfully fail to report child sexual abuse material (CSAM), according to a June 1 statement from the office of U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff, D-Georgia.

The bishops’ letter called for safeguards to ensure that pornography “causes minimum harm.” Such safeguards include prosecution of those who coerce others to produce pornographic materials and giving victims the power to remove unlawfully created pornography from internet platforms.

The bishops lamented that children and young people are coerced into the production of pornography, which is “illegal, abusive, and a form of human trafficking because of a child’s inability to consent.”

Despite parents’ efforts, the bishops said, the internet can be a dangerous place for children.

There is an “immediate need for effective safeguards” to prevent children from accessing inappropriate content. Legislation should help parents protect their children online and ensure they have “the tools necessary to monitor their children’s online activity.”

The bishops’ letter noted the dangers of abuse, extortion, and blackmail online. This includes the coercion of sexual favors or money accompanied by threats to release sexual images or money.

“Legislation should ensure that social media platforms do not permit abuse by predators or undermine the rights of parents to protect their children from harm,” they said.

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## DeSantis’ office confirms sending migrants to California

Officials in Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration confirmed Tuesday that they were responsible for sending 16 migrants from the southern border to the Diocese of Sacramento’s Catholic Charities headquarters in California. The South American migrants were flown to California from the Texas border and dropped off at the Catholic Charities headquarters last Friday, June 2. The Florida officials also claimed responsibility for a second plane carrying 20 migrants that arrived in Sacramento a few days later. The Florida Division of Emergency Management said in a statement to Fox News that the migrants’ travels to California were “voluntary.” According to the statement, the migrants were sent to the California Catholic Charities to receive care because it is a federally funded charity in a sanctuary city. “From left-leaning mayors in El Paso, Texas, and Denver, Colorado, the relocation of those illegally crossing the United States border is not new. But suddenly, when Florida sends illegal aliens to a sanctuary city, it’s false imprisonment and kidnapping,” the spokesperson told Fox.

## Thousands of Methodist churches leave over LGBTQ+ issues

As the United Methodist Church (UMC) is rocked by disagreement over LGBTQ+ issues, more than 4,000 congregations have officially split from the denomination this year. More congregations joined the growing schism this weekend with 60 leaving in Michigan on Saturday and 250 in Kentucky splitting with the UMC on Sunday. Jay Therrell, president of the Wesleyan Covenant Association and a leader in the “disaffiliation” movement, told CNA that “the authority of Scripture and the lordship of Christ” has “deteriorated for many, many years in the United Methodist Church.” Today, Therrell said, that problem is “playing out in the issue of human sexuality.” As of Tuesday afternoon, 4,876 Methodist churches this year have officially completed the process to break away from the UMC, Therrell said. According to Therrell, many of those churches have gone on to join the more theologically conservative Global Methodist Church, which was founded in 2022 with the help of the Wesleyan Covenant Association and now numbers approximately 2,500 congregations.

## Papal envoy to Ukraine meets with President Zelenskyy

Pope Francis’ envoy to Ukraine Cardinal Matteo Zuppi on Tuesday finished a “brief but intense” two-day visit to Kyiv, which included a meeting with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. “The results of these talks, such as those with religious representatives, as well as the direct experience of the atrocious suffering of the Ukrainian people as a result of the ongoing war, will be brought to the Holy Father’s attention,” the Holy See Press Office said in a bulletin Tuesday. Zuppi’s conversations “will undoubtedly be useful in assessing the steps to be taken both on the humanitarian level and in the search for paths to a just and lasting peace,” the bulletin said.

## VIRTUAL EVENTS

## BROWN BAG SERIES

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

**Date:** June 14

**Time:** Noon to 1 p.m.

**Place:** Via Zoon

**Features:** This series will be a book discussion on Apostolic Exhortation The Joy of the Gospel by Pope Francis. The Document is available online or in book form from the Office of the New Evangelization. The reading schedule (approx. 20 pages per week) will be sent to participants.

**Contact:** To register, go to <https://www.rcdony.org/brown-bag>. For more information, contact Marika at [mdonders@rcdony.org](mailto:mdonders@rcdony.org).

## 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:** Thursdays starting June 15

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** Zoom

**Features:** The first book we will read is *Overcoming Spiritual Discouragement* by popular author Father Timothy Gallagher, OMV. Book summary: Father offers a hopeful invitation to all who struggle to overcome the greatest obstacle in the spiritual life – discouragement. Oblate priest Father Bill Brown will join us for the first meeting, share about the liberating spirituality behind this book, lead a discussion, and answer questions.

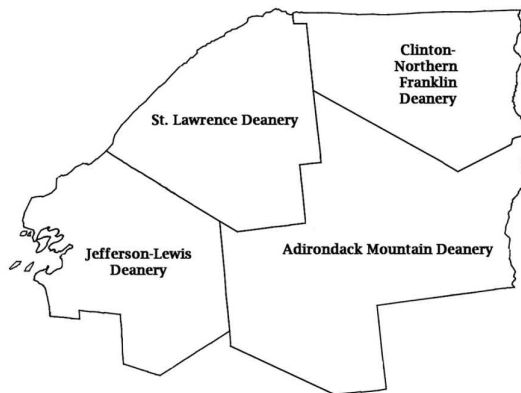
**Contact:** To sign up, visit: <https://mailchi.mp/sophia institute/friendship-groups> For more information, please contact Mary Beth Bracy at [mbracy@sophia institute.com](mailto:mbracy@sophia institute.com)

## CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

## SUMMER FESTIVAL

Plattsburgh – Holy Cross Parish to have a summer festival.

**Date:** June 25



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](mailto:news@northcountycatholic.org).

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

**Time:** 12:30 p.m. to 3:30

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

**Features:** Children's games are free. Festival Food! Parish raffle plus big raffle item of a 48" John Deere Mower.

**Contact:** For more information call the parish office at 518-563-0730.

## JEFFERSON-LEWIS

## MT. CARMEL FEAST

Watertown – Join us for the 105th Mt. Carmel Festival.

**Date:** June 23, 24 and 25

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

**Schedule:** Music Saturday 6 p.m. to 9. 'Customer Service'; Sunday 6 p.m. to 9 'Ferguson and Rogers'.

Grounds open 5 p.m. to 10 Friday; 1 p.m. to 10 Saturday and Sunday. Sunday- 5 p.m. Procession and 9:30 p.m. giant fireworks!!

**Features:** Your favorite Italian food- homemade -. fried dough, Sausage torpedos, pizza and delicious Italian cookies and pastries. Rides and games for the kids.

## 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:** July 2

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

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

**Contact:** 315-348-6260

## ST. MARY'S GALA AND RAFFLE

Clayton – St. Mary's Church to have their annual Gala and raffle.

**Date:** Aug. 5

**Time:** 5:30 p.m. to 10

**Place:** Cerow Arena at the Town of Clayton Recreational Park

**Features:** Your \$100 ticket is good for dinner for 2 and 2 drinks and enters you in all drawings.

**Contact:** For more information and tickets, contact St. Mary's parish office at 521 James Street, Clayton or 315-686-3398.

## ST. LAWRENCE

## BINGO

Canton – Bingo to be held.

**Date:** Monday

**Time:** Card sales start at 5:30 p.m., Games start at 7 p.m.

**Place:** Sarto Club

**Features:** Coffee and donuts after service in the parish center

**Contact:** Bob Brothers at 315-842-2886

## USA FLAG RAFFLE

The Bishop McEntegart 4th Degree Assembly 707 are holding a patriotic raffle of a USA Flag.

**Cost:** 1 ticket \$5 OR 3 tickets for \$10.

**Features:** 1 grand prize - Flag Pole Set (installed); 2nd prize,

US Capital Flown Flag; 3rd to 5th prize, 5 Foot Porch Flag Set. Drawing June 14.

**Contact:** Any Sir Knight of the Canton Assembly or call 315-244-4455

## CHICKEN BBQ

Canton – St. Mary's Church to have a drive thru Chicken BBQ.

**Date:** June 18

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Place:** Drive thru with picnic seating available on the lawn.

**Cost:** \$15 Full meal, \$12 half chicken only

**Menu:** ½ Chicken, Coleslaw, Salt Potatoes, Baked Beans, Dinner Roll.

**Contact:** For more information call 315-386-2543

## ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

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

**Date:** July 1

**Time:** 8 a.m.

**Place:** Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

**Features:** Rosary with devotions

## FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY DEVOTION

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

**Date:** July 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.

## PATRIOTIC ROSARY

Ogdensburg - The Legion of Mary will host a patriotic rosary.

**Date:** July 4

**Time:** 7:45 a.m., before daily Mass

**Place:** St. Mary's Cathedral

**Features:** This lovely prayer will include patriotic music, prayers for our country, as well as prayer for our elected officials and for the citizens of each individual state.

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## HOMESCHOOLING MASS AND PICNIC

Ogdensburg – Bishop LaValley cordially invites all home schooled children and their parents to noon Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg followed by a visit and picnic at his residence.

**Date:** June 28

**Time:** Noon

**Place:** Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral, picnic at 624 Washington Street

**Contact:** Please RSVP to Renee Grizzuto, Bishop's Secretary at (315) 605-1093 or [rgrizzuto@rcdony.org](mailto:rgrizzuto@rcdony.org) by June 19.

## GUGGENHEIM SUMMER CAMP

2023 registration is open. New this year is a mini session for youth 11-13 years old along with the annual sleepaway camp weeks for ages 11 to 18. Dates: The season starts July 5th and ends Aug. 11th.

**Cost:** Mini session is \$200 and the weeklong sessions is \$425 per camper. Meals and accommodations are included in the registration fee.

**Features:** There are so many fun things to do at camp! Like arts and crafts, Project Adventure, Liturgy, rappelling, hiking, basketball, or soccer. Guggenheim has its very own beach where you can swim, ride around on watercrafts and play watersports. Evenings at camp are packed with fun activities like bonfire time, a dance, outdoor movies, and camp-wide games.

**Contact:** To sign up for camp please visit: [www.rcdony.org/youth/camp](http://www.rcdony.org/youth/camp) or call, Jeannie Grizzuto at 315-393-2290 ext. 1413. Deadline is June 21!

## LIFE GIVING WOUNDS RETREAT

Ogdensburg – Retreat for adults whose parents separated or divorced and also for those who grew up in single-parent families.

**Date:** Aug. 11-13

**Place:** Wadhams Hall

**Cost:** \$200 for a shared room or \$250 for a single room.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



NOW AVAILABLE FOR STREAMING

# NFL's Butker wears pro-life tie to White House

By Joe Bukaras  
Catholic News Agency

During the Kansas City Chiefs' visit to the White House on Monday in celebration of their Super Bowl victory in February, the team's kicker, Harrison Butker, made a statement in support of the unborn by wearing a custom-made necktie with a pro-life message.

Butker, a faithful Catholic, wore a tie that says "Vulnerari Praesidio," a Latin phrase he says means "protect the most vulnerable."

"I want to give the most vulnerable, the unborn, a voice at a place where every effort has been made to allow and normalize the tragic termination of their lives," Butker said in a June 6 statement.

Butker is referring to the Biden administration's aggressive pro-abortion stance, a

position that has put Biden at odds with the U.S. bishops and members of his own faith.

"As a father who has experienced three miscarriages, my wife and I understand the hardships that come with losing a child. Every life is precious and should be valued whether outside or inside the womb," he said.

The gray tie was created in conjunction with the pro-life advocacy group Live Action.

According to the organization, accompanying the tie on Butker's suit is a gold pin of two tiny feet - the exact-size feet a 10-week-old baby would have.

Biden gave a speech at the event praising the Super Bowl champions not only for their football skills but also for using their platforms for good.

"As much as these guys know about football, they know

about life and how to use their platform to make a difference," the president said in a speech celebrating the team's victory.

In a statement to CNA on Tuesday, Live Action president Lila Rose said that "Live Action was proud to partner with NFL superstar and pro-life advocate Harrison Butker to create a necktie in honor of the unborn to wear while meeting President Biden at the White House."

"President Biden is a professing Catholic who, as the most powerful man in the world, is responsible for leading the most pro-abortion administration in our history that has overseen a horrific death toll of 2,548 children every day lost to abortion," she said.

"I call on President Biden to reject the extremism of the abortion lobby and to protect the vulnerable children of his

nation," Rose added.

Hundreds of thousands of unborn children are killed in the womb every year through abortion.

Butker kicked the Super Bowl-winning field goal for the Chiefs during his team's stunning Feb. 12 Super Bowl victory against the Philadelphia Eagles.

In addition to his game-clinching kick, he captured media attention for his scapular, which made a timely appearance as it slipped out of his jersey while more than 100 million fans across the globe watched him line up for a 27-yard field goal attempt with 11 seconds left on the clock in a tie game.

"I think that was our Blessed Mother asking for the spotlight to be shown on her and reminding me that all the glory goes to God and to her," Butker told CNA in March.

## Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

**Features:** Financial assistance is available...do not let cost prevent you from experiencing healing.

**Contact:** For more information or to register for the retreat, please contact Steve Tartaglia at startaglia@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920.

### FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake - Family Guggenheim registration is open.

**Schedule:** Aug. 17-20; Aug. 24-27; Oct. 6-8

**Features:** Family Guggenheim welcomes families of all dimensions to come enjoy a special weekend in the beauty of the Adirondacks. Expect fun family workshops and activities that will have you working, laughing and praying together.

**Contact:** For more information and to register, go to [www.rcdony.org/family-life/fg.html](http://www.rcdony.org/family-life/fg.html) or contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920,

[startaglia@rcdony.org](mailto:startaglia@rcdony.org).

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

### UPCOMING PILGRIMAGES

#### PILGRIMAGE TO BIBLICAL TURKEY

Join Father Donald Robinson on a pilgrimage to Biblical Turkey in the footsteps of St. Paul and St. John.

**Date:** Oct. 9-20, 2023

**Cost:** Only \$2999 (includes airfare, lodging, meals, guides)

**Features:** Istanbul, Ankara, Cappadocia

**Contact:** Father Don at 315-782-1143 or donrob4@twcny.rr.com

#### PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINES OF FRANCE

An eleven-day pilgrimage of shrines of France hosted by Father Andrew J. Amyot.

**Date:** November 6-16, 2023

**Cost:** \$3,979 from Montreal (includes tour price, taxes and air-line surcharges)

**Features:** Visits to Lourdes, Nevers, Tours, the Loire Valley, Chartres, Mont. St. Michel, Bayeux, Normandy, Caen, Lisieux and Paris.

**Contact:** Father Andrew Amyot at 315-384-4242 or [framyt2@gmail.com](mailto:framyt2@gmail.com)

#### PILGRIMAGE TO SPAIN & MOROCCO RESCHEDULED

Join Father Looby on a journey to Spain and Morocco.

**Date:** April 6-19, 2024

**Cost:** Pricing starts at \$4,949 per person for a double and \$5,849 per person for single occupancy. **Features:** This trip will take you to the heart of Madrid, the historic cities of Córdoba and Seville, and the stunning Alhambra. Experience Flamenco in Jerez de la Frontera and explore the blue streets of Chefchaouen. Journey through the spiritual centers of Fes and Rabat, and visit the Mausoleum of Mohammed V. In Marrakech, immerse yourself in the bustling markets and architecture, and enjoy a "Choice on

Tour" experience. The trip will end with a visit to the iconic Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca.

**Contact:** For more information contact Mary McIntosh at Watertown AAA at 315-558-6372

#### RHINE RIVER CRUISE

Join Father John Yonkovig of Lake Placid on the Rhine River with Viking Cruises from Amsterdam, Holland to Basel, Switzerland in the spring of 2024.

**Date:** May 30 - June 6, 2024

**Contact:** For information call Deb Rothermel at 800-223-3884 or [BTAGROUPS@gmail.com](mailto:BTAGROUPS@gmail.com)



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

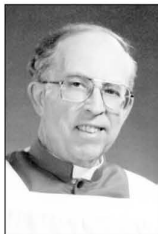
## 'A kingdom of priests'

What would you do if Jesus tapped you on the shoulder and said, "I have a job for you?" Would you be terrified, have a fainting spell or look around to see if there is someone else He could possibly be talking to? Then, when you had recovered enough to speak, would you tell him that you really had to know what He was asking before you'd say "yes?" Or would you just say "Sure, Lord, anything you want"? Imagine how the Twelve felt after He had called them by name and given them a mission that seemed im-

possible.

Why didn't Jesus just do it all Himself right from the beginning? Because the Father had promised to make of us "a kingdom of priests, a holy nation" as we hear in the reading today from Exodus. Imagine! And as Jesus had called himself a shepherd, come to save the "lost sheep of Israel," so, too, he would share with us His priesthood, making us a nation of shepherds who would seek out the lost, and bring them back to their inheritance.

How we respond depends very much on



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

June 18

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Exodus 19:2-6a

Romans 5:6-11

Matthew 9:36-10:8

that last part of today's Gospel, where he reminds his apostles that "without cost you have received; without cost you are to give." Isn't that a great saying? If we can only stir up enough gratitude for Jesus laying down his life for us, then we can find it in our hearts to return the favor and start looking around ourselves for the lost sheep right in our families and in our neighborhood.

To share in the mis-

sion of Jesus takes generosity and love, humility and courage. As Jesus called the apostles by name, so has he called each of us by name. He has called us, and he expects a response. As we celebrate Fathers' Day this Sunday, we need to give thanks to God the Father for sending His Son, Jesus, to redeem and free us for eternal life in His dwelling. As His adopted brothers and sisters, He calls us to share in His mission to the world. We have been called...we have been sent!

Those of us in the Diocese of Ogdensburg need also to acknowledge and thank our Shepherd-Father, Bishop LaValley. As a good Shepherd, he

truly cares and reaches out constantly to fulfill our needs. As the priest shortage becomes more acute, he truly depends on us to help him reach out to all in our North Country. Not only our bishop, but our priests need you so very much! Start this week praying for the courage to be bolder in looking for the lost around you, in reaching out to them in love, and leading them home to the limitless forgiveness of a loving God. And to all fathers of families, we say "thank you" for sheltering, feeding, caring, and loving your spouses and children. We pray that you will always try to imitate your great model, God our Father.

## CALLED TO SERVE

## It is the vestment proper to the deacon

Last week's *Called To Serve* column in the *North Country Catholic* rambled on about the various uniforms I wore as a youngster and in my formative years.

I was never in the military, a fireman, policeman or in the emergency services, so those uniforms were not part of my ensemble.

A few of us young reporters tried to convince the then General Manager of the TV station to buy us blazers to wear on set during the newscasts. That would be a kind of uniform. That idea went nowhere fast.

Last week I mentioned that cassock and surplice were the "uniform" of the altar server in church while serving at Mass. In many parishes today, the cassock

and surplice have given way to an alb for servers. An alb is usually white, a symbol of purity. It is a full-length, long-sleeved garment. It is usually a linen tunic secured at the waist by a cord or belt called a cincture.

I have heard it said that deacons are just grown-up altar servers.

That is grossly wrong, but today's column is not the place for the argument.

I want to address the vestments proper to deacons that Pope Paul left for the bishops to haggle about in his 1967 decree. "In the matter of wearing apparel the local custom will have to be observed according to the norms set down by the episcopal conference."

So, the bishops of the

U.S. decided.

The first vestment worn by the deacon at Mass is an alb tied with a cincture. The stole is worn on top of the alb. A bishop or other priest wears the stole around his neck with the ends hanging down in front, while the deacon places it over his left shoulder and ties it crosswise at his right side, similar to a sash.

Then comes the over garment. The difference between the chasuble worn by a priest and a dalmatic worn by a deacon comes down to sleeves. A chasuble does not have sleeves and is open-sided. A dalmatic has sleeves.

The bishops decid-

ed the dalmatic is the vestment proper to the deacon. Some argue the dalmatic lets the deacon look too similar to the priest. In the general instruction of the Roman



Deacon Kevin Mastellon

Missal, the authors gave those folks a pass: the dalmatic may be omitted out of necessity or on account of a lesser degree of solemnity (General Instruction of the Roman Missal 338).

A pastor or two has used "may" as license to prohibit a deacon from wearing a dalmatic. Imagine if a bishop somewhere told a priest not to wear a chasuble for Mass. It will not happen.

In fact, the church clarifies the question

in its instruction on the proper way to celebrate the Holy Eucharist: The proper vestment of the Deacon is the dalmatic, to be worn over an alb and stole. In order that the beautiful tradition of the Church may be preserved, it is praiseworthy to refrain from exercising the option of omitting the dalmatic. (Redemptionis Sacramentum 125)

But what about the Roman Collar? "Is it appropriate to the deacon?" you ask. I'll take a run at that question next week.

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



# Pope Francis' message on the mission

Pope Francis is currently meeting with the Annual General Assembly of the Pontifical Mission Societies (TPMS) in Rome. It is at this meeting that the attendees decide where the money raised by TPMS will be distributed.

The specific mission of the Pontifical Mission Societies, suggested the pope, can also be perceived and lived as a sign, an echo of the mercy and compassion of the Heart of Jesus, whose Solemnity falls in this month of June. "In the pierced heart of the Crucified we can discover the infinite measure of the Father's love. He comes to seek us when we are lost; he lifts us up when we fall and raises us from the dead," the pope said. Jesus,



## 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

with his whole life, "has shown us the heart of God, that of a Father who always awaits us, sees us from afar, comes toward us with open arms; a Father who turns no one away, but welcomes all; who excludes no one, but calls everyone."

In recalling the source of grace and mercy from which every missionary adventure draws and participates, Pope Francis recalled that the Pontifical Mission Societies "are not a mere agency for the distribution

of funds for those in need of help, but a reality called to support the mission of evangelization in the Church, both universal and local and to fostering the missionary spirit among the People of God."

The Pope urged the TPMS to "intensify even more, with the boldness and creativity of the Holy Spirit, the various activities directed to guiding, educating and forming the missionary spirit," not only in what used to be called "mission lands"

but also in countries with an ancient Christian tradition more marked "by a serious crisis of faith," and "are in need of renewed evangelization."

In the horizon of an authentic service to the mission and to the Church, Pope Francis wanted to recall that the collection and management of economic and material resources is only a means: "Please" said the Pope "do not reduce the Societies to money! They certainly need money, which is a means, but do not reduce them to that, for they are bigger than money," insisted the Pope...

The "important role" exercised by the TPMS is rather linked to the "dream" of "an ever closer and more coordinated

missionary cooperation among all members of the Church." A vocation and a task to be assumed "for the good of the entire People of God. It is significant - remarked the Pope in the conclusion of his speech - that the founders of the Societies were a bishop, a priest and two laywomen, that is to say, representatives of different categories of the baptized. This is a sign that commits us to involve all members of the People of God in missionary activity," to cherish the dream of "a new era of missionary activity among Christian communities."

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

## OBITUARIES

**Altona** – Jeannette Boulrice Rowe, 96; Mass of Christian Burial June 9, 2023 at Holy Angels Church; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery, Mooers Forks.

**AuSable Forks** – Pamela J. Frenia, 71; Mass of Christian Burial June 5, 2023 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

**Bloomington** – Francis George Derr, 73; Graveside Services June 9, 2023 at Brookside Cemetery.

**Brushton** – Grace B. "Dolly" Deuyour, 87; Mass of Christian Burial June 10, 2023 at St. Mary's Church.

**Brushton** – Allen M. Raville, 92; Mass of Christian Burial June 6, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Morningside Cemetery.

**Dannemora** – Margaret M. (King) LaPoint, 75; Mass of Christian Burial June 6, 2023 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Town Ellenburg Mausoleum.

**Colton** – John M. Shumway, 76; Mass of Christian Burial June 30, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Bayside Cemetery, Potsdam.

**Coopersville** – Daniels Baker; Mass of Christian Burial June 17, 2023 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Edwards** – Glenda J. (Shorkey) Webb, 81; Funeral Services Aug. 5, 2023 at French Funeral Home; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

**Harrisville** – Rose Marie (Norris) Gonio, 94; Graveside services June 10, 2023 at St. Francis Solanus Cemetery.

**Malone** – John "Jack" Martin Carrigan, III, 73; Mass of Christian Burial June 9, 2023 at Notre Dame Church.

**Malone** – Shirley A. (Franklin) Fleury, 72; Mass of Christian Burial June 5, 2023 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Francis of Assis Cemetery, Constable.

**Malone** – Gordon J. Fisher, 79; Mass of Christian Burial June 12, 2023 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Malone** – Neaska "Nicki" (Dumas) St. Mary, 88; Mass of Christian Burial June 10, 2023 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Massena** – Mary L. (Davis) Courson, 76; Private Services.

**Massena** – Francis B. LaDuke, 81; Mass of Christian Burial June 10, 2023 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in White Church Cemetery, Lisbon.

**Morrisonville** – Vernon Malark, 79; Mass of Christian Burial June 7, 2023 at St. Alexander's Church.

**Norfolk** – Linda A. (Torre) O'Brien, 68; Mass of Christian Burial June 8, 2023 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

**Peru** – Nancy M. (Finnegan)

Rendinaro, 65; Funeral Services June 11, 2023 at Hamilton Funeral Home.

**Plattsburgh** – John R. Hay, 78; Mass of Christian Burial June 7, 2023 at St. Peter's Church.

**Plattsburgh** – Jack Hills, 88; Mass of Christian Burial June 12, 2023 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in Saratoga National Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Venita Matott, 87; Mass of Christian Burial June 8, 2023 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** – Jackie (Dumont) Coombs, 87; Mass of Christian Burial July 7, 2023 at St. Bernard's Church.

**Saranac Lake** – Gary John Duprey, 76; Mass of Christian Burial June 8, 2023 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in Evergreen Cemetery, Keeseville.

**Ticonderoga** – Edward M.

Vosburg, 83; Graveside Services June 19, 2023 at Valley View Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Betty A. (Winnett) Grandjean, 87; Mass of Christian Burial June 7, 2023 at Holy Family Church; burial in St. Cecilia's Cemetery, Henderson.

**Watertown** – William R. "Corky" Murrock, 95; Mass of Christian Burial June 8, 2023 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Michael E. Piehl, 70; Memorial Mass June 9, 2023 at Holy Family Church; burial in White Cemetery, Wisconsin.

**West Leyden** – Mary Rita (Morczek) Mathis, 87; Mass of Christian Burial June 29, 2023 at St. Mary's Nativity Church; burial in St. Peter & Paul Cemetery, Fish Creek.

# FACES OF FAITH



St. Martin's Catholic Church in Port Leyden celebrated First Communion at the 8:15 Mass on June 4. Pictured are (from left) Deacon James Chaufy, Robert Kraeger, instructor, John Hastwell and Rev. Lawrence Marullo with First Communicants Cora Hall and Clara Farr.



The Pontifical College Josephinum celebrated its 124th Commencement Exercises on Saturday, May 13. Three seminarians from the Diocese of Ogdensburg were among those who receive degrees. A Bachelor of Arts was awarded to College of Liberal Arts graduates Venes Laine (Humanities) and Dennis Ombongi (Philosophy). School of Theology graduate Father Lukas Gruber (in absentia) was awarded three degrees: a Master of Divinity, required by all candidates for priestly ordination; a Master of Arts in Theology magna cum laude; and a Baccalaureate of Sacred Theology (STB), a pontifical graduate degree awarded by the faculty of the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas in agreement with the faculty of the Pontifical College Josephinum. Father Gruber was unable to attend so he could attend his sister's graduation.



The Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart elected four members of their community to the congregation's Leadership Board. The election took place at Cranaleith Spiritual Center in Philadelphia on May 26, 2023. The new officers will serve a three-year term and will oversee the activities, business and current and future goals of the Grey Nun congregation. The members of the Leadership Board are: President, Sister Denise Roche and Council members Sister Eileen White, Sister Barbara Schiavoni and Sister Nancy Maria Kaczmarek. Pictured are (from left) Sister Nancy Kaczmarek, Sister Denise Roche, Sister Barbara Schiavoni, Sister Eileen White.



The concluding meeting of the St. John's Altar & Rosary Society in Madrid was held on June 3. Attending were (back row) Michelle Fitzgerald, Mary Jo Rocker, Jean Barclay, (front row) Terry Holmes, Jennettie Rocker, Ann Griffey, Mary Lucey and Christine Rutherford.